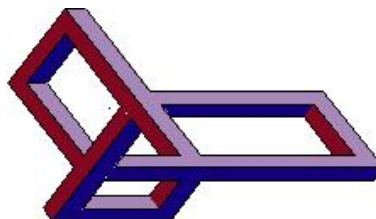




**Jackson County  
2003 Community Assessment  
Community Health Link  
Jackson County Department of Public Health**



*A Partnership for a Healthier Community*

## **Introduction**

The 2003 Community Assessment is a compilation of data gathered from the community and from existing public documents and other published materials. The assessment has been performed to provide county information to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Information and the State Center for Health Statistics and to provide information to the community regarding current needs and assets.

The data in this assessment report will be used by the community and its agencies and organizations to prioritize projects and programs and to develop the rationale for funding these programs.

The primary focus of the assessment is the health of the community with information specific to all community agencies and organizations that contributed to the development of the assessment instruments and tools. Primary data gathered for this report included a questionnaire of 77 questions developed by a committee made up of all agencies, hospital, schools, faith community, County Government, media, and law enforcement; the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, an asthma screening tool administered to 370 children, and the Body Mass Index and nutritional assessment for all children in one Jackson County elementary school.

Secondary data used is from the Community Assessment Guide Book from the Office of Healthy Carolinians/Health Education and the State Center for Health Statistics, County Development Information from the Economic Development Administration University Center at Western Carolina University, Our Children Today and Tomorrow - 1998 update as well as the 2000 US Census data.

If you have questions regarding this information or other data we may have gathered but not printed, please call Community Health Link at 828-586-8994.

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## **2003 Community Assessment Questionnaire**

The Jackson County 2003 Community Assessment questionnaire was developed by a committee of community agencies that met several times to determine the type of assessment to use, the questions to ask on the instrument, and the type of report to be developed. Many community agencies and organizations use assessment questionnaires to determine need and set priorities for their focus and program delivery. The 2003 assessment will meet the needs of all these agencies as the questions in the questionnaire were submitted by all agencies.

The data and information produced by this assessment will assist these agencies to seek funding for their programs and to respond to the needs of the community in the most efficient manner. The following Jackson County organizations participated in the development of the assessment:

Community Health Link	Jackson County Department of Public Health
Jackson County Dept. of Social Services	WestCare Health System
Smoky Mountain Mental Health	Guardian ad Litem Program
Community Foundation	Juvenile Justice
Jackson County Sheriff's Office	Faith Community
County Government	Local Government
Family Resource Center	Department on Aging
Good Samaritan Clinic	Western Carolina University
Southwestern Community College	WRGC Radio Station
The Sylva Herald	Region 'A' Partnership for Children

The Questionnaire is presented below with the aggregate data for each question. Some of the data will also be used in later sections of this report.

## Questionnaire

1. What township do you live in? *Check one.*

Cullowhee	97
Dillsboro	28
Sylva	170
Webster	37
Cashiers	13
Whittier	39
Other	85
Total	469

2. Gender:

Male	132
Female	337
Total	469

3. Age: **Average Age: 45.37**    **Average Male: 49.11**    **Average Female: 43.93**

4. Height Average: **Male: 70.70 (5'11")**    **Female: 64.48 (5'4.5")**

**Weight Average: Male: 196.39**    **Female: 159.3**

5. Do you have firearms in your home? *Check all that apply.*

Firearms are locked secured	173
Firearms are readily available	123
Ammunition is stored separately	183
Sometimes there are children in my home.	154
I do not have any firearms in my home.	181
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>

6. During the past 7 days did you exercise or participate in activity for at least 20 minutes that made you sweat and breathe hard?

**Yes 316**    **No 139**    **Total 455**    **If yes, how many days? 4.3**

7. What does the expression "5 a day" mean? *Choose one.*

Five servings of meat or fish per day	8
Five servings of fruit and vegetables per day	421
Five servings of cereal or bread per day	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>447</b>

8. What is your gross annual household income?

\$0 - \$5,000	<b>11</b>	<b>2.5%</b>
\$5,001 - \$10,000	<b>20</b>	<b>4.5%</b>
\$10,001 - \$15,000	<b>22</b>	<b>4.9%</b>
\$15,001 - \$20,000	<b>44</b>	<b>9.9%</b>
\$20,001 - \$30,000	<b>54</b>	<b>12.1%</b>
\$30,001 - \$40,000	<b>58</b>	<b>13%</b>
\$40,001 - \$50,000	<b>71</b>	<b>16%</b>
\$50,001 - \$65,000	<b>52</b>	<b>11.7%</b>
Over \$65,000	<b>113</b>	<b>25.4%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>100%</b>

9. Have you ever been a victim of sexual assault?

**Yes 59 = 12.85% No 400 = 87.15% Total 459 = 100%**

10. Are you employed and where?

Unemployed	<b>6</b>	<b>1.5%</b>
Self-employed	<b>31</b>	<b>7.7%</b>
Employed by private business or agency	<b>58</b>	<b>14.5%</b>
Employed by a local non-profit agency	<b>49</b>	<b>12.2%</b>
Employed outside the county	<b>19</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
Employed by government institution or agency	<b>188</b>	<b>46.9%</b>
Retired	<b>50</b>	<b>12.5%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>100%</b>

11. What is the highest level of education you have achieved?

Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>5</b>	<b>1.1%</b>
Some high school - no diploma	<b>8</b>	<b>1.7%</b>
High school graduate	<b>38</b>	<b>8.2%</b>
Some college, no degree	<b>122</b>	<b>26.4%</b>
Associate degree	<b>57</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
Baccalaureate degree	<b>103</b>	<b>22.3%</b>
Graduate or professional degree	<b>129</b>	<b>28%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>100%</b>

12. What is your monthly rent or house payment?

\$0 - \$250	<b>120</b>	<b>27.4%</b>
\$251 - \$500	<b>113</b>	<b>25.8%</b>
\$501 - \$800	<b>123</b>	<b>28.1%</b>
\$801 - \$1,200	<b>54</b>	<b>12.3%</b>
\$1,201 - \$2,000	<b>25</b>	<b>5.7%</b>
\$2,001 - or over	<b>3</b>	<b>.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>438</b>	<b>100%</b>

13. Are you satisfied with your garbage and solid waste disposal services in Jackson County?

**Yes 267 = 61% No 170 = 39% Total 437 = 100%**

14. Do you plan to be a resident of Jackson County 5 years from now?  
**Yes 380 = 83.5%      No 75 = 16.5%      Total 455 = 100%**

15. Does anyone in your household primarily speak a language other than English?  
**Yes 21 = 4.6%      No 435 = 95.4%      Total 456 = 100%**

16. Where does your household water come from?

Private well	<b>247 = 53.1%</b>
Community well	<b>39 = 8.4%</b>
City water supply	<b>98 = 21.1%</b>
Spring	<b>73 = 15.7%</b>
Other	<b>8 = 1.7%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>465 = 100%</b>

17. What is your marital status?

Married	<b>306 = 66.2%</b>
Significant Other	<b>31 = 6.8%</b>
Same Sex Partner	<b>2 = .4%</b>
Single	<b>61 = 13.2%</b>
Divorced	<b>44 = 9.5%</b>
Widowed	<b>18 = 3.9%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>462 = 100%</b>

18. A disability can be physical, mental, emotional, or communication-related. Do you consider yourself to have a disability?  
**Yes 15 = 3.6%      No 405 = 96.4%      Total 420 = 100%**

19. Are you concerned with the air quality in Jackson County?  
**Yes 337 = 73.7%      No 120 = 26.3%      Total 457 = 100%**

20. Do you feel that the quality of your drinking water is adequate?  
**Yes 371 = 81.5%      No 84 = 18.5%      Total 455 = 100%**

21. How many people are in your home of each age group?

Ages	Number in home
0 - 2	<b>45</b>
3 - 5	<b>49</b>
6 - 12	<b>82</b>
13 - 18	<b>82</b>
19 - 24	<b>77</b>
25 - 39	<b>155</b>
40 - 64	<b>271</b>
65+	<b>69</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1192</b> people represented by the 468 respondents of this questionnaire.

22. Are any members of the household pregnant:  
**Yes 11 = 2.4%      No 446 = 97.6%      Total 457 = 100%**

23. What is your race?

White	<b>432 = 95.2%</b>
Native American	<b>13 = 2.9%</b>
African American	<b>1 = .2%</b>
Latino	<b>2 = .4%</b>
Asian	<b>0</b>
Multi-racial	<b>6 = 1.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>454 = 100%</b>

24. Smoking: Do you use tobacco products?

**Yes 98 = 21.35%**      **No 361 = 78.65%**      **Total = 459 = 100%**

25. Do you want to quit smoking or using tobacco products?

**Yes 66 = 63.5%**      **No 38 = 36.5%**      **Total 104 = 100%**

26. Have you ever tried to quit using tobacco?

**Yes 157 = 52.7%**      **No 141 = 47.3%**      **Total 298 = 100%**

27. Have you ever-used commercial products to help you quit using tobacco?

**Yes 55 = 17.7%**      **No 255 = 82.3%**      **Total 310 = 100%**

28. Have you ever used illegal drugs? **Yes 117 = 26%**    **No 332 = 74%**    **Total 449 = 100%**

29. How many alcoholic drinks do you consume per week? **Avg. = 2.14** month? **Avg = 5.23**

30. Do you ever drive a vehicle when you have had a drink?

**Yes 72 = 16.1%**      **No 374 = 83.9%**      **Total 446 = 100%**

31. During the past 30 days, on how many days did you have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours? **Avg. = .32 days**

32. Has anyone ever suggested to you that you might have a drinking problem?

**Yes 67 = 13.7%**      **No 422 = 86.3%**      **Total = 489 = 100%**

33. Have you ever tried to cut down on the amount of alcohol you drink?

**Yes 62 = 15.4%**      **No 340 = 84.6%**      **Total 402 = 100%**

34. Does anyone in your family have a memory disorder?

**Yes 67 = 14.9%**      **No 383 = 85.1%**      **Total 450 = 100%**

35. Have you ever had a serious illness? **Yes 105 = 24.5%** **No 324 = 75.5%** Which illnesses?

Heart Disease	<b>17 = 9.5% of reported diseases</b>
Stroke	<b>4 = 2.3% of reported diseases</b>
Asthma	<b>36 = 20.1% of reported diseases</b>
Diabetes	<b>21 = 11.7% of reported diseases</b>
Cancer	<b>27 = 15.1% of reported diseases</b>
Other	<b>40 = 22.3% of reported diseases</b>
None	<b>34 = 19% of reported diseases</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>179 = 100% of reported diseases</b>

36. Were you covered by insurance for this illness?

Private Insurance	76 =	33.6%
Medicaid/Health Choice	7 =	3.1%
Medicare	22 =	9.7%
Employer Provided	81 =	35.9%
Other Public Program	6 =	2.7%
Not Covered by Insurance	34 =	15%
<b>Total</b>	<b>226 =</b>	<b>100%</b>

