

State of the County Health Report

Harnett County Health Department

March 2019

In North Carolina, the state requires each local health department to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every three or four years. During the years between health assessments, health departments submit an abbreviated **State of the County Health report** (SOTCH) report. In Harnett County, this report consists of an overview of selected health indicators presented in tables and charts. Sections include information on demographics, maternal and child health and leading causes of morbidity and mortality.

Throughout this report, local programs and initiatives will highlight progress in addressing the top three health issues as identified by Harnett County residents. These snapshots of progress support the Healthy North Carolina 2020 goal of making North Carolina a healthier state.



Harnett County is a landlocked county located in central North Carolina.

It is bordered by Wake County to the northeast, Johnston County to the east, Sampson County to the southeast, Cumberland County to the south, Moore County to the southwest, Lee County to the northwest, and Chatham County to the north- northwest.

- Harnett County encompasses a land area of approximately 595 square miles, and a water area of six square miles.

Harnett County is a growing yet still predominately rural county linked by proximity to the economic and cultural opportunities in its more populous surrounding counties, especially Wake County, home to Raleigh, the state's capitol city.

Only one Interstate Highway traverses Harnett County: Interstate 95 runs from the northeast to the southeast along the easternmost edge of the county, through the City of Dunn.

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Demographics

- Harnett County's estimated population is **132,754** with a growth rate of **1.42%** in the past year according to the most recent United States Census data.
- **Veterans** comprise of approximately **14.6 %** of the population with approximately **12,870** of the population (2013-2017), with Veteran status, which is more than 1.5 times the rate in North Carolina: 8.3%

Harnett County is the 22nd largest county in North Carolina.

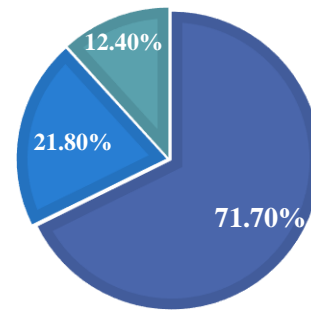
Race/Ethnicity Distribution: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the racial composition of Harnett County residents are predominately

- **White 71.%, African American 21%, and Hispanic/Latino 12.9%.**

The racial distribution of North Carolina's population was 71.2% White American, 22.1% African American, 1.6% American Indian, 2.8% Asian, and 9.1% Hispanic or Latino (of any race).

Ethnicity

■ White ■ Black ■ Hispanic/Latino



Social determinants of health: Poverty, education level, and housing are three important social determinants of health. These three factors are strongly correlated with individual health.

Social and Economic Well-being:

Socioeconomic status, including education level, employment, income, also influence health.

Persons in Poverty has decreased to **16.4%** however about 20 percent **higher** than the rate in North Carolina: **14.7%**

Persons without health insurance under age 65 has decreased to **12.5%** slightly lower than the rate for NC **12.6%**.

Vulnerable populations, include groups that have not been well integrated into the health care systems due to cultural, economic, geographic or health characteristics.

These populations may also be at higher risk during disasters. The table includes examples of vulnerable populations in Harnett County.

| | Harnett County | North Carolina |
|--|-----------------|----------------|
| Education (High School Degree or higher) | 86.2% | 86.9% |
| Unemployment (Rate) | 4.3% | 4.2% |
| Median household income(2017) | \$50,323 | \$50,584 |
| Person without health insurance under age 65 | 12.5% | 12.6% |
| Person in Poverty, Percent | 16.4% | 14.7% |
| Children in poverty | 24% | 23% |

| Vulnerable Populations | Harnett Estimated Person | % of Population |
|--|--------------------------|-----------------|
| With a disability under age 65 Years percent (2013-2017) | 13,540 | 10.2% |
| Limited English Speaking Households | 1,172 | 2.5% |
| Children less than 5 years | 9,823 | 7.4% |
| Persons 65 years and older | 16,063 | 12.1% |
| Persons 85 years and older | 1,505 | 1.1% |

Computer and Internet Use: Like computer use, the percentage of households using the Internet has also increased over time. Access to broadband Internet, in particular, is credited with having effects on individual empowerment, economic growth, and community development.

