

***2015  
Wilkes County  
Community Health Assessment***

***Summary of Secondary Data Findings,  
Community Health Survey Results and  
Stakeholder Interview Results***

**November 17, 2015**



# ***Purpose of the Community Health Assessment***

- Describe the health status of the community.
- Create a report that will serve as a resource for the Wilkes County Health Department, Wilkes Regional Medical Center, the Health Foundation, Inc., and other community organizations.
- Provide direction for the planning of disease prevention and health promotion services and activities.



# ***Contributing Viewpoints***

<b>Secondary Data</b>	<b>Citizen and Stakeholder Opinion</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Demographic</li><li>-Socioeconomic</li><li>-Health</li><li>-Environmental</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Community health survey</li><li>-Stakeholder interviews</li></ul>



# ***We Take Special Notice When...***

- Wilkes County statistics deviate from North Carolina or peer county statistics, or some other “norm”.
- Trend data show significant changes over time.
- There are significant age, gender, or racial disparities.



# ***Definitions and Symbols***

- **Arrows**

- Arrow up (▲) indicates an increase.
- Arrow down (▼) indicates a decrease.

- **Color**

- **Red** indicates a “worse than” or negative difference
- **Green** indicates a “better than” or positive difference
- **Blue** indicates a likely unstable rate or difference based on a small number of events; figures in blue should be used with great caution.

- **Bold Type**

- Indicates the higher value of a pair, or the highest value among several.



# ***Data Caveats***

- Data sources presented among these slides are rudimentary, but are thoroughly cited in the supporting Data Workbooks.
- Most secondary data originated from authoritative sources in the public domain (e.g., US Census Bureau, US EPA, NC State Center for Health Statistics).
- Most data for Wilkes County is compared also to data for Surry County data (a state-sanctioned peer county) and data for North Carolina as a whole.
- All secondary data were mined at a point in time in the recent past, and may not represent present conditions. Numbers, entity names, program titles, etc. that appear in the data may no longer be current.



# ***Demographic Data***



# ***General Population Characteristics***

- The Wilkes County population has a slightly higher proportion of females than males.
- Median age of the Wilkes County population is 6.0 years older than NC average

## **July 1, 2014 US Census Bureau Estimate**

Location	Total Population	Number Males	% Population Male	Median Age Males	Number Females	% Population Female	Median Age Females	Overall Median Age
Wilkes County	68,838	33,947	49.3	42.9	34,891	50.7	45.6	44.2
Surry County	72,968	35,693	48.9	41.4	37,275	51.1	44.4	43.0
State of NC	9,943,964	4,844,593	48.7	36.7	5,099,371	51.3	39.7	38.2



# ***Population Growth***

- According to data from the NC Office of State Budget and Management, the rate of population growth in Wilkes County is expected to continue to decline for the next two decades, remaining well below the rate of growth for NC as a whole.

Percent Population Growth		
Decade	Wilkes County	State of NC
1980-1990	1.3	12.8
1990-2000	10.5	21.3
2000-2010	5.6	18.5
2010-2020	4.9	15.8
2020-2030	4.6	12.9



# ***Minority Populations***

- Wilkes County has lower proportions of African Americans and Hispanics than NC as a whole.

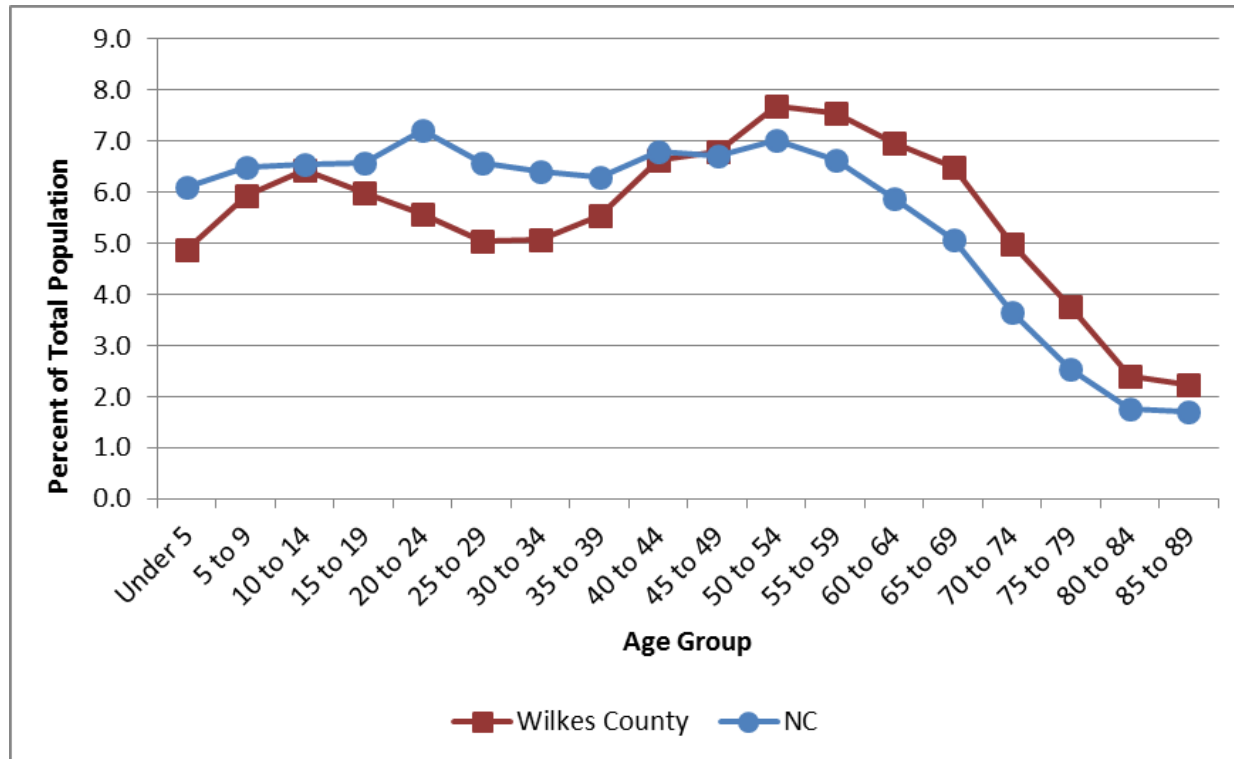
## **Population Distribution by Race/Ethnicity July 1, 2014 US Census Bureau Estimate**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Percent of Overall Population</b>					
	<b>White</b>	<b>Black</b>	<b>AI/AN</b>	<b>Asian</b>	<b>Multiple Races</b>	<b>Hispanic</b>
<b>Wilkes County</b>	93.3	4.5	0.4	0.5	1.3	5.8
<b>Surry County</b>	93.4	4.1	0.6	0.8	1.1	10.1
<b>State of NC</b>	71.5	22.1	1.6	2.8	2.1	9.0



# Population Age Distribution

- According to 2014 US Census Bureau estimates, compared to NC, Wilkes County has lower proportions of people in all age categories under age 44, and higher proportions of people in all age categories over age 44.



# ***Growth of the Elderly Population***

- According to figures from the NC Office of State Budget and Management, the population in every major age group age 65 and older in Wilkes County will increase between 2010 and 2030.
  - **Age 65-74:** by 38%
  - **Age 75-84:** by 73%
  - **Age 85+:** by 60%
  - **Overall Age 65+:** by 51%
- By 2030 estimates predict 18,472 persons age 65+ in Wilkes County.



# ***Socioeconomic Data***



# ***Income***

## **In Wilkes County (according to US Census Bureau figures):**

- 2014 Per Capita Personal Income = \$19,492  
– \$5,792 **below** NC average
- 2014 Median Household Income = \$35,029  
– \$11,305 **below** NC average
- 2013 Median Family Income = \$42,083  
– \$14,845 **below** NC average

*Household:* all people in a housing unit sharing living arrangements; may or may not be related

*Family:* householder and people living in household related by birth, marriage or adoption.

*All families are also households; not all households are families.*



# ***Employment***

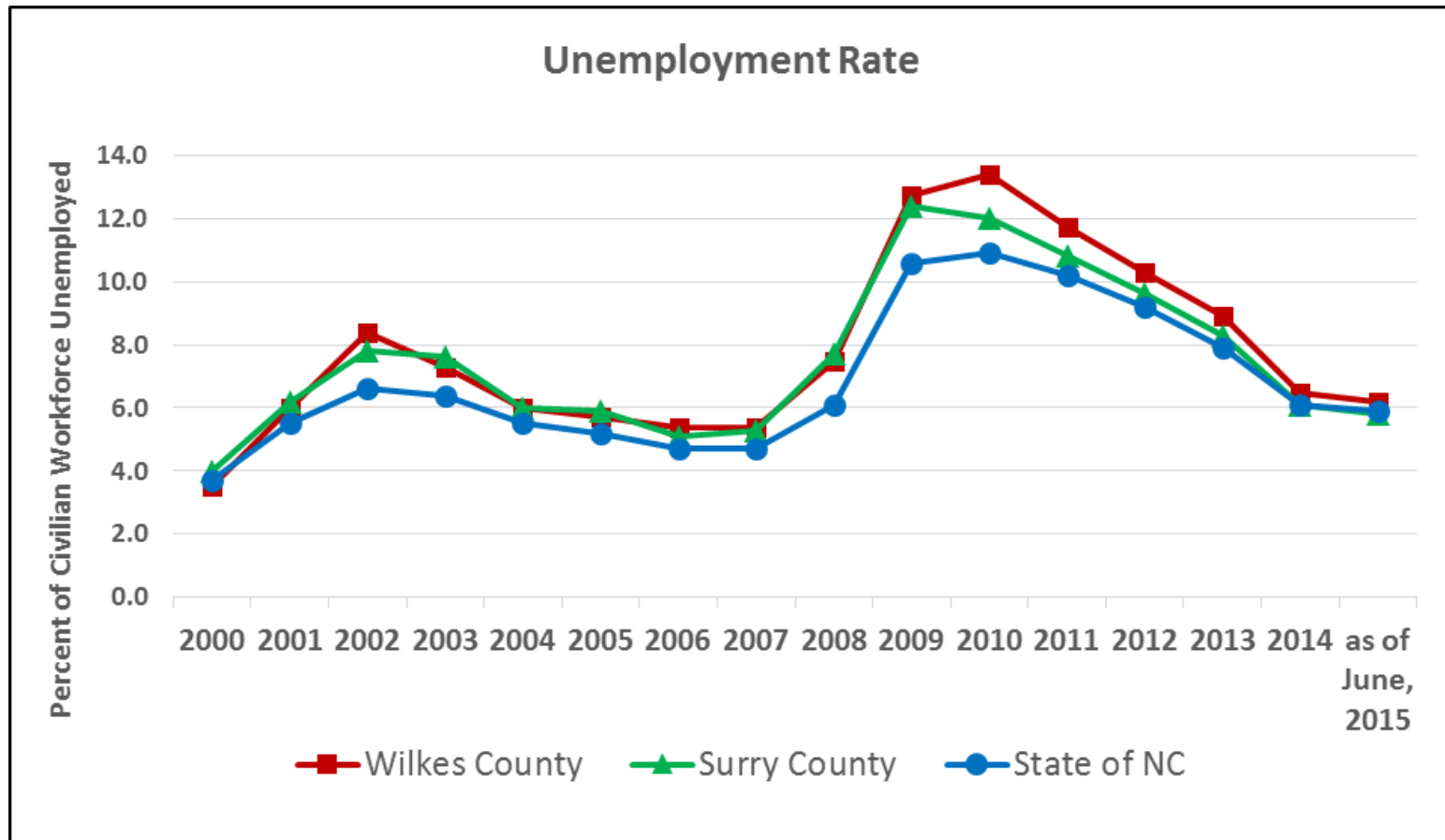
- According to NC Department of Commerce figures, in 2014 the three employment sectors in Wilkes County with the largest proportions of workers (and average weekly wages) were:
  - Manufacturing: 23.09% of workforce (\$673)
  - Retail Trade: 13.61% of workforce (\$454)
  - Health Care and Social Assistance: 12.84% of workforce (\$622)

