

ANNUAL REPORT

CHSI

The Center for Health
and Social Issues



FY 2025



CONTENTS

04 ABOUT THE CHSI

07 PROGRAM OF WORK

09 PROGRAM EVALUATION

13 RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE

18 MOBILE HEALTH UNIT

21 COMMUNITY OUTREACH



CENTER FOR
HEALTH & SOCIAL ISSUES

GEORGIA COLLEGE & STATE UNIVERSITY

ABOUT THE CHSI

The Center for Health and Social Issues (CHSI) is an established entity within the College of Health Sciences (COHS) at Georgia College & State University. The CHSI engages with interest holders and community partners to address the health and social issues of all residents of the immediate Baldwin County and surrounding areas in Central Georgia.

Our mission

To improve the health of the residents of Central Georgia through collaborative campus/community partnerships to provide research and education concerning contemporary health problems and social issues.

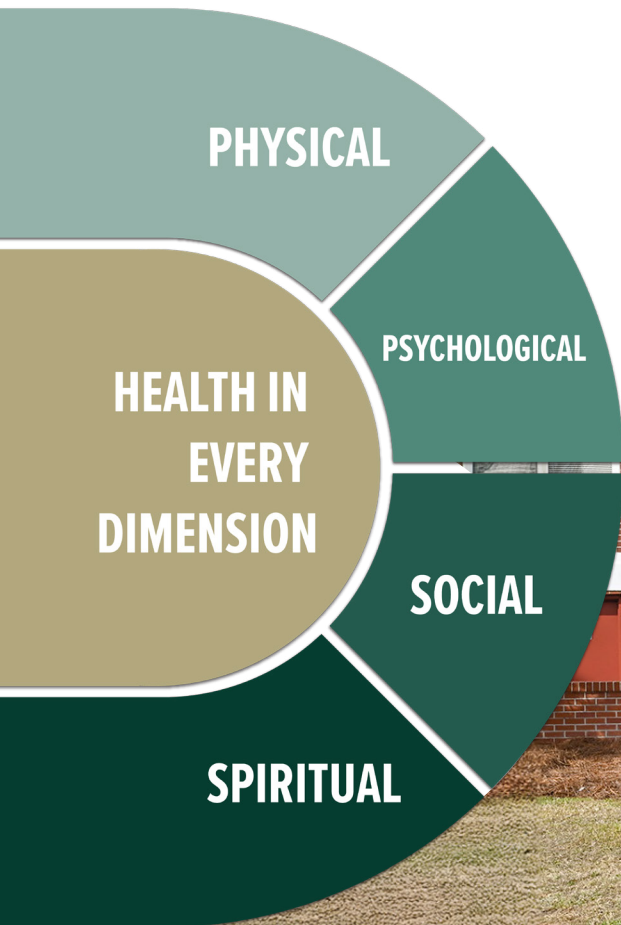
Strategic Goals

The CHSI believes that good health is a multidimensional phenomenon comprised of a balance of physical, psychological, social, and spiritual dimensions.

As an institution of higher learning, Georgia College & State University has an obligation to direct its many resources for the purpose of improving both individual and public health.

