



**Nash County**  
North Carolina



2022

# State of the County Health Report

## ***TOP THREE HEALTH PRIORTIES***

❖ **Metabolic Syndrome**

(Focus on Heart Disease, Stroke, Diabetes and Obesity)

❖ **Poverty**

(Focus on Access and Low-Income)

❖ **Behavioral Health**

(Focus on Substance Use)

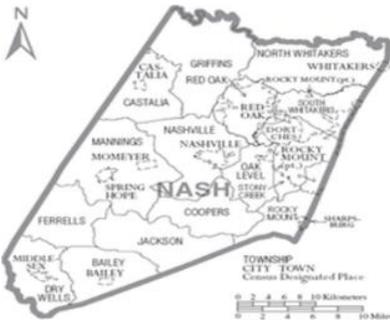
### Nash County Health Department

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William W. Hill, Jr., MPH  
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# Overview



Nash County was formed in 1777 from the western part of Edgecombe County, NC. The county was named for General Francis Nash (1742-1777), of Hillsborough. General Nash was a soldier who was mortally wounded while fighting under General George Washington at Germantown during the American Revolution. Nash County is located in the northeast section of the state, bounded by Edgecombe, Wilson, Johnston, Franklin and Halifax Counties. The county encompasses a total of 542.71 square miles in area (land and water) with 540.33 square miles in land area. Most of the county is rural in population with the exception of the City of Rocky Mount, which is located in both Nash and Edgecombe counties. The county has eleven municipalities within five quadrants that include: (1) County Seat (Nashville); (2) Eastern Area (Rocky Mount and Sharpburg); (3) Northern Area (Dortches, Castalia, Red Oak and Whitakers); (4) Southern Area (Middlesex and Bailey); and (5) Western Area (Momeyer and Spring Hope).

## Nash County Human Services Board

Nash County Health Department is governed by the Consolidated Human Services Board, which is comprised of twenty appointed members.

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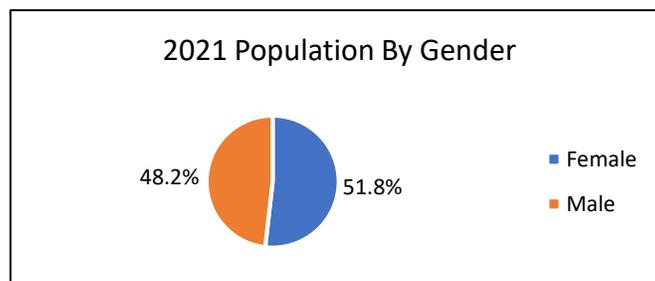
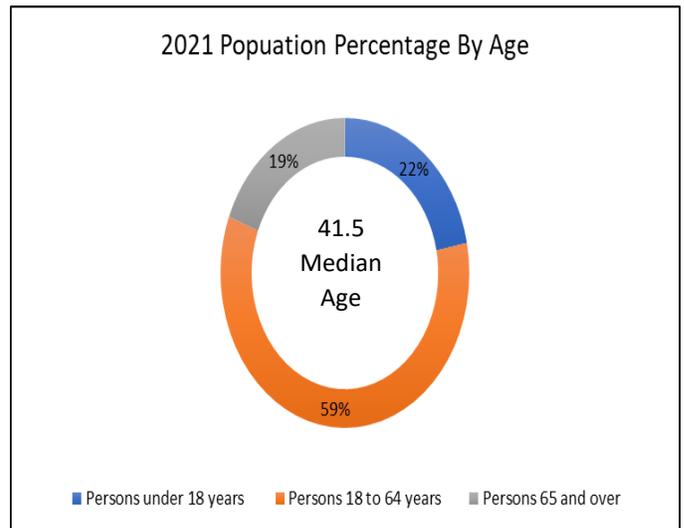
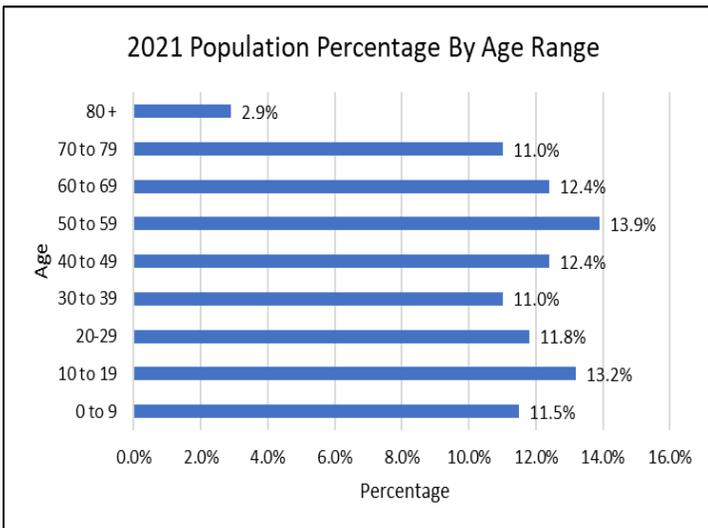
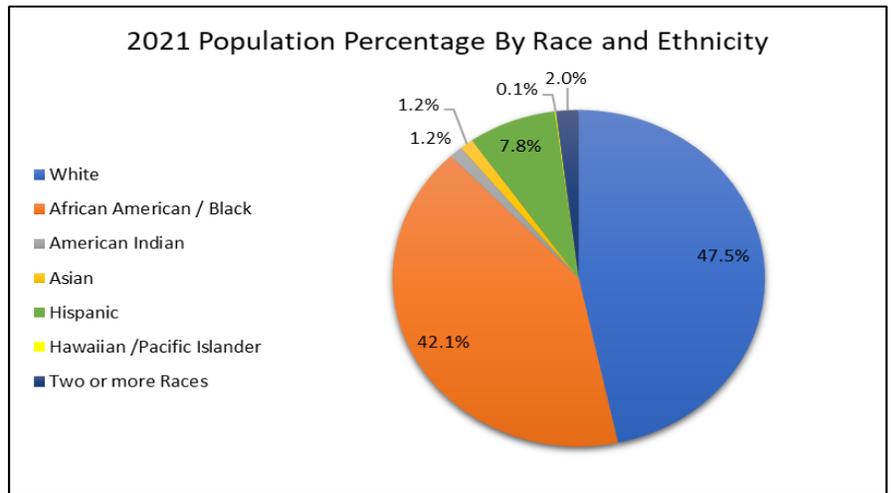
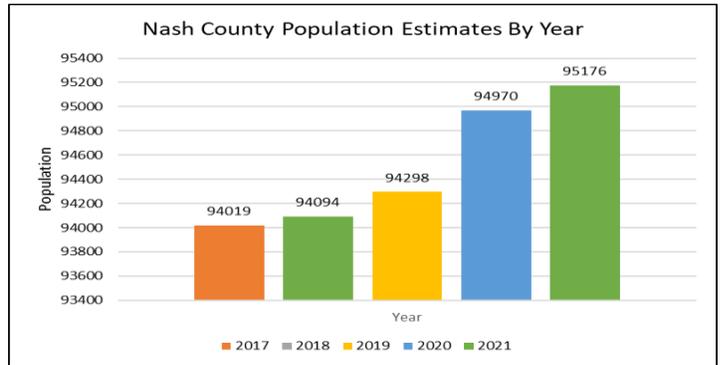
\*\* six vacant positions\*\*

The State of the County Health Report is a supplementary annual report to the 2021 Nash County Community Health Assessment. It highlights the current data of the county's leading health concerns and well-being of Nash County residents. The report includes current demographics, leading causes of death, the County's top three health priorities and efforts to address these issues. It provides an update on the health of Nash County residents to serve as a resource for grant writing, local policies, budgets, program planning and implementation.

# Demographics

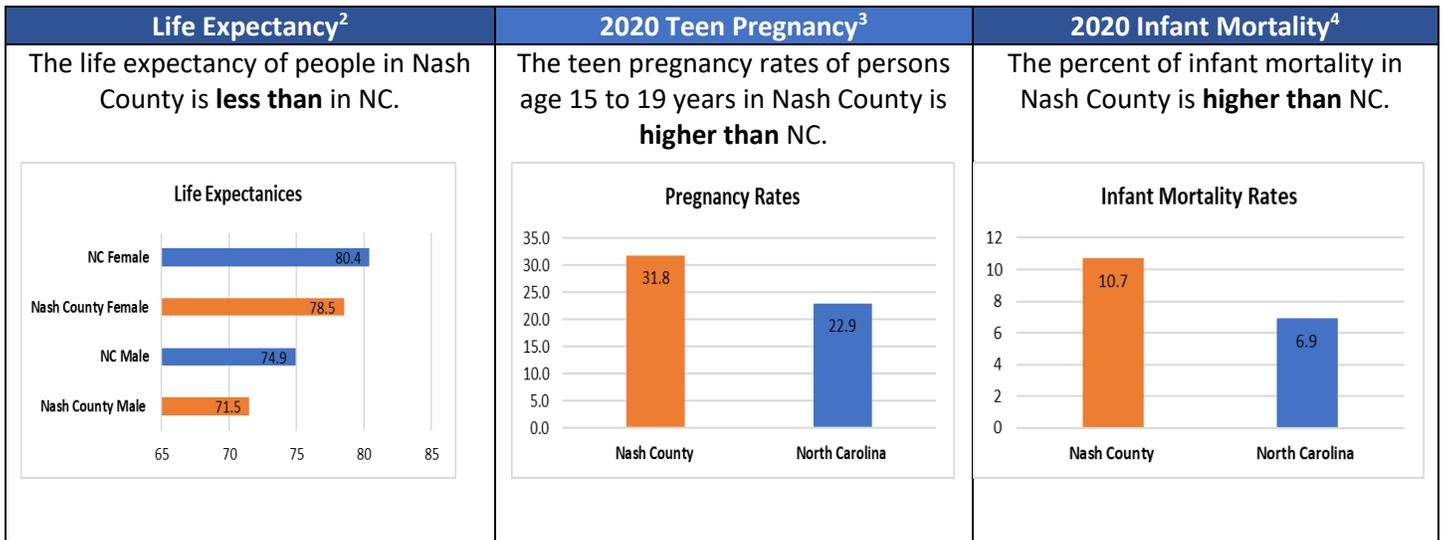
According to the 2021 US Census estimates, Nash County has a population of 95,176, a slight increase from the prior four years (2017 through 2020).

