

From the Public Health Director...

When I talk with folks about public health, I always ask a simple question: "Have any of you received public health services?" If you hear this question asked, the answer is always YES!

Public health assures that you have safe drinking water, safe food to eat in public places, clean indoor air in restaurants, protection from communicable disease through immunizations, education about health concerns and what you can do about them and much, much more. Our commitment to health promotion and wellness is evident in our new Nutrition Program; providing Nutrition Counseling, Diabetes Classes and Diabetes Support Group. In addition we provide many other direct healthcare services to assure that Wilkes County residents can have access to health care, regardless of ability to pay.

The staff of the Wilkes County Health Department appreciates the opportunity to serve our community in efforts to promote health, prevent disease and care for the sick. This annual report is our opportunity to remind you of the types of services that we provide, but also to make you aware of the fact that public health impacts everybody, every day, everywhere.

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Wilkes County Health Department 2010 Annual Report



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Visit us on Facebook or on the web at

www.wilkeshealth.com.

"Promoting Health and Preventing Disease In Our Community."



F.Y.I. For Your Information & Health

Access to Care

Between 11,000-13,000 people in Wilkes are without health insurance. The Health Department; Wilkes Regional Medical Center; Boomer, Mountain View and West Wilkes Medical Centers; along with many members of our private physician community, make up a "medical home" for the uninsured of our community. The Health Department provides primary health care services for over 4,000 uninsured in Wilkes County. Additionally, through a public/private partnership called The Healthcare Connection, we are able to access specialty and diagnostic care for many uninsured individuals. However this "safety net" is not large enough or strong enough to provide the health care services (both preventive care and treatment for those who are sick) that every individual deserves. This problem is not limited to our community. Capacity and funding continue to be increasing issues. Please consider your role in this growing concern.

Want to View Restaurant Grades On-Line?

Go to www.wilkeshealth.com and click on the Restaurant Inspections box located in the center of the page.

Prescription Drug Overdose Deaths in Wilkes are among the highest in the state, and the nation. In 2008 Wilkes County had 28 deaths and in 2009 Wilkes County had 31 deaths related to prescription drug overdoses. Healthy Carolinians, the Substance Abuse Task Force, and Project Lazarus are all working with physician offices, pharmacies, patients, family members, & law enforcement agencies, to combat this problem.

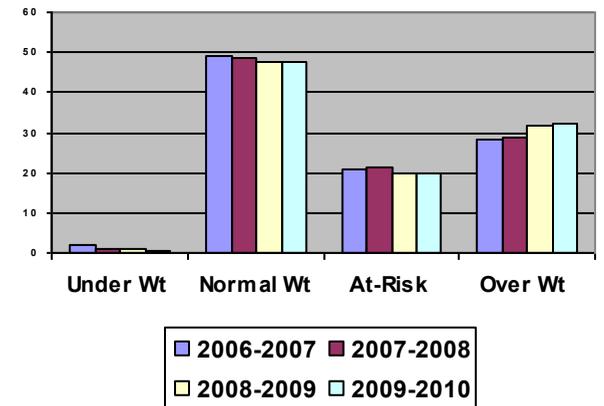


Wilkes Healthy Carolinians and Project Lazarus

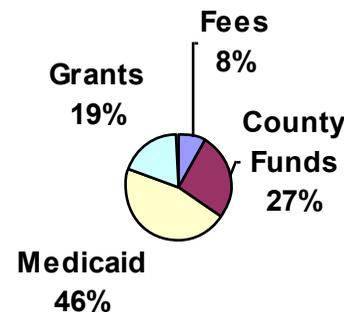
For more information please see www.projectlazarus.org for chronic pain and substance abuse resources.

Concerns about childhood obesity rates are also an important public health initiative. Wilkes County Middle Schools Body Mass Index graph outlines the concern. The Fitness and Nutrition Task Force welcomes your input: jbelk@wilkescounty.net

Wilkes County Middle School BMI Results



Health Department Revenue



How We Served You Last Year!

Adult Health-Uninsured/Medicaid Adults age 21 and older receive complete health care.

Patient	2,356
Patient Visits	6,025
Diabetes Visits	204

Child Health-Uninsured/Medicaid children age 20 years and below receive complete health care.