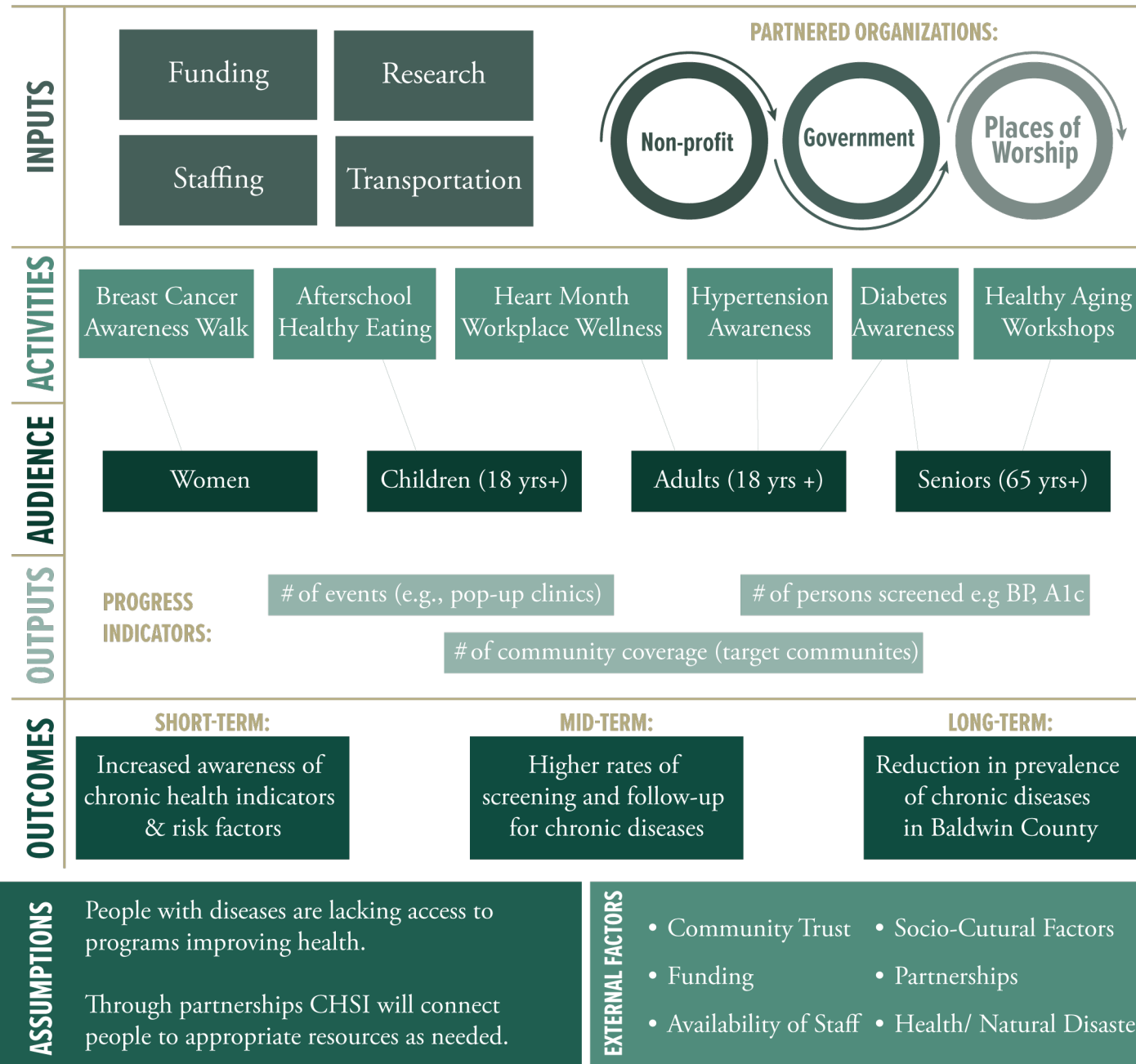
The four strategic goals of the CHSI include:

- Reducing health and social disparities
- Enhance university and community partnerships
- Creating and maintaining healthy communities
- Promote evidence-informed decision making in health and social policy



CHSI PROGRAMMATIC LOGIC MODEL FOR ADDRESSING THE BURDEN OF ILLNESS IN BALDWIN COUNTY

Depression | Heart Disease | Cancer – **1 in 10**
 Diabetes – **2 in 10**
 High Cholesterol – **3 in 10**
 Hypertension – **4 in 10**



The CHSI recognizes that many residents in Central Georgia face barriers such as lack of insurance, transportation, and other limitations that may prevent them from seeking medical care. Hence, the CHSI mission is to bring essential primary preventive health services directly to the community.

The provision of nutrition education, CPR training and demonstration to at risk or interested groups often leads to early detection of conditions like hypertension, high cholesterol, and diabetes. Many individuals screened at these events are unaware they are living with these conditions, highlighting the critical need to increase both our reach and frequency of screenings.

MEET OUR TEAM



Dr. Damian Francis
Director



Ivey Breland
Research Fellow



Karli Galloway
Graduate Assistant



Dr. Amanda Wenson
Clinical Coordinator

PARTNER HIGHLIGHT



Dr. Talecia Warren

The Center for Health and Social Issues proudly recognizes Dr. Warren for her exceptional dedication to students, faculty, and the community. Through her generosity, passion for nursing, and tireless commitment, she has become an integral part of our mission and a shining example of service in action.

As an Assistant Professor and Skills Acquisition Lab Coordinator, Dr. Warren not only shares her expertise in the classroom but continually shows up for her students, colleagues, and community—always smiling, approachable, and ready to serve. Whether on

campus or at out-of-town health screenings, she provides nursing students with meaningful, hands-on experiences while ensuring patients feel cared for and empowered.

Her warmth, knowledge, and ability to connect with people make her a true leader, mentor, and role model. We are deeply grateful for her joyful presence and unwavering commitment to those we serve.



Mr. Carlos Tobar

The Center for Health and Social Issues proudly recognizes Mr. Carlos Tobar for his outstanding leadership, partnership, and unwavering dedication to the community he serves. As County Manager, he leads with accessibility, responsiveness, and genuine care, embodying community-centered governance in every action.

Through his strategic vision, the county has secured millions in grant funding to improve housing, strengthen infrastructure, and expand opportunities in underserved neighborhoods. His efforts bring lasting value while reducing reliance on taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Tobar's commitment goes far beyond administration—he attends community meetings, listens to residents, and works closely with partners to identify needs and create effective solutions. His humility, professionalism, and steadfast focus on service have built a culture of trust and collaboration that strengthens both the county and its people.

