



2009

## STATE OF THE COUNTY REPORT



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**HISTORICAL WARREN COUNTY**  
Photography by: Economic Development Commission, Warren County

## **INTRODUCTION**

Warren County is located in the northeastern Piedmont section of North Carolina. Warren County is bordered by Virginia to the north, Northampton and Halifax Counties to the east, Franklin and Nash Counties to the south and southeast, and Vance County to the west. The climate of Warren County is an average of 59 degrees Fahrenheit.

State and local government is the leading employment in the county, followed by manufacturing, health care and social assistance. Agriculture, Forestry, Hunting and Fishing is a way of life for some county residents. There are 218,000 acres of forest land in the county, and 90-95% of this land is privately owned. There are various programs available to help landowners with planting young trees and middle age trees prior to the process of maturity. Tobacco was the earliest cash crop grown in Warren County. This crop is still being produced today along with cucumbers, cantaloupes, and grains. Although many residents make their living working for state and local government, there are a few industries remaining in the county.

Based on data from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, Warren County's total population is 19,919 and from NC Catch total population is 19,663 as of 2007. A total of 24.05% under age 0-19, and 58.05% age 20-64 and 17.90% 65 and over. The racial breakdown is 40.64 % white and 59.35% minority. The total percentage of the white male population is 20.42% and the white female population is 20.22%. The total percentage of the minority male population is 29.88% and minority female population is 30.03%. In Warren County, the per capita income is \$21,073.00 which is much lower than the State's average of \$32,247 according to NC State Center for Health Statistics updates from 2007. Unemployment is a major factor in such a low per capita income. When the unemployment rate of Warren County is compared to the State, the county is much higher. In 2008, Warren County has a range of 7.0% -11.2 % unemployment rate as compared to the state range of 5.5% -8.4 %, and 19.4 percent of its families live in poverty. There is a high level of undeveloped areas of the county, which may be a contributing factor to the poverty percentage.

### **Morbidity & Mortality**

In Warren County, chronic illnesses, such as diabetes, cancer, heart disease , chronic lower respiratory disease, chronic liver disease and blood pressure or stroke, are the major causes of illness and death. According to NC Catch, pneumonia and influenza deaths per 100,000 populations are significantly higher than the state, 61.6 % as compared to 20.0 %. According to NC Catch for 2007, Warren County exceeds the state with cases of Chlamydia and gonorrhea rates per 100,000 populations. Updates from NC Catch for 2007 also reports that Warren County exceeds the state rates for tuberculosis rate per 100,000 populations but is less than the state for HIV disease rates per 100,000 populations. It is believed that these chronic illnesses can be reduced dramatically though lifestyle changes, including nutrition education and change, exercise, smoking cessation, and limited alcohol use. It is estimated that nearly four

in ten North Carolinians will develop cancer during their lives. Cancer is expected to surpass heart disease and become the leading cause of death in North Carolina and the nation by the year 2015.

Our area has its share of chronic respiratory problems including asthma, emphysema and lung cancer. Because of the agriculture-related force economy, jobs, there are a certain amount of injuries and deaths from farm machinery. The county has a low rate of injury or death from industrial work sites due to little manufacturing in the area and an intense safety program at the county's largest employer. Statistics from the N. C. County Health Data Book-2009 indicate that the three leading causes of deaths in Warren County, as well as the state, are diseases of the heart, cancer and cerebrovascular disease. Pneumonia and influenza are the fourth leading cause of death for Warren County. There is an intense campaign to vaccinate for seasonal flu as well as H1N1flu and pneumonia since there have been 58 known cases death from 2003-2007 from pneumonia and influenza per 100,000 populations in Warren County.

### **Socioeconomic, Education, & Environment Factors that Affect Health**

Warren County is one of the poorest counties in the state; citizens are often forced to choose between regular healthcare and doctor visits or such things as groceries, heating fuel or payment of utility bills. With limited staff and budget, the health department addresses as many needs of the people as it possibly can. With the current state of the economy, these trends will continue to be a problem in the county. Such as budget cuts, loss of jobs, and the increase of unemployment, as well as the lack of new industry in the foreseeable future.

In 2005 Warren County's percentage of persons in poverty (19.4) exceeds the state (12.3) over 6%. The percentage of black poverty exceeds white poverty in the county by more than 15.89%. Warren County has the second highest percentage of children less than 18 years of age in poverty when compared to surrounding counties, which includes Vance, Granville, and Franklin. The unemployment rate for Warren County exceeds the state rate on average by about 2-3% for the entire year of 2008. (see graph section 4C.)

In 2005 Warren County's SAT scores are below the state, as well as Franklin County and Granville County. The scores are about the same as the scores as compared to Vance County Schools. The scores for math and verbal have been about the same average for the past 3 years.

