

North Central Health District

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023



The purpose of our annual report is to provide a comprehensive overview of our organization's achievements, challenges, and impact over the past year. Through this report, we aim to transparently communicate our progress toward our strategic goals, demonstrate accountability to our stakeholders, and celebrate the contributions of our team and partners. By sharing key accomplishments and areas for growth, we seek to inspire confidence in our mission, foster collaboration, and drive continuous improvement in service of our community's health and well-being.

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Message From Dr. Thomas Craft, Interim District Health Director

It is with great pleasure and pride that I have the privilege to reflect on the remarkable journey on which North Central Health District has embarked over the past year. Serving as the Interim District Health Director has been both a privilege and a responsibility that I've embraced wholeheartedly, and I am humbled by the dedication and tireless efforts of our NCHD team, the unwavering support of our partners, and the resilience of our community.

Throughout the year, we have remained steadfast in our dedication to serving the needs of our community, especially during these unprecedented times. Through innovative programs, strategic partnerships, and data-driven interventions, we have made measurable progress in key areas such as disease prevention, health equity, linkage to care, and great strides in other areas as well.

Our commitment to collaboration has been a cornerstone of our success. By working hand in hand with local governments, healthcare providers, community organizations, and other stakeholders, we have leveraged our collective strengths to amplify our impact and reach those most in need across the thirteen counties that we serve.

As we look back on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the dedication and perseverance of our team. Each member has played a vital role in our collective achievements, demonstrating a commitment to excellence and a passion for making a difference in the lives of others. As we look to the future, I have no doubt that North Central Health District will continue to build safer and healthier communities through our shared vision, our spirit of collaboration, and our pursuit of excellence in all that we do.

In closing, I want to express my deepest appreciation to all who have contributed to our success over the past year. Your hard work, dedication, and unwavering commitment to our public health mission have truly made a difference in the lives of those we serve.

DISTRICT EXECUTIVE LEADERSHIP TEAM

- District Health Director: Thomas Craft, MD (interim, October 2022- present)
- District Program Manager: Karen Ebey-Tessendorf, MPH
- District Clinical Director: Judy McChargue, BSN
- District Financial Administrator: Sylvia Woodford, BAA, MBA
- District Director of Human Resources: Marilyn Middlebrooks
- District Director of Development & Special Projects: Morris Hutcheson, CPA (retired January 2024)
- District Director of Epidemiology, Community Assessment & Research Initiatives: Amber Erickson, MPH, DrPH
- District Environmental Health Director: Carla Coley, REHS
- District Nutrition Services Director: Nancy Jeffery, MPH, DrPH
- District Emergency Preparedness Director: A. Laurice Bentley

COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT LEADERSHIP

- **Baldwin County**
 - Carey Dyer, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Colin Duke, REHS GA-PCEM, Environmental Health Manager
 - Dr. Janet Harrison, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Crawford County**
 - Melissa Smith, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Nelson Morales Rodriguez, Environmental Health Lead
 - Dr. Freddy Gatón, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Hancock County**
 - Petula Holsey, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Drew Minton, Environmental Health Lead
 - Ms. Helen (Sistie) Hudson, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Houston County**
 - Christina Sikes, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Christine Buffington, Environmental Health Manager
 - Archie Thompson (Resigned), Daron Lee (Current), Board of Health Chairperson
- **Jasper County**
 - Jacquelyn Vignati, RN, Nurse Manager
 - David Mercer, Environmental Health Lead
 - Mike Benton (Resigned), Don Jernigan (Current), Board of Health Chairperson
- **Jones County**
 - Sherry Bryant, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Margaret (Maggie) Graham, Environmental Health Lead
 - Jennifer Goldsberry, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Macon-Bibb County**
 - Jimmie H. Smith, Jr., MD, MPH, Administrator
 - Stacy Leonard, Nurse Manager
 - Felicia Pearson-Powell, Environmental Health Manager
 - Chris Tsvatewa, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Monroe County**
 - LaToyna Jackson, Nurse Manager
 - Gina Smith, Environmental Health Manager
 - Dr. Jeremy Goodwin, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Peach County**
 - Stacy Hodges, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Tiffany Bland, Environmental Health Lead
 - Ms. Kattie Kendrick, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Putnam County**
 - Peggy Petitt, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Kathryn Hill, Environmental Health Manager
 - Glenda Ridley, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Twiggs County**
 - Maggie Daniels, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Brandon Thornton, Environmental Health Lead
 - Shannon Hart, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Washington County**
 - Raven Smith, RN, BSN, Nurse Manager
 - Justin Jones, Environmental Health Lead
 - Dr. Jennifer Tarbuton, Board of Health Chairperson
- **Wilkinson County**
 - Jessica Smith, RN, Nurse Manager
 - Jeremy Wimes, Environmental Health Lead
 - April Adside-Smith, Board of Health Chairperson



VISION & MISSION

North Central Health District (NCHD) is part of the Georgia Department of Public Health (DPH) and serves a population of over 551,400 individuals residing in 13 Central Georgia counties: Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Hancock, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Putnam, Twiggs, Washington and Wilkinson.

Each county has a health department, overseen by a County Board of Health and led by the District Health Director (DHD). The district office, also led by the DHD, serves as an administrative hub for all 13 counties and houses public health programs that serve all counties. Each Health Department offers programs and services for the residents of the county.

VISION STATEMENT

NCHD is dedicated to preventing disease; promoting health; preparing for and responding to public health emergencies through education, service, advocacy, and collaboration.

MISSION STATEMENT

Leaders in innovative, effective, accessible, and equitable public health practices that advance the health and well-being of all the communities we serve.

VALUES

Collaboration

We initiate and foster partnerships by sharing information, resources, and ideas to improve health outcomes.

Diversity & Inclusion

We value diversity and inclusion in our workforce and in the communities we serve. We respect the role they play in providing culturally appropriate services that address health disparities.

Integrity

We provide science-based information and exhibit professionalism while carrying out the principles of the ethical practice of public health.

Quality

We apply evidence-based practices that deliver excellent programs and services to create an environment in which public health continuously improves.

Service

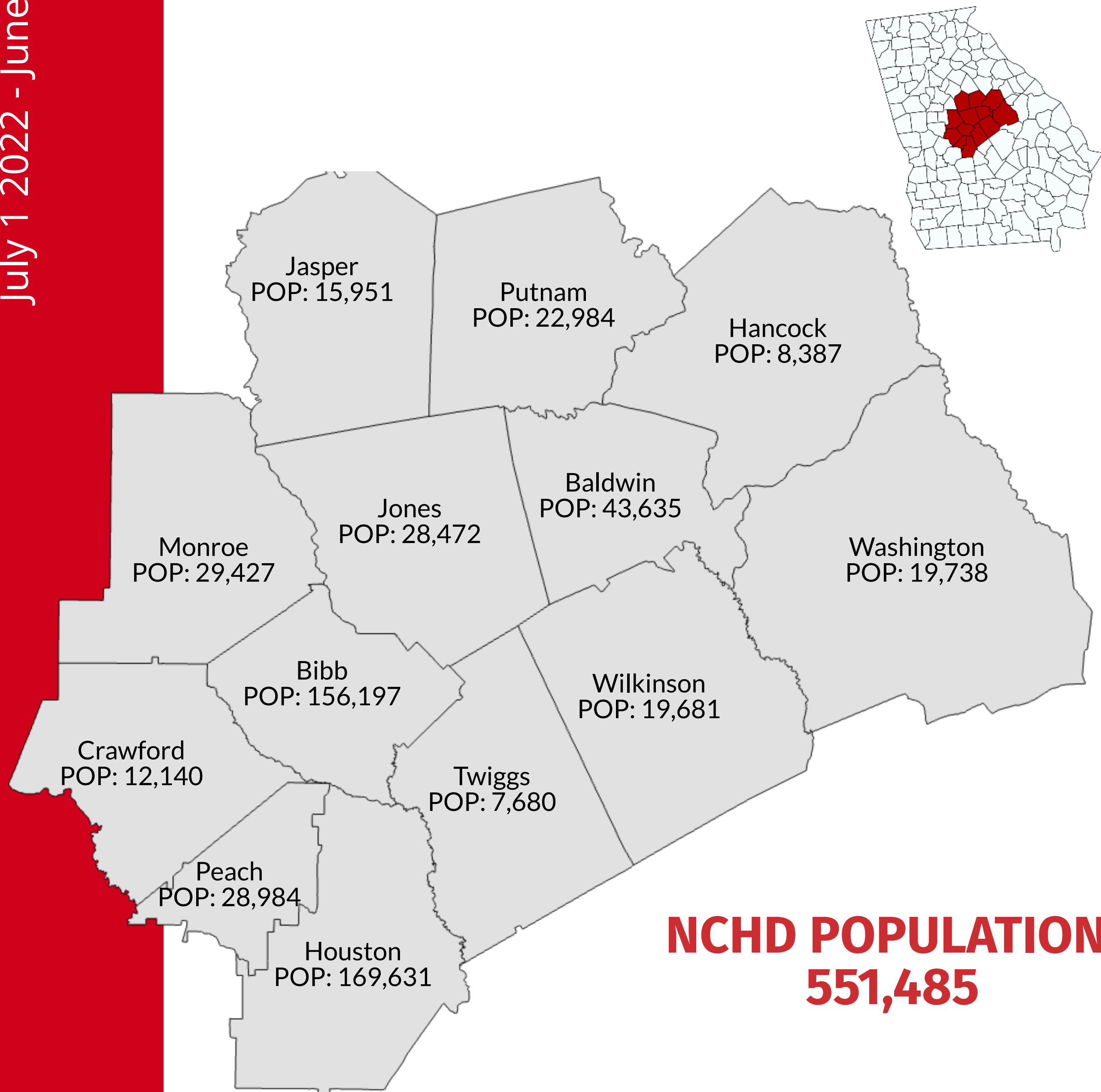
We are responsive to the health needs of our communities and to the provision of accessible and equitable services by a dedicated workforce.

