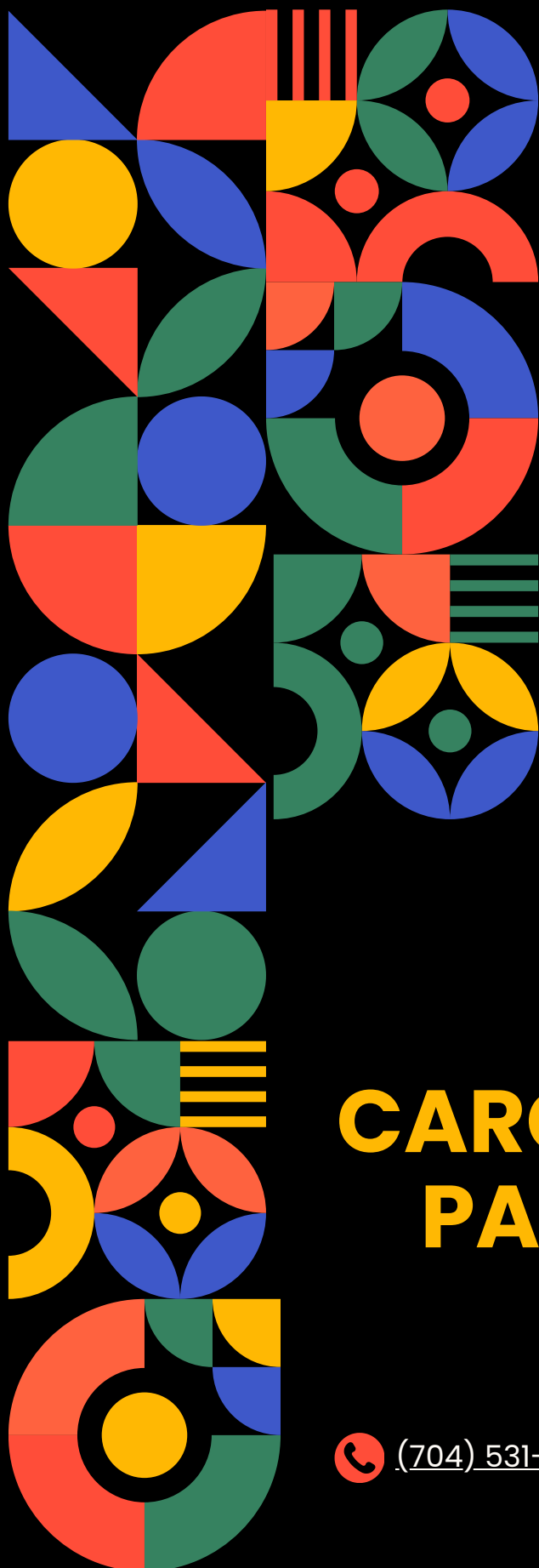




**ANNUAL
REPORT**



CAROLINAS CARE PARTNERSHIP 2025



(704) 531-2467



www.carolinascare.org



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OUR STORY

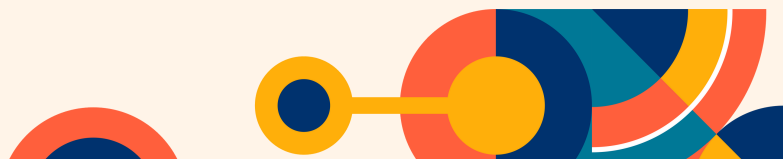


CAROLINAS CARE PARTNERSHIP

Originally founded in 1990 as the Regional HIV/AIDS Consortium, a joint effort between the Foundation for Carolinas and United Way of Central Carolinas, these two organizations sought to address the impact of AIDS in the North and South Carolina region surrounding Mecklenburg County. When the Ryan White Care Act began distributing funds, the Regional HIV/AIDS Consortium was chosen to administer those funds in this region.