In 2005, the dropout rate is based on students who do not return to school from the previous year. Students who transfer to other public or private schools or who are home schooled are not included. The dropout rate does not include students who enroll in community college high school equivalency programs. The dropout rate for Warren County students in grades 9-12 from the 2000-2001 thru 2004-2005 school years range in average from 8.55% to 5.14%. The state in comparison for the same years ranges from 5.71 % to 4.74 %. The dropout rate for Warren County students in grades 7-12 decreased from 2001-2004. There was an increase in the number of students dropping out in grades 7-8 during the 2004-2005 school years. In 2007-2008 school years, Warren County created smaller academic environments by dividing the high school into three different schools. This theory was created to improve attendance, reduce dropout

rates and to improve parental participation. The regular high school is still being held at Warren County High School, with Warren County New Tech High School and Warren County Early College High School. Students who attend Warren County Early College will attend high school for 5 years and graduate with a high school diploma as well as an associate degree. (For dropout rates for school years 2001-2007 see graph section 4D.)

In 2006 children was screened for lead poisoning at the Warren County Health Department during their well child checkup visits. Even a small dose of lead is dangerous poison to young children. They are especially at risk since they can put lead in their mouths by accident. Lead poisoning can lower IQ's, retards growth, damage kidneys, cause learning and behavior problems as well as cause hearing and attention loss in children. Children at risk of having lead needs to be tested at 12 months, 24 months and at age 6 if they haven't been tested. When children come into the well child check clinic, lead information is given to the parents on lead. WIC (Women, Infant, and Children) screens children at 18 months and 30 months if they were not previous tested at the 12 or 24 month well child clinics.

In 2006, a total of 261 food and lodging inspections were performed. The function of these inspections is to promote public health and safety through regulation of all food and lodging establishments within Warren County. To adequately evaluate each establishment, these inspections included: documenting final cook, hot and cold holding temperatures, assessing cooling, observing and promoting healthy employee hygiene, and verification of food sources. The inspection process not only identifies violations in each of the aforementioned categories, but it is also charged with the duty of achieving corrective actions for those violations. Inspections along with visits and open dialogue with employees of food establishments are methods used to reduce and or eliminate the possibility of food-borne illness; as a result in 2006, there were no reported incidences of food-borne illness.

Approximately 90% of Warren County households utilize private ground absorption (on site) septic systems to treat household wastewater. If the sewage is not properly treated by the ground absorption system, the occupants of a house may be exposed to disease organisms that are found in sewage, causing them or neighbors to become sick. Household wastewater normally contains suspended solids, oil and grease, nitrogen, phosphorus, and fecal coli form bacteria. Properly designed and functioning on site wastewater treatment systems treat sewage and destroy the pathogens in the wastewater, thus ensuring that the citizens of Warren County are not exposed to these pathogens. Around 3% of on-site systems fail in a given year. "Failure" of a septic system occurs when the effluent begins surfacing, thus potentially exposing families and the public to sewage. Most of the failing systems were installed during the 1950's to 1970's when the on-site rules were less stringent. The sites are visited by the environmental health specialist with failing systems and design remedies to correct the problems. Licensed septic contractors install the remedies and the environmental health specialist inspects the work done by contractors.

According to the NCDHHS State Center for Health Stastitistic the total asthma hospital discharge number of cases per 100,000 populations for the State is 10,535 and a rate of 116.2. In comparison for Warren County the hospital discharge number of cases per 100,000 populations is 7 and a rate of 200.39 for all ages. The state number

of cases for children ages 0-14 is 3,030 and a rate of 166.2 while Warren County's number of cases for this age group is 7 and a rate of 200.39. The community assessment in 2006 reveals that 224 people think that air pollution is a serious or moderate problem and 176 people don't think it's a problem or don't know if it's a problem. The assessment also reveals that 244 people think that clean water and water pollution is a serious or moderate problem in the county. At the same time, 156 citizens don't think it's a problem or don't know.

### **Other Health Concerns for Warren County**

Warren County is one of the poorest counties in the state. There is no hospital in the county and citizens have to travel to Vance County, Franklin County, Granville County or South Hill Virginia for medical emergencies and hospital care. There are limited primary care physicians, but the opening of the Rural Health Clinic in Norlina and the Warren County Free Clinic has been a tremendous help for Warren County citizens. Health Net Vance Warren, a partnership between the Four County Health Network, Inc and Warren County Free Clinic helps low-income, uninsured citizens receive the care and medications that they need to stay healthy. The program is designed to help citizens who are uninsured and who are not eligible for Medicare or Medicaid. The citizens must meet the 200 percent of federal poverty level guidelines. Health net Vance Warren is part of the Healthy Access program, which began in 2000. The program received operational funds through hospitals, and doctors gave pledges to see patients for no pay. In 2006, the program received funding from the United Way of Vance County as well as the Health and Wellness Trust Fund. In September 2006, Warren County Free Clinic was open for seeing uninsured citizens in the county. In the beginning, the clinic was open 1 day a week on Saturday morning, seeing 89 patients in the first year. The clinic is currently open 5 hours a day, 5 days a week, every other Saturday and serving 1,500 uninsured residents in the county.

