



STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT 2017



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UNION COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES

INTRODUCTION

The State of The County Health (SOTCH) Report is required by the State of North Carolina such that local health departments provide a comprehensive update on the health-related progress of the county during each of the interim years between Community Health Assessments (CHA). The SOTCH shall include each priority area from the CHA and should identify new and emerging trends. This report is presented to the general public, community stakeholders, state and local government to inform on the county's current health issues. This report is also discussed at various community meetings and forums. Anyone wishing to access this report may do so on the Union County Website, as well as in hardcopy from the Human Services Center at 2330 Concord Avenue, Monroe, NC 28110.

WHAT'S NEW?



In March 2018, Union County Human Services staff moved into a brand new 144,000-square-foot building located at 2330 Concord Avenue, Monroe, NC 28110

In November 2017, Dr. Audrea Caesar was named Division Director of the Community Support and Outreach Division formed to focus on Social Determinants, Health Equity, and Community Engagement.






In December 2017, Dennis Joyner was named Division Director of Public Health. Dennis is the current president of the North Carolina Public Health Director's Association and comes to Union from Stanly County.

UNION COUNTY OVERVIEW

Union County was founded in 1842, Located southeast of Charlotte, with 640-square miles and 14 municipalities. The county boasts the 3rd ranked school district in the state of North Carolina (2018), an expansive Parks & Recreation Department offering several parks, trails, and the 10,000 sq. ft. Agricultural Center. Union County continues to be one of the fastest growing counties in North Carolina with a 12.58% change from 2010 – 2016.

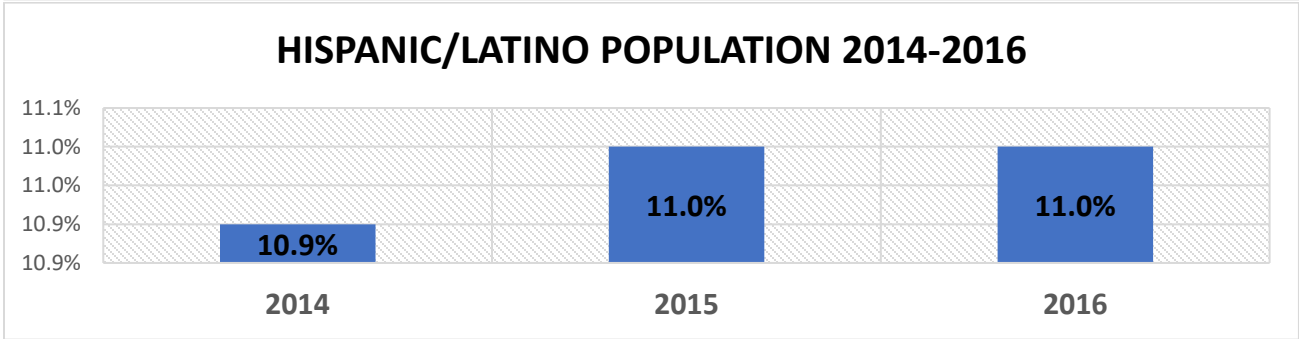
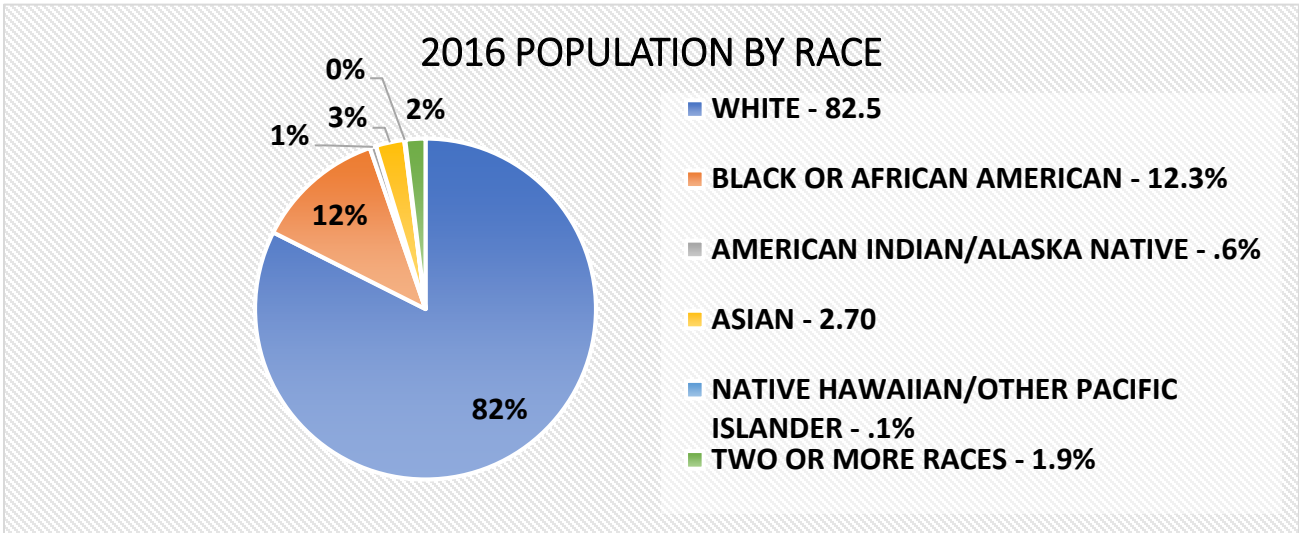