37. How much is your medical insurance deductible for the year? **Average = \$571.66**

38. How much is your monthly insurance premium? **Average = \$246.93**

39. How much was your out-of-pocket medical expense during the past year (Jan. - Dec.)?  
**Average = \$1572.09**

40. Where do you go to get answers to your health related questions? *Check all that apply.*

Personal Physician	374	Internet	244
Emergency Room	44	Health Department/Clinic	104
Fire Department	4	Family Members	133
Church	16	Other	40
Library	45	I don't know where to go.	6

41. Do you have an annual physical exam?

**Yes 342 = 76.2%    No 107 = 23.8%    Total 449 = 100%**

42. I receive my medical care from:

Personal Physician	406
Health Department	72
Good Samaritan Clinic	6
Hospital Emergency Room	33
University Health Center	18

43. Who provides your Primary medical insurance? *Check one.*

I do not have medical insurance	54
Private Insurance Company	83
Medicaid	9
Medicare	41
Health Check\Health Choice	0
Employee Benefits	263

44. Do you consider yourself to be in good health?

**Yes 414 = 91.6%    No 38 = 8.4%    Total 452 = 100%**

45. Have you ever been homeless? **Yes 24 = 5.3%    No 426 = 94.7%    Total 450 = 100%**

46. Do you have an adequate place to live?  
**Yes 440 = 98.2%      No 8 = 1.8%                      Total 448 = 100%**

47. Have you looked for housing in Jackson County in the last year? *Check one.*

I found what I needed quickly	<b>31 = 7.1%</b>
I had difficulty finding affordable housing	<b>67 = 15.4%</b>
I had difficulty finding adequate housing	<b>13 = 3%</b>
I have not been able to find housing	<b>3 = .7%</b>
I have not looked for housing in the last year	<b>321 = 73.8%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>435 = 100%</b>

48. Have you looked for childcare in Jackson County in the past year? *Check one.*

I do not need childcare	<b>348 = 80.6%</b>
I found good childcare quickly	<b>16 = 3.7%</b>
I had difficulty finding affordable childcare	<b>22 = 5.1%</b>
I had difficulty finding adequate childcare	<b>10 = 2.3%</b>
I have not yet found adequate/affordable childcare.	<b>36 = 8.3%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>432 = 100%</b>

49. Are you raising a child that is not a birth child under the age of 18?

Grandchild	<b>3 = .7%</b>
Foster child	<b>4 = .9%</b>
Other relative	<b>7 = 1.6%</b>
Child of a friend	<b>3 = .7%</b>
No	<b>419 = 96.1%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>436 = 100%</b>

50. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think smoke? **Average = 51.1%**

51. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think use smokeless tobacco products?  
**Average = 36.45%**

52. Do you have any emotional, mental, or behavioral problems or concerns?  
**Yes 57 = 12.7%      No 392 = 87.3%                      Total 449 = 100%**

53. How many days in the past year were you sick enough to miss school or work?  
**Avg. = 4.5 days**

54. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think are Latino? **Avg. = 16.6%**

55. When was the last time you went to the dentist? **Average of 4 Years 10 Months**

56. Do you currently have untreated dental problems?  
**Yes 118 = 26.5%      No 328 = 73.5%                      Total 446 = 100%**

57. On an average day how many hours do you watch TV? **Average of 2.35 hours**

58. In the past year, have you feared for your personal safety while in your home?

**Yes 40 = 9%                      No 403 = 91%                      Total 443 = 100%**

59. On an avg. day how many hours do you spend on a computer? **Average of 3.39 hours**

60. How many times per week do you eat out?

**0 - 2                      261 = 58.3%**  
**3 - 5                      148 = 33%**  
**6 - 8                      32 = 7.1%**  
**9 or more              7 = 1.6%**

61. Where do you volunteer your skills or services?

**Agency                      35**  
**School                      86**  
**Neighborhood              51**  
**Local nonprofit              125**  
**Other organization              124**

62. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think have a drinking problem?

**Average 26.1%**

63. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think have 5 or more drinks of alcohol in a row, that is, within a couple of hours?

**Average 23.3%**

64. What percentage of people do you think are overweight in Jackson County?

**Average 50.2%**

65. Have you ever been a victim of domestic violence?

**Yes 73 = 16.5%                      No 369 = 83.5%                      Total 442 = 100%**

66. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think have been victims of domestic violence?

**Average 26.8%**

67. What percentage of people in Jackson County do you think have a problem with drugs?

**Average 27.68%**

68. Do you carry anything as a weapon or for protection?

**Yes 71 = 16%                      No 373 = 84%                      Total 444 = 100%**

69. In the last year have you or your family ever felt threatened? *Check all that apply.*

**At home                      41**  
**At work                      30**  
**At school                      17**  
**Nowhere                      368**

70. What medication(s) are you currently taking? *Please list below.*

**Responses are too numerous to list.**

71. What vitamins or food supplements are you currently taking? *Please list below.*

**Responses are too numerous to list.**

72. Are you able to afford your prescription medications?	I have medication insurance	<b>247</b>	<b>58.8%</b>
	I can afford to purchase medication	<b>74</b>	<b>17.6%</b>
	I do not need any medication	<b>69</b>	<b>16.4%</b>
	I cannot afford my medication	<b>30</b>	<b>7.2%</b>
	Total	<b>420</b>	<b>100%</b>

73. Are you anticipating caring for a special needs individual in your home within the next 3-5 years?  
 Yes **53 = 12.6%**      No **366 = 87.4%**

74. What are the ages of individuals in your home with special needs?

Under 18	<b>17 = 4.5%</b>
19 to 30	<b>5 = 1.2%</b>
31 to 60	<b>13 = 3.2%</b>
Over 60	<b>17 = 4.2%</b>
There are no individuals with special needs in my home.	<b>358 = 87.3%</b>
Total	<b>410 = 100%</b>

75. What are the types of problem of individuals in your home with special needs?

Physical/Developmental	<b>28 = 7.1%</b>
Severe Emotional	<b>11 = 2.8%</b>
There are no individuals with special needs in my home.	<b>358 = 90.1%</b>
Total	<b>397 = 100%</b>

76. Does your family have a need for adult daycare or recreational activities?

**Yes 44 = 10.4%**      **No 379 = 89.6%**      **Total 423 = 100%**

77. In the past year have you or your family experienced physical violence in a school setting?

**Yes 5.7%**      **No 94.3%**      **Total 423 = 100%**



## **Other Primary Sources of Data**

### **Youth Risk Behavior Survey**

The Youth Risk Behavior Survey was conducted by the Jackson County Department of Public Health and surveyed all county high school children. It serves as a follow-up to similar information gathered by the Region 'A' Partnership for Children in 1995 and 1998. This information will add to the growing knowledge of the behaviors and attitudes of the youth of this county.

### **Asthma Screening**

The Asthma screening was conducted in all 5 elementary schools in Jackson County in response to the increasing numbers of young children with symptoms of asthma. The National Lung Association has determined that Jackson County has more cases of childhood asthma than any other county in North Carolina. Community Health Link partnered with the WestCare Health System and the county schools to provide physician education on current diagnostic techniques and treatment methods for early childhood asthma. The education sessions were followed with a parent survey of all children 5 and under who participate in the public school kindergarten and preschool programs. Through this screening parents are aware of the signs and symptoms of asthma and will make arrangements to have their children seen by a physician when appropriate. It is the goal of this program to increase the number of children who are properly diagnosed with asthma at an early age to prevent serious attacks that debilitate the child and cause them to miss school frequently.

### **Childhood Body Mass Index**

Community Health Link together with the Jackson County Schools and the Jackson County Department of Public Health conducted a screening of all children in one of the county's elementary schools. (All schools will be surveyed in this school year.) Each child's height and weight were taken as well as a short nutritional survey. A laser handheld Body Fat Analyses device called a Bio-Impedance Analyzer was also used to analyze the body fat on a random selection of children.

## Report Legend



### **Priority Health Issues for Jackson County**

Through this assessment process, and with the assistance of many agencies and individuals from the community, Community Health Link and the Jackson County Department of Public Health have set priorities on health issues that are of particular concern to the agencies and to the people of the county. These priorities include Substance Abuse/Violence, Access to Health Care, Obesity/Exercise/Nutrition, Dental Needs, and Asthma/Air Quality. Both the state data and the 2003 Community Assessment data point out the need for programs in these areas. Information and data regarding these priorities are marked throughout this report with a red flag.



Health issues that are marked with a checkered flag are areas where Jackson County is doing particularly well as compared to the state.



The yellow or caution flags indicate areas where Jackson County is not any worse than other counties in the state but still need to be watched and programs may be developed to prevent these issues from becoming deficit issues.

## General Demographics of Respondents

Respondents of this 2003 Assessment questionnaire included the following:

Male:	132
Female:	337
Average Age:	45.4 years
Male:	49.1 years
Female:	43.9 years

## 2000 Jackson County Population Counts

Age Groups	Total	White			Other		
		Total	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female
<b>Total</b>	33,283	28,627	13,619	15,008	4,656	2,347	2,309
<b>0 - 19</b>	8,585	6,917	3,514	3,403	1,668	892	776
<b>20 - 64</b>	19,466	16,887	8,129	8,758	2,579	1,283	1,296
<b>65 - older</b>	5,232	4,823	1,976	2,847	409	172	237

2000 US Census for Jackson County

## Jackson County Population and Growth Estimates

County	Population		Growth		Natural		Net Migration		
	2000	2010	Amount	%	Births	Deaths	Growth	Amount	%
<b>Jackson</b>	33,121	38,332	5,211	15.7	3,599	3,170	429	4,782	14.4
<b>North Carolina</b>	8,049,313	9,491,374	1,442,061	17.9	1,209,195	747,919	461,277	980,784	12.2

Office of Healthy Carolinians and the State Center for Health Statistics

## 2001 Pregnancy Rates

	Total Pregnancies	Total Pregnancy Rate	Resident Births
<b>Jackson</b>	450	60.2	368
<b>Teen Pregnancies Ages 15-19</b>	68	43.7	

2003 UNC SHEPS Center for Health Services Research

### Jackson County Population Age Profile 2000

Age	Jackson County	North Carolina
Under 5 Years Old	5.1%	6.7%
Under 18 Years Old	19.0%	24.4%
18 Years - 64 Years Old	62.1%	56.9%
65 Years Old and Over	13.8%	12.0%

2000 US Census for Jackson County

### Jackson County Racial Profile

Race	Jackson County	North Carolina
White	85.7%	72.1%
Black or African American	1.7%	21.6%
American Indian and Alaska Native	10.2%	1.2%
Asian	0.5%	1.4%
Other Race	0.5%	2.3%
Two or more races	1.4%	1.3%
Hispanic or Latino	1.7%	4.7%

2000 US Census for Jackson County

### Hispanic/Latino Population and Growth

County	Hispanic/Latino Population				Hispanic Growth Components			Net Migration	
	April 2000	1990	Difference		Births	Deaths	Natural Growth	Amount	Percentage
Amount	Percentage	Births	Deaths						
Jackson County	577	155	422	272.3	48	4	44	378	243.9
North Carolina	378,963	76,726	302,237	393.9	48,839	2,139	46,700	255,537	333.1

2000 US Census for Jackson County

**Note:** According to the Migrant Farmworker Health Program in Jackson County, the population of Hispanic/Latino individuals is at least triple the number identified by the 2000 Census.

