Guilford County
Social Determinants of Health & Firearm Violence Prevention

Name of Presenter: Alexis Powell, MPH, Community Health Educator II
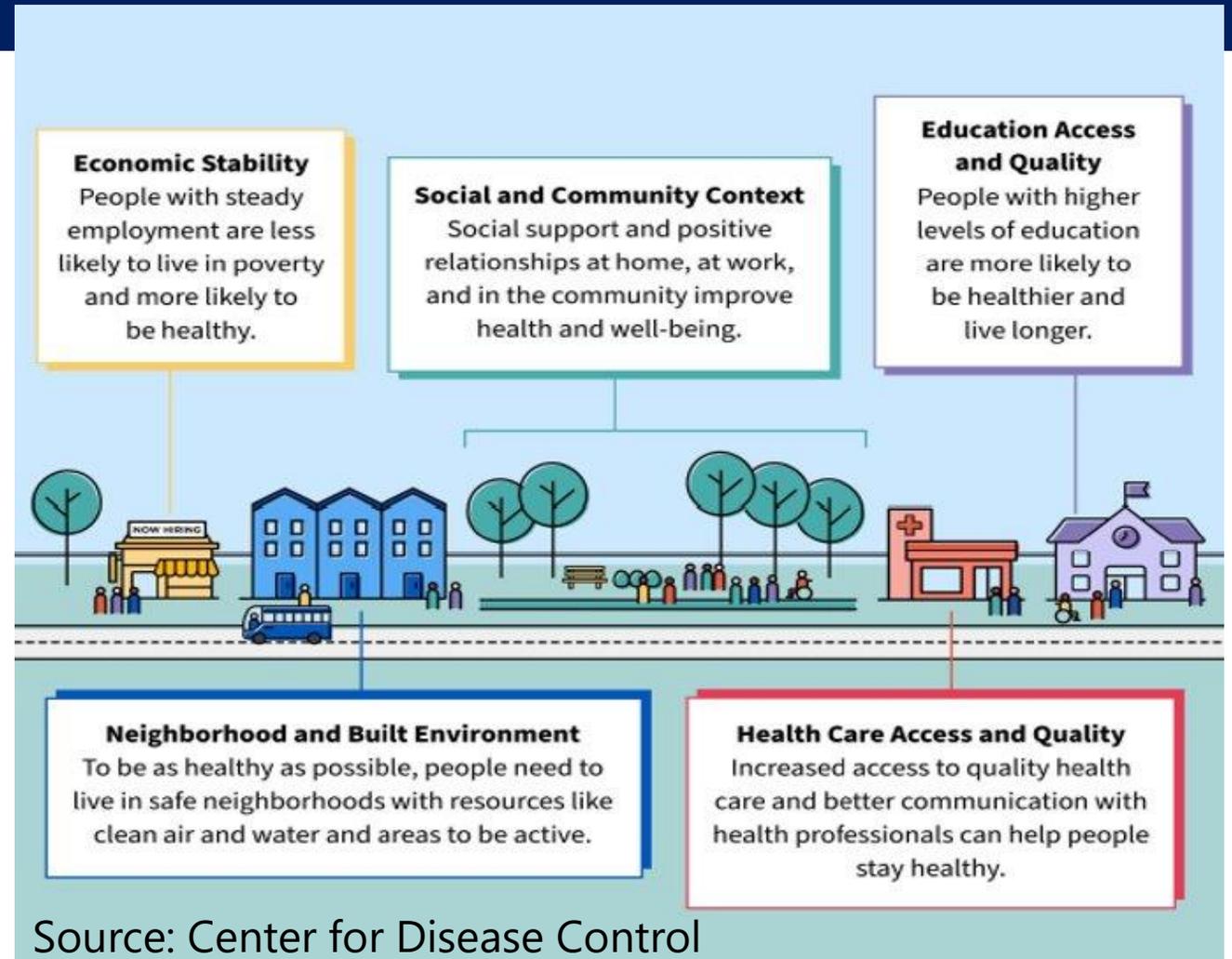
Department: Division of Public Health

June 5, 2025

Social Determinants of Health (SDOH)

- SDOH refer to environmental conditions that affect a wide range of health, functioning, and quality-of-life outcomes and risks." (Healthy People 2030)

- Key findings from the 2023–2024 Guilford County CHA highlight that structural inequities drive unequal social, economic, and environmental conditions.