*Statewide in 2014 the largest employment sector was Health Care and Social Assistance (14.29%) at an average weekly wage of \$880 per employee.*



# ***Annual Unemployment Rate***

*(NC Department of Commerce Figures)*



# ***Overall Poverty Rate Trend***

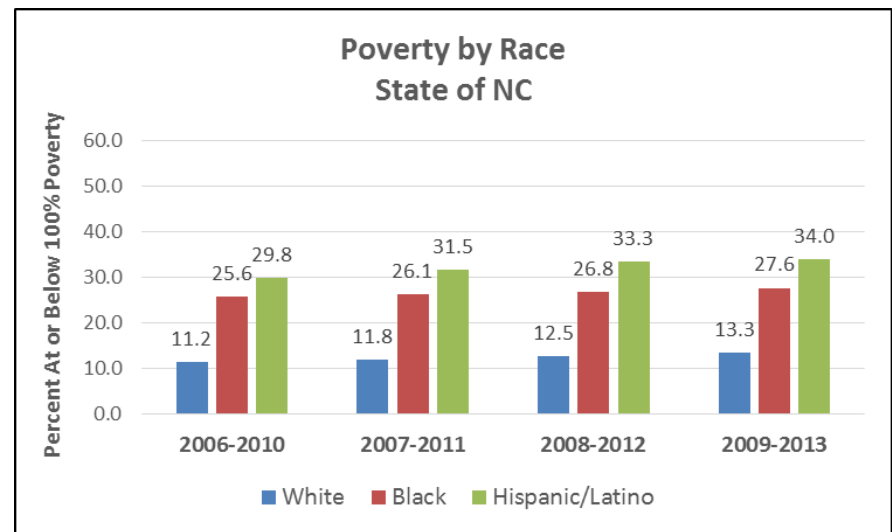
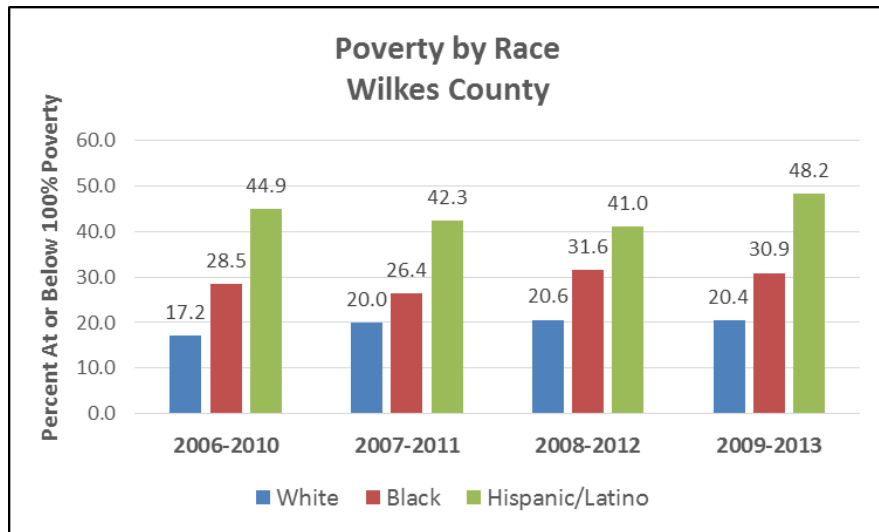
- According to US Census Bureau figures, the overall poverty rate in Wilkes County was higher than the comparable state and Surry County rates throughout the period cited.

Location	Percent of All People in Poverty			
	2006-2010	2007-2011	2008-2012	2009-2013
Wilkes County	19.2	21.7	22.4	22.7
Surry County	16.9	18.0	18.3	19.9
State of NC	15.5	16.1	16.8	17.5



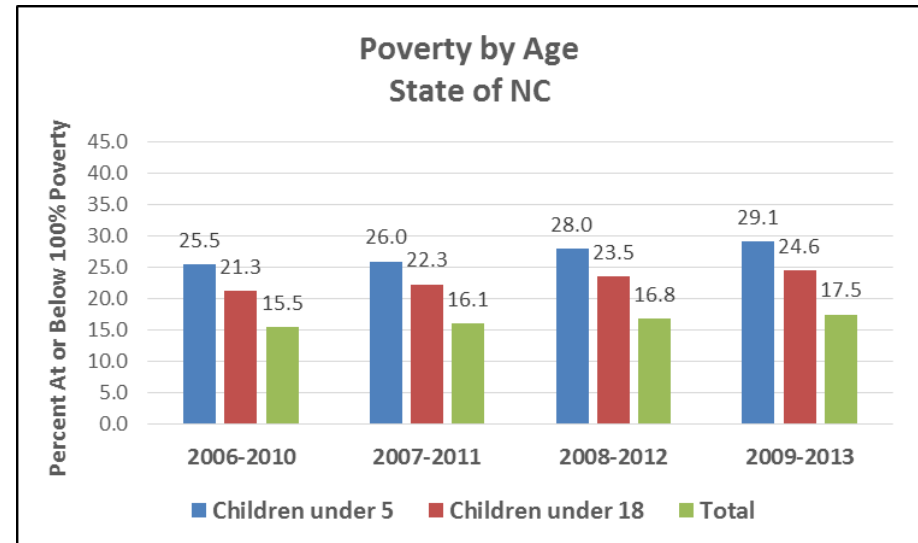
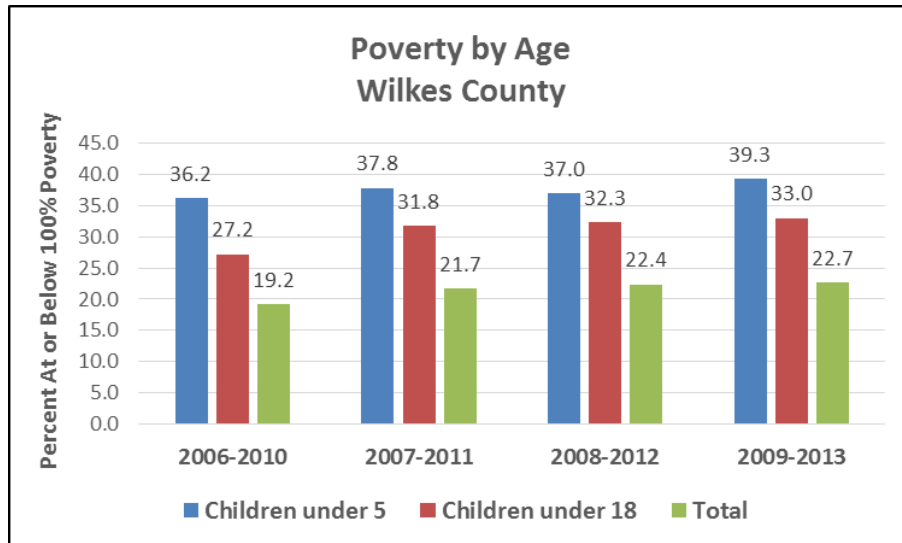
# Poverty and Race

- According to US Census Bureau figures, the poverty rate among Hispanics in Wilkes County exceeded the comparable poverty rates for other groups throughout the period cited. In NC as a whole, the highest poverty rate over the period cited occurred among Hispanics.
- The poverty rates in all racial and ethnic groups in Wilkes County exceeded the comparable state rates.



# Poverty and Age

- According to US Census Bureau figures, the poverty rate among children in Wilkes County and NC exceeded the comparable poverty rates for the population as a whole throughout the period cited.
- The poverty rates for both <18 age groups in Wilkes County exceeded the comparable state rates.



# ***Housing Costs***

According to US Census Bureau figures:

- for 2009-2013, the estimated median monthly mortgage cost among Wilkes County homeowners = \$1,021.

**\$260 less than the NC median**

- for 2009-2013, the estimated median gross monthly rent among Wilkes County renters = \$573

**\$203 less than the NC median**

***In Wilkes County for 2009-2013, approximately 54% of renters and 36% of mortgage-holders lived in a household paying > 30% of household income for housing. The comparable NC figures were 51% and 32%.***



# ***Children and Families***

According to US Census Bureau figures for 2009-2013:

- There were 7,348 households in Wilkes County living with their own children under age 18.
  - 72% were headed by a married couple [NC = 65%]
  - 20% were headed by a female householder (no husband present) [NC = 27%]
  - 8% were headed by a male householder (no wife present) [NC = 8%]
- 67% of the estimated 1,649 Wilkes County grandparents living with their minor grandchildren *also* were financially responsible for their care. [NC = 49%]



# ***Educational Achievement and Investment***

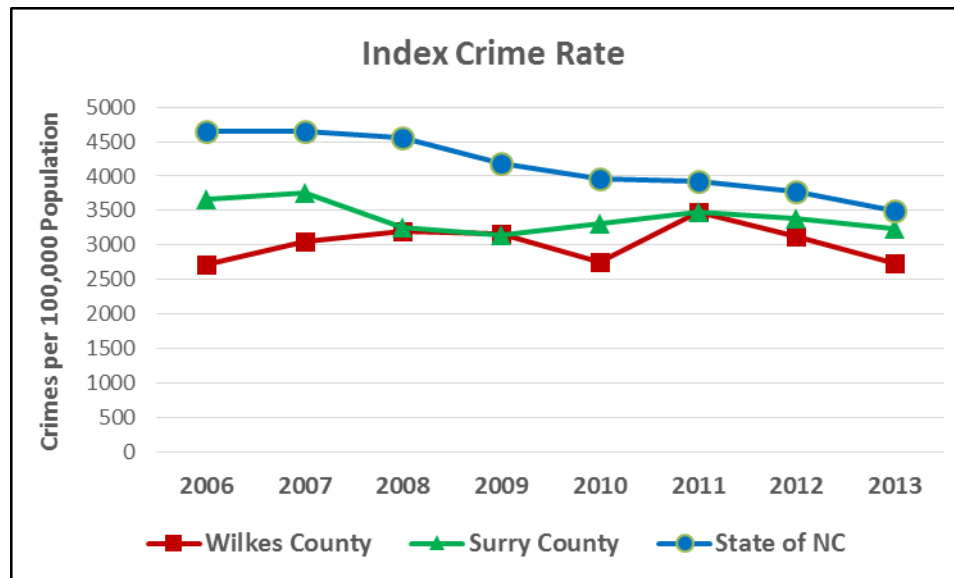
- Compared to the NC average, Wilkes County has:
  - **13% lower** percentage of high school graduates (2009-2013)
  - **54% lower** percentage of college graduates (2009-2013)
  - **25% lower** HS drop-out rate (SY2013-2014)
  - **3% higher** four-year cohort HS graduation rate (graduating in SY2014-2015 or earlier)
  - **lower** proficiency among 3<sup>rd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders on EOG reading and math tests (SY2013-2014)
  - **4% lower** total per pupil expenditure (SY2013-2014)



# ***Crime and Safety***

## ***Index Crime***

- The “index crime rate” represents the sum of violent crime and property crime.
- According to data from the NC Department of Justice, the index crime rate in Wilkes County was lower than the comparable NC average in every year cited.