Source U. S. Census

| | Harnett County | North Carolina |
|---|----------------|----------------|
| Households with a computer, percent (2013-2017) | 87.5% | 85.5% |
| Households with broadband internet subscriptions, percent (2013-2017) | 75.0% | 75.8% |

Priority Areas 2016-2020

Nutrition &
Physical Activity

Maternal & Child
Health

Motor Vehicle
Safety

Community Health Priorities: In Harnett County the most recent Community Health Assessment (CHA) was conducted in 2016. The CHA process included a review of community health indicators, community opinion surveys a community priority setting and action plans on the leading priorities. Harnett County’s current health priorities are **(1) Nutrition & Physical Activity, (2) Maternal & Child Health, and (3) Motor Vehicle Safety.** In these priority areas, community members have rated these concerns as significant with regard to the urgency, severity, and feasibility of improvement efforts. Two of the three priorities (Nutrition & Physical Activity and Maternal & Child Health) are specifically aligned with the priorities of Healthy NC 2020, while the third (Motor Vehicle Safety) represents a community health concern in which the progress being made statewide with reducing fatal crashes is not being paralleled in local data.

For more information or to learn how you can become involved please contact the Health Education Division at 910-814-6196 or 910-893-7550 or log onto the Health Department’s web site www.harnett.org/health.

Nutrition and Physical Activity: Overweight and obesity pose significant health concerns for both children and adults. Excess weight increases an individual’s risk of developing type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, and stroke. Increased physical activity and improved nutrition are among the many factors that can help individuals reach and maintain a healthy weight. In 2018, the Health Department in collaboration with community partners provided opportunities for residents to participate in various programs and educational sessions related to nutrition and physical activity.

Progress: Approximately 51 sessions were conducted throughout the county reaching approximately 930 residents. Classes were offered in different community settings and during nontraditional hours such as evenings and weekends. Some of the programs included the following:

- “Healthy Cooking on a Budget,” which focuses on how to prepare low cost and healthy meals. There were twenty nine (29) participants in this program.
- “Maintain, Don’t Gain Holiday Challenge” is a free six-week program that provides tips and tools to maintain your weight through the holidays. This program was offered at two (2) worksites and one was provided for community members. Forty-five (45) people participated. 82% of participants maintained their weight through the holidays.
- “Go Red Lunch and Learn” is an educational program that discusses heart health and the prevention of heart disease. Approximately 100 people attended this event. In addition, the Health Educator utilized media outlets to educate and inform the Harnett County community about nutrition and the importance of physical activity. **Progress:** Forty-three (43) nutrition and physical activity related posts were added to the HCHD face book page reaching approximately **2097** people. There were sixteen (16) newspaper articles featured in the local newspaper.

Maternal & Child Health: The Health Department in partnership with a number of organizations are working together to provide a series of educational programs and workshops. Efforts are ongoing to improve the health of all women of childbearing age. Through joint efforts, a “Special Delivery” pregnancy health fair was held May 2018, this event provided information and resources for expectant mothers. **Progress:** Approximately sixty-five (65) families were in attendance at the event, another event is scheduled for May 2019. Focusing on the health of a woman before and during her pregnancy is essential to the reduction of poor birth outcomes such as low birthweight, pre-term birth, and infant death. Educational workshop series “Eating for Two: Nutrition and Pregnancy was held through joint efforts from health education division, prenatal clinic, along with Cooperative Extension, and the Women, Infants and Children(WIC), to provide education and cooking demonstrations to expectant mothers utilizing recipes using mostly WIC approved foods. Social Media Maternal Health: The Health Education Division continues to utilize the Health Department's Facebook page to educate and increase awareness regarding the importance of prenatal care. **Progress:** In 2018, approximately thirty two (32) posts were featured reaching approximately 13,785 persons through “likes” and “shares.

