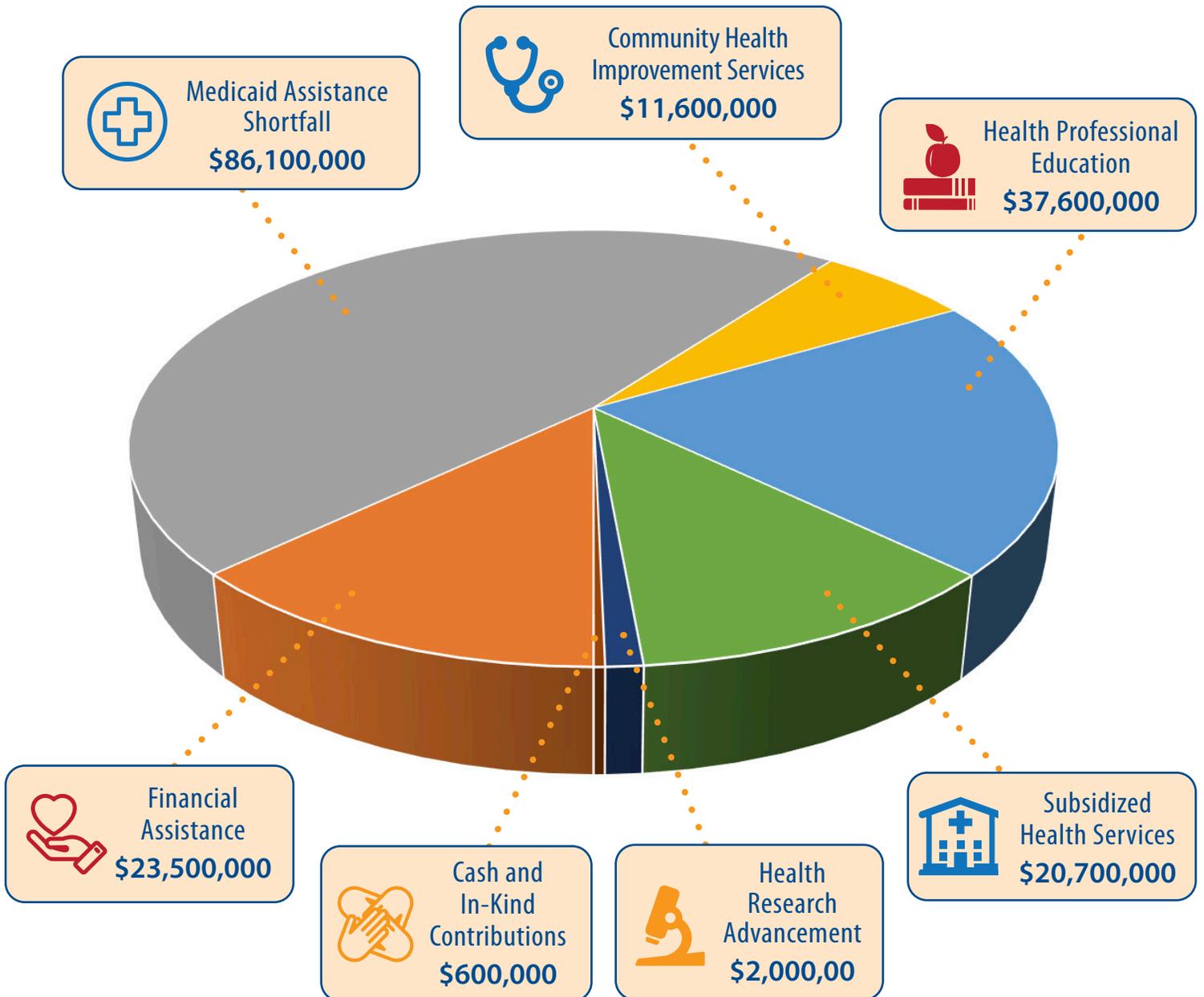


Atlantic Health System 2019 Community Benefit Report

2019 Total Community Benefit
\$182,100,000



Dental Center at Morristown Medical Center

The Leonard Szerlip Dental Center at Morristown Medical Center provides much-needed dental care to at-risk children, economically disadvantaged, and developmentally disabled populations, who would otherwise face barriers to receiving care, in a state-of-the-art, hospital-based facility.

