

# Durham County



## Community Health Assessment



**How healthy are Durham County residents?**

**What is affecting our health?**

**What groups of people are not as healthy as others?**

**Who is getting health care? Who is not?**

The *Community Health Assessment* was conducted to answer these and other questions so that people working in our communities can better understand Durham's greatest needs and advantages.



**Who did this assessment?**

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham and the Durham County Health Department were responsible for putting this together. The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is a coalition of more than 50 agencies and 150 members focused on improving the physical, mental, and social health and well-being of Durham County residents. Member agencies helped provide much of the information in the assessment.

**Where did you get your information for the assessment?**

Information came from:

- Two telephone surveys
- A survey of middle and high school students in Durham Public Schools
- Community "listening sessions"
- A community assessment of patients of Lincoln Community Health Center
- Health statistics such as birth rates, infection rates, death rates, and more.



*Look inside for some key findings of the Community Health Assessment.*

## Health and Well-Being

- In 2007, 40% of Durham's population rated their well-being as high—compared with 31% in 2003.
- The percentage of people in Durham who have taken prescription medication for at least three months in a row has increased from 44% in 2003 to 53% in 2007.
- In 2006, homicides caused 11.3% of deaths among 0–19 year-olds in Durham—compared with 4.7% statewide.
- In 2007, 32% of the 46 Latino students surveyed in public high schools in Durham County reported that they had attempted to commit suicide during the past year (compared with 15% of other students).

## Disease

- For most of the leading causes of death from 2001–2005, the rates were higher for minorities than for the general population. This was particularly true for minority males.
- In 2006, 30 infants in Durham died before reaching their first birthday. Of these, 22 were minorities. The minority infant mortality rate for Durham County was 12.6 deaths per 1,000 live births—compared to the rate for the overall Durham population of 7.2 deaths per 1,000 live births.
- In 2006, the overall HIV prevalence rate in Durham County was 42.5 per 100,000. Of the 111 new infections in 2005, 55 were African-American males and 25 were African-American females.
- In 2005, the most commonly reported mode of infection for transmission of HIV was “men having sex with men.”
- In 2007, African-American students in public middle schools in Durham County reported much higher asthma rates (27.5%) than the rest of the school population (15.4%).

*“I know that my mom and daddy hardly ever went to a doctor. And it looks like now every time I turn around I have to go.”*

## Health Care

- In 2006, 78% of the patients served by Lincoln Community Health Center had no health insurance—compared with an average rate of 51.2% for similar health centers statewide. Also, 82% of their patients were living below the federal poverty level—compared with a statewide health center average of 54%.
- Between 2005 and 2007, estimates of the number of uninsured adults ranged from 13% to 26%.
- Factors associated with being uninsured in Durham included being a minority, male, under the age of 45, less educated, or living in a household with an income of less than \$50,000. In 2007, 72% of Latinos reported having no insurance coverage.
- The percentage of adults in Durham who are employed but still have no health insurance increased from 15% in 2004 to 27% in 2006.
- Durham has a very large number of health workers, especially physicians (67.1 physicians per 10,000 people—compared with 20.8 per 10,000 people statewide).

## Prosperity

- In 2005, Durham had median and household family incomes that were higher than for North Carolina overall.
- The 2007 “point in time” count of the homeless found 539 homeless persons in Durham County.
- There has been a disparity between “wages earned” and “per capita income” in Durham County—suggesting that many of those earning higher wages may not be residing in the county.

*“Between our parent’s generation and their grandchildren’s generations, we’ve become a drive through society. It’s time to go back to fresh fruits and vegetables, and not sitting in front of the TV.”*



## Physical Environment

- There have been increasing rates of development and greenhouse gas emissions in Durham.
- Lead screenings of Durham children increased from 2004 to 2006, and the number of children testing positive for lead exposure is decreasing.

