



# **Quality of Life Report Card**

**Rowan County**

**2004**

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The members of the Healthy Rowan!, a state-certified and award winning Healthy Carolinians Task Force, are pleased to present our 2004 Quality of Life Report Card for Rowan County. The document continues to:

- Raise awareness about our community's current quality of life along several dimensions
- Highlight areas where public policy, community-based initiatives, and resources are needed to secure a healthier, more prosperous future
- Measure local progress in making our county an even better place to live and work
- Stimulate collaboration among community-based organizations to solve common problems

We again distilled a large amount of data into a useable product that is concise, understandable and up-to-date. We also assured that information presented was measurable from year to year, accurate, reliable, available at the county and state level for comparison purposes, and relevant to current and prospective residents and businesses of Rowan County.

As before, we leave it up to you, the reader, to decide for yourself the extent to which our community is doing well and not so well. Creating partnerships to impact the challenges affecting our community remains a foundation of the Healthy Rowan! Task Force. Our partners have increased and now include:

- Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention seeks to prevent tobacco, alcohol and illicit drug abuse among children, youth and young adults
- Health Link of Rowan County endeavors to reduce infant death rates, eliminate the death disparity between Black and White babies, and improve the health and well-being of all children birth through age 5
- Rowan Partnership for Community Health promotes physical activity and good nutrition among elementary school students to help them adopt a healthy lifestyle that will reduce their risk for childhood obesity/overweight, diabetes, heart disease, stroke, and cancer
- Hispanic Coalition of Salisbury-Rowan strives to create an empowered Hispanic community well-integrated within the mosaic of local cultures

The Quality of Life Report Card demonstrates Healthy Rowan!'s commitment to bringing broader understanding about the local world in which we live. Healthy Rowan! is steadfast and ready to translate understanding into action on behalf of our community by partnering with organizations dedicated building a better tomorrow for everyone who lives in Rowan County.

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### Healthy Rowan! Task Force

Allies for Substance Abuse Prevention  
Board of County Commissioners  
Cornerstone Church  
Health Link of Rowan County  
Daymark Recovery Services  
Hispanic Coalition of Salisbury-Rowan  
Rowan County Department of Social Services

Rowan County EMS  
Rowan County Health Department  
Rowan County Sheriffs Department  
Rowan County United Way  
Rowan Partnership for Community Health  
Rowan Regional Medical Center  
Rowan-Salisbury Schools

| Quality of Life Measure  | Rowan County                                | North Carolina                              | Time Period |
|--|---|---|-------------|
| <b>Health</b>  |   |   |             |
| Infant death rate (total per 1,000 live births) <sup>1</sup>                             | 7.3   | 8.7   | 1998-2002   |
| Live births classified as low birthweight (%) <sup>2</sup>                               | 9.2   | 8.9   | 1997-2001   |
| Infant death disparity between Whites and Blacks <sup>3</sup>                            | 90% greater death rate among Blacks         | 253% greater death rate among Blacks        | 1997-2001   |
| Pregnancy rates for girls ages 15-17 <sup>4a</sup>                                       | 41.8  | 44.4  | 2000        |
| Pregnancy rates for girls ages 15-19 <sup>4b</sup>                                       | 62.5  | 64.1  | 2002        |
| Pregnancy rate disparity between Hispanics and Whites for girls ages 15-19 <sup>4c</sup> | 331% greater pregnancy rate among Hispanics | 338% greater pregnancy rate among Hispanics | 2002        |
| Mother smoked during pregnancy (percent) <sup>5</sup>                                    | 18.8  | 14.4  | 1997-2001   |
| Mother received late or no prenatal care (percent) <sup>6</sup>                          | 21.2  | 15.4  | 1997-2001   |
| Deaths-all causes (race, gender, age adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>7</sup> | 921.8                                       | 912.7                                       | 1999-2001   |
| Death disparity between White and minority men <sup>8</sup>                              | 23% greater death rate among minority men   | 30% greater death rate among minority men   | 1999-2001   |
| Death disparity between White and minority women <sup>9</sup>                            | 36% greater death rate among minority women | 19% greater death rate among minority women | 1999-2001   |
| Heart disease deaths (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>10</sup>               | 282.6                                       | 250.2                                       | 1999-2001   |
| Diabetes mellitus deaths (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>11</sup>           | 26.7  | 26.9  | 1999-2001   |
| Stroke deaths (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>12</sup>                      | 62.4  | 73.6  | 1999-2001   |
| Cancer deaths (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>13</sup>                      | 190   | 198.2                                       | 1999-2001   |
| Suicide (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>14</sup>                            | 12.5  | 11.6  | 1999-2001   |
| Homicide (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>15</sup>                           | 6   | 7.7   | 1999-2001   |
| Motor vehicle deaths (adjusted rates per 100,000 population) <sup>16</sup>               | 27.6  | 19.6  | 1999-2001   |
| Percent of kindergartners cavity-free <sup>17</sup>                                      | 55.9  | 63.4  | SY 2001     |
| Percent of kindergartners with untreated dental decay <sup>18</sup>                      | 32.8  | 22.8  | SY 2001     |
| Percent of 5 <sup>th</sup> graders cavity-free <sup>19</sup>                             | 76  | 80  | SY 2001     |
| Percent of 5 <sup>th</sup> graders with untreated dental decay <sup>20</sup>             | 11  | 4   | SY 2001     |
| Percent of 5 <sup>th</sup> graders with dental sealants <sup>21</sup>                    | 27  | 37  | SY 2001     |
| Persons per physician, nurse practitioner and physician assistant <sup>22</sup>          | 1,278                                       | 872   | 2001        |
| Persons per dentist <sup>23</sup>  | 3,293                                       | 2,471                                       | 2001        |
| Persons per health department staff <sup>24</sup>  | 1,661                                       | 852   | 1999        |