## Geography Facts

	Jackson County	North Carolina
Land Area, (Square Miles)	491	48712
Persons per square mile	67.5	165.2

2000 US Census for Jackson County

## Employment

Jackson County Employment Information March 2004	
County Labor Force	17,096
Number unemployed	1,026
County Unemployment Rate (Jan 2004)	6.0%
State Unemployment Rate (Jan. 2004)	5.8%
Jackson County Unemployment Benefits 2/15/04-3/15/04	\$283,379.00
Jackson County Unemployment Benefits 3/15/03-3/15/04	\$736,765.00

Employment Securities Commission Workforce Information from Jackson County

## Annual Daily Traffic at Selected Intersections in Jackson County - 1999

Jackson County Intersection or Area	Average Number of Vehicles Daily
Balsam near Parkway	20,000
Cashiers 64 – 107	9,900
Cherokee 74/441 to 441 Business	17,000
Cullowhee 107 – University Area	14,000
Dillsboro	10,000
Dillsboro Bypass	18,000
Glenville	6,100
Savannah Area	17,000
Sylva – High School	24,000
Sylva – Hospital Area	4,800
Sylva Intersection 107 – 23 Business	27,000
Webster Town Area	5,300

Source: North Carolina Department of Transportation 1999

### Traffic Injuries 2000

	Bicycle Injuries	Bicycle Deaths	Motorcycle Injuries	Motorcycle Deaths
Jackson	0	0	10	0
NC	734	20	2,192	86

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Motor Vehicle Crashes 1999

	Vehicle Crashes	Non-fatal Injuries	Fatal Injuries	Alcohol/Drug Related Crashes
Jackson	751	423	4	52
NC	218,277	151,235	1,506	11,090

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Income

#### Per Capita Personal Income for Jackson County

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1999
Jackson	\$15,163	\$15,344	\$16,146	\$17,037	\$17,995	\$22,097
North Carolina	\$19,136	\$19,921	\$21,079	\$22,053	\$23,168	\$26,417

2000 US Census for Jackson County

### Jackson County Household Income

Household Income by Age of Householder								
Household Income	All ages	Under 25	25 to 34	35 to 44	45 to 54	55 to 64	65 to 74	75 & older
Less than \$10,000	1842	425	136	187	193	241	301	359
\$10,000 to \$19,999	2,035	298	279	202	252	233	384	387
\$20,000 to \$29,999	2,195	238	397	385	422	283	273	470
\$30,000 to \$39,999	2018	158	460	273	339	342	198	168
\$40,000 to \$59,999	2537	60	487	641	1192	1606	1842	1990
\$60,000 to \$124,999	2315	41	162	512	748	528	258	66
\$125,999 and more	464	1	10	76	119	164	44	50
Total Households	13,168	1,221	1,773	2,276	2,624	2,205	1,694	1,375

2000 US Census for Jackson County

### 2003 Gross Annual Household Income by Gender

Gross Household Income	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	% of Males	Number	% of Females	Number	% of Total
\$0 - \$5,000	2	1.6%	9	2.8%	11	2.5%
\$5,001 - \$10,000	4	3.2%	16	5.0%	20	4.5%
\$10,001 - \$15,000	6	4.8%	16	5.0%	22	4.9%
\$15,001 - \$20,000	14	11.1%	30	9.4%	44	9.9%
\$20,001 - \$30,000	9	7.1%	45	14.1%	54	12.1%
\$30,001 - \$40,000	16	12.7%	42	13.2%	58	13%
\$40,001 - \$50,000	21	16.6%	50	15.7%	71	16%
\$50,001 - \$65,000	17	13.5%	35	11.0%	52	11.7%
Over \$65,000	37	29.4%	76	23.8%	113	25.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>126</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>319</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>445</b>	<b>100%</b>

2003 Community Assessment

### Garbage and Solid Waste Disposal

Of 437 respondents, 267 or 61.1% are satisfied with their garbage and solid waste disposal and 170 or 38.9% are not satisfied.

2003 Community Assessment

### Vital Statistics

#### Births, Deaths

Jackson County Births and Deaths for 2002			
	Births	Deaths	Natural Increase
Total	358	321	+37
Male	197	167	+30
Female	161	154	+ 7

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Marriages and Divorces/Annulments

In 2002 in Jackson County, there were 240 marriages and 96 divorces/annulments.

### Summary of Demographics

While population growth for Jackson County is not expected to be as high as for the state by the year 2010, our senior citizen population continues to be much higher than the state's. Priority should be given to increasing services for this population. While the elder population continues to grow, the youth and child populations continue to be significantly lower than the state. Among our respondents in Jackson County, men tend to have education at higher levels than women. Also, male respondents report higher household incomes than female respondents.

## Health Status Findings



### Obesity and Overweight

The US Surgeon General has stated that obesity is rapidly becoming the most serious health problem facing Americans. The same is true in Jackson County, North Carolina. There are few statistics available on obesity as little data has been gathered at this time. Often, health issues only become a priority when they reach crisis level. Such is the case with weight issues in the US. It is estimated that the cost for treating weight related issues has or will soon surpass costs for smoking related issues. Obesity is one of the health priorities for Community Health Link and the Jackson County Department of Public Health.

#### North Carolina Obesity Facts

- About 23 percent of adults were obese in 2001, up slightly from 21.8% in 2000.
- The prevalence of obesity was about the same for males as females.
- The prevalence of obesity increased as income decreases.
- In 2001, 35.9% of NC adults were overweight, based on reported height and weight, down slightly from 37.4% in 2000.
- Males were more likely to be overweight (44.9%) than females (27.2%).
- The prevalence of being overweight was about the same for whites and African Americans,
- Nationally, the prevalence of obesity ranged from 14.9% in Colorado to 26.5% in Mississippi. North Carolina ranked 12<sup>th</sup> highest with a rate of 22.9%
- The prevalence of obesity in North Carolina has been increasing annually since 1990 and has nearly doubled since then. This trend has affected all demographic groups.

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### Obesity and Children

Obesity or overweight in children has also reached epidemic proportions. Jackson County Physicians report seeing children regularly who are overweight or obese and are beginning to see children with Type 2 Diabetes, a disease formerly seen only in the adult population. Community Health Link has partnered with Jackson County Department of Public Health, the North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Jackson County Schools, Western Carolina University, and Southwestern Community College to gather accurate data on the 'Body Mass Index' for our children. This group has now collected the data on all children in 2 elementary schools and will complete the data collection in all other schools in the next school year. This will allow us to assess the situation and develop programs to meet the need. The data gathered to date is represented below.

## Body Mass Index

Age	Average BMI	Median BMI	Number at Risk- 90 <sup>th</sup> Percentile or Above	Percent at Risk	Number Obese- 95 <sup>th</sup> Percentile or Above	Percent Obese	Total
5 - 6	18.1	16.7	24	44.4	15	27.7	54
6 - 7	17.2	16.8	18	27.7	11	16.9	65
7 - 8	18.5	17.3	14	25.9	9	16.7	54
8 - 9	19.0	18.1	20	32.8	14	23.0	61
9 - 10	21.2	19.3	24	44.4	15	27.7	54
10 - 11	21.5	19.5	19	34.5	16	29.1	55
11 - 12	22.6	21.3	30	41.7	18	25.0	72
12 - 13	22.3	21.1	21	35.0	13	21.6	60
13 - 14	23.8	22.1	25	37.8	17	25.8	66

All students responded to a brief questionnaire regarding the foods they eat. Aggregate responses are as follows: (398 respondents)

- What did you eat for breakfast today?
  - Nothing 119 or 29.9%
  - Cereal 84 or 21.1%
  - Sausage Biscuit 59 or 14.8%
  - Biscuit 21 or 5.3%
  - Pancakes/Waffles 10 or 2.5%
  - Poptarts 3 or .8%
  -
- What is your favorite activity after school?
  - Watch TV 77 or 19.3%
  - Play Computer 4 or 1%
  - Play Sports 26 or 6.5%
  - Read a book 7 or 1.8%
  - Other 31 or 7.8%
- What snack will you have when you get home from School?
  - Nothing 96 or 24.1%
  - Fruit 45 or 11.3%
  - Chips 37 or 9.3%
  - Sandwich 21 or 5.3%
  - Crackers 10 or 2.5%
- Did you eat French fries yesterday?
  - Yes = 70 or 17.6%
- Did you have a soda yesterday?
  - Yes = 236 or 59.3%



## Strengths

**Mothers who Breastfed  
Mothers with Normal BMI**



## **Asthma and Air Quality**

In a letter from Dr. Clay Ballentine to Governor Easley in November of 2001, Dr. Ballentine points out that there is a direct link between air pollution rates and asthma. He states that “during the summer of 2000 alone, air pollution caused an additional 240,000 asthma attacks, 6,300 emergency department visits and 1900 hospital admissions in North Carolina.”

Of the states 6 health care statistical regions, the mountain region has the lowest death rates for most diseases but the highest death rates for emphysema and pneumonia.

According to the American Lung Association 6 cities in North Carolina are on the list of the 25 cities and counties with the worst ozone pollution. Community Health Link and the Jackson County Department of Public Health consider Asthma and Air Quality to be a priority issue and will work together and with other organizations to work to improve the air and the health status of the residents of the county.

### Asthma Hospitalizations per 100,000

	Total	Rate	Ages 0-14	Rate Ages 0-14
Jackson	48	144.2	15	286.5
North Carolina	10,108	125.9	3,364	201.3

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** The rate of hospitalizations for asthma is higher in Jackson County than it is for North Carolina. The Community Assessment indicates that the citizens of Jackson County have a concern about Clean Air. Jackson County has formed an "Asthma Coalition".

