

Why Is This Important?



The purpose Caswell County's State of the County Health (SOTCH) Report 2022 is to update the county's progress in tracking priority issues identified in the community health assessment (CHA), identify emerging issues, and identify initiatives that are new, paused, or discontinued. The SOTCH report is required to be completed every year (annually) except for years in which a CHA is submitted, and Caswell County runs on a 4-year cycle for CHA submission. The most recent CHA was submitted in 2020 with the following health priorities: structured activities for youth and improved race relations. Partners and Collaborators working towards our common goals include Caswell Arts, 4-H, Caswell County schools, Compassion Health Care, Piedmont Health Services.

Progress on CHIP



Structured Activities for Youth:

- Caswell Arts platformed a summer STEM program in August 2022 at the High Rock Community Center. Children from kindergarten to eighth grade participated in various activities such as demonstrating how to play pickleball, demonstrating healthy eating habits, building rain sticks, and painting on glass. Additionally, Caswell Arts sponsored the Student Art Show which showcased students in 1st-12th grades in May 2022. Their works were presented at the County Square Building and the top 3 winners in each category were awarded a monetary prize.
- Caswell County middle and high schoolers can participate in Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Clubs which stems from Sandy Hook Promise, an organization to honor those who were victims of gun violence at Sandy Hook and beyond. SAVE Promise clubs promote leadership skills in students to take an active role in decreasing violence and increasing safety at their schools by empowering students to look out for one another and promote kindness. More info on the SAVE program: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/save-promise-club/>
- 4-H hosted its annual Agriculture Literacy Camp that allows children the opportunity to explore potential careers in agriculture.
- Trauma informed community building: Middle and High school students have initiated "Say Something" programs that help students recognize warning signs of hurting themselves or others. This system allows students to submit secure, anonymous safety concerns to school officials and law enforcement. Caswell County schools also have trained personnel that conduct suicide and threat assessments. More info on the Say Something program: <https://www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/say-something/>

RBA Indicators and Performance Measures for Structured Activities for Youth Update:

- Caswell County Short Term Suspension Rate: 2.29 per 10 students (or 22.90 per 100 students) in 2021 (most recent data).

Source: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/tables9-short-term-suspension-stats-schools-2021-22>

- Youth Mentorship Program: None offered in 2022
- Number of Childhood Trauma Related Trainings: None offered in 2022

Improved Race Relations:

- Piedmont Health Services has regular diversity and inclusion meetings to improve race relations among staff and how staff interact with the patients they treat.

RBA Indicators and Performance Measures for Improved Race Relations Update:

- Caswell County Incarceration Rates: 172 per 100,000 population in 2021 (most recent data)

Source: NC Department of Adult Correction, Office of Research and Planning

- Number of racial equity trainings: 1

Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA



Top 10 Causes of Death for Caswell County and North Carolina, Number of deaths and Age-Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 population (2016-2020)					
		Caswell County		NC	
Rank	Cause of Death	Deaths	Rate	Deaths	Rate
1	Heart Disease	306	182.2	96,474	156.1
2	Cancer	332	182.1	98,674	154.6
3	Other Ischemic Heart Disease	96	58.2	35,684	57.0
4	All Other Unintentional Injuries*	69	52.2	23,427	43.2
5	Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung Cancer	97	51.4	26,199	40.1
6	Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	88	51.0	26,830	42.5
7	Unintentional Motor Vehicle Injuries	39	36.6	8,039	15.1
8	Diabetes Mellitus	57	31.8	15,434	24.5
9	Alzheimer's disease	52	31.2	22,177	37.4
10	Cerebrovascular Disease	51	29.3	26,050	42.7
**	COVID-19	15	N/A	7,909	12.8
	Total Deaths	1,477	893	483,333	793.7

