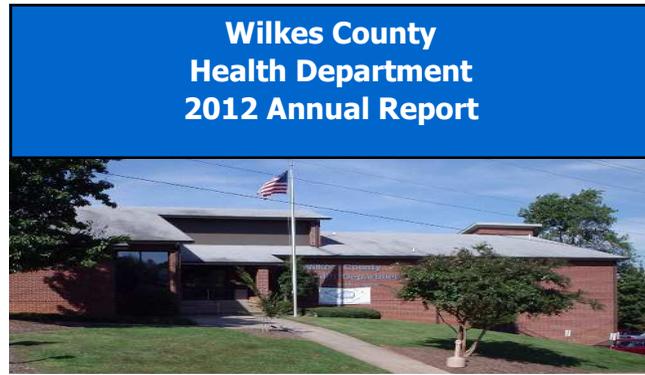


From the Public Health Director...

Another busy year at the Wilkes County Health Department! I want to highlight a few of the many accomplishments we were proud to achieve this year. As you can see by our numbers in this report our programs and services were busy serving the county. This year we finally realized our vision for diabetes and nutrition care, when we opened our Wilkes County Diabetes Center thanks in part to a grant and office space we received from the Health Foundation and continued support from Northwest Community Care Network. The Center is located across from the hospital on Jefferson Street so it is easily accessible to the public. In addition, we added another dietitian to our current staff for the center. In Environmental Health Food and Lodging, we implemented the new CDC food code requirements. This was a huge undertaking with the changes and education for staff and also for our customers. I am pleased to announce that we are beginning our Community Health Assessment with our community partners. We have added Wilkes Regional Medical Center as an important partner in this process since the hospital is now required to do a community benefit health assessment every three years as well. The Health Foundation is also contributing financial support for analysis and for our health summit to be held in the spring when the data analysis is completed. WCHD and WRMC are partnering with UNC-Greensboro for assistance in data analysis of our joint community health assessment. The results assist the community in prioritization of issues to address for improved outcomes for Wilkes County. The assessment data and results are also used by many agencies in the county for grant writing opportunities. In December, we proudly recognized the nine years of service by two Board of Health members: Dr. Dariel Rathmell and Mr. Neil Shepherd. The County Commissioners appointed Dr. Joseph Fesperman and Mr. Carl Page to fill the appointments vacated. I look forward to working with the new Board of Health members.

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 2012 Annual Report

Board of Health Members:

- Don Manus, RPh
- Carol Bauguess, RN
- Eyda Bennett, Public Member
- Keith Bentley, DDS
- Robbins Miller, DVM
- David Gambill, Jr., County Commissioner
- John German, Ed.D, Public Member
- Brenda Sales, Public Member
- Robert Taylor, OD
- Joseph Fesperman, MD
- Carl Page, Engineer

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Visit us on Facebook or on the web at
www.wilkeshealth.com

“Promoting Health and Preventing Disease In Our Community.”



Community Transformation Project

The North Carolina Division of Public Health (DPH) has been awarded Community Transformation Grant (CTG) funding to implement policy, systems and environmental changes that support tobacco free living, active living, healthy eating and high impact evidence-based clinical preventive services over a five-year period. DPH will fund approximately all public health regions across the state.



Wilkes County is part of Region 3, which includes Alleghany, Ashe, Davidson, Davie, Forsyth, Stokes, Surry, Watauga, Wilkes, and Yadkin Counties. Over the next five years we look to reduce chronic diseases, improve health status, reduce health disparities, and control health care spending in our communities.

In Wilkes we are specifically going to target increasing smoke-free and tobacco-free areas, and enhancing our local farmers markets at Smoot Park and the Wilkesboro Open Air Market.

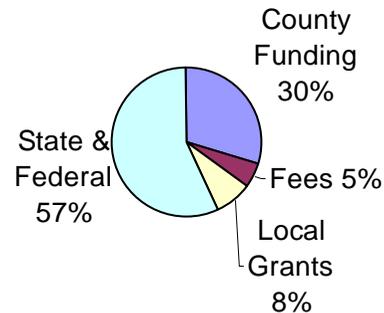
Wilkes Public Dental Clinic

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/>

Health Department Revenue



Fitness and Nutrition

The Task Force is continuing to work with the School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) toward developing a Comprehensive Nutrition Standards Policy addressing foods in schools. Representatives from the Task Force met with Dr. Marty Hemric, the Superintendent of Wilkes County Schools, to discuss the importance of nutrition standards addressing a la carte, classroom rewards, concession food sales, and fundraisers within our schools. We will continue to work with Wilkes County Schools to further develop the standards.