### **Priority Health Concerns**

In 2006, Warren County conducted a community health assessment, which, through use of surveys and study of patterns in the community, gave the Health Department a feel for the needs of the area. The health patterns indicate no significant change since the 2002 community health assessment was completed. Through this assessment, the group was able to determine areas of major concern and make efforts to continue to address the problem in these areas. The Primary Data Group distributed 800 surveys in the community and received a total of 404 surveys, which represents about 2 percent of the total population in the county. According to the North Carolina County Health Data Book 2009 the three leading causes of deaths for all age groups in the county are disease of the heart, cancer and cerebrovascular disease. In 2006, cancer deaths per 100,000 populations for blacks were at a rate of 175.6 in comparison for whites at 112.0. Breast and prostate cancers are more common among blacks than whites and there is a need for early detection. The American Urological Association

and the American College of Radiology recommend annual DRE and PSA screening beginning at age 50 and annual PSA screening beginning at age 40 for African-American men and other men with a positive family history of prostate cancer. The American Cancer Society recommends these tests be offered annually to men who are age 50 and over, who have at least a 10-year life expectancy; annual screening is offered earlier for African-American men or those with at least two first-degree relatives affected. Women age 40 and older should have mammograms every 1 to 2 years. Women who are at higher than average risk of breast cancer should talk with their health care providers about whether to have mammograms before age 40 and how often to have them.

In the 2006 Community Assessment, 76 % of the citizens indicated that they thought heart disease was a serious and moderate problem in the county. The citizens indicated from the surveys that on average 62 % of breast, lung, and prostate cancers are a serious and moderate problem in the county. Approximately 63% of the citizens believe that all cancers are a serious or moderate problem, while 32 % are not sure or don't know if all cancers are a problem for citizens in the county. The citizens indicated from the surveys that 68% believe that strokes are a serious and moderate problem in the county. This could also lead to 87 % belief that high blood pressure is a serious problem, which is a contributing factor to stroke and heart disease. The ranking process of choosing the priorities from the surveys list drugs and alcohol abuse (drinking and driving), obesity (nutrition), unsafe sex (STD/HIV/Aids), arthritis, lack of hospital facilities and affordable health care are among the top ten concerns for all citizens of Warren County.

The Secondary Data from the 2006 Community Assessment according to the quantitative data shared between present county agencies and serviced needs to be enhanced to improve the quality of life. The top ten concerns of the citizens of Warren County were listed as domestic violence, uninsured and underinsured, infant death rate, unemployment, cancer, HIV/AIDS/Gonorrhea/ cerebrovascular disease, substance abuse, mental health and diabetes. The Youth Risk Behavior survey that was administered in 2004 to the 9<sup>th</sup> grade classes at Warren County High School was based on questions on alcohol, tobacco and marijuana. The 9<sup>th</sup> grade class for the first year was used to establish baseline data. The survey was repeated for the next 3 years to have some comparison data. The questions are broken down by age groups between less than 8 years old and 17 or over. The total average percent change from the 9<sup>th</sup> to 10 grade years for alcohol is 6.10%, tobacco 9.14% and marijuana 5.11%. All Warren County Schools adopted the smoke-free grounds policy in 2005. After reviewing the data over the next two years, it appears that students were experimenting with their first cigarette as early as 10 and 11 years of age. This prompted the substance abuse committee to shift their focus to start some preventive activities at the middle school level. Awareness and prevention is the key to having healthy non-smoking and drug free youth, so this practice can't spill over into the high school and adulthood. Risk and protective factors can affect children at different stages of their lives. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2009 the Healthy Carolinians Substance Abuse Committee held a TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) Kickoff at Warren County Middle School. At this event students at the middle school level were given t-shirts and had the opportunity to participate with an open mic contest with a positive message against smoking. On June 6, 2009 5

students from the high schools were trained to become TATU facilitators to assist with the training for students at the middle and elementary schools. On June 13, 2009 4 students went through the TATU training and will help train other students in the 2009-2010 school years.

In 2006 Helping Hands, a domestic violence coalition reported that they assisted a total of 51 clients in that year. A total of 46 clients were counseled for domestic violence, 2 clients were sexual assaults, and 3 clients were rape victims. A total of 40 adult clients were assisted along with 6 teens ranging in ages from 16 years to 21 years old. The report revealed that 16 of the victims were white, 30 black and all were females. Two victims received financial support, 1 victim was provided shelter and 15 served in a support group. In 2006, 65% of the clients that received assistance were African American females between the ages of 16 years through adulthood.