| Quality of Life Measure  | Rowan County | North Carolina  | Time Period |
|--|--------------|-----------------|-------------|
| <b>Crime</b>   |              |                 |             |
| Index Crime Rate per 100,000 residents <sup>25</sup>   | 2,999        | 4,771           | 2002        |
| Violent crime rate per 100,000 residents <sup>26</sup>   | 301          | 474             | 2002        |
| Property crime rate per 100,000 residents <sup>27</sup>  | 2698         | 4,297           | 2002        |
| Acts of violence per 1,000 students (elementary, middle, and high school) <sup>28</sup>                        | 4.27         | 6.63            | SY 2003     |
| Juveniles before district courts for the 1 <sup>st</sup> time per 1,000 children ages 10-17 <sup>29</sup>      | 21           | 18              | FY 2002     |
| Juvenile arrests per 1,000 persons under age 18 <sup>30</sup>  | 28.9         | 26.4            | 2002        |
| <b>Economy</b>   |              |                 |             |
| Unemployment rate (percent) <sup>31</sup>  | 10.7         | 6.5             | Oct. 2003   |
| Per capita income <sup>32</sup>  | \$23,688     | \$27,308        | 2001        |
| Median household monthly income <sup>33</sup>  | \$37,494     | \$39,184        | 1999        |
| Home ownership rate <sup>34</sup>  | 73.6         | 69.4            | 2000        |
| Retail sales per capita <sup>35</sup>  | \$6,461      | \$9,740         | 1997        |
| Percent of residents enrolled in Work First <sup>36</sup>  | 1.1          | 1.2             | FY 2002     |
| Percent of residents receiving Food Stamps <sup>37</sup>   | 7.8          | 8.8             | Nov. 2003   |
| Persons below poverty (percent) <sup>38</sup>  | 10.6         | 12.3            | 1999        |
| Children below poverty (percent) <sup>39</sup>   | 13           | 15              | 2000        |
| Number and percent of population (below age 18) without health insurance <sup>40a</sup>                        | 3,140; 10.3  | 210,617; 11.4   | 1999-2001   |
| Number and percent of population (age 18 to 64) without health insurance <sup>40b</sup>                        | 15,272; 19.9 | 959,834; 19.9   | 1999-2001   |
| Number and percent of population (< 65 years) without health insurance <sup>40c</sup>                          | 18,412; 17.2 | 1,170,451; 17.5 | 1999-2001   |
| <b>Social Well-Being</b>   |              |                 |             |
| Investigated incidents of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children (birth to 17 years) <sup>41</sup>         | 61.6         | 60              | FY 2002     |
| Substantiated incidents of child abuse and neglect per 1,000 children (birth to 17 years) <sup>42</sup>        | 14.5         | 16              | FY 2002     |
| Rate of children in Department of Social Services custody per 1,000 children (birth to 17 years) <sup>43</sup> | 6.8          | 6.2             | 2002        |
| <b>Education</b>   |              |                 |             |
| Grade 9-12 drop out rate (percent) <sup>44</sup>   | 5.03         | 5.25            | SY 2001     |
| Grade 3 End of Grade Reading Mean Score <sup>45</sup>  | 247.5        | 247.9           | SY 2002     |
| Grade 3 End of Grade Math Mean Score <sup>45</sup>   | 252          | 253.3           | SY 2002     |
| Grade 5 End of Grade Reading Mean Score <sup>45</sup>  | 256.5        | 256.9           | SY 2002     |
| Grade 5 End of Grade Math Mean Score <sup>45</sup>   | 260.5        | 262.3           | SY 2002     |
| Grade 8 End of Grade Reading Mean Score <sup>45</sup>  | 263.5        | 263.9           | SY 2002     |
| Grade 8 End of Grade Math Mean Score <sup>45</sup>   | 271.2        | 271.7           | SY 2002     |
| Per pupil appropriations <sup>46</sup>   | \$1,106      | \$1,194         | SY 2000     |
| <b>Civic Participation</b>   |              |                 |             |
| Percent of eligible residents registered to vote <sup>47</sup>   | 80.7         | 80.1            | 2002        |
| Percent of eligible residents participating in the general election of 2000 <sup>48a</sup>                     | 46           | 50              | 2000        |
| Percent of eligible residents participating in the general election of 2002 <sup>48b</sup>                     | 36           | 38              | 2002        |

