

Urban Pharmacy Desert: The International District

Executive statement

The International District (ID) is an urban pharmacy desert, with over 25k residents living outside of a 0.5-mile distance, and two nearby commercial pharmacies closing within a period of six months. To avoid compounding racial health disparities in this community, which includes large BIPOC populations, it is necessary to economically invest in providing pharmacological service and general health items in the heart of the ID.

Background

This urban neighborhood has the largest concentration of transit-dependent riders in the state, and includes high densities of individuals living in census blocks with below-average socioeconomic index (SEI). The effects of a pharmacy desert are severe, affecting access to prescription medications which can reduce medication adherence and cause long-lasting health effects, including increased hospitalization rates and mortality. Additionally, treatment costs are higher on average. Finally, medication home delivery is an option only for patients who have a stable mailing address.

Recommendations

Provide economic incentives or acquire real estate to establish a pharmacy near Central & Charleston. This could provide accessible service (within 0.5 mi) to up to 7860 people in an area with below-average SEIs. See <https://bit.ly/ABQMapPharmacy>