Our new dentists can continue postdoctoral training by choosing to participate in a general practice residency where they spend one year in Morristown Medical Center alongside medical residents and medical/dental staff. They provide comprehensive treatment for outpatients as well as inpatients who may need clearance for surgical procedures or emergency services. Residents also assist oral surgeons in the operating room, trauma, emergency department and nursery.

Outpatients, who range in age from two days old to 106 years, are either on Medicaid or covered through Charity Care. We provide all dental services including comprehensive restoration of the dentition. Eligible patients do not pay anything unless Charity Care is not 100%. Outpatients are encouraged to use us as their “dental home.” The Dental Center also receives grant dollars from Delta Dental and the Foundation for Morristown Medical Center.

We have an all-volunteer dental staff of approximately 120 local dentists. These volunteer doctors train, treat, and support our educational program with the gift of their time and expertise.

In 2019, we performed \$113,468.00 of Charity Care and \$1,033,907 of services covered by Medicaid. These fees represent 20% of the cost of care in the private environment. In other words, we provided \$5,763,875 for care to the underserved. This does not include a value for the cost of the 120 attendings’ time.

No Topic Is Taboo on Health Website for Teens

While it would be great if all teenagers felt comfortable talking to their parents about the issues that concern them most, having a trusted outside resource can be a huge help. In that spirit, Atlantic Health System Children’s Health and Goryeb Children’s Hospital/Adolescent and Young Adult Center for Health have refreshed TeenHealthFX.com, their award-winning website which was launched in September 1999. To date, the site has had over 30 million visitors.

It’s an online health resource where adolescents living in New Jersey can feel empowered to ask anonymous questions about their health, body and sexuality and receive unbiased, medically backed information from health experts as well as access to medical, mental health and other support services. It’s truly a place of no judgement where no question is too trite or taboo.

Before COVID, most of the anonymous questions asked were



related to sexuality, body issues and mental health. Since the pandemic, there have been more questions about health/safety, COVID-19 facts and prevention and mental/emotional health.

The site also provides information about careers in health care, as well as lesson plans, instructional tools and resources for educators in a wide array of topics that align with the National Health Education Standards.

The professional staff from Children’s Health and Goryeb Children’s Hospital/Adolescent and Young Adult Center for Health are responsible for the site’s content and operation. They include adolescent medicine physicians, clinical social workers, dietitians, health educators, nurses, pediatricians and pediatric subspecialists, psychiatrists, psychologists and other health experts. There’s even a “Teens for Teens” section with content written by teenagers.

Faith Community Health Partnerships at Newton

Newton Medical Center’s Spiritual Care Department, with support from Atlantic Health System’s Community Health and Behavioral Health departments, has collaborated with nearly 50 faith congregations in Faith Community Health Partnerships. Spiritual Care uses a three-pronged approach with local congregations to better serve their members admitted to Newton Medical Center: identifying congregants at admission, following up at discharge, and community health education.

We allowed training of lay leaders from partner congregations to visit congregants in the hospital when they were admitted. Spiritual Care identified congregants who submitted faith community information during admission. Once a pastoral visit was made through Spiritual Care, we asked permission from the patient for the clergy to alert their congregation so they may support that patient. We also followed up with patients and, with permission, allowed their congregational leader to know when patients were discharged and to where – a rehab, nursing home, long-term care facility, another hospital or to home.

We also developed trainings to teach lay people to visit hospitalized congregants, make volunteer home visits/supportive presence ministry (groceries, meals, communion, listening, helping with doctor appointments) and to consider what an active health ministry should include, such as a bulletin board for health-related events, blood pressure screenings by nurses in the congregation, or seminars with hospital specialists as guest speakers.

As a third aspect of Faith Community Health Partnerships, we coordinated events on topics like Alzheimer’s, cancer, heart disease, and mental illness. Three times per year we invited congregations and community members for discussions, usually drawing between 25-35 people. Over the past two years, working with Atlantic Health System Behavioral Health, we focused many efforts around mental health with a “No More Whispers” emphasis to break the stigma around behavioral health. We held three events to educate clergy in their work with community members suffering with mental illness.