Females (51.8%) of all race groups and Whites (47.5%) represented the majority of the population. The median age was 41.5 years and there is a growing aging population with the largest age bracket 50 to 59 years old.



Source:  
US Census Bureau<sup>1</sup>

# Health Profile Data



Improving life expectancy from birth is a selected priority for Nash County. There are significant differences among African American and White populations for infant mortality and teen pregnancy.

## 2020 Infant Mortality and Pregnancy Data<sup>4</sup>

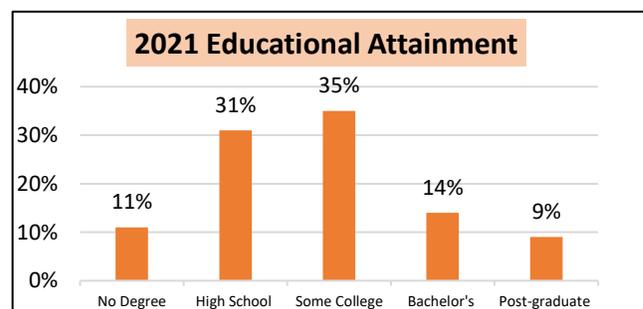
	White	African American
Infant Mortality Rate	10.1	13.9
Teen Pregnancy Cases (age 15-19)	18	59

African American infant mortality rates were slightly higher than White (13.9 to 10.1), respectively. Also, African American teen pregnancy cases for individuals age 15-19 were higher than White teens of similar age, 59 to 18. Although unemployment rate, poverty, and median household income have improved since 2019, Nash County residents continue to face economic challenges such as high uninsured rates and healthcare access, especially among the minority population.

Persons in Poverty <sup>1</sup>		
	2019	2022
Nash County	16.4%	14.8%
North Carolina	13.6%	11.6%

Unemployment Rate <sup>5</sup>			
	2020	2021	2022
Nash County	8.4	4.6	4.6
North Carolina	6.2	4.1	3.9

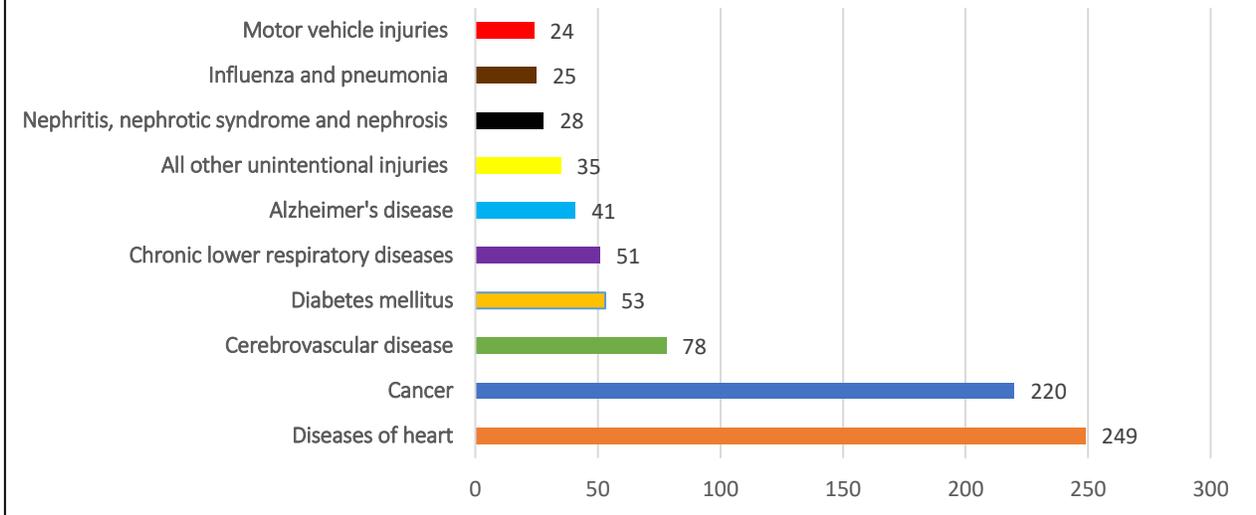
Median Household Income <sup>1</sup>		
	2019	2022
Nash County	\$49,537	\$52,837
North Carolina	\$54,602	\$69,021



Educational attainment was 89.5% for High School graduate and higher.

# Leading Causes of Death

2019 Age-Adjusted Leading Causes of Death in Nash County<sup>7</sup>



**In Nash County, heart disease is the leading cause of death, followed by cancer, among all races.**

2019 Leading Causes of Death by Race <sup>8</sup>		
Ranking	White	Minorities
1	Diseases of heart	Cancer
2	Cancer	Disease of heart
3	Cerebrovascular disease	Diabetes mellitus
4	Chronic lower respiratory disease	Cerebrovascular disease
5	Alzheimer's disease	All other unintended injuries
6	Diabetes mellitus	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis
7	All other unintentional injuries	Chronic lower respiratory diseases
8	Motor vehicle injuries	Influenza and pneumonia
9	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	Alzheimer's disease
10	Influenza and pneumonia	Assault (homicide)

2019 Top 3 Leading Causes of Death by Age Group <sup>9</sup>			
Ages 0-19	Ages 20-39	Ages 40-64	Ages 65 and older
Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	Motor vehicle injuries	Cancer	Diseases of heart
Motor vehicle injuries	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	Diseases of heart	Cancer
All other unintentional injuries	Assault (homicide)	All other unintentional injuries	Cerebrovascular diseases

# Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship, and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks.

Social determinants of health (SDOH) have a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life.

Examples of SDOH include:

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and activity opportunities
- Polluted air and water
- Language and literacy skills
- Behavioral/Mental health services



SDOH also contributes to widening health disparities and inequities. People who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. It raises the risk of health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity — and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who do have access to healthy foods. The COVID-19 rates among the minority population indicated the need for addressing disparities of low-income communities and marginalized populations. Through program planning, Nash County Health Department is collaborating with county officials and policy-makers to align policies and interventions to improve health equity and a healthier built environment. This work helps reduce health disparities and improve health and well-being for all people. Nash County Health Department participates in a myriad of programs and workgroups to address the underlying causes that contribute to SDOH. Workgroups include:

- Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R)
- Coalition for Addiction Recovery Education (C.A.R.E.)
- Domestic Violence Task Force
- Early Childhood Community Partners
- Edgecombe – Nash Local Action Network (LAN)
- Healthy Kids Collaborative
- Juvenile Crime Prevention Council (JCPC)
- Local Interagency Coordinating Council (LICC)
- Nash and Edgecombe Council of Community Services (CCS)
- Nash County Adult Care Home Resident Discharge Team
- Nash County Child Fatality Task Force
- Nash County Community Collaborative for Child Mental Health and Substance Use
- Nash County Community Child Prevention Team
- Nash County Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC)
- NE NC Lactation Task Force
- Nurse Family Partnership Community Advisory Board
- Project GRACE
- Ready Schools Committee
- Region 8 Network for HIV Prevention and Care
- School Health Advisory Committee
- Twin Counties Partnership for Healthier Communities
- UNC Health Nash OB Community Roundtable

# Health Priorities

## Selected Priority Areas

In 2021, Nash County Health Department and community partners selected county-specific priorities during the Community Health Assessment process. The three chosen priorities include:

- Metabolic Syndrome (Focus on Heart Disease, Stroke, Diabetes and Obesity)
- Poverty (Focus on Access and Low-income)
- Behavioral Health (Focus on Substance use)

Approximately 32 stakeholders participated in two meetings in late October 2021 and early November 2021 in a health prioritization process. As a result, stakeholders agreed to adopt the selected priorities to address over the next three years (2021-2023) to improve community health outcomes with existing and new resources. In a follow-up meeting, the stakeholders identified programs and established objectives for each priority to show progress toward turning the community curve for better health outcomes.

## Priority 1: Metabolic Syndrome

Metabolic syndrome is a group of conditions that can cause coronary heart disease, diabetes, stroke, and other serious health problems. In Nash County, heart disease ranked #1 as the leading cause of death among chronic and infectious diseases. Following heart disease, other chronic health conditions such as cancer ranked #2, cerebrovascular disease (stroke) ranked #3, and diabetes ranked #4. Also, being overweight and obese among children and adults increases the risk of these chronic health conditions. Both overweight and obesity are generally defined by BMI ranges that are associated with an increased likelihood of certain diseases and other health problems.