- SDOH-focused community health education increase awareness on how overlapping social determinants like economic stability and community safety concerns affect health outcomes.

Source: Center for Disease Control

Three Primary Social Drivers of Community Violence

Economic Stability

- Lack of access to economic advancement opportunities
- Unemployment and wage disparities
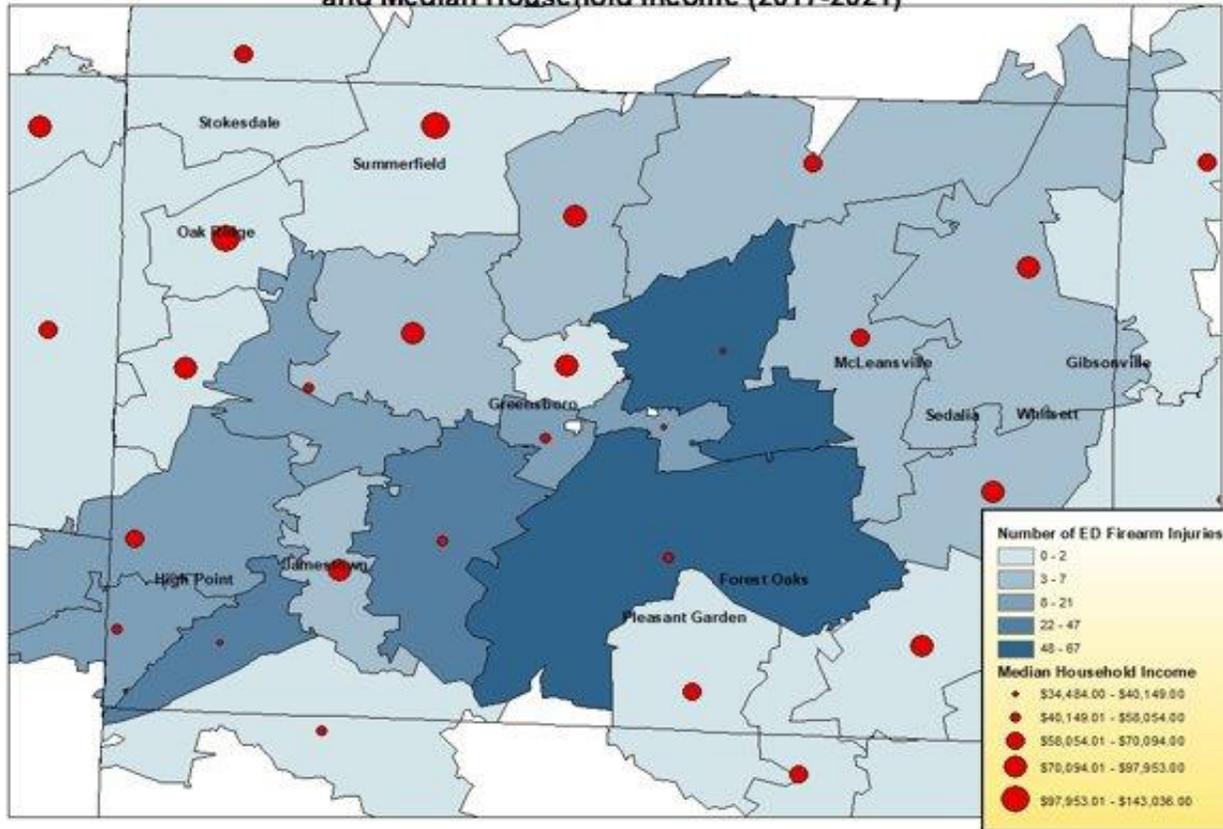- Low-income communities

