

Community Collaboration Throughout and Beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic: Successes of the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force & Youth as Public Health Ambassadors: A Campus and Community Framework to Address Health Disparities

New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship
Summit
December 12, 2023

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Community Health Equity Specialist
Niagara University

Rose Bente Lee Ostapenko Center for Race, Equity, and Mission

Agenda

- Background & Introduction
- Origin of the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force
- Niagara County / Niagara Falls Snapshot
- About the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force
- Youth Programming
- Workshop case scenarios
- Q&A

Background: Introductions

Kaylyn Townsend-Kensinger, MSW

Community Health Equity Specialist II

Rose Bente Lee Ostapenko Center for Race, Equity, and
Mission

Niagara University

- Member, Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force
- Member, Steering Committee, COVID-19 Research Collaborative
- Member, WNY Digital Equity Coalition
- Member, Mount St. Mary's Hospital Patient Family Advisory Council
- Adjunct Professor of Social Work

Site:

Niagara University

Rose Bente Lee Ostapenko

Center for Race, Equity, & Mission



Mission Statement

The Rose Bente Lee Ostapenko Center for Race, Equity, and Mission establishes critical interdependencies both on and off campus, working together with faculty and students across colleges and disciplines of study to leverage change in the academy and across sectors of education, business, government, health and the community. As such, the Center serves as a resource to the community on issues of racial equity.

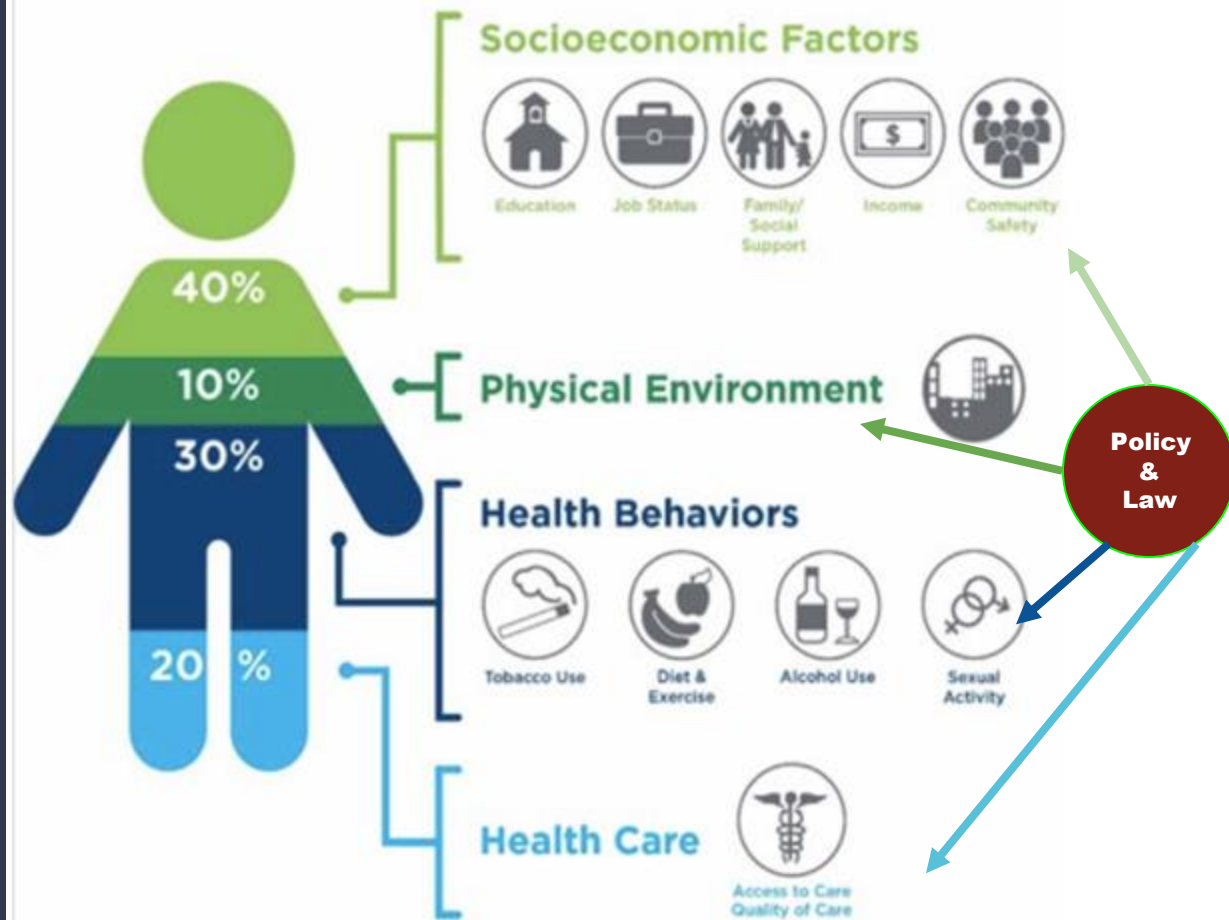
Vision Statement

To become a key partner in our surrounding region driving policy, behavior, and institutional shifts that create racial equity and inclusion in systems and structures that affect youth, community stakeholders, and organizational leaders.

Grounding Ourselves in Social Determinants of Health



Social Determinants (Drivers) of Health



Social Determinants of Health

Economic Stability	Neighborhood and Physical Environment	Education	Food	Community and Social Context	Health Care System
Employment	Housing	Literacy	Hunger	Social integration	Health coverage
Income	Transportation	Language	Access to healthy options	Support systems	Provider availability
Expenses	Safety	Early childhood education		Community engagement	Provider linguistic and cultural competency
Debt	Parks	Vocational training		Discrimination	Quality of care
Medical bills	Playgrounds	Higher education		Stress	
Support	Walkability				
	Zip code / geography				

Health Outcomes

Mortality, Morbidity, Life Expectancy, Health Care Expenditures, Health Status, Functional Limitations

