

# 2024



# Child Health Recognition Awards

# Alamance County Health Department

Refugee Health Program

Local Health Department  
Nomination



The Refugee Health Program leverages multiple departmental resources to provide essential healthcare service to refugee children and families. Since March 2023, this program has served as the first point of contact for refugees seeking healthcare. The program connects refugees to pediatric care, communicable disease prevention, dental and nutritional support services. Alamance County is one of the top twelve refugee settlement counties in the state.

# AppHealthCare

STABLE Workplaces



Local Health Department  
Nomination



Staff Training and Business Leadership for Evolving Workplace (STABLE) is a collaboration to provide resources in the workplace. STABLE is exploring ways to deliver resources to the business sector and other employers through unified messaging, collaborative training efforts, toolkit development and incentivized participation. STABLE Workplaces addresses an array of social determinants of health and community health priorities for individuals within Watauga County.

# Catawba County Public Health

## Community Health Workers

Local Health Department  
Nomination

All Catawba County families can make choices that allow them to live healthy lives. Families are linked to community services and assisted with completing the applications required to receive many services, if needed. Providing information on securing housing, utilities, food and nutrition, transportation resources, employment and vocational rehabilitation, navigation of clinical care systems, insurance and charity care are part of the care given to these families. This peer-support model is linking families with multiple overlapping disparities that affect their health.



# Chatham County Public Health Department

Clinical and Community Health

The Parent Navigator Program was designed by Gabriela Arciniega to assist parents whose child is suspected or diagnosed with an intellectual or developmental

disability. The program helps parents navigate systems and services and provides access to resources, services, and support. Medical providers, caregivers, including daycare and school personnel, can refer children to the program. Providing awareness and delivery of services where gaps existed allows these children to reach their full potential.



Local Health Department  
Nomination

# Cumberland County Department of Public Health

Baby Store



## 2024 Local Health Department AWARD

The Baby Store is a health department incentive-based, health promotion program to support moms and their babies. Clients earn “baby bucks” by attending child and maternal health appointments and other educational or healthcare appointments. “Baby bucks” are redeemed to purchase a variety of items including diapers, baby wipes, clothing, car seats, sleep sacks and other needed items. In 2023, Cumberland County setup 897 appointments for the Baby Store.

# Duplin County Health Department

## Child Health

All students entering NC's school system for the first time must have a physical health assessment and be up-to-date on immunizations within 30 days of entering school. In partnership with a local medical center and the county school system the health department provides health assessments and immunizations on specific days each month. This collaboration is breaking down barriers for these children and their parents.

Local Health Department  
Nomination



# Forsyth County Department of Public Health

## Adolescent Health

Adolescent Health includes three individual teen programs.

- 1) Flourish provides education centered on the use of Smart Girl curriculum and teaches about puberty, decision making, pregnancy and STI prevention.
- 2) Motivating Males on the Move(M3) uses the Wise Guys curriculum to teach about masculinity, communication skills, personal and family values, relationship skills, abstinence and contraception, and STI prevention.
- 3) Unify is a sexual health program and uses the Get Real: Sexual Health curriculum to teach about sexuality, protection methods, STI prevention, relationship skills and how to access health care services.



# Forsyth County Department of Public Health

## Growing Together

Forsyth County Department of Public Health has many programs helping lower the risk of chronic diseases and fighting the battle of food insecurity for all ages. Growing Together is a unique 20 lesson curriculum program focused on educating elementary students. These students participate in an after-school gardening program for third to fifth graders. Growing Together utilizes the innovative Learn, Grow, Eat, Go curriculum. Students earn a certificate reminding them of their abilities to grow a garden.

## 2024 Local Health Department AWARD





# Forsyth County Department of Public Health

School Health Program/Operation Zero Exclusion

This multi-partner collaboration is increasing immunization and health assessment compliance through on-campus immunizations in underserved communities. The Saturday clinic and a Just-In-Time clinic has improved compliance. This School Health Program to increase immunization and health assessment compliance rates is changing health outcomes in Forsyth County.



