

Gaston County Community Health Needs Assessment 2018



What is a Community Health Assessment?

- Required of NC local health departments (and hospitals) every 3-4 years.
- Describes health-related measures and community opinions about county health issues.
- Cooperative journey with local stakeholders





DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES
DHHS

Bringing

GastonTogether

for community, health, leadership, and education

HealthNet
Gaston



**Gaston Family
Health Services**

THE CARRIE E. AND LENA V.

GLENN
foundation

WHERE NEEDED MOST, TO DO THE MOST GOOD



PARTNERS

Improving Lives.
Strengthening Communities.



United Way of Gaston County



CaroMont Health

**NC COOPERATIVE
EXTENSION**



GASTON COUNTY CENTER



First United Methodist Church

Gastonia, North Carolina

THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION GASTON COUNTY
your foundation your future

**Gaston
Regional
Chamber**



Where does the data come from?

Primary Data: Quality of Life Survey & Focus Groups

- Resident opinions about health & community issues
 - Community Leaders (web-based)
 - Residents (web-based)
 - Low-income residents (in-person, door-to-door)
 - Several surveys administered by phone in Spanish
- Focus Groups (youth, jail, English as a Second Language class)

Secondary Data: State and Local Data



Survey Says...



Quality of Life



- Good Health (80%)
- Good Healthcare (60%)
- Safe Place (60%)
- Good Place to Raise Children (60%)
- Good place to Grow Old (55%)
- Help in times of need (52%)



Only 35% of residents agree there is plenty of economic opportunity in Gaston County



What is the most important issue that Gaston County needs to do more about?

1. Education
2. Access to Health
3. Community Resources for the Elderly



Top 5 Community Health Issues

1. Mental Health
2. Illegal Drug Abuse
3. Prescription Drug Abuse
4. Homelessness and Safe Housing
5. Lack of Healthcare for Uninsured



Top 5 issues facing our youth

1. Quality of Education
2. Drug Use
3. Parental Involvement
4. Mental Health
5. Life skills



Top Health Conditions among participants

- 1. Overweight/obesity (35%)**
- 2. High blood pressure (35%)**
- 3. Vision and sight problems (29%)**
- 4. Depression or anxiety (27%)**
- 5. High cholesterol (26%)**



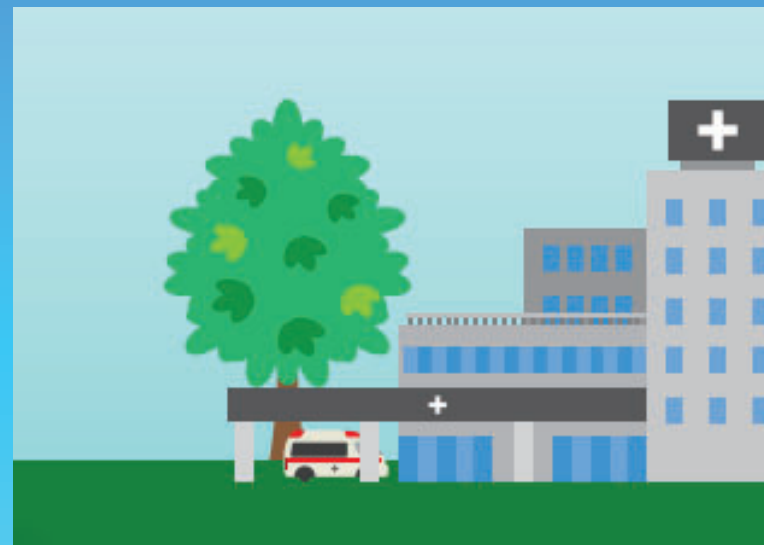
Top Barriers to Healthcare

1. Not able to pay for care
2. Lack of health insurance coverage
3. Services are not available
4. Distance from home
5. Difficulty finding services



