

Progress on CHIP

Greene County Department of Public Health's [Scorecard](#) outlines the community efforts being made in Greene County to address the following health priorities identified in our most recent Community Health Needs Assessment.

- **Healthy Behaviors** (addressing Chronic Disease and Physical Activity & Nutrition)
- **Substance Use Disorders** (addressing tobacco and opioids)

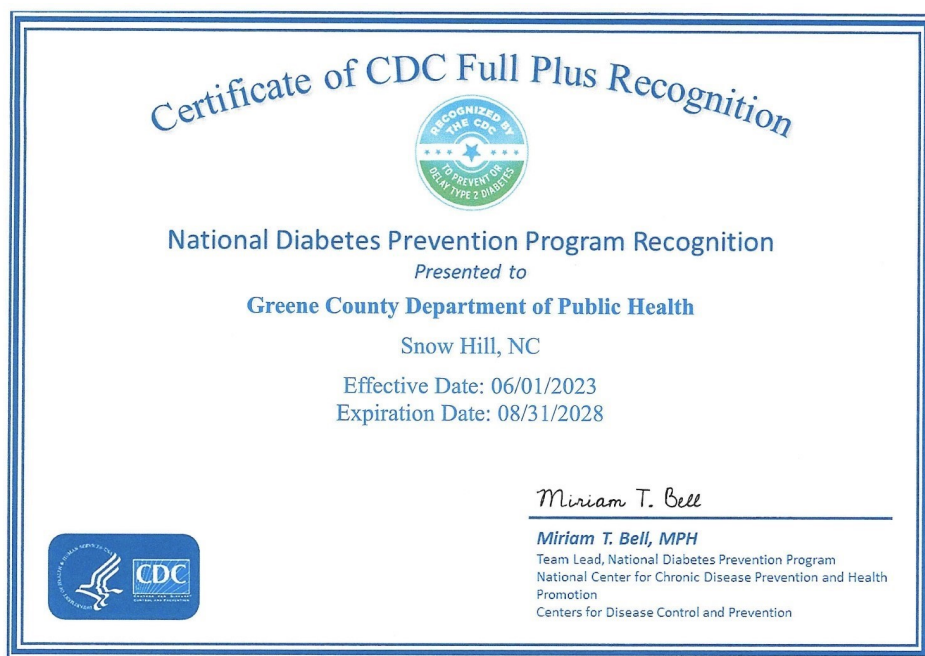
We strive to keep our scorecard as up-to-date as possible. Click the document symbol beside each program in the [Scorecard](#) to learn more about the programs and initiatives taking place to improve health outcomes in Greene County. You can read the story about progress on each performance measure by opening the "plus" sign next to each performance measure.

Below is progress being made on our identified health priorities:

Healthy Behaviors

Minority Diabetes Prevention Program

Greene County Department of Public Health's Minority Diabetes Prevention Program is honored to share that we've received the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Diabetes Prevention Program Full Plus Recognition. This recognition proclaims that our program helps reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes in those who have completed the program.



Substance Use Disorders

Greene County Family Accountability and Recovery Court

Greene County Family and Accountability and Recovery Court had its first two graduates from the program in

July and October 2023. Our graduates have been empowered to live a healthy and substance-free life while in recovery. They walk away with skills to engage productively with their families and within the community.

Morbidity and Mortality Changes Since Last CHA

Greene County has seen an increase in the rate of opioid overdose deaths per 100,000 North Carolina Residents. From 2017-2021 the rate per 100,000 was 14.3. From 2016-2020 the rate per 100,00 was 12.4. Compared to the state rate of 22.7 from 2017-2021 and 19.3 from 2016-2020. Substances contributing to overdose deaths in Greene County are heroin and/or fentanyl and commonly prescribed opioid medications.

Emerging Issues Since Last CHA

Fentanyl Mixed (adulterated) with Xylazine

On July 11, 2023, the White House released a National Response Plan to address the emerging threat of illegally made fentanyl mixed with xylazine. Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine. It is a major contributor to fatal and nonfatal overdoses in the U.S. Xylazine is a tranquilizer used by veterinarians to relax or sedate animals. It is not approved for use in people.

Xylazine has been detected in nearly every state in the country. Xylazine can be life-threatening and is especially dangerous when combined with opioids like fentanyl.

Due to its impact on the opioid crisis, fentanyl mixed (adulterated) with xylazine has been declared an **emerging threat** by the White House's Office of National Drug Control Policy.

The National Response Plan focuses on six pillars of action:

1. Testing
2. Data Collection
3. Evidence-Based Prevention, Harm Reduction, and Treatment
4. Supply Reduction
5. Scheduling
6. Research

Commercialization of COVID-19

In the fall of 2023, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced that the cost of COVID-19 medical countermeasures, including vaccines, treatments, and test kits, will be available through commercial pathways.

Free updated COVID-19 vaccines are available to most adults living in the NC through their private health insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid plans. There are two programs available for people without insurance or whose insurance doesn't cover the cost.

Babies, young children, and adolescents may get no-cost vaccines through the CDC's **Vaccines for Children Program** at healthcare providers' offices, pharmacies, and health clinics enrolled in the VFC Program. Eligibility is for children ages 18 years or younger who meet at least one of the following requirements:

- American Indian or Alaska Native

- Medicaid-eligible
- Uninsured
- Underinsured

Adults 18 years and older without health insurance and adults whose health insurance does not cover all COVID-19 vaccine costs at an in-network provider can get free updated COVID-19 vaccines through the **Bridge Access Program**. The program will create a unique public-private partnership to help maintain uninsured individuals' access to COVID-19 care at local pharmacies, through existing public health infrastructure, and at local health centers.

New/Paused/Discontinued Initiatives Since Last CHA

New Initiatives

Since our last CHNA, **Greene County Adult Accountability and Recovery Court (AARC)** has implemented a new initiative to help provide extensive recovery support services and accountability.

Adult Accountability and Recovery Court is a post-conviction program that provides alternative sentencing in a multi-phase intervention program designed for adults with a substance use disorder who have pled guilty to a substance use-driven offense.

This recovery court provides extensive recovery support services as well as accountability. Participants are linked to substance use and mental health assessments and treatments; drug and alcohol testing; community resources for housing, transportation, employment, education, parenting, and financial management classes; and collaborative support teams of community and judicial personnel. The strength of the coalition is its community collaboration.

Greene County AARC had its first two participants to join the program in August 2023.

Family Accountability and Recovery Court has driven the development of a coalition, **Recovery Together Eastern North Carolina (ENC)**. This coalition brings together partners from the justice system, the treatment community, and all other relevant stakeholders that provide resources for those in recovery from substance use disorder in Greene, Lenoir, and Wayne Counties.

Greene County Department of Public Health received the **American Heart Association Bronze Level Workforce Well-being Scorecard Recognition**. This award recognizes the work we are doing to build a culture of health and well-being for our staff.

