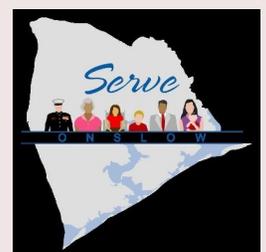


# 2015 Onslow County State of the County's Health Report



*Onslow County Health Department  
Onslow County Consolidated Human Services  
The trusted provider of high quality, integrated services ensuring success for  
our community by building better lives.*

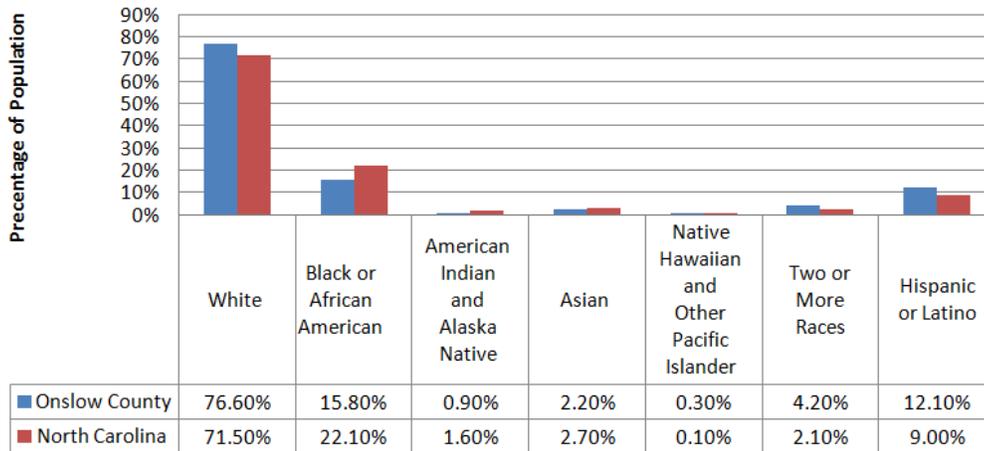
[www.onslowcountync.gov/health](http://www.onslowcountync.gov/health)



# Residents of Onslow County

## 2014 Onslow County/ North Carolina Race/ Ethnicity Distribution

U.S. Census Bureau, Onslow County Quick Facts



While the large military presence is often noted as a distinguishing feature, Onslow County has a diversity of ethnicities, education levels, rural and urban populations, and economic opportunities, which play a role in the overall health of the community.

The military population does factor into the young median age of 26 and in the fact that 45.4% of residents are women compared to the 51.3% of North Carolina residents who are female. (U.S. Census Bureau)

**Origin and Language**—Over four percent of the population of the county is foreign born. Almost one in ten residents speak a language other than English in the

home, primarily Spanish.

**Education and Work**— Nine out of ten of those over the age of 25 have graduated from high school, and 18% of these graduates have a bachelor's or higher level degree. Interestingly, Onslow County workers commute an average of 24.3 minutes to work, which is slightly higher than the North Carolina average. (U.S. Census Bureau)

**Population Trends**— According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Onslow County grew from a population of 177,772 in 2010 to an estimated 187,589 in 2014, an increase of 5.5%.

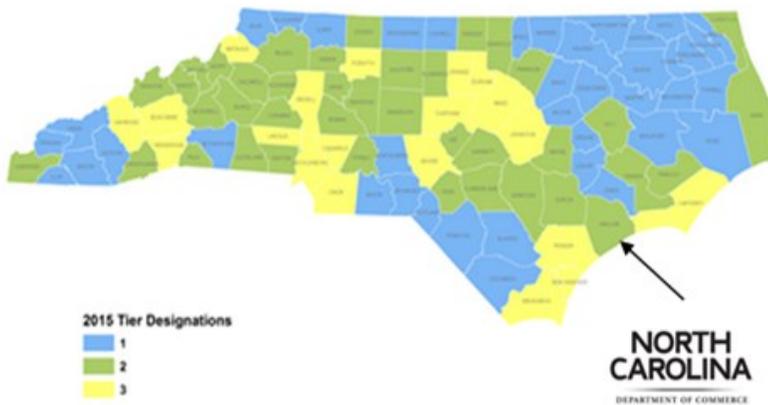
The population percent by age has remained similar to 2012 percentages and is reflected in the chart below.

# 26

## The median age of an Onslow County resident.

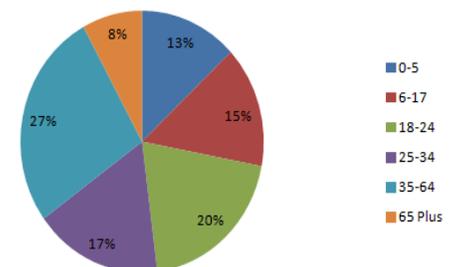
North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management—July 1, 2014

## 2015 North Carolina County Tier Designations



Onslow County continues to be designated as a Tier 2 county along with 40 other North Carolina counties. “The rankings are based on an assessment of each county’s unemployment rate, median household income, population growth, and assessed property value per capita,” according to the NC Department of Commerce.

