

Introduction

Guilford Health Partnership and the Guilford County Department of Public Health are pleased to present the Final Report of *Taking a Closer Look: The Health of Guilford County, the 2005 Community Health Assessment*. This report fulfills the State of North Carolina's requirement for the local health department and the local Healthy Carolinians Partnership to submit a community health assessment document every four years, a requirement that replaced the mandate for local health departments to conduct a biannual Community Diagnosis to guide the development of departmental programs that was previously in place for 28 years.

This report also ensures the Guilford County Department of Public Health will meet one of the key Assessment standards instituted as a part of the North Carolina Local Public Health Accreditation Program.¹ This program is an initiative to develop a mandatory, standards-based accrediting system for local health departments across the state is a collaboration of the North Carolina Division of Public Health, the North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors and The North Carolina Institute for Public Health. This report specifically addresses:

Function: Assessment

Essential Service 1: Monitor health status to identify community health problems

Standard 1: Conduct and disseminate results of regular community health assessments to monitor progress toward health-related objectives.

The Community Profile describes attributes of Guilford County, including demographics of the community, governance and the political climate, education, industry, and other community components that impact quality of life.

The Executive Summary details how the assessment was conducted over the last year and the data sources that were used. It also summarized our findings, including the leading causes of death and leading causes of years of potential life loss. It also describes the ten high-ranking diseases/health conditions and the ten high-ranking risk factors that we identified in our Community Health Assessment process. It concludes by identifying anticipated next steps.

This report also includes the detailed PowerPoint slides that guided the seven Community Assessment meeting data presentations and the Health Status of Guilford County Data Book for 2005. Many specific health issues are described in more detail in these presentations and the Data Book. These documents provide detailed information on health disparities that exist and compare local data with state findings and related Healthy People 2010 objectives. The Appendices included with this report contain other support materials such as the detailed findings of the Community APEX process and the Assessment meeting announcements.

¹ North Carolina Institute for Public Health, 2005. Proposed North Carolina Local Public Health Accreditation Program. [Agency Self-Assessment Instrument, Revision 2.](#)