Over 31 years, the Regional Consortium, now Carolinas CARE Partnership, has grown from a staff of two to a staff of 22, managing a \$5.4 million budget. Carolinas CARE Partnership focuses on HIV testing and prevention, linkage to medical care, medical case management, housing resources for people living with HIV, community education, mental health, opioid prevention, public policy, public awareness, funding for community partner organizations, and property ownership and management.

Since its formation, Carolinas CARE Partnership has:

- Operated as an active Community Partner Site for the National AIDS Fund
 - Published a regional resource directory for thirteen counties in North and South Carolina
 - Placed AmeriCorps members in local AIDS organizations
 - Established and operated a rental voucher program for those affected by HIV and either experiencing chronic homelessness or housing instability
 - Completed a region-wide housing study in 1999 and an update in 2002
 - Completed our fifth regional needs assessment: Comprehensive Needs Assessment in 2007
 - Administered millions of dollars in private, state, and federal grant funding
 - Supervised, supported, and trained the twenty-five-member Regional Case Management Network
 - Granted and managed about \$1 million each year to regional organizations
 - Monitored, evaluated, and provided quality assurance for funded organizations
 - Provided opportunities for collaborations with individuals and organizations on a regional basis
 - Provided presenters to state and national conferences
 - Hosted a symposium of educational workshops for regional participants
 - Maintained a model HIV/AIDS Workplace Alliance to enhance public/private partnerships
 - Produced a Video for organizational and workplace education
 - Partnered with 50+ regional organizations to implement our mission
- 

THIS YEAR AT CCP

We ran five programs for individuals living with HIV and those at risk of HIV, assisted with housing and utility bills for other individuals in the community, as well as peer support programming for individuals living with a substance use disorder (SUD).

HIV Testing

Our mission is to empower individuals and communities through education, resources, and compassionate care to prevent the transmission of HIV. We are committed to reducing stigma, increasing access to testing and prevention tools, and fostering a supportive environment where everyone can thrive in health and well-being.

Esperanza Libre/Freedom & Hope

The opioid program is to create a supportive and inclusive environment that meets the unique needs of Latinx and LGBTQIA+ individuals seeking harm reduction and recovery from opioid addiction.

OPT Out & Rx ACE

Advocacy for inclusive communities by providing education, outreach, prevention, and collaborative initiatives that promote wellness and dignity for youth and young adults, the LGBTQ+ community, and those living with HIV/AIDS.

Housing Opportunities for Persons Living with AIDS

Providing housing and assisting with utility bills for all individuals.

IT STARTS WITH SHOWING UP...

A word from a client who participated in the *Esperanza Libre/Freedom & Hope* program.

"First, thank you so much for being very present in my life during what I feel is the toughest time of my sentence. Transitioning and learning to re-enter successfully has had many ups and downs and the fact that you relate to me on a personal level is very helpful. I am motivated by your enthusiasm and your willingness to be active in my life, as well as the lives of others. Your commitment is unparalleled and I know that you are looking to grow but I personally don't see anything that needs to be improved. You are a blessing. Again, and it will never be enough, THANK YOU!!!!"

ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Charlotte, North Carolina, has one of the highest prevalence and new diagnosis rates, per 100 thousand, of HIV in comparison to the state, the regional South, and the United States. In 2022, Charlotte had a prevalence rate of over 700 cases and over 200 new diagnoses, many of which impacted minoritized racial groups, predominantly males, and individuals in the age range from 25 to 44 (AIDSVu, 2024).



In Mecklenburg County:

- 13% don't know their HIV status
- 20% are missing linkage to care (AHEAD, 2024)



Funded via the Mecklenburg County Ending the HIV Epidemic (EHE) Program and the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services (NCDHHS) Integrated Targeted Testing Services (ITTS), the HIV prevention team maintains a minimum of 30 condom distribution sites through these grants and distributes 40,000 condoms to individuals at high risk for HIV and other STIs. They also host education workshops at recovery centers and do free rapid STD testing.

