

Dr. Sandra Greene
 Chair, State Health Coordinating Council
 North Carolina Division of Health Service Regulation
 Healthcare Planning and Certificate of Need Section
 2704 Mail Service Center
 Raleigh, NC 27699-2704

Dear Dr. Greene,

I hope this letter finds you well. As requested, we are providing insight into our community demographics, specific to Mecklenburg County, with a focus on Charlotte’s Crescent zip codes. I am pleased to share with you our most recent demographic data. It is important to note that we are one of eleven providers that serve patients in Mecklenburg County and our admissions today represent a little over half the total annual admissions, therefore this data is only representative of the impact of VIA Health Partners in Mecklenburg County.

The data presented reflects a comprehensive analysis of the racial composition of hospice admissions from January 2021 to June 2024. This information is crucial for understanding the diversity within our community and guiding our current and future initiatives aimed at fostering inclusivity, equity and access to Palliative and Hospice Care.

Here is a summary of the key findings:

1. Overall Crescent and Mecklenburg Admission Demographic Breakdown: 2021-2024

Race - Ethnicity	Crescent Admission Count	% of Total Crescent Admissions	Total Mecklenburg County Admission Count	Crescent Admissions as a % of Mecklenburg County Admissions
WHITE	1,359	35%	7,795	17%
BLACK OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN	1,544	40%	2,833	55%
UNKNOWN	719	19%	2,626	27%
HISPANIC OR LATINO	121	3%	253	48%
ASIAN	94	2%	185	51%
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	20	1%	47	43%
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER	2	0%	9	22%
MIDDLE EASTERN	2	0%	7	29%
TWO OR MORE RACES	1	0%	3	33%
I DO NOT WISH TO SELF-IDENTIFY	1	0%	1	100%
Grand Total	3,863	100%	13,759	28%

Admission Trend Data:

Race - Ethnicity	2021	2022	2023	2024 June YTD	Total
WHITE	389	368	411	191	1,359
UNKNOWN	183	191	159	186	719
BLACK OR AFRICAN-AMERICAN	386	383	512	263	1,544
HISPANIC OR LATINO	29	34	39	19	121
ASIAN	21	17	33	23	94
AMERICAN INDIAN OR ALASKA NATIVE	3	5	7	5	20
NATIVE HAWAIIAN OR PACIFIC ISLANDER		1	2		3
MIDDLE EASTERN			1		1
TWO OR MORE RACES		1			1
I DO NOT WISH TO SELF-IDENTIFY		1			1
Total	1,011	1,001	1,164	687	3,863

2. Trends and Comparisons:

- o African American Admissions are increasing
- o The “Unknown” category is significant and tends to be a minority demographic.
- o In 2023, the first full post Covid year, admissions increased significantly, and VIA Health Partners expects to eclipse those admissions in 2024 projecting 526 admission in the Crescent.

3. Implications and Next Steps:

- o Are we culturally and ethnically aligned with our community? Yes, our Care Teams and staff represent the demographics of Mecklenburg County as demonstrated below.

Ethnicity	Mecklenburg VIA direct care staff	Meck County Population Vital Statistics 2021	RN's	LPN's	NA's	MD's	SW's	NP's	Chaplains
American Indian/Alaska Native	0.46%	0.30%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%	4.55%	0.00%
Asian	1.85%	6.44%	1.43%	0.00%	0.00%	25.00%	0.00%	0.00%	0.00%
Black/African American	42.13%	31.70%	25.71%	42.11%	77.27%	25.00%	40.00%	9.09%	44.44%
Hispanic or Latino	4.63%	14.11%	2.86%	5.26%	4.55%	0.00%	10.00%	9.09%	0.00%
Two or More Races	3.24%	2.18%	2.86%	5.26%	3.57%	8.33%	0.00%	4.55%	0.00%
White	47.69%	45.30%	67.14%	47.37%	15.15%	41.67%	50.00%	72.73%	55.56%
	100.00%	100.03%	100.00%	100.00%	100.54%	100.00%	100.00%	100.01%	100.00%

- Are we culturally and ethnically aligned for care in The Crescent?
 - 245 staff members reside in Mecklenburg
 - 140 or 57% are Minority
 - 119 or 49% are AA/Black
 - 73 or 30% reside in the Crescent
 - 60 or 82% that reside in the Crescent are AA/Minority
- Yes, our staff demographics are representative of the Crescent and Mecklenburg County.

We recognize the importance of maintaining updated demographic information and are committed to utilizing this data responsibly to enhance our understanding of the community we serve, and our continued evolution related to cultural awareness.

Should you have any questions or require further information regarding this report, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 704-335-3501 or brunnickp@viahp.org.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to continuing our efforts in promoting culturally competent health care in Mecklenburg and our entire geographic service area.

Sincerely,

Peter Brunnick
President & CEO