State of the County's Health Report
December 2010

Wilson County Health Department

2010 State of the County Health Report
Wilson County, NC

Wilson County Health Department conducts a Community Health Assessment every four years to show local demographics, leading causes of death and other priority issues within Wilson County. During the three interim years, Wilson County Health Department will publish a State-of-the-County Health Report (SOTCH) to update priority issues, identify new initiatives within the county and emerging issues.

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Wilson County North Carolina

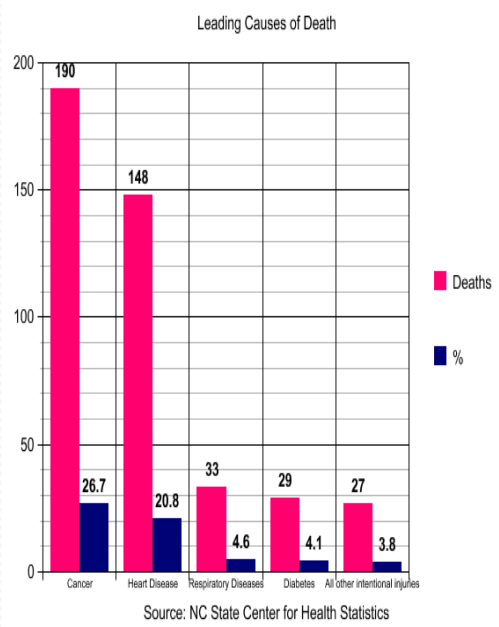
Wilson County is county located in the Eastern part of North Carolina. The County seat is Wilson. The mild climate is a favorable factor in the life of Wilson. The annual average temperature is 60.8 degrees. The county was named for Louis D. Wilson, legislator and soldier, who died during the Mexican War. Wilson County is one of the 100 counties in North Carolina.

Leading Causes of Death

Of the 711 deaths that occurred in Wilson County in 2008, 60% were caused by cancer, heart disease, respiratory disease, diabetes, and unintentional injuries. The five leading causes of death in Wilson County in 2008 were:

1. Cancer – 190 – 26.7%
2. Heart Disease- 148 – 20.8%
3. Respiratory Diseases- 33 – 4.6%
4. Diabetes – 29 – 4.1%
5. All other unintentional injuries - 27 – 3.8%

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics



Wilson County at-a-Glance

Demographics

Population	78, 917
2009 estimate	
Whites	58.9%
Blacks	39.4%
American Indian &	0.3%
Alaska Native	
Asian	0.7%
Two or more races	0.7%
Hispanic (of any race)	8.0%
Person living below poverty	21.0%
2008	
Per Capita money income,	$ 17,102
1999	

Source: NC County Health Data Book 2010

Education

Drop Out Rate – 2008 - 2009	Grades 9 - 12
Wilson County	5.43%
NC State	4.27%

Overall the last five years, Wilson County has experienced a slight decrease in dropout rates. The graduation rate for Wilson County continues to increase.