1. Infant Death Rate: Number of babies dying before their first birthday per 1,000 live births. State Center for Health Statistics.
2. Live Births classified as Low Birthweight: Percent of babies born weighing less than 2500 grams/5lbs 8 ozs or less. State Center for Health Statistics.
3. Infant Death Disparity Between Whites and Blacks: While the infant mortality rate is at a record low, Black babies continue experience significantly higher death rates than White babies. State Center for Health Statistics.
- 4a. Pregnancy Rates for Girls Ages 15-17: Number of girls between 15 and 17 years who become pregnant per 1,000 girls age 15 to 17. State Center for Health Statistics.
- 4b. Pregnancy Rates for Girls 15-19: Number of girls between 15 and 19 years who become pregnant per 1,000 girls age 15 to 17. State Center for Health Statistics.
- 4c. Pregnancy Rate Disparity Between Hispanics and Whites for Girls Ages 15-19: Historically, Hispanic girls have experienced a much higher pregnancy rate than White girls. State Center for Health Statistics.
5. Mothers Smoked During Pregnancy: Percent of mothers who smoked while pregnant. State Center for Health Statistics.
6. Mother Received Late or No Prenatal Care. Percent of mothers who either did not receive prenatal care during the first trimester of pregnancy or did not receive any prenatal care. State Center for Health Statistics
7. Deaths-All Causes: Number of deaths per 100, 000 population due to the following causes: heart disease, stroke, cancer, diabetes mellitus, pneumonia and influenza, chronic lower respiratory diseases, chronic liver disease and cirrhosis, septicemia, kidney disease, unintentional motor vehicle injuries, other unintentional injuries, suicide, homicide, and HIV. Rates are adjusted for race, gender, and age. State Center for Health Statistics.
8. Death Disparity Between White and Minority Men: Historically, minority (largely Black) men have experienced a greater burden of death than White men. State Center for Health Statistics.
9. Death Disparity Between White and Minority Women: Historically, minority (mostly Black) women have experienced a greater burden of death than White men. State Center for Health Statistics.
10. Heart Disease: Number of deaths resulting from heart disease per 100,000. Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics.
11. Diabetes Mellitus: Number of deaths resulting from diabetes mellitus per 100,000. Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics.
12. Stroke: Number of deaths due to stroke per 100,000. Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics.
13. Cancer: Number of deaths due to cancer per 100,000. This includes cancer of lip, oral cavity and pharynx; stomach; colon, rectum, and anus; liver; pancreas, larynx; trachea, bronchus and lung; sinuses, pleura, and all other respiratory sites; malignant melanoma of the skin; breast; cervix and uterus; ovary; prostate; bladder; brain; non-Hodgkins Lymphoma; and leukemia. Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics.
14. Suicide: Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics.
15. Homicide: Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics
16. Motor Vehicle Deaths: Race, gender and age adjusted. State Center for Health Statistics
17. Percent of Kindergartners Cavity Free: Percent of screened children who have never had a cavity or filling in a baby tooth. NC Calibrated Dental Screening Data, NC Oral Health Section.
18. Percent of Kindergartners with Untreated Dental Decay: NC Calibrated Dental Screening Data, NC Oral Health Section.
19. Percent of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders Cavity Free: Percent of children screened who have never had a cavity or filling in a permanent tooth. NC Calibrated Dental Screening Data, NC Oral Health Section.