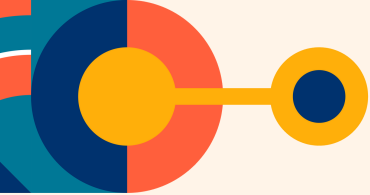


ITTS Deliverables:

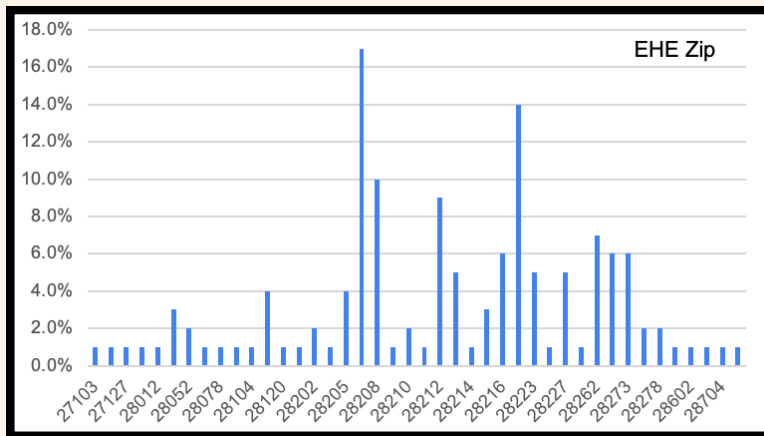
- 1,440 unduplicated individuals for HIV
- 840 unduplicated individuals for syphilis
- 480 unduplicated individuals for hepatitis C

EHE Deliverables:

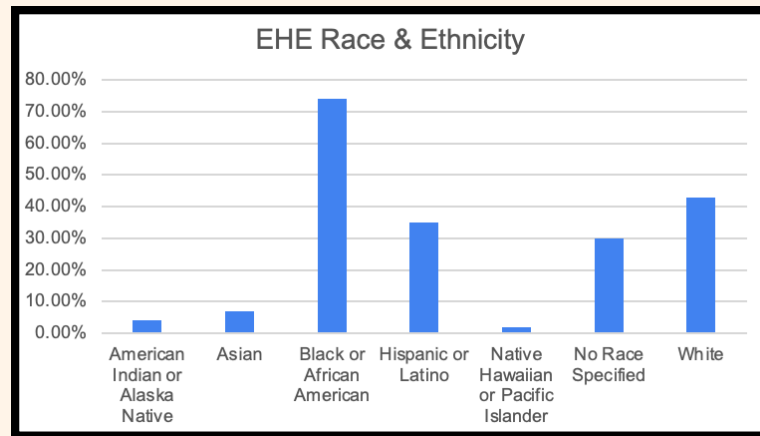
- 200 unduplicated African American & Hispanic clients



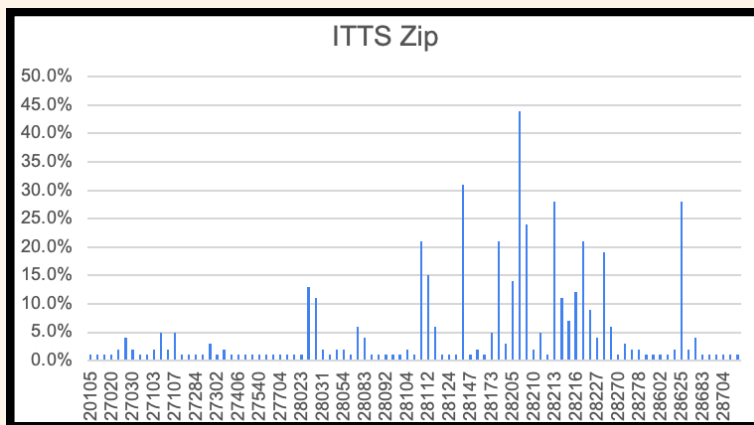
ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC



