

Haywood County Health Report 2007



2177 Asheville Rd.
Waynesville, NC 28786

*“Promoting Healthy Lifestyles &
A Safe Environment”*

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**State of the County Health Report
Haywood County
2007**

The State of the County Health Report provides data important to the health and safety of the citizens of Haywood County. Health indicators chosen for review are outstanding for their degree of influence on health and disease. Data is presented by total population and by age groups to clarify significant issues for specific populations. Also, socio-economic data are included due to their impact on the health of the public.

This report includes information about significant public health accomplishments in 2007 and work in progress on specific priorities and emerging issues. These topics were selected based on effect on overall health, urgency of the topic, and community concern about the issues. Haywood County Board of Health, Haywood County's health initiative team-Healthy Haywood, and Haywood County Health Department's Health Promotion Section provide leadership in establishing priorities for the county. This report highlights areas where public policy, community based initiatives, and resources are needed to create a healthier future for Haywood County.

Leading Causes of Death 2002-2006
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Total Population Age-Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population (1)

Cause of Death	No. Deaths	County Rate	State Rate
Heart Disease	856	210.2	217.9
Cancer	766	187.6	196.4
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease*	216	51.4	47.1
Cerebrovascular Disease	191	46.7	61.1
Unintentional Injuries*	121	38.5	27.0
Pneumonia/ Influenza*	121	28.8	22.5
Alzheimer's Disease	98	23.3	27.7
Diabetes	78	19.7	27.1
Nephritis	66	15.7	18.2
Motor Vehicle Unintentional Injuries*	57	19.7	19.1
Suicide*	53	18.1	11.6
Septicemia	46	11.8	14.4
Chronic Liver Disease/Cirrhosis*	38	10.0	8.8

Cancer Specific Data

Lung Cancer*	254	61.8	59.8
Colon Cancer	66	16.2	18.2
Breast Cancer*	57	26.5	25.7

Although cancer deaths overall were not higher than the state rate, both lung and breast cancer death rates were higher for Haywood County than for the state.

Also of note is that the second highest number of deaths from cancer is caused by colon cancer.

* Causes of death with county rate higher than state rate

(Age-Adjusted rates make more accurate comparisons of populations from various areas of the state.)

Leading causes of death in Haywood County by age groups 2000-2004 (most recent data available) (2)

Ages <20 years

Perinatal Conditions
Motor Vehicle Injuries
Injury-other
Suicide
Heart Disease
Birth Defects
Cancer
Homicide
SIDS

Ages 20 – 39 Years

Injury – Other
Suicide
Motor Vehicle Injuries
Heart Disease
Cancer
Diabetes
Homicide
Septicemia
HIV Disease
Cerebrovascular Disease
Cirrhosis/Liver Disease
Birth Defects

Ages 40-64Years

Cancer
Heart Disease
Injury-Other
Chronic Lower Respiratory Dis.
Suicide
Cirrhosis/Liver Disease
Cerebrovascular Disease
Motor Vehicle Injuries
Diabetes
Pneumonia/Influenza

65 – 84 Years

Cancer
Heart Disease
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
Cerebrovascular Disease
Pneumonia/Influenza
Diabetes
Nephritis
Injuries-Other
Alzheimer's Disease
Suicide
Cirrhosis/Liver Disease
Aortic Aneurism

85+ Years

Heart Disease
Cerebrovascular Disease
Cancer
Pneumonia/Influenza
Alzheimer's Disease
Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
Diabetes
Nephritis
Injuries-Other
Hypertension

Of the leading causes of death, most are linked to unhealthy lifestyles. Physical inactivity, poor nutrition, overweight, use of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs, driving at excess speeds and non-use or improper use of seat belts and child safety seats are all choices that could be reversed to result in greater quality of life. According to the NC 2005 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) data about Western North Carolina adults, 58% are physically inactive (79% get no vigorous leisure-time physical activity), 72% eat less than 5 fruits and vegetables daily, 58% are overweight or obese, and 24% smoke.