## 2014 Onslow County Population Percent by Age



2014 County Estimates, Office of State Budget and Management

# New & Emerging Issues Affecting Health

The changing nature of health care in the nation, state, and county is the most pressing emerging issue affecting health. Highlights from Onslow County include:

- Earlier in 2015 Onslow Memorial Hospital sought a partnership with Vidant Health, Carolina East due to shrinking reimbursements and Affordable Care Act requirements. In November, the hospital announced that it would not pursue that partnership at this time.
- The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs is building a new 15,000 square foot outpatient clinic in Jacksonville to serve a population of local veterans that has added over 3,000 new members just from 2013 to 2014. The clinic is also expanding its Telehealth options. These actions should reduce wait times for veterans seeking care.
- Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune continues to expand into a major regional medical center.
- North Carolinians are enrolling in insurance plans through the Affordable Care Act, increasing access to preventive care and a primary care provider. We do not know yet the effects of the Affordable Care Act requirements on the Health Department clinics.

10,000

Number of patients that can be served by the new VA Outpatient Clinic in Jacksonville.

"Picking Up the Pace," *Jacksonville Daily News*, 2015



2015 *Jacksonville Daily News* articles.

The 2015 newspaper headlines tell the story that change is ongoing throughout the health care community in Onslow County, and, always in the background is the Affordable Care Act.

# New & Emerging Issues Affecting Health

**Expansion of Medical Services on Camp Lejeune**— Naval Hospital, Camp Lejeune continues to add services and patients. In particular, the expanded medical services have allowed the hospital clinics to become the medical home for more military dependents and retirees. The newest addition is a pediatric building that includes

- Pediatric clinics,
- Dermatology,
- Sleep medicine,
- Optics fabrication lab, and
- Austin’s Playroom.

The base medical services provide care to a large portion of Onslow County residents.

Retirees are a growing sector of the population, their number increasing by over 6,000 from the number reported in the 2014 SOTCH.

Group	Population
Active Duty	43,505
Dependents	49,816
Retirees	35,464
Civilian Workers	6,170
Total	134,955



U.S. Marine Corps Photo by MCI-East Combat Camera/Released

72

**Percent of Onslow County residents affiliated with the military.**

**Medicaid Reform**— If implemented, Medicaid privatization may have a significant effect on the Onslow County Health Department by possibly decreasing patient load and revenue. This is because more providers will be able to serve those patients who have received clinical services at the health department since those patients will now have medical insurance coverage which allows them a range of provider options.

In 2015 lawmakers debated whether or not to fund North Carolina Care Coordination programs, including Pregnancy Care Management (OBCM). While funding will continue for now, the possibility of a future defunding exists. The Onslow County Health Department Pregnancy Care Management program currently serves 489 women.

**Syphilis**—Early syphilis infections in North Carolina dramatically increased over the past year. As of July 31, 2015, over 1,000 cases of early syphilis had been reported in the state, a 67% increase compared to the same time period in 2014.

Onslow County is seeing a similar trend. From 2010 to 2014, the number of syphilis cases reported in the county doubled (4 in 2010; 8 in 2014). As of June 30, 2015, the county already had 6 reported cases.

The Health Department plans to focus efforts to combat this increase on physician education, including enhanced screening.

**A *Treponema pallidum* bacterium, which is the causative agent of syphilis.**



Image from CDC.gov

## Avian Influenza Potential Impacts

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) affected 48 million birds



Image from CDC.gov

in 21 Midwestern and Western states since December 2014. HPAI is expected to affect North Carolina this fall during bird migrations.

If domestic flocks in the county are impacted, it could not only be an economic burden for the poultry industry and consumers but also a public health emergency because of extensive monitoring and contract tracing that would have to occur with humans who have been exposed.

The Health Department’s Communicable Disease Section is sending information to medical providers to heighten suspicion for signs and symptoms of HPAI, increasing surveillance awareness, and educating the public. Should residents be exposed, the Health Department will monitor them for 10 days, similar to the Ebola monitoring procedures implemented in 2014.

# Morbidity and Mortality

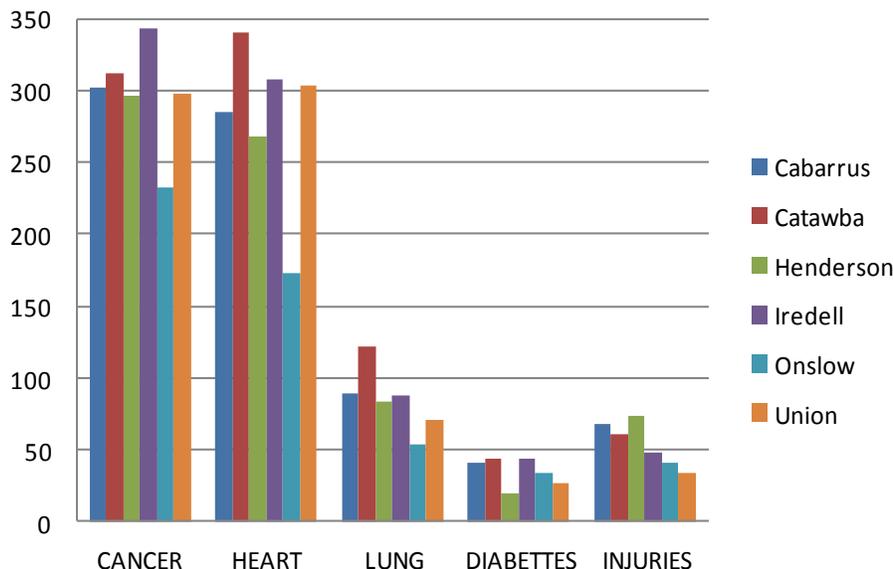
## Leading Causes of Death, Onslow County vs. North Carolina 2014 data