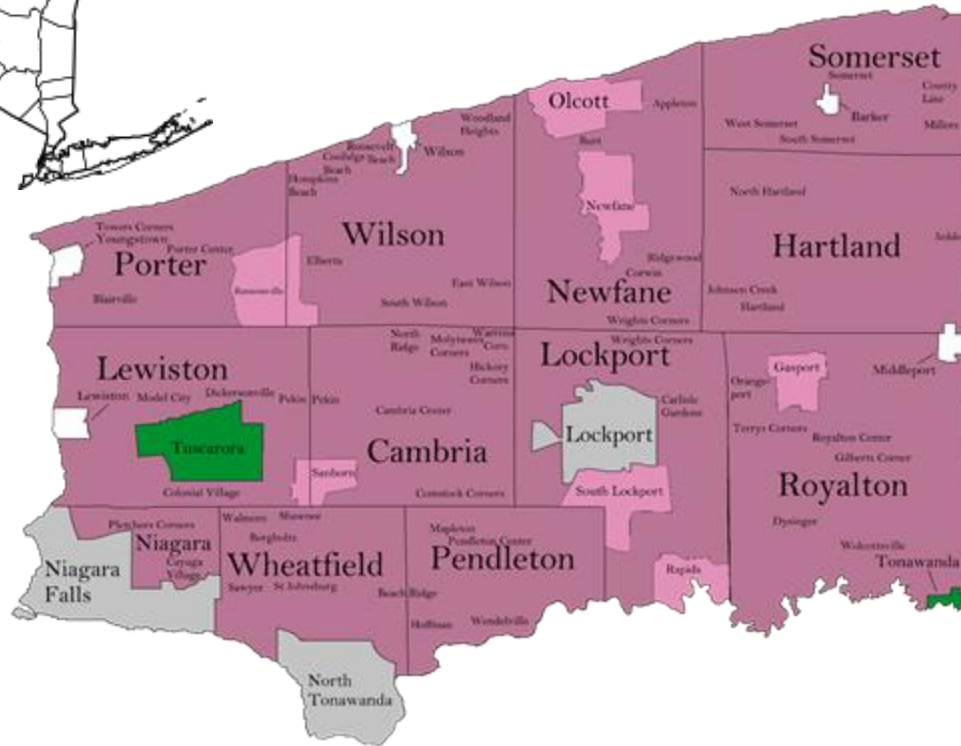
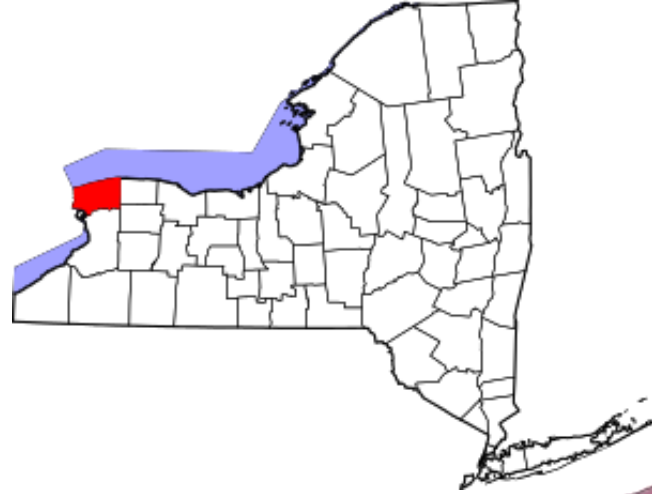
Impacts of Social Determinants of Health

- SDOH contribute to **wide health disparities and inequities**. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. That raises their 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.
- Just promoting healthy choices won't eliminate these and other health disparities. Instead, public health organizations and their partners in sectors like education, transportation, and housing need to take action to improve the conditions in people's environments.

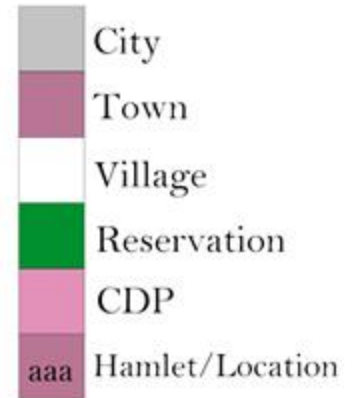
Grounding Ourselves in the Data: Niagara County / Niagara Falls Snapshot



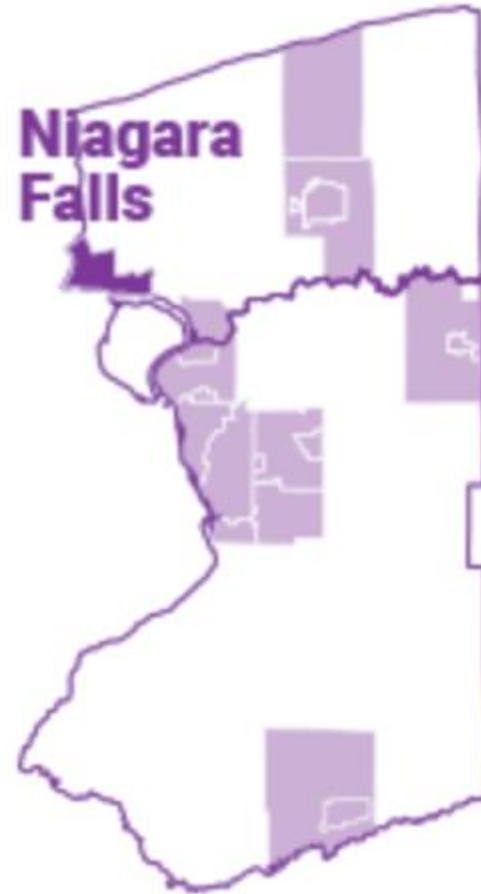
Niagara County



Niagara County, NY



Primary Focus area:
Niagara Falls, NY



Why Niagara Falls?

Economic Insecurity

Source: Community Snapshot,
Numbers in Need, 2019

28% ARE IN POVERTY

13,367

live on incomes below
the federal poverty level.

+

21% ARE NEAR POVERTY

10,351

aren't in poverty but
are close to it with
incomes between
100%-200% of poverty.

