

## **REQUEST FOR BOARD ACTION**

### **HENDERSON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**MEETING DATE:** September 19, 2007

**SUBJECT:** 2007 Community Health Assessment

**ATTACHMENTS:** Henderson County Community Health Assessment  
2004-2007 Report  
State of the County's Health Report 2006 and Citizen  
Survey Tool.

#### **SUMMARY OF REQUEST:**

Every four years local public health departments are required to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) and during off years to provide data updates to the report. The Henderson County Department of Public Health is presently involved in the 2007 CHA in collaboration with the Henderson County Partnership for Health and numerous other organizations and stakeholders in our community. Ms. Linda Charping, Director of Health Education, at the Health Department is coordinating the project and desires to provide the Henderson County Board of County Commissioners a brief update on the project, the survey tool being used to get citizen input and the timeline for the project. Also, she will share how the CHA may be used by the Henderson County Board of Health and other groups may utilize the information in the report to assist in policy and strategic planning and implementing activities to improve the health and well-being of the citizens of Henderson County.

#### **BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:**

For information purpose only. No action is requested at this time.

#### **Suggested Motion:**

No motion suggested.

## What Concerns Residents the Most?

The most important concerns of residents were nearly identical to concerns identified by the assessment team.

The top ten concerns were:

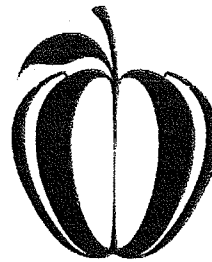
1. Overweight/obesity
2. Lack of dental care for low-income children and adults
3. Access to, and affordable, health care
4. Mental health
5. Need for medication assistance
6. Substance abuse
7. Tobacco use
8. Shortage of nurses in schools
9. Asthma
10. Cancer

The top five environmental concerns were:

1. Air quality
2. Water quality
3. Road/traffic conditions
4. Trash disposal/burning/littering
5. Need for greenways

## Resources

In addition to the Department of Public Health, Henderson County has a variety of health care resources, including two hospitals, and a community health clinic, which also serves as the Latino Health Center. In a 1999 survey, there were 78 primary care physicians serving 1,056 people per physician, which was better than the state average. In addition, there were 39 dentists who served an average of 2,112 people, which was also better than the state average.



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The complete Community Health Assessment Report and Community Opinion Survey can be seen on the Health Department website.

## Henderson County Community Health Assessment 2004 - 2007

## Report to the Community

## What is a Community Health Assessment?

A community health assessment is a process by which community members gain an understanding of the health concerns and health care systems of the community. The role of the community health assessment is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to adequately address these factors. Action plans are completed to address each priority that is identified.

The community health assessment is completed every four years and is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of community members.

As part of our community health assessment, a health opinion survey was developed. The survey was printed in English and Spanish and was distributed to a range of people in our community targeting different income levels, the African-American community, and the Latino community.

Our community health assessment team consisted of the management team of the Henderson County Department of Public Health and representatives of the Board of Directors of the Henderson County Partnership for Health (PFH). The PFH makes up a broad scope of community members and agencies including the Department of Public Health, Public Schools, Pardee Hospital, Park Ridge Hospital, Volunteer Medical Resource Center, Blue Ridge Community Health Services, City Council, and business.

A subcommittee gathered and analyzed data and formulated the action plans with the team's oversight. In addition to the Community Health Opinion Survey, data was also collected from Internet sources, databases, and the *County Health Data Book*.