Local Health Department  
Nomination

# Harnett County Health Department

Taking Public Health on the Road

Local Health Department  
Nomination

Harnett County is extending essential healthcare to over 600 square miles across the county with their mobile healthcare unit. Providing health services with a mobile unit is bridging gaps where healthcare access and delivery is reaching underserved clients in Harnett County.



# Henderson County Department of Public Health

Innovative Approaches Initiative

Project Zen Den provides sensory relief and respite for children and youth with special health care needs and their families. Sensory tents have been provided for use at community events creating a quiet, safe, and calming environment for children and families in need at local parks and community events. Sensory tents include soft lighting, comfortable seating and quiet surroundings. This program is helping children who suffer from sensory overload.

Local Health Department  
Nomination

**What is a Sensory Tent?**

A sensory tent is a quiet and calm place where individuals can come to filter out as much of the unwanted sensory input as possible and focus on the sensory input that helps them feel better. Our sensory tent will be deployed at certain Henderson County events.

Public places can be overwhelming due to large amounts of sensory input such as noise, crowds, smells, and lights. When our senses are overwhelmed by too much input, we can feel uncomfortable and out of control of our bodies.

**Sensory Tent Info**

- Calming color that can be easily found
- Mesh windows and door for air flow
- Items inside designed to provide calming sensory input

For more information, contact Innovative Approaches Initiative of Henderson County - 828-273-3615

The infographic features a blue background with a string of colorful triangular bunting flags. In the center, there is a blue tent with two sections labeled 'SENSORY TENT'. To the left of the tent, four stylized human figures are shown: a woman in a wheelchair, a man with a beard, a person with a cane, and a man with a dog on a leash. A yellow speech bubble is positioned below the figures, and a red sign with white text is placed to the right of the tent. The overall scene is set against a backdrop of green hills and a blue sky.

# Jackson County Department of Public Health

## Community Outreach

Local Health Department  
Nomination



Safe Kids Jackson County is focused on injury prevention. Local fire and law enforcement, emergency management, community organizations, the local school system and local government agencies are members. In 2023, over 7,100 individuals were reached with 33 events promoting safety, and injury prevention education and trainings across the county.



# Onslow County Health Department

Newborn Home Visit

Local Health Department  
Nomination

Newborn/postpartum home visits are a key mechanism for reaching families early with resources, preventive services, and anticipatory guidance. The program provides home visits within the first 28 days after delivery to ease the transition to home for families and infants. During the home visit, an assessment of the newborn and a focused assessment of the mother, including a screening for postpartum depression is completed. Lactation information and support, nutritional guidance, and referrals to other community services are also provided.

# Onslow County Health Department

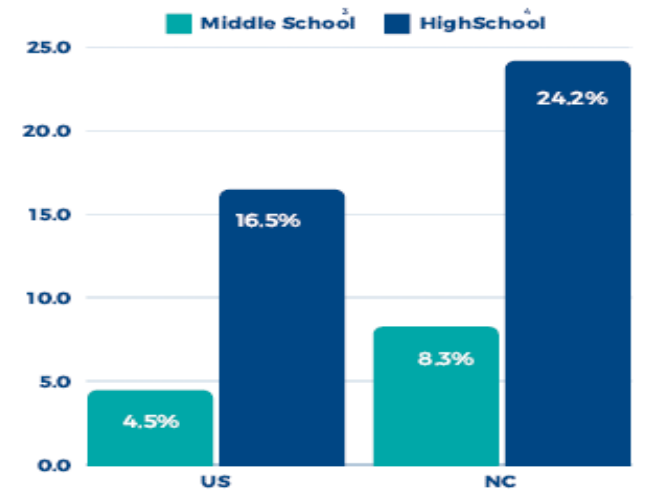
## Youth Vaping Prevention

Local Health Department  
Nomination

In 2022, more than **1 in 10** U.S. middle and high school students used a tobacco product in the last 30 days.<sup>1</sup>



**4.5x** as many calls to poison control regarding electronic cigarettes or liquid nicotine in 2022 vs 2013<sup>2</sup>



The Health Education Team is providing Vaping Prevention programming to youth in Onslow County. The Team is utilizing a nationally known program “CATCH My Breath” while working collaboratively with many other agencies to provide education and support.

