

Community Health Improvement Plan Progress Report- 2025-2026

Priority Area: Teen Births – Number of births to girls ages 15-19 per 1,000 population

Teen Pregnancy Rate in Cleveland County 2023: 93 pregnancies, rate of 28.1/1,000 population (NC State Center for Health Statistics – NC state rate of 20.8/1,000 population - most current data available)

Teen Birth Rate in Cleveland County 2024: 66 births, rate of 19.5/1,000 population (NC Data Portal – NC state rate of 14.3/1,000 population)

Strategy/Intervention	Measure	2025-2026 Outcome	How Community Partners Were Engaged
Maintain/enhance medically-accurate, culturally appropriate comprehensive reproductive health and safety educational programming delivered through health and physical education classes in Cleveland County Schools (Strong Teens Life Skills based on 3Rs: Rights, Respect, Responsibility) with active parental consent; seven sessions each semester Reported on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County as a metric	# schools served	3	3 Rs curriculum adapted for Cleveland County delivered at three high schools – Burns, Crest and Kings Mountain with on-site contacts identified by Cleveland County Schools administrators
	# students enrolled in classes	563	Students participate in classes and surveys only with active parental consents; school contact personnel assist in distributing and collecting consent forms prior to classes beginning each semester; Fall 2025, 394 forms distributed and 288 returned for average of 73% Spring 2026, 351 forms distributed and 239 returned for average of 68%
	# students who reach threshold (75% of classes attended)	483 students attended 75% of classes meeting threshold requirement- 85% was average of students meeting threshold exceeding state expectations	Attendance taken daily in classes by program facilitators; student absences often due to illness; other reasons for absences include being pulled for driver education and remediation/enrichment opportunities
Develop and implement a Strong Teens Youth Council to serve as student advisory body for delivery of Strong Teens curriculum Reported on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County as a metric	# students participating in the council	9	Students selected from Cleveland Early College since this site enrolls students from across the county; selected in competitive process involving application, recommendation of faculty advisor, and two additional recommendations (not from family members) students must complete the Cleveland County government Volunteer Waiver Form and have an active consent to participate in the Youth Council from their parent/guardian
	# council meetings annually	8- (staff member on maternity leave for September meeting)	Council meetings held monthly during the school year on-site at Cleveland Early College High School; only eight meetings in past year due to CCHD lead

			staff member still on maternity leave in September; meetings held during student activity period with Cleveland Early College faculty advisor present; additional communication with Council members through email distribution list
	# activities or special events collaboratively sponsored by council	6	Youth Council members sponsored or participated in multiple events during the past year: Produced an updated version of the Cleveland County Youth Resource Guide; Created a social media campaign to highlight the prevalence of teen pregnancy and the importance of providing accurate reproductive health information; Volunteered at the Feeding Kids Cleveland County Thanksgiving Table event in November at multiple sites; Sponsored Emergency Food Bags to collect non-perishable food items for CCHD patients; Shared information about teen pregnancy prevention at the Cleveland Community College student Spring Fling; Volunteered at the VIA Health Partners fund raising Chicken Dinner
	# social media messages created by council members	2	Developed two specific messages about the importance of delivering accurate, timely and age and culturally appropriate information on why reproductive health education is important for teens; messages were posted on CCHD website and Facebook pages as well as forwarded to personal accounts
Identify/engage in opportunities to deliver reproductive health and safety education to youth and young adults in traditional and non-traditional settings in Cleveland County	# sites identified	0	Lead CCHD staff member on maternity leave through September 2025; second staff members assigned to project resigned in August 2025 to accept a full-time teaching position; other staff members in Health Education unit continued to provide information on teen pregnancy prevention programs at community events such as church-sponsored health fairs and CCHD Harvest Healthy Habits; print information shared with community partners
	# youth and young adults participating in education, including evaluation	0 Strategy not completed due to staff turnover—staff member resigned August 2025	