Motor Vehicle Safety: Injury remains a leading cause of death and disability in North Carolina. Injury is the leading cause of death among people aged 1 to 49 years. According to the 2017 North Carolina Traffic Crash Facts, the Teen Data report, Harnett had approximately 470 crashes, five (5) fatalities, and 136 injuries. **Progress:** The Child Fatality Prevention Team (CFPT) utilized mass media campaigns along with social media to spread messages and educate about motor vehicle safety for teens. The HCHD is working to implement a child car seat safety program. The goal of the program is to help decrease infant and child deaths associated with motor vehicle accidents.

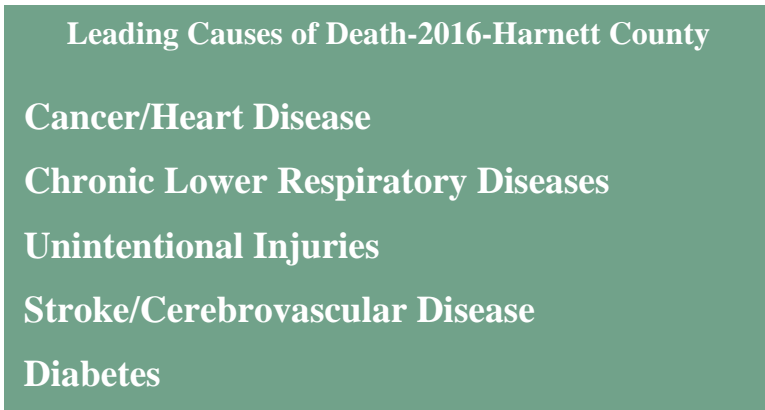
Leading Causes of Death: Cancer, heart disease, stroke, chronic lung disease and unintentional injuries make up the top five causes of death in North Carolina. In Harnett County, **Cancer** ranked as the leading cause of death with approximately **221** deaths, followed by heart disease with 209 deaths, chronic lower respiratory diseases unintentional injuries and stroke.

Many deaths in the state and Harnett County are preventable and involve risky behaviors or lifestyles. Among the leading causes of preventable death are tobacco use, unhealthy diet/physical inactivity, alcohol and drug abuse and misuse, and motor vehicle crashes. Of the deaths occurring in Harnett County in 2017, nearly 50 fifty percent were caused by cancer, heart disease and stroke.

Healthy NC 2020 serves as our state's health improvement plan, which will address and improve our state's most pressing health priorities. The Health Department offers diabetes self-management education programs and has implemented Eat Smart, Move More community-wide obesity prevention strategies. *Source: NC DHHS, State Center for Health Statistics.*



Source: NC DHHS, State Center for Health Statistics



Faith-based Outreach Spiritual leaders and places of worship can play an important role in promoting health. The Health Department continues to partner with the local faith community for various health initiatives related to diabetes prevention, heart health, weight management and cancer prevention. **Progress:** Annually over 50 churches, approximately **1600 people** were reached through health initiatives. For more information contact the Harnett County Health Department at 910-893-7550.

Infant Mortality: Improving the well-being of mothers, infants, and children is an important public health goal. Their well-being determines the health of the next generation and can help predict future public health challenges for families, communities, and the health care system.

The Health Department is committed to improving birth outcomes. Infant mortality is the death of a baby before its first birthday. In Harnett County **1,886 live births** were recorded for the year 2017. The two major causes of infant deaths, prematurity and low birthweight remain significant. Prematurity (born too early) and low birthweight (born too small).

