



### Progress on CHIP

Sampson County Health Department is excited to share the 2020 State of the Health report (SOTCH) for Sampson County.

Since March 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic has made the ability to work with partners and to implement programs within the Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIPS) difficult for Sampson County and our community partners, therefore, progress on CHIPS has been minimal. Much of public health's focus has been on COVID-19 which, in turn, created additional workloads for public health staff including case investigation, contact tracing, quarantine and isolation of county residents. Other factors such as feelings of fear and uncertainty within the community, economic instability, the growing increase in the number of COVID cases and deaths, gubernatorial executive orders including mass gathering limitations, stay at home orders and social distancing requirements have all affected the ability to work with partners and implement planned programs. Although we have been impacted by COVID-19, we remain united in our efforts to support community health improvements and look forward to being able to fully implement CHIPS that will address our two identified health priorities: Substance Use and Diabetes.

Our program has successfully adopted Results-Based Accountability, a disciplined way of thinking and taking action that can be used to improve quality of life and the performance of programs. Amid COVID-19, our program has used Clear Impact Scorecard to transition CHIPS from paper-based to web-based documents; set-up results, indicators, programs, and performance measures and linked to the HNC 2030 Scorecard to create greater awareness of population accountability.

### Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA

Since the last CHA, cancer, heart diseases and accidental injuries have remained the three leading causes of death in Sampson County. The age-adjusted death rates per 100,000 population for the ten leading causes of mortality, with the exception of Alzheimer's, decreased in Sampson County. Although the county's age-adjusted death rate for Alzheimer's increased, it remained lower than North Carolina's rate. The county's death rates for kidney diseases and influenza and pneumonia were also lower than North Carolina's rates.

Sampson County's first positive case of COVID-19 was on March 16, 2020. According to NC COVID Surveillance System, Sampson County had 2,989 positive cases and 51 deaths in 2020.

Of the positive cases, the demographic classification were as follows: (1) Gender: 51.89% female, 47.71% male, 0.40% missing classification; (2) Ethnicity: 40.88% Hispanic, 41.92% Not Hispanic, 12.58% unknown, 4.62% missing classification; (3) Race: 0.54% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.20% Asian, 16.23% Black or African American, 0.13% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 62.60% White, 6.39% Other, 9.20% Unknown, 2.51% Multi-Racial, 2.21% missing classification.

Of the deaths, the demographic classification were as follows: (1) Gender: 39.22% female, 60.78% male; (2) Ethnicity: 17.65% Hispanic, 78.43% Not Hispanic, 3.92% unknown; (3) Race: 1.96% American Indian/Alaskan Native, 0.00% Asian, 33.33% Black or African American, 0.00% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 49.02% White, 5.88% Other, 1.96% Unknown, 7.84% Multi-Racial, 0.00% missing classification.

### Emerging Issues Since Last CHA

Since the last CHA, Medicaid transformation, substance use including opioids and the COVID pandemic continue to be emerging issues.

Medicaid transformation will provide managed care through prepaid health plans to provide benefits and services to recipients for a set amount. While managed care may not be new to providers, it will be new to Medicaid recipients. In 2019, 30.4% of Sampson County's population were enrolled in Medicaid (North Carolina Institute of Medicine). Medicaid transformation is scheduled to take effect July 2021.

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there have been significant increases in many types of substance use since March 2020 due to the impact of the COVID pandemic.

COVID-19 has caused a ripple effect with profound impacts in Sampson County. The pandemic has affected jobs, finances, housing, food insecurity, education, transportation and health care. Many have lost working hours and/or jobs during the pandemic which has resulted in financial problems including the ability to pay bills or even afford basic necessities.

Some residents have faced housing eviction due to severe financial problems in which the Department of Social Services has been a link in providing assistance to locate housing, especially for women and children.

In 2018, 16.9% (10,740) of Sampson County's population including 24.1% (3,780) Sampson County children faced food insecurity (Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2020). Projections of how food insecurity might increase as a result of unemployment and poverty because of COVID-19 are based on Revised Projections – October 2020 to reflect 19.6% (12,430) for the county population including 29.1% (4,570) children facing food insecurity (Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2020). School meals are often the main source of nutrition for children in school. The Pandemic Electronic Benefit Transfer (P-EBT) program has helped families in Sampson County purchase food for children whose access to meals at school have been impacted by COVID-19. Action Pathways' Second Harvest Food Bank partnered with a number of non-profits in Sampson County to hold drive-through food distribution events to those that needed assistance which may or may not be related to the pandemic.

Education and student learning in Sampson County have been impacted by COVID-19. The majority of students are not receiving face-to-face instruction, but rather virtual learning which can present learning barriers such as internet access, technical problems/issues and lack of social interaction.

Sampson Area Transportation (SAT) offers transportation services to all residents and citizens of Sampson County, however, these services are only offered Monday through Friday from 5 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fares include public transportation rider and cost-sharing nutrition site passengers. If a rider is sponsored by a human services agency, they may qualify to ride for reduced or free fare. SAT provided 56,166 trips in 2019 and 32,662 trips in 2020. COVID has attributed to the decrease in trips due to stay at home orders, decreasing the number of riders inside a vehicle, closure of senior centers and nutrition sites, telehealth appointments instead of in-person medical appointments, etc.

COVID-19 has shifted the focus of health care from the pre-existing medical issues prevalent in Sampson County to the containment/prevention of COVID outbreaks. While the pre-existing conditions are important, the focus over the last year has been more on the effects of COVID and its impact on our communities.

## New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives Since Last CHA

Most initiatives since the last CHA have continued to some degree, however, these initiatives have had a decrease in participation and data to report for 2020. One program that was paused during 2020 was the Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support (DSMES). A few group classes were held before the pandemic began in Sampson County. Then, a couple of group classes were held in August, with the program being paused again. The DSMES program had a total of 49 participants in 2020 with one participant completing the program. The average A1C reduction was 1.2 and there was no reduction in blood pressure.

The current COVID pandemic has brought an array of new challenges for Sampson County. However, with the collaboration and teamwork of our community partners, our goal of getting the COVID vaccine into the arms of Sampson County residents, to regain some normalcy, is not as far-fetched as it once was. Our efforts to promote the COVID vaccine is based on the hope that we will soon be able to refocus our efforts back to the health priorities identified in the last CHA.

## Actions

Name	Assigned To	Status	Due Date	Progress
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