The BRFSS data show that although colorectal cancer is a preventable leading cause of death and detectable/curable in early stages, 34.2% of those 50+ year-old adults surveyed stated they were not advised by their doctor to be tested for colorectal cancer. Also, another preventable measure not taken by many is the 69% of adults who did not receive a flu shot last year. Seventy-one percent (71%) age 60+ have never had the recommended pneumonia shot. Thirty-six percent (36%) of adults stated that they have never been tested for diabetes, a disease that contributes to heart disease, amputations and blindness if not controlled. (3)

Economic/Social Factors

A significant impact on health behaviors and health status is created by limited resources and access to health care as well as the social factors of abuse and limited education.

Economic Data

Unemployment Rate (2006)	4.1% (County)	4.8% (State)	(4)
Below Poverty (2006) 7,790 individuals	13.8% (County)	13.8% (State)	(5)
Low-income services			
Food Stamp Recipients 6,100	Food Stamp Households 2,750	(Nov. 2007)	(6)
WIC supplemental food program – monthly participants	1,067	(Nov. 2007)	(7)
Population without health insurance (2005)	0-17 years old	1,248 persons	11.0%
	18-64 years old	6,646 persons	19.6%
	TOTAL	7,894 persons	17.5% (8)

Lack of income, transportation, and access to care greatly influence the ability of individuals to maintain routine health care and to seek treatment for health problems before they become life-threatening. Last year, the Good Samaritan Clinic, a non-profit organization that serves the low-income and uninsured adult population, reached 1,524 individuals as a medical home, providing 4,250 patient visits. Of those clients, 156 (Approximately 10%) were Medicaid patients. According to the Sheps Center for Health Services Research, 3,988 (60% of adults with no health insurance) are searching for a health care provider in Haywood County. With the Good Samaritan Clinic serving 1,524 of those individuals, 2,464 adults remain without a doctor. (9) (10)

Many of those in need qualify for Medicaid, but do not receive this service (approximately 2,500 individuals-children and adults). Currently, 77.97% of Medicaid-eligible individuals are enrolled in the program, a great improvement from 60.4% in November of 2006. Because many adult Medicaid-eligible individuals are unable to find a private care provider in the county, they go to the emergency department or urgent care at the local hospital for medical attention. This continues to drive Medicaid payments in Haywood County to astronomical levels. In fiscal year 2006-2007, Medicaid expenditures for Haywood County totaled \$62,221,947. (11)

Physicians and the Health Department provide medical care for low-income children with payment provided by Medicaid and the North Carolina Health Choice program. Haywood County has a low availability overall of physicians for the public. Both low-income and uninsured as well as those with health insurance find it difficult to find a doctor. There is a very long waiting period for finding a doctor who will take new patients.

Dental care remains a major concern for low income child and adult populations. When the Health Department dental clinic began, children were booked 2 to 4 months ahead for services. Patients would forget their appointment and often miss the service. This year, the clinic has implemented a new scheduling program with booking only one month out so that the longest a person is waiting for his scheduled appointment is one month. The show rate has soared to 83%. Most of the health department dental clients are children on Medicaid. Each month, the clinic serves approximately 255 children with an average of 440 procedures (limited to cleanings, sealants, extractions, and fillings). A new dental program this year provides emergency services and extractions for adults with Medicaid on a limited basis. Next year, the plan is to provide the service every Friday. There is still great need for cleanings, fillings, and dentures for adults, but due to the incredibly high demand and limited number of appointments, our adult services are best utilized to get people out of pain for now with possible expansion to include other services at a later date. The majority of private providers in the county do not take Medicaid. Numerous adults suffer from poor oral health with a lack of dental hygiene and abscesses from tooth decay. This contributes to great suffering, inability to eat properly, and could lead to more serious health conditions. (12)

Social Data

Total Population – 2006 estimate - 56,662 **(13)**

	2000	2005 est.	2010 est.	NC 2010 est.	
Age < 20 years	23% of total population	22%	22%	27%	
Age > 65 years	19% of total population	19.4%	24%	14%	(14)

Haywood County is rapidly growing older and at a higher rate than the state as a whole. This indicates increasing need for services to the elderly for managing chronic disease and multiple medications.

