Atrium Health
Wake Forest Baptist

WILKES MEDICAL CENTER COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT 2022-2024

Acknowledgements:
This Community Health Needs Assessment was made possible due to the local partnership with The Health Foundation, Inc. and The Wilkes County Health Department. Thanks and acknowledgement to the following individuals for their contributions and support in conducting the assessment and preparing this report:

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Section I: Introduction

WRMC Hospital Operating Corporation, d.b.a., Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center, a North Carolina non-profit corporation, is a community hospital in North Wilkesboro, NC.As a network facility of Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center has the resources of a preeminent, internationally recognized academic medical center, enabling the facility to offer world class health care close to home. Wilkes Medical Center operates 120 licensed acute care beds and 10 post-acute care beds in a skilled nursing facility. Wilkes Medical Center is fully accredited by The Joint Commission.

Vision
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center's vision is to be the first and best choice for care.

Mission
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center's mission is to improve health, elevate hope and advance healing – for all.

Culture Commitments
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center's culture commitments include the following:

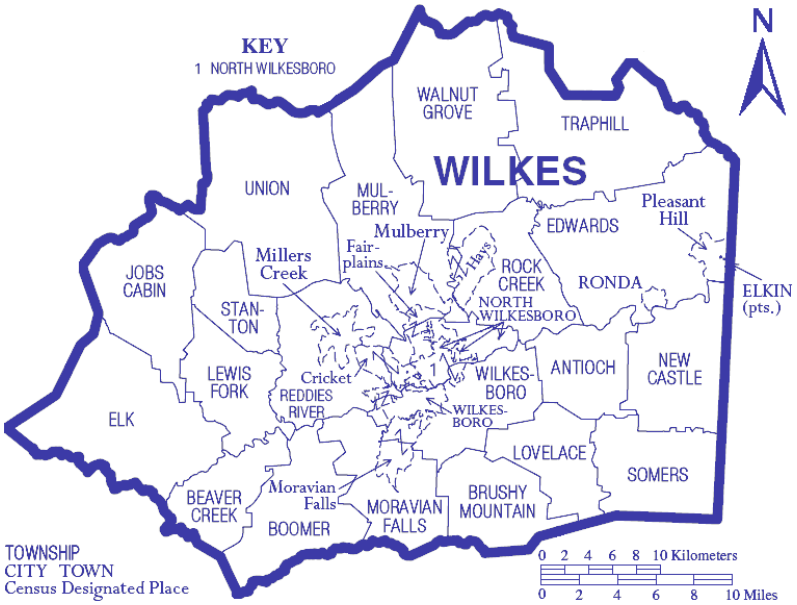
- We create a space where all ***Belong***
- We ***Work as One*** to make great things happen
- We earn ***Trust*** in all we do
- We ***Innovate*** to better the now and create they future
- We drive for ***Excellence*** – always

Mission Alignment
As Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center strives to be a leader in population health, we must look beyond the walls of our hospitals and medical offices and address those social, economic, and environmental conditions that contribute to poor health outcomes, shortened lives, and higher health care costs of the patients we serve. This needs assessment is based on a set of best practices for community health assessments with the purpose of identifying regional priority areas to focus on for calendar years 2022–2024. The process was designed to rely on existing public data, directly engage community stakeholders, and collaborate with local public health resources, other health providers, and community partners (such as faith networks and other non-profit organizations) relevant to the social factors underlying patterns of access.

Section II: Definition of Community Served
Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center's community served is defined as Wilkes County, North Carolina. Wilkes County is located in the foothills region of North Carolina. The county has a total area of 757 square miles, and is located on the eastern slope

of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a part of the Appalachian Mountain chain. Neighboring counties include Surry, Yadkin, Ashe, Alleghany, Watauga, Caldwell, Alexander, and Iredell. With 1,160 employer establishments in the county, the most common industries are manufacturing, healthcare, and retail sales.