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

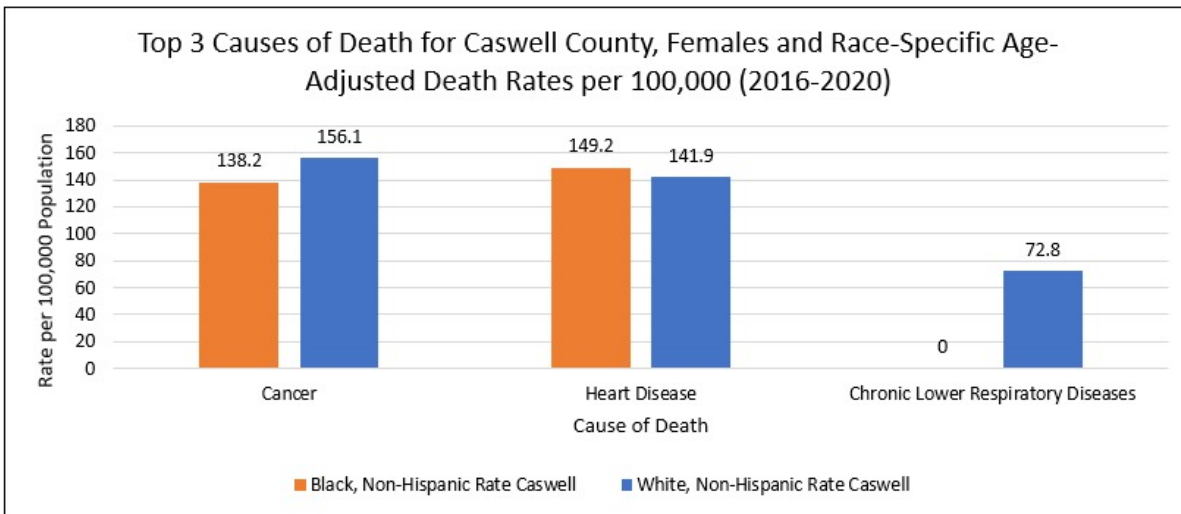
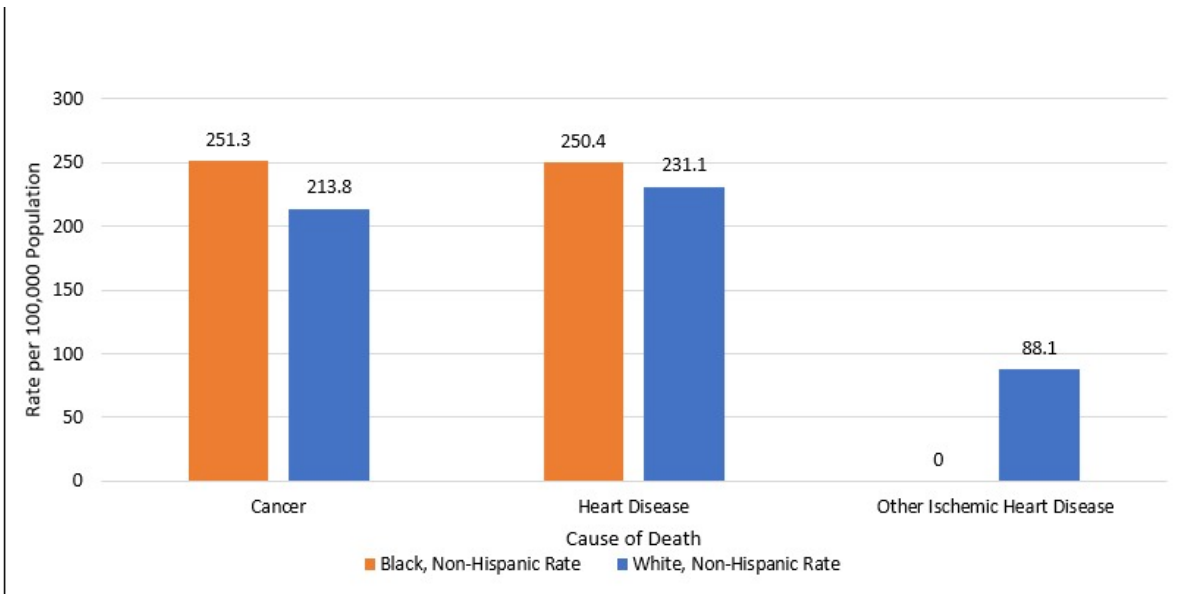
*Unintentional injuries include deaths due to accidental causes like falls, accidental firearm discharge, and drug overdoses.

**Covid-19 deaths are presented in the table to represent the number of deaths and rate in 2020.

Since the last SOTCH and population estimate (2014-2019), heart disease rose 7% and overtook cancer as top cause of death in Caswell County. Overall, morbidity and mortality have remained among the same rates as previous SOTCH. Caswell County still experiences higher death rates of disease compared to North Carolina as a whole. The average life expectancy for Caswell County residents is 75.3 and for the state is 76.4 for the 2018-20 period, similar to average life expectancy of the 2017-2019 period.

