

Progress on CHIPs



The Northampton County Scorecard outlines the efforts being made in Northampton County to address the four health priorities identified in the CHA:

- Substance Awareness
- Chronic Disease Management
- Access to Services
- Tobacco/Vaping

The global COVID-19 pandemic has continued to impact Northampton County's ability to address these priorities in the way originally envisioned.

Poverty and lack of resources continue to be a driving factor in the health of Northampton County citizens. As noted in the chart below, the poverty rate in Northampton County was 45 out of 100 people in 2019. Also related to poverty and access to healthcare is the rate of insured individuals in Northampton County. Northampton County has one of the highest rates of uninsured citizens in the State of North Carolina with an uninsured rate of 14 out of 100 people. These two factors alone make healthcare challenging in Northampton County.

North Carolina

The **poverty rate** in NC was **34** out of 100 people in 2019. This represents 3,420,476 people in poverty in NC in that year.

Northampton County

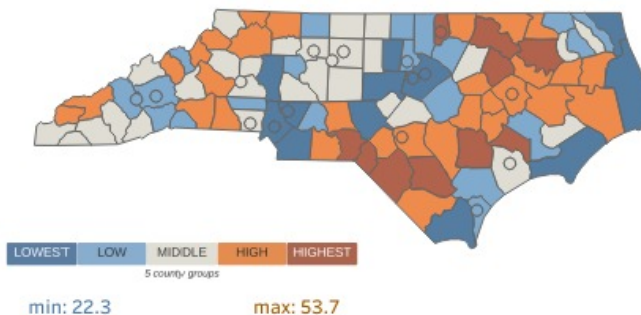
The **poverty rate** in Northampton County was **45** out of 100 people in 2019. This represents 8,554 people in poverty in Northampton in that year.

Relative to other counties, Northampton falls in this group:

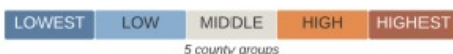
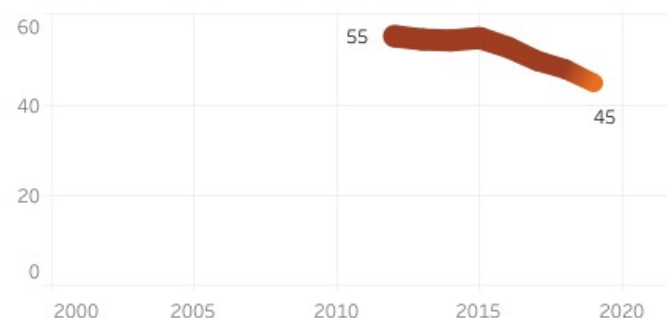
HIGH

Poverty in 2019

People Making less than 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (%)



Poverty Trend in Northampton



Datasource: US Census Bureau American Community Survey (ACS). Available at: <https://data.census.gov/>. Max year: 2019

Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA



Chronic Disease

Chronic disease continues to be the leading cause of death for citizens in Northampton County. See charts below. Since the last CHA, cancer has increased to the number one spot with an increased of 23%.

Heart disease was the leading cause of death during the last CHA, but has decreased to the second leading cause of death. The rate of heart disease in Northampton County decreased by 5% since the last CHA.

The rate of diabetes in Northampton County decreased by 26% since the last CHA.

Leading Causes of Death in Northampton County, North Carolina 2019			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Cancer	53	19.9
2	Diseases of heart	53	19.9
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	14	5.3
4	Diabetes mellitus	14	5.3
5	Alzheimer's disease	11	4.1
6	Cerebrovascular diseases	9	3.4
7	Motor vehicle injuries	6	2.3
8	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	6	2.3
9	Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	6	2.3
10	Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	5	1.9
11	Influenza and pneumonia	5	1.9
12	Septicemia	5	1.9
13	All other causes (Residual)	79	29.5
Total Deaths -- All Causes		266	100

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina

Leading Causes of Death in North Carolina 2018			
Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Diseases of heart	56	21.5
2	Cancer	43	16.5
3	Diabetes mellitus	19	7.3
4	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	17	6.5
5	Alzheimer's disease	12	4.6
6	Cerebrovascular diseases	11	4.2

	Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	9	3.4
	All other unintentional injuries	8	3.1
	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	6	2.3
	Parkinson's disease	6	2.3
	All other causes (Residual)	74	28.3
Total Deaths -- All Causes		261	100

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina

Effect of the Global COVID-19 Pandemic

According to NCDHHS vital statistics, the total number of deaths in Northampton County was 266 in 2019, and increased to 355 in 2020. This increase can be attributed to the global COVID-19 pandemic as evidenced by the charts below.

Updated every Wednesday. Last update on March 1, 2023.

County: Northampton County

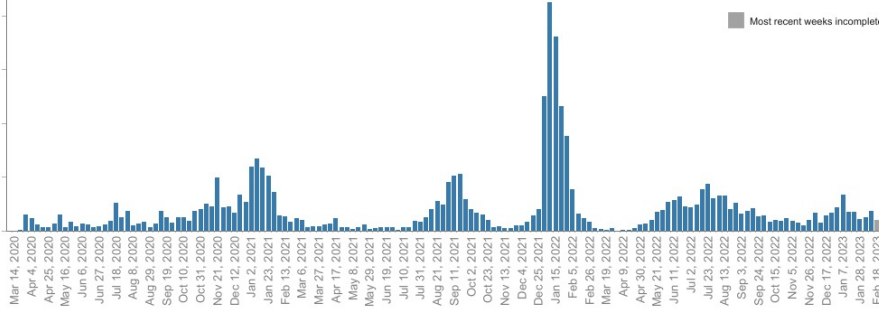
Filter: All | [By Race & Ethnicity](#) | [By Age & Gender](#)