### Diagnosed Asthma and Undiagnosed Wheeze

	Number Surveyed	% Asthma Diagnosed	% Undiagnosed (Wheezing)	County Rank Diagnosed Asthma	County Rank Undiagnosed (Wheezing)	County Rank Total Percent Wheezing
Jackson	494	10.7	14.0	65	8	21
NC	122829	10.0	17.0			

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Reported Restrictive Activities Due to Asthma/Wheezing

	% Reporting Missed School Days	% Reporting Limited Activity	% Reporting Sleep Disturbances
Jackson	9	12	11
NC	12	12	15

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Smoking in Middle School

	% Students Cigarette Smoking	% Students with Smokers in Household
Jackson	12.2	56.8
NC	15.7	52.5

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### North Carolina Smoking Facts

- The average age of Smoking in North Carolina is 15.2 and it ranked near the middle (11<sup>th</sup>) of the 27 participating states. The oldest average was 15.8 in Louisiana and the youngest was 14.8 in Alaska
- Among smokers, 18 were about the average age that North Carolinians began smoking regularly.
- The average age for smoking regularly among females is 19.0, compared to 17.7 for males.
- Smoking rates were noticeably higher among males (28.6%) than females (23.1%).

- The rate of smoking among those with than a high school education (37.4%) was more than 2.5 times the rate among college graduates (13.6%).
- Those with less than a high school education begin smoking regularly at about 17 years, compared to about 19 for college graduates.
- In 2001, 25.7 percent of NC adults were current smokers, down slightly from the 2000 smoking rate (26.1%).
- Except for 1991 and 1998, the rate of smoking in North Carolina has remained above 25% for the past 12 years.
- Beginning in 1998, African Americans tended to smoke less than whites.
- Former smoking rates did not vary by education or income.
- 37.9% of NC adults permit smoking in the home or have no rules about it.
- Persons of lower education were more likely to be in work environments that permitted smoking in public areas.
- Males (28.9%) were more likely to work in places where smoking was permitted in public areas than females (19.5%).
- Among those who work indoors most of the time, 23.8% of North Carolinians (decreased slightly from 24.9% in 2000) reported that smoking was allowed in some or all public/common areas, such as lobbies or lunchrooms.
- About 41% of North Carolina adults reported ever using other tobacco products such as a cigar or pipe tobacco.
- Whites were more likely to ever use other tobacco products than African Americans.
- Those in the highest income group (45.0%) were more likely to use other tobacco products than those in the lowest income group (36.2%).
- About 6% of North Carolina adults currently smoke cigars, pipe tobacco, or bidis (tiny cigarettes).
- About 5% of North Carolina Adults currently use smokeless tobacco products.
- Smokeless tobacco use among males was 9.5%, compared to less than 1% among females.
- By income, the rate of smokeless tobacco use was highest among households with annual income of \$35,000 40 \$49,999.

DHHS SCHS August 2003

**Reported Smoking during Pregnancy among Women Enrolled in WIC and Prenatal Clinic, 1999**

	# Smokers	% Smokers	# Non-Smokers	% Non-Smokers
<b>Jackson</b>	66	29.6	157	70.4
<b>NC</b>	13,234	23.9	42,207	76.1

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Tobacco Use**

<b>Jackson County Tobacco Use</b>	Number	Percent	Number of Respondents
Individuals who use tobacco	98	21.4	459
Individuals who want to quit using tobacco	66	63.5	104
Individuals who have tried to quit using tobacco	157	52.7	298
Individuals who have used commercial products	55	17.7	310

2003 Community Assessment

**Number of Hospitalization and Cost for Respiratory Diseases**

	Discharge Rate (Per1,000 population)	Average Days/Stays	Days Stay Rate (Per 1,000 population)	Total Cases	Average Charge/Stay
<b>Jackson</b>					
Respiratory	12.9	4.8	62.1	427	\$7,324
Pneumonia/Flu	4.5	4.8	21.8	150	\$6,694
COPD	5.4	4.9	26.4	179	\$6,886
<b>NC</b>					
Respiratory	11.2	6.0	67.3	89,941	\$11,359
Pneumonia/Flu	4.3	6.1	26.3	34,732	\$10,370
COPD	3.7	4.7	17.5	29,773	\$7,798

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Average Costs of Hospital Visits for Lung Cancer**

	Discharge Rate (Per1,000 population)	Average Days/Stays	Days Stay Rate (Per 1,000 population)	Total Cases	Average Charge/Stay
<b>Jackson Cancer (lung, tracheas, bronchus)</b>	0.2	5.7	1.0	6	\$10,199
<b>North Carolina Cancer (lung, tracheas, bronchus)</b>	0.6	8.1	4.7	4,686	\$17,997

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

## Cancer Prevalence Facts

- 11.3% of adults, age 40 and older, have been diagnosed with cancer.
- Among persons over the age of 64, the rate of cancer diagnosis was 21.1%.
- Whites (12.9%) were more than twice as likely as African Americans (5.4%) to be diagnosed with cancer.
- 4.1% of females, age 40 and older have been diagnosed with breast cancer.
- The highest rates of breast cancer were found among women ages 55 to 64 (6.9%) and women aged 65 and older (6.5%).
- The rate of breast cancer tended to be higher in lower income households.
- 3.8% of males, age 40 and older, have been diagnosed with prostate cancer.
- Prostate cancer among white males was 4.4% compared to 1.4% among African American males; however, the small sample size for African American males reduces the reliability of the estimate.
- The rate of prostate cancer jumps from about 2% among 55 to 64 year olds to about 13% among males over age 64.
- North Carolina's prostate cancer rate (3.8%) was the 15<sup>th</sup> highest in the country. Maine had the highest prostate cancer rate (6.2%) and Illinois had the lowest rate (2.3%).
- The risk for skin cancer among males (56.9%) appears to be noticeably higher than that among females (45.6%).
- Among age groups, the risk of skin cancer is highest among 18 to 24 year olds.
- Among households with children, the risk of skin cancer for the youngest child (under age 13) is about 29%.
- The risk for African American children appears to be substantially higher than the risk for white children.
- By income, the risk for skin cancer among children decreases with increasing levels of household incomes.
- About 22% of adults reported that they have had sunburn in the past 12 months.
- Sunburn rates among whites were six times that of African Americans.
- By age, 25 to 34 year olds were most likely to report having a sunburn in the past year.

DHHS SCHS August 2003

**Jackson County Residents have low death rates from many diseases and conditions.**



**Heart Disease  
Breast Cancer  
Diabetes Mellitus  
Pneumonia and Influenza  
Unintentional Injuries  
Homicides  
HIV**

**Jackson County is also doing well with the following communicable diseases.**



**Gonorrhea  
Syphilis  
Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever  
Salmonella Infections  
Tuberculosis**

**Jackson County Respondents who Report Having Had Serious Disease**

<b>Disease</b>	<b>Number and % of respondents</b>
Heart Disease	17 = 9.5% of reported diseases
Stroke	4 = 2.3% of reported diseases
Asthma	36 = 20.1% of reported diseases
Diabetes	21 = 11.7% of reported diseases
Cancer	27 = 15.1% of reported diseases
Other	40 = 22.3% of reported diseases
None	34 = 19% of reported diseases
<b>Total</b>	<b>179 = 100% of reported diseases</b>

### 2002 Active Health Professionals

Physicians		Nurses	
Non-Federal Physicians	72	Registered Nurses	300
Primary Care Physicians	35	Nurse Practitioners	14
Family Practice	12	Certified Midwives	2
General Practice	3	Licensed Practical Nurses	64
Internal Medicine	11	Other Health Professionals	
Obstetrics/Gynecology	4	Chiropractors	3
Pediatrics	5	Optometrists	3
Other Specialties	37	Pharmacists	18
		Psychologists	16
Dental Professionals			
Dentists	15		
Dental Hygienists	15		

2003 UNC SHEPS Center for Health Services Research

Primary Care Physicians per 10,000 population **10.2**  
 Physicians per 10,000 population **21.1**

2003 UNC SHEPS Center for Health Services Research

### Hospital/Facility Data

- General Hospital Discharges 2001 **2,850**
- General Hospital Beds 2002 **86**
- Nursing Facility Beds 2002 **198**

**Note:** Jackson County is designated as a medically underserved area by the Federal Government. The only hospital, Harris Regional Hospital, serves all of western North Carolina and many of the physicians serve patients in all 7 western counties reducing the availability of appointments for all residents of Jackson County.



### Dental Care

Jackson County low income residents have very little access to dental care and many individuals have long-standing untreated dental caries. This issue has been a priority for Community Health Link and the Jackson County Department of Public Health for many years. The health department has been successful in developing a program for Medicaid eligibility through the schools with the use of “Buster”, a mobile dental clinic that travels to each of the 5 elementary schools in the county.

The low-income adult population is still without access to care in this county. A second program at the health department will address some Medicaid eligible adults in the near future. The 2003 Assessment Questionnaire resulted in the following responses demonstrating the great need for services.

- Average length of time since last visit to a dentist **4 years - 10 months**
  - Individuals with untreated dental problems **26.5%**
  - Individuals with household income less than \$20,000 **43%**
- With untreated dental Problems**



**Strengths**

**Kindergarten and 5<sup>th</sup> Grade Children  
With Dental Screenings  
And Sealants**

**Note:** Respondents to this survey were generally well educated (89% had at least some college) and had reasonably high incomes (53% had household incomes greater than \$40,000 per year. The percent of individuals with untreated dental problems increases greatly for those with low incomes and lower levels of education.

**Medicaid Eligible Residents 2001 (unduplicated counts) 5,700**  
2003 UNC SHEPS Center for Health Services Research



## Social Issues Findings



### Substance Abuse/Violence

Substance abuse and violence go hand in hand and bring about serious conditions that threaten individual health and the health of the community. This is one of the priorities of the Jackson County Department of Public Health. Law enforcement, social service organizations, and health agencies are all becoming increasingly aware of the growing problem of meth-amphetamine labs in western North Carolina. This growing problem and the continuing problems of alcohol abuse and other illegal substances cause families to be in crisis financially, in their health, and in their social well-being. Children are often the ones who are most affected by this situation. Community Health Link and the Jackson County Department of Public Health will work with agencies and individuals to develop a plan that addresses this health problem.

#### 2003 Sexual Assault

	Number Sexually Assaulted	% Sexually Assaulted	# of Respondents
<b>Male</b>	5	3.8	131
<b>Female</b>	54	16.5	328
<b>Total</b>	59	12.8	459

2003 Community Assessment

#### Domestic Violence

Victims of Domestic Violence	Number of Victims of Domestic Violence	% of Victims of domestic Violence	# of Respondents
<b>Male</b>	6	4.9%	122
<b>Female</b>	67	20.9%	320
<b>Total</b>	73	16.5%	442

2003 Community Assessment

#### Domestic Violence 1999-2000

	Year	Adult Removed from Home	Protective Orders	Total
<b>Jackson</b>	<b>1999</b>	69	11	80
	<b>2000</b>	73	29	102
<b>North Carolina</b>	<b>1999</b>	21,048	9,556	30,604
	<b>2000</b>	21,400	9,581	30,981

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Crime Rate Per 100,000

	Year	Index Crime Rate	Violent Crime Rate	Property Crime Rate
Jackson	1999	2,781.8	214.8	2,567.0
	2000	1,887.8	163.6	1,742.3
NC	1999	5,269.2	550.8	4,718.4
	2000	4,921.5	498.3	4,423.2

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** Index Crime Rate includes the total number of violent crimes (murder, rape, aggravated assault and property crimes including burglary, larceny, and motor vehicle theft).

