

Let's talk data!

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Hello, my name is Savannah Carrico and I am the public health epidemiologist with the Durham County Department of Public Health.

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When we look at the data, we want to know if we're seeing a higher or lower number of cases than we expected. If a population is over represented, it means that we're seeing more cases in one population than we expected. If a population is under represented, it means that we're seeing fewer cases in one population than expected. For example, 54% of Durham County is white but only 37% of COVID cases are among white people. Therefore, COVID cases among white people are underrepresented.

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Here is a breakdown of all cases of COVID in July 2022. Hispanic and LatinX individuals are over-represented in COVID-19 cases making up 20.33% of all cases while only 14% of Durham County residents identify as Hispanic or Latin. Black or African American individuals are proportionally represented in COVID-19 cases making up 37.40% of cases are among Black or African American individuals, while 37% of Durham County residents identify as Black or African American. White individuals are under-represented in COVID-19 cases making up 41.75% of cases while 54% of Durham County residents identify as white.

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Data can get complicated fast. We need a way to make it simple for non scientists to interpret data. In most cases, we are comparing two different data sets. Usually we compare one data set that occurred at one time period to another data set at a different time period. For example, we want to compare last week's data to this week's data to look for a trend. Trends are increases or decreases. All metrics (ways to measure data) must be equal between populations. You can't compare apples to oranges!

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You've probably heard of Omicron by now. Omicron is a variant of COVID that emerged around December of 2021. Think of variants as slightly different versions of the same thing. For example, Toyota is a car company that makes many different types of cars such as Corollas, Camrys, and Tacomas. COVID has variants as well such as Alpha (the original variant), Delta, and Omicron. Each variant is different from each other but they are all the same virus.

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- Since January 1, 2022 Durham County has given 599,876 COVID vaccine doses.
- 77% of Asian residents are fully vaccinated
- 51% of Black or African American residents are fully vaccinated
- 66% of Hispanic or LatinX residents are fully vaccinated
- 62% of white residents are fully vaccinated

Many people of color have mistrust of the medical system, systemic racism, inequities....

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This is a graph that shows the total number of cases we've had since the beginning of the pandemic (dark blue), the number of new cases each day (medium blue), and the 7 day moving average which is the average number of cases each day in the last week (light blue). Cases almost quadrupled during December 2021 – February 2022 with the emergence of Omicron. Cases dramatically dropped in February but are slowly rising.

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This is a screen shot from CDC's data tracker website for Durham County. You can see that the last time this was updated, Durham County had a rate of 305.77 cases per 100,000. This puts Durham County in the High Transmission stage. People should consider wearing masks while indoors even though it is not mandated.

# Durham County, North Carolina

[State Health Department](#) 

## COVID-19 Community Level

 High

### Recommended actions based on current level

Wear a mask indoors in public and on [public transportation](#). Stay [up to date](#) with COVID-19 vaccines. [Get tested](#) if you have symptoms. If you are at [high risk for severe illness](#), consider taking [additional precautions](#).

### Weekly Metrics Used to Determine the COVID-19 Community Level

Case Rate per 100,000 population	305.77
New COVID-19 admissions per 100,000 population	17.9
% Staffed inpatient beds in use by patients with confirmed COVID-19	7.4%

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Hospitalizations peaked in December 2021 and January 2022. They fell dramatically after the initial Omicron surge. Hospitalizations did not increase as expected compared to the delta wave indicating that Omicron is less severe.

Slide 10:

There have been 347 deaths so far in Durham County. 46% are among white residents while 43% are among Black or African American residents. Medical mistrust, racism, ....

Slide 11:

Here is an example of another way to interpret data. This map is showing all of the different zip codes in Durham County and how many COVID cases per 100,000 there are in each zip code. Let's take a look at the legend again which is in the top right corner. The different colors represent different rates per 100,000. The darker the color, the higher the rate per 100,000. This means that the darker the color, the more COVID cases there are per 100,000 people in Durham County.

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Thank you very much for your time. If you have any questions feel free to reach out to me.