

Areas of Concern

Selection of Priority Areas

The following served as a starting point in selecting the health priorities:

Overweight/Obesity

Cancer

Aging Problems

Heart Disease

Diabetes

Mental Health

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

Teenage Pregnancy

Asthma

Dental Health

We recognize the undeniable tie between economic prosperity and health. While Jones County has assets in place which are dedicated to increasing economic development, a consensus was reached on the following health priorities.

Health Priorities

2010-2014 Priority Areas

- **Physical Activity**
- **Chronic Disease**
 - Heart Disease
 - Diabetes
- **Adolescent Health**
 - Teenage Pregnancy
 - Substance Abuse

The next steps include developing action plans that will serve as the basis for current programs and developing new programs with the aim of improving the health of Jones County residents.

Learning More

Where can I read more information about the assessment?

The full document is available online at www.jonescountyhealth.com. It is also available to view at the Jones County Health Department, Jones County Manager's Office, local libraries, Jones County Schools, and Board of Education.

How can I get involved?

Please become a member of the Jones County Healthy Carolinians partnership and get involved in a committee which best fits your interests. The Jones County Healthy Carolinians Coordinator is available to make presentations at local meetings upon request. The partnership is open to the public and happy to welcome anyone interested in improving the health of Jones County residents!

How can I give feedback and get more information?

Visit our website www.jonescountyhealth.com and click on Jones County Healthy Carolinians or call (252) 448-9111.

Jones County Healthy Carolinians
Jones County Health Department
P.O. Box 216
418 Hwy 58 North
Trenton, NC 28585



Acknowledgments

A special thank you to all who participated in the Key Informant Interviews, the Community Health Opinion Survey, and those providing feedback in this assessment process, members of the Jones County Healthy Carolinians and the Jones County Health Department.



Jones County Healthy Carolinians



2010 Jones County Community Health Assessment Summary

Jones County Health Department
418 Hwy 58 North
Trenton, NC 28585
Phone: (252) 448-9111
Fax: (252) 448-1443

Kristen Richmond-Hoover, MPH - Health Director

Prepared by:
Jones County Healthy Carolinians
and
Jones County Health Department

What is a Community Health Assessment?

Community Health Assessments allow communities the opportunity to gain an understanding of health, concerns, strengths, resources, and needs. Multiple organizations and agencies along with community members work together to identify and evaluate health issues with the ultimate purpose of improving the health of Jones County.

Why Conduct a Community Health Assessment?

This assessment creates priority areas which establish objectives and targets that will be developed into action plans and programs to improve the health of residents in Jones County.

Where did you get information?

The following were used to gather information for this process:

1. Health Resource Inventory
2. Community Health Opinion Survey
3. Key Informant Interviews
4. Health Statistics

A Snapshot of Jones County

Jones County is a rural, agricultural area, located in the eastern part of North Carolina. The Trent River flows through the county and was historically the primary means of transportation and commerce. Jones County has been a leading provider of lumber and has become well known among outdoorsmen. Four Townships exist within Jones County including Trenton (the county seat), Maysville (the largest town), Pollocksville (the oldest town), and Comfort (the most rural of the communities). According to the 2000 Census, Jones County had a population of 10,381 with the median age being 39 years old with a 2014 projection of 10,175 population and median age of 44 years old. Therefore the Jones County population is aging and decreasing in size.



Areas of Evaluation

To determine what Jones County residents believe to be the most significant problems and issues, questions were asked using the following sections: Quality of Life, Community Problems and Issues, Personal Health, Emergency Preparedness, and Demographics.

Number	HEALTH PROBLEMS	Percentages
1	Overweight/Obesity	62.9%
2	Diabetes	59.0%
3	Teenage Pregnancy	49.4%
4	Heart Disease	45.9%
5	Cancer	43.3%
6	Aging Problems	40.6%
7	Sexually Transmitted Diseases	30.6%
8	Dental Health	24.1%
9	Asthma	23.3%
10	Mental Health	21.2%

Number	COMMUNITY ISSUES	Percentages
1	Lack of Jobs/Unemployment	57.5%
2	Drug use in the community	47.8%
3	Lack of recreational facilities	45.5%
4	Low income/poverty	43.9%
5	Dropping out of school	37.6%
6	Availability of positive teen activities	27.1%
7	Animal control issues	26.9%
8	Lack of/inadequate health insurance	23.3%
9	Affordability of health services	22.9%
10	Racism	18.4%