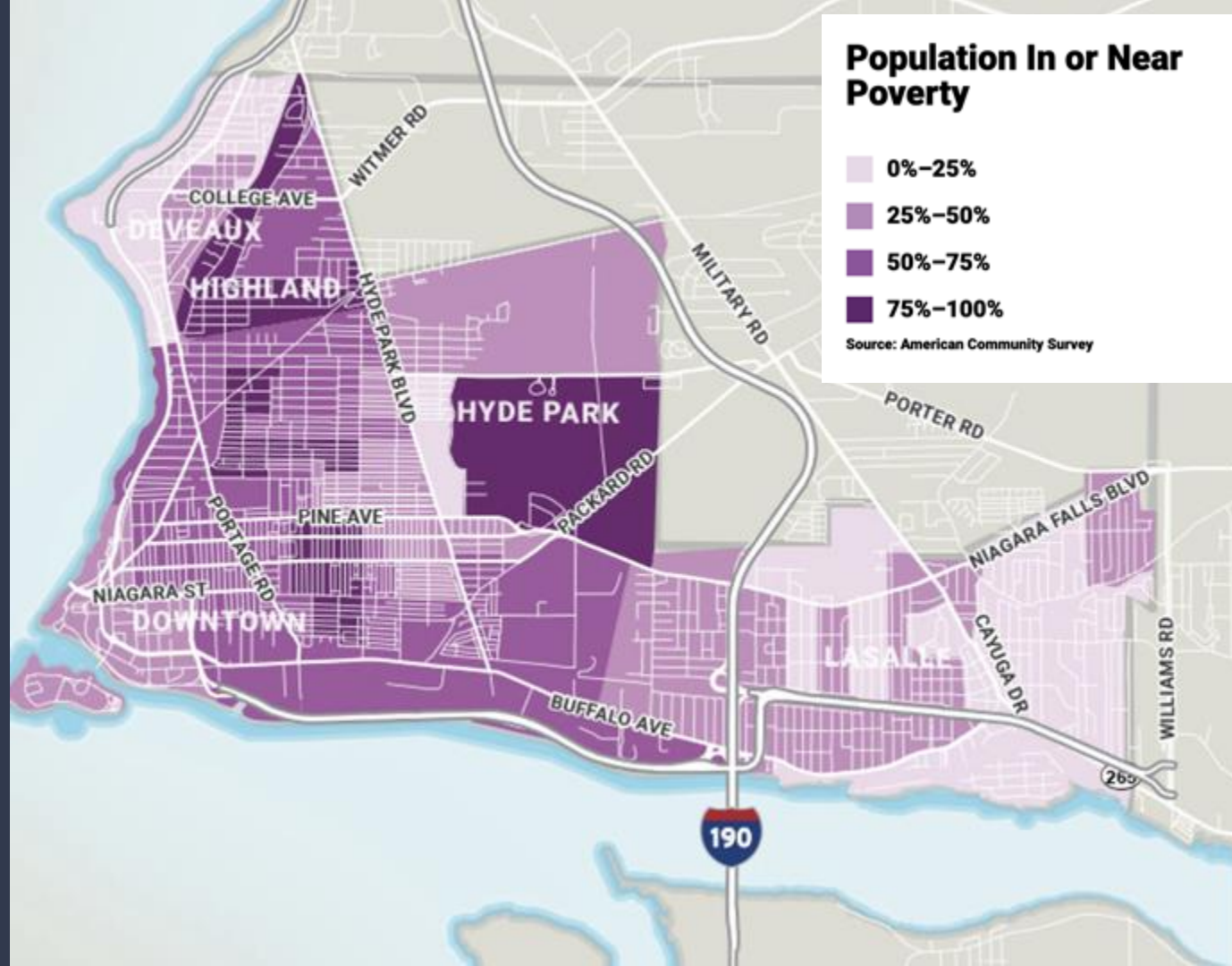
49% ARE IN OR NEAR POVERTY

23,718

residents are doing
poorly or struggling
financially.

Map of Poverty in Niagara Falls

Overall, 44% of residents live in poverty or close to it. The neighborhoods of Hyde Park, Highland, and Downtown are hit hardest.



Comparisons: Niagara Falls, Niagara County, NY, US

Income & Poverty	Niagara Falls city, New York	Niagara County, New York	New York	United States
i Population Estimates, July 1 2021, (V2021)	⚠ NA	⚠ NA	⚠ 19,835,913	⚠ 331,893,745
PEOPLE				
Income & Poverty				
i Median household income (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$36,346	\$55,522	\$68,486	\$62,843
i Per capita income in past 12 months (in 2019 dollars), 2015-2019	\$24,071	\$30,971	\$39,326	\$34,103
i Persons in poverty, percent	⚠ 28.2%	⚠ 11.7%	⚠ 12.7%	⚠ 11.4%

Target Zip codes in Niagara Falls:

14301, 14303, 14305

(Source: American Community Survey)

POVERTY RATES in the City of Niagara Falls

- **14301**
 - Poverty rate: 38%
- **14303**
 - Poverty rate: 35.3%
- **14305**
 - Poverty rate: 31.1%

- **In comparison to 14304:**
 - Poverty rate: 9.8

NIAGARA COUNTY HEALTH OUTCOMES

- Niagara County **51st out** of 62 counties in New York State based on health outcomes and health factors.
- 13% of County Population is BIPOC
- 13% of County Population is living in Poverty
- Ratio of people to a MD - 2,480:1 (compared to NYS average of 1,220:1)
- Indicators of Health Outcomes (County Outcomes)
 - <https://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/community/minority/county/niagara.htm#hosp>
 - Respiratory
 - Heart Disease
 - Diabetes
 - Cancer

New York State Department of Health, 2023

Niagara County

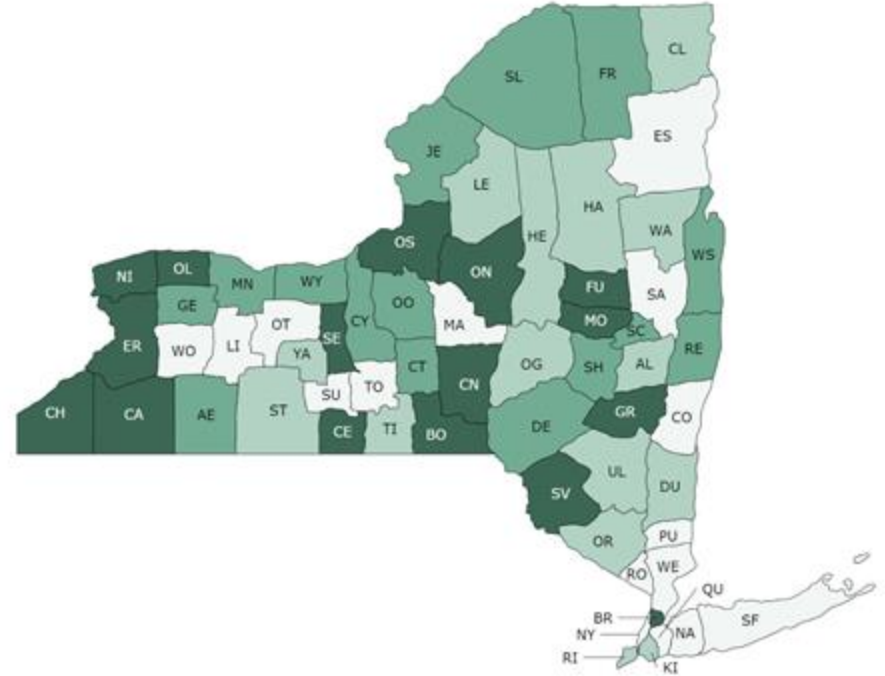
Health Outcomes

Health outcomes represent how healthy a county is right now, in terms of length of life but quality of life as well.