Mothers who Smoked: Nicotine is a health danger for pregnant women and developing babies and can damage a developing baby’s brain and lung. Nicotine is a health danger for pregnant women and developing babies and can damage a developing baby’s brain and lungs. Also, some of the flavorings used in e-cigarettes may be harmful to a developing baby. In Harnett County, areas of concern include the number of mothers who smoked which is slightly higher than the state’s rate. The Health Department provides access to prenatal care for more information or to make an appointment please call 910-893-7550.

| Infant Mortality | | | |
|---|------------|------------|-------------------|
| Infant Death Rates (per 1,000 live births) | | | |
| | 2017 | 2016 | 2013-2017 Rate |
| NC | 7.1 | 7.2 | 7.1 |
| Harnett | 8.5 | 5.9 | 8.1 |

2017 North Carolina Infant Mortality Report.

| Mothers who Smoked | 2017 Rate | 2013-2017 Rate |
|---------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| NC | 8.7 | 9.4 |
| Harnett | 9.7 | 10.0 |
| White, Non-Hispanic | 12.0 | 11.8 |
| Black, Non-Hispanic | 9.1 | 11.4 |
| Hispanic | 2.2 | 1.9 |

Smoking during pregnancy causes additional health problems, including premature birth (being born too early), certain birth defects and infant deaths.

Smoking free Public Housing: The US Department of Housing and Urban Development required all public housing to go smoke free by July 30, 2018. The Health Department and the Region 6 Tobacco Control Manager worked with Dunn Housing Authority on the implementation of their smoke free policy. Two listening sessions were conducted prior to the policy becoming effective. Listening sessions provided an opportunity for residents to learn about the new policy, ask questions, and share any concerns. Health Department staff provided information on the health consequences of smoking and provided resources for smoking cessation including QuitlineNC information.

- Dunn Housing Authority’s smoke free policy became effective on July 18, 2018. This policy effects all of their **143 units**.

Social Media Smoking harmful effects: The Health Education Division continues to utilize the Health Department's Facebook page to educate and increase awareness regarding the harmful effects of smoking. **Progress:** In 2018, approximately seventeen (17) posts were featured reaching approximately 1600 people through “likes” and “shares”. For more information, please call 910-893-7550.

Public Health Preparedness:

Hurricane Florence brought relentless rain, epic flooding in September of 2018. Hurricane Florence made landfall near Wrightsville Beach as a Category 1 storm. In its wake, the massive and violent storm left 50 dead in the Carolinas, damaged hundreds of thousands of homes and killed livestock by the millions.

Local health departments play a key role in preparing their communities for disasters, responding when emergencies occur, and lending support through the recovery process. **Shelters:** Harnett County opened shelters on Thursday, September 13, 2018 and closed them on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 when American Red Cross arrived to manage the shelters. Triton High School and Overhills High School were the first two shelters to open. Challenges were with Triton High School having to close due to water leaks. The second site Overhills High School having water and sewage issues. Evacuees from Triton High School were moved to Coats Erwin Middle School and evacuees from **Overhills** High School were moved to Western Harnett High School. After the hurricane donation sites in the county opened. The county had two donation sites, one was located at Gospel Tabernacle Church in Dunn and Crossroads Church in Lillington, the Division on Aging assisted at the sites.

- Staff with the Harnett County Health Department worked an average of **1,092 hours** at the shelters and Emergency Operations Center (EOC).

WIC program: The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services announced flexibility for families enrolled in the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program to help those affected by Hurricane Florence.

- In Harnett County, approximately **3,174 participants** were impacted. The State WIC Office provided automated emergency issuance of benefits. This provided access to healthy foods and formula for enrolled children, pregnant women, mothers and babies who have been affected by the storm and are unable to get to their WIC clinic.

Mosquito population emerging after Hurricane Florence: The torrential rains of Florence created another health threat, breeding grounds for mosquitoes. To keep people safe from illnesses, the Governor directed state funding to counties to be spent on mosquito control efforts for counties under a major disaster declaration. Funding was allocated for several counties including **Harnett**. Mosquito landing rate counts: One of the responses to Hurricane Florence was to investigate the mosquito population increase. Landing rates are used to measure adult mosquito activity in a specific area. This is achieved by counting the number of mosquitoes that land on a person in a given amount of time, usually one minute. Along with volunteers from Campbell University, the Environmental Health staff and Health Director performed mosquito landing rate counts throughout the county. This study continued over several days around the county to narrow down the areas of increased populations. With this information, we were able to design an area to be sprayed aerially with mosquito pesticide that would provide the most beneficial result to the county; the proposed spray area included almost 200,000 acres, the final amount of acres sprayed came to just under 150,000 acres.

