

# 2020

## Wayne County Health Department State of the County Health Report



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## Demographics

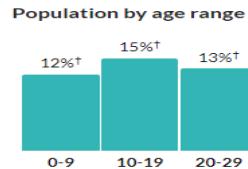
### Age

**37.7**

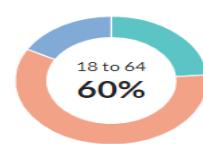
Median age

a little less than the figure in North Carolina: 39.1

about the same as the figure in United States: 38.5

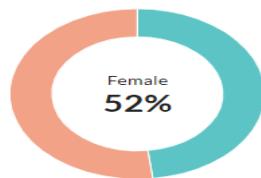


### Population by age category



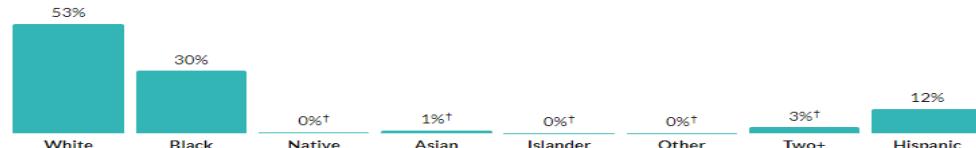
US Census Bureau (2019) American Community Survey 1 year estimates

### Sex



US Census Bureau (2019) American Community Survey 1 year estimates

### Race & Ethnicity



\* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.; ACS 2019 5-year data

US Census Bureau (2019) American Community Survey 5 year estimates

## Economics

### Income

**\$24,480**

Per capita income

about three-quarters of the amount in North Carolina: \$32,021

about two-thirds of the amount in United States: \$35,672

**\$44,596**

Median household income

about 80 percent of the amount in North Carolina: \$57,341

about two-thirds of the amount in United States: \$65,712

### Household income



US Census Bureau (2019) American Community Survey 1 year estimates

### Poverty

**19.4%**

Persons below poverty line

about 1.4 times the rate in North Carolina: 13.6%

about 1.5 times the rate in United States: 12.3%

### Children (Under 18)



### Seniors (65 and over)



US Census Bureau (2019) American Community Survey 1 year estimates

## Social

### Educational attainment

**85.8%**

High school grad or higher

a little less than the rate in North Carolina: 88.6%

a little less than the rate in United States: 88.6%

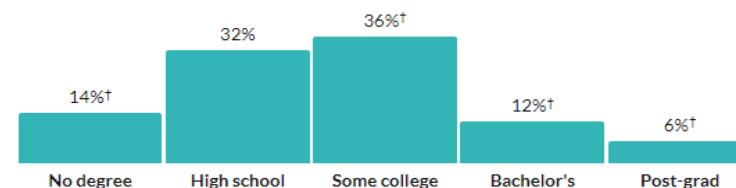
**18.1%**

Bachelor's degree or higher

about three-fifths of the rate in North Carolina: 32.3%

about half the rate in United States: 33.1%

### Population by minimum level of education



\* Universe: Population 25 years and over

US Census Bureau (2019) American Community Survey 5 year estimates

† Margin of error is at least 10 percent of the total value.

# Emerging Issues

## 2020 Word of the Year “Unprecedented”

### CORONAVIRUS DISEASE COVID-19



“Bringing Calm to Chaos,” a common tagline used by the Wayne County Emergency Management Coordinator, is a fitting phrase to describe how Wayne County adjusted to the novel coronavirus pandemic. 2020 has been a year like no other in modern times. The community has learned the importance of public health. Whether it is regarding disease surveillance and investigations, preventing chronic disease, or distributing immunizations, this knowledge and expertise is needed in a community to mitigate risks associated with a disease outbreak. The County’s response to the crisis constantly evolved as new information became available and state and federal agencies issued new guidelines and regulations. The results of this global pandemic shifted the way we work, provide public education, operate businesses, and spend time together. Our community has not been immune to the challenges of COVID-19. We experienced the loss of cherished members of our community, reached out to support those who became ill, and made many sacrifices to keep everyone safe. Wayne County’s first presumptive positive case occurred March 13, 2020, which started the quarantine and isolation period for the remainder of the year. The first death associated with the virus occurred nearly four weeks later, on April 9, 2020. Overall, for the year, 7,065 positive COVID-19 cases were reported and 184 fatalities. Wayne County also experienced a massive COVID-19 prison outbreak at the Neuse Correctional Intuition, resulting in approximately 450 positive cases out of 700 offenders.

Wayne County began to experience community spread and reported cases began to increase. NC issued a state-wide stay at home order. Contact tracing became a priority and a county dashboard was added to the health department website. The hospital, health department, Goshen Medical and other community partners began testing using safe-drive through formats.