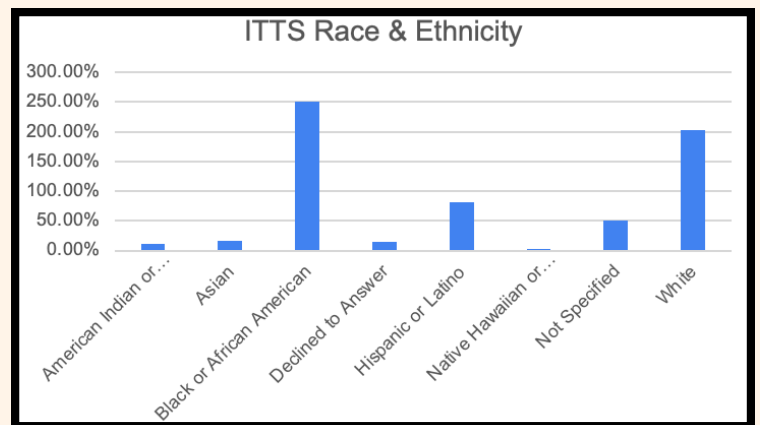
The HIV team tested in 21 counties for Ending the HIV Epidemic, leading to 147 people receiving free rapid testing.



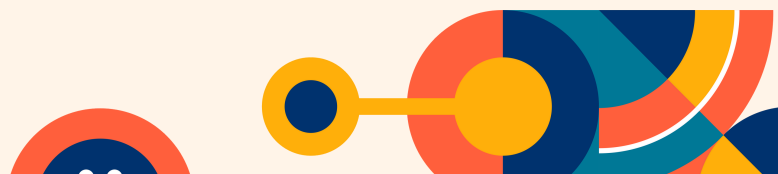
The HIV team tested individuals from multiple racial and ethnic backgrounds. Individuals of Black or African American identity were the largest population tested. Minoritized racial groups often experience higher rates of disparities in HIV prevention and care.

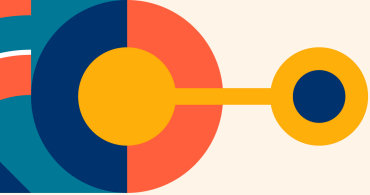


The HIV team tested in 31 counties for the Integrated Targeted Testing Services, leading to 530 individuals receiving free rapid testing.



The HIV team tested from multiple racial and ethnic backgrounds for ITTS as well with the highest rate of testing among individuals who identify as Black or African American.





OPT OUT IN MOTION

OPT Out is funded by SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework grant to support community work in substance use harm reduction.

OPT Out via CCP serves 10 counties. 7 counties in North Carolina: Mecklenburg, Cabarrus, Union, Lincoln, Rowan, Gaston, and Iredell, and 3 counties in South Carolina: Lancaster, York, and Chester.

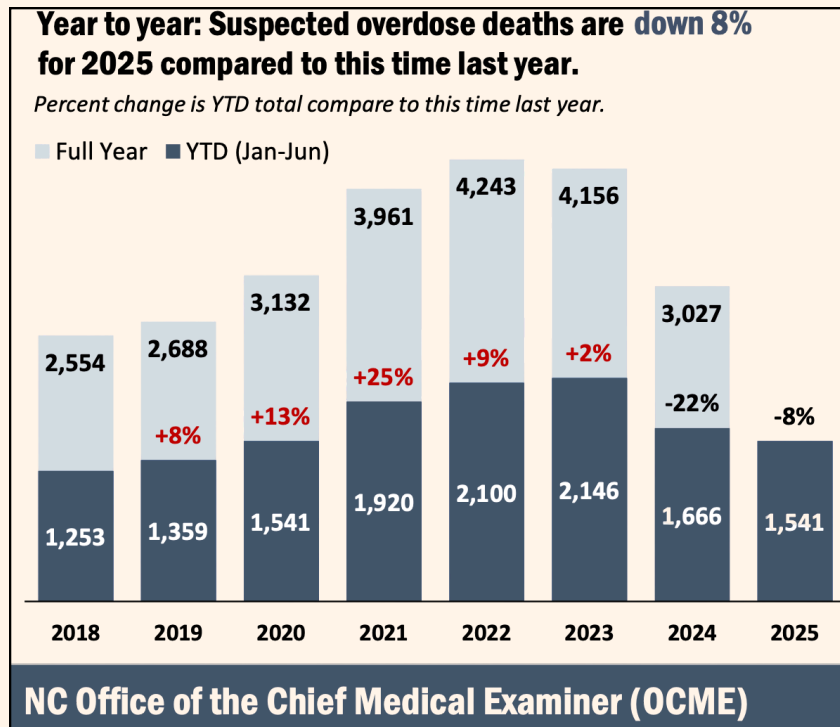
The priority populations served are LGBTQIA+ folks 14- 25 and anyone living with or impacted by HIV.

