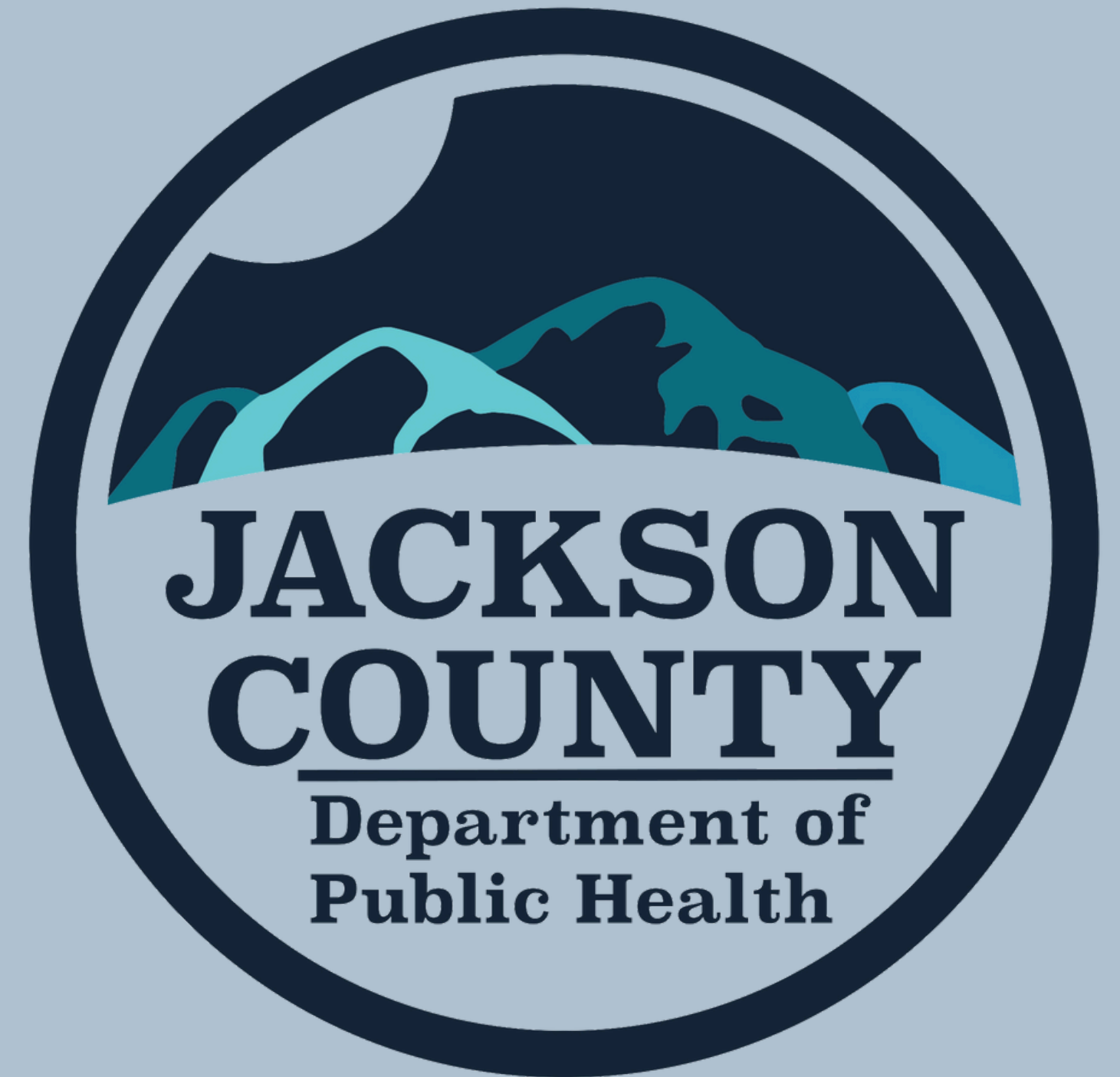


Jackson County Department of Public Health

July 1, 2025

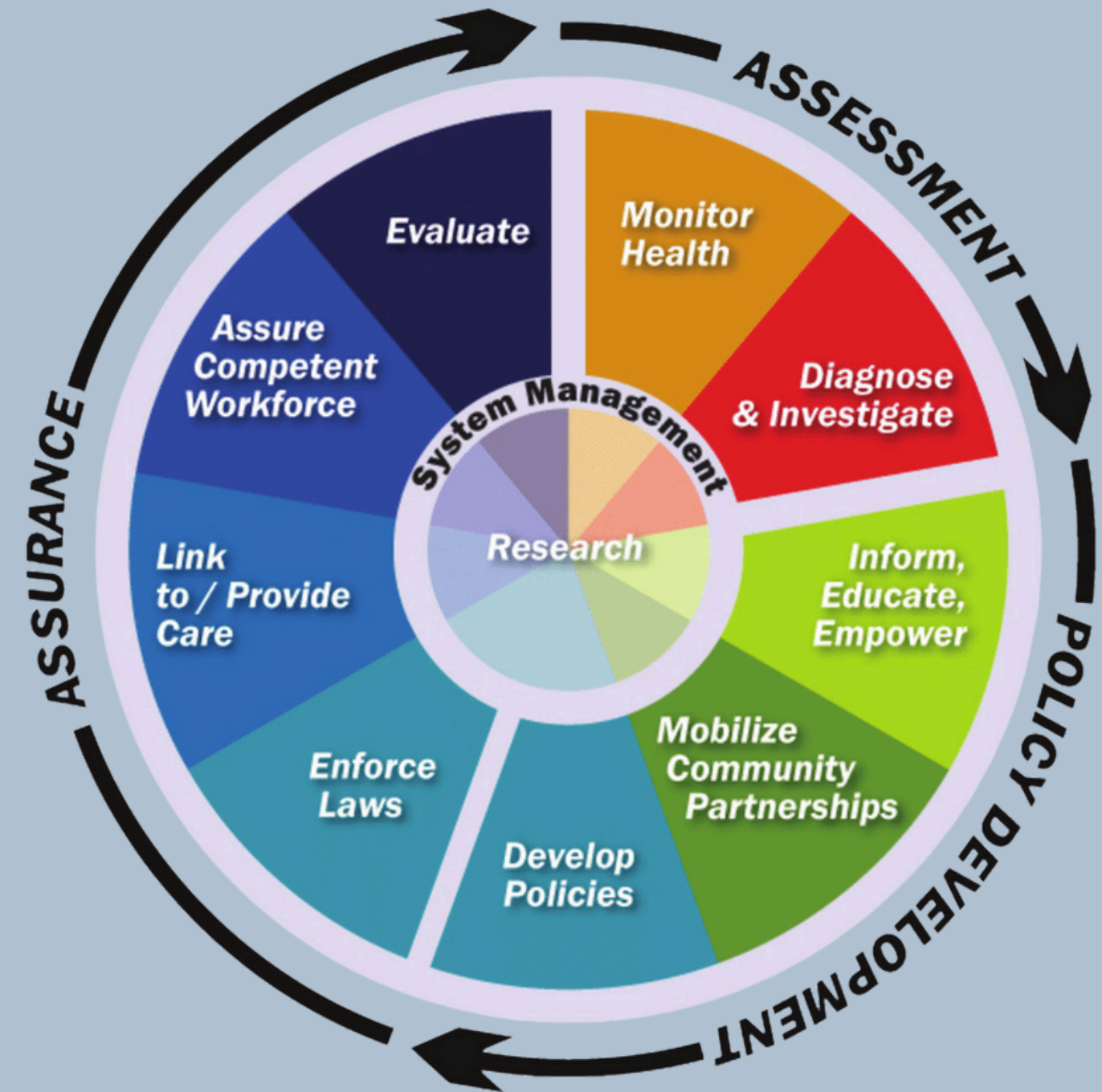
Anna Lippard, Health Director

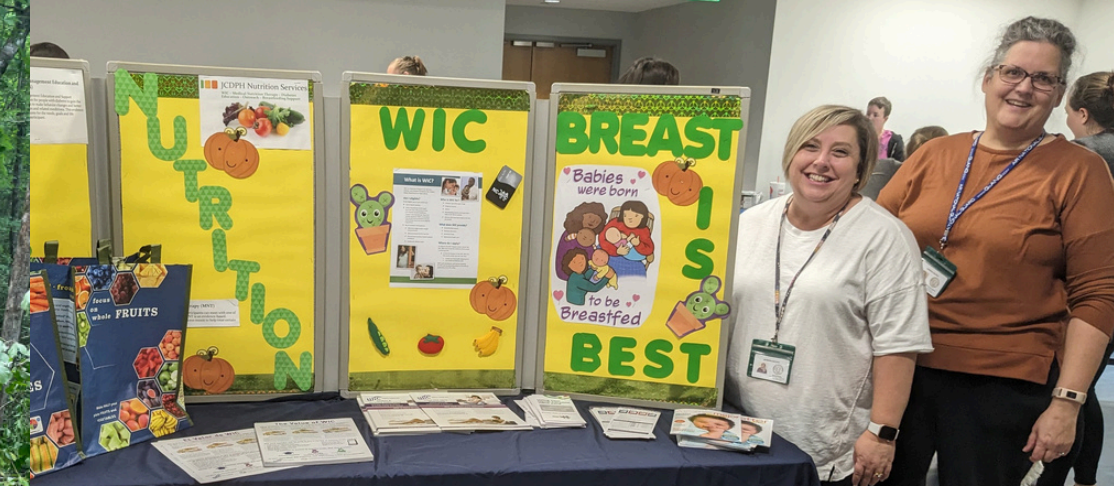




**Our mission is to ensure,
enhance, promote, and protect
the health of our residents
through prevention and
education.**

Public health (also called population health) is the science of protecting and improving the health of people and their communities.





THIS IS
PUBLIC
HEALTH



Staff



- 63 Full-time employees
- 3 Part-time employees
- Medical Director
- Temporary Part-time employees





Jackson County Board of Health

The Board's authority is established by NC General Statute 135A-35: "The Board of Health shall be the policy making, rule making, and adjudicatory body for a county health department."

The members are appointed by the Jackson County Board of Commissioners and shall be composed of the following 11 members:

- Licensed physician
- Licensed dentist
- Licensed optometrist
- Licensed veterinarian
- Registered nurse
- Licensed pharmacist
- County commissioner
- Professional engineer
- Three at-large, representatives from the public

All Board members must be residents of Jackson County, except as otherwise provided in NC General Statutes.

Accredited with Honors

- NC General Statute requires that all local health departments obtain and maintain accreditation
- NC Public Health Accreditation occurs every 4 years and includes a self-assessment, a site visit by a multidisciplinary team of peers, and determination status by an independent board
