



2020 State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report

Brunswick County Health Services

CHA and Health Priorities

Brunswick County Health Services conducted the Community Health Assessment (CHA) in 2018-19 to determine the community's needs and develop programs to address the health priorities.

The CHA was released in March 2019 and the final health priorities were:

- ▶ Substance Misuse
- ▶ Access to Health Care
- ▶ Chronic Conditions
- ▶ An overarching theme and focus on the aging population

CHIP and Results Based Accountability

- ▶ The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was completed in December 2020.
- ▶ Local health departments are now using Results Based Accountability (RBA) and Clear Impact Scorecard for CHIP documentation instead of the previous paper forms.
- ▶ Characteristics:
 - Disciplined Thinking
 - Data Driven
 - Transparent Decision-Making
 - Common Sense
 - Plain Language
 - Talk to Action
 - Ends to Means

Progress on Health Priorities

- ▶ Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, all meetings and outreach have been held virtually since March 2020.
- ▶ Health education staff served in reclassified roles during this time:
 - The health educators supervised and trained COVID call center staff, answered incoming calls, scheduled citizens at vaccine clinics, facilitated ongoing correspondence with local hospitals to communicate citizen concerns, responded to the county's coronavirus email line, and revised the administration form used at the vaccination sites.
 - We also worked at the vaccination sites as the liaison for the call center and registration.
 - Other duties included participating on conference calls with emergency services staff and other county partners, sending isolation letters to positive cases, and updating the county website and dashboard with the latest case counts.

Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA

- ▶ Brunswick County Health Services has been actively responding to the COVID-19 pandemic since March 2020. The pandemic greatly impacted staff's duties and job responsibilities over the past year.
- ▶ The latest information about COVID-19, testing, local case counts and vaccines is on the [Health Services COVID-19 webpage](#).
- ▶ Data reflecting our health priorities has also changed due to factors accompanying the pandemic.

| Rank | Cause | Number | % |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1 | Cancer | 379 | 23.4 |
| 2 | Diseases of heart | 339 | 20.9 |
| 3 | Cerebrovascular diseases | 93 | 5.7 |
| | Chronic lower respiratory diseases | 93 | 5.7 |
| 5 | All other unintentional injuries | 69 | 4.3 |
| 6 | Alzheimer's disease | 60 | 3.7 |
| 7 | Diabetes mellitus | 55 | 3.4 |
| 8 | Motor vehicle injuries | 31 | 1.9 |
| 9 | Septicemia | 27 | 1.7 |
| 10 | Influenza and pneumonia | 25 | 1.5 |
| | Intentional self-harm (suicide) | 25 | 1.5 |
| | All other causes (Residual) | 425 | 26.3 |
| Total Deaths -- All Causes | | 1621 | 100.0 |

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina

2019 Leading Causes of Death

Substance Misuse

According to the [NC Opioid Action Plan Data Dashboard](#), unintentional opioid-related overdose deaths in Brunswick County have been on the rise. This includes deaths involving all types of opioids: commonly prescribed opioids, heroin, and synthetic narcotics like fentanyl and fentanyl-analogues.

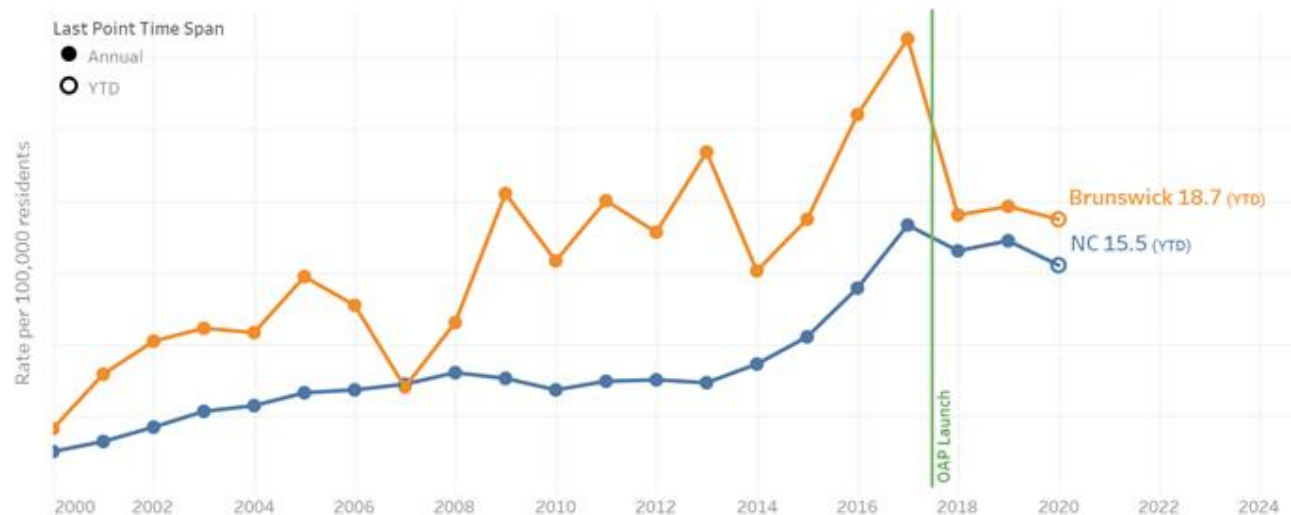
Deaths in Brunswick

The rate of unintentional overdose deaths among residents of Brunswick in **2019 (Annual)** was **19.6**.
(Rate per 100,000 residents. Number of deaths: 28)