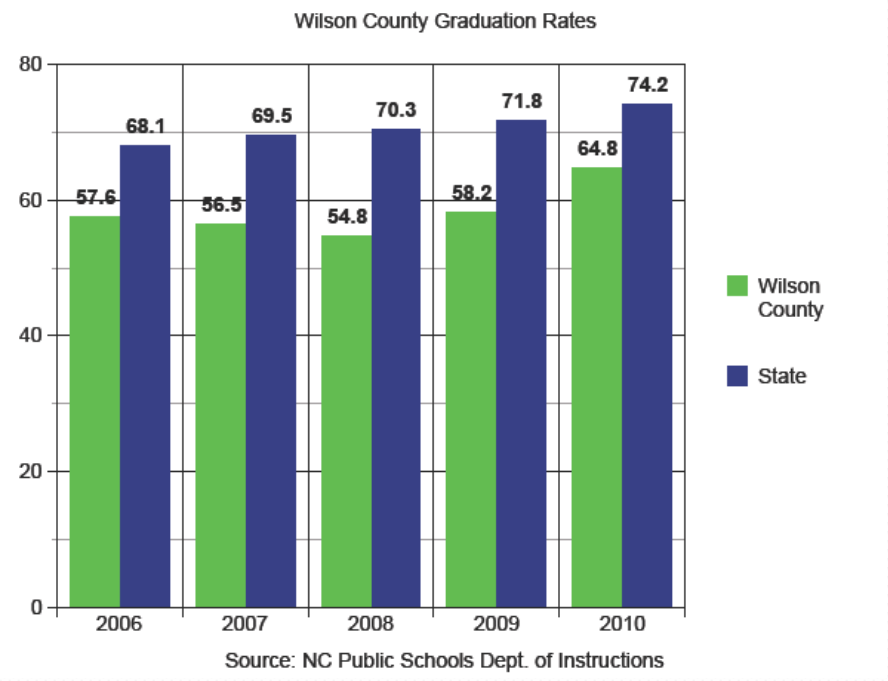
Graduation Rates

Wilson County	State
2006 – 57.6%	2006 - 68.1%
2007 - 56.5%	2007 - 69.5%
2008 - 54.8%	2008 – 70.3%
2009 - 58.2%	2009 – 71.8%
2010 - 64.8%	2010 – 74.2%

Source: NC Public Schools Department of Instructions

Socioeconomic Indicators

- As for June 2010 the unemployment rate was 12.6% compared to 10.0% for the state.
- The median income received in Wilson County for 2008 was $39,285 compared to the state's $46,574.
- In 2008, 21.% residents lived below the poverty level which is significantly higher than the state level at 14.6%.
- As of August, 2010 the county labor force was 40,253. Number for unemployment was 5,066.
- A local restaurant closed October 3, 2010 leaving 34 employees out of work. Griff's Steak Barn opened in 1971.



Progress Toward Health Concerns

These priorities were selected as a result of the 2007 Community Health Assessment.

Illegal Drug Activities

- Wilson County residents expressed great concerns about the illegal drug activity in Wilson County. The Sheriff's Department has made great strides in conquering those activities. From January 1st to December 31st, 2009 there were 292 drug arrests made by Wilson County Sheriff's Department. From January 1st to August 31st 2010 there were 205 drug arrests. The Wilson County Sheriff's Department is making every effort to rid Wilson County of illegal drugs and drug activity.

Affordable Health Care Services

- Wilson Wound Healing Center opened on July 13, 2010. The Center is staffed with a unique team of doctors, nurses, and therapists all dedicated to healing wounds.
  These services are offered:
  Debridement (removal of dead or damaged tissue)
  Hyperbaric oxygen therapy
  Bio-engineered substitutes

- Wilson County Health Department began offering primary care services that includes: sick child care, college and high school sports physicals, male and female physicals.

Progress Toward Health Concerns

- In addition to use of services, access to care may be characterized by medical care coverage and service availability.
- Uninsured individuals (age 65 under) 10,936
- Medicare beneficiaries

Elderly (Age 65 +)	10,783
Disabled	3,337

- Medicaid beneficiaries 18,129
- Primary care physicians per 100,000 pop 52.9
- Dentists per 100,000 pop 28.4

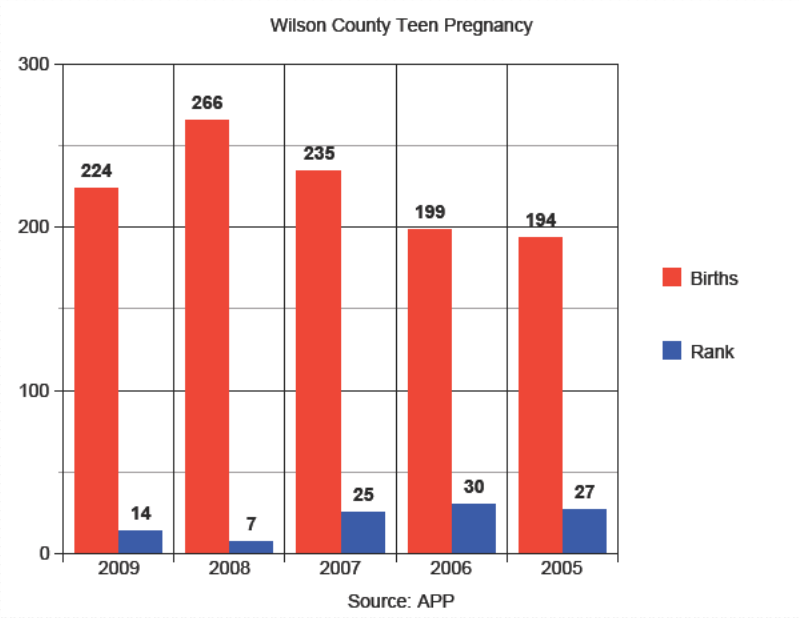
Source: Community Health Status Indicators

