

ANNUAL REPORT



Wilkes County Health Department

FY: 2016-2017

From the Public Health Director, Ann Absher...

I can't believe another year has passed at the Wilkes County Health Department. This was an eventful year and I want to highlight a few of the many accomplishments we were proud to achieve this year.

The health department is honored to be recipient of a Community Health Center designation or Federally Qualified Health Center that began on January 1, 2017. Our center, named the Wilkes Community Health Center, is the accomplishment of several years of preparation in the making. I want to recognize the Health Foundation for the assistance in the grant preparation, the Board of Health, the Wilkes Community Health Center Board, and the Wilkes County Commissioners for their support of this endeavor. Finally, I want to thank the health department management team, our medical director, Dr. Albert, and health department clinic and management support teams for the hard work to make this dream a reality for Wilkes County residents.

This year several projects are in implementation to improve health outcomes for Wilkes County residents. We received an Infant Mortality Reduction grant designed to decrease infant mortality by increasing access to tobacco cessation, increasing access to long term birth control methods and positive parenting education. The Market Bucks program allows us to provide access to fresh fruits and vegetables for school aged children at the farmers' markets.

Environmental Health received grants to provide improved food safety services to our community. Our clinics, Diabetes and MESH programs received several grants through the Office of Rural Health and Duke Endowment to increase access to care and improve patient outcomes. Through partnerships with Wake Forest Baptist and a grant with the Health Foundation, we are providing tele-health in our Diabetes and Nutrition Center by offering the Brenner FIT program and the Brenner FIT Academy for children and families in Wilkes County. This program has been very successful graduating additional classes that were full in capacity.

The staff of the Wilkes County Health Department appreciates the opportunity to serve our community in efforts to promote health and prevent disease. 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.

*"Promoting
Health and
Preventing
Disease in
Our
Community"*



North Carolina
LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENT ACCREDITATION BOARD



www.wilkeshealth.com

306 College St.
Wilkesboro, NC
28697

Phone: 336-651-7450
Fax: 336-651-7813

Visit us on Facebook
or the web:
wilkeshealth.com

Mental Health Update

The Mental Health Task Force has been meeting since early 2010. The task force is focused on prevention and access to services. Goals include: community education, integration of physical and mental health, training in preventive mental health interventions, access to care, and drug overdose prevention. The Task Force works to identify gaps in service in mental health care in Wilkes County and held a Community Resource Forum in the Fall of 2016 to educate the community on mental health and substance abuse crisis and recovery services to help reduce the burden of mental health in emergency departments. Project Lazarus and Wilkes County Schools are reliable partners in addressing mental health & substance abuse among youth in Wilkes County. The Youth Behavior Risk Survey and PRIDE Survey have been implemented in grades 6-12 of WCS. Project Lazarus leads a Community Coalition, which aims to address substance abuse and accidental overdose in Wilkes County, and a sub-committee of this ground, the Youth Coalition, has been active since 2015 in addressing substance abuse issues among adolescents. Additionally, Wilkes Community Health Center has applied for federal funds to help address mental health and substance abuse in our community. The health center should get notified of funding in September 2017

Dental Health Update

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, BROC 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. The number of unduplicated patients served in the dental clinic this year was 5,267 and a yearly total of 19,808.

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

Access to Care Update

The Access to Care task force continues to work with local healthcare entities to ensure proper availability of primary and specialty care for the uninsured. Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017 \$675,494 was donated in free health care. Since 2009 over 6 million in donated services have been provided to the uninsured residents of Wilkes County. Through this collaboration, uninsured residents can continue to have established pathways to seek primary care, specialty care, outpatient services, care management services and prescriptions drugs. The 7th annual free dental clinic was held in 2017 in which over \$95,000 in free dental care has been provided since 2011. In January 2017 the Wilkes Community Health Center was established under the Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC).

Preparedness

In response to the Zika outbreak in 2016, WCHD implemented a public health messaging campaign for mosquito control to help inform Wilkes County residents on ways to help prevent Zika transmission.