## Health Concerns to be Addressed in 2004-2007

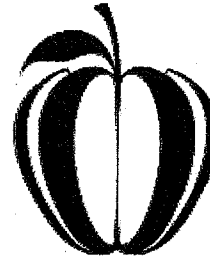
- ❖ **Obesity** – Data from the WIC Program in 1999 indicated that 50.2 percent of women prior to pregnancy were overweight or obese. In 2000, children receiving health department services of normal weight by age were: 2-4 years olds – 69.1%, 5-11 year olds – 69%, and 12-18 year olds – 62.3%. *By June 2007, the community will establish four programs to address the issue of childhood obesity using a multi-agency approach.*
- ❖ **Dental Health** - The untreated dental decay rate in kindergartners in Henderson County during 2000-01 was 22.8%. The 2007 goal is 19% or less. Access to dental care is another critical concern. *The County will address this issue and increase accessible dental health services for low-income adults and children over the next four years.* There is a shortage of dentists accepting Medicaid and Health Choice, and many children and families have to travel to Asheville, Charlotte or Winston-Salem to receive much needed dental treatment. Henderson County has a great need for a pedodontist, since many general dentists are not comfortable seeing children less than five years of age.
- ❖ **Mental Health** – Hospitalization rates for mental disorders, alcohol, and drug related diagnoses during 1996-1998 were above the state average (of 260.0) at 355.8. *By June 2007, the community will increase mental health service opportunities in primary care offices and will increase mental health service opportunities in the public school system.*
- ❖ **Tobacco Use** – In 2001, 67 people died in Henderson County due to cancer of the lung, trachea, and bronchus. The age-adjusted death rate in 1999-2001 for cancer of the lung, trachea, and bronchus was 49.3. *By June 2007, the community will address tobacco use by working with a minimum of eight local businesses to adopt smoke-free policies. Smoke Free Dining Day will be held at five or more restaurants annually.*
- ❖ **Shortage of Nurses in Schools** – The 2003 ratio of school nurses to students is 1:3000. The recommended ratio is 1:750. *By June 2007, the community will address this issue by decreasing the nurse to student ratio to <1:2000.*
- ❖ **Asthma** - Asthma hospitalizations in 0-14 year olds in Henderson County in 2000 was 303.3. The North Carolina rate was 201.3. *Plans include interventions to increase asthma management and decrease asthma hospitalizations to 200 or less by 2007.*
- ❖ **Cancer (Colorectal)** – Age-adjusted colorectal cancer incidence rates for 1996-00 were higher in Henderson County (49.6) than for the state (48.4). Age-adjusted death rates for colon, rectum and anus cancer in 1999-2000 were slightly higher (21.2) than the state rate (19.2). *By June 2007, the community will continue cancer screening initiatives through collaboration with community partners. The Department of Public Health will screen more than 50% of women for colon cancer who are seen through the Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program. In addition, two community awareness campaigns will be implemented to increase colorectal cancer screening.*

## New and Emerging Issues

**Teenage Pregnancy:** For the third consecutive year, the teenage pregnancy rate for girls 15-19 years old increased. The rate jumped from 56 in 2004 to 75.5 in 2005. The state rate dropped from 62.4 in 2004 to 61.7 in 2005. Of concern is the increasing rate of pregnancy in 15-17 year olds. During the last six years, the state rate has declined steadily. In Henderson County, the rate had been declining until 2003. However, for the past two years, the rate has increased from 26.0 in 2002 to 43.1 in 2005. The state rate in 2005 was 35.6.

**Hispanic/Latino Population:** The growing Hispanic/Latino population is another issue that continues to affect our ability to serve our community. Henderson County's growth in the Hispanic/Latino population is the fastest in the region; 477% increase since the 1990 census was taken. With it comes an increased need for bilingual staff to serve these clients, as well as Spanish interpreters and educational materials in Spanish. Many of these clients have no payment source, which creates additional problems in trying to meet the needs of our clients with current resources.

**Infant Mortality:** Twelve infants died in Henderson County during 2005. This is a 100% increase over 2004. The 2004 infant mortality rate was 5.4 compared to 10.1 in 2005. The state rate in 2005 was 8.8. The Henderson County Child Fatality Prevention Team reviews cases and makes suggestions to prevent deaths to children. Ten deaths in 2005 were related to conditions such as prematurity. Early prenatal care with education and referral to additional services remains important to infant death prevention.



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The complete 2003 Community Assessment Report and the 2006 State of the County's Health Report can be seen on the Health Department website.