Alcohol/Drug Use

- Wilson County Substance Coalition sponsored a “Prescription Drug Drop Off Day” on September 25, 2010 at several locations in Wilson. The purpose was to collect expired and unused prescription medication and dispose of them anonymously and safely. Also to keep and reduce teens from using medication not prescribed for them. The event was co-sponsored by Wilson Police Department, Wilson County Sheriff’s Department and Drug Enforcement Agency. In 2009 the Wilson County Substance Coalition did a survey of retail outlets and found that 29% of these outlets were not checking ID making them more likely to sell alcohol to/for a minor. April 2nd 2010 was a day designated for dropping off RX meds at designated spots in the county. This initiative was partnered with Wilson County Health Department, EMS, Vol. Fire Dept. and local law enforcement. Wilson County Substance Coalition collected 28,200 doses of controlled substances including Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) pills prescribed by Veterans Affairs Hospital (VA). This pill is usually prescribed to cancer patients to increase their appetite.

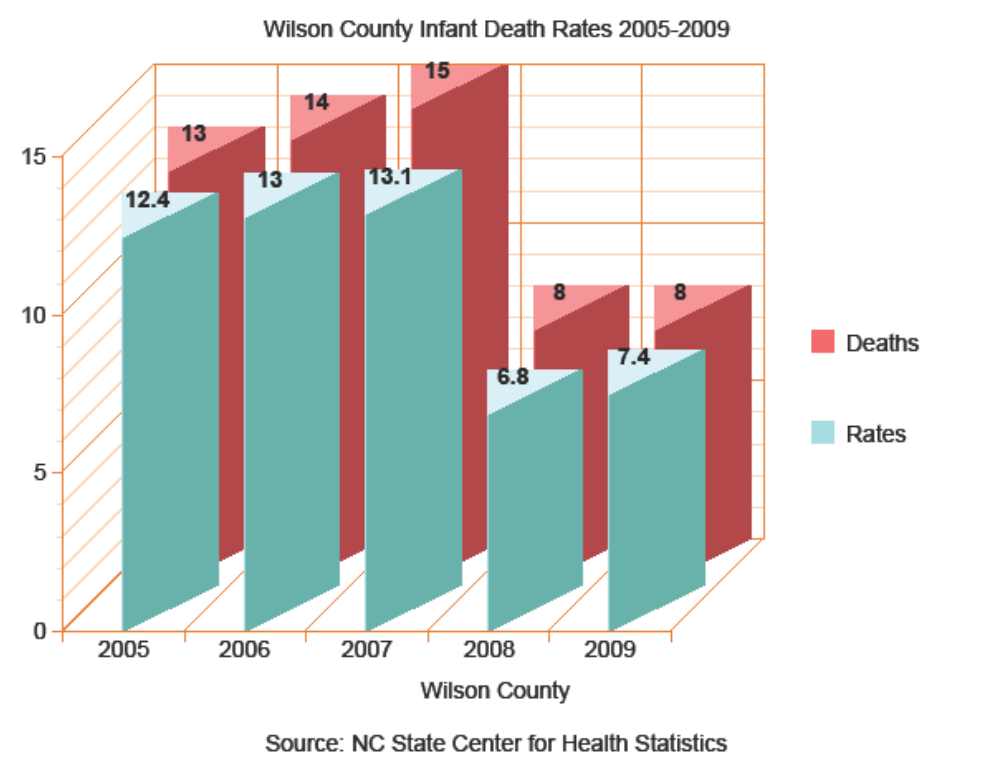
Unsafe Sex/Teen Pregnancy

- Wilson County ranked #4 for AIDS cases in 2009 in the State of North Carolina. For HIV cases Wilson County ranked #6 in the State. Wilson County also reported 26 new cases of HIV, 585 cases of Chlamydia, 238 cases of Gonorrhea and 19 new cases of AIDS in 2009. From January to June 2010, Wilson County reported 329 cases of Chlamydia, 143 cases of Gonorrhea and 5 cases of secondary Syphilis.
- Wilson County health educator has presented to over 150 youths in local high schools and churches on sexually transmitted diseases and teen pregnancy prevention in 2009 and 2010.
- Wilson OIC has a teen pregnancy prevention program which has over 50 teens participating. This is an afterschool program and was initiated from adolescent teen pregnancy prevention grant.
- Wilson County health educator and Wilson County School health nurses collaborate together to provide an evidence based teen pregnancy prevention program "Real Care Parenting Program." Over 100 middle school students have participated in this program. As of this date none of the participants have become pregnant (100%).
- Wilson County Health Department and OIC presented STD/HIV education and testing to 181 inmates at Wilson County Jail in 2009.



Wilson County Infant Death Rates 2005 - 2009

Wilson County's Infant death rates continues to improve over the past 5 years.



New Initiatives and Emerging Issues

- Wilson County Substance Coalition recently received a $500 donation from All American Kiwanis Club to help fight substance abuse.
- Wilson County Asthma Coalition was awarded a $7,000 Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts grant to raise awareness on air quality. The current Air Quality Flag Program will expand to five additional community sites. Currently there are fifteen sites throughout Wilson County participating. Each day a flag is raised that corresponds to the color of the Air Quality Index for Wilson County. These flags can be found at schools, county office buildings, child care centers, community center, and medical facilities. To participate in the Air Quality Flag Program, contact Barbara Williams at 252-237-3141 ext. 6681.