# Crime and Safety

- According to data from the NC State Bureau of Investigation the crimes reported in Wilkes County in 2006-2013 were:

Type of Crime	Number of Crimes							
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
<b>Violent Crime</b>	<b>123</b>	<b>207</b>	<b>213</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>152</b>	<b>186</b>	<b>161</b>	<b>148</b>
<i>Murder</i>	3	3	2	3	3	2	2	6
<i>Rape</i>	6	6	9	10	4	4	7	4
<i>Robbery</i>	19	29	29	26	23	25	22	22
<i>Aggravated Assault</i>	95	169	173	126	122	155	130	116
<b>Property Crime</b>	<b>1,691</b>	<b>1,830</b>	<b>1,934</b>	<b>1,962</b>	<b>1,701</b>	<b>2,227</b>	<b>2,007</b>	<b>1,753</b>
<i>Burglary</i>	553	622	678	799	607	696	620	571
<i>Larceny</i>	1,032	1,100	1,146	1,047	1,025	1,425	1,320	1,115
<i>Motor Vehicle Theft</i>	106	108	110	116	69	106	67	67
<b>Total Index Crimes</b>	<b>1,814</b>	<b>2,037</b>	<b>2,147</b>	<b>2,127</b>	<b>1,853</b>	<b>2,413</b>	<b>2,168</b>	<b>1,901</b>

- *Aggravated assault* is the purposeful use of force, often involving a weapon, to inflict bodily harm.
- *Larceny* is theft of property without the use of force.



# ***Crime and Safety***

- According to the NC Department of Justice, of **14,469 registered sex offenders** in NC in September 2015, **142** lived in Wilkes County.
- According to the NC Department of Justice, **143 clandestine methamphetamine lab** busts took place in Wilkes County over the period 2005-2013. The number of busts in 2013 (50) was the highest among the 100 NC counties; the number in 2012 (59) was the second highest statewide.
- According to the NC Department of Crime Control and Public Safety, as of 2013 there were **zero gangs** reported in Wilkes County



# Sexual Assault

- According to the NC Domestic Violence Commission, the number of individuals filing sexual assault claims increased dramatically in Wilkes County after FY2008-2009.

Location	No. of Individuals Filing Complaints ("Clients")									
	FY2004-05	FY2005-06	FY2006-07	FY2007-08	FY2008-09	FY2009-10	FY2010-11	FY2011-12	FY2012-13	FY2013-14
Wilkes County	n/a	37	20	32	28	66	45	29	58	39
Surry County	0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	11	9
State of NC	8,564	8,721	7,444	6,527	8,494	13,392	13,881	13,214	12,971	13,736

- In 2013-2014 the most commonly reported type of sexual assault in Wilkes County was adult rape (49%). Statewide the most common complaint was child sexual offense (26%)
- In 2013-2014 the most frequently reported offender was an acquaintance. Statewide the most frequently reported offender was a relative.



# ***Domestic Violence***

- According to the NC Domestic Violence Commission, the number of individuals filing domestic violence claims in Wilkes County averaged 636 between FY2004-05 and FY2013-14.

Location	No. of Individuals Filing Complaints ("Clients")									
	FY2004-05	FY2005-06	FY2006-07	FY2007-08	FY2008-09	FY2009-10	FY2010-11	FY2011-12	FY2012-13	FY2013-14
Wilkes County	557	551	584	567	624	683	637	580	869	712
Surry County	108	105	83	305	297	458	454	57	681	482
State of NC	50,726	48,173	47,305	41,787	51,873	66,320	61,283	51,563	57,345	55,274

- The domestic violence shelter serving Wilkes County was full on 69 days in FY2013-2014.
- There were seven homicides attributable to domestic violence in Wilkes County over the period 2008 through 2013.



# ***Child Maltreatment***

- According to Child Welfare data from the Social Services Data Warehouse at UNC, the numbers of children subject to abuse, neglect, or abuse and neglect in Wilkes County have fluctuated over time without pattern. Neglect only cases composed the most common type of child maltreatment over the period cited.

Category	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Total No. of Findings of Abuse, Neglect, Dependency	83	64	35	26	34	55
No. Substantiated <sup>1</sup> Findings of Abuse and Neglect	2	5	6	2	6	16
No. Substantiated Findings of Abuse	10	1	0	0	2	2
No. Substantiated Findings of Neglect	71	58	29	24	26	37
Services Needed	19	36	38	54	64	38
Services Recommended	45	19	10	50	53	42
No. Unsubstantiated Findings	234	123	129	77	57	99
Services Not Recommended	90	100	181	249	210	227

<sup>1</sup> A "substantiated" report of child abuse, neglect or exploitation indicates that the investigation supports a conclusion that the subject child(ren) was/were abused, neglected, or exploited.



# ***Health Resources***



# ***Health Insurance***

- US Census Bureau data demonstrates that the percent uninsured in Wilkes County fluctuated without pattern in all age groups over the period shown.

**Percent of Population Without Health Insurance, by Age Group**

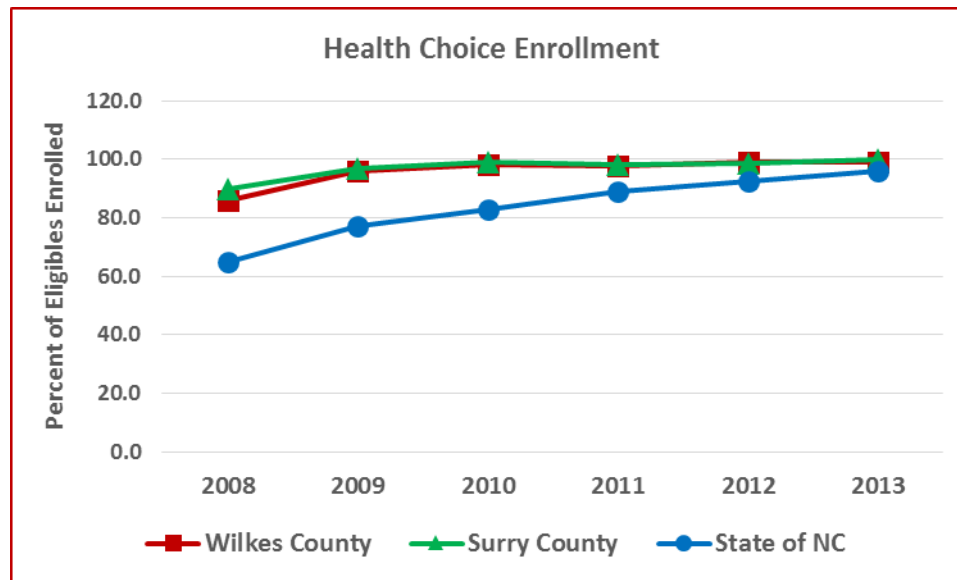
<b>Location</b>	<b>2011</b>			<b>2012</b>			<b>2013</b>		
	<b>0-18</b>	<b>19-64</b>	<b>0-64</b>	<b>0-18</b>	<b>19-64</b>	<b>0-64</b>	<b>0-18</b>	<b>19-64</b>	<b>0-64</b>
<b>Wilkes County</b>	7.1	25.4	20.5	7.9	26.6	21.6	7.4	<b>25.3</b>	<b>20.5</b>
<b>Surry County</b>	<b>8.9</b>	<b>25.9</b>	<b>21.1</b>	<b>9.1</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>22.0</b>	<b>7.5</b>	25.1	20.2
<b>State of NC</b>	7.9	23.0	18.7	7.9	23.4	19.0	6.9	22.5	18.1

- The age group 0-18 tends to have a lower percentage of uninsured than the 19-64 age group, due partly at least to NC Health Choice.



# ***NC Health Choice Enrollment***

- Data from the NC Division of Medical Assistance shows that the percent of eligible children enrolled in NC Health Choice in all three jurisdictions increased between 2008 and 2013.



# ***Medicaid Eligibility***

- The total number of people in Wilkes County eligible for Medicaid increased annually in most years from 2008 through 2013.
- The programs with the largest numbers of eligibles were Infants & Children and ADFC.

## **Wilkes County Medicaid-Eligibles by Program Area**

Year	Number of Eligibles											
	Aged	Blind	Disabled	ADFC	Foster Care	Pregnant Women	Infants & Children	Medicaid CHIP	Medicare Catastrophic	Refugees Aliens	BCC	Total Eligibles
2008	1,378	20	2,182	2,412	136	254	4,440	372	665	5	0	11,864
2009	1,340	19	2,245	2,754	140	215	4,782	338	706	2	0	12,541
2010	1,372	24	2,266	2,702	155	250	5,006	310	788	7	1	12,881
2011	1,332	22	2,333	2,593	172	218	5,196	369	846	9	3	13,093
2012	1,284	24	2,359	2,460	175	223	5,242	348	888	16	1	13,020
2013	1,280	22	2,432	2,385	206	233	5,263	355	934	16	2	13,128



# ***Health Care Practitioners***

- 2012 ratios of active health professionals per 10,000 population were **lower** in Wilkes County than NC for:
  - MDs: **11.90** (NC=**22.31**)
  - Primary Care MDs: **5.88** (NC=**7.58**)
  - Dentists: **2.58** (NC=**4.51**)
  - Registered Nurses: **62.93** (NC=**98.56**)
  - Pharmacists: **5.73** (NC=**10.06**)
- These ratios from the Sheps Center for Health Services Research do not take into consideration medical practitioners in neighboring counties accessible to Wilkes County residents.



# ***Long-Term Care Facilities***

According to data from the NC Division of Health Services Regulation, the number of beds in NC-licensed long-term care facilities in Wilkes County as of September, 2015 were:

- Adult Care Homes/Homes for the Aged (2): 201 beds
- Family Care Homes (1): 6 beds)
- Nursing Homes/Homes for the Aged (3): 407 beds
- Total: 614 beds, or 1 bed for every 22 persons age 65 and older (2014 US Census Bureau estimate). With no new beds, the ratio in 2030 could be as high as 1:30 (2030 NC Office of State Budget and Management population estimate).