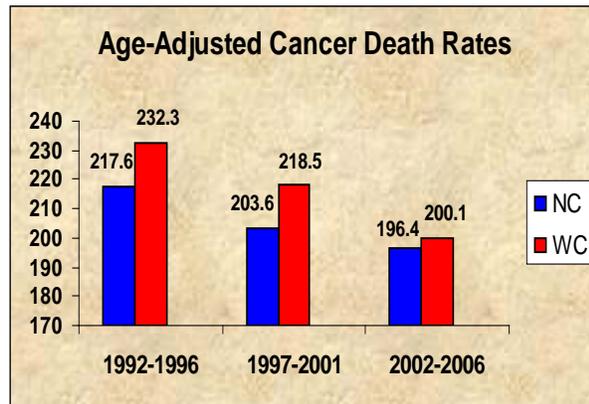
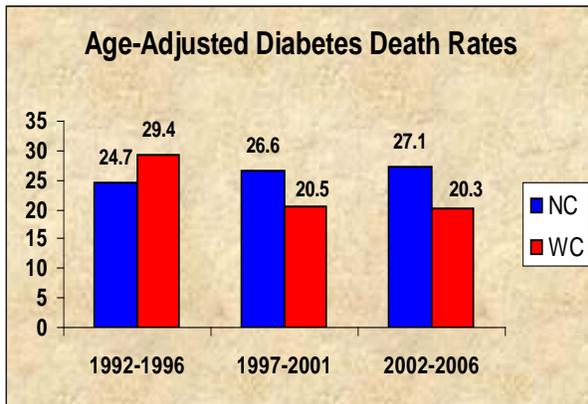
The results from the surveys (primary data) and the secondary data correlate with the existing health issues in the county. The goal of Healthy Carolinians is to improve health and safety for all citizens in Warren County, therefore the three existing committees would continue. The four areas of concern are Chronic Disease (diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and high blood pressure) that will be addressed by the FAN (Fitness & Nutrition Committee. Substance Abuse Committee will address drugs, alcohol and tobacco use. Injury and Violence Prevention will address domestic violence, and motor vehicle safety.

The efforts of the Healthy Carolinians of Warren County Partnership appears to stimulate genuine interest by government officials, private citizens and special interest groups in that problems are being identified and someone is taking the lead in seeking and providing solutions to the population in a reasonable fashion.

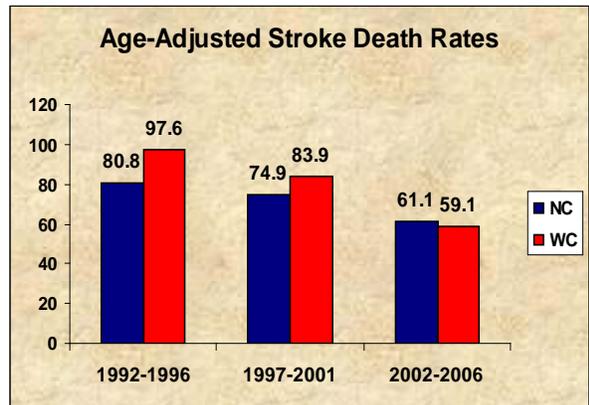
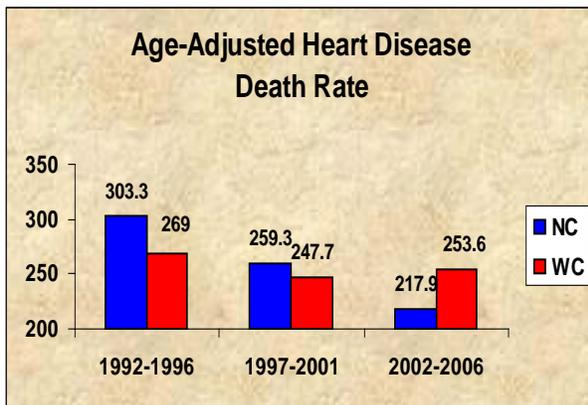
**The areas of concern that are being addressed by the partners include:**

1. **Chronic Diseases** (diabetes, cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure)
2. **Health Promotions** (substance abuse)
3. **Injury and Violence Prevention** (motor vehicle, fires, domestic violence)
4. **Community Health**
  - a. Quality Health Care Services
  - b. Unemployment
  - c. Education/Dropout

