

**August 2014 Addendum to
Joint Community Health Assessment &
Community Health Needs Assessment, Spring 2013**

Prepared by Wilkes County Health Department

This document provides updated information for comparison counties for selected data tables. Please refer to the original document, *Joint Community Health Assessment & Community Health Needs Assessment, Spring 2013*, for complete assessment information.

Chapter 2: Description of Assessment Area

Economy

The original document, *Joint Community Health Assessment & Community Health Needs Assessment, Spring 2013*, provided poverty data for 2011. In updating this information to reflect new comparison counties, poverty data was only available for 2012. [A]

Update to Figure 5. 2012 Poverty Data by County as reported from the USDA Economic Research Service

Based on 2011 poverty data reported in the original document, Wilkes County had the leading rate of population living in poverty and children living in poverty. In 2012, Caldwell County had the leading rate of population living in poverty (20.4%), just above Wilkes County (19.9%), and the highest rate of children in poverty (28.6%), slightly above Wilkes County (28.3%). [A]

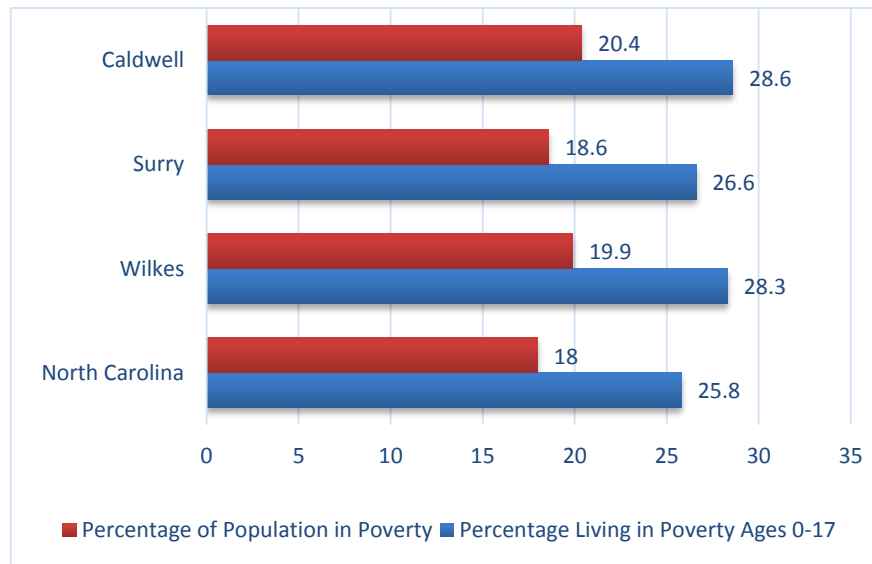


Table 3. 2012 Poverty Data by County as Reported from the USDA Economic Research Service

County	Percent of Population Living in Poverty	Percent Living in Poverty Ages 0-17
Caldwell	20.4	28.6
Surry	18.6	26.6
Wilkes	19.9	28.3
North Carolina	18.0	25.8

Chapter 4: Detailed Data

Health Risk Factors

Wilkes County has a lower heart disease death rate than North Carolina and selected comparison counties. This rate has decreased substantially from rates reported in previous Wilkes County community health assessments. [B]

Table 13. Age-Adjusted Heart Disease Death Rates per 100,000 Residents

	1997-2001	2002-2006	2007-2011
Wilkes	242.5	203.9	165.2
NC	261.4	216.5	179.3
Surry	262.7	226.2	192.8
Caldwell	274.4	224.5	196.9

As evidenced in Table 14, Wilkes County’s cancer death rate decreased slightly decreased previous years. In 2002-2006, Wilkes County had lower cancer death rates compared to North Carolina rates. From 2007-2011, Cancer death rates in Wilkes County were higher than overall rates in North Carolina, although lower than in comparison counties. [B]

Table 14. Age-Adjusted Total Cancer Death Rates per 100,000 Residents

	1997-2001	2002-2006	2007-2011
Wilkes	201.8	193.2	188.1
NC	204.3	193.6	179.7
Surry	207.8	202.3	199.6
Caldwell	207.0	203.1	198.1