# ***Health Statistics***



# ***Health Rankings***

- According to *America's Health Rankings* (2014)
  - NC ranked 37<sup>th</sup> overall out of 50 (where 1 is “best”)
- According to *County Health Rankings* (2015) for NC, Wilkes County was ranked:
  - 67<sup>th</sup> overall out of 100 (where 1 is best) for ***health outcomes***
    - 66<sup>th</sup> in length of life
    - 64<sup>th</sup> for quality of life
  - 61<sup>st</sup> overall out of 100 for ***health factors***
    - 68<sup>th</sup> for health behaviors
    - 68<sup>th</sup> for clinical care
    - 54<sup>th</sup> for social and economic factors
    - 66<sup>th</sup> for physical environment



# ***Maternal and Infant Health***

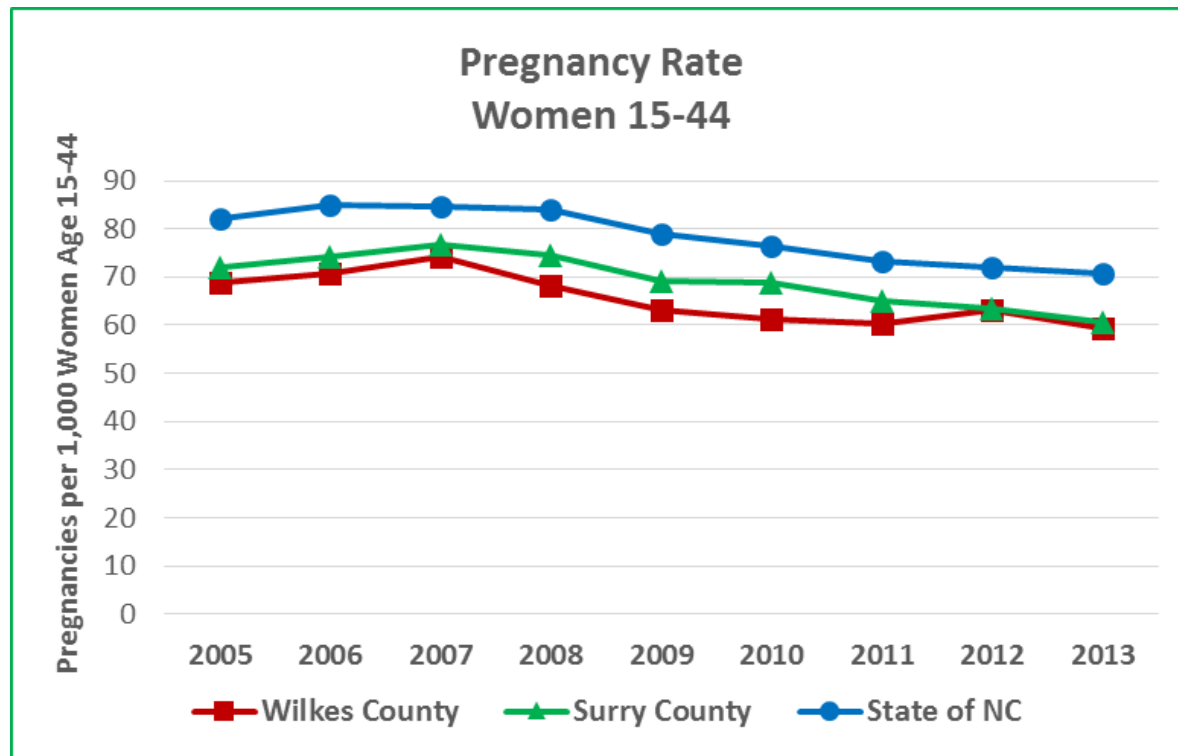
(All data from the NC State Center for Health Statistics unless otherwise cited.)



# ***Pregnancy Rate***

## **Pregnancies per 1,000 Women Age 15-44**

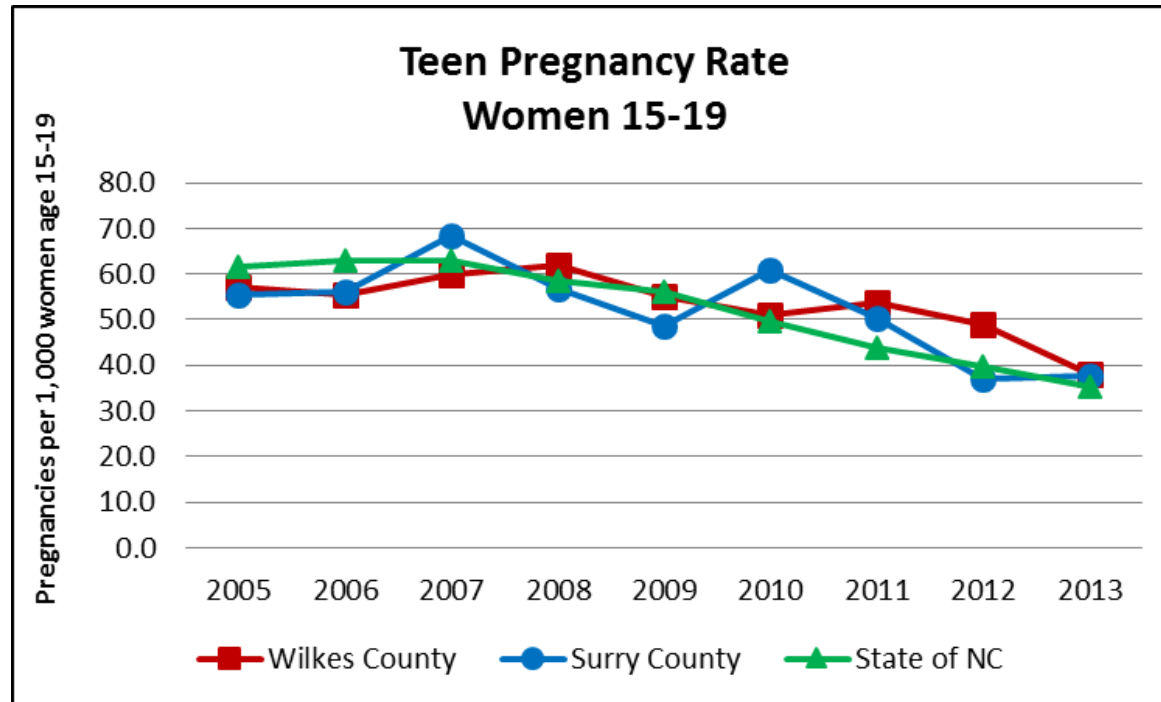
- The total pregnancy rates in Wilkes County, Surry County and NC have fallen overall since 2008.



# Pregnancy Rate

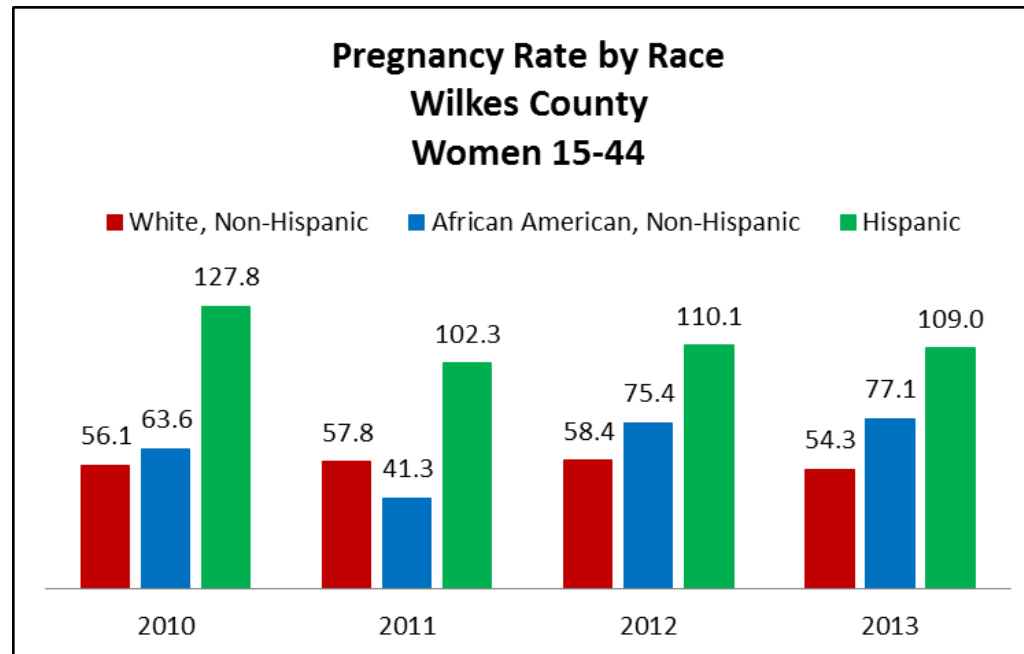
## Pregnancies per 1,000 women Age 15-19 (Teens)

- The teen pregnancy rates in Wilkes County, and NC have fallen significantly since 2008, and appear to be falling still. Rates in Surry County have been variable.



# ***Pregnancy Rate By Race/Ethnicity***

- Among Wilkes County women age 15-44 the highest pregnancy rates appear to occur usually among Hispanics. Racially- and ethnically-stratified pregnancy data for the teen age group (15-19) are below threshold and do not yield stable reportable rates.



# ***Pregnancy Risk Factors***

## ***Smoking During Pregnancy***

- According to NC Vital Statistics data, the percentage of Wilkes County women who smoked during pregnancy was lower in 2013 than in 2011 or 2012. Comparable percentages for the state did not change significantly over the same period.
- Wilkes County had a higher percentage of smoking during pregnancy than its comparators in 2012.

County	Percent of Births to Mothers Who Smoked While Pregnant		
	2011	2012	2013
Wilkes County	23.2	<b>24.5</b>	18.9
Surry County	<b>23.5</b>	20.8	<b>21.4</b>
State of NC	10.9	10.6	10.3



# ***Pregnancy Risk Factors***

## ***Prenatal Care***

- According to data in the NC Baby Book, the percentage of Wilkes County women who received early prenatal care was lower in 2013 than in 2011 or 2012. Comparable percentages for the state did not change significantly over the same period.
- Wilkes County had higher percentages of early prenatal care than its comparators in 2011 and 2012.

County	Percent of Pregnancies Receiving Prenatal Care in 1 <sup>st</sup> Trimester		
	2011	2012	2013
Wilkes County	78.3	81.1	77.1
Surry County	74.6	76.8	81.5
State of NC	71.2	71.3	70.3



# ***Pregnancy Risk Factors***

## ***High Parity and Short-Interval Births***

### **In Wilkes County:**

- **High Parity Births (2009-2013)**
  - Mothers age <30 = **16.7%** (NC = 16.0%)
  - Mothers age ≥30 = **22.8%** (NC = 21.7%)
- **Short Interval Births (2008-2012) and change since 2005-2009**
  - Overall = **14.4%** (NC = 12.6%)

*\*A short interval birth results from a pregnancy commencing six or fewer months after the last birth.*

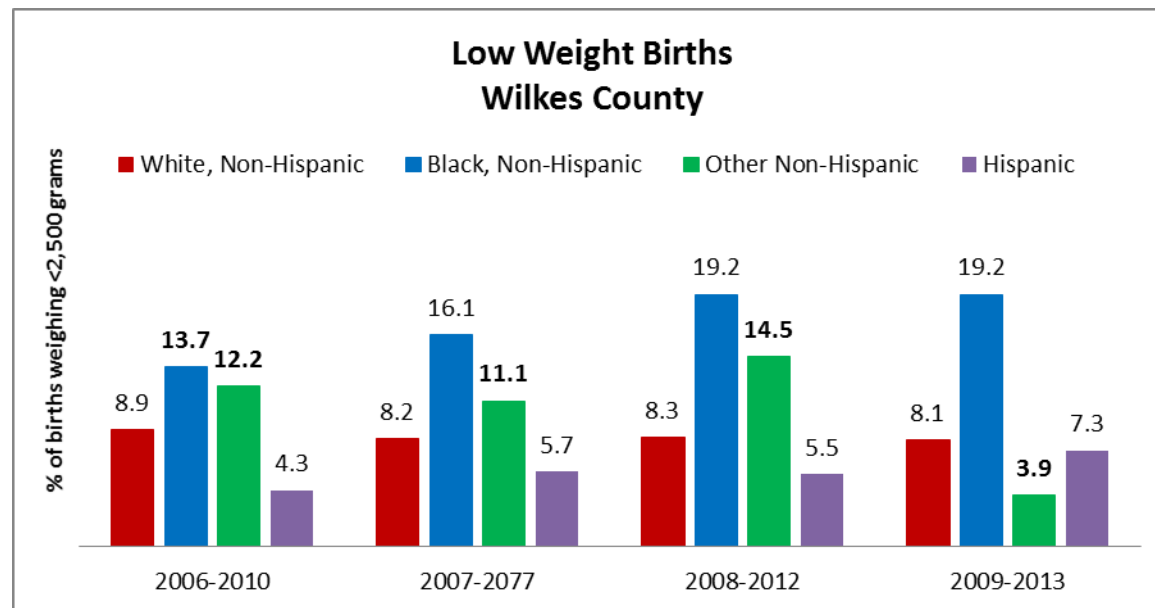


# ***Pregnancy Outcomes***

## ***Low Birth Weight Births***

### ***by Race***

- The highest percentages of low birth-weight (<5.5 lbs.) births in Wilkes County occur among African American women. Racially-stratified data for very-low birth-weight (<3.3 lbs.) birth are unstable.



