

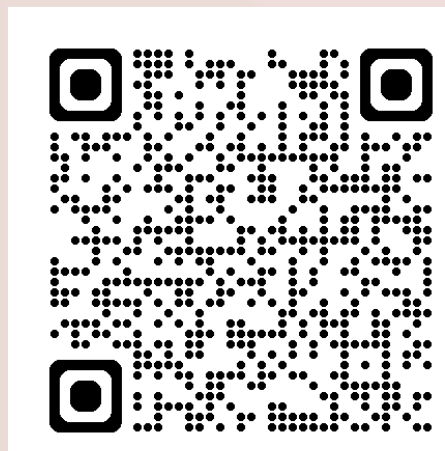
NIDA Study CTN-0127 - ENGAGING AFRICAN AMERICAN FAITH-BASED LEADERS IN A SUBSTANCE USE LEARNING COLLABORATIVE (LC)

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Background

In the United States, one in 14 individuals experience a Substance Use Disorder (SUD) SAMHSA stated that in 2020, approximately 40 million individuals from ages 12 and above had a SUD (CDC, 2022 ; SAMHSA, 2021). There has been a 44% increase in overdose rates in Black communities between 1999 to 2023. One longitudinal study found that the opioid overdose fatality rate among “non-Hispanic Black men 55 years or older was 40.03 per 100 000 population, 4 times greater than the overall opioid overdose fatality rate of 10.70 per 100 000 for persons of the same age” (Mason, Soliman, Kim, & Post, 2022). This pilot exploratory study will pave the way for future initiatives focused on increasing SUD care in underserved Black communities through learning collaboratives (LC) between faith-based leaders (FBLs) and behavioral health providers (BHLs). An LC is a short-term (6- to 15-month) learning system that brings together teams (e.g., FBLs, community members, behavioral health/SUD, and social service providers) to seek improvement in a focused topic area.

Aims

- Evaluate Faith-based Leaders (FBLs):
 - understanding and knowledge of substance use
 - perceptions of engaging with BHPs
 - willingness to provide referrals to BHPs
- Conduct an exploratory examination of each FBL's congregation (community/neighborhood) to inform a greater understanding of substance use service needs and the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) at the community level using quantitative and qualitative analysis.