We are deeply grateful for Mr. Tobar's integrity, partnership, and continued commitment to helping every resident thrive.

PROGRAM OF WORK



PROGRAM EVALUATION

The CHSI provides comprehensive program evaluation services for state health initiatives, including technical assistance to public health districts and evaluation framework for research consortiums. Work includes developing data collection tools, quarterly reporting, and performance measurement systems to support evidence-based decision making and program improvement.



RESEARCH & SURVEILLANCE

Research efforts focus on implementing evidence-based interventions to address health disparities and promote healthy behaviors. Current projects include Food Service Guidelines (FSG) implementation across charitable food systems and institutions of higher education in Baldwin County, GA. As part of the US Cochrane network, CHSI conducted research addressing 1 definitions of racial health equity, 2 logic models and frameworks to centering racial health equity, 3 interventions to reduce racial health inequities, and 4 interest holder engagement in evidence syntheses.



MOBILE HEALTH UNIT

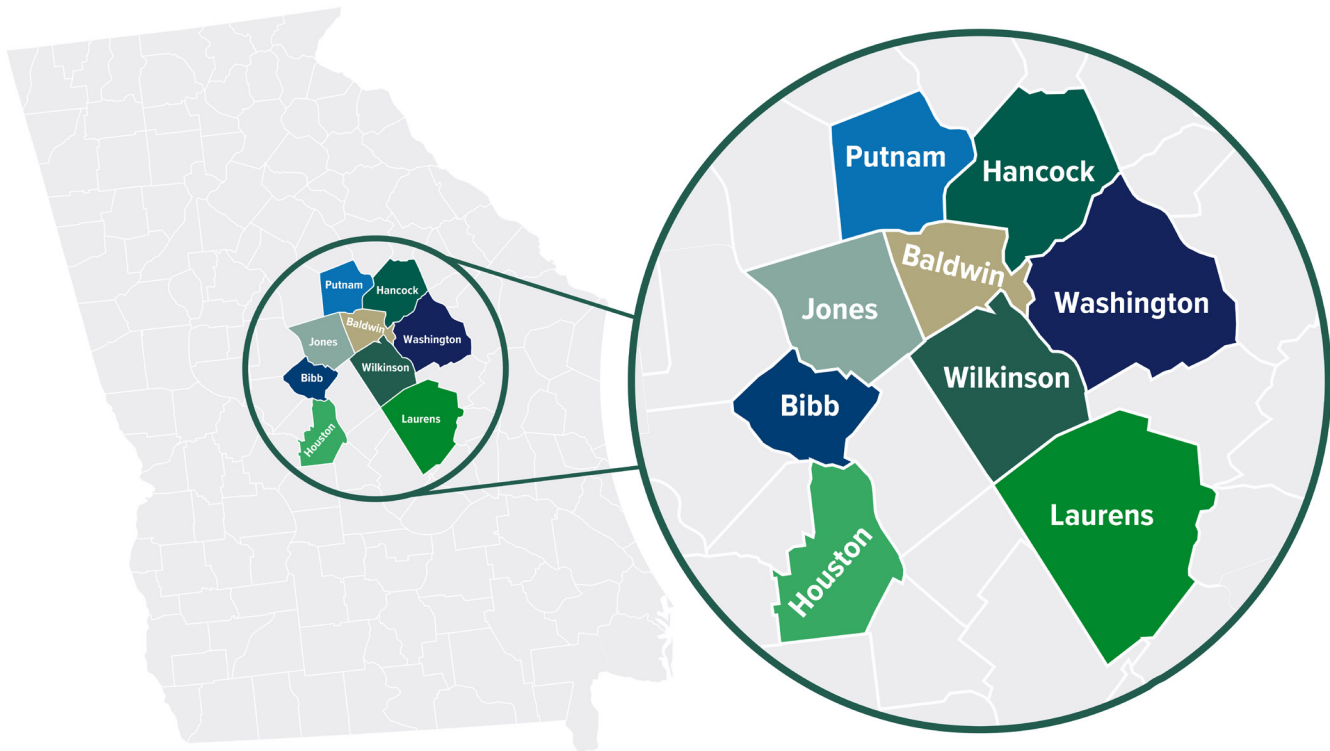
The Mobile Health Unit (MHU) brings preventative healthcare services directly to underserved communities across Central Georgia. Services include cardiovascular risk assessments, diabetes and hypertension screenings, and health education, while providing hands-on clinical training opportunities for health sciences students at GCSU.