As evidenced in Table15, the Wilkes County stroke death rate is comparable to the overall stroke death rate in the North Carolina. The stroke death rate in Wilkes County has decreased from previous time periods, and remains lower than in comparison counties. [B]

Table 15. Age-Adjusted Stroke Death Rate per 100,000 Residents

	1997-2001	2002-2006	2007-2011
Wilkes	92.1	56.8	46.1
NC	75.6	60.9	46.0
Surry	73.0	64.1	48.2
Caldwell	71.3	69.9	57.1

In Wilkes County, the colon and rectal cancer death rate is almost twice as high as colon and rectal cancer rates in North Carolina. It is also significantly higher for trachea, bronchea, lung and breast cancer, compared to the state. For all cancers, Wilkes County has a much higher colon and rectal cancer death rate per 100,000 people than the rest of the state. [C]

Table 17. Cancers Death Rate of 2011 per 100,000 Residents

	Colon, Rectum,	Trachea, Bronchea &Lung	Breast Cancers	Prostate	All Cancer
Wilkes	30.4	73.9	40	17.7	253.7
NC	15.5	57.1	26.4	18.2	188.5
Surry	35.3	95.0	31.8	30.5	280.8
Caldwell	15.8	80.1	31.1	19.7	228.2

Once age-adjusted, the cancer death rates remain higher for colon, rectal, trachea, bronchea and lung cancers for Wilkes County than they do for North Carolina. However, the Wilkes County has a lower rate of breast and prostate cancer. Overall, Wilkes County has higher cancer death rate than the state in 2011. Surry and Caldwell have higher death rates for trachea, bronchea and lungs than the state and Wilkes. Surry is higher than Wilkes in colon, rectum cancer but Caldwell is lower than Wilkes and Surry. [D]

Table 18. Age-Adjusted Cancer Death Rate, 2007-2011

	Colon, Rectum	Trachea, Bronchea & Lung	Breast Cancers	Prostate	All Cancer
Wilkes	16.4	60.7	16.3	22.3	188.6
NC	15.3	54.6	22.8	24.4	179.9
Surry	18.1	67.8	22.1	26.1	199.9
Caldwell	14.8	72.0	23.0	23.6	199.1

Wilkes County has a lower breast cancer incidence rate (137.8) than the state overall (157.4) from 2007-2011. Wilkes County also had a lower breast death rate (16.3) than the state (22.8), and a lower rate than its comparison counties, Surry (22.1) and Caldwell (23.0) as evidenced in Table 18. There was a decrease in prostate cancer deaths from periods of 2001-2005 and 2006-2010. Prostate cancer deaths in Wilkes County were lower than the state overall. [B] [D]

Table 19: Age-Adjusted Breast Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 Residents

	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2007-2011
Wilkes	133.4	125.1	138.2	137.8
NC	147.2	149.7	155.9	157.4
Surry	158.5	134.6	142.9	148.8
Caldwell	134.2	156.5	136.2	132.6

The incidence of breast cancer in Wilkes County (137.8) was also lower than the state (157.4) and lower than one of its comparison counties, Surry (148.8). The incidence of prostate cancer, however, in Wilkes (150.5) is approximately equal to the incidence rate for the state (150.6) for the 2007-2011 period, and is higher than comparison counties. [B] [D]

Table 20. Age-Adjusted Prostate Cancer Incidence Rates per 100,000 Residents

	1996-2000	2001-2005	2006-2010	2007-2011
Wilkes	129.0	170.7	142.3	150.5
NC	154.5	162.1	153.7	150.6
Surry	130.0	144.4	135.1	135.4
Caldwell	155.1	128.0	90.9	89.3

Pregnancies and Live Birth Data

Wilkes County has a lower birth rate (9.8 per 1,000) overall, than that of North Carolina (12.5) and than one of its comparison counties, Surry (10.5). Overall, the highest rate for live birth was among Hispanic-identified persons (19.9), followed by White-Non Hispanic persons (9.3). [E]