## Henderson County

### State of the County's Health Report 2006

#### Includes:

- ❖ Review of county statistical data
- ❖ Progress-to-date on plans and interventions to address health concerns
- ❖ New and emerging issues

# Review of Health Priorities and Progress-to-Date

- ❖ **Obesity** – In September 2006, 26.2% of 2-5 year old children in the WIC program had a body mass index (BMI) above the 85th percentile. This is down from 2005 when the rate was 36.9%. Plans for 2004 - 2007, include establishing four programs to address the issue of childhood obesity using a multi-agency approach. Several programs have already been established. The Health Department continues to offer the Kid Fit program to address youth obesity by targeting at-risk children referred by physician offices or through the WIC program. A registered dietitian offers weight management counseling for students at Apple Valley Middle School. Our department also worked with 10 of 12 elementary schools to implement the Energizers Program, a classroom-based physical activity program for kindergarten to fifth grade students.
- ❖ **Dental Health** - In 2005-06, 18% of kindergarteners had untreated dental decay. This has declined since 2000-01 when the untreated dental decay rate was 23%. We have met our 2007 goal of 19% or less. Access to dental care is another critical concern. One of the dental health goals is to increase dental health services for low-income adults and children. In January 2005, a patient navigator began working to assist Medicaid and Health Choice children needing dental treatment. In six months, this position assisted 92 additional children in receiving dental treatment. Many of these children would not have been able to receive any dental follow-up or treatment due to the limited dental access for Medicaid and Health Choice covered children.
- ❖ **Mental Health** – Hospitalization rates for mental disorders, alcohol, and drug related diagnoses during 1996-1998 were above the state average (of 260.0) at 355.8. Our goal for 2007 is to increase mental health service opportunities in primary care offices and increase mental health service opportunities in the public school system. With the awarding of the Healthy Communities Access Program (HCAP) grant in September 2004 to Partnership for Health, mental health issues are being addressed in an enhanced collaboration. A depression protocol has been developed to help providers assess whether a patient is depressed and needs counseling services. Through this grant, three therapists have been hired to work in three medical offices.
- ❖ **Tobacco Use** – In 2005, 83 people died in Henderson County due to cancer of the lung, trachea, and bronchus. The age-adjusted death rate in 2000-2004 for cancer of the lung, trachea, and bronchus was 48.9. Plans for 2007, include addressing tobacco use by working with local businesses to adopt smoke-free policies.
- ❖ **Shortage of Nurses in Schools** – The 2006 school nurse to student ratio of 1:2115 has improved since 2003 when it was 1:3000. However, it is still the fifth worst in the state. The state average is 1:1580, and the recommended ratio is 1:750. Our 2007 Plan is to decrease the nurse to student ratio to less than 1:2000. A school nurse was added at Bruce Drysdale Elementary School in 2003 and has continued with grant funding.
- ❖ **Asthma** - In 2005 asthma hospitalizations in 0-14 year olds in Henderson County were 65.2, down from 149.6 in 2003. The North Carolina rate was 164.4. This is a significant improvement, bringing us well below the state average and below the Local Community Objective in our Action Plan of 200 asthma hospitalizations. School nurses complete Emergency Action Plans on students who experience asthma episodes or are on asthma medication in school. A shortage of school nurses prevents them from teaching the Open Airways Asthma Education program in all elementary schools. The asthma hospitalization rate for all ages decreased from 164 in 2003 to 121.7 in 2005. The 2005 rate is slightly lower than the state rate during this time.
- ❖ **Cancer (Colorectal)** – The five-year age-adjusted colorectal cancer incidence rates in Henderson County have decreased slightly from 48.1 (1997-01) to 44.4 (1999-03) while the NC rate has remained constant at 48. Age-adjusted death rates for colon/rectum cancer in 2001-2005 are lower (15.2) than the state rate (18.6). During 2004 we successfully implemented colon cancer screening into our Breast and Cervical Cancer Control Program (BCCCP) with support from Pardee Hospital. Grant funds that the hospital used for hemocult cards have been depleted and we have not been able to continue this program during the past year.

## Henderson County Community Health Opinion Survey

### **PLEASE READ ALL THE INSTRUCTIONS BEFORE YOU START!**

This survey is part of the community health assessment being done by the Henderson County Department of Public Health and Partnership for Health, Inc. Community health assessment helps us learn how healthy our community is. We want to use this information to develop community-based plans to address health concerns. This survey is to find out **YOUR OPINION** of local health assets, needs, and concerns. Please take about 10 minutes to fill out this survey. Thank you for your opinion.