# ***Pregnancy Outcomes***

## ***Hospital Discharges for Newborns and Neonates with Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period***

- According to local hospital data, the number of discharges associated with newborns or neonates in Wilkes County with some kind of problem originating in the perinatal period increased between 2013 and 2014.

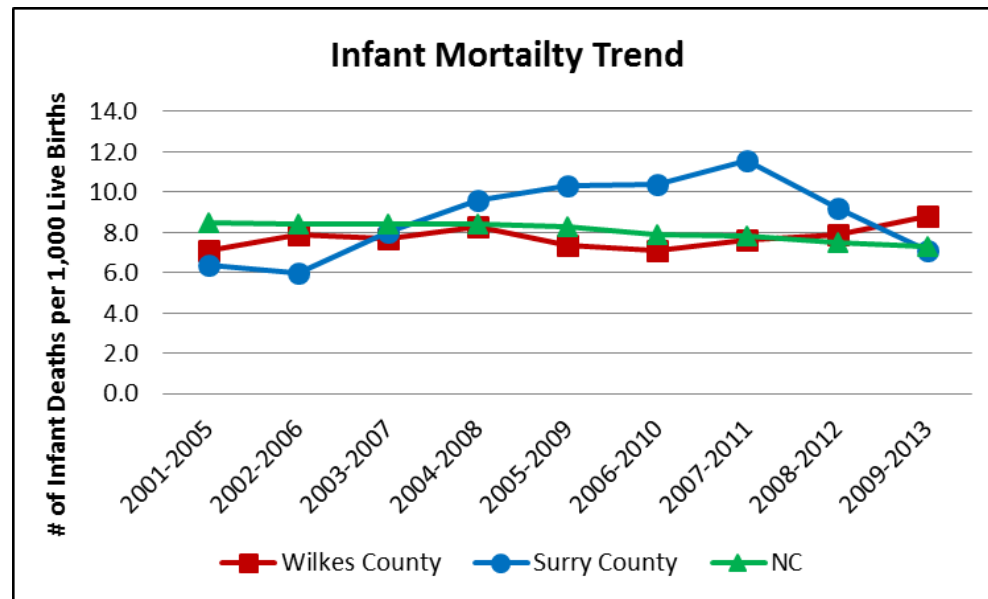
Year	Number of Hospital Discharges by DRG (Diagnosis Related Group) Diagnosis						
	Total Newborns	Extreme Immaturity or Respiratory Distress	Prematurity with Major Problems	Prematurity without Major Problems	Full-Term Neonate with Major Problems	Neonate with Other Significant Problems	Normal Newborn
2012	513	2	1	24	8	82	379
2013	489	0	2	25	4	82	361
2014	493	0	4	28	15	96	325



# ***Pregnancy Outcomes***

## ***Infant Mortality***

- The overall infant mortality rate in Wilkes County has been increasing since 2006-2010. Throughout most of the period cited, infant mortality was lower in Wilkes County than in either Surry County or NC as a whole.
- Note that according to the CDC the 2013 infant mortality rate in NC was the 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation.



# ***Mortality***



# ***Life Expectancy***

- **Life Expectancy Comparison: 1990-1992 and 2011-2013:**

Location	Life Expectancy in Years									
	Person Born in 1990-1992					Person Born in 2011-2013				
	Overall	Male	Female	White	African-American	Overall	Male	Female	White	African-American
Wilkes County	75.7	72.5	78.8	76.0	69.6	77.2	74.7	79.7	77.1	76.6
Surry County	76.1	71.9	80.2	76.6	66.8	77.1	74.2	79.8	77.0	76.8
State of NC	74.9	71.0	78.7	76.4	69.8	78.2	75.7	80.6	78.8	75.9



# Leading Causes of Death: Overall

<b>Age-Adjusted Rates (2009-2013)</b>	<b>Wilkes County No. of Deaths</b>	<b>Wilkes County Mortality Rate</b>	<b>Wilkes Rate Difference from NC</b>
1. Total Cancer	860	182.7	<b>+5.4%</b>
2. Diseases of the Heart	766	166.4	<b>-2.1%</b>
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	250	53.0	<b>+15.0%</b>
4. All Other Unintentional Injuries	170	47.0	<b>+60.4%</b>
5. Cerebrovascular Disease	191	41.7	<b>-4.6%</b>
6. Pneumonia and Influenza	130	29.4	<b>+64.2%</b>
7. Diabetes Mellitus	114	24.8	<b>+14.3%</b>
8. Alzheimer's Disease	103	22.7	<b>-21.5%</b>
9. Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	61	17.7	<b>+29.2%</b>
10. Septicemia	78	17.1	<b>+28.6%</b>
11. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, Nephrosis	73	16.1	<b>-8.5%</b>
12. Suicide	53	13.6	<b>+11.5%</b>
13. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	49	11.5	<b>+21.1%</b>
14. Homicide	19	5.4	<b>+7.4%</b>
15. AIDS	4	1.4	<b>-51.7%</b>



# Leading Causes of Death: Gender Comparison

Wilkes County Rank by Descending Overall Age-Adjusted Rate (2009-2013)	Rank Among Males	Rank Among Females	% Male Rate Difference from Females
1. Total Cancer	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>+61%</b>
2. Diseases of the Heart	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>+58%</b>
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>+20%</b>
4. All Other Unintentional Injuries	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2.2X</b>
5. Cerebrovascular Disease	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>+17%</b>
6. Pneumonia and Influenza	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>+18%</b>
7. Diabetes Mellitus	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>+88%</b>
8. Alzheimer's Disease	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>-44%</b>
9. Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>n/a</b>
10. Septicemia	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>+24%</b>
11. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, Nephrosis	<b>11</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>+26%</b>
12. Suicide	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>n/a</b>
13. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>n/a</b>
14. Homicide	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>n/a</b>
15. AIDS	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>n/a</b>



# Leading Causes of Death: Race Comparison

Wilkes County Rank by Descending Overall Age-Adjusted Rate (2009-2013)	Rank Among White Non- Hispanic	Rank Among Black non- Hispanic	% Blacks Rate Difference from Whites
1. Total Cancer	1	1	<b>+25%</b>
2. Diseases of the Heart	2	2	<b>+2%</b>
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	3	n/a	n/a
4. All Other Unintentional Injuries	4	n/a	n/a
5. Cerebrovascular Disease	5	n/a	n/a
6. Pneumonia and Influenza	6	n/a	n/a
7. Diabetes Mellitus	7	n/a	n/a
8. Alzheimer's Disease	8	n/a	n/a
9. Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	9	n/a	n/a
10. Septicemia	10	n/a	n/a
11. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, Nephrosis	11	n/a	n/a
12. Suicide	12	n/a	n/a
13. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	13	n/a	n/a
14. Homicide	14	n/a	n/a
15. AIDS	15	n/a	n/a

# Leading Causes of Death: Time Comparison

Wilkes County Rank by Descending Overall Age-Adjusted Rate (2009-2013)	Rank 2006-2010	Rank Change 2006-2010 to 2009-2013	% Rate Change 2006-2010 to 2009-2013
1. Total Cancer	1	nc	-1%
2. Diseases of the Heart	2	nc	-5%
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	4	+1	-1%
4. All Other Unintentional Injuries	3	-1	-13%
5. Cerebrovascular Disease	5	nc	-15%
6. Pneumonia and Influenza	8	+2	+15%
7. Diabetes Mellitus	9	+2	+7%
8. Alzheimer's Disease	7	-1	-15%
9. Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	6	-3	-36%
10. Septicemia	11	+1	+3%
11. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, Nephrosis	12	+1	+29%
12. Suicide	10	-2	-22%
13. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	13	nc	+12%
14. Homicide	14	n/a	n/a
15. AIDS	15	n/a	n/a



# Leading Causes of Death – By Age

Age Group	Rank	Cause of Death in Wilkes County (2009-2013)
00-19	1	Conditions originating in the perinatal period
	2	Congenital anomalies (birth defects)
	3	Motor vehicle injuries
20-39	1	All other unintentional injuries
	2	Motor vehicle injuries
	3	Cancer (all sites)
40-64	1	Cancer (all sites)
	2	Diseases of the heart
	3	All other unintentional injuries
65-84	1	Cancer (all sites)
	2	Diseases of the heart
	3	Chronic lower respiratory disease
85+	1	Diseases of the heart
	2	Cancer (all sites)
	3	Cerebrovascular disease



# Mortality Trends, 2001-2005 to 2009-2013










Leading Cause of Death in Wilkes County	Overall Trend Direction
1. Total Cancer	▼
2. Diseases of the Heart	▼
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease	▲
4. All Other Unintentional Injuries	▲
5. Cerebrovascular Disease	▼
6. Pneumonia and Influenza	▲
7. Diabetes Mellitus	▲
8. Alzheimer's Disease	▼
9. Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	▼
10. Septicemia	▲
11. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, Nephrosis	▼
12. Suicide	▼
13. Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	▲
14. Homicide	▼
15. AIDS	▲

# ***Site-Specific Cancer Trends***

## ***Wilkes County***

***Incidence: 1996-2000 to 2008-2012***

***Mortality: 2001-2005 to 2009-2013***

<b>Cancer Site</b>	<b>Parameter</b>	<b>Overall Trend Direction</b>
Lung Cancer	Incidence Mortality	 
Prostate Cancer	Incidence Mortality	 
Breast Cancer	Incidence Mortality	 
Colorectal Cancer	Incidence Mortality	 
Pancreas Cancer	Incidence Mortality	n/a 