Methods

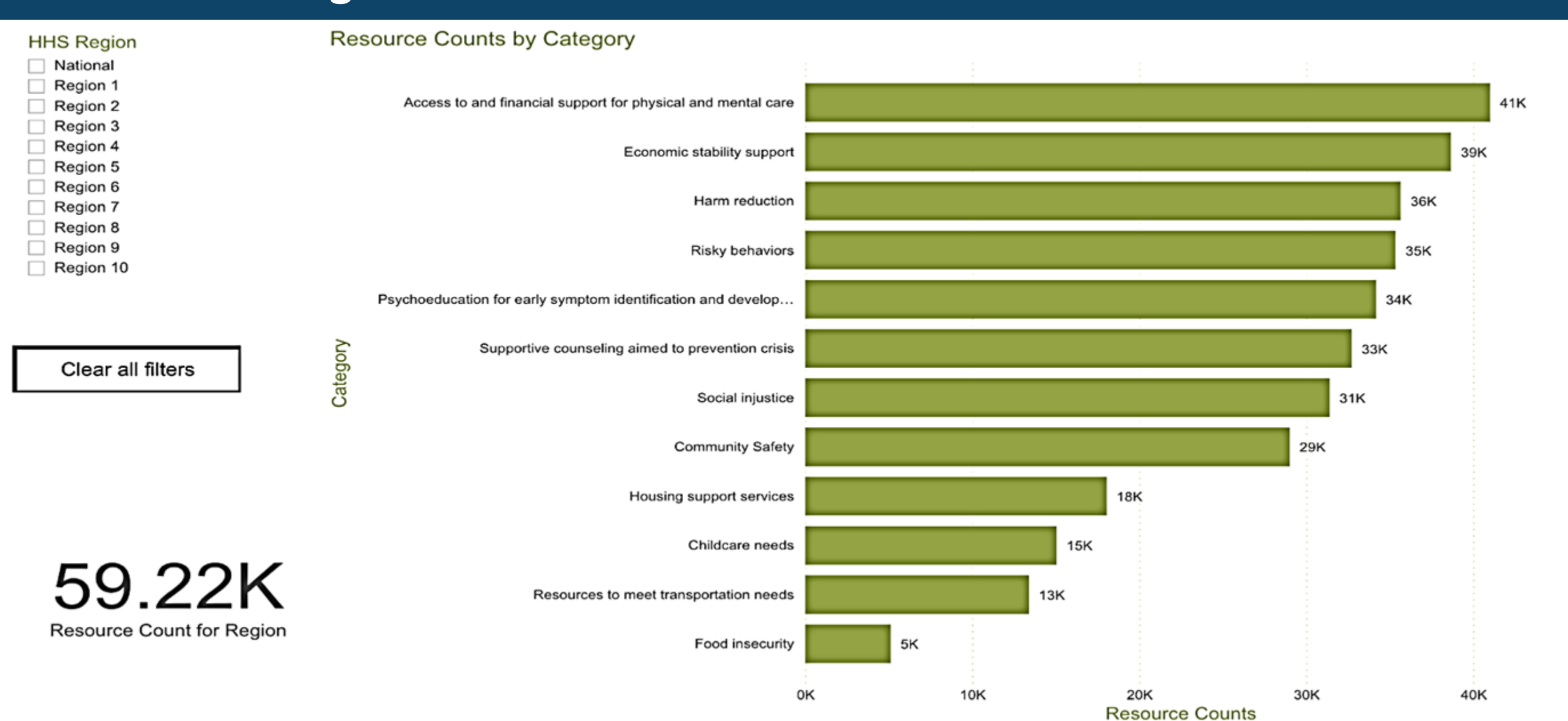
Aim 1: Participation in the study is over nine months. Ten FBLs and ten BHLs participated in a 12-session bi-weekly online learning collaborative about addiction. FBLs were chosen if they serve the Black/African American community as defined by having at least 50% of the congregation identified as Black/African American Church/congregation that has at least 20 members and participated in the Annual Faith-based Conference (FLC) in 2019 – 2022. BHLs were chosen if they provide services to adults (18+). The Public Attitudes About Addiction (PAAA) survey, which is a 54-item instrument that has five subscales representing five models of addiction theory: Moral Model, Nature Model, Psychological Model, Sociological Model, and Disease Model, was administered at baseline, six, and nine months (Broadus & Evans, 2015). In-depth interviews were conducted using a phenomenological approach at pre- and post-learning collaborative time points (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). Aim 2: An environmental scan of each congregation's community was conducted at the census tract, zip code, and county levels. SDoH such as high school graduation and unemployment rates were cross-walked with the Healthy People 2030 Five Domains of SDoH (ODASH, n.d.). Descriptive and inferential statistics were used to analyze the results of the PAAA survey. Data visualizations were presented to each interviewee post-LC during post-interviews (6 months).

Environmental Scan

Environmental scans can be utilized to collect data to design unique programs to the needs of communities (Rowel, et al., 2005). The Prevention Technology Transfer Center (PTTC) Network Coordinating Office (NCO) environmental scan (Figure 1) included:

- Search for resources that address the SDoH
- Healthy People 2030 has five domains
- Robert-Wood Johnson (RWJ) County Health Rankings (CHR)
- Twelve categories identified by CSAP

Figure 1: PTTC NCO Environmental Scan Resources



Aim 2: Social Determinants of Health (SDoH)

The Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) in the US have been connected to the outcomes of oppression, racism, and discrimination of minoritized communities. SDoH are also described as the vital and necessary conditions needed for health and wellbeing (ODASH, 2022).