Education

- Lack of access to educational opportunities
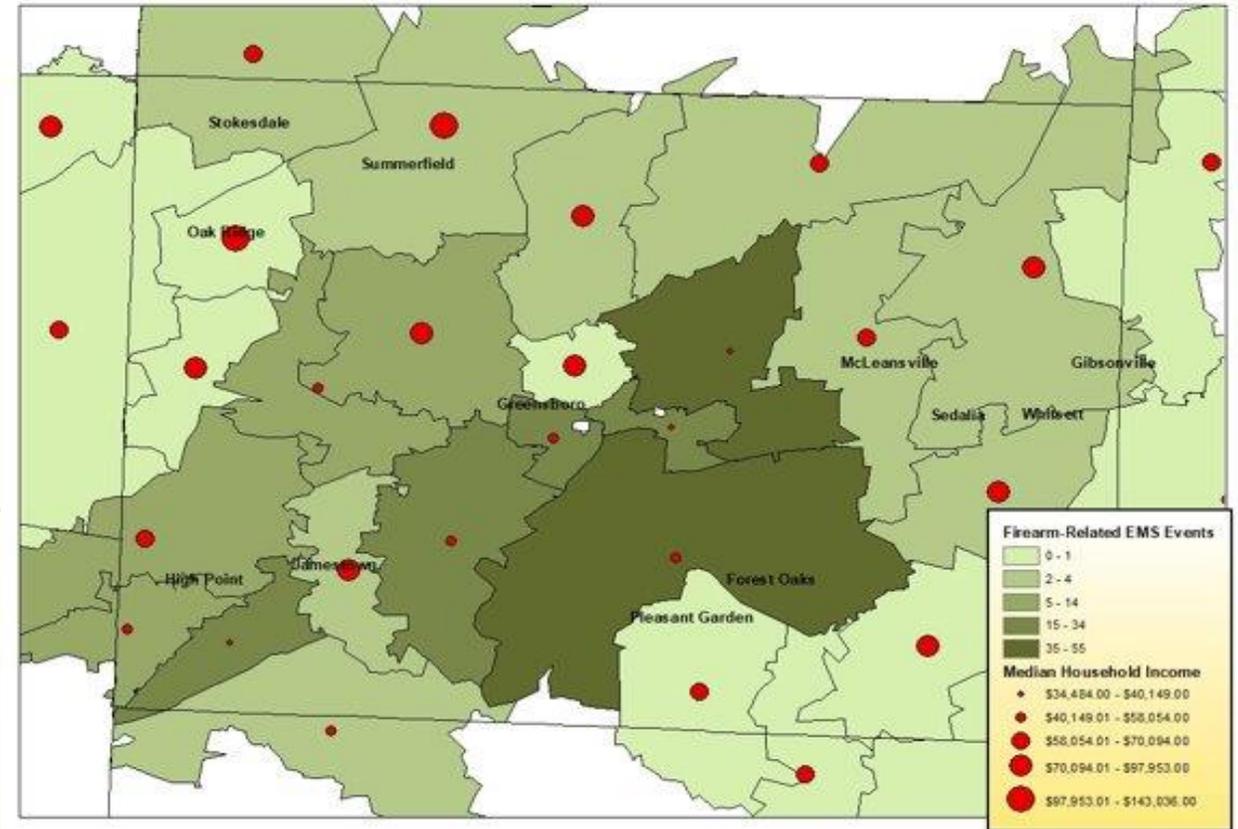- Underfunded school districts

Social & Community Context

- Safe neighborhoods
- Community engagement and civic participation
- Limited access to healthy food options