#### **Part I: Information About You**

*Before you get started, we would like to know a little about you. These questions are of a personal nature, but are important and will be kept strictly **CONFIDENTIAL**. We **do not** ask your name on this survey.*

*Please circle the number to the left of your answer.*

- 1) What is your age?
  1. Under 18
  2. 18–24
  3. 25–34
  4. 35–44
  5. 45–64
  6. 65–74
  7. Over 74
- 2) Are you?
  1. Male
  2. Female
- 3) What is your marital status?
  1. Married
  2. Single
  3. Widowed
  4. Divorced
- 4) Do you have children 18 years or younger living in your home?
  1. Yes, how many? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. No
- 5) What is your race?
  1. White/Caucasian
  2. Black/African American
  3. Hispanic/Latino/Latina
  4. Native American
  5. Asian/Pacific Islander
  6. Other Race
- 6) What is the last grade you completed?
  1. 12th grade or less, no diploma or equivalent
  2. High school graduate or equivalent (e.g., GED)
  3. Some college, but no degree (includes vocational training)
  4. Associate degree in college (e.g., AA)
  5. Bachelors degree in college (e.g., BA, BS)
  6. Advanced degree in college (e.g., masters, doctorate)
- 7) What is your job?
  1. Agricultural (e.g. farmer, rancher, field worker)
  2. Business and Industry (e.g. banker, retailer, plumber, attorney)
  3. Government (e.g. city/county employee, police)
  4. Education (e.g. teacher, principal, professor)
  5. Health Care (e.g. doctor, nurse, CNA)
  6. Health & Human Services (e.g. social worker, counselor, therapist)
  7. Nonprofit
  8. Maintenance
  9. Food Service
  10. Student
  11. Homemaker
  12. Retired

Other \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) Do you have health insurance? ☐ yes ☐ no
  - a. If yes, what kind?
    1. Medicare (includes supplemental policy)
    2. Medicaid
    3. Private Insurance (includes Blue Cross/Blue Shield)
    4. Other \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. If you have private insurance, who pays for it?
    1. Employer pays the most of the cost.
    2. I (or my family) pay the most of the cost
    3. Employer and I (or my family) each pay about half.
    4. Other \_\_\_\_\_

9) Does your child have a health insurance plan? ☐ Yes ☐ No

a. If yes, what kind? \_\_\_\_\_

10) What was your total household income last year (before taxes)?

- |                      |                                    |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. Less than \$10,00 | 5. \$50,000–\$74,999               |
| 2. \$10,000–\$19,999 | 6. \$75,000–\$99,999               |
| 3. \$20,000–\$29,999 | 7. \$100,000 or more               |
| 4. \$30,000–\$49,999 | 8. Don't know/Prefer not to answer |

11) How many people does this income support? \_\_\_\_\_

12) How much of the time do you feel healthy and full of energy?

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 1. All of the time  |                      |
| 2. Most of the time | 4. None of the time  |
| 3. Some of the time | 5. Don't know/unsure |

## **Part II: Access to Health Care**

13. When you need *medical care*, where do you **USUALLY** go? **CHECK ONLY ONE**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private doctor in Henderson County    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pardee Hospital ER               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Ridge Community Health Services  | <input type="checkbox"/> Park Ridge Hospital ER           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Clinic                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Department                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not go to a doctor                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Private doctor in another county |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hendersonville Family Health Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: please specify _____      |

14. When you need a dentist, where do you **USUALLY** go? **(CHECK ONLY ONE)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dentist in Henderson County         | <input type="checkbox"/> Blue Ridge Community Health – Stokes Dental Clinic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Do not go to a dentist              | <input type="checkbox"/> Dentist in another county                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Free Clinic Adult Extraction Clinic |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                        |   |

15. Do you know of any health services that are needed in your community?

- ☐ Yes – List: \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ No

## **Part III: Health and Human Services Opinion Survey**

This section asks **your opinion** about conditions and services in your community. There is no right or wrong answer. We want to know **what you think** and if you see the item as a problem in your community.

**For each of the issues named, select one of these four answers:**

**No Problem:** This is not a problem and needs no more attention by my community.

**Somewhat of a Problem:** This issue might become a major problem.

**Major Problem:** This issue is a problem. My community needs to address this problem.

**Don't Know:** I do not have enough information to know whether or not this is a problem.

*Important Note:* Some of the questions address services. If your community does not provide the service, you can still answer the question. Is it a problem that the service is **NOT** offered?

