

EMPOWERING MEDICAL STUDENTS TO USE DATA TO UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS

A Success Story from Healthy Northeast Ohio

AT A GLANCE

Healthy Northeast Ohio provided medical students in the Transformative Care Continuum (TCC) program at Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine, Cleveland campus with easy access to health and social determinants of health data so they could analyze local health trends and identify disparities. The robust data and training from Healthy Northeast Ohio improved the students' ability to create and implement projects that address the needs of the communities served by their clinical sites.

CHALLENGE

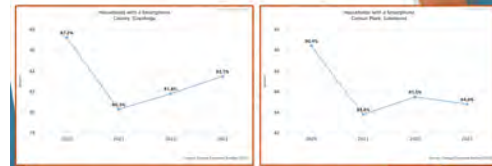
The [Transformative Care Continuum \(TCC\)](#) program is an integrated six-year medical and residency program focused on family medicine that is offered by the Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine in collaboration with the Cleveland Clinic. This innovative program emphasizes a hands-on approach to learning, enabling students to work closely with patients from the beginning of their medical education. It prepares students to address population health and social determinants of health within a value-based care framework, aligning medical training with the evolving needs of healthcare systems. Through partnerships and community projects, the TCC equips future physicians to improve health outcomes in their communities effectively. The program is a notable part of the American Medical Association's initiative to transform medical education for the 21st century.

Loren Anthes, Associate Lecturer, was looking for an alternate data resource for TCC students to use to geographically understand community health needs and trends. Previous data platforms used in this program were limited to data from federally qualified health centers (FQHCs) or the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Anthes connected with Healthy Northeast Ohio program staff to request a training for students that would cover local population health issues and how to use the platform for accessing data and other resources for their community projects. He was looking for a comprehensive data resource that would prepare TCC students to conduct detailed community health needs assessments, strategize interventions, and understand the broader context of patient care within a community health framework. This knowledge is particularly relevant for students aiming to practice in a value-based healthcare system where understanding social determinants of health and population health management is essential.

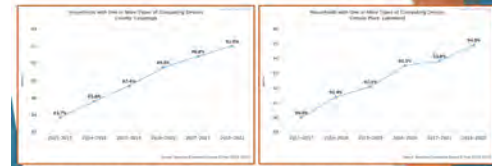
SOLUTION

In November 2023, Healthy Northeast Ohio program staff provided a 2-hour interactive training to students in the TCC program. This virtual training included an overview of community health improvement efforts including community health needs assessments (CHNAs) and community health improvement plans (CHIPs), and of the regional community health landscape. Students learned about local priorities that were identified across Northeast

Mobile Device Use Locally?



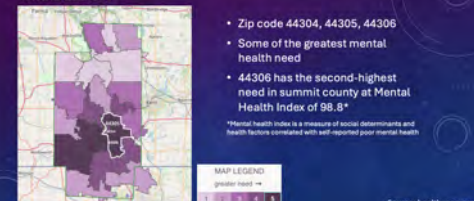
Computing Devices Use Locally?



This indicator shows the percentage of households in which there are one or more types of computing devices (computer, tablet, smart phone, etc.).



COMMUNITY PARTNER: MENTAL HEALTH NEED IN MIDDLEBURY



Ohio, with a focus on Cuyahoga and Summit counties, as TCC students are matched to a family residency program at Cleveland Clinic Akron General or Cleveland Clinic Lakewood Family Health Center. During this training, students received a demonstration of the Healthy Northeast Ohio platform (www.healthyneo.org) and how to access its 300+ data indicators, and other tools and resources. Students completed interactive exercises throughout the training, such as creating their own custom dashboard, and searching for social determinants of health data to see current trends. Anthes shared Healthy Northeast Ohio with students who were not able to attend this training.

Anthes commented, *"Using the robust data from Healthy Northeast Ohio has truly revolutionized the way our students approach both their community health initiatives and clinical practices. The insights gained from this platform have empowered them to design impactful quality improvement projects that directly address the unique health needs of our community, effectively bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world application. It's thrilling to see them turn data into actionable strategies that enhance patient care and community health outcomes!"*

RESULTS

Students in the TCC program were able to utilize data and other resources from Healthy Northeast Ohio for their community projects. These projects are completed at their clinical sites and involve collecting data to better understand the needs of the community. Students are assigned a general topic around community need that their clinical sites determine. Healthy Northeast Ohio provided them with granular data on health topics as well as social determinants of health and allowed them to download visualizations like charts and maps to use when sharing the data with others. This data helped the students to identify existing disparities and areas of need within the communities served by their clinical sites. Below are brief descriptions of three TCC students' community projects and how they were able to utilize data from Healthy Northeast Ohio.

Dalia Tabachnik, OMS-III, was looking for data on specific zip codes in Summit County for her community project related to community development. Dalia used data related to housing and mental health to connect health data with what is happening in the community where her project is focused. She used the Mental Health Index from the Socio Needs Index® Suite on Healthy Northeast Ohio to show geographically where the greatest mental health need is in Summit County. *"Healthy Northeast Ohio is a very accessible resource where you can actually see the data because it lets you construct it visually, and it is so easy to understand. It is a great data sharing tool,"* commented Tabachnik.

Isaac Aidja, OMS-III, is completing his community project aimed at increasing food access, quality, and choice for those experiencing homelessness. As part of his project, Aidja is working to help an organization that provides housing with identifying healthier food options to offer to individuals they serve. Aidja was initially having a difficult time finding data related to food insecurity and cardiovascular disease specific to Lakewood and Cuyahoga County. After he was introduced to Healthy Northeast Ohio things got easier, and he found data and maps to help demonstrate the need for his project. Aidja was also able to access and use data included in local CHNA reports that are available on the site. He shared, *"I found Healthy Northeast Ohio to be very helpful because it doesn't just give you the data, but it compares it to prior values so you can see the trend and you can make comparisons to neighboring counties and the state."*

Shamone Gore Panter, OMS-III, was interested in data related to technology usage in Cuyahoga County for her community project focused on creating an app for a local non-profit as a way of streamlining resident communications and information access. Gore Panter utilized mobile phone usage and access to computing devices data from Healthy Northeast Ohio to show trends to support the use of creating an app and its benefit for residents. *"I didn't know where I was going to find data specific to Lakewood, Cleveland, and Cuyahoga County. Having this data on Healthy Northeast Ohio was helpful, and I was surprised at the amount of data that was available to help support by project,"* shared Gore Panter.

ABOUT HEALTHY NORTHEAST OHIO

Healthy Northeast Ohio provides hospitals, public health departments, community-based organizations, philanthropic agencies and other stakeholders with data and resources to support regional and community health improvement activities and strengthen collaboration in the 9-county region. Healthy Northeast Ohio serves as a neutral repository of de-identified health information that facilitates a collective impact approach toward positive health outcomes. It allows for easy identification of top health needs and under-resourced populations, and comparisons by community and over time. Vetted and verified data comes from more than 30 sources.



Visit us at healthyneo.org

Questions? Please contact us to learn more or to share your own success story.

SARAH SZABO - Data Analyst
sszabo@ccbh.net