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County Health Rankings & Roadmaps: A Healthier Nation, County by County

The *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*, released earlier today, help us see how where we live, learn, work and play influences how healthy we are and how long we live. The *Rankings & Roadmaps* show us what is making residents sick, where we need to improve, and what steps communities are taking to solve their problems.

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation collaborated with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to develop these Rankings for each state's counties. The Rankings help counties see how they compare to their neighbors so they can identify where they are doing well and where they need to improve, and the Roadmaps help counties see what steps they need to take to remove barriers to good health.

We all have a stake in creating a healthier community. Using the *County Health Rankings & Roadmaps*, leaders from public health and health care, business, education, and government can work together to create programs and policies to improve health outcomes, reduce health care costs and increase productivity

Forsyth County ranked **28th** among the 100 counties of N.C. with regard to **Health Outcome** status (*mortality and morbidity*) compared to **25th** last year. Forsyth County ranked **4th** among the largest 5 counties and **8th** among the 10 largest counties with regards to Health Outcomes.

Forsyth County ranked **24th** among the 100 NC counties with regard to **Health Factors** (*health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and the physical environment*) compared to **21st** last year. Forsyth County ranked **4th** of the largest 5 counties and **8th** among the 10 largest counties with respect to Health Factors.

Forsyth County rankings in the following indicators:

- Health Behavior: 15th in the state and 4th among the large 5 counties
- Clinical Care: 11th in the state and 3rd among the large five counties
- Socioeconomic Factors: 44th in the state and 5th among the large five counties and
- Physical Environment: 44th in the state and 4th among the large 5 counties

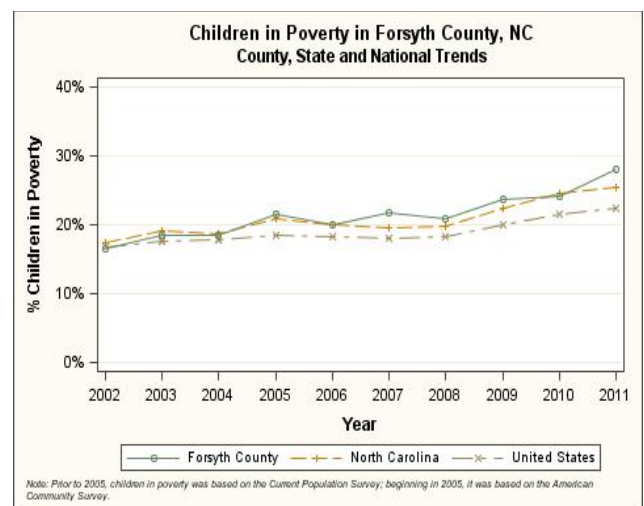
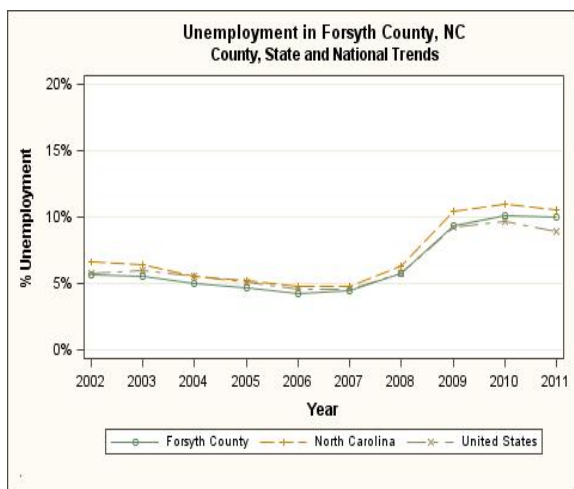
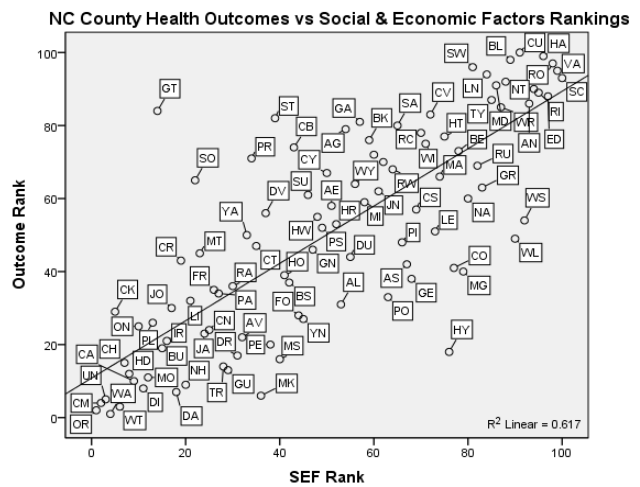
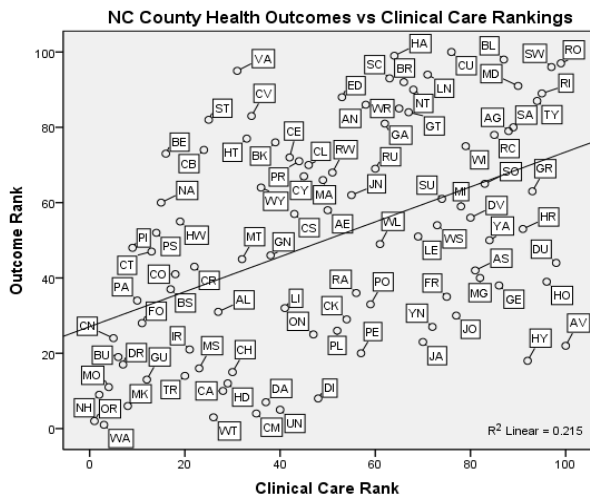
The *Rankings* confirm the results of Forsyth County's 2011 Community Health Assessment top priority focus areas which are physical activity & nutrition, chronic disease prevention, maternal & infant health and social determinants of health. Newly formed coalitions, existing coalitions and health department programs are addressing some of the health factors such as sexually transmitted infections, smoking, teen birth rates and access to healthy food. As a community we need to focus on other issues as preventable hospital stays, inadequate social support, children in poverty and unemployment. When most people in Forsyth County are healthy, there are lower health costs, fewer sick days, and increased productivity, all of which are critical to economic growth.

The graphs below examine the relationship between health outcomes ranks and socioeconomic factors (SEF) ranks and also health outcomes ranks and clinical care ranks among the 100 NC counties. The stronger correlation between outcomes and SEF ranks indicates that the strongest predictors of better or poorer health status are better or poorer socioeconomic conditions respectively. The weaker correlation between outcome and clinical care ranks indicates that



the presence of quality care services in the community does not necessarily result in better health for the whole community.

We know that much of health happens outside our hospitals, clinics or doctors' offices. In order to solve our most pressing health problems, we need to make changes in the environments where we live, work, learn and play. We can all take our own steps to improve health. We can quit smoking, we can get more exercise, and we can eat healthier dinners together as a family. We all need to be advocates for health by working with policymakers and other leaders in our community to pass smoke-free laws, create more options for physical activity, and support other initiatives to create healthier places where we can live, learn, work and play.



Check out this URL for detailed report: http://www.forsyth.cc/PublicHealth/Documents/CHR2013_FC.pdf



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Promoting Health, Improving Lives

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