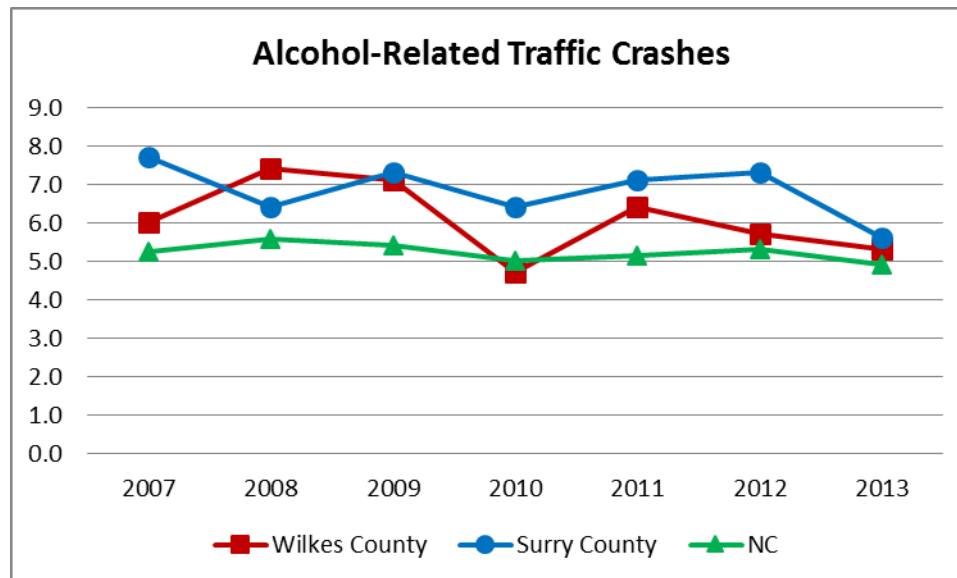
# ***Morbidity***



# ***Vehicular Injury***

## ***Alcohol-Related Motor Vehicle Crashes***

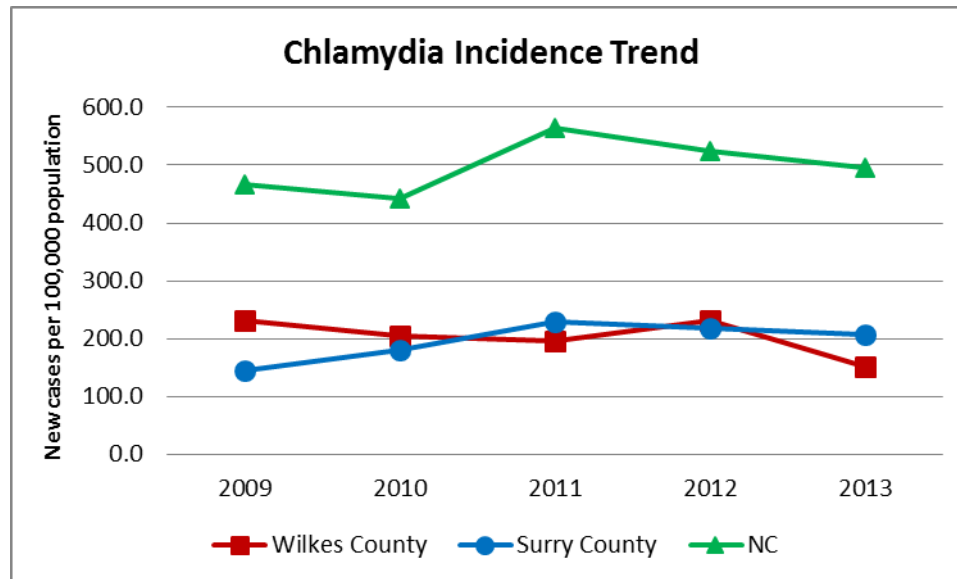
- According to the NC Highway Safety Research Center, over the period 2007 through 2013 an annual average of 6.1% of all traffic crashes in Wilkes County were alcohol-related. Statewide the comparable figure was 5.2%.



# ***Sexually Transmitted Infections***

## ***Chlamydia***

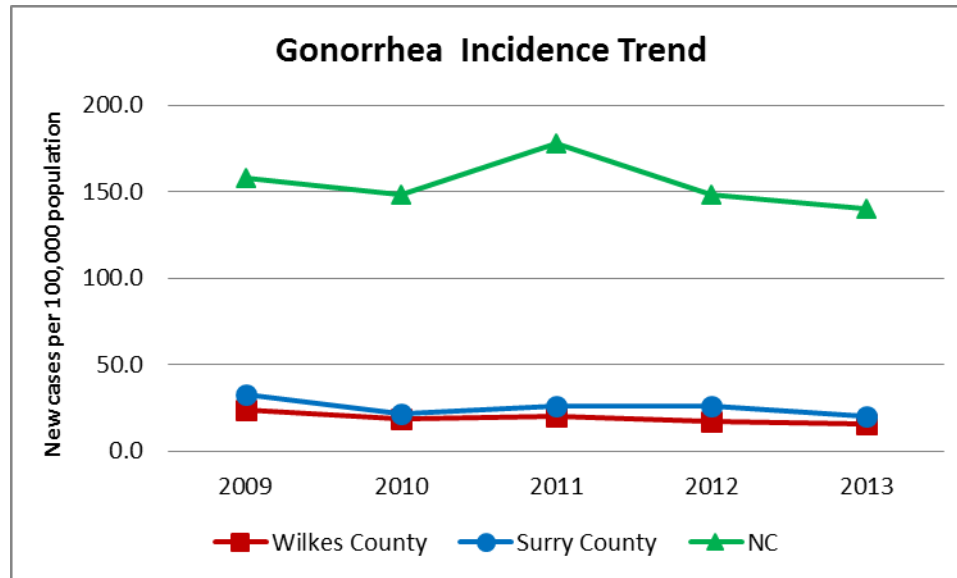
- According to data from the NC Communicable Disease Branch, the chlamydia infection rate in Wilkes County, which has fallen recently, was lower than the NC rate throughout the period cited.



# ***Sexually Transmitted Infections***

## ***Gonorrhea***

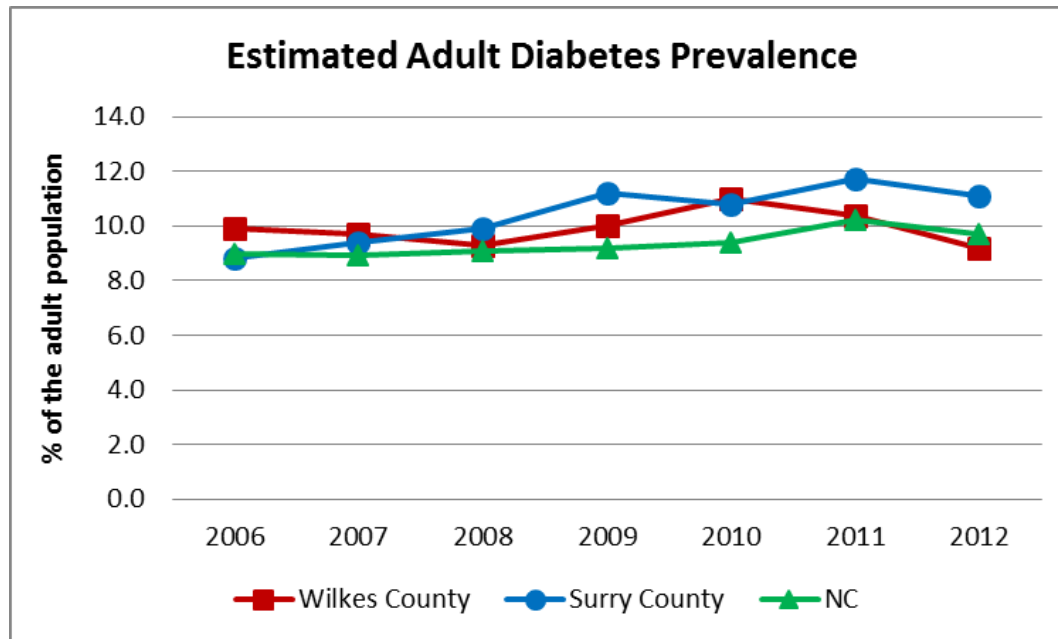
- According to data from the same source, the gonorrhea infection rate in Wilkes County was lower than the NC rate throughout the period cited.



# Adult Diabetes

According to data from the CDC (based on BRFSS results):

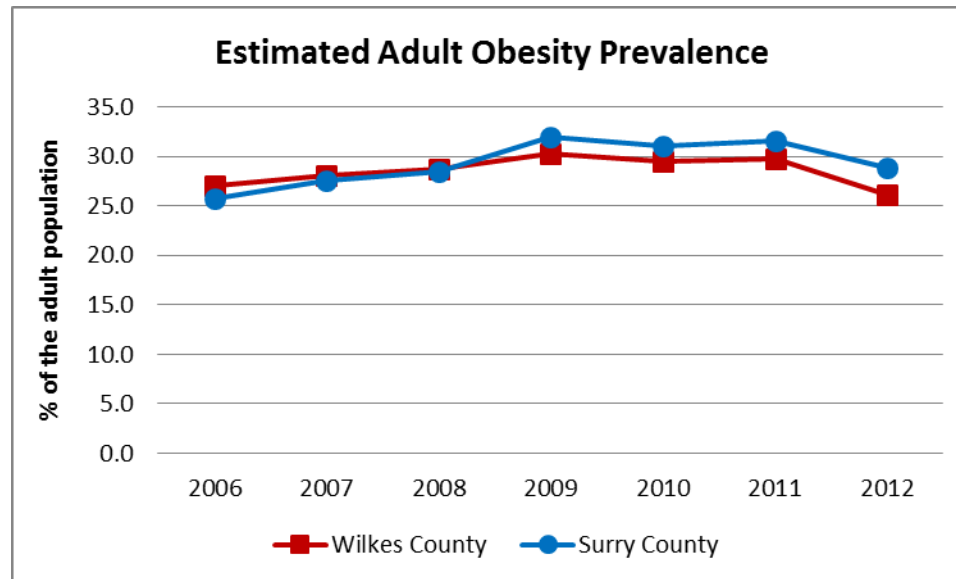
- The average self-reported prevalence of Wilkes County adults with diabetes was 9.9% in the period from 2006 - 2012.
- Over the same period the NC average was 9.4%.



# Adult Obesity

According to data from the CDC (based on BRFSS results):

- The average prevalence of Wilkes County adults considered “obese” on the basis of self-reported height and weight (BMI > 30) was 28.5% in the period from 2006 - 2012.
- Over the same period the Surry County average was 29.3%. Comparable data for the state is not available.



# ***Child Obesity***

## ***Ages 2-4***

- There is limited data on the prevalence of childhood obesity in Wilkes County.
- The NC-NPASS data presented below covers only children seen in health department WIC and child health clinics and certain other facilities and programs.
- According to this NC-NPASS data, over the period cited an annual average of 17.6% of the participating children in Wilkes County age 2-4 were deemed “overweight”, and an additional 17.1% were deemed obese”.

### **Prevalence of Overweight and Obese Children, Ages 2-4 2008-2010**

Location	Prevalence of Overweight and Obesity in Children Ages 2-4, by Percent									
	2008		2009		2010		2011		2012	
	Overweight	Obese	Overweight	Obese	Overweight	Obese	Overweight	Obese	Overweight	Obese
Wilkes County	17.4	15.7	17.4	15.7	18.9	18.0	16.5	16.6	17.8	19.7
Surry County	16.8	16.2	16.8	16.2	14.7	20.3	17.0	18.1	13.0	15.8
State of NC	16.3	15.4	15.8	15.4	16.1	15.6	16.2	15.7	14.9	14.5



# ***Mental Health***

According to data from the NC Office of State Budget and Management:

- Between 2009 and 2014, the number of Wilkes County residents served by the **Area Mental Health Program** *decreased* overall by 40%. In 2014, **1,959** persons were served.
- Over the same 6-year period the number of Wilkes County residents served by **State Psychiatric Hospitals** *decreased* by 91%. In 2014, **10** persons were served.
- During the 6-year period from 2009 through 2014, a total of **201** Wilkes County residents were served by **NC State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Treatment Centers (ADATCs)**, with the annual number averaging **34**.



