



## Schools, Jobs, Housing and More: Tackling the Social Determinants of Health

*Kimberly Monroe, MPA*

### Name of project or collaborative

Partnership for a Healthy Durham

### Geography

Durham, North Carolina

### Brief Description

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham grew out of a government and community collaboration on health initiatives, and was formally organized in 2004. It is now a coalition of 475 members which includes agency and organizational leaders and community members representing a wide range of interests. It is supported by a full time coordinator paid by the Durham County Department of Public Health (DCoDPH). The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is responsible for conducting the community health assessment (which is conducted every three years) for sharing the results, and holding the discussions that set health priorities for the community. Durham County residents participated in several focus groups as part of the 2011 Community Health Assessment. They identified three social determinants that are critical to improving health outcomes for the people of Durham: poverty, homelessness, and education/workforce development. This helped shape the focus of the annual health summits convened by Duke Medicine and highlighted the need to focus on social determinants and their impact on the health and well-being of the community.

### Relevance of project to this breakout session

Community, organizational, and government partners must commit themselves to improving health outcomes by addressing the social determinants of health and making sure that health is included in all conversations. Financial wellness, education, and living environment impact overall health and wellness. To improve the health of the community, it requires a diversity of solutions. All sectors of the community must be engaged to develop strategies that lead to lasting change over time.

### Results/outcomes

Social determinants are now integrated into community policies, projects, and plans. A pilot medical respite for the homeless program has been established. The "Made in Durham" Task Force was developed to create a pipeline of education and training opportunities for local high school students to gain employment in Durham. East Durham Children's Initiative (EDCI) is designed to put children on a path to success. It provides home-based parent support to families living in the zone and has helped to raise test scores of elementary school children in the program.

### Funding

Support for the Partnership for a Healthy Durham comes from local county government with additional funding from grants that support projects.

### Contact

<http://www.healthydurham.org/>