

NATIVE HAWAIIAN HEALTH

In line with its mission to improve the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians, Queen's has made a long-term commitment to align its strengths with the priority health needs of Native Hawaiians.

Overview:

The Queen's Health System established its Native Hawaiian Health program in 2006 to enhance the health and well-being of Native Hawaiians who have a life expectancy that is 6.2 years less than other ethnicities because of a higher prevalence of heart disease, cancer, diabetes, obesity, tuberculosis and COVID-19, and a propensity to smoke and consume alcohol.

Native Hawaiians also distrust the healthcare system and underutilize primary care and outpatient services, driving the need for care in hospital emergency departments. To overcome these challenges, the Native Hawaiian Health program seeks to enhance trust, improve health outcomes through better access to primary and specialty care, provide culturally based services and care delivery, increase focus on wellness and prevention and health literacy, and engage community partners to operationalize new initiatives that meet these needs.

Demonstrated Results in Improved Health Outcomes:

The growth of seven culturally safe clinical programs within primary and specialty care settings across the health system resulted in the following improved outcomes (as of the end of FY 2022):

- 219 unique patient encounters (FY 2022 target = 174)
- A reduced inpatient readmissions to 42, exceeding the goal of ≤ 71 and an improvement from 73 in FY21.
- 1,004 NH no shows or cancellations in primary care/wound care settings exceeding the goal of $\leq 2,391$ and 1,004 less than FY21.
- 103 new NH patients, far exceeding the goal of 80 and 12 more than FY 21.
- 9,738 patient encounters, exceeding FY22 target of 9,471 and 540 more than FY 21.
- 5% improvement of NH wound healing rate through appointment compliance exceeding target of $\geq 3.24\%$ and 1.76% more than FY21.

Three phase-one projects treating high-risk diabetic patients while assessing the effectiveness of culture-responsive interventions showed proof-of-concept and achieved these positive outcomes:

Queen Emma Clinics' Kilolani Project:

- Increased Native Hawaiian encounters in FY22 by 1,400.
- Included 128 high risk diabetes patients.

Queen's Medical Center – West O'ahu's Nā Pua Kaiona Project:

- Decreased no show/cancellations by 43%.
- Increased the number of Native Hawaiian visits by 14%.
- Decreased emergency room visits by 0.44%.
- Improved wound healing rate by 5.37%.

Queen's North Hawai'i Community Hospital's Kahu a Ola Project:

- Decrease Hemoglobin A1c – average for 3 quarters was 7.2
- Decrease Body Mass Index – average for 3 quarters was 34.7
- Decrease Blood Pressure – average for 3 quarters was 139/81

Additionally, while COVID-19 vaccinations among Native Hawaiians lagged behind non-Hawaiians, the Mobile Vaccine Clinic, supported by the Native Hawaiian Health team, created community access and culture-responsive networking. In FY22, it showed a promising trend to increase Native Hawaiian vaccinations as seen in the outcomes below:

- Mobile vaccinations: 1,825 (25%) Native Hawaiians to 5475 (75%) non-Hawaiians.
- West O'ahu Vaccine Clinic: 6,257 (18%) Native Hawaiians to 27,628 (82%) non-Hawaiians.
- Blaisdell Vaccine Clinic: 4,220 (11%) Native Hawaiians to 33,758 (89%) non-Hawaiians.

Future Goals:

- The Native Hawaiian Health Program seeks to develop new models of care that focus on illness prevention, coordinated care and proactive health management.
- Preparations are underway to enter several risk-based arrangements with different payers.
- Queen's also strives to improve data analytics to better understand the population's healthcare needs and to optimize care and support.

Expanding Research and Planning for a Genomics Institute:

In FY22, the Queen's Native Hawaiian Health team began work on a proposal to establish a Genomics Institute that would expand oncology genetics and neuroscience diagnostics. This clinical and genetics research will improve the health of Native Hawaiians who have higher familial rates of certain cancers, diabetes, and other health disparities. And while this initiative will initially focus on Native Hawaiians, Hawai'i's diverse Asian ethnic groups are also important populations who can benefit from a Genomics Institute and its clinical and research programs.

The potential benefits of a Genomics Institute at The Queen's Health System include:

- Conducting in-house genetic testing that is currently sent out-of-state.
- Empowering the NHH Department to ensure data sovereignty and protections from abuse by large commercial pharma and genomics companies of Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander and Asian genomic data bases in Hawai'i.
- Revenue generation from clinical genetic testing remaining in Hawai'i.
- Revenue generation from genomic patents benefiting the sustainability of the Genomics Institute and Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islander and Asians populations who provide genomic material.