# ***Mental Health***

## **According to data from the local hospital:**

- Emergency Department admissions for all Mental, Behavioral and Neurological Disorders among Wilkes County residents in recent years were:
  - 2012: 1,049 patients (3.7% of all ED admissions)
  - 2013: 1,060 patients (3.6%)
  - 2014: 1,144 patients (3.8%)



# ***Mental Health***

## **According to data from the local hospital:**

- Inpatient hospital discharges for all Mental, Behavioral and Neurological Disorders among Wilkes County residents in recent years were:
  - 2012: 34 patients (0.7% of all IP discharges)
  - 2013: 43 patients (0.9%)
  - 2014: 31 patients (0.7%)



# ***Environment***



# ***Air Quality***

- **EPA Air Quality Index (AQI) Summary, 2015**
  - **AQI Measurements: Not available**
    - There is no EPA air quality monitoring station in Wilkes County.



# ***Air Quality***

- **EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI), 2014**

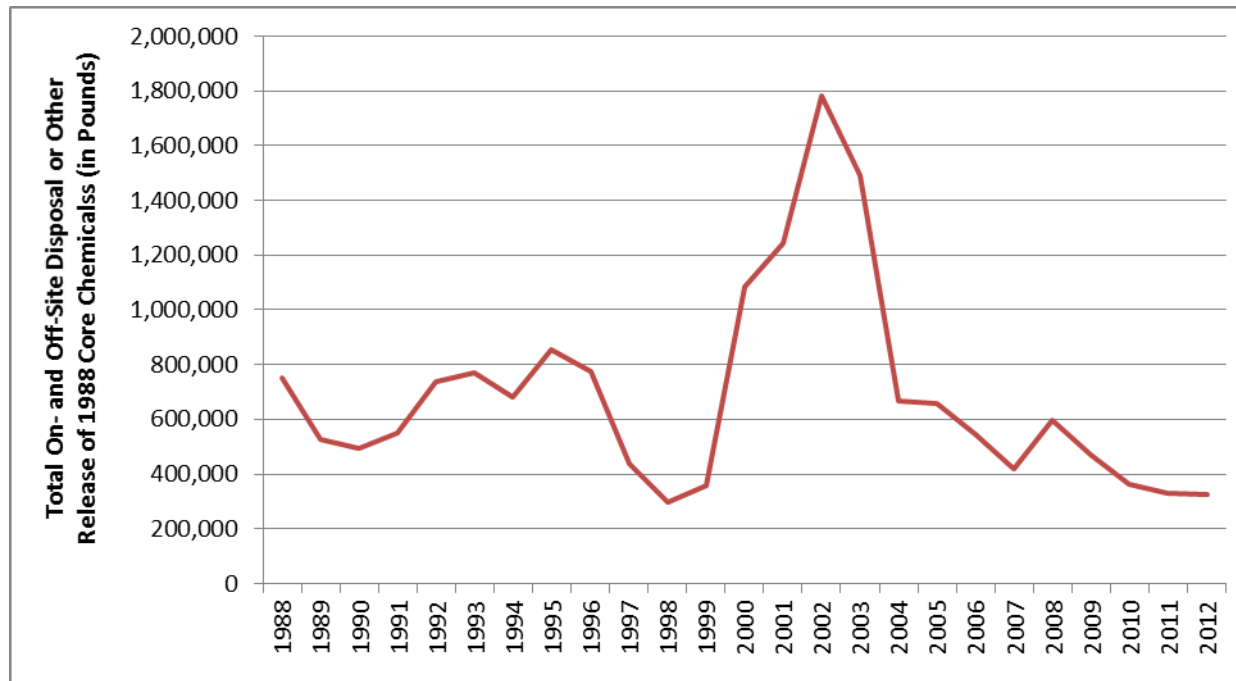
- **TRI Releases**

- Wilkes County ranked 32<sup>nd</sup> among the 86 NC counties reporting TRI releases
- 384,869 pounds of TRI releases were reported for Wilkes County (Brunswick County had the highest level of releases in the state: over 5 million pounds)
- The TRI chemicals released in greatest quantity in Wilkes County and the releasing industries (and pounds of releases) are:
  - Methanol: Louisiana Pacific, Roaring River (156,132)
  - Zinc compounds: Louisiana Pacific (66,846)
  - Phenol : Louisiana Pacific (45,214)
  - Formaldehyde: Louisiana Pacific (34,093)
  - Styrene: Jeld-Wen Composites, North Wilkesboro (27,901)
  - Propionaldehyde: Louisiana Pacific (26,561)
  - Acetaldehyde: Louisiana Pacific (25,992)



# ***Air Quality***

- **EPA Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) Trend, Wilkes County**
  - TRI chemical releases in Wilkes County peaked in 2002 and have fallen dramatically since.



# ***Water Quality***

- **Wilkes County Drinking Water Systems, 2015 (from EPA SDWIS data):**
  - **Community Water Systems (9)**
    - Include municipalities, subdivisions and mobile home parks
    - Serve essentially the entire county population
      - Together these CWSs have had only one health violation in the past 10 years.
      - 63% of the estimated 2014 Wilkes County population is connected to one of these CWSs. (This means that approximately 37% of the population is served by a private well or other non CWS system.)
  - **Non-Transient/Non-Community Water Systems (3)**
    - Includes schools, factories, office buildings and hospitals that have their own water systems
      - These N-T/N-Cs have had no health violations in the past 10 years.
  - **Transient/Non-Community Water Systems (91)**
    - Includes churches, rest stops, campgrounds and gas stations



# ***Solid Waste***

**According to data from NC DENR Division of Waste Management:**

- **Solid Waste Disposal Rates**
  - 2013-14 Per-Capita Disposal Rate
    - Wilkes County = 0.77 tons
    - NC = 0.93 tons
- **Solid Waste Disposal Patterns in Wilkes County**
  - 99.9% of the solid waste generated in Wilkes is landfilled in the county.
    - The Wilkes County Municipal Solid Waste Landfill has a remaining capacity of approximately 21 years.
    - The Louisiana Pacific Industrial landfill has remaining capacity of approximately 15 years.



# ***Community Health Survey***



# Survey / Population Comparison

Demographic Parameter	%, 2015 Survey (n=962)	%, Wilkes County 2014 US Census, etc.
<b>GENDER</b>		
Male	19.5	49.3
Female	80.2	50.7
<b>RACE</b>		
White/Caucasian	93.0	93.3
Black/African American	5.4	4.5
Hispanic	4.1	5.8
<b>AGE</b>		
20-34	24.8	15.7 (20.5)
35-64	64.4	41.2 (53.6)
65 and Older	9.7	19.9 (25.9)
<b>EDUCATION</b>		
Less than HS Diploma or GED	4.0	25.8
High School Diploma or Above	96.0	74.2
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	47.3	12.5
<b>NOTE:</b> Red figures in parentheses are specific to the population age 18 or older (the target population for the survey).		



# ***Survey Demographics Summary***

- Compared to US Census Bureau and other authoritative statistics for the overall Wilkes County population, the 2015 survey sample:
  - Was predominately female
  - Was racially balanced
  - Slightly under-represented Hispanics
  - Over-represented 35-64 year olds
  - Under-represented less well educated and over-represented college (and above) educated persons



# ***Community Issues***

## ***2015 Survey Results (936 Responses)***

<b>1. Drug/alcohol abuse (62%)</b>	<b>12. Dropping out of school (5%)</b>
<b>2. Low income/poverty (46%)</b>	<b>13. Theft (4%)</b>
<b>3. Lack of jobs (39%)</b>	<b>14. Lack of transportation (4%)</b>
<b>4. Lack of high-income jobs (34%)</b>	<b>15. Discrimination/racism (3%)</b>
<b>5. Affordable health care (22%)</b>	<b>16. Elder neglect/abuse (3%)</b>
<b>6. Mental health (15%)</b>	<b>17. Domestic violence (2%)</b>
<b>7. Child neglect/abuse (15%)</b>	<b>18. Homelessness (2%)</b>
<b>8. Lack of health insurance (9%)</b>	<b>19. Lack of community support (2%)</b>
<b>9. Affordable housing (9%)</b>	<b>20. Violent crime (&lt;1%)</b>
<b>10. Hunger (8%)</b>	<b>21. Pollution (&lt;1%)</b>
<b>11. Affordable higher education (17%)</b>	<b>22. Rape/sexual assault (&lt;1%)</b>



# ***Environmental Health Concerns***

## ***2015 Survey Results (936 Responses)***

<b>1. Secondhand smoke (40%)</b>	<b>10. Fluoride-enriched water (7%)</b>
<b>2. Air quality (36%)</b>	<b>11. Drought (7%)</b>
<b>3. Drinking water quality (28%)</b>	<b>12. Septic system failure (4%)</b>
<b>4. Methamphetamine labs (27%)</b>	<b>13. Radon (3%)</b>
<b>5. Food safety (25%)</b>	<b>14. Lice (3%)</b>
<b>6. Mold (24%)</b>	<b>15. Lead exposure (2%)</b>
<b>7. Solid waste/recycling (16%)</b>	<b>16. Rabies (1%)</b>
<b>8. Household hygiene (13%)</b>	<b>17. Bedbugs (1%)</b>
<b>9. Ozone (9%)</b>	



# ***Services Needing Improvement***

## ***2015 Survey Results***

### ***(936 Responses)***

<b>1. Positive teen activities (37%)</b>	<b>11. Affordable housing (12%)</b>
<b>2. Affordable health services (28%)</b>	<b>12. Food banks/pantries (12%)</b>
<b>3. Substance abuse services (25%)</b>	<b>13. Unemployment assistance (10%)</b>
<b>4. Healthy family activities (19%)</b>	<b>14. Transportation options (10%)</b>
<b>5. Healthy food choices (19%)</b>	<b>15. Services for the disabled(9%)</b>
<b>6. Recreational facilities (17%)</b>	<b>16. Access to healthcare providers (9%)</b>
<b>7. Mental health services (16%)</b>	<b>17. Counseling/support groups (8%)</b>
<b>8. Elder care options (15%)</b>	<b>18. Animal control (5%)</b>
<b>9. Child care options (14%)</b>	<b>19. Transitional/halfway housing (4%)</b>
<b>10. Road maintenance/safety (12%)</b>	<b>20. Culturally-appropriate health services (2%)</b>



# ***Health Behaviors: Need Information***

## ***2015 Survey Results***

***(936 Responses)***

<b>1. Substance abuse prevention (38%)</b>	<b>15. Crime prevention (6%)</b>
<b>2. Anxiety/depression (28%)</b>	<b>16. Preparing for emergencies/disasters (6%)</b>
<b>3. Eating well/nutrition (24%)</b>	<b>17. Going to dentist regularly (5%)</b>
<b>4. Texting and driving (23%)</b>	<b>18. Caring for the disabled (5%)</b>
<b>5. Child care/parenting (22%)</b>	<b>19. Going to doctor regularly (5%)</b>
<b>6. Managing weight (20%)</b>	<b>20. Personal hygiene (5%)</b>
<b>7. Exercise/fitness (15%)</b>	<b>21. End-of-life resources (5%)</b>
<b>8. Quitting/preventing smoking (15%)</b>	<b>22. Using child safety seats (3%)</b>
<b>9. Stress management (14%)</b>	<b>23. Suicide prevention (3%)</b>
<b>10. Preventing pregnancy (10%)</b>	<b>24. Getting prenatal care (3%)</b>
<b>11. Anger management (9%)</b>	<b>25. Preventing STDs (2%)</b>
<b>12. Domestic violence prevention (8%)</b>	<b>26. Rape/sexual abuse prevention (2%)</b>
<b>13. Elder care (8%)</b>	<b>27. Getting flu shots/vaccines</b>
<b>14. Driving safely (6%)</b>	



