



The Black Belt Community Foundation

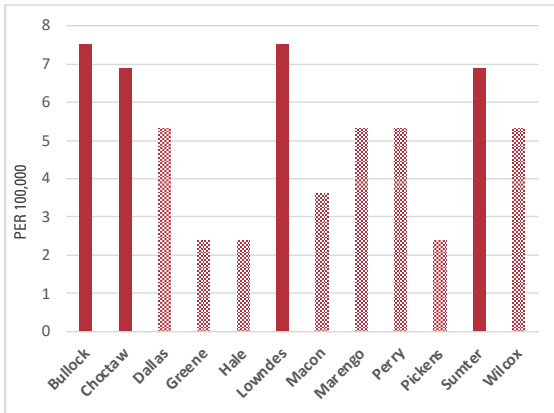
DATA IMPACT CENTER

The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 1 | DECEMBER 2022 | IMPACT ON HEALTHCARE



According to a recent report by the CDC, 11 of the 12 Black Belt counties served by the BBCF are ranked among the top 50 for having the highest rates of COVID-19 per 100,000 population in the United States.



COVID-19 Hospital Admissions Rates for the 12 Black Belt Counties as of 2022 (per 100,000 population)

The H.O.P.E. Grant

The Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) has been awarded a **Health, Outreach, Promotion and Education (H.O.P.E.) grant** to advance Black health equity in the Black Belt region. According to a recent report by the CDC, eleven of the twelve Black Belt counties served by the BBCF are ranked among the top 50 for having the highest rates of COVID-19 per 100,000 population in the United States. According to BBCF President, Felecia Lucky (photo on right), "The Black Belt H.O.P.E. Ambassador Project is an outgrowth of the Black Belt COVID-19 Task force, a coalition of local political and community leaders who designed a regional approach to help access critical resources as well as address the issues of Black health in Black Belt counties. The disproportionate impact the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the region led the BBCF to apply for the H.O.P.E. grant, through which we will collaborate with the Alabama Department of Public Health, Alabama Workforce Development Councils, and the University of Alabama School of Medicine, among others." The H.O.P.E. grant will create and equip a network of local community leaders and organizations to build capacity, provide needed information, and develop a sustainable infrastructure to create a pathway for improved health advocacy.



The Black Belt H.O.P.E. Ambassador Project will recruit and train "Ambassadors" to educate residents on the importance of vaccinations and boosters and help them understand why testing and responding to contact tracer calls are critical for decreasing cases of COVID-19 community spread. "BBCF's unique role is apparent as a helpful and trusted connector across communities. Our ability to

connect while listening, networking, harnessing, and amplifying local resources fuels our singular approach to create real opportunity through our vision of transformation in Alabama's Black Belt", according to Chris Spencer (photo on left), BBCF Chief Engagement Officer. BBCF is currently hiring and onboarding 24 Ambassadors (two for each county) who will lead the work in increasing health literacy, vaccination rates, and testing in Bullock, Choctaw, Dallas, Greene, Hale, Lowndes, Macon, Marengo, Perry, Pickens, Sumter, and Wilcox counties. BBCF H.O.P.E. project directors in charge of operations are Samantha Ledbetter and Wendell H. Paris. Once Ambassadors are onboarded, directors will begin implementing the community engagement strategies. Supplies, including PPE, will be provided through the Ambassadors to residents who will be visited in rural underserved communities.



AVERAGE PATIENT TO CLINICIAN RATIO IN BLACKBELT COUNTIES (PER YEAR)

1,200 PATIENTS

to

1 CLINICIAN



Counties served by BBCF through the H.O.P.E. grant:

- | | | | |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| Bullock | Greene | Macon | Pickens |
| Choctaw | Hale | Marengo | Sumter |
| Dallas | Lowndes | Perry | Wilcox |

