

2008 EDGECOMBE COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT



Edgemcombe County Health Department

December 2008

Historical Edgemcombe County

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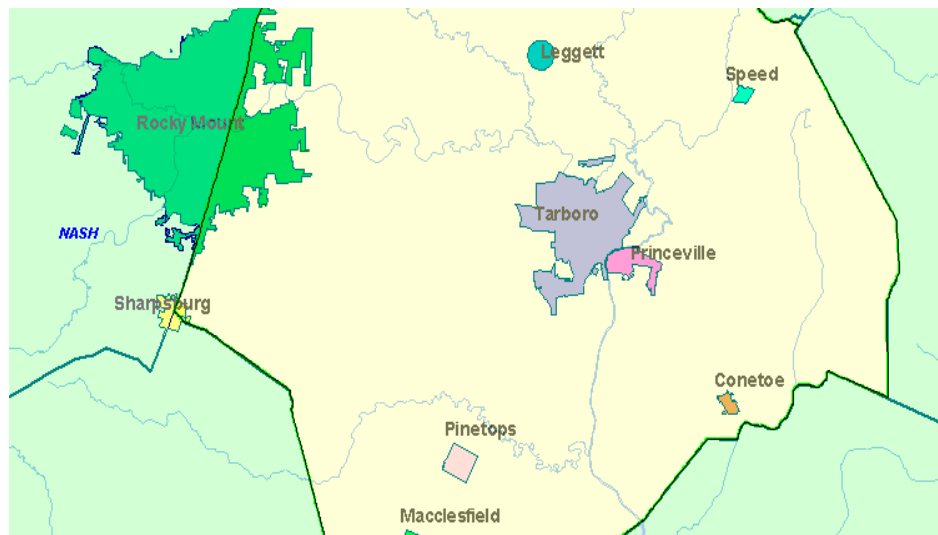
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Edgemcombe County was formed in 1732 from Bertie County by proclamation of the Governor. The assembly did not confirm its creation until 1741. The county was named for Richard Edgemcombe, who became Baron Edgemcombe, an English Nobleman. It covers a 505 square mile area; 55% urban and 45% rural. The town of Tarboro is the county seat. It was incorporated in 1760 and is located on the Tar River. It has a history of a thriving river port throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and Tarboro was once considered as a candidate for North Carolina's capital city.

Twenty-six individual properties including the historic district of Tarboro are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many are in or near Tarboro, the county seat. They include: The Barracks, Calvary Episcopal Church, Coolman Plantation, Blount-Briders House, Oakland Plantation, the Town Common, and the Railroad Depot Complex.

In 1999, over 49% of Edgemcombe County was flooded after Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd and Irene dumped over 30 inches of rain in less than two weeks. The Tar River had crest at 43 feet above flood stage, leaving more than 6,500 (10%) of the total population of the county housed in emergency shelters. Many of the county's roads were impassable. The county was virtually an island as roads were either covered with water or blocked by fallen trees and downed power lines. Hundreds of homes were flooded causing many families to be displaced for months throughout Edgemcombe County.

Geography of Edgemcombe County



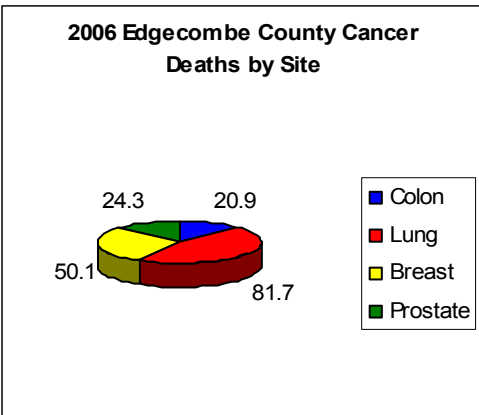
Demographic Information

Population, 2007 Estimate	52,647
Median Family Income, 2004	\$32,193
Unemployment Rate, 2008	9.8%
% of Person Living Below Poverty, 2004	21.5%
Children in Poverty, 2005	37%
High School Drop Out Rate, 05-06	7.3

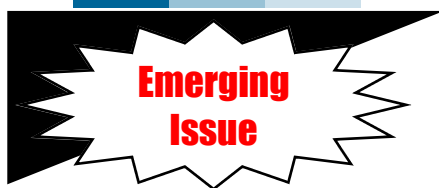
Top 3 Leading Causes of Death in Edgecombe County

In 2006, the top leading causes of death in Edgecombe County were Heart Disease, Cancer, and Cerebrovascular Disease. Over the past 5 years, Heart Disease has remained the #1 leading cause of death in our county, with the exception of 2004, in which Cancer was the leading cause of death.

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and even diabetes, are the most preventable of all health problems, and the most costly. "Seven of ten Americans who die each year, or more than 1.7 million people, die of a chronic disease" (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The major contributor to chronic disease such as heart disease and cancer is the lifestyle's that individual's lead. Tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and poor nutrition are three prime examples.



2006	Edgecombe County	North Carolina
Heart Disease	# = 149 Rate = 283.0	# = 17,189 Rate = 194.0
Cancer	# = 131 Rate = 248.8	# = 17,267 Rate = 194.9
Cerebrovascular Disease	# = 54 Rate = 102.6	# = 4,551 Rate = 51.4



Infant & Child Deaths

In 2007, Edgecombe County had 20 childhood deaths; 15 were under the age of 1. This is an increase from 2006 in which there were 13 childhood deaths, 6 were under the age of 1.