Use of Healthcare Resources

**Low-income
residents were
twice as likely to
visit an Emergency
Room**



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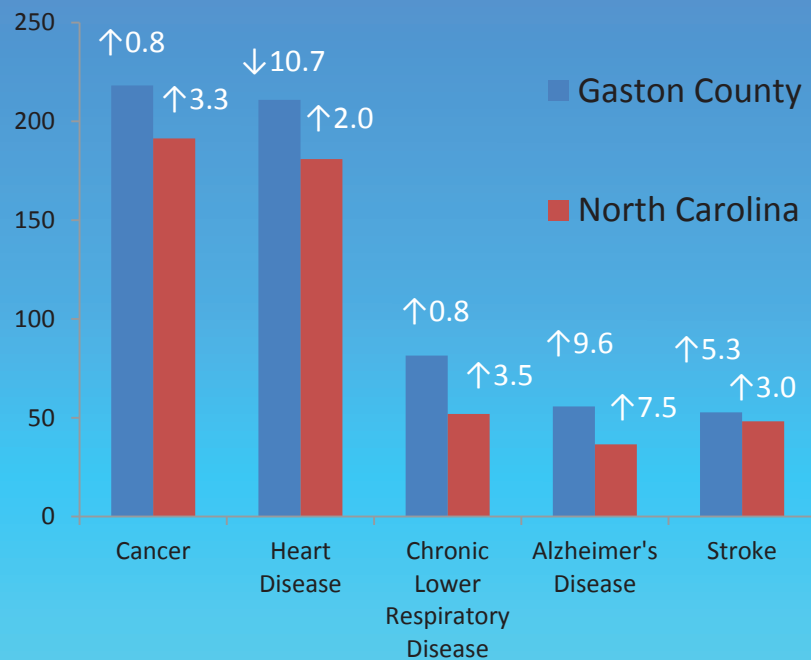
...The reason [people are not healthy] is that it is expensive to get healthy...



Data Says...



Causes of Death



2018 Report

1. Cancer (2,335)
2. Heart disease (2,257)
3. Chronic lower respiratory disease (872)
4. Alzheimer's (596)
5. Stroke (564)

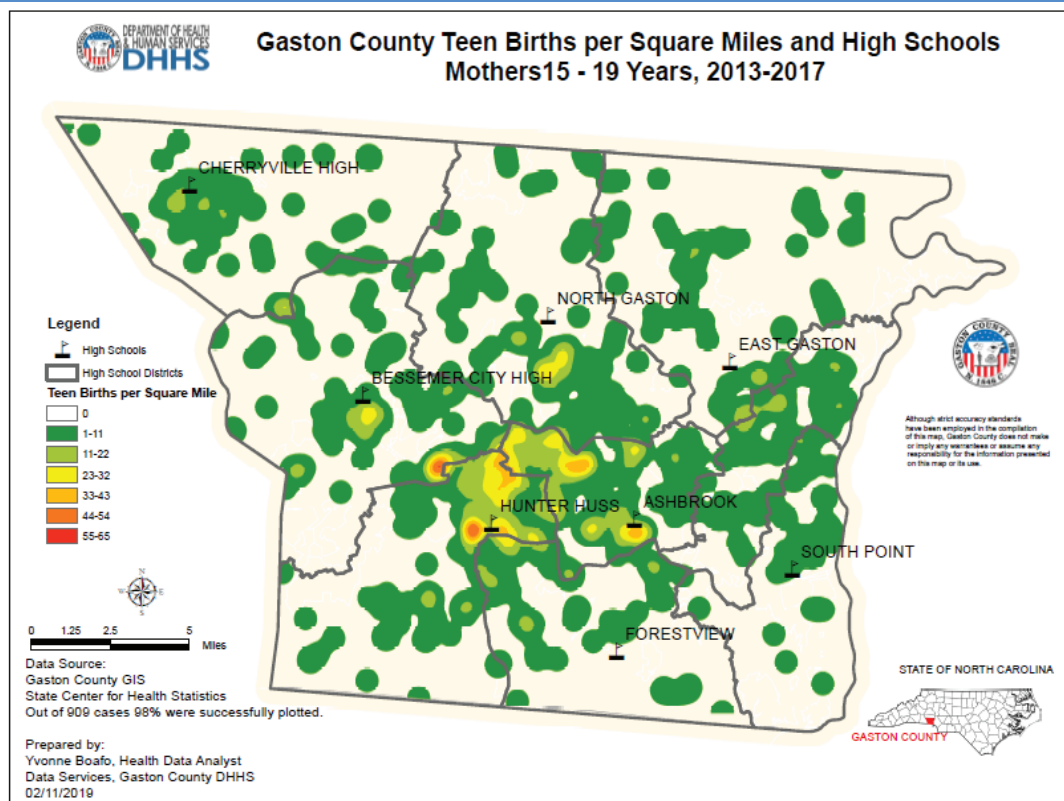


Tobacco: Perception vs. Reality

- Tobacco was not one of the top five health concerns noted in the Quality of Life Survey
- Tobacco use is a known contributing factor to four of the top five leading causes of death in our county



