

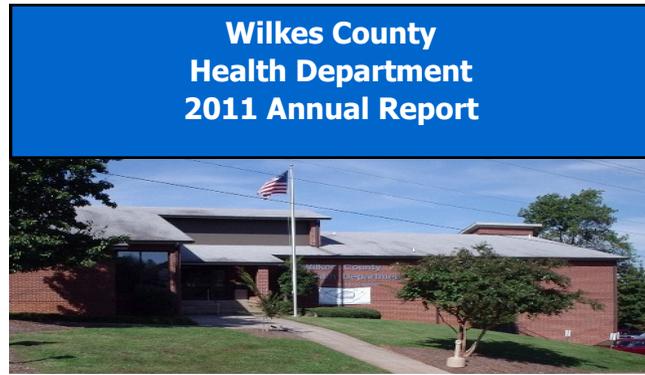
From the Public Health Director...

This has been a year of many changes for Public Health. With reduced funding due to state budget cuts and personnel reductions and changes, I can proudly say that we are still able to provide the same level of services you have come to expect from Public Health. I am honored to be the new Health Director and ready to meet the challenges ahead for us.

This year we were re-accredited by the NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board. In July, we completed a much needed renovation in the front registration area of the health department which allows better patient and work flow. Our commitment to health promotion and wellness is evident in the work the elementary schools are doing to upgrade the playgrounds that allow each community access to the playgrounds for physical activity for families. This is a three year project made possible with a Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust grant. The town of Wilkesboro participated in a community garden project through another grant and citizens had access to plots of land to grow fresh vegetables last summer. Without our public health partners, we would not be able to implement these prevention strategies. We continue to build and grow our Nutrition Counseling Program including Diabetes Classes. In addition we still provide many other direct healthcare services.

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 and everywhere.

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Wilkes County Health Department 2011 Annual Report

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Visit us on Facebook or on the web at
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“Promoting Health and Preventing Disease In Our Community.”



What a Difference a Year Makes!

On May 3-5, 2011, the health department had a site visit from an accreditation team for re-accreditation. After two and one-half days of document review and interviews with staff, county manager, Board of Health and community partners, the accreditation team completed their visit. The team recommended Wilkes County Health Department for Re -Accreditation status. Accreditation status extends for four years. The health department will be up for re-accreditation again in 2015.

For more information on Re-Accreditation and the 10 Essential Public Health Services please visit:
<http://www.cdc.gov/nphpsp/essentialservices.html>

If you have not been to the Health Department lately there have been many changes and renovations. We recently made changes to our waiting room to allow for better work flow for our employees which in return allows us to better serve our clients.

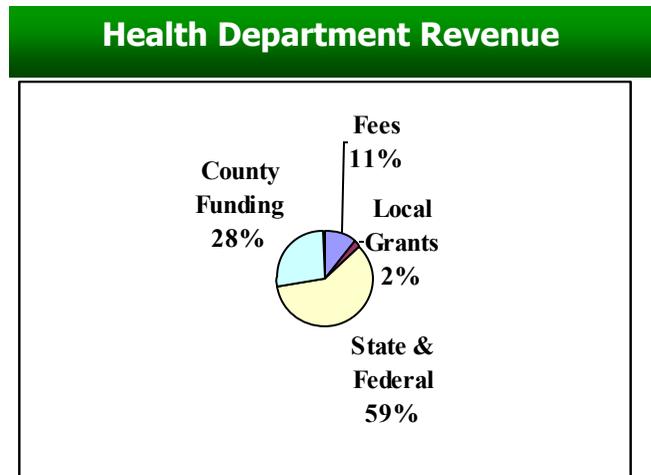
We have also been fortunate enough to receive a covered shelter for our Mobile Expanded School Health (MESH) unit which was paid for through grant funding. The shelter will enable the unit to remain in pristine condition to serve our community for years to come.

Wilkes Public Dental Clinic

The Wilkes Public Dental Clinic is there to serve the unserved and underserved children and adults of Wilkes (and the surrounding region on a space available basis) in need of dental care. We will accept Medicaid, Health Choice, Vocational Rehab, BROCC Head Start, private insurance, and self-pay patients. A sliding fee scale will be applied for self-pay patients.

The goal of the Wilkes Public Health Dental Clinic is to provide a private practice setting that makes our patients feel special and well cared for in a clinical environment. We want our children and adults to be pleased with the public health choice they have in Wilkes.