Another emerging issue in the county includes needs of the Hispanic population. Many individuals suffer from isolation due to lack of transportation and language skills. In 2000, approximately 763 Hispanics lived in Haywood County year-round, with a greater influx during the harvest season. An estimated 1,700 individuals spoke a language other than English in the home. **(15)** Since that time, social agencies confirm a great increase of this population in the area. State-wide, Spanish-speaking Hispanics are the subpopulation most likely to have no health care coverage. Although numbers in Haywood County are too small for accurate assessment, statewide mortality among this population has revealed injury as their greatest cause of death – motor vehicle injury, homicide, then other injuries. **(16)**

Domestic Violence in Haywood County

<u>Ex-Parte & Protective Orders</u>	<u>Domestic Violence Warrants</u>
(2001) 174	431
(2002) 202	506
(2003) 283	440
(2004) 309	549
(2005) 266	563

Ex-parte and protective orders issued by the sheriff's department give immediate protection to someone worried about being harmed by another person. Warrants are issued for domestic violence. As above data shows, domestic violence is high in the county and has increased in recent years.

Haywood County REACH served 1,605 adult and child victims of violence and provided emergency shelter to 109 individuals during the 2005-2006 fiscal year. Service from REACH staff included 2,265 consultations and work with 1,933 walk-ins. The staff cites alcohol and methamphetamine use as increasing factors in these cases. The 12-week "Batterer's Treatment" program has gone from two providers in the county to one provider. This is a great loss to Haywood County families. **(17) and (18)**

Child Specific Data

* Reports made for child maltreatment (2006-2007)	1,238 ***
* Children in DSS Custody-average number per month	130

*** Over the past ten years, Haywood County has been in the top five highest counties in the state for reported number of child maltreatment cases per 1,000 children. In the 2002-2003 fiscal year, the county was ranked fourth. Approximately one of every ten children was reported to be maltreated. **(19)** (The number of reports substantiated is not available.) Both abuse cases and children in DSS custody have risen steadily over the past few years.

* Juvenile Detention Center Admissions (2006)	68 children		
* Delinquent Rate per 1,000 age 6 –15 years old	16.18 (county)	36.21 (state)	(20)
High School Drop-outs (2005-2006)	150 individuals	6.03% (county)	5.04% (state) (21)

Teen Pregnancies (age 15-19 years old) (22)

Fiscal Year	Individuals	County Rate per 1,000	State Rate per 1,000
2000	91	65.0	76.1
2001	81	53.4	69.3
2002	84	51.6	64.1
2003	87	53.6	61.0
2004	95	59.0	62.4

While North Carolina is consistently dropping in teen pregnancy rates, Haywood County has stayed below the state rate, but has shown fluctuations with a rise in recent years. Repeat pregnancy during the teen years is a serious concern for the county. Of the 95 pregnancies to teens age 15 to 19 in 2004, 34% gave birth to a second or third child, further compromising the health of baby and mother. Many of these teens presented late in their pregnancy for prenatal care, yet another risk for poor outcome. Ten teens received abortions. (23)

In 2006 in Haywood County 562 babies were born

AND

1 in 7 was born to a teenage mother (2006)

1 in 3 was born out of wedlock

1 in 4 had a mother who smoked during pregnancy

1 in 14 was born low birth weight

ref: 25, 26

Problems for Children

Babies born to teenage mothers are at great risk for low birth weight, prematurity, birth defects, lower IQ, learning disabilities, and infant mortality. These babies are also at risk of being neglected and/or abused by their young, inexperienced mothers. Pregnant teens are at high risk of dropping out of school, thus making them less employable and increasing their probability of living in poverty. This presents a great risk for social, emotional, and financial stressors for both the mother and the child. Teenage pregnancy is a health burden to the developing adolescent and risks the mother's health and that of all her future babies. Children born to teenage mothers are at greater risk of poverty, lower education, and juvenile crime.

Sixty-three percent of children under 5 years old with a single mother as head of household were living below the poverty level in Haywood County in 1999. (24)

Smoking during pregnancy is associated with having a baby who is premature, low birth weight, has learning difficulties, and is at risk for Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. From 2000-2004, 696 women in

Haywood County smoked when they were pregnant. The Haywood County rate of smoking prenatals was 24.8% whereas the state rate was 13.2%. (27)

Low birth weight is associated with long-term disabilities such as cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation, and vision and hearing problems. The Haywood County rate was 11.7 per 1,000 from years 2003-2005. Of 100 counties in North Carolina, Haywood County rated 85th for the poorest birth outcomes as measured by low birthweight during that time period. (28)

Health Priorities

Immunizations

The local health department has been recognized for many years as a primary source of immunizations for the public for prevention of childhood diseases, disease protection for foreign travel, tetanus and vaccination against seasonal flu each winter. In 2006, Haywood County Health Department gave approximately 7,000 flu shots and 5,704 other immunizations.



