



## COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

**FULTON COUNTY, GA**



**FULTON  
COUNTY**

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## Introduction

Community involvement is crucial while making health decisions regarding community as it will guide us in designing programs that will promote community health (Murray and Graham, 1995). Community members contribute to designing interventions by providing their perspectives and identify health related needs that are not readily available but are essential to maintain healthy life (Sue green et.al., 2004). Therefore, Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is one method to of identifying health problems and causes of health problems in community, which will help Public Health practitioners in determining priority issues in the community (Sue green et.al., 2004).

Community Health Needs Assessment is essential to recognize and understand health issues of a community, learning about influencing and challenging factors that acts as barriers to public health in that community (Grant et.al., 2015). Tax exempt health organization of every community must perform CHNA and develop an implementation strategy to address the identified health needs of the community (Grant et.al., 2015). Developing a CHNA helps in creating a strong partnership between community leaders and community health organizations.

[This article aims at developing CHNA for Fulton County, Georgia state.](#)

In terms of population, Fulton County is the most populous of Georgia 159 counties (Georgia demographics, 2022). Fulton County has diverse population, with Whites, Blacks, Asians, American Indian, Hispanic, or Latino making up county's racial makeup (Fulton County, 2022). It's crucial to develop CHNA on Fulton County because, Socio economic status, race and ethnicity are intimately intertwined (APA, 2017). Moreover, research studies indicate that Socio economic status of person is determined by race and ethnicity in terms of hierarchy (APA, 2017). Furthermore, communities are frequently divided by SES, race, and ethnicity (APA, 2017).

Therefore, it is very crucial to develop CHNA on diverse Fulton County in order to identify the gaps within the County that operates as a barrier for healthy community. The CHNA proposed in this article with aid in development and implementation of interventions to achieve health equity in the county.

## 2. Findings of Social Assessments

**2.1 Geography:** In the foothills of the Appalachian Mountains, Fulton County is in north-central Georgia (Fig 2.1) (Fulton County, 2022). The County stretches over 528.7 sq miles and spans more than 70 miles from one end to another (Fulton County, 2022). Fulton County is made up of 15 cities, the largest of which is 90% Atlanta, Georgia's capital (Fig 2.2) (Fulton County, 2022). Fulton County is the most populated County of Georgia (Georgia demographics, 2022). The Chattahoochee River, which supplies drinking water to most of the Fulton's County, is one of the country's smallest water sources in terms of population it serves (Fulton County, 2022). The "Hooch" emerges from north Georgia highlands, bringing a plenty of trout with it (Fulton, 2022).

**2.2 History:** In 1853, Fulton County was formed from the western part of DeKalb County and in 1932, it merged with Milton and Campbell Counties (Fulton County, 2022). Robert Fulton who invented Clermont, the first economically successful steamboat in 1807, is honored by the County's name (Fulton County, 2022). Fulton was the 144<sup>th</sup> of Georgia's 159 counties to be established (Fulton, 2022). In 1992, Fulton County elected Jacquelyn Harrison Barrett, the first African American woman ever elected to Sheriff office in US history (Fulton County, 2022).

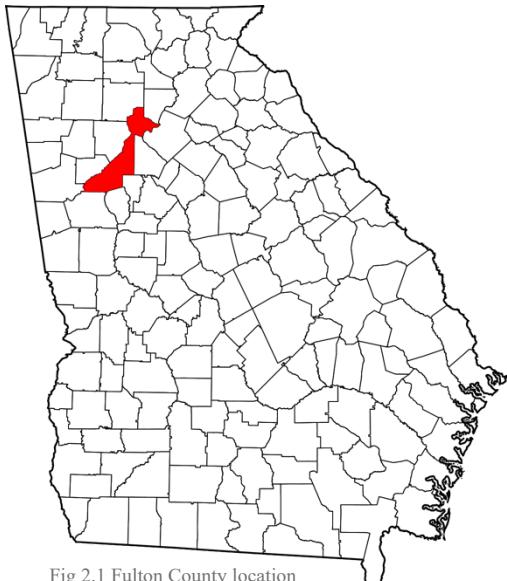


Fig 2.1 Fulton County location



Fig 2.2 Cities of Fulton County

**2.3 Economics:** With 13% of the population living in poverty, the median household income in Fulton County is \$69,673 between 2015-2019 (Fig 2.3) (US Census Bureau, 2022). The Fulton County economy employs 565k people (data USA, 2022). In Fulton County, 14.4% of population i.e., 144k in 1 million people live under poverty which is highest than 12.3% of national average, among which females aged 25-34 ranks highest among the demographic living in poverty followed by females aged 18-24 and males ages 18-24 (Fig 2.4) (data USA, 2022).

**2.4 Industry:** According to data USA (2022) in 2019, Asian workers earn 1.1% more than other races, whites earn the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest wage in the county and blacks are the most common ethnic group who live below poverty followed by Whites and Hispanics (data USA). Highest paying Fulton County industries are Scientific, Professional & Technical industries who pay \$85,656, Management of Companies and Enterprises pay \$141,623 and Information pays \$83,330. Scientific, Professional, & Technical industries (97,161 people), Social assistance and Health care (56,926 people), and Educational Services (49,273 people) are the largest industries of Fulton County (data USA, 2022).