This Year's Outreach:

- 3, 978 people directly served
- ~ 224,840 people reached via Social Media & Billboards
- 302 Medication Disposal Deterras Distributed
- 633 Medication Lock Boxes Distributed
- 112 Narcan Distributed
- 19 Trainings
- 37 Community Events

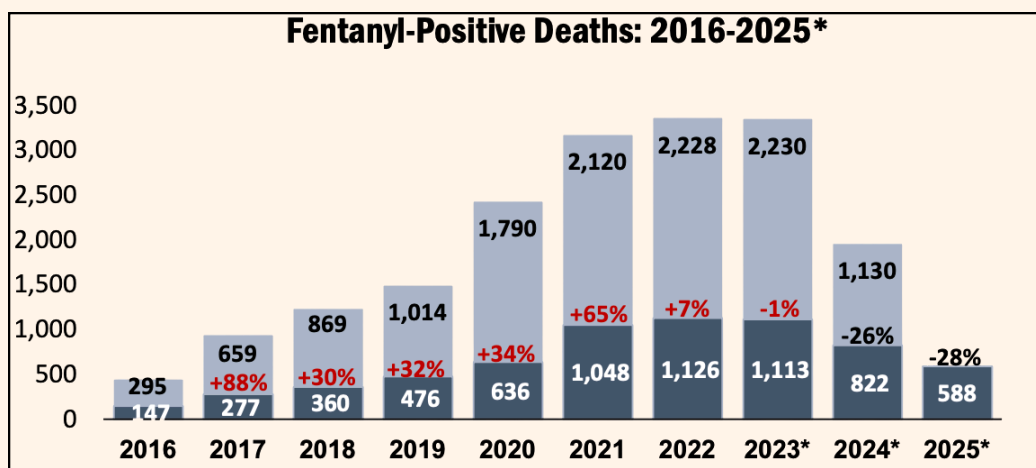


PREVENTION IN ACTION

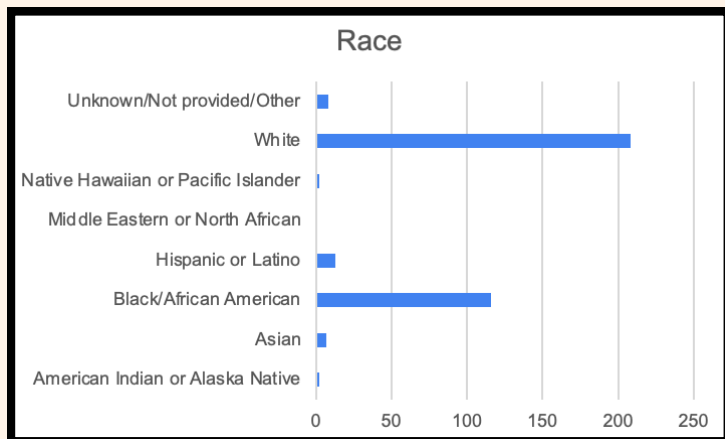


Through the Rx ACE & OPT Out prevention and education programs, 534 Detera pouches & 760 medication lock-boxes have been disbursed to the community.

This means less misuse of prescription medication & less overdoses.

