

# 2009 State of the County Health Report

Greene County Health Department and the Healthy Greene Partnership conduct a Community Health Assessment every four years to illustrate local demographics, leading causes of death and other priority issues within Greene County. During the three interim years, the Health Department will issue a State-of-the-County Health (SOTCH) Report that will provide updated information about priority health issues specific to Greene County.



...a Healthy Carolinians Partnership  
Healthy Greene is a community partnership dedicated to promoting wellness and improving the health and quality of life for all Greene County residents.

Healthy Greene currently addresses three priority areas:  
Health Promotion  
Chronic Disease  
Injury Prevention

Healthy Greene Partnership meetings are held on the second Wednesday of every other month at 12 p.m. For more information, please call the Healthy Greene Coordinator at (252) 747-8183.

## Greene County, North Carolina

Located in beautiful eastern North Carolina in the middle of the coastal plain, Greene County is bordered by Lenoir, Pitt, Wayne and Wilson counties. Greene County has a total land area of 265.4 square miles at a density of 75.4 people per square mile. Snow Hill is the county seat and largest town. The town draws its name from the historic white sandy banks of nearby Contentnea Creek. Among the towns and communities in Greene County are Hookerton, Maury and Walstonburg.

### Leading Causes of Death

Of the 897 deaths that occurred in Greene County during the five-year period 2004-2008, 52 percent were caused by heart disease, cancer, and stroke.

The five leading causes of death in Greene County from 2004-2008 and the number of deaths they caused were:

1. Heart Disease - 199 deaths
2. Cancer - 195 deaths
3. Stroke - 71 deaths
4. Diabetes - 41 deaths
5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases - 34 deaths

Five leading causes of death for men and women in Greene County from 2004 - 2008:

#### Men

1. Cancer
2. Heart Disease
3. Stroke
4. Diabetes
5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases

#### Women

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Stroke
4. Diabetes
5. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases

Five leading causes of death for whites and minorities in Greene County from 2004 - 2008:

#### Whites

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Stroke
4. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
5. Diabetes

#### Minorities

1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer
3. Stroke
4. Diabetes
5. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome & Nephrosis

## Greene County Demographic Information

Population, 2008 estimate	20,667
White	58.2%
African American	40.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.5%
Asian	0.1%
Two or more races	0.7%
Hispanic (of any race)	12.2%
Median household income (2007)	\$35,977
Persons living below poverty level (2007)	21.7%

Source: US Census Bureau

## Infant Mortality

Over the five year period of 2004-2008, Greene County had a rate of 16.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to the state rate of 8.4.

Infant Deaths, 2004 - 2008 Greene County		
Year	Deaths	Rate
2004	6	22.7
2005	4	14.9
2006	0	0.0
2007	5	19.2
2008	6	26.9
<b>2004-2008</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>16.7</b>

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

## Overweight Children



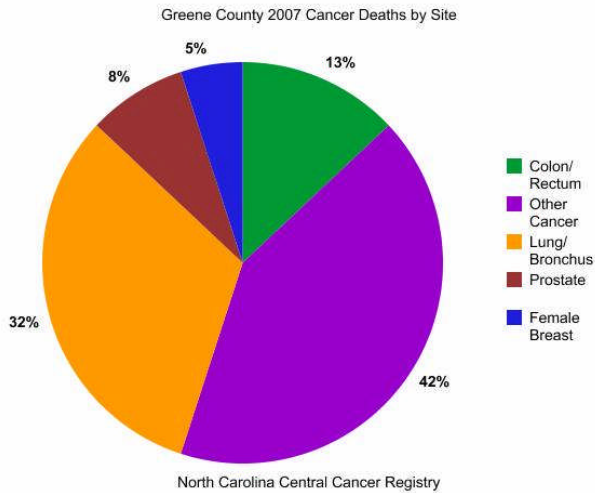
North Carolina's 2010 Health Objective  
Reduce the percent of children and adolescents who are  
overweight or obese.

NC 2010 Target - 10% for ages 2 - 4, 5 - 11, and 12 - 18.

Prevalence of obesity, overweight, healthy weight and underweight in children (2008)		Underweight		Healthy weight		Overweight		Obese		Total
		<5 <sup>th</sup> Percentile		≥5 to <85 <sup>th</sup> Percentile		≥85 <sup>th</sup> to <95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile		≥95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile		
		#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#
Ages 2 - 4	North Carolina	3,124	3.5%	58,447	64.8%	14,676	16.3%	13,880	15.4%	90,127
	Greene County	11	1.8%	370	60.6%	123	20.1%	107	17.5%	611
Ages 5 - 11	North Carolina	393	3.0%	7,148	54.3%	2,241	17.0%	3,388	25.7%	13,170
	Greene County	2	2.7%	46	61.3%	7	9.3%	20	26.7%	75
Ages 12 - 18	North Carolina	124	1.7	3,733	52.5%	1,225	17.2%	2,027	28.5%	7,109
	Greene County	2	5.3%	19	50.0%	6	15.8%	11	28.9%	38

