Analysis of Employment as a Social Determinant of Health in Grimesland, N.C.

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RATIONALE

• Social determinants of health influence variations in health outcomes seen across geographical areas.

• LINC Scholars were tasked with conducting windshield tours to investigate social determinants of health impacting towns surrounding Greenville.

• This experiential study was conducted to investigate how social determinants of health impact the town of Grimesland, N.C.

• The social determinant of employment was specifically targeted.

METHODS

• Research was conducted to gain information about demographic characteristics of the Town of Grimesland.

• A visit to Grimesland was planned to investigate social determinants of health in the community.

• Observations were recorded through photographs and notes taken while touring Grimesland.

• Additional research was conducted to supplement observations made during the in-person visit.

OBSERVATIONS AND RESULTS

• Total Population: 483

• Median Age: 54.1

• 49.5% of population aged 16 & older is not in the labor force

• 178 Grimesland residents are employed

• Average commute time: 35.3 min.

• Average Annual Household Income (2018): $38,125

• 66.9% of population has average annual household income less than $50,000

• Industries of retail trade, manufacturing, transportation, and construction employ a larger percentage of the population in Grimesland than Pitt County.

CONCLUSIONS - STRENGTHS/CHALLENGES

• The Town of Grimesland prides itself on its sense of community and small-town charm.

• The nature of industries of employment and the high prevalence of an aging population out of the workforce impacts the income and resources available for Grimesland households.

• Healthcare is not easily accessible for residents of Grimesland due to the absence of any medical clinic in its vicinity.

• The low average household income coupled with the geographical location of Grimesland creates a barrier to healthcare.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ECU/VIDANT

• Establish a local clinic in Grimesland to allow healthcare to be more readily accessible.

• Create educational programs geared toward chronic conditions and preventive medicine for elderly residents of Grimesland out of the workforce.

SOURCES

• Town of Grimesland Land Use Plan (2019) via https://grimesland.org

• Town of Grimesland Website https://grimesland.org

• U.S. Census Bureau (2018) American Community Survey 5-Year Estimate https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs