



## Immunization Program Provider Spotlight December 2022

### Danbury and Stamford Local Health Departments

When you think of “A Tale of Two Cities”, the first thing that comes to mind is probably the literary classic by Charles Dickens, but it is also the perfect summary of the pilot rapid community assessment (RCA) that has been taking place in Danbury and Stamford. The RCA process has several steps, including planning, training, data collection, analysis, and reporting results. Over several weeks, leadership at the Stamford Department of Health and Danbury Health and Human Services worked with their teams, community partners, DPH, and CDC to plan and coordinate the RCA with the objectives of better understanding why children aged 2-5 are not up-to-date with their routine childhood immunizations, better understanding the barriers to vaccination, and better understanding where their communities were looking for vaccination information and access. While each town had additional populations of interest, both Danbury and Stamford wanted to focus on Hispanic residents as a priority for this pilot.

Just over two weeks ago, staff in both towns performed their data collection and went into their communities, performing listening sessions with organizations, having conversations with community partners about the barriers they heard from members of the community, and talking to numerous residents of the towns in intercept conversations to better understand their perceptions and the barriers they faced. These efforts took place all over their communities, from sessions at libraries and over Zoom to quick interviews at shopping centers and malls. Each day, the teams debriefed after their data collection activities, sharing the things they heard from the community and starting to look at emerging themes. Despite each town having a different approach to their pilot, they both had the same feeling at the end: the RCA was a valuable tool to really hear the voice of their community and identify access barriers.

Data analysis is currently taking place, and both Danbury and Stamford will be working to compile their results. Stay tuned for Part 2 of this spotlight in our February issue to hear more about the results of this pilot and the experiences of each town!