

# A Review of Prevalent Health Conditions in the JRF Footprint

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Jefferson  
Regional  
Foundation

# JRF & Strategic Plan

- JRF's Mission: **Improve the health and well-being of the communities served by Jefferson Hospital through engagement, community-driven research, and grantmaking.**
- JRF's strategic plan calls for intentionally leveraging and distributing resources equitably to meet needs in the footprint and addressing the social determinants of health.



**JRF Footprint**

# Framing

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- JRF gathered anecdotal data from a sample of Mon Valley residents, health care providers, nonprofit partners, and grantee orgs.
- JRF also gathered the most recent local and regional health data available.
- Through these information-gathering efforts, JRF identified three prevalent health factors within footprint communities:
  - Cancer diagnosis rates
  - Prevalence of asthma
  - Prevalence of food insecurity
- Following conversation with these stakeholders and data review, JRF engaged with partners to share ideas towards long-term health and wellness improvements as part of the 2024-28 strategic plan. That leads us to our discussion today.

# Key Findings: Cancer

- **15 municipalities in the JRF footprint have higher rates of cancer than the County (9%)**
  - Lincoln (11.2%), Bethel Park (10.9%), Pleasant Hills (10.6%), Dravosburg (10.4%), Port Vue (10.1%), West Homestead (10.1%), Whitehall (10.1%), Versailles (10%), West Mifflin (9.9%), Jefferson Hills (9.8%), Liberty (9.7%), Baldwin (9.5%), Munhall (9.3%), Glassport (9.2%), Elizabeth Boro (9.1%)
- **Cancer death rates (CDR) in 10 JRF municipalities are higher than the County and State (152/100,000 & 147.6/100,000)**
  - Glassport (352.9), Munhall (254.8), Homestead (249.1), West Mifflin (237.5), Duquesne (227.7), Port Vue (204.4), McKeesport (179.4), South Park (178.3), Clairton (169.6), Brentwood (157.9)

# Key Findings: Cancer

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- Port Vue, West Mifflin, Munhall, and Glassport have both higher rates of adult cancer and higher cancer death rates than the County averages.
- Some communities have **lower cancer rates**, but **higher cancer death rates**
  - Glassport: 9% have cancer, but has the highest CDR at ~353/100,000
  - Homestead: 7.4% have cancer, but CDR is 3<sup>rd</sup> highest at 249.1/100,000
- **Cancer rates for Black (16.6 vs. 14.5/100,000) and White (20.8 vs. 20.1/100,000) residents under 20 in Allegheny County are higher than the State.**

# Key Findings: Asthma

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- **Zip codes that include Clairton, McKeesport, Liberty, Lincoln, and Port Vue and Duquesne** have asthma hospitalization discharge rates that place them in the highest quartile in the state, according to the PA Dept. of Health and the PA Healthcare Cost Containment Council
- Approx. 11% of children in Allegheny County have asthma, according to a 2019 ACHD report. But a **2020 study found that the rates of asthma in schools w/in ~2 miles of industrial centers was about 22.5%**
- According to the same 2019 ACHD asthma report, **rates of asthma are higher at about 9% for children with Medicaid than commercial insurance at 8%**

# Key Findings: Asthma

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- Data from the ACHD suggests that **Black male children visit the ER for asthma 6x more than their White counterparts**
- About 16% of adults in Allegheny County have asthma, matching the statewide rate.

# Key Findings: Food Insecurity

- Almost **15,000 (16%) households** in the JRF footprint receive **SNAP benefits** according to the US Census Bureau
  - Allegheny County – 13%
  - State of PA – 14%
- **15 of the 26 communities** in the JRF footprint have higher rates of households w/SNAP benefits than the County
  - Duquesne (49%), McKeesport (40%), Clairton (33%), Homestead (27%), West Elizabeth (27%), Elizabeth Boro. (25%), Versailles (24%), Brentwood (23%), Munhall (23%), Forward (22%), Port Vue (21%), Glassport (19%), Whitaker (18%), West Mifflin (17%), Liberty (15%), Dravosburg (13%)
- **Seven census tracts in McKeesport, Clairton, and Elizabeth** are considered “low-income and low-access” (commonly referred to as **food deserts**) by the USDA

# Summary

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- Local, County, and State data on cancer, asthma, and food insecurity reveals disparities in the JRF footprint.
- McKeesport, Clairton, Dravosburg, West Mifflin, and Glassport all experience higher rates of adult cancer, cancer deaths, and food insecurity compared to County.
- Research also suggests that asthma rates among Mon Valley schoolchildren are high compared to the County.
- **Clairton, Duquesne, Liberty, McKeesport, and Port Vue have disparities in all three conditions: cancer, asthma, and food insecurity.**

# Discussion Questions

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- 1) What resonates with you from the data?
- 2) What are policy implications of this data and the key findings?
- 3) Who should JRF talk to about this data?
- 4) What other recommendations do you have for next steps in reaction to this data?