Place Rank

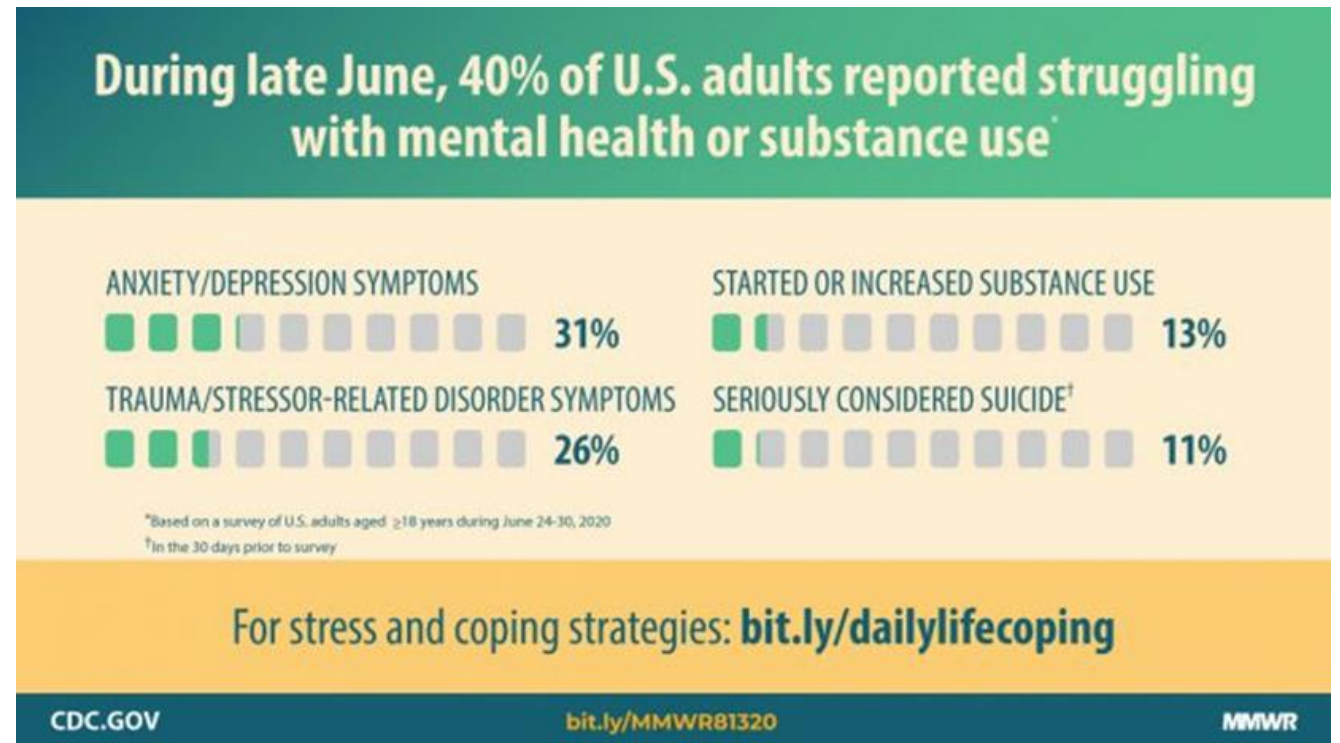
High
Compared to other
Counties*

| Rank Groups | |
|-------------|---------|
| Lowest | 0-20% |
| Low | 20-40% |
| Middle | 40-60% |
| High | 60-80% |
| Highest | 80-100% |



Emerging Issues Since Last CHA

The evolving situation surrounding COVID-19 has triggered overwhelming emotions for a lot of people. These emotions can contribute to higher levels of stress and anxiety.



Emerging Issues Since Last CHA

According to the State Center for Health Statistics, 25 deaths in Brunswick County in 2019 resulted from intentional self-harm.

| Counties | Gender | | | Total |
|------------------|--------|--------|---------|-------|
| | male | female | unknown | |
| BRUNSWICK | 19 | 6 | 0 | 25 |
| Total | 19 | 6 | 0 | 25 |

Source: State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina

Mental Health Resources

- ▶ There are several resources available in Brunswick County for individuals needing to speak with someone anonymously. Resources regarding managing your overall health and mental health and wellness resources are available on [Brunswick County's website: Managing Your Overall Health During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#)
- ▶ In partnership with Brunswick County Emergency Services, a county website was created to support other emerging issues related to the pandemic. The page is dedicated to community awareness and includes offers of assistance, updates from utility providers, homelessness assistance, food bank notices, and other resources. Emergency Services is also available (M-F 8:30am - 5:00pm) to assist the public with needs not listed on the website. The website and list of resources can be viewed at: [COVID-19 Community Assistance](#)

New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives Since Last CHA

- ▶ Health education activities reflected in the CHIP were paused in 2020 due to the pandemic. Staff began working on initiatives focused on preventing the spread of COVID.
- ▶ In March 2020, the County began operating a joint information center with a Public Health Call Line and email to answer residents' coronavirus questions. Educational initiatives were launched on the County website and social media encouraging everyone to practice the Three Ws—wear a mask, wait six feet apart, wash your hands—for the next several months.
- ▶ Brunswick County Health Services administered its first doses of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine to Brunswick County Emergency Medical Services (EMS) personnel December 22, 2020. The department also began working with internal and external partners to vaccinate individuals within local law enforcement, fire/rescue teams, Health Services and other medical providers eligible under Phase 1a.