Officer Carolyn Messer received a flu shot from Lisa Davis, RN, during October 2007 Flu Immunization Clinic.

Prevention of disease is a major goal of Public Health and the 94% vaccination rate Haywood County has for childhood immunizations is an outstanding testament to the priority given this service in the county by the health department and private providers alike.

Whereas flu and pneumonia combined represents the 6th leading cause of death in the county, the health department considers vaccinations against these diseases to be a critical service for the public. With increased concerns world-wide about the possibility of a pandemic flu event, Public Health works in conjunction with other emergency responders to plan and practice preparedness to protect the public. In November 2007, the health department carried its second practice of emergency preparedness training by setting up a mass immunization clinic at Lake Junaluska Assembly grounds. The public was well-pleased with the organization and speed with which they were able to be vaccinated. More than 2600 people were vaccinated in three days including offering drive-up service for people who are not ambulatory.

Environmental Health

Environmental Health services continue to be a vital part of protecting the public with assurance of clean lodging, food and water. Inspections are performed as prescribed by state regulations. The health department is 100% in compliance with state mandates for food inspections. Private organizations have begun providing food safety education for food handlers. Restaurants with currently approved "Serve Safe" training can obtain additional points on their inspection grade. Fortunately, Haywood County has not had a food-borne outbreak such as Hepatitis A reported to the department this year. Prevention of such problems is the goal of Public Health. (29)

On-site inspections for septic systems have become a major concern with the rapid housing development in the county. In some cases, developers are requesting hundreds of site inspections at a time. By July 1, 2008, every county in North Carolina will be required to implement a well ordinance. Environmental health specialists will inspect construction of new wells, perform water sampling and educate home owners regarding results. Safety of home structures and quality of water are also rising concerns for the public with the rapid development of housing on the slopes in Haywood County.

Another increasing concern of public health is the rise in the number of rabid animals throughout the state and in the number of animal bites in every county. Haywood County is one of the counties in which the state dispenses animal vaccine for wild animals from airplanes. This year, Haywood County held two rabies vaccination clinics for domestic animals. A total of 1177 animals were vaccinated for rabies: 898 dogs and 279 cats. Also reported were 117 animal bites in Haywood County. The health department staff works with the animal control department to investigate each animal bite.

Partnerships

In addition to on-going training and collaboration with other agencies and communities in developing procedures for emergency response within the county, the health department continues to work with others for disease prevention and health promotion. The Healthy Haywood Coalition is a collaborative effort by numerous agencies and individuals to decrease health risks and improve opportunities for Haywood County residents to practice healthy lifestyles. The Healthy Haywood Coordinator is housed at Haywood County Health Department. This year, the coordinator has greatly increased visibility of the organization and its events by developing a website and appearing on monthly radio talk shows on the PEAK radio at 1400 AM. Several Healthy Haywood volunteers have participated in conducting listening sessions to gather community input for the Community Health Assessment due from Haywood County in 2008. At least 30 groups will host a listening session for this purpose.

The leading county coalition for health initiatives, Healthy Haywood, developed a four-year health action plan in 2005. Based on statistical data and concerns expressed by the community, the coalition chose to focus on mental health, obesity, asthma, and cancer. Following is information about this year's accomplishments.

Mental Health

As cited previously in this document, there are numerous economic and social factors that contribute to mental health issues. Financial and health concerns contribute to a sense of hopelessness and unhealthy lifestyles.

According to the Haywood County Sheriff's Department, illegal use of prescription drugs (usually pain killers) is on a big upswing in Haywood County. Cocaine use also continues to be a major problem. The best news for Haywood County related to the drug scene is the dramatic decrease in methamphetamine labs. This past year, law enforcement officers found four abandoned meth labs and no active meth labs (as opposed to 17 active labs two years ago). Law enforcement officers credit the new law requiring pseudoephedrine to be a "behind the counter" drug as making a great impact on meth production. Rising concern is the use of crystal meth, mostly trafficked from Mexico. **(30)**

The suicide rate in Haywood County has steadily increased over the 15+ years since 1991. The rate of suicides during 2002-2006 remains higher than the state rate (18.1 vs 11.6 per 100,000 population.)

