

Northampton County Community Health Assessment 2006



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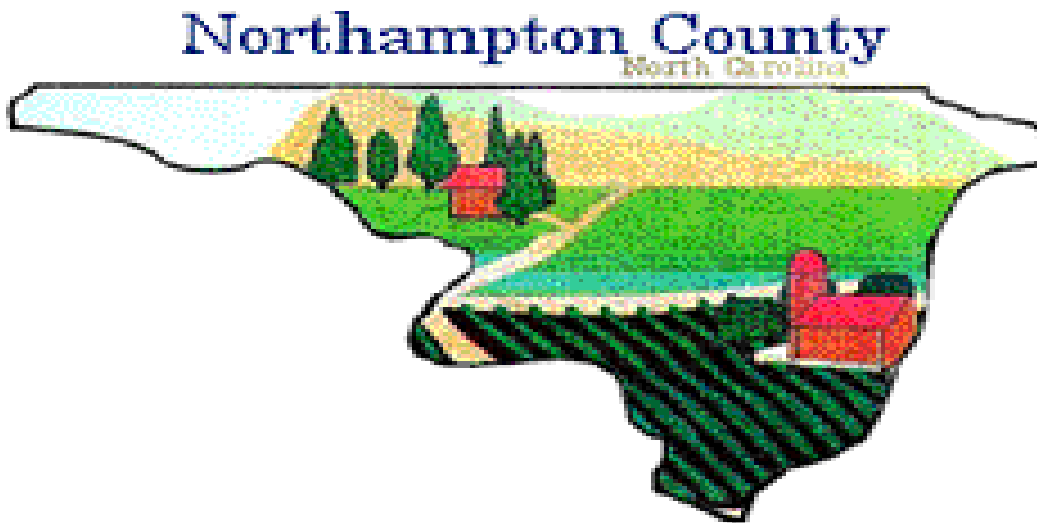
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INTRODUCTION

This following report provides the results of a community health assessment conducted by the Northampton Healthy Carolinians Partnership in 2006. The purpose of the community health assessment is to evaluate the health status and quality of life for county residents. Assessments are conducted once every four years, as mandated by state requirements. Based upon this detailed assessment, the Northampton County Healthy Carolinians Partnership will develop an action plan to address priority concerns during the next 4 years. This document is intended to serve as the foundation for Northampton County's future community health assessments and strategic planning and to inform and empower county residents and agencies to address important county needs.

This document is the result of collaboration between the Northampton County Health Department and the Northampton Healthy Carolinians Partnership. Northampton Healthy Carolinians was newly formed in July of 2006.



SUMMARY

Beginning in July 2006, the Northampton Healthy Carolinians Partnership brought together its Community Health Assessment Team. Current membership of Northampton Health Carolinians includes representatives from the Northampton County Health Department, Northampton County Board of Health, Northampton County School Board, Northampton County Department of Social Services, Northampton County Cooperative Extension, Northampton Office of Aging, American Cancer Society, Halifax Regional Medical Center, J.W. Faison Senior Center, CADA, and the Northampton County Partnership for Children. Ten out of 15 Northampton Healthy Carolinian Partnership members actively participated in the current community health assessment process. In addition, the epidemiologist from the Northeastern North Carolina Partnership for Health (NENCPH) was a member of the community health assessment team. NENCPH is a collaborative network of 11 local health departments in the northeastern region of the state.

Several methods were used to collect data for Community Assessment. First, a community opinion survey was conducted. The survey included questions about the economy, education, environment, health, housing, leisure activities, safety, social issues, transportation, and elder issues.

Additional data for the Community Health Assessment was obtained through several Northampton County Organizations, as well as from routinely collected health data and other public data available through state and federal agencies and organizations such as the US Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Labor, the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, the North Carolina Department of Commerce, North Carolina Bureau of Investigation, the Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research at the University of North Carolina.

In November 2006, the gathered information was presented to Northampton Healthy Carolinians Partnership members and they used a formal process to select 4 community health priorities.

Priority issues selected are

1. Diabetes
2. Access to Recreation and Physical Education
3. Teen Pregnancy and Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention
4. Cancer.

As an end result, the Northampton Healthy Carolinians Partnership will develop an action plan that will address these prioritized community health issues. This will guide the work of the partnership for the next 4 years.

GEOGRAPHY

Northampton County is located in northeastern North Carolina astride the state's Coastal Plain and Piedmont Regions. It is bounded to the north by the State of Virginia and is surrounded by the North Carolina counties of Halifax, Bertie and Hertford. The Roanoke River determines the southwest border of Northampton following its flow from the Roanoke Rapids Lake in the northwestern corner of the county. The Meherrin River marks the northeastern border.

Northampton was formed in 1741 originally from a section of Bertie County. It was named in honor of James Crompton, Earl of Northampton, an English nobleman. The first courthouse was built here in 1742 and was known as Northampton Courthouse.

The County seat of Jackson was incorporated in 1823 and was named after former president Andrew Jackson. The town of Jackson is located 90 miles northeast of Raleigh, 50 miles north of Rocky Mount, 90 miles southwest of Norfolk, Virginia and 200 miles south of Washington DC.

The present land area is 536 square miles. It is an extremely fertile area along the Roanoke River with cotton, corn and peanuts being its principal crops.

DEMOGRAPHICS

The total estimated population of Northampton County in 2004 was 21,624. Between 1990 and 2000 census, the population increased 5% from 21,032 to 22,090. This rate of growth is much smaller compared to growth for the state as a whole during this time period (21%).

POPULATION SIZE		
Year	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA
1990	21,032	6,664,016
1991	21,051	6,784,280
1992	20,983	6,897,214
1993	21,027	7,042,818
1994	21,202	7,187,398
1995	21,507	7,344,674
1996	21,744	7,500,670
1997	21,884	7,656,825
1998	21,986	7,809,121
1999	21,981	7,949,361
2000	22,090	8,078,373
2001	21,995	8,198,256
2002	21,868	8,311,899
2003	21,730	8,421,190
2004	21,624	8,541,221

Source of Data: Bridged-race population estimates; North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics; www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/population/nchspop.cfm

Based on 2000 Census data, the racial and ethnic distribution of Northampton County is 59.6% African-American, 39.2% Caucasian, 0.3% American Indian, 0.1% Asian, and 0.7% Hispanic/Latino. This distribution is quite different from the overall statewide distribution where 22% are African American and 71% are Caucasian.

**TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE & ETHNICITY
2000 CENSUS**

	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA
African American	13,173	1,758,655
American Indian or Alaska Native	64	100,835
Asian or Pacific Islander	22	126,399
White	8,669	5,709,019
Hispanic/Latino	162	383,465
TOTAL	22,090	8,078,373

Source of Data: Bridged-race population estimates; North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics; www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/population/nchspop.cfm

**PERCENT OF TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE & ETHNICITY
2000 CENSUS**

	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA
African American	59.6%	21.8%
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.3%	1.2%
Asian or Pacific Islander	0.1%	1.6%
White	39.2%	70.7%
Hispanic/Latino	0.7%	4.7%

Source of Data: Bridged-race population estimates; North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics; www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/population/nchspop.cfm

The population of Northampton County tends to be slightly older than the state average. The median age of the county population is 40 years compared to 35 years for the state. The median age of female residents is higher than for males (42 years for females versus 38 years for males).

MEDIAN AGE		
	Northampton	North Carolina
Median age--		
Both sexes	40.0	35.3
Male	38.0	33.8
Female	42.0	36.7

EMPLOYMENT

Northampton County is primarily rural and has a strong agricultural heritage. Job opportunities in the county may be limited, in part, due to geographical location. Although Interstate 95 runs along the Roanoke Valley, the county is distant from a metropolitan area. Driving time to Raleigh, North Carolina or Richmond, Virginia is about 90 minutes. The largest town close to Northampton County is Roanoke Rapids in Halifax County.

In December 2005, Northampton County's annual average Labor Force equaled 8,572. Out of that number 7,997 were employed and 575 were unemployed, making the annual average unemployment rate for the county 6.7%. This is higher than the state unemployment rate of 4.7%. Unemployment in Northampton County was lower in December 2005 compared to the previous year (7.3%). There were 43 new jobs announced and 1 job loss reported during 2005.

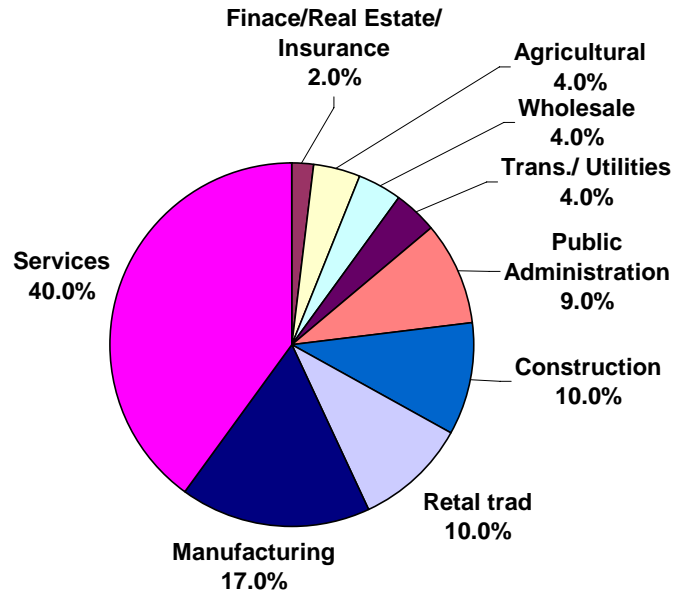
(Source of data: North Carolina Department of Commerce; 2nd quarter 2005 data; <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>)

Top manufacturers in Northampton County are International Paper Company (100-249 employees), Resinal Corp (100-249 employees), Georgia Pacific Resins Inc. (50-99 employees), Clary Lumber Company (50-99 employees), and the Tar Heel Casket Company (less than 50 employees).