WCHD's Preparedness Coordinator, Jacqueline Phillips-Hayes, developed the Wilkes County Special Medical Needs Registry as her capstone project to complete a Master's Degree at the UNC at Greensboro. This volunteer registry was developed to help Wilkes County Emergency Management plan for and provide assistance to special needs residents during a disaster or emergency and is available through the Wilkes County website (www.wilkescounty.net).

The WCHD along with several community and regional partners successfully conducted our second annual Emergency Preparedness Tabletop Exercise in August of 2017 designed to test the Wilkes County ConOps Plan for Responding to High Consequence Pathogens. Exercises like this allow WCHD to work collectively with the Local Emergency Planning Committee and our regional partners to improve our plans and allow us to better serve our community in the event of an infectious disease emergency.

Currently, the WCHD is working diligently to ensure that all of the emergency preparedness requirements for a FQHC are met. In doing so, we are restructuring our current emergency preparedness plans to incorporate an 'All Hazards' emergency planning model.

Environmental Health

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



Septic Permits: 548

Well Permits: 99

Complaints: 73

Water Samples: 176

Methamphetamine Lab Notification: 1

Food & Lodging: Unannounced inspections are conducted on facilities at a risk based frequency. Complaints are investigated to ensure compliance and promote public health. Foodservice employees are educated in safe food handling practices.

Restaurants: 214

Temporary Food Establishments: 37

Meat Markets: 10

School Lunchrooms: 22

Lodging Facilities: 10

Public Pool Facilities: 23

Child & Adult Care Centers: 40

Nursing/Rest/Group Home: 20

Tattoo Permits: 6

Want to View Restaurant Grades On-Line? Go to wilkeshealth.com and click the Restaurant Inspections box.

Chronic Disease and Prevention

With the help of a grant through the Health Foundation, the health department was able to provide Market Vouchers to 80 families from North Wilkesboro Elementary, 45 families at Wilkesboro Elementary, 73 families at Mulberry Elementary, 20 families in Brenner FIT, 40 families through the Summer Feeding Program at the Wilkes County Library, and 10 families through St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Each family received at least \$3.00/week throughout the market season to be spent on fresh fruits, vegetables, and plants.

The health department in partnership with the Northwest Regional Tobacco Manager assisted Woodfield Apartments, Walden Ridge Apartments Grandview Apartments in implementing smoke free policies.

Through partnerships with Wake Forest Baptist and a grant with the Health Foundation, we are providing tele-health in our Diabetes and Nutrition Center by offering the Brenner FIT program and the Brenner FIT Academy for children and families in Wilkes County. The Health Department has just successfully completed our third class of Brenner FIT Families. During the last cohort, we offered two classes due to demand in the community. The health department has received a grant to expand services in our community. This fall we hope to reach families in the Mt. View community, by offering a class at Mt. View Elementary

Care Coordination for Children

CC4C is a population management program that maximizes children's health ages birth up to 5 years old. The program is offered at no charge to children who have long term medical conditions, dealing with social issues, referred by the physician or has had a recent hospital visit. The goal is to improve the healthcare of children.

Wilkes County has approximately 2,528 Medicaid children ages 0-5.

Pregnancy Care Management

OB Care Management is a population management program for prenatal patients in Wilkes County. Nurses and Social workers work with prenatal women and the OB physician to ensure the best possible care during the pregnancy and after delivery. The goal is to help have a healthy pregnancy and a healthy baby.

Wilkes County has approximately 2,711 Medicaid women age 14-44.

Health Check

Wilkes County families are contacted to ensure their children receiving Medicaid benefits get a complete physical each year. (FY 2012)

Number of children eligible for Health Check: 8,751

Number of children eligible receiving an annual physical: **4933**

Participation Rate: **67.4%**

Newborn/ Postpartum Services

A registered nurse with experience in postpartum and newborn care makes a one-time visit to new mothers and their babies in their homes following discharge from the hospital. Visits have been proven to play an integral part in providing continuity of care from the hospital to the home. Our goal is to ensure that our families in Wilkes County receive the best start possible to begin a healthy life for their newborns and a smooth transition for the family.

