



NEWS RELEASE

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Community Officials Release State of Wake County's Health for 2018

Health officials in Wake County today released a report on the county's health. [The 2018 State of the County Health Report](#) outlines progress toward addressing needs and concerns identified in the [2016 Community Health Needs Assessment \(CHNA\)](#).

This report outlines improvements in three key areas: access to health insurance, access to health services, and access to treatment and recovery services for mental health and substance use disorders.

"In Wake County, we're making progress toward becoming an even healthier county," said Wake County Human Services Medical Director Dr. Kimberly McDonald. "We're fortunate to have a great vision for what overall health could look like in our community. We also have a very collaborative group of partners who are rolling-up their sleeves and working hard to accomplish objectives."

Over the past year, Wake County and its partners have educated hundreds of uninsured residents about marketplace health insurance and have held more than a dozen events to

help people enroll for coverage. These events have led to more than 1,000 people enrolling in health insurance.

As part of the initiative to increase access to health services, partner organizations began screening patients for social determinants of health, identifying social service needs that impact the overall health of high-risk patients. Housing, food, transportation, and interpersonal safety are some of the screening domains. Over 2,000 clients were screened.

Wake County and its partners made strides forward in a goal to provide more access to recovery services for individuals living with mental health and substance use disorders by developing a program to train and certify peer support specialists and employing more behavioral health specialists in hospital and community-based settings.

Every three years, counties across the nation are required by the federal government to assess the health needs of their communities through the Community Health Needs Assessment process. In the other years, counties must issue a State of the County Health report with updates on progress made toward reaching the goals of the CHNA process.

Organizations participating in the 2018 State of the County Health Report- Wake County include:

- Advance Community Health
- Alliance Medical Ministry
- Capital Care Collaborative
- Duke Raleigh Hospital
- Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC
- Food Lion
- Get Covered Wake Coalition
- Healing Transitions
- Legal Aid
- N.C. Harm Reduction Coalition
- N.C. Organization of Nurse Leaders

- Neighbor Health
- Project Access of Wake County
- Recovery Communities of North Carolina
- Triangle United Way
- UNC Rex
- Urban Ministries of Wake County
- Wake County
- Wake County Medical Society Community Health Foundation
- WakeMed Health & Hospitals

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