Leading non-manufacturing employers are Lowe's Regional Distribution in Garysburg (1,000+ employees), Northampton County Schools (250-499 employees), State of North Carolina (250-499 employees), Severn Peanut Company (250-499 employees), Murphy Brown (100-249 employees), Autumn Corporation (100-249 employees), Kind Hearts Home Health Care (100-249 employees), Glover Construction Company (100-249 employees), and Brithaven (50-99 employees.).

(Source of data: North Carolina Department of Commerce; 2nd quarter 2005 data; <http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles>)

Employment by Type of Industry in Northampton County



Service Industries accounts for 40% of jobs in the county, manufacturing 17%, retail trade 10%, construction 10%, public administration 9%, transportation and utilities 4%, wholesale 4%, agriculture 4%, real estate and insurance 2%, and information less than 1%.

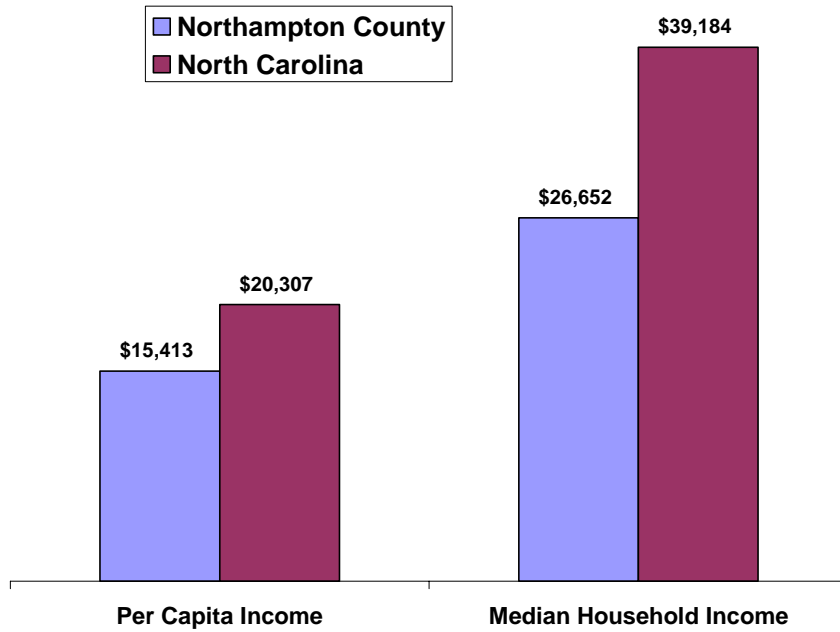
ECONOMICS



Agri-business accounts for approximately one-third of the local business. The market value of farm products sold during 2005 include peanuts at \$19.7 million; cotton, \$23 million; hogs, \$22.7 million; poultry, \$20.8 million; forestry products, \$16.3 million; beef cattle, \$1.5 million; tobacco, \$800 thousand; and soy beans, \$600 thousand. The total value including miscellaneous products is \$108 million. Principal types of industrial and commercial activity in the county are textile, apparel, lumber, chemical manufacturing boat manufacturing, and agricultural processing (Source of data: North Carolina Department of Commerce)).

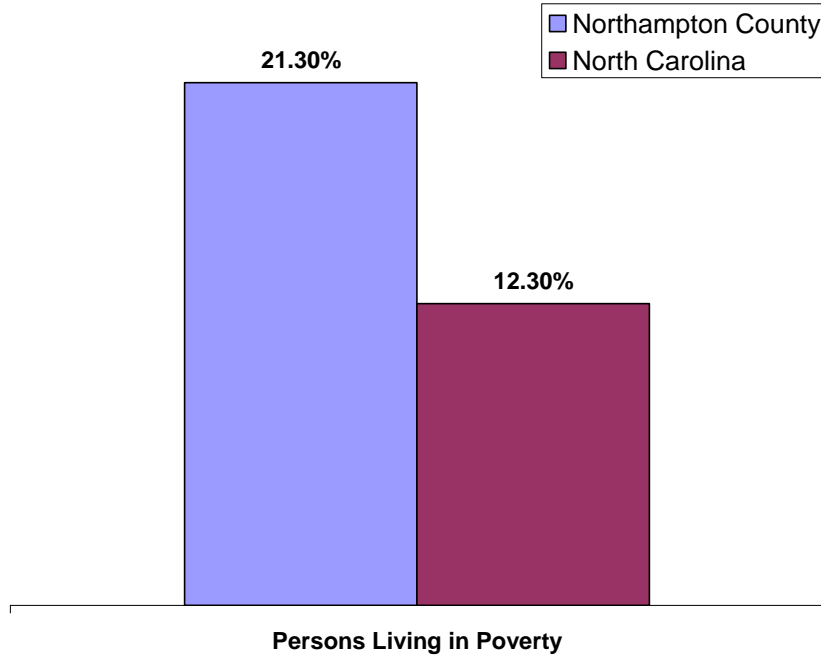
Based on 2000 Census data, Northampton County's median household income was \$26,652, which is \$12,532 below the state average of \$39,184. The per capita income was \$15,413 for Northampton county compared to the state average of \$20,307. (Source of data: US Census Bureau; <http://factfinder.census.gov>).

PER CAPITA AND HOUSEHOLD INCOME



During 2000, 21.3% of Northampton county residents were living in poverty compared to the state rate of 12.3 (Source of data: North Carolina Department of Commerce; [http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles.](http://cmedis.commerce.state.nc.us/countyprofiles))

PERCENT LIVING IN POVERTY



Source of data: US Census Bureau

Below is an excerpt from the Roanoke Daily Herald Newspaper regarding future economic and industrial expansion for Northampton County.:

Herald Staff Writer – Amy Lotven (April 21, 2006)

Jackson- The executive director of the Advanced Vehicle Research Center of North Carolina has confirmed a number of dignitaries plan on attending the formal groundbreaking for the auto research and testing center located off Interstate 95 in Garysburg.

Donald Graunstadt, CEO of Lotus Engineering North America, which will help the AVRC design the test tracks, plans to make an appearance, as will Jeff Koch, CEO of MDE international, a Michigan-based auto testing service that currently serves all of the big six automakers and owns a number of proving tracks across the country.

Dell could not say exactly when construction on the facility will commence, except that he expects it will be “very soon” and, “We’re anxious to get started.”

He said he expects the AVRC will eventually create between 6,000 and 20,000 new jobs in the area as new, automotive-related companies-such as engineering and product development firms-choose to relocate here.

The weather is one of the reasons Northampton County made a perfect location for the AVRC. Other influences included the topography, the proximity to Interstate 95 and the cost and availability of land.

EDUCATION

The Northampton County school system has two high schools, two middle schools, and six elementary schools. The student population in 2004 was 3,850. The annual school system budget during 2004 -2005 school year was approximately 24 million dollars.

This year the Northampton County School system was notified by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Education that seven schools were classified as exemplary, two met expected growth, and one had adequate performance in the state's ABCs program. Northampton County High School-East was ranked 3rd among the state's high schools in academic growth and it was presented a special banner by State Superintendent of Public Instruction, Dr. Mike Ward. These improved test scores throughout the school system are the result of hard work and on diligence on the part of the students, teachers, administrators, parents, and board of education members.

The public schools in Northampton County are:

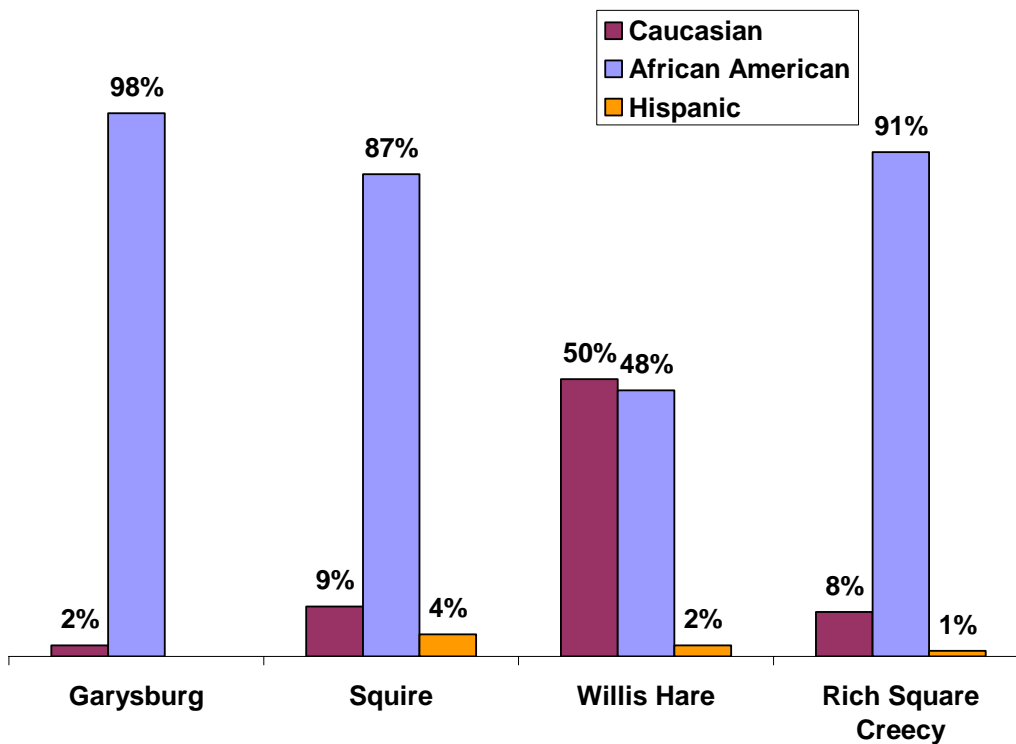
- Willis Hare Elementary – Pendleton (K-5 grade) – 407 Students
- Rich-Square-Creecy Elementary- Rich Square (K- 5 grade)- 336 Students
- Central Elementary – Jackson (K-5 grade)
- Garysburg Elementary – Garysburg (K-5 grade) – 231 Students
- Squire Elementary – Gaston (K-5 grade) – 383 Students
- Conway Middle – Conway (6-8grade) – 520 Students
- Gaston Middle – Gaston (6-8 grade) -270 Students
- Northampton County High-East – Conway (9-12 grade) -576 Students
- Northampton County High-West – Gaston (9-12 grade)- 451