Table 21. Wilkes and North Carolina Live Birth Data 2011

	Total	White –Non Hispanic	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)
Wilkes	673 (9.8)	570 (9.3)	18 (5.7)	77 (19.9)
NC	120,403 (12.5)	67542 (10.6)	28509 (13.5)	18217 (21.9)
Surry	773 (10.5)	588 (9.4)	35 (11.7)	137 (18.6)
Caldwell	803 (9.7)	681 (9.3)	39 (8.8)	74 (19.2)

Birth rate= number of live births/ population of area *1000

Live birth rates in Wilkes County were highest among Hispanic persons (24.4 per 1,000), and second highest for non-Hispanic White persons. The live birth rate was also the highest among Hispanics for the state (18.6) and comparison counties Surry (18.6) and Caldwell (19.2)[E]

Table 22. Wilkes and North Carolina Live Birth Rate Data 2007-2011

	Total	White –Non Hispanic	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
Wilkes	10.9	9.9	9.3	24.4
NC	13.5	11.2	14.7	27.5
Surry	11.8	10.3	10.8	18.6
Caldwell	10.5	10.0	10.2	19.8

Birth rate= number of live births/ population of area *1000

In 2011, there were 673 live births in Wilkes County. The total birth rate of Wilkes County, 9.8per 1,000 population, is lower than North Carolina state overall (12.5 per 1,000). The rate of perinatal death rate in Wilkes County is slightly higher (11.8 per 1,000) compared to NC overall (11.1 per 1,000), and compared to selected neighboring counties, Surry (9.0) and Caldwell (11.1). Wilkes is also slightly higher for the neonatal death rate (7.4 per 1,000) and the rate of deaths under 1 year of age (11.9 per 1,000) in Wilkes County. This is compared to NC neonatal and under 1 year date rates of 4.9 and 7.2 per 1000, respectively). [E]

Table 23. Birth and Death Vital Statistics 2011

	Live Births (Rate)	Total # of Perinatal Deaths (Rate)	Total # of Fetal Deaths (Rate)	Total # of Neonatal Deaths (Rate)	Total # of Infant Deaths Under 1 Year of Age (Rate)
Wilkes	673 (9.8)	8 (11.8)	3 (4.4)	5 (7.4)	8 (11.9)
NC	120,403 (12.5)	1348 (11.1)	753 (6.2)	595 (4.9)	866 (7.2)
Surry	773 (10.5)	7 (9.0)	3 (3.9)	4 (5.2)	7 (9.1)
Caldwell	803 (9.7)	9 (11.1)	5 (6.2)	4 (5.0)	5 (6.2)

Note: death rate is calculated by = Number of death/number or live birth X 1,000

In Wilkes County the rate of smoking during pregnancy was highest among non-Hispanic Whites (26.3) and African Americans (22.2). This was also true for comparison counties as well. The rate of smoking during pregnancy in Wilkes County overall is twice as high (23.2) as the rate for North Carolina (10.9), although rates in comparison counties, Surry (23.5) and Caldwell (24.5) are also twice as high as the state. [E]

Table 24. Women Smoked During Pregnancies 2011

	Total	White, Non-Hispanic	Black, Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)
Wilkes	156 (23.2)	150 (26.3)	4 (22.2)	2 (2.6)
NC	13159 (10.9)	9448 (14)	2,944 (10.3)	307 (1.7)
Surry	182 (23.5)	170 (28.9)	10 (28.6)	2 (1.5)
Caldwell	197 (24.5)	189 (27.8)	7 (17.9)	1 (1.4)

In 2011, the rate of women smoking during pregnancy in Wilkes County was much higher than NC overall. White women had the highest rate of smoking during pregnancy (26.3%). This is followed by Black women (22.2) in which the rate of smoking during pregnancy is more than double the NC rate (10.3). In Surry and Caldwell counties, the rates of women smoking during pregnancy were also higher than the state among Black women and White, Non-Hispanic women. [E]

Teenage Pregnancy

Wilkes County had higher teen pregnancies rates than that of the state overall, but the rate has decreased over the years. [B]