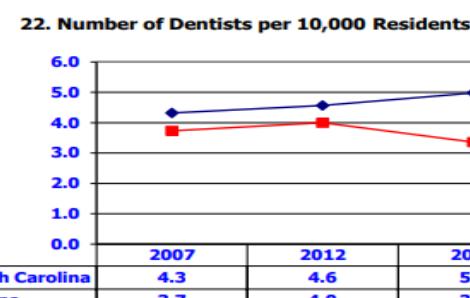
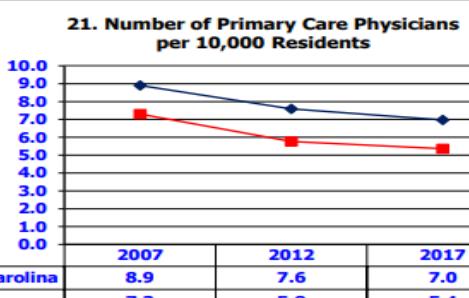
There is an end to the pandemic in sight, with the delivery of safe and effective vaccines to our residents. As we move forward to 2021, we must continue to watch the data and safely move our community into a phase of recovery post-pandemic.

# Access to Care

Access to health care consists of four components<sup>1</sup>:



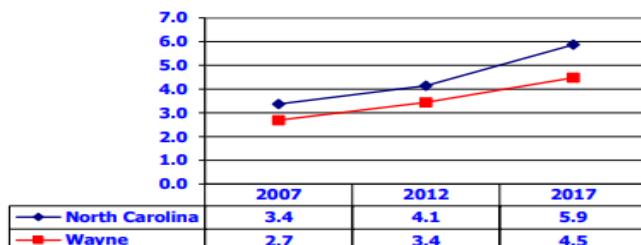
- **Health Insurance:** Medical costs in the United States are very high. People without health insurance or the ability to pay for health care may not be able to afford medical treatment or prescription drugs. Those that are uninsured or underinsured are also less likely to get routine checkups and screenings, which may result in poor health outcomes. **In Wayne County, 14.8% of persons under the age of 65 are without health insurance coverage.** SOURCE: Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2018
- **Services:** Having a usual and consistent source of care like a primary care provider is associated with the prevention of disease and improved health outcomes. **In regards to Primary Care Physicians, Wayne County has seen a steady decline, and in 2017 the rate dropped to 5.4 per 10,000.** SOURCE: NC County Trend Reports – NC State Center for Health Statistics
- **Timeliness:** The ability to receive health care when the need is recognized. Ability to access their primary care provider when a need arises.
- **Workforce:** capable, qualified, culturally competent providers.



**23. Number of Registered Nurses per 10,000 Residents**



**24. Number of Physician Assistants per 10,000 Residents**



SOURCE: NC County Trend Reports – NC State Center for Health Statistics

# Diabetes & Respiratory Diseases

The information listed below represents the age-adjusted death rate for the ten most common causes of death in Wayne County per 100,000 population.

10 Leading Causes of Death	Wayne County, NC			North Carolina		County/State Comparison
	# Deaths	Death Rate	Rank	Death Rate	Rank	
Heart Disease	1,326	213.9	1	181.9	2	↑
Cancer (All Sites)	1,320	212.9	2	191.6	1	↑
Stroke	422	68.1	3	48.8	4	↑
<i>Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases</i>	377	60.8	4	52.1	3	↑
Diabetes	266	42.9	5	27.9	7	↑
Alzheimer's Disease	228	36.8	6	39.4	5	↑
Other Unintentional Diseases	206	33.2	7	38.6	6	↓
Kidney Disease	141	22.7	8	18.9	9	↑
Hypertension	119	19.2	9	-	-	↑
Motor Vehicle Deaths	104	16.8	10	14.9	10	↑

SOURCE: 2014-2018 Ten Leading Causes of Death by County of Residence – NC State Center for Health Statistics

In Wayne County, Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases and Diabetes are the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> leading causes of death for all residents. As noted in the chart below, disparities exist between gender and race.

	Male Death Rate		Female Death Rate	
	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic
Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	64.0	49.8	59.7	20.1
Diabetes	28.4	47.9	27.3	60.4

SOURCE: 2014-2018 NC Resident Race/Ethnicity and Sex-Specific Age-Adjusted Death Rates – NC State Center for Health Statistics

In Wayne County, White males have the highest death rate of Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases compared to White females and Blacks. White females also die from Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases at a higher rate than Blacks. However, for diabetes, Black females have the highest death rate, followed by Black males.