School Demographics

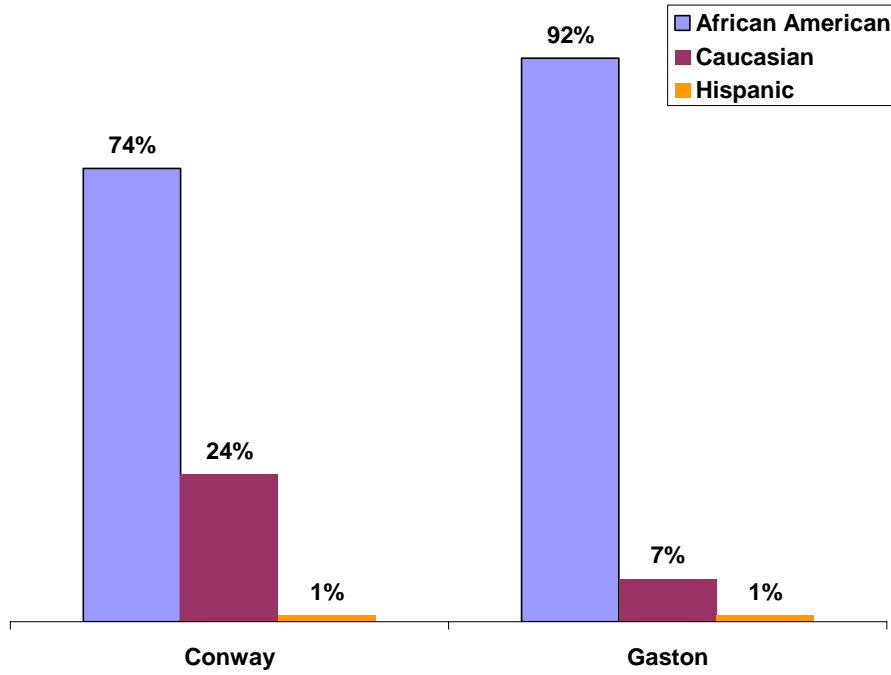
The elementary schools of Northampton have a total of around 1,588 students and the student/teacher ratio ranges between 1:10 to 1:16. The middle schools have a total of around 790 students and the teacher/ student ratio ranges between 1:12 to 1:16. The high schools have a total of around 1,027 students and the teacher/ student ratio ranges between 1:13 to 1:16.

The following tables show the racial and ethnic distribution of students at each of the public schools. (Source of data: Public School Review).

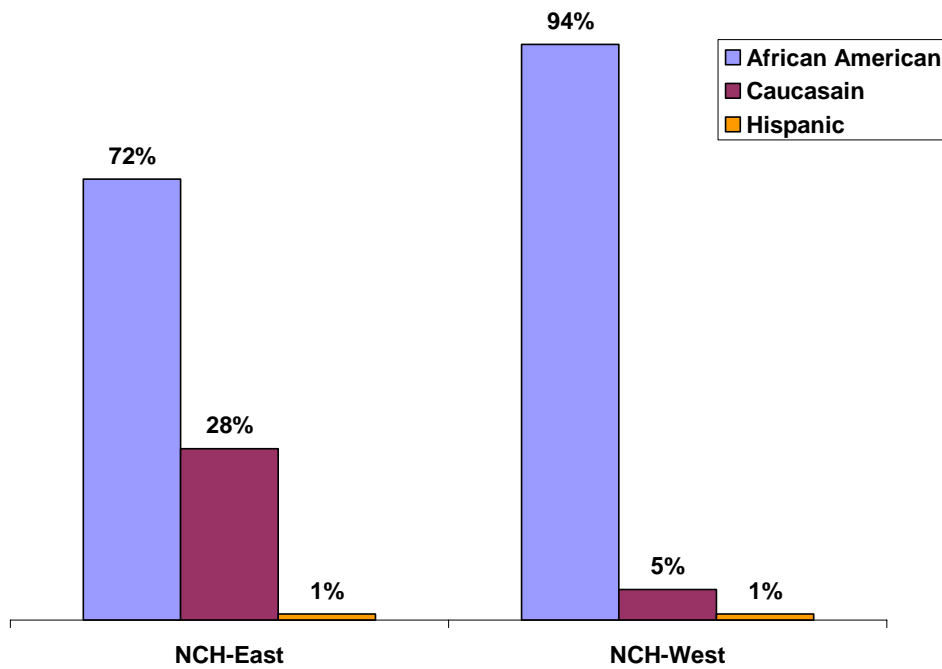
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS



MIDDLE SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

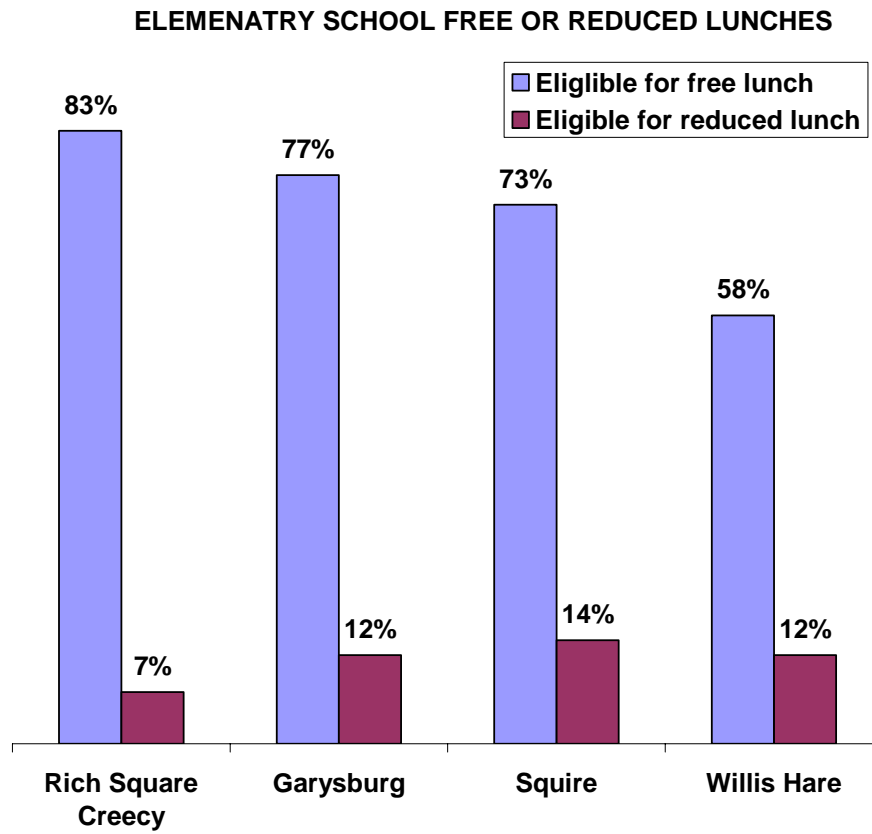


HIGH SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

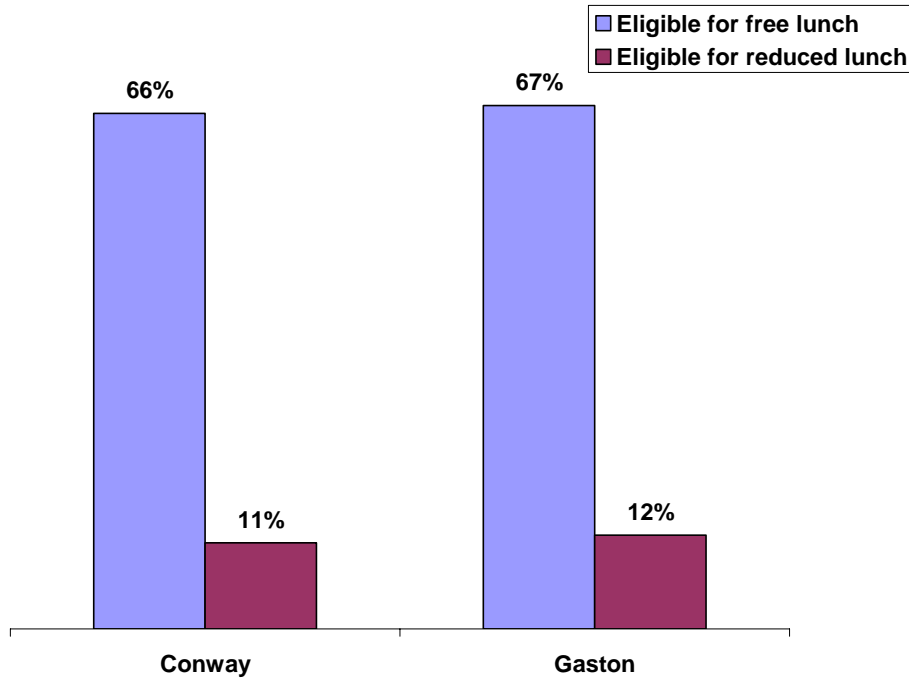


Free or Reduced School Lunches

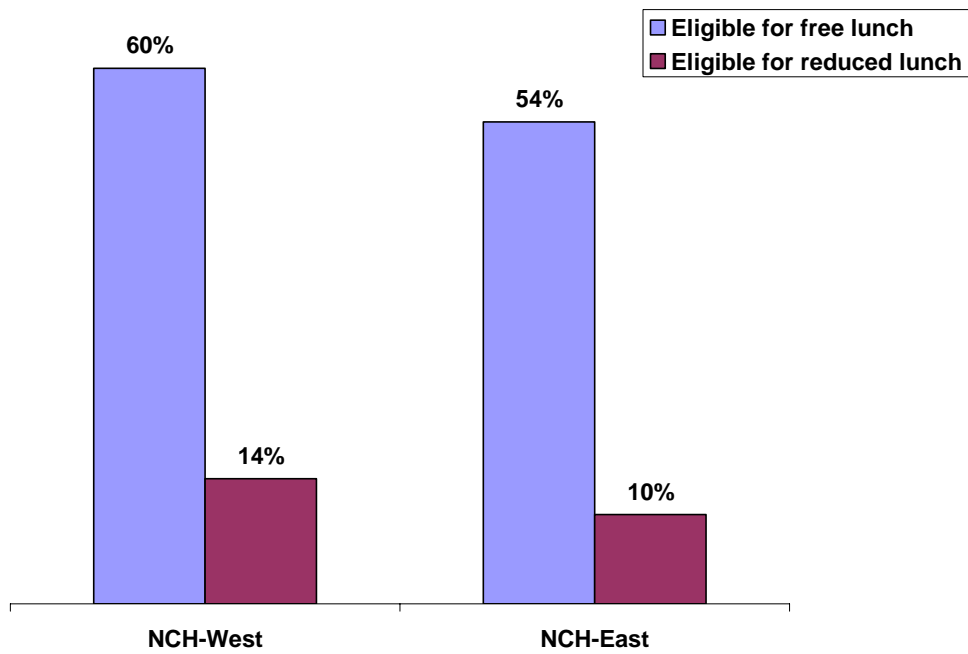
The following charts show the percentage of children who are eligible for free or reduced price lunches at each of the public schools.



Middle School Free or Reduced Lunches



High School Free or Reduced Lunches



High Student Performance (2005)

Each year, schools in North Carolina may receive several designations based on their performance on the state's ABCs tests. Those designations are awarded on the basis of the percentage of students performing at grade level and on whether students have learned as much as they are expected to learn in one year.

Rich Square Creecy- Met 13 out of 13 performance targets and made adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation						
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
		High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		

School of Progress	60 to 80% of students at grade level		✓	--	33	9
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Garysburg- Met 12 out of 13 performance targets and did not make adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation						
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
		High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		

School of Progress	60 to 80% of students at grade level		✓	--	33	9
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Squire- Met 10 out of 13 performance targets and did not make adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation						
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
		High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		

No Recognition	60 to 100% of students at grade level	--	--	✓	50	30
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Willis Hare- Met 15 out of 17 performance targets and did not make adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation						
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
		High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		

No Recognition	60 to 100% of students at grade level	--	--	✓	50	30
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High Student Performance (2005)

Conway- Met 15 out of 21 performance targets and did not make adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation						
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
		High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		

No Recognition	60 to 100% of students at grade level	--	--	✓	50	55
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Gaston- Met 13 out of 13 performance targets and did make adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation						
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State

Percent of Schools with Designation		High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved	District	State
School of Progress	60 to 80% of students at grade level			✓	--	50 1

NCH-East- Met 12 out of 13 performance targets and did not make adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation		Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		
		School of Progress	60 to 80% of students at grade level			

NCH-West- Met 13 out of 13 performance targets and made adequate yearly progress.

Percent of Schools with Designation		Growth: Learning achieved in one year			District	State
Designation	Performance: Students performing at grade level	High Growth	Expected Growth	Expected Growth Not Achieved		
		Priority School	50 to 60% of students at grade level or Less than 50% of students at grade level			

SAT Scores (2005)

The following table shows the percent of students at each high school who took the SAT, and the average combined scores on the SAT I verbal and SAT I math scores (Scores from the new writing portion of the SAT are not included in these percentages). The percent of students taking the SAT in Northampton County is lower than the percent for the state as a whole (40-49% for Northampton versus 74% for North Carolina).

School/Region	Participation %	Avg. Total SAT Score
NCH-West	40	765
NCH-East	49	834
State	74	1,010
Nation	49	1,028

Source of data: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction:

On-Time Graduation Rate and Dropout Rate (2005)

The following table shows the percent of high school students who graduated on time and the overall dropout rate for the county.

School	Percent Graduating on Time
Northampton County High School-East	90.8
Northampton County High School-West	94.5

During the 2004 to 2005 school year, 5.3% of 9th through 12th graders dropped out of school. The dropout rate has declined since 1999.

Dropout Events and Rates Grades 9 through 12		
Year	Number	Percent
1999-2000	83	7.43
2000-2001	70	6.52
2001-2002	60	5.66
2002-2003	65	6.03
2003-2004	54	4.92
2004-2005	59	5.34

Source of data: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; www.ncpublicschools.org

Private Schools in Northampton County

Northeast Academy – Lasker (K-12 grade)

The private school in Northampton County has 265 students and the student/teacher ratio is 1:16.

Charter School– Gaston

The charter school in Northampton County has 190 students and the student/teacher ratio is 1:17.

Colleges

- Roanoke Chowan Community College – Ahoskie, NC
- Halifax Community College – Weldon, NC

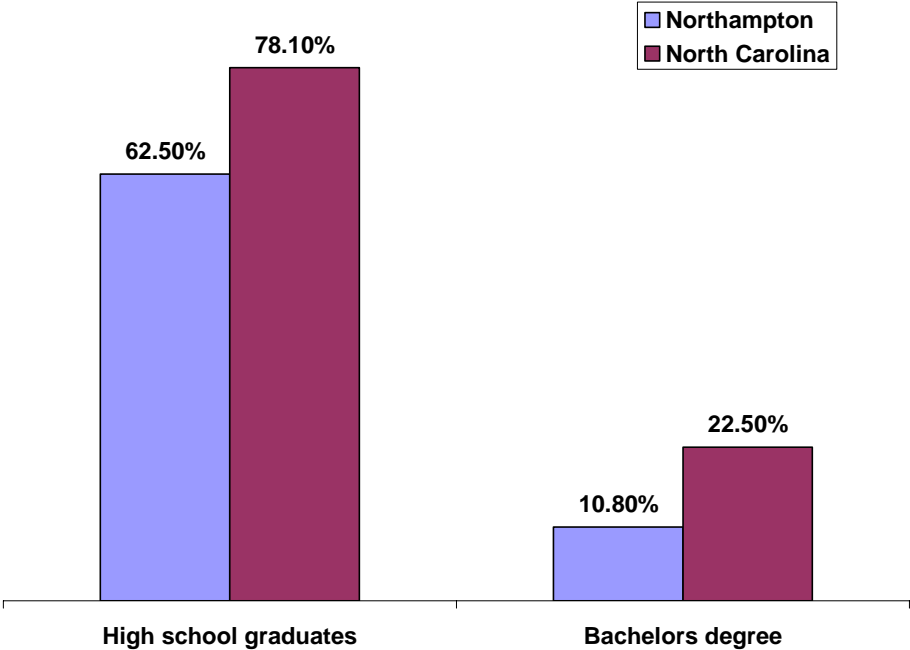
Universities

The following universities are located within 90 miles of Northampton County.

- Chowan University – Murfreesboro, NC
- University of North Carolina – Chapel Hill, NC
- North Carolina State University – Raleigh, NC
- Duke University – Durham, NC
- East Carolina University – Greenville, NC

Of adults age 25 years and older in Northampton County, 10.8% have earned a bachelor's degree. This is lower than the state rate of 22.5%. 62.5% of Northampton County adults have a high school diploma compared to 78% statewide (Source of data: US Census Bureau; <http://factfinder.census.gov>).

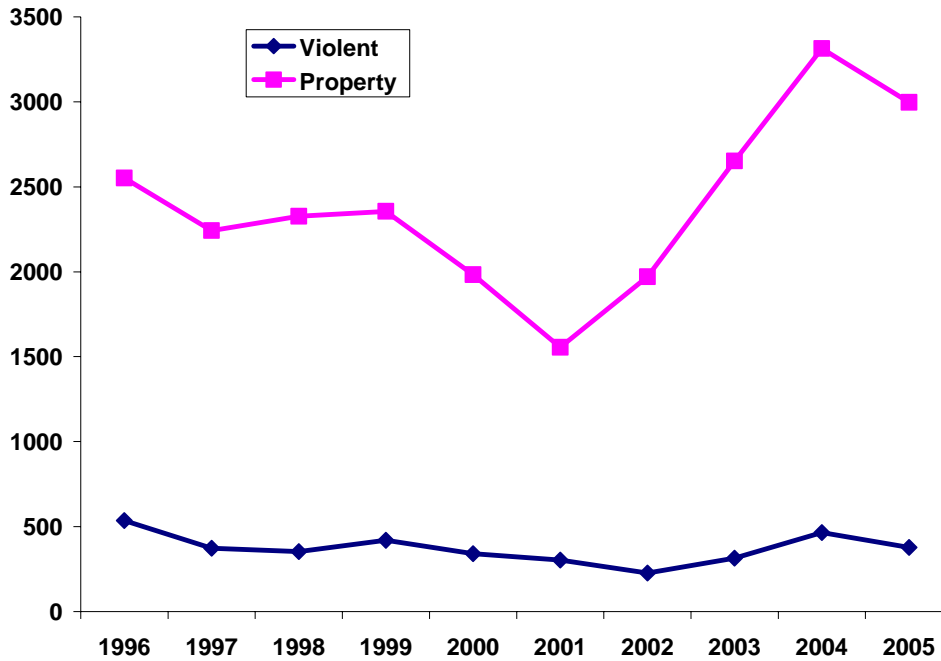
EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT



CRIME AND VIOLENCE

The following tables and charts show the number and crime event rates reported by type for each year. Over time, violent crime rates have been stable and property crime rates have tended to rise since 2001 in Northampton County.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY CRIME RATES TRENDS
(Events per 100,000 people)