(Table 1: shows how BMI is used to classify weight status for adults<sup>10</sup>). Data from the 2022

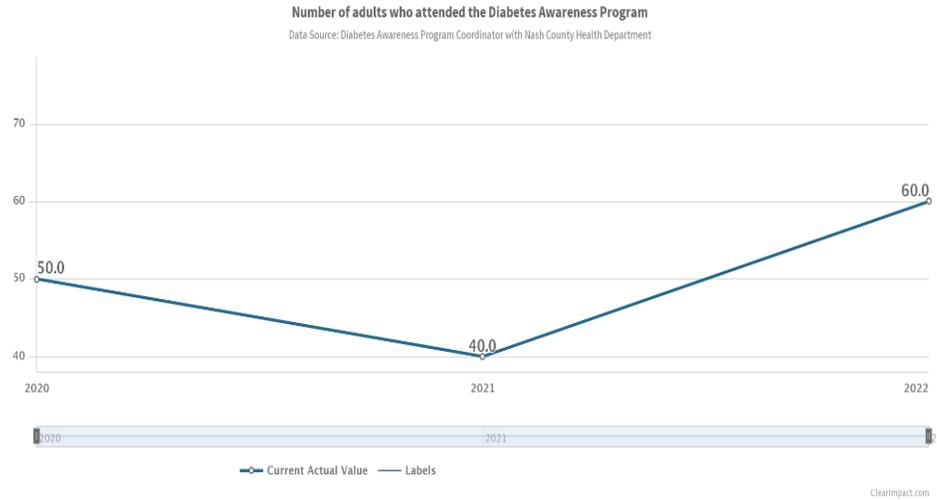
Body Mass Index (BMI)	Weight Status
Below 18.5	Underweight
18.5 to 24.9	Healthy weight
25.0 to 29.9	Overweight
30.0 or higher	Obese

County Health Ranking report indicated that Nash County obesity was 35%, which decreased from 2019 data at 38%.<sup>11</sup> In addition, survey data from the 2021 Community Health Assessment indicated that it is easy to buy healthy foods in the county (45.2% respondents), but low income/poverty (58.1% respondents) contributed to the highest impact on quality of life, which affects access to healthy foods. During a normal week, and other than their job, respondents (58.6%) reported that they do engage in physical activity or exercise for at least one hour four times per week. Respondents who do not exercise reported they were too tired to exercise (41.4%), they did not have not time to exercise (31.8%), and their job was physical or hard labor (19.1%).<sup>12</sup> Establishing access to healthy foods and physical activity is an objective for Nash County to reduce barriers many residents face for prevention and controlling Type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, and stroke. Through partnerships, Nash County Health Department, Down East Partnership for Children, and Harrison Family YMCA agreed to establish health and wellness programs that include:

- **Diabetes Awareness Program** - A community education program hosted by Nash County Health Department and Harrison Family YMCA at least two times a year to increase citizens access to diabetes prevention services.

### Progress:

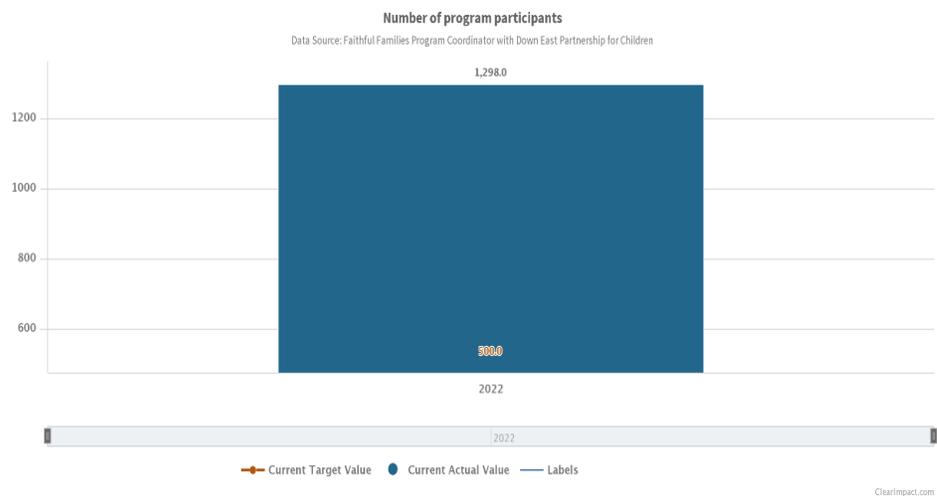
- Established a partnership with the Harrison YMCA to offer a 5-session virtual diabetes program twice a year, reaching over 50 participants
- 95% of respondents reported increased knowledge about managing and controlling diabetes
- 50% of respondents reported neither weight loss improvements nor controlled blood glucose because of the program



➤ **Faithful Families Program** – A church-based program lead by Down East Partnership for Children to encourage healthy eating and physical activity in communities for children and adults.

**Progress:**

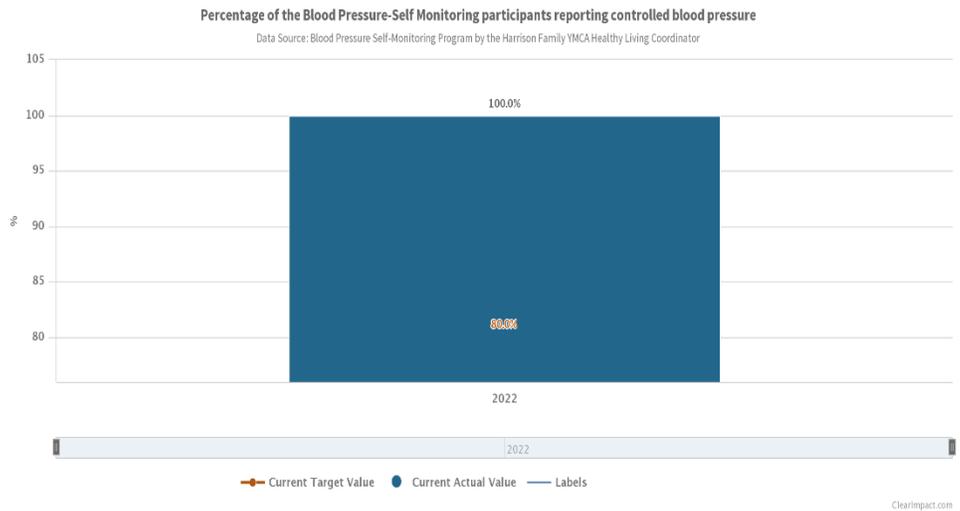
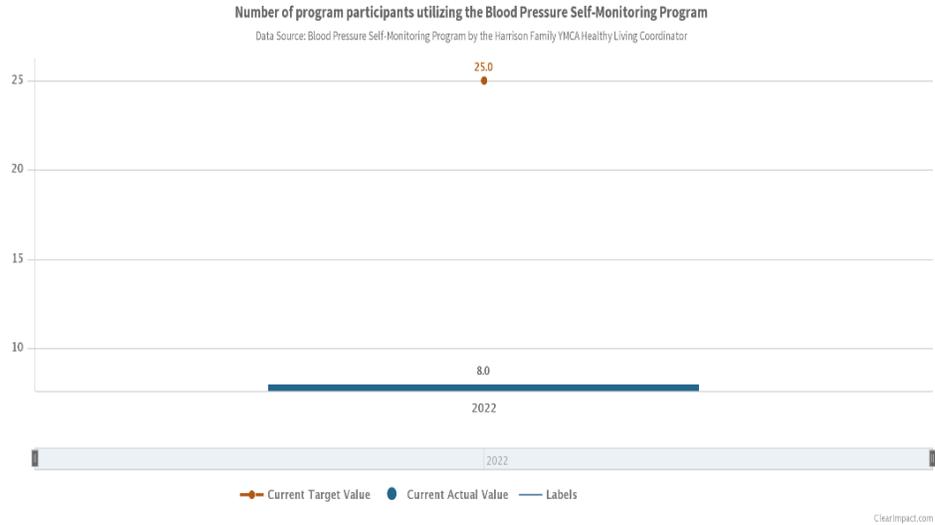
- Recruited approximately 1,298 citizens from Nash and Edgecombe counties and 100% of program participants showed improvement in making healthy food choices
- Promoted and supported healthy food policies, systems, and environmental changes in Faithful Families Program churches that completed and implemented action plans



- **Harrison Family YMCA Wellness Programs** – The YMCA-hosted wellness programs to increase citizens' access to physical activity and wellness opportunities.

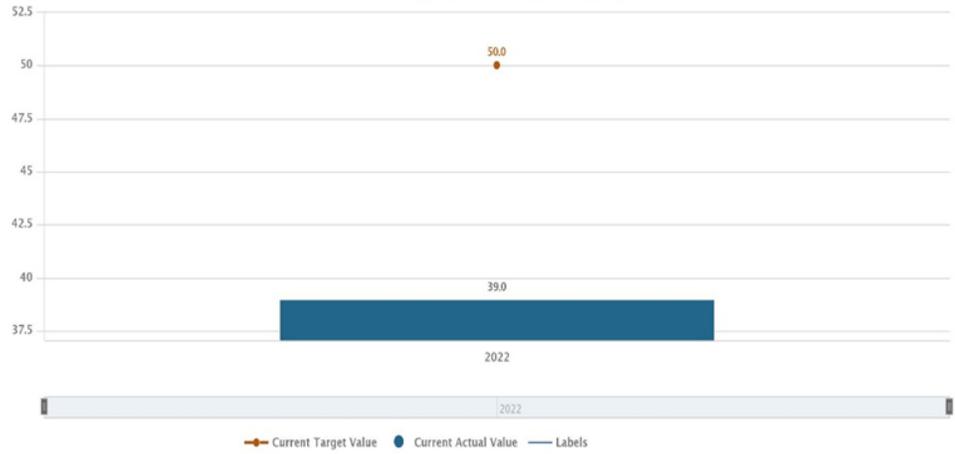
**Progress:**

- Recruited approximately eight individuals in the Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program with 100% of participants reporting controlled blood pressures
- Recruited approximately 39 individuals in the Enhance Fitness Program, showing 92% regular participation
- Recruited approximately eight individuals in the Walk with Ease Program, showing 90% regular participation