“Tip and Toss”: The Health Department continued to inform the community and promote the message of “Tip and Toss” as a method of mosquito control, along with the distribution of free mosquito insecticide to residents the briquettes, also known as “Mosquito Dunks”. With the assistance of federal funding after Hurricane Florence the county was able to restock and improve the supply of mosquito control and surveillance. In addition to larvacide was distributed to the public and we also have larvacide for our Environmental Health field staff.

- The Health Department has also acquired several mosquito traps to help in the surveillance of the mosquito population, to gather baseline information on Harnett’s mosquito population and to determine any significant changes to the population in the future.

For more information, contact the Health Department through the Environmental Health Division at 910-893-7547.

Substance Abuse-Opioids:

Like other parts of the country, Harnett is experiencing an increase in opioid related overdoses and deaths. This is an alarming trend and requires a variety of collaborative efforts involving public health, substance abuse prevention and treatment providers, police and medical providers. Harnett County residents and respondents to the Community Health Survey named **Substance Abuse Prevention** one of the top “**health behaviors that the community needs more information about.**” Substance Abuse Prevention was a key priority that emerged from the previous Community Health Assessment.

Increase Naloxone Availability: North Carolina’s standing order for naloxone, signed by the State Health Director, authorizes any pharmacist practicing in the state of North Carolina and licensed by the North Carolina Board of Pharmacy to dispense naloxone to any person who meets set criteria. This order enables pharmacists to dispense naloxone to anyone who requests it and is at risk themselves, knows someone at risk of overdose or is in a position to assist a person at risk of experiencing an overdose. This helps make the medication more accessible to North Carolina residents.

Progress: In Harnett County year to date the number of pharmacists providing access and dispensing has increased from initial of **six (06) to thirteen (13) sites dispensing naloxone** to any person who meets set criteria. For more information, regarding site click on the link to view the <https://www.naloxonesaves.org/n-c-pharmacies-that-offer-naloxone/>. To combat the opioid crisis, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services worked with community partners to develop North Carolina's Opioid Action Plan (NC OAP). The NC OAP launched in June of 2017 and established thirteen data metrics to track and monitor the opioid epidemic. The opioid data dashboard provide state and county-level metrics for stakeholders across NC to track progress towards reaching the goals outlined in NC OAP.


Harnett County Data:

- **31** Harnett resident unintentional opioid overdose deaths in 2017 (through Q4)
- **59** Harnett resident opioid overdose ED visits in 2017
- **7,613,000** Opioid pills dispensed to Harnett residents in 2017
- **5** Reported community naloxone reversals in Harnett in 2017

Source: <https://injuryfreenc.shinyapps.io/OpioidActionPlan/>

New Initiative-Recovering Hope Conference was held March 7, 2019 at Campbell University located in Buies Creek. The Health Department staff participated on the planning committee and collaborated with Campbell University to plan a one-day conference that would help empower faith leaders to mobilize their congregations and their communities to better respond to the opioid epidemic. The one-day conference will feature plenary speaker, NC Attorney General Josh Stein as well as breakout sessions lead by leaders of faith based initiatives. The initial date for the conference was October 11, 2018 due to adverse weather the event was postponed.

Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Health Department staff learned how to provide potentially lifesaving help to someone facing a mental health or substance use challenge with Mental Health First Aid. The evidence-based Mental Health First Aid (MHFA), is an 8-hour course that teaches how to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The training helps identify, understand, and respond to signs of addictions and mental illnesses. Training was delivered to Health Department employees in 2018 by certified trainers. As a trained First Aider, Public Health employees can assist and will be able to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental illnesses and substance use disorders in community.