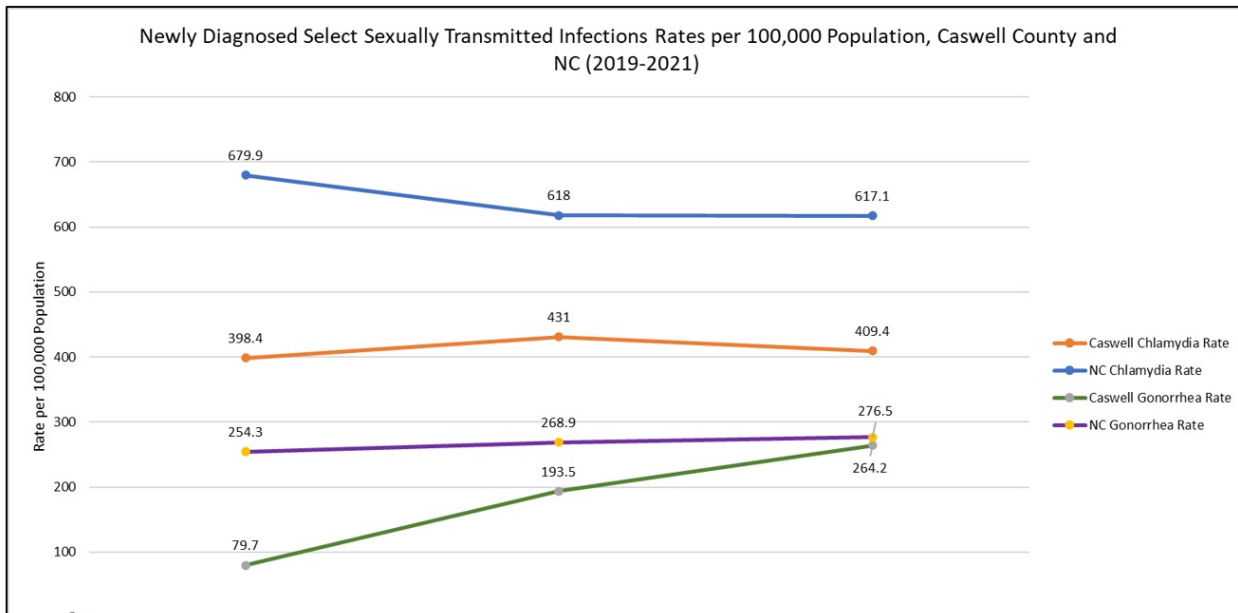
When comparing males of Black/African American and White races, Black Non-Hispanic males have higher age-adjusted cancer and heart disease death rates than White Non-Hispanic males. When comparing females of Black/African American and White races, White Non-Hispanic females have higher age-adjusted cancer death rates than Black Non-Hispanic females, but have lower death rates of heart disease.

Top 3 Causes of Death for Caswell County, Males and Race-Specific Age-Adjusted Death Rates per 100,000 Population (2016-2020)



Communicable Diseases: Select Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)

The Caswell County Health Department is responsible for tracking communicable diseases, including common STIs. The table below represents newly diagnosed chlamydia and gonorrhea cases from 2019 to 2021 (most recent data). Chlamydia number of cases and rates per 100,000 population stayed fairly constant, but gonorrhea number of cases and rates per 100,000 population rose sharply. When comparing Caswell to NC, chlamydia rates are lower than NC, while gonorrhea rates have increased over time to about the same rate as NC.