Rank	Onslow County Leading	#	%	Rank	North Carolina Leading Causes
1	Cancer	239	23.3	1	Cancer
2	Diseases of the heart	208	20.3	2	Diseases of the heart
3	Chronic lower respiratory disease	63	6.2	3	Chronic lower respiratory disease
4	Cerebrovascular diseases	49	4.8	4	Cerebrovascular disease
5	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	36	3.5	5	Alzheimer's disease
6	All other unintentional injuries	31	3.0	6	All other unintentional injuries
	Diabetes mellitus	31	3.0	7	Diabetes mellitus
8	Septicemia	28	2.7	8	Influenza and pneumonia
9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	25	2.4	9	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis
10	Alzheimer's disease Motor vehicle injuries	23	2.2	10	Motor vehicle injuries

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/interactive/query/lcd/lcd.cfm>)

**A significant change in leading causes of death is that diabetes mellitus is now tied for sixth leading cause of death in Onslow County. It had been the fourth leading cause for a number of years.**

### Onslow Peer County Review: Causes of Death



#### Peer County Comparison—

To help understand county health, it is helpful to compare Onslow County with other counties in the state that have a similar population size and density, age of residents, and number of individuals living in poverty. Causes of death in 2013 reported by the NC State Center for Health Statistics indicate that the top two cause of death in Onslow County, cancer and heart disease, are well below the numbers reported for peer counties. Onslow has fewer deaths related to lung diseases than three peer counties, fewer deaths related to diabetes than two peer counties, and is second to the lowest in deaths from accidental injuries when compared to similar counties.

# How Does Onslow Compare?

**Adolescent Pregnancy**—The federal Office of Adolescent Health recently announced seven new grant awards to serve North Carolina youth. The projects are aimed at curbing teen pregnancies over the next five years. SHIFT NC (Sexual Health Initiatives for Teens) received funds for two new initiatives serving 11 counties. One of those initiatives, North Carolina Youth Connected (NCYC), will directly impact Onslow County and the Health Department.

Onslow County has the unfortunate notoriety of consistently ranking among the highest counties in the state for the numbers of teenage pregnancies. In 2013, six girls in Onslow County became pregnant each week of the year! There were enough girls that gave birth in Onslow County to fill up almost 8 school buses in 2013. Last year (2014), girls as young as 13 were giving birth in the county.

As these statistics reflect, teen pregnancy and childbearing is a significant public health issue in Onslow County. Research has proven that teen pregnancies have negative consequences for teen parents, their children, and the entire community.



For example, by age 22, only about half of teen mothers have received their high school diploma nationwide;

Even teen fathers have a 25-30% lower probability of graduating from high school than teenage boys who are not fathers;

Children born to teen mothers are more likely to be premature, have a low birth weight, or die during their first year of life;

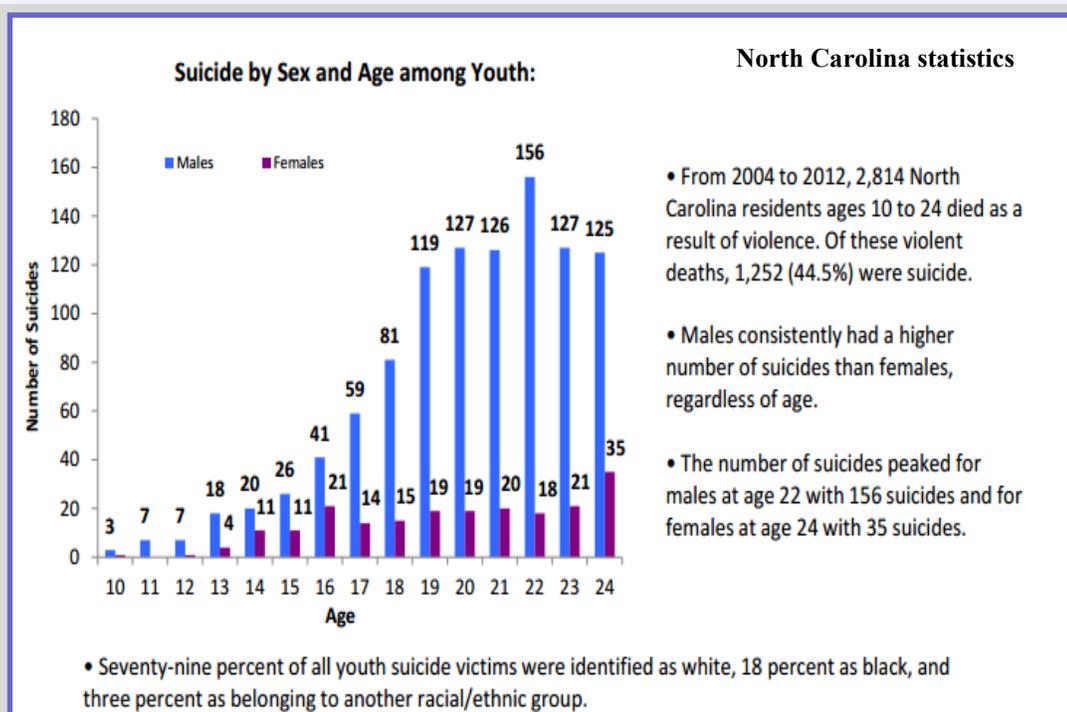
Children of teens are more likely to be abused and neglected and to have early developmental problems;