20. Percent of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders with Untreated Dental Decay: NC Calibrated Dental Screening Data, NC Oral Health Section.
21. Percent of 5<sup>th</sup> Graders with Dental Sealants: Dental sealants are a plastic material applied to the chewing surfaces of the back teeth-premolars and molars. This plastic resin bonds into the depressions and grooves (pits and fissures) of teeth and prevents tooth decay by protecting tooth enamel from plaque and food. NC Calibrated Dental Screening Data, NC Oral Health Section.
22. Persons Per Physician, Nurse Practitioner and Physician Assistant: Number of residents per healthcare provider. Data provided by respective licensing boards and Office of State Planning. Numbers include those who are active in the profession and those with unknown activity status; inactive are excluded. Total physicians include active, non resident-in-training, non-Federal physicians. Includes MDs and DOs. Data compiled by the NC Health Professions Data System, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
23. Persons Per Dentist: Number of residents per dentist. Data provided by NC State Board of Dental Examiners and compiled through the NC Health Professions Data System, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.
24. Persons Per Health Department Staff: Number of residents per County health department staff. Data compiled by the NC Health Professions Data System, Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. State-level data excludes Avery, Cabarrus, Gates, Hyde and Lincoln Counties which did not participate in survey. State Center for Health Statistics.
25. Index Crime Rate: Includes the total number of murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts per 100,000. State Bureau of Investigation.
26. Violent Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents: Total number of violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault) per 100,000. State Bureau of Investigation.
27. Property Crime Rate Per 100,000 Residents: Total number of property crimes (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft and arson) per 100, 000. State Bureau of Investigation.
28. Acts of Violence Per 1,000 Students (elementary, middle and high school): Acts of violence include possession of weapon, possession of controlled substance, assault on school personnel, assault resulting in serious injury, sexual assault, assault involving use of weapon, possession of firearm, robbery with a dangerous weapon, taking indecent liberties with a minor, rape, kidnapping and death by other than natural causes. Public Schools of NC, State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction.
29. Juveniles Before District Courts for the 1<sup>st</sup> Time per 1,000 children ages 10-17: The number of juveniles who appear before the court for the first time during the fiscal year. A juvenile is defined as one who has not reached his or her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday and "is not married, emancipated, or a member of the armed services of the United States."
30. Juvenile Arrests: The total of all persons under the age of 18 who were arrested, cited, or summoned for committing a criminal offense per 1,000 persons under age 18. NC Department of Justice.
31. Unemployment Rate: Calculated by dividing the unemployed by the civilian labor force. Employment Security Commission of NC.
32. Per Capita Income: Total personal income for the region divided by the midyear population estimate for the region. Total personal income includes earnings (wage and salary disbursements, other labor income, and proprietors' income), dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments. U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