DISTRICT DEMOGRAPHICS

Additional demographic and health-related information can be found on our 2024 County Health Ranking Summary interactive dashboard at:

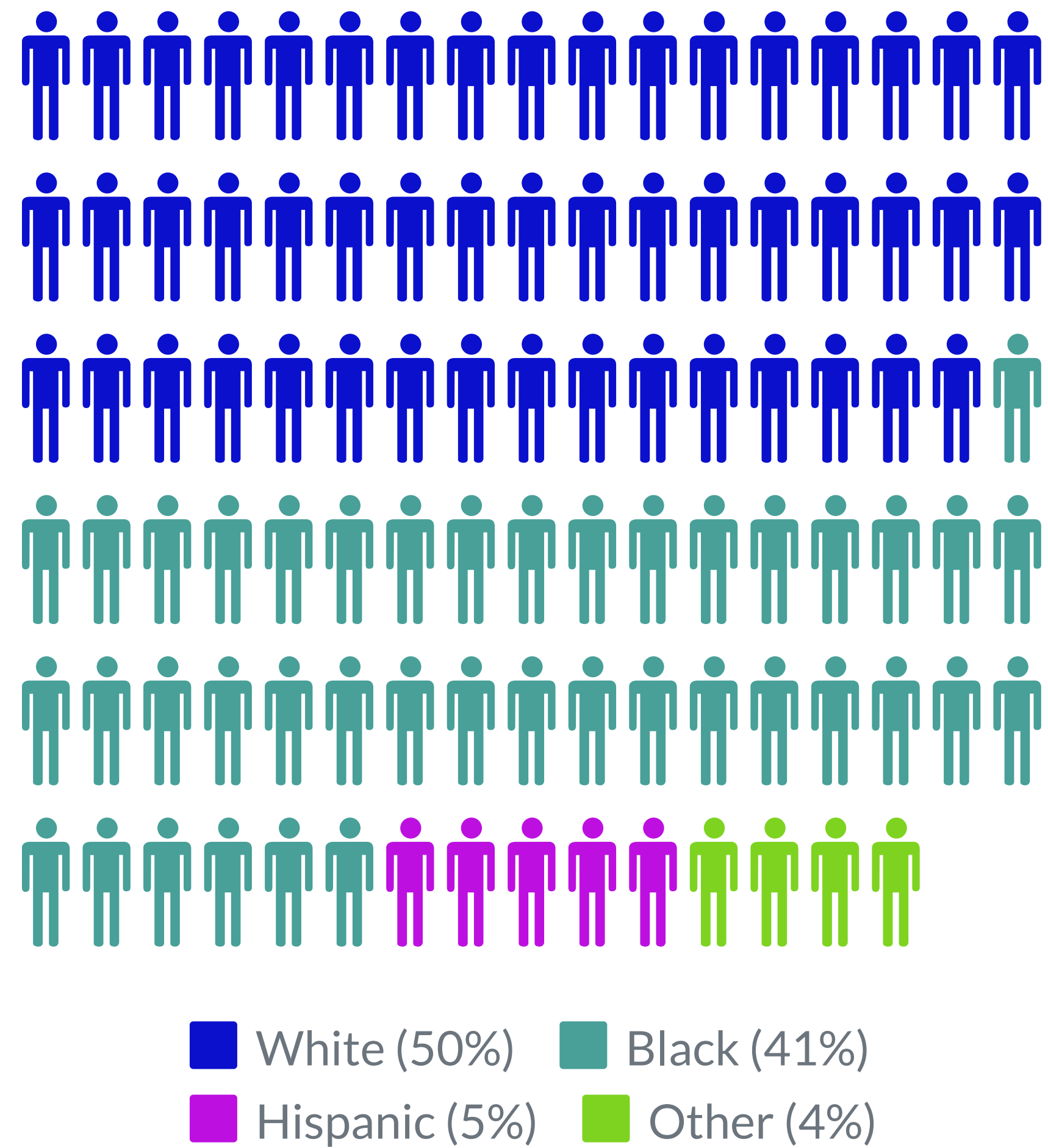
<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/epi.nchd/viz/NCHD2024CountyHealthRankingSummary>

