



2004 Health of Orange County Report



Introduction

Healthy Carolinians of Orange County (HCOC) and the Orange County Health Department compiled the information in this report. It summarizes the work of the past year, since the community health assessment was completed, and gives an update on the major health indicators included in the Health of Orange County Report presented in 2002. Orange County continues to show improvement and have excellent rates for most health indicators. The County also shows significantly lower rates of morbidity and mortality in many areas than the state average.

A great deal of progress has been made in response to the 2003 community assessment and the priority issue areas that were chosen by the community at that time. Healthy Carolinians and our community partners are working together to address the inter-related areas of mental health, substance abuse and access to care. We are working to improve access to services, raise awareness about health issues in the community and bring programs together to address these needs.

Priority Issues chosen in 2003 community assessment:

- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| ▶ Access to health care | ▶ Obesity and overweight |
| ▶ Substance abuse | ▶ Mental health |
| ▶ Dental health | ▶ Air quality |
| ▶ Cancer | ▶ Child abuse and neglect |
| ▶ Suicide | ▶ Unintentional injuries |

Accomplishments for 2004

- The HCOC Advocates for Children Committee organized 14 training programs. Sessions were on child abuse, domestic violence and other issues related to these topics. Over 120 professionals from more than 40 agencies have attended one or more of these sessions.
- The HCOC Advocates for Adolescents Committee is developing a listing of 50 “teen friendly” mental health providers. The list will be distributed to service providers, schools and families throughout the county and on-line, in order to increase access to services.
- The HCOC Healthy Choices Committee conducted an assessment of Orange County worksites and the employee wellness program. They are now working to develop a new and improved wellness program for over 800 Orange County employees in partnership with BCBSNC.
- To increase physical activity, a recreation map was completed that includes all of the public recreation areas in the county encompassing over 60 locations administered by 15 different organizations.
- HCOC and the health department have collaborated with other groups to advocate for school-based mental health services, expansion of primary care services and an increased number of Medicaid providers.
- HCOC is currently partnering with UNC-CH to better understand the epidemiology and significance of the data on cancer, suicide and unintentional injuries.

Health Indicators	Baseline Orange County Data			Recent Orange County Data			Comparison Orange County Base vs Recent	NC Most Recent Yr/s Rate
	Base Year/s	Avg # cases/yr	Rate * see below	Base Year/s	Avg # cases/yr	Rate * see below		
Mortality								
Heart disease (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	160.4	217.1***	1999-2002	155	183.9***	Celebration	245.9***
Cerebrovascular Disease (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	52.2	71.9***	1999-2002	55	67***	Decrease	72***
Diabetes (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	14	18.2***	1999-2002	15	19.9***	Increase	27***
All Cancers (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	157.4	205.2***	1999-2002	180	204.7***	Decrease	200.7 **
Infant Mortality ¹	1996-2000		8.4*	1998-2002	9	7.3*	Decrease	8.7***
Major Causes of Hospitalization								
Pregnancy and Childbirth ¹	1997	1297	12.1*	2002	1430	11.9*	Decrease	15.7*
Heart Disease ¹	1997	834	7.8*	2002	855	7*	Decrease	15.1*
Injuries and Poisoning ¹	1997	661	6.2*	2002	683	5.7*	Decrease	8.5*
Digestive System Disease ¹	1997	680	6.3*	2002	663	5.5*	Decrease	10.8*
Respiratory Diseases ¹	1997	601	5.6*	2002	658	5.5*	Decrease	11.2*
All Cancers ¹	1997	399	3.7*	2002	374	3.1*	Decrease	4.3*
Musculoskeletal System Diseases ¹	1997	316	2.9*	2002	357	3*	Increase	5.2*
Genitourinary Diseases ¹	1997	376	3.5*	2002	310	2.6*	Decrease	5.5*
Cerebrovascular Disease ¹	1997	242	2.3*	2002	235	2*	Decrease	3.7*
Diabetes ¹	1997	111	1*	2002	111	.9*	Decrease	1.8*
Morbidity								
Low Birth Weight Babies (% of all births) ¹	1994-1998	85.8	7.60%	1998-2002	103	8.30%	Increase	8.90%
Cancer Incidence- All Cancers ¹	1995-1997	412	430.5***	1997-2001	430	485.9***	Concern	445.3***
AIDS Cases ¹	1994-1998	4.6	4.3***	1998-2002	5	4***	Decrease	9.7***
Quality of Life								
Number of children > 6 living in poverty ²	1990	746	12.14%	2000	902	13.11%	Concern	15.70%
Number of persons living in poverty ²	1990	11,742	13.90%	2000	15,318	14.10%	Concern	12.30%
Recipients of Work First ³	2000	775	no data	2004	1088	no data	Increase	no Data
Avg monthly recipients of food stamps ³	2000	3,090	70.1*	2004	2612	no data	Decrease	no Data
Population without health insurance ⁴	1995	13,544	12.70%	2001	15,296	13.80%	Concern	17.70%
Injury Indicators								
Motor Vehicle crashes ⁵	1997	2496	no data	2002	2874	no data	Increase	no data
Motor Vehicle fatalities (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	13.2	12.4***	1999-2002	17	13.6***	Increase	19.6***
Other unintentional fatalities (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	13.2	15.5***	1999-2002	27	28.2***	Concern	23***