There are 65,969 residents in Wilkes County, or 87 residents per square mile. Race and ethnic origins are characterized as: 86.7% white, 4.7% Black or African American, 6.9% Hispanic or Latino, and 1.7% other. The population is 50.9% female and 49.1% male. Persons under 18 years of age represent 20.1% of the population while persons 65 years of age and over represent 22.2%. The percentage of persons without health insurance under the age of 65 years is 16.4%. In addition, the median household income in 2019 dollars is $44,107. The percent of persons in poverty is 18.9%. The percent of children living below the poverty level is 29.4%[1]



While Wilkes Medical Center serves a portion of several surrounding counties, the majority of inpatient admissions and emergency department visits are provided to Wilkes County residents. The primary service area with zip codes is comprised of: Hays (28635), Millers Creek (28651), Moravian Falls (28654), North Wilkesboro (28659), and Wilkesboro (28697). The secondary service area is comprised of: Boomer (28606), Ferguson (28624), Purlear (28665), Roaring River (28669), and Taylorsville (28681) in Alexander County.

[1] U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Wilkes County, North Carolina

Section III: Process and methods used to conduct the CHNA

The needs assessment plan was based on a set of best practices for community health assessments with the purpose of identifying priority areas to focus on for calendar years 2022-2024. The process was designed to rely on existing public data, directly engage community stakeholders, and collaborate with local public health, other health providers as well as community partners. The Wilkes County assessment was conducted in three stages: (1) data review (primary and secondary data), (2) community stakeholder input, and (3) identification of priority areas.

The following is a description of the assessment steps and timeline created by the Wilkes CHNA Advisory Team, comprised of representatives from Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center, The Health Foundation, Inc., and the Wilkes County Department of Public Health. Primary and secondary data were obtained from the public health consultant's draft report and current population health data from Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist.

Primary Data Sources

- **Community Survey**

The Wilkes CHNA Advisory Team conducted an on-line community health survey from July 2021-October 2021. The survey was conducted through Survey Monkey™, and was supplemented by paper surveys, which were distributed to select population groups that could not easily access the intranet. Surveys were available in English and Spanish through the Health Department website, Health Department clinics, and through the following community partners via QR code and/or paper surveys: Wilkes Family YMCA, North Wilkesboro Housing Authority, town of Wilkesboro, town of North Wilkesboro, Wilkes County Schools, The Health Foundation, and Wilkes County Government offices. The community health survey was also advertised on the Wilkes County Department of Public Health's Facebook and Instagram pages. Members of traditionally underserved communities were specifically engaged to help with survey participation and assist with access and language barriers in these communities.

A total of 910 surveys were completed, including 75 paper surveys. 877 of survey respondents lived in Wilkes County and were 18 years of age or older. Thirty three surveys were rejected and not used in the primary data analysis because the respondent stated that they did not live in Wilkes County or they were under 18 years old. The majority of survey respondents were white females, most of whom were between 35-54 years old. Survey findings from the 2021 Wilkes County Community Health Needs Assessment highlighted the following health concerns and social determinant/community issues:

- The top Wilkes County health services identified needing improvement were:
    - Mental Health and Counseling Services
    - Services for the elderly
    - Services for Children
    - Substance Abuse Services

- The top four social determinant issues identified were:
    - Better/healthier food choice availability
    - Housing (to include transitional and halfway housing)
    - Affordable recreational facility options
    - Career and job center availability

- **Community Interviews**

Interviews were conducted with community leaders who represent and serve the interests of underserved populations. Two of those community leaders were Reverend Graylin Carlton and Ms. Patricia Parks. Both are lifelong residents of Wilkes County, and their perspectives represent the broad interests of the underserved community. Reverend Carlton is the chaplain at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center, and the pastor of a local community church. Ms. Parks is a FaithHealth connector, hospital associate chaplain, and community health advocate. Both leaders describe access to affordable care/medications as the number one health concern in the community. In addition, the Reverend Carlton describes the Piney Grove community, within the Moravian Falls Township, as experiencing a notable cancer prevalence. Water and soil testing conducted by the county were deemed normal, but cancer cases continue to grow, causing concern amongst this predominately African-American community.

An interview was also conducted with Heather Murphy, the Executive Director of The Health Foundation, Inc. The Health Foundation was established in 1991 dedicated to Wilkes County, NC, in order to assure "every child and adult to be safe, healthy, and be able to thrive. (www.healthywilkes.org)". The Health Foundation is focused primarily on three domains of public health: Healthy Eating and Active Living, Community Building and Resiliency (to include the Substance Use Disorder/Mental Health community), and
Access to Care.[2] Ms. Murphy supports the concern around cancer prevalence, noting an increased prostate cancer prevalence in predominately African American communities within Wilkes County.