Source: Eat Smart Move More NC

# Cancer Profiles



Over 60% of all cancers are related to personal lifestyle or environmental factors, such as smoking and diet. (NC Central Cancer Registry)

Greene County Health Department and Greene County Schools worked together from July 2005 to June 2008 to adopt a 100% Tobacco Free Schools Policy. In July 2008, the local school board adopted the 100% TFS policy with an implementation date of August 2008. Effective January 2, 2010 all Greene County restaurants and bars will become a smoke-free establishment under the NC Smoke-Free Bars and Restaurant Law.

## Teenage Pregnancy Rates, 2004 - 2008 Greene County

Year	Total Pregnancies	Rate
2004	50	82.8
2005	57	95.5
2006	42	66.7
2007	49	75.4
2008	49	69.6

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

In 2008, Greene County's teenage pregnancy rate was 69.6 pregnancies per 1,000 females aged 15 - 19; compared to the state rate of 58.6.

Cancer is the second leading cause of death in Greene County, as well as in North Carolina and the United States. It is estimated that nearly 4 in 10 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 2015.

## 2009 Projected Cancer Cases for Greene County and North Carolina

	Greene County	North Carolina
Lung/Bronchus	16	7,307
Colon/Rectum	10	4,672
Female Breast	17	7,781
Prostate	15	6,800
Pancreas	2	1,077
All Cancers	104	46,417

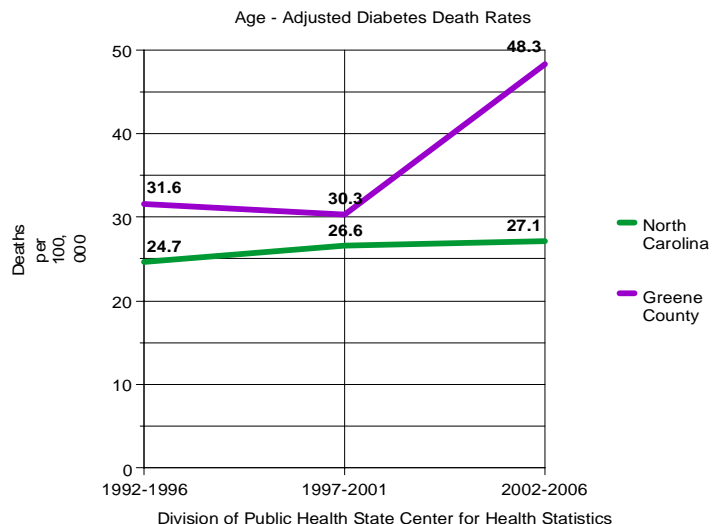
Source: NC Central Cancer Registry



## Diabetes

In 2009, Healthy Greene partnered with other agencies to begin addressing the high incidence of diabetes in the county.

In 2006, Greene County's age-adjusted diabetes death rate was 48.3 per 100,000; compared to the state rate of 27.1.



## Progress Towards Health Priorities

### 1. Health Promotion

- Participated in the opening of the new Greene County Parks and Recreation Facility by providing physical activity stations throughout the event
- Provided information on physical activity and nutrition at Fiesta Latina, a local health fair sponsored by Greene County Health Care, Inc.
- Education and outreach with community groups and churches within priority population
- Organized an International Walk to School event at West Greene Elementary



International Walk to School, West Greene Elementary

### 2. Chronic Disease

- Sponsored an Employee Health and Fitness Day for Greene County employees
- Sponsored a health fair and provided free health screenings for an African American church
- Participated in a health fair at Greene County Senior Center



Health Fair at Washington Branch F.W.B. Church

### 3. Injury Prevention

- Participated in annual events such as Safe Kids Week, Child Passenger Safety Week and National Seat Check Saturday
- Greene County Sheriff's Department conducts monthly seatbelt usage checks in different areas of the county
- A total of 29 child passenger safety seats have been distributed so far in 2009 (to those parents meeting qualifications) through distribution classes at the health department



Car Seat Check-up Event

## New Initiatives

### 1. Childbirth Education Classes

- Greene County Health Department began offering childbirth education classes in May 2009 to pregnant women

### 2. Diabetes

- In January 2009, Healthy Greene, Greene County Health Care, Inc. and Cooperative Extension partnered together to offer Nutrition and Diabetes information sessions to diabetic clients and their caregivers

### 3. Asthma

- The Lenoir/Greene Asthma Coalition sponsored an asthma awareness event at Day in the Park. This is an annual event for residents of Greene and Lenoir counties.



Asthma Awareness Day at West Greene Elementary