- Wilson County HIV/AIDS Task Force held a community roundtable discussion on major changes with HIV/AIDS care. The community roundtable discussion included medical experts on HIV; Dr. Rafael Torres, CFHC and Dr. Giselle Corbin-Smith of UNC. Representative Jean Farmer-Butterfield addressed the participants on key issues regarding funding for HIV services.
- Wilson County health educator received ITS SIDS training through the Office of Continuing Education at the University of North Carolina in Dec. 2009. She is now a qualified ITS SIDS instructor and is prepared to provide training for child care professionals. She has trained 60 child care professionals.
- Wilson County Department of Social Services offers“ Nurturing Parenting'" classes to parents that need additional parenting skills. The classes are held every Tuesday night for eight weeks from 4-6 pm at a local church. For information contact Barbara Evans, Coordinator @ 252-293-4318.
- Wilson OIC Surplus Commodities and Mass Testing Project provided bags of food to over 1,500 needed citizens of Wilson County on Sept. 22, 2010. In addition to the food give away they also had HIV testing, diabetes check, Syphilis testing and high blood pressure check. Volunteers from Wilson County Health Department, retired school teachers, Firestone, Merck, city and county officials helped with this project throughout the year. The next Surplus Commodities food distribution will be held November 24th, 2010.

New Initiatives and Emerging Issues

- Wilson County jobless continues with closing of two major businesses.
- Farm Fresh Market closed in February 2009 leaving 37 employees jobless.
- Home Depot left about 100 employees jobless in January 2009. Home Depot employees received at least 60 days of severance pay and a lump sum payment that will cover the cost of medical insurance for a certain period of time.
- Two forums were held in April 2010 at Wilson County Agricultural center for parents of teens. "Teen Sexuality" were presented in English and Spanish. Facilitators were Barbara Williams and Carolina Robayo.
- The Salvation Army Boys and Girls Club was awarded a $53,000 grant in October,2010 to continue a program that addresses dropout prevention. The Club currently serves about 80 children in it's afterschool program.
- A new Wilson County Asthma Coalition was formed in June 2010.
- Wilson County ranked #14 for teen pregnancies in 2009.

To volunteer and become a member of the upcoming 2011 Community Health Assessment Team contact Barbara Williams @ 252-237-3141 ext. 6681.

Copies of this report will be distributed to Board of Health Members, County Commissioners, Public Libraries, Wilson Daily Times Newspaper and Wilson County website www.wilson-co.com.