### Number of program participants in the Enhance Fitness Program

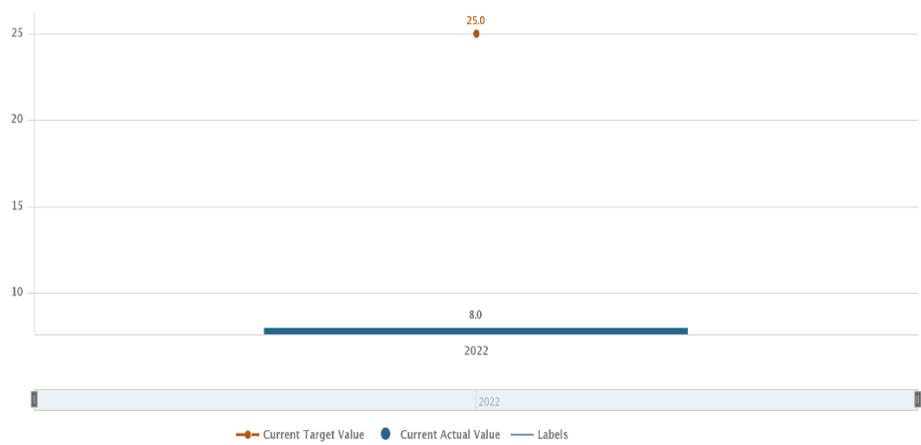
Data Source: Enhance Fitness Program by the Harrison Family YMCA Healthy Living Coordinator



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### Number of program participants in the Walk with Ease Program

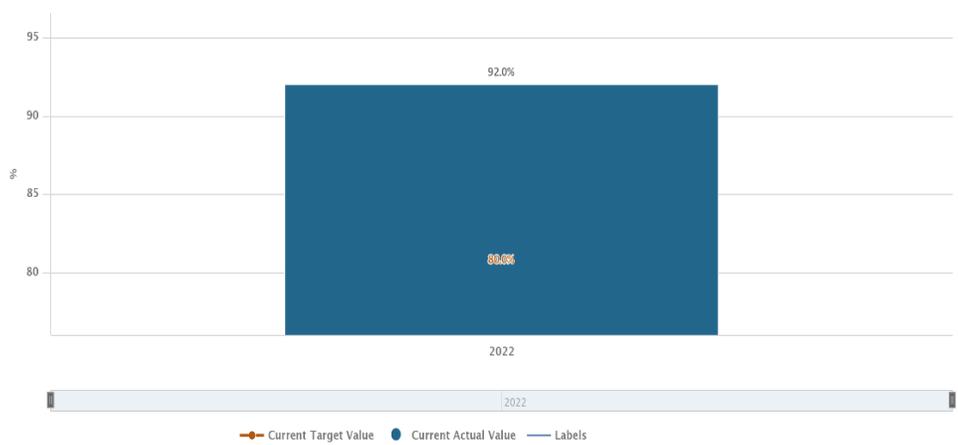
Data Source: Walk with Ease Program by Harrison Family YMCA Healthy Living Coordinator



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### Percentage of the Enhance Fitness program engaged in regular physical activity

Data Source: Blood Pressure Self-Monitoring Program by the Harrison Family YMCA Healthy Living Coordinator

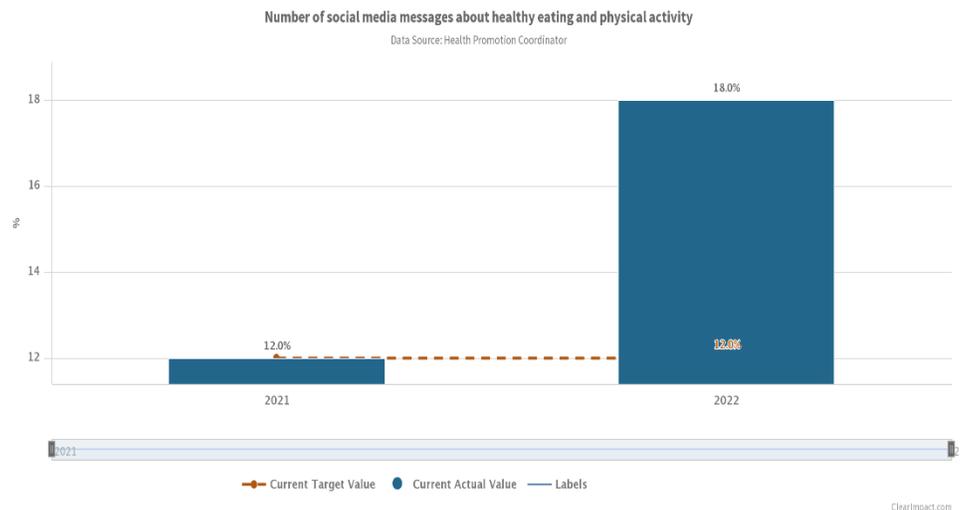
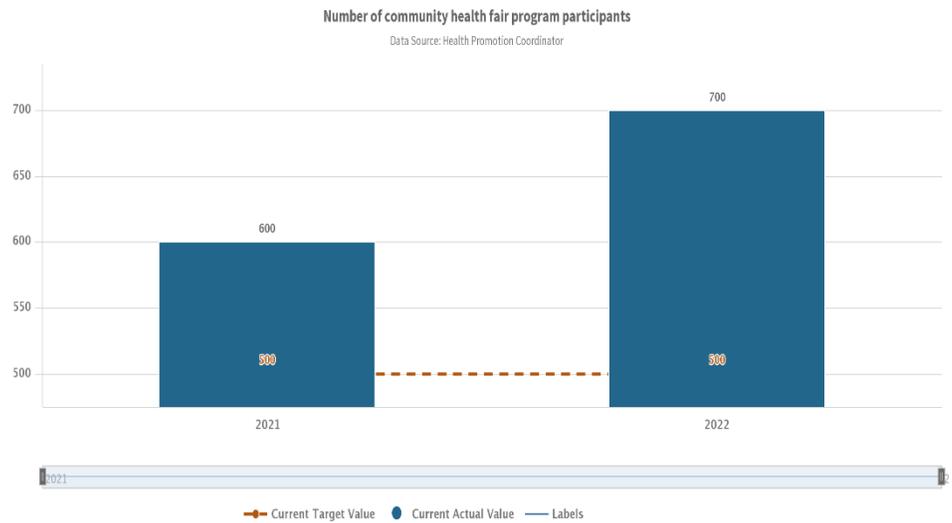


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- **Healthy Communities Program** – A health promotion program established by Nash County Health Department to increase citizens' access to health and wellness opportunities through education and policy system changes.

**Progress:**

- Participated in five community health fairs educating over 700 citizens about heart disease, stroke, diabetes, obesity and healthy living
- Hosted seven programs to educate citizens about the My-Plate Method to teach about healthy food choices
- Shared monthly social media messages on healthy eating and physical activity to reduce heart disease and stroke
- Two faith-based organizations were encouraged to adopt healthy food options at social gatherings and events

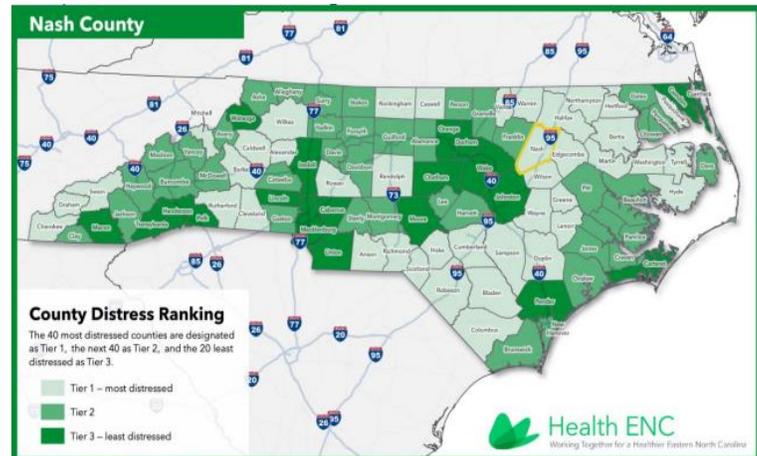


## Priority 2: Poverty

The North Carolina Department of Commerce annually ranks the State's 100 counties based on economic well-being and assigns each a Tier designation. The 40 most distressed counties are designated as Tier 1, the next 40 as Tier 2, and the 20 least distressed as Tier 3. Nash County has been assigned a Tier 1 designation for 2021.<sup>13</sup>

County Tiers are calculated using four factors:

- Average unemployment rate
- Median household income
- Percentage growth in population
- Adjusted property tax base per capita



The term poverty refers to the state or condition in which people or communities lack the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living. Historically, adopting poverty in the context of improving finances has not been a priority for Nash County Health Department, but we strive to enhance affordable services for citizens' access. Data indicates that poverty-stricken people and families may go without proper housing, clean water, healthy food, and medical attention. As a result, Nash County community health partners agreed to improve equitable program opportunities and services for citizens to address conditions and causes of poverty to increase self-sufficiency over the next three years (2021-2023). The program includes:

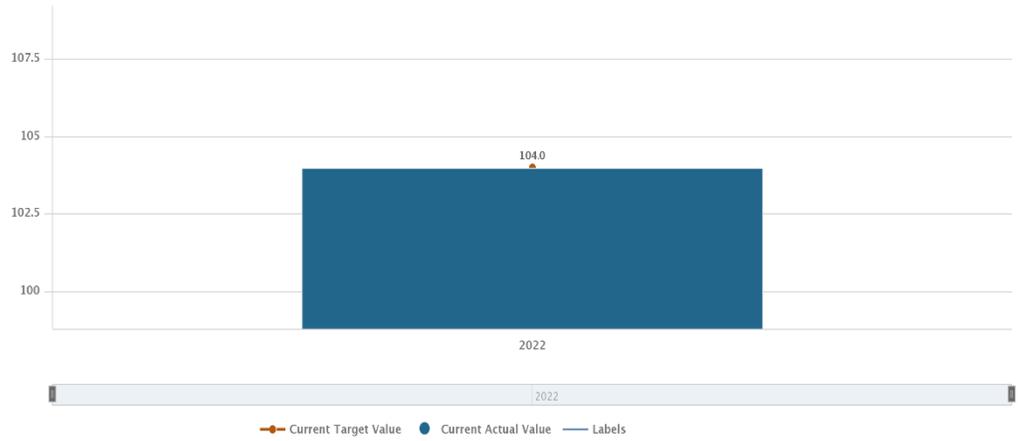
- **Cooperative Extension Financial Literacy Program** – A Nash County Cooperative Extension Financial Literacy Program established to teach citizens skills in financial planning for achieving financial freedom.