July 1 2022 - June 30, 2023

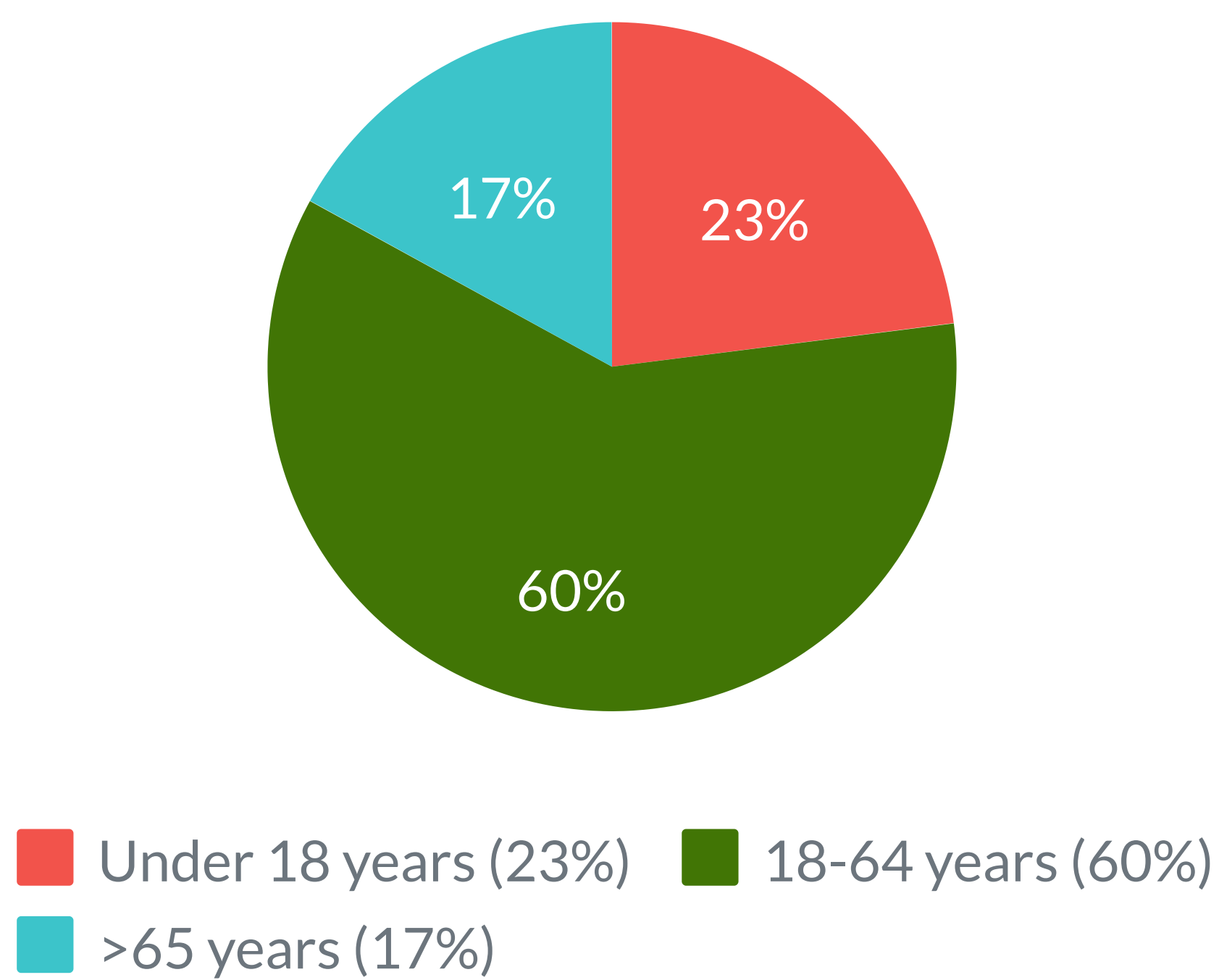


**NCHD POPULATION:
551,485**

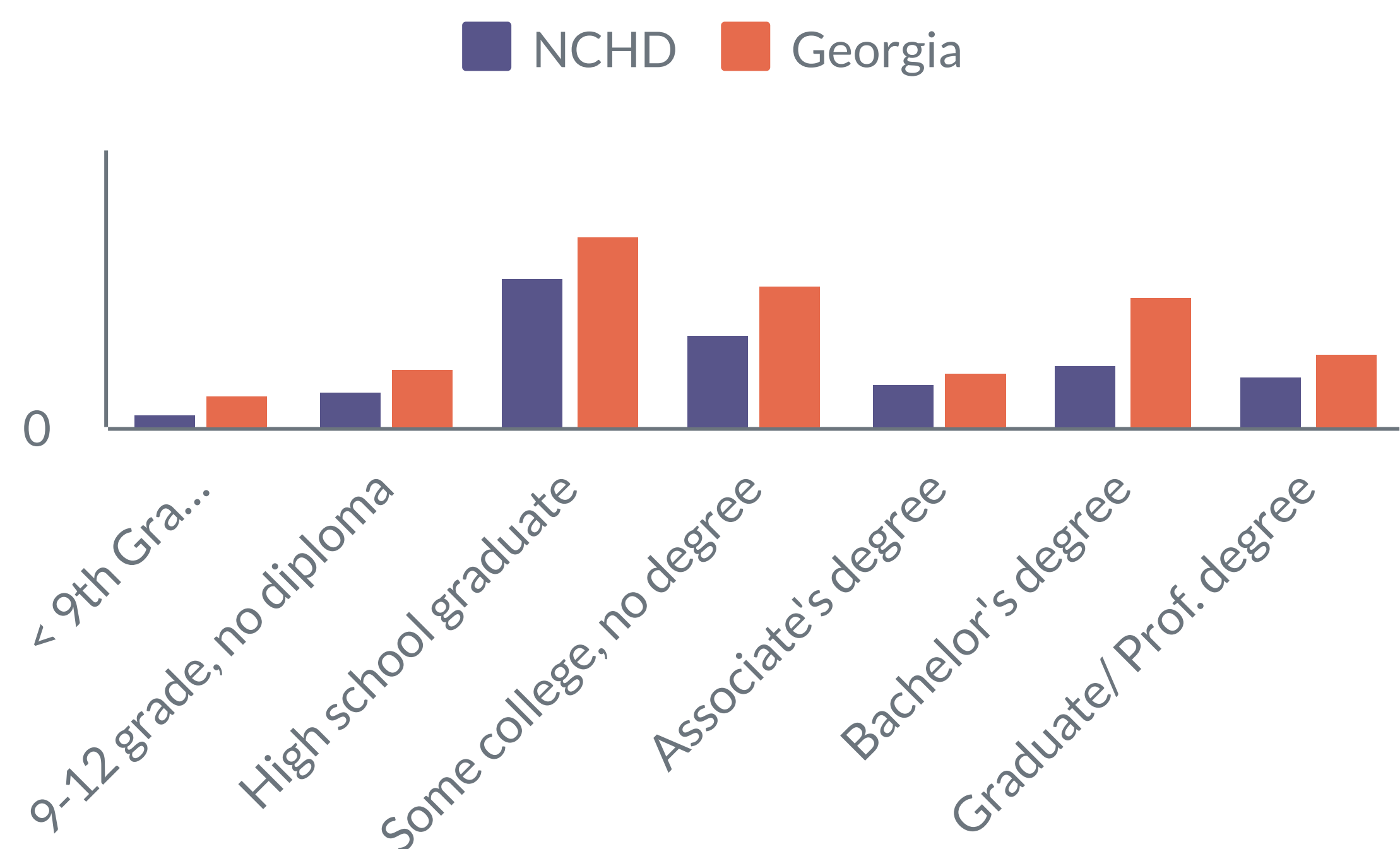
NCHD Race/Ethnicity



NCHD Age Distribution

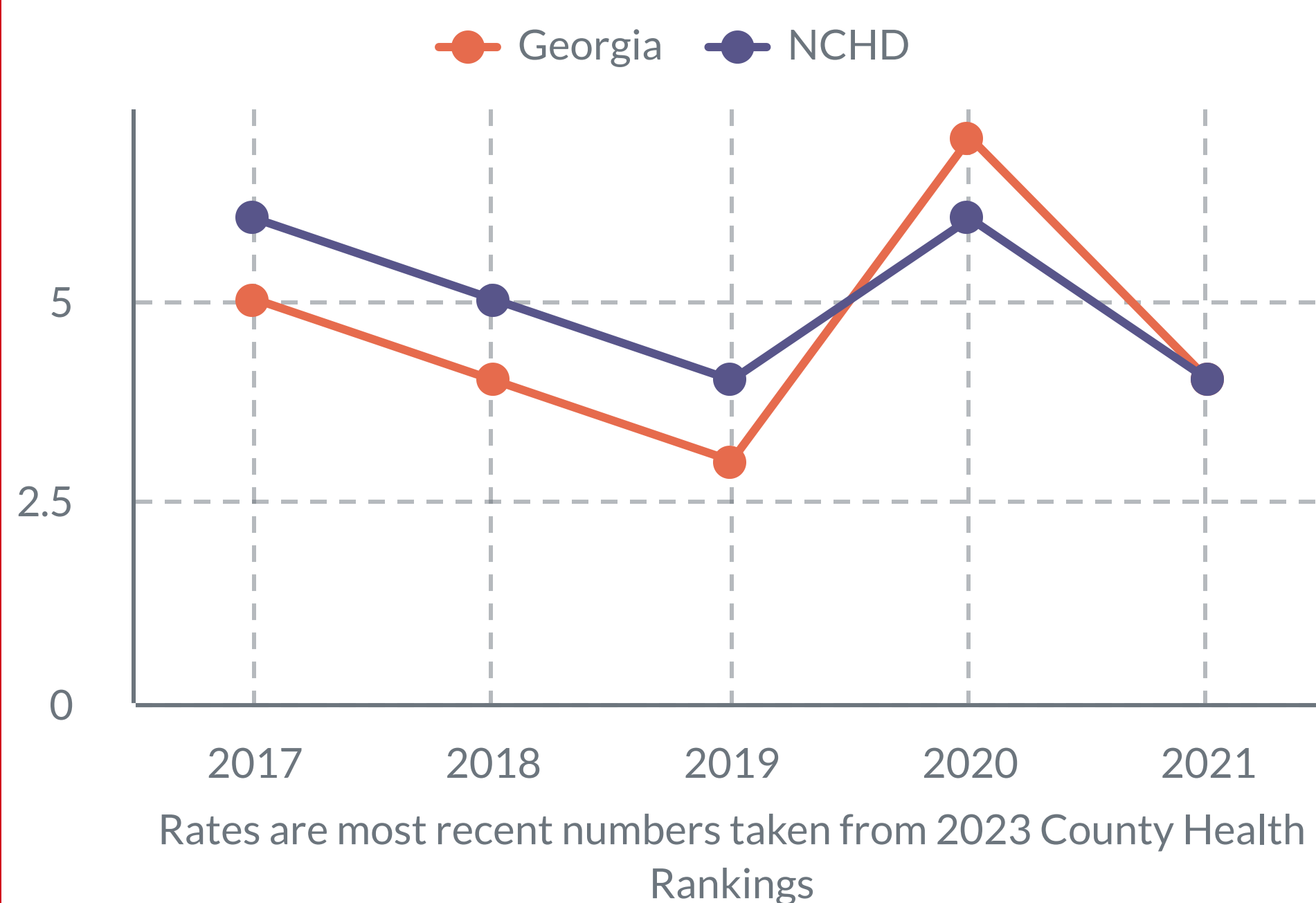


Educational Attainment, 2022

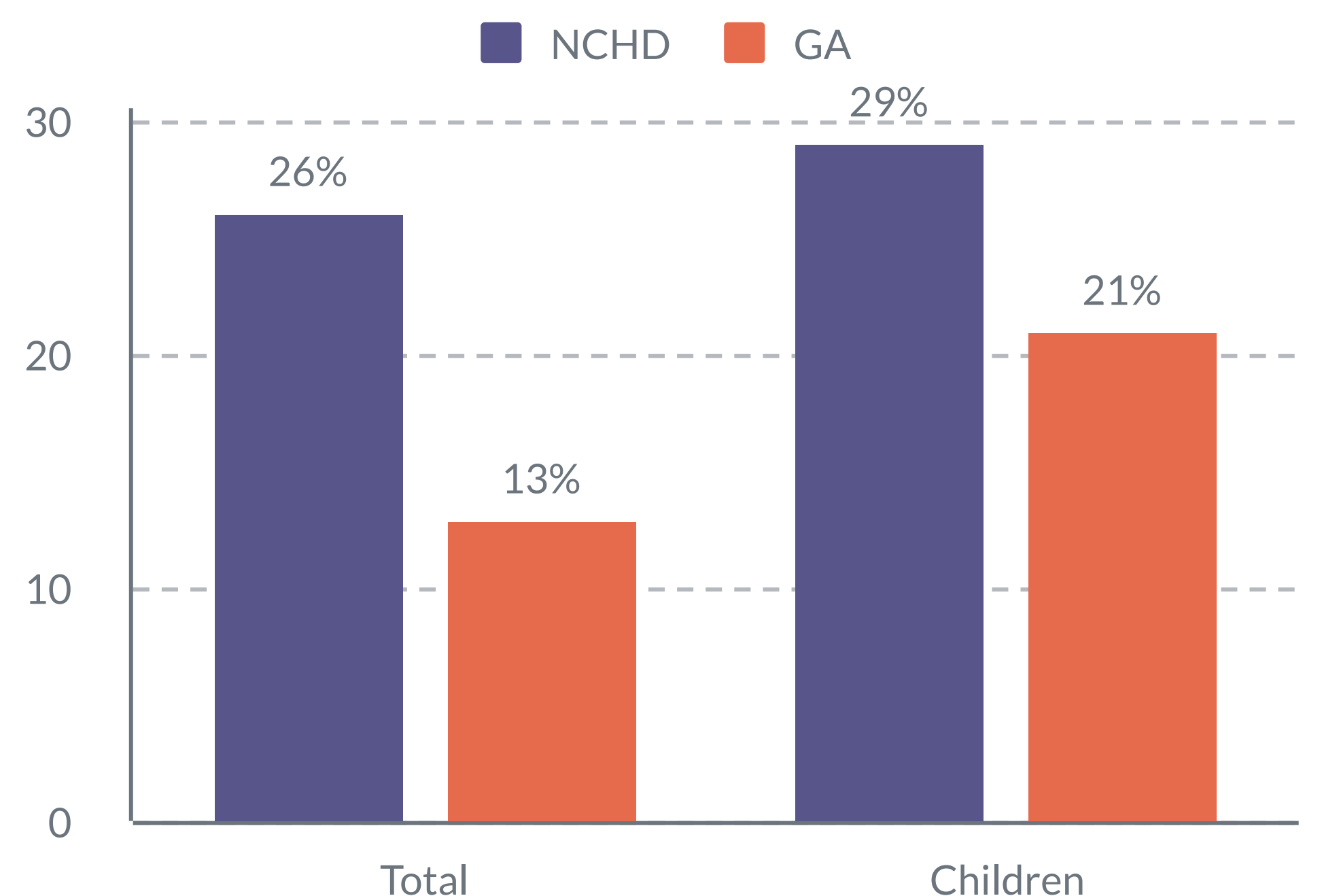


Data was collected from most recent Census data (2022)

Unemployment Rate, 2017-2021



% Living Below Poverty



northcentralhealthdistrict.org

AWARDS

Georgia Public Health Association, May 2023 Annual Conference Award Winners



Nutrition Outstanding Leadership Award:
Kayla Mathis, MS

Applied Epidemiologist of the Year Award:
Jocelyn Love, MPH

Georgia Dental Award of Merit:
Tarem Hendricks, DMD

President Award Recipients:
Morris Hutcheson



Rosemarie B. Newman Nutrition Extra Mile Award:
Kenya Owens, Med, RD, LD, CLC



Outstanding Site Supervisor, August 2022

Emory Epidemiology Fellowship

The Emory COVID-19 Response Collaborative recognized Dr. Amber Erickson from North Central Health District for her dedication and leadership that have positively impacted the fellows, department, and community. Dr. Erickson embodies the qualities that we want to celebrate in our supervisor colleagues and the fellows in her district and surrounding districts unanimously agreed.



Impact Award, August 2022

Emory Epidemiology Fellowship

Kenea King was recognized by the Emory COVID-19 Response Collaborative for her accomplishments in improving the outbreak coordination and response for long term care facilities and jails within the district.