Sons of teens have a higher risk of being incarcerated; and

Daughters of teens are more likely to become teen mothers themselves, thus perpetuating the cycle.

NCYC will launch in Fall 2015, bringing community-wide teen pregnancy initiatives to Onslow County. Steps will be taken to mobilize the community, implement evidence-based teen pregnancy prevention programs, and link youth to supportive health care environments. The Onslow County Health Department will take the lead for the clinic-based work of the NC Youth Connect project. NCYC's goal is to cut teen pregnancy rates in half in Onslow County by the year 2020.

SHIFT NC data on Onslow County Teen Pregnancies: <http://www.shiftnc.org/data/map/onslow>



**Adolescent Suicide**—Suicide is the fifth leading cause of death in Onslow County.

After four adolescent deaths by suicide in late 2014 and early 2015, Onslow County established the Suicide Prevention Task Force, which brings together military and civilian community leaders to prevent teen suicides and all suicides.

This team has worked to introduce the Lifelines and MindUP curricula into local schools and bring Crisis Intervention Training to first responders.

<http://www.injuryfreenc.ncdhhs.gov/DataSurveillance/VDRS/2012/NC-VDRSYouthSuicideNorthCarolina2004-2012.pdf>

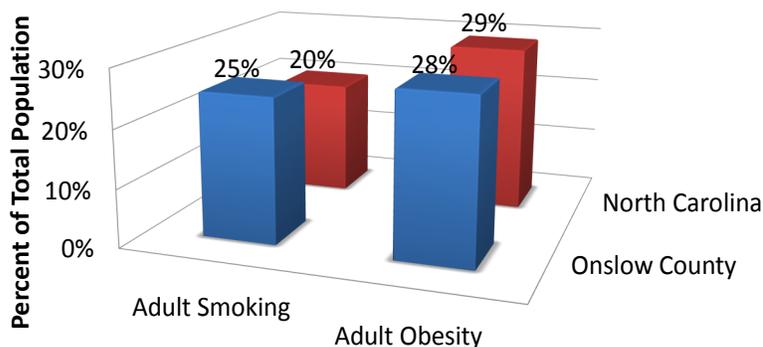
# Priority Selection and Data Review

## PRIORITY HEALTH CONCERNS

Onslow County’s Community Health Assessment was completed in 2012. Later that year, the Health Department called a group of community partners together to identify the priority health concerns to be gleaned from the assessment. This team also developed a series of action plans to address the priority concerns in a way that would make positive changes in the health and well-being of the population of the county through specific interventions targeted toward individuals, health disparities, and policy. The health priorities for Onslow County are **tobacco use** and **adult overweight/obesity**. These two priorities were chosen based on several criteria:

- Onslow County scored worse than state percentages in these two categories in 2012, the year of the CHA.
- Tobacco use and obesity are included in the Healthy Carolina 2020 objectives.
- Residents identified tobacco use and adult overweight/obesity in their top 10 health issues for the county.
- Community specialists identified these as significant issues within the county.
- The Health Department and its partners have the personnel, resources, and expertise to support programs, policies, and procedures to make a positive impact on tobacco use and adult overweight/obesity.

Percentage of Onslow County Residents Who Smoke or Are Obese Compared to North Carolina



	Adult Smoking	Adult Obesity
■ Onslow County	25%	28%
■ North Carolina	20%	29%

<http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/north-carolina/2015>

**Data Review**—While North Carolina has slightly more obese adults on average than Onslow County, the county has many more smokers on average than the state. One in four Onslow County residents smokes. According to the March 2015 North Carolina County Trend Reports compiled by NC DHHS, the rates of deaths from heart disease are similar for both the county and state, however Onslow has an increased rate of death for Tracheal, Lung, and Bronchus cancers than the state average.

Not maintaining a normal weight can increase the risk of stroke, diabetes, and heart disease. Many county residents are afflicted with these conditions. According to the March 2015 North Carolina County Trend Reports, deaths from diabetes are significantly higher in Onslow County than in North Carolina—37.2 per 100,000 verses 21.7 per 100,000 population. The good news is that the percentage of obese adults in Onslow County has shifted compared to the state rate. In 2012, obesity was slightly higher in Onslow County than in the state, but the latest statistics show that the county now has a lower percentage of obese adults.

# Obesity Interventions

## Interventions specifically targeting Individual Change

“Living Healthy with Chronic Disease/Diabetes,” evidence based Chronic Disease Self-Management (CDSM) Programs, provides healthy lifestyle education on exercise, nutrition, medication/treatment, and communication.