Offense Category	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Murder	6	3	2	2	3		2	1	0	1
Rape	5	4	3	1	3	4	2	2	5	6
Robbery	6	9	7	17	11	12	4	10	18	13
Agg. Assault	87	57	54	66	55	38	32	45	63	49
Burglary	195	175	190	182	172	131	171	222	271	282
Larceny	272	251	227	276	226	137	165	252	300	221
MV Theft	28	12	18	25	21	9	13	15	41	44
	599	511	501	569	491	331	389	547	698	616

**Northampton County Crime Rates
Events per 100,000**

	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Index Rate	3,088	2,616	2,680	2,775	2,323	1,858	2,197	2,967	3,780	3,375
Violent	536	373	353	419	340	303	226	314	465	378
Property	2,552	2,242	2,327	2,356	1,983	1,555	1,971	2,652	3,314	2,997
Murder	30.9	15.4	10.7	9.8	14.2		11.3	5	0	5
Rape	25.8	20.5	16.1	4.9	14.2	22.5	11.3	10.8	27.1	32.9
Robbery	30.9	46.1	37.5	82.9	52.1	67.4	22.6	54.2	97.5	71.2
Assault	448.6	291.8	288.9	321.9	260.3	213.4	180.8	244.1	341.2	268.5
Burglary	1,005	895.9	1,016	887.8	814.1	735.6	966	1,204	1,467	1,545.
Larceny	1,402	1,284	1,214	1,346	1,069	769.3	932.2	1,367	1,625	1,211
MVT	144.4	61.4	96.3	121.9	99.4	50.5	73.4	81.4	222.1	241.1
Arson	30.9	41	53.5	39	4.7	44.9	16.9	5.4	16.2	21.9

Source of data: North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation; <http://sbi2.jus.state.nc.us/crp/public/Default.htm>



HEALTH STATUS

Mortality Data

- There were 292 deaths from all causes among Northampton County residents in 2004 (1,354 deaths per 100,000 persons)
- Heart disease is the leading cause of death, followed by stroke, lung cancer and prostate cancer
- Compared to the state, age-adjusted mortality rates in Northampton County are elevated for diabetes, HIV, prostate cancer, homicide and motor vehicle accidents

	NUMBER OF DEATHS 2004	MORTALITY RATE 2004	AGE ADJUSTED MORTALITY RATE 2000-2004	
	NORTHAMPTON	NORTHAMPTON	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA
ALL CAUSES	292.0	1354.0	1014	897.6
HEART DISEASE	378.0	216.9	220.8	233.9
STROKE	20.0	92.7	62.6	67.4
DIABETES	8.0	37.1	38.9	27.5
HIV DISEASE	0.0	0.0	9.7	5.4
CANCER-ALL SITES	76	352.4	225.4	197.4
BREAST CANCER	2.0	17.8	28.8	25.4
PROSTATE CANCER	8.0	77.7	62.5	31.6
TRACHEA/BRONCHUS, LUNG CANCER	18.0	83.5	61.6	59.6
COLON/RECTAL/ANUS CANCER	9	41.7	22.9	19.0
SEPTICEMIA	7	32.5	20.9	14.3
NEPHRITIS/NEPHROTIC SYNDROME/NEPHROSIS	5	23.2	18.9	17.4
CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE/CIRRHOSIS	0	0	11.4	9.0
CHRONIC LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASE	9	41.7	46	46.0
PNEUMONIA/ INFLUENZA	7	32.5	21	23.8
ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	3	13.9	18.9	25.5
HOMICIDE	0	0	9.2	7.3
SUICIDE	2	9.3	10.7	11.6
MOTOR VEHICLE ACCIDENTS	2	9.3	33.2	19.6
OTHER UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES	4	18.5	22.8	24.8

New Cancer Cases

- During 2003, there were 119 new cancer cases diagnosed among Northampton County residents
- The leading cancers are prostate, breast, lung, and colon
- The incidence rate of prostate cancer during 1999 to 2003 was elevated in Northampton compared to the state (89.5 versus 65.4)

NUMBER OF NEW CANCER CASES DIAGNOSED PER YEAR

	CASES PER YEAR			
	2000	2001	2002	2003
ORAL CAVITY	*	*	6	6
ESOPHAGUS	*	*	*	.
STOMACH	*	*	.	.
COLON/RECTUM	9	16	14	14
LIVER	.	.	*	*
GALLBLADDER	.	.	.	*
PANCREAS	*	*	*	*
LARYNX	*	*	*	*
LUNG/BRONCHUS	18	14	13	9
SOFT TISSUE	.	.	.	*
MELANOMA (SKIN)	*	.	*	*
FEMALE BREAST	22	9	14	21
CERVIX UTERI	.	.	*	*
CORPUS UTERI	*	*	*	*
OVARY	*	*	*	*
PROSTATE	18	35	33	25
BLADDER	*	*	6	*
KIDNEY	6	*	*	7
ENDOCRINE	.	*	*	*
MULTIPLE MYELOMA	*	*	*	*
LEUKEMIA	*	*	*	*
BRAIN/OTHER CNS	*	7	*	*
NON-HODGKINS LYMPHOMA	*	*	*	*
OTHER CANCERS	*	7	7	5
ALL CANCERS	104	115	122	119

PRODUCED BY THE NC CENTRAL CANCER REGISTRY,6/2006

Counts less than 16 are unstable.

Use with caution.

*Counts less than 5 are suppressed.

1999 TO 2003 CANCER INCIDENCE RATES

for leading causes of cancer

	NORTHAMPTON		NORTH CAROLINA	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
ALL CANCERS	572	405.2	181,505	446.5
COLON/RECTUM	71	49.6	19,394	48.2
LUNG/BRONCHUS	66	45.4	28,086	69.3
FEMALE BREAST	87	117.4	32,889	147.3
PROSTATE	132	89.5	26,794	65.4

Hospitalization Data

During 2004, there were a total of 3443 inpatient hospitalizations among Northampton County residents (159.6 hospitalizations per 1,000 people)
 This is higher than the state hospitalization rate of 108.8

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY INPATIENT HOSPITAL UTILIZATION AND CHARGES BY PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS, AND COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, NORTH CAROLINA, 2004 (EXCLUDING NEWBORNS & DISCHARGES FROM OUT OF STATE HOSPITALS)

DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY	TOTAL CASES	DISCHARGE RATE (PER 1,000 POP)	AVERAGE DAYS STAY	DAYS STAY RATE (PER 1,000 POP)	TOTAL CHARGES	AVERAGE CHARGE PER DAY	AVERAGE CHARGE PER CASE
INFECTIOUS & PARASITIC DISEASES	72	3.3	7.5	25.2	\$1,255,001	\$2,311	\$17,431
-- Septicemia	48	2.2	7.0	15.7	\$813,639	\$2,407	\$16,951
-- AIDS	7	0.3	10.0	3.2	\$151,623	\$2,166	\$21,660
MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	124	5.7	7.7	44.2	\$3,007,946	\$3,153	\$24,258
-- Colon, Rectum, Anus	16	0.7	9.1	6.8	\$491,869	\$3,369	\$30,742
-- Trachea, Bronchus, Lung	12	0.6	7.5	4.2	\$259,559	\$2,884	\$21,630
-- Female Breast	6	0.3	3.5	1.0	\$81,878	\$3,899	\$13,646
-- Prostate	10	0.5	6.0	2.8	\$236,856	\$3,948	\$23,686
BENIGN, UNCERTAIN & OTHER NEOPLASMS	39	1.8	3.8	6.9	\$629,899	\$4,228	\$16,151
ENDOCRINE, METABOLIC & NUTRIT. DISEASES	197	9.1	4.6	41.8	\$2,172,409	\$2,408	\$11,027
-- Diabetes	75	3.5	4.5	15.7	\$787,727	\$2,331	\$10,503
BLOOD & HEMOPOETIC TISSUE DISEASES	80	3.7	4.1	15.2	\$803,639	\$2,450	\$10,045
NERVOUS SYSTEM & SENSE ORGAN DISEASES	33	1.5	4.7	7.2	\$393,096	\$2,520	\$11,912
CARDIOVASCULAR & CIRCULATORY DISEASES	806	37.4	5.0	185.2	\$15,245,976	\$3,818	\$18,916
-- Heart Disease	598	27.7	4.8	134.0	\$12,229,450	\$4,233	\$20,451
-- Cerobrovascular Disease	108	5.0	5.2	26.1	\$1,461,725	\$2,596	\$13,534
RESPIRATORY DISEASES	325	15.1	5.9	89.0	\$4,207,980	\$2,193	\$12,948
-- Pneumonia/Influenza	123	5.7	5.5	31.3	\$1,416,501	\$2,095	\$11,516
-- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	116	5.4	5.1	27.2	\$1,076,182	\$1,833	\$9,277
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM DISEASES	327	15.2	5.2	79.1	\$4,849,733	\$2,844	\$14,831
-- Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis	9	0.4	5.3	2.2	\$352,658	\$7,347	\$39,184
GENITOURINARY DISEASES	185	8.6	5.1	43.9	\$2,280,364	\$2,408	\$12,326

-- Nephritis, Nephrosis, Nephrotic Synd.	31	1.4	7.5	10.8	\$554,941	\$2,382	\$17,901
PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH	241	11.2	2.0	22.4	\$1,260,092	\$2,603	\$5,229
SKIN & SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE DISEASES	77	3.6	6.3	22.4	\$858,744	\$1,778	\$11,153
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM DISEASES	163	7.6	4.6	34.5	\$3,520,182	\$4,738	\$21,596
-- Arthropathies and Related Disorders	84	3.9	3.7	14.5	\$1,739,366	\$5,575	\$20,707
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS	4	0.2	2.8	0.5	\$92,599	\$8,418	\$23,150
PERINATAL COMPLICATIONS	10	0.5	26.0	12.1	\$699,725	\$2,691	\$69,973
SYMPTOMS, SIGNS & ILL-DEFINED CONDITIONS	257	11.9	3.0	36.3	\$2,244,797	\$2,867	\$8,735
INJURIES & POISONING	180	8.3	6.8	56.8	\$4,370,613	\$3,571	\$24,281
OTHER DIAGNOSES (INCL. MENTAL DISORDERS)	323	15.0	8.8	132.4	\$3,522,615	\$1,234	\$10,906
ALL CONDITIONS	3,443	159.6	5.4	855.0	\$51,415,410	\$2,788	\$14,933