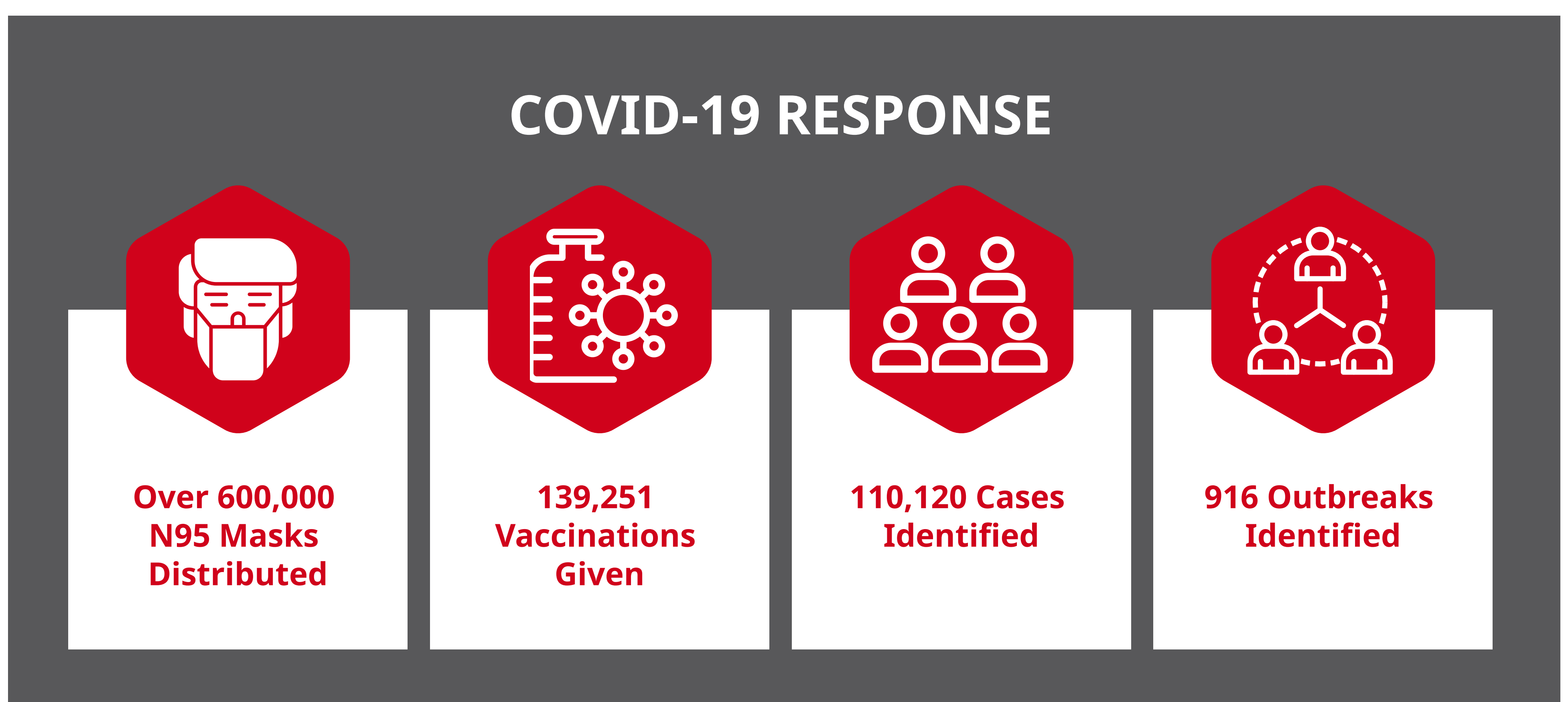


COVID-19 RESPONSE SUMMARY

In late December of 2019, a novel strain of Coronavirus (SARS- CoV-2/ COVID-19), also known as the COVID-19, emerged, and was detected in Wuhan, China. Within 3 months COVID-19 had subsequently spread to all nations. As a result, public health, emergency management, health care, and many other agencies across the nation quickly rose to the challenge of addressing the threat. The overall goal was to limit the burden of the disease and to minimize social disruption. On March 14th, 2020, Governor Brian Kemp declared a statewide public health emergency because of the novel coronavirus. In the weeks that followed many other executive orders were released which led to a statewide shutdown to stop the spread. The COVID-19 virus first appeared in the North Central Health District on March 18th, 2020. On May 9, 2023, the federal public health emergency declaration ended.

Throughout the pandemic response, NCHD staff prioritized the health and safety of the public through a variety of activities:

- Epidemiology
- Testing
- Vaccination
- Education and Outreach
- Personal Protective Equipment Distribution



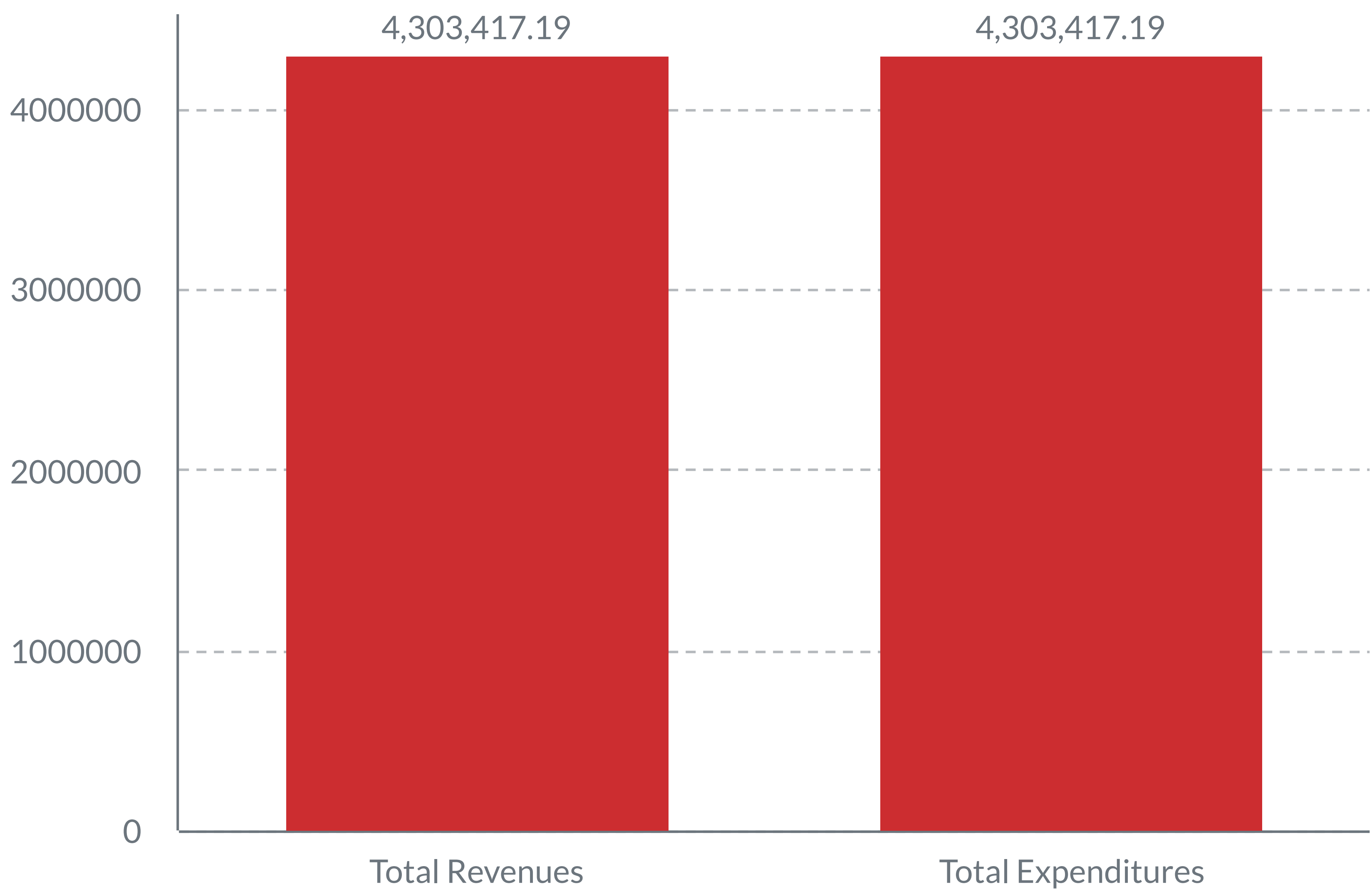
From contact tracing and testing to vaccination efforts and education initiatives, NCHD staff have been at the forefront of the battle against this unprecedented crisis. Their dedication, resilience, and tireless efforts, often working tirelessly behind the scenes, have not gone unnoticed.

ADMINISTRATION YEAR IN REVIEW

North Central Health District's (NCHD) business office acts as a liaison between the Department of Public Health and its 13 local Boards of Health. In addition, the business office provides administrative support and fiscal analysis to 70+ district programs which include WIC clinics and a Ryan White clinic. Daily accounting transactions are performed such as paying invoices, entering and reconciling receivables, budget development, payroll processing, purchasing and fixed assets, billing, grant management, contract management, marketing, audit preparation, and fleet management. Internal policies and procedures are managed daily to promote consistent accounting treatment across the district.



FY23 NCHD District Operating Budget



In FY2023, the total approved District Operations budget was \$4,303,433.00 and in FY 2022 the total District Operations budget was \$3,531,998.00. When comparing FY2023 to FY2022, the District's Operating budget increased 22% Year Over Year. The financial statements and records of the North Central Health District were prepared using the Modified Accrual Basis of Accounting.