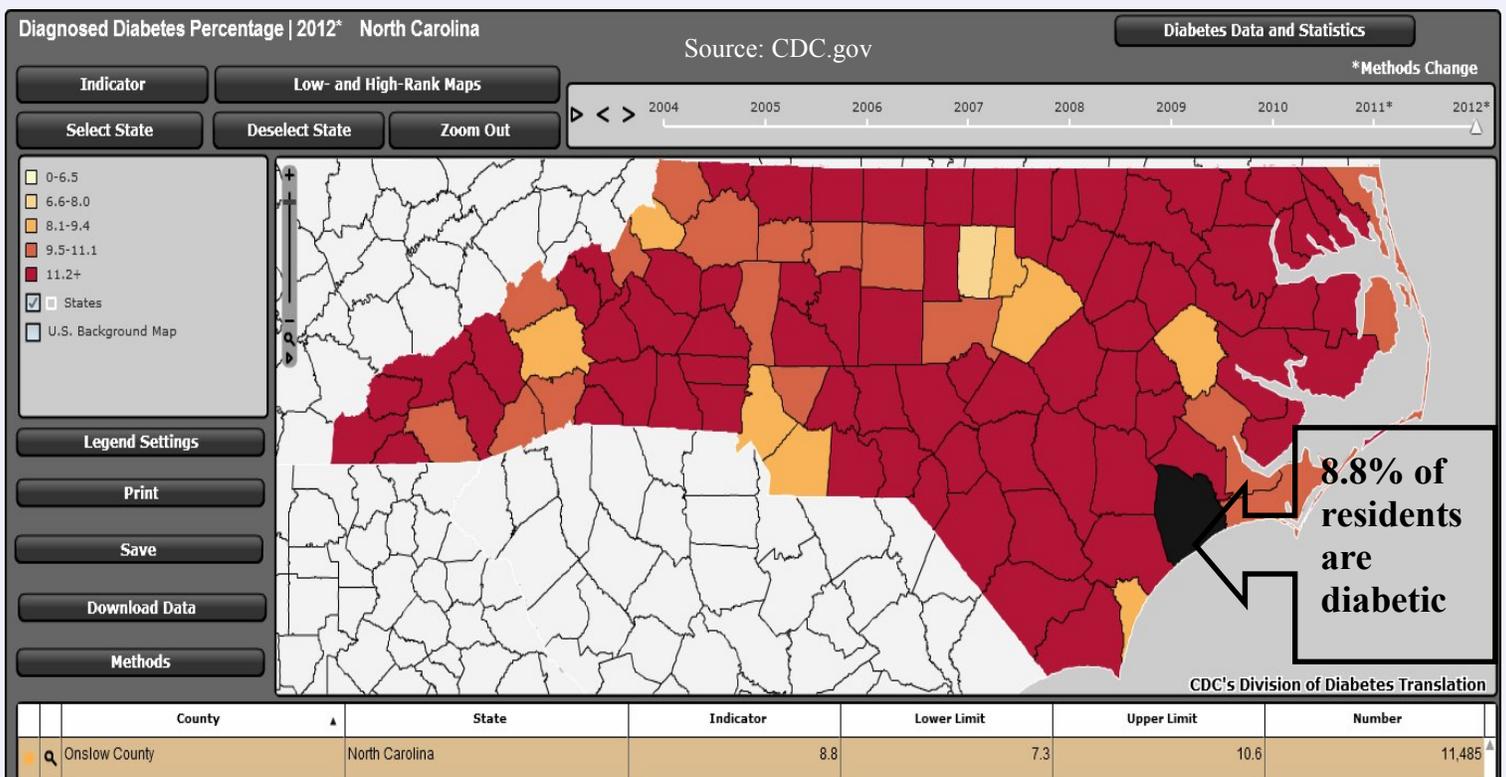
Although Onslow County is making progress to prevent diabetes and to support those with diabetes in the community, this chronic condition remains an impactful health threat to residents. Statistically, over 16,500 residents have diabetes. Approximately 67,000 have pre-diabetes, 90% of whom are unaware. Pre-diabetes is defined as higher than normal blood sugar levels, but not high enough to be considered diabetic; however, left untreated, these cases will develop into diabetes (CDC.gov).

With these numbers confronting the community, the Health Department and its partners implemented and hosted several chronic disease programs to try to turn the tide against this disease.

**Chronic Disease Education**– Onslow County Senior Services has three trained leaders who can facilitate the Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs. These courses have been offered to Senior Services participants for several years, including fiscal year 2014-2015.

In the fall of 2014, the Onslow County Health Department began a partnership with Senior Services allowing for more comprehensive care. With the completion of the classes offered by Senior Services, class members may be referred to the health department for further individualized nutrition and diabetes education.

