



Children's National®

2022

Community Benefit Report



Acknowledgments

The Child Health Advocacy Institute would like to extend its appreciation to everyone who contributed to this report. We could not have gathered this information without support and guidance from many dedicated individuals across Children's National Hospital. Sasha Smith, Community Health Education Specialist, led the stakeholder interviews and report writing with substantive direction and input from Tesa White, Program Manager of Community Benefit, and Desiree de la Torre, Director of Community Affairs and Population Health Improvement.



A Message to Our Community

For more than 150 years, Children's National Hospital has served the community of Washington, D.C. and the surrounding area. We've weathered many storms, but our commitment to serving the children and families in our community has never wavered. We are honored to be a member of this community and know families and their unique needs are at the very heart of what we do.

We are proud to share with you the 2022 Community Benefit Report. Within these pages, you'll find stories of resilience, creativity and commitment. The COVID-19 pandemic changed healthcare, community service, and the very fabric of the way we live our lives. Yet our faculty, staff and community partners, adapted and found ways to innovate and serve, even in unfamiliar circumstances. We know there is nothing we can't do if we do it together with programming that is both data-informed and community-focused.

On the individual, community and policy-level, the pediatric healthcare experts of Children's National are committed to our community and we are proud to work alongside them. We hope you are inspired by the programs and stories within this report, we know we are.



Kurt Newman

Kurt Newman, M.D.
President and Chief Executive Officer



Tonya Vidal Kinlow

Tonya Vidal Kinlow, M.P.A.
Vice President, Community Engagement,
Advocacy, and Government Affairs

What is **Community Benefit?**

Community benefit is part of our responsibility as a not-for-profit hospital and how we quantify and track our work in the community.

Community benefit is defined as a program or activity that provides treatment or promotes health and healing as a response to identified community needs. This year, there were 158 community benefit programs and activities that addressed a broad spectrum of health topics from 37 different hospital departments.



158

**community benefit
programs**

37

**hospital
departments**



From hosting summer camps and vaccine clinics to educating the next generation of health professionals, Children's National is proud to invest in our community. We strive to create a community where families can thrive.



In 2022, Children's National provided a wide variety of quality learning opportunities and educated more than 1,500 students including medical residents, nursing students and other healthcare professionals.



In our hospital and community locations, students are given a world-class education in pediatric care from leading experts in their field. They are educated in making the connections between community and health, equipping them to enter their careers prepared to serve families holistically.



Together with community partners, public health experts, epidemiologists, and educators, the way we serve our community is continually evolving but our commitment remains the same.

Pediatric Community Health Needs Assessment

Data and community engagement lead the way when it comes to community health initiatives at Children's National.



Per the requirements of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010 (ACA), non-profit hospitals conduct a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) and corresponding implementation strategy to address the needs – referred to as our Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) – every three years. For the past decade, Children's National has partnered with the DC Healthy Communities Collaborative, a coalition of Washington, D.C., hospitals and community health centers, to work towards an equitable and sustainable state of health for all District of Columbia residents. Through our collaboration, we completed three assessments in 2013, 2016 and 2019 focused on the D.C. community and made progress to improve community health. As we prepared for our 2022 CHNA, Children's National decided to focus specifically on children within our primary service area (which includes Washington, D.C., and parts of Maryland).

Together with our partners at HSC Health Care System, the Child Health Advocacy Institute (CHAI) at Children’s National undertook a multi-year effort of producing a new, up to date, pediatric CHNA. Published in June 2022, this CHNA focuses on understanding the variances in neighborhood conditions that provide children with the opportunity to reach their full potential, applying a stronger pediatric health equity lens by utilizing the Child Opportunity Index (COI). The COI looks across 29 neighborhood-level indicators, such as access to healthy food, high-quality education, parks and playgrounds, to assess the level of opportunity for children to develop in a healthy manner.

Using the COI framework, our CHNA assesses child opportunity at the neighborhood level. “We looked at how opportunity varies within neighborhoods in our hospital’s service area. The CHNA highlighted how opportunity is very much concentrated in specific areas – and, likewise, how lack of opportunity is concentrated in other areas. Low-opportunity areas tend to be home to disproportionately more Black and Brown children,” says Chaya Merrill, Dr.P.H., Director of the Child Health Data Lab of the study’s findings.

