
CLEVELAND COUNTY

PUBLIC HEALTH CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**RELEASE OF THE 2015 CLEVELAND COUNTY
COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT**

What makes a community healthy?

(Shelby, NC)—What makes a community healthy? This is a question that leaders from organizations, agencies and programs across Cleveland County attempt to answer on a daily basis as they serve residents of Cleveland County. Now an updated tool is available to make data-driven decisions about the use of resources: *2015 Cleveland County Community Health Assessment*.

The 2015 Cleveland County Community Health Assessment will be formally released to the public on Wednesday, October 12, 2016 at 8:30 am at the Cleveland County Public Health Center. The document release is open to the public but reservations are required by calling 980-484-5112. Copies of the document in hard copy or electronic format will be available by calling the Alliance for Health of Cleveland County office after October 12th at 980-484-5112. A copy of the document will also be available online at <http://clevelandcounty.com/cchd/> after October 12, 2016.

In an effort to improve and promote the health of our community, the Cleveland County Public Health Center and Alliance for Health of Cleveland County, Inc. with support from Carolinas HealthCare System – Cleveland and Carolinas Healthcare System – Kings Mountain, and other county agencies have joined resources to produce the eighth comprehensive assessment of community needs combining survey results and data from secondary resources. The document includes data on demographics, the economy, health status, social issues, education, safety and community assets.

When asked how the *2015 Cleveland County Community Health Assessment* will assist us in improving the health of our community, Dorothea Wyant, Health Director, replied, “The health of a community depends on many different factors, including individual behavior, quality of health care, education and jobs, as well as the environment. The 2015 Community Assessment survey for Cleveland County was made widely available electronically and in paper form to all areas of the county. What better way to address

the health care needs in the County than to involve the citizens themselves in the survey as well as in the solutions?”

The information included in the *2015 Cleveland County Community Health Assessment* has implications for leaders, both volunteer and professional, in our county. The role of a community assessment is to identify factors that affect the health of a population and determine the availability of resources within the community to adequately address these factors. Agencies throughout the county will use the information collected from the *2015 Cleveland County Community Health Assessment* to plan programs, set priorities, and begin new initiatives. While this document does not provide solutions to issues or easy answers, it is the first step in identifying problems, assessing the alternatives, and developing solutions.

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