Niagara (NI) is ranked among the least healthy counties in New York (Lowest 0%-25%).



2023 Health Outcomes - New York



Niagara County

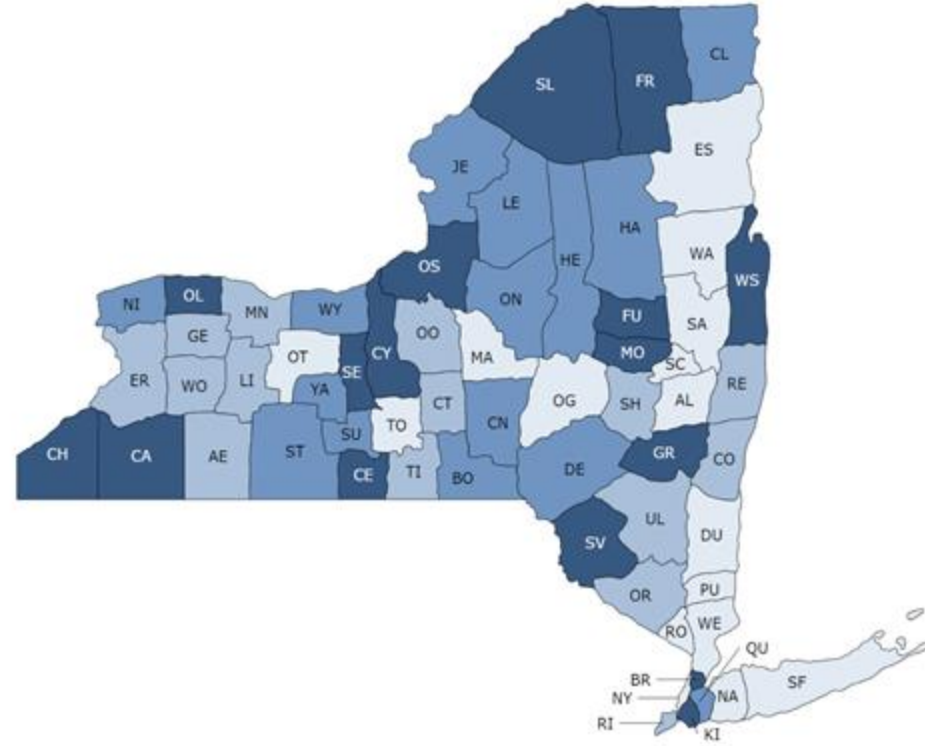
Health Factors

Health Factors represent those things we can modify to improve the length and quality of life for residents.

Niagara (NI) is ranked in the lower middle range of counties in New York (Lower 25%-50%).



2023 Health Factors - New York

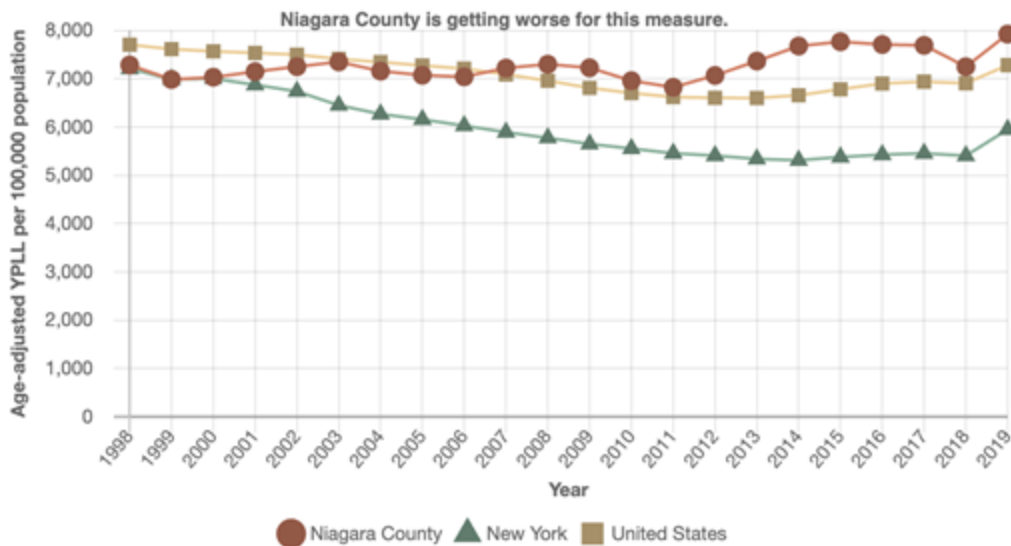


Health Factor Ranks

1 to 16	17 to 31	32 to 46	47 to 62
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Rates of Premature Death

Premature death in Niagara County, NY
Years of Potential Life Lost (YPLL): county, state and national trends



Disaggregated by Race

Disaggregated by Race	Value
Years of Potential Life Lost Rate	7,900
American Indian & Alaska Native	16,900
Black	16,400
Hispanic	6,800
White	7,200

Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force



Background: How did the Task Force Come to Be?



Stages of the Task Force



Who is at the Table?

Breakdown of traditional silos:

- Health care
- Education
- Housing
- Faith communities
- Business
- Human services
- Government
- Community members (trusted messengers; ambassadors)
- Youth (ambassadors)

ORIGINAL

Theory of Change & Goal

IF WE

Understand Niagara Falls COVID Data (including positivity rates and vaccination rates), Increase Testing, Increase Vaccinations, Educate Residents, Distribute PPE, and Provide Social Services

THEN WE

Increase Health Equity for Niagara Falls Residents

Current Theory of Change

NIAGARA FALLS HEALTH EQUITY TASK FORCE THEORY OF CHANGE:

