

WILSON COUNTY

2008

Annual Health Report

State of the County's Health Report

SOTCH

**Wilson County Health Department
Dec. 2008**



Our Services

The Mission of Wilson County Health Department is to promote health and reduce the occurrence of disease, disability and premature death; to provide skilled nursing services to those citizens who are ill and homebound, to protect the health of the citizens from certain environmental problems; to provide wellness, education, and safety.

Our Public Health Services consist of:

- ❖ Adult Health
- ❖ Laboratory Services
- ❖ Child Health
- ❖ Child Service Coordination (CSC's)
- ❖ Nutrition (WIC)
- ❖ Health Education
- ❖ Environmental Health
- ❖ Family Planning Clinic
- ❖ Maternal Health Clinic
- ❖ Maternity Care Coordination (MCC's)
- ❖ Maternity Outreach Workers (MOW's)
- ❖ Home Health
- ❖ Immunizations Clinic

Demographic, Health & Economic Data

According to the U.S. Census Bureau the projected population for Wilson County in 2009 is estimated to be about 79,000. Total population for Wilson County is 76,826.

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH 2007

DISEASES	# OF DEATHS
1. Cancer	177
2. Diseases of heart	172
3. Chronic lower respiratory diseases	39
4. Diabetes mellitus	38
5. Cerebrovascular diseases	32
6. All other unintentional injuries	21
7. Motor vehicle injuries	20
8. Influenza and pneumonia	19
9. Septicemia	17
10. Nephritis, nephritic syndrome and nephrosis	14

Top Five Concerns of Wilson County As a Result of the Community Health Assessment

1. Illegal Drug Activity

The Wilson County Community Health Assessment team is working with the police department, sheriff department and Wilson County Substance Abuse Coalition in eradicating the illegal drug activities. Events are being held to encourage youths to redirect their lives away from drugs and gangs. This will be an ongoing task.

2. Affordable Health Care

The Wilson 20/20 Committee is working on ways to offer affordable health care to those who cannot afford to pay for health care services. This committee was formed in 2007 to better serve the county.

3. Unsafe Sex

The Wilson County Health Department distributed fish bowls full of condoms to local beauty and barber shops in the Wilson County areas. Information on how to use the condoms was also included with the condoms. The fish bowls are replenished as needed by the Public Health Educator. Presentations are made on sexuality, sexually transmitted diseases and safe sex practices throughout the Wilson County. This will be an ongoing task as requested by the community.

4. Health Care Services

The problem with health care services is that some specialized physicians are located in Greenville, North Carolina. Wilson County is very rural and lacks public transportation to this area. Many residents do not have transportation to travel to Greenville for health care. Wilson 20/20 is addressing that issue.

5. Alcohol and Drug Use

The Wilson County Health Department is partnering with the Wilson County Substance Abuse Coalition to reduce the use of drug and alcohol abuse.

Health and Economic Data

Wilson County continues to have a high rate of infant mortality among black babies. Our rate (18.3) is higher than the surrounding counties (Edgecombe 14.9, Greene 17.4 and Nash 14.8) and the rate of 14.5 for the State of North Carolina.

Wilson County's teenage pregnancy rate tops the State rate at 74.4 percent compared to 63.1 per 1,000 births. Total percentage of repeat pregnancies for ages 15-19 for 2006 28.1 percent.

Wilson County's deaths related to heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes exceeds the State rate from 2001-2005.

Wilson County continues to have a higher rate of communicable diseases than the State. Syphilis rate is overall higher than the State of North Carolina and surrounding counties.

Wilson County unemployment rate continues to be high due to lay-offs, plant closing and down sizing. Our current unemployment rate is 8.8 %.

Accomplishments & Progress Made 2007

Fish bowls with condoms distributed to local beauty and barber shops to help reduce our STD rates.

Healthy Choices class provided to families of obese children. A six week course was provided to 23 families on how to eat healthier and how to prepare healthier meals in addition to exercising.

The Family Planning Clinic offered pregnancy prevention classes to Hispanic girls through a grant.

Several outreach activities through a collaborative effort with other agencies have been presented to steer teens away from gangs and gang violence.

Nurturing Parenting classes were provided for parents that were court ordered or need additional parenting skills. These classes were ten weeks sessions. There were a total of 25 families including their children.

Dental varnishing program has been implemented in our well child health clinic starting at age 6 mos. to 3 1/2 years

We have acquired a teaching room for breastfeeding and available for moms to breastfeed their infant. We have maintained 100 or more breastfeeding mothers with support.

An additional Family Planning night clinic was added to our schedule. We increased our night clinics to two nights in Family planning.

We increased our HIV testing in Family Planning through our OPA/HIV grant funding. HIV is now a routine test for all Family Planning exams.

We are collaborating with the Wilson 20/20 Health and Wellness Committee on health issues in Wilson County.

Grant funds provided us with monies to promote a Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention campaign in all of the local middle and high schools in Wilson County.

We were able to reach approximately 3,000 students. Each student was given a Yellow Ribbon Suicide Prevention card with information printed on them on what to do in case they have suicide tendencies.

Major Health Concerns

Reduce the obesity rate in Wilson County by providing continuing education in schools and in the community.

Continue to find ways in addition to education to reduce our high STD rate and our high teen pregnancy rate.

Encourage new moms to receive early pre-natal care to reduce infant mortality and low birth weight babies.

Educate the community on ways to reduce heart disease, stroke, cancer and diabetes.

Educating Hispanics about teen pregnancy and encouraging them to delay pregnancy.

New Initiatives

RealCare Baby Parenting Program will be implementing at Darden Middle School beginning Nov. 2008. This program is a pregnancy prevention program and will be offered to 5th through 8th graders in Health and Physical Education classes.

Wilson County Health Department and Wilson-Rocky Mount-Tarboro Chapter of The Links will start a pilot Wellness and Fitness Awareness Program at Sallie B. Howard Charter School beginning Jan. 2009.

The purpose for this program is two fold:

- a. To raise the health awareness level of students about their current health status and improve their health status.
- b. To educate students about wellness and fitness.

New and Emerging Issues

Wilson County Health identified four confirmed cases of Pertussis this year. We had an outbreak of salmonella during a family reunion; two hundred and fifty people were affected.

Wilson County has a highly populated influx of Hispanics. The teen pregnancy rate for Hispanics in Wilson County is a growing concern.

Distribution

The most recent CHA and present SOTCH reports will be distributed to County Commissioners, Board of Health, Wilson Daily Times, Wilson County Schools, Wilson County Public Library, Wilson Memorial Hospital, Wilson Community College, county offices, and concerned citizens.

Wilson County Health Department has a website that we used to publish the CHA and SOTCH. The Wilson Daily Times published the most recent CHA. The SOTCH report will be published in the local newspaper as well as a one page flier for concerned citizens.