

Progress on CHIP

Jones County Health Department encountered difficulty in implementing the Community Health Improvement Plan due to the Coronavirus pandemic. Much of the Health Department's focus was placed on efforts to combat COVID-19, and progress has since been delayed on the CHIP.

- Jones County Health Department has adopted Results-Based Accountability to improve the effectiveness of programs/services. This tool is used to frame the Community Health Needs Assessment and the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Jones County Health Department's Community Health Improvement plan is in the process of moving from paper-based to web-based using Clear Impact Scorecard.
- Jones County Health Department has linked to the Healthy North Carolina 2030 Scorecard to create greater awareness of population accountability.
- Jones County Health Department is making progress on CHIP priority Access to Care by working to increase primary care to 5 days a week.

Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA

COVID-19 has impacted rates of morbidity and mortality in Jones County. According to the NC DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard, Jones County had 864 Cases, and 28 Deaths as of May 24, 2021.

Case demographics are broken down by race, age, and gender. 64% of cases were White, 31% of cases reported were among ages 25-49, 23% were among ages 50-64, and 60% were Female. Demographic data was last updated by NC DHHS on May 24, 2021.

Emerging Issues Since Last CHA

Emerging issues since the last CHA stem from the impact of COVID-19. Daily life was completely disrupted across the country, state, and Jones County. School children completed classes online and adults began working from home as the pandemic shut down schools and offices in March.

This also caused unemployment to skyrocket in 2020. The largest spike occurred in April of 2020 according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. Home owners and renters experienced increased rates of cost-burden due to the pandemic. The NC Housing Coalition estimated that in 2019, 58% of renters and 26% of home owners has difficulty affording their homes. There was also an increase in food insecurity across the county. According to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, 25% of Jones County residents were food insecure in 2019-2020. 40% were children under the age of 18, and 90% of children were receiving free/reduced lunch. There was a 38% increase in food insecurity across the state of NC. Many community organizations came together to help address food insecurity, and there was a 79% increase in food distribution.

The Health Department had no Health Educator for 6 months, impacting progress on programs and initiatives. There was a leadership change in 2020, the Jones County Health Department Nursing Supervisor became Interim Health Director while the Health Director was recovering from COVID.

New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives Since Last CHA

Jones County is working to expand primary care services at the Health Department to 5 days a week. Currently, Jones County Health Department has a Nurse Practitioner in the office one day a week. The Minority Diabetes Prevention Program was paused in 2020, as there was no Health Educator to facilitate classes. Classes will resume in the 2021-2022 fiscal year. The In-Home Asthma Assessment program was also paused in 2020.

Jones County has a number of New Businesses that have opened since the last CHA. They are Trenton One Stop Food Market, Rascal's Roost Antique Shop, Jordan on Jones Beauty Salon, Farmer's Kitchen, JoCo Flowers and Gifts, and Grandpa's Store & Grill.