- In May 2025, JCDPH was designated Accreditation with Honors by the NC Local Health Department Accreditation Board
- “With Honors” designation is for counties missing one or less activities within each of five standards, JCDPH met 145 of 147 activities





Services offered include:

- Clinical Services
- School Health Program
- Laboratory Services
- WIC & Nutrition Services
- Vital Records
- Environmental Health
- Animal Control & Shelter
- Emergency Preparedness
- Health Education & Community Outreach

Clinical Services

- Immunizations for all ages
- Pregnancy testing
- Communicable Disease--screening, investigation, treatment, & education
- Adult Health--wellness, physicals: CDL, BLET, college, pre-employment
- Children's Health--school health and sports physicals
- Women's Health--Pregnancy Care, Family Planning, Breast & Cervical Cancer Control Program
- Sexual Health--prevention, testing, counseling, and treatment
- Employee Health--benefit for county employees
- Care Management--pregnant women and children birth to 5
- Community Outreach--Vecinos, worksite wellness, mobile mammogram screenings, health fairs, senior center, detention center, Community Table, thrift store, WCU, etc.
- Host site for SCC, WCU, and other higher education students for clinical rotations and preceptorships



School Health Program

- Successfully completed the 24/25 school year
- Program includes 5 School Nurses and 2 Community Health Assistants
