

2007 EDGECOMBE COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT



Edgemcombe County Health Department

December 2007

Historical Edgemcombe County

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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, which remains primarily 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.

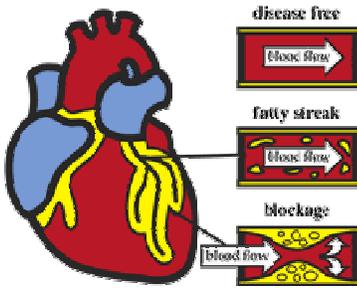
Geography of Edgemcombe County

Edgemcombe County is in the eastern section of the state. It is bordered by Halifax County on the north, Nash County on the west, Wilson County on the southwest, Pitt County on the southeast, and Martin County on the east. Only 65 miles from the state capital of Raleigh, the county is strategically in the center of a rapidly growing region along the main corridor between the Piedmont and the Outer Banks, and is only 25 miles from I-95.

Tarboro is the county seat of Edgemcombe County, and is considered one of the oldest towns in the state. It is located in the center of the county and is the home of the main office of the Edgemcombe County Health Department and the only hospital in the county, Heritage Hospital, as well as three medical clinics, Tarboro Clinic, Tarboro Women's Center, and Freedom Hill Clinic. The City of Rocky Mount is situated in the heart of I-95 and the US 64 corridors, which is geographically centered between New York and Florida. A branch of the Edgemcombe County Health Department is located on Atlantic Avenue.

Demographic Information

Population, 2006 Estimate	53,964
Median Family Income, 2004	\$32,193
Unemployment Rate, 2006	8.1
% of Person Living Below Poverty, 2004	21.5%
Children in Poverty, 2003	29.4%
High School Drop Out Rate, 04-05	5.97



**CORONARY HEART DISEASE
(START WITH YOUR HEART)**

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

Community Health Assessment Priority Review

A community and key informant survey was conducted July-October 2006, in order to provide residents an opportunity to express their opinions and concerns about the quality of life in Edgecombe County.

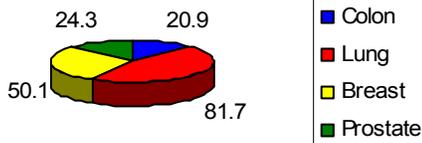
Based on the findings from the community and key informant surveys, combined with health data, the Edgecombe County Community Health Assessment Advisory Group identified 15 chief health and social concerns

for the county. The top health and community concerns were as follows: Cancer, Diabetes, Drug Abuse, HIV/STD’s, Homicide, Infant Mortality, Lack of Affordable Medical Care, Lack of Jobs, Lead Exposure, Liver Disease, Overweight, Poverty, Teen Pregnancy, Tobacco, and Unemployment.

After reviewing and discussing this information, the advisory group participated in rating the top 4 out of 15 community concerns using a

Prioritization Worksheet. The worksheet asked that each of the issues be ranked according to three criteria: Magnitude of the Problem, Seriousness of the Consequences, and Feasibility of Correcting the Problem. Results of these worksheets were calculated to come up with the top 4 priorities: 1. HIV/STD’s, 2. Teen Pregnancy, 3. Overweight, 4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care.