For more information please visit:
<http://www.wilkespublicdentalclinic.com/>



Community Garden

The Health Department, Town of Wilkesboro, Master Gardeners, Cooperative Extension and other community agencies created a Community Garden located in Cub Creek Park during the summer of 2011. This will be an ongoing initiative initially funded in part by Leadership for Healthy Communities in order to promote HEAL (Healthy Eating Active Living) Policies.

Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust

The Fitness and Nutrition for Disease Prevention Task Force is continuing to work through the Leadership for Healthy Communities initiative in order to promote HEAL (Healthy Eating and Active Living) policies, one of which is a Comprehensive Nutrition Standards policy addressing foods in schools. In addition the Task Force has partnered with Wilkes County Schools to create Joint Use Agreements, which allow community members access to outdoor facilities outside of school hours. In conjunction with the Health Department, the School System received a grant from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for \$151,400 to upgrade playground facilities at all 13 elementary schools over a 3-year period. Boomer-Ferguson, Traphill, Ronda-Clingman, and Mt. Pleasant were the first four schools to receive funding. The second set of four schools that are scheduled to receive the funding are Millers Creek, Mountain View, Roaring River, and C.C. Wright. These four schools are scheduled to have their community parks completed by fall 2012.

Substance Abuse Task Force

Wilkes County through the efforts of the SATF and community partners has seen a 74% decrease in the number of accidental poisonings related to prescription drugs in 2011. The total number of accidental poisonings related to prescription drugs for 2011 was 10. For more information please visit <http://www.projectlazarus.org/>

Access to Care Task Force

The task force continues to work with private physicians, Wilkes Regional Medical Center, community centers, and the Health Department to ensure proper availability of primary care for the uninsured. The hospital provides prescription drug assistance. By these agencies working together, uninsured Wilkes County residents can continue to have proper ways to seek primary care, specialty care, and outpatient services. The task force continues to promote these services through health fairs, billboards, urgent care, and at the free clinic which is open the second Saturday of each month. In 2011 the task force implemented a new initiative, to provide free dental care. The goal was to partner with the Wilkes County Dental Clinic and the Health Foundation to provided free dental care for the uninsured through free dental clinics.

How We Served You Last Year!

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

Patients	2,148
Patient Visits	5,516
Diabetes Visits	394

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

Patients	1,981
Patient Visits	3,872
Physicals	677
Lead Screening	85
Dental Screenings	67

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

Lab Tests Performed	15,989
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Family Planning

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

Patients Served	990
Patient Visits	1,936
Vasectomies	1

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

Cancer Screenings	71
Abnormal Results	14
Cancer Identified	3

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	179
Abnormal Results	26
Cancer Identified	3

Care Coordination for Children- CC4C is a new program transitioning the Child Service Coordination (CSC) Program into a population management model in partnership with Community Care Networks and Local Care Management Entities that, in addition to the community based interventions for children to maximize health outcomes, the program will target the highest risk and highest cost children for care management. These services are provided for all Medicaid children birth to 5 years of age in Wilkes County who are determined to be at high risk and qualify for services.

Wilkes County has 2,334 Medicaid children ages 0-5

Pregnancy Care Management- OB Care Management is a new program transitioning Maternity Care Coordination (MCC) Program into a population management model for prenatal patients in Wilkes County. The care managers' works with the OB provider to help mothers and babies be as healthy as possible. These services are provided for all pregnant women who have Medicaid in Wilkes County and who are determined to be at high risk and qualify for services.

Wilkes County has 2,339 Medicaid women age 14-44

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	536
Student Visits	1,800
Sports Physicals	325

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	294
Postpartum Services	296

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	1,976
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Vital Records- Birth and death records are registered and analyzed to discover local health issues, and possible prevention activities.

Live Births Recorded	480
Deaths Recorded	470

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

Clients	1,726
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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 Check- Wilkes County families are contacted to ensure their children receiving Medicaid benefits get a complete physical each year.

Number of children eligible for Health Check
8680

Number of children eligible receiving an annual physical **4383**

Participation Rate **57.4%**

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	3,389
HIV Tests	818
TB Patients	4
Rabies Investigations	80
Reportable Diseases	208

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

New Septic Permits	477
New Well Permits	102
Complaints	52
Water Samples	205

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	190
Temporary Food Establishments	49
Meat Markets	13
School Lunchrooms	22
Lodging Facilities	9
Public Pool Facilities	25
Child & Adult Care Centers	45
Nursing/Rest/Group Home	39
Tattoo Permits	2

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.

