The Center for Health Equity Research (CHER) brings together collaborative, multidisciplinary teams of scholars and community members to improve health in underserved communities through a shared commitment to health equity, innovation, and translational research.

MAPSCorps pairs local youth with science-oriented university students. Working in teams, MAPSCorps youth walk every block of their communities, observing, collecting, cataloguing, and analyzing data about all public-facing businesses and organizations. The original program was developed at the University of Chicago. In partnership with the Chicago team, MAPSCorps NC has been adapted for Edgecombe and Nash counties of North Carolina. In 2016 Youth mappers began by documenting the assets in the city of Rocky Mount. In future years, mapping will expand to include other townships in the Twin Counties.

What are the benefits of MAPSCorps Nash & Edgecombe?

For youth:
- Exposure to scientific research
- Data collection and technology use experience
- Workforce readiness and job retention skills
- Public speaking and communication skills
- Valuable mentorship

For communities:
- Up-to-date information on community resources
- Public access to asset data via website
- Employment opportunities for local youth
- Promotion of local community organizations and businesses

We need your help! If you're interested in donating time or resources please contact us at mapsncorpsnc@unc.edu