

2011 Hyde County Community Health Assessment Executive Summary



A measure to Spot the Health of Our
Community

Areas of Celebration

AREA 1: Hyde County provides resources available and helps those in times of need.

AREA 2: Hyde County is a good place to live with a low crime rate and lower murder rates than the state rate. There is support for individuals and families through Health Education and community programs provided for diabetes, obesity, and tobacco prevention.

AREA 3: Hyde County is a good place to grow old-providing a small town vs. large town atmosphere.

Areas of Concern

AREA 1: The top five issues ranked as being of highest priority by the 2011 Community Health Assessment (CHA) team were (in order):

1. Physical activity, nutrition, and obesity
2. Access to oral health
3. Chronic disease
4. Tobacco, substance, and alcohol abuse
5. Access to primary care

AREA 2: Important community social issues include: lack of affordable health care/insurance, underemployment/lack of well-paying jobs, lack of recreational facilities, and lack of health care providers.

AREA 3: The top unhealthy behaviors as identified in the opinion survey were: Physical inactivity, Chronic Diseases, Drug and Alcohol Treatment/Prevention, Safe Sex, and Preventive visits to the doctor.

Health Priorities

How were Health Priorities chosen?

The Community Health Assessment process often uncovers a range of community concerns. Each is important, but the availability of resources limits the number of issues to focus on and decide how to best use the community resources to solve problems.

Care Share Health Alliance facilitated the prioritization process for the mainland and island. The desired outcomes for this meeting of the Hyde County CHA team were:

1. Develop a shared vision of a Healthy Hyde County
2. Use transparent process to select Community Health priorities
3. Design next steps for CHA team

The meeting began with CHA team members sharing their expectations for this priority setting session:

- “Excitement that this is the final step before action.”
- “These are priorities for our county, what the community feels about health issues.”
- “Would like this session to focus on efficient, realistic change...focus on what is doable.”

Developing a Shared Vision of a Healthy Hyde

Imagining a newspaper reporter visited Hyde County in five years to report on the community’s pioneering work on improving health, the CHA team developed the following draft vision statement for a Healthy Hyde County:

“The 2011 Community Health Assessment team envisions Hyde County being the healthiest county in our state with safe, accessible walking and bike trails, community centers that offer teen-focused fitness activities and more healthcare and transportation options for all residents; decreased diabetes, pacemakers, and helicopter rides for avoidable medical needs and increased overall community cohesion.”

Health Issue Prioritization Process

For the first phase of prioritization, the team split into three groups: access to healthcare, health behavior, and social/environmental factors. Team members assigned a score to each health issue included in their group. Parks and recreation and chronic disease were added as issues to the health behavior groups. Health disparities was added as an issue to the social/environmental category. The groups prioritized health issues based on how community members ranked the issue in the Community Health Survey.

What are our Health Priorities for the next four years?

The top five issues ranked as being of highest priority by the 2011 CHA team were (in order):

1. Physical activity, nutrition, and obesity
2. Access to oral health
3. Chronic Disease
4. Tobacco, substance, and alcohol abuse
5. Access to primary care

Why conduct a Community Health Assessment?

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services requires all local health departments to complete a Community Health Assessment (CHA) every four years. Regular assessments allow Public Health and other community partners to look for health trends in the community and to set goals and plan for ways to continue to meet the needs of the community and special populations. Over the past three years, Hyde County Health Department reported annually a State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) to measure progress from last Community Health Assessment, which was done in 2007. The CHA team has worked to assess our community's health. A multi-phase plan started April 2011. The assessment included collection and review of demographic, socioeconomic, and health data, a survey phase to solicit information and opinions from the general public, focus groups with various community leaders, data synthesis and analysis, and a period of reporting and discussions among coalition members. The final phase included prioritization and decision-making to establish goals and objectives that will guide our community to address the health concerns identified during the assessment process.

Next Steps

The ultimate goal of the Community Health Assessment process is to share and utilize information, thereby influencing strategic planning across the community. Hyde County Health Department and our partnering agencies will continue to communicate information learned during the process with county agencies, business partners, and the public. By June 2012, CHA team committees will develop Community Action Plans for each health priority.

Hyde County Health Department

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*From the Lodge to the Lighthouse
We're striving for a healthier Hyde*

