

2008 Gaston County Quality of Life Survey

Report

January 2009

Introduction

A group of community agencies conducted the 2008 Gaston County Quality of Life Survey to obtain citizen input on community development, youth issues, and community health. With support from mayors of each of the county's 12 municipalities, surveys were administered to: (1) county residents, (2) community leaders, (3) high school juniors in each of the county's nine high schools, and (4) persons living in neighborhoods identified as having poor health status and low income. Efforts were made to ensure that all demographic groups in the community were adequately surveyed.

The survey was a project of Gaston Together/Gaston 2012 and collaborating community organizations, including the Gaston Community Healthcare Commission, the Gaston Regional Chamber, the Gaston County Cooperative Extension, the Gaston County Schools, Gaston College, the Gaston County Health Department, Pathways, and the United Way of Gaston County. The Gaston County Health Department provided lead staff support for this initiative.

As of December 1, 2008, 1,680 surveys have been returned, scanned, and analyzed: 268 from community leaders, 663 from the community-at-large, 571 from high school juniors, and 178 from persons with poor health status and low income.

Gaston Together

2008 Chair: Robert Spencer

2008 Chair-Elect: Bruce Hodge

2008 Vice Chair: Cathy Kenzig

Gaston Community Healthcare Commission

2008 Chair: Cathy Kenzig

2008 Vice-Chair: Brian Boyle

Gaston 2012 Strategic Council

2008 Chair: Regina Moody

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Executive Summary

In the spring and summer of 2008, a group of organizations conducted the Gaston County Quality of Life Survey with community members, persons living in communities characterized by poor health and low income, community leaders, and high school juniors in Gaston County. This collaborative process was conducted by the Quality of Life Action Team of Gaston 2012, an initiative of Gaston Together and our county's ten-year economic development strategy, and partnering community organizations, including the United Way of Gaston County, Pathways, the Gaston County Schools, the Gaston Community Healthcare Commission, Gaston College, the Alliance for Children and Youth, Gaston Together, and the Gaston County Health Department. The Gaston County Health Department provided lead staff support for this initiative.

The purpose of the survey was to obtain citizens' opinions about community development needs, youth issues, and community health issues. With support from mayors of all 12 county municipalities, surveys were administered to the four target audiences; 1,680 surveys were completed, tabulated, and analyzed and focus groups will be conducted to probe more deeply into issues identified in the survey.

The survey employed two methods to identify priorities: the "percentage method" tabulated the percentage of issue and problem statements to which respondents said they *Agree* and *Strongly Agree*. The "priority method" was derived from a list of the top three problems cited by respondents in the community development, youth issues, and community health sections of the survey; these priority-setting questions were added to the survey after our survey of persons in neighborhoods with high rates of poor health and low income, making this data available only for surveys completed by community members, leaders, and students.

The community development section asked respondents to rate each of 32 statements in response to the statement: "Our community needs to do more to improve ...". Using the percentage method, the top five issues identified by all surveyed groups, were: (1) Our roads, (2) The quality of K-12 education, (3) Its appearance, (4) Services for the elderly, and (5) Sidewalks. The top five responses using the priority method were: (1) The quality of K-12 education, (2) Our roads, (3) Law enforcement, (4) Its appearance, and, Services for the elderly (tie), and (5) Water quality.

The top youth issues identified by all respondents, using the percentage method, were: (1) Assure student safety in school, (2) Stop youth gangs and gang violence, (3) Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children, (4) Help high school students plan their careers, and, Increase our high school graduation rate (tie), and (5) Stop crime committed by youth. The top five youth issues ranked with the priority method were: (1) Stop youth gangs and gang violence, (2) Reduce teen pregnancy, (3) Promote student success in school, (4) Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families, and (5) Reduce the use of drugs and alcohol by youth, and, Increase our high school graduation rate (tie).

The third section of the survey addressed community health problems. Using the percentage method, the five leading priorities identified by all respondents were: (1) Overweight and obesity, (2) Alcohol and substance abuse, (3) Teen pregnancy, (4) Motor vehicle accidents, and

(5) High blood pressure. The priority method generated similar results: (1) Alcohol and substance abuse, (2) Overweight and obesity, (3) Teen pregnancy, (4) Lack of health care for uninsured persons, and (5) Cancer. The survey also provides data on health insurance status, health services and resources respondents cannot access, reasons for these barriers, where respondents go for sick care and health care, and sources of trusted health information and advice.

This report presents findings by respondent group, high school district, as well as tables that rank all responses, and as available, compares data from the 2004 and 2008 Quality of Life Surveys. It also presents data from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics on pregnancies and live births, morbidity, mortality, health resources, and behavioral risk factors that influence individual and community health – including use of health resources, persons with diabetes, high cholesterol, depression, those who are overweight and obese, and data on nutrition, fitness, and smoking behaviors.

Finally, the report includes a demographic analysis, with information on the number, income, racial composition, educational attainment, and employment of county residents.

The Quality of Life Survey has been designed to provide community organizations, leaders, and governments with data to help them develop programs, policies, and directions to improve the quality of life for all county residents.

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Methodology

The Quality of Life Survey was conducted with: (1) community residents; (2) persons with poor health and low incomes; (3) community leaders; and, (4) high school juniors. The following describes the methods with which we surveyed each of these groups.

Community Residents

Community residents were mailed surveys with cover letters, signed by the mayors of each of the county's 12 municipalities, along with self-addressed, stamped envelopes; returned surveys were scanned by Gaston College. A total of 3,999 surveys were mailed, seeking a response rate of 15% (600 surveys) to yield a confidence interval of $\pm 4\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The Gaston County Tax Department used these parameters to randomly generate mailing labels to match the required percentage of county residents in each municipality and unincorporated areas. A total of 663 surveys were completed for a response rate of 16.6%, yielding a confidence interval of $\pm 3.8\%$.

Persons with Poor Health Status and Low Income (PH/LI)

Staff from the Gaston County Health Department (GCHD) surveyed residents of neighborhoods with high concentrations of poor health status and low income. They administered the surveys by tracking each respondent's answers on handheld computers

GCHD identified these neighborhoods with NC-CATCH (Comprehensive Assessment for Tracking Community Health) – a new state system that provides birth, death, and hospital discharge data by census tract. With NC-CATCH, GCHD identified 11 census tracts with the highest death rates from the following preventable diseases: (1) acute cerebrovascular disease, (2) acute myocardial infarction, (3) cancer of bronchus and lung, (4) cancer of colon, (5) chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, (6) coronary atherosclerosis, (7) diabetes mellitus with complications, (8) diabetes mellitus without complication, (9) hypertension with complications, and (10) melanoma of the skin. Within these census tracts, GCHD used census data (2000) to select ten block groups with the greatest percentage of residents living below the poverty level (Figure 1).

Two-person teams of GCHD staff administered the survey in these neighborhoods, using handheld computers: (1) which displayed maps showing randomly selected houses where they were assigned to conduct surveys; (2) on which respondent's survey answers were tracked; and, (3) from which data was downloaded to computers for tabulation. The Guilford County Health Department provided the handheld computers and trained GCHD staff to use them. Staff administered 178 surveys but did not reach their goal of 210 because individuals were not home or chose not to participate.

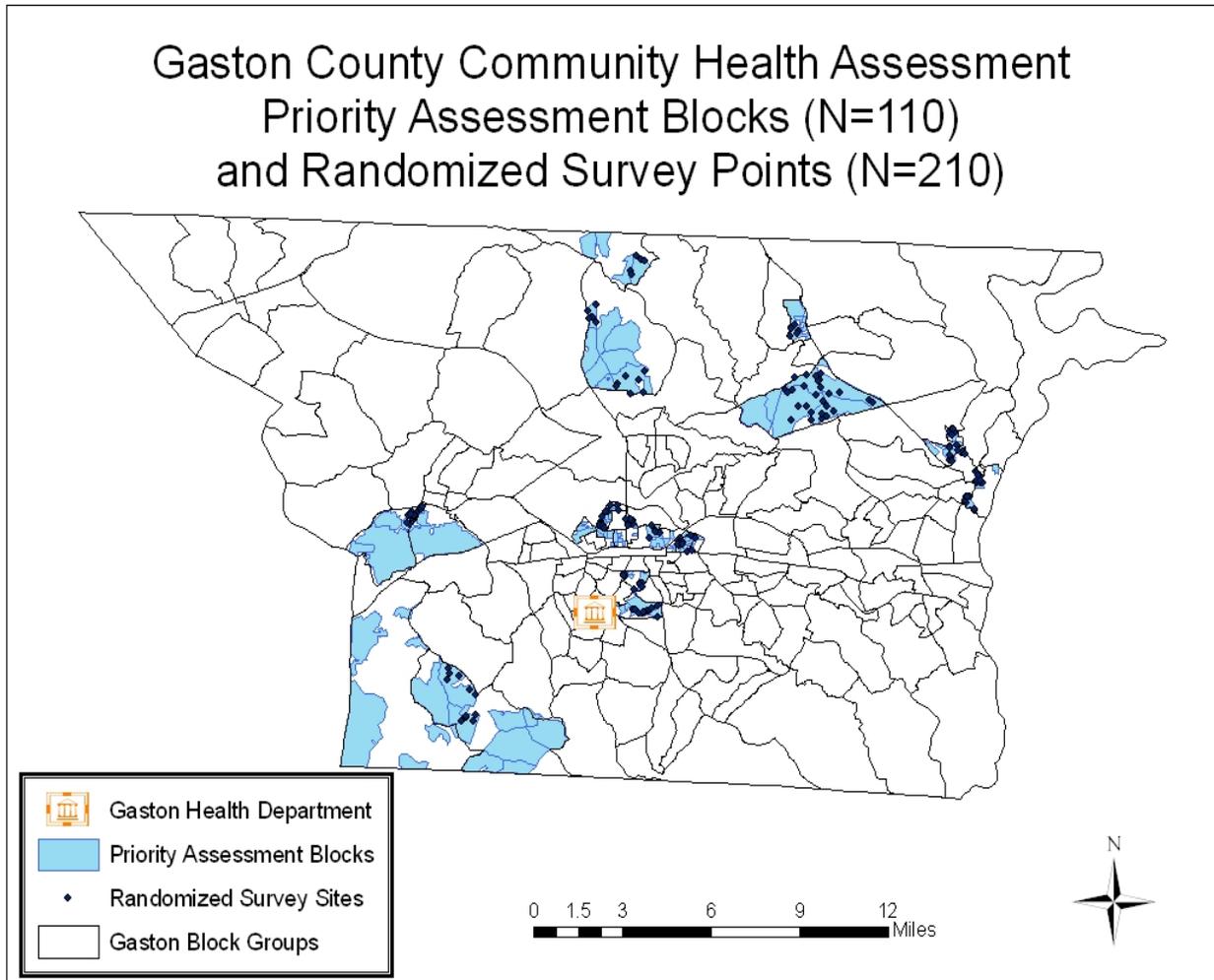
Community Leaders

Using SurveyMonkey.com, an online service contributed by the Gaston Regional Chamber, community leaders received and returned completed surveys via email. A total of 930 surveys were distributed to Chamber members, Gaston Together members, and to the Boards of Directors of United Way agencies; 268 (28.8%) surveys were completed and returned.

Students

Quality of Life Surveys were distributed to high school juniors in each of Gaston County's nine high schools; 571 surveys were returned and were scanned by Gaston College.

Figure 1.



A Picture of Gaston County

Gaston County, located in the south-central Piedmont of North Carolina (Figure 2), neighbors Mecklenburg County (Charlotte) to the east, Lincoln County to the north, and Cleveland County to the west. In the mid- to-late 1800s, textiles became Gaston County's dominant industry, with many families living and working in mill villages. Over the past three decades, however, tens of thousands of textile workers have lost jobs to automation, and mills that have closed and relocated outside the U.S. Today, many of these individuals face a bleak employment outlook because of their limited job skills and literacy; in October 2008, Gaston County had an unemployment rate of 5.00, in contrast to a statewide rate of 3.00.

Figure 2. Gaston County, North Carolina



Figure 3 shows the location of the 15 municipalities in Gaston County. In 2007, approximately 59% of the population lived in the county's 14 municipalities (excluding Dellview) and 41.3% in unincorporated areas, or areas outside those municipalities (Table 1). Between the 2000 and 2007, the US Census show modest growth in the three largest municipalities: 7.2% in the City of Gastonia, 5.9% in the City of Belmont, and 3.4% in the City of Mount Holly; at the same time, the population of the county's unincorporated grew by 2.0%.

Figure 3. Municipalities in Gaston County

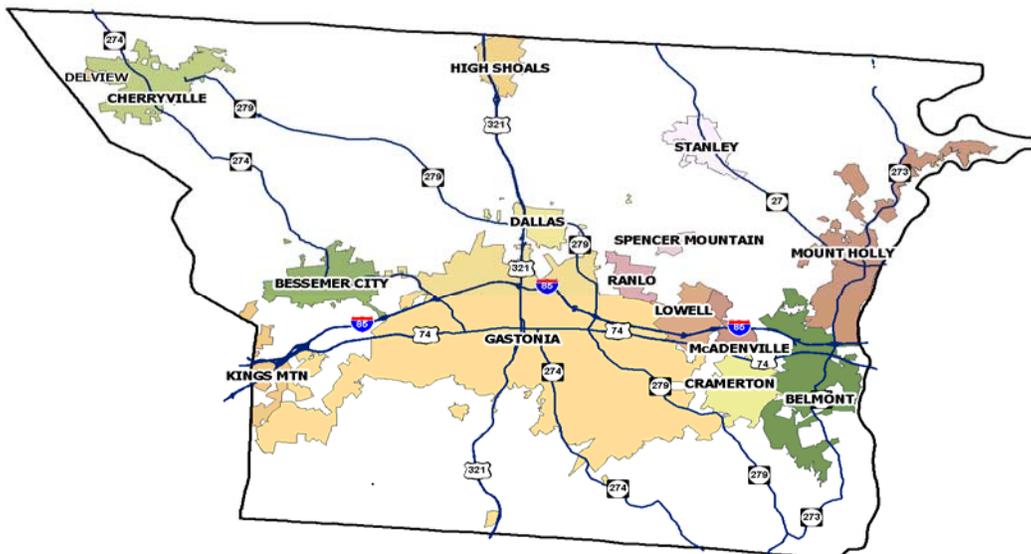


Table 1. Population Estimates, Gaston County and North Carolina, 2000 and 2007

Geographic Area	Census 2000	Estimated Population July 1, 2007	Percent Growth
North Carolina	8,049,313	9,061,032	12.6
Gaston County	190,365	202,535	6.4
City of Belmont	8,705	9,218	5.9
City of Bessemer City	5,119	5,508	7.6
City of Cherryville	5,361	5,538	3.3
Town of Cramerton	2,976	3,096	4.0
Town of Dallas	3,402	3,727	9.6
City of Gastonia	66,277	71,059	7.2
Town of High Shoals	729	786	7.8
City of Kings Mountain (Gaston County)	590	978	65.8
City of Lowell	2,662	2,737	2.8
Town of McAdenville	619	656	6.0
City of Mount Holly	9,618	9,947	3.4
Town of Ranlo	2,198	2,304	4.8
Town of Spencer Mountain	51	65	27.5
Town of Stanley	3,053	3,289	7.7
Unincorporated Areas	81,981	83,627	2.0

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Population Estimates, Table GCT-T1.

*Percent growth of population between Census 2000 and the estimated population on July 1, 2007.

Population estimates (2007) show Gaston County has a population of 202,535 (Table 2), making it the eighth most populous of North Carolina's 100 counties. The County population is 48.1% male, 51.9% female; and its percentage of residents, by age and gender, is similar to those for North Carolina (Table 3); the median age is 37.4 for Gaston and 36.8 for the state.

Table 2. Population by Age and Gender, Gaston County, 2007

Age Range	Males	Females	Total	
			Number	Percent
0-19	27,941	26,016	53,957	26.6%
20-44	33,396	36,137	69,533	34.3%
45-64	25,683	27,442	53,125	26.2%
65+	10,420	15,500	25,920	12.8%
Total	97,440 (48.1%)	105,095 (51.9%)	202,535	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Population Estimates, Table B01001

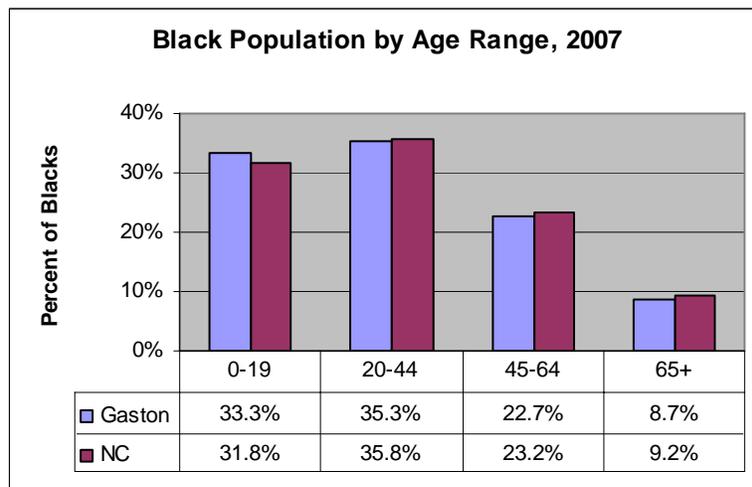
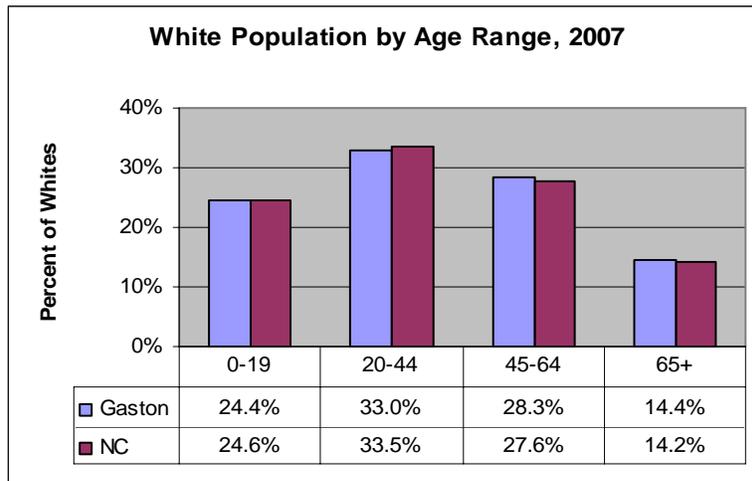
Table 3. Population by Age and Gender, North Carolina, 2007

Age Range	Males	Females	Total	
			Number	Percent
0-19	1,271,440	1,211,299	2,482,739	27.4%
20-44	1,588,589	1,575,834	3,164,423	34.9%
45-64	1,109,472	1,201,362	2,310,834	25.5%
65+	455,902	647,134	1,103,036	12.2%
Total	4,425,403 (48.8%)	4,635,629 (51.2%)	9,061,032	100.0%

Source: US Census Bureau, 2007 Population Estimates, Table B01001

2006 Census estimates also show 80.6% of county residents are white and of the 19.4% that are minorities, 14.8% are Black or African American, and 5.2% are Latinos. Between 2000 and 2006, the county’s Latino population increased 80.2%, from 5,719 to 10,306, growing from 3.0% to 5.2% of the population. While the majority of whites in Gaston County are between the ages of 20-44, minorities tend to be younger (Figures 4 and 5), with 68.6% of minorities in Gaston County under age 44 compared to 58.4% of whites.

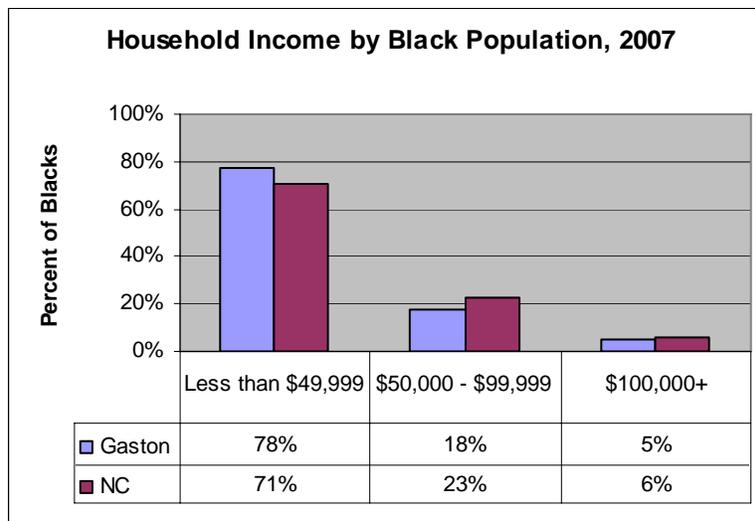
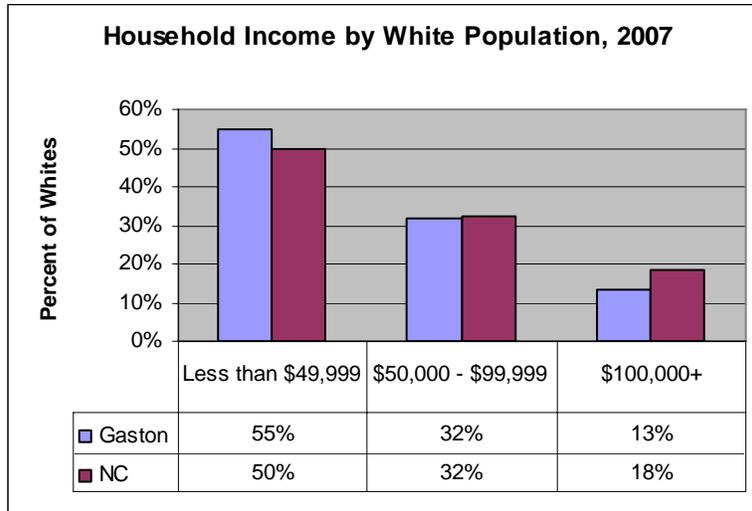
Figures 4 and 5



In 2007, the county’s median household income of \$41,259 was lower than \$44,670 for the state (Census, 2007). Estimates of Gaston County families below the poverty level are: 12.2% of all families; 19.1% of all families with related children under age 18; and, 44.4% of all families with mothers, but no husbands present, with related children under age 18 (Census 2007).

As described in Figures 6 and 7, a larger percentage of Blacks in Gaston County (77.6%) have incomes below \$49,000 than Whites (55.0%), and a smaller percentage of both groups have incomes over \$100,000 than do their counterparts in the rest of North Carolina (Census, 2007).

Figures 6 and 7



In 2007, Gaston County lagged North Carolina for educational measures: 77.5% of county residents over age 25 were high school graduates or higher, compared with 83.0% for the state; in the same cohort, 16.7% had a bachelor’s degree or higher, compared with 25.6% for the state (Table 4). At the same time, 72.3% of students in the Gaston County Schools graduated within four years of entering ninth grade, in comparison to 69.7% for the state (2008). Gaston County Schools is the seventh largest school district in the state; in 2008 it had an enrollment of 32,444 students in its 53 schools: 30 elementary schools, one intermediate school, 11 middle schools, nine high schools, one special needs school, and one alternative school.

Gaston County has one private four-year college (Belmont Abbey College), a two-year community college (Gaston College), and there are a host of other public and private colleges and universities in the Charlotte region.

Table 4. Educational Attainment, Population Over 25, North Carolina and Gaston County, 2006

Category	Gaston County		North Carolina	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Less than 9th grade	11,121	8.1	365,783	6.1
9th to 12th grade, no diploma	19,921	14.5	647,904	10.9
High school graduate (includes equivalency)	41,695	30.2	1,766,873	29.6
Some college, no degree	29,441	21.4	1,160,685	19.5
Associate's degree	12,679	9.2	491,574	8.2
Bachelor's degree	16,437	11.9	1,015,979	17.0
Graduate or professional degree	6,556	4.8	511,109	8.6
Total Population, 25 and Over	137,850	100.0	5,959,907	102.0
Percent high school graduate or higher	77.5%		83.0%	
Percent bachelor's degree or higher	16.7%		25.6%	

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey

Among county residents over age 16 (Table 5), the five leading industries of employment are: (1) educational services, health care, and social assistance; (2) manufacturing; (3) retail trade; (4) construction; and, (5) transportation and warehousing and utilities. This ranking reflects a significant shift from the days when textile manufacturing was the leading industry. The Gaston County Economic Development Commission states Gaston permanently lost more than 17,000 jobs in the past decade – mostly textile related – more than any other county in the state.

Table 5. Industry of Employment, Civilians over age 16, Gaston County, 2007

Industry	Number	Percent
Employed civilians age 16 and older	93,047	100.0
Educational services, health care, and social assistance	18,669	20.1
Manufacturing	18,129	19.5
Retail trade	10,500	11.3
Construction	7,626	8.2
Transportation and warehousing, and utilities	6,510	7.0
Professional, scientific, and management, and administrative and waste management services	6,555	7.0
Finance and insurance, and real estate and rental and leasing	5,782	6.2
Arts, entertainment, and recreation, and accommodation, and food services	5,808	6.2
Other services, except public administration	5,099	5.5
Wholesale trade	4,075	4.4
Public administration	2,541	2.7
Information	1,657	1.8

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007 American Community Survey

Survey Overview

Demographics of Survey Respondents

A total of 1,671 persons completed the 2008 Gaston County Quality of Life Survey. Of this number: (1) 39.7% of responses were received from the community survey; (2) 10.7% from persons with poor health status and low income (PH/LI); (3) 15.5% from community leaders; and, (4) 34.1% from high school juniors.

Table 6 presents the number and percent of responses from each of these groups by respondents' municipality of reported residence. In most cases, the percentage of total responses for each municipality exceeded the actual percentage of individuals residing in those communities. The significant exception was "unincorporated areas" to which 41.5% of community surveys were mailed, but which had a response rate of 0.2%. We attribute this to respondents who checked the municipalities closest to their homes as their residence, even though they live outside a city or town. While the survey listed an answer option of "other" for place of residence, this was insufficient and we will include "unincorporated area" in future Quality of Life surveys.

Figures 8 to 14 present demographics for survey respondents compared to the county population:

Age Distribution (Figure 8): When compared with the general population, there were more community respondents in the 50-59, 60-69, and 70+ age groups and fewer in the 15-19, 20-29, and 30-39 age groups. The Poor Health/Low Income (PH/LI) group was especially underrepresented in the 30-39 age groups. Community leaders were overrepresented in the 40-49 and 50-59 age groups. All respondents were underrepresented in the 15-19 age group; this figure does not include high school juniors because there is no diversity in their ages.

Gender Distribution (Figure 9): The gender distribution for respondent groups was relatively close to the county population, except for male PH/LI and female students; Gaston County's residents are 51.9% female and 48.1% male.

Racial Distribution (Figure 10): Whites represent 80.6% of the county population; a greater percentage of community members and leaders were white. While fewer than the 14.8% of the county's Black community members and leaders responded to the survey, this cohort was well represented among PH/LI and students.

Highest Educational Attainment (Figure 11): A greater percentage of community respondents had some college, technical certificates/associate degrees, and college degrees than the county population. PH/LI respondents had a higher percentage of some high school and high school diplomas/GEDs. Leaders had a disproportionately large number of graduate degrees.

Marital Status (Figure 12): The percentage of married leaders and community respondents was far greater than the county rate, and the percentage of separated and divorced PH/LI respondents was substantially higher than that of the county.

Household Income (Figure 13): The bulk of respondents were in the \$50,000 - \$74,999 and \$75,000 - \$124,000 range. PH/LI respondents most frequently had incomes below \$20,000, and

a large percentage of community leaders were in the \$75,000 - \$124,000, \$125,000 - \$1999,999, and the \$200,000 plus groups.

Table 6. Quality of Life Survey Responses by Survey Group and Respondents' Place of Residence

Place	County Population		Community		Poor Health/ Low Income		Leaders		Students		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Belmont	8,990	4.5%	62	9.4%	0	0.0%	25	9.7%	14	2.5%	101	6.0%
Bessemer City	5,386	2.7%	40	6.0%	25	14.0%	1	0.4%	60	10.5%	126	7.5%
Cherryville	5,533	2.8%	39	5.9%	0	0.0%	11	4.3%	4	0.7%	54	3.2%
Cramerton	3,046	1.5%	22	3.3%	0	0.0%	7	2.7%	4	0.7%	33	2.0%
Dallas	3,434	1.7%	44	6.6%	12	6.7%	13	5.0%	50	8.8%	119	7.1%
Dellview	4	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Gastonia	69,904	35.1%	283	42.7%	79	44.4%	169	65.3%	249	43.6%	780	46.7%
High Shoals	762	0.4%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	1	0.4%	1	0.2%	4	0.2%
Kings Mountain	1,045	0.5%	9	1.4%	0	0.0%	3	1.2%	12	2.1%	24	1.4%
Lowell	2,705	1.4%	11	1.7%	1	0.6%	2	0.8%	6	1.1%	20	1.2%
McAdenville	641	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	1	0.2%	3	0.2%
Mount Holly	9,804	4.9%	76	11.5%	40	22.5%	15	5.8%	46	8.1%	177	10.6%
Ranlo	2,222	1.1%	15	2.3%	0	0.0%	2	0.8%	8	1.4%	25	1.5%
Spencer Mountain	63	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	2	0.1%
Stanley	3,133	1.6%	30	4.5%	15	8.4%	5	1.9%	31	5.4%	81	4.8%
Unincorporated Areas/Other	82,725	41.5%	0	0.0%	3	1.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
No Response	0	0.0%	28	4.2%	3	1.7%	3	1.2%	84	14.7%	118	7.1%
Total	199,397	100%	663	100%	178	100%	259	100%	571	100%	1671	100%

Figure 14 illustrates the vast majority of respondents in the community, PH/LI, and leaders groups have lived in Gaston County for more than 20 years; students have typically lived in the county for 11 - 15 years.

Community respondents were typically: between 50 and 69 years of age (46.3%); women (51.1%); White (92.2%) compared to the 5.3% of Black respondents; had some college (24.7%) or a college degree (21.0%); married (68.5%); had household incomes between \$75,000 and \$124, 999; and, lived in Gaston County for more than 20 years (67.7%).

Individuals identified as Poor Health/Low Income were typically: between ages 60-69 (22.5%); women (56.2%); White (72.9%) compared to 24.1% of Black respondents; had some high school, a high school diploma, or a GED (59.0%); married (38.8%); had household incomes less than \$20,000 (32.0%) or did not answer this question (17.4%); and, lived in Gaston County for more than 20 years (66.3%).

Leaders were typically: between 40 and 59 years of age (59.0%); males (50%) compared to 47.4% of females; White (93.0%) compared to 5.8% of Blacks; had a graduate degree (66.9%); married (82.5%); had household incomes between \$75,000 - \$124,999 (31.6%) and \$125,000 - \$199,999 (19.2%); and, lived in Gaston County for more than 20 years (54.0%).

Students were typically: between ages 15 - 19 (82.0%); females (43.1%), males (42.9%), or non-respondents (14.0%); White (73.3%) compared to 23.0% of Black respondents; and, 49.0% have lived in Gaston County for 11-15 years.