FUNDING

EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION

DATA

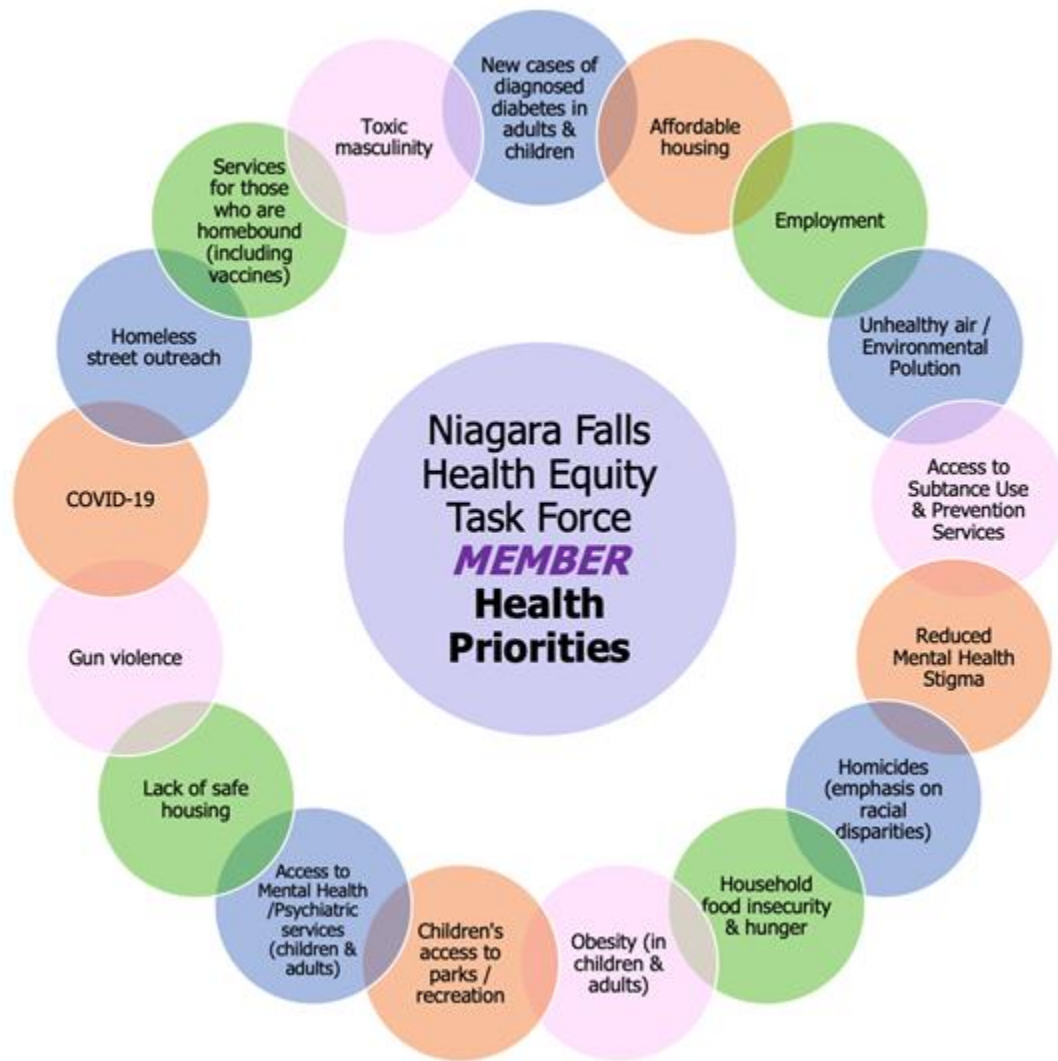
IF WE build networks of health across systems of care in Niagara County, **THEN WE** can use data to educate network members, policymakers, and the general public about indicators of health, best practices, and innovative policies that influence health. **IF WE** identify collective resources, **THEN WE** can build pathways to equitable health, and community health outcomes will improve.

COMMITMENT
FROM NETWORK
MEMBERS

EVOLUTION

CLEAR
UNDERSTANDING
OF OUTCOMES /
INDICATORS

2022 & Beyond Health Priorities



Established June of 2022

2023 Task Force Objectives

- **#1: How the Task Force can serve members:**
 - Continued networking, reduction of silos, and shared resources
 - Continued focus on SDOHs, disparities, & equity
 - Continued engagement with the community
- **#2: Resources/Trainings desired:**
 - Diversity & anti-bias trainings
 - Data sharing
 - Information/resource sharing
- **#3: Challenges the TF should address:**
 - Community engagement
 - Food access
- **#4: Top goals the TF should set:**
 - Improved access to youth recreation
 - Improved access to transportation for community members
 - Improved access to food & food security
 - Expansion of the TF (increase membership of organizations across the county)
- **#5: Meeting Frequency:**
 - Monthly

Human Capital Exchange at TF meetings

- Lockport Memorial Hospital (*Catholic Health*)
- Buffalo Fatherhood Initiative (*Buffalo Prenatal-Perinatal Network, Inc.*)
- Housing / Homelessness (*Heart, Love, & Soul*)
- SNUG Program (*Community Missions*)
- Public Health Fellowships (*ECDOH*)
- No Menthol Sunday (*Niagara University*)
- PATH 3D Program & Opioid Crisis (*Niagara County Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse*)
- Suicide Prevention (*Niagara County Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse*)
- Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Awareness (*YWCA of the Niagara Frontier*)
- Food Security & Access (*Field & Fork Network*)
- Legislation Impacting Cancer (*American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network*)
- State of Homelessness in Niagara County (*Homeless Alliance of WNY*)

Members of the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force Over the Years

HEALTH/MEDICAL

- Catholic Health, Mount St. Mary's Hospital
- Catholic Health, Mount St. Mary's Neighborhood Health
- Niagara Falls Memorial Medical Center
- Community Health Center of Buffalo/Niagara
- Niagara County Department of Health
- Niagara County Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse
- Fidelis Care
- Univera Health
- Child Advocacy Center of Niagara

GOVERNMENT

- City of Niagara Falls
- Rep. Brian Higgins' (NY-26) Office
- Niagara County Legislature

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS & CHURCHES

- Niagara Organizing Alliance for Hope (NOAH)
- Niagara Falls Ministerial Council
- Word of Life Ministries (Bishop Scott)
- True Bethel Baptist Church Niagara Falls (Pastor Pridgen)
- First Presbyterian Church (NF)

ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS & SCHOOLS

- Niagara University
- Niagara Falls City School District
- Niagara County Community College

COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

- Heart, Love, & Soul
- Field and Fork Network
- Community Missions, Inc.
- Niagara Pride
- Empower
- 211 WNY
- YWCA of the Niagara Frontier
- Pinnacle Community Services
- Northpointe Council
- Catholic Charities
- Create a Healthier Niagara Falls Collaborative
- Neighborhood Legal Services
- Niagara Community Action Program
- A Better YOU Lifestyle
- Grassroots Gardens of Western New York (GGWNY)
- Jewish Family Services
- Salvation Army
- Mobile Safety Net Team
- Independent Health Foundation
- Native American Community Services
- ESPRI

OTHER

- Niagara Falls Housing Authority
- 1199 SEIU - Healthcare Education Project
- M&T Bank
- Phyllis Gunning

DATA

Since *May 18, 2020*, the
Niagara Falls Health Equity
Task Force has met...