The chart below depicts most recent suicide data with rates expressed per 100,000 population. **(31)**

	# Suicides	County Rate	State Rate
1991-1995	31	10.8	11.4
1994-1998	38	14.4	12.0
1999-2003	63	21.0	11.5
2001-2005	54	17.5	11.6
2002-2006	53	18.1	11.6

Chronic liver disease/cirrhosis as a leading cause of death in the county indicates a high use of alcohol in our population. Alcohol has also been cited as a risk factor for certain types of cancer, heart disease, and diabetes. Impaired mental conditions contribute to injury rates from suicides, homicides, domestic violence and motor vehicle crashes.

In response to mental health concerns, Healthy Haywood formed a mental health action team in 2003. Since 2004, 65 high school students have been trained to present an anti-alcohol, anti-drug message to teens just before they begin driving. They call themselves TABU 21 (Teens Against Booze Under 21). They teach a two-hour component of the driver's education classes at Pisgah and Tuscola High Schools.

They also reach out to even younger students with this information by presenting to middle school and elementary age children in school and in after school programs. This is a project the action team hopes to keep going for many years.

Specific projects the mental health action team has completed this year include:

- creating a postpartum depression brochure for use at Haywood County Health Department
- promotion of the 211 service in county to help citizens be able to reach services they need
- distribution of key chain for new drivers with “don’t drink and drive” and suicide prevention hotline messages on it
- continuation of Teens Against Booze Under 21 (TABU 21) – see above
- serving on the newly-formed Safe and Drug Free Schools coalition in the county
- parenting education articles in local newspaper.



Emily Rector learned about DUI Testing from State Trooper Joe Henderson and Waynesville Police Sgt Tim O’Neal during TABU 21 training.

Overweight/Obesity

Haywood County public school children in grades K through 5 have been measured for height and weight and their body mass index interpreted for the past four years. This public health study reveals that overweight in children has risen steadily over the years: 32% in 2002, 35% in 2003 and 38% in 2004, 37% in 2005, and 36.66% in 2006. Obesity has increased as well: 16% in 2002, 18% in 2003, 19% in 2005, and 18% in 2006. Nearly one in five of our children are obese. In 2005, 50 children were found to be morbidly obese, so overweight it definitely affects their health in a detrimental way! The alarming fact is that number has increased to 72 morbidly obese children in 2006. (32) Studies report that 50% of children ages 6 to 12 years old who are obese will remain so as adults. (33)

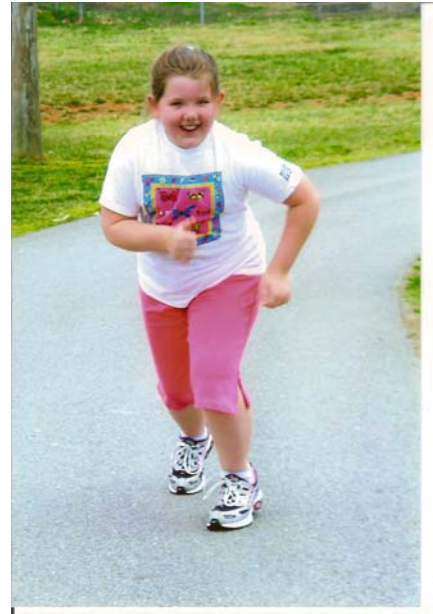
Forty percent (40%) of the low-income prenatal patients served by the Women, Infants, and Children's Nutrition program in years 2003-2005 came to the program overweight. (34) That program also documented 33.9% of its participants between ages two and five years as overweight. (35)

This year, the Obesity Action Team of Healthy Haywood addressed physical activity concerns in the county. Some of our accomplishments include:

- Fitness Challenge – annual event that allows residents to participate in numerous physical activities including hikes, exercise classes, and minimal use of each of the fitness centers in the county for a small fee. This year included approximately 1,300 participants.
- Family Fun Day – a health education and physical activity event for families with young children included 450 participants. This was our ninth year presenting this event.
- The coalition sponsored 2 children to attend the weight loss programs at Haywood Regional Medical Center and Wellspring Camp for children.
- Donated an adaptive tricycle to Haywood County Schools for use by special needs children
- Donated funds for physical activity videos to be used at Waynesville Middle School to incorporate 20 minutes of physical activity per day at the school
- Began a special program to recognize individuals publicly who have made lifestyle changes that have greatly improved their health. Named “Inspiration of the Month”, the program allows the public to nominate individuals for this recognition and includes a major news article written about the individual. This serves as a reward to the individual and an example to others in the county so they too might choose to make healthy choices.
- Revised & distributed 2,000 Haywood County Fitness Finders, a resource booklet to help residents find programs and locations/facilities to be physically active
- Healthy Haywood assisted Glory Hound Events with the second Lake Logan Triathlon and participated in the selection of programs to be awarded proceeds from the event. Funds went to the Bethel Elementary and Middle School physical education departments.
- Health Educators and nurses from the health department participated in the School Health Advisory Coalition.
- Last year, the Haywood County Health Department received a \$60,000 two-year grant on behalf of the Fit Community Partnership entitled “Walk and Roll”. The grant provided a 1/5 mile paved walking track at the North Canton Elementary School for use by the 450 students and the community. This year, the project includes continuing a walking program in the school and an after-school bicycling club. Also this year, the project coordinator has worked with a professional trail designer to develop a design for a trail to be built in 2008 for public use on the Rough Creek Watershed in Canton for walking and mountain biking. The trail design is in the approval process with the Southern Appalachian Highlands Consortium. Trail work will begin as soon as plans are approved.
- Girls On The Run was initially sponsored by the health department at Bethel Elementary School in January of this year with one nurse, one health educator, and one running volunteer serving as coaches for sixteen girls in grades three through six. This fall, the county had 5 volunteers working with thirty-one girls at three sites – Waynesville Recreation Center, North Canton Elementary School, and Central United Methodist Church in Canton. The health education staff is currently recruiting more sites and more volunteers for this after school program next year. Girls On The Run includes a 14-week curriculum that emphasizes self-esteem and healthy choices for girls in grades three through six. It also includes running and other physical activities that train the girls to participate in a final 5k run at the end of the program.
- Co-sponsored Power of Pink walk/run event to raise funds for mammograms with Healthy Haywood Cancer Action Team, Haywood County Health Department, and Haywood Regional Medical Center. (*See Cancer Action Team for details*)



Adam Teague and Jimmy Fisher enjoyed cycling at Healthy Haywood's Ninth Annual Family Fun Day.



Mary-Margaret Curley participated in the first Girls on the Run program in Haywood County.

Asthma

According to the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, Western North Carolina has the highest rate of asthma in the state. **(36)** In 2004, Haywood County had 83 hospital discharges for asthma, a rate of 146.9 per 100,000 population. The state rate was 125.9. **(37)**

Smoking appears to be a major contributor to our respiratory death and disease rates. Haywood County Schools participated in the North Carolina Youth Tobacco Survey in 2005 with the following results:

<u>Current Use of Cigarettes</u>	<u>Haywood County</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>
High School	38.4%	20.3%
Middle School	10.0%	5.8% (38)

One of four pregnant women smoke (two of five low-income pregnant women smoke), contributing to personal health problems as well as allergies, asthma, and numerous potential health problems for their newborns and other family members. Overall adult smoking in Haywood County is estimated to be 24%. **(39)** Approximately one in three households (29.6%) allow smoking in the home. **(40)**

Respiratory disease is a major cause of death and continues to be a focus for Healthy Haywood. The Asthma Action Team has sponsored several asthma education workshops for parents of children with asthma and daycare providers, and provided educational displays at various health fairs.

Accomplishments of the group include:

- 100% Tobacco Free Health Department grounds, vehicles, and buildings policy passed and implemented by Haywood County Board of Health.
- 100% Tobacco Free policy implemented by Central United Methodist Church in Canton.

