

# Identifying the Community-Engaged Translational Research Collaboration Experience and Health Interests of Community-Based Organizations Outside of Metropolitan Atlanta

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## BACKGROUND

- The Georgia Clinical and Translational Science Alliance (Georgia CTSA) is an inter-institutional magnet that concentrates basic, translational, and clinical research investigators, community clinicians, professional societies, and industry collaborators in dynamic clinical and translational research projects. Partner institutions include Emory University, Morehouse School of Medicine, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Georgia.
- Georgia CTSA Community Engagement (CE) Program aims to support community-university research partnerships, to facilitate community input into university research, and to increase health research in community settings that is both responsive and relevant to the health needs of the community.
- Georgia CTSA Community Engagement Facilitation Survey (CEFS) was developed by CE Program community and academic partners to identify community health interests as well as leadership in and needs for collaboration in research or other health initiatives.
  - Results from the CEFS has helped the Georgia CTSA CE Program to conduct grant writing and 501(c)(3) workshops in Albany and Cordele, GA.
- The purpose of this study was to identify experiences and interests of survey respondents in Georgia communities outside of Metropolitan Atlanta due to the growth of the Georgia CTSA from an Atlanta-based to a statewide resource.

## METHODS

- Georgia CTSA CE Program engaged community residents and organizations, statewide, to disseminate and complete paper or online surveys at community events or professional organization meetings.
- Strategic outreach was conducted to engage community-based organizations outside of Metropolitan Atlanta.
  - All Georgia counties were included in this analysis except Fulton, DeKalb, Cobb, Gwinnett, Henry, and Clayton (Metropolitan Atlanta counties)
  - This outreach aimed to reach the organization types below:
    - Federal/local/state government employees
    - Hospital/clinic administrators
    - Rural health centers
- Descriptive statistics of respondents were analyzed, and GIS mapping was conducted with CEFS respondents' areas served and health interests.

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## RESULTS

- The Georgia CTSA CEFS database consists of 691 surveys, 477 of which represent respondents outside of Metropolitan Atlanta.
  - 153 Georgia counties are represented within the 477 respondents (all in GA except Metropolitan Atlanta).
- Respondents chose three health topic priorities and three priority populations, detailed prior research engagement (if applicable), and interest in community-engaged research .

### Health Interests/Priorities

- The most frequently cited health issues in response to the question *What 3 health areas are the most concerning or are a priority for you or your organization?* included:
  - Diabetes (n=131, 27.5%) (Figure 1a)
  - Cancer (n=130, 27.2%) (Figure 1b)
  - High Blood Pressure (n=115, 24.1%) (Figure 1c)
- Priority population groups most frequently cited in response to the question *What population groups are a priority for you or your organization?* were:
  - Seniors (n=208, 43.6%)
  - Children (n=194, 40.7%)
  - Young Adults (n=176, 36.9%)

### Previous Engagement in Research

- Respondents who previously engaged in research (N=102, 14.7%) did so with a:
  - Healthcare provider (n=43, 42.2%)
  - University partner (n=41, 40.2%)
  - Hospital partner (n=28, 27.5%)

### Interest in Community-Engaged Research

- The most frequently cited health areas for those interested in engaging in community-engaged research (N=220, 46.1%) in response to the question *What health areas are you interested in working with a researcher on community-engaged translational research?* were:
  - Diabetes (n= 74, 33.6%)
  - High Blood Pressure (n= 74, 33.6%)
  - Mental Health (n= 71, 32.3%)

## HEAT MAPS OF CEFS HEALTH PRIORITIES

Figure 1a: Diabetes

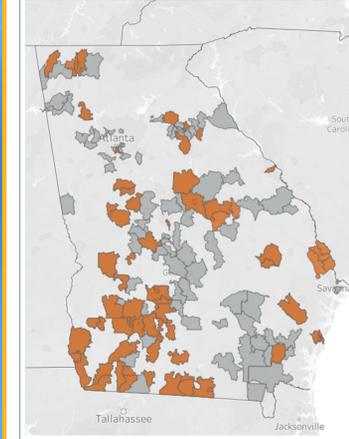


Figure 1b: Cancer

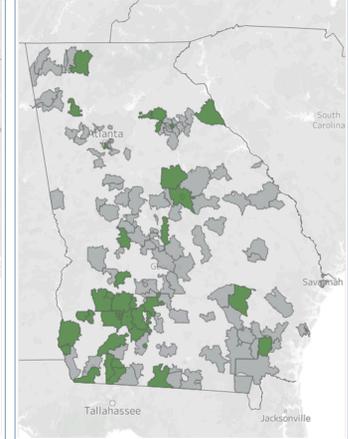
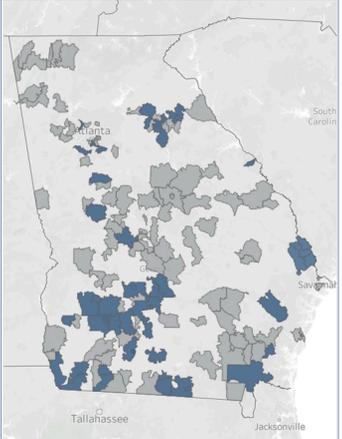


Figure 1c: High Blood Pressure



- The figures above represent health priorities from CEFS respondents outside of Metropolitan Atlanta.
  - Dark gray represents all zip codes provided in the survey.
  - Orange represents zip codes of respondents that identified diabetes as a priority health topic.
  - Green represents zip codes of respondents that identified cancer as a priority health topic.
  - Blue represents zip codes of respondents that identified high blood pressure as a priority health topic.

## CONCLUSIONS

- Results generally signal that, statewide, the health priorities/interests of community leaders and residents are aligned with those identified by secondary data sources.
- Local, geographical CEFS data (county/zip code) allows for further analysis of *other* health priorities/interests to guide specific community-academic partnership development and priority setting.
- This data source will be used to develop a public-facing, searchable database for community-engaged research collaborations with subsequent training and capacity building for partners through the Georgia CTSA CE Program.
- This analysis allows the Georgia CTSA CE Program to develop data-informed, community responsive support and programming to those seeking community-academic research partnerships to address health priorities in communities across the state of Georgia.