Reported in Progress Notes on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland Count			Plan in development to reach this benchmark in 2026-2027
Maintain/enhance the work of the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition to address multiple issues associated with teen pregnancy and teen births Reported in Progress Notes on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County	# members recruited for TPPC	31	Teen Pregnancy Prevention Coalition functions as the Community Advisory Council for this project; members are drawn from agencies such as DSS, Cleveland County Schools, Cleveland County Family YMCA, Abuse Prevention Council, Gardner-Webb University Health Sciences Department, Atrium Women's Health practices, Cleveland County Health Department staff (especially from child health clinic, family planning clinic and STD clinic), Cleveland County Partnership for Children, Minority Health Council of Cleveland County, volunteers and retired individuals in the county; one CAC members represents teen parents; Youth Council members are also invited to meetings
	# TPPC meetings held each year	4	Meetings are held quarterly at the Cleveland County Health Department – August, November, February and May; CAC members received updates on data collected by program facilitators as well as by TPPI administrators; in November and May annually the student satisfaction survey data is reviewed by CAC members to make program edits as needed; August meeting is devoted to preparing packets of feminine hygiene products for distribution in schools
	# TPPC special events sponsored annually	2—Feminine Hygiene Products drive- 996 kits created for distribution by school nurses in elementary, middle and high schools in CCS; May quarterly meeting hosted members of the Strong Teens Youth Council for a special presentation on their work with slides distributed to TPPC members to share in the community	Primary special event is the Feminine Hygiene Product collection drive held in June and July annually; collection boxes are distributed to various community partners (Minority Health Council, Shiloh Baptist Church, Palmer Grove Baptist Church Women's Association, Allen Memorial Baptist Church, Emergency Department Atrium Health Cleveland, Credit Union offices in Shelby, Boiling Springs and Kings Mountain, YMCA locations in the county, Cornerstone Dental Associates, Davidson Association in Kings Mountain, Galilee United Methodist Church, and Cleveland County Health Department/Department of Social Services); contributions were also received from individuals

			serving on the CAC; enough products were received to create 996 kits containing pads and tampons for distribution to students through the CCHD network of school nurses; Second special event occurred at the May CAC meeting when Youth Council members made a presentation of their work during the year; slides from the presentation were shared with CAC members for distribution through their work and personal networks
	% of members who engage in TPPC-sponsored special events	75%	Attendance is recorded and reported at all special events to reach this benchmark
Design and deliver community messaging campaign regarding issues around teen pregnancy and teen births Reported in Progress Notes on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County	# issues identified for inclusion in campaign	5	Issues identified for campaign include: - Program overview with student satisfaction survey results; - Let's Talk messages focusing on supporting and improving parent-child communication; - Data on the teen pregnancy rate in Cleveland County compared to state data; - Data on the teen birth rate in Cleveland County compared to state data; - Data on the teen STI rates in Cleveland County compared to state data – includes chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis and HIV-AIDS;
	# messages developed for each specific issue	Average of 3-5 messages developed for each issue	Messages were developed by CCHD staff responsible for management of the reproductive health program; assistance in data collection and formatting provided by CCHD health educators as well as data provided by NC DHHS Division of Public Health statisticians
	# delivery streams identified and utilized	Minimum of four	Delivery streams include: - CCHD website, Facebook and Instagram social media accounts; - Parent newsletters developed specifically for each of the three schools – delivered at the

			beginning and again at the end of each teaching sequence to introduce the facilitators, share the topics to be discussed and summarize the student satisfaction results; Bulletin boards prepared for viewing at the CCHD facility near the lab where patients wait – especially effective during Let’s Talk Month (October) Messages shared with members of the CAC for posting on their personal social media accounts
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Community Health Improvement Plan Progress Report – 2025-2026

Priority Area: Drug Overdose Deaths – Drug overdose deaths in North Carolina per 100,000 population, age adjusted

Number of Medication Take Back Boxes in Cleveland County: 16

Number of ED Visits due to overdoses in Cleveland County: 2023 – 243; 2024 – 154; 2025 – 140; 2026 (projected) 116

Number of overdose deaths involving illicit opioids in Cleveland County: 2023 – 37; 2024 – 19; 2025 (projected) 18

Source for ED Visits and deaths: NCDHHS Division of Public Health – NC Overdose Epidemic Data (<https://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov/programs-services/chronic-disease-and-injury/injury-and-violence-prevention-branch/north-carolina-overdose-epidemic-data>)