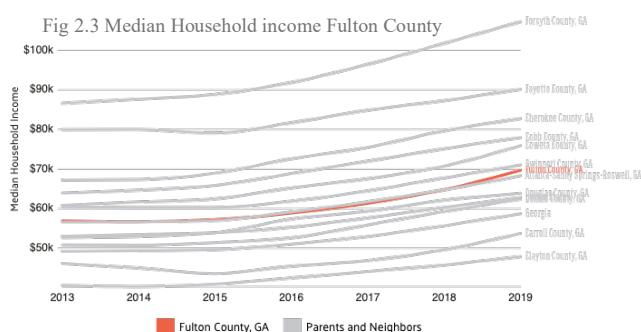
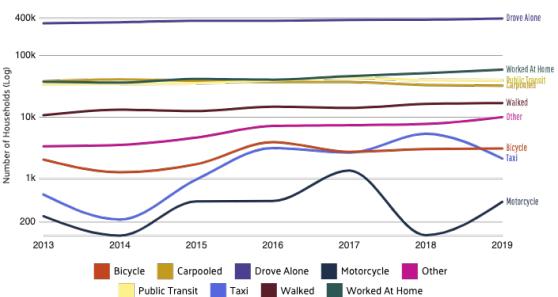


Fig 2.3 Median Household income Fulton County

Fig 2.4 Mode of transportation used by number of people

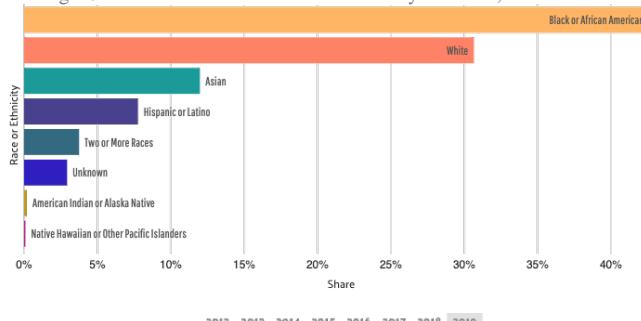


**2.5 Traffics:** Fulton County is infamous for traffic congestion especially for the commuters using North Fulton's interconnected roadways to the cities of metro Atlanta, John Creek, Roswell, and sandy springs (Atlanta Personal Injury Law Group (APILG), 2022). According to National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Fulton County ranks first for motor vehicle, alcohol related, speed related, pedestrian, motorcycle, bicycle fatalities (Georgia Governor's office of Highway Safety, 2019). Drivers in the Atlanta region spend 10% of their

daily time in traffic. According to city officials and Atlanta Regional Commission representatives, outdated infrastructure, low visibility, and speeding are all suspected causes of fatalities and collisions (APILG, 2022). According to INRIX's 2016 Global Traffic Score Board, traffic in Atlanta of Fulton County is ranked among most congested traffic in the USA (Fig 2.5) (The Atlanta Journal Constitution, 2022). The commute time in Fulton, GA is 26.7 mins which is higher than national average of 26 mins (data USA, 2022).

**2.6 Education:** In 2019, Female students (57,853) outnumbered male students (54,270) in Fulton, GA (data USA, 2022). The majority of students graduating from Fulton County universities are African Americans (42.6%), followed by White (30.7%), Asian (12%), and Latino or Hispanics (7.76%) (data USA) (Fig 2.6). Georgia State University (7,857 degrees in 2019), Georgia Institute of Technology- Main Campus (7,581degrees in 2019), Atlanta Technical College 2,378 degrees in 2019) are the largest Fulton County Universities (data USA, 2022). In 2019, a total 27,716 degrees were awarded in Fulton County (data USA, 2022). Furthermore, Georgia State University alone has awarded the highest (7,857) number of degrees (data USA, 2022). All the universities are open to Fulton County students with average fees of \$7,158 for in-state and \$22,389 for outstate students respectively (Fig 2.7) (data USA, 2022).

Fig 2.5 Graduation rate based on race/ethnicity in Fulton, GA



| Fulton (FU) County   | Trend | Error Margin | Top U.S. Performers | Georgia |
|--|-------|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| Additional Clinical Care (not included in overall ranking) + |       |              |                     |         |
| Social & Economic Factors                                    |       |              |                     |         |
| High school completion                                       | 93%   | 92-93%       | 94%                 | 87%     |
| Some college   | 78%   | 76-79%       | 73%                 | 64%     |
| Unemployment   | 3.5%  | 3.5%         | 2.6%                | 3.4%    |
| Children in poverty  | 22%   | 18-25%       | 10%                 | 20%     |
| Income inequality  | 5.9   | 5.8-6.1      | 3.7                 | 4.9     |
| Children in single-parent households                         | 37%   | 35-38%       | 14%                 | 30%     |
| Social associations  | 9.3   |              | 18.2                | 8.8     |
| Violent crime  | 763   | 62-67        | 63                  | 388     |
| Injury deaths  | 64    | 59           | 66                  |         |

Fig 2.6 Social and Economic Factors of Fulton, GA 2021

### 3. Summary of Human Characteristics

**3.1 Fulton County total population:** The Fulton County is the most populated County of Georgia state (Georgia demographics, 2022). Fulton County has a total population of 10,66,710 as of April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 (US Census Bureau, 2022).

**3.2 Number of residents by Zip code:** The Fulton County has a total of 102 zip codes. A link to all Fulton County zip codes, together with the number of residents in each, is provided below.

<https://www.zipdatamaps.com/fulton-ga-county-zipcodes>

**3.3 Number of residents by Cities:** There are a total 15 cities in Fulton, GA. Fig 3.1 illustrates cities and the number of residents in each city.