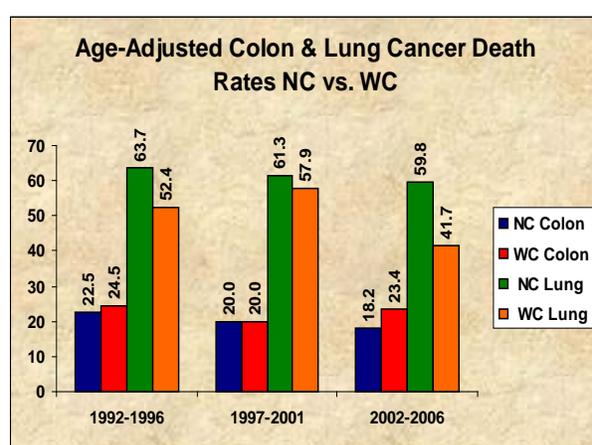
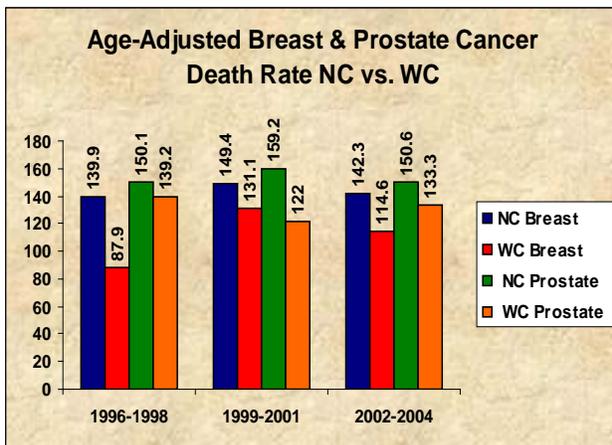
# 1. Chronic Diseases (diabetes, cancer, heart disease, high blood pressure) AGE ADJUSTED DEATH RATES GRAPH AT A GLANCE



(Source: County Health Data Book, North Carolina Statewide and County Trends in Key Health Indicators)



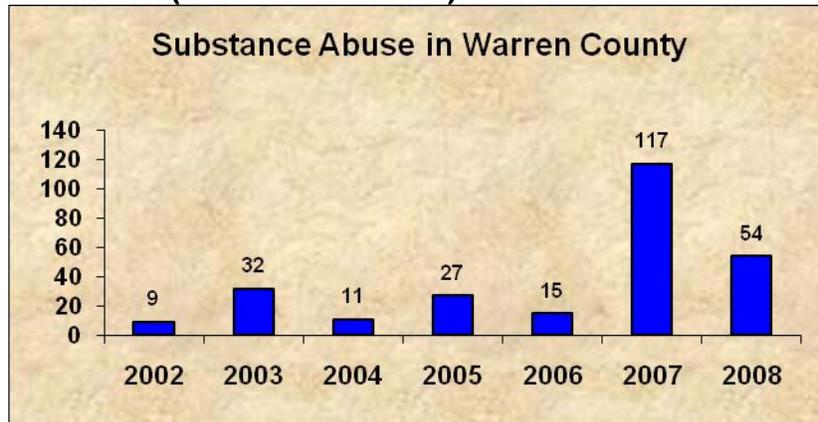
(Source: County Health Data Book, North Carolina Statewide and County Trends in Key Health Indicators)



(Source: County Health Data Book, North Carolina Statewide and County Trends in Key Health Indicators)

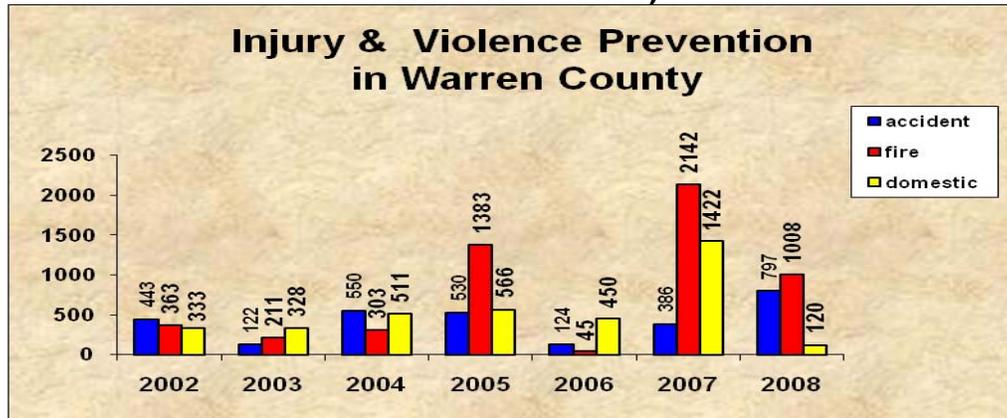
Death rates reveal major areas of health concern in our county. The leading cause of deaths in Warren County and the state are related to heart disease, cancer and diabetes and strokes. Death rates are compared to the state are per 100,000 Population.