Figure 2: Environmental Scan of SDoH Dashboard Overview

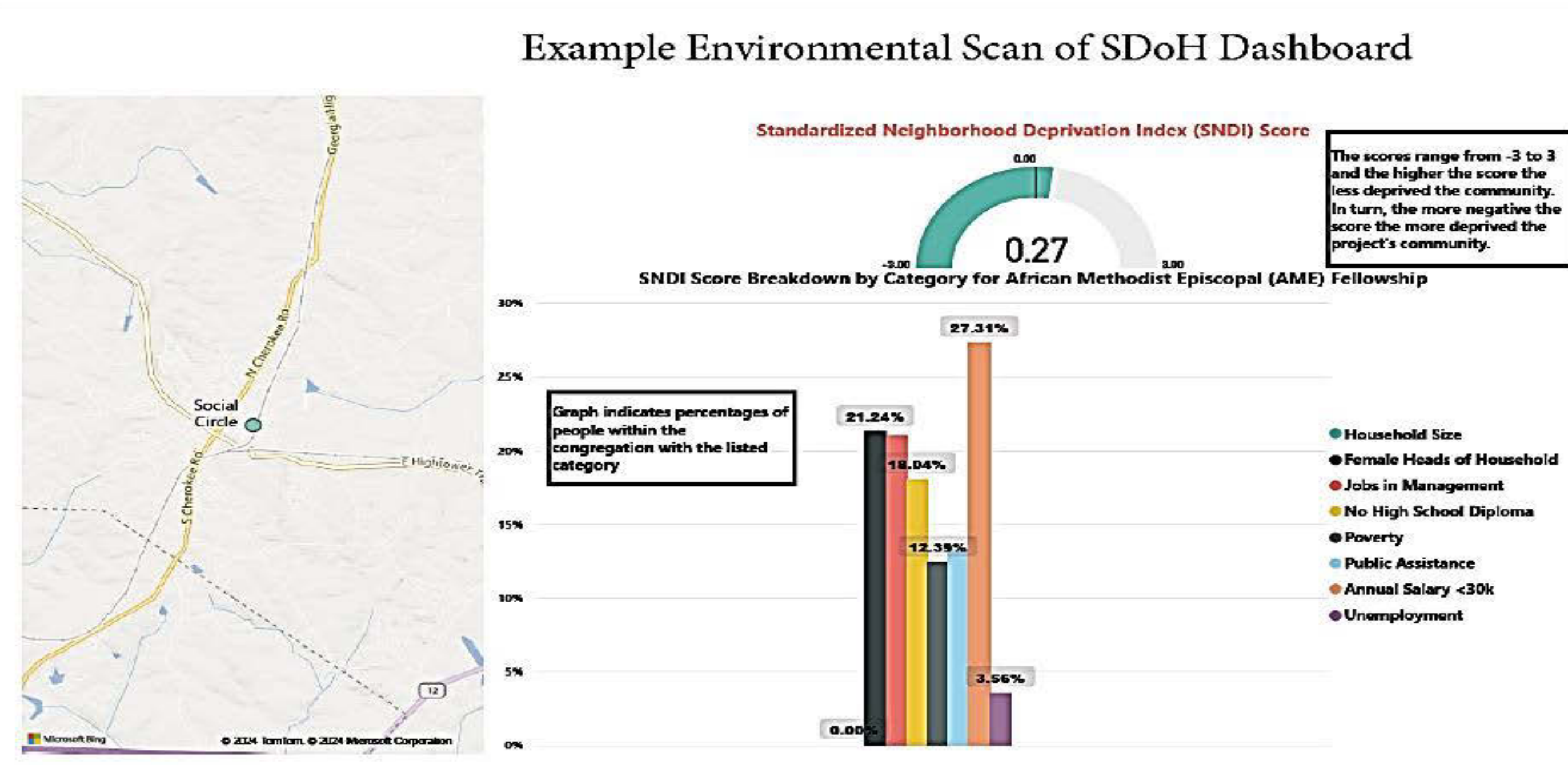
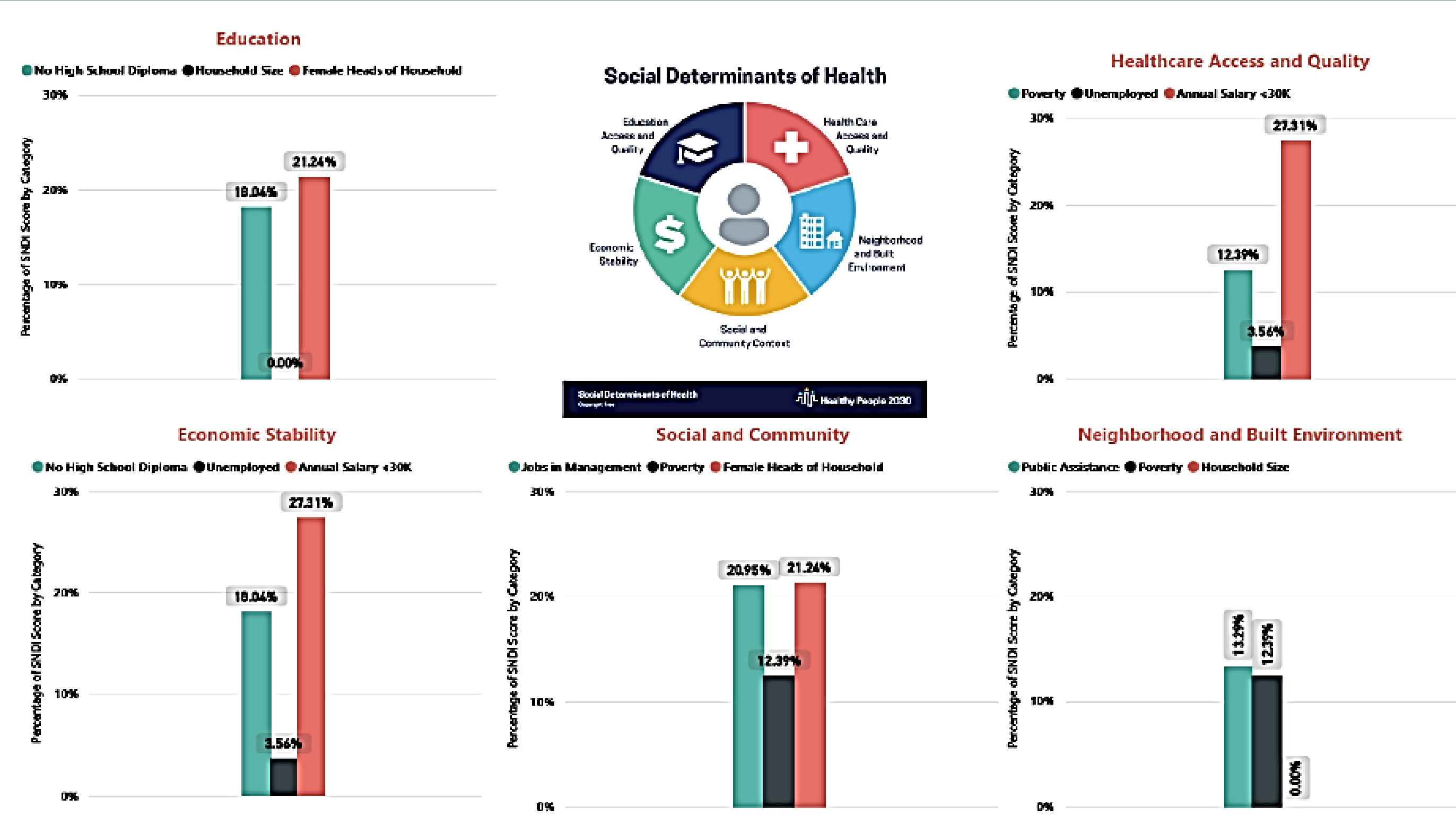


Figure 3: Environmental Scan of SDoH Dashboard SNDI Scores



Preliminary Analysis

Aim 1

Preliminary Qualitative Themes from Pre/Post Interviews:

- Participants' congregations are primarily older Black Americans
- Perceived keys to reducing substance use among Black Americans: starting with the younger generation, reducing stigma, increasing community togetherness and job opportunities.