Figure 8

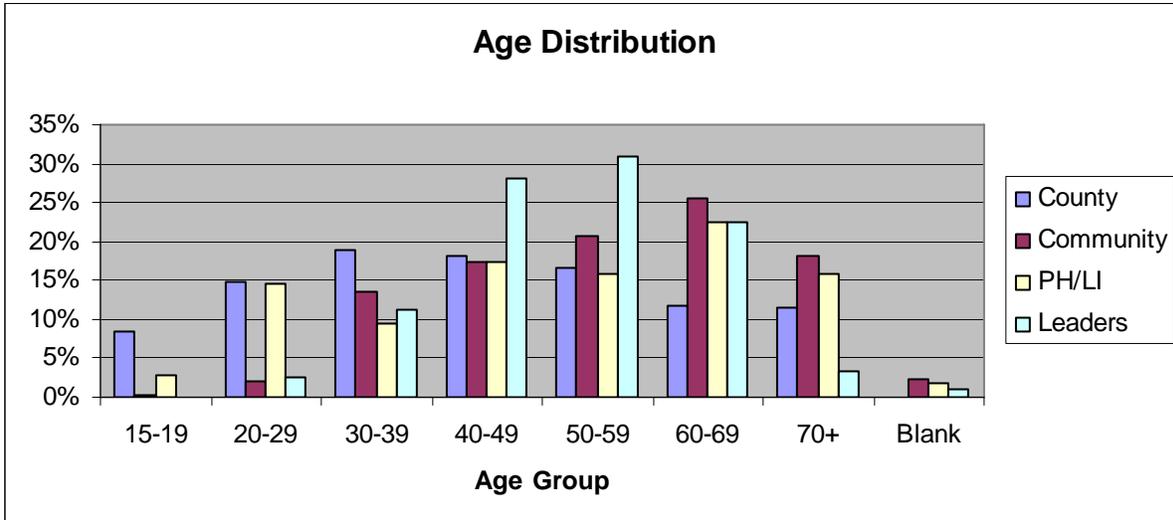


Figure 9

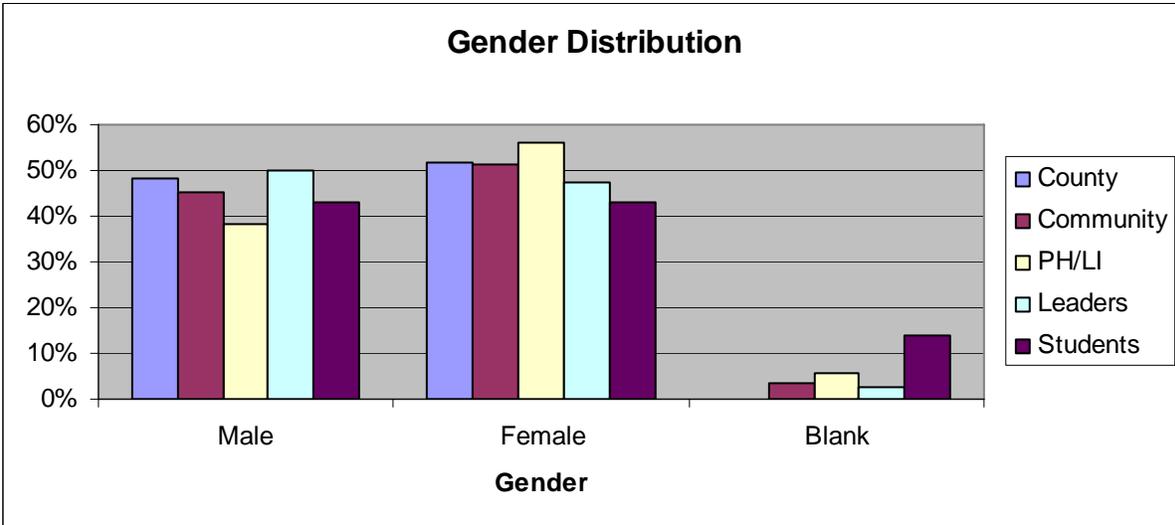


Figure 10

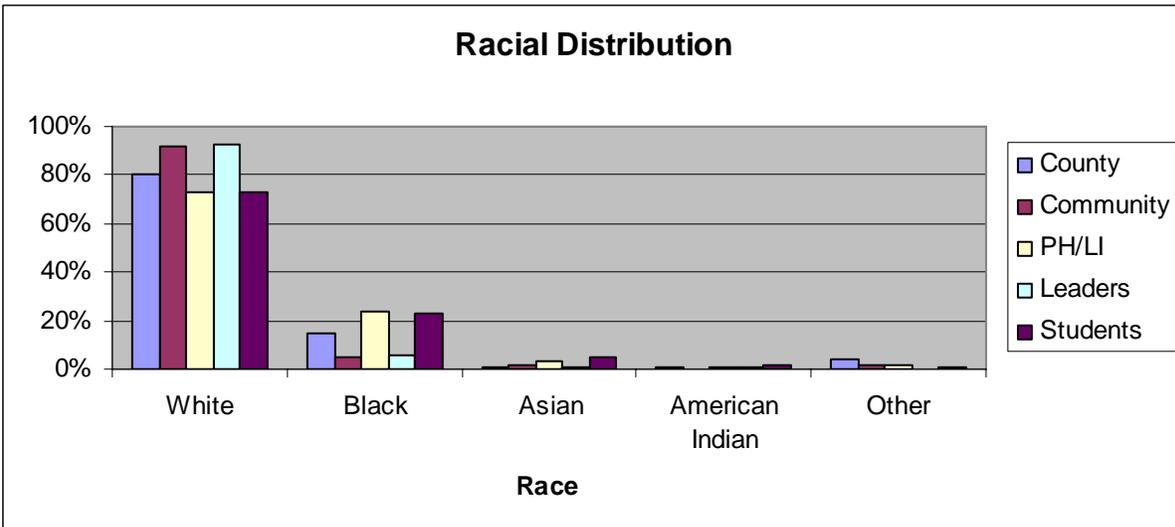


Figure 11

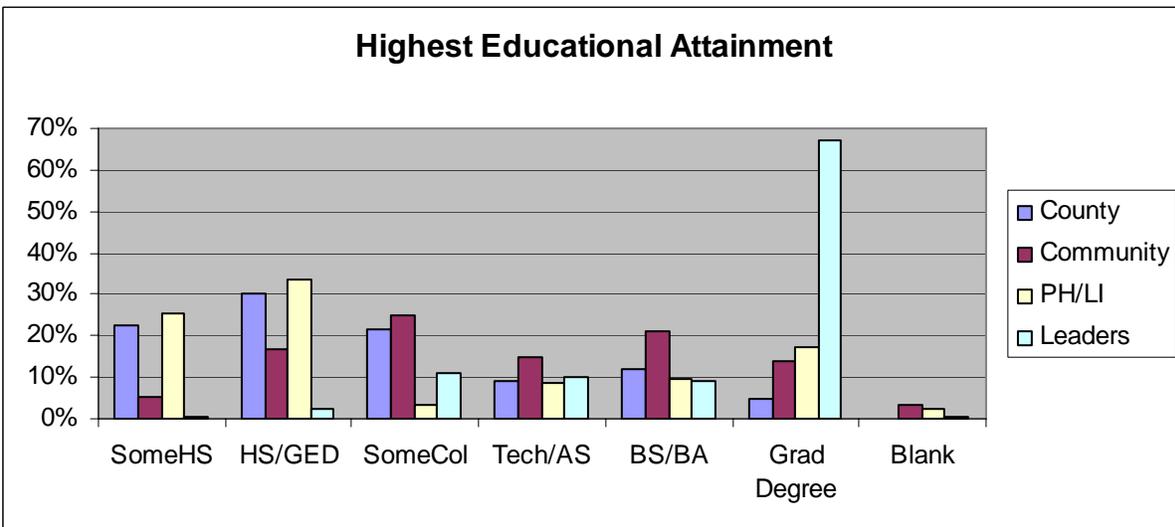


Figure 12

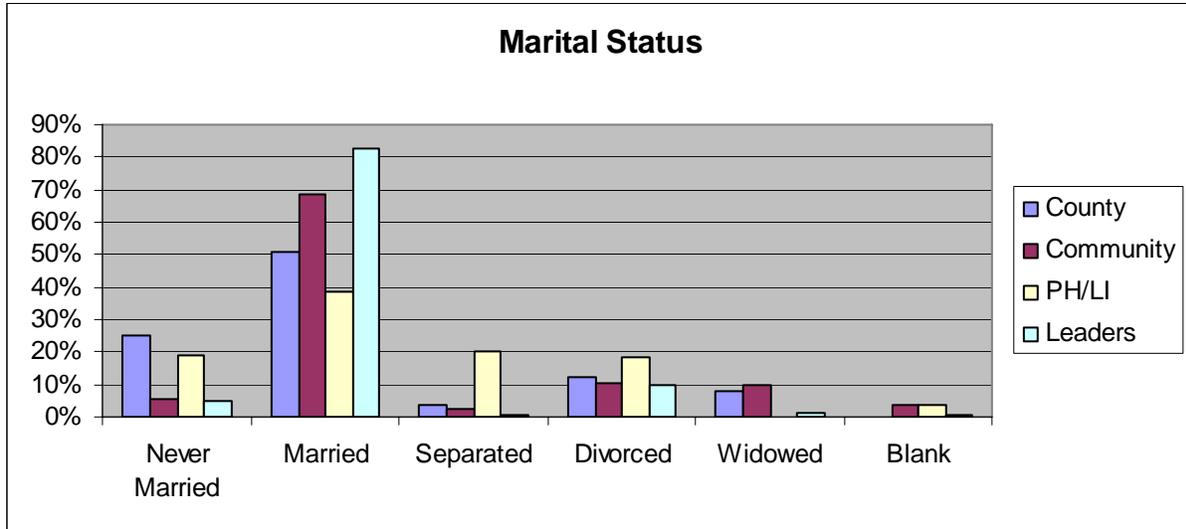


Figure 13

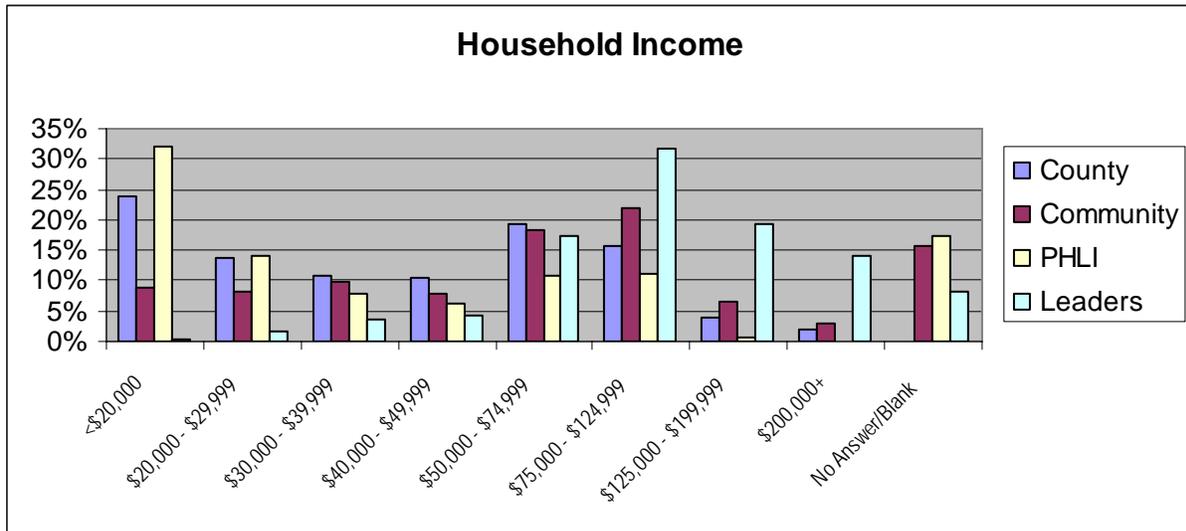
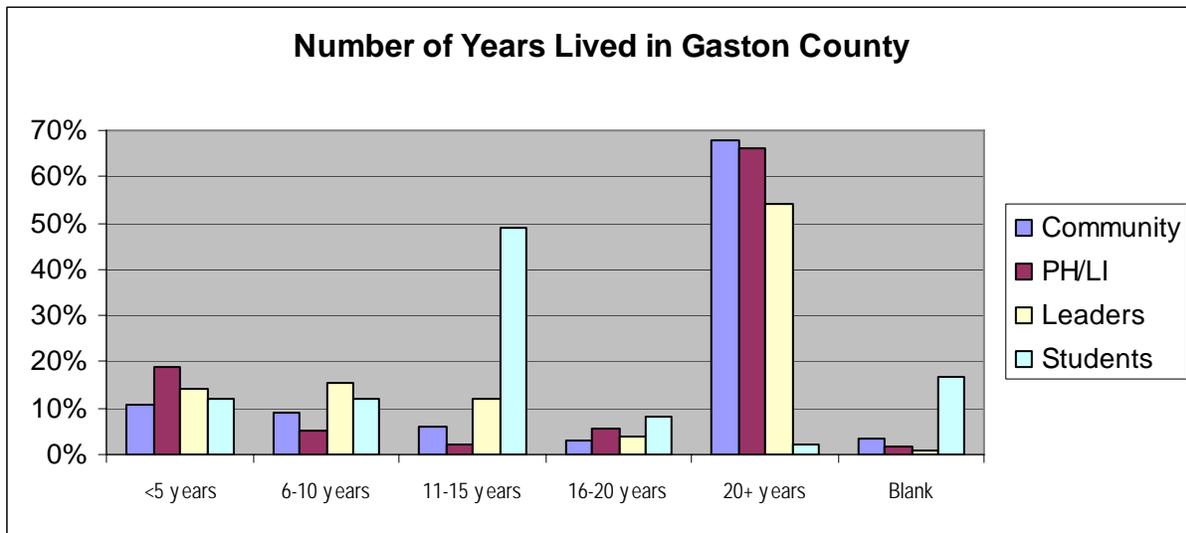


Figure 14



Presentation of Data

This report presents survey results by respondent group and geographic area, using two different priority-setting methodologies.

Respondent group: Data for most questions is presented for each of the survey groups: community residents, persons with poor health/low income (PH/LI), leaders, and students – or high school juniors.

Geographic area: To provide a more statistically even representation and to include responses from residents of unincorporated areas, we present survey data by high school districts (Figure 15). Table 7 lists the number and percent of survey responses completed by individuals who reported living in these districts.

Figure 15. Gaston County High School Districts

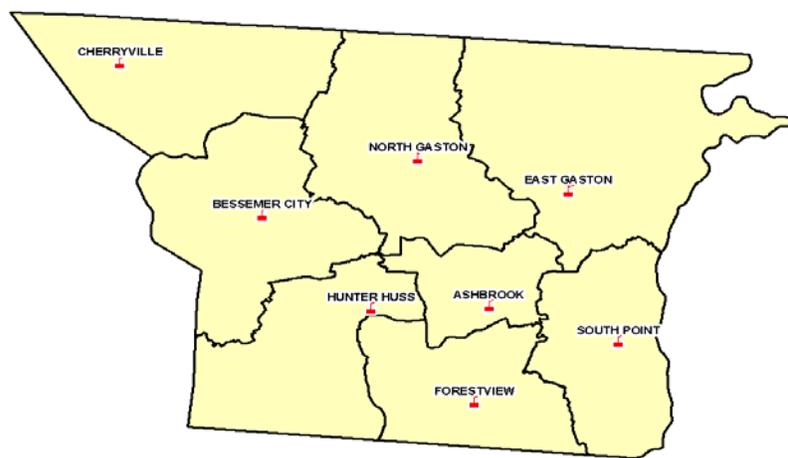


Table 7. Survey Responses by High School District

High School District	Community		Leaders		Students		PH/LI		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Ashbrook	118	17.8%	12	4.5%	102	17.9%	19	10.7%	251	15.0%
Bessemer City	50	7.5%	34	12.8%	75	13.1%	25	14.0%	184	11.0%
Cherryville	41	6.2%	65	24.4%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%	109	6.5%
East Gaston	99	14.9%	6	2.3%	122	21.4%	60	33.7%	287	17.1%
Forestview	72	10.9%	21	7.9%	57	10.0%	1	0.6%	151	9.0%
Highland Tech	15	2.3%	18	6.8%	18	3.2%	27	15.2%	78	4.6%
Hunter Huss	80	12.1%	62	23.3%	73	12.8%	31	17.4%	246	14.7%
North Gaston	69	10.4%	35	13.2%	63	11.0%	12	6.7%	179	10.7%
Southpoint	81	12.2%	4	1.5%	8	1.4%	0	0.0%	93	5.5%
No Response	38	5.7%	9	3.4%	50	8.8%	3	1.7%	100	6.0%
Total	663	100.0%	266	100.0%	571	100.0%	178	100.0%	1678	100.0%

Percentage Method: In the Community Development, Youth Issues, and Community Health sections of the survey questionnaire, we asked respondents to check *Strongly Disagree*, *Disagree*, *Agree*, *Strongly Agree*, or *Don't Know* to describe the need for improvement and the extent of problems (Appendix). We tabulated the percentage of individuals who checked *Agree* and *Strongly Agree* for each statement, and used the results to rank order each statement.

Priority Method: We asked community members, leaders, and high school juniors to list their top three Community Development, Youth Issues, and Community Health priorities. This data provides more specific priorities than those obtained with the Percentage Method.

Survey Findings

This section describes findings from the Quality of Life Survey on community development, youth issues, community health, and other health issues.

Community Development

Percentage Method

Community Development questions addressed a wide range of quality of life issues, including environment, transportation, the local economy, and education. Table 8 presents the top five responses, compiled with the percentage method, for all respondents. We compiled this table by computing the percentage of individuals who checked *Agree* and *Strongly Agree* for each statement and rank ordered the statements. Table 54 (Appendix) shows the ranking of the 31 Community Development statements by all respondents.

Table 8. Top Five Community Development Needs by Survey Group, Percentage Method, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to improve...				
	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	Services for the elderly	Planning for Community Growth	Our roads
2	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads	Recruitment of manufacturing employers	①Recruitment of high-tech employers ②The quality of K-12 education	Affordable housing
3	Its appearance	Its appearance	Small Business development	Its appearance	Parks & Recreation Facilities
4	Services for the elderly	Services for the elderly	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables	Walking trails & bike paths	Sidewalks
5	Sidewalks	Recruitment of high-tech employers	Recruitment of high-tech employers	Parks & Recreation Facilities	Personal & family safety

The top five issues cited by all survey respondents were that our community needs to do more to improve: (1) Our roads; (2) The quality of K-12 education; (3) Its appearance; (4) Services for the elderly; and, (5) (tie) Sidewalks, parks and recreation facilities, and, Personal and family safety.

Table 9 presents priorities cited by community respondents from the 2004 and 2008 Quality of Life Surveys. Two issues appeared in both years: the need to improve services for the elderly and to recruit high-tech employers. New needs in 2008 emphasize education, roads, and improving community appearance.

Table 9. Top Five Community Development Needs by Community Respondents, Percentage Method, 2008 and 2004

Rank	2008	2004
1	Improve the quality of K-12 education	Do more to recruit high-tech employers
2	Improve our roads	Do more to recruit manufacturing employers
3	Improve our community's appearance	Do more to involve citizens in planning community growth
4	Improve services for the elderly	Do more to plan growth in the local economy
5	Improve recruitment of high-tech employers	Do more to: (a) Strengthen family relationships, (b) Expand services for elderly, and (c) Help small business initiatives

Persons with poor health/low income identified their top five priorities as: (1) Services for the elderly; (2) Recruiting manufacturing employers; (3) Small business development; (4) Promotion and sales of locally grown fruits and vegetables; and, (5) Recruitment of high-tech employers. These responses appear to reflect the higher age of this respondent group, the challenges they face in meeting financial obligations, and their intent on building a better economic future for themselves and their families.

Responses from community leaders reflect a long-term orientation, as two of their top three priorities were to: improve planning for community growth and recruitment of high-tech employers (Table 10). This table also compares community leaders' top five 2008 priorities with those from the 2004 Quality of Life Survey. This group cited planning for community growth, recruiting high-tech employers, and improving the quality of K-12 education in both surveys.

Table 10. Top Five Community Development Needs by Leaders, Percentage Method, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004
1	Improve planning for community growth	Do more to recruit high-tech employers
2	Improve: (a) recruitment of high-tech employers, and (b) The quality of K-12 education	Do more to recruit manufacturing employers
3	Improve our community's appearance	Do more to plan growth in the local economy
4	Improve walking trails and bike paths	Help small business initiatives
5	Improve parks and recreation facilities	Do more to: (a) Involve citizens in planning community growth, (b) Improve the quality of K-12 education, (c) Plan residential growth, and (d) Conserve natural resources.

Even though different groups of students completed the 2004 and 2008 surveys (Table 11), both cited four of the same five priorities: (1) Improve our roads; (2) Improve affordable housing; (3) Improve parks and recreation facilities; and, (4) Improve/build sidewalks. While their ordering of these issues differs, these results suggest a consistent and ongoing set of needs among teens; absent from this list are concerns about education, employment, and economic development.

Table 11. Top Five Community Development Needs by Students, Percentage Method, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004
1	Improve our roads	Do more to improve roads
2	Improve affordable housing	Do more to expand parks and recreation facilities
3	Improve parks and recreation facilities	Do more to build more sidewalks
4	Improve sidewalks	Do more to expand services for the elderly
5	Improve personal and family safety	Do more to make housing more affordable

Table 12 presents the top five priorities (Percentage Method) for all survey respondents, by the high school district in which they reside. For top-ranked statements, “The quality of K-12 education,” was cited three times and “its (community) appearance” and “Services for the elderly” were cited twice. The full list of community development priorities, by high school district, is on Table 55 (Appendix).

Table 12. Top Five Community Development Needs by All Respondents, Percentage Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to improve...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Sidewalks	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	Services for the elderly	The quality of K-12 education	Services for the elderly	Its appearance	Its appearance	The quality of K-12 education
2	Its appearance	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads	Our roads	Our roads	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads
3	Parks & recreation facilities	① Its appearance ② Services for the elderly ③ Child care for working parents	Its appearance	Its appearance	Sidewalks	Affordable housing	Personal & family safety	Our roads	Recruitment of high-tech employers
4	① The quality of K-12 education ② Our roads	Sidewalks	Recruitment of high-tech employers	Parks & recreation facilities	Small business development	① Local economic development activities ② Sidewalks ③ Small business development ④ Parks & recreation facilities ⑤ Its appearance	Services for the elderly	Services for the elderly	Services for the elderly
5	Services for the elderly	Walking trails & bike paths	Planning for community growth	The quality of K-12 education	① Services for the elderly ② Parks & recreation facilities	① The quality of K-12 education ② Recruitment of high-tech employers ③ Recruitment of manufacturing employers ④ Child care for working parents	Our roads	Parks & recreation facilities	Planning for community growth

Note: Multiple issues listed in cells have the same percentage ratings

Priority Method

In addition to the Percentage Method, the survey asked community respondents, leaders, and students to identify their top three Community Development priorities. This method provides a more intentional set of priorities, as it required respondents to actively select the most important community development statements. Issues listed by respondents as their first, second, or third priorities were treated as equal “votes”.

This survey administered to persons in neighborhoods with high rates of poor health/low income did not ask respondents to choose their top three priorities. This question was also not used in the 2004 Quality of Life Survey, so we are unable to compare 2004 and 2008 data. Table 13 presents the top five Community Development statements for each survey group using the priority method; the rankings of all statements by survey group are on Table 56 (Appendix).

All survey respondents, excluding PH/LI, said our community needs to do more to improve: (1) The quality of K-12 education; (2) Our roads; (3) Law enforcement; (4) (tie) Its appearance, and, Services for the elderly; and, (5) Water quality.

Responses from community members were similar to all survey respondents; their notable addition was “Recruitment of manufacturing employers.”

Responses from community leaders reflect a more long-term orientation, as their top five priorities include: improving the quality of K-12 education, planning for community growth, and recruiting high-tech employers, which is consistent with their Percentage Method rankings.

Students ranked their priorities as the need to improve: (1) Our roads; (2) The quality of K-12 education; (3) Affordable housing; (4) (tie) Law enforcement, and, Water quality; and; (5) (tie) Its appearance, and, Air quality. While students’ percentage ranking did not reflect a concern with K-12 education, the priority method shows this issue was their second highest concern.

Table 13. Top Five Community Development Needs by Survey Group, Priority Method, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to improve...			
	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
1	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads
2	Our roads	Our roads	Planning for community growth	The quality of K-12 education
3	Law enforcement	Services for the elderly	Recruitment of high-tech employers	Affordable housing
4	①Its appearance ②Services for the elderly	Recruitment of manufacturing employers	Local economic development activities	①Law enforcement ②Water quality
5	Water quality	Law enforcement	Our roads	①Its appearance ②Air quality

Note: Multiple issues listed in cells have the same percentage ratings.

Table 14 presents the top five Community Development priorities for all survey respondents, by the high school district in which they live. “The quality of K-12 education,” was cited as the top

Table 14. Top Five Community Development Needs by All Respondents, Priority Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to improve...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education	The quality of K-12 education
2	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads	Our roads	Our roads	①Our roads ②Law enforcement	Our roads
3	Recruitment of high-tech employers	①Law enforcement ②Its appearance	Recruitment of high-tech employers	Air quality	Services for the elderly	Recruitment of manufacturing employers	Affordable housing	Water quality	①Law enforcement ②Planning for community growth
4	①Law enforcement ②Services for the elderly	Affordable housing	①Planning for community growth ②Water quality	Water quality	Its appearance	Affordable housing	Its appearance	Services for the elderly	Recruitment of high-tech employers
5	①Its appearance ②Planning for community growth	Services for the elderly	Walking trails & bike paths	Law enforcement	Law enforcement	Water quality	Law enforcement	Open space	①Recruitment of manufacturing employers ②Small business development

priority seven times and “our roads” was cited twice. The full list of needs, by high school district, is on Table 57 in the Appendix.

Table 15 compares the top five community development issues, as ranked by all respondents, using the two different priority setting methods. Four of the five top-ranked issues determined with the percentage method were also identified with the priority method. The convergence of these findings confirms the residents of Gaston County are most concerned with the quality of our county’s kindergarten through twelfth grade education and the quality of our roads.

Table 15. Top Five Community Development Needs by Percentage and Priority Setting Methods, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to improve...	
	Percentage Method	Priority Method
1	Our roads	The quality of K-12 education
2	The quality of K-12 education	Our roads
3	Its appearance	Law enforcement
4	Services for the elderly	①Its appearance ②Services for the elderly
5	Sidewalks	Water quality

Receiving Community Information

The Community Development section of the survey also asked respondents to check all means by which they prefer to receive information about their community (Table 16).

All respondents listed their favored means of communication as (1) newspapers; (2) television; (3) printed materials, such as flyers and brochures; (4) the Internet; and, (5) radio.

Table 16. Preferred Information Sources by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Newspaper	Newspaper	TV	Newspaper	TV
2	TV	Printed Materials	Newspaper	Internet	Newspaper
3	Printed Materials	TV	Printed Materials	Printed Materials	Internet
4	Internet	Internet	Internet	TV	Radio
5	Radio	Radio	Radio	Seminars	Printed Materials
6	House of Worship	House of Worship	Seminars	Radio	House of Worship
7	Seminars	Seminars	No Answer	House of Worship	Seminars

Community respondents had a similar ranking of preferred communication channels to all respondents, with the exception that they ranked printed materials higher than television. Table 17 presents and compares these rankings with the group’s top five communication channels from

the 2004 Quality of Life Survey; television and radio, which were added to the 2008 survey, were among the top five preferred communication channels in the 2008 survey.

Table 17. Preferred Information Sources by Community Respondents, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004
1	Newspapers	Newspaper articles
2	Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures	Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures
3	TV	Internet
4	The Internet	Seminars/workshops/classes
5	Radio	Others

Persons with poor health/low income identified their top five priorities as: (1) television; (2) newspapers; (3) printed materials, such as flyers and brochures; (4) the Internet; and, (5) radio. Since this group was not surveyed in 2004, there is no comparison data.

Community leaders prefer newspapers for community information. A comparison of data between 2004 and 2008 (Table 18) shows a higher ranking for the Internet in 2008, and television as the third most preferred medium, which was not an option in 2004.

Table 18. Preferred Information Sources by Leaders, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004
1	Newspapers	Newspaper articles
2	The Internet	Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures
3	Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures	The Internet
4	Television	Seminars/workshops/classes
5	Seminars, workshops, and classes	Others

With the addition of television and radio to the 2008 survey, the list of preferred means of communications for students changed significantly in 2008 (Table 19), as television lead their 2008 listing, followed by newspapers, the Internet, radio, and printed materials. While teens are widely seen as comfortable and competent with the Internet, this ranking suggests they do not use this medium to obtain information on their communities.

Table 19. Preferred Information Sources by Students, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004
1	Television	Newspaper articles
2	Newspapers	Internet
3	The Internet	Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures
4	Radio	Others
5	Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures	Seminars/workshops/classes

Table 20 ranks preferred communication channels by the high school district in which survey respondents live; newspapers and television – the traditional means by which people receive community information – were the preferred choices.

Table 20. Preferred Information Sources by All Respondents and High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	TV	Newspapers	Newspapers	Newspapers	Newspapers	Newspapers	Newspapers	Newspapers	Newspapers
2	Newspapers	TV	Print Materials	TV	TV	TV	TV	TV	Print Materials
3	Print Materials	Internet	Internet	Print Materials	Print Materials	Print Materials	Print Materials	Internet	Internet
4	Internet	Print Materials	TV	Internet	Internet	Internet	Internet	Print Materials	TV
5	Radio	Radio	Radio	Radio	Radio	Radio	Radio	Radio	House of Worship
6	House of Worship	Seminar	Seminar	House of Worship	House of Worship	Seminar	Seminar	House of Worship	Radio
7	Seminars	House of Worship	House of Worship	Seminar	Seminar	House of Worship	House of Worship	Seminar	Seminar

Youth Issues

Percentage Method

The Youth Issues section of the Quality of Life Survey addressed health, education, and safety issues that affect youth. Table 21 presents the top five responses, using the percentage method, for all respondent groups. Table 58 (Appendix) shows the ranking of all 27 youth issues.

Table 21. Top Five Youth Issues by Survey Group, Percentage Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Assure student safety in school	①Stop youth gangs & gang violence ②Stop crime committed by youth	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Create job opportunities for teens
2	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	①Stop crime committed by youth ②Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children ③Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ④Stop youth gangs & gang violence	①Help parents stay involved with their children ②Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth
3	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Assure student safety in school	①Conduct physical activity programs for youth ②Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth ③Stop bullying & teasing among youth	①Promote student success in school ②Increase our high school graduation rate	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Assure student safety in school ③Stop crime against youth
4	①Help high school students plan their careers ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products	①Reduce teen pregnancy ②Provide job training for youth	①Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving ②Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Help high school students plan their careers
5	Stop crime committed by youth	Increase our high school graduation rate	①Identify & help depressed youth ②Assure student safety in school ③Stop crime against youth ④Promote student success in school	Assure student safety in school	Identify & help depressed youth

Responses from All survey respondents emphasized student safety, academic performance and career development, as they said our community needs to do more to improve: (1) Assure student safety in school, (2) Stop youth gangs and gang violence; (3) Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children; and, (4) (tie) Help our high school students plan their careers, and, Increase our high school graduation rate; and, (5) Stop crime committed by youth.

Community respondents had a similar ranking of priority issues, with a stronger emphasis on reducing the use of drugs and alcohol and preventing the use of tobacco. Table 22 presents these priorities, and compares them with the top five priorities from the General Youth Issues and Youth Health and Safety Issues sections from the 2004 Quality of Life Survey – these two sections were combined in the 2008 survey – and are presented throughout this section. In the 2008 survey, three of the top five priorities addressed safety (gangs, crime, and student safety), two addressed health (drugs and alcohol and tobacco), and one spoke to academic performance. In comparison, 2004 general youth issue priorities focused on finances, parental involvement, and school performance; youth health and safety issues focused on three key concerns: drug and alcohol use, sexual activity and its consequences, and student safety.

Table 22. Top Five Youth Issues by Community Respondents, Percentage Method, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004	
		General Youth Issues	Youth Health & Safety Issues
1	①Stop youth gangs & gang violence ②Stop crime committed by youth	Inability to manage money	Use of drugs & alcohol
2	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	Lack of parental involvement with children	Peer pressure to be sexually active
3	Assure student safety in school	Lack of parental support to continue education	Risk of HIV/AIDS
4	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products	Lack of finances	Teenage pregnancy & out of wedlock births
5	Increase our high school graduation rate	①Lack of after-school programs ②Dropping out of school ③Lack of job skills	Bullying & teasing by peers

Persons with poor health/low income identified their top five priorities as: (1) Reduce the use of drugs and alcohol by youth, (2) (tie) Stop crime committed by youth, and, Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children, and, Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families, and, Stop youth gangs and gang violence; (3) (tie) Conduct physical activity programs for youth, and, Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases among youth, and, Stop bullying and teasing among youth; (4) (tie) Reduce teenage pregnancy, and, Provide job training for youth; and, (5) (tie) Identify and help depressed youth, and, Assure student safety in school, and, Stop crime against youth, and, Promote student success in school. The large number of issues cited by this group suggests its members face many significant needs.

Responses from community leaders in 2008 (Table 23) reflect a strong orientation to helping today's students become successful adults; their top five priorities include parental responsibility (support ongoing education and staying involved with their children), academic performance

(improved student success and graduation rates), money management, safety (in-school safety and gangs), and reducing drug and alcohol use. Many of these issues are consistent with survey results from 2004 in which parents supported ongoing education for their children, parental involvement, reducing the use of drugs and alcohol, and teaching money management skills.

Table 23. Top Five Youth Issues by Leaders, Percentage Method, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004	
		General Youth Issues	Youth Health & Safety Issues
1	①Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Lack of parental involvement with children	Use of drugs & alcohol
2	①Help parents stay involved with their children ②Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	Lack of job skills	Peer pressure to be sexually active
3	①Promote student success in school ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Inability to manage money	Risk of HIV/AIDS
4	①Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving ②Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Lack of parental support to continue education	Teenage pregnancy & out of wedlock births
5	Assure student safety in school	Dropping out of school	Bullying & teasing by peers

In 2008, Student responses reflected their concerns with current and future employment, their physical health and safety, and emotional health. These themes are similar to 2004, which suggests continuing unmet needs continue and issues that generally concern youth as they prepare to enter adulthood (Table 24).

Table 24. Top Five Youth Issues by Students, Percentage Method, 2008 & 2004

Rank	2008	2004	
		General Youth Issues	Youth Health & Safety Issues
1	Create job opportunities for teens	Lack of part-time jobs	Use of drugs & alcohol
2	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth	Lack of finances	Teenage pregnancy & out of wedlock births
3	① Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ② Assure student safety in school ③ Stop crime against youth	Dropping out of school	Peer pressure to be sexually active
4	Help high school students plan their careers	Lack of after-school programs	Risk of HIV/AIDS
5	Identify & help depressed youth	① Inability to manage money ② Not doing well in school ③ Not getting along with teachers	① Bullying & teasing by peers ② Soda & snack foods in school

Table 25 presents the top five Youth Issues for all survey respondents, by the high school district in which they live. Across the nine high school districts, a broad range of issues were designated the top priority, reflecting the many youth-related issues faced by parents, students, and communities. The most common top-ranked statement was to encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (three citations), followed by assure student safety in school, increase our high school graduation rate, reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS and STDs among youth, and promote student success in school, which each earned two first priority rankings. The full list of priorities by high school district is on Table 59 in the Appendix.

Priority Method

As previously discussed, we asked community members, leaders, and students to identify their top three priorities from the list of Youth Issues. Table 26 presents the top five Youth Issues, for each of the respondent groups, selected with this method; the full list of ranked statements is presented on Table 60 (Appendix).

All survey respondents, excluding PH/LI, focused on current problems: (1) Violence attributed to youth gangs, (2) Reducing teen pregnancy, (3) Abuse of youth by their families, and (4) Alcohol and drug abuse. They also cited the need to promote student success in school and improving the high school graduation rate. While all survey respondents cited several safety and security issues using the percentage method, those responses also emphasized academic success.

Responses from community members also focused on violence, drugs and alcohol, stopping abuse, and reducing teen pregnancy; only one of their top five concerns addressed academic success. Top five ratings of Youth Issues by this group, using the percentage method, were similar, with the addition of avoiding and stopping the use of tobacco products and improving the high school graduation rate. Comparing the two findings, the priority method findings show more concern for students who are vulnerable to violence and poor health than they are with academic performance. This may suggest community members see violence and health issues as barriers to youth earning better grades.

Responses from community leaders strongly emphasized the role of schools and parents in promoting academic performance and life skills; only one of their top five priorities addressed violence. In comparison, findings secured through the percentage method, shared the same concerns with a greater emphasis on student safety and reducing the use of drugs and alcohol.

In contrast, four of the greatest youth needs seen by students focused on health and security – teen pregnancy, HIV/AIDS and STDs, abuse of youth by their families, and gang violence; the sole exception was their concern about the need for job opportunities for teens – which was their first ranked concern as measured by the percentage method. That this listing does not cite academic concerns suggests high school juniors concentrate more on current needs than on longer-term quality of life issues – such as employment and higher salaries – that can be secured with a strong academic background. While a common orientation for teenagers, it may imply many of these teens are not developing goals and plans for their lives after high school.

Table 25. Top Five Youth Issues, Percentage Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to ...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Assure student safety in school	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	①Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children ②Help parents stay involved with their children	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Increase our high school graduation rate ③Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth	Promote student success in school	①Increase our high school graduation rate ②Assure student safety in school ③Promote student success in school
2	①Stop crime committed by youth ②Create job opportunities for teens	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	①Promote student success in school ②Assure student safety in school	Identify & help depressed youth	Increase our high school graduation rate	①Assure student safety in school ②Stop youth gangs & gang violence ③Increase our high school graduation rate	Assure student safety in school	①Stop crime committed by youth ②Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children ③ Reduce teen pregnancy ④Increase our high school graduation rate	Stop youth gangs & gang violence

Continued on next page...

3	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	①Help high school students plan their careers ②Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth	①Help high school students plan their careers ②Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving ③Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth ④Stop crime committed by youth ⑤Stop youth gangs & gang violence	①Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children ②Help high school students plan their careers ③Stop crime committed by youth	Promote student success in school	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Help high school students plan their careers ③Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth ④Reduce teen pregnancy ⑤Identify & help depressed youth ⑥Stop crime committed by youth	①Stop youth gangs & gang violence ②Stop crime committed by youth	①Stop youth gangs & gang violence ②Help high school students plan their careers ③Assure student safety in school	①Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children ②Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ③Build good student-teacher relationships ④Help high school students plan their careers
4	①Stop crime against youth ②Increase our high school graduation rate ③Help high school students plan their careers	Assure student safety in school	Build good student-teacher relationships	①Assure student safety in school ②Stop youth gangs & gang violence	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Help high school students plan their careers ③Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth ④Stop crime against youth	①Promote student success in school ②Stop crime against youth ③Stop bullying & teasing among youth ④Provide job training for youth ⑤Expose children to arts	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Identify & help depressed youth ③Stop crime against youth ④Stop bullying & teasing among youth	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth	①Reduce teen pregnancy ②Stop crime against youth ③Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth ④Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving
5	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Increase our high school graduation rate	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	①Assure student safety in school ②Reduce teen pregnancy	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products	Promote student success in school	Identify & help depressed youth	Stop crime committed by youth

Table 26. Top Five Youth Issues by Survey Group, Priority Method, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to ...			
	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
1	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Help parents stay involved with their children	Reduce teen pregnancy
2	Reduce teen pregnancy	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	Increase our high school graduation rate	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth
3	Promote student success in school	Promote student success in school	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Create job opportunities for teens
4	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	Promote student success in school	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families
5	①Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Reduce teen pregnancy	①Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving ②Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Stop youth gangs & gang violence

Table 27 lists the top five Youth Issues chosen by all survey respondents, by the high school district in which they live. The highest ranked needs address a broad range of themes with “encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children” as the most frequently cited (three). Because the majority of responses were from adults, this data reflects strong concern with the safety, health and well-being, and academic performance of youth. The full listing of Youth Issues, by high school district, is on Table 61 in the Appendix.

