

Cohort 2, 2024, Program

Nolika Che

B.A. Global Public Health, 2025 University of Virginia





Prince William Health District (PWHD)

Population Health and Disease Prevention

Mentor: Emely Melendez, MPH

Project Supervisor: Diane Anderson, DrPH, MPH



Gaps

- Compile a cross-divisional list of existing community partners and identify organizations to consider for future collaboration
- Leverage sustainable partnerships
- Identify strategies to address barriers in priority populations
- Increase knowledge and awareness about community needs and available resources
- Assist community engagement work

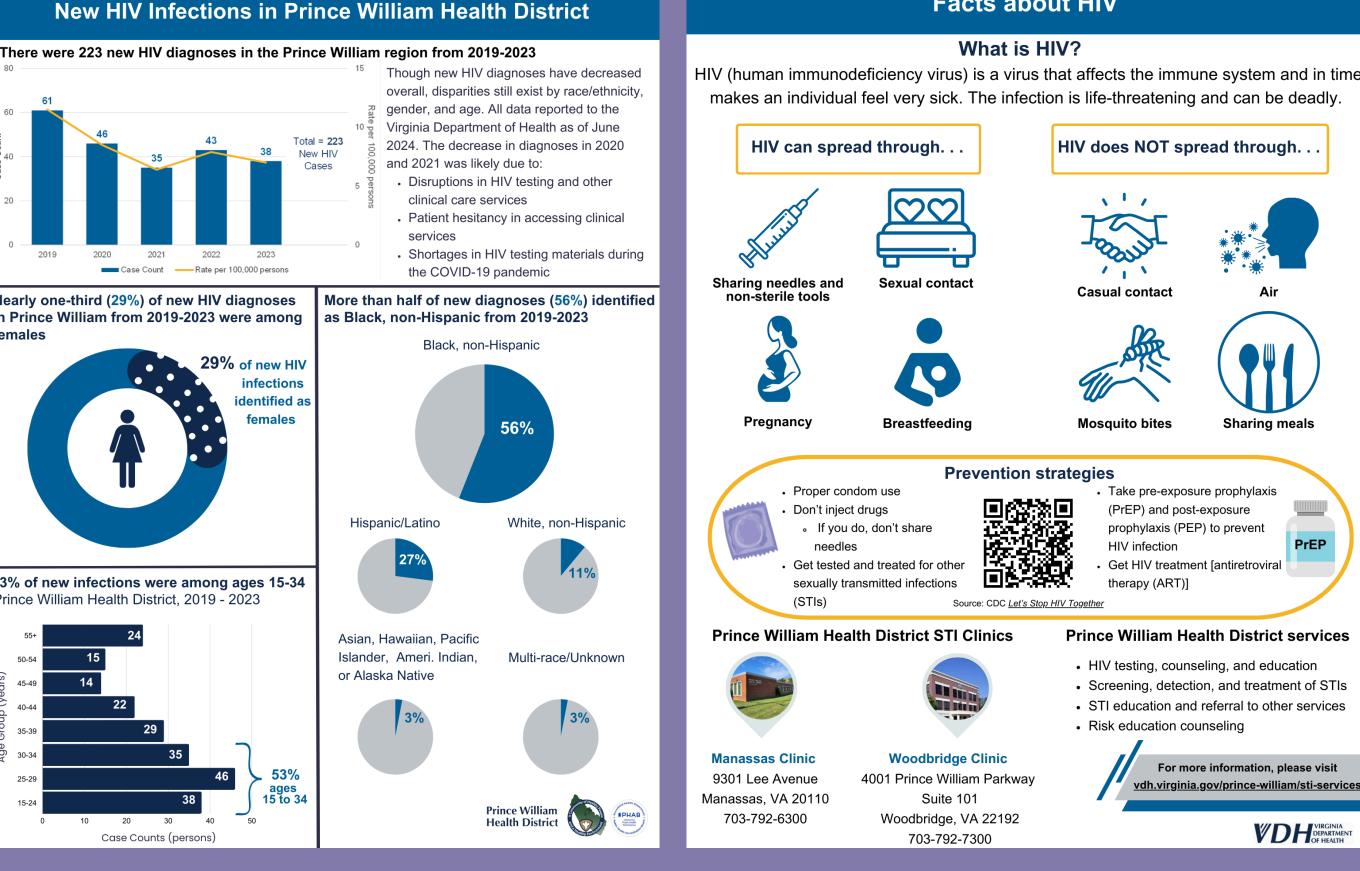
Outputs

- Conducted 20 interviews with staff across
 5 divisions and 16 program areas
- Contributed to routine communication efforts (e.g., Facebook, X, Nextdoor)
- Supported Community Engagement team
- Attended community outreach events
- Shadowed Public Health Nurses in STI and Immunization Clinics
- Attended a marina inspection and a 45day follow-up rabies site visit
- Identified key findings and themes to advance CHA and engagement efforts
- Reported project findings to leaders and staff at PWHD