In addition to access to access to care/medications and the noted growth of cancer cases in the county, all leaders rank other areas of health concern (in order of priority) as follows:

1. Access to mental health counseling
    - Reverend Carlton and Ms. Parks describe a "mental health crisis for the community," and not having enough mental health resources for those in need. Reverend Carlton and other FaithHealth connectors routinely refer members of the underserved community to free and low cost mental health services.
    - Ms. Murphy provides oversight into the Community Opioid Prevention and Education (COPE) task force, focusing on harm prevention and stigma reduction of people who use drugs in Wilkes County.
2. Access to affordable permanent and transitional housing[3]
    - Over 6,800 households in the county are considered cost burdened, paying disproportionately high shares of their income toward housing costs.

- There is limited availability among the multifamily rental housing supply, indicating a need for increased rental housing options
- Most of the projected renter household growth is projected to occur among middle-income households, leading to greater demand for market-rate rental options.
- The need for both rental and for-sale housing is large and covers all levels of affordability.
- There is limited transitional housing options available for persons with felony criminal records

3. Access to healthy foods
    - Reverend Carlton describes the Thankful Community, a part of the Boomer Township, which has no access to a grocery store or supermarket, the closest available being over 15 miles away.
    - Ms. Murphy describes the Health Foundation's work with access to free, low cost, culturally appropriate fresh fruits and vegetables. The Foundation operates a mobile farmer's market, accessing underserved communities, and they work with several Hispanic churches to establish and maintain community gardens to serve the congregation and surrounding communities.
    - Ms. Murphy points out that culturally, many Hispanic community members are biased against canned/processed foods, and therefore do not access food pantries for their needs. This knowledge has led to a shift in how some local food pantries operate.
    - The Health Foundation subsidizes eggs and other low cost sources of proteins for the underserved communities.
4. Access to free and low cost transportation
    - There are limited public transportation options and few private options in Wilkes County. This exacerbates the lack of access to healthy foods and health care.

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[2] The Health Foundation, Inc. Mission and Causes (www.healthywilkes.org)
[3] Housing Needs Assessment of Wilkes County, NC, 2020

Comments from 2020 - 2022 CHNA

All CHNA and Implementation reports along with county indicator tracking is available on the Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist website- https://www.wakehealth.edu/About-Us/Serving-Our-Communities/Needs-Assessments-and-Implementation-Reports. No comments from the public have been received to date. All future comments will be incorporated into future CHNA and implementation strategies and reports.

Secondary Data Sources

Secondary data collection methods focused on a literature review of reports and documents from the following sources:

- *Wilkes County State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report (Wilkes County, 2020)*

The State of the County Health Report (SOTCH) by Wilkes County provides an overview of demographics, health indicators, and leading causes of morbidity and mortality in Wilkes County, NC. The report also provides updates on the community's top four health priorities, action plans, local initiatives, and emerging trends. The report lists the following leading causes of death in the county, by order of severity: diseases of the heart, cerebrovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and pneumonia and influenza. The report further indicates the leading health risk factors for the county as poor nutrition, lack of physical activity, and tobacco use.

- *North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2019 Leading Causes of Death*[4]

These statistics describe North Carolina's total and cause-specific deaths at the state and county level. In addition, major site-specific cancer deaths and total infant deaths are tabulated and mapped. This edition includes the number of deaths and unadjusted death rates for 2019 and the number of deaths and unadjusted and age-adjusted death rates for 2015-2019.