**NORTH CAROLINA INPATIENT HOSPITAL UTILIZATION AND CHARGES BY PRINCIPAL DIAGNOSIS, AND COUNTY OF RESIDENCE, NORTH CAROLINA, 2004
(EXCLUDING NEWBORNS & DISCHARGES FROM OUT OF STATE HOSPITALS)**

DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY	TOTAL CASES	DISCHARGE RATE (PER 1,000 POP)	AVERAGE DAYS STAY	DAYS STAY RATE (PER 1,000 POP)	TOTAL CHARGES	AVERAGE CHARGE PER DAY	AVERAGE CHARGE PER CASE
INFECTIOUS & PARASITIC DISEASES	24,821	2.9	6.6	19.2	\$477,925,557	\$2,917	\$19,260
-- Septicemia	11,263	1.3	8.4	11.1	\$297,358,281	\$3,137	\$26,404
-- AIDS	2,045	0.2	8.1	1.9	\$45,976,922	\$2,766	\$22,494
MALIGNANT NEOPLASMS	33,940	4.0	7.1	28.2	\$831,942,228	\$3,454	\$24,525
-- Colon, Rectum, Anus	4,084	0.5	8.8	4.2	\$118,217,952	\$3,289	\$28,961
-- Trachea, Bronchus, Lung	4,879	0.6	7.5	4.3	\$117,908,634	\$3,228	\$24,176
-- Female Breast	1,899	0.2	2.9	0.6	\$24,996,405	\$4,534	\$13,198
-- Prostate	2,511	0.3	3.4	1.0	\$38,428,952	\$4,567	\$15,310
BENIGN, UNCERTAIN & OTHER NEOPLASMS	12,442	1.5	3.6	5.3	\$190,147,317	\$4,217	\$15,295
ENDOCRINE, METABOLIC & NUTRIT. DISEASES	37,569	4.4	4.6	20.1	\$479,107,686	\$2,794	\$12,756
-- Diabetes	14,941	1.7	5.2	9.0	\$196,420,054	\$2,547	\$13,149
BLOOD & HEMOPOETIC TISSUE DISEASES	11,222	1.3	4.5	5.9	\$151,531,783	\$2,995	\$13,512
NERVOUS SYSTEM & SENSE ORGAN DISEASES	12,336	1.4	5.7	8.2	\$200,249,667	\$2,870	\$16,237
CARDIOVASCULAR & CIRCULATORY DISEASES	166,751	19.5	5.0	97.3	\$3,939,790,905	\$4,740	\$23,633
-- Heart Disease	115,895	13.6	4.8	64.5	\$2,952,249,438	\$5,361	\$25,479
-- Cerebrovascular Disease	27,796	3.3	5.4	17.7	\$496,181,760	\$3,288	\$17,856
RESPIRATORY DISEASES	86,976	10.2	6.0	61.4	\$1,450,481,925	\$2,768	\$16,680
-- Pneumonia/Influenza	32,015	3.7	6.0	22.4	\$483,844,632	\$2,524	\$15,116
-- Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease	27,683	3.2	4.5	14.6	\$299,589,155	\$2,406	\$10,824
DIGESTIVE SYSTEM DISEASES	92,386	10.8	5.0	54.4	\$1,495,588,745	\$3,221	\$16,192
-- Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis	2,578	0.3	6.6	2.0	\$54,458,503	\$3,216	\$21,124

DIAGNOSTIC CATEGORY	TOTAL CASES	DISCHARGE RATE (PER 1,000 POP)	AVERAGE DAYS STAY	DAYS STAY RATE (PER 1,000 POP)	TOTAL CHARGES	AVERAGE CHARGE PER DAY	AVERAGE CHARGE PER CASE
GENITOURINARY DISEASES	46,057	5.4	4.1	22.2	\$560,344,186	\$2,961	\$12,169
-- Nephritis, Nephrosis, Nephrotic Synd.	8,691	1.0	6.8	6.9	\$156,033,803	\$2,644	\$17,962
PREGNANCY & CHILDBIRTH	123,859	14.5	2.6	38.1	\$754,890,901	\$2,320	\$6,096
SKIN & SUBCUTANEOUS TISSUE DISEASES	13,523	1.6	5.9	9.3	\$168,293,518	\$2,127	\$12,445
MUSCULOSKELETAL SYSTEM DISEASES	50,939	6.0	4.1	24.2	\$1,290,585,755	\$6,244	\$25,342
-- Arthropathies and Related Disorders	22,033	2.6	4.1	10.7	\$583,389,424	\$6,400	\$26,482
CONGENITAL MALFORMATIONS	3,284	0.4	6.6	2.5	\$122,537,518	\$5,644	\$37,313
PERINATAL COMPLICATIONS	3,694	0.4	12.0	5.2	\$107,586,134	\$2,432	\$29,140
SYMPTOMS, SIGNS & ILL-DEFINED CONDITIONS	59,189	6.9	2.9	19.9	\$560,817,520	\$3,295	\$9,478
INJURIES & POISONING	72,753	8.5	5.7	48.3	\$1,635,853,166	\$3,966	\$22,496
OTHER DIAGNOSES (INCL. MENTAL DISORDERS)	77,347	9.1	7.9	71.2	\$871,851,350	\$1,434	\$11,279
ALL CONDITIONS	929,088	108.8	5.0	540.7	\$15,289,525,862	\$3,311	\$16,462

Infant Mortality

- There were 3 infant deaths in Northampton County during 2004 (13.2 deaths per 1,000 live births)
- The 2000 to 2004 average infant mortality rate of 18.3 for Northampton was higher than the state rate of 8.4 deaths per live births
- Most deaths occur during the neonatal period (less than 1 month of age)

INFANT MORTALITY

	NORTHAMPTON		NORTH CAROLINA	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
2004 INFANT DEATHS	3	13.2	1050	8.8
2000 TO 2004 INFANT DEATHS	22	18.3	5013	8.4
2000 TO 2004 NEONATAL DEATHS	20	16.6	3500	5.9
2000 TO 2004 POSTNEONATAL DEATHS	2	1.7	1513	2.6

Pregnancy Data

- There were 63 pregnancies among women ages 15 to 44 during 2004 (pregnancy rate of 16 per 1,000 women)

PREGNANCY DATA

	NORTHAMPTON		NORTH CAROLINA	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
2004 DATA				
TOTAL PREGNANCIES (AGE 15 TO 44)	63	16.0	149,933	82
WHITE	14	10.1	100,275	76.5
OTHER RACES	49	19.3	47,115	91.1

Birth Data

- There were 227 births in Northampton County during 2004
- The birthrate for Northampton County was lower than the state rate (10.5 versus 14.0)
- The Northampton County birthrate is tending to decline since 1995
- 14% of babies born in Northampton County had a low birth weight compared to 9.1% for the state

Year	BIRTHS		BIRTH RATE	
	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA
1995	260	101555	12.1	13.8
1996	248	104428	11.4	13.9
1997	241	106949	11.0	14.0
1998	263	111631	12.0	14.3
1999	276	113755	12.6	14.3
2000	258	120247	11.7	14.9
2001	259	118112	11.8	14.4
2002	210	117307	9.6	14.1
2003	249	118292	11.5	14.0
2004	227	119773	10.5	14.0

Year	NUMBER LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS		PERCENT LOW BIRTH WEIGHT BIRTHS	
	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA	NORTHAMPTON	NORTH CAROLINA
1995	22	8841	8.5%	8.7%
1996	34	9128	13.7%	8.7%
1997	34	9449	14.1%	8.8%
1998	28	9870	10.6%	8.8%
1999	25	10108	9.1%	8.9%
2000	34	10572	13.2%	8.8%
2001	31	10579	12.0%	9.0%
2002	30	10550	14.3%	9.0%
2003	38	10647	15.3%	9.0%
2004	32	10846	14.1%	9.1%

Teen Pregnancies

- During 2004, there were 20 pregnancies reported among Northampton county girls ages 15 to 17.
- The teen pregnancy rate for the county is 1.4 times the state rate

TEEN PREGNANCIES in 2004

	NORTHAMPTON		NORTH CAROLINA	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
TOTAL PREGNANCIES (AGE 15 TO 17)	20	51.2	5,937	35.9
WHITE	5	43.9	3,167	28.0
OTHER RACES	15	54.2	2,694	51.5

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- Sexually transmitted disease rates are elevated for Northampton County compared to the state. In 2005, there were 154 cases of Chlamydia, 66 cases of gonorrhea, 3 HIV disease cases, and 5 AIDS cases. Since 2001, Chlamydia rates in Northampton County have increased, and HIV disease rates have decreased

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED DISEASES

	NORTHAMPTON		NORTH CAROLINA	
	NUMBER	RATE	NUMBER	RATE
CHLAMYDIA				
2001	119	541.0	22,177	270.5
2002	123	562.5	24,738	297.6
2003	111	510.8	26,065	309.5
2004	130	601.2	28,999	339.5
2005	154	712.2	31,183	365.1
GONORRHEA				
2001	135	613.8	16,732	204.1
2002	77	352.1	15,353	184.7
2003	67	308.3	15,085	179.1
2004	63	291.3	15,198	177.9
2005	66	305.2	15,075	176.5
PRIMARY, SECONDARY SYPHILIS				
2001	1	4.5	455	5.5
2002	1	4.6	271	3.3
2003	0	0	150	1.8
2004	0	0	192	2.2
2005	0	0	274	3.2
EARLY SYPHILIS (PRIMARY, SECONDARY, EARLY LATENT)				
2001	1	4.5	941	11.5
2002	1	4.6	616	7.4
2003	1	4.6	396	4.7
2004	0	0	453	5.3
2005	0	0	489	5.7
HIV DISEASE				
2003	6	27.6	2073	24.6
2004	3	13.9	1636	19.2
2005	3	13.9	1806	21.1
AIDS				
2003	5	23	1048	12.4
2004	5	23.1	1091	12.8
2005	5	23.1	1089	12.7

- **Other Communicable Disease Reports**

- In 2005, there were a total of 10 other types of communicable disease cases reported in Northampton County. Each year since 1998, there have been at least 2 cases of tuberculosis reported, and at least one cases of salmonella reported each year with the exception of 2002.