### Progress:

- Worked toward establishing community partnerships to offer a Financial Literacy Program and recruit program participants
- Approximately 104 individuals participated in the Financial Literacy Program on basic financial management strategies (such as budgeting, recording keeping, goal setting, writing goals, and consumer decision-making)
- Approximately 124 individuals implemented basic financial management skills such as developing a budget and keeping records
- Approximately 11 individuals reported an increased knowledge and/or skill regarding family economic security (such as how to access SNAP benefits, SHIP, Medicare Part D, food cost management, cost comparison skills, shopping for reverse mortgages, and select long-term care insurance)

### Number of program participants attending Financial Literacy Program

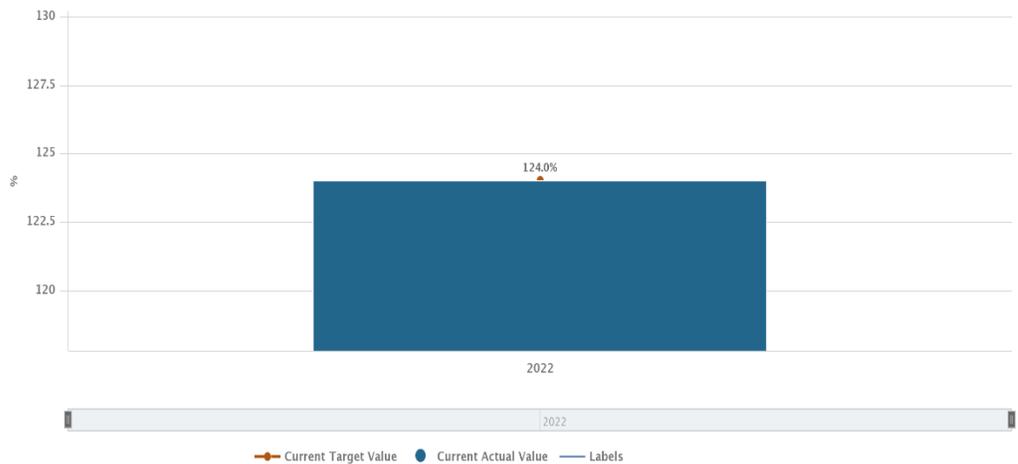
Data Source: Cooperative Extension Financial Literacy Program Coordinator



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### Number of individuals reporting improved financial planning

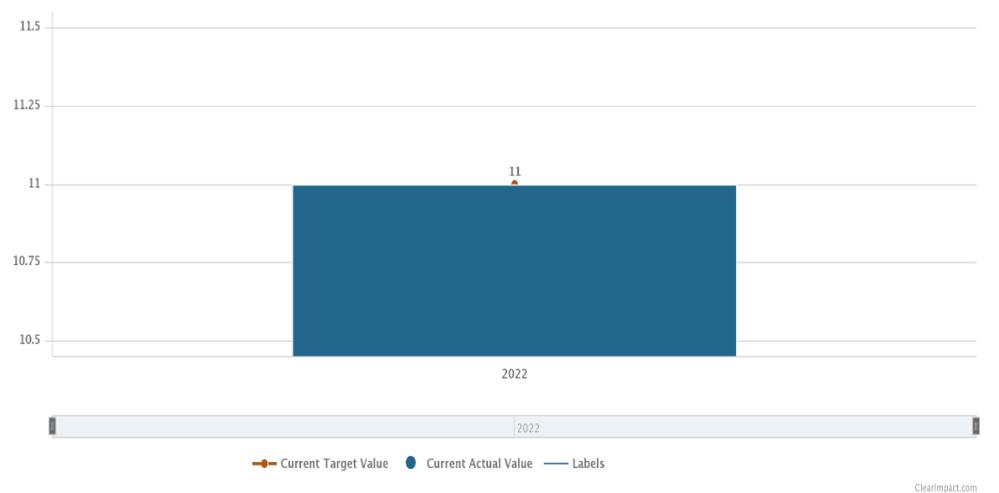
Data Source: Cooperative Extension Financial Literacy Program Coordinator



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### Number of individuals reporting an increased knowledge and/or skills about family economic security

Data Source: Cooperative Extension Financial Literacy Program Coordinator

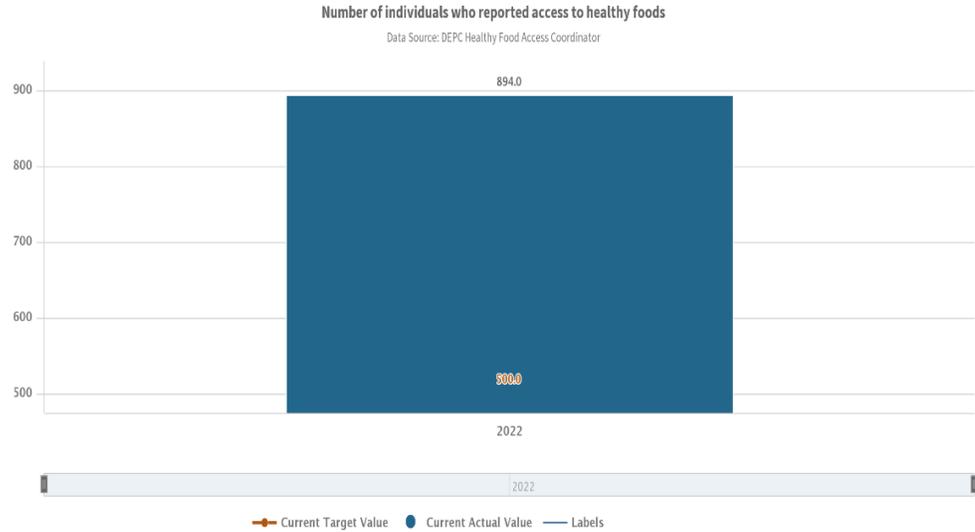


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- **Gardening and Nutrition Support Program** – An established community-based garden program by Down East Partnership for Children to increase healthy food access in low-income communities.

**Progress:**

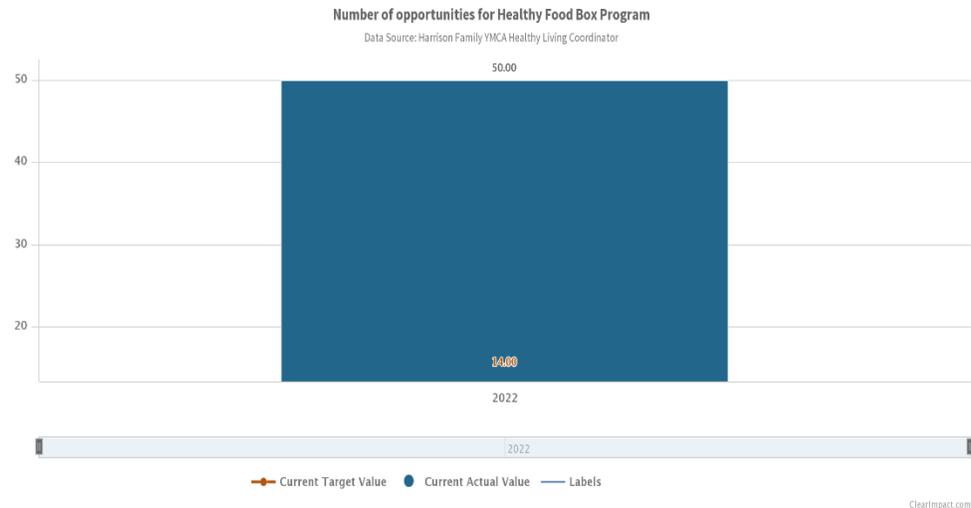
- Approximately 894 individuals reported access to healthy foods due to the Gardening and Nutrition Support Program
- Worked toward recruiting community volunteers to support program activities



- **Harrison Family YMCA Food Box Program** – The Harrison Family YMCA established a healthy food box program to increase citizens’ access to fresh fruits and vegetables for low-income communities.