Table 27. Top Five Youth Issues, Priority Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Our community needs to do more to ...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Help parents stay involved with their children	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	①Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families ②Reduce teen pregnancy	Promote student success in school	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	①Stop youth gangs & gang violence ②Assure student safety in school
2	Reduce teen pregnancy	Increase our high school graduation rate	Promote student success in school	①Stop youth gangs & gang violence ②Reduce teen pregnancy	①Promote student success in school ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	①Promote student success in school ②Increase our high school graduation rate
3	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	Reduce teen pregnancy	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	① Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth ②Help parents stay involved with their children ③Identify & help depressed youth	Help parents stay involved with their children	Reduce teen pregnancy	Reduce teen pregnancy
4	Promote student success in school	①Promote student success in school ②Create job opportunities for teens	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Increase our high school graduation rate	Assure student safety in school	Increase our high school graduation rate	①Reduce teen pregnancy ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Promote student success in school	①Help parents stay involved with their children ②Stop crime committed by youth ③Stop bullying & teasing among youth
5	① Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth ②Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth	① Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth ②Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	Increase our high school graduation rate	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth	Reduce teen pregnancy	Create job opportunities for teens	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families	Help parents stay involved with their children	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth

A comparison of the five top Youth Health Issues, determined by the percentage and priority setting methods as ranked by all respondents, is presented in Table 28. This summary shows only two of the six listed issues were cited on both lists – stop gangs and gang violence, and, increase our high school graduation rate.

Table 28. Top Five Youth Health Issues by All Respondents, Percentage and Priority Setting Methods, 2008

Ranking	Percentage Method	Priority Method
1	Assure student safety in school	Stop youth gangs & gang violence
2	Stop youth gangs & gang violence	Reduce teen pregnancy
3	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children	Promote student success in school
4	①Help high school students plan their careers ②Increase our high school graduation rate	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families
5	Stop crime committed by youth	①Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth ②Increase our high school graduation rate

Community Health

Percent Method

The Community Health section of the Quality of Life Survey asked respondents to state if each of 20 health issues were a problem in Gaston County. Table 29 presents the top five responses, using the percentage method, for all respondent groups; Table 62 (Appendix) presents the ranking of all community health issues.

Table 29. Top Five Community Health Problems by Survey Group, Percent Method, 2008

Rank	The following health issues are a problem in Gaston County...				
	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Teen pregnancy
2	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	Teen Pregnancy	Alcohol & substance abuse	Motor vehicle accidents
3	Teen pregnancy	Teen pregnancy	High blood pressure	Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity
4	Motor vehicle accidents	Motor vehicle accidents	①Alcohol & substance abuse ②Diabetes ③Mental illness, including depression	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Alcohol & substance abuse
5	High blood pressure	High blood pressure	Dental problems	High blood pressure	Mental illness, including depression

These results show strong agreement about health problems, as four of the five survey groups ranked overweight and obesity as the county's leading health problem, three ranked alcohol and substance abuse as the second priority, and three ranked teen pregnancy as the third greatest problem. In addition, "high blood pressure" and "teen pregnancy" were listed four times and "motor vehicle accidents" was cited three times.

All respondents and community members had identical listings. PH/LI listed four of the same problems as all respondents and community members, and also included (1) Diabetes, (2) Mental illness, including depression, and (3) Dental problems, which suggests they have a higher incidence and potentially less available treatment for these health problems.

Leaders ranked four of the same issues as all respondents and community members, although in a different rank order. Notably, their other priority was lack of health care for uninsured persons; based on the higher education and income of this group, (see Demographics of Survey Respondents), this answer reflects their concern with the needs of other county residents.

If rankings by students reflect the health problems they see among their peers, they suggest a large incidence of teen pregnancy, motor vehicle accidents, obesity and overweight, alcohol and substance abuse, and mental health problems among teens.

Table 30 presents the top five community health problems for the high school districts in which respondents reside. As with the ranking of issues by survey groups, overweight and obesity was listed as the top priority seven of nine times. Notable exceptions were the Bessemer City district, which rated alcohol and substance abuse as their highest priority, and the Highland Tech district, which ranked substance abuse and teen pregnancy as their priority. Table 63, in the Appendix, presents the ranking of all community health problems by high school district.

Table 30. Top Five Community Health Problems, Percentage Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	The following health issues are a problem in Gaston County...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	①Alcohol & substance abuse ②Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity
2	Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	①Overweight & obesity ②High blood pressure	Teen pregnancy	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse
3	Alcohol & substance abuse	Teen pregnancy	①High blood pressure ②Diabetes	Teen pregnancy	Teen pregnancy	Mental illness, including depression	Alcohol & substance abuse	①Teen pregnancy ②Motor vehicle accidents	Motor vehicle accidents
4	Motor vehicle accidents	Motor vehicle accidents	Teen pregnancy	Motor vehicle accidents	Motor vehicle accidents	Diabetes	Diabetes	Cancer	Teen pregnancy
5	High blood pressure	High blood pressure	Heart disease	Mental illness, including depression	High blood pressure	Motor vehicle accidents	High blood pressure	High blood pressure	Learning & developmental problems

Priority Method

Table 31 lists the rankings of the top five community health problems by survey group. With this more specific priority-setting method, two of the four groups listed alcohol and substance abuse as the county’s greatest health problem and all of the groups ranked it number one or two. Overweight and obesity was ranked first or second by three of the groups. The full listing of ranked community health problems by respondent group is on Table 64 (Appendix).

Table 31. Top Five Community Health Problems by Survey Group, Priority Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
1	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	Overweight & obesity	Teen pregnancy
2	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse
3	Teen pregnancy	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Cancer
4	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Teen pregnancy	Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity
5	Cancer	Cancer	Diabetes	Motor vehicle accidents

In addition to “alcohol and substance abuse” and “overweight and obesity,” the top five problems for all respondents included “teen pregnancy,” “lack of health care for uninsured persons,” and, “cancer.” Community respondents listed the same priorities, although the order of “teen pregnancy” and “lack of health care for uninsured persons” was flipped. Leaders presented another slight variation to the priorities identified by all respondents: their ranking included the same problems in a slightly different order, and added diabetes in place of cancer. Priorities chosen by students included four of the same priorities as all respondents and the addition of motor vehicle accidents.

Table 32 presents community health problems, selected by the Priority Method, by the high school district in which respondents reside. The results show residents of seven high school districts see alcohol and substance abuse as the county’s leading health problem; residents of the Cherryville and Forestview districts ranked overweight and obesity as their first priority and alcohol and substance abuse as number two. The balance of responses reflect the community’s previously stated concerns with teen pregnancy, lack of health care for uninsured persons, cancer, motor vehicle accidents and, to a lesser degree, diabetes and mental illness in their neighborhoods. The full listing of community health problems by high school district is presented on Table 65 (Appendix).

Table 32. Top Five Community Health Problems, Priority Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	The following health issues are a problem in Gaston County...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse	Alcohol & substance abuse
2	Overweight & obesity	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse	Teen pregnancy	Alcohol & substance abuse	Overweight & obesity	Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity	Lack of health care for uninsured persons
3	①Teen pregnancy ②Cancer	Teen pregnancy	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Overweight & obesity	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity	Teen pregnancy	Overweight & obesity
4	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Mental illness, including depression	Teen pregnancy	Motor vehicle accidents	Teen pregnancy	①Cancer ②Diabetes ③Heart disease	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Motor vehicle accidents
5	Motor vehicle accidents	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Diabetes	Lack of health care for uninsured persons	Cancer	①Lack of health care for uninsured persons ②STD and HIV/AIDS	Cancer	Cancer	Teen pregnancy

Table 33 compares community health rankings for all respondents, based on the percentage and priority setting methods. While the lists rank the same top three priorities in different order, the more specific Priority Method also identifies “lack of health care for uninsured” and “cancer.”

Table 33. Top Five Community Health Problems, Percentage and Priority Setting Methods, 2008

Ranking	Percentage Method	Priority Method
1	Overweight & obesity	Alcohol & substance abuse
2	Alcohol and substance abuse	Overweight & obesity
3	Teen pregnancy	Teen Pregnancy
4	Motor vehicle accidents	Lack of health care for uninsured
5	High blood pressure	Cancer

Other Health Issues

The Quality of Life Survey also asked respondents about their health insurance status, access to health services and resources, where they usually go for health care, and who they trust for accurate health information and advice. This section presents findings for these questions.

Based on Table 34, 58.5% of all respondents have private health insurance, 32.3% receive Medicare/Medicaid benefits, 11.3% have another form of insurance, and 7.1% are uninsured; the total numbers for these categories exceed 100%, as some respondents carry several forms of health insurance. Of insured individuals, 20.3% state their health insurance is inadequate. The group with the greatest health insurance coverage is leaders – 88%, private insurance and 12% Medicare/Medicaid – the group with the least private health insurance coverage is students (36.3%), and the group with the largest number of uninsured individuals is persons with poor health/low incomes (10.1%).

Table 34. Health Insurance Status by Survey Group, 2008

I have...	What type of health insurance do you have?				
	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
Private Insurance	58.5%	66.6%	54.5%	88.7%	36.3%
Medicare/Medicaid	32.3%	31.6%	46.6%	12.0%	38.1%
Other	11.3%	11.8%	Not Asked	Not Asked	10.7%
No Insurance	7.1%	6.6%	10.1%	1.5%	9.3%
I have insurance but it is inadequate	20.3%	26.1%	22.2%	14.5%	13.6%

As described on Table 35, residents of the Southpoint High School district had the largest percentage of private health insurance (79.6%). The Highland Tech district had the greatest percentage of residents enrolled in Medicare/Medicaid (39.7%), while respondents living in the North Gaston High School district had the greatest percentage of individuals with an “other” form of health insurance. Residents of the East Gaston High School district had the largest percentage of respondents without health insurance (8.8%); zero percent of respondents in the Cherryville High School district said they did not have health insurance. Among respondents with health insurance, residents of the Ashbrook High School district were the most likely to say their health insurance is inadequate (25%).

In response to the question: “Are you and your family able to get this service?” Table 36 presents the top five services to which respondents answered “no” and then lists the needed services these individuals are unable to obtain. The full listing of services is presented on Table 66 (Appendix). While each survey group had a different top-ranked service, “drug and alcohol treatment,” “care for developmental disabilities,” “services for physical disabilities,” and “care for depression, anxiety, and mental health” were cited four times over the five respondent categories. “Spiritual care for health problems” and “Gaston Family Health Services” were both cited three times. Priority needs cited by PH/LI include health education programs, healthcare transportation, hospice care, and dental care.

Table 37 presents the same data by the high school districts in which respondents live. In three districts “drug and alcohol treatment” were the leading needed services and in three others, the leading need was “care for developmental disabilities.” Residents of two districts listed health care transportation as the leading health service need they were unable to obtain. Table 67 (Appendix) presents the full listing of inaccessible and needed health services and resources.

Table 35. Health Insurance Status by High School District, 2008

I have...	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
Private Insurance	51.8%	50.2%	78.9%	55.1%	70.7%	52.6%	58.4%	60.3%	79.6%
Medicare/Medicaid	36.3%	35.2%	17.6%	34.3%	30.2%	39.7%	35.8%	34.5%	26.1%
Other	13.6%	9.8%	9.3%	11.4%	12.6%	3.1%	11.8%	15.4%	6.8%
No Insurance	8.4%	8.2%	0.0%	8.8%	5.3%	7.8%	8.2%	7.9%	3.3%
I have insurance but it is inadequate	25.0%	24.2%	19.1%	14.0%	17.3%	21.3%	22.8%	19.4%	19.2%

Table 36. Top Five Responses, Inaccessible Health Services and Resources by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	Persons who needed services and could not obtain them...				
	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Drug and alcohol treatment	Care for developmental disabilities	Gaston Family Health Services	Drug and alcohol treatment	Spiritual care for health problems
2	Care for developmental disabilities	Drug and alcohol treatment	Health education programs	Gaston Family Health Services	Drug and alcohol treatment
3	Services for physical disabilities	Services for physical disabilities	Healthcare transportation	Care for developmental disabilities	Care for developmental disabilities
4	Spiritual care for health problems	Gaston Family Health Services	①Spiritual care for health problems ②Hospice care	Care for depression, anxiety, and mental health	Services for physical disabilities
5	Care for depression, anxiety, and mental health	Care for depression, anxiety, and mental health	Dental care	Services for physical disabilities	Care for depression, anxiety, and mental health

Note: This table describes services respondents said they needed but could not obtain

Table 37. Top Five Responses, Inaccessible Health Services and Resources by High School District, 2008

Rank	Persons who needed health services and resources and could not obtain them...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Drug & alcohol treatment	Care for developmental disabilities	Care for developmental disabilities	Healthcare transportation	Care for developmental disabilities	Drug & alcohol treatment	Healthcare transportation	Services for physical disabilities	Drug & alcohol treatment
2	Spiritual care for health problems	Health education programs	Services for physical disabilities	Health education programs	Health care for pregnant women	①Hospice care ②Healthcare transportation	Cancer prevention & treatment services	Drug & alcohol treatment	Care for developmental disabilities
3	Healthcare transportation	Drug & alcohol treatment	Drug & alcohol treatment	Gaston Family Health Services	Drug & alcohol treatment	Dental care	Care for developmental disabilities	Healthcare transportation	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health
4	Care for developmental disabilities	Services for physical disabilities	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health	Spiritual care for health problems	Services for physical disabilities	Health care for pregnant women	Drug & alcohol treatment	Care for developmental disabilities	Dental care
5	Cancer prevention & treatment services	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health	Health care for the elderly	The Gaston County Health Department	Cancer prevention & treatment services	Health education programs	①Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health ②Hospice care	Health care for the elderly	Health care for the elderly

Note: This table describes services respondents said they needed but could not obtain

Among individuals who are unable to secure health services and resources, all respondents, community members, and students most frequently cited the inability to pay for care (Table 38). Among community leaders, the leading answer was the lack of health insurance. Because the survey asked respondents to check all reasons why they were unable to get these services, we believe many respondents faced the complicated problem of not having health insurance and not being able to pay for care; this data may also point to individuals who have health insurance but cannot afford co-pay and deductible charges.

Table 38. Reasons Preventing Access to Health Services by Survey Group, 2008

Responses	Reasons you and your family are not able to get these services...			
	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
Lack of Transportation	15.9%	8.1%	0.0%	25.9%
Lack of Health Insurance	37.6%	41.4%	62.5%	30.6%
Inability to Pay for Care	46.5%	50.5%	37.5%	43.5%

For persons who are unable to get care, Table 39 presents the reasons for their circumstances, by the high school district in which they live. Lack of transportation is a significant barrier to residents of the Ashbrook, East Gaston, and Hunter Huss High School districts. Lack of health insurance is a barrier in all school districts, as no fewer than 30% checked this answer; the most prominent needs are in the Cherryville and North Gaston districts. The most common barrier is inability to pay for care, which had no fewer than 42.9% affirmative responses; the areas with the greatest need were Southpoint (60%), Bessemer City (53.7%), and Cherryville, Highland Tech, and Hunter Huss which each had 50%.

The survey also asked respondents to check any of 10 listed items in response to the question: Where do you usually go when you are sick or need health care? Table 40 presents the top five responses, by survey group and Table 68 (Appendix) presents the ranking of all responses. For all categories, the top-ranked answer was “my personal doctor/medical provider.” The second most popular response was “a pharmacy,” followed by “a hospital emergency department,” and “an urgent care center.” Each group also ranked “The Internet” as their fifth most commonly used resource; if insured and uninsured individuals correctly interpreted Internet information, they could properly determine if their symptoms warrant a visit to a medical provider, on the other hand, any misunderstandings could put them at increased risk for unnecessary complications.

The same data, as tabulated by high school district (Table 41), shows the same pattern of answers: residents from each district listed “my personal doctor/medical provider” first, the second most common answer was “a pharmacy,” followed by “a hospital emergency department,” “an urgent care center,” and “the Internet.” Fewer residents of the Bessemer City and Highland Tech districts appear to have medical care providers, as they ranked “a hospital emergency department” as their second most commonly used medical resource. Table 69 in the Appendix, presents all responses to this question by high school district.

Table 39. Reasons Unable to Get Health Services, by High School District, 2008

Responses	Reasons you and your family are not able to get these services...								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
Lack of transportation	19.0%	14.8%	0.0%	18.9%	14.3%	10.0%	18.2%	15.9%	10.0%
Lack of health Insurance	33.3%	31.5%	50.0%	36.5%	42.9%	40.0%	31.8%	46.0%	30.0%
Inability to pay for care	47.6%	53.7%	50.0%	44.6%	42.9%	50.0%	50.0%	38.1%	60.0%

Table 40. Top Five Resources Used for Sick Care and Health Care, by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	Where do you usually go when you are sick or need health care?				
	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider
2	A pharmacy	A pharmacy	A pharmacy	A pharmacy	A hospital emergency department
3	A hospital emergency department	A hospital emergency department	A hospital emergency department	An urgent care center	A pharmacy
4	An urgent care center	An urgent care center	An urgent care center	A hospital emergency department	An urgent care center
5	The Internet	The Internet	The Internet	The Internet	The Internet

Table 41. Top Five Resources Used for Sick Care and Health Care, by High School District, 2008

Rank	Where do you usually go when you are sick or need health care?								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider
2	A pharmacy	A hospital emergency department	A pharmacy	A pharmacy	A pharmacy	A hospital emergency department	A pharmacy	A pharmacy	A pharmacy
3	A hospital emergency department	A pharmacy	A hospital emergency department	A hospital emergency department	An urgent care center	A pharmacy	A hospital emergency department	A hospital emergency department	A hospital emergency department
4	An urgent care center	An urgent care center	An urgent care center	An urgent care center	A hospital emergency department	An urgent care center			
5	The Internet	①The Internet ②The Gaston County Health Department	The Internet	The Internet	The Internet	The Gaston County Health Department	The Internet	The Internet	The Internet

Table 42 presents tabulated data on “Who do you trust for accurate health information and health advice?” By respondent group, “my personal medical doctor/medical provider” was the number one answer for all respondent groups, followed by “my pharmacist” and “medical reference books” for three of the five categories; “my family and friends” was cited by four of the groups and three cited the “Gaston County Health Department” among their top five trusted sources. In contrast with Table 44, on which “the Internet” was cited five times as a place where respondents go when they are sick or need health care, the Internet appears only three times as a trusted source of health information and advice. Table 70 (Appendix) presents the full set of responses by respondent group.

Table 42. Top Five Trusted Sources of Health Information and Advice, by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	My personal doctor/medical provider				
2	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My family & friends
3	Medical reference books	Medical reference books	My family & friends	Medical reference books	My pharmacist
4	My family & friends	The Internet	Medical reference books	The Internet	The Gaston County Health Department
5	The Internet	My family & friends	The Gaston County Health Department	The Gaston County Health Department	Gaston Family Health Services

Table 43, which presents the same data by high school district, follows the same pattern of reliance on personal physicians and medical providers, pharmacists, medical reference books, family and friends, the Gaston County Health Department, and the Internet. The full listing of trusted sources of health information and advice by high school district is on Table 71 in the Appendix.

Table 43. Top Five Trusted Sources of Health Information and Advice, by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider	My personal doctor/medical provider
2	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist	My pharmacist
3	Medical reference books	My family & friends	①Medical reference books ②The Internet	My family & friends	Medical reference books				
4	My family & friends	Medical reference books	My family & friends	Medical reference books	The Internet	The Gaston County Health Department	My family & friends	My family & friends	The Internet
5	The Internet	The Gaston County Health Department	①The Gaston County Health Department ②Magazines & newspapers	The Internet	My family & friends	My family & friends	The Internet	The Internet	Magazines & newspapers

Health Data from the State Center for Health Statistics

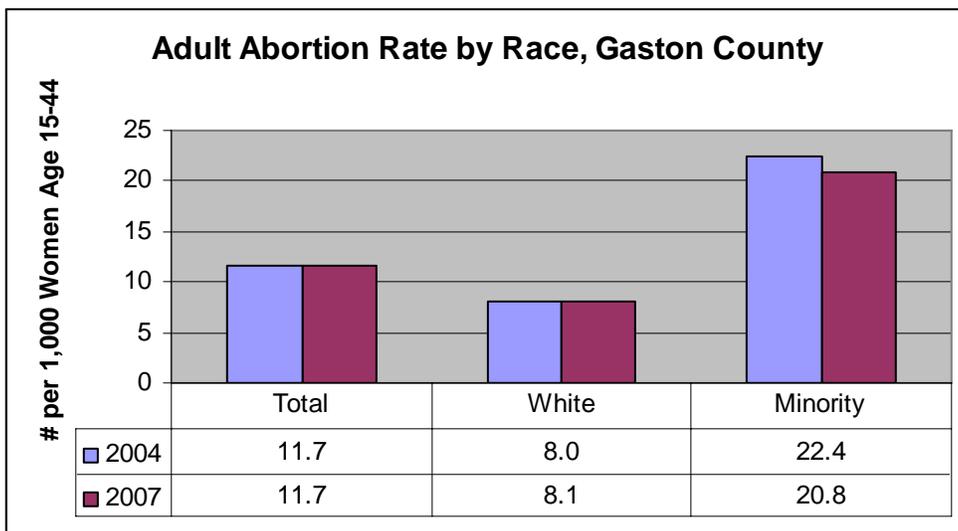
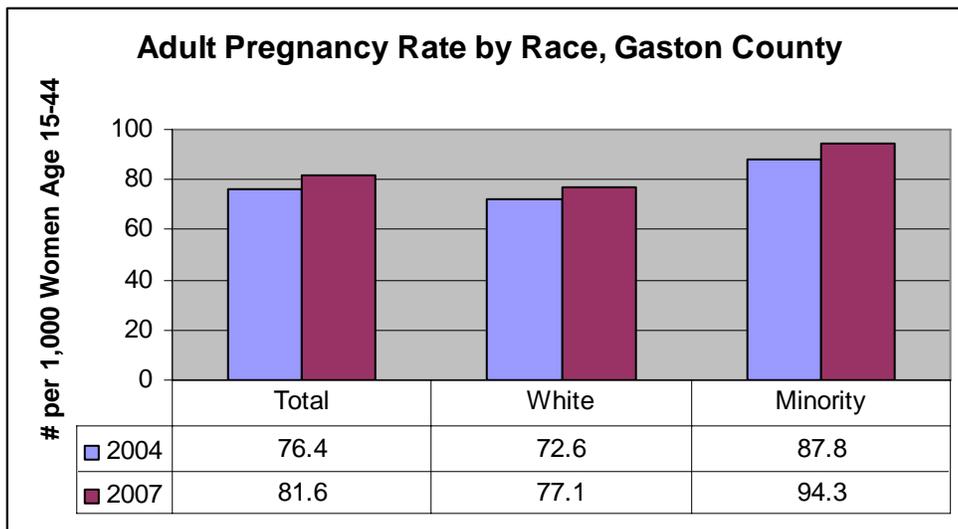
The following key health indicators are from the NC State Center for Health Statistics (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us>).

Pregnancies/Live Birth Data

From 2003-2007, Gaston County residents had 13,262 live births and a live birth rate of 13.6 per 1,000 population. The live birth rate in North Carolina during this period was 14.2.

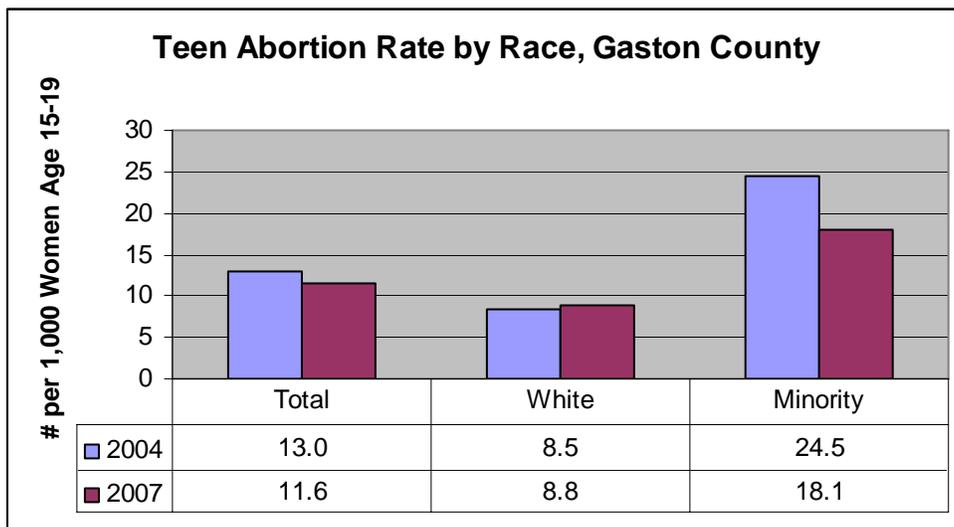
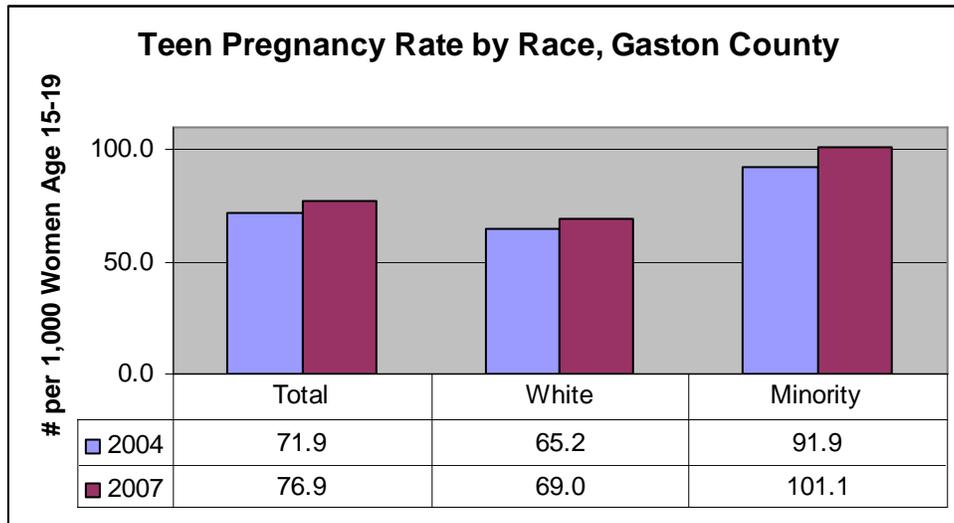
In 2007, women in Gaston County, ages 15-44, had 3,348 pregnancies, 2,851 live births, and 481 abortions. In 2007, minority adults had a higher pregnancy rate than whites (94.3 vs. 77.1), and the county had higher pregnancy rates for total, white, and minority women when compared with 2004. In 2007, the minority abortion rate was more than twice that for whites (20.8 per vs. 8.1) in spite of the rate dropping between 2004 and 2007 (Figures 16 and 17).

Figures 16 and 17



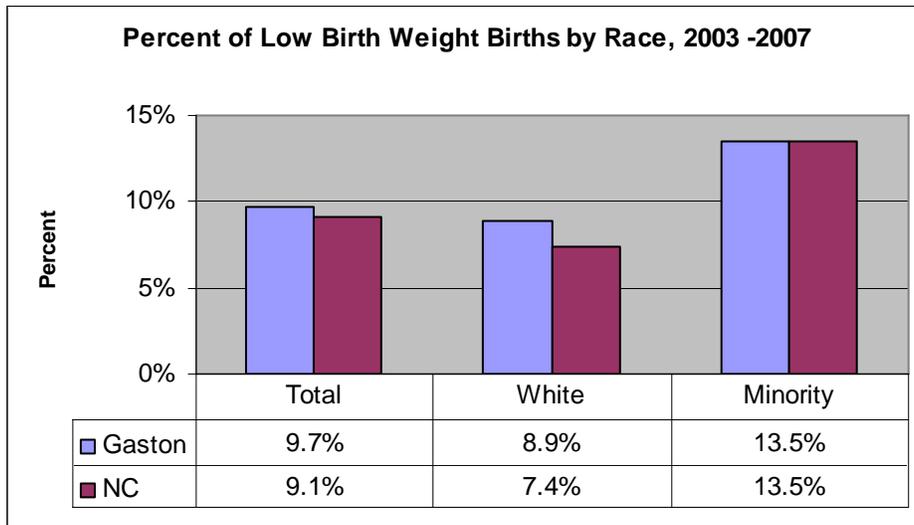
In 2007, there were 519 total teenage pregnancies (15-19 years old) in Gaston County. Between 2004 and 2007, pregnancy rates for the county’s total, white, and minority teenagers increased (Figure 18). In the same period, teen abortion rates dropped for total and minority teens and increased slightly for white teens (Figure 19).

Figures 18 and 19



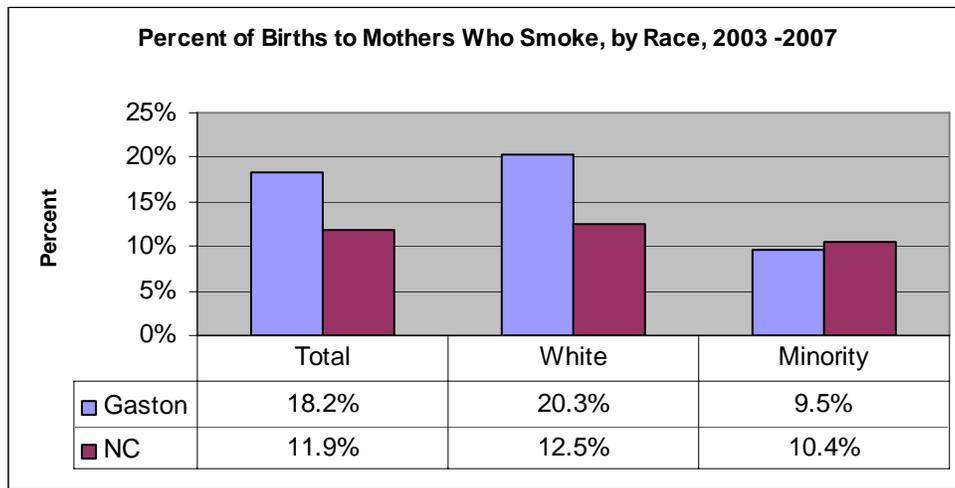
From 2003 - 2007, 1,292 (9.7%) of babies born to Gaston County residents had low birth weights (less than 2,500 grams). While on par with the rate for North Carolina, Gaston County’s rate of low birth weight minority babies was 39% higher than white babies – 13.5 vs. 9.7 (Figure 20). The Healthy Carolinians 2010 Objective for low birth weight births is 7%.

Figure 20



From 2003-2007, 18.2% of births in Gaston County were to mothers who smoked while pregnant, while 11.9% of pregnant women in North Carolina smoked (Figure 21). The rate of Gaston County mothers who smoked during pregnancy was substantially higher among whites (20.3) when compared to minorities (9.5).

Figure 21

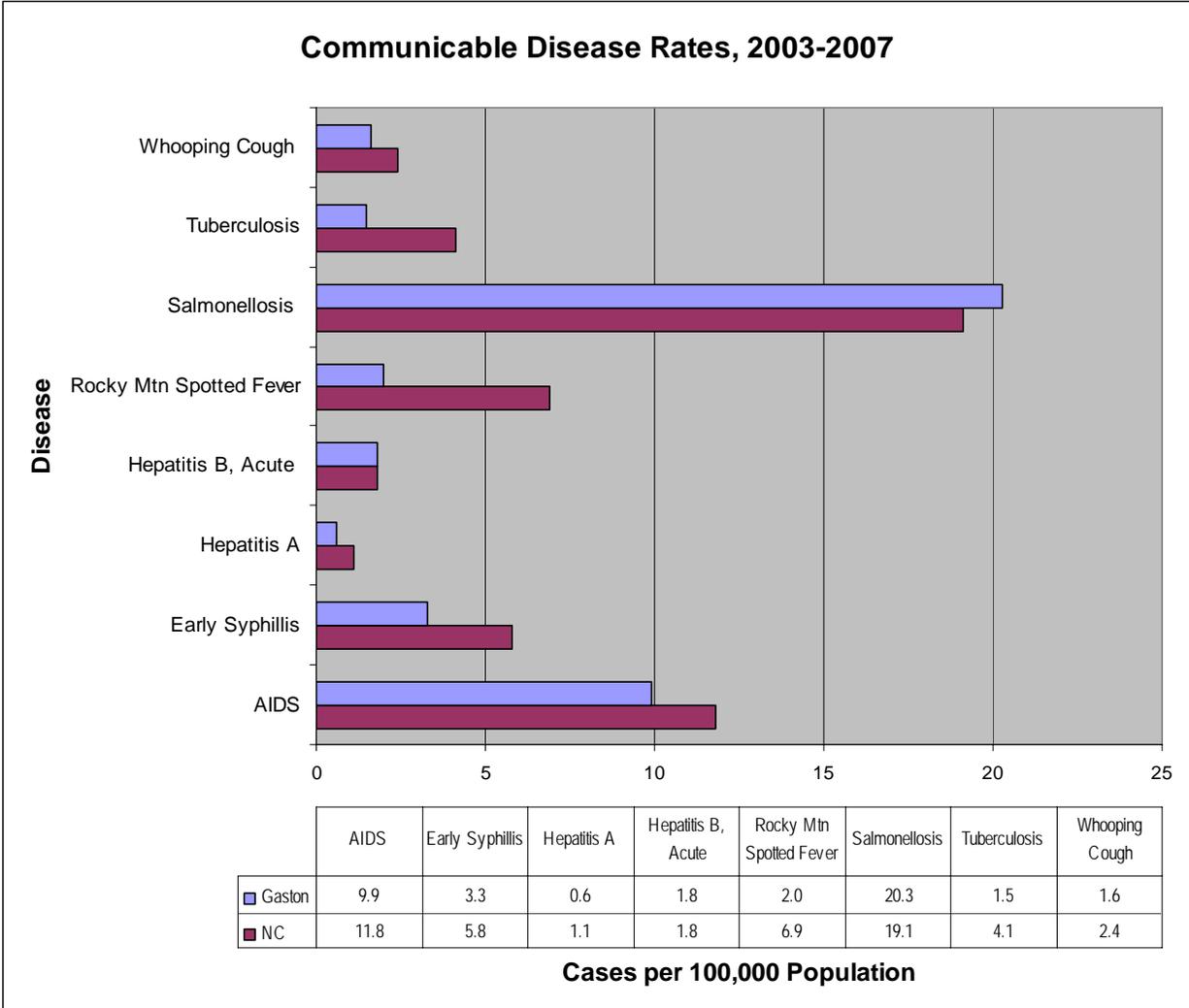


Morbidity Data

Chlamydia (345.0 cases/100,000 population) and gonorrhea (182.0 cases/100,000 population) were the most common reportable communicable disease in Gaston County in 2007. Compared with 2006, this represents a slight decrease in Chlamydia (343.1/100,000 population) and a significant decrease in gonorrhea (260.5/100,000 population).