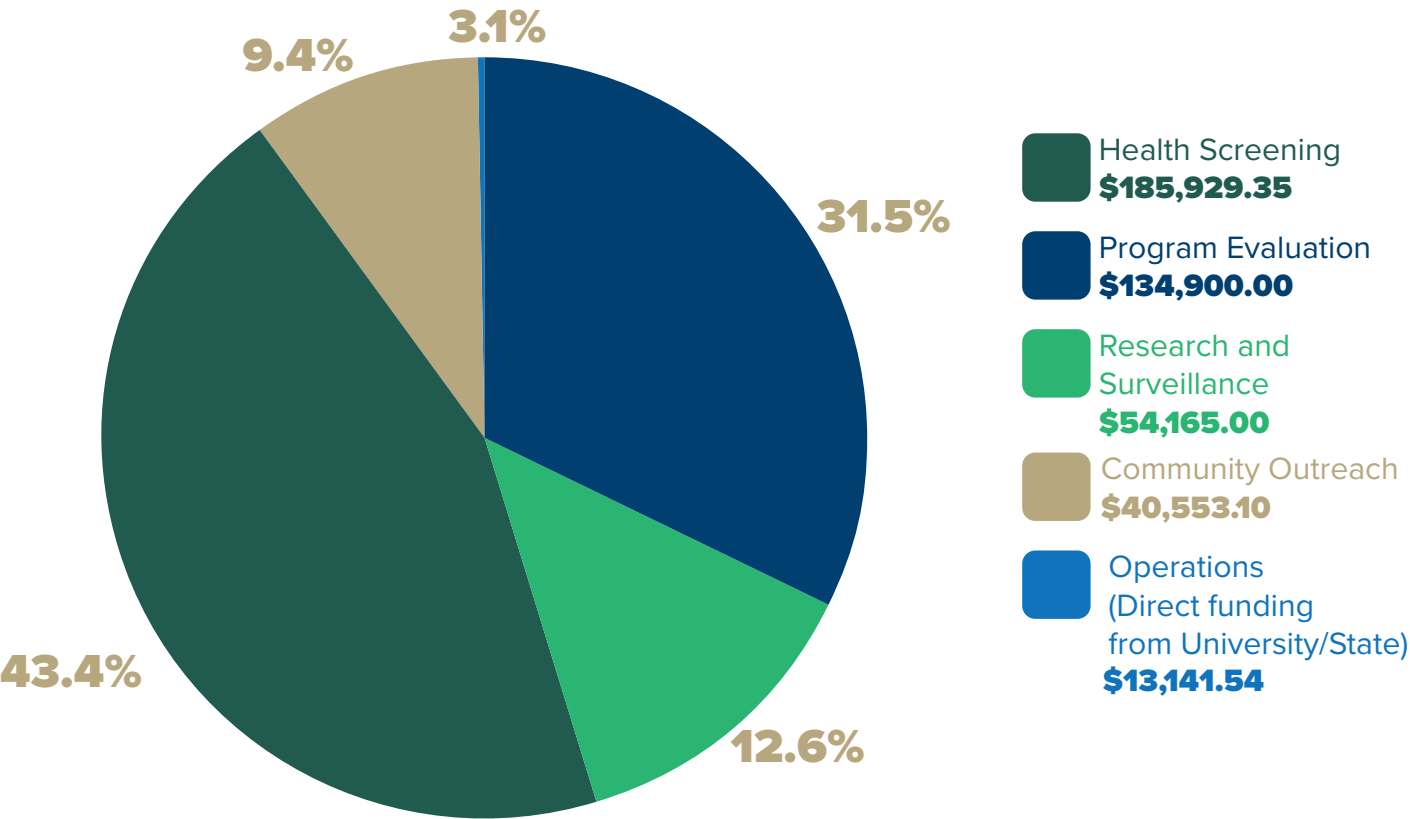
COMMUNITY OUTREACH

The CHSI partners with local communities and government entities to address social determinants of health through collaborative initiatives. Activities include co-convening community collaboratives, facilitating neighborhood revitalization projects, conducting needs assessments, and securing grant funding for community development and capacity building efforts.