**Progress:**

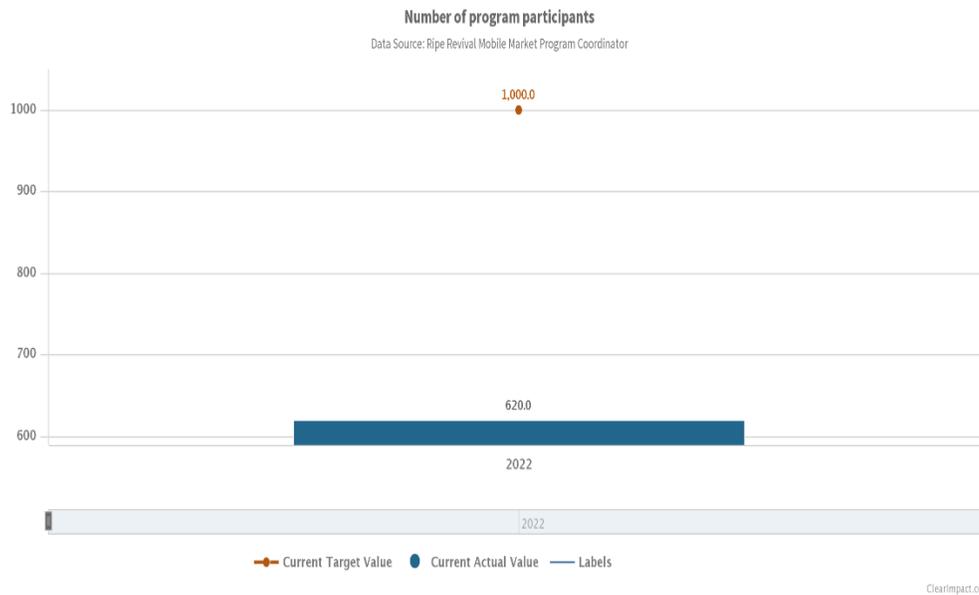
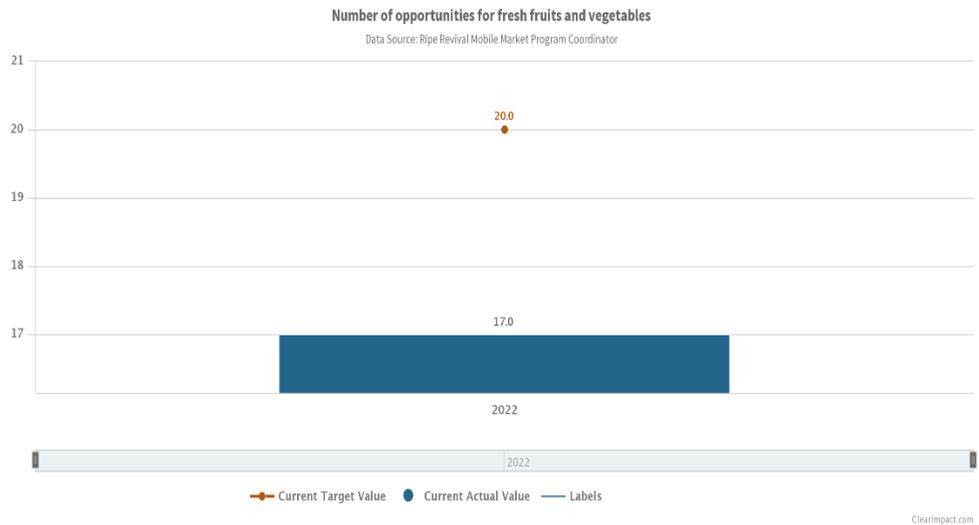
- Worked toward establishing community partnerships to offer healthy foods access and recruit program participants
- Provided 50 opportunities for citizens to access fresh fruits and vegetables, reaching approximately 135 participants



- **Ripe Revival Fresh Fruits and Vegetables Mobile Market** – Ripe Revival is a nonprofit program established to provide healthy foods opportunities for citizens regardless of income through Mobile Market buses.

**Progress:**

- Worked toward establishing community partnerships to expand healthy food access opportunities
- Hosted 17 community events to offer healthy foods, reaching approximately 620 participants



- **Nash County Senior Services Wellness Programs** – Established programs hosted by Nash County Senior Center to increase citizens', age 60 and older, access to physical activity and wellness opportunities.

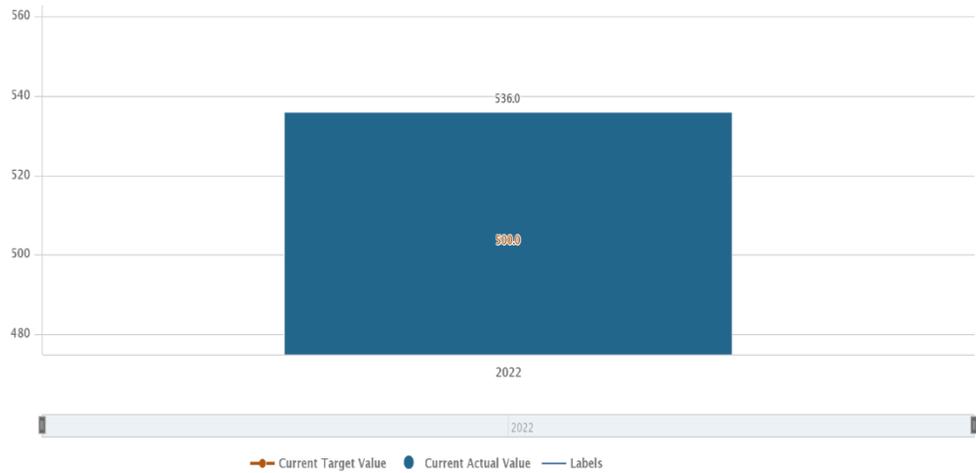
**Progress:**

- Approximately 536 individuals were impacted by participating in the Fitness and Education Programs

- Approximately 150 individuals were impacted by participating in the Home Delivered Meals Program
- Approximately 15 individuals were impacted by participating in the Transportation Services Program
- Approximately 145 individuals were impacted by participating in the Caregiver Support Program
- Approximately 38 individuals were impacted by participating in the Project Lifesaver Program

Number of individuals participated in fitness and education programs

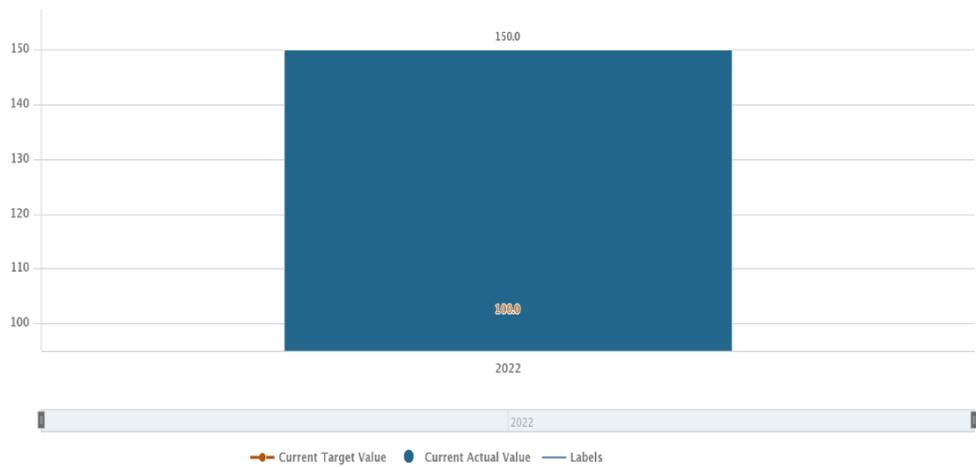
Data Source: Nash County Senior Center Coordinator of Senior Programs



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Number of Home Delivered Meals

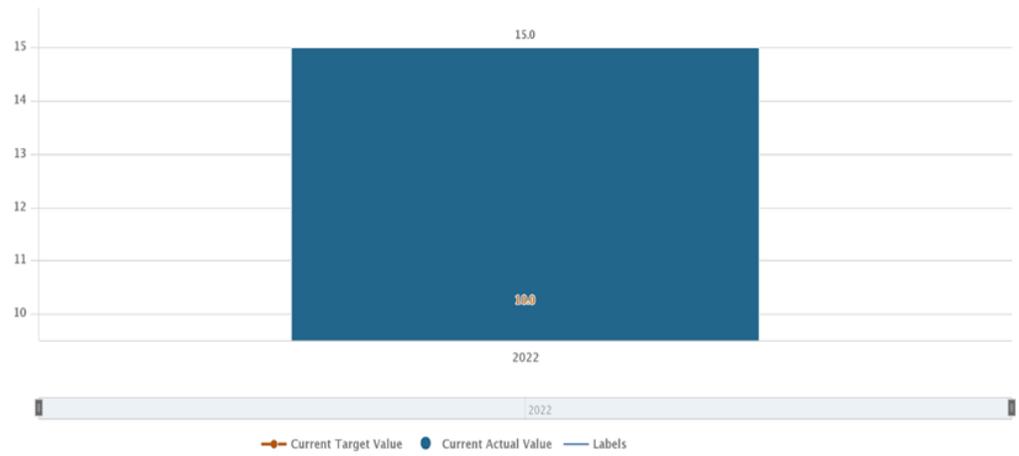
Data Source: Nash County Senior Center Coordinator of Senior Programs



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### Number of individuals accessed transportation services for programs

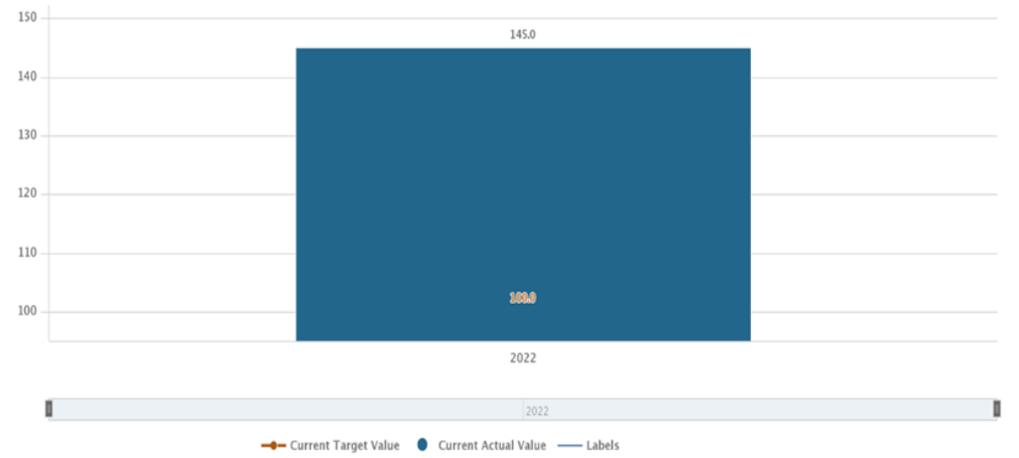
Data Source: Nash County Senior Center Coordinator of Senior Programs



