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Community Health Assessment of Williamson County, Tennessee using an Intercept Survey

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Introduction: The Franklin Justice and Equity Coalition (FJEC) is a community partner with Vanderbilt University Medical Center's Office of Health Equity (OHE). The primary mission of FJEC is to ensure justice for current and future generations in Williamson County, Tennessee. As partners, FJEC and the OHE aim to promote health equity by understanding issues from the view of community residents. The purpose of this Practicum was to evaluate Williamson County residents' perception of community health assets, barriers, and suggestions for change as part of a larger community health needs assessment.

Methods: At the FJEC Juneteenth Celebration in Franklin, the OHE team and Vanderbilt medical and public health students gathered on-site feedback from Williamson County residents. The team used an intercept survey methodology consisting of three brief questions and demographic information obtained on-site with targeted community input. The OHE's Community Health Improvement team reviewed questions to ensure wording and probes were appropriate. Answers were transcribed and coded for common themes and concepts.

Results: In total, 43 people met criteria of living or working in Williamson County to complete the survey. Most frequent zip codes of respondents were 37064, 37067, and 37069. Prevalent themes related to community assets included the presence of a rich healthcare infrastructure comprised of hospitals, walk-in clinics, and the health department, as well as a network of non-profit community organizations. However, many residents voiced concerns regarding affordability of medical care, especially if uninsured. They also reported lack of opportunity for health education or awareness of health resources.

Conclusions: Proposed changes to improve health outcomes centered on community outreach to increase health literacy, especially among marginalized populations like the disabled, racial/ethnic minorities, and those of limited English proficiency. A prominent theme was offering alternative, affordable modes of healthcare, such as mobile clinics or health fairs, to uninsured residents.