Background

Chocowinity, NC is a rural town roughly 19 miles from Greenville, NC. Rural communities not only face more inequalities but are also more vulnerable to the social determinants of health (SDOH). It is important for medical education to incorporate the SDOH in its curriculum to meet the goals of the Quintuple Aim, specifically Population Health and Health Equity.

We traveled to Chocowinity, NC and spoke to community members to understand the physical, social, and economic components that make up the town.

Purpose

A windshield tour was conducted to assess the impacts of the social determinants of health on the citizens of Chocowinity, North Carolina. There was a targeted focus on the social determinants of education and health care access.

Demographics

- Population: 749 (2023, US Census Bureau)

Results

Southside High School (96 graduates)
- 4-year college/university: 32%
- Community College: 48%
- Military: 13%
- Workforce: 7%
- 3 AP classes offered
- 9.2% AP exam participation, 38.5% with passing score of 3 or higher
- 30.8% with ACT score of 19 or higher

Education

- Southside counselors are very helpful and supportive
- The school offers ACT prep classes
- Wishes the school had more art focused extracurricular activities
- Overall enjoys school

Health Care

- 1 ECU Health FM clinic, 1 pharmacy, and 1 dental office
- Transport ~1000 patients/yearly to appointments
- Recent budget cuts have had major impact on EMS service

Discussion

SDOH can affect up to 50% of health outcomes. It is important for organizations such as ECU Health to invest resources. ECU could offer tutoring services, especially for preparation of AP exams and the ACT and offer mentorships for students who wish to pursue a college education. ECU Health could help to fill in gaps in transportation caused by the EMS budget cuts. Further research should be conducted to identify strategies to decrease the SDOH affecting Chocowinity, NC.

References