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### Number of new Caregiver Support Program Clients

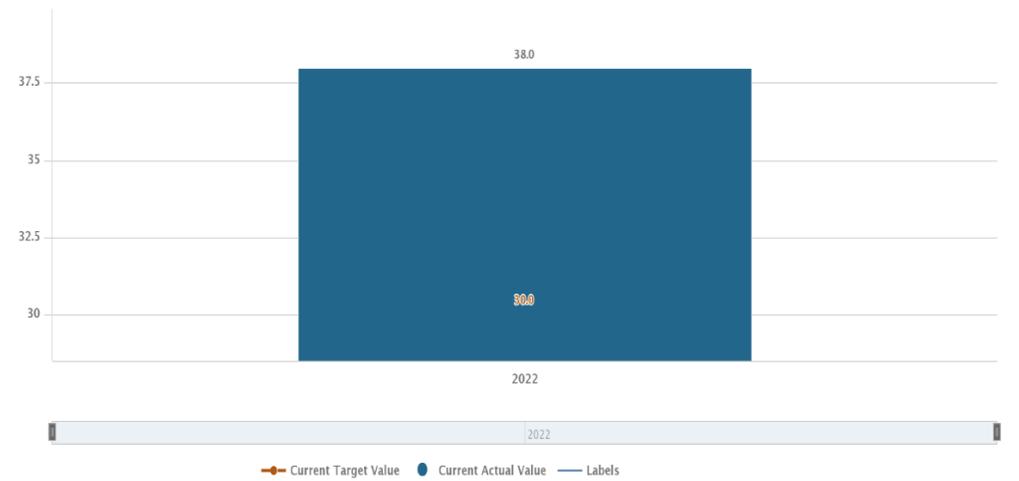
Data Source: Nash County Senior Center Coordinator of Senior Programs



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### Number of Project Lifesaver participants

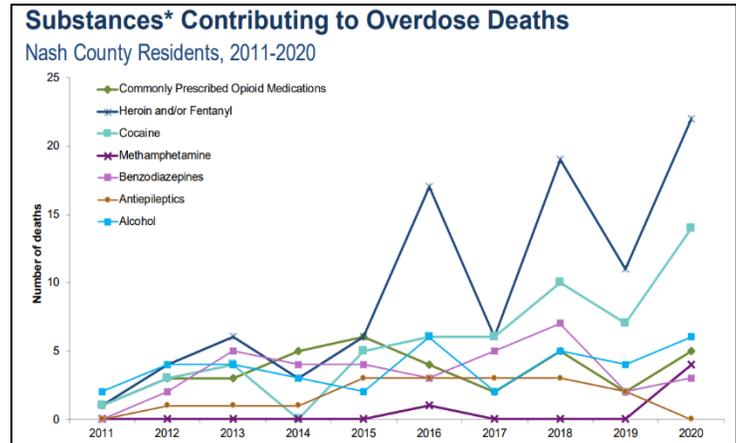
Data Source: Nash County Senior Center Coordinator of Senior Programs



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### Priority 3: Behavioral Health

In Nash County, Heroin and/or Fentanyl contributed to the leading causes of drug overdose deaths between 2011-2020. Cocaine and alcohol use have also shown a steady increase among residents. The rate of opioid overdose deaths for Nash County was 18.7, slightly lower than the State's rate of 19.3.<sup>14</sup> Behavioral health with a focus on substance use was chosen as a priority by the Nash County Community Health Assessment stakeholders because



citizens reported a need for access to substance use education and prevention services. Also, Community Health Assessment data from 497 (16.02%) survey respondents cited substance abuse, including drugs and alcohol, as one of the top quality of life issues faced in Nash County. As a result, partners of the 2021 Community Health Need Assessment agreed to establish programs and services to increase citizens' access to substance abuse education, prevention, and treatment services. Programs include:

- **Empowering Youth and Families Program (EYFP)** – A Nash County Cooperative Extension Program established to provide opioid prevention education for youth and their caregivers.

**Progress:**

- Worked toward establishing an EYFP by identifying community needs and locations to offer services

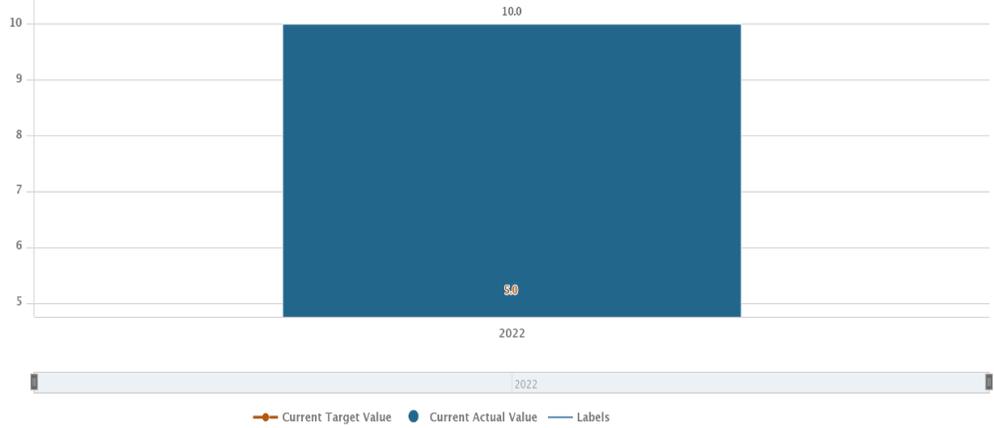
- **Coalition for Addiction Recovery Education (C.A.R.E.) Substance Use Programs** - C.A.R.E. is a partnership of various county agencies, hospitals, organizations, and businesses to provide education, prevention assistance, and resources for individuals who struggle with addiction. In addition, the coalition strives toward bridging community gaps in services to leverage healthy equity among citizens.

**Progress:**

- Approximately 24 individuals were impacted by participating in the Medication Assisted Treatment Program Services
- Worked toward increasing awareness about the need for Peer Support Program Certified Trainers
- Participated in 10 community mental health fair events
- Approximately 60 individuals were impacted by participating in the Naloxone distribution program

### Number of community mental health fair events

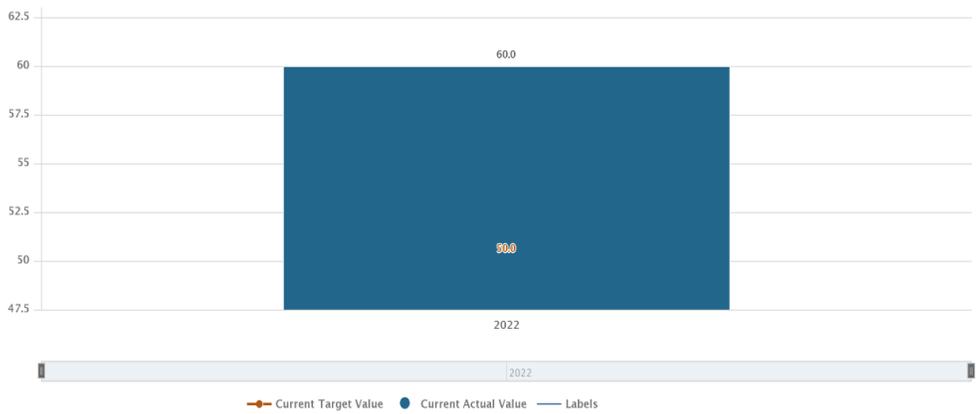
Data Source: Coalition for Addiction Recovery and Education Coordinator



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### Number of Naloxone distribution

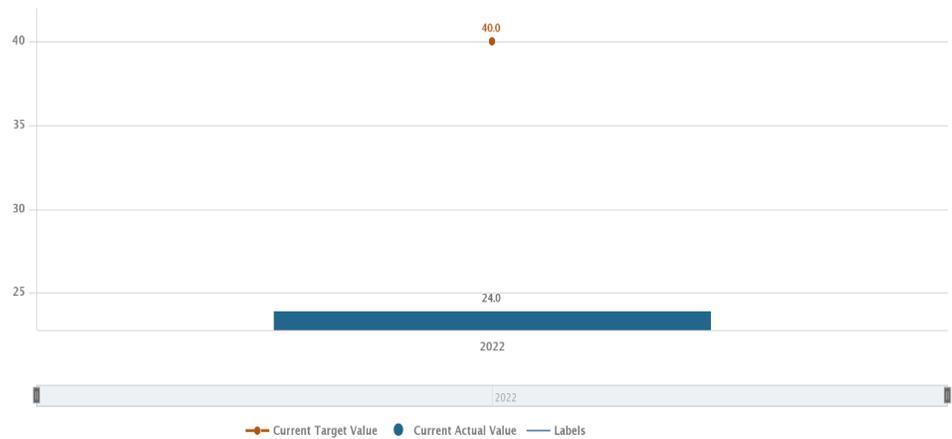
Data Source: Coalition for Addition Recovery Education Coordinator



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### Number of program participants utilizing the Medication Assisted Treatment Services