Newborn Visits: 88
Postpartum Services: 86



Breast & Cervical Cancer Screenings- Women are checked for breast and cervical cancers and further medical care is available for abnormal results.
Cancer Screenings: 85
Abnormal Results: 5
Cancer Identified: 0



Through other funding opportunities the health department was able to provide screenings for women who met certain criteria.
Cancer Screenings: 42
Abnormal Results: 3
Cancer Identified: 0

How We Served the Community

Adult Health- Adults age 21 and older receive well and sick care.
Patients: 1,819
Patient Visits: 5,600

Child Health- Children age 20 years and below receive well and sick care.
Patients: 1,300
Patient Visits: 2,348
Physicals: 519
Lead Screening: 55
Dental Screenings: 92

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/Medical Nutrition Patients: 401
Diabetes Education Visits/Medical Nutrition Visits: 1,052
After the three month follow-up:
35.4% of our patients are checking their feet daily
54.39% of our patients have a hemoglobin A1c of less than 7%
Average decrease of Hemoglobin A1c of 1.01 points

Laboratory- Health Department patients receive lab work to assist with prevention, diagnosis, and treatment.
Lab Tests Performed: 7,557

Family Planning- Teens and adults receive complete medical care and are provided with information and options about birth control choices including abstinence.
Patients Served: 599
Patient Visits: 1,138
Vasectomies: 0

Pharmacy- Health department patients may receive medications at reduced cost; or arrangements may be made through an agreement with the WRMC Care Connection Pharmacy.
Total Medications Filled: 936
Prescription Medications Filled: 798
Over the Counter Medications Filled: 138

Vital Records- Birth and death records are registered and analyzed to discover local health issues, and possible prevention activities.
Live Births Recorded: 390
Deaths Recorded: 571

Women, Infants & Children (WIC)- Eligible women and children are provided nutrition education and coupons for supplemental foods. (Numbers reflect average totals from July 2015-April 2016)
Clients: 1,684



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.

Total Student Visits: 2,267

Behavioral Health Visits: 1,114 (includes middle school and high school students)

Medical Visits: 822

Sports Physicals: 331

Communicable & Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Screening, monitoring and treatment for certain communicable diseases is available. Coordination with health care providers and public education is provided.

HIV Tests: 748

TB Patients: 2

Rabies Investigations: 69

Reportable Diseases: 311

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: 2,253

Total Hepatitis A vaccines: 137

Total T-Dap vaccines: 795

Flu vaccines administered: 851

Board of Health Members:

Joseph Fesperman, MD– Chair

Don Manus, RPh– Vice Chair

Sandra Sheppard, RN

Robert Ricketts, DDS

Robbins Miller, DVM

David Gambill, Jr., County Commissioner

Teana Compeau, Public Member

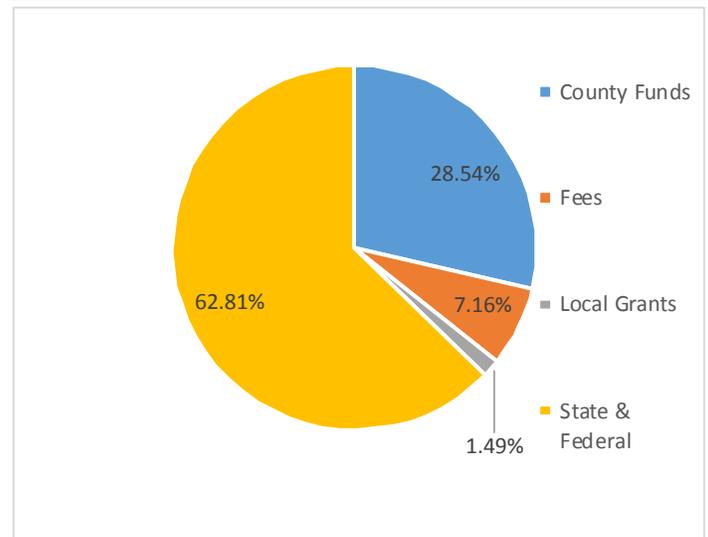
Carl Page, PE. Engineer

Gary Nash, MD

Deborah Britton, Public Member

Sylvia Robinson, Public Member

Health Department Revenue



For More Information Please Visit Us On the Web at

www.wilkeshealth.com

or

www.facebook.com/WilkesCountyHealth/