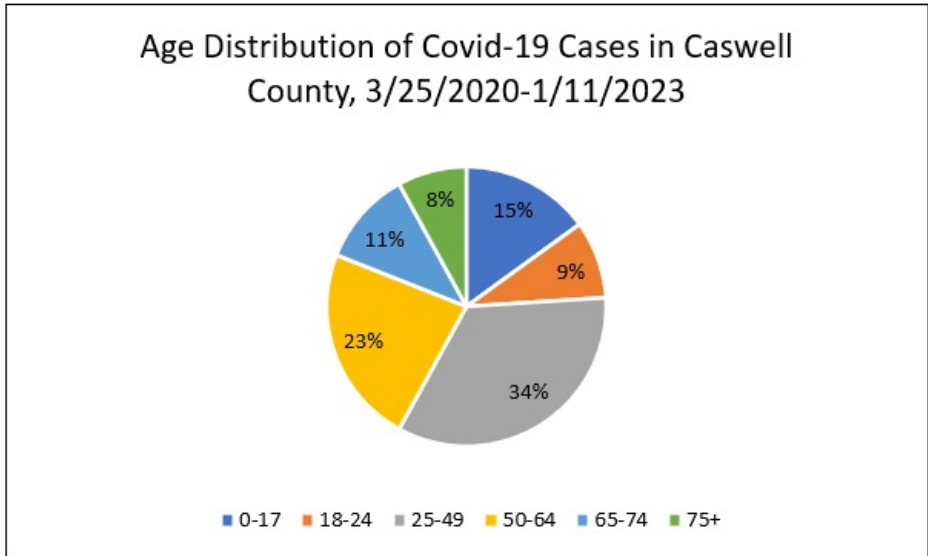
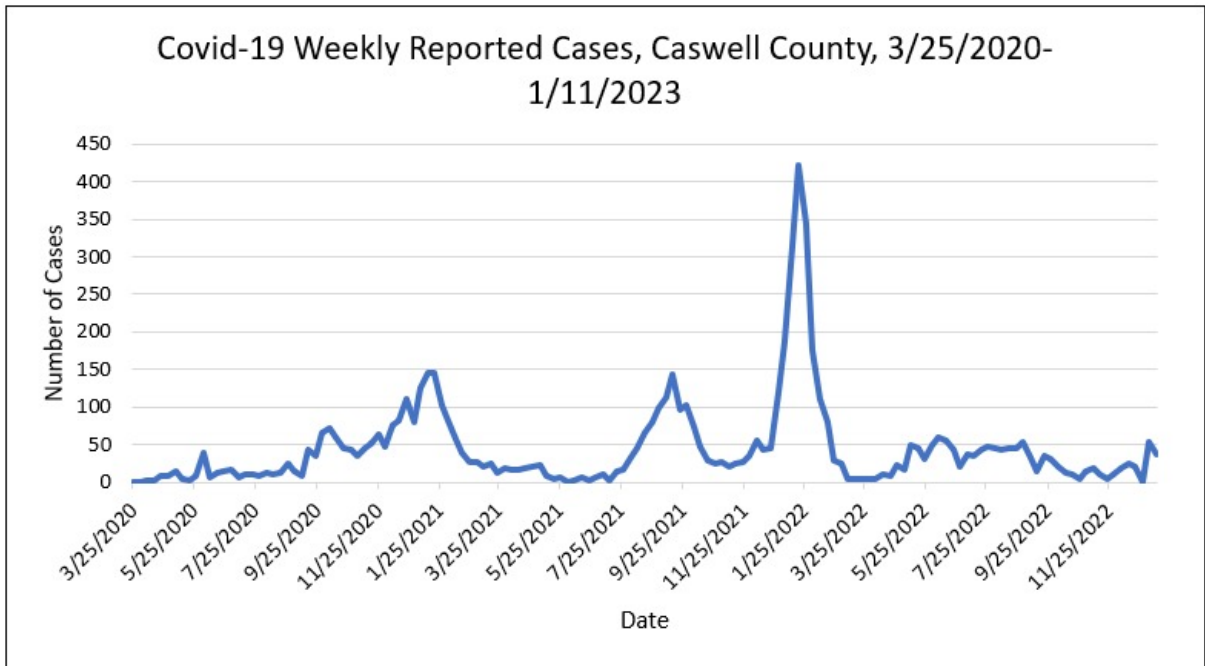


*** 2020 data should be treated with caution due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on accessing STD testing, STD treatment, and surveillance activities in North Carolina.

Source: <https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/stds/figures/2021-STD-AnnualReportFinal.pdf>

Covid-19

Caswell County experienced similar covid case trends throughout the pandemic, with peaks occurring in winter months. Caswell experienced surges of Covid-19 variants Delta in 2020-2021 and Omicron with its own subvariants in 2022 like the rest of the country. Since 3/25/2020, there have been 6,496 cases and 59 Covid-19 attributed deaths (data accessed on 1/13/2023). Since the start of the pandemic, 36% of deaths for age and gender and 39% of deaths by race and ethnicity are suppressed (hidden) for privacy reasons. Similarly, 26% of cases suppressed race data. Over half the cases have occurred in 25-49 and 50-64-year-old age categories.