POPULATION DATA

	2017	231,366
	2016	226,606
	2015	222,384
	2014	218,168
	2013	212,362

Union county's population has had steady growth averaging an approximate 2% increase from 2012 thru 2017. Estimates are determined by examining current data on births, deaths, and migration. The percentage of African Americans in Union County increased slightly from 12.1 % in 2015 to 12.3% in 2016. The percentage of Hispanic/Latino residents stayed the same at 11% from 2015 and with only .1% growth from 2014. The percentage of Whites in 2016 decreased less than .3 of a percentage from 2015 (83.2%).

Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Source: U.S. Census Bureau

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT 2016

POPULATION 25 YEARS AND OLDER	UNION COUNTY #	UNION COUNTY %
LESS THAN 9 TH GRADE	5,695	4.2%
9-12 TH , NO DIPLOMA	9,178	6.7%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE	34,280	25.0%
SOME COLLEGE, NO DEGREE	30,367	22.1%
ASSOCIATE'S DEGREE	11,534	8.4%
BACHELOR'S DEGREE	32,883	24.0%
GRADAUTE OR PROFESSIONAL DEGREE	13,253	9.7%

The level of educational attainment has implications on literacy, employability, and future earning potential. In Union County, 10.9% of individuals above the age of 25 did not have high school diplomas. Approximately 42% of county residents have earned degrees ranging from an Associate's to Graduate and/or Professional Degrees.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

INCOME & POVERTY DATA 2016

- ◆ 9.0% of Union County residents are living in poverty.
- ◆ The Median Household Income is \$67,194.
- ◆ The Average Household Income is \$92,701

Union County has a median household income that is 39% higher than the North Carolina median income (\$48,256) and 21% higher than the national median household income (55,322) 31% of Union County residents earn at least \$100,00 annually. However, 15% of residents earn less than \$25,100 which is the 2018 poverty level cut off for a family of four.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