## Advantages

- Smoke Free Businesses
- Access to NC Quit Line
- Diabetes Prevention Education

## Disadvantages

- Lack of health providers in rural communities
- Increased vaping shops & rates
- Limited resources
- Expense of medications
- Local smoking cessation

# Substance Misuse



Though much federal, state, and local attention has shifted to combating the COVID-19 pandemic, the opioid epidemic has not gone away. The convergence of both public health crises has created novel and drastic health care challenges. Unfortunately, without adequate intervention, each of these crises has the potential to exacerbate the effects of the other and create more unnecessary deaths.<sup>2</sup> The COVID-19 pandemic has led to an increase in the known risk factors associated with opioid misuse, including a surge in opioid overdoses and a rise in relapse among those recovering from opioid use disorder. At the same time, the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced the ability of treatment programs and support systems to respond to the opioid crisis. Pre-existing

health conditions and socioeconomic factors associated with opioid use disorder, such as poverty, homelessness, and job loss, may also increase the likelihood and severity of the different COVID-19 variants. It is necessary to address the intersections between COVID-19 and the opioid overdose health crises to mitigate their proliferating impacts on health.

During the initial spring and summer months of the pandemic, Wayne County Law Enforcement agencies responded to several spikes in overdose calls. When fewer people were going to the emergency room as the virus rates escalated, the number of overdose occurrences grew. From Jan– Dec 2020, Wayne County Law Enforcement responded to 227 overdoses, an average of 19 overdoses per month.

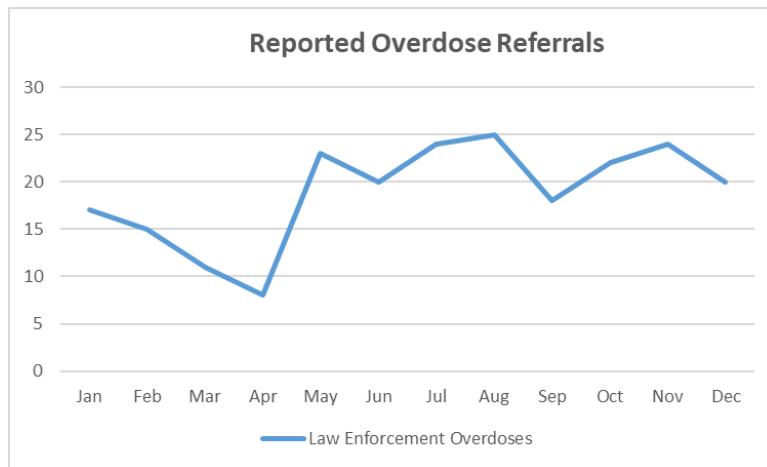


Figure 1: Opioid Overdose from Wayne County Law Enforcement. January 2020 – December 2020

In response, Wayne County has a collection of organizations that mobilize to save lives and help neighbors struggling with opioid use disorder. Several of these organizations include the Wayne County Coalition for Addiction and Life Management; Boys and Girls Club of Wayne County; City of Goldsboro; District 8 Judicial Branch; Easter Seals; Day Reporting Center; Eastpointe; Goldsboro Police Department; H.G.D.C. Community Crisis Center; Impact Carolina; Mental Health Association; One to One with Youth, Inc.; Partnership for Children; Positive Influences, Inc.; Primary Health Choice; Wayne County Health Department and Sheriff's Office; and Wayne UNC Health Care.

## New Initiatives

### Wayne County Detention Center Misuse Program Hope to End “Rotating Door”<sup>3</sup>

In October of 2020, the Department of Justice’s Bureau of Justice Assistance announced the Comprehensive Opioid Stimulant Substance Abuse Program grant award to Wayne County totaling \$900,000 for three years. The funding supports the Wayne County Detention Center Substance Misuse Program.

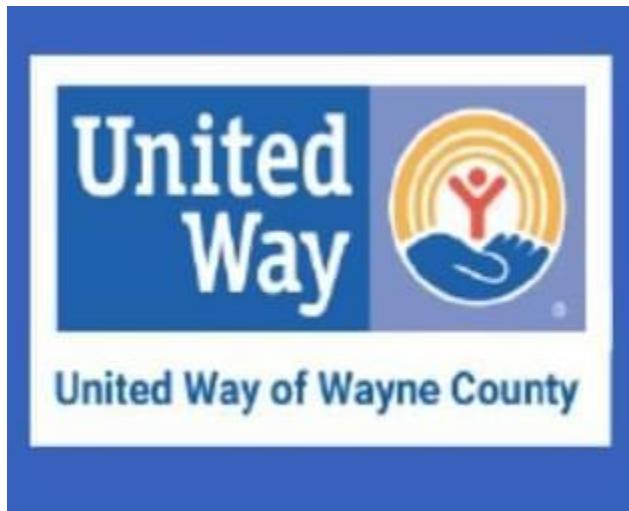
Many jail settings across the nation deal with repeat drug offenders day in and day out because there are no or minimal standardized treatment programs to handle drug addiction and mental health issues. This program will provide opportunities to reduce the recidivism rate for individuals dealing with drug and alcohol addiction within our local detention centers.