COUNTIES WE SERVE



FUNDING REVENUE





PROGRAM **EVALUATION**

**EMPOWER
YOURSELF**
to make healthy choices

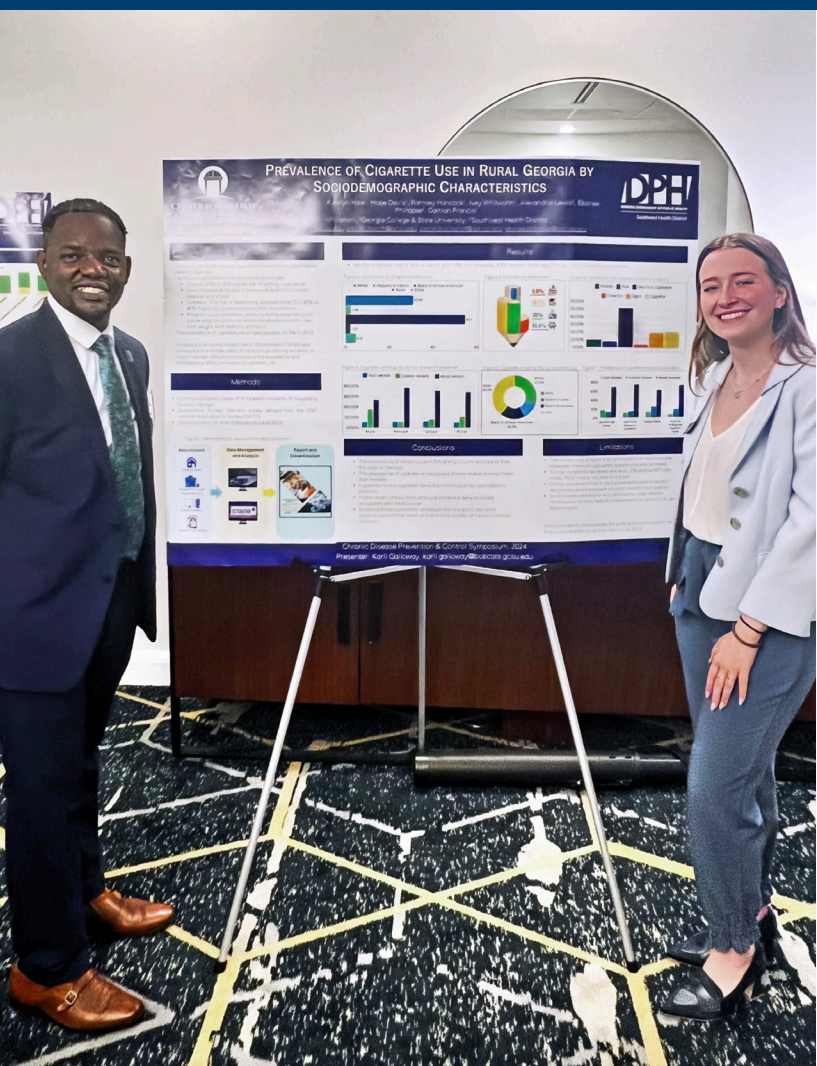
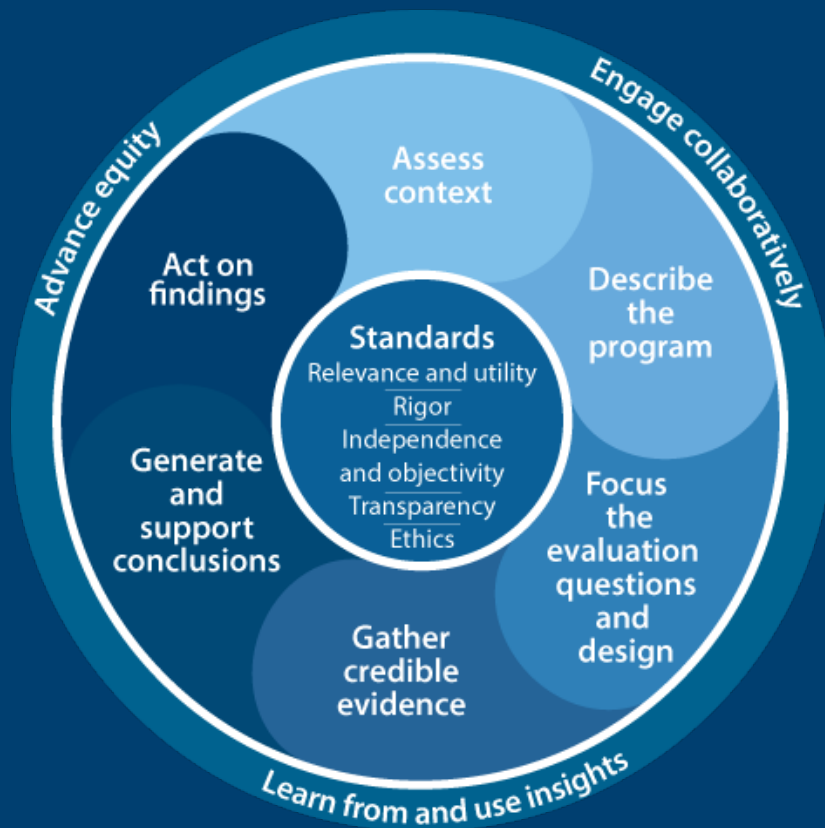
/// ADOLESCENT HEALTH & YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



THE CENTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL ISSUES

PROGRAM EVALUATION FRAMEWORK

The Center for Health and Social Issues utilizes the CDC's Program Evaluation Framework to design and conduct evaluation across many programs and settings for the department of public health and the international consortium for cancer research in men. Our work provides partners with data and recommendations used to build evidence, understand programs, and improve evidence-based decision making.