# Orange County Health Department

Family Success Alliance  
Community Council

Local Health Department  
Nomination



The Community Council is composed of 10-12 community members who represent low-income and under resourced neighborhoods. The co-creative partnership between community-based leaders and the Family Success Alliance is working to improve the quality of life in Orange County.



# Pitt County Health Department

STI Express Clinic

Local Health Department  
Nomination



Photo Credit [www.pittcountync.gov/229/Public-Health](http://www.pittcountync.gov/229/Public-Health)

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) express services refers to triage-based STI testing without a full clinical examination. Asymptomatic patients are routed to less services, and symptomatic patients are seen at that time. These services are provided to patients without other acute health care needs. From August 2023 to June 2024 over 2,160 patients were seen with 1,006 confirmed abnormal labs (46 % positivity rate). This program is working to treat and is slowing the potential spread of STIs in the community.

# Rockingham County Department of Public Health

## Mobile Dental Unit

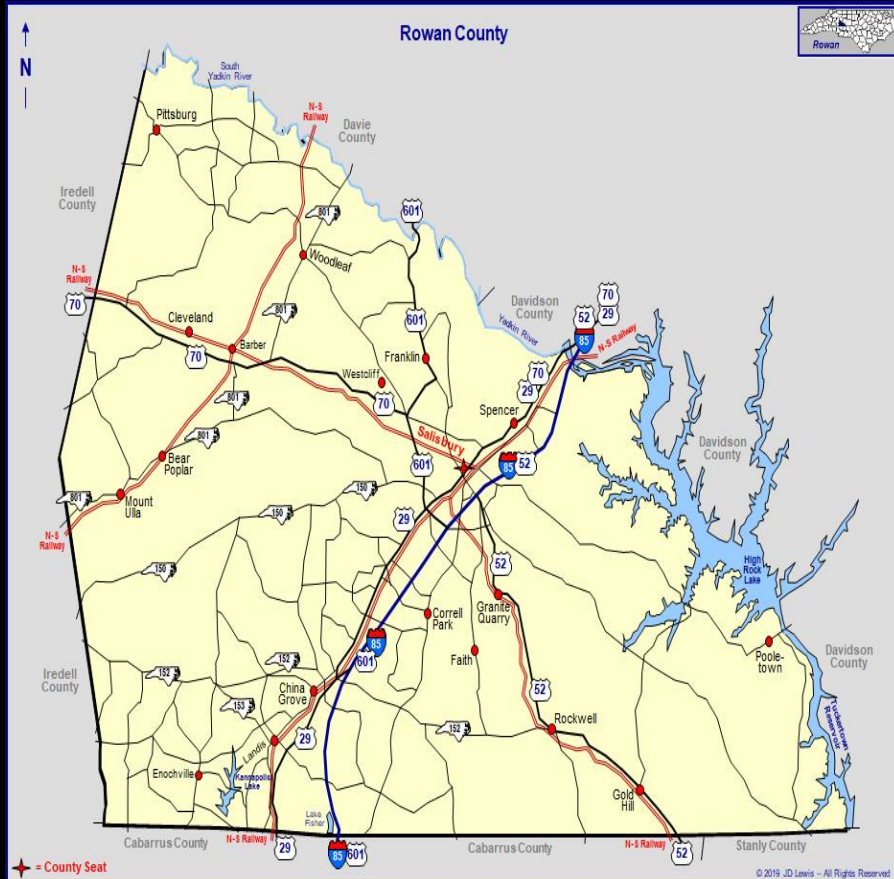
Launched in Fall 2023, a Mobile Dental Unit is providing school-based dental care to all Title 1 schools in the county. During the 2023-24 school year, 981 treatments were provided at no cost to the children that met the criteria. The Mobile Dental Unit is helping overcome barriers including a lack of transportation, time away from work for parents, and local dental offices that don't accept Medicaid.