## Social Environment

- Durham became a “Majority-Minority” County in 2005, when Durham was approximately 48.4% white, 37.2% African American, 11% Latino, 4% Asian, 8.4% other and 2% multi-racial.
- The number of cases of child abuse confirmed by the Department of Social Services has dropped from approximately 23 per 1,000 children in 2000 to 7 per 1,000 children in 2006.
- Fewer white students in public high schools were sexually active compared to their peers. However, among those who were sexually active, condom use was lower than that found among other students.
- After dropping each year since 1997, Durham’s violent crime rate increased in 2006.
- In 2004–2005, there were 2,160 domestic violence hotline calls and 1,558 domestic violence clients in Durham County. Of the domestic violence clients, 26% were white, 46% were African American, 20% were Latino, and 98% were women.
- Almost 46% of students in Durham’s schools qualified for free or reduced price lunches in 2006, meaning that they live in families with low incomes.
- In 2007, 42% of people in Durham felt safe walking in their neighborhood during the night. However, only 20% of Latinos felt safe.



## Individual Behaviors

- In 2007, 65% of people in Durham were overweight or obese.
- In 2006, 27% of the children 2–4 years old enrolled in the Women, Infants, Children Program (WIC) in Durham County were overweight. The Durham rate has increased every year since 2002 (when the rate was 10%) and was also much higher than the 2006 rate of 15% for North Carolina overall.
- In 2005, 27.5% of the Durham population consumed at least 5 fruits and vegetables daily compared with 22.5% for North Carolina overall. The rates were lowest for those who did not attend college, minorities, males, and people in households earning less than \$50,000 per year.
- In 2005, only 36.3% of Durham County residents met national recommendations for physical activity compared with 42.1% statewide. Rates were worse for those who did not attend college, minorities, and people in households earning less than \$50,000 per year.
- The rate of Latina teen pregnancies continued to be high in 2005 (178 per 1,000 female teens aged 15–17 compared with the overall Durham teen pregnancy rate of 48 per 1,000).
- In 2006, 48.7% of people in Durham stated that they would support an additional tax of \$1 or more on a pack of cigarettes if the funds went to smoking prevention and cessation programs.



## Where can I read more about the assessment?

The full document is available online at [www.healthydurham.org](http://www.healthydurham.org). It is also available at the Main Library downtown (in the North Carolina collection on the 3rd floor).

## What are you going to do about the assessment?

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham has selected priority areas based on this information. They are now working in eight different committees to improve the health of Durham County residents in the following areas:

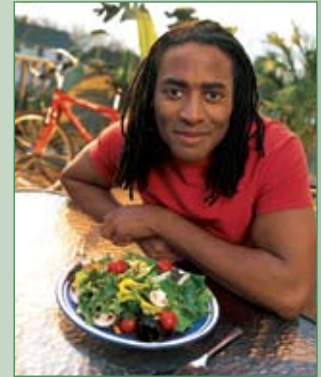
- Access to Health Care
- Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention
- HIV / Sexually Transmitted Disease Prevention and Treatment
- Infant Mortality Reduction
- Injury Prevention
- Mental Health
- Obesity and Chronic Illness Prevention
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

These groups are working on action plans for the next four years, with the goal that by the next community health assessment, in 2011, Durham will see positive changes and be a healthier community.



## How can I get involved?

Please become a member of the Partnership for a Healthy Durham and get involved in some of the committees! The Partnership is open to the public and happy to welcome anyone interested in improving the health of our community.



Here are the ways you can get more information or contact the Partnership:

- Visit the Web site at [www.healthydurham.org](http://www.healthydurham.org)
- Call 560-7833
- Email [info@healthydurham.org](mailto:info@healthydurham.org)
- Write to Partnership for a Healthy Durham, c/o Durham County Health Department, 414 E. Main St, Durham, NC 27701

The Partnership for a Healthy Durham is the *Healthy Carolinians* program for Durham County (for more information on this, call 707-5150 or visit [www.healthycarolinians.org](http://www.healthycarolinians.org)).

It is also the health work group of the Durham City and County Government's *Results-Based Accountability* initiative. For more information on this, contact Bill Stout at [wstout@co.durham.nc.us](mailto:wstout@co.durham.nc.us) or 560-0032, or visit [www.durhamnc.gov/rba](http://www.durhamnc.gov/rba).

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