Fig 3.1 Fulton County cities with their respective population

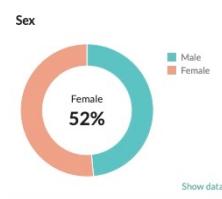
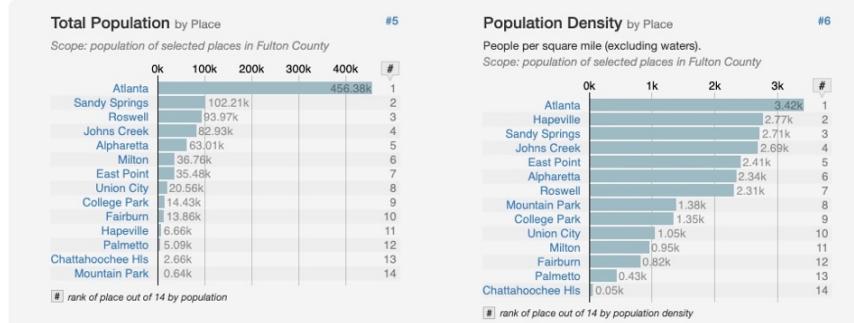


Fig 3.2 Fulton County residents based on gender

**3.4 Fulton County Residents by gender:** The County's total male residents are 514,901 and female residents are 549,036 as of 2019 (Fig 3.2) (US Census Bureau, 2022).

**3.5 Fulton County Residents by Race/ethnicity:** Fig 3.3 illustrates county resident percentage based on race/ethnicity as of 2019 (US Census Bureau, 2022).

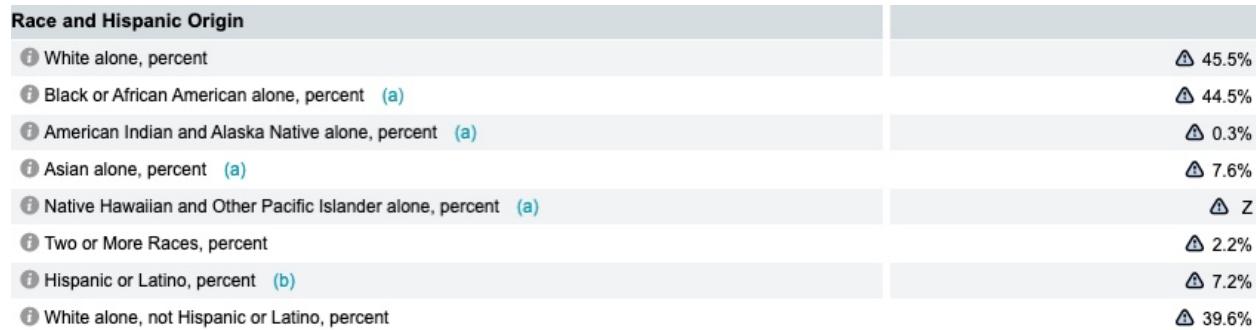
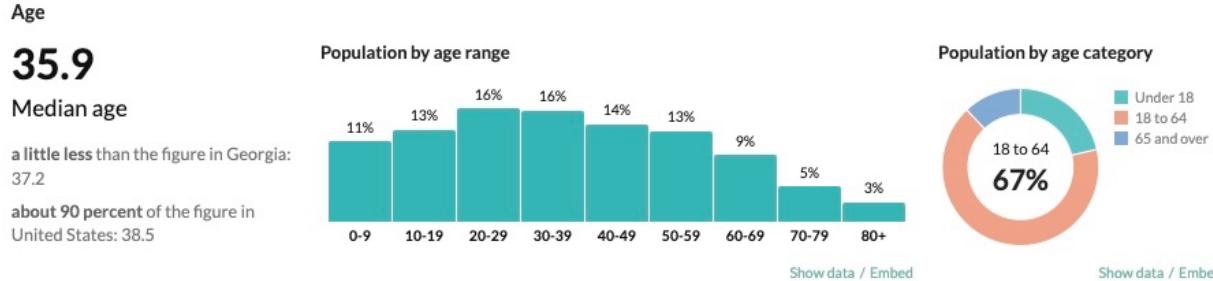


Fig 3.3 Fulton County residents based on race/ethnicity

**3.6 Fulton County Residents by Age:** Fig 3.4 illustrates percentage of county residents based on age as of 2019 (Census Reporter, 2022).

Fig 3.4 Fulton County residents based on age



**3.7 Fulton County residents by Income:** According to US Census Bureau (2022) as of 2019, 13.5% of population live under poverty, which is 13.5% higher than the US average of 12.3%, among which 22% of children under 18 and 12% of seniors aged over 65 live under poverty. Income inequality in Fulton, GA for year 2021 is 5.9% which is greater than the national average of 3.7% (County Rankings and Roadmaps, 2022). Largest race/ethnicity living in poverty in Fulton, GA in 2019 are Blacks (98,906), followed by whites (30,892) and Hispanics (13,418) (data USA, 2020).

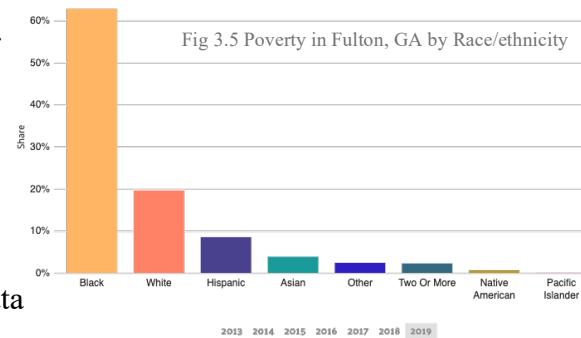


Fig 3.5 Poverty in Fulton, GA by Race/ethnicity

**3.8 Fulton County Residents by Employment:** Unemployment rate in Fulton, GA has reached 13.8% in April 2020 to 2.8% in October 2021 (Fred Economic data, 2022). The present unemployment rate in Fulton, GA is 3.6% (U.S. news, 2022).

## 4. Health Indicators

### 4.1 Mortality:

**4.1.1 Leading causes of death in the County:** “deaths of despair” is one of the leading causes of death in Fulton County (Well Being in the Nation (WIN), 2022). Deaths due to suicide, alcohol or drug addiction are known as “deaths of despair” (WIN, 2022). According to 2018 mortality statistics, Fulton County has 33.71 deaths per 100,000 people due to “deaths of despair” (WIN, 2022). Top 10 leading causes of death in Fulton, GA are listed on right side (OASIS, 2022).