22%

Budget Increase



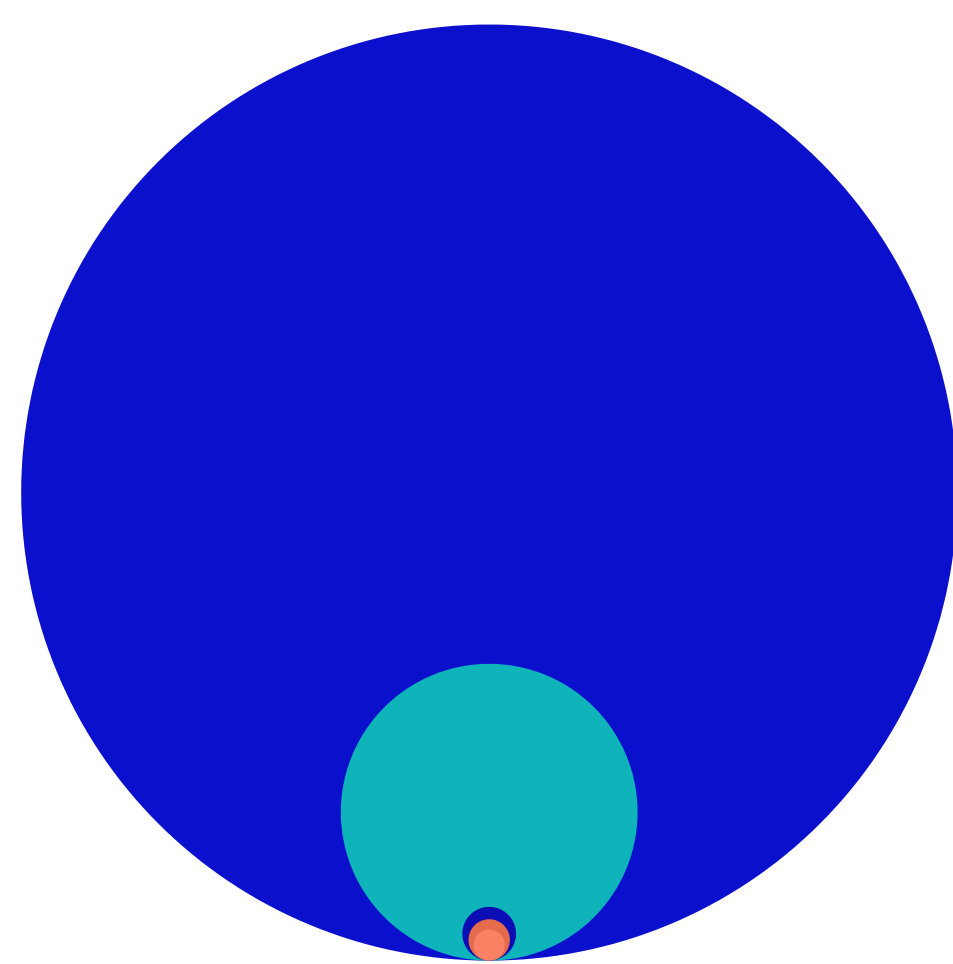
ADMINISTRATION YEAR IN REVIEW

This year's Operating budget was funded by five different Revenue sources totaling \$4,303,417.19: Intra/Inter-Agency Revenue, \$3,888,016.67, is generated primarily from indirect costs and based on a Cost Allocation plan approved at a rate of 8.84% by the Georgia Department of Public Health for FY2023. Other Intra/Inter-Agency Revenue included Revenues exchanged between County Health Department and Public Health programs within the North Central Health District.

The budget also included Expenditures in five expense categories totaling \$4,303,417.19. Personnel Cost, \$3,253,307.10, is generated as remuneration payable to employees during a referenced period to include, salary, retirement, health benefits, annual leave, supplements, Medicare, and Social Security expenses. District Operations included 41 positions on the payroll in FY2023.

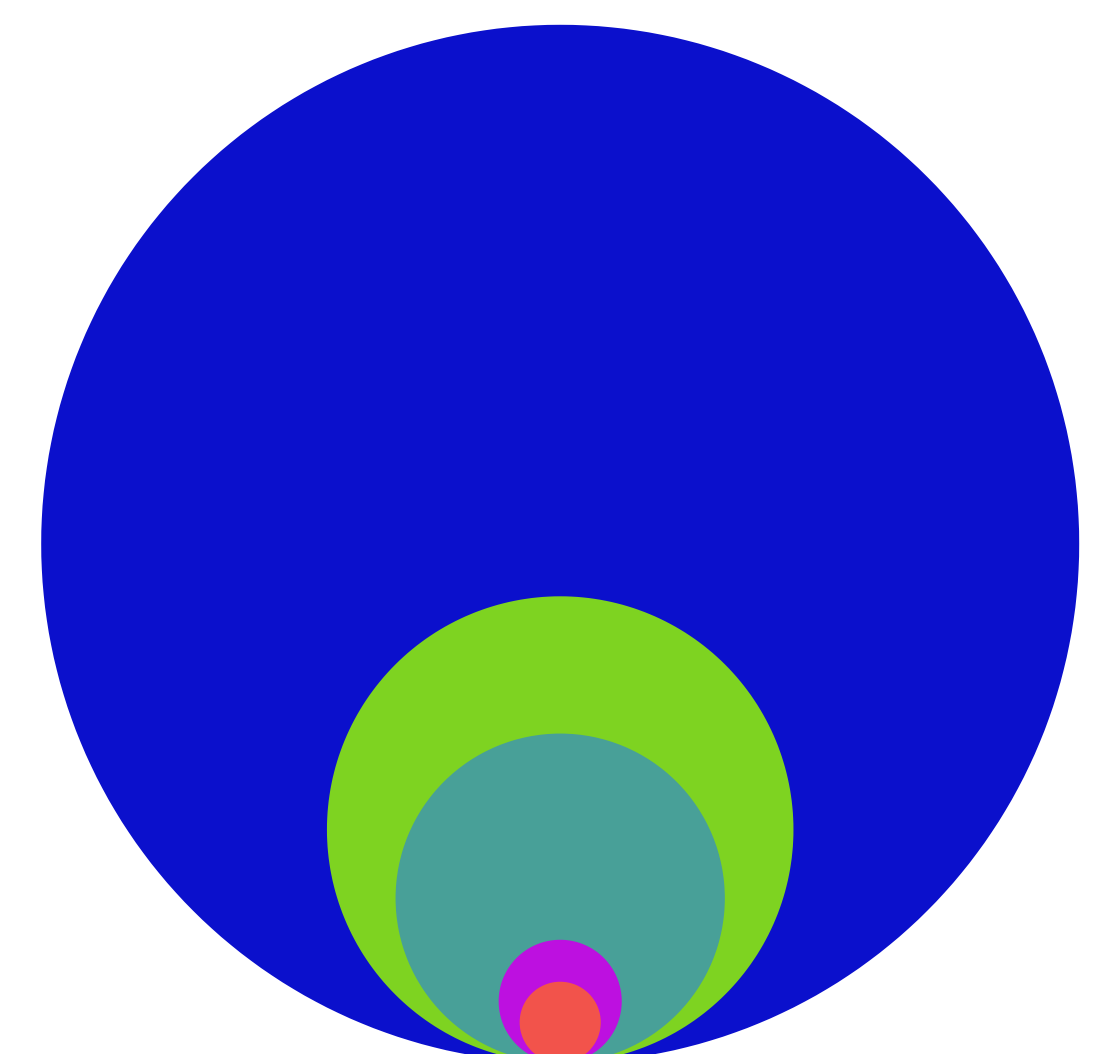
An audit of financial statements was conducted to accurately reflect the financial position of NCHD and its 13 County Boards of Health after FY2023 ended. The financial audit indicated there were no internal control findings, compliance issues, or concerns with financial statements for FY2023.

FY23 NCHD Revenue Sources



- Intra/Inter Agency (90.35%)
- Non-Qualifying Local (9.08%)
- Qualifying Local (0.18%)
- State Other (0.3%)
- Qualifying Contracts (0.1%)

FY23 NCHD Expenditures

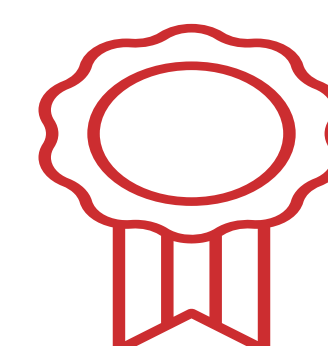


- Personnel Cost (75.6%)
- Other Operating (7.61%)
- Equipment (1.06%)
- Contracts (15.27%)
- Intra/Inter Agency (0.46%)



Number of Employees

366



Number of Retirements

4

Avg Length of service 23 yrs

Strategic Plan

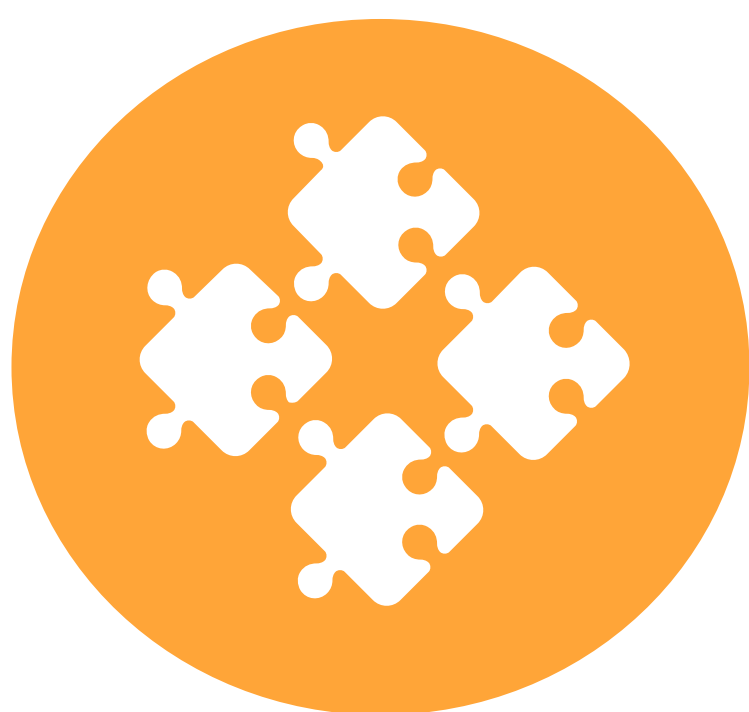
In an era of rapid change and evolving challenges, the need for strategic planning has never been more imperative for the North Central Health District. Our ability to navigate uncertainty, capitalize on opportunities, and address emerging trends hinges upon a clear and coherent strategic roadmap.

