





The ability of a public health agency to possess infrastructure of “foundational capabilities” and provide “essential services” relies on the skill of the people who comprise the workforce.

FIGURE 3: NATIONAL DATA FROM THE 2021 NATION-WIDE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE INTEREST AND NEEDS SURVEY (PH WINS),



FIGURE 4: PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS



## STRENGTHENING FOUNDATIONAL CAPABILITIES

DPH is leveraging federal COVID-19 related funding streams toward capacity strengthening using the Foundational Capabilities (FCs) of the Foundational Public Health Services (Figure 1) as a framework for state and local COVID-19 response and recovery. The *Public Health Workforce* initiative – funded by the American Rescue Plan Act – predominately focuses on governmental public health capacity and the *COVID-19 Health Disparities* effort – funded by the CARES Act – goes beyond traditional governmental public health to address the non-medical drivers of health in partnership with a broader set of actors.

Emphasizing North Carolina’s commitment to health equity, NCDHHS appointed its first Chief Health Equity Officer in 2021 with responsibility for leading the overarching strategy and operational goals to promote health equity, diversity, and inclusion across all the agency’s health and human services.