In 2019, the following data was found relative to particular causes of death in Forsyth County (death rates per 100,000 population):

- Heart Disease: 666 deaths, 174.2 death rate
- Cerebrovascular Disease: 198 deaths, 51.8 death rate
- Cancer: 729 deaths, 190.7 death rate
- Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) Disease: 7 deaths, 1.8 death rate
- Septicemia: 63 deaths, 16.5 death rate
- Diabetes Mellitus: 120 deaths, 31.4 death rate
- Pneumonia and Influenza: 66 deaths, 17.3 death rate
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases: 179 deaths, 46.8 death rate
- Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis: 48 deaths, 12.6 death rate
- Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome and Nephrosis: 80 deaths, 20.9 death rate
- Motor Vehicle Injuries: 49 deaths, 12.8 death rate

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[4] *North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services - North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2019 North Carolina Vital Statistics, Volume 2: Leading Causes of Death, Published January 2021*

- All Other Unintentional Injuries: 201 deaths, 52.6 death rate
- Suicide: 40 deaths, 10.5 death rate
- Homicide: 34 deaths, 8.9 death rate
- Alzheimer's Disease: 171 deaths, 44.7 death rate
- Infant Death: 43 deaths, 9.8 death rate

The Housing Needs Assessment of Wilkes County (2020)

A housing needs assessment was completed in the summer of 2020. The study considered various demographic, economic, and housing metrics, as well as other factors that impact and influence housing.

Healthy North Carolina 2030

In parallel with the national Healthy People initiative run by the United States Department of Health and Human Services, the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) has released Healthy North Carolina (HNC) goals at the beginning of each decade since 1990. HNC is a set of health indicators with 10-year targets designed to guide state efforts to improve health and well-being. Identifying key indicators and targets allows NC DHHS, the Division of Public Health (DPH), local health departments, and other partners across the state to work together toward shared goals.

Overall, 21 health indicators were chosen across the topics of Social & Economic Factors, Physical Environment, Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, and Health Outcomes. The 21 health indicators were:

1. Individuals Below 200% FPL
2. Unemployment
3. Short-Term
4. Suspensions
5. Incarceration Rate
6. Adverse Childhood Experiences
7. Third Grade Reading Proficiency
8. Access to Exercise Opportunities
9. Limited Access to Healthy Food
10. Severe Housing Problems
11. Drug Overdose Deaths
12. Tobacco Use
13. Excessive Drinking
14. Sugar-Sweetened Beverage Consumption
15. HIV Diagnosis
16. Teen Birth Rate
17. Uninsured
18. Primary Care Clinicians
19. Early Prenatal Care
20. Suicide Rate
21. Infant Mortality
22. Life Expectancy[5]

[5] https://nciom.org/healthy-north-carolina-2030/

Section IV. Identification and Prioritization of Community Health Needs

In summarizing the data that was obtained through primary and secondary data sources, many community health needs emerged as follows:

- Chronic Diseases (including cancer, diabetes, and others)
- Mental Health
- Substance Abuse & Tobacco Use
- Access to affordable housing
- Access to healthy foods
- Access to transportation
- Access to affordable healthcare
- Access to healthcare for the elderly and child populations
- Lack of physical activity & affordable recreational facility options
- Access to career and job centers

Process

Importantly, the process to identify priority health needs and to locate primary and secondary data sources involved close collaboration with our partners, particularly the Wilkes County Health Department and the Health Foundation. Tactics and strategies for collaboration were discussed that focused on efficient methods to obtain primary and secondary data to inform the Community Health Needs Assessment. Conversations with Wilkes County Health Department and the Health Foundation led to three solutions:

1. Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center would join with Wilkes County Health Department and the Health Foundation to conduct a community survey, as described above;
2. Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center would utilize the most recent data published by the health department. In this case, the hospital would review and include data published in the 2020 State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report;
3. Community leaders who represent the broad interests of the community and who have been involved in county-wide needs assessments and conversations would identify community health needs to inform the process.

Criteria

In determining our criteria for selecting the prioritized health needs, the highest weight was placed on the health disparities associated with the need, the burden of the health need, the feasibility of possible interventions, and the importance the community places on addressing the need.

Prioritized Health Needs

To address the community health needs identified in the CHNA, significant health needs were prioritized based on primary data gathered through the community survey, community leader interviews, and secondary data findings. In addition, feedback from the health system's Community Health Benefit Council members and senior leaders were taken into consideration.