Infant Plan of Safe Care Initiative: In an effort to address the increased issues associated with Opioid Abuse among pregnant women, the Harnett County Health Department Care Coordination for Children program (CC4C) implemented the Infant Plan of Safe Care Initiative in collaboration with the Harnett County Department of Social Services. Research confirms that in utero substance exposure can cause or contribute to premature birth, low birth weight, increased risk of infant mortality, neurobehavioral and developmental complications. Policies and procedures are in place that require health care providers to notify the child protective services system if they are involved in the delivery of an infant born and identified as being affected by substance abuse or withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure, or a Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. **Progress:** In 2018, the Department of Social Services referred **62 children** to the CC4C program before initiating a screening. The Health Department provided care management services to these infants and their families to reduce the adverse outcomes of this exposure. For more information, call the Health Department at 910-893-7550.

Medication Safety session: Learning about medication safety can reduce and even prevent the risk of harm. In 2018, Healthy Harnett collaborated with the Campbell University College of Pharmacy & Health Sciences to conduct medication safety sessions at senior sites in the county. Several pharmacy students answered questions, provided information and reviewed medications at sites which included the Dunn Senior Center, Johnsonville Nutrition Site and the Anderson Creek Senior Center. Seniors also brought expired medications for safe disposal. **Progress:** Thirty (30) medication reviews were conducted. For more information, contact the Division on Aging at 910-893-7578.

Medicare Open Enrollment: Every year Medicare beneficiaries have a chance to change their Prescription Drug coverage during the Medicare Open Enrollment Period from October 15 through December 7. Medicare beneficiaries impacted by Hurricane Florence including Harnett County residents were given an extended Special Enrollment Period through January 7th to sign up for 2019 benefits due to the unforeseen circumstances that accompany a natural disaster. The Harnett County Division on Aging served **769 beneficiaries** providing a total yearly savings of **\$768,480.00**. The Division-utilized SHIIP volunteers, RSVP volunteers and Campbell University Pharmacy students trained through the Department of Insurance. Through these collaborative efforts, Harnett County seniors were able to make an informed decision about their prescription drug coverage. For more information, contact the Division on Aging 910-893-7578.

The Harnett County Division on Aging served **769 beneficiaries** providing a total yearly savings of **\$768,480.00**.

Morbidity Data: Communicable Disease: A communicable disease is an infectious disease that is contagious and can be transmitted from one source to another by infectious bacteria or viral organisms. Because communicable diseases can have a great impact on the population, surveillance and control of such diseases is an important part of protecting the public's health. The Health Department's Communicable Disease Nurses provide surveillance of diseases that are reportable by law. Reportable disease cases are frequently monitored.

Local health departments are responsible for the direct delivery of free sexually transmitted infections (STI) and HIV prevention and control services. These activities include providing clinical services, education and awareness efforts and monitoring disease trends through surveillance and epidemiology.

The incidence of chlamydia and gonorrhea increased. In 2018, Harnett, had 775 confirmed cases of Chlamydia and 246 confirmed cases of Gonorrhea. Public Health Officials are working to decrease the steady climb in rates.

Strategies to improve the early detection and treatment. Targeted efforts include increasing the number of STI screening clinics. Providing access to free STI prevention and treatment services. Expanding community education and outreach efforts. Utilizing social media and the web to promote prevention and risk reduction.

For more information, contact our office at 910-893-7550 or log onto the Health Department’s web site www.harnett.org/health