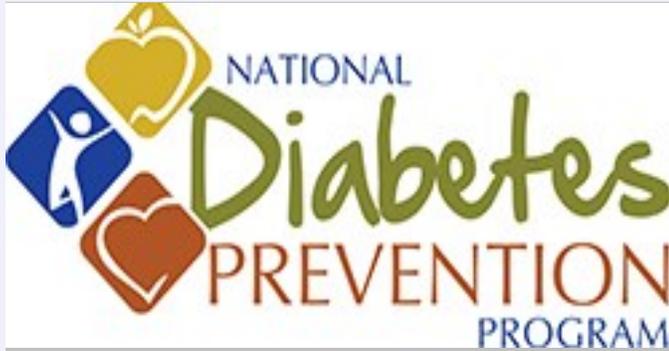
In addition, the Health Department dietitians partner with Senior Services to provide nutrition counseling for home health patients. The dietitians receive referrals from Home Health and Hospice Care and give the nutrition counseling in the patients’ homes.



# Obesity Interventions

## Interventions specifically targeting Individual Change

Several continuing and new programs were offered in 2015 to assist residents of Onslow County at risk of or struggling with diabetes—Chronic Disease Self-Management, DPP, and LEAP.



**Diabetes Prevention Program—Lifestyle Change Program**—In January 2015, the Onslow County Health Department began a DPP class with a second starting in March 2015. The goal of this program is to keep those at risk from developing diabetes in the first place. The program has two phases, a weekly educational session for several months and then monthly activities to sustain progress, encourage participants, and share successes and struggles.

All DPP participants reported weight loss, lower A1C levels, and/or increased time spent in physical activity. The participants in these first two groups were mainly county employees, and the Health Department is working with Human Resources to offer this class more widely to county staff as part of a larger wellness program.

### Program Highlights:

- Sharing recipes and meal preparation ideas and tips as well as ideas for quick, simple, fun and safe physical activity
- Sharing similar experiences and supporting one other with decision making and problem solving strategies
- Meeting at the Cooperative Extension for a recipe swap (recipes that swap an unhealthy ingredient for a healthier option)
- Touring Lowe's Foods Grocery Store to enhance healthy decision making during shopping trips
- Trying new breakfast and snack foods to avoid skipping meals
- Hands-on activities for measuring and determining appropriate serving sizes
- Building a healthy plate using the MyPlate tool



**ONLOW COUNTY**  
N O R T H C A R O L I N A

**Lifestyle Education Assistance Program—Diabetes**—With the assistance of a generous grant from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the Onslow County Health Department launched the LEAP initiative.

This program provides case management services, education, resource referral, and individual and family support to adults who have diabetes. While the program focuses on African American and Hispanic/Latino patients, the initiative aims to improve the health of the community by assisting diabetics to remain compliant with their treatment plans.

Composed of a nurse, social worker, health educator, and community health assistants, LEAP staff work individually with patients in their homes and with patients and family members in an educational setting.

Referrals into the program come from the hospital, clinics, providers offices, and from patients themselves.

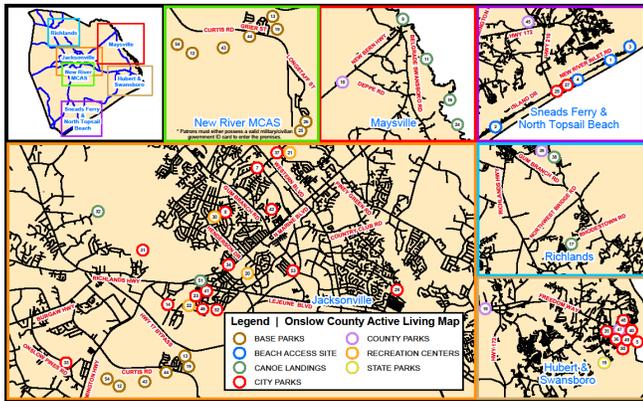
The goal of the program is to ensure patients have access to insurance and a medical home, knowledge to understand their diagnosis, resources to manage the disease, and encouragement to remain compliant with their care plans. Additional goals are to keep patients out of the emergency department and to help them live healthier lives of purpose and accomplishment.



# Obesity Interventions

## Interventions specifically targeting Health Disparities

Increase awareness and utilization of healthy food resources among low-income residents in Onslow County.



Using the **Nutrition Environment Measures Survey**, data was collected during the spring of 2015 on 43 of the 48 corner stores that accept EBT/SNAP benefits and are also located with the Food Deserts of Onslow County.

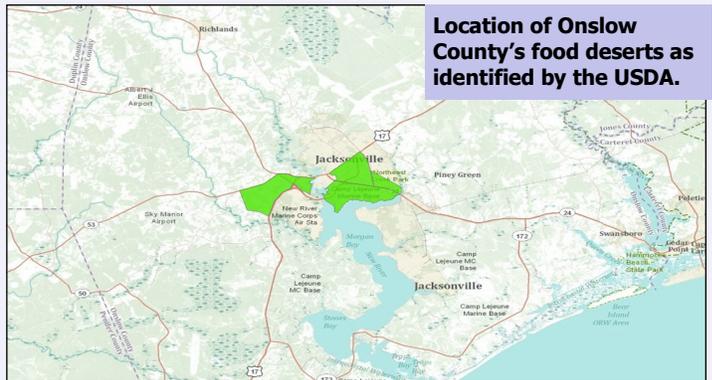
The findings revealed how food insecure our community is:

- Low-fat or fat free milk was not readily available,
- Low-sodium vegetable options were almost non-existent,
- Canned fruit was mostly in heavy syrup,
- Low-sugar cereals were over-priced; for example, a 12 oz. box of Cheerios™ cost over \$6.00.

