

# 2009 EDGECOMBE COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT



Edgemcombe County Health Department

December 2009

## Historical Edgemcombe County

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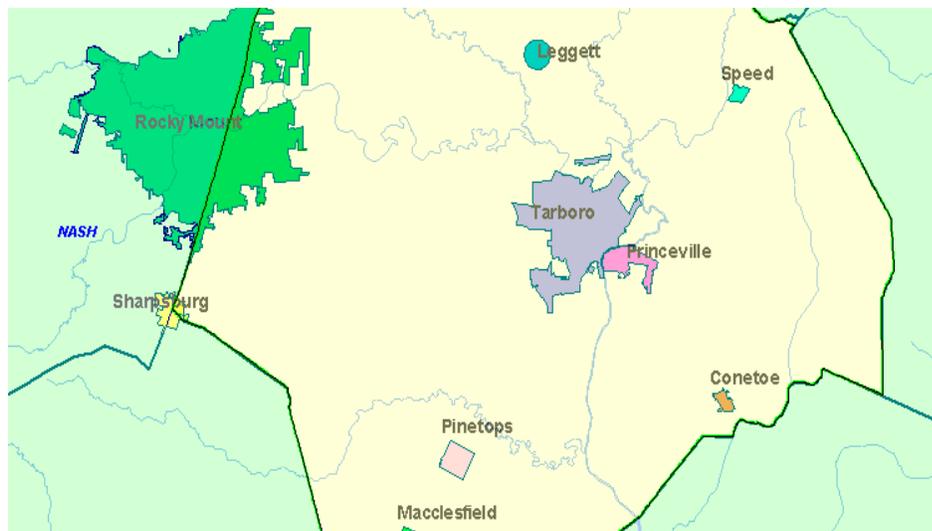
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Edgemcombe County was formed in 1732 from Bertie County by proclamation of the Governor. The assembly did not confirm its creation until 1741. The county was named for Richard Edgemcombe, who became Baron Edgemcombe, an English Nobleman. It covers 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

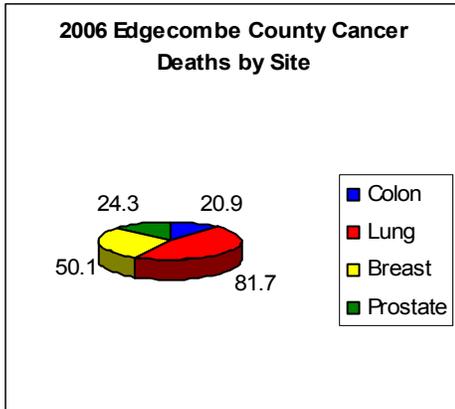
Population, 2008 Estimate	52,682
Median Family Income, 2007	\$34,434
Unemployment Rate, June 2009	16.6%
% of Persons Living Below Poverty, 2007	22.1%
Children in Poverty, 2007	33.2%
High School Drop Out Rate, 07-08	6.83

U.S. Census

## 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.

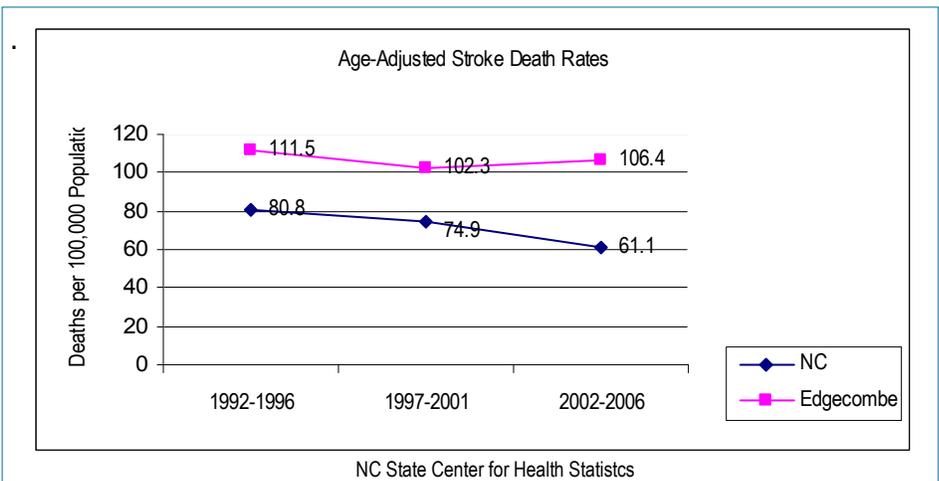


### Stroke Mortality

Edgecombe County has the highest Stroke death rate in the state: 104.7 deaths per 100,000 people.