The CHNA highlighted extreme inequities in our community, identifying 21 neighborhoods within our service area that provide very low opportunity for children to develop in a healthy manner. In conjunction with the deep dive into the data surrounding children and families, the CHAI held community conversations and interviews with parents and guardians and community stakeholders to gather their feedback on the priority areas.

Following the insight we gained from the COI and community perspectives, we pared down the 29 COI indicators to four indicators that will be our hospital’s focus for the next three years:

“ Low-opportunity areas tend to be home to disproportionately more Black and Brown children. ”

Chaya Merrill, Dr.P.H., Director of the Child Health Data Lab

The CHNA will be used to create a CHIP that outlines how Children’s National and HSC will work collaboratively with community/hospital stakeholders to address the four focus areas within the 21 neighborhoods.



**EARLY
CHILDHOOD
EDUCATION**



**HEALTHY
FOOD**



**HEALTH
INSURANCE
COVERAGE**



**EMPLOYMENT
RATE**

The pediatric CHNA allows us to better serve our community and help build an equitable community where every child has the opportunity to grow up healthy.

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Children's National has long been a leader of diversity, equity and inclusion in medicine.

We promote and practice compassion, commitment and connection in order to create strong partnerships with the community, our staff members, our patients and their families. We serve on many local and national working groups to share knowledge, learn from colleagues and promote diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) in healthcare.

Working groups include, U.S. News & World Report and RTI International Health Equity, Disparities & Inclusion working group Children's Hospital Association Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group, Academic Pediatric Association Anti-Racism & Diversity Task Force, American Academy of Pediatrics Section on Hospital Medicine Diversity and Inclusion Task Force and more.





Internally, nine DEI-focused sub-committees were developed, made up of clinical and non-clinical staff as well as executive leadership, with a focus on a wide-range of DEI initiatives from engaging patients and families to internal communication to curriculum development. All work is overseen by a Chief Diversity Officer, who oversees the larger DEI committee that all the subcommittees report to, allowing for system-wide integration. "A solid foundation of transparency, accountability and commitment underlies all of our efforts to build our culture of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at Children's National. In FY22, we continued to use data to inform our DEI work, specifically improving the accuracy of race and ethnicity data wherever we can and engaging both the patient and provider communities to investigate and address any identified inequities in care," says Chief Diversity Officer Dr. Denice Cora-Bramble, M.D., M.B.A., of Children's DEI initiatives. In 2022, 140 employees participated directly as committee or subcommittee members.

From communication to medical education, these subcommittees have wide-ranging scope. For example, the Patient, Family, and Community Engagement subcommittee has over 40 members from across the organization. The subcommittee includes two parents/caregivers from our community, leaders from chaplaincy services, community health centers, human resources, all playing critical roles identifying ways to improve DEI from a patient, family and community engagement perspective.

Currently, the Patient, Family and Community Engagement subcommittee is focused on building and strengthening trust with patients, families, community and employees across the hospital. The subcommittee understands that mistrust in healthcare runs deep and must be addressed to improve health equity. To date, the subcommittee has had successes in surveying families and including their feedback in critical decision-making plans like the most recent Community Health Improvement Plan.

This is only a small snapshot of the on-going DEI work at Children's National. DEI is an important piece of addressing health equity and health disparities. Ensuring an equitable workplace and promoting DEI is continual work, and we look forward to diving deeper into DEI promotion and innovation and to continuing our engagement with patients, families and our community.

“ A solid foundation of transparency, accountability and commitment underlies all of our efforts to build our culture of diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) at Children's National. ”

Dr. Denice Cora-Bramble, M.D., M.B.A., Chief Diversity Officer

Keeping Families Safe from Preventable Injuries

Preventable injuries are the leading cause of death among children, not disease or illness, and we at Children's National know it takes a village to keep kids safe.



Safe Kids DC



In 1998, Safe Kids, a first-of-its-kind program was founded at Children's National with the goal of keeping children safe from injuries and accidents.

Founded by Dr. Martin Eichelberger and Herta Heely with support from the Johnson and Johnson Foundation, the Safe Kids Campaign expanded in 2005 to become a coalition-based organization called Safe Kids Worldwide. The founding chapter, Safe Kids DC, is a leader in education regarding the prevention of pediatric injury. The Safe Kids DC Childhood Injury Prevention program, which is part of the Division of Emergency Medicine & Trauma Care (EMTC), uses a multi-disciplinary, data driven approach to address targeted injury prevention efforts in the District. Educational interventions are provided in three key risk areas: child passenger safety, bike & pedestrian safety and home safety. This year, Safe Kids DC along with their community partners provided car seat inspection to 700 families in-person and 400 families virtually, distributed physical safety toolkits to schools for over 3,000 families, and provided online education regarding topics like cold-weather safety, fire prevention, safe sleep and holiday safety that reached an audience of more than 30,000.