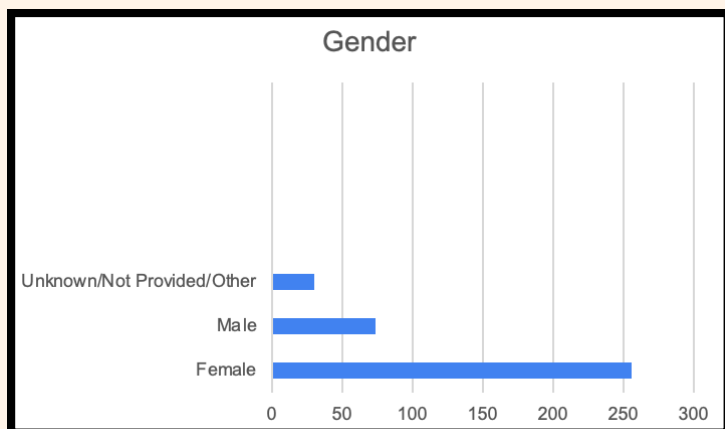


RX ACE COMMUNITY

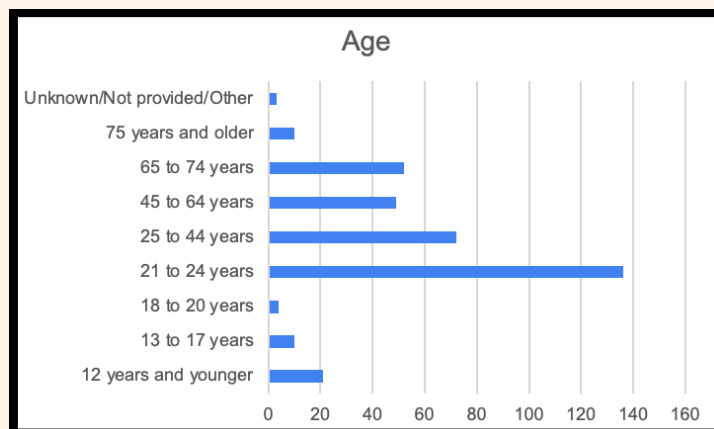


Year 3 demographics of race and ethnicity of the Rx ACE program.

Rx ACE has successfully reached year three of five serving Mecklenburg and surrounding communities. It is funded via the SPF (Substance Prevention Framework) Rx grant, designed to raise awareness about the dangers of sharing medications and work with pharmaceutical and medical communities on the risks of overprescribing to young adults. The program also raises community awareness via prescription drug abuse prevention education within schools, communities organizations, and in medical offices.



Year 3 demographics of the gender of the Rx ACE program.

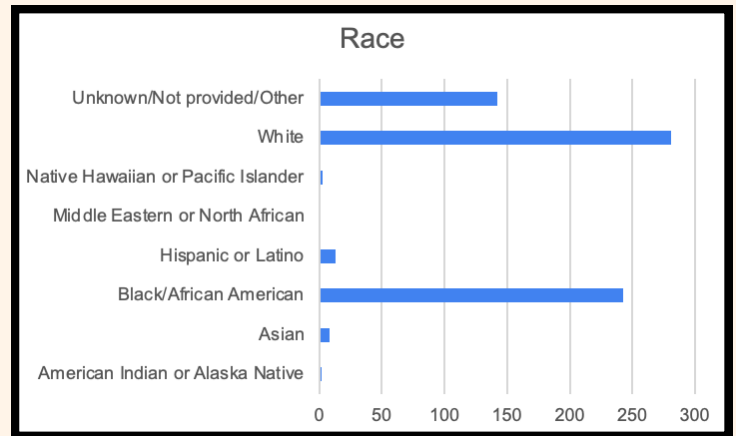


Year 3 demographics of the age of the Rx ACE program.