Strategy/Intervention	Measure	2025-26 Outcome	How Community Partners were Engaged
Maintain/enhance delivery of the <u>Too Good for Drugs</u> , an evidence-based substance use prevention curriculum for students Reported on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County as a metric	# of sites served with curriculum	3	- Coordinated with school administrators and teachers to schedule and support curriculum delivery during the school year. - Engaged the Boys & Girls Club to expand substance use prevention education during the summer break through out-of-school time programming. - Provided community partners with information about Too Good for Drugs and its role in preventing youth substance use.
	# students participating in curriculum	1,583	

	% of students reporting alcohol use in the past 30 days	*Due to the Parents of Bill of Rights now requiring active consent for students' participation in surveys, we did not have enough students participate in the CLYDE Survey for the sample to be considered reliable. Therefore, we do not have updated data to report. The Parents Bill of Rights has also impacted participation rates in the student pre- and post-surveys for the Too Good for Drugs Program. While participation in these surveys has significantly decreased, we did have some students participate. However, these surveys are completed electronically and results are sent directly to the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation (PIRE) for analysis. We have not yet received our results from PIRE for the 2025-26 school year.	
	% of students reporting marijuana use in the past 30 days	*same as above	
	% of students reporting prescription drug misuse in the past 30 days	*same as above	
Maintain/enhance delivery of the Student Options and Redirection (SOAR) Program delivered to students in violation of Cleveland County Schools Substance Abuse Policies and Procedures to reduce out-of-school suspensions	# of students enrolled in the SOAR Program	42	Information was shared with community partners about SOAR, its purpose, and how it supports students
	% of students who complete four sessions of the SOAR Program	71	

Reported on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County as a metric			who violate substance use policies. - Coordinated with school staff to support students referred to SOAR and promote alternatives to out-of-school suspension. - Connected students and families with community resources and supports when additional needs were identified.
Maintain/enhance the Lock Your Meds program to support options for appropriate storage and/or disposal of prescription medications Reported on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County as a metric	# of people reached through comprehensive messaging campaign	102,173	- Provided community partners with information about Lock Your Meds and the importance of safe medication storage and disposal. - Worked with community partners to share or distribute medication storage and disposal resources to community members. - Made medication lock boxes available
	# of medication take back events held in the county	3	
	# of medication lock boxes distributed in the county	119	
	# of home medication disposal kits distributed in the county	23	
	Reported volume of medication collected (pounds or doses)	*requested from CCSO	
	# coalition meetings held annually	6	
	# coalition work groups established	2	
	# community education events held	7	

			to community partners and community members to support safe storage of prescription medications.
Provide Recovery Support to Cleveland County residents using a Community Navigator to link individuals to recovery support services Reported in Progress Notes on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County	# of contacts made in the community	512	• Worked with community partners to identify and refer Cleveland County residents to the Certified Peer Support Specialist serving as the Community Navigator for recovery support services. • Coordinated with community partners to connect residents with peer recovery support, treatment, housing, transportation, employment, and other community resources based on their individual needs. • Provided community partners with information about
	# of unique contacts seeking recovery support services	28	
	# of referrals to recovery support services	85	

			the Community Navigator and available peer recovery support services.
Maintain/enhance Naloxone distribution in Cleveland County Reported in Progress Notes on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County	# of units of naloxone distributed in Cleveland County	1,107 (pharmacy only) – does not include PORT or Recovery Connect	• Provided community partners with information about naloxone availability through the Health Department drive-thru pharmacy and the importance of having naloxone on hand in case of an overdose. • Provided naloxone to community partners for distribution to individuals and families throughout Cleveland County. • Discussed naloxone distribution box placement throughout the community with community partners and coordinated placement at a community partner location.
	# of unique patients served by program	132	

Maintain/enhance the work of PORT – Post Overdose Response Team – staffed by community paramedics to serve residents of Cleveland County Reported in Progress Notes on Healthy NC 2030 Scorecard for Cleveland County <i>Data captures September-June 30, 2025; unable to locate prior records due to changes within EMS</i>	% of patients started on medication assisted treatment	8%	• Provided community partners with information about PORT and how the team supports residents following an overdose. • Coordinated with community partners to connect PORT participants with treatment, recovery, and other community resources based on their individual needs. • Worked with community partners to expand opportunities for PORT services and connections to care for Cleveland County residents.
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