# Rowan County Public Health

## Client and Patient GIS Mapping

Local Health Department  
Nomination



Using a Geographic Information System (GIS) to overlay anonymized patient data with maps of demographic census data, locations of city and county parks, chronic disease prevalence, and CDC's social vulnerability index provided information needed to combat barriers in marginal communities. The spatial analysis provided crucial insights for effective resource allocation, intervention prioritization, and improving health department service access, to address health inequities.

Photo credit: [www.carolana.com](http://www.carolana.com)

# Transylvania County Department of Public Health

TC STRONG

## 2024 Local Health Department AWARD

TC STRONG is a community-based collaborative supporting youth mental health initiatives in the county. TC STRONG is working to help youth feel confident and secure in their connections, purpose, and hope. The collaborative is creating a pathway working to improve the health and resilience of youth and teens in both the short and long term. Key strategies needed in the community to improve mental health include community awareness, education, destigmatization, empowerment and connection, and access to support and care. TC STRONG serves youth in the county.



# Christie Sykes, RN

Public Health Nurse Supervisor II  
Alamance County Health Department

Public Health Staff  
Nomination



Nurse Sykes is providing exceptional customer service in her role at Alamance County Health Department. As a Public Health Nursing Supervisor II, she has led many outreach efforts. She was the primary driver and leader of the Alamance County refugee program, has led back to school child health assessments, mobile and community-based immunization clinics, and communicable disease prevention events over the years.

# Persida Vallejo

Dental Patient Navigator  
Cabarrus Health Alliance

Persida is a bilingual Community Health Worker helping patients navigate healthcare, oral health, insurance, and social service systems. Special attention has been given to Cabarrus County kindergarten students with untreated tooth decay as more students are showing up needing care.

Public Health Staff  
AWARD





Individual Achievement  
Nomination

# Chloe Gordon, BSN, RN

Gaston County DHHS

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Chloe Gordon's primary role, TB responsibilities, includes innovative preventive health activities in Gaston County. As a TB nurse she has expanded her role and is a driving force for the Harm Reduction Alliance providing harm reduction kits. These kits are designed to combat preventable health conditions including STI's and opioid overdose. She is working to reduce health disparities while continuing her education, as she is completing an MPH.

## Individual Achievement AWARD

Peg O'Connell's expertise as a public health advocate was needed as chair of Care4Carolina. This coalition advocated for Medicaid Expansion and the efforts culminated in the signing of the NC Medicaid Expansion Bill into law. Since March 2023 over 500,000 in our state have been enrolled.

# Peg O'Connell

Volunteer Chair, Care4Carolina





# Karin Minter, MD, MPH

Pediatrician

Lifetime Achievement  
AWARD



Dr. Minter has an unwavering commitment and passion to improving the health and well-being of children. This commitment extends beyond the walls of her practice as a pediatrician. She advocates for all children, especially those with underserved backgrounds. From establishing an annual child health fair to connecting families with vital resources and serving as chair and vice chair positions with the Alamance County Board of Health over the years.

# Elizabeth (Betsey) Cuervo Tilson, MD, MPH

State Health Director & Chief Medical Officer, NC DHHS

Dr. Tilson engages with communities and partners to focus on health equity and overall drivers of health outcomes across NC. In 2017, she became the State Health Director and Chief Medical Officer for the NC Department of Health and Human Services. Her efforts have led to Advancing Health, Behavioral Health and Resiliency, Child and Family Well-Being, a Strong and Inclusive Workforce, Medicaid Expansion and Transformation, Social Drivers of Health, and Firearm Violence priorities.



Lifetime Achievement  
Nomination