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Social Indicators								
Child abuse/neglect, undupl investigations ³	1999-2000	1,203	50.2*	2003	1365	53.49*	Concern	51.85*
Child abuse/neglect undupl substantiated ³	1999-2000	370	15.4*	2003	420	16.46*	Concern	14.52*
Number of children in DSS custody ³	1996-1997	112	5.3	2002	103	4.08	Decrease	4.8
Teen Pregnancies girls ages 15-19 ¹	2000	163	24.1*	2003	145	20.2	Celebration	61*
Drop-outs Grades 7-12 Orange Co. ⁶	1999-2000	83	3.05%	2002-2003	118	3.79%	Increase	3.23%
Drop-outs Grades 7-12 CHCCS ⁶	1999-2000	32	0.75%	2002-2003	33	0.65%	Celebration	3.23%
Mental Health Indicators								
Hospitalization rate for substances ⁷	1996	1,307	123.2**	2004	1,220	99**	Decrease	94**
Number of DWI arrests reported ⁸	1999	520	475***	2002	563	470***	Decrease	719***
Number of drug arrests reported ⁸	1999	74	68***	2002	239	200***	Increase	507***
Hospitalization rates for mental disorders ⁷	1996	2,380	224.4**	2004	2,184	177**	Decrease	304**
Suicide Rate (age-adjusted) ¹	1994-1998	10	9.3***	1999-2002	14	11.4***	Concern	11.5***
Healthy Lifestyle Indicators								
No physical activity during leisure time ⁹	2002	no data	23%	2003	no data	17%	Improvement	25.00%
Current tobacco use - adults ⁹	1996		24.60%	2003	no data	14.70%	Celebration	24.80%
Current tobacco use - HS CHCCS ¹⁰	2000-2001	no data	5%	2002-2003	no data	no data	Celebration	27.30%
Current tobacco use - HS Orange Co. ¹⁰	2000-2001	no data	22%	2002-2003	no data	no data	Concern	27.30%
Environmental Indicators								
Number of foodborne disease outbreaks ¹¹	1998-2002	0	no data	2002-2004	3	no data	Increase	no data
Number of food service workers trained ¹²	1998-2000	121	no data	2002-2004	155	no data	Increase	no data
% of children 12-24 mo. screened for lead ¹³	1995-2000	445	16%	2002	555	21.70%	Improvement	36.20%
Air Quality Indicators								
# code red ozone days in Triangle ¹³	2001	1	no data	2003	1	no data	No change	no data
# code orange ozone days in Triangle ¹³	2001	8	no data	2003	7	no data	Decrease	no data
Asthma hospitalizations (0-14 yo) ¹	1997	15	84.5***	2002	19	92.3***	Increase	220***
Dental Health								
Kindergarten children screened ¹⁴	1998-1999	977	94%	2003-2004	1158	94%	No change	75%
Kindergarten children w/untreated decay ¹⁴	1998-1999	272	14%	2003-2004	139	12%	Decrease	23%
5th grade children screened ¹⁴	1998-1999	1126	92%	2003-2004	1124	93%	Increase	73%
5th grade children w/untreated decay ¹⁴	1998-1999	149	2%	2003-2004	33	3%	Increase	5%

Key to the health data chart

- * Rates per 1,000 population
- ** Rates per 10,000 population
- *** Rates per 100,000 population

- Data has been collected from a variety of sources.
- All attempts have been made to collect the most recent and reliable data available.
- Rates are based on population and therefore may at times appear incongruent due to increases in population.
- Rates based on a small number of cases should be interpreted with caution.
- The most recent NC rates are from the same year or years as the most recent OC rates and are provided for comparison.

For more information

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Or on the web: www.co.orange.nc.us/health

Sources of data cited

1. NC State Center for Health Statistics
2. US Census 1990 and 2000
3. NC Division of Social Services
4. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, UNC-CH
5. NC Department of Transportation, Division of Motor Vehicles
6. NC Department of Public Instruction
7. NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities and Substance Abuse, DHR
8. Alcohol Drug Council of NC
9. NC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
10. Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)
11. Orange County Health Department, Environmental Health Division
12. NC Cooperative Extension, Orange County Center
13. NC Department of Environment, Health and Natural Resources
14. Orange County Health Department, Dental Health Division