**2. Health Promotion (Substance Abuse)**



Source: Warren County's Sheriff's Office Communication Report 2008

**3. Injury & Violence Prevention (motor vehicle, fires, Domestic violence)**

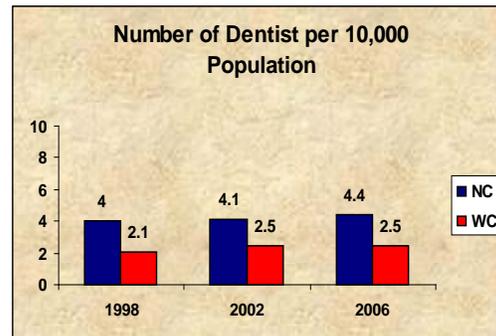
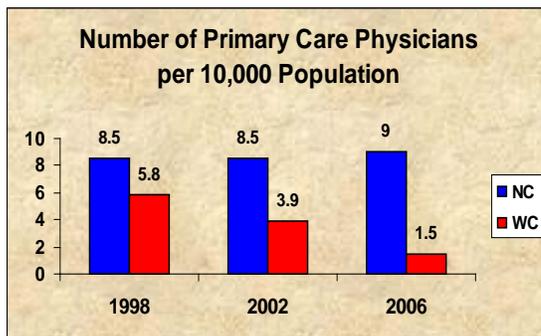


Source: Warren County's Sheriff's Office Communication Report

The graph shows the actual numbers of calls in Warren County from the Sheriff's Communication Report for the years 2002-2007. The numbers for accidents, fire and domestic disturbances has increased from the calls from 2006. The numbers for fires and domestic violence decreased in 2008, at the same time the number of accidents increased by 48%.

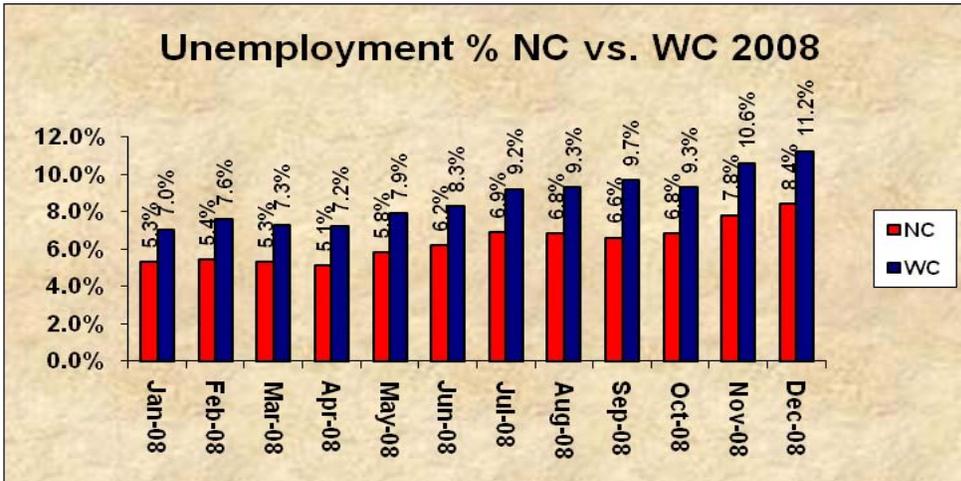
**4. Community Health**

**A. Quality Health Care Services**



(Source: County Health Data Book, North Carolina Statewide and County Trends in Key Health Indicators)

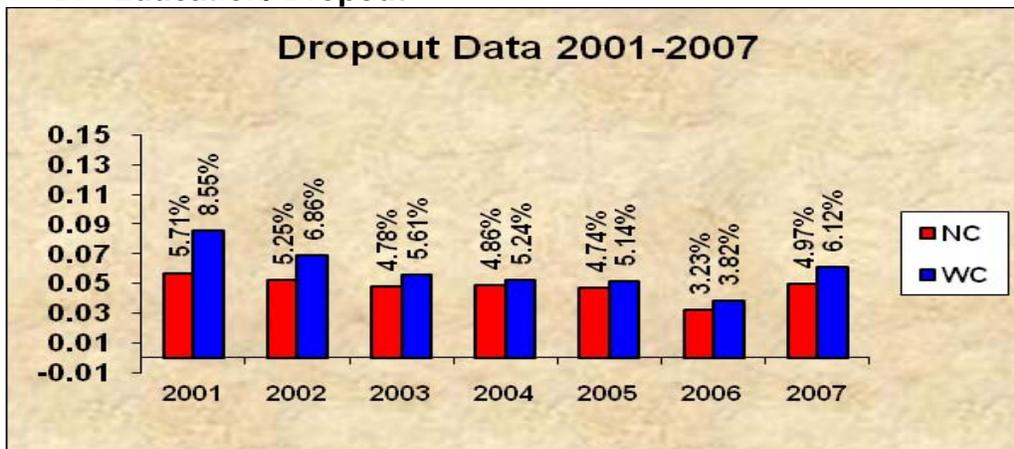
### C. Unemployment



Source: State Agency Data: Department of Commerce (2008)

The unemployment rate for Warren County exceeds the state rate on average by about 2-3% for the entire year of 2008. With no hospital and only minimal industry, the school system and county government employ the most people in the county.