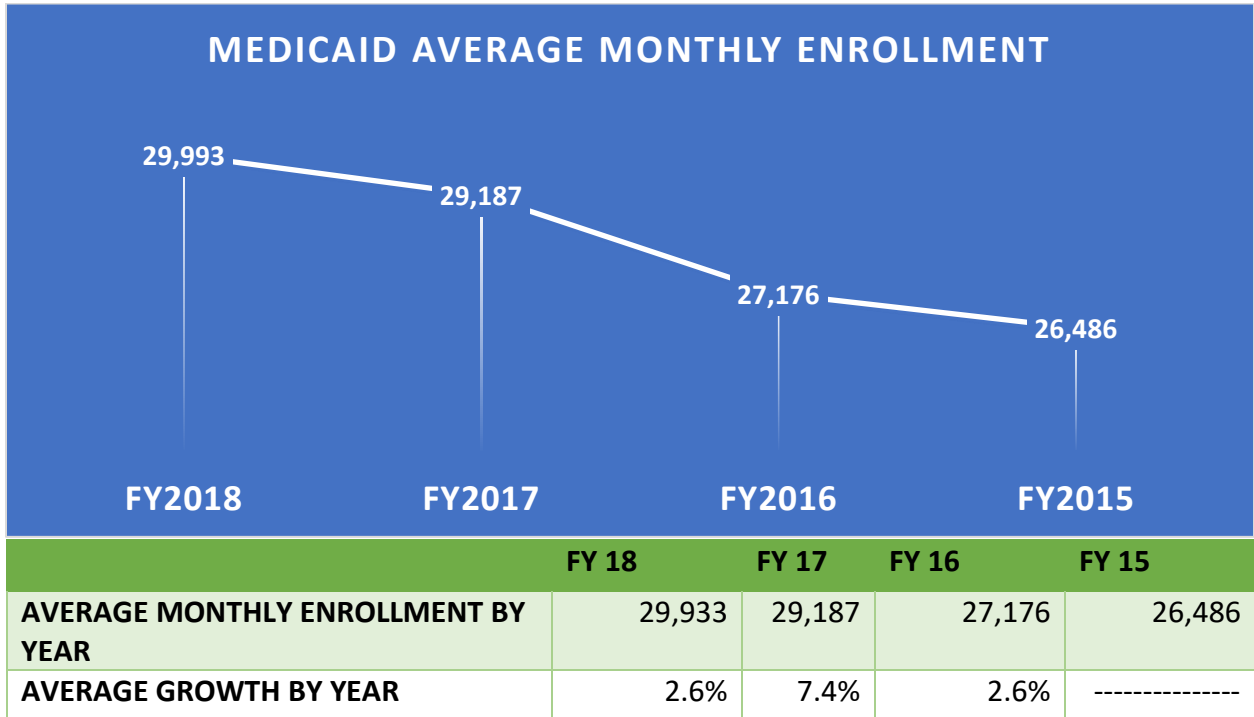
INCOME AND BENEFITS (IN 2016 INFLATION-ADJUSTED DOLLARS)		
Total households	72,304	72,304
Less than \$10,000	2,852	3.9%
\$10,000 to \$14,999	2,335	3.2%
\$15,000 to \$24,999	5,756	8.0%
\$25,000 to \$34,999	6,231	8.6%
\$35,000 to \$49,999	9,219	12.8%
\$50,000 to \$74,999	13,479	18.6%
\$75,000 to \$99,999	9,911	13.7%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	11,719	16.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	4,914	6.8%
\$200,000 or more	5,888	8.1%

HEALTHCARE COVERAGE 2016

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE		%
CIVILIAN NONINSTITUTIONALIZED POPULATION	216,646	216,646
WITH HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	192,589	88.9%
WITH PRIVATE HEALTH INSURANCE	162,414	75.0%
WITH PUBLIC COVERAGE	51,058	23.6%
NO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE	24,057	11.1%

Approximately 11% of Union County Residents are Uninsured. 23% access healthcare through public coverage such as Medicaid. On average, Medicaid Enrollment increased by 2.6% with the exception of 2017 which grew 7.4%.