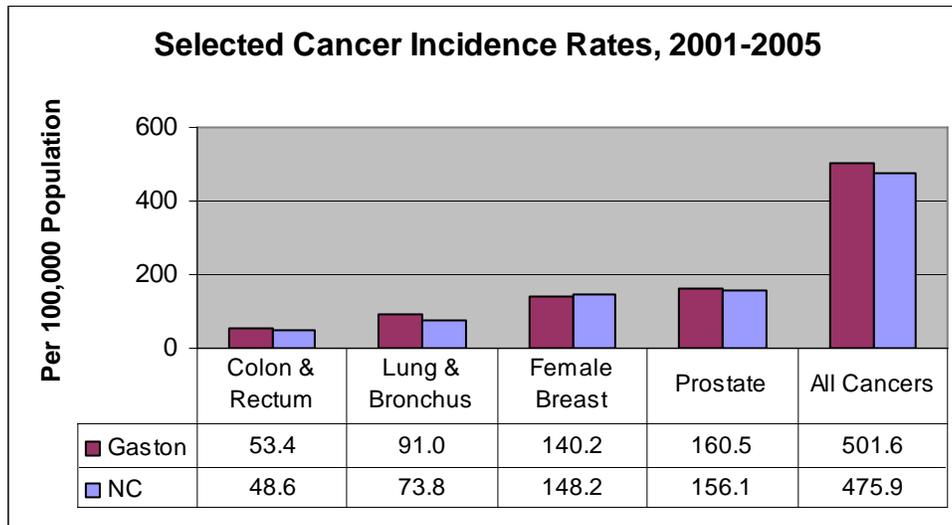
The incidence rates of eight other reportable communicable diseases in Gaston County are shown in Figure 22; of the listed diseases, Salmonellosis was the only condition for which Gaston County had a higher rate than the state of North Carolina.

Figure 22



Morbidity data for the period 2001-2005, age-adjusted to the 2000 census (Figure 23), shows Gaston County had higher rates than North Carolina for all cancers, specifically cancer of the colon/rectum, lung/bronchus, and prostate. Gaston County's rate of cancer of the lung and bronchus exceeded the state rate by 23.3 percent. While Gaston has more current smokers than the state (24.8% vs. 22.9%) and more residents who smoke everyday (20.2% vs. 17.6%) these numbers would not explain this significant difference in mortality (BRFSS, 2007); a potential explanation would be Gaston County residents have smoked for more years than their state counterparts, however there is no data to test this hypothesis.

Figure 23



Mortality Data

The five leading causes of death in Gaston County from 2002-2006 were:

1. Heart Disease: 2,399 deaths
2. All Cancers: 2,118 deaths
3. Chronic lower respiratory disease: 614 deaths
4. Stroke: 541 deaths
5. Unintentional injury: 350 deaths

A comparison of death rates in Gaston County and North Carolina, by cause, is shown in Figure 24. Death rates in Gaston County were at least 15% higher than state rates, for the following diseases: (1) chronic liver disease and cirrhosis; (2) pneumonia and influenza; (3) unintended injuries; (4) suicide; (5) AIDS; (6) chronic lower respiratory diseases; and, (7) cancer of the trachea, bronchus, and lung. While the county has a lower rate of AIDS cases than the state, it has a higher AIDS death rate than the state; this may be due, in part, to the in-migration to Gaston County of persons living with AIDS to receive high quality care at Gaston Family Health Services and the House of Mercy.

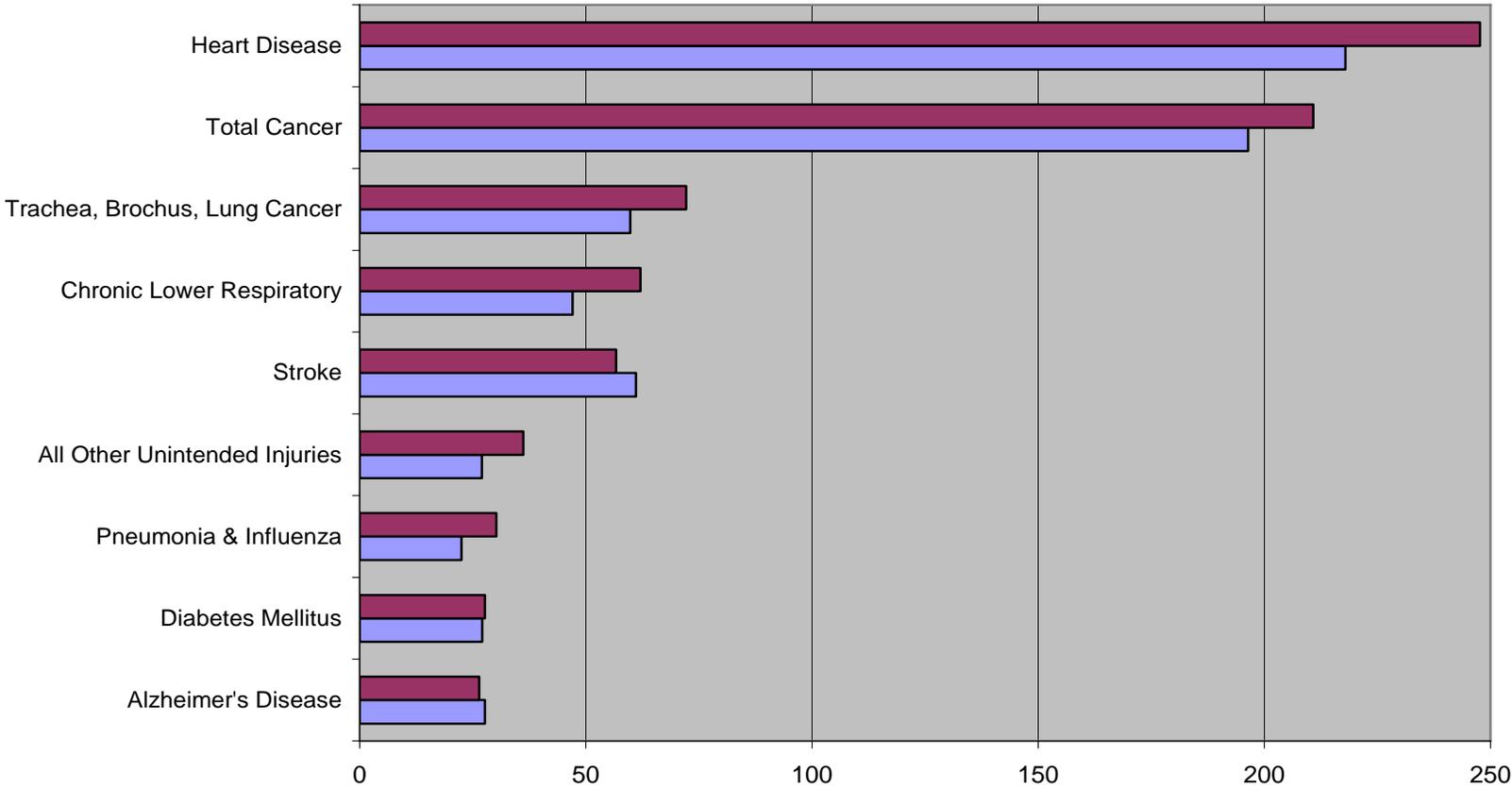
The five leading causes of death for men and women in Gaston County (2003 – 2007) were:

Table 44

Men	Women
1. Heart Disease	1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer	2. Cancer
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases
4. Unintentional Injuries	4. Stroke
5. Stroke	5. Alzheimer’s Disease

Figure 24

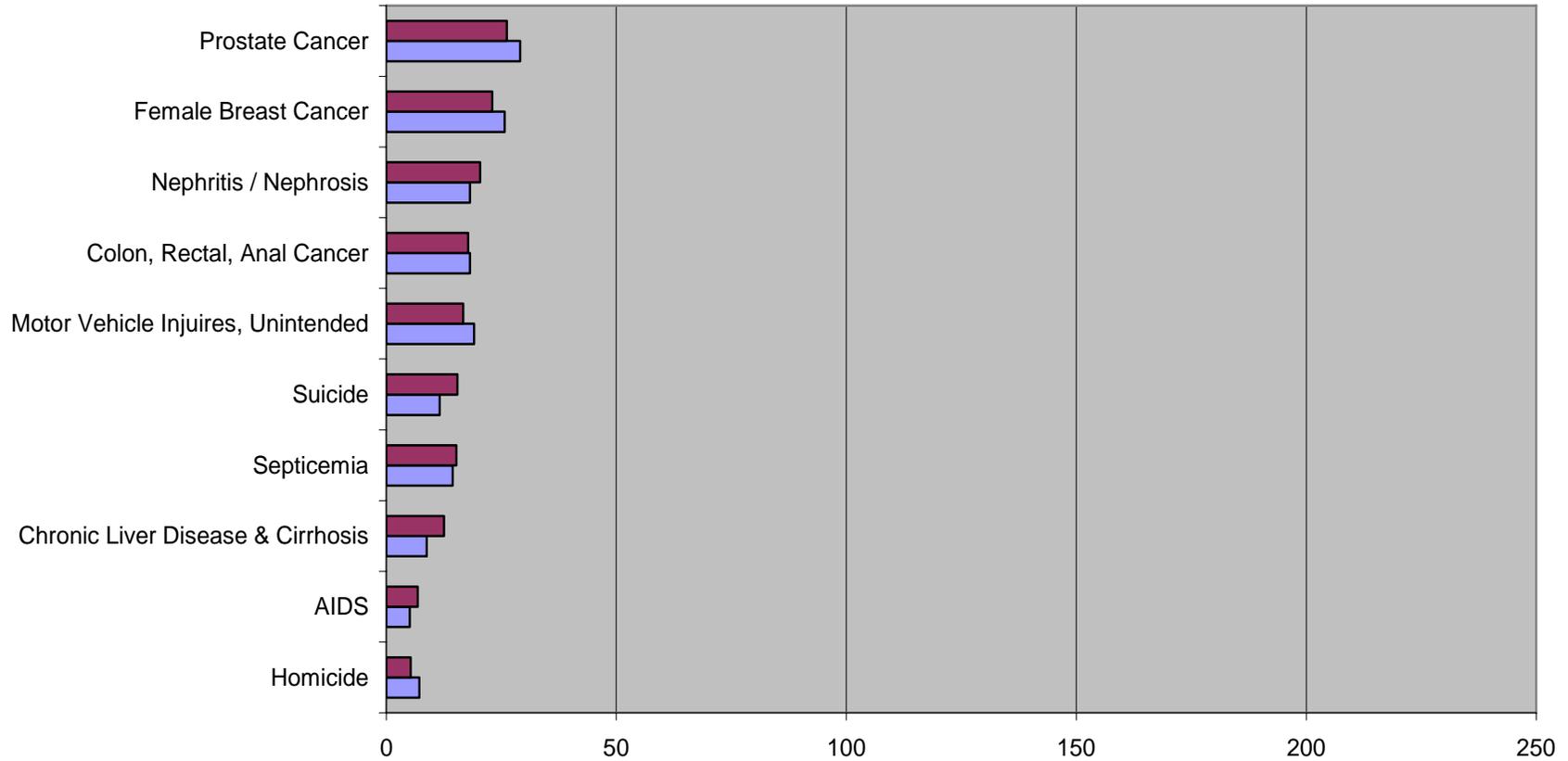
Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Selected Causes, 2002-2006



	Alzheimer's Disease	Diabetes Mellitus	Pneumonia & Influenza	All Other Unintended Injuries	Stroke	Chronic Lower Respiratory	Trachea, Brochus, Lung Cancer	Total Cancer	Heart Disease
■ Gaston	26.4	27.7	30.2	36.2	56.7	62.1	72.2	210.8	247.7
■ NC	27.7	27.1	22.5	27.0	61.1	47.1	59.8	196.4	217.9

Rate per 100,000

Age-Adjusted Death Rates for Selected Causes, 2002-2006 (Continued)



	Homicide	AIDS	Chronic Liver Disease & Cirrhosis	Septicemia	Suicide	Motor Vehicle Injuries, Unintended	Colon, Rectal, Anal Cancer	Nephritis / Nephrosis	Female Breast Cancer	Prostate Cancer
■ Gaston	5.3	6.8	12.5	15.2	15.5	16.7	17.8	20.4	23.0	26.2
■ NC	7.2	5.1	8.8	14.4	11.6	19.1	18.2	18.2	25.7	29.1

Rate per 100,000

Gaston County's five leading causes of death for whites and minorities (2003 – 2007) were:

Table 45

Leading Causes of Death for Gaston County Whites and Minorities, 2003-2007	
Whites	Minorities
1. Heart Disease	1. Heart Disease
2. Cancer	2. Cancer
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	3. Stroke
4. Stroke	4. Diabetes Mellitus
5. Other Unintentional Injuries	5. HIV
	5. Nephritis, Nephrotic Syndrome, & Nephrosis

Gaston County's five leading causes of death, by age group (2003 – 2007) were:

Table 46

Leading Cause of Death, Up to One Year of Age	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Short Gestation – Low Birth Weight	30
2. Congenital Anomalies (birth defects)	26
3. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome	13
4. Maternal Complications of Pregnancy	6
4. Bacterial Sepsis	6

Table 47

Leading Cause of Death, One to Four Years of Age	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Motor Vehicle Injuries	2
2. Other Unintentional Injuries	2
3. In-situ / Benign Neoplasms	1
3. Heart Disease	1
3. Stroke	1
3. Congenital Anomalies (birth defects)	1
3. Homicide	1

Table 48

Leading Cause of Death, 5 to 14 Years of Age	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Motor Vehicle Injuries	3
2. Cancer	2
2. Pneumonia & Influenza	2
2. Congenital Anomalies (birth defects)	2
2. Suicide	2

Table 49

Leading Cause of Death, 15 – 24 Years of Age	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Motor Vehicle Injuries	43
2. Other Unintentional Injuries	26
3. Suicide	15
4. Homicide	11
5. Cancer	6

Table 50

Leading Cause of Death, 25 – 44 Years of Age	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Other Unintentional Injuries	112
2. Cancer	84
3. Heart Disease	80
4. Motor Vehicle Injuries	75
5. Suicide	65

Table 51

Leading Cause of Death, 45 – 64 Years of Age	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Cancer	652
2. Heart Disease	477
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	128
4. Other Unintentional Injuries	102
5. Diabetes mellitus	80

Table 52

Leading Cause of Death, Age 65 and Older	
Rank and Cause of Death	Deaths
1. Heart Disease	1,833
2. Cancer	1,386
3. Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	480
4. Stroke	412
5. Pneumonia & influenza	256

Tables 46-52 illustrate the significant increase in deaths due to risky behaviors – driving, injuries, and violence – beginning with the age 15-24 cohort. In the age 25-44 cohort, cancer and heart disease become more prominent, and may have their etiology in such unhealthy behaviors as smoking, poor nutrition, and lack of exercise. Starting with the age 45-64 cohort, most causes of death can be attributed to the combination of biology and the noted unhealthy lifestyles – for example, cancer, heart disease, chronic lower respiratory disease, diabetes, and stroke.

Several tables list *Other Unintentional Injuries* as a cause of death, which describes deaths due to unintentional non-motor vehicle injuries, for example bicycle injuries, accidental poisoning, and drowning.

The greatest number of cancer deaths were due to cancer of the: (1) trachea, bronchus, and lung; (2) prostate; (3) female breast; and, (4) colon, rectum, anus. Table 53 illustrates greater death rates among white males for cancer of the trachea, bronchus, and lung and greater death rates among minority males for prostate cancer.

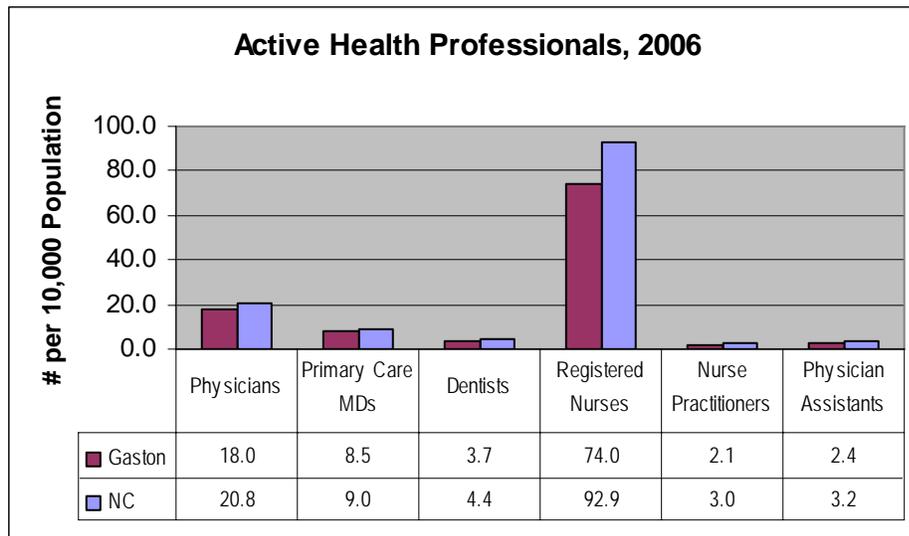
Table 53

Causes of Death	White		Minority	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Cancer of the colon, rectum, & anus	23.0	14.4	22.3	17.0
Cancer of the trachea, bronchus, & lung	100.2	54.0	84.3	31.9
Cancer of the female breast	--	22.7	--	21.0
Cancer of the prostate	21.3	--	55.1	--

Health Resources Data

According to the University of North Carolina’s Sheps Center for Health Services Research, Gaston County has a lower rate of active physicians, primary care physicians, dentists, registered nurses, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants than the state (Figure 25); the county lags the state by 23 percent in its number of active registered nurses.

Figure 25



At the same time, Gaston County has a strong infrastructure of health care resources. The Gaston County Health Department, a North Carolina accredited health department, offers disease prevention, disease treatment, health promotion, and environmental services. Its clinics provide family planning, prenatal care, limited gynecology, well and sick pediatric care, immunizations, and diagnoses and treatments for sexually transmitted diseases. It also provides nutrition services, including WIC, and health education programs to prevent teen pregnancy, stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, improve health resources in pre-schools, and promote smoking cessation, physical

activity, and good nutritional practices. Its environmental programs include food and lodging inspections, and it manages well water and septic system installations and repairs.

Gaston Memorial Hospital, the county's sole hospital, is a not-for-profit facility with 435 licensed beds. Its hospital and ancillary services include the: Birthplace, CaroMont Cancer Center, CaroMont Heart Center, Emergency Services, Imaging Services, Neurosciences, Advanced Spine Care, Psychiatric Services, Rehabilitation and Sports Medicine, Sleep Center, Special Care Units, Surgical Services, and the CaroMont Wound and Diabetes Center.

There are 311 physicians on Active Staff at Gaston Memorial Hospital: 120 are primary care physicians who work in 48 practices – family physicians, internists, pediatricians, and obstetricians/gynecologists; another 211 physicians are specialists employed in 52 practices.

Gaston Family Health Services, Inc. is Gaston County's sole Federally Qualified Community Health Center. With the exception of prenatal and pediatric care, it provides a full-range of primary care services, and such additional programs as behavioral health services, a pharmacy, the Gaston Diabetes Center, and two dental clinics. With the county health department, it is developing a primary health center in Highland, the community with Gaston County's poorest health status. It also operates Community Health Partners, Gaston County's Medicaid Managed Care agency and Health Net Gaston, a system through which local physicians will provide complimentary medical care to uninsured adults.

The Gaston Community Healthcare Commission, the county's Healthy Carolinian Task Force, is a leader in the area of health promotion and disease prevention. It is composed of seven workgroups: the Gaston County Fitness and Nutrition Council, the Adolescent Sexual Health Task Force, and Cancer Initiative, Workplace Wellness, Community Wellness (mental health focus), Parish Nursing, and Safe Kids workgroups. In its support of regular physical activity, the Commission advocates for greenways and the Carolina Thread Trail. Gaston County features the 2.7 mile Catawba-Avon Creek Greenway in Gastonia, the Riverside Greenway in Cramerton, and the Highland Rail Trail, which is under construction in Gastonia. In addition, each municipality in the county has parks and recreation programs.

Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System

The Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) is a random telephone survey of state residents, 18 and older, in households with telephones. Through BRFSS the North Carolina Division of Public Health collects data on a variety of health behaviors related to the leading causes of death and disability. Using BRFSS data, the following graphs provide insights into community needs, behavioral trends, and community resources for Gaston County.

Figure 26 describes the percentage of residents in Gaston County and North Carolina who report having been diagnosed with leading causes of death. Except for coronary heart disease, Gaston County has a higher percentage of reported diagnoses for the cited disease when compared to North Carolina residents; the county's reported incidence of kidney disease is 130.1% greater than the state's, which is disproportional to the county's incidence of death from nephritis and nephrosis, this difference may be not as great as it appears, due to a small sample size, and will be the subject of further inquiry.

Figure 26

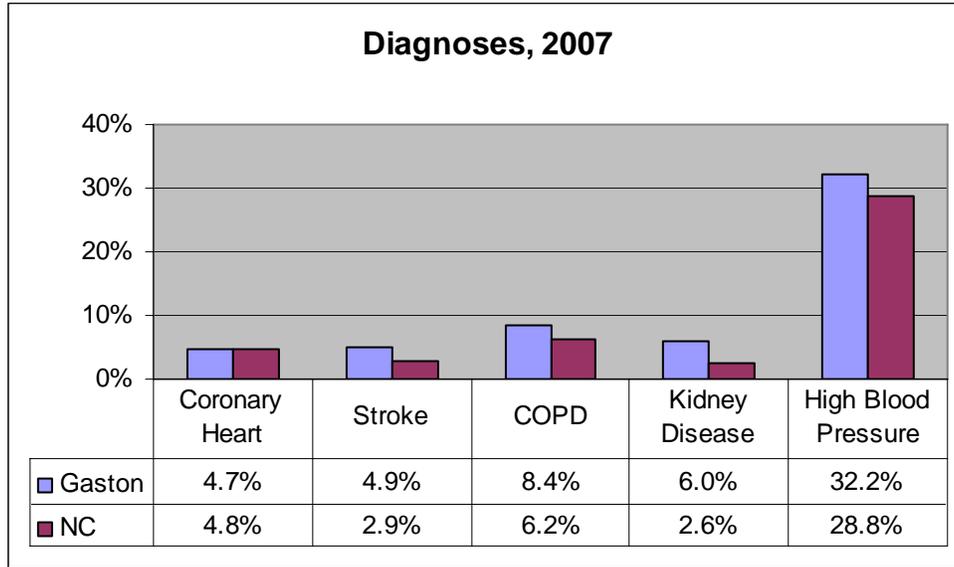


Figure 27 shows a slight drop in the percentage of Gaston County residents younger than 65, with health insurance coverage, between 2004 and 2007; in the same period, the state experienced a greater decrease in insured individuals. On the other hand, the percentage of Gaston County residents younger than 65 and insured and employed for wages, increased between 2004 and 2007 (Figure 28).

Figure 27

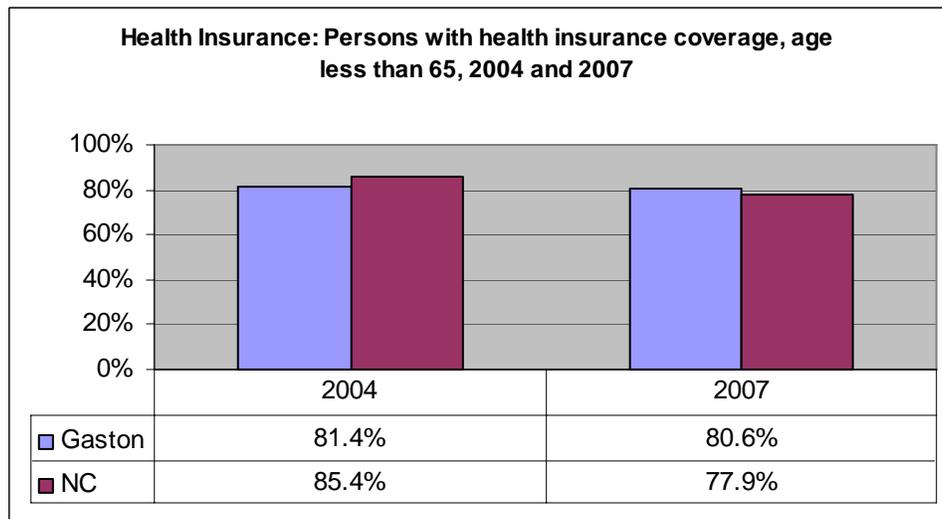
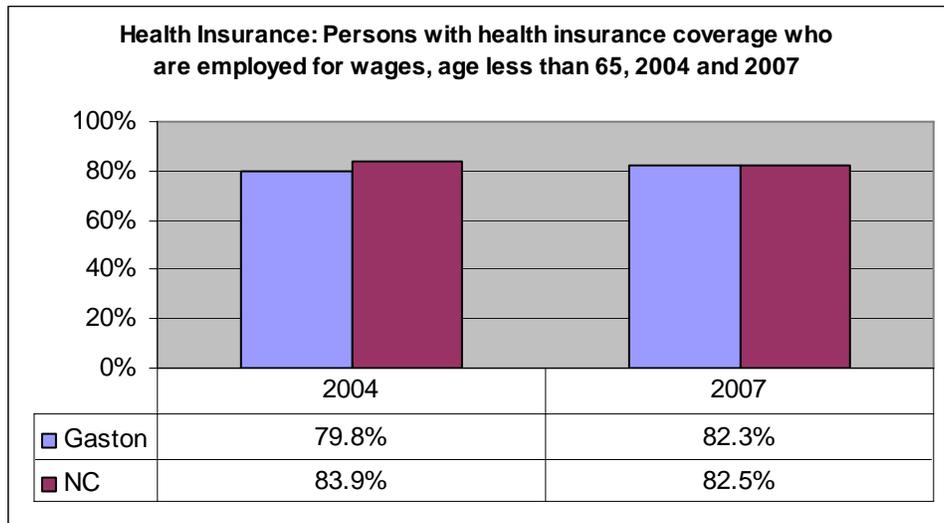
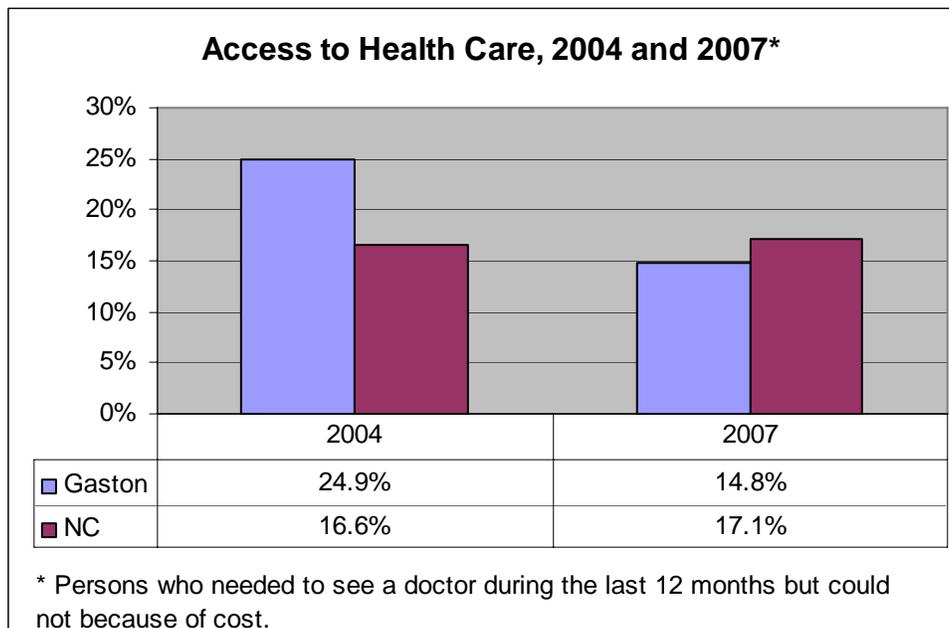


Figure 28



Between 2004 and 2007, Gaston County experienced more than a 10% drop in the number of persons who could not secure needed health care in the preceding twelve months because of cost. This improvement stands in contrast to the slight increase in North Carolina residents who were unable to secure medical care because of cost (Figure 29).

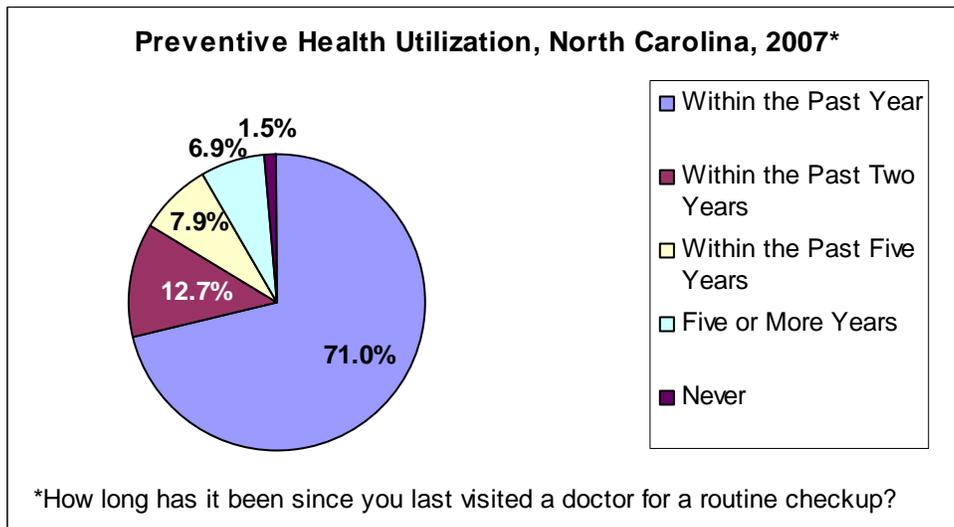
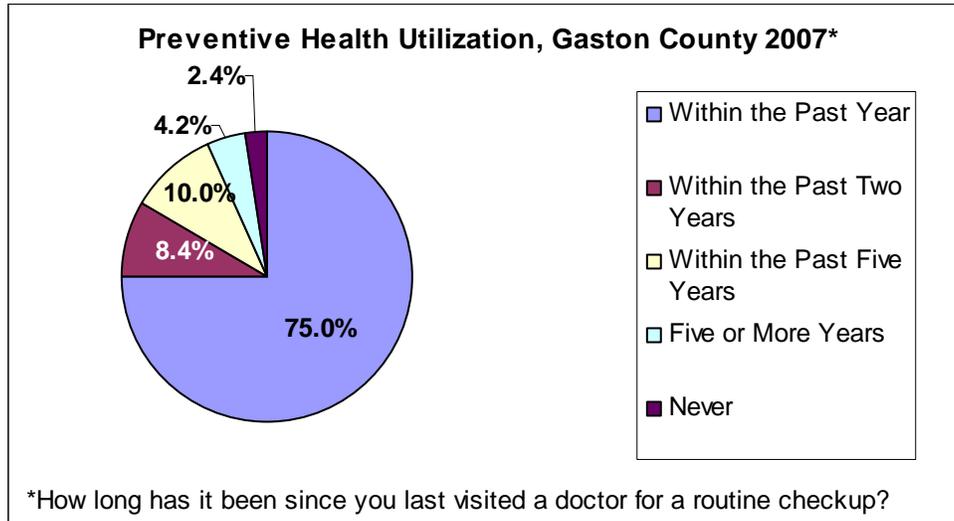
Figure 29



A long-term measure of health care access is found in responses to the question: *About how long has it been since you last visited a doctor for a routine checkup?* Gaston County residents had greater access to health care than the state, with 76% versus 71% of state residents stating they had received routine checkups within the past year (Figures 30 and 31).

Improved measures for access to health care and preventive health utilization may be due to the increased supply of health resources in Gaston County: new physicians and medical practices, expanded hours at Gaston Family Health Services, new urgent care centers, and a three to four percent increase in Emergency Department volume at Gaston Memorial Hospital.

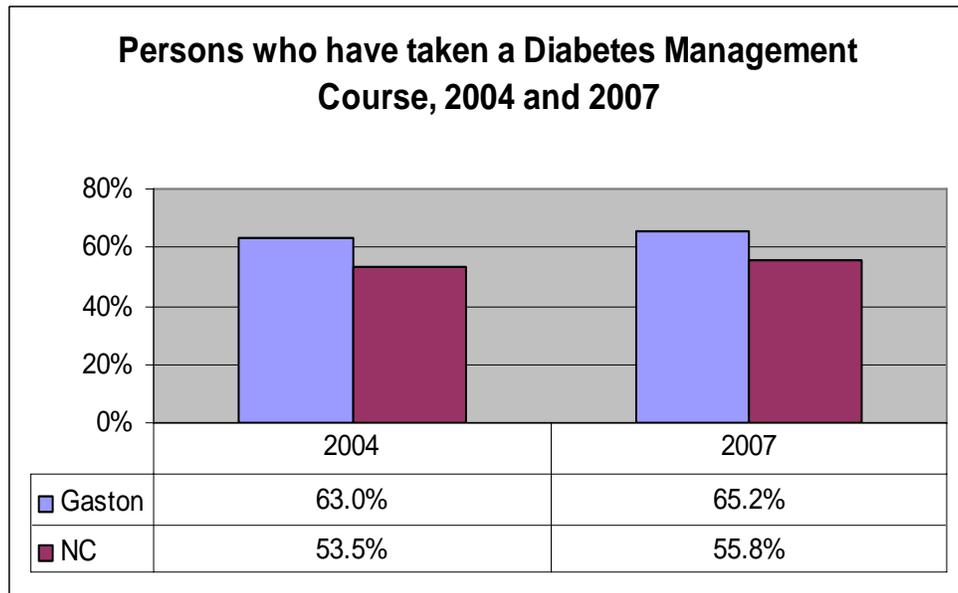
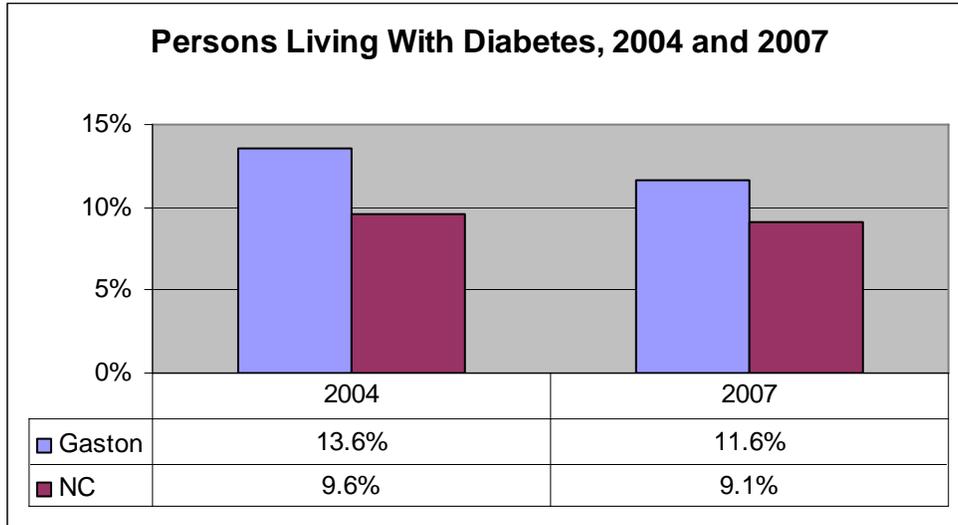
Figures 30 and 31



The following graphs present data on the incidence of disease, and disease-related behaviors, that are leading causes of illness, physical limitations, and death in Gaston County. For example, Figure 32 shows Gaston County and the state of North Carolina have experienced a slight decrease in the incidence of diabetes between 2004 and 2007. At the same time, there has been a slight increase in the number of Gaston County residents living with diabetes who have taken a diabetes management course (Figure 33).