Throughout FY23, various planning committees comprised of staff across all levels of our organization worked to develop, through extensive research, stakeholder engagement, and planning committees, three strategic goals and objectives for the next five years. This strategic plan serves as our compass, guiding us towards our vision for the future while ensuring alignment with our core values and objectives.



Funding and Resource Development

Increase funding, improve technology, break down programmatic silos, and improve infrastructure to ensure that staff can provide safe, collaborative, and evidence-based services.



Re-establishing Public Health's Identity

Educate our staff, partners, and community members about public health's roles and responsibilities.



Workforce Development

Ensure our workforce possesses the skills and knowledge necessary to carry out the essential services of public health as well as our mission, vision, and values.

Ultimately, this strategic plan represents our collective commitment to chart a path toward sustainable growth, resilience, and value creation. By embracing change, fostering innovation, and staying true to our core values, we are confident in our ability to realize our vision and shape a brighter future for NCHD and the communities we serve.

HIGHLIGHTED PROGRAMS

This section offers a brief overview of a limited assortment of district initiatives and county health department endeavors throughout FY23.

BABIES CAN'T WAIT

Babies Can't Wait (BCW) is Georgia's Federally mandated early intervention program which serves children who have significant developmental delays or children who may be at risk for delays due to a physician diagnosed medical condition. The program provides support to children, ages birth to 3, and their families and was created under the Individual with Disabilities Education Act. BCW provides evaluation to determine eligibility and service coordination at no charge to families. Some additional services may require payment and are based on a sliding scale; however, BCW has financial resources to assist, if necessary. Eligibility for the program is not based on income.

Increase Enrollment

Some of the many ways Babies Can't Wait has worked to educate the community and increase referrals include TV commercials, radio advertisements, promotional giveaways during events with other public health programs and community partners such as Head Start, Local Educational Agencies, Department of Family and Children Services, as well as by word of mouth, BCW providers sharing the program.

With the increase in enrollment there is an increase in demand for support. BCW is working to recruit and retain additional staff and contract providers to meet the increase in demand for support.



COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS (CHW) FOR COVID RESPONSE AND RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The CHW Initiative's purpose is to train, deploy, and engage a community health worker to support COVID-19 response efforts and build or strengthen community resilience to fight COVID-19 by addressing existing chronic disease-related health disparities. Funding was awarded to North Central Health District for work to be done in Twiggs County which has a significant population of individuals who have been most impacted by COVID-19, have an increased risk for COVID-19 (i.e., underlying chronic disease health issues or factors affected by the social determinants of health), and/or have vaccine hesitancy.

Program Goals/Deliverables

- Integrate CHWs into organizations and care teams to support the public health response to COVID-19 among priority populations within communities.
- Coordinate and/or promote opportunities, such as messaging/education within communities and clinical settings to facilitate the engagement of CHWs in addressing the needs of those at highest risk for poor health outcomes, including those resulting from COVID-19.
- Facilitate engagement of CHWs in the care, support, and follow-up across clinical and community settings of priority populations at highest risk for poor health outcomes, including those resulting from COVID-19.
- Attend and/or conduct culturally sensitive trainings to ensure COVID-19 and other public health messages are delivered appropriately.
- Attend and/or conduct health equity, implicit bias, and racism trainings to further understand barriers certain populations may face when accessing healthcare services.

GEORGIA TOBACCO USE PREVENTION PROGRAM

The goal of the GTUPP program is to reduce the overall use of tobacco products, educate retailers and communities on the law related to selling tobacco products to minors, eliminate exposure to secondhand smoke, promote tobacco cessation, and improve health outcomes in Georgia. This annex is federally funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Office of Smoking and Health.

Program Goals/Deliverables

- Conduct educational campaign to increase tobacco retailers and communities' knowledge on the Tobacco 21 (T21) legislation; minimum age of purchase of any tobacco product, including e-cigarettes.
- Conduct community level and media campaign on at least one of the following: the dangers of e-cigarettes and emerging tobacco products, secondhand smoke exposure, and/or cessation resources among youth (12 - 17 years of age) and young adults (18 - 24 years of age).
- Create and implement, or continue to support and sustain, a tobacco-free policy adoption education campaign for school districts and/or college/university campuses.



HEALTH EQUITY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

The Health Equity Navigator Program encourages healthy changes in the community through outreach and engagement. The program was created to address the needs of communities disproportionately affected by COVID-19 by focusing on underserved populations, at higher risk and/or rural communities. The program provides education on vaccine hesitancy, testing, and linkage to community resources, and addresses challenges communities face.

Program Highlights

Building Community Empowerment Through Linkage

- To address the spectrum of health equity, program staff linked individuals to resources available within their community. Staff educated individuals on existing programs within Public Health.
- Formed the “Vax on the Spot” program. Vax On the Spot was a partnership between county health departments and the health equity program to provide \$100 vaccine incentives on select days at county health departments to increase COVID-19 vaccine uptake and health department services.
- Planned and coordinated 39 community events that provided healthcare access, tools to achieve economic stability, and resources to improve the neighborhood and environments that contribute to health disparities.
- Attended 101 community events providing COVID-19 vaccines, education, and program/community resources.



HEALTH EQUITY NAVIGATOR PROGRAM

Strengthen Cross-Sector Collaboration & Built Organization Infrastructure to Support Equity

- Established over 200 strategic partnerships throughout NCDH communities.
- Increased vaccination uptake by incentivizing over 75 sites with \$100 visa gift cards for primary or secondary COVID-19 vaccines.
- Facilitated over 30 referrals to other public health programs.



HOUSTON COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Houston County Health Department added 2 mental health nurse practitioners to establish and increase utilization of the Mental Wellness Clinic in partnership with Houston Healthcare.
- The Health Department added a second Prenatal/ GYN Clinic by creating a partnership with Houston Healthcare's resident physician's program.
- Houston County Health Department implemented the Plan of Safe Care home visiting program on 8/2023 and conducts home visits for mothers and infants testing positive for marijuana at birth in Houston and Peach counties.
- Houston County Health Department became a distribution site on 8/23 for Georgia's Low THC Registry.
- The Health Department hired a licensed social worker to promote collaborative care with all of Houston County's resources. The start date for this position is 11/2023.
- Houston County Health Department began piloting all electronic consent forms for the school-based flu program in Georgia beginning the 2022 school year and continuing the 2023 school year.
- The Health Department created and implemented Walk and Talk with DPH which is a monthly community event highlighting public parks and recreation, heart and whole-body health, and regular exercise.
- The clinic continues Prenatal Support services through monthly delivery of prenatal-focused education and activities directly to patient residences.
- Houston County Health Department was selected as a site for participation in a Harvard University and CDC learning opportunity in which Houston County's Prenatal Clinic was selected as a project program. Harvard students and CDC Fellows assisted in developing a plan for program evaluation and a plan for the development of an internally and externally facing dashboard to provide real-time outcome statistics.
- The health department continues to host students at Mercer University's Family Therapy Program. Students in this program provide free family and individual therapy to residents of Houston County and through Tele-Health to other counties in Georgia.

MACON-BIBB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- The clinical staff provided 12,029 clinical services/visits for the community. They included family planning, colposcopy, vaccinations, general labs, maternal health, teen health, high blood pressure and non-insulin-dependent diabetes screenings and treatment, pregnancy testing, prenatal care, breast and cervical cancer screenings, STD testing and treatment, tuberculosis, Social Security screenings, child health checks, children and adult immunizations, tuberculosis testing and management, and children hearing/vision/dental screenings.
- The WIC staff has maintained nutritional services to a caseload of ~2,500 clients each month during the FY23 fiscal year. The WIC program operates during the federal fiscal year which is October 1 – September 30.
- Health Educators continued to provide community-oriented workshops and facilitated community events in FY23. A few highlights include:
 - In October 2022, the health education team hosted a Ted Talk-style Breast Cancer Awareness Event at the Douglas Theatre in Macon, Georgia. Three breast cancer survivors, including one of our own team members, shared their journey through a breast cancer diagnosis and treatments. The discussion was in partnership with the Atrium Navicent Family Medicine Residency Program Director.
 - In December 2022, the Health Education team hosted a World AIDS Day event, including HIV testing, at the Douglass Theatre with a focus on providing education on pre-exposure prophylaxis options (PreP) and sharing the journey of those identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer (LGBTQ) affected by HIV and AIDS.
 - Initiated enrollment for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Diabetes Prevention Program. This educational forum is delivered by certified Diabetes Lifestyle Coaches who have completed the training course with the CDC.
 - Macon-Bibb County Health Department hosted two week-long instructional courses for certification as a Passenger Safety Technician.