Patterns in SDOH Data & Community Violence

2022 Firearm-Involved Emergency Department Visits and Median Household Income (2017-2021)
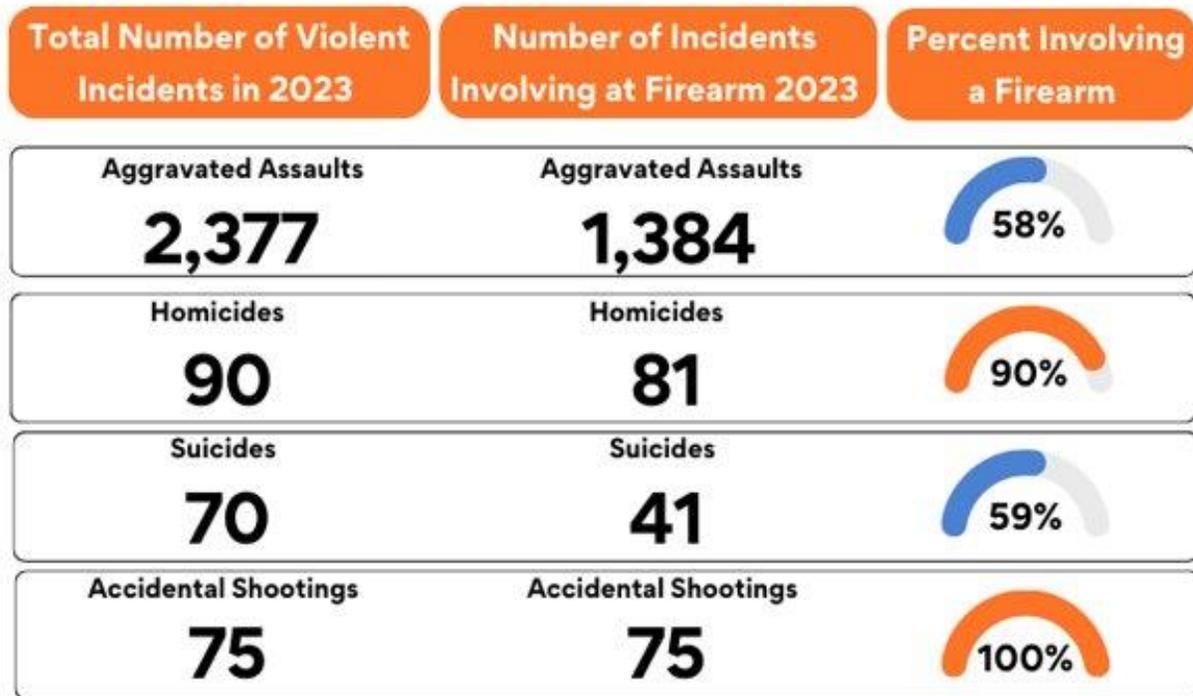
2022 Firearm-Involved EMS Events and Median Household Income (2017-2021)

Source: NC Detect, 2022; American Community Survey, 2017-2021. (Mark H. Smith, PhD, GCDPH Epidemiology Consultant)

Firearm Violence as a Top Health Priority in Guilford County

Gun Violence Statistics in Guilford County, 2023

Total Number of Violent Incidents in 2023	Number of Incidents Involving at Firearm 2023	Percent Involving a Firearm
Aggravated Assaults **2,377**	Aggravated Assaults **1,384**	58%
Homicides **90**	Homicides **81**	90%
Suicides **70**	Suicides **41**	59%
Accidental Shootings **75**	Accidental Shootings **75**	100%

Source: Kyle Ambrose, Crime Analyst, Guilford County Sheriff's Office,. Data from Guilford County Sheriff's Office, High Point Police Department and Greensboro Police Department.

- **60%** of the county's violent crimes involved firearms.

- 58% of the aggravated assaults, 90% of the homicides, and 59% of the suicides, and 100% accidental shootings involved firearms.

- In 2024, the number of violent incidents overall **declined** including a nearly 50% decrease in homicides (Greensboro).

- Although 2025 began with six homicides in the first two weeks, Greensboro Police Department reports a 13% year-to-date decrease in homicides.

What are *we* doing about the issue?