### **Living in Our Community**

**In your opinion**, does Henderson County have a problem with any of these issues? (Circle your answer)

	No Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	Major Problem	Don't Know
1. Cancer	0	1	2	n/a
2. Diabetes	0	1	2	n/a
3. Heart disease	0	1	2	n/a
4. High blood pressure	0	1	2	n/a

5. HIV/AIDS	0	1	2	n/a
6. Pneumonia/Flu	0	1	2	n/a
7. Stroke	0	1	2	n/a
8. Asthma	0	1	2	n/a
9. Mental health problems	0	1	2	n/a
10. Dental health problems	0	1	2	n/a
11. Learning and developmental disabilities	0	1	2	n/a
12. Recreation areas (parks, walking trails, bike paths)	0	1	2	n/a
13. Any other issue _____	0	1	2	n/a

### **Health and Human Services**

**In your opinion**, do people in your community have a problem finding or using these services? (Circle your answer)

	No Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	Major Problem	I Don't Know
1. General medical care	0	1	2	n/a
2. Specialized medical care	0	1	2	n/a
3. Home health care	0	1	2	n/a
4. Dental care	0	1	2	n/a
5. Mental health care (counseling)	0	1	2	n/a
6. Emergency medical care	0	1	2	n/a
7. Child health care	0	1	2	N/a
8. Respite care (relief for caregivers)	0	1	2	n/a
9. Adult day care	0	1	2	n/a
10. Nursing home care	0	1	2	n/a
11. Care for pregnant women	0	1	2	n/a
12. Daycare for infants and toddlers	0	1	2	n/a
13. Childcare for sick school-age children	0	1	2	n/a
14. Hospital services	0	1	2	n/a
15. Drug & alcohol treatment	0	1	2	n/a
16. Rehabilitation after surgery or an injury	0	1	2	n/a
17. Medical equipment	0	1	2	n/a
18. Transportation to health care	0	1	2	n/a
19. Private health insurance coverage	0	1	2	n/a
20. Enrolling in Medicaid/Medicare	0	1	2	n/a
21. Nutrition programs (i.e. Meals on Wheels)	0	1	2	n/a
22. Health education programs	0	1	2	n/a
23. Childhood immunizations	0	1	2	n/a
24. Child abuse services	0	1	2	n/a
25. Sexual assault services	0	1	2	n/a
26. Domestic violence services	0	1	2	n/a



### Unhealthy Behaviors

**In your opinion**, are these unhealthy behaviors a problem in your community? (Circle your answer)

	No Problem	Somewhat of a Problem	Major Problem	I Don't Know
1. Lack of physical activity or exercise	0	1	2	n/z
2. Poor eating habits/lack of good nutrition	0	1	2	n/a
3. Adult obesity	0	1	2	n/a
4. Childhood obesity	0	1	2	n/a
5. Tobacco use among adults	0	1	2	n/a
6. Drinking and driving	0	1	2	n/a
7. Driving or riding in a car without seatbelts	0	1	2	n/a
8. Adult alcohol abuse	0	1	2	n/a
9. Illegal drug use/substance abuse	0	1	2	n/a
10. Abuse or neglect of older people	0	1	2	n/a
11. Depression	0	1	2	n/a
12. Suicide	0	1	2	n/a
13. Sexually transmitted diseases	0	1	2	n/a
14. Sexual assault/rape	0	1	2	n/a
15. Domestic Violence	0	1	2	n/a
16. Child Abuse	0	1	2	n/a
17. Youth violence	0	1	2	n/a
18. Underage drinking	0	1	2	n/a
19. Teenage pregnancy	0	1	2	n/a
20. Tobacco use among people under 18	0	1	2	n/a
21. Bullying in schools	0	1	2	n/a
22. Youth access to and use of weapons	0	1	2	n/a
23. Weapons in schools	0	1	2	n/a
24. Other_____	0	1	2	n/a

### **Part IV: Major Problems**

1. What do you think is the **MOST IMPORTANT HEALTH** problem in your community? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What do you think is the **MOST IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL** problem in your community? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you very much for your response! Survey results will be tabulated and reported to the community!**

**Return surveys to: Partnership for Health (Contact: Terri Wallace 698-4600)**  
**PO Box 2742**  
**Hendersonville, NC 28793**