COMMITMENT
FROM NETWORK
MEMBERS

FUNDING

EVOLUTION

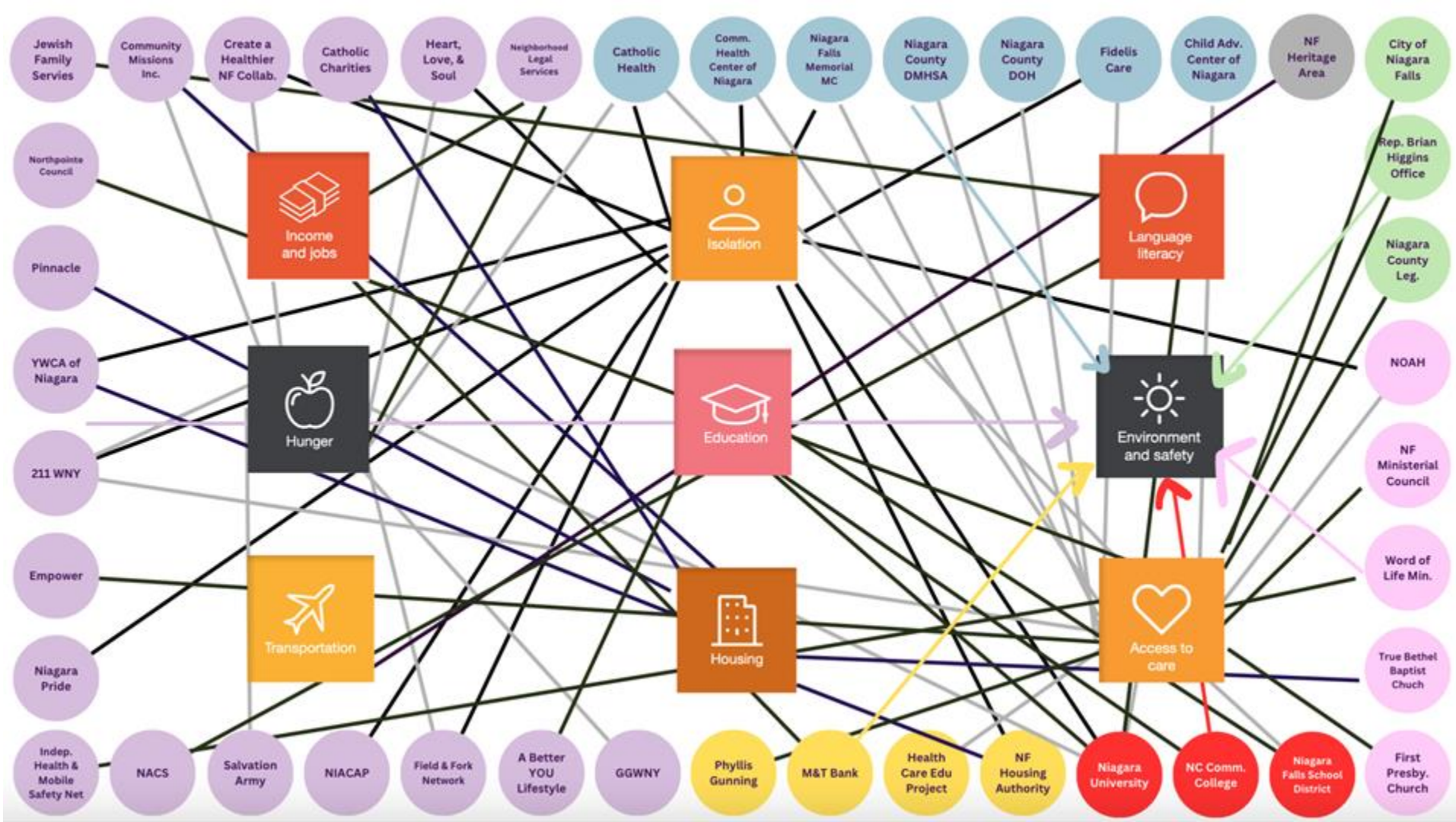
119 times.

EFFECTIVE
COMMUNICATION

EVERY BLOCK, EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

CLEAR
UNDERSTANDING
OF OUTCOMES /
INDICATORS

As of December 4, 2023



This is how we get
to better
Health Outcomes



These are the Health Outcomes we seek to address

- Health Status
- Mortality
- Morbidity
- Life Expectancy
- Health Care Expenditures
- Functional Limitations

How do we address health outcomes?

Community Projects / Programming



Types of programming:

(1/2)

- Youth programs (more later)
- Senior programs
 - Isolation bags
 - Social programming
 - Nutrition programming
- Advocacy
 - Letter writing
- Community resource bags
- Community meetings
- Community events
- Marketing
 - Digital ads
 - Bus shelters & interiors
 - Billboards
 - Road signs
- Resource sharing

Types of programming:

(2/2)

- Data collection
- Vaccination clinics
- Testing sites
- Canvassing
- Print resources
 - Bulletin boards
 - Posters
 - Lawn signs
 - Flyers
- Postcards
- Research projects
 - Vaccine Hesitancy Study (partnership with University at Buffalo)
 - Faith, Science, & COVID-19 study

Special Projects - Highlights

June 2022 - June 2023

Postcards

Zip codes:

14301, 14303, 14305, 14067, 14012,
14008, 14131, 14108, 14105, 14028,

109,338 mailed between June 2022– June 2023

Topics

- Asthma & COVID
- End of the public health emergency
- Kidney disease & COVID
- No Menthol Sunday Campaign
- Women's History Month & long COVID
- New Year campaign
- Up to date on boosters campaign
- Child vaccines (event promotion)
- December holiday campaign (clinic promotion)
- Thanksgiving campaign
- Halloween campaign (clinic promotion)
- Back to school campaign (psychological, physical, and social wellnes)



June 2022- June 2023

Events tabled at:

- 31

Events held:

- 11

Community presentations:

- 10

Academic / conference presentations:

- 5

Trunk or Treat Highlights

Get Hooked on Vaccines!