### North Carolina Firearm Facts

- An estimated 41.3% of adults keep firearms in or around the home.
- Whites (46.6%) were significantly more likely than African Americans (27.4%) to keep firearms at home.
- Keeping guns around the home tends to increase with age.
- Across all demographics groups, the highest rate of gun ownership (52.5%), or keeping firearms around the home, was found among 55 to 64 year olds.
- More than half of adults (55.4%) in Western North Carolina report keeping firearms at home, the highest rate of any geographical area.
- North Carolina had the 23<sup>rd</sup> highest rate (41.3%) of gun ownership (keeping firearms in or around home) nationwide. The highest reported rate of gun ownership was in Wyoming (59.7%) and the lowest rate was in the District of Columbia (3.8%).

DHHS SCHS August 2003

### Jackson County Firearms

Jackson County Firearm Information	
Firearms are locked or secured	<b>173</b>
Firearms are readily available	<b>123</b>
Ammunition is stored separately	<b>183</b>
Sometimes there are children in my home.	<b>154</b>
I do not have any firearms in my home.	<b>181</b>
<b>Total Respondents</b>	<b>468</b>

2003 Community Assessment

### Juveniles- District Courts- First Offense 1999

	# First Time before Court	Ages 10-17	Court Appearance Rate (per 1,000)
Jackson	118	2,775	42.5
NC	17,555	815,070	21.5

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** A juvenile is one that has not reached their eighteenth birthday and is not married emancipated or a member of the armed services of the United States.

### Youth Status Indicators, 2000

	Total Number of Children in DSS Custody	Rate of Children in Custody/1000	Youth Development and Detention Center Admissions (7/99-6/00)	Youth Development and Detention Center Admissions Rate (7/99-6/00)
Jackson	14	2.5	13	4.7
NC	11,234	6.1	8538	11.4

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** Children in custody and number per 1,000 refer to children from birth to age 17.

### Reports of Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency 1999-2000

	Number of Reports*	Number of Reports Substantiated	% Reports Substantiated	Number of Children Reported	Number of Children Substantiated	% Report Children Substantiated	Number of Children Reported per 1,000 children in county
Jackson	377	68	18.0	421	61	14.5	66.7
NC	63,676	20,114	31.6	100,682	31,828	31.6	51.0

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** Reports include duplicated counts, whereas Number of Children Reported are unduplicated counts.

### North Carolina Substance Abuse Facts

- About 5% of North Carolina adults reported that they have ever received counseling for substance abuse including alcohol.
- The rate for receiving counseling was 8.1% for males and 2.6% for females - a significant difference.
- By age group, the highest rate for receiving counseling was among 45 to 54 year olds.

- By income, the highest rate for receiving counseling was among the \$15,000 to \$24,999 income group.
- Two percent of North Carolina adults reported being arrested in the past 5 years for driving while impaired.
- The arrest rate for male (4.0%) was substantially higher than the arrest rate for females (0.3%).
- There are no difference in the arrest rates between African Americans and whites.
- By age group, the highest arrest rate (4.5%) was found among the 25 to 34 year olds.
- By income, the highest arrest rate was found among the \$15,000 to \$24,999 income group, which had the highest rate for receiving substance abuse counseling.

### **Jackson County Self-reported Substance Use**

Substance	Number that Use	Percent that Use	Total
Tobacco	98	21.4%	459
Illegal Drugs	117	26%	449

2003 Community Assessment

### **North Carolina Alcohol Consumption**

- Binge drinking among males (15.6%) was at least three times higher than that of females (4.5%).
- Among 18 to 24 year olds, binge drinking was 19%.
- Among 25 to 34 year olds, binge drinking was 17%. Older people had lower binge drinking rates.
- Binge drinking was least likely to occur among the lowest educated.
- About 4% of North Carolina adults met the definition for heavy drinking: at least 2 drinks for males or 1 drink for females every day out of the past 30 days.
- Heavy drinking was highest among 18 to 24 year olds (7.2%), males (5.3%), and those with a post high school education (5.3%).
- About 42% of North Carolina adults reported drinking alcohol in past 30 days.
- About 52% of males and about 33% of females drank alcohol in past month.
- African Americans (30.5%) were less likely to drink alcohol than whites (44.5%).
- The rate of drinking in the past 30 days among 18 to 34 year olds more than 50%.
- Those with the highest level of education or highest household income were significantly more likely than others to report drinking in the past month.

- The rates for binge drinking peaked in 1999 at 20% for white males and 15.3% for African American males.
- Nationally, North Carolina ranked 47<sup>th</sup> in binge drinking, one of the lowest rates in the country. The highest rate of binge drinking was found in Wisconsin (25.6%); the lowest rate was found in Tennessee (6.8%).

DHHS SCHS August 2003

### Alcohol Related Motor Vehicle Crashes 1999

	Vehicle Crashes	Non-fatal Injuries	Fatal Injuries	Alcohol/Drug Related Crashes
<b>Jackson</b>	751	423	4	52
<b>NC</b>	218,277	151,235	1,506	11,090

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Hospitalization Rates for Alcohol and Drug Related Diagnoses 1996-1998

	1996 Alcohol/Drug Hospitalizations	Rate per 10,000	1997 Alcohol/Drug Hospitalizations	Rate per 10,000	1998 Alcohol/Drug Hospitalizations	Rate per 10,000
<b>Jackson</b>	389	133.0	410	140.7	501	169.2
<b>NC</b>	87,165	119	93,664	126.0	100,879	133.6

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** Jackson County hospitalization rate has increased each year; also the county rate is higher than the average for NC.

### Medicaid Claims Paid for Alcohol and Substance Abuse- 1998

	Total # of Medicaid Recipients with Alcohol/Drug Claims	Total # of Medicaid Enrollees	% Medicaid Enrollees with Alcohol/Drug Claims	Total Amount Expended for Alcohol/Drug Claims	Average Cost per person with Alcohol/Drug Abuse Problems
<b>Jackson</b>	215	5,312	4.0%	\$604,948	\$2,814
<b>NC</b>	49,101	1,248,874	3.9%	\$135,142,075	\$2,752

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** Total number Medicaid Recipients with Alcohol/Drug Claims represents an unduplicated count.

### Medicaid Claims Paid for Mental Disorders-1998

	Total # of Medicaid Claims with Mental Disorders	Total # of Medicaid Enrollees	% Of Medicaid Enrollees with Mental Disorders	Total Amount Expended for Mental Disorder Claims	Average Cost per Person with a Mental Disorder
<b>Jackson</b>	1,358	5,312	25.6%	\$4,527,598	\$3,334
<b>NC</b>	318,161	1,248,874	25.5%	\$1,280,325,082	\$4,024

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** Total number Medicaid Recipients with Alcohol/Drug Claims represents an unduplicated count.

### Hospitalization Rates for Mental Disorders 1996-1998

	1996 Mental Disorder Hospitalizations	Rate per 10,000	1997 Mental Disorder Hospitalizations	Rate per 10,000	1998 Mental Disorder Hospitalizations	Rate per 10,000
<b>Jackson</b>	723	247.3	827	283.5	956	322.8
<b>NC</b>	181,402	247.7	192,503	259.0	207,317	274.6

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

### Child Care Findings

#### Child Care Enrollment 1999-2000

	# Regulated Child Care Centers & Homes	# Enrolled in Regulated Child Care Centers	# Enrolled in Regulated Family Child Care Homes	# Enrolled in Family Child Care Homes
<b>Jackson</b>	36	660	14	43
<b>NC</b>	9,714	216,302	5,690	17,585

North Carolina Vital Statistics - Division of Public Health 2002

**Note:** In Jackson County, 46 families or 10.6% of respondents had difficulty in the last year finding adequate, affordable childcare for their children.



#### Strengths

**Jackson County has lower rates than the state  
in  
Violent Crime  
Property Crime  
Number of Children in DSS Custody  
Child Abuse, Neglect, and Dependency  
Number of Reported Children Substantiated**

## Education

### Education Profile

Level of Education by Gender						
Education Level	Male		Female		Total	
	Number	% of Males	Number	% of Females	Number	% of Total
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1	1.0%	4	1.2%	5	1.0%
Some High School, No Diploma	2	1.5%	6	1.8%	8	1.7%
High School Graduate	10	7.5%	28	8.5%	38	8.3%
Some College, No Degree	20	15.0%	102	31%	122	26.4%
Associate Degree	16	12.0%	41	12.4%	57	12.3%
Baccalaureate Degree	30	22.5%	73	22.3%	103	22.3%
Graduate or Professional Degree	54	40.5%	75	22.8%	129	28%
<b>All</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>329</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>100%</b>

2003 Community Assessment

### Jackson County Schools

School Name	Student Population	Grade Levels	Average Class Size	
			Jackson	NC
Blue Ridge School	259	K - 8	18.25	20.55
Cullowhee Valley School	624	K - 8	20.66	20.55
Fairview Elementary School	783	K - 8	19.55	20.55
Jackson County School of Alternative	74	3 - 8	N/A	N/A
Scotts Creek Elementary	485	K - 8	21	20.55
Smokey Mountain Elementary	449	K - 8	18.11	20.55
Smoky Mountain High School	932	9 - 12	N/A	N/A
Summit Charter	166	K - 8	18.80	20.55
Victory Christian	94	K - 12	12.5	20.55

Education First NC School Report Cards 2002-2003

### Education Level 2000 US Census for Jackson County by Age

Education Level	Total	18-24	25 - 34	35-44	45 - 64	65 +
Less than 9 <sup>th</sup> Grade	1837	32	45	173	476	1111
Some High School, No Diploma	3189	565	373	404	1093	754
High School Graduate	6519	1158	937	1338	2094	992
Some College, No Degree	7885	3583	1074	938	1615	675
Associate Degree	1660	197	399	405	538	121
Baccalaureate Degree	3291	389	738	614	1039	511
Graduate or Professional Degree	2442	18	187	418	1359	460
<b>Total</b>	<b>26823</b>	<b>5942</b>	<b>3753</b>	<b>4290</b>	<b>8214</b>	<b>4624</b>

2000 US Census for Jackson County

### Jackson County Public Schools Information

- Average SAT scores in Jackson County for 1999 - 2000 were 1001; The North Carolina average was 992 for the same period.
- In 1999 the Jackson County Schools retention rate for grades 9 - 12 was 58.7%. The North Carolina rate was 56.9.
- In 1999 - 2000 there was a total of 31 violence incidents or 8.9 per 1000 students. In North Carolina the rate was 6.0 per 1,000 pupils or a total number of incidents of 7,229.
- Total school enrollment for 2002 - 2003 was 3,772.