- 100% Tobacco –Free policy implemented at Haywood Community College
 - * Great American Smokeout event at Haywood Community College
 - * Provided 100 tobacco cessation kits to Haywood Community College

In 2004, the health department initiated TRU (Tobacco. Reality. Unfiltered.) Clubs at Pisgah and Tuscola High Schools to empower teens to ask for tobacco free environments, enable them to help their peers quit smoking, and to promote prevention of tobacco use initiation in youth. This year, 39 teens have joined a TRU club at one of three high schools – Pisgah, Tuscola, Haywood Early College and participated in six hours of training to become presenters to the fifth grade students using the “Teens Against Tobacco Use” (TATU) curriculum. The health department has sponsored the TATU program for ten years.

Haywood TRU students

- Approached the Board of Education with a plea for Tobacco-Free Schools in May 2005. The Board adopted a 100% Tobacco-Free Schools policy in March 2006 with full implementation to begin in August 2007. This year, the TRU students have promoted the policy by putting up signs, making announcements at football games, and providing tobacco survivor stations at ballgames to help people not use tobacco during the event. The NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund provided funding for 10 newspaper ads to remind the public about the 100% Tobacco Free Schools policy and help seek compliance with the policy at all school events..
- The groups will reach approximately 600 fifth grade students with their smoking/tobacco use prevention education program TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use) by the end of December 2007.

Cancer

In 2007, the Cancer Action Team worked with the American Cancer Society to promote cancer prevention and early detection through numerous educational booths at health fairs in the county. Over 25,000 individuals were reached with information specifically about skin cancer with displays at two Relay for Life events and at the Haywood County Fair. The Teens Against Tobacco Use program included an emphasis on Spit tobacco as well as smoking. Haywood County statistics from the 2005 Youth Survey revealed:

<u>Current Spit Tobacco Use</u>	<u>Haywood County</u>	<u>North Carolina</u>
High School	19.0%	9.2%
Middle School	5.6%	2.7% (41)

Goals/accomplishments of the group include:

- 100% Tobacco Free Health Department grounds, vehicles, and buildings policy passed by county Board of Health.
- 100% Tobacco Free Church property passed by one local church.
- 100% Tobacco –Free Grounds at Haywood Community College
 - * Great American Smoke-out event at Haywood Community College
 - * Provided 100 tobacco cessation kits to Haywood Community College
- Worked with Asthma Action Team to support implementation of 100% Tobacco Free Schools policy and to present Teens Against Tobacco Use programs in the schools. (*See Asthma Team Section of Report*)
- Skin cancer education programs for 40 daycare providers and for 100 daycare children.

- Power of Pink Event co-sponsored by Healthy Haywood, Haywood County Health Department, and Haywood Regional Medical Center to raise money for mammograms for low-income women. One hundred fifty participants and 100 volunteers worked together to raise \$10,000 for the program. The event included a 20-mile relay for women only (5 women per team), and for anyone, a 5k run and a one-mile walk. This event can sponsor up to 100 mammograms for women in need! We expect this annual event to grow over the years!
- Indoor Air Quality measure of 28 restaurants

A major concern still evident is the need for doctors to give more recommendations for colorectal exams for patients over age 50. The group also plans to pursue educating the public to know their family tree/medical history.



Allison Best-Teague was the spokesperson for Haywood County's first Power of Pink Event.

Injury Prevention

Over the past ten years, injury has remained a leading cause of death for Haywood County residents from birth to age 64. Motor vehicle injury specifically has been the first or second cause of death in the population less than 20 years old since 1994. Other unintentional injury is now the third cause of death for that age group. The total population has experienced unintentional injury and motor vehicle injury in the top ten killers since 1991. Year 2004 inpatient hospital utilization charges for injuries and poisoning was \$12,629,604, second in costs only to cardiovascular disease. (42)

In 2007, four fire fighters with the Waynesville Fire Department became nationally certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians. Currently, this agency has the only local certified technicians and will be the referral source for questions and needs of the public regarding child safety seats and seat belt safety. Pisgah High School currently implements a Buckle-Up program in conjunction with its school parking permits. The Haywood County Child Fatality Task Force is in planning stages to offer a buckle-up survey at all the high schools.

The State of the County Health Report is an annual review of health statistics and efforts in the community to address health needs as compiled by the local health department. For more information or to join the Healthy Haywood Coalition, please call 452-6675.

References:

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Reported by: Health Education Section, Haywood County Health Department
December 2007