

CREATIVE COLLABORATION EXPANDS RESOURCES AND FUELS IMPACT

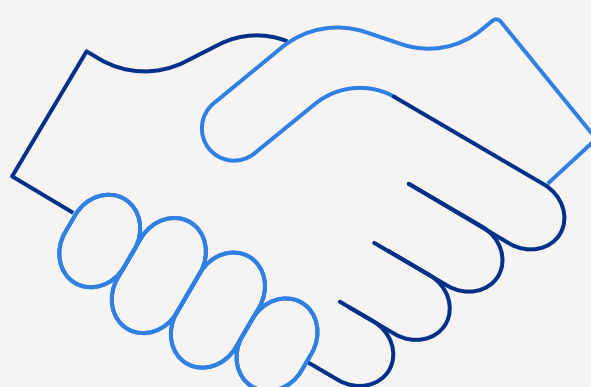
VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
MEDICAL CENTER



Ascension
Saint Thomas

The two health systems started conducting joint CHAs because their service areas in Tennessee overlap.

Their partnership enabled deeper understanding and impact across their three shared counties.

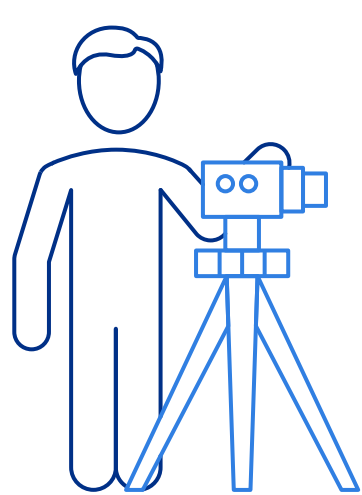


Inspired, they looked for more collaborators in their communities.

The county health departments joined their effort, and others followed.

Moving forward as a growing CHA team.

▶ Initiating an environmental scan, VUMC and Ascension:



- Obtained data by turning to community groups such as Second Harvest Food Bank, which serves people facing hunger in Middle Tennessee.
- Leveraged Davidson County's Metropolitan Social Services report on social needs.
- Tapped into county health councils and citizen organizations that improve local health.

▶ In pursuing interviews, the health systems canvassed leaders by:



- Education
- Law enforcement
- Business
- Agriculture
- Government
- Religion



- Human trafficking
- Food insecurity
- Housing
- Public health
- Violence prevention
- Substance use



- Youth
- Older adults
- LGBTQ+
- Arabic speakers
- Hispanics/Latinos
- Refugees, immigrants and migrants

▶ To seek public opinion, VUMC and Ascension translated and then launched an online survey with the help of community partners including:

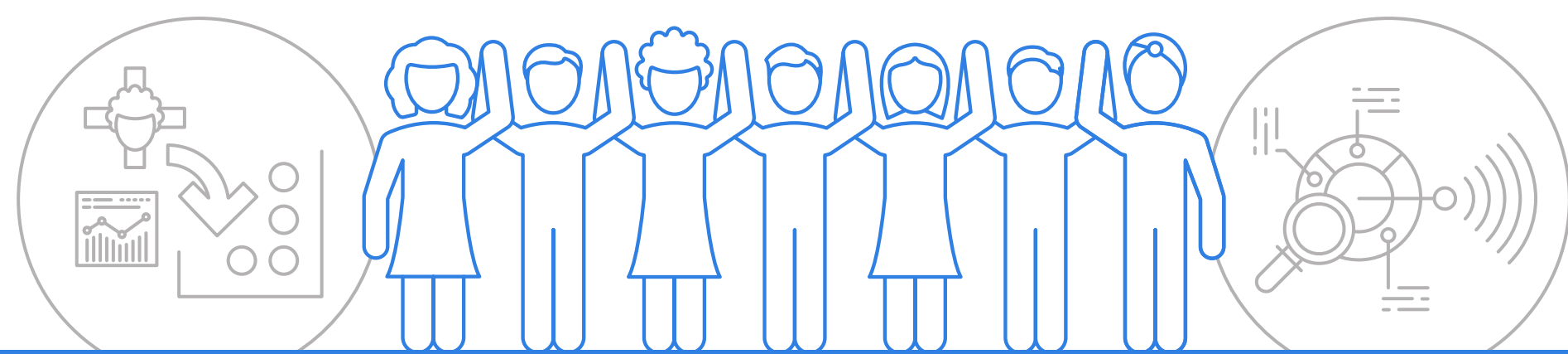
- Three county health councils
- Community-based organizations



▶ When it came time to code and analyze data, they created training tools such as videos and a code book. They recruited and trained community volunteers including:

- Vanderbilt University undergraduate students
- VU medical, public health and other graduate students
- County health councils

The research collaboration paid off. VUMC, Ascension and their partners were able to identify priority health needs by specific county and provide county health departments and health councils with data to support their work.



Teaming up on data-gathering and analysis would leave more time for CHA program implementation.

Eager to make greater progress between CHA cycles, VUMC and Ascension are planning ways to extend collaboration beyond research and reporting to implementation, such as:

- **Combining** grants to maximize impact where most needed.
- **Developing** medical assistant training programs to generate economic opportunity.
- **Creating** a new course for VUMC medical students and including CHA findings in orientation for new nurses.
- **Training** clinicians to talk about health equity.
- **Pursuing** technology solutions to improve health equity with a coalition of organization and community stakeholders.