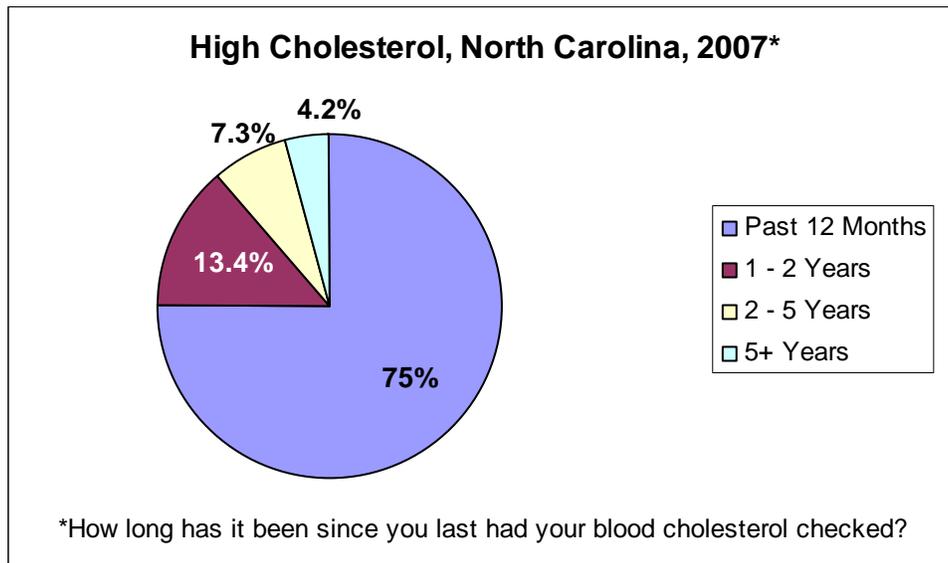
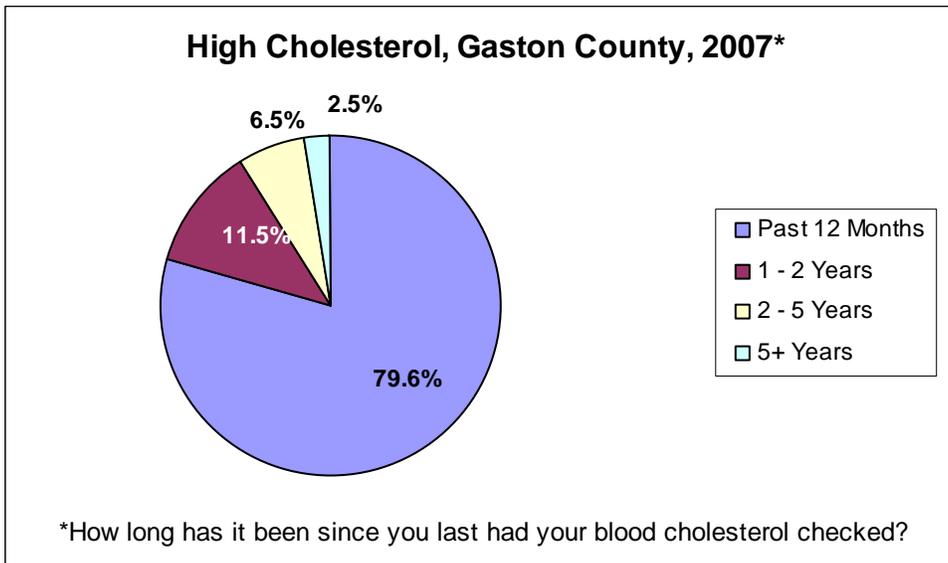
While this is a healthy trend, nearly 35% of individuals living with diabetes have not received comprehensive diabetes education, which – by teaching about physical activity, nutrition, and self-care – can help them avoid disease complications and reduce their need for medications.

Figures 32 and 33



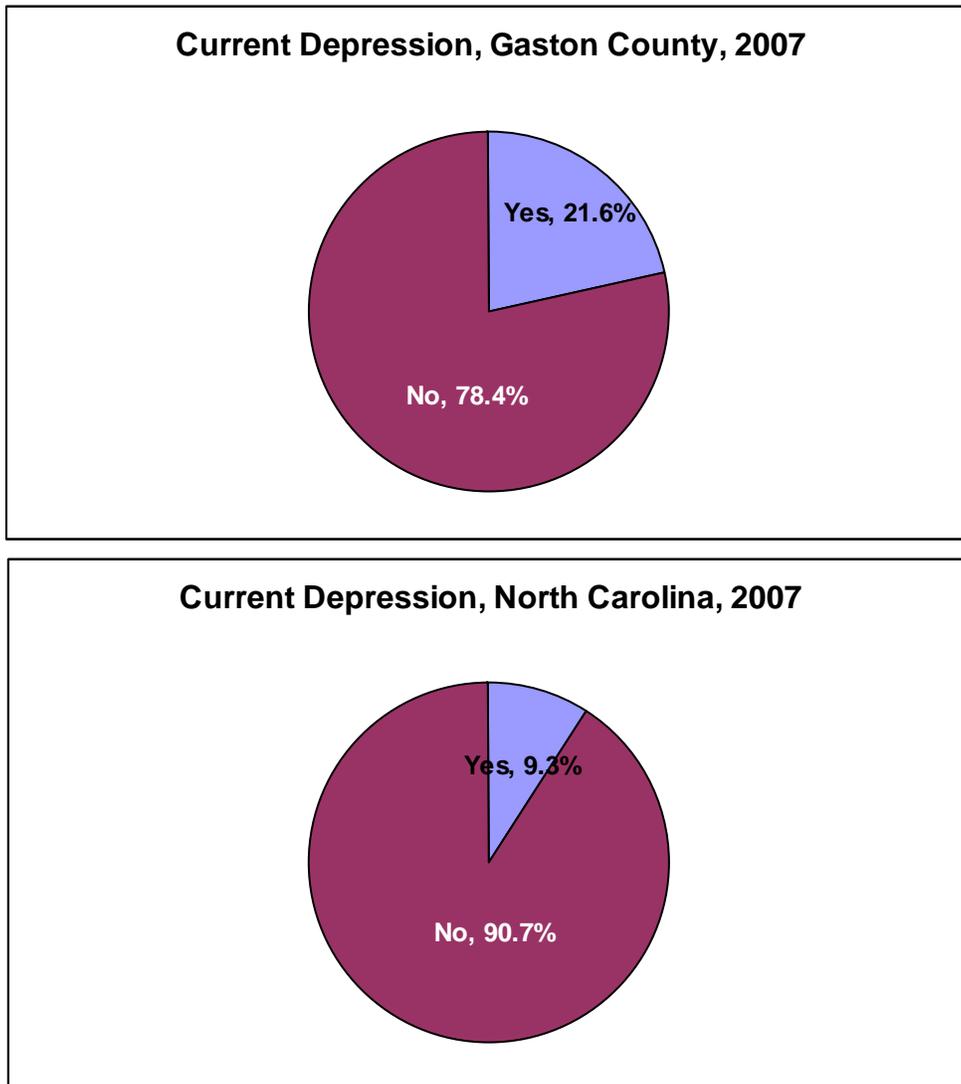
High cholesterol is a leading risk factor for heart disease and stroke. Figures 34 and 35 show more Gaston County residents were tested for cholesterol in the past 12 months (79.6%) than state residents (75.0%). Because cholesterol testing is typically conducted during clinical visits, this data supports the previously cited percentage of persons who have been to the doctor for routine checkups.

Figures 34 and 35



Depression is a key measure of mental and emotional health associated with the ability of individuals to achieve life satisfaction and self-sufficiency. BRFSS data (2007) shows Gaston County's reported incidence of current depression is 13.6% higher than North Carolina (Figures 36 and 37).

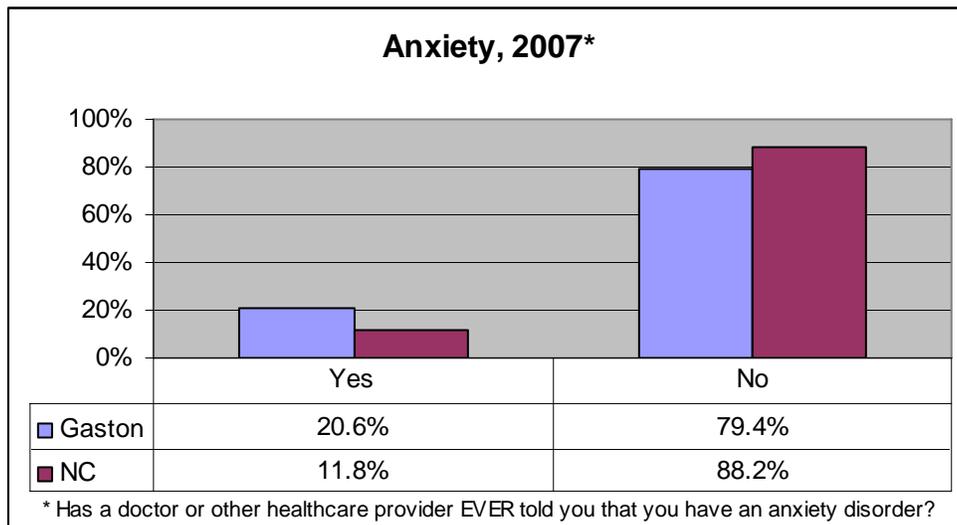
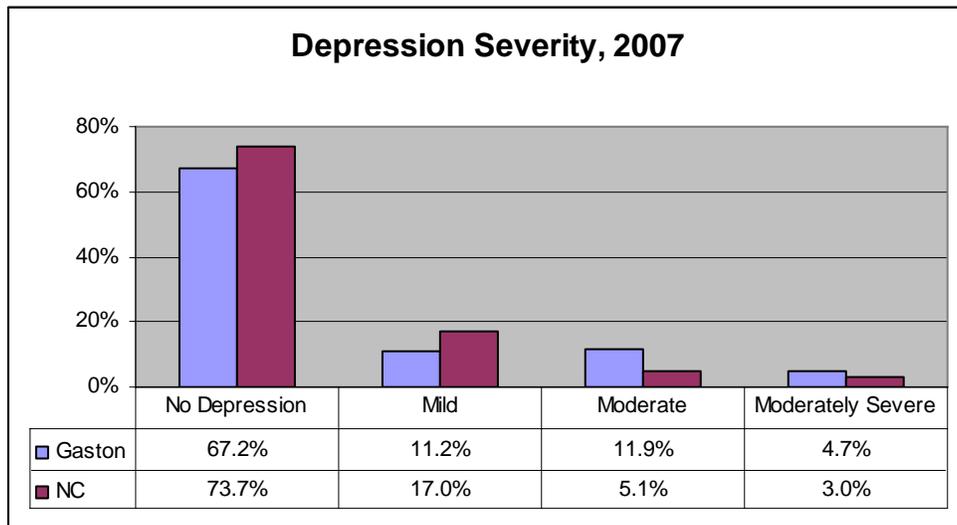
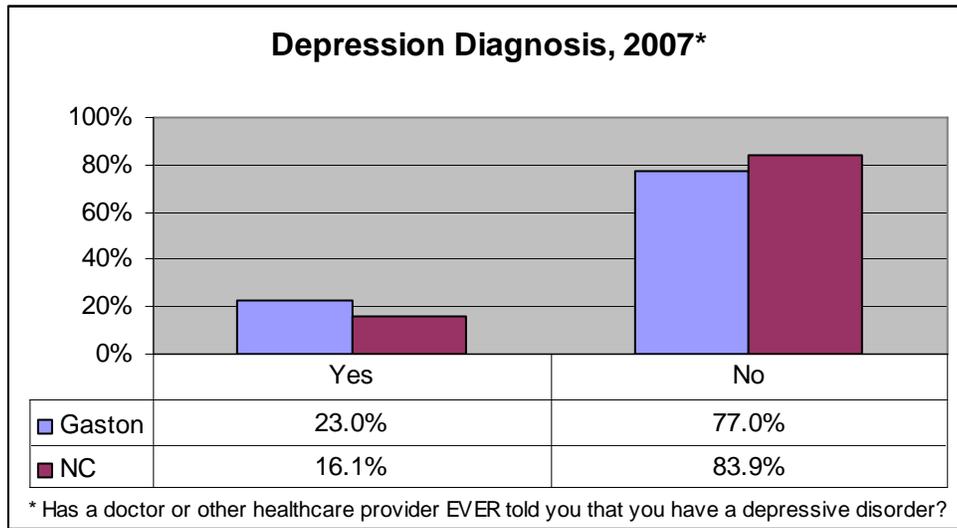
Figures 36 and 37



Twenty-three percent of Gaston County residents have ever been told by a healthcare provider they were depressed – including dysthymia, minor depression, depression, or major depression – in comparison to 16.1% of North Carolinians (Figure 38). In 2007, more Gaston County residents had more moderate and moderately severe depression than statewide residents (Figure 39).

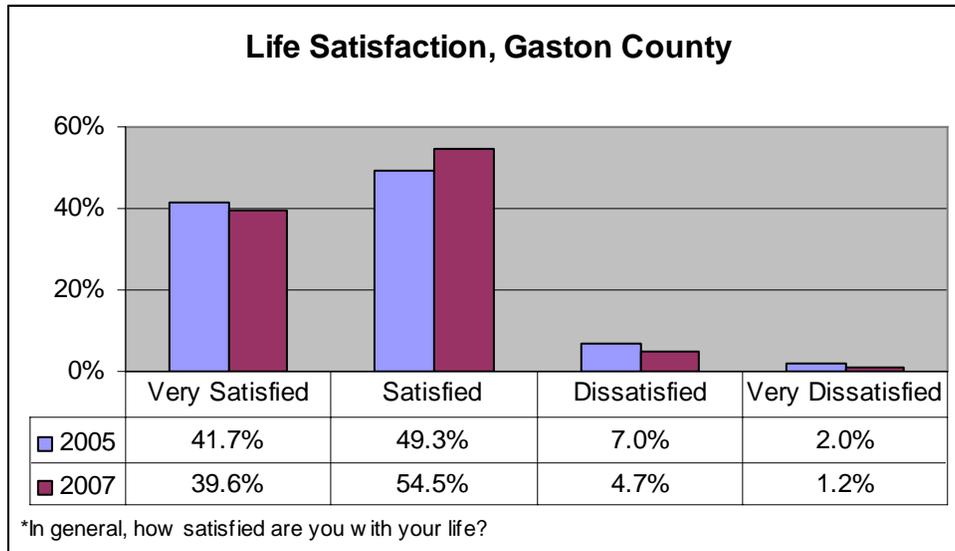
Similarly, 20.6% of survey respondents in Gaston County have ever been told by a health care provider they had an anxiety disorder, versus 11.8% in North Carolina; anxiety is defined as an acute stress disorder, anxiety, generalized anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic attacks, panic disorder, phobia, post-traumatic stress disorder, or social anxiety disorder (Figure 40).

Figures 38, 39, 40



Life satisfaction, another measure of mental health status (Figure 41), shows the percentage of Dissatisfied and Very Dissatisfied Gaston County residents both decreased between 2005 and 2007.

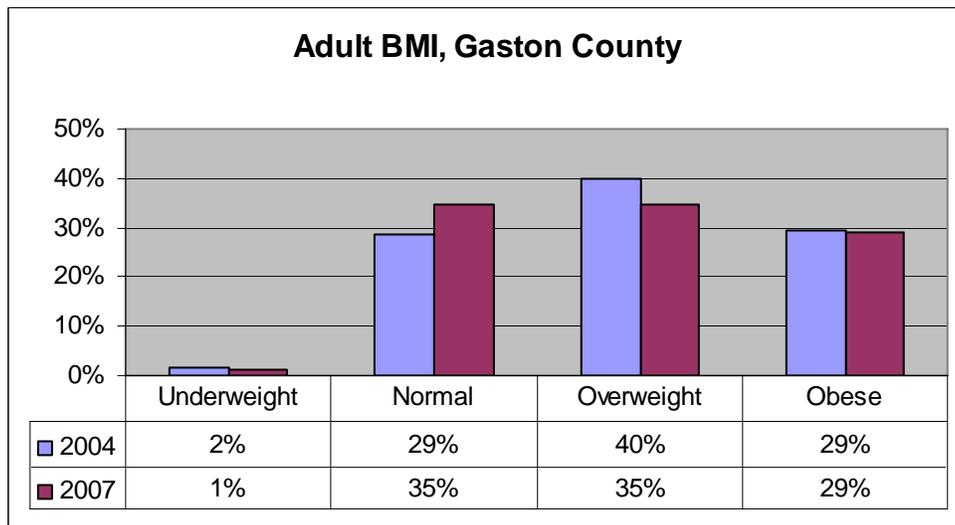
Figure 41



Body Mass Index (BMI), a measure of an individual's height relative to their weight, is computed based on the individual's gender and is used to determine if individuals have healthy or unhealthy weights. BMI data is significant because an individual's height-weight ratio is strongly associated with the onset of heart disease, stroke, diabetes, and some cancers.

Between 2004 and 2007 (Figure 42), there was a six percent increase in the number of Gaston County adults who had a healthy BMI, a four percent decrease in persons who were overweight, and the percentage of obese county residents remained the same.

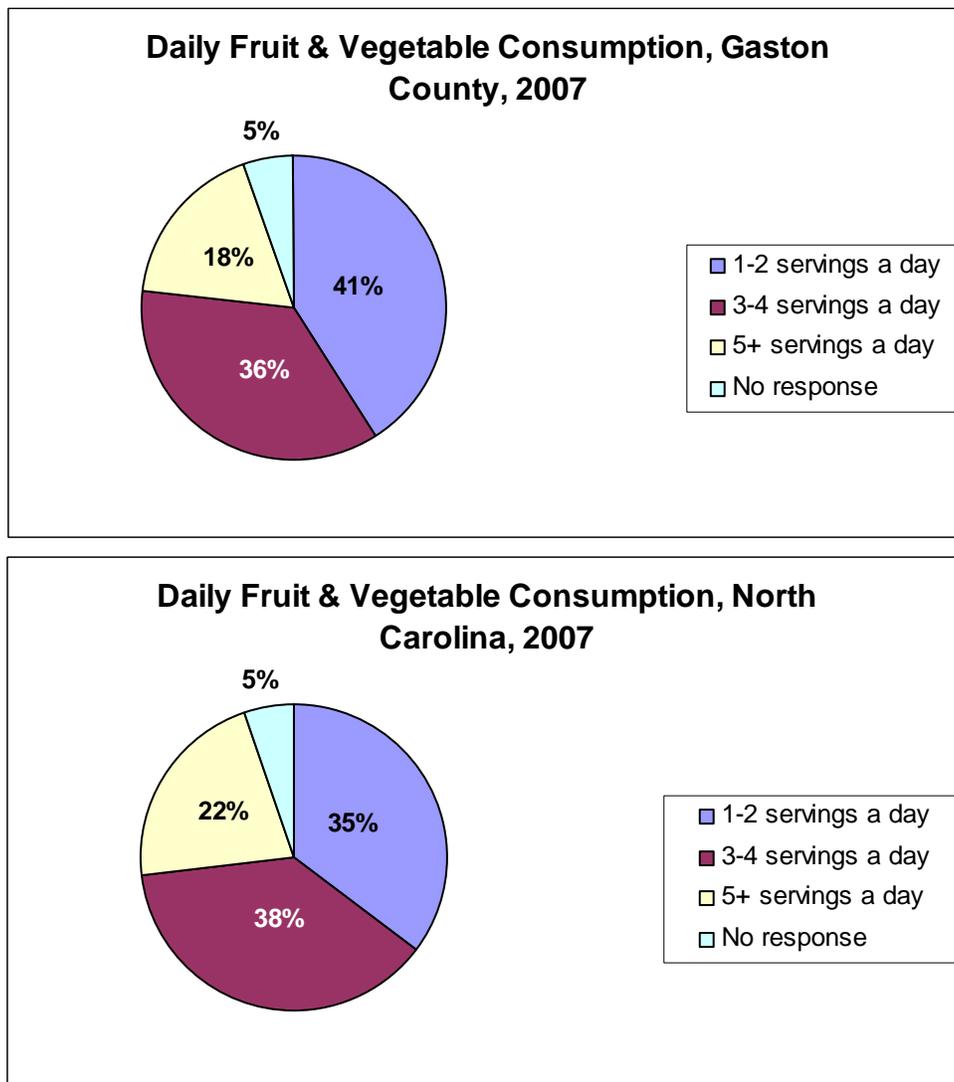
Figure 42



The safest way to achieve and sustain a healthy BMI is to eat sufficient portions of healthy foods and engage in regular physical activity. In 2007, fewer Gaston County residents consumed the recommended five daily servings of fruits and vegetables (18%), than did state residents (22%). Among health departments and health districts, BRFSS (2005) found the percentage of Gaston County residents was: 12th highest for overweight and obesity; 7th lowest for consuming five or more servings of fruit and vegetables daily, and 14th lowest for meeting daily physical activity recommendations.

Gaston County has considerable work to do to increase daily fruit and vegetable consumption among the 41% of residents who eat from one to three servings a day and the 36% who eat from three to five servings a day (Figures 43 and 44).

Figures 43 and 44

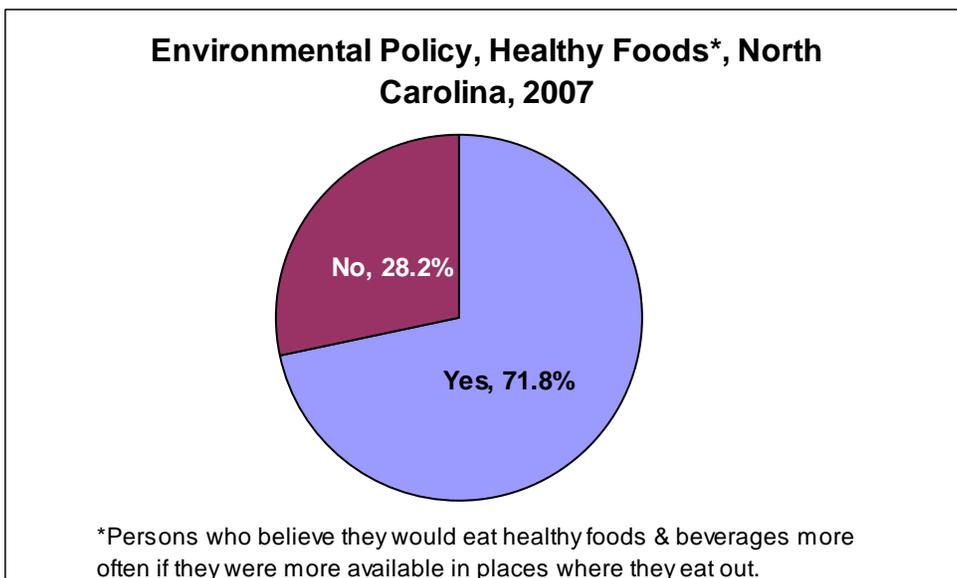
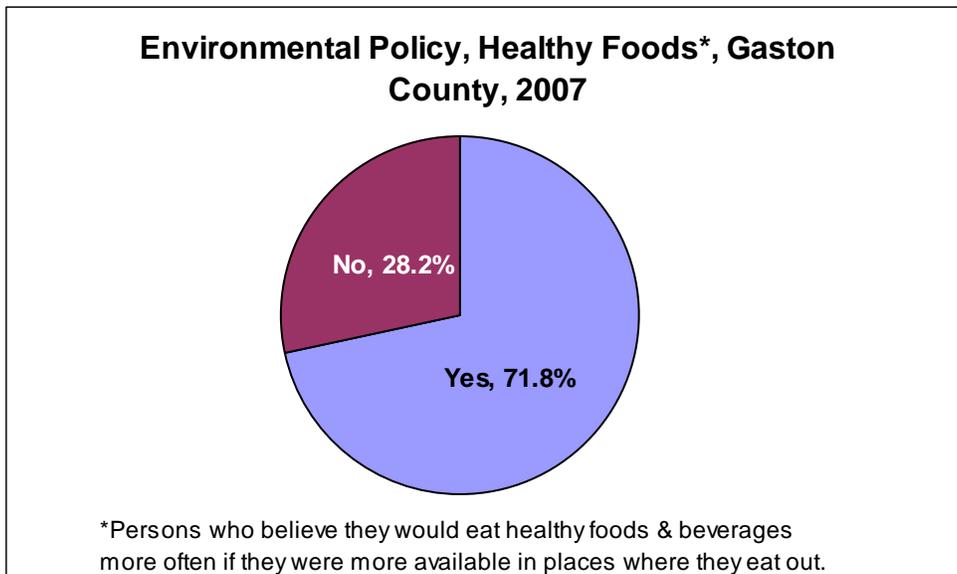


Data from the 2007 NC-NPASS survey of individuals who receive WIC and child health services at health departments and services at school-based health centers, shows 17.1% of Gaston

County youth, ages 2 -18 are overweight, in comparison to 17.3% for the state; 15.3% of these youth are at risk for being overweight, in comparison to 16% for North Carolina.

While individuals have considerable control over their eating habits, the environment in which they live and consume foods and beverages also has a strong influence. More than 71% of county (Figure 45) and state residents (Figure 46) would choose healthy foods if available when they dine outside their homes at restaurants, houses of worship, and the homes of others.

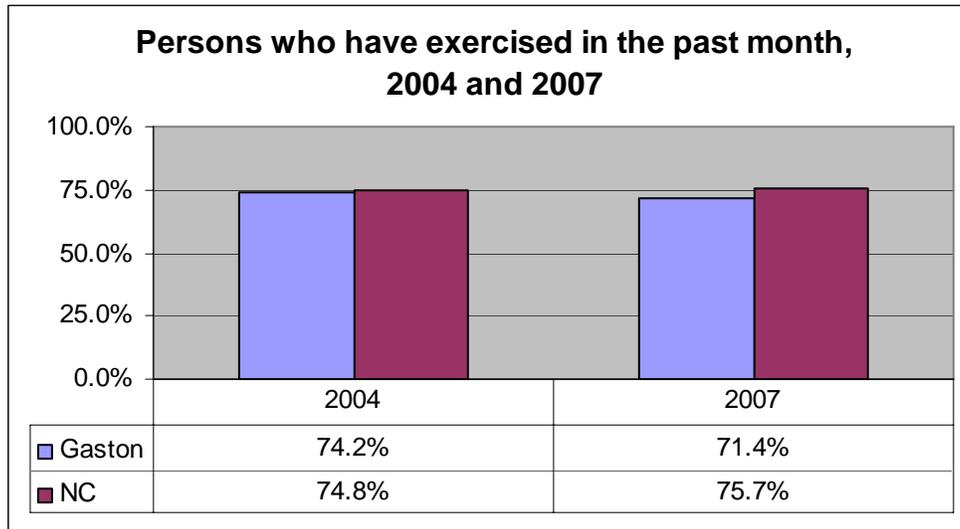
Figures 45 and 46



Physical activity, or movement that increases heart rate and includes lifting and stretching, is another important factor in achieving and maintaining a healthy weight. It can be obtained through intentional exercise and daily activities, such as walking to the library, cleaning the house, raking the lawn, and washing the car.

Figure 47 shows a slight decrease in the percentage of Gaston County residents who report having exercised in the past month; in the same period, a slightly larger number of North Carolina residents engaged in exercise. Exercise describes intentional physical exertion for developing and maintaining good physical fitness; it includes running, competitive athletics, hiking, and swimming. While it differs from physical activity, both pursuits are important to achieving and sustaining good physical and emotional well-being.

Figure 47



In 2007, 41.5% of Gaston County residents met recommendations for physical activity, in contrast to 44% of state residents (Figures 48 and 49). In fulfilling these recommendations, survey participants report having engaged in moderate physical activity for 30 minutes or more for five days a week, or vigorous activity for 20 minutes a day for three or more days a week.

Figure 48

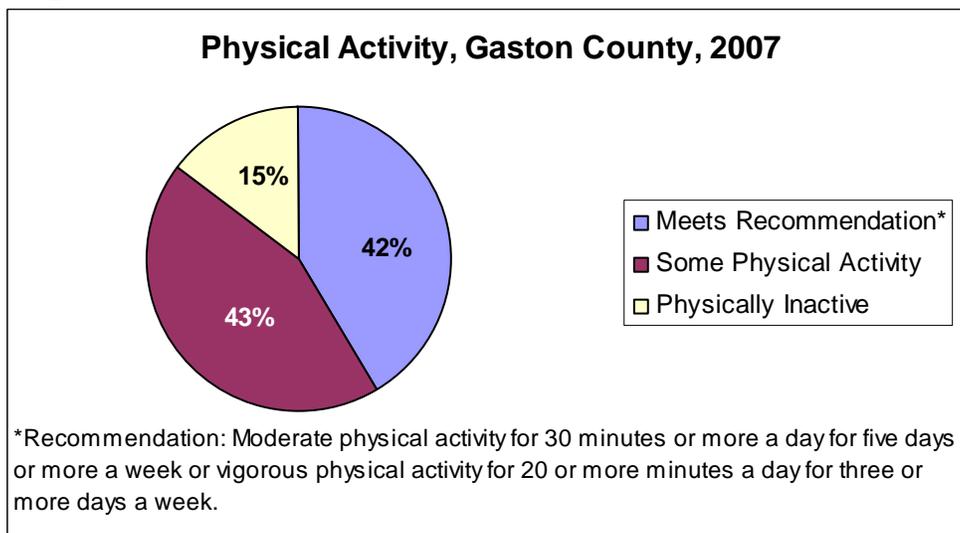
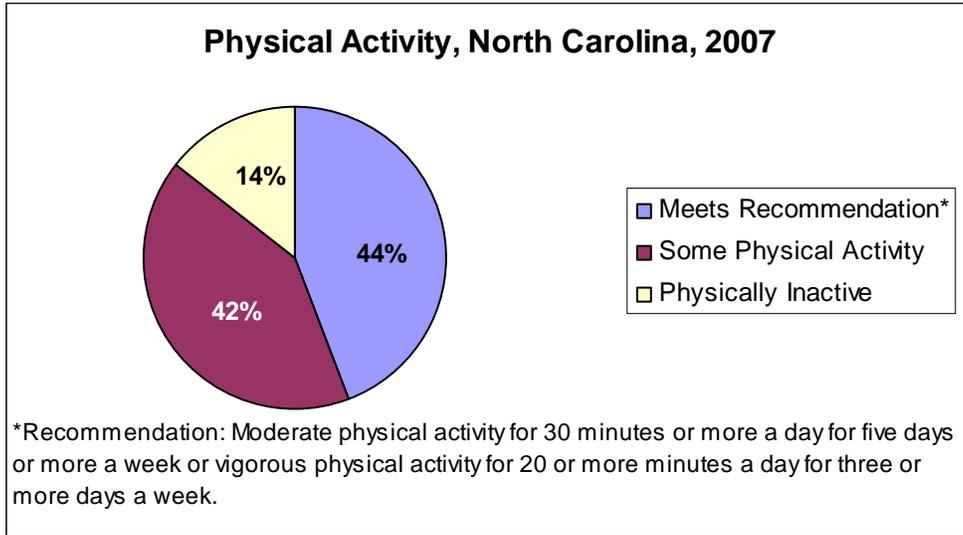


Figure 49



Physical activity can be encouraged by building greenways, sidewalks, and linear street grids, instead of cul-de-sacs, so residents can walk and ride bicycles, rather than ride cars, to stores, libraries, and schools. Nearly the same percentage of Gaston County (57.7%) and North Carolina residents (59.5%), believe they would engage in more physical activity if their communities had more accessible sidewalks or trails for walking or bicycling (Figures 50 and 51).