**4.1.2 Leading cause of death by age:** Fig 4.1 illustrates Age adjusted leading cause of death in Fulton, GA for the fiscal year 2020 (OASIS, 2022).

Homicide, Suicide, Primary hypertension, hypertensive renal disease, ischemic heart disease, COVID 19 is major cause of premature deaths and Assault (Homicide) is major cause of death

Fig 4.1 Age Adjusted Leading Cause of Deaths in Fulton, GA

| CAUSE   | 0-4 YEARS | 5-9 YEARS | 10-14 YEARS | 15-19 YEARS | 20-24 YEARS | 25-29 YEARS | 30-34 YEARS | 35-39 YEARS | 40-44 YEARS | 45-49 YEARS | 50-54 YEARS | 55-59 YEARS | 60-64 YEARS | 65-69 YEARS | 70-74 YEARS | 75-79 YEARS | 80-84 YEARS | 85-89 YEARS | 90+ YEARS | TOTAL |
|---|-----------|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-------|
| 1) Assault (Homicide)   | 4         | 2         | 1           | 21          | 25          | 37          | 27          | 23          | 13          | 9           | 7           | 5           | 1           | 7           | 2           | 1           | 2           | 0           | 1         | 188   |
| 2) Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances                    | 0         | 0         | 0           | 1           | 9           | 19          | 21          | 19          | 28          | 20          | 18          | 27          | 13          | 15          | 7           | 1           | 2           | 0           | 0         | 200   |
| 3) Motor Vehicle Crashes  | 2         | 1         | 4           | 11          | 7           | 22          | 10          | 9           | 11          | 10          | 7           | 11          | 6           | 9           | 6           | 3           | 1           | 4           | 1         | 135   |
| 4) Covid-19   | 0         | 0         | 0           | 0           | 2           | 1           | 10          | 6           | 13          | 17          | 25          | 43          | 41          | 60          | 89          | 82          | 88          | 86          | 102       | 665   |
| 5) Essential (Primary) Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal, and Heart Disease | 0         | 0         | 0           | 0           | 1           | 0           | 4           | 5           | 14          | 16          | 33          | 43          | 61          | 47          | 38          | 47          | 63          | 47          | 73        | 492   |
| 6) Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide)  | 0         | 0         | 2           | 4           | 14          | 15          | 8           | 10          | 7           | 8           | 8           | 12          | 8           | 5           | 3           | 1           | 0           | 1           | 0         | 106   |
| 7) Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease  | 0         | 0         | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 2           | 3           | 5           | 14          | 32          | 39          | 56          | 45          | 60          | 54          | 55          | 76          | 99        | 540   |
| 8) Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period                     | 36        | 0         | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0           | 0         | 36    |
| 9) Cerebrovascular Disease  | 3         | 0         | 0           | 0           | 0           | 2           | 3           | 2           | 2           | 13          | 12          | 17          | 23          | 34          | 40          | 47          | 54          | 77          | 77        | 406   |
| 10) Diabetes Mellitus   | 0         | 0         | 0           | 0           | 0           | 2           | 2           | 2           | 6           | 5           | 17          | 19          | 28          | 35          | 37          | 32          | 18          | 25          | 25        | 253   |
| Top-10-Cause Total  | 45        | 3         | 7           | 37          | 58          | 98          | 87          | 79          | 99          | 112         | 159         | 216         | 237         | 257         | 282         | 268         | 283         | 316         | 378       | 3,021 |
| All-Cause Mortality   | 96        | 6         | 11          | 49          | 72          | 127         | 126         | 140         | 178         | 248         | 358         | 506         | 634         | 736         | 800         | 824         | 864         | 939         | 1,240     | 7,954 |
| Top-10-Cause Percent  | 46.9      | 50.0      | 63.6        | 75.5        | 80.6        | 77.2        | 69.0        | 56.4        | 55.6        | 45.2        | 44.4        | 42.7        | 37.4        | 34.9        | 35.3        | 32.5        | 32.8        | 33.7        | 30.5      | 38.0  |

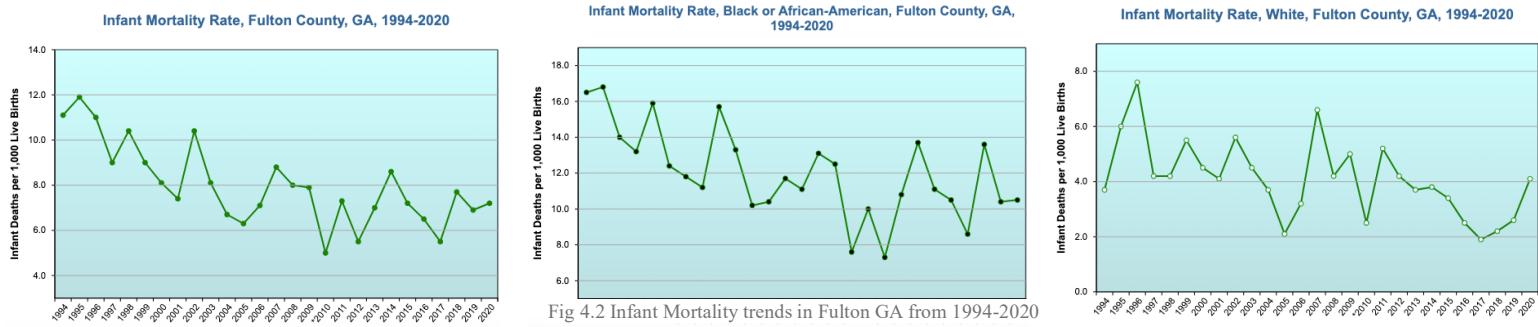
among children (OASIS, 2021).