CASES OF REPORTABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES

	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
AMEBIASIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BLASTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
BRUCELLO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
CAMPY	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	1
CRYPTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
DENGUE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
E COLI O157	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EHRLIC MONO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENCEPH AR	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
ENCEPH EE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ENCEPH PRI	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
FB OTHER	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
FB STAPH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
H FLU	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
HEP A	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	1
HEP B	3	3	1	2	2	0	0	1
HEP B CARR	0	1	0	0	1	3	2	2
HEP C	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
HEP NON AB	0	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
KAWASAKI SYN	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEGION	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LEPTO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
LYME DIS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MALARIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MEASLES	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
MEN DIS	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0
MEN PNEU	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
MUMPS	0	1	2	0	0	26	0	0
REYE SYN	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RMSF	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
RUBELLA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SALMON	6	1	2	5	0	2	2	1
SHIGELLO	0	0	0	0	0	2	2	1
STREP A	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TB	17	11	11	9	10	7	6	2
TSS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TULAREMIA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
V VULNIFICUS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIBRIO OTHER	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VRE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
W COUGH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	28	28	18	20	13	41	13	10

Environmental Health Inspection Data

- Number of restaurants in Northampton County that were inspected last year:
Approximately 50 restaurants a quarter. (Not including school cafeterias).
- Number of restaurants in Northampton County that received a grade A, B, C or failed inspection:
A= approximately 4-5 a quarter
B= approximately 4-5 a quarter
C= approximately 2-3 a year
- Number of wells in Northampton County inspected:
0 wells were inspected
- Number of wells tested for some chemical:
July 2006- Oct. 2006 13 wells were tested

Healthcare Providers

The number of medical providers per person in Northampton County is much lower than the state rate.

2004 Health Professionals per 10,000 Population								
County	Physicians	Primary Care Physicians	Dentists	Pharmacists	Registered Nurses	Nurse Practitioners	Certified Nurse Midwives	Physician Assistants
North Carolina	20.3	8.6	4.2	8.5	90.7	2.6	0.2	2.9
Northampton	4.1	2.7	0.5	1.8	28.4	1.4	0.0	0.9

Source: http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp/2004/04_10000pop_all.xls

COMMUNITY OPINION SURVEY

During May to September 2006, the Northampton County Health Department and the Northampton County Healthy Carolinians Partnership conducted a survey of community members in order to give residents an opportunity to express their concerns and opinions about the quality of life in Northampton County. The survey included questions about the economy, education, environment, health, housing, leisure activities, safety, social issues, transportation, and elder issues. Community members of Northampton County were asked to rate their opinion on the degree to which they saw a problem with a variety of community issues. The possible rankings were “Not a Problem”, “Minor Problem”, “Moderate Problem”, “Major Problem” and “Don’t Know.” Surveys were distributed strategically throughout the county in an effort to reach a variety of the population. Surveys were completed voluntarily and anonymously.

Survey Respondent Profile

The following table shows the demographics of the survey respondents.

	Percent of Participants
<u>Sex</u>	
Male	35%
Female	65%
<u>Age</u>	
Less than 18 years	12%
18 to 24	8%
25 to 39	23%
40 to 54	29%
55 to 64	15%
65+	13%
<u>Race & Ethnicity</u>	
African-American	54%
Caucasian	43%
Hispanic	1%
American Indian	1%
Other Races	1%

Town of Residence

Jackson	19%
Conway	14%
Garysburg	11%
Rich Square	10%
Lakser	1%
Potecasi	1%
Pleasant Hill	3%
Seaboard	10%
Gaston	5%
Henrico	1%
Margaretville	4%
Milwaukee	3%
Pendleton	5%
Severn	3%
Woodland	3%
Other	5%

Education

20% had a high school diploma or a GED,	20%
19% had some college,	19%
18% had a bachelor's degree,	18%
17% had an associate's degree,	17%
16% was other and tied at	16%
5% had a master's degree and	5%
did not finish high school.	5%

Employment

Status

Employed full time	63%
Employed part time	12%
Retired	11%
Other	10%
Unemployed.	4%

Health Insurance

private insurance,	53%
other,	17%
Medicare	12%
Medicaid	11%
no insurance at all	4%
Not Sure	3%
Veterans insurance	1%

Dental Insurance

Yes	59%
No	36%
Not Sure	5%

Opinions on Issue Related to Economy in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the economic issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Unemployment or underemployment	21	6%	33	10%	90	27%	179	53%	16	5%
Poverty	19	5%	33	9%	87	25%	194	56%	15	4%
Lack of Jobs	13	4%	26	8%	78	25%	177	58%	13	4%

Opinions on Issues Related to Education in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Educational issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Unsafe schools	37	11%	118	34%	109	31%	61	17%	25	7%
Rundown school building	54	15%	122	35%	82	23%	68	19%	23	7%
Overcrowded classrooms	36	11%	89	27%	104	32%	68	21%	33	10%
Lack of equipment	31	9%	86	26%	87	26%	77	23%	56	17%
Access to after school programs	42	12%	79	23%	68	20%	98	29%	50	15%
Transportation to school	186	54%	70	20%	22	6%	23	7%	43	13%
Other educational issues**	33	18%	20	11%	22	12%	34	18%	79	42%

Listed below are the respondents other educational issues:

Major

- Need to improve teachers and administrators. Qualified Northampton County personnel never given a chance for advancement.
- Sex education in schools needed. Gaston Middle school role model for how students should act in school.
- Discipline
- Funds to retain teachers and funds for at risk kids
- Qualified teachers
- Lack of education choices
- Parents are asked to buy supplies that the school should furnish for students
- Unable to meet minimum standards
- School system in general
- Behavior of other students!! Very unsafe.

Opinions on Issues Related to Environment in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Environment issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
-										
Water pollution	70	20%	139	40%	57	16%	26	7%	55	16%
Air pollution	63	17%	145	40%	78	21%	34	9%	44	12%
Trash in neighborhood	52	15%	146	43%	71	21%	53	16%	18	5%
Other environmental issues**	29	16%	32	18%	19	10%	23	13%	78	43%

Listed below are the respondents other environmental issues:

Moderate

- Pesticides (ex. Cotton spray)
- Open hog lagoons

Major

- Need for monitoring air, soil and water quality in areas where chemical plants are located, such as Severn and Conway.
- Ditches and junk cars. Creeks need cleaning out. Flooding is a problem. Numerous falling down abandoned houses in the county
- Junked vehicles, old trailers, and dilapidated buildings
- Town clean up, weeds, dilapidated houses and buildings. (breeding grounds for rodents and insects)
- Unemployed members of community loitering on streets
- Dogs in neighborhood

Opinions on Issues Related to the Health in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Health issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
-										
Alcohol abuse	23	7%	82	24%	135	39%	82	24%	26	7%
Asthma	20	5%	73	20%	137	37%	83	22%	57	15%
Arthritis	8	2%	64	19%	116	34%	109	32%	48	14%
Breast Cancer	14	4%	44	13%	88	25%	128	36%	78	22%
Dental Health	11	3%	60	18%	117	35%	102	30%	48	14%
Diabetes	9	3%	33	9%	94	27%	174	49%	43	12%
Drug abuse	12	4%	45	13%	94	27%	167	49%	24	7%
Heart disease	10	3%	53	15%	119	34%	113	32%	54	15%
High blood pressure	3	1%	31	9%	119	34%	159	45%	39	11%
HIV/AIDS	18	5%	82	23%	86	24%	100	28%	74	21%
Mental illness	19	5%	92	26%	110	32%	75	21%	53	15%
Lack of affordable medical care	12	4%	31	10%	76	24%	185	57%	19	6%
Lack of physical activity	16	5%	26	8%	78	23%	204	60%	14	4%
Overweight and Obesity	9	3%	29	9%	87	27%	185	57%	12	4%
Pneumonia or Flu	29	8%	147	43%	76	22%	24	7%	67	20%
Prostate Cancer	21	6%	48	14%	91	26%	95	27%	96	27%
Stroke	14	4%	65	20%	101	31%	90	27%	60	18%
Other health issue	11	7%	9	6%	12	7%	20	12%	109	68%

Listed below are the respondents other health issues:

Minor

- Run down homes
- Vision (if no insurance)
- Lupus

Moderate

- Lung Cancer
- Other cancer: lung, lymph, bone

Major

- Lack of interest in preventive health care
- Cancer, high incidence in county
- STDS

Opinions on Issues Related to the Health and Human Service in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Health and Human Service issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
-										
Access to health care	45	13%	74	21%	118	33%	106	30%	14	4%
Access to mental health counseling	52	15%	80	23%	111	32%	69	20%	37	11%
Access to alcohol and drug treatment	44	13%	77	22%	93	27%	89	26%	44	13%
Access to dental care	47	14%	65	19%	75	22%	128	38%	25	7%
Access to emergency services	118	31%	116	31%	99	26%	33	9%	10	3%
Inadequate public transportation	43	12%	72	21%	52	15%	158	46%	20	6%