### D. Education/ Dropout



Source: State Agency Data: Department of Commerce (2008)

The dropout rate is based on students who do not return to school from the previous year. Students who transfer to other public or private schools or who are home schooled are not included. The dropout rate does include students who enroll in community college high school equivalency programs.

## Healthy Carolinians of Warren County Goals & Progress

With Warren County being one of the poorest counties in the state, it was obvious there was a great need to address health issues here in the county. The vision of Healthy Carolinians of Warren County (HCWC) is children, teens and adults living healthy and safe lives through goals of:

- ~ Increased citizen participation in physical activities
- ~ Increased citizen commitment to healthy eating
- ~ Decreased use of illegal drugs by children, teens, and adults
- ~ Decreased abuse of alcohol by adults
- ~ Decreased use of alcohol by children and teens
- ~ Increased use of vehicle safety belts
- ~ Increased and proper use of child restraint and booster seats
- ~ Decreased domestic partner abuse
- ~ Increased services for victims of domestic violence
- ~ Increased the number of children wearing bike helmets

HCWC continues partnering with individuals as well as organizations to address the concerns. There are currently three working groups within the partnership: Fitness and Nutrition (FAN), Substance Abuse Prevention, and Injury and Violence Prevention.

### **FAN (Fitness & Nutrition) COMMITTEE**

**April 2009** Participated with Warren County Annual Health Fair; set up informational booths; 400 people in attendance.

**May 2009** Participated with Youth Services Bureau Youth Festival; set up informational booths, 300 people in attendance.

**July 2009** Attended Ivory Hill Family & Friends day health fair, set up informational booth; 200 people in attendance

**August 2009** Attended Soul City Fire Station Community Day Health Fair, set up informational booth; 200 people in attendance

### **October 2009**

- Participated with a community Walk-a-Thon, set up informational booth and physical activities; 25 people in attendance.
- ESMM ( Eating Smart Moving More) meeting with faith-based community churches to participate with a pilot program with 5 churches to adopt an environmental or nutrition policy change.

## **INJURY PREVENTION COMMITTEE**

**APRIL 2009** Assisted with a car seat workshop at Warren Family Institute. The workshop provided classes on proper installation of car and booster seats and gave out seats to a total of 9 needy families in the county.

**APRIL 2009** Sponsored a bike rodeo in collaboration with state highway patrol and local sheriff department. Gave instructions on bike safety and gave out 46 free helmets to 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes at a local elementary school.

**APRIL 2009** Participated with Vance County Safe Kids Activities, set up informational booth and educated the public on bike safety, 700 people in attendance.

**OCTOBER 2009** Participated with Warrenton Police Department in conducting a bike rodeo at Miriam Body Elementary School, 75 people in attendance.

## **SUBSTANCE ABUSE COMMITTEE**

### **FEBRUARY 2009**

- Participated with Rock-in-Prevention activities at South Warren Elementary School. The program is designed to help elementary students with substance abuse and bullying.
- Attended the Kemba Smith Presentation, a motivational speaker on substance abuse, "Good Girl Bad Decision" at Warren County High School.
- Attended TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) Facilitator Training at the American Lung Association.

**APRIL 2009** Attended 2 tobacco presentation with motivational speakers who shared their life experience with tobacco and the consequences of their bad choices, set up informational booths, 1,100 students in attendance.

**MAY 2009** Coordinated a TATU(Teens Against Tobacco Use) kickoff celebration at Warren County Middle School. The middle school students received t-shirts, food, and participated with an open mic contest with prizes awarded for the best performance. 125 people were in attendance.

**JUNE 2009** Conducted 2 TATU facilitator trainings: one with the high school students whom will help train and educate the elementary school and the middle school.

Volunteers assist in programs, serving on committees, to improve the health and safety of the county residents by speaking out at homes, churches, schools, civic organizations, and community functions.

The Healthy Carolinians of Warren County has been successful in reaching out to a diverse population for participation in the partnership. The program has reached out to the American Indians, Hispanics, churches, civic organizations, county agencies, government officials, politicians and county residents in the community to create cross culture participation.

### **Early Preventive Health**

The Warren County Health Department has several programs in place to address the area of preventive health. Those programs, Exerstyle and High Risk Exerstyle, provide the wellness center with treadmills, stationary bikes, rowing machines, and low impact aerobics. There is also prostate cancer support, diabetes support, regular blood pressure screenings, cholesterol checks and regular distribution of printed materials and samples. Also walking trails have been marked, along with health fairs are being held at the local industries.