With 25 years of experience in keeping kids and families safe in the District of Columbia region, Safe Kids DC is still finding ways to innovate and expand, helping children and families prevent injury in children and youth. Most recently, through grant funding from the District Department of Transportation's Highway Safety Office, Safe Kids DC produced the "Keeping Your Child Safe While Driving" educational video series (available in English & Spanish). This four-part video series helps families of children with special health care needs (behavioral, physical, technology dependent, etc.) determine when to consider adaptive child restraint devices to ensure safe transport.

The longevity and growth of this program has been driven by dedicated community advocates, Safe Kids DC staff, and enthusiastic families. We look forward to many more decades in the community.



Car seat inspections for

700 families in-person

400 families virtually





Burn Prevention

Medical practitioners and educators in Children’s Department of Trauma and Burn Surgery are also finding innovative ways to prevent injury.

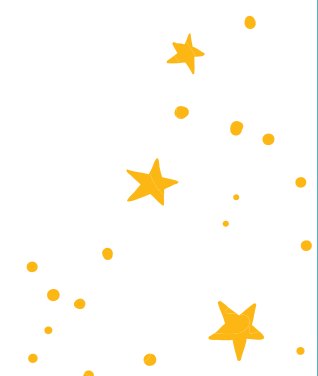
Burns are the leading cause of injury in children younger than five in the United States. More than 250,000 pediatric burn injuries are treated annually, and the majority of these cases are caused by preventable, household accidents. The Children’s National Emergency Department sees more than 2,000 burn related visits each year, that’s more than five burn visits every day. Knowing this, and seeking to prevent pediatric burns, the Trauma and Burn Surgery team’s multi-year burn prevention campaign continued in 2022. The social media campaign educates parents and caregivers on how to prevent burn injuries in children, and the videos provide easily actionable steps to keep children safe.

The education campaign reached over 37,000 people in 2022, but Colson’s team has their eye on future growth. “Our newest campaign has an even larger reach,” she says. As they look to 2023, they will expand their reach into Maryland, as well as presented their findings at national conferences to help hospitals nation-wide conduct similar education campaigns. Together with their partners at the DC Firefighter Burn Foundation, Colson’s team knows education is the first step in preventing burn injuries.

Both Safe Kids DC and the burn prevention campaign have adopted multi-year, long-term strategies for distribution, development of community relationships, and growth. Preventing injuries requires forward thinking and both programs contribute to our mutual goal of a culture of safety in Washington, D.C.



25,000+
pediatric burn
injuries are
treated
annually





Caring for the Mental Health of Our Community

Mental health is an important part of overall health, and creating an environment where children and families can thrive means creating robust mental health resources and infrastructure.





The Child Health Advocacy Institute's Community Mental Health CORE (Collaboration, Outreach, Research, & Equity) works with partners to improve mental health outcomes for all children in Washington, D.C.

Their approach focuses on both individual children and families and also on systems level change, and internal and external partnerships to co-create innovative, evidence informed approaches that truly make a difference in outcomes for children and families.

Examples of this work include:

DC Autism Collaborative, a multidisciplinary coalition that addresses barriers to Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) care

HealthySteps, a program that provides maternal mental health and early childhood developmental support in the primary care office

Autism in Primary Care Program (APC), which provides integrated autism diagnostic evaluations in Children's National primary care clinics

The Autism in Primary Care Program (APC), which represents a partnership between the Community Mental Health CORE Team, the Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD), Division of Psychology & Behavioral Health, Whole Bear Care, and the Goldberg Center for Community Pediatric Health. The team includes bilingual (English/Spanish) clinicians and care coordinators who have partnered together for a highly innovative and successful program in which an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) expert supports psychologists embedded in primary care settings in providing diagnostic ASD evaluations while care coordinators support families in navigating ASD services following diagnosis.



Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) are one of the fastest growing mental health disorders, with prevalence rising from a rate of 1 case per 1000 individuals in the 1980s to 1 in 36 children currently. Referrals to Children's National Center for Autism Spectrum Disorders (CASD) are up 139% from 2014. Ensuring children with ASD get the care they need is essential. One primary care pediatrician says of the program, "[APC] is among the most innovative and impactful primary care pilots I have participated [in]. The leaders of this program are directly serving families who are most likely to be left out of traditional disjointed systems. This program is important to minimize health disparities for historically marginalized groups and achieve health equity for children."

As for Dr. Godoy, she has her mind on further growth. "There's always more to do in this space, we'd love to keep growing our APC Program so we can see a wider range of kids."

The Community Mental Health CORE provides a wide range of services and has undertaken a broad range of initiatives since its founding nearly a decade ago.

Part of this work is the Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN), a local collaborative of health and education providers, community organizations, researchers and advocates promoting resilience in families and children from pregnancy through age 5 in Washington, D.C. During this critical period of brain development, children are deeply affected by their experiences and environment. ECIN's approach affirms the tremendous opportunity to promote and ensure healthy development of young children. In 2022, ECIN coordinated mental health support groups for parents as well as taught skills like resilience and led conversations around mental health at their Parent Café series.

Together, these programs create a robust network of support services all aimed at the same goal: helping children and families access developmental and mental healthcare in a coordinated, efficient way. Too often, pediatric mental health care is inaccessible because of a lack of trained providers or poor care coordination. The Community Mental Health CORE seeks to address barriers to care by supporting providers in getting the education they need to confidently treat, support and refer families for care while also building the infrastructure needed to help them navigate the health system and get access to the care they need.

“ We focus on improving access to high quality mental health care so that families are able to access care equitably and sustainably ”

Leandra Godoy, Ph.D.
Co-Director of the Early Childhood Behavioral Health Program

These innovative programs and dedicated practitioners are breaking down barriers to mental health care and making a difference in our community across generations and for years to come.



Violence Intervention, Community Healing

When a child is injured by an act of violence – whether by gunshot, stabbing or other significant assault – Children’s National offers ongoing physical, mental and emotional support beyond the Emergency Department (ED).





Our Youth Violence Intervention Program provides children and their families with this support by offering resources and community connections to build a safer future.

It is the belief of the Youth Violence Intervention Program (YVIP) that an act of violence presents less like an isolated event and more like a chronic illness, that requires on-going care, prevention and intervention. After a child has presented in the ED for an injury sustained by violence, they are followed up with for months by YVIP staff including their physician, violence intervention specialist Jawanna Hardy and social worker Yvonne Doerre.

Together, the care team implements the following strategies, depending on the child and family's needs:

- Strategize a safety plan for preventing future violence
- Provide guidance for medical follow-ups, including transportation to appointments
- Recommend mental health and substance use providers
- Connect with community supports for survivors of violence, such as art therapy, victims' groups and talk sessions
- Share referrals to organizations that assist with food and housing insecurity
- Support children's educational needs, such as helping them finding safe routes between home and school
- Provide advice on career development, connecting them to job opportunities or training



Violence Intervention, Community Healing

Program founder, Emergency Physician Katie Donnelly, M.D. M.P.H., says "I got really tired of seeing kids hurt or killed by firearms in our community...We patched them up and then we sent them home, but we know that a gunshot is a traumatic life event that needs more attention than a one-time ED visit." Dr. Donnelly took a public health approach to the problem of pediatric gun violence. "Gun violence is a marker of other issues going on" she says. "We know from research [if you are a survivor of violence once] you're very likely to come in injured again. It felt like we were seeing kids with severe asthma but we weren't sending them to a pulmonologist. We weren't doing preventative work for these kids. Just about every other hospital in Washington, D.C. had a violence intervention program." Because of this, the Government Affairs team at Children's National advocated for and received local funding for a pediatric community violence intervention program.

Within the first year of the program, 92 youth have been approached and provided with follow up services. The program provides a broad range of support, from helping arrange follow-up surgeries to creating a plan to help them stay in school.

“ Kids get impacted by community violence too. ”

Katie Donnelly, M.D. M.P.H., Emergency Physician

With an eye to restorative justice, Dr. Donnelly hopes to expand the program both internally at Children's National and in the community with residents and organizations who are doing violence intervention work.

The Child Health Advocacy Institute, in collaboration with the Office of the Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice, connected with youth invested in preventing gun violence in their own schools, neighborhoods and communities. A series of conversations with youth were held in 2022, led by Melissa Baiyewu, M.P.H., Program Manager of Health Promotion and Disease Prevention and Elizabeth Davis, M.H.A, Government Affairs Manager.



At Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library in Northwest D.C., community members engaged in conversations around the causes of gun violence and solutions. In breakout discussions, youth and community members were welcomed to freely share ideas and thoughts with each other and Children's National health experts.

"We should all be able to walk down the street or be in our communities without fear of shootings," said one participant. Over 20 youth attended the event where they advocated for themselves, their peers, and their community. Also in attendance were over 70 adults who represented healthcare, government agencies, schools, and community leaders. Participants were open and willing to speak up in an effort to see change for themselves and their communities. Each of our youth were also compensated for their time, as young leaders we value their time and their voices.

Following this townhall, work was continued through the summer, engaging over 30 participants in focus groups to address gun violence. Children's National staff used what was learned in these sessions to focus in on legislative efforts like increased funding and the expansion of youth violence intervention programs like Dr. Donnelly's. They also continued to support policies in education, law, and juvenile justice system that address the impact of trauma on individuals and communities.

Protecting youth in our community and ensuring the victims of violence have the resources they need to survive and thrive is a task that involves all of us.



“ We should all be able to walk down the street or be in our communities without fear of shootings... ”

- Townhall discussion participant

Community Benefit Highlights

2022


\$191+
MILLION

In Community
Benefit to Improve
Community Health

158


Community
Health Improvement
Programs and
Activities

1,100 
car seats inspected
by the **Safe Kids DC
Program** and its community
partners

220 
parents attended **Parent Cafés**,
learning resilience and
mental health skills

327 
mothers given lactation
support at the **East
of River Lactation
Support Center**

1,191 
children accessed
HealthySteps,
receiving early childhood
development support at
their primary care office

70 
participants educated
at the **Sickle Cell Family
Education Symposium**

67 
local parents and caregivers
interviewed for their input in the
**Community Health
Needs Assessment**

92 
youth served by the **violence
intervention program** after
presenting in the Emergency
Department after an injury caused
by gun violence



Community Investment

Total Community Benefit

\$191,872,402

Medicaid Shortfalls
\$125,026,939



Health Professions Education
\$49,574,598



Financial Assistance
\$8,547,007



Community Health Improvement Services
\$3,137,495



Medicaid Shortfalls.....	\$125,026,939
Health Professions Education.....	\$49,574,598
Financial Assistance.....	\$8,547,007
Subsidized Health Services.....	\$4,240,113
Community Health Improvement Services.....	\$3,137,495
Community Building Activities*.....	\$1,128,581
Cash and In-Kind Contributions.....	\$763,746
Community Benefit Operations.....	\$582,503

* Community building activities are part of our community investment, but are not recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as community benefit. Therefore, the financials associated with community building activities are not included in the number for total community benefit.

Community Benefit Programs & Activities

In partnership with community organizations, government agencies, national associations and individuals, Children's National Hospital supported the following programs and activities in fiscal year 2022:

- Advocacy Education
- Advocacy and Public Policy
- Brainy Camps
- Burn Prevention Education
- Census Education
- Child Abuse Awareness and Prevention Education and Trainings
- Child Health Advocacy Institute (CHAI)
- Community Benefit Operations
- Community Care Coordination Programming
- Community Support Activities
- Conway Chair Conversations
- COVID-19 Education and Resources
- DC Collaborative for Mental Health in Pediatric Primary Care
- Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Activities
- Early Childhood Innovation Network (ECIN)
- East of the River Lactation Support Center
- Emergency Medical Services Outreach and Education
- Food Pharmacy Program
- Health and Education Cross-Sector Collaborations
- Health Care Access Assistance
- Health Care Support Services
- Health Educational Summits, Lectures and Trainings
- Health Fairs and Community Outreach
- Health Literacy Workgroup
- Health Professions Education
- Immigrant Health Efforts
- Injury Prevention Outreach and Education
- Intern Advocacy Day at Capital Area Food Bank
- Mentorship Programs
- Nurse Exchange Program
- Oral Health Initiatives
- Safe Kids District of Columbia
- Sickle Cell Support and Education Programs
- Social and Environmental Improvement Activities
- TOMODACHI J&J Disaster Nursing Training Program
- Workforce Development Programs
- Youth Engagement Programs
- Youth Violence Intervention Program





Children's National

2022

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