Preliminary Quantitative Results:

- 8 of 20 participants completed the PAAA surveys and four completed pre/post-in-depth interviews.
- PAAA surveys were analyzed, but the results did not demonstrate any significant changes in attitudes about addiction after completion of the LC. This could be attributed to a small sample size

Aim 2

Preliminary Qualitative Themes from Pre/Post Interviews:

- Most participants have developed and/or implemented well-developed efforts to aid in community engagement and building efforts
- Very few (N=1) participants discussed racism and discrimination. Most described a lack of access to opportunities, an increase in drugs, and a lack of community cohesiveness."
- BHL qualitative results are pending

Preliminary Quantitative Results:

Individual SNDI scores of completed Pre/Post Interviews :

Subject 01: **-0.12**

Subject 04: 0.81

Subject 05: 0.44

Subject 10: 0.27

Subject 11: 0.38 Subject 17: **-0.34**

Subject 18: 0.10 Subject 19: **-0.19**

Average SNDI Score for all Subjects: **0.16**

Interpretation: On average, our FBLs reside in neighborhoods that have a little more than the national average of resources in the Five Healthy People Domains.

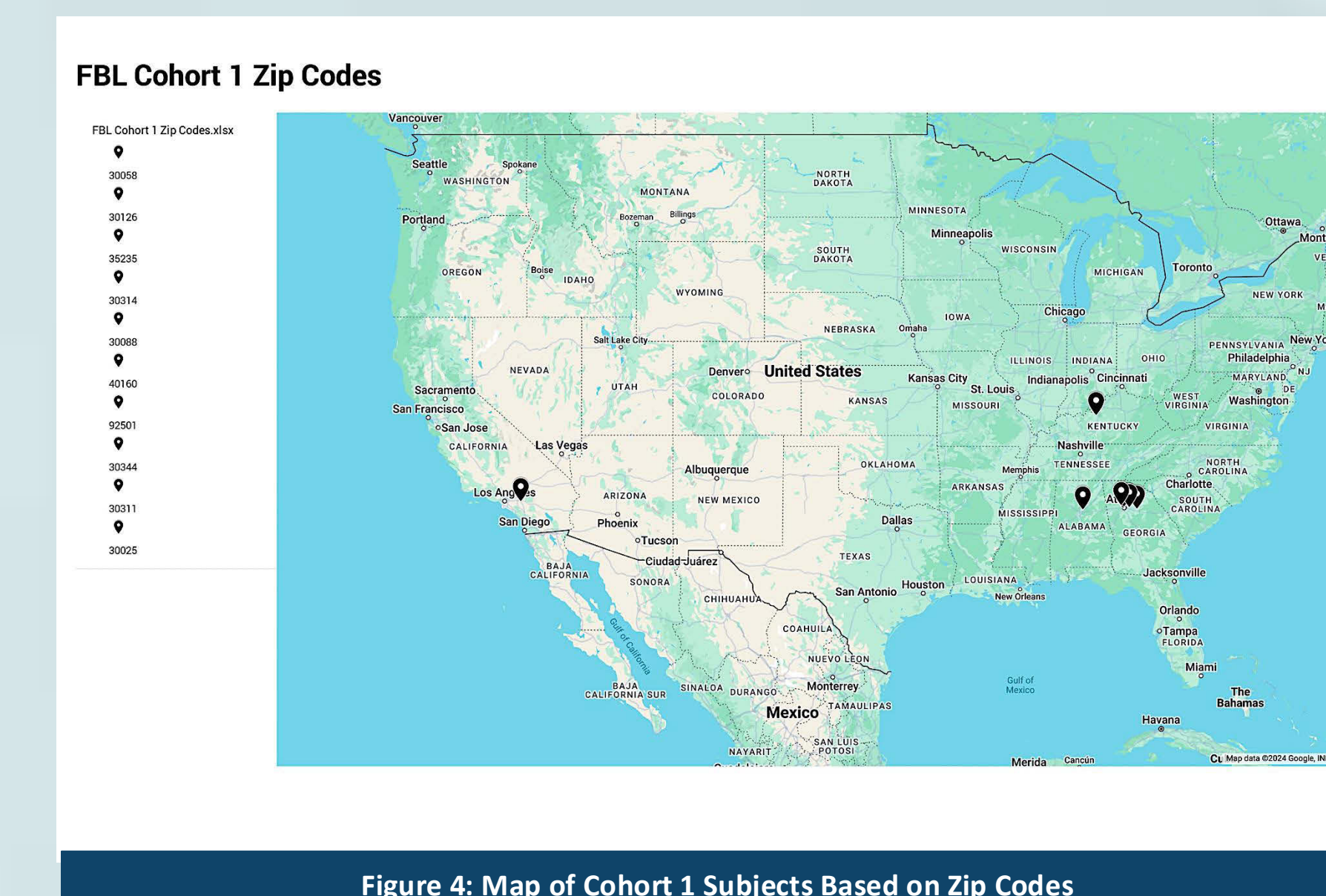


Figure 4: Map of Cohort 1 Subjects Based on Zip Codes

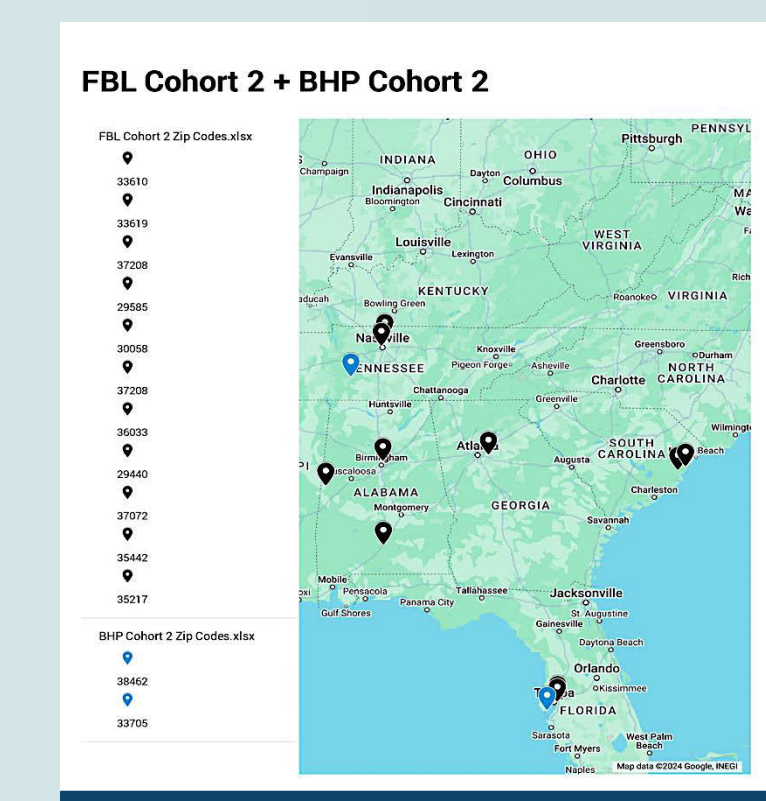


Figure 5: Map of Cohort 2 Subjects Based on Zip Codes

Conclusion

In our first of four planned LC Cohorts, African American Faith-based Leaders identified strategies to reduce congregant substance use including reducing stigma, increasing community togetherness, and job opportunities.

References

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