### 4.1.3 Leading cause of death by gender, race/ethnicity:

- According to OASIS (2022), for the year 2020 COVID 19, Primary hypertension, hypertensive renal disease, ischemic heart diseases, suicide, homicide, motor vehicle accidents are major causes of death among Blacks or African American and Whites of Fulton County. But the rates of deaths are higher among blacks when compared to Whites (OASIS, 2022).
- According to OASIS (2022), death rates were higher in males than females in 2020. Below table depicts the total number of deaths by gender, race & created from OASIS (2022).

| Cause of death  | Males | Females | Blacks | Whites |
|---|-------|---------|--------|--------|
| Ischemic heart and vascular diseases                      | 333   | 207     | 272    | 252    |
| Cerebrovascular disease                                   | 174   | 232     | 234    | 163    |
| COVID 19  | 356   | 309     | 432    | 224    |
| Primary HTN, Hypertensive renal disease and heart disease | 271   | 221     | 320    | 165    |
| Suicide   | 84    | *       | *      | 58     |
| Homicide  | 160   | 28      | 171    | *      |
| Accidental Poisoning and exposure to noxious agents       | 144   | 56      | 120    | 80     |
| Motor Vehicle accidents                                   | 87    | 48      | 106    | 23     |

|   |
|---|
| 1) Assault (Homicide) 10.25% (7,799)  |
| 2) Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances 7.46% (5,676)                    |
| 3) Motor Vehicle Crashes 5.81% (4,422)  |
| 4) Covid-19 5.43% (4,135)   |
| 5) Essential (Primary) Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal, and Heart Disease 5.24% (3,991) |
| 6) Intentional Self-Harm (Suicide) 4.58% (3,487)  |
| 7) Ischemic Heart and Vascular Disease 4.41% (3,358)  |
| 8) Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period 3.52% (2,682)                     |
| 9) Cerebrovascular Disease 2.81% (2,139)  |
| 10) Diabetes Mellitus 2.64% (2,009)   |



**4.1.4 Infant Mortality rate:** Infant mortality rates in Fulton, GA have declined from 11.1 to 7.2 per 1000 live births between 1994 to 2020. However, rates are disproportionately higher among Blacks (10.5) when compared to Whites (4.1) in 2020 (Fig 4.2) (OASIS, 2022).

## 4.2 Morbidity:

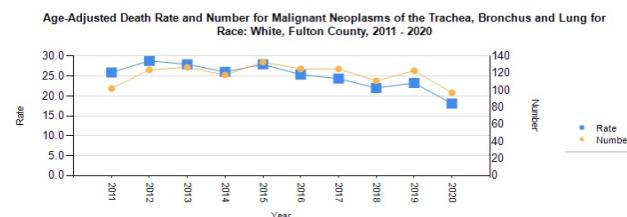
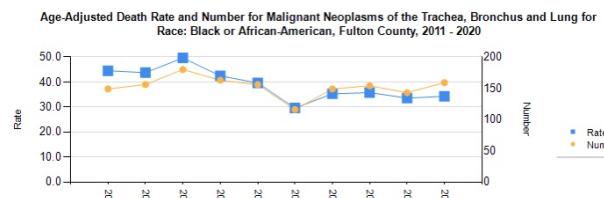
### 4.2.1 Chronic disease rates:

**4.2.1.a. Cancer:** Malignant neoplasms of trachea, bronchus and lungs are the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in Fulton, GA. However, this cancer incidence is higher among African Americans (33.8) when compared to Whites (22.6) leading to racial health disparities within the county (OASIS, 2022). Total 550 deaths were recorded for all types of cancer in Fulton, GA for the year 2020.

Fig 4.3 Malignant neoplasms of trachea, Bronchus and lung among Blacks and Whites in Fulton, GA

As stated above the current rate is 33.8. The rate for the previous 5 year aggregate (2011 - 2015) was 43.9. This difference is statistically significant. Below is both the number and rate in the county over the 10-year period.

As stated above the current rate is 22.6. The rate for the previous 5 year aggregate (2011 - 2015) was 27.4. This difference is statistically significant. Below is both the number and rate in the county over the 10-year period.

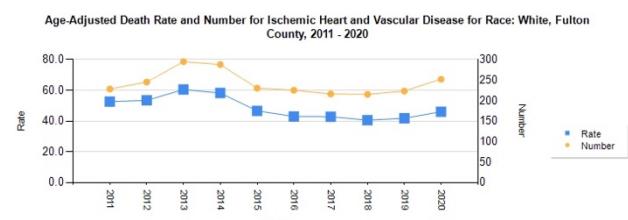
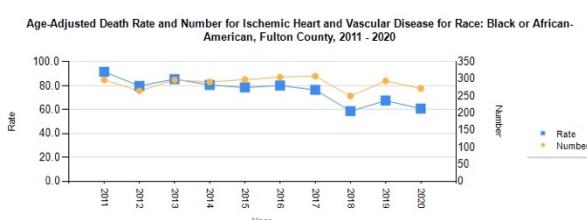


**4.2.1.b. Cardiovascular disease:** CVD is the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the county which accounts for 4.41% of deaths in 2020 (OASIS, 2022). The prevalence rates of CVD are higher in blacks (68.4) when compared to whites (42.8) (OASIS, 2022). For the year 2020, 2,007 death cases were recorded in Fulton, GA among which Blacks recorded 1,128 deaths and Whites recorded 840 deaths (OASIS, 2022).

Fig 4.4 Ischemic Heart and Cardiovascular disease among Blacks and Whites in Fulton, GA

As stated above the current rate is 68.4. The rate for the previous 5 year aggregate (2011 - 2015) was 83.0. This difference is statistically significant. Below is both the number and rate in the county over the 10-year period.

As stated above the current rate is 42.8. The rate for the previous 5 year aggregate (2011 - 2015) was 54.3. This difference is statistically significant. Below is both the number and rate in the county over the 10-year period.

