

EQUITY IN PRACTICE



Equity in Focus: Inclusive Practices

The NCDHHS Division of Public Health, Reproductive Health Branch continued its **trauma-informed webinar series** in October, focusing on ways to promote **inclusive practices** that promote psychological and physical safety to diverse populations. We encourage you to [view the recorded webinar](#) if you weren't able to attend, as it encourages us to **set our assumptions aside** when meeting a new client and shares practical tips on **setting up a welcoming environment** for all clients. This includes thinking critically about the media that advertises your agency's clinical services, the forms you use for data collection, the physical space of the waiting area, and even how you troubleshoot setting up appointments.

We look forward to continuing this conversation on **December 19 from 12:00pm - 1:30pm**, with Dr. Jenna Beckham, a North Carolina OB/GYN with experience serving gender diverse clients. The **Inclusive Reproductive Health Care for Gender Diverse Patients webinar** (with CEUs offered) is designed for Title X Family Planning providers and staff to increase awareness about the importance of providing **comprehensive reproductive health care to gender diverse patients** and to review best practices and strategies for health care providers in creating a welcoming and supportive environment for this population. [Register today!](#)

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EQUITY IN PRACTICE

Equity in Practice: Alamance County Health Department

The **Alamance County Health Department (ACHD)** has a goal of attending community outreach events written into their annual **Title X Family Planning Community Engagement Plan** and makes a point to be intentional in attending events that represent the **diverse populations** it serves. In September and October, ACHD staff attended multiple community events across Alamance County, including the Esperanza Hispanic Heritage Festival, the Alamance Pride Festival, and the annual Occaneechi-Saponi Pow Wow.

At the **Alamance Pride Festival**, held in downtown Burlington each October, ACHD was able to provide information about the agency's reproductive and sexual health services, administer Mpox vaccines, and distribute male and female condoms, Narcan overdose kits, and more.

ACHD staff report that attending the **Occaneechi-Saponi Pow Wow** felt particularly rewarding, as it is held in a rural area of the county where accessing basic internet service can be difficult. Having a presence at this event is an important access point for resources and health information. At this year's event, they were able to provide a wide range of services, including Hemoglobin A1C tests, dental kits, flu and Covid vaccines, Covid tests, and male and female condoms, along with information about their services.

Staff appreciate the opportunities they have to **engage with community members** outside the doors of the health department and believe that this increased awareness and one-on-one education raises the likelihood that individuals will reach out to ACHD for vital services and resources in the future.



Alamance County Health Department staff at the Esperanza Hispanic Heritage Festival in September.

WICWS Reading Circle

Curiosity about other cultures was the driving force for the Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section's most recent Reading Circle selection. Staff read "Breath, Eyes, Memory," by Edwidge Danticat, which is a fiction novel about a woman's experience growing up in Haiti and immigrating to the United States during her teenage years. Since the Haitian immigrant population in North Carolina has almost quadrupled since 2019, staff felt it was important to learn more about this culture and enjoyed engaging with the vivid and emotional descriptions of both Haiti and the immigrant experience in the United States.

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World AIDS Day: December 1st

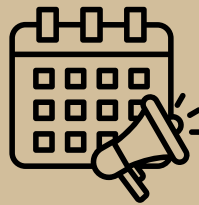
World AIDS Day has been celebrated since 1988, and is an important reminder of both those whose **lives have been affected by this epidemic** and the work that is still needed to **end HIV-related stigma worldwide**. The southern United States continues to experience higher rates of new HIV diagnoses than any other part of the country. Gay and bisexual men are the population most affected by HIV in the United States, and **racial and ethnic disparities continue to persist**, with Black/African American and Hispanic/Latino gay and bisexual men receiving higher rates of new HIV diagnoses (CDC, 2024).

With advancements in medical research and increased access to prevention and treatment, there has been **meaningful progress in the management of HIV and AIDS**, including antiretroviral treatments, such as PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis). Additional advancements are likely on the horizon, as highlighted in a podcast of The Conversation Weekly in early October. This episode discusses a clinical trial of lenacapavir, a shot taken every six months which has shown promising results for HIV prevention. This would reduce the need of taking a pill every day, as in the case of PrEP, which can be a barrier for some.

Celebrate World AIDS Day every day by continuing to talk to your clients about getting tested for sexually transmitted infections and engaging in safer sex practices!



At a Glance:



- **Now available online:**
 - Mandatory Reporting of Abuse and Neglect Webinar (1.25 NCPD contact hours available upon completion)
 - Trauma-Informed Care: Inclusive Practices
- **Register today:**
 - **December 10, 2024:** Maternal Health State Meeting from 11:00am - 1:00pm |
 - **December 19, 2024:** Inclusive Reproductive Health for Gender Diverse Patients from 12:00pm - 1:30pm **(CEU provided)**

We want to hear from you!

Past issues of the “Equity in Practice” newsletter are now archived on the Resources page of the Women, Infant, and Community Wellness website for easy access. They are also now archived on Smartsheet.

We would love to highlight your Title X clinic in a future newsletter! Reach out to Jessica Johnson, Reproductive Justice Coordinator, at Jessica.L.Johnson@dhhs.nc.gov with ideas or to be featured.

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