Weekly Data Reflections
Week of May 25, 2020

Several of these graphs and charts are live on our data hub at: https://durhampublichealth-durhamnc.hub.arcgis.com/

1. Overall Case Trends

On Monday, May 25
- There were 1,329 total cases
  - This is a 292 case increase from last week
- The 7-day moving average was 41
  - This is up from the average of 20 last week

What Does This Mean
- The number of total cases is cumulative, and it will increase daily
  - We watch the total number of cases to understand the total disease burden in the community
- The 7-day average is a weekly average, which is re-estimated every day – it will decrease as the rate of new cases slows
  - We watch the 7-day average to determine if trends in cases are increasing or decreasing in the community

2. We added race & ethnicity summaries to the Data Hub

Why is it Important to Look at Data related to Race and Ethnicity?
- Promoting health equity is central to the Durham County Health Department's values
- A history of structural racism (e.g. residential and job segregation) creates inequitable access to health care and risk of disease exposure
What to Look for with Race and Ethnicity Data

- Is the race and ethnicity distribution of cases **representative** of the Durham population? Over-represented groups have **greater COVID-19 risk**. Under-represented groups have **lower COVID-19 risk**.
  - Who is at greater risk?
  - Who is at lower risk?
- **When** are cases being identified within race and ethnicity groups? This can reflect **risk of exposure** and **access to testing**.
  - Who has access to testing?
  - Who can stay home?
  - Who is protected at work?

Monthly Race & Ethnicity Trends

- Most cases identified in **March** were among White individuals (58%)
- In **April**, most cases were among Black or African American individuals (57%)
- In **May**, most have been among Hispanic or Latino individuals (58%)

Overall Race & Ethnicity Information

- **Hispanic or Latino** individuals are **over-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 34% of all cases are among Hispanic or Latino individuals, while only 14% of Durham County residents identify as Hispanic or Latino
- **Black or African American** individuals are **over-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 42% of all cases are among Black or African American individuals, while 37% of Durham County residents identify as Black or African American
- **White** individuals are **under-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 26% of cases are among White individuals, while they make up 54% of the Durham County population
- **Asian** individuals are **under-represented** in COVID-19 cases: 3% of cases are among Asian individuals, while 6% of Durham County identifies as Asian
- Less than 1% of cases are among **American Indian or Alaska Native** and **Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander** individuals
- There is a substantial amount of **missing data** for race and ethnicity. We are missing ethnicity for 17% of cases and race for 4% of cases.
Work, Race & Ethnicity

- Why is this important?
  - On May 22, the NC DHHS released guidance recommending local health departments aid in cluster identification based on **occupational and community settings**
  - Understanding common workplace and congregate living settings of COVID-19 transmission can help us target resources, ensure worker protections, and identify root causes of disparities

- What does it tell us?
  - In terms of occupational settings, the greatest number of cases occurred in **nursing care facilities, correctional institutions, and construction industry work**
  - 67% of cases associated with **nursing care facility** settings were **Black or African American**
  - 53% of cases associated with correctional institution settings were **Black or African American**
  - 91% of cases associated with **construction work** settings were **Hispanic or Latino**

- Notes on this data:
  - Distributions are among **adults** (18 and older)
  - In "Nursing care facilities," 67% are **residents** and 33% are **staff**
  - In "Correctional institutions," 95% are **inmates** and 5% are **staff**
  - Adults **65 and older** listed as "unemployed" were assumed to be **retired**
3. We are tracking two surveillance efforts. The positivity prevalence remains stable in both populations over time

**Surveillance Effort 1**
- The first effort reflects prevalence of positive tests in an **insured population** within Durham County
- This positive test prevalence in this population is trending at **9%**

**Surveillance Effort 2**
- The second effort is **community-based**
- This positive test prevalence in this population is trending at **9%**

**Comments on the Surveillance Data**
- We do not have access to data on all **negative tests** completed in Durham County
- Because we do not have complete denominator information (total number of tests), we may be **misperceiving** positive test prevalence
- Interpretations of positive prevalence estimates should be mindful of this limitation