Lack of access, affordability, and quality food items all add to food insecurities in Onslow County.

Three **asset maps**, used to identify food, physical activity, and Hispanic/Latino resources within Onslow County, were updated and republished in early 2015. These maps are distributed through community partners and are available to clients at the Health Department and through the Health Department's website.

These maps remain popular, and the Health Department plans to continue updating, publishing, and distributing them annually.



## Interventions specifically targeting Policy Change

Development of a comprehensive county government policy on breastfeeding to encourage and support breastfeeding among local county government employees.

Onslow County Health Department supports breastfeeding not only in clients, but also in employees. Breastfeeding has been a priority focus of the Health Department during this CHA cycle. In addition to the implementation of a peer breastfeeding counselor program, the Onslow County Health Department developed a Breastfeeding Policy, which went into effect August 11, 2014.

This focus on breastfeeding has shown consistent gains in the number of women who participate according to Onslow County WIC statistics:

	October 2014	March 2015	April 2015	July 2015
<b>Fully Breastfeeding</b>	23.4%	22.8%	25.0%	26.8%
<b>Partially Breastfeeding</b>	10.8%	10.1%	10.2%	11.9%
<b>Fully Formula Fed</b>	65.8%	67.1%	64.7%	61.3%

From October 2014 to July 2015, the percentage of infants that are fully breastfed increased by 3.4%, and overall, the percentage of infants breastfeeding increased by 4.5%. There are over 2,000 infants enrolled in the WIC program, which means in this time period, around 100 more infants were breastfed.

# Tobacco Interventions

## Interventions specifically targeting Health Disparities

Decrease tobacco use among low-income pregnant women receiving prenatal care through the Health Department.

**Pregnant Women Who Smoke**—When pregnant women receive care at the Health Department, they are given information about the importance of quitting smoking as well as the effects smoking can have on their babies. According to information from a summary report of screenings conducted through the Pregnancy Care Management program from January 1, 2015 to October 31, 2015, almost 40% of patients either stopped smoking during pregnancy or cut down on the number of cigarettes they smoke. Around one in six indicated that they currently smoke about the same amount as they did before they found out they were pregnant. Smoking cessation information continues to be disseminated through all clinics: WIC, Women’s Health, Pre-Natal, Care Coordination for Children, Pregnancy Care Management, and Diabetes Education.

**17.27**

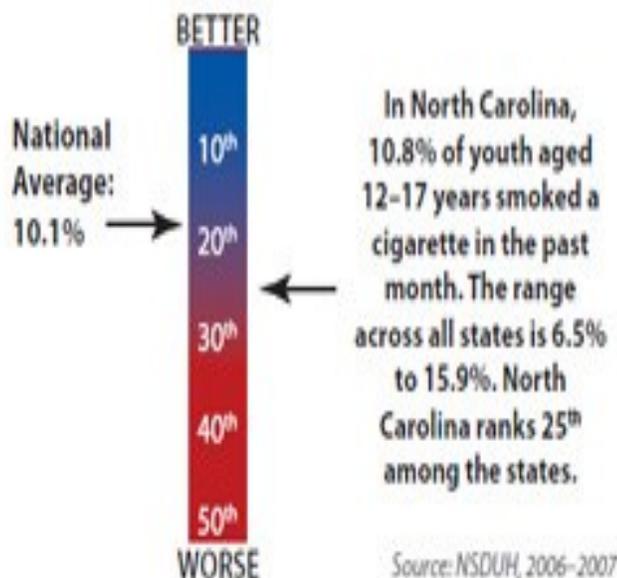
**Percent of women completing the screening who indicated they stopped smoking after they found out they were pregnant and who are not currently smoking.**

Onslow County CMIS Pregnancy Care Management Initial Risk Screening Form Statistics

## Interventions specifically targeting Individual Change

Develop and implement educational sessions targeting middle and high school aged youth on emerging tobacco trends, such as electronic cigarettes.

### Past-Month Cigarette Use Among Youth Aged 12-17 Years



While the public debate about e-cigarettes continues (Are they really a good alternative to smoking and can they assist people to stop smoking?), negative effects on health from them have been documented. There is growing concern about the marketing of these products because their flavors seem more suited to kids’ tastes. Onslow Memorial Hospital has asked the Health Department to participate in an e-cigarette media campaign in November 2015 to highlight the dangers of all types of tobacco, including e-cigarettes, especially to youth.

# Tobacco Interventions

## Interventions specifically targeting Policy Change

“Tackle Tobacco” public information campaign to educate high school students and their families on Onslow County Schools’ smoking policy.

**Policy in the Community-** Effective in 2004, Onslow County’s Board of Education’s policy 7250 states, “No person shall be permitted to use tobacco products in any indoor facility or on any grounds owned or leased or contracted for by the Onslow County Board of Education.” The policy, created to promote the health and safety of all students as well as to promote the cleanliness of all school campuses, specifically addresses the variety of tobacco products by listing several tobacco products, including e-cigarettes, “and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.”