33. Median Household Money Income: 50 percent of households have incomes exceeding and 50 percent have incomes less than stated amount. Household income is the sum of money income received in the previous calendar year by all household members 15 years old and over, including household members not related to the householder., people living alone, and others in non-family households. The median household income reported here were produced through statistical modeling. U.S. Census Bureau.

34. Home Ownership Rate: Computed by dividing the number of owner-occupied housing units by the number of occupied housing units or households. A housing unit is owner-occupied if the owner or co-owner lives in the unit, even if it is mortgaged or not fully paid for. U.S. Census Bureau.

35. Retail Sales Per Capita: Total dollar value of sales divided by the number of residents living in the area. Sales include merchandise sold for cash or credit at retail and wholesale by establishments primarily engaged in retail trade; amounts received from customers for layaway purchases; receipts from rental of vehicles, equipment, instruments, tools, etc.; receipts for delivery, installation, maintenance, repair, alteration, storage and other services; the total value of service contracts; and gasoline, liquor, tobacco, and other excise taxes which are paid by the manufacturer or wholesaler and passed on to the retailer. U.S. Census Bureau.

36. Percent of Residents Enrolled in Work First: Work First, which began in July 1995, is North Carolina's plan to help families stay off welfare or move off welfare and into jobs. Work is required for families on welfare. Work First is based on the premise that parents have a responsibility to support themselves and their children. Through Work First, parents can get short-term training and families can get childcare assistance and other services to help them become self-sufficient, but ultimately the responsibility is theirs. Most families have 2 years to move off welfare. State Center for Health Statistics.

37. Percent of Residents Receiving Food Stamps: The Food Stamp Program is a Federal program that provides a monthly allotment of Food Stamp benefits that may be used to purchase most foods at participating stores. They may not be used to purchase tobacco, pet food, paper and soap products, or alcoholic beverages. The Food Stamp Program is an entitlement program; so all eligible individuals and households can receive assistance. State Center for Health Statistics.

38. Persons Below Poverty: Families and persons are classified as below poverty level if their total family income or unrelated individual income was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder and number of related children under 18 present. The State and County estimates were produced through statistical modeling. U.S. Census Bureau.

39. Children Below Poverty: Percent of children under age 18 years age whose family's income or unrelated individual income was less than the poverty threshold specified for the applicable family size, age of householder and number of related children under 18 present. U.S. Census Bureau.

40<sup>abc</sup> Percent of Residents Without Health Insurance: Estimates based on Current Population Surveys for the three-year period, 1999-2001. Cecil G. Sheps Center for Health Services Research, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

41. Investigated Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children (birth to 17 years): The number of unique children subject to an investigative assessment divided by the total child population. Unique children is defined so when the same child is subject of more than one investigative assessment, he/she is counted only once. NC Department of Health and Human Services.

42. Substantiated Incidents of Child Abuse and Neglect per 1,000 Children (birth to 17 years): Number of children substantiated for maltreatment following investigative assessment divided by the total child population. A County Department of Social Services has the responsibility to make a determination when information gathered from an investigative assessment warrants a determination of child maltreatment. There are 3 categories of child maltreatment: abuse (both physical and sexual), neglect and dependency. NC Department of Health and Human Services.

43. Rate of Children in Department of Social Services Custody per 1,000 children (birth to 17 years): Number of children placed in Department of Social Services custody divided by the total child population. Custody is defined as the court awarding the Department of Social Services temporary responsibility for the care and placement of a child. NC Department of Health and Human Services.

44. Grade 9-12 Drop Out Rate: The annual percentage of students in grades 9-12 who have left their public school prior to completion and officially are no longer enrolled. NC uses the Federal guidelines for counting public school drop outs. Students are excluded from the drop out counts if they transferred to another public school district, private school, home school or state/district approved educational program; were temporarily absent due to suspension or illness; or died. Public Schools of NC, State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction.

45. End of Grade Mean Score: NC End-of-grade (EOG) tests were initiated in response to the General Assembly's enactment of the School Improvement and Accountability Act in 1989. The EOG reading and math tests for grades 3, 5 and 8 are designed to measure student growth and performance in these academic areas. Raw test results are converted to developmental scale scores with a higher number reflecting a higher score. The data reported are average scores compiled from all children (grades 3, 5 and 8) taking EOG tests during the 2002 school year.

46. Per Pupil Appropriations: The annual amount spent per pupil by the school system. It is calculated by dividing the overall operating expenditures by the number of children listed as the school system's average daily membership. Public Schools of NC, State Board of Education, Department of Public Instruction.

47. Percent of Eligible Residents Registered to Vote: Percent of eligible residents (U.S. citizens 18 years age and older) who are registered to vote. Rowan County Board of Elections.

48<sup>a</sup>. Percent of Eligible Residents Participating in the General 2000 Election: Calculated by dividing the number of citizens voting in the 2000 general election by number of residents eligible to vote. (U.S. citizens 18 years of age and older). Rowan County Board of Elections.

48<sup>b</sup> Percent of Eligible Residents Participating in the General 2002 Election: Calculated by dividing the number of citizens voting in the 2002 election by number of residents eligible to vote. (US Citizens 18 years of age and older). Rowan County Board of Elections.