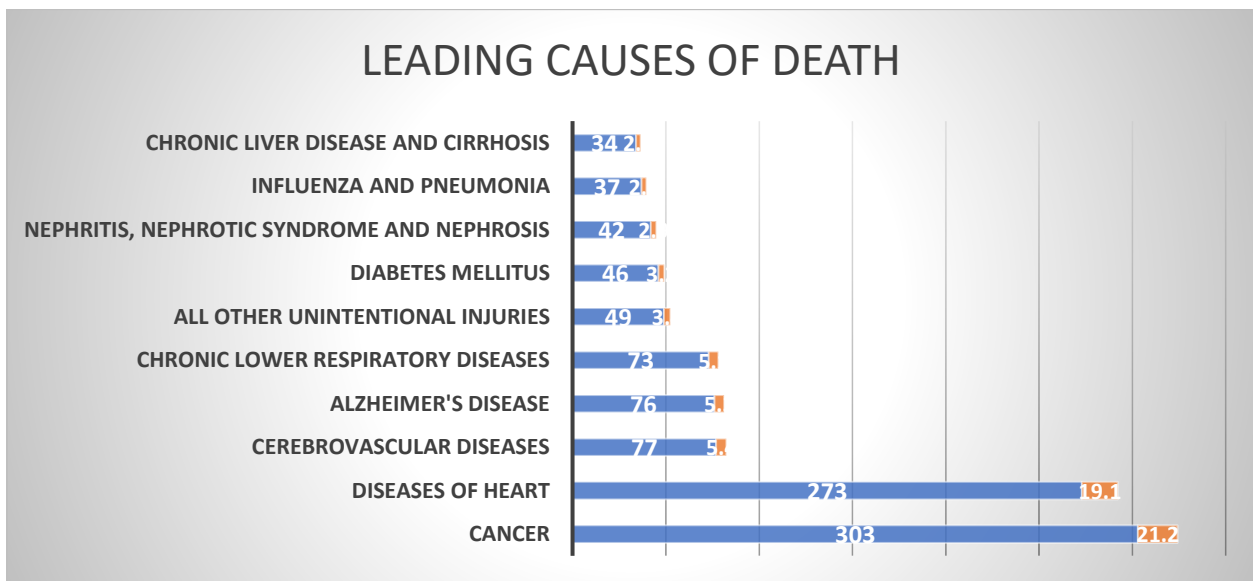
Source: U.S. Census Bureau



Source: dma.ncdhhs.gov/reports/annual-reports-and-tables

LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH IN UNION COUNTY 2016

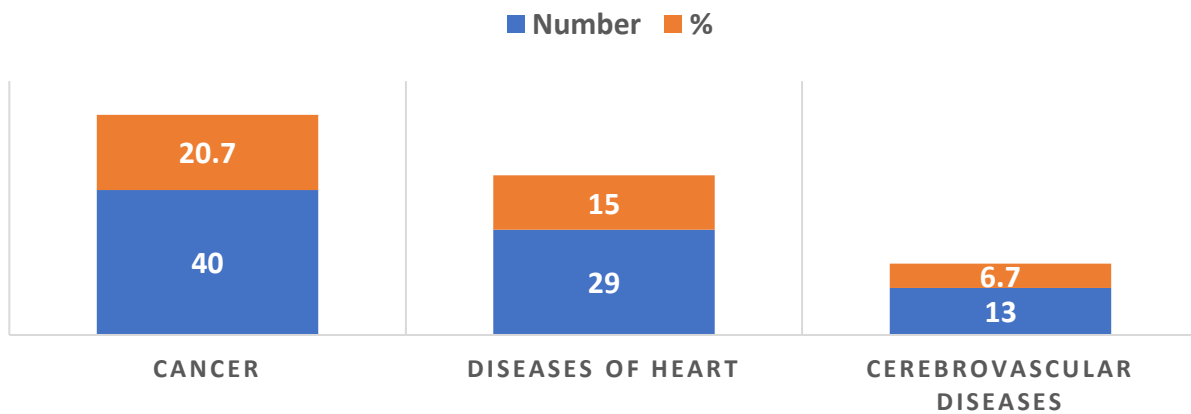
RANK	CAUSE	NUMBER	%
1	CANCER	303	21.2
2	DISEASES OF HEART	273	19.1
3	CEREBROVASCULAR DISEASES	77	5.4
4	ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE	76	5.3
5	CHRONIC LOWER RESPIRATORY DISEASES	73	5.1
6	ALL OTHER UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES	49	3.4
7	DIABETES MELLITUS	46	3.2
8	NEPHRITIS, NEPHROTIC SYNDROME AND NEPHROSIS	42	2.9
9	INFLUENZA AND PNEUMONIA	37	2.6
10	CHRONIC LIVER DISEASE AND CIRRHOSIS	34	2.4
	ALL OTHER CAUSES (RESIDUAL)	420	29.4
TOTAL DEATHS-ALL CAUSES		1430	100