GEORGIA DPH CHRONIC DISEASE PREVENTION

GEORGIA ASTHMA CONTROL PROGRAM (GACP)

Scope of Work

Worked with the GA Department of Public Health (DPH) to evaluate the extent to which the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) National Asthma Control Program (NASP)'s EXHALE interventions have achieved intended program goals, what facilitated the successes, and what barriers were experienced. This includes:

- Establishing the DPH's Georgia Asthma Control Program (GACP) evaluation strategies,
- Creating evaluation plans,
- Reviewing program plans and reports, and
- Development of an annual evaluation report.

HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE (HCI)

Scope of Work

Developed and implemented a structured plan to provide technical assistance to 17 public health districts. Support included one-on-one sessions, districtwide workshops, and the development of resources (FAQs, user manual updates for their online reporting system) to improve data entry, reporting accuracy, and program implementation and fidelity.

- Technical Assistance Plan
- Evaluation and Data Analysis Plan
- Quarterly Evaluation Progress Reports
- Evaluation Report
- Success Story

Healthy Communities Initiative TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN



17 Public Health Districts



- ✓ 1:1 Sessions
- ✓ Districtwide Workshops
- ✓ Resource Development



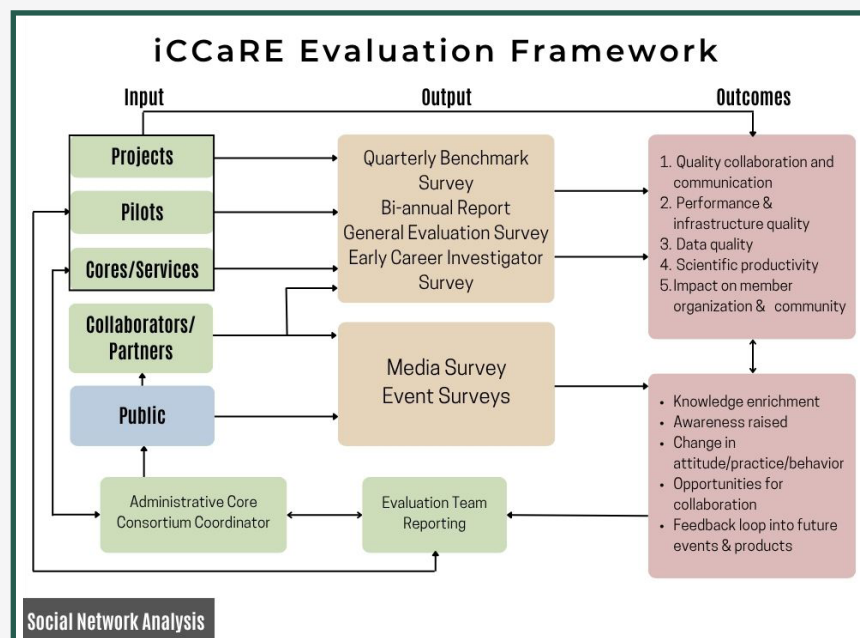
- ✓ Improved Data Entry
- ✓ Increased Reporting Accuracy
- ✓ Better Program Implementation and Fidelity

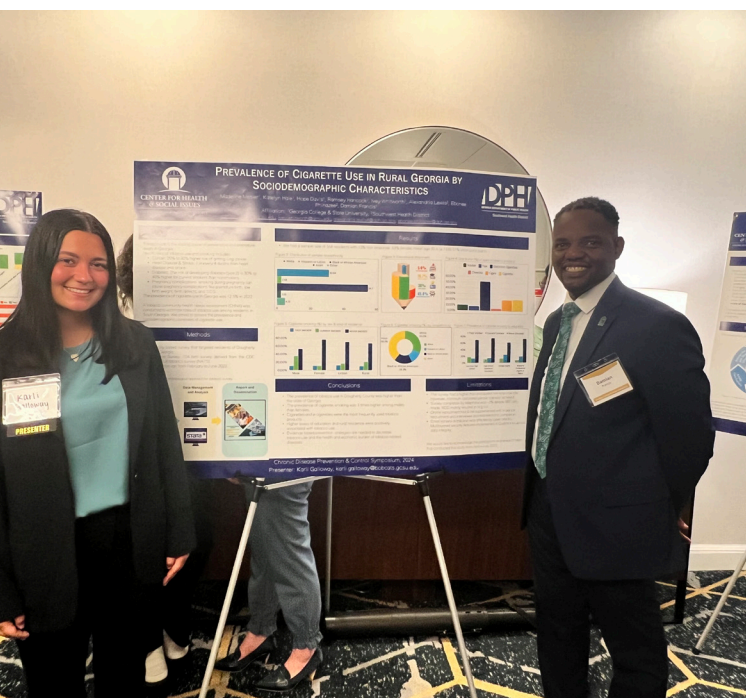
THE INCLUSIVE CANCER CARE RESEARCH EQUITY (iCCaRE) CONSORTIUM EVALUATION CORE



The CHSI has joined the iCCaRE team to lead the Planning and evaluation core to assess the impacts of a global prostate cancer research consortium. The Planning and evaluation core of the Inclusive Cancer Care Research Equity (iCCaRE) Consortium plays a central role in monitoring consortium activities, fostering shared learning, and supporting continuous quality improvement. Our role is to develop and implement evaluation frameworks, tools, and reporting processes that track progress across cores and projects, while ensuring alignment with iCCaRE's overarching mission to reduce prostate cancer disparities.