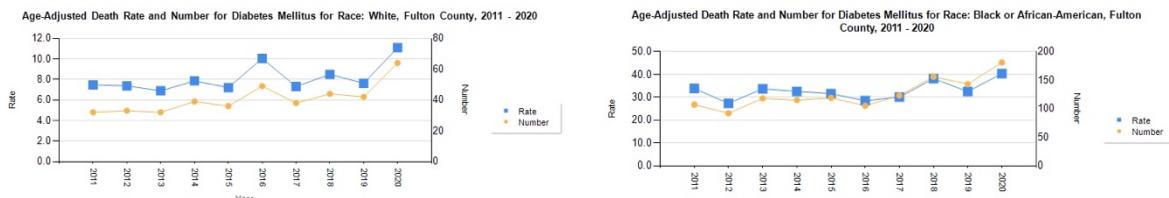


**4.2.1.c. Diabetes Mellitus:** Diabetes is the 10<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the county with 2.64% of death rate (OASIS, 2022). Racial health disparity trends are observed in diabetes of Fulton County where incidence rates are higher among blacks when compared to whites (OASIS, 2022).

Fig 4.5 Diabetes Mellitus among Blacks and Whites in Fulton, GA

As stated above the current rate is 8.9. The rate for the previous 5 year aggregate (2011 - 2015) was 7.4. This difference is not statistically significant. Below is both the number and rate in the county over the 10-year period.

As stated above the current rate is 34.1. The rate for the previous 5 year aggregate (2011 - 2015) was 31.8. This difference is not statistically significant. Below is both the number and rate in the county over the 10-year period.



**4.3 COPD:** For the year 2020, The death rate for COPD excluding Asthma is nearly equal among Blacks and Whites population of Fulton, GA. Incidence of COPD among Blacks is 24.8 and among whites is 23.2 (OASIS, 2022).

**4.4 COVID 19:** For the year 2020, 665 death cases were recorded in Fulton, GA among which Blacks alone recorded 432 deaths and Whites recorded 432 deaths (OASIS, 2022).

**4.5 Homicide:** For the year 2020, 188 death cases were recorded in Fulton, GA among which Blacks recorded 177 deaths and Whites recorded 15 deaths (OASIS, 2022).

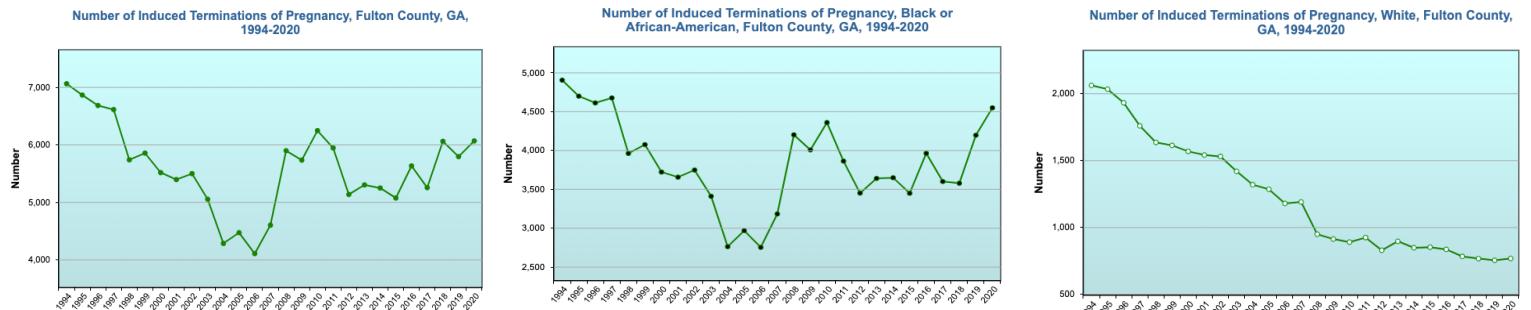
**4.6 Suicide:** For the year 2020, 106 death cases were recorded in Fulton, GA among which Blacks recorded 40 deaths and Whites recorded 58 deaths (OASIS, 2022).

**4.7 Motor Vehicle Crashes (MVC):** For the year 2020, 135 death cases were recorded under MVC in Fulton, GA among which Blacks recorded 106 deaths and Whites recorded 23 deaths (OASIS, 2022).

**4.8 Mental and Behavioral Disorders:** For the year 2020, 217 death cases were recorded under Mental and Behavioral disorders in Fulton, GA among which Blacks recorded 99 deaths and Whites recorded 112 deaths (OASIS, 2022). Fig 4.11 at section end illustrates mental health in Fulton, GA.

**4.9 Induced Termination of pregnancy (ITOP):** ITOP trends in Fulton, GA, fell drastically from 1994 to 2006, but rebounded in 2010 and became stable around 2018-2020 in Fulton, GA (OASIS, 2022). The significant difference between Blacks (4,550) and Whites (769) in ITOP trends in Fulton County, GA (OASIS, 2022).