Source: North Carolina 2018 County Health Data Book

MINORITY HEALTH 2016

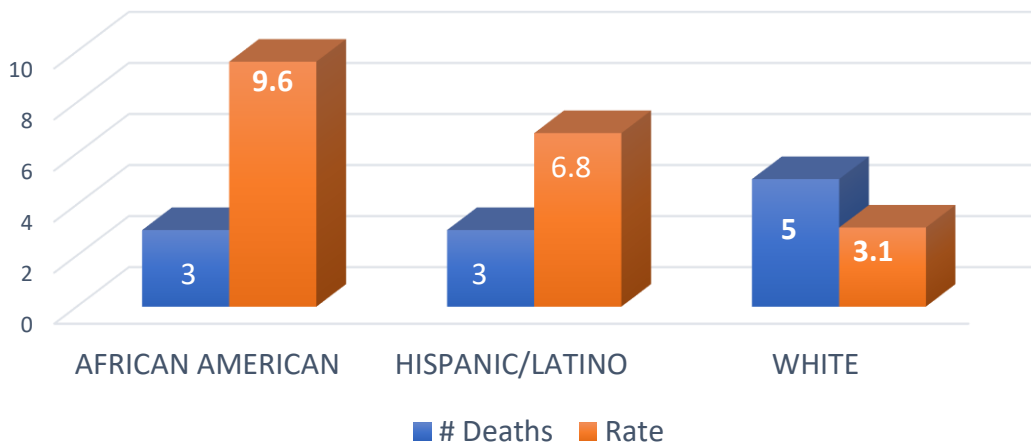
LEADING CAUSES OF DEATH FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS IN UNION COUNTY 2016



The leading cause of death for Whites, African Americans, and Hispanic/Latinos in Union County is cancer. The cancer rate for African Americans (.14) is comparable to that of Whites (.15). Hispanic/Latino residents have a lower rate (.04)

Source: North Carolina Center for Health Statistics

INFANT MORTALITY BY RACE/ETHNICITY 2016



In 2016 Union County had 12 infant deaths. Five for Whites, Three for African Americans, Three for Hispanic/Latinos and one for "Other" (not shown in graph). While these numbers appear small, the implications are highly significant. The African American rate of infant death is three times higher than that of Whites and Hispanic/Latinos have an infant death rate a little over double that of Whites.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES - 1

WELL WATER EDUCATION AND TESTING CAMPAIGN

Union County Environmental Health OSWP

Objectives:

1. Increase the number of drinking water wells that have water samples taken annually.
2. Increase the number of wells resampled in cases that test over the recommended EPA limits for health risk.
3. Provide 100% of those residents with educational materials on well water, filtration options, re-sampling recommendations.
4. Provide a quarterly report and correlating GIS map of all drinking water wells identified as potentially having an associated health risk to county officials and decision makers in Public Works.

Progress

Project partnership with the NC Occupational and Environmental Epidemiology Branch (OEEB) and UNC Chapel Hill. This project includes the development of a private well owner sampling survey created to assess knowledge related to testing, treatment, maintenance and health-related factors associated with wells/well water. A subset of residents from 3 counties in NC: Currituck, Jackson, and Union counties will be surveyed. Ultimately the material developed from this survey will be used in all 100 counties in NC.

Performance Requirements

- The contractor will Coordinate with county health department private well programs and OEEB to obtain unduplicated addresses for 3,000 well residents by March 30, 2018.
- Submit an application through the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill's Internal Review Board online system for human research ethics review. Provide Internal Review Board application material and Internal Review Board conclusion (approval or denial) electronically to OEEB by March 30, 2018.
- Print and mail 3,000 misconception and knowledge gap surveys to unduplicated private well addresses from 3 counties (1000/county) in North Carolina by May 30, 2018.
- Collect and analyze survey results and submit to OEEB by August 31, 2018.
- Synthesize a comprehensive report of survey findings, including, but not limited to, the number of participants, misconceptions and knowledge gaps identified, and rural and urban comparison. Submit the report electronically to OEEB by September 29, 2018.