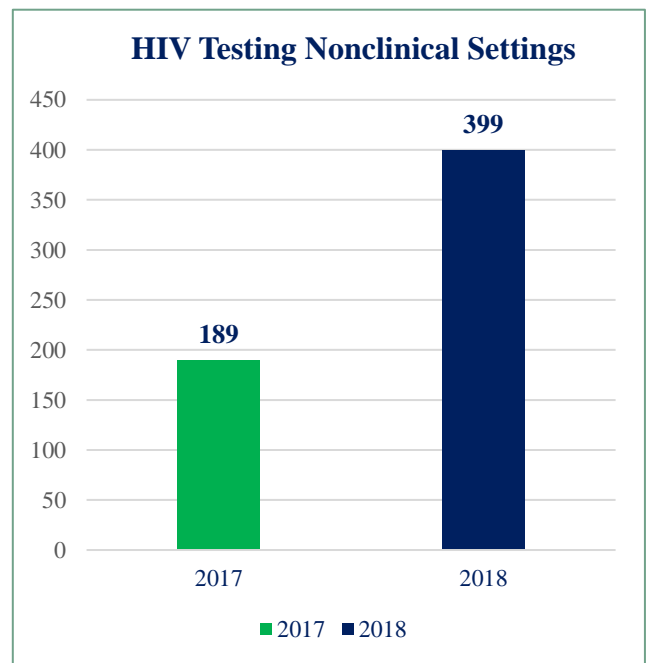
Community HIV Testing program: To prevent and control sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), the North Carolina Communicable Disease Branch supports free testing and treatment in many diverse settings, including community-based organizations and correctional facilities. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) supports two primary models of HIV testing: (1) routine testing in clinical settings, and (2) targeted testing in nonclinical settings. The Health Department provides targeted testing in nonclinical settings, which includes testing in the community and during non-traditional hours that include evenings, nights and weekends.

Progress: From January to December of 2018, approximately 399 people were tested for HIV and syphilis at twenty-nine (29) community-testing events. Seventeen (17) were conducted during non-traditional hours including nights and weekends. The goal for this program is to reach 300 annually. This program is conducted by the Health Department with grant funding from the N.C. HIV/STD Prevention and Care Branch.

For more information, please call the Health Department through the Health Education Division at 910-814-6195 or 910-893-7550.

| Communicable Diseases Harnett County | Cases 2018 |
|---|------------|
| Salmonella | 43 |
| Whooping Cough/Pertusis | 1 |
| Tuberculosis | 4 |
| Sexually Transmitted Infections | Cases |
| Chlamydia | 775 |
| Gonorrhea | 246 |
| Primary/Secondary Syphilis | 4 |

Source: NC Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS)



The primary goal of testing is to increase the number of persons living with HIV who know their status and linked to prevention, care, and treatment services.

New Initiatives

Hepatitis A Outreach program: North Carolina is one of 16 states experiencing a Hepatitis A outbreak. North Carolina has issued a liberal use policy and has asked for assistance with this outbreak by providing Hepatitis A vaccine to high-risk people. The Harnett County Health Department's (HCHD) response activities have included increased healthcare awareness efforts, public notification and education, and outreach with vaccine clinics for high-risk populations. The Health Department has been provided with state vaccine to administer to the high-risk population. HCHD researched approaches taken by other counties and communities with Hepatitis A outbreaks and engaged local partners and organizations already working with high-risk populations. The HCHD implemented several strategies to prevent the spread of Hepatitis A. High-risk groups are homeless, incarcerated, persons with chronic liver disease drug users and men who have sex with men (MSM). To end the outbreak, vaccination rates need to be increased among the highest risk individuals. **Progress:** The HCHD collaborated with the Sheriff's Office to implement a jail program by promoting vaccinations, among incarcerated persons. The vaccine is being administered at the Harnett County Detention Center. Another community outreach program, implemented is located within a community based addiction treatment center. For more information, about the Hepatitis A outreach program contact the Health Department at 910-893-7550.

Car Seat Safety Program: Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death among children ages 2 to 14, due in large part to lack of use or improper use of child seats and seat belts. Through grant funding, provided by Maternal and Child Health Block Grant (Title V funds) the HCHD implemented a child car seat safety program. The goal of the program is to help decrease infant and child deaths associated with motor vehicle accidents. Working with parents and our partners, our goal is to ensure every child is properly secured and safe every trip, every time. **Progress:** Health Department staff completed training and received Child Passenger Safety Certifications. Six staff members have been trained. Our program teaches parents and caregivers how to properly install child safety seats into their vehicle. Certified car seat technicians will be available to assist with installing new car seats, answering questions, and checking to see if your current car seat is properly sized for your child. For more information about the Car seat safety program, please call 910-893-7550.