Figure 50

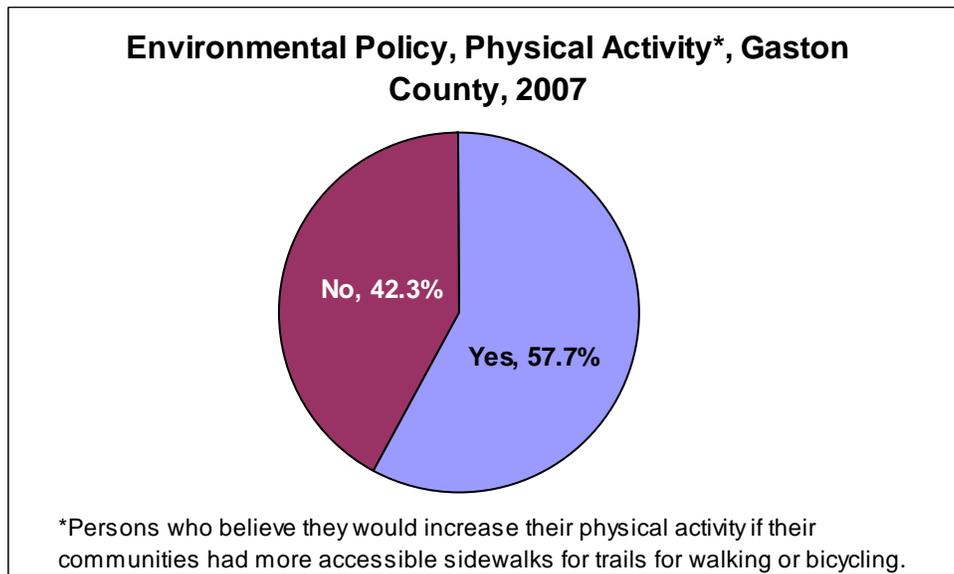
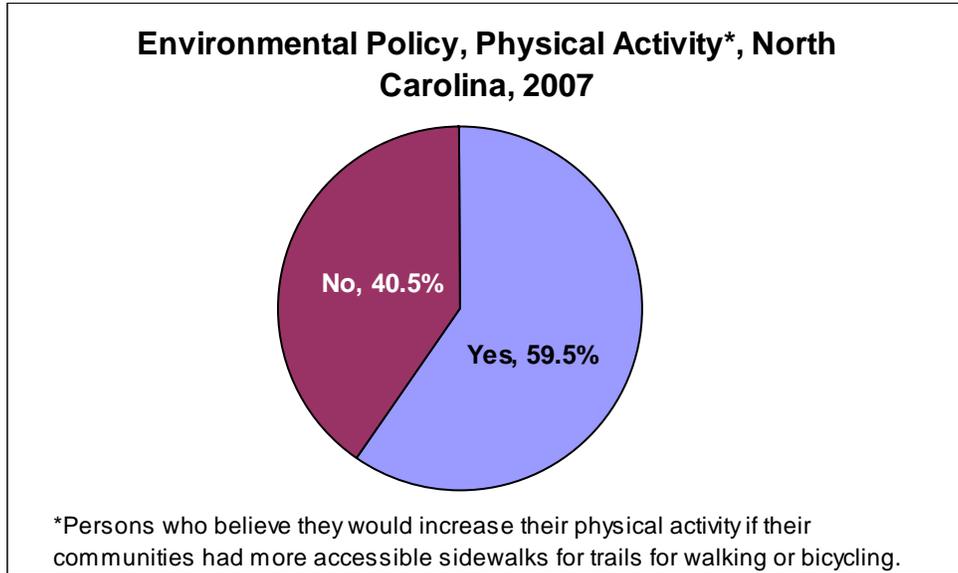
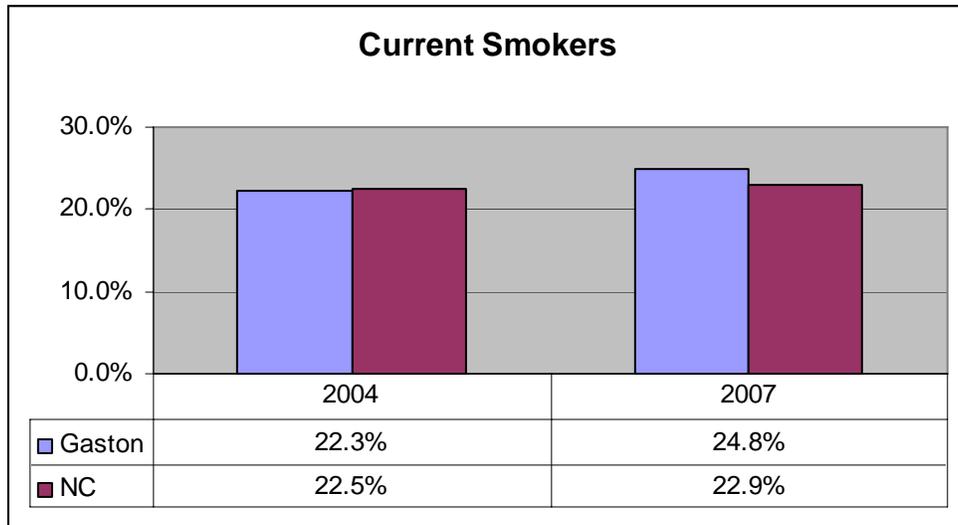


Figure 51

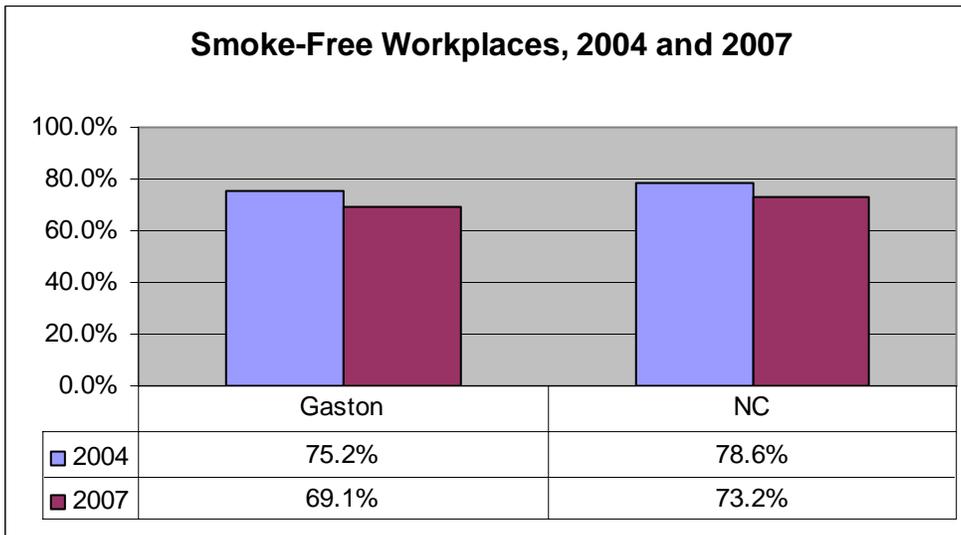
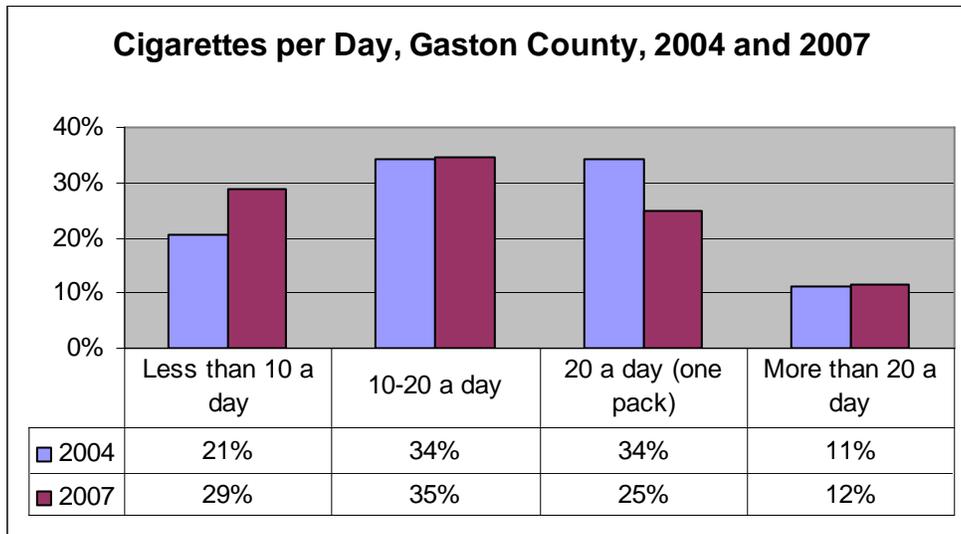


Another significant health risk is cigarette smoking, which increases the likelihood of respiratory diseases, heart disease, cancer, and stroke. The percentage of current smokers in Gaston County increased by 2.5% between 2004 and 2007; at the same time it increased by 0.4% for North Carolina (Figure 52). Among Gaston County residents who smoked daily or occasionally, the percentage who smoked a pack of cigarettes a day decreased by nine percent, while the number who smoked less than ten cigarettes a day increased by eight percent (Figure 53). These changes occurred at the same time six percent fewer county residents (2007) reported being employed in smoke-free workplaces, than in 2004 (Figure 54). Over the same period, there was a similar drop in reported smoke-free workplaces in North Carolina.

Figure 52



Figures 53 and 54

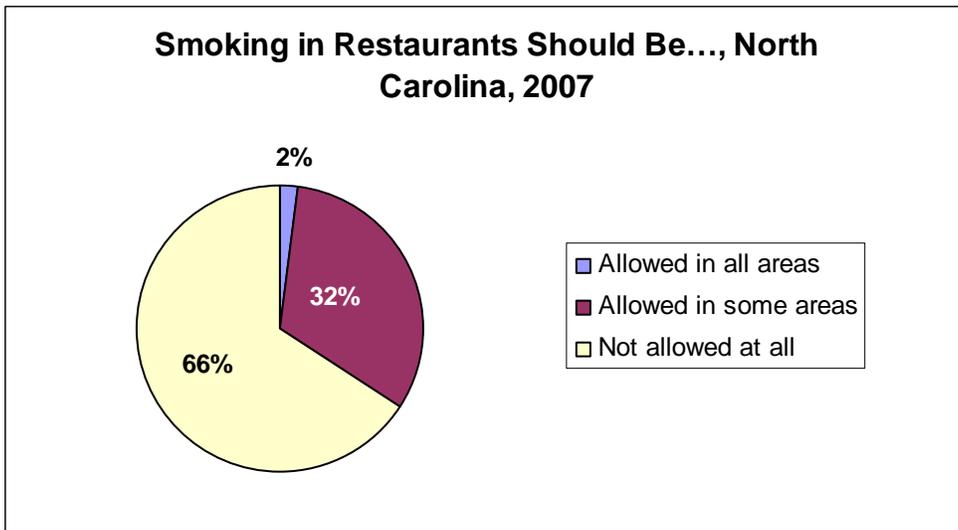
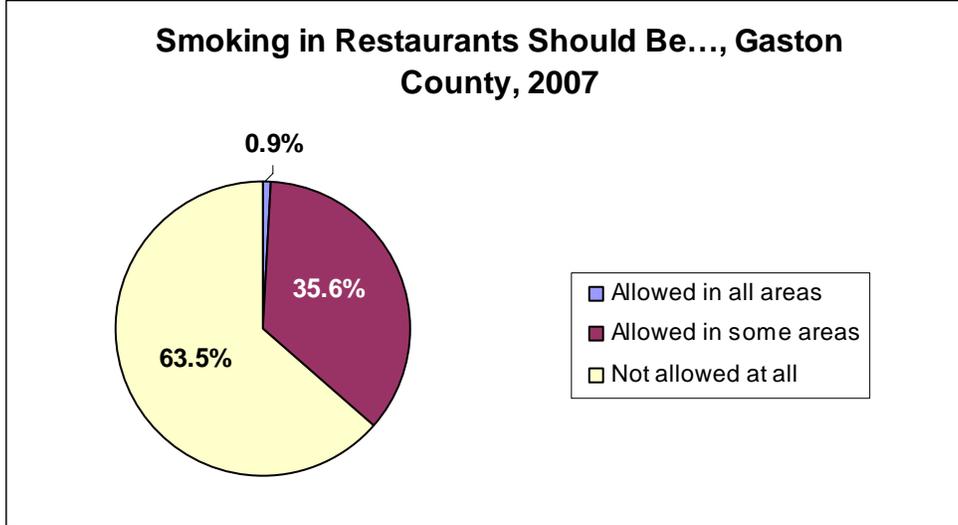


The use of cigarettes in public settings has been increasingly restricted because of the documented harmful effects of second-hand smoke to non-smokers. Second-hand smoke is tobacco smoke that is exhaled by smokers (mainstream smoke) and smoke that is produced by a burning tobacco product (sidestream smoke). The movement to limit passive exposure to secondhand smoke is driven by its content of upwards of 4,000 chemicals compounds, including many that are poisonous or can cause cancer.

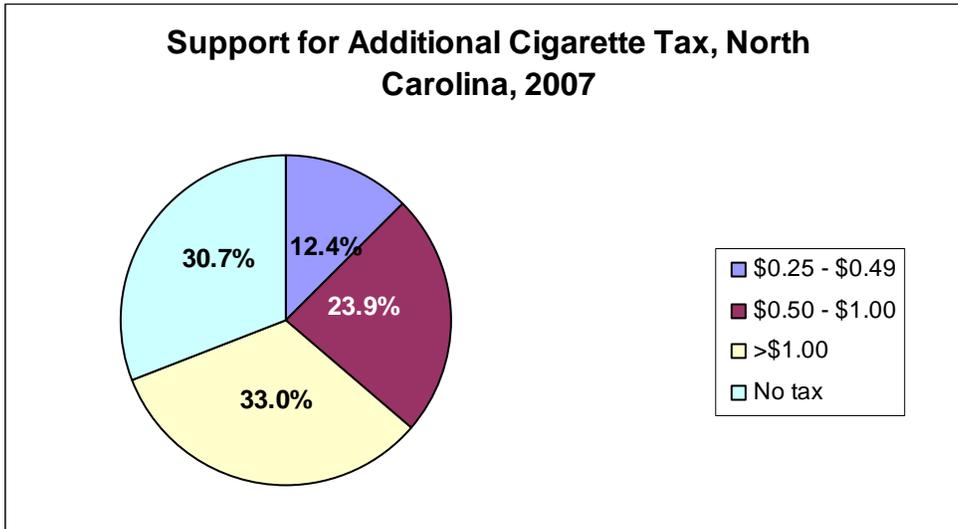
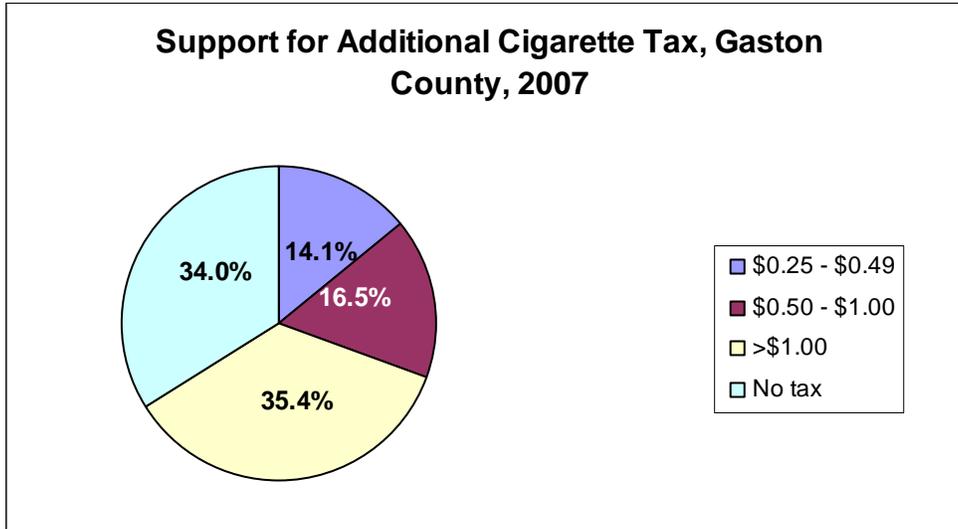
In 2007, 63% of Gaston County residents stated their preference for prohibiting smoking in restaurants, in comparison to 66% of state residents (Figures 55 and 56). A related measure of intent to limit the use of tobacco products is the number of individuals who support additional taxes on tobacco products. Nationwide, increased tobacco taxes have lead to decreased use of tobacco products, particularly among youth. Where the national average is a tax of \$1.18 per pack of cigarettes, it is currently \$0.35 in North Carolina. In 2007, Gaston County residents expressed strongly divergent opinions as 35% stated their support for a tobacco tax greater than

one dollar and 34% support no tobacco tax; BRFSS respondents across the state expressed similar priorities, with 33% supporting a tobacco tax greater than a dollar and 33% supporting no tobacco tax (Figures 57 and 58).

Figures 55 and 56



Figures 57 and 58



Appendix

Quality of Life Survey

Gaston County Quality of Life Survey, 2008

This survey was written by a group of community agencies - including the Gaston County United Way, Gaston Regional Chamber, Gaston Together/Gaston 2012, the Gaston County Schools, and the Gaston County Health Department - that want your opinions about the quality of life in Gaston County. Please fill in all bubbles completely using either pencil or pen. Please take 10-15 minutes to complete this survey and help us to better understand our community's needs. Thank you!

1. **Community Development.** Please describe how much you agree or disagree with the following statements.

Our community needs to do more to improve...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. Water quality.....	<input type="radio"/>				
2. Air quality.....	<input type="radio"/>				
3. Open space.....	<input type="radio"/>				
4. Conservation of historic buildings and sites.....	<input type="radio"/>				
5. Walking trails and bike paths.....	<input type="radio"/>				
6. Sidewalks.....	<input type="radio"/>				
7. Parks and recreation facilities.....	<input type="radio"/>				
8. Cultural and arts events.....	<input type="radio"/>				
9. Opportunities for people to meet and make friends.....	<input type="radio"/>				
10. Its appearance.....	<input type="radio"/>				
11. Law enforcement.....	<input type="radio"/>				
12. Animal control.....	<input type="radio"/>				
13. Planning for community growth.....	<input type="radio"/>				
14. Promotion and sales of locally grown fruits and vegetables.....	<input type="radio"/>				
15. How we encourage residents to work on county issues.....	<input type="radio"/>				
16. Our roads.....	<input type="radio"/>				
17. Public transportation.....	<input type="radio"/>				
18. How we promote local colleges.....	<input type="radio"/>				
19. How we promote local vocational schools.....	<input type="radio"/>				
20. Local economic development activities.....	<input type="radio"/>				
21. Small business development.....	<input type="radio"/>				
22. Recruitment of manufacturing employers.....	<input type="radio"/>				
23. Recruitment of high-tech employers.....	<input type="radio"/>				
24. Our promotion of tourism.....	<input type="radio"/>				
25. Affordable housing.....	<input type="radio"/>				
26. The quality of K-12 education.....	<input type="radio"/>				
27. How we strengthen family relationships.....	<input type="radio"/>				
28. Child care for working parents.....	<input type="radio"/>				
29. Services for the elderly.....	<input type="radio"/>				
30. Personal and family safety.....	<input type="radio"/>				
31. Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, and other houses of worship.....	<input type="radio"/>				
32. Other (Please specify) _____					

Please tell us your top three Community Development priorities from the topics you just rated by entering the number of those statements below. For example if "Our roads" is your top priority, you would enter 16 next to Priority One.

33. Priority One _____

34. Priority Two _____

35. Priority Three _____

36. What do you like most about living in Gaston County? (Please write your answer here): _____

2. How do you prefer to get information about your community? Mark all that apply.

- 1. Printed materials, such as flyers and brochures
- 2. Through seminars, workshops, and classes
- 3. Through your house of worship
- 4. Newspapers
- 5. The Internet
- 6. Television
- 7. Radio
- 8. Other (Please specify) _____

3. Youth Issues. Please describe how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about youth issues.

Our community needs to do more to...	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
1. Promote student success in school.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
2. Build good student-teacher relationships.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
3. Get mentors for students.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
4. Help parents stay involved with their children.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
5. Stop youth gangs and gang violence.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
6. Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping and saving	<input type="checkbox"/>				
7. Expose children to arts.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
8. Increase our high school graduation rate.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
9. Help high school students plan their careers.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
10. Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
11. Stop crime against youth.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
12. Provide access to area colleges.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
13. Support after-school and out-of-school programs.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
14. Provide job training for youth.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
15. Create job opportunities for teens.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
16. Assure student safety in school.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
17. Stop crime committed by youth.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
18. Reduce the use of drugs and alcohol by youth.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				
19. Help youth avoid tobacco and stop using tobacco products.....	<input type="checkbox"/>				

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
20. Improve the body image of youth and prevent eating disorders.....	<input type="radio"/>				
21. Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active.....	<input type="radio"/>				
22. Stop bullying and teasing among youth.....	<input type="radio"/>				
23. Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases among youth...	<input type="radio"/>				
24. Identify and help depressed youth.....	<input type="radio"/>				
25. Reduce teenage pregnancy.....	<input type="radio"/>				
26. Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families.....	<input type="radio"/>				
27. Conduct physical activity programs for youth.....	<input type="radio"/>				
28. Other (Please specify) _____					

Please tell us your top three Youth Issue priorities by entering the number of those statements from the list above.

29. Priority One _____

30. Priority Two _____

31. Priority Three _____

4. Community Health. Please describe how much you agree or disagree with the following statements about community health.

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Don't Know
The following health issues are a problem in Gaston County:					
1. Alcohol and substance abuse.....	<input type="radio"/>				
2. Asthma.....	<input type="radio"/>				
3. Cancer.....	<input type="radio"/>				
4. Dental problems.....	<input type="radio"/>				
5. Diabetes.....	<input type="radio"/>				
6. Heart disease.....	<input type="radio"/>				
7. High blood pressure.....	<input type="radio"/>				
8. Infant death.....	<input type="radio"/>				
9. Learning and developmental problems.....	<input type="radio"/>				
10. Lung disease.....	<input type="radio"/>				
11. Kidney disease.....	<input type="radio"/>				
12. Mental illness, including depression.....	<input type="radio"/>				
13. Motor vehicle accidents.....	<input type="radio"/>				
14. Overweight and obesity.....	<input type="radio"/>				
15. Physical disabilities.....	<input type="radio"/>				
16. Sexually Transmitted Diseases and HIV/AIDS.....	<input type="radio"/>				
17. Stroke.....	<input type="radio"/>				
18. Teen pregnancy.....	<input type="radio"/>				
19. Vision and sight problems.....	<input type="radio"/>				
20. Lack of health care for uninsured persons.....	<input type="radio"/>				
21. Other (Please specify) _____					

Please tell us your top three Health Issue priorities by entering the number of those statements from the list on the previous page.

- 22. Priority One _____
- 23. Priority Two _____
- 24. Priority Three _____

5. What type of health insurance do you have? Is it adequate?	Yes	Is it Adequate?	
		Yes	No
1. Private insurance.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
2. Medicare/Medicaid.....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
3. Other (Please specify).....	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
4. I don't have health insurance.....	<input type="radio"/>		

6. Health Services and Resources. Are you and your family able to get this service?	Yes		No		Not applicable I don't use this service
	Yes	No	Yes	No	
1. Health care for families.....	<input type="radio"/>				
2. Health care for infants and children.....	<input type="radio"/>				
3. Health care for pregnant women.....	<input type="radio"/>				
4. Health care for the elderly.....	<input type="radio"/>				
5. Cancer prevention and treatment services.....	<input type="radio"/>				
6. Dental care.....	<input type="radio"/>				
7. Care for depression, anxiety, and mental health.....	<input type="radio"/>				
8. Care for developmental disabilities.....	<input type="radio"/>				
9. Drug and alcohol treatment.....	<input type="radio"/>				
10. Services for physical disabilities.....	<input type="radio"/>				
11. Hospital services.....	<input type="radio"/>				
12. Emergency department services.....	<input type="radio"/>				
13. The Gaston County Health Department.....	<input type="radio"/>				
14. Gaston Family Health Services.....	<input type="radio"/>				
15. Pharmacy services.....	<input type="radio"/>				
16. Hospice care.....	<input type="radio"/>				
17. Spiritual care for health problems.....	<input type="radio"/>				
18. Health education programs.....	<input type="radio"/>				

Please check all the reasons why you and your family are not able to get these services:

- 1. Lack of transportation.....
- 2. Lack of health insurance.....
- 3. Inability to pay for care.....
- 4. Other (Please specify) _____

7. Where do you usually go when you are sick or need health care? Mark all that apply.

- 1. My personal doctor/medical provider.....
- 2. A hospital emergency department.....
- 3. An urgent care center.....
- 4. The Gaston County Health Department.....
- 5. Gaston Family Health Services.....
- 6. A pharmacy.....
- 7. A Chiropractor.....
- 8. An alternative medicine provider.....
- 9. The Internet.....
- 10. I don't seek care when I am sick.....
- 11. Other (Please specify) _____

8. Who do you trust for accurate health information and health advice? Mark all that apply.

- 1. My personal doctor/medical provider.....
- 2. Gaston Family Health Services.....
- 3. The Gaston County Health Department.....
- 4. Radio/TV.....
- 5. My pharmacist.....
- 6. My child's school nurse.....
- 7. Government agencies.....
- 8. My family and friends.....
- 9. Magazines and newspapers.....
- 10. The Internet.....
- 11. Medical reference books.....
- 12. Other (Please specify) _____

9. How many years have you lived in Gaston County?

- 1. Less than 5 years
- 2. 6-10 years
- 3. 11-15 years
- 4. 20 years
- 5. More than 20 years

10. In which community do you live?

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Belmont <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. Kings Mountain <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Bessemer City <input type="checkbox"/> | 10. Lowell <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Cherryville <input type="checkbox"/> | 11. McAdenville <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Cramerton <input type="checkbox"/> | 12. Mount Holly <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. Dallas <input type="checkbox"/> | 13. Ranlo <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. Dellview <input type="checkbox"/> | 14. Spencer Mountain <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. Gastonia <input type="checkbox"/> | 15. Stanley <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. High Shoals <input type="checkbox"/> | 16. Other (Please specify) _____ |

11. What is your zip code?

- | | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| 28006 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28056 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28012 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28080 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28016 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28086 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28021 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28092 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28032 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28098 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28033 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28101 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28034 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28120 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28052 | <input type="checkbox"/> | 28164 | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 28054 | <input type="checkbox"/> | Other _____ | |

12. What is your age?

1. Less than 19
2. 20-29
3. 30-39
4. 40-49
5. 50-59
6. 60-69
7. Over 70

13. What is your gender?

1. Male
2. Female

14. What is the total income of the people living in your household? Mark only one response.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Less than \$20,000 <input type="checkbox"/> | 6. \$75,000 to \$124,999 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. \$20,000 to \$29,999 <input type="checkbox"/> | 7. \$125,000 to \$199,999 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. \$30,000 to \$39,999 <input type="checkbox"/> | 8. Over \$200,000 <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. \$40,000 to \$49,999 <input type="checkbox"/> | 9. No answer <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. \$50,000 to \$74,999 <input type="checkbox"/> | |

15. What is the highest level of education you have completed? Mark only one response.

1. Some High School.....
2. High School Diploma/GED.....
3. Some College.....
4. Technical Certificate or Associate Degree.....
5. Four-year college degree (BA,BS).....
6. Graduate degree.....
7. Professional School (Dentistry, Law, Medicine, Optometry, Podiatry, etc.)

16. What is your primary job field? Mark only one response.

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- 1. Agriculture (for example: farmer or rancher)
- 2. Business (for example: attorney, clerical, office worker)
- 3. Construction
- 4. Education
- 5. Government (federal, state, county, city employees)
- 6. Health care
- 7. Industry (for example: factories, textiles, manufacturing)
- 8. Sales and Service (for example, restaurants, retail, and automotive)
- 9. Retired
- 10. Other _____

17. What is your ethnic origin? Mark only one response.

- 1. White/Not Hispanic
- 2. Black (African American)/Not Hispanic
- 3. Hispanic (Latino)
- 4. American Indian
- 5. Asian/Pacific Islander
- 6. Multiracial
- 7. Other _____

18. What is your current marital status: Mark only one response.

- 1. Never married
- 2. Married
- 3. Separated
- 4. Divorced
- 5. Widowed

19. How many adults over age 18 live in your household? Mark only one response.

- 1. One
- 2. Two
- 3. Three
- 4. Four
- 5. More than four

20. How many children, under age 18 live in your household? Mark only one response.

- 1. None
- 2. 1-3
- 3. 4-6
- 4. 7-10

21. Which high school is closest to your home?

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1. Ashbrook High School
2. Bessemer City High School
3. Cherryville High School
4. East Gaston High School
5. Forestview High School
6. Highland School of Technology
7. Hunter Huss High School
8. North Gaston High School
9. Southpoint High School

Detailed Data Tables

Table 54. Community Development Needs by Survey Group, Percentage Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Our roads (83.0%)	The quality of K-12 education (84.5%)	Services for the elderly (90.4%)	Planning for community growth (94.0%)	Our roads (82.3%)
2	The quality of K-12 education (82.7%)	Our roads (83.3%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (87.6%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (92.5%)	Affordable housing (82.0%)
3	Its appearance (81.6%)	Its appearance (82.7%)	Small business development (83.7%)	The quality of K-12 education (92.5%)	Parks & recreation facilities (79.9%)
4	Services for the elderly (81.5%)	Services for the elderly (82.1%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (83.1%)	Its appearance (91.4%)	Sidewalks (79.7%)
5	Sidewalks (79.9%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (80.7%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (82.6%)	Walking trails & bike paths (89.9%)	Personal & family safety (78.1%)
6	Parks & recreation facilities (78.3%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (79.8%)	Its appearance (81.5%)	Parks & recreation facilities (87.2%)	Services for the elderly (77.8%)
7	Personal & family safety (78.3%)	Personal & family safety (79.6%)	Our roads (81.5%)	Small business development (86.1%)	Child care for working parents (77.8%)
8	Walking trails & bike paths (76.1%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (79.6%)	The quality of K-12 education (80.3%)	Local economic development activities (86.1%)	The quality of K-12 education (76.9%)
9	Recruitment of high-tech employers (75.7%)	Planning for community growth (78.6%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (80.3%)	Sidewalks (85.7%)	Its appearance (75.8%)
10	Planning for community growth (75.5%)	Sidewalks (78.0%)	Local economic development activities (79.8%)	Our roads (85.0%)	Air quality (72.7%)
11	Small business development (75.2%)	Parks & recreation facilities (76.6%)	Personal & family safety (79.2%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (84.2%)	Walking trails & bike paths (71.6%)
12	Child care for working parents (73.8%)	Small business development (75.4%)	Affordable housing (79.2%)	Services for the elderly (82.3%)	Public transportation (70.6%)
13	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (73.4%)	Walking trails & bike paths (75.0%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (79.2%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (82.3%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (68.3%)
14	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (73.2%)	Law enforcement (74.7%)	Sidewalks (79.2%)	Public transportation (82.3%)	How we promote local colleges (68.1%)
15	Affordable housing (72.9%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (73.0%)	Planning for community growth (78.1%)	Cultural & arts events (82.0%)	Small business development (67.3%)
16	Air quality (71.8%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (71.5%)	Child care for working parents (77.5%)	Air quality (78.6%)	Water quality (67.3%)
17	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (71.5%)	Local economic development activities (70.6%)	Walking trails & bike paths (74.2%)	Open space (77.1%)	How we strengthen family relationships (65.5%)

18	Local economic development activities (71.1%)	Air quality (70.1%)	How we promote local vocational schools (71.9%)	Our promotion of tourism (75.9%)	Open space (63.9%)
19	Public transportation (70.3%)	Animal control (68.9%)	How we strengthen family relationships (71.3%)	Child care for working parents (75.6%)	Planning for community growth (62.5%)
20	How we strengthen family relationships (68.3%)	Child care for working parents (68.8%)	Parks & recreation facilities (70.8%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (74.8%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (62.2%)
21	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (68.1%)	How we strengthen family relationships (68.5%)	Open space (70.8%)	Personal & family safety (74.8%)	Local economic development activities (62.0%)
22	Open space (66.7%)	How we promote local vocational schools (67.4%)	How we promote local colleges (70.8%)	How we strengthen family relationships (71.8%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (61.6%)
23	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (66.1%)	Public transportation (65.6%)	Our promotion of tourism (70.2%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (71.8%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (61.1%)
24	How we promote local colleges (65.9%)	Affordable housing (65.3%)	Public transportation (69.1%)	How we promote local vocational schools (69.9%)	Law enforcement (61.1%)
25	Water quality (65.3%)	Open space (63.6%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (68.5%)	Law enforcement (69.2%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (60.1%)
26	How we promote local vocational schools (65%)	Water quality (63.2%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (66.9%)	Water quality (68.4%)	Animal control (59.0%)
27	Cultural & arts events (63.2%)	How we promote local colleges (62.7%)	Cultural & arts events (65.7%)	Affordable housing (68.0%)	How we promote local vocational schools (57.8%)
28	Our promotion of tourism (62.3%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (62.3%)	Air quality (65.2%)	How we promote local colleges (65.4%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (57.4%)
29	Law enforcement (61.3%)	Our promotion of tourism (62.0%)	Water quality (61.8%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (65.0%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (55.5%)
30	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (59.6%)	Cultural & arts events (61.7%)	Law enforcement (0.0%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (56.8%)	Cultural & arts events (55.3%)
31	Animal control (55.8%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (61.1%)	Animal control (0.0%)	Animal control (53.4%)	Our promotion of tourism (53.8%)

Table 55. Community Development Needs by All Respondents, Percentage Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Sidewalks (86.5%)	Our roads (89.1%)	The quality of K-12 education (95.4%)	Services for the elderly (82.6%)	The quality of K-12 education (87.4%)	Services for the elderly (91%)	Its appearance (86.2%)	Its appearance (84.4%)	The quality of K-12 education (82.8%)
2	Its appearance (85.3%)	The quality of K-12 education (84.2%)	Our roads (89.9%)	Our roads (80.8%)	Our roads (84.1%)	Our roads (85.9%)	The quality of K-12 education (85.4%)	The quality of K-12 education (82.1%)	Our roads (80.6%)
3	Parks & recreation facilities (84.5%)	Its appearance (83.7%)	Its appearance (86.2%)	Its appearance (80.1%)	Sidewalks (83.4%)	Affordable housing (84.6%)	Personal & family safety (82.1%)	Our roads (82.1%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (79.6%)
4	The quality of K-12 education (83.3%)	Services for the elderly (83.7%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (85.3%)	Parks & recreation facilities (79.8%)	Small business development (79.5%)	Local economic development activities (83.3%)	Services for the elderly (81.7%)	Services for the elderly (81%)	Services for the elderly (78.5%)
5	Our roads (83.3%)	Child care for working parents (83.7%)	Planning for community growth (84.4%)	The quality of K-12 education (78.7%)	Services for the elderly (78.8%)	Sidewalks (83.3%)	Our roads (81.3%)	Parks & recreation facilities (78.8%)	Planning for community growth (75.3%)
6	Services for the elderly (82.1%)	Sidewalks (82.6%)	Sidewalks (81.7%)	Personal & family safety (78.4%)	Parks & recreation facilities (78.8%)	Small business development (83.3%)	Sidewalks (79.7%)	Personal & family safety (78.2%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (74.2%)
7	Personal & family safety (81.3%)	Walking trails & bike paths (81%)	Small business development (81.7%)	Sidewalks (77.4%)	Its appearance (77.5%)	Parks & recreation facilities (83.3%)	Planning for community growth (78.9%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (76.5%)	Law enforcement (74.2%)
8	Walking trails & bike paths (80.5%)	Parks & recreation facilities (79.9%)	Services for the elderly (80.7%)	Walking trails & bike paths (75.3%)	Personal & family safety (77.5%)	Its appearance (83.3%)	Walking trails & bike paths (78.9%)	Small business development (76%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (74.2%)
9	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (78.1%)	Affordable housing (78.8%)	Walking trails & bike paths (80.7%)	Small business development (74.9%)	Walking trails & bike paths (77.5%)	The quality of K-12 education (82.1%)	Parks & recreation facilities (78%)	Sidewalks (74.3%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (72%)
10	Affordable housing (77.3%)	Personal & family safety (78.3%)	Local economic development activities (80.7%)	Child care for working parents (73.9%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (76.8%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (82.1%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (77.2%)	Planning for community growth (74.3%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (72%)
11	Small business development (77.3%)	Planning for community growth (76.1%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (79.8%)	Planning for community growth (73.2%)	Planning for community growth (76.2%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (82.1%)	Air quality (76.8%)	Air quality (73.7%)	Small business development (69.9%)
12	Planning for community growth (76.9%)	Public transportation (75.5%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (79.8%)	Affordable housing (72.8%)	Local economic development activities (73.5%)	Child care for working parents (82.1%)	Child care for working parents (76%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (73.7%)	Personal & family safety (68.8%)
13	Recruitment of high-tech employers (75.3%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (75.5%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (79.8%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (72.5%)	Affordable housing (70.9%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (80.8%)	Small business development (73.6%)	Local economic development activities (73.7%)	Sidewalks (68.8%)
14	Child care for working parents (74.5%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (75%)	Air quality (79.8%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (72.1%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (70.9%)	Personal & family safety (79.5%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (73.2%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (73.2%)	Its appearance (67.7%)