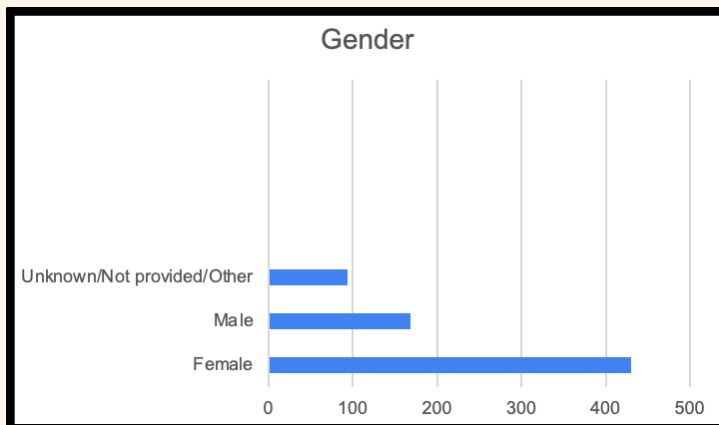


RX ACE COMMUNITY

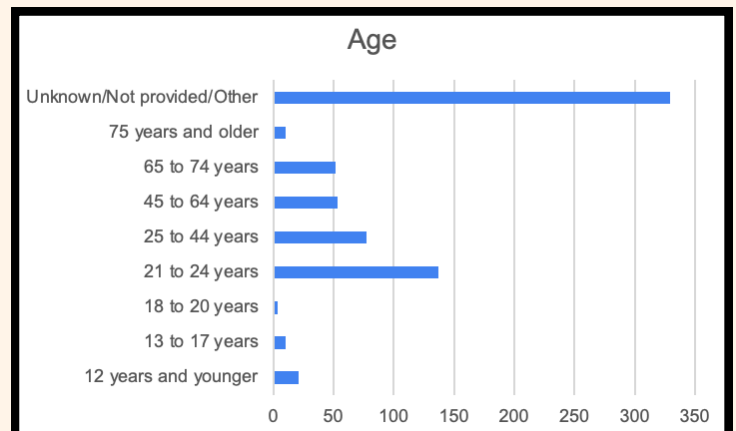
The cumulative data on the Rx ACE program shows the total number of individuals served over three years. So far, target goals are being met with intention to carry the positive momentum into the next two years of the program.



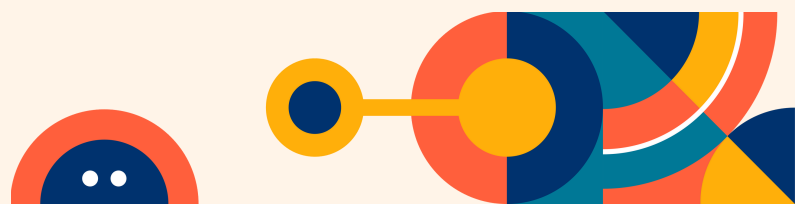
The cumulative data on the race and ethnicity of the community served over three of the five years the Rx ACE program has been running.



The cumulative data on the gender of the community served over three of the five years the Rx ACE program has been running.



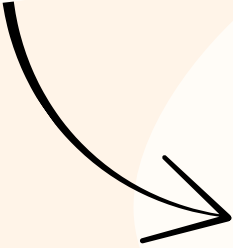
The cumulative data on the age of the community served over three of the five years the Rx ACE program has been running.



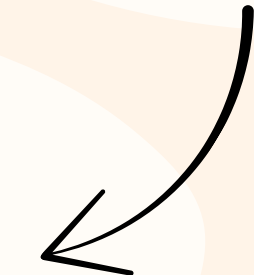


ESPERANZA LIBRE~FREEDOM & HOPE PEER SUPPORT


Creating a supportive and inclusive environment that meets the unique needs of Latinx & LGBTQIA+ individuals seeking harm reduction & recovery from opioid addiction.



All clients participating receive peer support that includes a Person-Centered Plan include: needs assessment, resource and external services referrals, SMART Goals, SMART Recovery CBT worksheets, & recovery path support



Privileges such as having a driver's license, being registered to vote, and access to participate in vocational training give quality to life, greater freedom, and the ability to apply for better jobs, boosting participation in the civic process, improving financial status, and... the confidence to say,
“I can do this.”