Fig 4.6 ITOP in Fulton, GA



**4.10 Food Insecurity:** According to Feeding American (2022), in 2018 there are a total of 658, 350 food insecure people in Fulton, GA. Food Insecurity rate in Atlanta

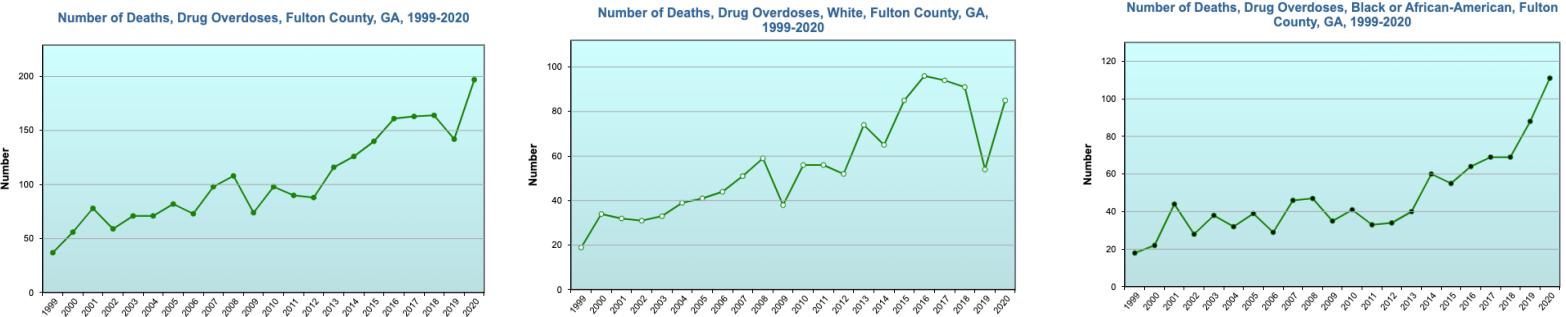
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US news

Community Food bank in 2018 is 10.6% (Feeding America, 2022) which is higher than national average of 10.5% (USDA ERS, 2021).

| METRIC   | COUNTY | U.S.  | PEER GROUP | STATE |
|--|--------|-------|------------|-------|
| Food Environment Index Score ⓘ                   | 7.05   | 9.53  | 8.90       | 7.61  |
| Local Food Outlets /100k                         | 2.5    | 4.3   | 3.6        | 2.0   |
| Population Without Access to Large Grocery Store | 30.3%  | 21.6% | 24.7%      | 30.8% |



**4.11 Drug Overdose:** From 1999 (37 deaths) to 2020 (197 deaths) the number of fatalities due to drug overdose (natural, synthetic, semi synthetic opioids, heroin, methadone) has risen considerably in Fulton, GA (OASIS, 2022). The death trends due to drug overdose are nearly equal between Blacks (111 deaths) and Whites (85 deaths) of Fulton, GA.



**4.12 Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD):** For the year 2020 the total number STD cases in Fulton, GA excluding congenital syphilis, is 16,537 (OASIS, 2022). Among 16,537 recorded cases Blacks alone recorded more than half of the cases (11,151 cases), whereas whites recorded 1,903 cases, which is a serious case of racial health disparities in Fulton, GA (OASIS, 2022). STD causes mental health challenges in both men and women (Jessica et.al., 2014) and physical health challenges particularly in women (NIH, 2022).

Fig 4.9 Total cases of STD'S in Fulton, GA

Number of STD Cases, All STD Except Congenital Syphilis, White, Fulton County, GA, 1998-2020

Number of STD Cases, All STD Except Congenital Syphilis, Black or African-American, Fulton County, GA, 1998-2020



Fig 4.10 Health Behaviors in Fulton, GA

Fig 4.11 Mental Health of Fulton, GA

| Fulton (FU) County               | Trend | Error Margin | Top U.S. Performers | Georgia |
|----------------------------------|-------|--------------|---------------------|---------|
| <b>Health Factors</b>            |       |              |                     |         |
| <b>Health Behaviors</b>          |       |              |                     |         |
| Adult smoking                    | 13%   | 11-15%       | 16%                 | 16%     |
| Adult obesity                    | 25%   | 23-27%       | 26%                 | 32%     |
| Food environment index           | 7.6   |              | 8.7                 | 6.5     |
| Physical inactivity              | 21%   | 19-23%       | 19%                 | 26%     |
| Access to exercise opportunities | 94%   |              | 91%                 | 75%     |
| Excessive drinking               | 20%   | 19-20%       | 15%                 | 17%     |
| Alcohol-impaired driving deaths  | 18%   | 17-20%       | 11%                 | 20%     |
| Sexually transmitted infections  | 804.3 | 161.2        | 632.2               |         |
| Teen births                      | 19    | 18-19        | 12                  | 24      |

| METRIC                                 | COUNTY | U.S.  | PEER GROUP | STATE |
|--|--------|-------|------------|-------|
| Adults With Frequent Mental Distress   | 11.3%  | 15.1% | 13.5%      | 13.7% |
| Deaths of Despair /100k                | 30.8   | 43.3  | 38.9       | 33.8  |
| Medicare Beneficiaries With Depression | 15.6%  | 18.0% | 18.7%      | 17.2% |

## 5 Health Infrastructure

### 5.1 Public Health Services:

#### 5.1.a. Child Health Services:

a. **Babies Can't Wait (BCW)** intervention provides health services for toddlers and infants with developmental anomalies (Fulton County, 2022). Services such as identification, evaluation and assistance through regular screenings are provided under BCW (Fulton County, 2022).

b. **Children 1st** is the child's port of entry to all public health services. The goal of this service is to screen and link children health from birth to 5 years of age to identify at risk children and guide them to appropriate public or community health services (Fulton County, 2022).

c. **Other Child health services include** Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI), Children's Medical Services (CMS), Children's Oral Health, Parents as Teachers™, The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) (Fulton County, 2022)

**5.1.b Medical and Preventive service** include Respiratory Health (Tuberculosis), The Ryan White Program, The Sexual Health (STI, HIV) Clinic (Fulton County, 2022).

**5.1.c Nursing Services** include The Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (BCCP), Family Planning, Nursing Services, The Teen Clinic service (Fulton County, 2022).