Over the past year, significant strides have been made in advancing evaluation capacity and standardizing reporting across the consortium. Through collaboration with project teams, core leaders, and the Administrative Core, we have successfully launched several evaluation tools and delivered key products to support decision-making.







RESEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE:

FSG, RACIAL HEALTH EQUITY

SUPPORTING HEALTH INITIATIVES AND NURTURING EQUITY (SHINE)

- Landscape Review Report
Completed FY2024
- Development of FSG Implementation Plan
Completed FY2024
- Reporting Annual FSG performance measure outcomes
CHSI implemented FSG across charitable food systems and institutions of higher education in Baldwin County, GA. We successfully trained and implemented Healthy Eating Research (HER) Nutrition Guidelines at 5 food pantries and backpack programs, conducting qualitative interviews and inventory assessments that showed most partners achieved 80-90% “choose often” food categories while serving over 1,600 individuals monthly. At GCSU, we negotiated contract modifications for vending machine services, conducted campus-wide taste testing events with 213 participants, surveyed 280 community members about healthy vending preferences, and established behavioral design standards for 56 vending machines and micro-markets.

Outputs

Karli Galloway, Damian Francis, Ivey Whitworth, Ebonee Phinazee, Alexandria Lewis, Katie Hale, Madeline Meiser, Ramsey Hancock, Hope Davis, Prevalence and Correlates of Tobacco Use in Rural Georgia. Georgia College Undergraduate Research Day 2024

HER Nutrition Guidelines Charitable Food System Policy, 2025.
Baldwin County, Georgia



RACIAL HEALTH EQUITY

The CHSI was part of the US Cochrane Network team award approximately \$1,000,000 to undertake research aimed at centering racial health equity in systematic reviews and other evidence synthesis products. Centering racial health equity implies concentrating or focusing attention on health equity in ways

that bring attention to the perspectives or needs of groups that are typically marginalized. This resulted in the publication of a consensus building series in the prestigious Journal of Clinical Epidemiology.

Outputs

Viswanathan M, Sathe NA, Welch V, **Francis DK**, Heyn PC, Ali R, Duque T, Terhune EA, Lin JS, Pizarro AB, Riddle D. Paper 1: introduction to the series. J Clin Epidemiol. 2024 Dec;176:111577. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111577. Epub 2024 Oct 29. PMID: 39476937.

Ali R, Daniel C, Duque T, Sathe N, Pizarro AB, Rabre A, Henderson D, Armstrong-Brown J, **Francis DK**, Welch V, Heyn PC, Dewidar O, Rizvi A, Viswanathan M. Paper 2: themes from semistructured interviews. J Clin Epidemiol. 2024 Dec;176:111574. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111574. Epub 2024 Oct 22. PMID: 39442674.

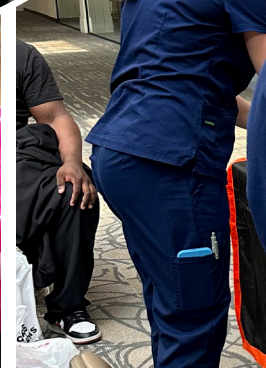
Terhune EA, Dagne MB, Piper C, Pizarro AB, Barsoum M, Rizvi A, **Francis DK**, Viswanathan M, Sathe NA, Welch V, Duque T, Riddle D, Turner RW 2nd, Baker TA, Heyn PC. Paper 3: a systematic review of definitions for “racial health equity” and related terms within health-related articles. J Clin Epidemiol. 2024 Dec;176:111580. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111580. Epub 2024 Oct 28. PMID: 39490593.

Francis DK, Pizarro AB, Sathe NA, Dewidar O, Viswanathan M, Welch V, Duque T, Heyn PC, Terhune EA, Ali R, Riddle D. Centering racial health equity in systematic reviews paper 4: a systematic review on the use of logic models and frameworks for methodological conduct of evidence synthesis. J Clin Epidemiol. 2024 Oct 30;177:111583. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111583. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 39481459.

Welch V, Dewidar O, Rizvi A, Bondok M, Pan Y, Sabri H, Irefin A, Ghogomu E, Terhune EA, **Francis DK**, Pizarro AB, Duque TA, Heyn PC, Riddle D, Sathe NA, Viswanathan M. Paper 5: a methodological overview of methods and interventions. J Clin Epidemiol. 2024 Dec;176:111576. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111576. Epub 2024 Oct 22. PMID: 39447996.