# ***Health Topics: Youth Need Information***

## ***2015 Survey Results (929 Respondents)***

<b>1. Do not have child 9-19 (53%, n=494)</b>	<b>12. Sexually transmitted diseases (3%)</b>
<b>2. Internet/social media safety (22%)</b>	<b>13. Reckless driving (3%)</b>
<b>3. Bullying (16%)</b>	<b>14. Suicide prevention (3%)</b>
<b>4. Texting and driving (15%)</b>	<b>15. Dental hygiene (2%)</b>
<b>5. Drug abuse (15%)</b>	<b>16. Eating disorders (2%)</b>
<b>6. Self-esteem (13%)</b>	<b>17. Personal hygiene (2%)</b>
<b>7. Sex/pregnancy prevention (15%)</b>	<b>18. Tobacco (2%)</b>
<b>8. Nutrition (7%)</b>	<b>19. Asthma management (1%)</b>
<b>9. Healthy food choices/school (5%)</b>	<b>20. Diabetes management (1%)</b>
<b>10. Mental health issues (4%)</b>	<b>21. Infectious disease (&lt;1%)</b>
<b>11. Alcohol (4%)</b>	<b>22. Other (3%)</b>



# ***Personal Health***

Percent participants with health care diagnoses of:

- Angina/heart disease – 4.4%
- Asthma – 17.8%
- Cancer – 5.2%
- Depression – 25.0%
- Diabetes – 11.4%
- High cholesterol – 28.8%
- Hypertension/high blood pressure – 31.0%
- Osteoporosis – 5.2%
- Overweight/obesity – 44.6%



# ***Personal Health Behavior***

- **Current Use of Tobacco Products (n=913)**
  - Current tobacco user: 8%
  - Trying to quit: 4%
  - Have already quit: 21%
  - Never used tobacco: 67%
- **Preferences for help in quitting tobacco use (n=114)**
  - Don't want to quit: 20%
  - I don't know: 31%
  - Doctor: 31%
  - Free Quit Line: 13%
  - Health Department: 6%
  - Private counselor/therapist: 6%



# ***Personal Health Behavior***

- **Why Not Getting Recommended Amount of Physical Activity (n=885)**

- No reason; getting adequate activity: 42%
- Not enough time to exercise: 34%
- Too tired to exercise: 29%
- Costs too much to exercise: 13%
- Uncomfortable working out in public: 12%
- Don't like to exercise: 10%

**Why Not Consuming Recommended Number of Fruits and Vegetables (n=885)**

- No reason; consuming adequate amounts: 36%
- They are too expensive: 34%
- They go bad before they are eaten: 26%
- Just don't think about it: 23%
- Don't have time to fix them: 14%
- Lack of fruits and vegetables in restaurants: 12%



# ***Health Screening Behaviors***

- **Prostate Exams - Males age > 40 (n=131)**
  - Get an annual prostate exam: 70%
- **Mammograms - Females age > 40 (n=427)**
  - Get an annual mammogram: 81%
- **Pap Smears - Females (n=710)**
  - Get a Pap smear at least every other year: 78%
- **Colon Cancer Screenings - Age > 50 (n=356)**
  - Ever had a colonoscopy: 78%
- **Dental Visit – Everyone (n=870)**
  - Ever been to a dentist: 77%

# ***Health Insurance Coverage***

- **Of 828 respondents:**
  - Currently no health insurance – 7.5%
  - Medicaid – 5.0%
  - Medicare – 8.6%
  - Blue Cross/Blue Shield – 60.0%
  - United Health Care – 4.6%
  - Other private insurance – 20.4%
  - Military-related coverage – 1.9%



# ***Health Information Access***

- **Where respondents get most of their general health-related information (n=914)**
  - Doctor or nurse: 56%
  - Internet: 29%
  - Print media (books, newspaper, magazine): 5%
  - Friends or family: 4%
  - Television: 4%
  - Hospital: 3%
  - Health department: 2%
  - Pharmacist: 2%
  - Church: 1%
  - My child's school: <1%
  - Help lines: <1%
  - Other: 3%

# ***Medical Care Preferences***

- **Where respondents go for check-ups (n=881)**
  - Doctor's office: 76%
  - OB/GYN or Women's Health Provider: 12%
  - Health department: 3%
  - Urgent Care Center or Walk-in Clinic: <1%
  - Free Clinic: <1%
  - I don't get an annual check-up or physical: 8%
  - Other: <1%



# ***Medical Care Preferences***

- **Where respondents go when sick (n=879)**
  - Doctor's office: 82%
  - Urgent Care Center or Walk-in Clinic: 6%
  - Health Department: 3%
  - Hospital Emergency Department: 3%
  - Pharmacy: <1%
  - Free Clinic: <0%
  - Holistic Health Clinic: <1%
  - Sobador/Curandero: <2%
  - MESH Unit: 0%
  - I don't go anywhere when I'm sick: 4%
  - Other: 1%



# ***Medical Care Access***

- **Problem in past year getting medical care for self or family member (875 respondents):**
  - **79% had *not* had a problem**
  - **21% *did* have a problem seeing particular practitioners:**
    - Dentist: 52%
    - General practitioner: 34%
    - Specialist: 18%
    - Pharmacy/prescriptions: 14%
    - Optometrist/ophthalmologist: 11%
    - Hospital: 11%
    - OB/GYN: 8%
    - Urgent Care Center: 7%
    - Free Clinic: 6%
    - Health Department: 5%
    - Pediatrician: 1%
    - Holistic practitioner: 1%



# ***Medical Care Access***

- **Of the 21% of respondents that *did* have a problem accessing health care, the main reasons were (multiple answers possible):**
  - Deductible/co-pay was too high: 20%
  - Didn't have health insurance: 17%
  - Insurance didn't cover what was needed: 12%
  - The wait for an appointment was too long: 8%
  - Couldn't get an appointment: 7%
  - Doctor/dentist couldn't take my insurance (including Medicaid): 6%
  - Didn't know where to go: 2%
  - No way to get there: 2%
  - Pharmacy couldn't take my insurance (including Medicaid): 1%
  - Hospital couldn't take my insurance (including Medicaid): <1%
  - Language barrier: <1%



# ***Mental Health***

- **Where respondents would refer someone with a mental health or substance abuse problem (n=893):**
  - Doctor: 25%
  - Private counselor or therapist: 20%
  - Local mental health agency: 13%
  - Minister or religious official: 10%
  - Daymark: 9%
  - Friends and/or family: 6%
  - Crisis hotlines: 4%
  - Call 9-1-1: 2%
  - Health Department: 1%
  - Hospital Emergency Department: 1%
  - Care Connection: 1%
  - School counselor: 1%
  - Support group (AA, NA, etc.): 1%
  - Don't know: 4%
  - Other: 1%



# ***Mental Health***

- **Where respondents would first refer someone thinking about suicide (n=891):**
  - Minister or religious official: 25%
  - Crisis hotlines: 16%
  - Friends and/or family: 14%
  - Doctor: 11%
  - Private counselor/therapist: 10%
  - Call 9-1-1: 9%
  - Local mental health agency: 4%
  - Hospital Emergency Department: 4%
  - Daymark: 3%
  - School counselor: 2%
  - Care Connection: 1%
  - Health Department: <1%
  - Support group (AA, NA, etc.): <1%
  - Don't know: 5%
  - Other: 1%



# ***Mental Health***

- **Where respondents would refer someone who wanted help with a substance abuse problem (n=895):**
  - Doctor: 29%
  - Support group (AA, NA, etc.): 15%
  - Daymark: 10%
  - Private counselor or therapist: 10%
  - Minister or religious official: 7%
  - Local mental health agency: 6%
  - Friends and/or family: 5%
  - Crisis hotlines: 4%
  - Hospital Emergency Department: 3%
  - Health Department: 2%
  - Call 9-1-1: 2%
  - Care Connection: 1%
  - Don't know: 7%
  - Other: 2%



# ***Mental Health: Substance Abuse***

- **The three biggest substance abuse problems among ADULTS in Wilkes County (n=898):**
  - Abusing prescription drugs: 77%
  - Methamphetamine (Meth): 58%
  - Alcohol abuse: 46%
  - Abusing someone else's prescription drugs: 38%
  - Tobacco: 23%
  - Drinking and driving: 18%
  - Marijuana: 13%
  - Cocaine/crack: 9%
  - Heroin: 7%
  - Huffing (inhaling glue, dust-off, etc.): <1%
  - Don't know: 2%
  - Other: 1%



# ***Stakeholder Interviews***



# ***Stakeholder Interviews: Methodology***

- Three working sessions
- Table-top discussions with note taker at each table
- All participants answered a fixed set of questions
- Participants represented a broad range of organizations and agencies serving clientele including:

All people of Wilkes County	Hispanic populations
Children	Substance abusing populations
Parents/families	Unemployed/job-seeking populations
School-age children/students	Employers
At-risk students	Pregnant women
Persons needing healthcare	Businesses/non-profit organizations
Persons needing mental health services	New residents
Aging populations	Childcare providers
Low-income populations	Caregivers of aging adults
Uninsured populations	Persons with transportation needs
Minority/disabled populations	Community organizations



# ***Stakeholder Interviews: Themes***

- **Changes in agency/organization *clientele* and *their needs* in past 5 years include:**
  - Increased poverty, increased unemployment
    - Greater need for food supports
    - Greater need for temporary crisis services
  - Local transportation inadequate to meet need
  - More clients with mental health needs
    - Greater need for crisis care
    - Inadequate services for substance abusers
  - More clients with chronic illnesses
  - More elderly clients and retirees
    - More grandparents in parental role
  - Clients generally have more complex needs
    - Problems arising at younger client ages
  - Some say more uninsured; others say fewer
  - Growth of migrant populations (Hispanics, Burmese)



# ***Stakeholder Interviews: Themes***

- **Changes in *service infrastructure* and *agency needs* in past 5 years include:**
  - Inadequate coordination of services among agencies and organizations
  - Increased need for translators and translated written materials
  - Change/greater complexity in determining client eligibility and in cost reimbursement
  - Lack of funding/unmet needs for infrastructure improvements
  - Inadequate knowledge of how to market services and programs
  - Greater need for knowledge of resource finding/resource leveraging



# ***Stakeholder Interviews: Themes***

- **Client *barriers* to accessing services and care include:**
  - Poverty
  - Lack of transportation
    - Physically “scattered” services; multiple trips sometimes required
    - Lack of evening transportation
  - Lack of insurance
    - High cost of co-pays and deductibles for those insured
  - Inadequate inter-agency communication/coordination of services
  - Shortages of some services (e.g., daycare)
    - Lack of providers accepting Medicaid
    - Lack of services available in evenings/weekends
  - Stigma of seeking and accepting services, especially DSS and mental health services
  - Lack of information or misinformation about available services and providers
    - Language/cultural barriers



# ***Stakeholder Interviews: Themes***

- **Unavailable but *needed community services* include:**
  - County-wide transportation with regular routes
  - Improved community-wide awareness of mental health issues and treatment options
  - More *local* mental health providers and services
    - Substance abuse treatment
    - On-site services for students
    - In-patient treatment facilities
  - Better inter-agency communication and cooperation; deconstruction of service and information “silos”.
  - Better coordinated community advocacy
  - Greater outreach to rural areas
  - Greater use of electronic resources
    - Electronic medical records
    - Resource lists
    - Volunteer coordination
    - Improved telecommunications/broader Internet access
  - More employment options, especially for the minimally prepared
  - Affordable housing