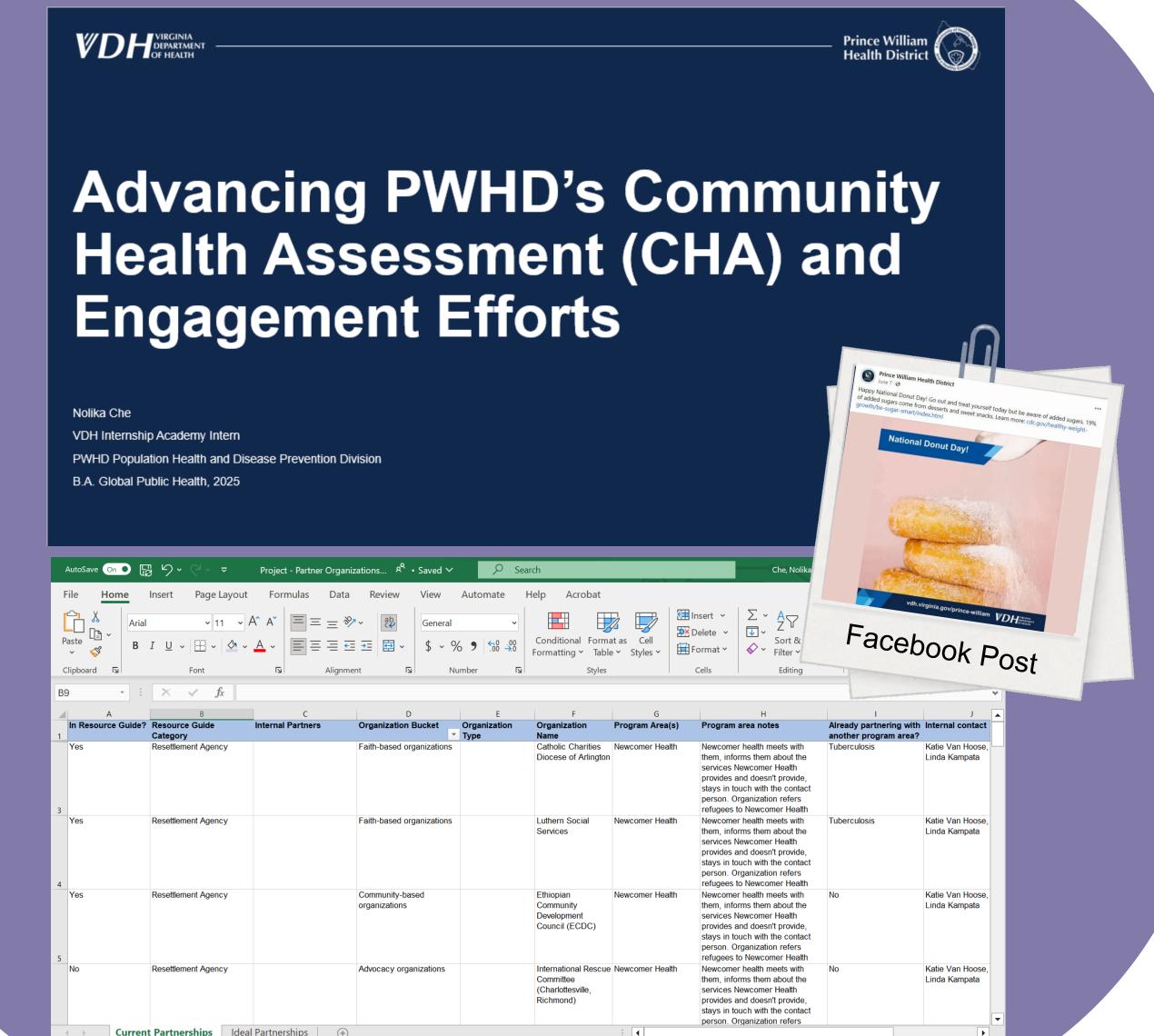
Challenges

- Foster and maintain strong relationships with populations (e.g., LGBTQ+ and Refugees)
- Patient hesitancy in accessing clinical services due to insurance status and STI misconceptions and stigma

National HIV Testing Day Infographic New HIV Infections in Prince William Health District Facts about HIV



Project Outcomes

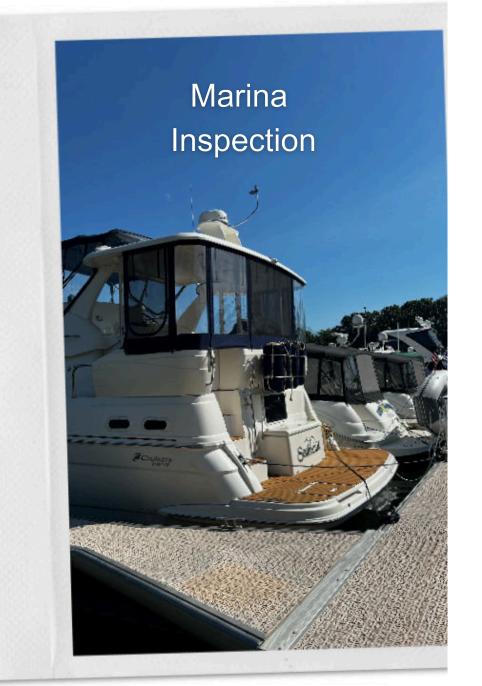


Experiences

Mobile Clinic Unit











Shadowing in



Lessons Learned

- Benefit of building off of previous intern work
- Limited financial resources constrain programming
- Addressing health concerns requires collaboration with community stakeholders
- Importance of flexibility and task management

Takeaways

- Grasp scope and immerse in day-to-day functions of Health District
- Understand direct impact of public health initiatives
- Enhance ability to collect, analyze, and interpret data
- Learn how to create and deliver health education materials to community
- Improve critical thinking and problem-solving skills
- Develop meaningful relationships with staff

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