The Wayne County Detention Center Substance Misuse Program unifies a collaborative approach between the Wayne County Detention Center, Southern Health Partners, One to One with Youth, Inc., Day Reporting Center, Wayne County Health Department, and the Coalition for Addiction and Life Management (CALM). Now, booked inmates identified with a substance misuse disorder may voluntarily participate in the program to access a Peer Support Specialist, Individual Therapy, Group Therapy, Medicated Assisted Therapy treatment, and Naloxone kits.

The Wayne County Sheriff’s Office is proud to offer this unprecedented initiative for Wayne County.



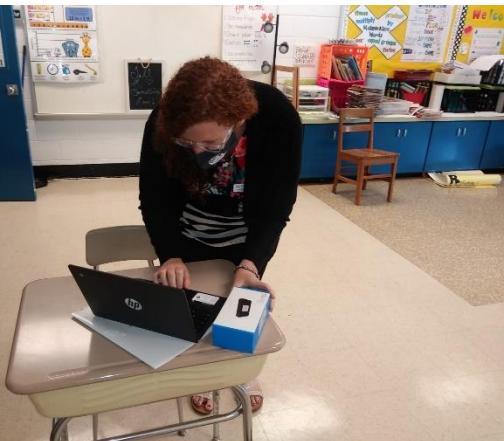
### United Way Expands COVID-19 Support during COVID-19<sup>4</sup>



For 95 years, the United Way of Wayne County has worked to connect resources to the needs of our community. The County has relied on the United Way of Wayne County (UWWC) for support during natural disasters, and most recently, during the COVID-19 pandemic, in partnership with the Wayne County Health Department. UWWC has entered into a contract to hire Community Health Workers to support the innovative work of the Wayne County Health Department in reaching vulnerable populations. The partnership between the Wayne County Health Department and the United Way of Wayne County involves promoting the importance of COVID-19 testing and testing sites, contact tracing, and case management for those testing positive with COVID-19 to ensure needs are being met for our most defenseless population.

These local Community Health Workers will soon serve as allies to families who have not received the support needed to navigate this global health emergency. Community Health Workers will connect individuals to vital resources and information, allowing them to access the care they desperately need, food resources to feed their families, or support for employment.

## New Initiatives cont'd & More Information:



### Telehealth Services

Because the pandemic created a National Emergency, many operations had to close, modify, or reduce services. A lot of local health-related focus transitioned to COVID-19 testing, vaccination, and other outreach endeavors, especially with vulnerable and marginalized populations. However, COVID did increase telehealth services due to stay-at-home orders. The Wayne County Health Department was awarded a Kresge Foundation grant for \$27,000 to help support rural families through telehealth and remote learning opportunities for students.

The grant supported funding for 25 families with Chromebooks, and in some cases, wireless internet with one year of service. With the

Chromebooks, parents have access to telehealth appointments at the Health Department. Students can use the computers for remote learning and educational activities. United Way of Wayne County (UWWC) staff met with the families at Brogden Primary to provide information about telehealth, 2-1-1 and smart data usage as well as help families get familiar with the computers and internet access. Families were also given flyers about COVID vaccines and prescription discount cards.

### More Information

Your feedback is important to us. Wayne County Health Department welcomes any further comments or ideas from the community. Please submit comments and input using one of the following methods:

By email: [WCHD.Feedback@waynegov.com](mailto:WCHD.Feedback@waynegov.com)

Facebook: Wayne County Health Department

By mail: Celita Graham

Attn: State of the County Health Report  
301 N Herman Street, Box CC  
Goldsboro, NC 27530

#### Sources:

1. Elements of Access to Health Care. Content last reviewed June 2018. Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Rockville, MD. <https://www.ahrq.gov/research/findings/nhqrdr/chartbooks/access/elements.html>
2. Wakeman, S.E., Green, T.C. & Rich, J. An overdose surge will compound the COVID-19 pandemic if urgent action is not taken. *Nat Med* 26, 819–820 (2020). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-020-0898-0>
3. Conners, K. "Detention Center Uses Grant For Substance Misuse Program". Goldsboro Daily News. <https://www.goldsborodailynews.com/2021/04/13/detention-center-uses-grant-for-substance-misuse-program>
4. Conners, K. "United Way Expands COVID-19 Support For Health Department" <https://www.goldsborodailynews.com/2020/10/03/united-way-expands-covid-19-support-for-health-department/>