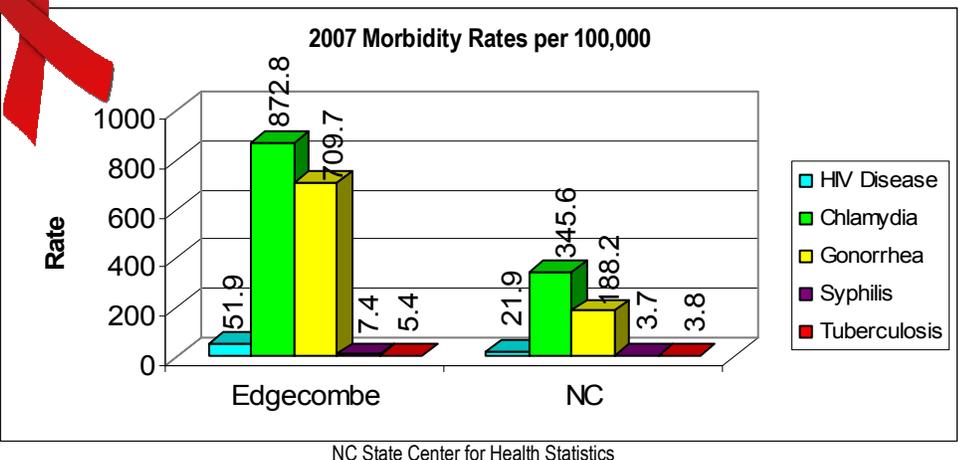
NC State Center for Health Statistics

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



- 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

- Edgecombe County Community Health Alliance meets quarterly to address HIV/STD's in the community.
- Free HIV testing at the Edgecombe County Health Department
- Social Marketing Campaign throughout the community using billboard, movie theater 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.
- Community Enrichment Organization holds a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council, which meets quarterly.
- Legislation passed new Comprehensive Sex-Education Curriculum for NC 7-9th graders beginning August 2010 school year.

### 3. Overweight

- Edgecombe County Health Promotion Program in collaboration with Cooperative Extension expanded the Farmer's Market and increased community participation.
- Edgecombe County Employee Wellness Program established an exercise room for county employees.

### 4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care

- The Edgecombe County Health Department has a full-time nurse practitioner.
- The Edgecombe County Health Department has expanded some health services in the Rocky Mount office.



April 1, 2009, the Edgecombe County Administrative Building went 100% tobacco free.

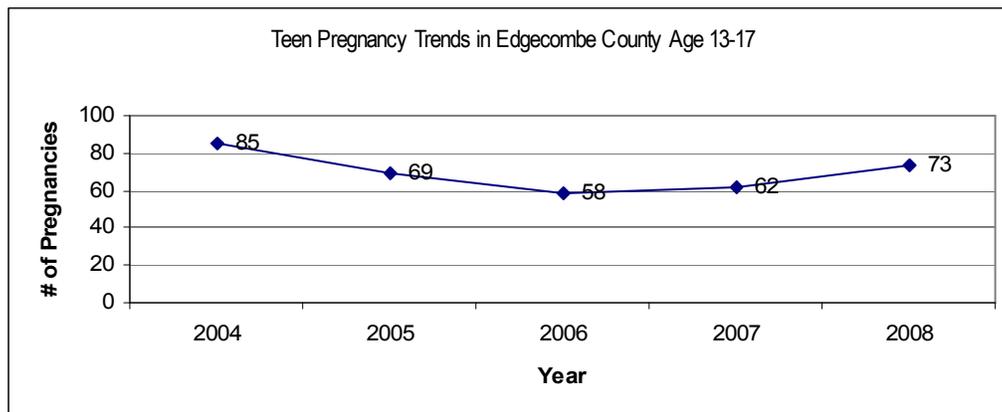
*In 2007, 14.5% of low-income children were overweight.*

Kidscount.org

*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 2007 to 2008, Edgecombe County had an increase in teen pregnancies from 62 to 73.



## 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%

U.S. Census

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Community members interested in getting involved call:

252-641-7526

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

Tarboro  
Monday—Friday: 8:00am—5:00pm

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

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

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Call to schedule an appointment