

## Hyde County Health Department

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*From the Lodge to the Lighthouse  
We're striving for a healthier Hyde*

*Wesley P. Smith  
Health Director*

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 20, 2011

### **Local Community Assessment Team Researches Hyde County's Health:**

**Swan Quarter, NC** - The Hyde County Community Health Assessment (CHA) Team, a local coalition of health professionals, community volunteers, and local leaders, released a Community Health Assessment (CHA) of Hyde County this week. The Hyde County 2011 Community Health Assessment process developed from a team partnership between Hyde County Health Department, Hyde County Schools, and ECU Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies that secured funding through Kate B. Reynolds Foundation to facilitate and complete steps of the Community Health Assessment from the team. The findings are to benefit the community as well as provide evidence for funding support in targeted program development.

The 2011 Community Health Assessment for Hyde County is a systematic, data-driven approach to determine the health status, behaviors, and needs of our population. Subsequently, this information may be used to formulate strategies to improve health and quality of life in our county. Local public health agencies in North Carolina are required to conduct a Comprehensive Community Health Assessment once every four (4) years. Accreditation benchmarks evaluated by Department of Public Health shall:

- Conduct and disseminate results of the CHA, provide, support, and evaluate health promotion activities designed to influence the behavior of individuals and groups.
- Convene key constituents and community partners to identify, analyze and prioritize community health problems/issues.
- Develop strategies in collaboration with community partners to solve existing community health problems. Identify and build upon community assets and direct them toward resolving health problems.

- Lead efforts in the community to link individuals with preventive, health promotion and other health services. Use research to develop and evaluate public health programs.

This CHA is comprised of both process and a document that shows what has changed since the assessment completed in 2007, and what still needs to change to improve the health of the community. The document is a summary of all the available evidence and serves as a resource until the next assessment. Together they serve as the basis for prioritizing the community's health needs, and culminate in planning to meet those needs. The coalition, a "network of public-private partnerships" across NC, shares the common goal of helping all North Carolinians to be "healthy." "This document provides information that will assist many organizations in strengthening the impact and effectiveness of their services toward improving health in our community." explains Wesley Smith, Health Director. The priority areas selected by the CHA team for action over the next 4 years were:

1. Physical activity, nutrition, and obesity
2. Access to oral health
3. Chronic disease
4. Tobacco, substance, and alcohol abuse
5. Access to primary care

For more information, the full assessment document can be found on the Hyde County Health Department's web page, [www.hydehealth.com](http://www.hydehealth.com), and the Local Library. To become involved in the action planning process and implementation please contact the Hyde County Health Department, Elizabeth Mumm, Public Health Educator II, at 252-926-5289.

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