Time: All Time | [1 Year](#) | [3 Months](#)

Cases

All Time:

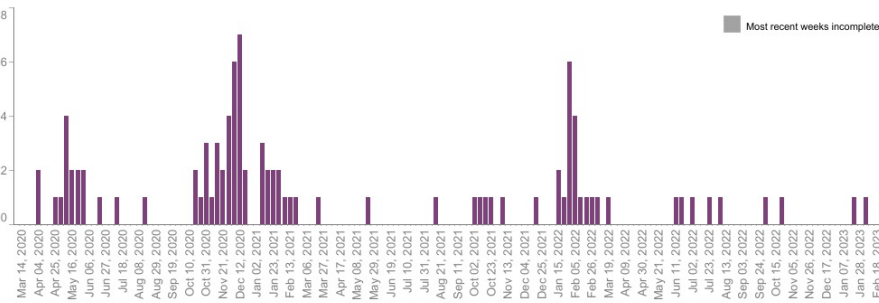
5,915 Total Cases in Northampton County



Deaths

All Time:

96 Total Deaths in Northampton County



(-) **Chart Information**

- COVID-19 cases are reported by clinicians and laboratories by the date a person was tested. Total cases do not include all people with COVID-19 as some people do not get tested and many people use at-home tests that are not reported to the State.
- A 'COVID-19 death' is defined as a person who:
 - Had a positive molecular (PCR) or antigen test for COVID-19, who dies without fully recovering from COVID-19, and who had no alternative cause of death identified. Deaths are reported by hospitals and clinicians directly to the local and state health departments. Once reported, NCDHHS or LHD staff manually enter the death by date of death, into NC COVID, or
 - After January 1, 2022, was reported as a COVID-19 case in NC COVID and had COVID-19 listed as the primary or underlying cause of death ..

Emerging Issues Since Last CHA



Mental Health Crisis

According to the 2022 NCDHHS Behavioral Health convening:

- * Nearly 1 in 5 North Carolinians have a mental illness.
- * During the pandemic, approximately 1 in 3 surveyed North Carolinians reported symptoms of depression and/or anxiety
- * Alcohol-related ED visits increased 13% from 2019 to 2020.
- * Opioid overdose visits to ED increased 40% from July 2019 to July 2020.

This trend is being seen in Northampton County as well.

Workforce Issues

According to the 2022 NCDHHS Behavioral Health convening:

- * There are over 15,000 nurse vacancies in NC & nationally, nursing turnover rates were 15.8% between August 2020 and 2021 (McKinsey).
- In August 2020, 66.2% of public health workers nationwide reported feeling burnout (NIH)

This trend has been seen in Northampton County as well, and particularly at Northampton County Health Department as staff turnover has been an issue since the global COVID-19 pandemic. NCHD is participating in the Careers in Public Health Joint Advisory Committee, a regional effort to address such issues.

New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives Since Last CHA



Substance Awareness

North Carolina is part of a historic \$26 billion agreement that will help bring desperately needed relief to communities impacted by opioids. These funds will be used to support treatment, recovery, harm reduction, and other life-saving programs and services in communities throughout the state. Northampton County will receive a portion of these funds. A County Task Force has been formed to discuss use of these funds and future substance awareness programs in Northampton County. By creating a taskforce of individuals and county agencies, we will be able to strategically plan how to address the opioid misuse in Northampton County.

Recently approved initiatives include:

- Early Intervention - This strategy will be implemented by the Northampton County Health Department mostly through our Health Education program who will help implement different programs and trainings in the community and school settings. Funds can help pay for required training for Health Department staff and to help fund the programs created within the community and schools.
- Post-overdose response team - This strategy will be implemented through the Northampton County Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedic Program. Funds may be used to hire another Community Paramedic to concentrate on opioid misuse in Northampton County as well as supplies, vehicle, fuel, etc. needed to implement response.
- Syringe Service Program - This strategy will be implemented through the Northampton County Emergency Medical Services Community Paramedic Program.

- Naloxone distribution - This strategy will be implemented by both the Northampton County Health Department (through clinic) and EMS (through the Community Paramedic program).

Chronic Disease Management

NCHD continues to attend health fairs and other group gatherings in partnership with local nonprofit groups to provide education and awareness about chronic disease issues and provide resources to citizens.

NCHD partners with NC Cooperative Extension monthly for a support group regarding strategies to prevent or manage chronic disease, such as, diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, or overweight. There is also a monthly Healthy Carolinians group meeting regarding tips and programs to build healthy lifestyle habits. In addition, NCHD is participating in the Take Control program that helps teach lifelong habits that help citizens eat healthy and be physically active.

NCHD is co-leader for Faithful Families Thriving Communities (Faithful Families) which works directly in communities of faith across the country to promote health for individuals, families, and local communities. The practice-tested program is open to all faith and religious traditions and engages faith communities in health education, environmental changes to support health, and community-wide health initiatives. Faithful Families believes that communities of faith are important health advocates, particularly in communities affected by health disparities or lacking access to crucial resources. That's why we are here to empower faith communities as they become change-makers in helping their communities thrive – physically, mentally, and spiritually.

Access to Services

NCHD will begin offering primary care to citizens in 2023. NCHD will also update the County resource guide for citizens in 2023.

Tobacco/Vaping Cessation

Health Education has been in partnership with NC Cooperative Extension to bring the 4H ROCKS curriculum to students in the public school system. This curriculum includes education about tobacco/vaping cessation.