1,050 outreach contacts during October 2022

- Five local trunk or treat events in the City of Niagara Falls & Town of Niagara
- Outreach culminated in a vaccination clinic at a local community health center



Holiday Outreach Highlights

992 outreach contacts during December 2022

- 167 bags for community members housed at five local motels in Niagara Falls
- 225 bags for Niagara Falls City School District youth experiencing homelessness
- 400 bags for Wrobel & Spallino Towers residents
- 200 items for Packard Court Community Center's Kwanzaa celebration



**Total June 2022 – June
2023 Outreach Contacts**

146,655

EVERY BLOCK, EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD

The Story of Us



Youth as Health Ambassadors



Discussion Question

In what ways do you work with youth to promote public health in your community?

Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force Youth Ambassadors Program

Program Details:

University-community partnership to foster COVID-19 Vaccine ambassadorship among Niagara Falls City youths. Ambassadorship was achieved through comprehensive public health education, community outreach work, and completion of final group intervention projects.

YEAR 1 (<i>Summer 2021</i>)	YEAR 2 (<i>Summer 2022</i>)
11 youth	5 youth
2 days a week, 5 hours a week total	4 days a week, 20 hours a week total
Three marketing products produced	24 marketing products produced
Community Partnerships: 1 Health Professional interviews: 10 (<i>via Zoom</i>)	Community Partnerships: 23
Pilot Curriculum	Trainer Manual

Why Youth Ambassador Program?

Public Health Dilemma

Low vaccination rates among Niagara County 12-25 year olds, and even lower rates among city youths, during an ongoing pandemic



University-Community Partnership Opportunities

Led by Niagara University and the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force



COVID-19 Vaccine Youth Ambassadors Program

Functioning as...

- A preventative intervention
- An opportunity to establish youth community health worker alliance

Specifically reaches...

- Niagara Falls City Youth living in target zip codes

Adultism and Youth Engagement

Adultism: the idea that the will and power of adults will always prevail over that of younger members of society

- This prevailing idea has led to the suppression of youth voices and the assumption that young people are incapable of being responsible leaders with a valued perspective
- When youth are given the resources that they need to excel, they are often successful in sharing a seat at the table with adults and becoming change agents in the community.
- *it is important to recognize internalized adultism in order to create opportunities for youth to become valued leaders.*
- This program is rooted in the principles of Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR), and the idea that young people can engage the community in issues that directly impact their lives.

Throughout this program, young people act as both public educators and advocates, taking on active roles in creating systemic changes.

Youth Engagement Continuum

INDIVIDUAL

SYSTEMIC CHANGE

STRATEGY

ROLE OF YOUTH

ACTIONS

YOUTH SERVICES



Client

Provide services to address individual problems and behaviors
Define programming around treatment, prevention, and basic needs

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Participants and interns/staff

Provide supports and safe spaces
Foster caring relationships between youth and adults; support youth-adult partnerships
Develop talents and assets
Provide opportunities for growth, development, and new roles
Build individual competencies

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



Participants, leaders, interns/staff, and board members

Incorporate youth development AND
Offer leadership opportunities within the program and organization
Deepen historical and cultural understanding of shared experiences and community issues
Build skills and capacities for making decisions and solving problems
Provide opportunities to participate in community projects
Support youth-adult partnerships

YOUTH CIVIC ENGAGEMENT



Leaders, interns/staff, and board members

Incorporate youth development, leadership development AND
Promote political education and awareness
Build skills and capacity for identification and analysis of issues and for action around issues
Cultivate build collective identity as agents of social change
Engage in advocacy efforts

YOUTH ORGANIZING



Members, leaders, organizers, interns/staff, and board members

Incorporate youth development, leadership development, youth civic engagement, AND
Offer opportunities to serve as core staff and governing body
Build a membership base to which youth leaders are accountable
Develop campaigns and utilizes tactics—including direct action—to effect systemic change
Take active roles in alliances and coalitions

Youth Ambassador Program Implementation

Lessons on
SDOH and Best
Practices for
Canvassing

**Public Health & COVID-19
Educational Sessions**

Research, Data,
and Social
Marketing
Activities

**Youth
Intervention
Projects**

Community
Engagement and
Canvassing

**Youth Conducted
Research**

Community Leader, Health
Professionals, & Public
Health Expert Interviews

Program Activities

Youth Ambassadors increased their knowledge about these topics through interactive learning activities, agency site visits, volunteering at community organizations, and group discussions with over 25 healthcare professionals and community leaders throughout the summer.

- Youth Ambassadors engaged community members in conversations about COVID-19, vaccines, and social determinants of health through door-to-door canvassing, creating social marketing materials, and educational workshops for both their peers and younger residents (aged 5-11). At the end of the summer, the youth had the opportunity to present their final projects to community leaders/stakeholders.

Overview of Unit Learning Objectives



Topic	Objectives
Week 1: Healthy Neighborhoods and Communities	Week 1: Healthy Neighborhoods and Communities <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will begin to build relationships with each other and Ostapenko Center staff members through ice breaker activities and games. 2. Youth will be able to understand and articulate professional expectations for this role. 3. Youth will begin to develop a holistic perspective of public health, learning about how aspects of the community shape healthcare experiences and outcomes.
Week 2: Emotional, Physiological, and Social Well-being	Week 2: Emotional, Physiological, and Social Well-being <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will be able to define social determinants of health 2. Youth will begin to develop a racial equity framework through educational and self-reflective activities 3. Youth will articulate their understanding of emotional, physiological, and social well-being in communities through group educational group activities 4. Youth will understand the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on emotional health, physiological health, and social well-being across different populations 5. Youth will be able to define healthy relationships
Week 3: Emotional, Physiological, and Social Well-being (Continued)	Emotional, Physiological, and Social Well-being (Continued): <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will increase their understanding of how communities and systems dictate aspects of long-term health 2. Youth will understand how historic mistrust of the healthcare field impacts health outcomes for communities 3. Youth will demonstrate their knowledge of social determinants of health by creating social marketing materials and canvassing in the city of Niagara Falls