Migrant Farmworker Testing Initiative: There are an estimated three million farmworkers in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Migratory and seasonal agricultural workers (MSAWs) and their families face unique health challenges, which result in significant health disparities. The high incidences of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases in farmworkers are attributed to isolation, poverty, and limited knowledge about how a disease is transmitted. The HCHD through the ITTS program works to provide access to HIV testing in nonclinical settings with a goal of minimizing client barriers. The HCHD, through the Health Education Division, works with the NC Farmworkers Project to plan and implement HIV testing at farm sites throughout Harnett County during non-traditional hours. **Progress:** In 2018, 143 migratory and seasonal agricultural workers were tested for HIV and syphilis through this partnership. For more information about this program, please call 910-893-7550.

Faithful Families: Health Department staff were trained in the Faithful Families Thriving Communities Curriculum (previously Faithful Families Eating Smart and Moving More). This program works directly in faith communities to promote health for individuals, families, and local communities. Program facilitators engage each faith community in healthy eating and physical activity education, chronic disease prevention, environmental changes to support health, and community-wide health initiatives. For more information, contact the Health Department through the Health Education Division at 910-893-7550.

Environmental Health: Foodborne illnesses are among the most common of infectious diseases. Foodborne diseases cause about 47.8 million illnesses, 127,839 hospitalizations, and 3,037 deaths every year in the United States. Improper holding temperatures, poor personal hygiene of food handlers, unsafe food sources, inadequate cooking, and contaminated equipment are the top five food safety risk factors identified by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). In January 2019 the county began enforcing a new cold holding temperature standard in accordance with the North Carolina Food Code. The new maximum temperature is 41 degrees, at this temperature, food may be kept for seven (7) days before being discarded. This colder temperature allows food to be held for a longer period. For more information contact the Environmental Health Division at 910-893-7547.

Community Health Assessment (CHA): In North Carolina, the state requires each local health department to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every three or four years. In Harnett County planning and development of the 2020 CHA is currently underway. The CHA report provides a look at what has been affecting the health of the community in order to move forward and make healthy effective and safe changes for all. For more information about the CHA call the Health Department at 910-893-7550.

Emerging Issues

HIV Epidemic

Communicable Diseases

Medicaid Transformation

Immunizations

Youth Tobacco Use-E cigarette

Opioids

HIV Epidemic: The US Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has proposed a new initiative to address this ongoing public health crisis with goals of first reducing numbers of incident infections in the United States by 75% within 5 years, and then by 90% within 10 years.

Communicable Diseases: Influenza (the flu) is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. It can cause mild to severe illness, and at times can lead to death. The best way to prevent the flu is by getting vaccinated each year. Ongoing education and promoting regarding seasonal influenza vaccine.

Medicaid Transformation: North Carolina is transforming its Medicaid program to managed care. Beginning in November 2019, the Department of Health and Human Services will enroll most Medicaid beneficiaries into integrated managed care services.

Immunizations: Vaccines can prevent infectious diseases that once killed or harmed many infants, children, and adults. On-time vaccination throughout childhood is essential because it helps provide immunity before children are exposed to potentially life-threatening diseases.

Youth Tobacco/ Use-E cigarette: Tobacco product use among US youth is increasing. E-cigarettes are still the most commonly used tobacco product, ahead of cigarettes, cigars, smokeless tobacco, hookah, and pipes. More than 1 in 4 high school students and about 1 in 14 middle school students in 2018 had used a tobacco product in the past 30 days. (CDC).

Opioids: Due to decades of prescribing more opioids at higher doses, North Carolina is experiencing an opioid epidemic. North Carolina and its partners are working to reduce opioid overdose deaths by 20 percent by 2021.



The **State of the County Health Report** will be disseminated to key stakeholders and community partners including the Harnett County Board of Health, Healthy Harnett Partnership and others. Copies of the report will be available at the Health Department for the public. For more information about the State of the County Health report: Harnett County Health Department at 910-893-7550. Copies of these reports are available on the Health Department's website at www.harnett.org/health.