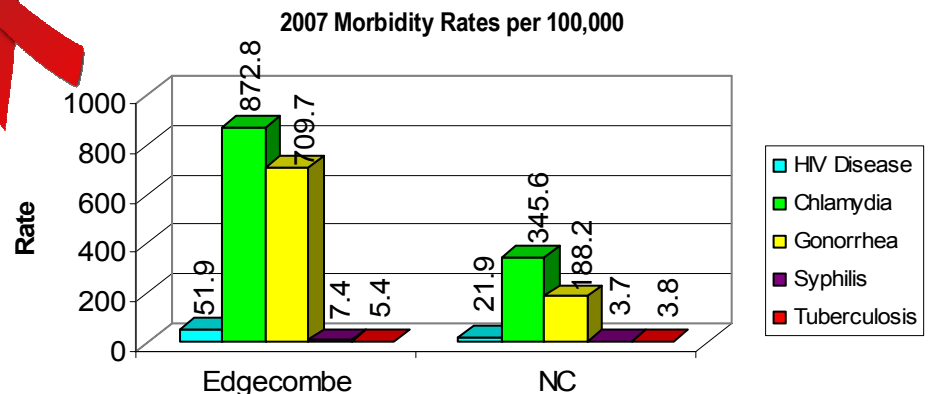
Edgecombe County Government Goes GREEN!!

Edgecombe County received a grant from the NC Solar Center/ NC State University through its Clean Fuel Advanced Technology (CFAT) project for an innovative approach to reducing vehicle pollution. CFAT is sponsored by the NC Department of Transportation, State Energy Office and Division of Air Quality. These vehicles are powered by natural gas, which is a much cleaner, and cheaper fuel alternative.



- 2006 Community Health Assessment Priorities for Edgecombe County**
1. HIV/STD's
 2. Teen Pregnancy
 3. Overweight
 4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care

HIV/STD's in Edgecombe County



Progress Toward Health Priorities

1. HIV/STD's

- Community Health Alliance planning to host a Family Conference in Edgecombe County.
- Free HIV testing at the Edgecombe County Health Department
- Social Marketing Campaign throughout the community using billboard and newspaper ads.
- Education and outreach with community groups, barbershops, churches, and substance abuse facilities.

2. Teen Pregnancy

- Family planning health services and education provided at the Edgecombe County Health Department; extended hours M-TH: 8:00am-7:00pm, F: 8:00am-5:00pm.
- Community Enrichment Organization holds a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council, which meets quarterly.
- Abstinence only curriculum in the public school system.

3. Overweight

- Local African American churches received *African American Churches Eating Smart and Moving More Curriculum* to assist in the expansion or adoption of health ministries.
- The Town of Tarboro received the Fit Community recognition.
- The Town of Tarboro is currently participating in the NC League of Municipality's Risk Management Services Wellness Initiative. Free health screenings, a personal wellness profile, classes, educational information and incentives are provided to employees.
- Edgecombe County Employee Wellness Program adding 2 exercise rooms for employees.

4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care

- The Edgecombe County Health Department has hired a full-time nurse practitioner.
- The Edgecombe County Health Department has extended hours for health services: M-TH: 8:00am-7:00pm; F—8:00am-5:00pm.
- The Edgecombe County Health Department has reestablished the Child Health Program.

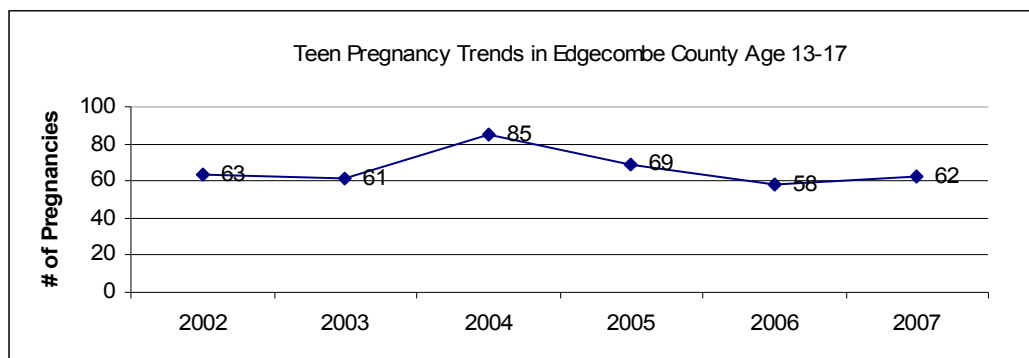


- As of January 1, 2008, the Edgecombe County Health Department has 100% Tobacco Free Grounds.
- On July 14, 2008, the Town of Tarboro Council adopted an ordinance making all Town of Tarboro facilities and vehicles smoke free.
- As of August 2008, Edgecombe County Public Schools are 100% Tobacco Free.

66% of adults are overweight or obese in Edgecombe County and the surrounding region.

"In 2007, \$4,754,986 (approximately 8%) of total dollars spent on Edgecombe County Medicaid were attributed to overweight and obesity."

www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com



From 2006 to 2007, Edgecombe County had a slight increase in teen pregnancies from 58 to 62.



Sources of Economy



Industries providing employment:

Manufacturing 26.1%, Education, Health & Social Services 16.7%, and Retail 11%

Type of Workers:

Private Wage or Salary 80%, Government 14%, Self-employed, Not Incorporated 5%

Community members interested in getting involved call:

252-641-7526



*The Edgecombe County Health
Department exists to serve all
citizens in the prevention of disease
and injury through protection,
promotion, and delivery of quality,
cost-effective services for
community, personal and
environmental health.*

Edgecombe County Health Department

Hours of Operation

Tarboro

Monday—Thursday: 8:00am—7:00pm

Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

Rocky Mount

Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

Tarboro Office
2909 Main Street
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-641-7511

Rocky Mount Office
155 Atlantic Avenue
Rocky Mount, NC 27801
252-985-4100

Call to schedule an appointment