Table 25: Teen Pregnancies (Ages 15-19) per 1,000 Female Residents

	1997-2001	2002-2006	2007-2011
Wilkes	83.4	64.5	58.0
NC	77.6	64.0	55.3
Surry	82.6	63.9	59.4
Caldwell	89.2	67.9	62.5

Overall, the Wilkes County teen pregnancy rate was higher (53.9) than in North Carolina (43.8). The highest rates of teen pregnancies in Wilkes County were found among non-Hispanic Whites (54.0) and among African Americans (61.6) in North Carolina. In comparison counties, the highest rates of teen pregnancies were found among other non-Hispanic teens, both in Surry (52.6) and in Caldwell (83.9). [F]

Table 26. Resident Pregnancy Rates per 1,000 Population, Ages 15-19, 2011

	Total	White Non-Hispanic	African American Non-Hispanic	Other Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)	n (rate)
Wilkes	107 (53.9)	93 (54.0)	2 (17.5)	0 (0)	12 (85.7)
NC	13,909 (43.8)	5,719 (30.8)	5,399 (61.6)	495 (39.4)	2241 (71.1)
Surry	62 (35.0)	3 (30.9)	0 (0.0)	17 (52.6)	82 (37.0)
Caldwell	100 (48.0)	12 (69.4)	0 (0.0)	13 (83.9)	125 (51.1)

Wilkes County had lower percentage of low birth weights (7.88%) compared to North Carolina (9.06%). However, the percentage of low birth weights among African Americans was 27.8%. This is 3 times as high as the total percentages of low birth weights in North Carolina. [E]

Table 27. Number and percentage of low birth weight births by race, 2011

	White Non-Hispanic	African American Non-Hispanic	Other Non-Hispanic	Hispanic	Total
	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)	n (%)
Wilkes	40 (7.0)	5 (27.78)	0 (0)	8 (10.39)	53 (7.88)
NC	5046 (7.47)	4032 (14.14)	570 (9.29)	1257 (6.9)	10905 (9.06)
Surry	43 (7.3)	5 (14.3)	0 (0)	9 (6.6)	57 (7.4)
Caldwell	57 (8.4)	8 (20.5)	1 (1.4)	5 (6.8)	71 (8.8)

Communicable Disease

Based on the reported data we can see that Wilkes communicable diseases rate are much lower than the state overall.

The gonorrhea rate was exceptionally high among African Americans in Wilkes County (180.0), North Carolina overall (581.6), and comparison counties, Surry (195.6) and Caldwell (461.7) when compared to other races. [G]

Table 29. Gonorrhea Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population, 2006-2010

	Total	White Non-Hispanic	African American Non-Hispanic	Other Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
Residence	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)
Wilkes	73 (21.7)	46 (15.3)	26 (180.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (5.6)
North Carolina	77,867 (168.9)	16,488 (52.9)	58,041 (581.6)	1,485 (96.7)	1,853 (54.2)
Surry	95 (26.2)	61 (19.6)	29 (195.6)	1 (34.3)	4 (11.8)
Caldwell	289 (72.0)	174 (48.4)	100 (461.7)	0 (0.0)	15 (89.7)

Note: Rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

There were no known reports of primary or secondary Syphilis cases in Wilkes County from 2006-2010. [H]

Table 30. Primary and Secondary Syphilis Cases and Rates per 100,000 Population, 2006-2010

	Total	White Non-Hispanic	African American Non-Hispanic	Other Non-Hispanic	Hispanic
Residence	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)	Cases (rate)
Wilkes	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
North Carolina	1,894 (4.1)	433 (1.4)	1,380 (13.8)	17 (1.1)	64 (1.9)
Surry	3 (0.8)	1 (0.3)	2 (13.5)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Caldwell	1 (0.2)	1 (0.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)

Note: Rates based on small numbers (fewer than 20 cases) are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

The death rate due to HIV disease is substantially lower in Wilkes County than the state rate, but slightly higher than comparison counties. [C]