Firearm Violence Prevention

Firearm Safety Education

- Promoting safe storage and lethal means awareness
- Distributing firearm safety locks and other tools
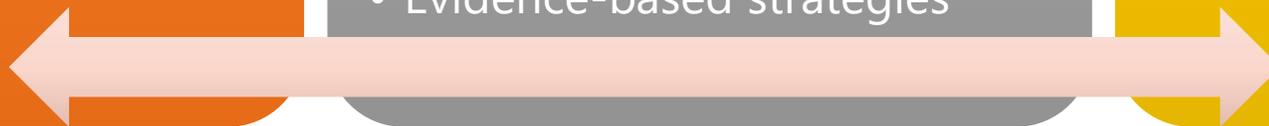
Community-driven Intervention

- Empowering community organizations and leaders
- Engaging priority communities with outreach
- Evidence-based strategies

Collective Impact

- Coalition building
- Maintaining & developing diverse partnerships
- Addressing root causes

Collective Impact: The Guilford County Violence Prevention Initiative

The GCVPI is a multidisciplinary collaborative of organizations and individuals dedicated to reducing community violence in Guilford County.

Activities include:
- Planning and implementation of violence prevention and reduction activities.
- Sharing and analyzing violence data to inform current and ongoing violence prevention initiatives.
- Addressing priority areas of firearm violence to including:
  - Suicide
  - Community violence (youth and adult)
  - Intimate partner and family violence.
- Developing workgroups to focus on the priority areas including the *Guilford County Firearm Safety & Education Team (GCFSET)*.

Firearm Safety & Education: GCFSET

In 2024, the Guilford County Firearm & Safety Education Team (GCFSET):

- Engaged community members at **28** outreach events including the City of Greensboro Community Safety Department *Peace on Purpose* event, Guilford County Sheriff's Office *NC S.A.F.E Week* and Mother's Standing Against Gun Violence Annual *Homicide Memorial Event*

- Distributed **62** firearm safety cable locks

- Hosted **6** listening sessions with priority neighborhoods/communities regarding public health involvement in preventing firearm violence

Community-Driven Strategic Interventions

Prevention
(Before It Occurs)

- Safe Storage & Lethal Means Awareness Programs
- Enhanced support for mentorship programs for youth
- **Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED)***
- Conflict resolution training (adult & youth) including Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Intervention
(High Risk of Occurrence/ In Progress)

- Street Outreach/ Violence Interruption Programs (Cure Violence Models as Gate City Coalition)
- Community Violence Intervention (CVI) activities via engagement with high-risk individuals and communities.
- **Policy reform***

Post-Care
(After an Occurrence)

- Enhanced family & victim's advocacy initiatives
- Improved network of wrap-around service providers in areas of SDOH (housing, employment, education)
- **Coordinated Community Crisis Response Team for Violent Incidents***
- **Hospital-based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)***

Community Health Improvement Plans (CHIP): Violence Prevention

Based on priorities from the **Our Community. Our Health. 2023–2024 Guilford County Community Health Assessment**, a community health improvement plan (CHIP) for firearm violence is underway highlighting progress on programs, strategies and key indicators related to violence prevention initiatives.

Health Priority	Results Statement (desired outcome)
Firearm (Gun) Safety and Violence Prevention	All people in Guilford County live in communities that foster safe environments free from violence, trauma, and their root causes.

CO Guilford Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI) 📄

P Firearm Safety Lock Distribution 📄
- **PM** How much Number of gun locks distributed

P Gate City Coalition's Cure Violence Program 📄
- **I** Better Off Number of homicides in Gate City Coalition Program (GCC2) service areas
- **PM** Better Off Number of violence interruptions
- **PM** How much Percentage of GCC2 program participants not engaging in violence while participating in program

ST Community-Based Violence Intervention and Prevention Initiatives (CVIPI) 📄

A Violence Prevention Community Events 📄

What else can *we* do?

Foster opportunities for collaboration.

Empower community leaders.

Put strategies into practice through action.

Commit to sustainable change.

Questions?

Thank you!