Weeks 1 – 3

Topic	Objectives
<p>Week 4: Housing Insecurity</p>	<p>Housing Insecurity:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will increase their understanding that COVID-19 has disproportionately impacted populations experiencing housing insecurity 2. Youth will describe unique barriers to adequate healthcare services faced by populations experiencing housing insecurity 3. Youth will increase their understanding of social determinants of health by surveying individuals experiencing housing insecurity and/or food insecurity about COVID-19 at Heart, Love & Soul and Community Missions, Inc. Youth will then report their findings to the group during debriefs. <i>(Weeks 4 and 5)</i> 4. Youth will demonstrate their knowledge of social determinants of health by creating social marketing materials and canvassing in the city of Niagara Falls
<p>Week 5: Equitable Food Access</p>	<p>Equitable Food Access:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will describe how limited access to nutritious food can negatively impact long-term personal health and overall community health 2. Youth will demonstrate how barriers to food access intersect with social issues such as poverty, access to transportation, and racial inequity by participating in a "SNAP Simulation". Youth will articulate their learning through a written worksheet and debriefing this activity as a group. 3. Youth will increase their understanding of social determinants of health by surveying individuals experiencing housing insecurity and/or food insecurity about COVID-19 at Heart, Love & Soul and Community Missions, Inc. Youth will then report their findings to the group during debriefs. <i>(Weeks 4 and 5)</i> 4. Youth will demonstrate their knowledge of social determinants of health by creating social marketing materials and canvassing in the city of Niagara Falls

Weeks 4 & 5

Topic	Objectives
<p>Week 6: Civic Engagement and Community Organizing</p>	<p>Civic Engagement and Community Organizing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will begin to develop an understanding about how both public policy and community organizing shapes the experiences of individuals and communities. This will be done through discussions with community leaders and interactive activities. 2. Youth will demonstrate how community organizing can increase decision-making power of community members by creating social marketing materials for a community topic of their choosing 3. Youth will demonstrate their knowledge of both COVID-19 and organizing by preparing COVID-19 Education Workshops for their peers, as well as youth aged 5-11. 4. Youth will begin to develop personal college preparatory frameworks through a tour of Niagara University and discussions with Niagara University professors
<p>Week 7: Presentation Preparation and Final Presentation</p>	<p>Presentation Preparation and Final Presentation:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Youth will prepare for final presentations 2. Youth will demonstrate their knowledge via final presentations to friends, family, and community stakeholders

Weeks 6 & 7

Youth in Community & Examples of Projects







Youth Public Health Cards Example

Social Anxiety

When social interactions cause irrational fear, anxiety, self-consciousness and embarrassment, symptoms may include:

- depression
- fear
- social isolation
- restlessness/nervousness

75% of people with social anxiety begin having symptoms as a child or teenager



Examples: Sidewalk chalk



How Can I Get Access to a Covid-19 Vaccine?

Ways to Find Vaccination Center Near You:

- Search vaccines.gov
- Text your ZIP code to 438829
- Call 1-800-232-0233

Need Transportation or Want More Information?

Call the Niagara Falls Equity Task Force's COVID-19 Hotline at:

716-263-5770



WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINE



ALMOST ALL THE INGREDIENTS USED IN THE COVID-19 VACCINE ARE ALSO USED IN MANY FOODS! (FATS, SUGARS AND SALTS)



NO AUTHORIZED COVID-19 VACCINES IN THE U.S. CONTAIN THE LIVE VIRUS AND CANNOT MAKE YOU SICK.



SOURCE:

THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT SHOWS THAT THE COVID-19 VACCINE (OR ANY VACCINE) CAN AFFECT FERTILITY.

[HTTPS://WWW.CDC.GOV/CORONAVIRUS/2019-NCOV/VACCINES/FACTS.HTML](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/vaccines/facts.html)

SCAN HERE FOR MORE INFO!



Please
wear a
face mask



The Booster shot



The COVID-19 booster shot is an additional dose of vaccine. Its goal is to **lessen your chance of getting COVID** and to make sure you don't get any symptoms

This shot is **100% safe**. If you have any questions, call the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force's COVID-19 Hotline at: **716-263-5770**



#StopTheSpread

7 Steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19

- 01 Wash your hands frequently
- 02 Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth
- 03 Cover your mouth when you cough using a tissue or the bend of your elbow
- 04 Avoid crowded places and close contact with anyone who has fever or cough
- 05 Stay home if you feel unwell
- 06 Seek medical care early if you have a fever, coughs, and difficulty breathing—but call first
- 07 Get information from trusted sources

Call the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force Hotline for more COVID-19 information:

(716)-263-5770

5 TIPS

to prepare your child for their Covid-19 vaccine appointment:

Describe step-by-step what to expect when they get a vaccine.

Listen and empathize with their concern.

Encourage them to write a list of questions they can ask from the nurse or physician.

Let them bring a comfort item.

Stay positive and give a reward.

THE COVID-19 VACCINE IS SAFE FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS.



The CDC recommends that anyone age 6 months + gets a vaccine. Anyone age 5+ should get a booster.

The COVID-19 vaccine keeps you safe and out of the hospital.

Call the Niagara Falls Health Equity Task Force's COVID-19 Hotline at:
(716)-263-5770

Should my Child Get the Covid-19 Vaccine?

Before scientists recommended the vaccination of children, clinical trials with children were conducted to establish safety and effectiveness.



Covid-19 can make anyone (including children and teenagers) very sick. The Covid-19 vaccine can help protect people against the potential consequences of catching Covid-19.



Reported side effects of children after the Covid-19 vaccine were mostly mild and temporary.



Scan for more info!

What Is the Future for the Youth Ambassador Program?

Establish Initial Intervention Program

- Program developed to encourage community-based intervention
- Small program community partnership allowed for low cost intervention that will inform larger-scale implementation in the future
- Opportunities for Improvement

Larger Pilot Program*

- Niagara Falls City School District and rural Niagara County schools (*RoyHart School District*)
- Modification of curriculum to be implemented in classrooms and during summer camps.
- Develop ambassador trainer manual

Opportunities for YPAR/CBPR

- Bringing research and intervention full circle
- Publish ambassador trainer manual*
- Youth Ambassadors will have the opportunity to engage in scientific inquiry and publish their findings

* We Are Here *

Workshop Case Scenarios



Case Scenario #1:

Social planning

February 2021:

The State finally decides to use those embedded in community to distribute vaccines. They tell you **1,000 vaccines** will be distributed at a neighborhood clinic and you will have say over how the vaccines will be distributed. You receive a call a few days later informing you that **you will only receive 300 doses**.

How do we decide who gets the vaccine with only 300 doses available?

REFERENCE:

- [Example](#)

Case Scenario #2:

Social action

January 6, 2022

You are watching TV when you see an announcement that county officials will distribute at home test kits on the other side of the county via a drive through. Approximately 25% percent of folks in your geographic area do not have cars and will not be able to travel 30 minutes to get one test kit per car. You have been asking legislative officials to distribute test kits at the local level, but a comprehensive distribution plan has yet to be communicated.

What are your next steps as facilitator of the task force?

REFERENCE:

- [Example](#)

Questions?

Contact

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