Data Source: Coalition for Addiction Recovery and Education Coordinator

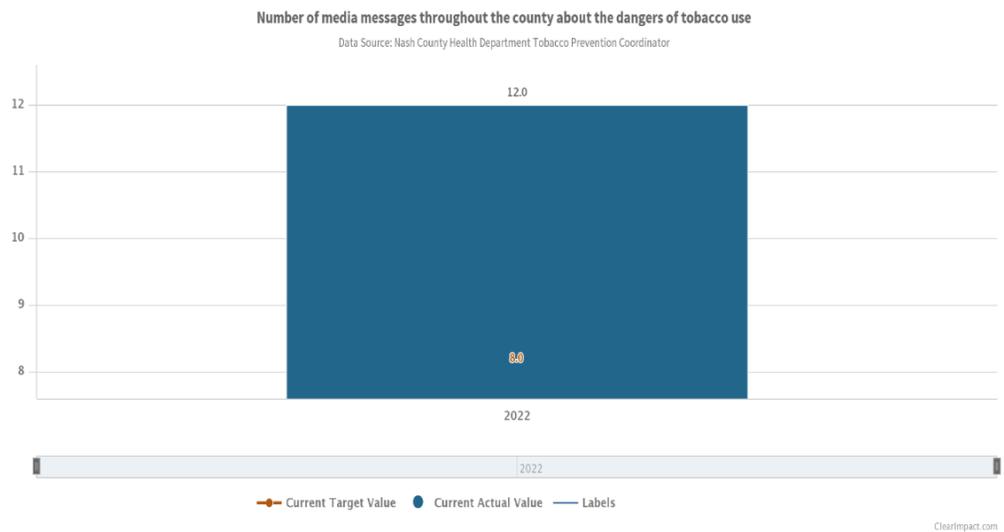
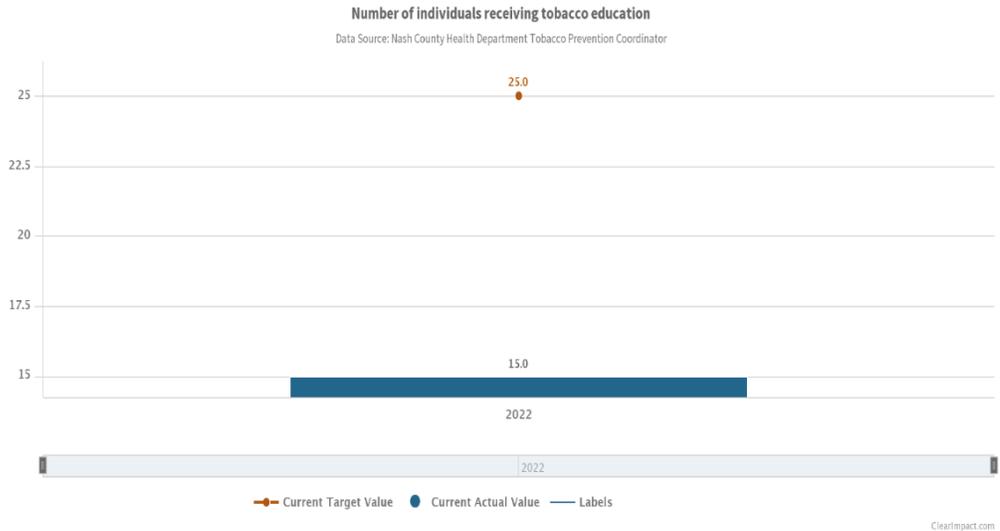


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- **Tobacco Prevention Program** – A Nash County Health Department program coordinated in community and school sites to educate youth about the dangers of tobacco use, e-cigarettes and vaping.

**Progress:**

- Approximately 15 youth individuals were impacted by participating in the Tobacco Prevention Program in a community site
- Approximately 12 social media messages were posted to increase awareness about the danger of tobacco use
- Worked with community partners to adopt the Catch My Breath Program, an evidence-based program for youth



# New Initiatives

The new initiatives started in 2022 include:

## **Child Safety Seat Program**

Child unintentional injury death rates decreased 11% from 2010 to 2019, but injury is still the leading cause of death for children and teens in the United States. The leading causes of child unintentional injury include motor vehicle crashes, suffocation, drowning, poisoning, fires, and falls.<sup>15</sup> In Nash County, motor vehicle injuries are the second leading cause of death for children ages 0-19 according to the DHHS State Centers for Health Statistics. As a result, Nash County Health Department has partnered with the City of Rocky Mount Fire Department to expand the Child Safety Seat Program. Individuals must be a Nash County Health Department patient to obtain a child safety seat. The program's target population is parents of children 0-8 years or Child Health, Maternity, and Post-partum program participants. The program educates parents and/or caregivers on car seat safety. Also, individuals are trained in proper child safety seat installment to reduce the rates of child injuries and child fatalities due to motor vehicle crashes. In 2022, a total of 27 car seat vouchers and one booster seat voucher were issued in the program.

## **Convenience Center Permit Program**

In January 2022, Nash County enacted a Convenience Center Permit program. The goal of this program is to eliminate misuse of the convenience centers by citizens who do not pay the annual \$125 rural household fee on their county tax bill. A total of 16,799 permits were mailed to residents who are charged this annual fee. A social media campaign (including area newspapers and the County's various social media platforms) was held to educate citizens about this new program. Beginning May 1, 2022, this permit was required to gain access to any of the nine convenience centers in Nash County. Citizens living in any of the County's municipalities, and are not charged the \$125 rural household fee, are able to purchase a permit for \$75 to utilize the convenience centers. The current permit is valid through December 2023. Permits issued for January 2024 will be valid for a two-year period.

## **Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing and Genetic Carrier Screening for Maternity Patients**

In July 2022, Nash County Health Department began using Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing (NIPT) and Genetic Carrier Screening for maternity patients. The NIPT is a genetic test that can determine whether a baby has a high or low risk of having certain chromosomal conditions and provide the gender identity of the baby. Most importantly, the Genetic Carrier Screening can determine the mother's chance of passing on a genetic condition to the baby through a Natera test. The new Natera test measures for 17 different conditions, while the previous Quad test only measured four conditions. Between July - December 2022, approximately 77 specimens were submitted to Natera for testing. This Non-Invasive Prenatal Testing and Genetic Carrier Screening allowed nursing staff to inform patients if there was a risk that the fetus could be born with specific genetic abnormalities.

## **Safe Firearm Storage Program**

In North Carolina, firearm-related deaths per 100,000 population from 2019 (13.1) to 2020 (15.6), increased by 18.5%.<sup>16</sup> Furthermore, Nash County's firearm-related death rate has steadily increased to 20.4 during that same period. Safely storing firearms can reduce unintentional deaths, injuries, and hospitalizations. In addition, when firearms are stored safely, they are less available as a means of suicide or intentional harm to others. In 2022, Nash County Health Department established a Safe Firearm Storage Program to provide gun storage safety education and gunlocks to patients in the health department's child health program. The goal of the program is to reduce the Child Fatality rate due to inappropriate access to unsecured firearms. A total of 620 parents/caregivers of the Nash County Health Department's Child Health Program were distributed information on firearm safety and 138 gunlocks were provided to reduce unintentional firearm injuries.

# Emerging Issues

The emerging health issues that occurred in 2022 include:

## **Coronavirus (COVID-19) Monitoring and the Bivalent Booster Vaccine Dose**

Nash County Health Department continued to monitor COVID-19 cases within the county, especially at congregate living facilities, hospitals, and detention centers where a significant number of cases have been reported for the past year. As of December 31, 2022, a total of 32,500 confirmed COVID-19-positive cases and 322 deaths had been reported since the pandemic started. The health department remained ready to contain outbreaks of this virus and its many evolving variants. The Bivalent Booster dose arrived in September 2022 to help with the Omicron Variants. Public Health officials encourage citizens to take the new Bivalent Booster because it lessens the severity of the disease if one is infected and protects against newly formed strains of the virus. In addition, Nash County Health Department continued to provide COVID-19 vaccinations by appointment. Between September 2022 and December 2022, Nash County Health Department and area medical partners gave 7,515 bivalent boosters to protect citizens. Also, we continued to encourage citizens to take routine influenza and travel vaccinations to prevent diseases in all age groups.

## **EBOLA Virus Disease (EVD)**

Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) is a rare and deadly disease in people and nonhuman primates. The viruses that cause EVD are located mainly in sub-Saharan Africa. People can get EVD through direct contact with an infected animal (bat or nonhuman primate) or a sick or dead person infected with the Ebola virus. In 2022, Nash County Health Department was notified twice of persons who had returned to the US from an Ebola outbreak country. Our public health officials and nurses monitored these cases and addressed questions and concerns. Also, the county's Local Emergency Preparedness Committee (LEPC) and area hospitals were made aware of heightening awareness of potential cases within the county. In addition, collaborative communication efforts among county partners, through emails and faxes, helped increase medical providers' awareness in case a hazardous situation could have arisen.

## **Monkeypox known as Mpox**

Mpox is a rare disease caused by infection with the monkeypox virus. The Mpox virus is part of the same family of viruses that causes smallpox. Its symptoms are similar to smallpox symptoms but milder and are rarely fatal. In 2022, Nash County Health Department investigated eight cases within the county for potential Mpox, but only seven had compatible symptoms. Individuals were educated on prevention and placed on isolation precautions to prevent the virus from spreading to others. Also, individuals were educated on how to receive Tecovirimat antiviral if infected. Nash County Health Department worked with the NC DHHS State Immunization Branch to coordinate a supply of Jynneos vaccine for potential outbreaks and referred individuals to a Federally Qualified Health Center for vaccination. The Communicable Disease Nurse Coordinator established community partners within the county and neighboring medical facilities to assist individuals with Mpox concerns. Nursing staff also managed phone calls and educated citizens on prevention methods. In addition, public health officials posted alerts on the county's social medial platforms, sent numerous emails, and faxed messages to medical providers about Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Mpox prevention and treatment recommendations.

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**Get Involved with our Community Health Needs Assessment Process and Activities!**

Community Health is about improving the health and lives of all persons in Nash County. We are always open to new ideas, feedback and assistance from citizens who want to make a healthier Nash County where families can live, play and have a healthy quality of life.

For more information about the Community Health Needs Assessment process, call Nash County Health Department at 252-459-9819.

Electronic copies of this document are located at <https://nashcountync.gov/377/County-Health-Reports>