Opinions on Issues Related to Housing in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Housing issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
-										
Shortage of affordable housing	30	9%	48	14%	71	21%	168	49%	28	8%
Overcrowded housing	45	13%	61	17%	68	19%	118	34%	57	16%
Other housing issues	18	10%	11	6%	21	11%	54	29%	80	43%

Listed below are the respondents other housing issues:

Moderate

- Lack of heat/air

Major

- Need for monitoring who lives in public housing
- Not enough for one person housing
- Drugs
- Elderly
- Rundown houses, flooding houses or yards
- Some areas within city limit, abandoned buildings
- New construction
- Homeowners that do not take care of their properties

Opinions on Issues Related to Leisure Activities in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Leisure Activities issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Shortage of rec. facilities	18	5%	33	9%	42	12%	247	70%	12	3%
Lack of outdoor rec. activities	32	9%	32	9%	48	13%	240	66%	11	3%

Opinions on Issues Related to the Safety in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Safety issues

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Crime	16	5%	18	6%	138	46%	115	39%	10	3%
Lack of police protection	21	6%	93	26%	126	36%	93	26%	18	5%
Lack of fire protection	50	15%	131	39%	91	27%	36	11%	25	8%
Gangs	31	9%	80	22%	113	32%	78	22%	54	15%

Opinions on Issues Related to the Social Issues in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Social Issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Teen pregnancy	10	3%	71	22%	94	28%	133	40%	22	7%
Family violence, abuse of children or adults	14	4%	74	21%	113	32%	100	29%	49	14%
People who can not read or write	67	20%	87	26%	62	18%	80	24%	44	13%
Lack of affordable childcare	20	5%	59	15%	102	27%	166	43%	35	9%

Opinions on Issues Related to the Elder Issues in Northampton County

The table below illustrates the distribution of answers to the Elder Issues.

	Not a Problem		Minor Problem		Moderate Problem		Major Problem		Don't Know	
	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percent</i>
-										
Access to Meal on Wheels program	40	11%	109	31%	80	23%	42	12%	81	23%
Elder physical abuse	33	10%	106	31%	60	18%	44	13%	96	28%
Dementia	26	8%	93	27%	90	27%	52	15%	78	23%
Money for medications	8	2%	35	8%	90	22%	192	46%	90	22%
Shopping for food	39	12%	80	25%	87	27%	86	27%	31	10%

Community Voices: Perspectives about Northampton County

Qualitative data was collected from people living in Northampton County by means of open-ended question that were included as part of a community survey. 66 people responded to one or more of five open-ended questions that were a part of the Community Health Opinion Survey completed by 400 people in Northampton County during the summer of 2006. The questions to which participants responded were:

1. **Other educational issues.**
2. **Other environmental issues.**
3. **Other health issues.**
4. **Other housing issues.**
5. **Do you have any other comments or concerns about Northampton County or the health of people living in Northampton County? Please describe.**

There was one focus group conducted with 18 under children (4H club). The facilitator was Kelly Eisner and the group met on Oct. 18, 2006. There was 7 children in the group. The questions to which participants responded were:

1. **What do you like most about living in Northampton County?**
2. **What are some concerns you have living here?**
3. **What do you do to stay healthy?**
4. **What health problems have you and your family had to deal with?**
5. **What are some health services you have used in the past year?**
6. **What are some health services that you would like to see offered that aren't already?**
7. **What do you see as major health or social problems in Northampton County?**
8. **What do you do for recreation?**
9. **What are some resources available in Northampton County?**
10. **If you could change one thing about Northampton County, what would it be?**

All narrative data were collectively analyzed using qualitative data analysis methods. The data reflects the written comments of the individuals who voluntarily shared their perspective with the research. Finding from the qualitative data analysis reflects the span of responses offered by respondents but do not represent the magnitude of concern or the number of times any particular response was offered. The order in which categories of concern are presented in the findings is not intended to reflect order of importance as perceived by respondents. While people's perceptions presented in these findings may be helpful in understanding the health-related concerns of citizens in the county, such perceptions may not be representative of those held by the general population of Northampton.

In the presentation of findings, the respondents' written responses to the open-ended questions are italicized and presented verbatim, in their original, unedited form. Any additions to participants' verbatim responses that the researcher included for the purpose of improving understanding or flow, are included in brackets [] and not italicized.

Concerns about Northampton County

Positive Aspects about Living In the Community Those who responded to the open-end questions and participated in the focus group shared their perceptions about the most positive aspects of living in their Northampton County communities. The younger population stated that it is a “*rural*” community and that everyone has “*their own privacy*”. They liked the fact that “*everyone knows everyone*” and it is a “*nice place to live*.” One of the questions asked in the focus group was: If you could change one thing about Northampton County, what would it be? The respondent replied with “*I wouldn’t want to change a thing*.”

Economy A few things were said about Northampton County’s economy. The major thing that was repeated was the lack of jobs. One of the respondents mentioned that they had a bachelor’s degree and could not find a job. It was also mentioned, however, if there were more job opportunities then it would bring in more people to the county, then there would be “*no more good ole’ Northampton County*”.

Education The respondents felt there was not enough “*qualified teachers*” in the school system and no transportation to after school programs. “*There is not enough activity buses and that is why there is little participation*.” Some respondents said that “*school systems will not cooperate*.” Respondents felt like the schools should get rid of the end of the year test and stick to the basic reading, writing and math, “*Most graduates cannot even give correct change without the cash register telling them how much to give back*.”

Environment In terms of environment respondents felt like sewage, old cars and tall grass was a major issue. “*Some people with open sewage not properly hooked up, old cars sitting around not in use and tall grass*.” On a good note some respondents said positive things about Northampton County, the nature trails, wild life reserves, and the lake access.

Health In terms of health the respondents had a lot to say. Some of the health concerns were: overweight, diabetes, kidneys, cancer, teeth, Alzheimer’s, arthritis, and alcohol abuse. Some of the health services the respondents would like to see in the county is hospitals, dentist, eye doctors, and specialist. “*My doctor is in Virginia and to go to a specialist you have to go out of the county*.” “*We need to have more satellite clinics in towns like Severn and Henrico, 25 minutes for Jackson*.” Another concern is STDs. “*STD education needs to be implemented. I don’t think the general public is aware of the seriousness of these diseases*.”

Leisure Activities According to the respondents recreation is a major issue in Northampton County. “*There is nothing to do and that is why the crime rate is increasing*.” “*There are no local places for “poor people” to go swimming. Everything is private or you have to drive a long way to get there. There are not many free things to do-especially teenagers*.” However, “*the recreational problem will probably improve when the new recreational facility is completed*.”

Elder Issues Several of the elderly respondents mentioned that the senior citizens did not receive enough food stamps. The biggest concern was that seniors did not get enough food stamps while “*young people get more.*”

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES

Based on findings from the community survey combined with health data, in November 2006, Northampton County Healthy Carolinians Partnership members identified 12 chief health and social concerns for the county. The top health and community concerns are as follows:

Issue	Data
Lack of Recreation and Physical Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 51% of people thought that lack of physical activity was a major problem.
Diabetes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 8 deaths in 2004. The new case rate for Northampton was 38.9 per 100,000, compared to a rate of 27.5 for North Carolina. The county had a new case rate was 40% higher than that for the state.
STDs/HIV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 154 Chlamydia cases were reported in 2005. The county new case rate was 712.2. The rate for the state was 365.1 66 Gonorrhea cases were reported in 2005. The county had a new case rate of 305.2 and the state reported 176.5 3 new cases of HIV were reported in 2005. The county had a new case rate of 13.9 and the state reported 21.1.
Prostate and Breast Cancers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There were 2 breast cancer deaths in 2004. The death rate for the county was 28.8 and the state reported 25.4 in 2004 21 new cases were reported in 2003. The county had a new case rate of 117.4 and the state reported 147.3 8 prostate cancer deaths were reported The county mortality rate was 62.5, compared with 31.6 for the state. 25 new cases were reported in 2003. The county had a new case rate of 89.5, compared to 65.4 for the state.
Access to Alcohol/Drug Treatment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The county death rate due to chronic liver disease and cirrhosis was 11.4, compared to 9.0 for the state. 49% of respondents thought that drug abuse was a major problem. 26% thought that access to alcohol and drug treatment was a major problem.

Teen Pregnancy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2005, 65 pregnancies occurred among 15 to 19 year old girls. • Teen pregnancy rate was 100.9 cases per 100,000 in the county compared to 61.7 in the state. • This county ranks 3rd in the state for teen pregnancy. 16 of these pregnancies or 24.6% were repeat pregnancies.
Asthma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 43 asthma hospitalizations occurred in 2004. • Hospitalization rate for the county was 199.4, compared to 125.9 for the state. • 13 hospitalizations occurred among children ages 0-14. Youth hospitalization rate for the county was 328.4, compared to 180.2 for the state.
Stroke and High Blood Pressure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20 stroke deaths occurred in 2004. • The death rate was 62.6 for the county and 67.4 for the state. • 39.8% of respondents felt that high blood pressure was a major problem.
Access to Affordable Medication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12.3% of those ages 0-17 had no insurance, compared to 11.4 for the state. • 19.9% of those ages 18-64 had no insurance, compared to 19.9% for the state. • 19.5% of those 0-64 had no insurance, compared to 17.5% for the state. • 46% of respondents felt that access to affordable medication was a major problem.
Access to Dentist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0.5 dentists are present per 10,000 residents. • 32% of respondents felt that dental care was a major problem.

After reviewing and discussing this information, Northampton Healthy Carolinians members participated in rating the top five out of twelve social concerns using a Prioritization Worksheet. The worksheet asked that each of the 12 concerns be ranked according to three criteria: Magnitude of the Problem, Seriousness of the Consequences, and Feasibility of Correcting the Problem. Results of these worksheets were calculated to come up with the top 4 priorities, which are as follows

1. Diabetes
2. Access to recreation and Physical Education
3. Teen Pregnancy, Sexually transmitted diseases/HIV
4. Cancer