Table 31. HIV Disease Death Rate of 2011, and 2007-2011

Geographical Area	Number of Deaths 2011	Death Rate* 2011	Number of Deaths 2007-2011	Death Rate* 2007-2011	Age-Adjusted Death Rate* 2007-2011
Wilkes	1	1.4	5	1.5	1.8
North Carolina	271	2.8	1,687	3.6	3.5
Surry	2	2.7	5	1.4	1.4
Caldwell	0	0.0	3	0.7	0.8

Mental Health Issues

Wilkes County ranked 17th in suicide rates among all the counties in NC, and has higher suicide rate than that of the state overall. Wilkes County suicide rate in 2007-2011 did not change from the previous period. [B]

Table 33. Age-Adjusted Suicide Rates per 100,000 Residents

	1997-2001	2002-2006	2007-2011
Wilkes	11.7	15.5	15.5
NC	11.4	11.6	12.1
Surry	14.9	19.9	14.2
Caldwell	13.4	14.7	17.3

Chapter 6: Identifying Strategies for Improvement

1. Substance Abuse: Substance Abuse is still an important issue to be addressed in our community. The Substance Abuse priority will be covered in our strategies within the Mental Health Taskforce and Action Plan. The Mental Health taskforce includes our Substance Abuse prevention leaders. The CHA Advisory Committee decided to combine the two taskforces at this time. (Please see the update to this action plan, which is included).

Priority Health Areas Excluded from Action Plans

Four specific health priority areas will be excluded from both WCHD's and WRMC's action and implementation plans. These areas, include cancer (justified below), as well as elder care and aging, neglect and abuse, and specialty care (justified on page 73 of the original Community Health Assessment).

2. Cancer: As documented on page 73 of the Community Health Assessment, "Cancer screening, prevention and treatment is currently offered in Wilkes County through a federally funded effort, as well as through grant funds provided by the Susan G. Komen Race for the Cure NC Triad. WCHD continues to prioritize and fund primary prevention education and will continue to expand the focus on cancer prevention".

Our county will not be developing a specific action plan for this priority area. The community identified priorities through the Community Health Summit described on pages 70-73. Cancer was not addressed as a priority because of available resources and initiatives to address this problem. WCHD provides screening through Komen and BCCCP grant, Wilkes Regional Medical Center provides screening, treatment and control, Wilkes Relay for Life has a very active coalition, and local American Cancer Society supports several cancer initiatives. Since many cancers can be prevented and are closely related to factors that also cause chronic diseases such as smoking, the CHA Advisory Committee and the Community Health Summit attendees prioritized prevention and support efforts in the physical activity and nutrition and the prevention of chronic diseases taskforce. Our county identified that this would be the best use of limited resources for community improvement and would address the cancer priority indirectly by preventing known cancer causes.

References

- [A] United States Department of Agriculture. (2013). Percent of total population in poverty, 2011: North Carolina. *County-level Data Sets*. Retrieved August 11, 2014 from <http://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/county-level-data-sets/poverty.aspx#.Ucx2WUo0H2k>
- [B] North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. (2013). North Carolina statewide and county trends in key health indicators: Wilkes County. Accessed August 11, 2014 from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/data/trends/pdf/Wilkes.pdf>
- [C] North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. (2013). NC vital statistics volume 2: Leading causes of death- 2011. Accessed August 5, 2014 from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/deaths/lcd/2011/>
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- [E] North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. (2013). Selected vital statistics for 2011 and 2007-2011. Accessed August 5, 2014 from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/vitalstats/volume1/2011/>
- [F] North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. (2013). Table 1- 2011 NC resident pregnancy rates per 1,000 population: Female ages 15-19 by race, perinatal care regions, and county of residence. Accessed August 5, 2014 from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/data/databook/CD9B%20pregpub%20rates%201519.html>
- [G] North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. (2013). NC resident gonorrhea cases and rates per 100,000 population, 2006-2010. Accessed August 11, 2014 from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/data/databook/2013/CD16%20gonorrhea%20rates.html>
- [H] North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics. (2013). NC resident primary and secondary syphilis cases and rates per 100,000 population, 2006-2010. Accessed August 11, 2014 from <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/schs/data/databook/2013/CD17%20syphilis%20rates.html>