The following health needs were prioritized for Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center for 2022-2024:

- **Access to Care: with a focus on special populations, including women and children as well as Medicaid, Medicare, and uninsured populations, and those who experience mental health and substance use disorders**

- **Social Impact and Injustice: with a focus on challenges that influence health at the root cause, including food, housing, and transportation barriers as well as power imbalances in political, economic, health, and educational systems**

- **Chronic and Emerging Diseases: with a focus on supporting initiatives for early detection and ongoing treatment of chronic illnesses, obesity, and new diseases such as COVID-19. Concentrated focus will be placed on reducing the prevalence of chronic disease risk factors.**

Community Needs that were not prioritized

While we acknowledge the importance of all community health needs in the Wilkes County community, the hospital's resources and assets were best aligned to focus on the prioritized health needs addressed above. Community needs that were identified but not prioritized for the 2022 – 2024 CHNA are as follows:

- Access to healthcare for the elderly and child populations
- Lack of physical activity and affordable recreational facility options
- Access to career and job centers

Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center leaders will continue to partner with community and non-profit organizations, including public health, other governmental agencies, and the broader community to help address these health needs. A comprehensive list of available resources to meet these needs are listed in Section V.

Section V: Additional Community Resources to Address Health and Social Needs

Numerous government and community agencies maintain online resources to help the citizens of Wilkes County locate the organizations and services they need, including (but not limited to):

- Wilkes Senior Resources (www.wilkesseniorresources.com)
- Adult Services, Wilkes County (www.wilkescounty.net/284/Adult-Services)
- The Ruby Pardue Blackburn Adult Day Health Care Center lists family services and caregiver tips (www.wilkesadultdaycare.org)
- United Way of Wilkes County lists partner agencies which provide resources and assistance to the public (www.uwwilkes.org)
- The Health Foundation, Inc. lists healthy eating and active living resources (www.healthywilkes.org)
- Wilkes Pregnancy Care Center (www.wilkespcc.com)

- The Shirley B. Randleman Center is a non-hospital detox facility and crisis stabilization unit (www.synergyrecovery.org)
- Mountain Health Solutions and Comprehensive Treatment Center is an outpatient opioid addiction and treatment facility (www.mountainhealth.business.site)
- Daymark Recovery Services offers adult/child/adolescent mental health assessment and referral, mobile crisis management, and outpatient treatment (www.daymarkrecovery.org)
- NCWorks Career Center-Wilkes County (www.rise4me.com/resources/ncworks-career-center-wilkes-county)
- Social Services of Wilkes County (www.wilkescounty.net/social-services)
- Safe Spot Child Advocacy Center services child victims of sexual abuse and severe physical abuse in Wilkes County (www.safespotwilkes.org)
- Wilkes Harm Reduction Collective, operating as "R3 Recovery Community Center" offers syringe exchange and disposal services, free overdose kits and training, free fentanyl test strips, community referrals, peer support services, safe sex supplies and education (www.wilkesrecoveryrevolution.com)

Additional social activity community resources:

- Wilkes Family YMCA (www.ymcanwnc.org/locations/wilkes-family-ymca)
- Parks and Recreation (www.wilkescounty.net/303/Parks-Recreation)
- Wilkes County Public Library (www.arlibrary.org/wilkes)

Section VI: Progress to date on Wilkes Medical Center 2020-2021 Implementation Strategy

Domain	Action	Task	Progress
Access to Care	Increase Access to Cancer Care	Partnering with Office of Cancer Health Equity to improve outreach and referrals	Wilkes Medical Center Cancer Care Clinic opened August, 17, 2020
		Align with WFBH Hem/Onc to provide local services	Wake Forest Faculty oncologist, Dr. James Atkins, hired in August 2020 to staff oversee clinic operations
	Increase Access to Providers to increase primary care network	Increase Urgent Care Hours	Wake Forest Baptist Health Wilkes Urgent Care expanded hours of operation from 4 hours/day M-F to 11 hours per day M-F.

			Hours of operation shifted from 10AM-6PM on Sat/Sun to 8AM-5:30 PM. The clinic expanded provider coverage from 1-2 during this time, allowing for an increase in visits.
		Reduce ED Visits for non-urgent conditions	From January 2019 to November 2021 WMC noted a 46% reduction in ESI Level 5 visits and a 56% reduction in ESI Level 4 visits. The Emergency Severity Index (ESI) is an illness severity scale ranging from 1-5, Level 1 being the most severe, and level 5 being the least severe.
		Expand footprint for Best Health for Business	Wilkes Medical Center partnered with Best Health for Business to support on-site provider services for employee health and wellness for the following local organizations: The Town of Wilkesboro and Samaritan's Purse. This relationship began in April, 2021.
	Identify improved opportunities to access the community	Health fairs, screenings, education, awareness (4/year)	No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.
		Partner with Health Foundation and Health Dept. to	No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in

		increase community access	2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.
		Include gun safety/access controls in screenings/fairs	No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.