Online Well Water Containment Interpretation Tool. Currently working with OEEB to review and test this tool to launch on the Public Health website to replace existing Health Risk evaluation forms.

Policy Revision: Short Water Line Extension Ordinance – Partnership between Environmental Health and Union County Public Works to update the ordinance. This revision will allow priority to individuals experiencing one or more defined health hazards associated with their well.

Furthermore, Environmental Health will develop an internal referral document to be provided to UCPW when “evidence” (as stated in the ordinance) of a health hazards are requested.

We continue to enter all water sample results data (inorganic) into a database that is shared with our GIS Dept. Maps were created of contaminants with levels above MCL's and SCL's. Maps are utilized with educational presentations to community groups and decision makers. Water are samples tested through Union County Environmental Health (tested at either UCPH lab or State PH Lab) include educational information (HRE) and follow-up.

COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT PRIORITIES - 2

RISE IN OPIOID ADDICTION/HEROIN OVERDOSE

Union County Public Schools, Union County Sheriff’s Office & Union County Public Health

Objectives:

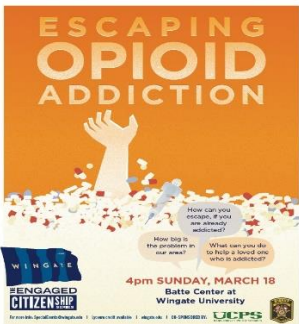
1. Reduce the number of deaths in Union County attributed to Opiate / Heroin overdose, reduce the number of Emergency First Responder responses requiring Narcan by 2020.

Progress:

Over the past year (2017 – 2018), Union County Public Schools have hosted a total of seven (7) Opioid Sessions at area high schools reaching a total of **680** parents, teachers, children and other community organizations and partners interested in learning more about this topic. Two more sessions are being planned to take place before the end of the school year.

Union County Public Health contracted with a local business to produce a short documentary on the lives of specific Union County residents who have been impacted by the Opioid epidemic.

Month	Location	# of Attendees
September	Monroe High	5
October	Cuthbertson High	200
November	Piedmont High	150
January	Weddington High	175
February	Parkwood	100
March	Union Academy	50
April	Forrest Hills	TBD
May	Porter Ridge	TBD
Total		680



NEW TRENDS & EMERGING ISSUES

There were no significant changes in the data since our Community Health Assessment conducted in 2016. However, Union County has identified Health Equity as a new area of focus in addition to continuing the community efforts for substance use prevention and opioid addiction awareness.

NEW INITIATIVES

In November 2017, Union County Human Services underwent a massive restructure to enhance service delivery with a social determinants of health focus. This new division expands population health outreach efforts to groups that have been markedly underserved such as African Americans and Hispanic/Latinos residents. By maximizing partnerships, and tapping into existing resources within the community, we hope to promote access to services for our residents. The top priority within its first year is to expand African-American outreach.



HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

- Our first major initiative aimed at improving the health and well-being of African Americans in Union County is the Healthy Communities Project geared toward the faith-based community in Union County. This project enables churches to assess and improve/or develop strong Health Ministries such that churches can facilitate health education and physical activity.
- We have a partnership with Village Heartbeat in Mecklenburg County that encourages exercise and healthy eating with fellowship and friendly competition.

ABOUT BREAST CANCER

While our FY2019 About Breast Cancer (ABC) grant was approved, there wasn't enough funding to appropriate to all approved counties. Therefore, the ABC project ended on 3/31/18. The impact is that low income women will no longer have this screening resource available. This past year alone we did 77 screenings which yielded 11 Biopsies and 3 surgical consults.



NEW INITIATIVES

HEALTH EQUITY INSTITUTE 2018

Union County Human Services is launching the very first Health Equity Institute examining several areas of concern within Union County such as Mental Health, The Opioid Crisis, Unemployment, Racial and Ethnic Disparity, Socioeconomic Disparity, and Faith Based Community Engagement. The purpose is to convene community partners in an educational event to facilitate a discussion that leads to the Health Equity Collaborative slated to start in July. The collaborative will operate like a task force focusing on one area annually, to make a collective impact in the community.

