SAICEP

Southeastern American Indian Cancer health Equity Partnership

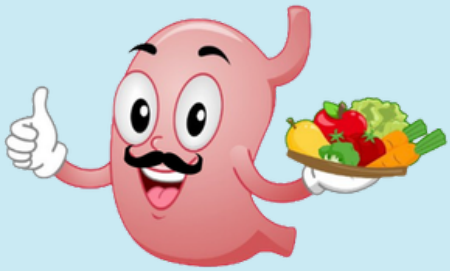
# STASH STUDY RESULTS

NOVEMBER 2026



## Thank you for participating!

We want to thank you for participating in the Supporting Tribal Stomach Health (STASH) study on the bacteria *Helicobacter pylori* (*H. pylori*) in North Carolina American Indian communities. We were able to visit the Lumbee, Coharie, and Haliwa-Saponi tribal communities. Research like this would not be possible without partners like you who help advance science and support healthier communities.



### Why This Matters

- Although *H. pylori* infection often causes no symptoms, it is the leading cause of stomach cancer in the U.S.
- Fortunately, *H. pylori* can be treated with a 2-week course of antibiotics and a proton pump inhibitor. Treating *H. pylori* can reduce stomach cancer risk by about 50%.
- Screening and treatment can help prevent stomach cancer and save lives.

Questions? Please contact the **STASH** study team at 919-681-4762 or meira.epplein@duke.edu.

Duke Cancer Institute

# STASH Study Results

## Who Was In The Study



**64 Volunteers** **Average Age: 52**

**Everyone who joined the study:**

- **Filled out a questionnaire**
- **Did a breath test for *H. pylori***

All participants enrolled in the **STASH** study from January 2025 to April 2026.



## What We Learned

- **10 study participants had an *H. pylori* infection**
- **The majority of participants discussed their *H. pylori* infection with their primary care provider, and 3 participants reported receiving treatment.**
- **Participants were not any more or less likely to have *H. pylori* based on their age, gender, race, or medical history.**




## What These Results Mean

- **If the test result we mailed or emailed to you was negative, it means you don't have *H. pylori*.**
- **1 out of every 6 people in our study was positive for *H. pylori* and referred for treatment.**
- **Most people clear *H. pylori* after one round of treatment, but about 30% need additional treatment.**



## Our Next Steps

- **We shared our findings with healthcare providers and researchers to raise awareness of *H. pylori* and stomach cancer in our communities.**
- **We plan to explore patient navigation services to support treatment and follow-up care.**

***Special thanks*** to our community representatives in the Lumbee, Coharie, and Haliwa-Saponi tribes.