While most community members are aware they cannot smoke on school grounds, with the increased popularity of e-cigarettes, reinforcement was warranted to educate the public on the school’s ban of all tobacco products. The Tackle Tobacco campaign, which concluded during the 2014 football season, was a collaboration between the Health Department and School System to educate the public about the school tobacco policy.



1,550

Number of T-shirts, mini footballs, and seat cushions with the “Tackle Tobacco” information distributed in 2013-2014.

## Interventions specifically targeting Environmental or Policy Change

Expansion of existing local government tobacco-free policy to include grounds surrounding county buildings and development of new workplace tobacco-free policies.

Onslow County Health Department (OCHD)	Policy Name: <b>Tobacco Free Policy</b>	Page 1 of 1
Policy #: ADM GEN 115	Initial Date/Approved: 12/15/09	Date(s) Revised: 5/3/13; 07/15/13
Reviewed by Program Supervisor or Program Director	<i>Angela Lee</i>	3-4-14
Reviewed by Health Director or BDC Chairperson	<i>Paul Buchanan</i>	3-4-14

- 1.0 **Policy:** It is the policy of the Onslow County Health Department to maintain an entirely tobacco-free environment including the agency building, surrounding grounds, non-contiguous facilities, satellite offices, and county owned vehicles in order to ensure a healthful, comfortable, and productive work environment.
- 2.0 **Procedure:**
  - 2.1 The use of all tobacco products will be strictly prohibited within the health department building, all satellite offices, to include the surrounding grounds within 50 feet of the buildings. Tobacco use is also prohibited in county owned vehicles. This policy applies to all persons, including employees, maintenance workers, clients, contractors, visitors, etc.
  - 2.2 Applicants for employment with the Onslow County Health Department will be informed of the agency's tobacco free policy prior to their first day of employment.
  - 2.3 Appropriate signage informing the public of this policy will be posted in highly visible locations throughout the building and grounds, non-contiguous facilities and satellite offices.
  - 2.4 For the purpose of this policy, tobacco products shall be defined to include cigarettes, cigars, blunts, pipes, chewing tobacco, snuff, electronic cigarettes (e-cigarettes) and any other items containing or reasonably resembling tobacco or tobacco products.
  - 2.5 All individuals share in the responsibility for adhering to and enforcing this policy. Any problems should be brought to the attention of the appropriate supervisor and handled through the normal chain of command. Employees who violate this policy will be subject to the same disciplinary actions that accompany infractions of other agency policies.
- 3.0 **Appendix/Appendices:**
  - 3.1 N/A
- 4.0 **References:**
  - 4.1 G.S. Chapter 143 Article 64 Smoking in Public Places.
- 5.0 **Related Policies:**

Cross Reference Policy #	Name of Related Policy
Updated 01-21-2014	Onslow County Employee Personnel Policies Manual

**Tobacco-Free Policies**—Significant strides have been made in tobacco policies in Onslow County. During the period of the current Community Health Assessment (2012-2016), Coastal Carolina Community College has adopted a tobacco-free policy for its campus and several larger apartment complexes have worked toward similar policies. In March 2014 the Onslow County Health Department and County Commissioners signed a new policy specifically addressing ground restrictions and alternative tobacco mechanism use into effect for the health department facility.

The Health Department continues to review and receive feedback from neighboring counties on their tobacco policies. In October of 2015, the Health Department, as part of its Community Health Assessment brief before the County Commissioners, requested to have further discussion on the development of a more comprehensive county-wide tobacco policy.



# Summary—Community Involvement

The **2012 Community Health Assessment** was a collaboration between the Onslow County Health Department and the public. Compared to the previous CHAs, which identified chronic disease concerns, residents singled out several health issues that were more behaviorally based. The 2015 State of the County Health Report is a culmination of the action plans implemented during the 2012 CHA cycle and indicative of the community's health concerns.

**Reflecting upon the last three years** has shown the community that teen pregnancy and adolescent suicide are too high. At the same time the expansion of medical services through the base and the decrease of diabetes deaths from fourth to seventh place are causes for celebration. While the Tackle Tobacco campaign had a successful conclusion, there is still much to do to combat the influence of tobacco in the county, including working toward a more comprehensive county-wide policy. While the initial action plan called for partnering with Senior Services to offer the Chronic Disease Self-Management classes, diabetes is so prevalent in the community that two new programs—DPP and LEAP—were started. The success of the asset maps has led the Health Department to commit to updating and publishing them annually.

**The health of the community involves the individual and collective efforts of everyone** to make Onslow County a healthy place to live, work, play, and study. Please join the effort by being involved. One of the most significant ways for residents to be involved as we wind down 2015 is to participate in the next Community Health Assessment.

During the summer of 2015, the Onslow County Health Department and Onslow Memorial Hospital decided to join forces on the next CHA and worked to develop a tool that would meet both of their needs. **The result is the 2015 CHA available on the Health Department website home page under Health Alerts.**

Traditionally, the Health Department has conducted a door-to-door survey, but with the popularity of Internet-based tools, this year's survey, which will run until December 31, 2015, is online.

**Please be involved in improving the health of your community by completing the Community Health Assessment survey.**

For more information about any topic listed in this report, contact the Onslow County Health Department:

910-347-2154

[www.onslowcountync.gov/health](http://www.onslowcountync.gov/health)



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