Number	UNHEALTHY BEHAVIORS	Percentages
1	Drug Abuse	79.6%
2	Alcohol Abuse	74.7%
3	Having unsafe or unprotected sex	52.9%
4	Smoking/Tobacco Use	51.8%
5	Poor eating habits	47.8%
6	Lack of exercise	44.9%
7	Not going to the doctor for yearly check-ups and screenings	37.1%
8	Reckless/drunken driving	28.8%
9	Not going to a dentist for preventative check-ups/care	22.7%
10	Not using seat belts	15.9%

Summary

When looking at the identified health problems and unhealthy behaviors, there are some conflicting results. Overweight/Obesity was identified as the top health problem while the behaviors that contribute to overweight/obesity of poor eating habits and lack of exercise rank at numbers 5 and 6 under unhealthy behaviors. This demonstrates a disconnect between unhealthy behaviors and health problems. There may be a misunderstanding of the health consequences of overweight/obesity or the belief that other unhealthy behaviors are more important. A common thread of drug use was identified as the top unhealthy behavior and the second ranked community issue. The lack of jobs and unemployment was identified as the top community issue and low income/poverty ranked fourth.

Health and Well-being

- In 2008, 19% of Jones County residents reported having an excellent health status and almost 62% reported having either a good or very good health status.
- Also found in 2008, 35.1% of those over 18 years old in Jones County are disabled.
- Top diagnosed conditions that are self-reported by Jones County residents include the following: high blood pressure, overweight/obesity, and high cholesterol.

Healthcare Access and Coverage

- In 2005, nearly 1 in 4 Jones County adults was uninsured (23.9% for 18 to 64 years old and 13.4% for 0 to 17 years old.)
- In 2008, 17.3% could not visit a doctor in the past 12 months because of the cost.
- Although Jones County residents report having a doctor, the lack of access to primary care increases inpatient hospital use. The lack of access may also contribute to delays in seeking medical care which may lead to more in-depth and costly treatments.

Disease and Death

- The poor maintenance of chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes may contribute to heart disease, stroke, and kidney disease which are the leading causes of death in Jones County.
- Minorities experience significantly higher rates of disease for almost every condition.
- In 2009, the Infant Mortality rate (deaths under 1 years old) for Jones County was 20.8 per 1,000 live births while NC's rate was 7.9 per 1,000 live births.

Social Environment

- The rate for free and reduced lunches were both higher for Jones County students when compared to NC (Free Lunch rates: Jones County 60.2, NC 40.1)
- The Jones County high-school drop-out percentage has decreased over time and is comparable to NC (Jones County 5.6%, NC 5.3%.)
- The homicide rate for Jones County is lower than NC's rate (Jones County 5.2, NC 7.2.)
- 86% of Jones County residents agree or strongly agree that Jones County is a safe place to live (which considers safety in the home, workplace, schools, playgrounds, parks, etc.)

Individual Behavior

- Overweight/obesity rates in 2008 were 68% for Eastern NC while only 31.8% of Jones County residents self-reported being overweight/obese.
- Smoking status in 2008 was 22.1% for Eastern NC with similar findings of 22.9% of Jones County residents self-reported being a current smoker.
- The major self-reported barriers of physical activity included: being too tired, not having enough time, and having access to a facility.
- The commute time to work for Jones County residents is 30 minutes which may contribute to the barriers of not getting enough physical activity which influence overweight/obesity rates.

Prosperity

- While incomes have decreased nationwide and in NC, Jones County residents experienced a more significant decrease (Jones County decreased over \$8,000, NC decreased over \$6,000 from 2006 to 2009.)
- In 2009, the unemployment rate for Jones County was higher than the overall NC rate (Jones County 11.2%, NC 10.6%.)
- In 2000, 16.9% were living below the poverty level in Jones County with 14.6% were living below the poverty level in NC.

Physical Environment

- Despite conflicting views on the farming industry and the effects on the environment, it appears that responsible farming serves as a positive factor locally by reducing nutrients in ground water, preventing soil erosion, and preserving the environment.
- Jones County's air and water quality measurements are better than NC (Air Quality measured on a scale of 100: Jones County 98, NC 59.1.)
- Historically, Jones County has served as an agriculturally dependent county and continues to thrive agriculturally because of the local efforts made in preserving the environment to maintain farming as an industry.