Teen Pregnancy



- Teen pregnancy has been on the decline, decreasing 11.2% from 2013 to 2017
- Slight increase in 2017



Maternal Health

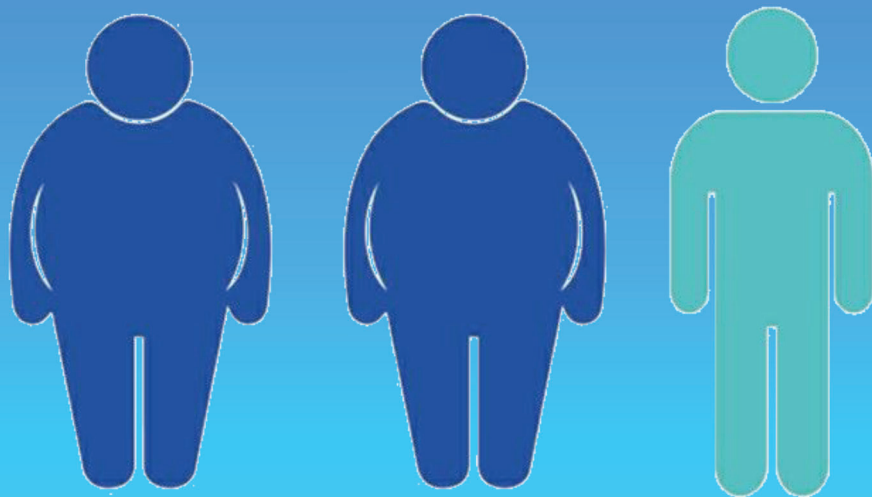


SINCE THE LAST CHA...

- ✓ **Infant mortality** has decreased 15.7%
- ✓ **Maternal smoking** is down 4.8%
- ✓ **Breast Feeding** has seen a 4% increase



Adult Obesity



Two out of every three Gaston County residents are overweight; one out of every three is obese.



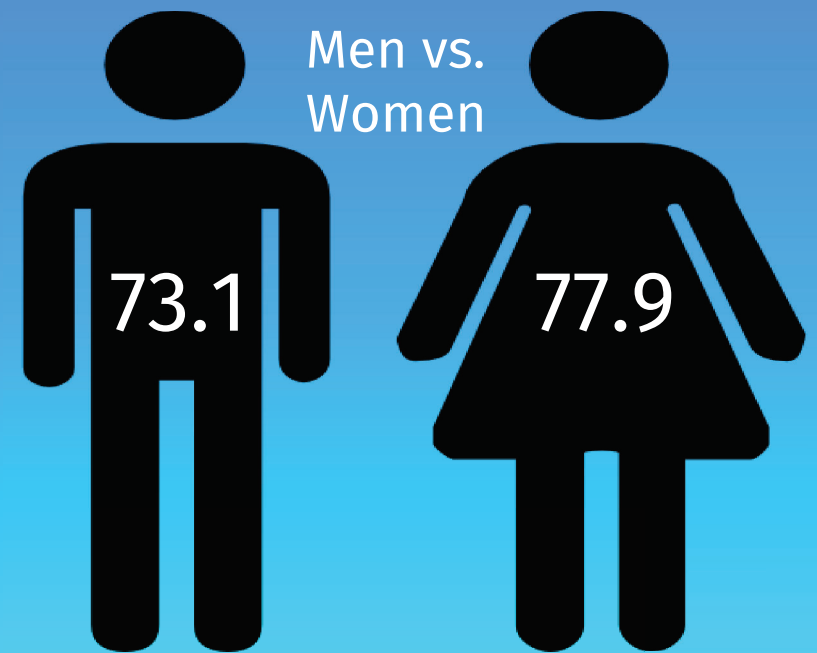
Educational Attainment

- High school graduation rates have been increasing over the past few years, but saw a decline from 2017 to 2018 (88.3% -> 85.6%)
- Just over 20% of Gaston County residents achieve a Bachelor's degree or higher compared to 31% in North Carolina.



Life Expectancy

- Gaston's life expectancy is slightly lower than NC and peer counties
- 75.8 for white residents compared to 74.6 for black residents



**Check out the
full CHA Report
online at
www.gastongov.com/CHA**



The background is a blue gradient with stylized white clouds at the top. Five question marks are scattered across the slide, each enclosed in a circle of a different color: dark blue, purple, orange, olive green, and dark red.

Thanks!

Any questions?

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