Patients	1,125
Patient Visits	2,944
Physicals	614
Lead Screening	107
Dental Screenings	77

Laboratory-Health Department patients receive lab work to assist with prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.

Lab Tests Performed 13,897

Prenatal Care- In addition to receiving complete health care, women receive counseling and support, parenting education and postpartum follow-up care.

Patients	5
Maternity Clinic Visits	12
Ultrasounds Performed	0

Family Planning

Teens and adults receive complete medical care and are provided with information and options about birth control choices including abstinence.

Patients Served	898
Patient Visits	1,993
Vasectomies	0

Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings—Women are checked for breast and cervical cancers and further medical care is available for abnormal results.

Cancer Screenings	175
Abnormal Results	54
Cancer Identified	1

Susan G Komen for the Cure Grant Funding-Women are checked for breast cancers and further medical care is available for abnormal results thanks to grant monies provided from Susan G. Komen for the Cure.

Cancer Screenings	140
Abnormal Results	31
Cancer Identified	0

Child Service Coordination-At-risk children are identified and receive services to reduce the risk/effect of developmental delay or disability, chronic illness or social/emotional disorders.

Children Served	126
Home Visits	615

Maternal Outreach Services-At-risk women receive continued monitoring of their pregnancies and support for healthy pregnancies up through the postpartum period. Women receive guidance on proper nutrition, environmental threats to health, home safety, and social support.

Clients Served	392
Home Visits	1,579

Mobile Expanded School Health (MESH)- High school students receive immunizations, sports physicals, sick and injury care, counseling and support. Teen parents also receive pre- and post-natal health information, support and referrals for other services.

Mental Health Visits	649
Student Visits	1,636
Sports Physicals	415

Newborn/Postpartum Services-New mothers receive postpartum and newborn health assessments, counseling for breastfeeding and nutrition, household safety inspections, parenting education, and screening for genetic or developmental disorders.

Newborn Visits	230
Postpartum Services	206

Pharmacy-Health department patients may receive medications at reduced cost; or arrangements may be made through an agreement with the WRMC Care Connection Pharmacy.

Medications Filled 1,594

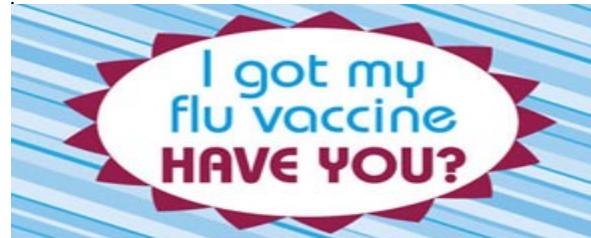
Vital Records- Birth and death records are registered and analyzed to discover local health issues, and possible prevention activities.

Live Births Recorded 501
Deaths Recorded 514

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)-Eligible women and children are provided nutrition education and coupons for supplemental foods.

Clients 2,050

Public Health Preparedness-Health Department monitors and prepares for disease outbreaks and other threats to the public's health so that in an emergency, safety measures are ready to protect and treat our public.



Immunizations (Shots/Vaccines)-Children receive vaccine management, monitoring and administration. Boosters for employment, vaccines for international travelers, and flu and pneumococcal vaccines are also available.

Health Choice-

# Children Enrolled	820
# Children Eligible	1,235

Communicable & Sexually Transmitted Diseases-Screening, monitoring and treatment for certain communicable diseases is available. Coordination with health care providers and public education is provided.

Patient Services	3,542
HIV Tests	744
TB Patients	1
Rabies Investigations	91
Reportable Diseases	79

Environmental Health: Water Protection Residents and businesses receive permits and evaluations for proposed, existing or repaired wastewater systems.

New Septic Permits	466
New Well Permits	108
Complaint	66
Water Samples	134

Environmental Health (Food & Lodging)-Certain facilities are inspected routinely and if complaints are filed to ensure safety against possible disease transmission. Workers at these facilities are also educated in food handling safety measures.

Restaurants	182
Temporary Food Establishments	67
Meat Markets	12
School Lunchrooms	22
Lodging Facilities	10
Public Pool Facilities	27
Child & Adult Care Centers	51
Nursing/Rest/Group Home	39
Tattoo Permits	6