- Various vaccines were produced to combat the pandemic, including Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, Novavax, and Johnson & Johnson’s Janssen. Currently, the series for vaccines includes the primary series, booster, and bivalent booster. As of January 2023, over half (52%) of Caswell County has received the primary series, lower than NC (63%).

Vaccinations in Caswell County, North Carolina

People Vaccinated	At Least One Dose	Completed Primary Series	Updated (Bivalent) Booster Dose
Total	14,338	11,817	
% of Total Population	63.4%	52.3%	
Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	14,306	11,811	2,090
% of Population ≥ 5 Years of Age	66.6%	54.9%	9.7%
Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	14,021	11,590	2,076
% of Population ≥ 12 Years of Age	70.3%	58.1%	10.4%
Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	13,529	11,198	2,057
% of Population ≥ 18 Years of Age	73.6%	60.9%	11.2%
Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	4,922	4,211	1,241
% of Population ≥ 65 Years of Age	95%	84.1%	24.8%

Data current as of 1/12/2023. Sources: https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view?list_select_state=North+Carolina&data-type=CommunityLevels&list_select_county=37033&null=CommunityLevels

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/stay-up-to-date.html>

<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations>

- As of 3/14/23, the health department continues to provide free COVID vaccines for individuals 12 and older every Tuesday with Bivalent Boosters available. Additionally, in partnership with Community Paramedic Program, vaccines are available for homebound residents of Caswell County. Source: <http://www.caswellnc.us/>

Emerging Issues Since Last CHA



Environmental Health:

- Clean and safe drinking water is paramount to health. In 2020, the most recent data available, there were no health-based drinking water violations reported for Caswell County. Additionally, Caswell County has requested over \$7.6 million dollars in ARPA funds for small waterline replacement, wastewater treatment plant rehabilitation, and water treatment plant rehabilitation in Yanceyville, but was denied funding in February 2023.
- In the summer of 2022, Yanceyville was awarded \$250,000 under the water asset inventory and assessment and \$150,000 under the sewer asset inventory and assessment grand funding from the State Reserve Program via the Division of Water Infrastructure.

Sources: <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/north-carolina/caswell?year=2022>

<https://deq.nc.gov/about/divisions/water-infrastructure/latest-funding-round-updates>

<https://deq.nc.gov/media/30648/download?attachment?attachment>

Access to Internet:

- Spectrum, the Federal Rural Digital Opportunity Fund grant winner, will be working with Zitel to expand broadband access to Caswell County Residents. There is a clear digital divide between urban/suburban residents and rural residents when it comes to Internet access as a necessity and the ability to work, go to school, and create social connections with friends and family, which was exacerbated by COVID-19. Additionally, this initiative will expand resident’s opportunities to gain the ability to access Telehealth doctor visits, which in turn may increase access to healthcare for rural residents who have may have forgone treatment because of distance to physical offices.

Source: <https://www.caswellcountync.gov/>



New Initiatives

Mental and Behavioral Health

- Compassion Health Care provides therapy sessions through telehealth for high school students. Elementary and middle schoolers receive care from Renaissance Wellness Service onsite during school hours. Additionally, all Caswell County school staff members are required to take annual trainings on the SAFE child act, or Sexual Assault Fast reporting and Enforcement act, which has modernized sexual assault laws in NC. More info on the SAFE child act: https://ncdoj.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/SAFE-Child-Fact-Sheet_Final_Nov2019.pdf

Continued Initiatives

Aging Population

- The Senior Tarheel Legislation committee advocates for funds and resources to be provided for the aging population of Caswell County. As the aging population of the county grows, it remains an important factor in health equity for all.

Health and Equity in all policies

- All Caswell County schools have a full-time registered nurse to attend to student needs. In elementary schools, vision, hearing, and dental screenings were conducted at appointed grade levels to ensure our students are healthy; the parents are notified of each student needing additional care and referrals or treatments occur.

Paused or Discontinued Initiatives:

- There were no paused or discontinued initiatives in 2022.