2006 Edgecombe County Cancer Deaths by Site

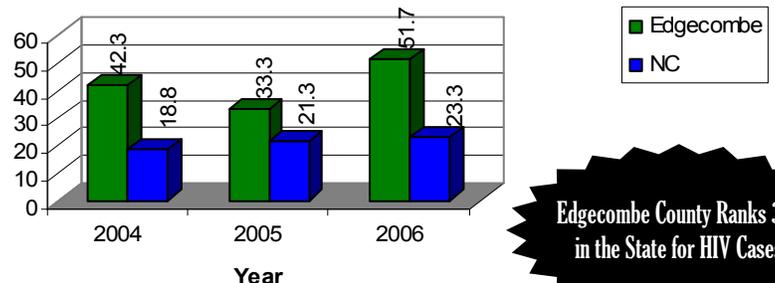


2006 Community Health Assessment Priorities for Edgecombe County

1. HIV/STD’s
2. Teen Pregnancy
3. Overweight
4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care

HIV in Edgecombe County

2006 HIV Rates



Edgecombe County Ranks 3rd in the State for HIV Cases

Progress Toward Health Priorities

1. HIV/STD's
 - Community Health Alliance formed
 - Free HIV testing at the Edgecombe County Health Department
 - Project Grace—an active community based participatory research grant focusing on HIV prevention
 - Community awareness campaign designed to promote HIV prevention and increase awareness
 - Planning stages of providing routine HIV testing and education to all inmates in the Edgecombe County Jail
2. Teen Pregnancy
 - Family planning health services and education provided at the Edgecombe County Health Department
 - Community Enrichment Organization holds a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council, which meets quarterly
 - Abstinence only curriculum in the public school system
3. Overweight
 - Edgecombe County Health Department provides educational workshops upon request to local churches and child care providers, such as Eat Smart, Move More and Be Active Kids Train the Trainer curriculum
 - Edgecombe County Department of Social Services provides parent/child wellbeing education to clients
 - Press releases published in local newspapers to provide awareness
 - Edgecombe County Employee Wellness Program established
 - School Health Advisory Council (SHAC) monitors policies and procedures on physical activity and nutrition in the school system
 - Daily physical activity for school age children policy implemented in school system
4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care
 - Marketing plans developed by the Edgecombe County Health Department to increase awareness of health services
 - Promotion of Family Planning Waiver for men and women
 - Promotion of Health Check/Health Choice

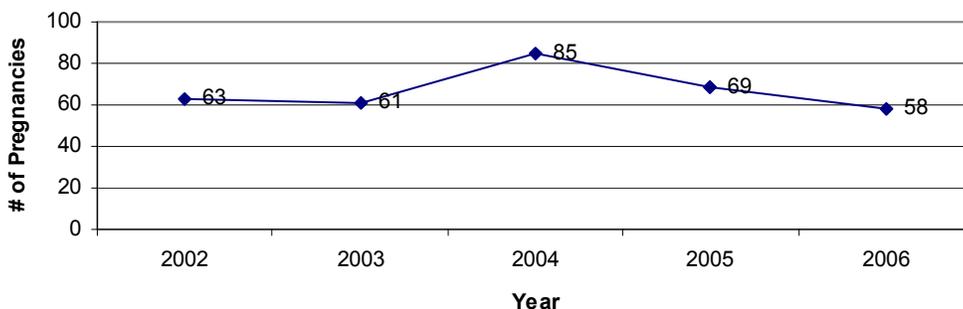


66% of adults are overweight or obese in Edgecombe County and the surrounding region.

“In 2005, approximately \$331,000 of the COUNTY DOLLARS spent on Edgecombe County Medicaid were attributable to overweight and obesity. Approximately \$1,846,000 of the STATE DOLLARS spent on Edgecombe County Medicaid were attributable to overweight and obesity.”

www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com

Teen Pregnancy Trends in Edgecombe County Age 13-17



Sources of Economy



The county maintains a firm agricultural base while supporting the addition of environmentally friendly industries. The top manufacturers in 2005 were Sara Lee Corp, Carolina System Technology Inc., Air System Components LP, Barcalounger, General Foam Plastics Corp., Superior Essex Communications LLC, Glenoit LLC, TYCO Plastics, Long Agribusiness LLC, and Mayo Knitting Mill Inc. The top non-manufacturing employers were City of Rocky Mount, Barnhill Contracting Co., QVC Rocky Mount Inc., Edgecombe County Schools, Edgecombe County, McLane Mid-Atlantic Inc., East Carolina Health Inc., Nash-Rocky Mount Schools, US Postal Service, and Sprint Mid-Atlantic Telecom, Inc.

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

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

Hours of Operation
Monday—Friday
8:00am—5:00pm

Call to schedule an appointment

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252-985-4100