MACON-BIBB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- Marketing has implemented various campaigns to boost engagement on the Macon-Bibb County Health Department's Facebook page and increase website views. The average increase of Macon-Bibb County Health Department website views by 1000 individuals per month, an average increase of Facebook page likes by 500 individuals per month, and average Facebook post reach increase by 200 individuals per month have been sustained since FY'21. Major campaigns yielding the highest results include the following:
 - Covid-19 Vaccinations and booster campaigns
 - Maternal Health discussions in partnership with Mercer University Center for Health Disparities
 - Maternal Health Brunch Peach Table Talk
 - Development of ten (10) podcasts on public health topics in partnership with undergraduate students at Mercer University and they have been released on YouTube.
 - Development of a podcast on cultural competency in public health, oral health, and clinical medicine in partnership with the Residency Program Directors of Family Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Pediatrics at Atrium Navicent Hospital, and Dr. Tarem Hendricks, public health dentist.
- The Environmental Health staff completed 1145 routine inspections, and 46 follow-up inspections, at the county's 687 Food Service Establishments, managed 74 Tourist Accommodations, 103 Pools, and 11 Body Art facilities operating in Macon-Bibb County.
 - At least 141 complaints were investigated within our permitted facilities, and 336 complaints in other areas were investigated or referred to the appropriate agency.
 - There were 280 animal/human bite investigations conducted to ensure rabies would not enter the human or domestic animal population, and 185 permits were issued for new on-site sewage management systems or repair, additions, or modifications to existing on-site sewage management systems.

MACON-BIBB COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

- The Vital Records staff provided 11,663 birth certificates and 14,966 death certificates.
 - They also issued 605 Low THC Oil Registry cards to qualified persons.
- Macon-Bibb County Health Department continues to serve as an Academic Health Department through our collaboration with the Department of Public Health, within the College of Health Professions, at Mercer University.
 - In FY23, this partnership resulted in the provision of applied learning experiences for students at the undergraduate, master, and doctoral levels. Their work resulted in four accepted presentations (two posters and two oral presentations) at the 2023 Georgia Public Health Association Annual Meeting and Conference.
- In April 2023, the Macon-Bibb County Health Department received recognition from the Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (ODPHP) within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as a Healthy People 2030 Champion. As a Healthy People 2030 Champion, MBCHD has demonstrated a commitment to helping achieve the Healthy People 2030 vision of a society in which all people can achieve their full potential for health and well-being across the lifespan.



HANCOCK COUNTY RACIAL AND ETHNIC APPROACHES TO COMMUNITY HEALTH (REACH)

North Central Health District was awarded a five-year Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health (REACH) Cooperative Agreement from October 2018 to September 2023 for work in Hancock County. In partnership with Hancock Health Improvement Partnership, initial strategies implemented were physical activity, nutrition, breastfeeding, and community-clinical linkages. During the COVID-19 pandemic supplemental funding was provided from October 2020 to September 2023 for promotion of flu and COVID-19 vaccines especially in the African American population that was disproportionately impacted by COVID-19. The REACH strategies focused on changing policies, systems, and environments to make access to healthy foods, physical activity, and breastfeeding support easier to access. The REACH cooperative agreement ended successfully in September 2023.

Physical Activity:

- City of Sparta adopted a Complete Streets Policy in October 2022.
- 2 Master Plans for parks in Sparta were developed and approved. Hancock County Board of Commissioners applied for grant funding to build one of the parks (8.5 acre park near downtown Sparta) using the park master plan developed through REACH funding and community engagement. The grant application was successful and Hancock County was awarded \$2.2 million to build the park.
- 36 pavement markers were installed to provide directions for two Sparta Historic Walking Tours. A kiosk was installed at Hancock County Courthouse to provide information and maps of the walking tours.
- 13 Healthy Hancock bike racks were installed in Sparta.
- 1 Bike repair station available to community members was installed at Hancock County Library.
- A crosswalk design contest had 48 entries. 5 winning entries were used to paint a colorful crosswalk at the intersection of Spring St. and Hamilton St.
- 4 benches were installed at the playground at M.E. Lewis Elementary School.



HANCOCK COUNTY REACH OUTCOMES

Nutrition:

- 6 organizations adopted Healthy Nutrition Guidelines. This included Helping Hands Food Pantry and 5 churches.
- Provided Harvest of the Month produce to clients at Helping Hands Food Pantry with produce recipe cards for 26 months.
- Approximately 1200 households (2500 people) received healthier food boxes from Helping Hands Food Pantry due to implementation of Healthy Nutrition Guidelines and Harvest of the Month produce.

Breastfeeding:

- 7 sites adopted breast-feeding friendly policies.
- 2 sites improved lactation rooms (Headstart & Health Department)

Community Clinical Linkages:

- 6 community members were certified as Lay Leaders to facilitate Chronic Disease Self-Management Program (CDSMP). Six CDSMP courses were completed in the community in community settings.
- Hancock County Chronic Disease Resources guide was published in 2020 and updated in 2022 and redistributed.

Vaccine Promotion:

- 18 African American churches were recruited to promote COVID-19 and flu vaccination in their congregations and communities.
- 5 Community Health Ambassadors were trained and promoted COVID-19 and flu vaccines in their networks.
- 315 males received first dose of COVID-19 vaccine between Feb. 2022 and Feb. 2023.
- 726 vaccines were administered at 13 mobile clinics between Fall 2020 and Fall 2022.

SNAP-Ed PROGRAM

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) project is a federal program funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The program aims to increase the knowledge and self-efficacy of SNAP-eligible individuals by providing them with education and offering structural changes that support making the healthy choice the easier and preferred choice for families living on a limited budget. Funding was awarded to North Central Health district to conduct direct nutrition education classes in Baldwin, Washington, and Twiggs counties.

Program Goals/Deliverables

- Implement strategies or interventions, among other health promotion efforts, to help the SNAP-Ed target audience establish healthy eating habits and a physically active lifestyle.
- Primary prevention of diseases to help the SNAP-Ed target audience that has risk factors for nutrition-related chronic disease, such as obesity, prevent or postpone the onset of disease by establishing healthier eating habits and being more physically active.
- Create accessible inclusive SNAP Nutrition Education classes for SNAP-Ed eligible communities.
- In partnership with SNAP-Ed eligible participants, create environments and systems that nurture healthy eating and active living.
- In partnership with SNAP-Ed eligible participants create programs that improve healthy eating and active living.



WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

The Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP) is a statewide breast and cervical cancer early detection program that is offered by more than 200 Public Health Clinics and selected nonprofit agencies to low-income, uninsured and underinsured women. This includes exams, paps, mammogram referrals, colposcopy and WH Medicaid referrals.

- In FY 23, the NCHD BCCP program provided services to 647 women, with 128 patients with completed diagnostic follow up, and 6 Cancer diagnoses.



The NCHD Family Planning (FP) Program provides contraception and affordable expert and confidential care to women of all ages.

- In FY 23, the Family Planning Program served 7,018 individuals, and placed 618 Long Active Reproductive Contraceptive Devices.



North Central Health District is serving as one of 4 Regional preceptors for Public Health. Joycelyn Reeves, FNP. serves as our regional trainer, located in Houston County.

The district had a successful CLIA (Clinical Lab Improvement Amendment) audit for recertification on 7/26/23 with no deficiencies noted under the direction of Raven Smith, FNP, lab manual committee director and Elaine Bryant WHNP, lab supervisor.

WOMEN, INFANTS, AND CHILDREN (WIC)

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) served approximately 13,801 participants. In 2022, WIC made the transition to eWIC for convenient no hassle checkout. Participants can now redeem only what is necessary with a loadable card. September 12, 2023 was the 1-year anniversary of North Central Health District WIC using eWIC. During Farmer's Market season WIC served 1,839 participants, but the redemption rate has not been determined.



Salvatore Magluilo retired in August 2023 after providing 32 and half years of public service.

FISCAL YEAR 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2022-JUNE 30, 2023



THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to our success, and here's to another year of making a positive difference in the lives of others.