



# 2023 State of the County Health Report

## SOTCH



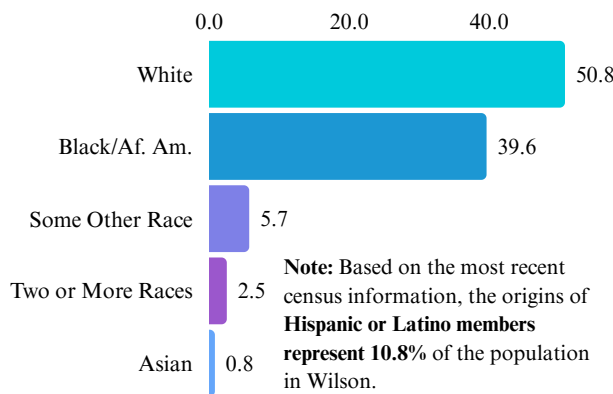
A community health needs assessment (CHNA) is the foundation for improving and promoting the health of community members. The role of a CHNA is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to address those factors adequately.

During the two years between each CHNA, local health departments are responsible for providing a State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report. This document highlights the most current statistical information in addition to actions and interventions taken to address the top health priorities identified in the 2022 CHNA. This report can assist with community health action planning, influence policy development, and engage community members in public health strategies.

### Quick Facts

Total Population	
2013	81,452
2023	78,369*
~4% ↓	
% of Population Ages 65+	
2013	14.6%
2023	19.0%
30% ↑	
% of Population Below age 18	
2013	24.4%
2023	22.9%
6% ↓	

#### Race/Ethnicity



\*In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the lives of people across the country. It also significantly disrupted data collection for the US Census Bureau.

### Health Priorities

1. Mental/Behavioral Health
2. Healthy Eating & Active Living
3. Substance Misuse

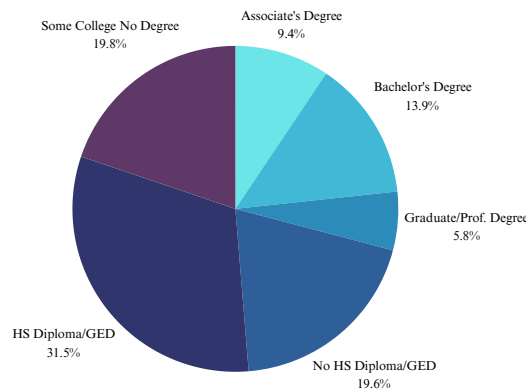
Community members rated these concerns as significant with regard to urgency, severity, and feasibility of improvement efforts.

Source 2022-CHNA

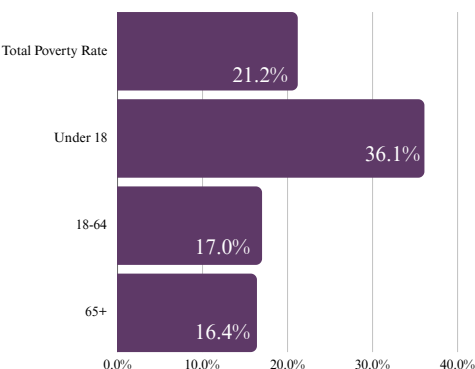
#### Median Household Income



#### Educational Attainment



#### Poverty Rates 2022



#### Unemployment



#### Uninsured



### Leading Causes of Death

1. Diseases of Heart
2. Cancer
3. Unintentional Injuries\*
4. Cerebrovascular Disease
5. Alzheimer's Disease
6. COVID-19
7. Chronic Lower Respiratory
8. Diabetes
9. Motor Vehicle Injuries
10. Nephritis

