

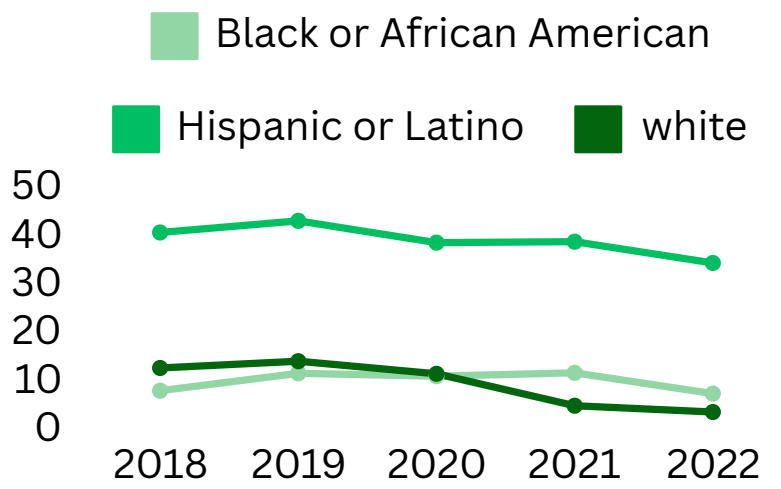
# Durham County Health Priorities 2024

## #2 Access to Care

Access to Care was ranked the number two health priority in 2018 and again in 2024 by Durham County residents.

Lack of health insurance is a major barrier to getting necessary healthcare.<sup>1</sup> People of color have difficulty getting coverage for many reasons including low income, low educational attainment, and unemployment. Each of these factors are worsened by the systemic racism built into them. Racism drives the inequities in health insurance access seen to the right.

**Percent of Durham County's population that is uninsured by race/ethnicity<sup>2</sup>**



To the left are direct responses to questions regarding access to healthcare from the 2022 County-wide Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the 2023 CHA Comunidad Latina surveys.

- “More access to affordable care, cheaper medications.”
- “More opportunities for immigrants, like access to health.”
- “Help with health care, access to a medical doctor, get health insurance.”

**Problems that prevented you or someone in your household from getting the healthcare they needed:**

2022 County-wide CHA responses:

1. Couldn't get an appointment
2. Did not have health insurance

2023 CHA Comunidad Latina responses:

1. Cost was too high
2. Did not have health insurance

	Primary Care Physician <sup>3</sup>	Mental Health Provider <sup>3</sup>	Dentist <sup>3</sup>
Durham County	810:1	140:1	1330:1
North Carolina	1410:1	340:1	1660:1

Durham County has one of the best patient:provider ratios in the state and country! For example, for every 140 Durham County residents, there is one mental health provider compared to 340 North Carolinians to one mental health provider.<sup>3</sup> This helps reduce wait times and provides more options to access to care.

### Medicaid Expansion

**Medicaid Expansion enrollees**

- 56.7%** Black or African American
- 10.5%** Hispanic or Latino
- 37.6%** white

On December 1, 2023, North Carolina expanded Medicaid for those 19 to 64 with higher incomes than the previous Medicaid requirements. As of March 2024, 4.7% of all Durham County adults have enrolled in Medicaid expansion.<sup>4</sup>

Medicaid enrollees  
December 1, 2023 -  
March 25, 2024

**9,986**



# Durham County Health Priorities 2024



## Access to Care

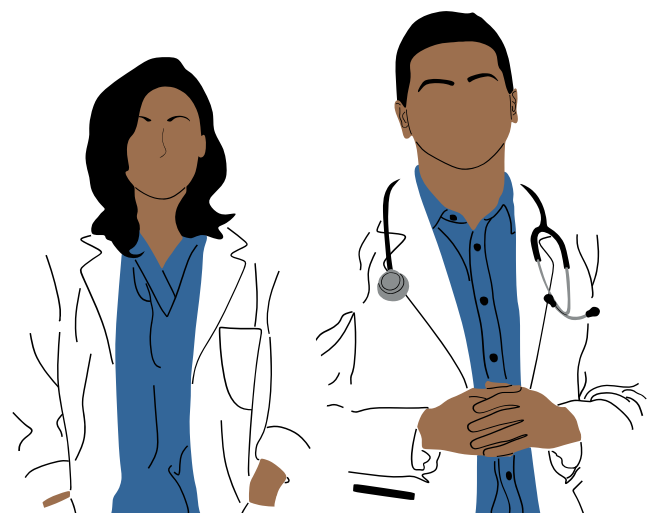
### Community Insights<sup>5,6</sup>

- Improve access to quality care
- Provide better bilingual services. People cannot request services because they fear they will be spoken to in English.
- More medical visits to the community.
- More accessibility with health insurance.
- Better healthcare for people of color.
- Continue development of health and wellness services.
- Better urgent care hours.
- Advertise what's available for senior care.
- More healthcare services.

### Since 2018:

- Overall, the uninsured population of Durham County is decreasing.<sup>3</sup>
- Obesity and diabetes are becoming more prevalent.<sup>3</sup>
- Medicaid Expansion in December 2023 has provided insurance to 4.7% of Durham County's adult population as of March 2024.<sup>7</sup>
- The Partnership for a Healthy Durham received a grant from Duke University to place more bilingual community health workers with local organizations.
- In 2021, the North Carolina House passed a bill to expand telehealth access during and after the COVID-19 pandemic in North Carolina.<sup>8</sup>

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham created the Access to Care committee. This committee's activities include advocating for changes that will affect health care coverage for residents across all ages of the continuum but particularly those less than 65 years old. Access to Care committee meetings are open to the public and are held virtually. Visit the Partnership [calendar](#) for more information.



**Lincoln Community Health Center and the Durham County Health Department** offer quality, bilingual, and culturally competent care for those that are medically underserved. Located at: 1301 Fayetteville St, Durham, NC 27707 [919\) 956-4000](tel:9199564000)



To enroll in Medicaid, visit this [site](#) for options to apply online, in person, and set up appointments in English or Spanish to get help applying.  
<https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/apply>

#### References

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7. NC DHHS. Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid Expansion Dashboard. Available here: <https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/reports/medicaid-expansion-dashboard>
8. Duke State Relations. 2021. House Committee Passes Bill to Expand Access to Telehealth Services. Available here: <https://staterelations.duke.edu/2021/03/30/house-committee-passes-bill-to-expand-access-to-telehealth-services/>

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