Sathe NA, Ovelman C, Ospina NS, Dewidar O, Terhune EA, **Francis DK**, Welch V, Heyn PC, Duque T, Viswanathan M. Paper 6: engaging racially and ethnically diverse interest holders in evidence syntheses. J Clin Epidemiol. 2024 Dec;176:111575. doi: 10.1016/j.jclinepi.2024.111575. Epub 2024 Oct 21. PMID: 39442675.







A photograph of the interior of a mobile health unit, featuring a white countertop, a sink, a clipboard with a checklist, and a black examination table. The room has white walls and a ceiling with a light fixture and a vent. The image is overlaid with a dark teal color and a white grid pattern in the bottom left corner.

*MOBILE
HEALTH UNIT:*
**MHU, HEALTH
SCREENING
EVENTS**

MISSION

To improve the health of the residents of Central Georgia through collaborative campus/community partnerships. The mobile health unit provides **FREE** services such as:



Health screenings



CPR and first aid training



Sports medicine



Worksite wellness programs



Health education

The MHU is staffed by advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), RNs, and health science students in public health, nursing, and exercise science. Annually, we provide over 1,100+ hours of hands-on clinical experience to students and various healthcare services to Middle Georgia residents.



DISEASE PREVENTION

- **Obesity & cardiovascular disease prevention**
Annual heart healthy cooking demonstrations.

Cardiovascular risk assessment utilizing the following screenings: blood pressure, HbA1c, cholesterol, hemoglobin, height, and weight. Results were put into the United Kingdom's National Health System heart age calculator to gauge heart health.
- **Type 2 diabetes**
HbA1c screenings: blood glucose levels over the past 3 months.
- **Hypertension**
Blood pressure screenings.
- **Hypercholesterolemia**
Lipid panel test that generates results for total cholesterol, HDL, LDL, and triglycerides.
- **Healthcare Access**
Pop up clinics: Screening equipment would be taken to health fairs, faith-based organizations, mobile food drives, and other local agencies or events where we would set up a table, tent, and supplies to provide the services on site.

Launch of the Mobile Health Unit in October 2024: bringing healthcare to communities with a fully operational clinic on wheels where health screenings, cardiovascular risk assessments, and health education are provided. This allows us to serve more people, travel farther, and screen individuals no matter the weather conditions (unlike previous pop-up clinics).

MHU IMPACTS

In FY2025, we have successfully served 6 out of 9 targeted counties, with additional expansion reaching 1 county outside of our targeted counties (DeKalb County). The Mobile Health Unit facilitated 16 community outreach events, delivering health education and services across Middle Georgia. Through these efforts, 226 individuals have received health screening services, providing preventative care in communities that have limited access to health care. The MHU has provided GCSU students with 253 hours of community service through hands-on experiences while delivering health services to the local communities.

Mobile Health Unit Impacts- FY 2025

Counties Served

6/9

**TARGETED
COUNTIES REACHED**

+1 additional county
(DeKalb County)
outside target area

Community Outreach

16

**OUTREACH
EVENTS HELD**

Delivered health education
and services across
multiple communities

Health Screenings

226

**INDIVIDUALS
SERVED**

Providing preventive
care in areas with limited
healthcare access

Student Involvement

253

**SERVICE HOURS BY
GCSU STUDENTS**

Hands-on learning through
real-world service
Oct-May
2024-2025





COMMUNITY **OUTREACH**

OCONEE HEIGHTS
MINI PARK



The CHSI is a co-convenor for 2 community collaboratives, Coopers, and Oconee Heights and maintain active membership in the Harrisburg Community Collaborative.

What do we do:

- Support community revitalization and housing through the GICH.
- Facilitate monthly community meetings with interest holders and local resources for problem solving in the local community.
- Conduct needs assessments to identify gaps, challenges, and potential solutions.
- Provide training and support for grant applications and capacity building in these communities.

What have we accomplished:

- Oconee Heights Mini Park construction.
- Annual Juneteenth Festival (Harrisburg).
- Coopers Fall Festival and neighborhood park redevelopment.
- **Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) grant**
2024, 2025 (BOC) 2.5 million (600K for housing) & 5 beneficiaries (3 completed & 2 planned).
- RAISE grant (BOC, Middle Georgia Regional Commission, GCSU, University of Georgia)

Partnered with and support Baldwin County Board of Commissioners (BOC) with community revitalization efforts through:

- **Community HOME Investment Program (CHIP) grant**
2024 (BOC) 500K (5 home rehabilitation in progress).
- 2023- ongoing 4.9 million Oconee Heights road, streetlight, sewer, and sidewalk rehabilitation.
- Multi-donor (T-Mobile, Georgia Power, GCSU, BOC) 100K
- 2025 completed Oconee Heights Mini Park.



RESEARCH & TRAINING

(Professional development, research initiatives and conference presentations)



FY 2025 ANNUAL REPORT

The Center for Health and Social Issues