This year saw the completion of 4 additional community parks or upgrades to facilities located at Millers Creek, Mountain View, Roaring River, and C.C. Wright Elementary Schools. This was a result of the Joint Use Agreement (JUA) that the Task Force partnered with Wilkes County Schools to create. The JUA allows community members access to outdoor elementary school facilities outside of school hours. Funding for the parks is provided by a grant received from the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust for \$151,400 to upgrade elementary school playground facilities over a 3-year period. Boomer-Ferguson, Traphill, Ronda-Clingman, and Mt. Pleasant were the first four schools to receive funding. The final phase began in 2012-2013 with Mulberry, C.B. Eller, North Wilkesboro, Wilkesboro, and Moravian Falls receiving funding this school year for their community parks.

In 2009 50.5% of Wilkes County School Middle School students (grades 6-8) were at a healthy weight. The most recent data available is from the Fall of 2011. Only 24% of Middle School students were tested. Of those 44.6% were at a healthy weight.

Substance Abuse Task Force

The Wilkes County unintentional poisoning mortality rate (primarily from drug overdoses) was quadruple that of North Carolina's (46.6 vs. 11.0 state mortality rate per 100,000 population per year) in 2009 and due almost exclusively to prescription opioid pain relievers. * The overdose death rate dropped 69% in two years after the start of Project Lazarus and the Chronic Pain Initiative, 2009-2011, the last year of confirmed data. * Reference Pain Medicine 2011; 12: S77-S85 Wiley Periodicals, Inc.

Access to Care Task Force

The Task Force Chair continues to work with private physicians, Wilkes Regional Medical Center, community centers, Wilkes County Health Department, and Care Connection Pharmacy to ensure proper availability of primary care for the uninsured. Through this collaboration, uninsured Wilkes County residents can continue to have proper ways to seek primary care, specialty care, outpatient services, and prescriptions drugs. These services are being promoted through health fairs, billboards, urgent cares, and at the free clinic. A new initiative was implemented in 2011, for the purpose of providing free dental care through dental clinics. The Wilkes Public Health Dental Clinic and the Health Foundation have been instrumental in this initiative since the beginning. The School of Dentistry at UNC-Chapel Hill has joined as a new partner this year.

How We Served You Last Year!

Adult Health-Adults age 21 and older receive well and sick care.

Patients	1,998
Patient Visits	5,225

Child Health-Children age 20 years and below receive well and sick care.

Patients	1,763
Patient Visits	2,939
Physicals	570
Lead Screening	57
Dental Screenings	36

Diabetes and Nutrition Center- Registered Dietitians offer individual and group classes for Diabetes education. Medical Nutrition Therapy assists patients with Weight Management, Eating Disorders, Hypertension, Hyperlipidemia, Renal Disease, Celiac Disease, Food Allergies, Sports Nutrition and Other Diagnoses

Diabetes Education Visits	633
Medical Nutrition Visits	222

After the three month follow-up:

*88% of our patients are checking their feet daily
96% of our patients have a hemoglobin A1c of less than 7%
Average decrease of Hemoglobin A1c of 2.4%*

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	938
Patient Visits	1,815
Vasectomies	2

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

Cancer Screenings	60
Abnormal Results	12
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	242
Abnormal Results	28
Cancer Identified	6

Care Coordination for Children- CC4C is a population management program to maximize children's health outcomes. The program will target the highest risk and highest medical cost children for care management. These services are provided for Medicaid children birth to 5 years of age in Wilkes County.

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

Pregnancy Care Management- OB Care Management is a population management program for prenatal patients in Wilkes County. The care managers help mothers and babies be as healthy as possible. These services are provided for all Medicaid pregnant women in Wilkes County and who are determined to be at high risk and qualify for services.

Wilkes County has approximately 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.

Behavioral Health Visits	645
Student Visits	1,850
Sports Physicals	640

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	236
Postpartum Services	234

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	2,030
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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	533
Deaths Recorded	569

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

Clients	1,677
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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.

Total vaccines administered	9,504
Total Hepatitis A vaccines	1,273
Total T-Dap vaccines	4,884

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	8891
Number of children eligible receiving an annual physical	4933
Participation Rate	64.6%

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	3,133
HIV Tests	709
TB Patients	1
Rabies Investigations	70
Reportable Diseases	230

Environmental Health: Water Protection Residents and businesses receive permits and evaluations for proposed, existing or repaired wastewater systems. (2011-2012 fiscal year)

Septic Permits	432
Well Permits	112
Complaints	57
Water Samples	326
Methamphetamine Lab Notification	21

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. (2011-2012 fiscal year)

Restaurants	214
Temporary Food Establishments	33
Meat Markets	15
School Lunchrooms	22
Lodging Facilities	9
Public Pool Facilities	22
Child & Adult Care Centers	45
Nursing/Rest/Group Home	39
Tattoo Permits	5

Want to View Restaurant Grades On-Line?

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