The Warren County School System is addressing health-related issues. Staff and volunteers offer programs in activities such as student walking, Jump Rope for the Heart, Hoops for the Heart, staff wellness program, School Health Advisory Council (with a Fitness & Nutrition representative), The Lions Quest Program Training for Middle School children (substance abuse), and Red Ribbon activities (substance abuse prevention).

The FAN (Fitness and Nutrition) Committee for Healthy Carolinians has measured walking trails at 5 of the schools in the county, as well as 5 churches in the area and one community center. The FAN committee has also supplied signage for all the walking trails to indicate how many laps' equals a mile. The new recreation complex has 3 walking trails that can be utilized by all citizens of the county. In 2009, two churches developed a healthy eating foods policy and one church established a health ministry. Warren County Health Department received funding for \$11,434.00 in the 2009 fiscal year from Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina Community Grants. Warren County Eat Smart, Move More Faith Project will be designed to increase the opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity to African American faith communities by offering mini-grants. The grant will pilot 5 churches and each church will receive \$1,500. This project is sponsored by Warren County Health Department, Fitness and Nutrition Committee, Healthy Carolinians of Warren County, and Warren County Cooperative Extension.

In 2009, Warren County Health Department started a weight management program. Weight-Wise is a weight management program designed to help low-income women, ages 40-64, who are overweight lose weight safely and keep it off, through healthy eating and physical activity. This program is part of a research study conducted by UNC-Chapel Hill. Warren County Health Department has enrolled 21 women to participate in this study.

Warren County is in need of having a hospital. There is no hospital in the county and citizens have to travel to Vance County, Franklin County, Granville County or South Hill Virginia for medical emergencies and hospital care. There is no public

transportation in the county with the exception of KARTS, Department of Social Services and Youth Services Bureau. The new recreation complex has no indoor facility that can be utilized for physical activities in the winter months. The closing of Vance Warren Comprehensive Health Center put an additional need for healthcare for the low income and uninsured citizens in the county. This facility had approximately 4,000 patients who had to seek medical care somewhere else. The Warren County Free Clinic has increased their hours to try to eliminate some of these healthcare needs. The county has limited health professional available. There are 3 dental hygienists, 2.5 dentist, 12.6 licensed practical nursed,17.6 registered nurses, 1 nurse practitioner, 5 optometrists, 5 pharmacists,0.5 physical therapists assistants, 1 physical therapists,1.5 physicians and 1.5 primary care physicians per 10,000 population.

### **New and Emerging Issues**

In Warren County, the area of controlled substance has increased from 18 cases in 2001 to 32 cases in 2003 according to the Warren County Sheriff's Office Communication 2003 Statistical Data Tally. Controlled substance abuse has decreased from 32 cases in 2003 to 11 cases in 2004. However, in 2005 controlled substance rose to 27 cases, but decreased to 15 cases in 2006. In 2007 the number of controlled substance cases shows 117 cases, which is a tremendous increase from previous years. The number of controlled substance cases for 2008 was 54 which is a significantly lower than the year before by more than 50%.

The Healthy Carolinians of Warren County is addressing substance abuse in their Action Plans. The economic situation has always limited a certain group of the population from receiving the services that they not only desire but also desperately need. With most of the work force being either farm or log wood laborers, many are not afforded the luxury of health care insurance. The three main industries within the county provide very little stimulus as far as competitive wages, employee insurance benefits, or preventive healthcare programs for its workforce. Even those persons who are self-employed often are not afforded health or dental insurance because of the high cost and their small amounts of working capital. The Health Department continuously seeks funding sources to provide as many services as possible to that population of the county.

### **Community Involvement**

The Healthy Carolinians of Warren County has pursued and solicited interest from all areas of the county. This goal has been reached by visiting areas of high traffic such as grocery stores, chamber of commerce offices, convenience stores, government facilities and healthcare provider agencies. This, in addition to placing printed materials such as brochures and posters at various health fairs, schools and faith based organizations, has been a large part of their initial campaign and efforts towards the healthy lifestyles campaign initiative. Due to budget cuts from the state, Healthy Carolinians Partnerships didn't receive funding in 2009; therefore, the partnership asked for additional funding from the county commissioners. The Warren County Board of Commissioners during its October 5, 2009 regular meeting approved request from the Healthy Carolinians of Warren County for an allocation of \$6,350 to continue day to day

operations of the partnership. The community assessment and the State of the County Reports are distributed throughout the county. Hard copies are distributed to the Warren County Board of Health, county agencies, county library, the Warren Record and to citizens as requested. Also, the results of these reports are reported in the local newspaper as well as on the county website. For future distribution of reports, the above plan will be followed.

### **Summary**

A continuous collaborative effort continues between Healthy Carolinians of Warren County (146 partners), the Warren County Health Department, local government officials, county agencies, the Warren County School System, and civic organizations in pursuing every opportunity to address, reduce and/or eliminate the health concerns of the county residents.