

Application of Course Knowledge: Answer all questions/criteria with explanations and detail.

1. Identify and define the local problem you will address in your analysis.
2. Include background information about the problem.
3. Describe why the topic is important.
4. Explain why the topic needs to be addressed now.

Based on the most recent 2025 data from the Raleigh and Wake County community, several critical healthcare issues have been identified as top priorities for the next three years. Access to Healthcare is identified as one of the top priorities for action through 2028. Persistent gaps exist in healthcare access, particularly for older adults, Black residents, and those in eastern Wake County. Key barriers include cost, language, and insurance complexity. People with lower socioeconomic status are more likely to have poorer health. This is because of the correlation between socioeconomic status and health (Hill-Briggs et al., 2021). Inequalities of healthcare access originate from circumstances, such as racial or ethnic background, social standing, or even genetics. We can make strides toward a more equal society if we take action to minimize these disparities.

Access to healthcare is widely considered a fundamental driver of a thriving society. It ensures the timely use of personal health services to achieve the best possible health outcomes. Accessible care allows for regular screenings, immunizations, and well-child visits, which help detect diseases like cancer and diabetes at early, more treatable stages.

Access to healthcare must be addressed because it is the primary gateway to nearly all health, economic, and social benefits. Without it, individuals and systems face spiraling costs and