15	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (74.5%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (73.9%)	Parks & recreation facilities (78%)	Air quality (71.8%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (70.9%)	How we promote local colleges (79.5%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (71.5%)	Affordable housing (72.6%)	Walking trails & bike paths (67.7%)
16	Public transportation (73.7%)	How we strengthen family relationships (73.9%)	Personal & family safety (77.1%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (71.8%)	Child care for working parents (70.2%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (78.2%)	Affordable housing (71.1%)	Walking trails & bike paths (72.1%)	Open space (65.6%)
17	How we promote local vocational schools (73.7%)	Small business development (73.4%)	Child care for working parents (76.1%)	Public transportation (71.1%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (70.2%)	Planning for community growth (76.9%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (71.1%)	How we strengthen family relationships (72.1%)	Parks & recreation facilities (65.6%)
18	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (72.9%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (72.8%)	Public transportation (76.1%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (70.7%)	How we strengthen family relationships (69.5%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (76.9%)	Open space (71.1%)	Child care for working parents (70.9%)	Local economic development activities (64.5%)
19	Local economic development activities (72.9%)	Local economic development activities (72.3%)	How we promote local vocational schools (72.5%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (68.6%)	Air quality (68.9%)	Walking trails & bike paths (75.6%)	Local economic development activities (69.5%)	Law enforcement (70.9%)	Air quality (63.4%)
20	Air quality (71.7%)	Water quality (70.7%)	Open space (72.5%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (68.3%)	Public transportation (68.2%)	Public transportation (75.6%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (69.5%)	Water quality (70.9%)	How we promote local vocational schools (63.4%)
21	How we promote local colleges (71.7%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (69.6%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (71.6%)	How we strengthen family relationships (68.3%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (66.9%)	Air quality (74.4%)	Public transportation (68.7%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (70.4%)	Water quality (62.4%)
22	How we strengthen family relationships (69.7%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (67.9%)	Our promotion of tourism (71.6%)	Open space (67.2%)	Open space (66.2%)	Cultural & arts events (73.1%)	How we strengthen family relationships (67.1%)	Open space (68.7%)	Animal control (61.3%)
23	Cultural & arts events (69.3%)	Air quality (67.4%)	Law enforcement (70.6%)	How we promote local colleges (67.2%)	Cultural & arts events (65.6%)	Water quality (73.1%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (66.7%)	How we promote local colleges (68.2%)	How we strengthen family relationships (59.1%)
24	Open space (67.7%)	Cultural & arts events (64.7%)	How we strengthen family relationships (69.7%)	Local economic development activities (66.6%)	Our promotion of tourism (64.2%)	How we promote local vocational schools (73.1%)	How we promote local colleges (64.6%)	How we promote local vocational schools (68.2%)	Child care for working parents (59.1%)
25	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (67.3%)	How we promote local vocational schools (64.1%)	Affordable housing (68.8%)	Water quality (65.9%)	How we promote local colleges (63.6%)	How we strengthen family relationships (71.8%)	How we promote local vocational schools (64.6%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (67.6%)	Cultural & arts events (59.1%)
26	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (65.3%)	How we promote local colleges (63.6%)	Cultural & arts events (68.8%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (63.4%)	Law enforcement (63.6%)	Our promotion of tourism (66.7%)	Cultural & arts events (64.2%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (67%)	Affordable housing (57%)

27	Animal control (64.5%)	Our promotion of tourism (62%)	Water quality (67%)	Our promotion of tourism (62.4%)	Water quality (60.3%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (65.4%)	Water quality (63%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (66.5%)	Public transportation (57%)
28	Our promotion of tourism (64.1%)	Open space (62%)	How we promote local colleges (66.1%)	How we promote local vocational schools (60.6%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (59.6%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (64.1%)	Our promotion of tourism (62.2%)	Public transportation (65.9%)	How we promote local colleges (54.8%)
29	Law enforcement (63.7%)	Law enforcement (60.9%)	Animal control (57.8%)	Cultural & arts events (57.5%)	How we promote local vocational schools (58.3%)	Open space (62.8%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (60.2%)	Cultural & arts events (64.2%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (53.8%)
30	Water quality (62.9%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (56%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (55%)	Law enforcement (51.9%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (55%)	Law enforcement (43.6%)	Law enforcement (60.2%)	Our promotion of tourism (61.5%)	Our promotion of tourism (53.8%)
31	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (61.8%)	Animal control (55.4%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (54.1%)	Animal control (50.5%)	Animal control (54.3%)	Animal control (42.3%)	Animal control (52.4%)	Animal control (59.8%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (50.5%)

Table 56. Community Development Needs by Survey Group, Priority Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
1	The quality of K-12 education (10.9%)	The quality of K-12 education (11.3%)	The quality of K-12 education (12.9%)	Our roads (13.8%)
2	Our roads (10%)	Our roads (9.1%)	Planning for community growth (7.4%)	The quality of K-12 education (9.1%)
3	Law enforcement (5.3%)	Services for the elderly (7.3%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (6.5%)	Affordable housing (8.1%)
4	Its appearance (4.6%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (6.1%)	Local economic development activities (5.6%)	Law enforcement (5.4%)
5	Services for the elderly (4.6%)	Law enforcement (6%)	Our roads (5.4%)	Water quality (5.4%)
6	Water quality (4.5%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (4.9%)	Its appearance (5.3%)	Its appearance (5.1%)
7	Affordable housing (4.3%)	Water quality (4.6%)	Walking trails & bike paths (4.7%)	Air quality (5.1%)
8	Recruitment of high-tech employers (3.9%)	Planning for community growth (4.1%)	Public transportation (4.4%)	Sidewalks (4.5%)
9	Planning for community growth (3.8%)	Its appearance (3.8%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (3.9%)	Open space (4.1%)
10	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (3.8%)	Public transportation (3.6%)	How we strengthen family relationships (3.4%)	Personal & family safety (4%)
11	Public transportation (3.3%)	Small business development (3.2%)	Law enforcement (3.2%)	Child care for working parents (3.1%)
12	Air quality (3.3%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (3%)	Water quality (2.8%)	Parks & recreation facilities (2.7%)
13	Personal & family safety (3.2%)	Personal & family safety (3%)	Open space (2.8%)	Small business development (2.5%)
14	Sidewalks (3.1%)	Parks & recreation facilities (2.6%)	Cultural & arts events (2.7%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2.3%)
15	Small business development (2.8%)	Sidewalks (2.5%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.6%)	Public transportation (2.3%)
16	Walking trails & bike paths (2.7%)	Affordable housing (2.4%)	Parks & recreation facilities (2.6%)	Services for the elderly (2.3%)
17	Open space (2.7%)	Air quality (2.2%)	Small business development (2.5%)	Animal control (2.2%)
18	Parks & recreation facilities (2.6%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2.1%)	Personal & family safety (2.5%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2%)
19	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.6%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.1%)	Air quality (2.5%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2%)
20	Local economic development activities (2.4%)	Other (2%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.5%)	Cultural & arts events (1.9%)
21	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.1%)	Local economic development activities (1.8%)	Services for the elderly (2.2%)	How we promote local colleges (1.7%)
22	Cultural & arts events (2%)	Animal control (1.8%)	Sidewalks (2.1%)	Planning for community growth (1.4%)
23	Child care for working parents (1.9%)	Cultural & arts events (1.7%)	Affordable housing (1.9%)	Local economic development activities (1.3%)
24	Animal control (1.8%)	Open space (1.5%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.6%)	Other (1.3%)

25	How we strengthen family relationships (1.6%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.5%)	How we promote local vocational schools (1%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (1.1%)
26	Other (1.3%)	Child care for working parents (1.4%)	How we promote local colleges (1%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (1%)
27	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.3%)	How we strengthen family relationships (1.3%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (1%)	How we strengthen family relationships (0.9%)
28	How we promote local colleges (1%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.8%)	Animal control (0.9%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (0.9%)
29	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.9%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.8%)	Child care for working parents (0.9%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (0.8%)
30	How we promote local vocational schools (0.8%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.6%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.9%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.7%)
31	Our promotion of tourism (0.6%)	How we promote local colleges (0.4%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.5%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.6%)
32	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.5%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.4%)	Other (0%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.5%)

Table 57. Community Development Needs by All Respondents, Priority Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	The quality of K-12 education (9.9%)	Our roads (11.1%)	The quality of K-12 education (12.4%)	Our roads (12.2%)	The quality of K-12 education (10.3%)	The quality of K-12 education (9.4%)	The quality of K-12 education (11.9%)	The quality of K-12 education (12%)	The quality of K-12 education (12.6%)
2	Our roads (9.4%)	The quality of K-12 education (9.7%)	Our roads (7.6%)	The quality of K-12 education (10.9%)	Our roads (8.8%)	Our roads (8.6%)	Our roads (11.2%)	Our roads (7.2%)	Our roads (10.9%)
3	Recruitment of high-tech employers (5.3%)	Law enforcement (5.9%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (6.6%)	Air quality (5.4%)	Services for the elderly (6.5%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (7.2%)	Affordable housing (6.4%)	Law enforcement (7.2%)	Law enforcement (5.9%)
4	Law enforcement (5%)	Its appearance (5.9%)	Planning for community growth (5.2%)	Water quality (5.3%)	Its appearance (5%)	Affordable housing (6.5%)	Its appearance (6.2%)	Water quality (5.9%)	Planning for community growth (5.9%)
5	Services for the elderly (5%)	Affordable housing (5.7%)	Water quality (5.2%)	Law enforcement (4.8%)	Law enforcement (4.8%)	Water quality (6.5%)	Law enforcement (5%)	Services for the elderly (5%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (5%)
6	Its appearance (4.4%)	Services for the elderly (5%)	Walking trails & bike paths (4.5%)	Affordable housing (4.4%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (4.5%)	Services for the elderly (5.8%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (4.8%)	Open space (4.5%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (4.6%)
7	Planning for community growth (4.4%)	Planning for community growth (4.7%)	Law enforcement (4.1%)	Its appearance (3.7%)	Affordable housing (4.5%)	Walking trails & bike paths (5.8%)	Services for the elderly (4.4%)	Its appearance (4.3%)	Small business development (4.6%)
8	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (4.1%)	Water quality (4.5%)	Services for the elderly (4.1%)	Planning for community growth (3.6%)	Planning for community growth (4%)	Law enforcement (4.3%)	Water quality (3.7%)	Air quality (4.3%)	Water quality (4.2%)
9	Public transportation (4.1%)	Public transportation (3.5%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (4.1%)	Public transportation (3.6%)	Public transportation (3.8%)	Sidewalks (4.3%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (3.7%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (3.8%)	Open space (3.8%)
10	Personal & family safety (3.9%)	Parks & Recreation Facilities (3.5%)	Local economic development activities (4.1%)	Personal & family safety (3.6%)	Sidewalks (3.8%)	Its appearance (3.6%)	Planning for community growth (3.4%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (3.6%)	Services for the elderly (3.3%)
11	Water quality (3.5%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (2.8%)	Its appearance (3.4%)	Open space (3.6%)	Water quality (3.5%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (3.6%)	Small business development (3.2%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (3.6%)	Its appearance (3.3%)
12	Affordable housing (3.4%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (2.8%)	Parks & Recreation Facilities (3.4%)	Sidewalks (3.2%)	Personal & family safety (3.5%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (2.9%)	Local economic development activities (2.8%)	Personal & family safety (3.4%)	Personal & family safety (3.3%)
13	Air quality (3.4%)	Personal & family safety (2.8%)	Public transportation (3.1%)	Services for the elderly (2.9%)	Small business development (3.5%)	Public transportation (2.9%)	Personal & family safety (2.7%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (3.2%)	Parks & recreation facilities (3.3%)
14	Sidewalks (3.4%)	Sidewalks (2.8%)	Small business development (3.1%)	Small business development (2.9%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (3.5%)	Open space (2.9%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.7%)	Cultural & arts events (2.9%)	Air quality (2.9%)
15	Walking trails & bike paths (3%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2.6%)	How we strengthen family relationships (3.1%)	Recruitment of manufacturing employers (2.7%)	Air quality (3.3%)	Local economic development activities (2.9%)	Public transportation (2.5%)	Affordable housing (2.7%)	Public transportation (2.5%)
16	Small business development (2.8%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.6%)	Air quality (3.1%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2.5%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.8%)	Parks & recreation facilities (2.9%)	Air quality (2.5%)	Planning for community growth (2.5%)	Animal control (2.5%)

17	Open space (2.8%)	Small business development (2.4%)	Sidewalks (2.8%)	Parks & recreation facilities (2.5%)	Cultural & arts events (2.8%)	Planning for community growth (2.2%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.5%)	Sidewalks (2.5%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.1%)
18	Parks & recreation facilities (2.8%)	Animal control (2.4%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.8%)	Child care for working parents (2.5%)	Open space (2.5%)	Small business development (2.2%)	Parks & recreation facilities (2.1%)	Local economic development activities (2.3%)	Cultural & arts events (2.1%)
19	Animal control (2.7%)	Local economic development activities (2.4%)	Affordable housing (2.4%)	Recruitment of high-tech employers (2.4%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2.3%)	Air quality (2.2%)	Child care for working parents (2.1%)	Public transportation (2%)	Sidewalks (2.1%)
20	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.1%)	Cultural & arts events (2.4%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.4%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (2.4%)	Local economic development activities (2.3%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.2%)	Sidewalks (2%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2%)	Walking trails & bike paths (2.1%)
21	Local economic development activities (2%)	Child care for working parents (2.1%)	Cultural & arts events (2.4%)	Local economic development activities (2.2%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2%)	How we strengthen family relationships (2.2%)	Walking trails & bike paths (1.8%)	Parks & recreation facilities (1.8%)	Other (2.1%)
22	Child care for working parents (1.8%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (2.1%)	Open space (2.1%)	How we strengthen family relationships (1.9%)	Parks & recreation facilities (1.8%)	Personal & family safety (1.4%)	Cultural & arts events (1.8%)	Small business development (1.6%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (2.1%)
23	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (1.6%)	Open space (1.7%)	Personal & family safety (1.7%)	Conservation of historic buildings & sites (1.5%)	Child care for working parents (1.8%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (1.4%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.6%)	Other (1.6%)	How we strengthen family relationships (2.1%)
24	Other (1.6%)	How we strengthen family relationships (1.7%)	Animal control (1.4%)	Animal control (1.5%)	How we promote local colleges (1.8%)	Cultural & arts events (1.4%)	How we promote local colleges (1.6%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (1.6%)	Attendance at churches, synagogues, mosques, & other houses of worship (1.7%)
25	Cultural & arts events (1.4%)	Air quality (1.2%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.4%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.5%)	How we promote local vocational schools (1.5%)	Other (1.4%)	How we strengthen family relationships (1.4%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1.4%)	Local economic development activities (1.3%)
26	How we strengthen family relationships (1.4%)	How we promote local colleges (1.2%)	Child care for working parents (1%)	Other (1.4%)	Other (1.3%)	Animal control (1.4%)	Open space (1.2%)	Animal control (1.4%)	Affordable housing (0.8%)
27	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (0.9%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.9%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.7%)	Cultural & arts events (1.2%)	Animal control (1%)	Child care for working parents (0.7%)	Animal control (1.2%)	Child care for working parents (1.1%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (0.8%)
28	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.9%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.9%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.7%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (1.2%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (1%)	How we promote local colleges (0.7%)	Other (0.9%)	How we promote local colleges (1.1%)	Child care for working parents (0.8%)
29	Our promotion of tourism (0.9%)	Other (0.7%)	How we promote local colleges (0.3%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.8%)	How we strengthen family relationships (0.8%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.7%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.9%)	How we strengthen family relationships (1.1%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.8%)
30	How we promote local colleges (0.7%)	Promotion & sales of locally grown fruits & vegetables (0.7%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.3%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.8%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.8%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.9%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (1.1%)	How we promote local colleges (0.4%)
31	How we promote local vocational schools (0.7%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.7%)	Other (0.3%)	How we promote local colleges (0.7%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.3%)	Our promotion of tourism (0%)	Our promotion of tourism (0.5%)	Our promotion of tourism (1.1%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0%)
32	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.7%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.7%)	Our promotion of tourism (0%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0.2%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0%)	How we encourage residents to work on county issues (0%)	Opportunities for people to meet & make friends (0.4%)	How we promote local vocational schools (0.2%)	Our promotion of tourism (0%)

Table 58. Youth Issues by Survey Group, Percentage Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Assure student safety in school (88.1%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (92.5%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (93.8%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (96.2%)	Create job opportunities for teens (82.3%)
2	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (88%)	Stop crime committed by youth (92.5%)	Stop crime committed by youth (93.3%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (95.9%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (80.6%)
3	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (87.7%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (92.3%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (93.3%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (95.9%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (80%)
4	Help high school students plan their careers (87.4%)	Assure student safety in school (91.7%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (93.3%)	Promote student success in school (95.5%)	Assure student safety in school (80%)
5	Increase our high school graduation rate (87.4%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (91.3%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (93.3%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (95.5%)	Stop crime against youth (80%)
6	Stop crime committed by youth (87.2%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (90.8%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (92.7%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (94.7%)	Help high school students plan their careers (79.7%)
7	Promote student success in school (86.9%)	Help high school students plan their careers (90.6%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (92.7%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (94.7%)	Identify & help depressed youth (79%)
8	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (86.8%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (90.3%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (92.7%)	Assure student safety in school (94.4%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (78.8%)
9	Stop crime against youth (86.8%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (90%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (92.1%)	Help high school students plan their careers (94%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (78.8%)
10	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (86.8%)	Promote student success in school (89.9%)	Provide job training for youth (92.1%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (93.6%)	Provide job training for youth (78.3%)
11	Reduce teenage pregnancy (85.9%)	Stop crime against youth (89.4%)	Identify & help depressed youth (91.6%)	Expose children to arts (93.2%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (78.1%)
12	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (85.9%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (89.4%)	Assure student safety in school (91.6%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (93.2%)	Promote student success in school (78.1%)
13	Identify & help depressed youth (85.8%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (88.4%)	Stop crime against youth (91.6%)	Stop crime committed by youth (92.9%)	Stop crime committed by youth (76.5%)
14	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (84.8%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (88.2%)	Promote student success in school (91.6%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (92.9%)	Provide access to area colleges (76.5%)
15	Provide job training for youth (84.7%)	Identify & help depressed youth (88.2%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (90.4%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (92.5%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (76.2%)

16	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (84.2%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (87.9%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (90.4%)	Stop crime against youth (91.7%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (75.7%)
17	Create job opportunities for teens (83.9%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (87.5%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (90.4%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (91.4%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (75.3%)
18	Build good student-teacher relationships (83.8%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (87.2%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (90.4%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (91%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (75.1%)
19	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (83.7%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (86.7%)	Help high school students plan their careers (90.4%)	Provide job training for youth (90.2%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (72.9%)
20	Help parents stay involved with their children (83.4%)	Provide job training for youth (86%)	Create job opportunities for teens (89.9%)	Identify & help depressed youth (90.2%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (72.7%)
21	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (82.3%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (84.3%)	Get mentors for students (89.3%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (89.8%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (71.5%)
22	Provide access to area colleges (82.2%)	Provide access to area colleges (84.2%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (88.8%)	Get mentors for students (89.8%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (71.3%)
23	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (80.8%)	Create job opportunities for teens (84.2%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (88.8%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (88.7%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (71.1%)
24	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (79.7%)	Get mentors for students (82.1%)	Expose children to arts (88.8%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (86.8%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (69.7%)
25	Get mentors for students (79%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (80.7%)	Provide access to area colleges (88.2%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (86.1%)	Get mentors for students (67.1%)
26	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (78.4%)	Expose children to arts (79.9%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (88.2%)	Provide access to area colleges (85.7%)	Expose children to arts (61.6%)
27	Expose children to arts (76.8%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (78.9%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (87.1%)	Create job opportunities for teens (82.7%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (61.5%)

Table 59. Youth Issues, Percentage Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Assure student safety in school (87.6%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (94%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (95.4%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (84.7%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (94%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (97.4%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (91.9%)	Promote student success in school (90.5%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (88.2%)
2	Stop crime committed by youth (87.3%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (93.5%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (95.4%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (84.7%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (93.4%)	Assure student safety in school (96.2%)	Assure student safety in school (91.1%)	Stop crime committed by youth (89.9%)	Assure student safety in school (88.2%)
3	Create job opportunities for teens (87.3%)	Help high school students plan their careers (92.9%)	Promote student success in school (94.5%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (84.7%)	Promote student success in school (92.7%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (96.2%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (90.7%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (89.9%)	Promote student success in school (88.2%)
4	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (86.9%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (92.9%)	Assure student safety in school (94.5%)	Identify & help depressed youth (84.3%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (91.4%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (96.2%)	Stop crime committed by youth (90.7%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (89.9%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (87.1%)
5	Stop crime against youth (86.1%)	Assure student safety in school (92.4%)	Help high school students plan their careers (93.6%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (84%)	Help high school students plan their careers (91.4%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (94.9%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (90.2%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (89.9%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (86%)
6	Increase our high school graduation rate (86.1%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (91.8%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (93.6%)	Help high school students plan their careers (84%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (91.4%)	Help high school students plan their careers (94.9%)	Identify & help depressed youth (90.2%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (88.8%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (86%)
7	Help high school students plan their careers (86.1%)	Stop crime committed by youth (91.3%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (93.6%)	Stop crime committed by youth (84%)	Stop crime against youth (91.4%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (94.9%)	Stop crime against youth (90.2%)	Help high school students plan their careers (88.8%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (86%)
8	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (85.7%)	Stop crime against youth (91.3%)	Stop crime committed by youth (93.6%)	Assure student safety in school (83.6%)	Assure student safety in school (90.7%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (94.9%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (90.2%)	Assure student safety in school (88.8%)	Help high school students plan their careers (86%)
9	Provide job training for youth (84.5%)	Provide access to area colleges (90.8%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (93.6%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (83.6%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (90.7%)	Identify & help depressed youth (94.9%)	Promote student success in school (89.8%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (88.3%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (84.9%)
10	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (84.5%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (90.2%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (91.7%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (83.3%)	Identify & help depressed youth (90.1%)	Stop crime committed by youth (94.9%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (89.4%)	Identify & help depressed youth (87.7%)	Stop crime against youth (84.9%)
11	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (84.5%)	Provide job training for youth (90.2%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (90.8%)	Promote student success in school (82.9%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (89.4%)	Promote student success in school (93.6%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (89%)	Stop crime against youth (87.2%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (84.9%)
12	Identify & help depressed youth (84.1%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (90.2%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (90.8%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (82.9%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (89.4%)	Stop crime against youth (93.6%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (89%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (86.6%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (84.9%)
13	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (83.7%)	Promote student success in school (89.7%)	Stop crime against youth (89.9%)	Stop crime against youth (82.6%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (89.4%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (93.6%)	Help high school students plan their careers (89%)	Create job opportunities for teens (86.6%)	Stop crime committed by youth (83.9%)

14	Reduce teenage pregnancy (83.7%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (88.6%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (89.9%)	Create job opportunities for teens (81.5%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (89.4%)	Provide job training for youth (93.6%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (88.6%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (86.6%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (82.8%)
15	Provide access to area colleges (83.7%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (88.6%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (89.9%)	Provide job training for youth (81.2%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (88.7%)	Expose children to arts (93.6%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (88.2%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (86%)	Provide access to area colleges (82.8%)
16	Build good student-teacher relationships (83.3%)	Identify & help depressed youth (88%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (89%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (80.5%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (88.7%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (92.3%)	Provide job training for youth (88.2%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (85.5%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (81.7%)
17	Promote student success in school (83.3%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (88%)	Provide job training for youth (89%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (80.5%)	Provide job training for youth (88.1%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (91%)	Create job opportunities for teens (87.8%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (85.5%)	Identify & help depressed youth (81.7%)
18	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (82.1%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (88%)	Identify & help depressed youth (89%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (79.8%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (88.1%)	Get mentors for students (91%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (87.8%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (84.9%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (80.6%)
19	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (81.7%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (87.5%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (89%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (79.4%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (88.1%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (91%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (86.6%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (84.9%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & STDs among youth (79.6%)
20	Help parents stay involved with their children (81.7%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (87.5%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (89%)	Provide access to area colleges (79.1%)	Stop crime committed by youth (87.4%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (89.7%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (85.4%)	Provide job training for youth (84.4%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (78.5%)
21	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (80.9%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (87%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (88.1%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (78.7%)	Create job opportunities for teens (87.4%)	Create job opportunities for teens (89.7%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (85.4%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (82.1%)	Get mentors for students (77.4%)
22	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (80.9%)	Create job opportunities for teens (85.9%)	Get mentors for students (88.1%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (77.7%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (86.8%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (89.7%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (84.1%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (81.6%)	Provide job training for youth (76.3%)
23	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (80.9%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (84.8%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (86.2%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (76.7%)	Provide access to area colleges (86.1%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (88.5%)	Get mentors for students (83.7%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (81.6%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (76.3%)
24	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (80.1%)	Get mentors for students (84.8%)	Provide access to area colleges (85.3%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (75.6%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (83.4%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (88.5%)	Provide access to area colleges (83.3%)	Provide access to area colleges (80.4%)	Expose children to arts (75.3%)
25	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (78.1%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (82.6%)	Create job opportunities for teens (84.4%)	Get mentors for students (74.6%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (82.8%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (84.6%)	Expose children to arts (82.5%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (79.9%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (74.2%)
26	Get mentors for students (76.1%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (79.3%)	Expose children to arts (82.6%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (74.2%)	Get mentors for students (82.1%)	Provide access to area colleges (83.3%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (82.5%)	Expose children to arts (78.2%)	Create job opportunities for teens (73.1%)
27	Expose children to arts (72.1%)	Expose children to arts (77.7%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (77.1%)	Expose children to arts (73.5%)	Expose children to arts (79.5%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (82.1%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (81.3%)	Get mentors for students (76.5%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (67.7%)

Table 60. Youth Issues by Survey Group, Priority Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
1	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (8.2%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (9.7%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (11.6%)	Reduce teen pregnancy (9.9%)
2	Reduce teen pregnancy (6.6%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (6.8%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (9.3%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (8.2%)
3	Promote student success in school (6.3%)	Promote student success in school (6.6%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (8.6%)	Create job opportunities for teens (7.1%)
4	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (5.7%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (5.9%)	Promote student success in school (8%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (6.8%)
5	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (5.6%)	Reduce teen pregnancy (5.5%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (5.5%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (5.8%)
6	Increase our high school graduation rate (5.6%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (5%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (5.5%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (4.8%)
7	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (5.2%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (5%)	Assure student safety in school (4.4%)	Promote student success in school (4.8%)
8	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (4.6%)	Stop crime committed by youth (4.8%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (4.1%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (4.5%)
9	Assure student safety in school (3.9%)	Assure student safety in school (4.5%)	Reduce teen pregnancy (3.7%)	Identify & help depressed youth (4.3%)
10	Stop crime committed by youth (3.8%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (4.5%)	Stop crime committed by youth (3.7%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (4.1%)
11	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.7%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (4.4%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (3.5%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.9%)
12	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (3.7%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (4.4%)	Expose children to arts (3.4%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (3.8%)
13	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.7%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (3.5%)	Help high school students plan their careers (3.3%)	Provide job training for youth (3.6%)
14	Create job opportunities for teens (3.6%)	Identify & help depressed youth (3%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (3.3%)	Help high school students plan their careers (3.1%)
15	Identify & help depressed youth (2.9%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.7%)	Create job opportunities for teens (2.9%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.9%)
16	Help high school students plan their careers (2.9%)	Help high school students plan their careers (2.6%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (2.6%)	Assure student safety in school (2.8%)

17	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.8%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.6%)	Stop crime against youth (2.2%)	Expose children to arts (2.8%)
18	Provide job training for youth (2.8%)	Provide job training for youth (2.6%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (2%)	Stop crime against youth (2.7%)
19	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.6%)	Get mentors for students (2%)	Provide job training for youth (2%)	Stop crime committed by youth (2.5%)
20	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (2.6%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (2%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (1.9%)	Get mentors for students (2%)
21	Expose children to arts (2.2%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.7%)	Get mentors for students (1.9%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.8%)
22	Stop crime against youth (2%)	Other (1.7%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.9%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (1.6%)
23	Get mentors for students (2%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.6%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (1.1%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.6%)
24	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.8%)	Create job opportunities for teens (1.6%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.1%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (1.5%)
25	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.5%)	Stop crime against youth (1.5%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (1%)	Provide access to area colleges (1.3%)
26	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.3%)	Provide access to area colleges (1.5%)	Provide access to area colleges (1%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (0.8%)
27	Provide access to area colleges (1.3%)	Expose children to arts (1.3%)	Identify & help depressed youth (0.7%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (0.7%)
28	Other (1%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.2%)	Other (0%)	Other (0.5%)

Table 61. Youth Issues, Priority Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (9.4%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (8.6%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (9.9%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (8.3%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (7%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (8.3%)	Promote student success in school (8.1%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (10.5%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (7.1%)
2	Reduce teenage pregnancy (8.6%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (6.4%)	Promote student success in school (8.6%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (7.1%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (6.7%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (8.3%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (7.4%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (6.6%)	Assure student safety in school (7.1%)
3	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (6.4%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (6.1%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (7.9%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (7.1%)	Promote student success in school (6.7%)	Stop youth gangs & gang violence (6.8%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (6.5%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (6.3%)	Promote student success in school (6.3%)
4	Promote student success in school (5.8%)	Promote student success in school (5.6%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (5.9%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (5.8%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (6.4%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (6.1%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (6.3%)	Promote student success in school (6.1%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (6.3%)
5	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (5.6%)	Create job opportunities for teens (5.6%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (5.3%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (5.6%)	Assure student safety in school (6.1%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (6.1%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (6.3%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (5.6%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (5.5%)
6	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (5.6%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (5.1%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (4.9%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (5.4%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (5.6%)	Identify & help depressed youth (6.1%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (6%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (4.9%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (5%)
7	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (4.9%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (5.1%)	Reduce teenage pregnancy (4.6%)	Promote student success in school (5%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (5.1%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (5.3%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (5.6%)	Stop crime committed by youth (4.9%)	Stop crime by committed by youth (5%)
8	Help parents stay involved with their children (4.5%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (4.9%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (4.3%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (4.6%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (4.5%)	Create job opportunities for teens (4.5%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (4.4%)	Increase our high school graduation rate (4.2%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (5%)

9	Help high school students plan their careers (4.5%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (4.9%)	Assure student safety in school (4.3%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (4.6%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (4.5%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.8%)	Provide job training for youth (4.1%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (4.2%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (4.6%)
10	Increase our high school graduation rate (4.3%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (4.7%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.9%)	Stop crime committed by youth (4%)	Help high school students plan their careers (4%)	Promote student success in school (3%)	Stop crime committed by youth (3.9%)	Assure student safety in school (4.2%)	Stop crime against Youth (4.2%)
11	Create job opportunities for teens (4.1%)	Assure student safety in school (4.7%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (3.9%)	Identify & help depressed youth (3.9%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.7%)	Assure student safety in school (3%)	Identify & help depressed youth (3.2%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (4%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.8%)
12	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (3.9%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (4.4%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.6%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.7%)	Stop crime committed by youth (3.5%)	Help high school students plan their careers (3%)	Create job opportunities for teens (3.2%)	Create job opportunities for teens (3.7%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.8%)
13	Stop crime committed by youth (3.4%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.4%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (3.6%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (3.5%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.5%)	Provide job training for youth (3%)	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (3.2%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (3.7%)	Other (3.8%)
14	Provide job training for youth (3.2%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (3.4%)	Stop crime committed by youth (3.3%)	Help high school students plan their careers (3.5%)	Create job opportunities for teens (3.5%)	Expose children to arts (3%)	Assure student safety in school (2.8%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (3%)	Stop physical, sexual, emotional abuse of youth by their families (3.4%)
15	Teach money management skills to youth, such as shopping & saving (2.8%)	Expose children to arts (3.4%)	Create job opportunities for teens (3%)	Assure student safety in school (3.1%)	Provide job training for youth (3.5%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (3%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.8%)	Identify & help depressed youth (2.8%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (3.4%)
16	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.8%)	Stop crime committed by youth (2.9%)	Provide job training for youth (3%)	Create job opportunities for teens (3.1%)	Expose children to arts (3.5%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (3%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (2.8%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.8%)	Provide access to area colleges (3.4%)
17	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (2.8%)	Provide job training for youth (2.7%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (3%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.9%)	Identify & help depressed youth (3.2%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (3%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.8%)	Help high school students plan their careers (2.6%)	Create job opportunities for teens (2.9%)
18	Identify & help depressed youth (2.8%)	Help high school students plan their careers (2.5%)	Get mentors for students (2.6%)	Help parents stay involved with their children (2.7%)	Get mentors for students (2.9%)	Stop crime against youth (3%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (2.6%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (2.6%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (2.5%)

19	Assure student safety in school (2.6%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (2.2%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (2%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.5%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (2.7%)	Stop crime committed by youth (2.3%)	Help high school students plan their careers (2.3%)	Stop bullying & teasing among youth (2.3%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.5%)
20	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.4%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.2%)	Expose children to arts (2%)	Stop crime against youth (2.3%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.1%)	Reduce youth peer pressure to be sexually active (2.3%)	Get mentors for students (2.1%)	Stop crime against youth (2.3%)	Help high school students plan their careers (2.1%)
21	Expose children to arts (1.9%)	Stop crime against youth (2.2%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (2%)	Provide job training for youth (2.1%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.9%)	Get mentors for students (2.3%)	Expose children to arts (1.9%)	Provide job training for youth (2.1%)	Expose children to arts (2.1%)
22	Get mentors for students (1.7%)	Identify & help depressed youth (2%)	Identify & help depressed youth (1.6%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (2.1%)	Provide access to area colleges (1.9%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (2.3%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (1.9%)	Expose children to arts (2.1%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (2.1%)
23	Stop crime against youth (1.3%)	Get mentors for students (1.5%)	Stop crime against youth (1.6%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.7%)	Improve the body image of youth & prevent eating disorders (1.6%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (2.3%)	Stop crime against youth (1.8%)	Conduct physical activity programs for youth (1.9%)	Get mentors for students (2.1%)
24	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.1%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.5%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (1.3%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.5%)	Encourage parents to support ongoing education for their children (1.6%)	Reduce the use of drugs & alcohol by youth (1.5%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.8%)	Get mentors for students (1.9%)	Reduce the risk of HIV/AIDS & sexually transmitted diseases among youth (1.7%)
25	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.1%)	Provide access to area colleges (1.5%)	Help high school students plan their careers (1.3%)	Get mentors for students (1.5%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.6%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.5%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.6%)	Other (1.9%)	Identify & help depressed youth (1.7%)
26	Build good student-teacher relationships (1.1%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.2%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1%)	Expose children to arts (1.3%)	Stop crime against youth (1.1%)	Provide access to area colleges (1.5%)	Provide access to area colleges (1.6%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.4%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.7%)
27	Provide access to area colleges (0.9%)	Build good student-teacher relationships (1%)	Provide access to area colleges (1%)	Provide access to area colleges (0.8%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (0.8%)	Support after-school & out-of-school programs (1.5%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (1.4%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (0.9%)	Provide job training for youth (0.4%)
28	Other (0.4%)	Other (0.2%)	Other (0.7%)	Other (0.2%)	Other (0.8%)	Other (0%)	Other (1.4%)	Provide access to area colleges (0.2%)	Help youth avoid tobacco & stop using tobacco products (0.4%)