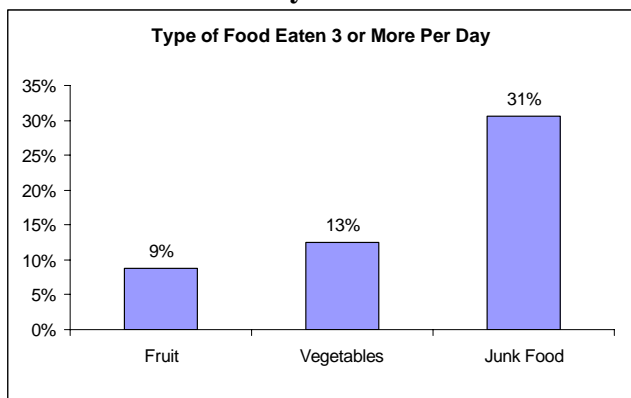
### Average Expenditures per Student 1999 - 2000

	Jackson County	State Average
State Funding	\$4,791.00	\$4,324.00
Local Funding	\$1,462.00	\$1,474.00
Federal Funding	\$520.00	\$482.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,773.00</b>	<b>\$6,280.00</b>

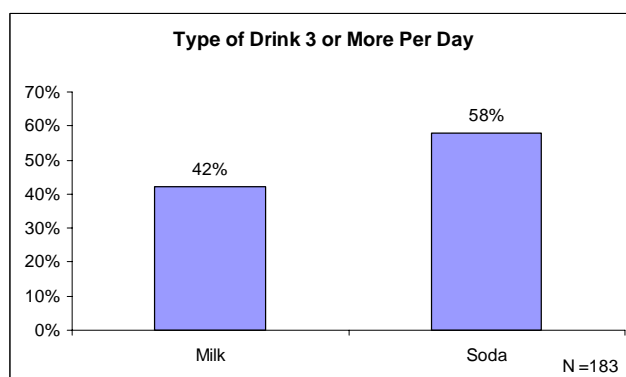
## 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results

The following charts are taken from the 2003 Youth Risk Behavior Survey results. The survey was administered to 183 students and represent student responses to the questions. All answers to the survey are self reported and students had privacy while answering multiple choice questions. The survey was administered by the Jackson County Department of Public Health and Western Carolina University. The Youth Risk Behavior Survey has been used for many years all over the United States and Canada and is generally considered to be an excellent tool for gathering student behavior data.

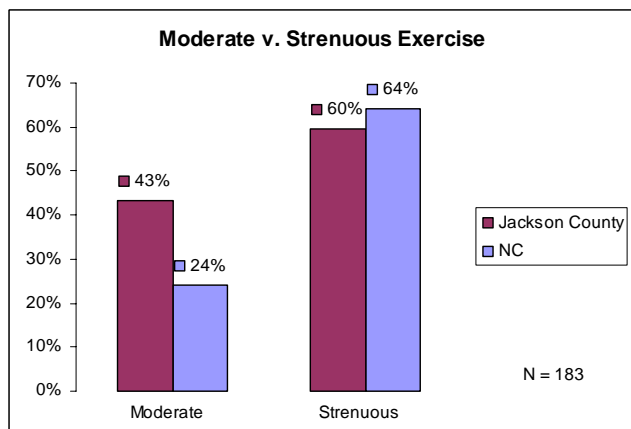
### Nutrition and Activity



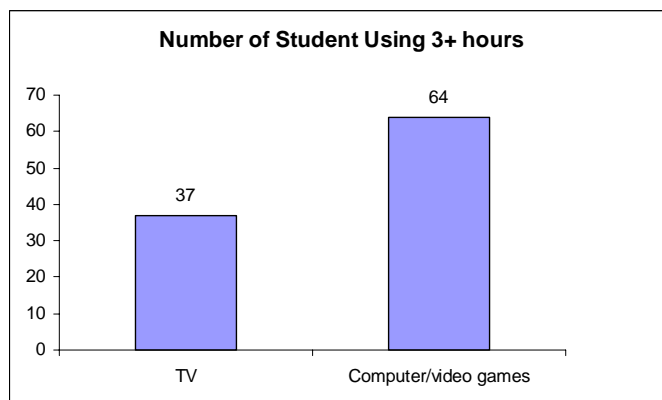
YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools



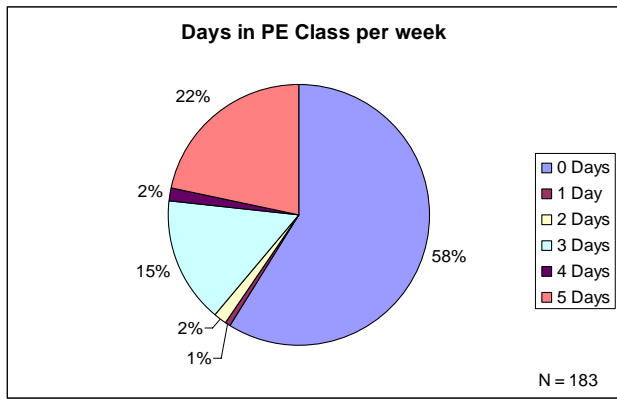
YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools



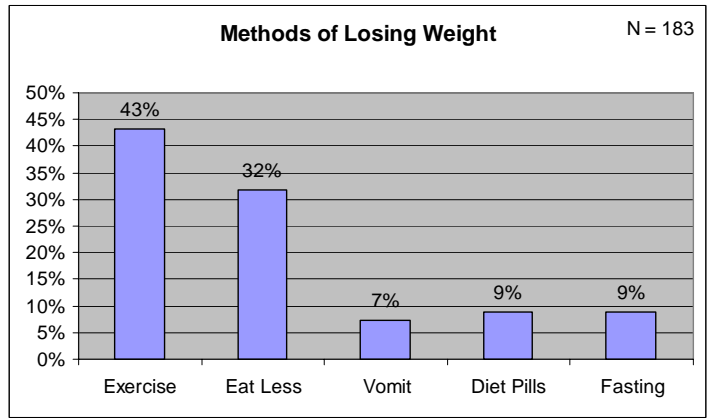
YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools



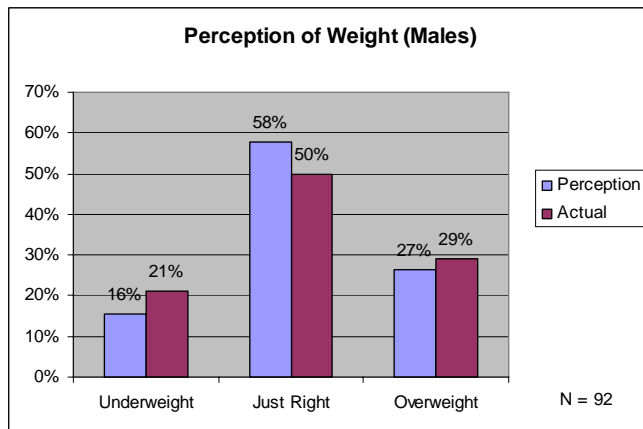
YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools



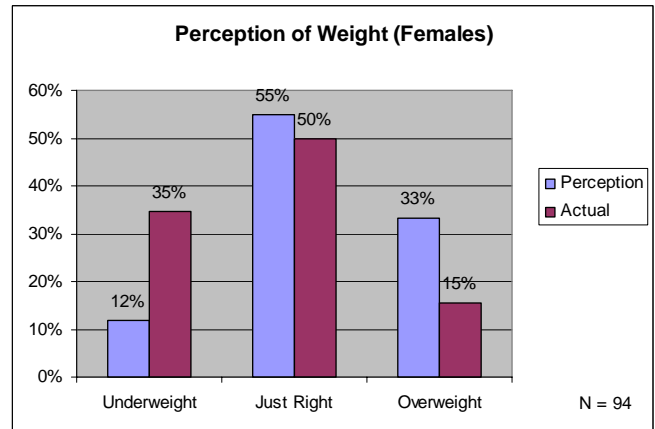
YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools



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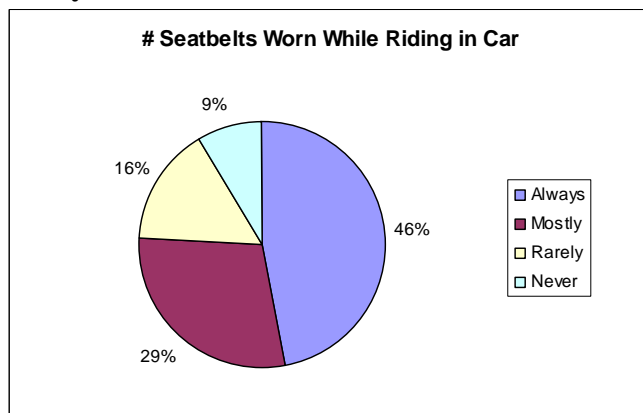


YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools

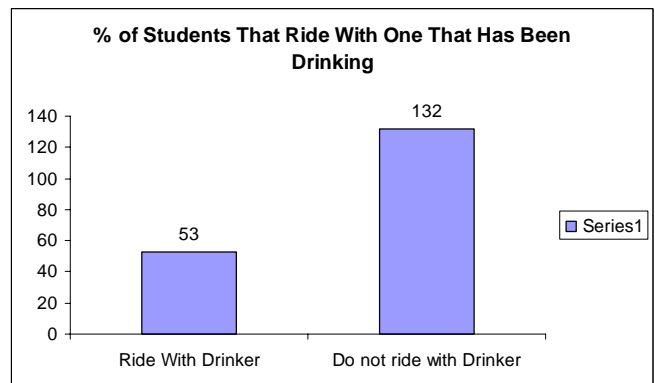


YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools

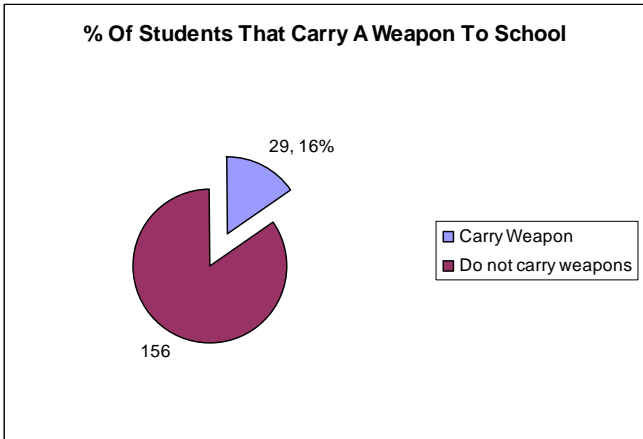
## Safety



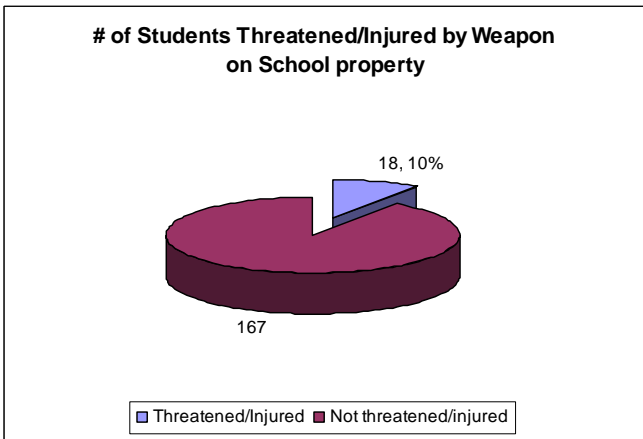
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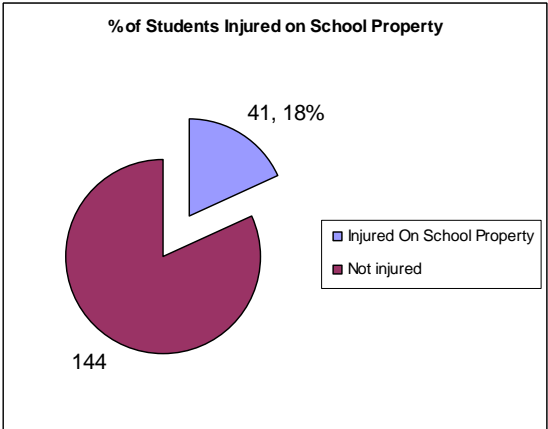


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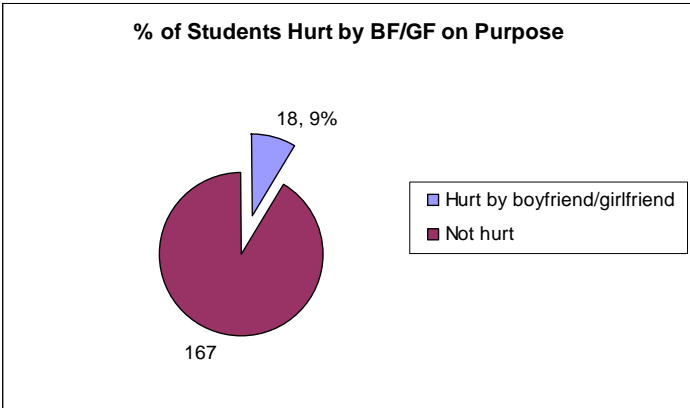


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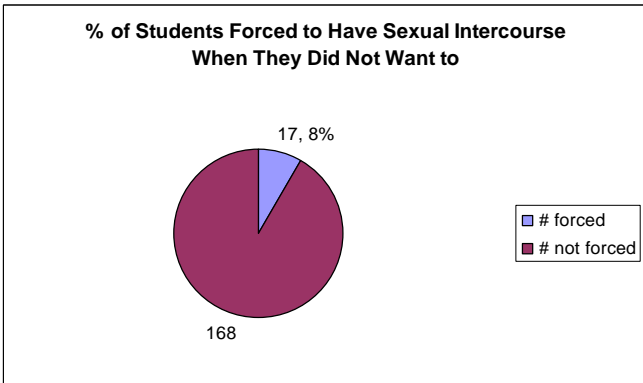
## Violence and Illegal Activity



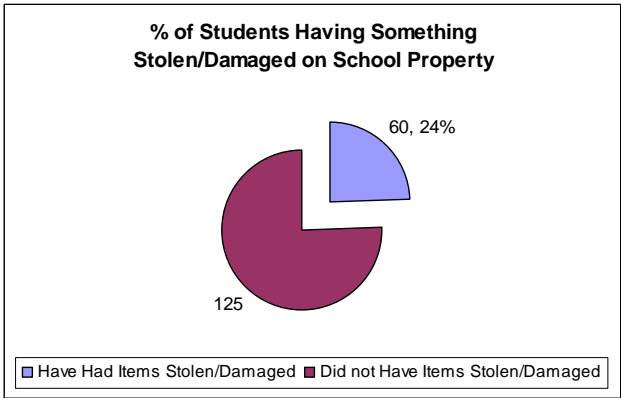
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YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools

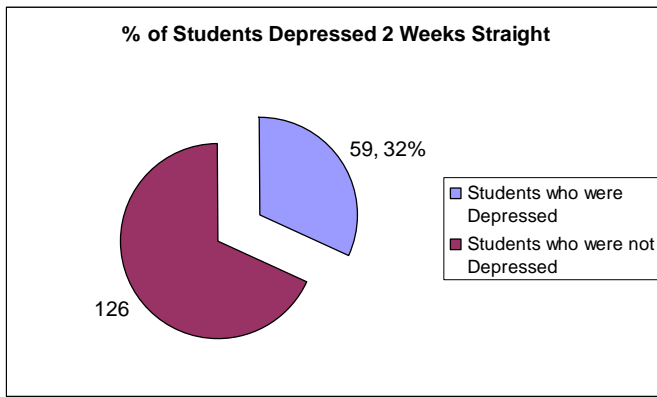


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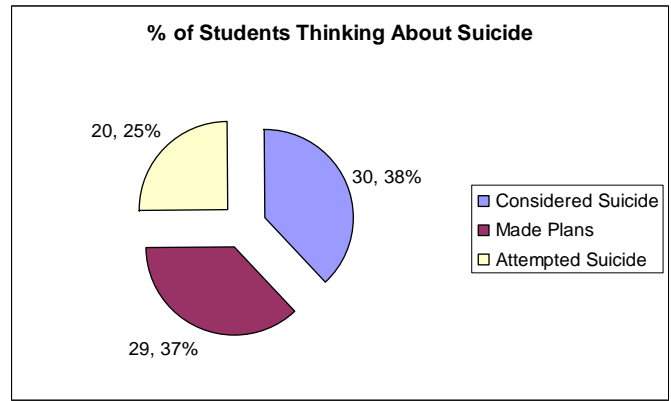


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## Emotional Issues

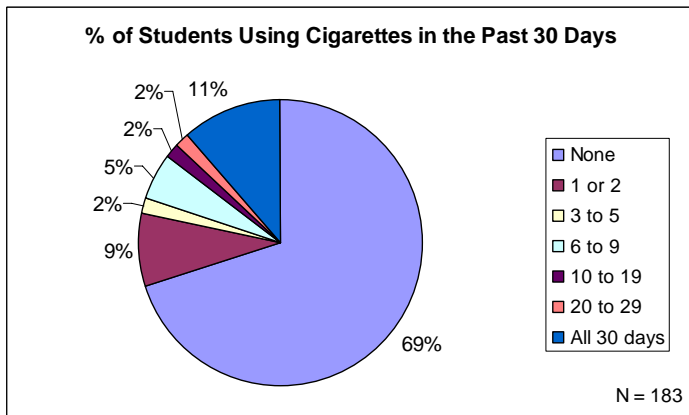


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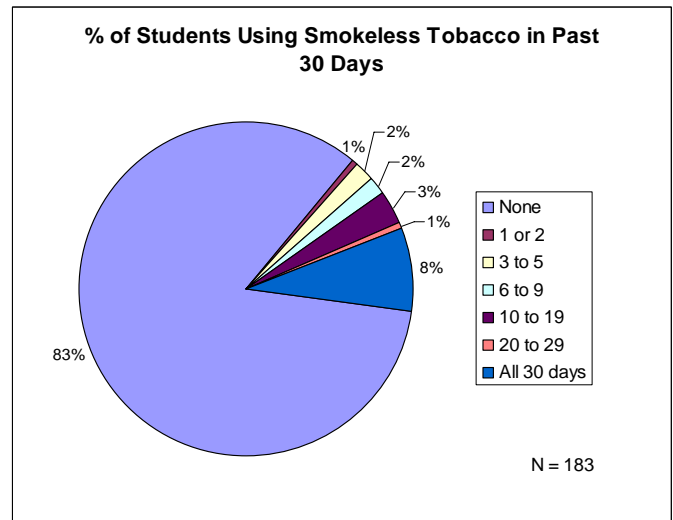


YRSB 2003 - Jackson County High Schools

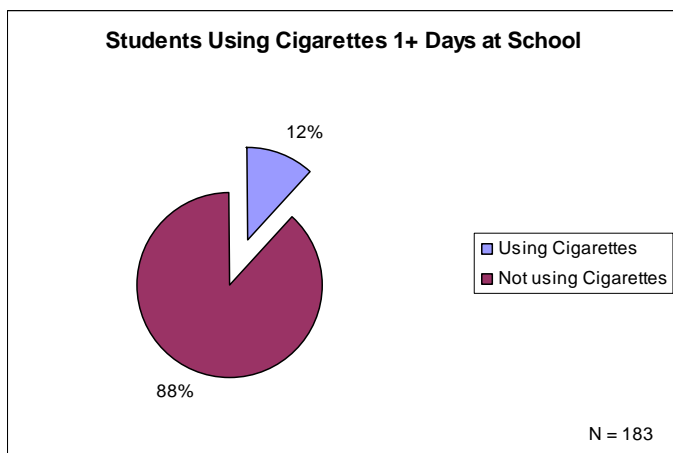
## Tobacco, Alcohol, and Illegal Substances