Domain	Action	Task	Progress
Obesity and Chronic Disease	Provide Weight Management Education and Support Programs	Partner with Brenner Fit and the Health Department to provide health eating education in middle schools	As of January 2020, Wilkes Health Department has completed its 9th cohort of Brenner Fit. In 2020, 78 families have participated in the program.
		Participation on School Health Advisory Committee	The organization's Chief Nursing Officer joined this committee in Q4 2019
	Improve the Capacity of Community Based Organizations and Health Care Providers to Support Efforts r/t Chronic Disease Prevention and Management	Engage FaithHealth community connectors to address chronic disease management	Three Connectors have been added in the past two years. Connectors provide referrals to healthy eating resources, free and low cost medications, and provide free transportation to medical appointments, food pantries, grocery stores. It is estimated that the Connectors provide10-15 such transports per week to help manage chronic disease in the

			underserved community.
		Stroke and Heart Health outreach at community events	No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.
		Continue recruitment efforts for Pulmonologist	Recruitment efforts continue with limited success.
		Improve participation in smoking cessation offerings	Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center Care Connections pharmacy partnered with Wilkes Health on grant funding to provide tobacco cessation for Wilkes County residents. The cessation program, implemented in June 2020, reduced tobacco intake 13 out of 14 program participants, and 71% of participants utilized the NC Quit line during the program. Pandemic permitting, programs are scheduled to recur quarterly going forward, and continued funding efforts will be sought to support future operations.
	TJC Chest Pain Center Designation for ED		This strategy was postponed indefinitely due to health system reprioritization of accreditation goals (will pursue Pathways to Excellence

			designation for acute and long term care in 2022)

Domain	Action	Task	Progress
Tobacco Use	Improve COPD and Cardiac Care Access through Cardiac Pulmonary Rehab Program		The Cardiac and Pulmonary Rehab clinic became fully operational in January 2020. To date, this clinic cares for approximately 3,800 patients per month. The payer mix is 59% Medicare, 22% commercial insurance, 11% VA, and 8% Medicaid
	Sponsor Health Fairs for Awareness/Education (4/year)		No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.
	Partner with Local Organizations to Provide Awareness, Education, and Referrals		No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.
	Partner with Health Department to Decrease Pregnancy Smoking Rates		Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center Care Connections pharmacy partnered with Wilkes Health on grant funding to provide tobacco cessation for Wilkes County residents. The cessation program,

			implemented in June 2020, reduced tobacco intake 13 out of 14 program participants, and 71% of participants utilized the NC Quit line during the program. Pandemic permitting, programs are scheduled to recur quarterly going forward, and continued funding efforts will be sought to support future operations.
	Smoking Cessation Classes and Materials at Care Connection	Partnership with Office of Cancer Health Equity	Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center Care Connections pharmacy partnered with Wilkes Health on grant funding to provide tobacco cessation for Wilkes County residents. The cessation program, implemented in June 2020, A total of 13 out of 14 program participants reduced daily tobacco intake, and 71% of participants utilized the NC Quit line during the program. Pandemic permitting, programs are scheduled to recur quarterly going forward, and continued funding efforts will be sought to support future operations.
		Six-Week smoking cessation class and nicotine replacement	In progress Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center Care

			Connections pharmacy partnered with Wilkes Health on grant funding to provide tobacco cessation for Wilkes County residents. The cessation program, implemented in June 2020, A total of 13 out of 14 program participants reduced daily tobacco intake, and 71% of participants utilized the NC Quit line during the program. Pandemic permitting, 6-week programs are scheduled to recur quarterly going forward, and continued funding efforts will be sought to support future operations.
		Increase number of pregnant participants	Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center Care Connections pharmacy partnered with Wilkes Health on grant funding to provide tobacco cessation for Wilkes County residents. The cessation program, implemented in June 2020, reduced tobacco intake 13 out of 14 program participants, and 71% of participants utilized the NC Quit line during the program. Pandemic permitting, programs are scheduled to recur quarterly going

			forward, and continued funding efforts will be sought to support future operations. Collaboration with local OB practices to encourage participation, e.g., flyers, AVS