**5.2 Hospitals:** In Fulton, GA there are a total of 27 hospitals, providing service to 10.6 lakhs population, in a 528.7 sq miles region. There is one hospital for every 19 sq miles which serves nearly 37,422 inhabitants (County office, 2022). Out of 159 Counties in GA, Fulton is ranked 83<sup>rd</sup> in terms of Hospitals per capita and 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of Hospital per sq mile (County office, 2022). Grady Health is the biggest health care provider in Fulton, GA among which North Fulton Health Center is the biggest Grady health operating hospital, which is located a few mins away from North Fulton County home (Grady, 2022).

**5.3 Community Development Community Service Programs:** The department of Community Development has a division of Community services which coordinates and administers the County's Human Services Delivery Network (Fulton County, 2022). To solve the challenges facing by Fulton, GA residents, this network brings nonprofit service providers, churches, private sectors, citizens, community-based organizations, and citizens together (Fulton County, 2022).

**5.3 Non-Profit organizations:** In Fulton, GA there are a total of 85 charities and Non-Profit organizations (County office, 2022). There is 1 charity and Non-Profit for every 6 sq miles which serves nearly 11,887 people (County office, 2022). Out of 159 counties in GA, Fulton is ranked 7<sup>th</sup> in terms of Charities and Non-Profits per capita and 1<sup>st</sup> in terms of Charities and Non-Profits per sq mile (County office, 2022).

Patient to clinic ratio in Fulton, GA in 2021 is 904:1 (data USA, 2022). The average of primary care physician to patient ratio has decreased 1.9% from the past year (County Rankings and Roadmaps, 2021). Fig 5.1 indicates physician to patient ratio over the time period in Fulton, GA (data, USA). For the year 2021 A total of 12.6% of the population are under Medicaid coverage and 8.6% are under Medicare coverage (data USA, 2022).

Table 5.2 Table created based on the data from County Health Rankings and Road maps

|                              | Year | Fulton  | Georgia | Nation  |
|------------------------------|------|---------|---------|---------|
| Uninsured people             | 2021 | 14%     | 16%     | 6%      |
|                              | 2020 | 13%     | 16%     | 6%      |
|                              | 2019 | 13%     | 15%     | 6%      |
| Primary care physician       | 2021 | 900:1   | 1,510:1 | 1,030:1 |
|                              | 2020 | 920:1   | 1,530:1 | 1,030:1 |
|                              | 2019 | 930:1   | 1,520:1 | 1,050:1 |
| Dentist                      | 2021 | 1,410:1 | 1,920:1 | 1,210:1 |
|                              | 2020 | 1,420:1 | 1,960:1 | 1,240:1 |
|                              | 2019 | 1,410:1 | 1,960:1 | 1,260:1 |
| Mental Health care providers | 2021 | 410:1   | 690:1   | 270:1   |
|                              | 2020 | 420:1   | 730:1   | 290:1   |
|                              | 2019 | 460:1   | 790:1   | 310:1   |

## **6. Summary and Identification of Priority Issue**

Priority Health issues are selected based upon the epidemiological and statistical data provided by OASIS (Georgia Department of Public Health). Most of the data provides an insight into the cause of the disease in the particular geographic area as well as the demographics affected by it. Failure to address the health issue at the appropriate time, despite knowing the epidemiological data will have serious consequences on the well-being of the community. Therefore, CHNA of Fulton, GA provides an insight into county health challenges and will assist in selecting a priority health issue in Fulton, GA.

From the CHNA, it is notable that Fulton, GA is the most populated county of Georgia with 15 cities, 102 zip codes, with median age of 35.9 and 13.5% population living under poverty, is a home to multi-racial/multi-ethnic population and has serious racial health disparity issues which needs to be addressed swiftly. It is also evident from CHNA that income inequality in Fulton, GA (5.9) is much higher than the national average of 3.7, and the number of uninsured people in Fulton, GA (14%) is more than double than the national average of 6%. It's conspicuous that traffic in Fulton, GA is one of the most congested traffic in the nation and commuters usually take a long time to travel when compared to other parts of the nation.

From the Health indicators section, it's obvious that "deaths of despair" such as suicide, homicide, substance abuse, alcohol addiction are few main causes of preventable deaths in Fulton, GA. It's also apparent that adult smoking behavior (13%), physical inactivity behavior (21%), excessive drinking (20%) which are higher than national average are the main causes of many preventable deaths in Fulton, GA. I strongly believe that interventions aimed at long term behavioral change can help to decrease the incidence of preventable deaths in Fulton, GA. For the year 2021, COVID 19 was the leading cause of death in Fulton, GA, with 665 fatalities followed by Cardiovascular diseases, Cerebrovascular, suicide, homicide, and motor vehicle crashes.

When we observe the trends of the disease its quite evident that the rates of disease and death due to any disease are high among Blacks when compared to Whites leading to racial health disparities in Fulton, GA. For instance, more than half of sexually transmitted diseases were recorded by Blacks (11,151 cases) when compared to Whites (1,093). Moreover, in health issues such as Induced Termination of Pregnancy, Drug Overdose, Cardiovascular diseases, motor vehicle crashes, Blacks recorded more cases or deaths than Whites, which highlights social injustice, health inequity and racial health disparities within Fulton, GA. From Health infrastructure section its apparent that the ratio of primary care physicians to population served in Fulton, GA is better when compared to other Georgia counties. However, within Fulton, GA the ratio has decreased 1.95% in 2021 when compared with previous years 2020 & 2019.

From CHNA on Fulton, GA the priority issues affecting health, and which requires serious public health intervention are health related behaviors of Fulton, GA residents, congested traffic of ATLANTA, sexually transmitted diseases (STD), Cardiovascular disease, COVID 19, Cerebrovascular disease, Mental Health imbalance issues such as suicide, homicide, substance abuse, & racial health disparities.

1. The three priorities for quality of life are Mental Health Challenges, Physical Health Challenges, Poverty.
2. The three priority Health issues are Sexually transmitted diseases, Cardiovascular diseases, Motor Vehicle crashes.

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