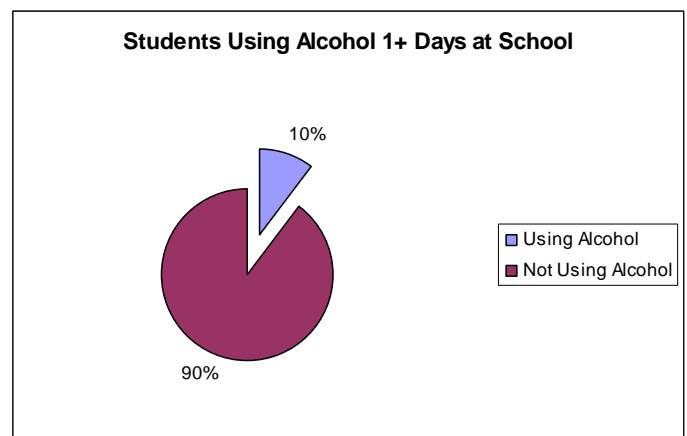
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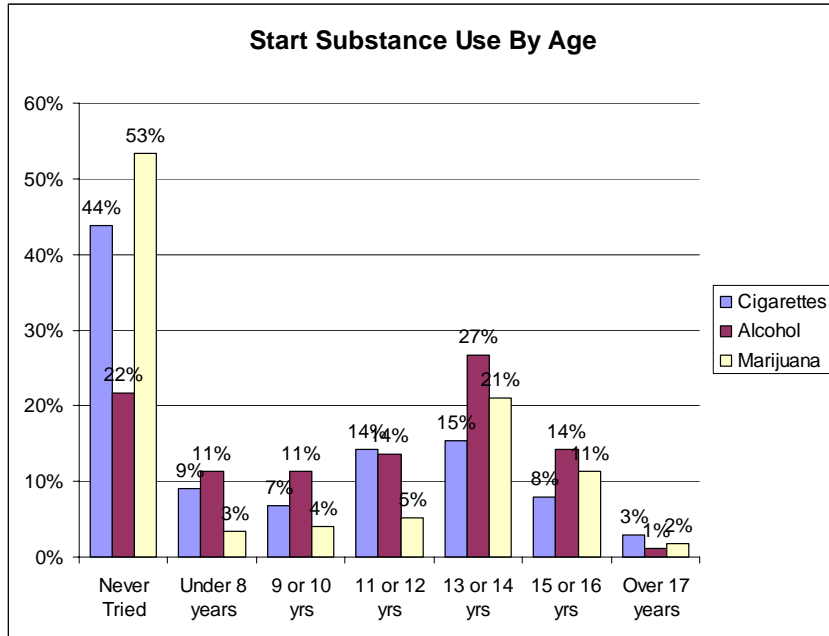
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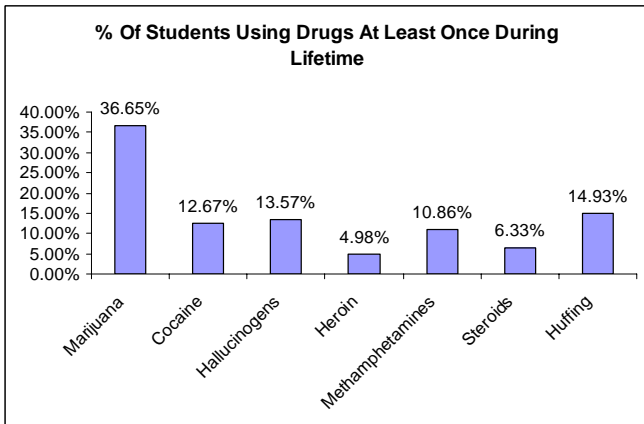
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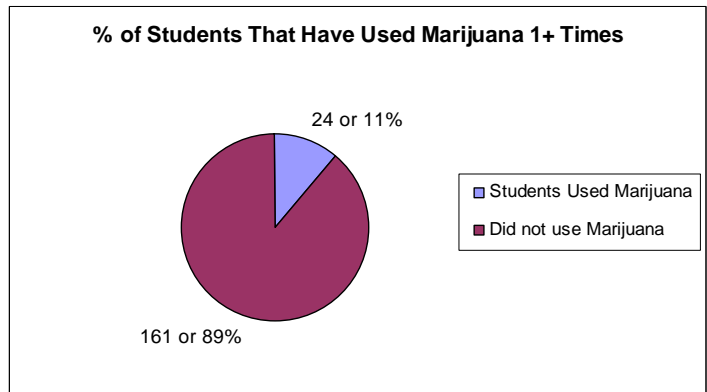
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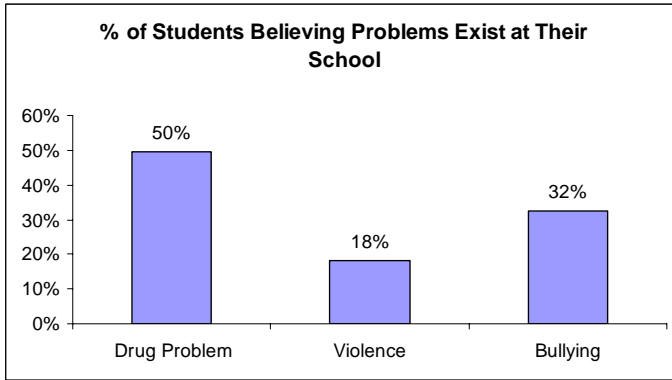


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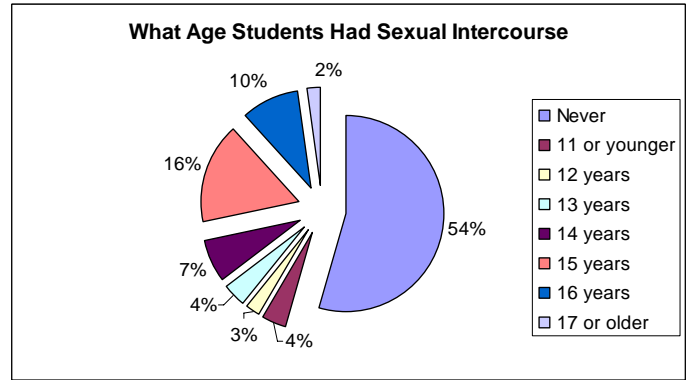


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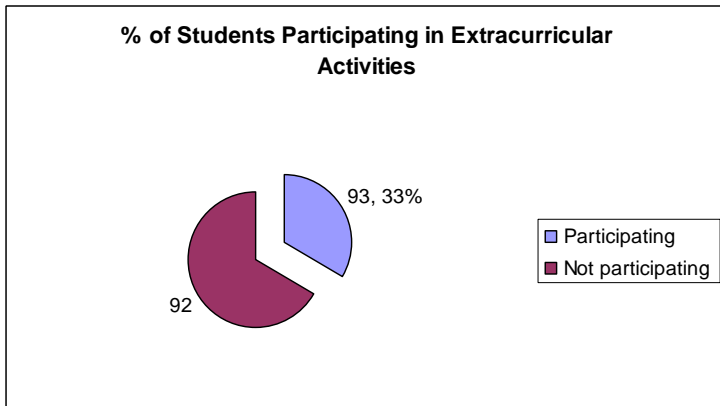
## Social Issues



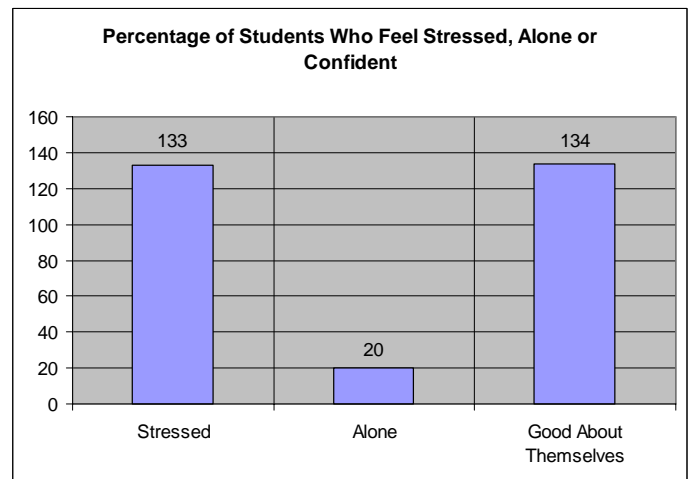
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## Access to Health Care

### North Carolina Health Care Access

- 14.2% of North Carolinians had no insurance in 2001, up from 12.7% in 2000.
- African Americans had higher uninsured rates than (16.0%) than whites (12.6%).
- As expected, not having health insurance declines with age and income.
- Persons of Hispanic ethnicity who spoke English were more likely (28.6%) of any demographic group not to have health insurance.
- 19.3% of North Carolinians do not have someone they think of as their personal physician.
- 43.7% of Hispanics report not having a personal doctor, the highest of any group.
- 39.9% of 18 to 24 year olds have no personal doctor; among seniors the rate was 6.9%.
- 11.5 % of NC adults could not see a doctor in the past year because of cost.
- The rate for females (13.7%) was significantly higher than the rate for males (9.0%).
- North Carolina had the 23<sup>rd</sup> highest rate (14.2%) of no health insurance coverage in the country. The highest rates with no health insurance were observed in the Virgin Islands (28.3%) and Texas (22.9%), while the lowest was observed in Minnesota (5.5%)
- North Carolina trend statewide, the highest rates (above 14% of no health insurance coverage were reported in 1997 and 2001.

### **Jackson County Health Care Access**

Access to Health Care is again a priority for Jackson County residents and agencies. With little industry in the county, many of the available jobs are in the service sector and offer low paying positions with no health insurance. Over 30% of the working population in the county earn \$8.00 or less per hour and have no health benefits. Those without jobs or 6.0% of the workforce have even less opportunity to afford health care.

The 2000 Community Assessment and the current one both point out the need to address this issue. Community Health Link has developed a program called Community Health Access Network or CHAN. Through a network of providers the program provides a system of free comprehensive health care to individuals who are between 18 and 64 years of age, at or below 150% of poverty, have no insurance, and who have been residents of Jackson County for at least 1 year. The comprehensive care offers a medical home and an opportunity to receive all hospital services and medications with no charge.

In Jackson County over 4,000 individuals meet these criteria. They can be referred to CHAN by any of the network members. Network members include area physicians, all county Pharmacists,

Community Health Link, Jackson County Department of Public Health, WestCare Health System, Department of Social Services, Smoky Mountain Mental Health, Medication Assistance Program, the Good Samaritan Clinic, and the CARING database program at Harris Regional Hospital.

The following chart from the proposal for funding to the US Department of Health and demonstrates the high rate of individuals in Jackson County who are at risk for lack of health care compared to the state rate. Current numbers are alarmingly worsened by high unemployment in Jackson County and a continuing trend toward low-paying jobs that offer no health benefits. The successful grant provides 537,000.00 federal dollars to the county through Community Health Link to develop and implement the program.

## **Community Health Access Network**



**Gateway to Health in Jackson County**

*Annual Medically Indigent Percentages “At Risk,” 1995 (At Risk Includes Underinsured)*

<b>Indicator</b>	<b>Number of Events in Jackson County</b>	<b>Rate in Jackson County</b>	<b>State Rate</b>	<b>State Average Range</b>
Total “At Risk”	10,873	38.0%	32.7%	27.8 - 37.6
Uninsured All Year (4115 now)	3,268	11.4%	8.8%	7.5 - 10.1
Uninsured Part Year	3,097	10.8%	8.5%	7.2 - 9.8
“At Risk” Below Poverty				
Total “At Risk”	3,376	65.9%	54.7%	46.5 - 62.9
Uninsured All Year	1,291	25.2%	20.4%	17.3 - 23.5
Uninsured Part Year	939	18.3%	14.8%	12.6 - 17.0

**Latino Population**

Another group of individuals and families medically underserved in Jackson County are the growing population of Migrant Farmworkers. This group is being addressed through a program developed through the Jackson County Department of Public Health and funded by the federal government, the state government, and through an award from the Nancy Susan Reynolds Foundation. The program is now a 501 (c) 3 organization called “Vacios” serving 7 counties. It provides health care and socio-economic opportunities and will soon establish an Immigrant Community Center.