ESPERANZA LIBRE~FREEDOM & HOPE PEER SUPPORT



This Year's Outcomes:

- 89 clients served
- 71 active clients
- 34 clients served with addiction support
- 3 individuals supported during their transition
- 23 people received food referrals or nutritional support deliveries
- 15 people received clothing deliveries

Economic Mobility:

- 25 new jobs or promotions
- 25 people assisted in obtaining driver's licenses or ID documents
- 35 people assisted in registering to vote
- 15 people assisted with registering for higher education or vocational training
- 65 people were referred to outside services (educational/vocational support, workforce development, digital upskilling, clothing, food pantries).



Prevention at Work:

- 55 individual Narcan trainings
- 314 Narcan distributed
- 7 people voluntarily entered detox/rehab and completed their treatment successfully

Quality of Life Achieved:

- 13 people were released from incarceration or successfully terminated their probation or parole
- 26 people moved from transitional housing into permanent housing
- 10 clients have been able to move back to Mecklenburg County
- 13 family reunification plans completed satisfactorily



The page is decorated with colorful geometric patterns in the corners. These patterns consist of overlapping circles and arcs in shades of blue, red, and yellow. Some circles have smaller circles inside them, and some are connected by lines, creating a network-like appearance. The patterns are located in the top-left, top-right, bottom-left, and bottom-right corners.

THE BIG PICTURE...

"Here is what I can say...I needed help with an appointment for my real ID and you made it happen. You have been there for me when I just needed to talk about things and that means more than you could ever know. I appreciate you and this program."



ABC GRANT & CCP

The prevention-centered initiative served 72 individuals who were justice-impacted and those living with SUD throughout the City of Charlotte.

Funded by the ABC Grant, the program addressed core drivers of justice involvement—economic instability, trauma, and lack of support—through weekly peer groups and strategic collaborations with trusted community agencies.

Small-group peer sessions of 8–10 members met weekly, creating safe spaces for truth-telling, healing, and forward movement. Each session emphasized:

- Life skills & emotional regulation
- Harm reduction and relapse prevention
- Career coaching & financial empowerment
- Community leadership and civic reintegration

PROGRAM OUTCOMES AT A GLANCE:

- 72 Individuals Served
- 95% Completion Rate
- 42 Weekly Sessions Held
- 0 Recidivism During Period
- 45% Employment Rate of participants
- 62% Housing Stability Increased for participants
- Mental Health Improvements include 87% reported increased coping and resilience



ABC GRANT & CCP

Strategic partners for prevention impact include:

- **Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont**
 - Focus: Employment readiness & resume building
 - Impact: 26 participants completed job training; 14 placed in jobs
- **Urban League of Central Carolinas**
 - Focus: Financial literacy and small business development
 - Impact: 18 completed the 6-week course; 5 launched microenterprises
- **The HELP Program**
 - Focus: Trauma recovery, behavioral health, and conflict resolution
 - Impact: 58 reported improved emotional control and decreased behavioral triggers
- **Heal Charlotte**
 - Focus: Community engagement and youth mentorship
 - Impact: 12 participants became peer mentors; 3 enrolled in post-secondary education
- **Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office (Reentry Unit)**
 - Focus: Jail-to-community transitional support
 - Impact: 21 received wraparound services including housing support, job leads, and state-issued IDs





THE VOICE OF RESTORATION

Cemeaka Thorne: Thank you to the ABC Grant and Carolinas CARE Partnership for giving me a second chance. This program helped me see my worth and start rebuilding my life.

PJ Wilson: Because of this program, I have a new job and a new mindset. Thank you ABC and CCP for the opportunity to grow.

Byron Sadler: I came in broken, but I left stronger. The ABC Grant and CCP gave me the tools to change. I'm now employed and focused on my goals.

Charles Harrel: I used to think there was no way out. Now I'm mentoring others. I thank ABC and CCP for the guidance and love.

Lydia Avoki: This program taught me how to break the cycle. Thank you to the ABC Grant and CCP for changing my future and my family's future.



We are happy to create positive change in so many lives this year. This work can't happen without the collaboration of fellow organizations & the communities who trusted us to serve them, so...
THANK YOU!