Domain	Action	Task	Progress
Mental Health and Substance Use	Integrate Behavioral Health with Hospital Medicine	Research funding pathways to develop and sustain inpatient practice	A substance use specialist, Dr. Aranda, began collaborating with Hospital Medicine and consulting on WMC inpatients in December, 2020. Tele-psychiatry consultation was implemented for Hospital Medicine inpatients in July 2021.
		Recruit behaviorist and/or Peer Support Specialists (PSS)	Project Lazarus PSS were oriented to ED operations in June, 2020 and began accepting referrals/seeing ED patients in November, 2020. To date, Wilkes Medical Center makes an average of 2 referrals per day.
		Incorporate addiction medicine into inpatient care	A substance use specialist, Dr. Aranda, began collaborating with Hospital Medicine and consulting on WMC inpatients in December, 2020.
	Develop three-way partnership with The	Participation in Community Opioid	The organization's Chief Nursing Officer

	Health Foundation and the Health Department	Prevention and Education (COPE) efforts	joined this team in 2019.
		Drug disposal bins in hospital	Drug Disposal bins placed in the hospital public lobby in February, 2021. Since implementation, 41 pounds of unused medication has been collected from the community and appropriately managed. Information about the bins was added to Inpatient Admission flyers in March, 2021.
		Expand Syringe Exchange program at Care Connections	WMC pharmacy received state approval as an official Syringe Exchange Program on . Since implementation free syringes have been distributed from Care Connection Pharmacy.
	Develop Peer Support Specialist (PSS) Program	Engage Wake Forest Baptist Health and Project Lazarus	Partnered with local community organization, Project Lazarus, to implement in June 2019. Project Lazarus provides and trains the PSS, the hospital care coordination department makes the referrals to them. Since program inception, there have been on average 2 referrals per day.

Domain	Action	Task	Progress
Maternal and Child Health			
		Partner with the health Department and Care Connections to decrease pregnancy smoking rates	Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist Wilkes Medical Center Care Connections pharmacy partnered with Wilkes Health on grant funding to provide tobacco cessation for Wilkes County residents. The cessation program, implemented in June 2020, reduced tobacco intake 13 out of 14 program participants, and 71% of participants utilized the NC Quit line during the program. Pandemic permitting, programs are scheduled to recur quarterly going forward, and continued funding efforts will be sought to support future operations.
	Continue Offering Monthly Free Classes for Lactation, Newborn Care, Childbirth, Lamaze, Infant CPR, and Sibling classes		Sibling classes on hold due to COVID; however, all other classes are free and conducted on a monthly basis by WMC Labor and Delivery staff
	Increase Number of Nurse Lactation Specialists		Achieved 100% increase in Lactation Specialists since 2019.
	Investigate Grant Funding for Safe Infant Car Seat Provision		Car seats currently being provided by SafeKids program through the Health Department. Labor and Delivery

			department plans to apply for additional funding through the Hospital Foundation in 2022 to assure ongoing access to resources.
	Sponsor Car Seat Safety Event		No public health fairs, screenings, or education occurred in 2020-2021 due to the pandemic. This activity will resume once public venues/organizational policy supports.

Section VII: Sharing the CHNA and Community Priorities with Stakeholders

It is vital that the broader community, including community-based organizations, the faith community, grassroots leaders, and members of resident-led initiatives, understand that the assessment can be a powerful tool when utilized effectively. Therefore, Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist team members will provide workshops to community members who are interested in learning how to access this report and other informational resources available on the new Community Impact Website. To further expand our reach, when appropriate, we will partner with the Wilkes County Health Department to disseminate the full report. Internal stakeholders with significant community partnership (e.g. NC Baptist Hospital Foundation, Philanthropy, and others) will also be invited to participate in learning opportunities. Internal communications and the Intranet will also serve as a platform to educate internal team members about the availability of the report and key findings. Several team members are also affiliated with community organizations through involvement on boards, committees, and other service positions. As such, it is expected that these individuals will continue efforts to publicize the CHNA and serve as an educational resource as opportunities arise to do so.