Table 62. Community Health Problems by Survey Group, Percent Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Leaders	Community	PH/LI	Students
1	Overweight & obesity (81.6%)	Overweight & obesity (93.2%)	Overweight & obesity (83.7%)	Overweight & obesity (91.6%)	Teen pregnancy (70.9%)
2	Alcohol & substance abuse (77.6%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (86.5%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (80.4%)	Teen pregnancy (86.5%)	Motor vehicle accidents (70.8%)
3	Teen pregnancy (74.9%)	Teen pregnancy (81.2%)	Teen pregnancy (72.5%)	High blood pressure (85.4%)	Overweight & obesity (70.6%)
4	Motor vehicle accidents (70.5%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (80.5%)	Motor vehicle Accidents (69.2%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (83.1%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (68.5%)
5	High blood pressure (67.9%)	High blood pressure (78.9%)	High blood pressure (66.1%)	Diabetes (83.1%)	Mental illness, including depression (63.7%)
6	Diabetes (66.8%)	Heart disease (77.8%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (64.4%)	Mental illness, including depression (83.1%)	Diabetes (61.6%)
7	Mental Illness, including depression (66.1%)	Diabetes (77.1%)	Cancer (64.1%)	Dental problems (80.9%)	Dental problems (60.4%)
8	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (65.2%)	Mental illness, Including Depression (70.7%)	Heart disease (64%)	Motor vehicle accidents (80.3%)	Learning & developmental problems (59.9%)
9	Learning & developmental problems (64.1%)	Cancer (69.2%)	Learning & developmental problems (62.9%)	Heart disease (80.3%)	High blood pressure (59.5%)
10	Cancer (64%)	Learning & developmental problems (67.3%)	Diabetes (62.7%)	Learning & developmental problems (77%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (59%)
11	Heart Disease (63.9%)	Motor vehicle accidents (66.5%)	Mental illness, including depression (61.7%)	Cancer (76.4%)	STDs & AIDS (58.8%)
12	Dental problems (61.9%)	Dental problems (64.3%)	Dental problems (57%)	STDs & AIDS (76.4%)	Vision & sight problems (58.8%)
13	STDs & AIDS (58.1%)	Stroke (60.5%)	STDs & AIDS (53.1%)	Stroke (72.5%)	Cancer (57.6%)
14	Stroke (55.1%)	STDs & AIDS (56.8%)	Stroke (51.4%)	Vision & sight problems (70.8%)	Physical disabilities (57.3%)
15	Physical disabilities (55%)	Asthma (51.9%)	Physical disabilities (51.3%)	Lung disease (70.8%)	Asthma (52.7%)
16	Vision & sight problems (53.6%)	Lung disease (50.8%)	Vision & sight problems (47.7%)	Physical disabilities (70.2%)	Heart disease (52.2%)
17	Lung disease (50.8%)	Physical disabilities (49.2%)	Lung disease (46.8%)	Asthma (63.5%)	Stroke (51.3%)
18	Asthma (48.4%)	Vision & sight problems (45.9%)	Kidney disease (41%)	Kidney disease (61.2%)	Lung disease (49.2%)
19	Kidney disease (44.8%)	Kidney disease (42.1%)	Asthma (39.2%)	Infant death (50%)	Infant death (45.9%)
20	Infant death (42.3%)	Infant death (41.7%)	Infant death (37.4%)	Not included, 19 questions asked	Kidney disease (45.4%)

Table 63. Community Health Problems, Percentage Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Overweight & obesity (84.9%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (84.8%)	Overweight & obesity (89%)	Overweight & obesity (76.7%)	Overweight & obesity (79.5%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (87.2%)	Overweight & obesity (87.8%)	Overweight & obesity (85.5%)	Overweight & obesity (80.6%)
2	Teen pregnancy (78.1%)	Overweight & obesity (83.7%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (80.7%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (71.1%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (75.5%)	Teen pregnancy (87.2%)	Teen pregnancy (83.7%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (84.9%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (73.1%)
3	Alcohol & substance abuse (76.5%)	Teen pregnancy (81.5%)	High blood pressure (79.8%)	Teen pregnancy (70%)	Teen pregnancy (70.9%)	Overweight & obesity (82.1%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (82.5%)	Teen pregnancy (75.4%)	Motor vehicle accidents (66.7%)
4	Motor vehicle accidents (73.3%)	Motor vehicle accidents (75.5%)	Diabetes (79.8%)	Motor vehicle accidents (67.6%)	Motor vehicle accidents (70.2%)	High blood pressure (82.1%)	Diabetes (74%)	Motor vehicle accidents (75.4%)	Teen pregnancy (65.6%)
5	High blood pressure (70.9%)	High blood pressure (72.8%)	Teen pregnancy (78.9%)	Mental illness, including depression (62.4%)	High blood pressure (68.9%)	Mental illness, including depression (80.8%)	High blood pressure (73.2%)	Cancer (73.7%)	Learning & developmental problems (59.1%)
6	Mental illness, including depression (68.5%)	Mental illness, including depression (72.8%)	Heart disease (78%)	Diabetes (61.3%)	Diabetes (66.9%)	Diabetes (79.5%)	Motor vehicle accidents (72.8%)	High blood pressure (71.5%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (58.1%)
7	Heart disease (68.5%)	Dental problems (72.3%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (74.3%)	Dental problems (61.3%)	Mental illness, including depression (65.6%)	Motor vehicle accidents (76.9%)	Heart disease (71.1%)	Mental illness, including depression (69.8%)	Diabetes (55.9%)
8	Cancer (66.5%)	Diabetes (69.6%)	Learning & developmental problems (70.6%)	High blood pressure (61%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (64.9%)	Learning & developmental problems (76.9%)	Cancer (69.5%)	Diabetes (69.3%)	Mental illness, including depression (54.8%)
9	Diabetes (65.7%)	Heart disease (67.4%)	Cancer (70.6%)	Cancer (60.3%)	Learning & developmental problems (63.6%)	STDs & AIDS (76.9%)	Mental illness, including depression (69.1%)	Heart disease (67%)	Heart disease (52.7%)
10	Learning & developmental problems (65.3%)	Learning & developmental problems (67.4%)	Motor vehicle accidents (68.8%)	Learning & developmental problems (59.9%)	Dental problems (60.3%)	Heart disease (75.6%)	Learning & developmental problems (68.3%)	Dental problems (65.4%)	Cancer (50.5%)
11	Dental problems (62.2%)	Cancer (66.3%)	Mental illness, including depression (67.9%)	Heart disease (56.8%)	Cancer (56.3%)	Cancer (74.4%)	Dental problems (64.6%)	Learning & developmental problems (64.8%)	High blood pressure (50.5%)

12	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (62.2%)	STDs & AIDS (62.5%)	Dental problems (66.1%)	STDs & AIDS (54.4%)	Heart disease (54.3%)	Dental problems (73.1%)	STDs & AIDS (64.2%)	STDs & AIDS (62%)	STDs & AIDS (48.4%)
13	Physical disabilities (60.6%)	Vision & sight problems (62.5%)	Stroke (65.1%)	Physical disabilities (54%)	Stroke (49.7%)	Physical disabilities (71.8%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (64.2%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (61.5%)	Dental problems (44.1%)
14	Stroke (59.4%)	Stroke (62%)	STDs & AIDS (64.2%)	Vision & sight problems (50.9%)	STDs & AIDS (49%)	Vision & sight problems (70.5%)	Physical disabilities (59.8%)	Physical disabilities (58.1%)	Physical disabilities (39.8%)
15	STDs & AIDS (58.6%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (60.9%)	Lung disease (54.1%)	Stroke (50.2%)	Physical disabilities (47%)	Stroke (70.5%)	Vision & sight problems (58.1%)	Stroke (57.5%)	Stroke (39.8%)
16	Vision & sight problems (57%)	Physical disabilities (60.3%)	Vision & sight problems (50.5%)	Lung disease (49.5%)	Vision & sight problems (47%)	Lung disease (65.4%)	Stroke (55.7%)	Vision & sight problems (55.3%)	Vision & sight problems (39.8%)
17	Lung disease (51.4%)	Lung disease (58.7%)	Physical disabilities (50.5%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (46%)	Lung disease (44.4%)	Asthma (65.4%)	Asthma (51.2%)	Lung disease (55.3%)	Lung disease (38.7%)
18	Asthma (49.8%)	Asthma (58.2%)	Kidney disease (49.5%)	Kidney disease (44.3%)	Asthma (43.7%)	Kidney disease (59%)	Lung disease (50.4%)	Asthma (51.4%)	Asthma (36.6%)
19	Kidney disease (49.4%)	Kidney disease (52.7%)	Asthma (46.8%)	Asthma (44.3%)	Infant death (36.4%)	Infant death (55.1%)	Infant death (49.2%)	Kidney disease (47.5%)	Infant death (32.3%)
20	Infant death (46.2%)	Infant death (43.5%)	Infant death (42.2%)	Infant death (39%)	Kidney disease (34.4%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (47.4%)	Kidney disease (44.3%)	Infant death (46.4%)	Kidney disease (31.2%)

Table 64. Community Health Problems by Survey Group, Priority Method, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	Leaders	Students
1	Alcohol & substance abuse (15.1%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (16.6%)	Overweight & obesity (19.3%)	Teen pregnancy (15.2%)
2	Overweight & obesity (13.6%)	Overweight & obesity (14.5%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (14.7%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (13.2%)
3	Teen pregnancy (10.9%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (11.6%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (13.4%)	Cancer (9.3%)
4	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (9.3%)	Teen pregnancy (8.8%)	Teen pregnancy (8.8%)	Overweight & obesity (8.8%)
5	Cancer (7.4%)	Cancer (6.8%)	Diabetes (7.7%)	Motor vehicle accidents (8.2%)
6	Motor vehicle accidents (6%)	Heart disease (5.8%)	Heart disease (6.7%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (7.7%)
7	Diabetes (5.4%)	Motor vehicle accidents (5.8%)	Mental illness, including depression (5.9%)	Mental illness, including depression (4.4%)
8	Mental illness, including depression (5.2%)	Mental illness, including depression (5.4%)	Cancer (5.5%)	Asthma (4.4%)
9	Heart disease (4.4%)	Diabetes (5.2%)	Learning & developmental problems (4.1%)	Diabetes (4.1%)
10	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (4.2%)	Learning & developmental problems (4.1%)	High blood pressure (3.2%)	Infant death (3.9%)
11	Learning & developmental problems (3.5%)	High blood pressure (3.3%)	Motor vehicle accidents (2.7%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (3.5%)
12	High blood pressure (3%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (2.8%)	Dental problems (2.4%)	High blood pressure (2.6%)
13	Infant death (2.3%)	Dental problems (2.1%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (1.7%)	Dental problems (2.5%)
14	Dental problems (2.3%)	Infant death (1.8%)	Infant death (0.8%)	Learning & developmental problems (2.3%)
15	Asthma (2.1%)	Other (1.5%)	Asthma (0.8%)	Lung disease (2.3%)
16	Stroke (1.2%)	Stroke (1.1%)	Stroke (0.8%)	Stroke (1.6%)
17	Lung disease (1.2%)	Asthma (0.9%)	Lung disease (0.8%)	Physical disabilities (1.6%)
18	Other (1%)	Physical disabilities (0.6%)	Physical disabilities (0.6%)	Kidney disease (1.3%)
19	Physical disabilities (0.9%)	Lung disease (0.5%)	Other (0%)	Vision & sight problems (1.2%)
20	Kidney disease (0.6%)	Vision & sight problems (0.4%)	Kidney disease (0%)	Heart disease (1.1%)
21	Vision & sight problems (0.6%)	Kidney disease (0.3%)	Vision & sight problems (0%)	Other (0.8%)

Table 65. Community Health Problems, Priority Method by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Alcohol & substance abuse (14%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (15%)	Overweight & obesity (16.5%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (15.7%)	Overweight & obesity (15.7%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (13.6%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (16.1%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (15.1%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (17.5%)
2	Overweight & obesity (13.7%)	Overweight & obesity (13.7%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (13.1%)	Teen pregnancy (12.6%)	Alcohol & substance abuse (14%)	Overweight & obesity (12.9%)	Teen pregnancy (13.6%)	Overweight & obesity (13.9%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (13.7%)
3	Teen pregnancy (9.7%)	Teen pregnancy (11.1%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (12.4%)	Overweight & obesity (12.4%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (9.4%)	Teen pregnancy (9.1%)	Overweight & obesity (11.5%)	Teen pregnancy (11.9%)	Overweight & obesity (13.2%)
4	Cancer (9.7%)	Mental illness, including depression (9.2%)	Teen pregnancy (10.5%)	Motor vehicle accidents (9.7%)	Teen pregnancy (8.5%)	Cancer (8.3%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (9.8%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (9.9%)	Motor vehicle accidents (12.3%)
5	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (8%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (8.2%)	Diabetes (9.7%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (8%)	Cancer (7.2%)	Diabetes (8.3%)	Cancer (7.3%)	Cancer (8.4%)	Teen pregnancy (8.5%)
6	Motor vehicle accidents (5.9%)	Cancer (7.1%)	Heart disease (8.2%)	Cancer (7.2%)	Diabetes (7.2%)	Heart disease (8.3%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (6.3%)	Mental illness, including depression (5%)	Cancer (5.7%)
7	Heart disease (5.1%)	Motor vehicle accidents (5.8%)	High Blood Pressure (5.6%)	Learning & developmental problems (4.1%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (5.5%)	Lack of health care for uninsured persons (6.8%)	Mental illness, including depression (5.4%)	Diabetes (4.5%)	Learning & developmental problems (4.2%)
8	Diabetes (4.9%)	Diabetes (5.3%)	Mental illness, including depression (4.9%)	Heart disease (3.9%)	Motor vehicle accidents (4.7%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (6.8%)	Diabetes (5.2%)	Heart disease (4.5%)	Mental illness, including depression (3.8%)
9	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (4.2%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (4.2%)	Cancer (4.5%)	Mental illness, including depression (3.9%)	Heart disease (4.7%)	Motor vehicle accidents (6.1%)	Motor vehicle accidents (4.4%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (4.2%)	Heart disease (3.8%)

10	Mental illness, including depression (4%)	Dental problems (3.2%)	Motor vehicle accidents (2.6%)	Diabetes (3.7%)	Mental illness, including depression (4.4%)	Mental illness, including depression (5.3%)	Learning & developmental problems (3.8%)	Motor vehicle accidents (4%)	Diabetes (3.3%)
11	Learning & developmental problems (3.8%)	Learning & developmental problems (2.9%)	Dental problems (2.6%)	Infant Death (3.1%)	High Blood Pressure (4.1%)	High Blood Pressure (3%)	Infant Death (3.1%)	Learning & developmental problems (3.2%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (2.8%)
12	High Blood Pressure (3%)	Heart disease (2.6%)	Learning & developmental problems (2.6%)	Dental problems (2.7%)	Learning & developmental problems (2.8%)	Asthma (3%)	High Blood Pressure (2.9%)	High Blood Pressure (2.5%)	High Blood Pressure (2.8%)
13	Infant Death (2.8%)	High Blood Pressure (1.8%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (1.9%)	Sexually Transmitted Diseases & HIV/AIDS (2.7%)	Asthma (2.8%)	Infant Death (3%)	Heart disease (2.5%)	Dental problems (2.5%)	Asthma (2.4%)
14	Asthma (2.5%)	Asthma (1.8%)	Stroke (1.9%)	Asthma (2.3%)	Dental problems (2.5%)	Physical disabilities (2.3%)	Dental problems (2.1%)	Infant Death (2%)	Other (2.4%)
15	Lung disease (2.3%)	Physical disabilities (1.8%)	Asthma (1.1%)	High Blood Pressure (1.9%)	Infant Death (1.9%)	Learning & developmental problems (1.5%)	Asthma (1.9%)	Asthma (1.7%)	Infant Death (1.9%)
16	Dental problems (1.5%)	Lung disease (1.6%)	Physical disabilities (0.7%)	Lung disease (1.6%)	Other (1.7%)	Dental problems (0.8%)	Other (1.1%)	Lung disease (1.7%)	Dental problems (1.4%)
17	Stroke (1.5%)	Infant Death (1.3%)	Infant Death (0.7%)	Stroke (1.4%)	Lung disease (1.1%)	Stroke (0.8%)	Physical disabilities (1%)	Other (1.2%)	Stroke (0.5%)
18	Physical disabilities (1.1%)	Stroke (1.3%)	Vision & sight problems (0.4%)	Physical disabilities (0.8%)	Stroke (1.1%)	Other (0%)	Stroke (0.8%)	Kidney disease (1.2%)	Lung disease (0%)
19	Other (0.8%)	Kidney disease (1.3%)	Lung disease (0%)	Vision & sight problems (0.8%)	Vision & sight problems (0.6%)	Lung disease (0%)	Vision & sight problems (0.6%)	Stroke (1%)	Kidney disease (0%)
20	Kidney disease (0.8%)	Vision & sight problems (0.5%)	Kidney disease (0%)	Other (0.8%)	Physical disabilities (0.3%)	Vision & sight problems (0%)	Kidney disease (0.6%)	Physical disabilities (0.7%)	Physical disabilities (0%)
21	Vision & sight problems (0.8%)	Other (0.3%)	Other (0%)	Kidney disease (0.6%)	Kidney disease (0%)	Kidney disease (0%)	Lung disease (0.4%)	Vision & sight problems (0.7%)	Vision & sight problems (0%)

Table 66. Inaccessible Health Services and Resources by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	Drug & alcohol treatment (21.9%)	Care for developmental disabilities (31.5%)	Gaston Family Health Services (26.5%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (12.1%)	Spiritual care for health problems (23%)
2	Care for developmental disabilities (20.9%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (28.1%)	Health education programs (26%)	Gaston Family Health Services (9.4%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (21.1%)
3	Services for physical disabilities (18.7%)	Services for physical disabilities (26.7%)	Healthcare Transportation (25%)	Care for developmental disabilities (7.9%)	Care for developmental disabilities (18.2%)
4	Spiritual care for health problems (17.1%)	Gaston Family Health Services (26.6%)	Spiritual care for health problems (23.2%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (6.3%)	Services for physical disabilities (16.7%)
5	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (17%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (23.2%)	Hospice Care (23.2%)	Services for physical disabilities (6.2%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (16.6%)
6	Gaston Family Health Services (16.1%)	The Gaston County Health Department (21.4%)	Dental Care (21.3%)	Dental Care (4.3%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (16.5%)
7	Cancer prevention & treatment services (15.8%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (21%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (20.7%)	The Gaston County Health Department (4.2%)	Hospice Care (15.8%)
8	Health education programs (15.5%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (20.6%)	Care for developmental disabilities (19.3%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (4.1%)	Health education programs (15.7%)
9	Hospice Care (15%)	Dental Care (19.8%)	Services for physical disabilities (18.6%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (3.8%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (14.5%)
10	Healthcare for the Elderly (14.3%)	Health education programs (19.5%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (17.5%)	Hospice Care (3.6%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (11.4%)
11	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (13.9%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (18.1%)	The Gaston County Health Department (16.5%)	Spiritual care for health problems (3.4%)	The Gaston County Health Department (10.3%)
12	The Gaston County Health Department (13.5%)	Spiritual care for health problems (16.2%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (15.6%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (2.9%)	Emergency department services (9.7%)
13	Dental Care (13.3%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (15.7%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (15.5%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (2.8%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (9.5%)
14	Healthcare for Infants & Children (11.2%)	Hospice Care (15%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (14.2%)	Emergency department services (2.6%)	Gaston Family Health Services (9.5%)
15	Healthcare for Families (8.9%)	Healthcare for Families (13.7%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (11.8%)	Health education programs (2.4%)	Hospital services (8.4%)
16	Emergency department services (7.1%)	Pharmacy services (8.1%)	Healthcare for Families (9.6%)	Hospital services (1.7%)	Healthcare for Families (8.3%)
17	Pharmacy services (6.8%)	Hospital services (6.5%)	Emergency department services (9.2%)	Pharmacy services (1.3%)	Pharmacy services (8.1%)
18	Hospital services (6.2%)	Emergency department services (6.5%)	Pharmacy services (7.7%)	Healthcare for Families (0%)	Dental Care (7.2%)
19		Healthcare Transportation (Not Asked)	Hospital services (6.7%)	Healthcare Transportation (Not Asked)	Healthcare Transportation (Not Asked)

The option of health care transportation was not included in the surveys administered to community, leaders, and students.

Note: This table describes services respondents said they needed but could not obtain

Table 67. Inaccessible Health Services and Resources by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	Drug & alcohol treatment (28.4%)	Care for developmental disabilities (25%)	Care for developmental disabilities (30.4%)	Healthcare Transportation (35.3%)	Care for developmental disabilities (15.1%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (27.6%)	Healthcare Transportation (25%)	Services for physical disabilities (21.9%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (32%)
2	Spiritual care for health problems (21.3%)	Health education programs (23.2%)	Services for physical disabilities (29.2%)	Health education programs (25.2%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (14.8%)	Hospice Care (25%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (20.6%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (20.3%)	Care for developmental disabilities (24%)
3	Healthcare Transportation (20%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (21.8%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (20%)	Gaston Family Health Services (24.8%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (14.3%)	Healthcare Transportation (25%)	Care for developmental disabilities (20.4%)	Healthcare Transportation (20%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (21.6%)
4	Care for developmental disabilities (19%)	Services for physical disabilities (20.2%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (17.4%)	Spiritual care for health problems (23.4%)	Services for physical disabilities (13%)	Dental Care (23.4%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (18.7%)	Care for developmental disabilities (17.5%)	Dental Care (18.4%)
5	Cancer prevention & treatment services (16.9%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (19.4%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (16.3%)	The Gaston County Health Department (21.8%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (12.2%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (22.7%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (18.1%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (16.9%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (15.4%)
6	Services for physical disabilities (16.5%)	Hospice Care (19.3%)	Spiritual care for health problems (15.7%)	Care for developmental disabilities (21.4%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (11.7%)	Health education programs (22%)	Hospice Care (18.1%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (15.9%)	Services for physical disabilities (13%)
7	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (15.7%)	Spiritual care for health problems (17.5%)	Gaston Family Health Services (15.4%)	Drug & alcohol treatment (21%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (10.5%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (21.6%)	Gaston Family Health Services (17.7%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (14.3%)	Health education programs (10%)
8	Gaston Family Health Services (12.6%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (17%)	Hospice Care (12.5%)	Services for physical disabilities (20.6%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (10.4%)	Care for developmental disabilities (21.4%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (16.5%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (13%)	Spiritual care for health problems (9.8%)

9	The Gaston County Health Department (12.4%)	Dental Care (16.9%)	Dental Care (11.8%)	Hospice Care (19.5%)	Spiritual care for health problems (10.3%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (21.2%)	Services for physical disabilities (16.3%)	Spiritual care for health problems (12.6%)	Healthcare for Families (9%)
10	Hospice Care (11.9%)	Gaston Family Health Services (16.3%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (10.9%)	Care for depression, anxiety, & mental health (16.7%)	The Gaston County Health Department (9.3%)	Spiritual care for health problems (19.6%)	Spiritual care for health problems (15.7%)	Dental Care (12.5%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (7.7%)
11	Healthcare for the Elderly (11.9%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (16%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (10.3%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (15.4%)	Gaston Family Health Services (8.6%)	Cancer prevention & treatment services (17.1%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (15.5%)	Hospice Care (11.3%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (7.7%)
12	Dental Care (10.6%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (15.5%)	The Gaston County Health Department (10.3%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (14.5%)	Hospice Care (8.2%)	Services for physical disabilities (16.7%)	Health education programs (14.8%)	Health education programs (11.2%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (7.4%)
13	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (10.4%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (13.6%)	Healthcare for Pregnant Women (10%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (14.2%)	Hospital services (5.7%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (14.3%)	The Gaston County Health Department (13.7%)	Gaston Family Health Services (10.4%)	Hospital services (5.7%)
14	Health education programs (10.4%)	The Gaston County Health Department (13.3%)	Health education programs (9.8%)	Healthcare for Families (13.3%)	Dental Care (5.6%)	Gaston Family Health Services (12.8%)	Dental Care (12.8%)	The Gaston County Health Department (9.4%)	Gaston Family Health Services (5.6%)
15	Healthcare for Infants & Children (9.2%)	Healthcare Transportation (12.5%)	Healthcare for Families (7.6%)	Dental Care (12.8%)	Healthcare for Families (4.1%)	Emergency department services (8.1%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (10.7%)	Healthcare for Families (8.1%)	The Gaston County Health Department (4.3%)
16	Healthcare for Families (8%)	Healthcare for Families (11.6%)	Emergency department services (6.1%)	Healthcare for the Elderly (12.8%)	Health education programs (3.8%)	The Gaston County Health Department (7.3%)	Pharmacy services (8%)	Healthcare for Infants & Children (7.2%)	Pharmacy services (4.3%)
17	Emergency department services (6.9%)	Emergency department services (8.6%)	Pharmacy services (5.7%)	Pharmacy services (10.1%)	Emergency department services (3.4%)	Healthcare for Families (6.9%)	Healthcare for Families (7.9%)	Emergency department services (6.5%)	Emergency department services (3.2%)
18	Pharmacy services (6.2%)	Hospital services (8.2%)	Hospital services (3.5%)	Emergency department services (9.8%)	Pharmacy services (3.4%)	Pharmacy services (6.2%)	Emergency department services (7.2%)	Hospital services (5.6%)	Healthcare Transportation (0%)
19	Hospital services (5.2%)	Pharmacy services (7.9%)	Healthcare Transportation (0%)	Hospital services (8.5%)	Healthcare Transportation (0%)	Hospital services (4.7%)	Hospital services (5.8%)	Pharmacy services (4.9%)	Hospice Care (0%)

Note: This table describes services respondents said they needed but could not obtain

Table 68. Resources Used for Sick Care and Health Care, by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	Where do you usually go when you are sick or need health care?				
	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	My personal doctor/medical provider (83.9%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (92.3%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (80.9%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (95.5%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (69.8%)
2	A pharmacy (43.9%)	A pharmacy (46.2%)	A pharmacy (55.6%)	A pharmacy (44%)	A hospital emergency department (39.7%)
3	A hospital emergency department (38.9%)	A hospital emergency department (39.5%)	A hospital emergency department (49.4%)	An urgent care center (29.3%)	A pharmacy (37.6%)
4	An urgent care center (29.7%)	An urgent care center (30%)	An urgent care center (27%)	A hospital emergency department (28.6%)	An urgent care center (30.4%)
5	The Internet (18.1%)	The Internet (17.8%)	The Internet (19.7%)	The Internet (16.5%)	The Internet (18.6%)
6	A chiropractor (13%)	A chiropractor (15%)	The Gaston County Health Department (17.4%)	A chiropractor (16.2%)	The Gaston County Health Department (17%)
7	The Gaston County Health Department (10.4%)	An alternative medicine provider (6.1%)	Gaston Family Health Services (13.5%)	The Gaston County Health Department (6%)	Gaston Family Health Services (13.5%)
8	Gaston Family Health Services (8%)	The Gaston County Health Department (4.4%)	A chiropractor (11.2%)	An alternative medicine provider (6%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (10.9%)
9	An alternative medicine provider (6.4%)	Gaston Family Health Services (3.4%)	An alternative medicine provider (8.4%)	Gaston Family Health Services (3.8%)	A chiropractor (9.8%)
10	I don't seek care when I'm sick (5.9%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (3.2%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (3.9%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (3%)	An alternative medicine provider (6.3%)

Table 69. Resources Used for Sick Care and Health Care, by High School District, 2008

Rank	Where do you usually go when you are sick or need health care?								
	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	My personal doctor/medical provider (86.1%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (83.2%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (95.4%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (81.1%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (92.7%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (70.5%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (87.8%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (88.8%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (91.4%)
2	A pharmacy (49.4%)	A hospital emergency department (41.8%)	A pharmacy (42.2%)	A pharmacy (44.4%)	A pharmacy (49.3%)	A hospital emergency department (46.2%)	A pharmacy (49.4%)	A pharmacy (41.2%)	A pharmacy (51.6%)
3	A hospital emergency department (40.2%)	A pharmacy (40.8%)	A hospital emergency department (37.6%)	A hospital emergency department (35.8%)	An urgent care center (42.3%)	A pharmacy (33.3%)	A hospital emergency department (48.4%)	A hospital emergency department (40.4%)	A hospital emergency department (34.4%)
4	An urgent care center (32.7%)	An urgent care center (24.6%)	An urgent care center (19.3%)	An urgent care center (33.2%)	A hospital emergency department (36.9%)	An urgent care center (21.8%)	An urgent care center (33.5%)	An urgent care center (30.3%)	An urgent care center (26.9%)
5	The Internet (19.9%)	The Internet (14.2%)	The Internet (13.8%)	The Internet (20.3%)	The Internet (24.7%)	The Gaston County Health Department (16.7%)	The Internet (16.7%)	The Internet (19.7%)	The Internet (26.9%)
6	A chiropractor (17.9%)	The Gaston County Health Department (14.2%)	A chiropractor (12.8%)	A chiropractor (12.3%)	A chiropractor (14.8%)	Gaston Family Health Services (14.1%)	A chiropractor (13.5%)	A chiropractor (14.1%)	A chiropractor (12.9%)
7	The Gaston County Health Department (13.5%)	Gaston Family Health Services (12%)	An alternative medicine provider (6.4%)	Gaston Family Health Services (7%)	The Gaston County Health Department (11.4%)	A chiropractor (7.7%)	The Gaston County Health Department (13.1%)	The Gaston County Health Department (10.2%)	An alternative medicine provider (8.6%)
8	An alternative medicine provider (10%)	A chiropractor (10.4%)	The Gaston County Health Department (4.6%)	The Gaston County Health Department (6.3%)	An alternative medicine provider (8.1%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (7.7%)	Gaston Family Health Services (8.6%)	Gaston Family Health Services (8.5%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (6.5%)
9	Gaston Family Health Services (8.8%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (8.7%)	Gaston Family Health Services (3.7%)	An alternative medicine provider (6%)	Gaston Family Health Services (7.4%)	The Internet (6.4%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (6.5%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (6.2%)	Gaston Family Health Services (5.4%)
10	I don't seek care when I'm sick (5.6%)	An alternative medicine provider (4.9%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (1.8%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (5.3%)	I don't seek care when I'm sick (6.7%)	An alternative medicine provider (3.8%)	An alternative medicine provider (4.5%)	An alternative medicine provider (5.6%)	The Gaston County Health Department (2.2%)

Table 70. Trusted Sources of Health Information and Advice, by Survey Group, 2008

Rank	All Respondents	Community	PH/LI	Leaders	Students
1	My personal doctor/medical provider (84.1%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (92.1%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (82.6%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (95.1%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (69.9%)
2	My pharmacist (43.5%)	My pharmacist (48.6%)	My pharmacist (59.6%)	My pharmacist (50%)	My family & friends (32.8%)
3	Medical reference books (26.6%)	Medical reference books (26.4%)	My family & friends (50%)	Medical reference books (31.6%)	My pharmacist (29.6%)
4	My family & friends (25.4%)	The Internet (23.2%)	Medical reference books (44.4%)	The Internet (29.7%)	Gaston County Health Department (22.8%)
5	The Internet (22.8%)	My family & friends (16.4%)	Gaston County Health Department (33.1%)	Gaston County Health Department (17.3%)	Gaston Family Health Services (22.1%)
6	Gaston County Health Department (16.5%)	Magazines & newspapers (8.9%)	Government agencies (26.4%)	My family & friends (15%)	Medical reference books (18.9%)
7	Gaston Family Health Services (14%)	Gaston Family Health Services (6.8%)	The Internet (24.7%)	Government agencies (9.4%)	The Internet (18.6%)
8	Magazines & newspapers (10.8%)	Gaston County Health Department (6.2%)	Magazines & newspapers (24.2%)	Magazines & newspapers (9.4%)	Government agencies (10.4%)
9	Government agencies (9.6%)	Government agencies (4.5%)	Gaston Family Health Services (21.9%)	Gaston Family Health Services (9%)	My child's school nurse (10.4%)
10	Radio/TV (6.9%)	Radio/TV (4.2%)	My child's school nurse (16.3%)	Radio/TV (3.4%)	Radio/TV (9.5%)
11	My child's school nurse (6.8%)	My child's school nurse (2.5%)	Radio/TV (13.5%)	My child's school nurse (3.4%)	Magazines & newspapers (9.3%)

Table 71. Trusted Sources of Health Information and Advice, by High School District, 2008

Rank	Ashbrook	Bessemer City	Cherryville	East Gaston	Forestview	Highland Tech	Hunter Huss	North Gaston	Southpoint
1	My personal doctor/medical provider (88.4%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (83.6%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (93.6%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (79%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (92.1%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (74.4%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (88.6%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (89.4%)	My personal doctor/medical provider (93.5%)
2	My pharmacist (45%)	My pharmacist (37.5%)	My pharmacist (51.4%)	My pharmacist (44.4%)	My pharmacist (45.6%)	My pharmacist (28.2%)	My pharmacist (45.5%)	My pharmacist (50.6%)	My pharmacist (53.3%)
3	Medical reference books (27.5%)	My family & friends (30.4%)	Medical reference books (23.9%)	My family & friends (30.8%)	Medical reference books (30.4%)	Medical reference books (24.4%)	Medical reference books (29.8%)	Medical reference books (29.9%)	Medical reference books (27.2%)
4	My family & friends (26.7%)	Medical reference books (21.9%)	The Internet (23.9%)	Medical reference books (28%)	The Internet (30%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (23.1%)	My family & friends (29.4%)	My family & friends (26.1%)	The Internet (26.1%)
5	The Internet (24.7%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (20.7%)	My family & friends (17.4%)	The Internet (24.9%)	My family & friends (25.5%)	My family & friends (19.2%)	The Internet (22.9%)	The Internet (26%)	Magazines & newspapers (9.8%)
6	Gaston County Health Dept. (17.5%)	The Internet (15.8%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (13.8%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (14.8%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (20.3%)	Gaston Family Health Services (17.9%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (16.7%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (21%)	My family & friends (8.7%)
7	Gaston Family Health Services (14.7%)	Gaston Family Health Services (15.8%)	Magazines & newspapers (13.8%)	Gaston Family Health Services (13%)	Gaston Family Health Services (17.4%)	The Internet (12.8%)	Gaston Family Health Services (15.9%)	Gaston Family Health Services (16.5%)	Gaston Family Health Services (8.7%)
8	Government agencies (10.4%)	Government agencies (9.3%)	Gaston Family Health Services (9.2%)	Government agencies (12.3%)	Magazines & newspapers (10.8%)	Magazines & newspapers (9%)	Magazines & newspapers (12.7%)	Government agencies (13%)	Radio/TV (7.6%)
9	Magazines & newspapers (10%)	Magazines & newspapers (9.2%)	Government agencies (7.3%)	Magazines & newspapers (11.9%)	Government agencies (9.5%)	Government agencies (7.7%)	My child's school nurse (9.8%)	Magazines & newspapers (10.9%)	My child's school nurse (5.4%)
10	Radio/TV (6%)	Radio/TV (7.7%)	Radio/TV (3.7%)	My child's school nurse (9.8%)	Radio/TV (7.4%)	Radio/TV (5.1%)	Government agencies (8.6%)	My child's school nurse (8%)	Gaston County Health Dept. (4.3%)
11	My child's school nurse (4.8%)	My child's school nurse (7.1%)	My child's school nurse (2.8%)	Radio/TV (8.4%)	My child's school nurse (6.1%)	My child's school nurse (3.8%)	Radio/TV (7.3%)	Radio/TV (6.8%)	Government agencies (4.3%)