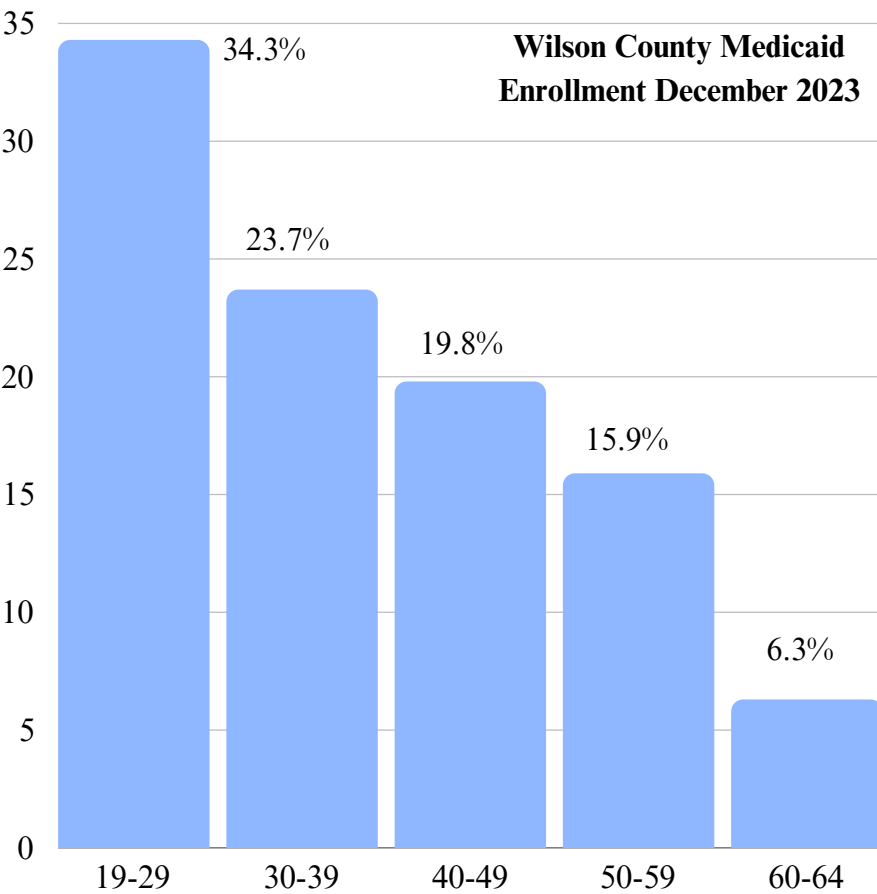
\* poisonings, falls, drownings, etc.

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics 2017-2021 Age-Adjusted Death Rates

# New Initiative/Priority Area Updates/Emerging Issues

## NCMEDICAID FOR MORE PEOPLE

Starting December 1st, 2023, Medicaid coverage expanded to include adults aged 19-64 with higher incomes. This allows many North Carolinians who previously didn't qualify for Medicaid to be eligible. In Wilson County alone, over 2,735 residents have already enrolled within 30 days, and that number is expected to keep growing!



### Wilson County Allocates Opioid Settlement Funds



On April 3, 2023, County Commissioners unanimously approved key initiatives for the use of opioid settlement funds. This plan led by the Wilson Substance Prevention Coalition tackles the opioid crisis by expanding treatment, harm reduction, and recovery support.

- Treatment & Naloxone: \$200,000 for expanded access to treatment and life-saving naloxone.
- Youth Programs: \$125,000 for trauma-informed programs in schools to address risk factors.
- Recovery Support: \$100,000 for syringe services, housing support, and a public data dashboard.
- Community Efforts: \$125,000 for flexible funding to support local organizations.

### Mental & Behavioral Health

Addressing mental health is paramount for societal well-being. In Wilson County, where the ratio of mental health providers to the population is 460:1, surpassing the state ratio of 340:1, access to mental health professionals is critical. These professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, and advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care, play pivotal roles in providing support and treatment. By prioritizing mental health initiatives and increasing accessibility to these providers, we can alleviate suffering, enhance productivity, and foster healthier communities.

Mental Health Provider Ratio

	Wilson	NC
2021	600:1	390:1
2022	530:1	360:1
2023	480:1	340:1

### Healthy Eating & Active Living

% of adults with a BMI ≥ to 30	
2019	32%
2023	42% ↑
# of adults reporting no physical activity	
2019	26%
2023	29% ↑
Healthy Food Environment based on proximity to healthy foods and income	
2019	6.9
2023	7.4 ↑

Obesity, physical activity, and access to healthy foods significantly impact community health. Addressing these factors can reduce the risk of chronic diseases and improve overall well-being.

### Substance Misuse

Number of Fatal Overdoses	
2022	27
Number of Nonfatal Overdoses	
2022	439
Number of people with Substance Use Disorder tested for HIV	
2022	120
Number of Naloxone Reversals	
2022	211
2023	213
# diagnosed with Substance Use Disorder referred to treatment	
2022	140