- Cover all 9 Jackson County Public Schools
- Developed program policies and procedures
- Partnered with Blue Ridge Health for school-based health clinics
- Joined the Early Intervention Team at JCPS to address school attendance issues
- Partnered with clinical staff to expand outreach; Back to School Bash & vaccine clinic at Smokey Mountain Elementary
- Trained school staff on medication administration, EPI-pen usage, first aid, and individual student care plans
- From January through the end of May, staff provided 3,430 student visits



Laboratory Services

- Participate in the NC State Laboratory of Public Health contract program, operating under their CLIA contract
- Provide lab services for our clinical patients, outside orders, & outreach
- Accept laboratory testing orders from all authorized Medical Providers nationwide.
- Staffed with certified Urine Drug Screen and Breath Alcohol Testing collectors.
- Certified by the NC State Public Water Section to perform water testing (Coliform, E. coli, and nitrate) for general public and public water suppliers
- Labs not processed in-house are sent to a reference lab



WIC and Nutrition Services

WIC:

The WIC program serves low-income pregnant, postpartum, and breastfeeding women, infants, and children up to age 5 who are at nutritional risk by providing, healthy foods, breastfeeding promotion and support, nutrition education and community referrals.

- JCDPH WIC serves an average caseload 800-850 participants.
- Jackson County WIC purchases locally totaled **\$821,232.43** in SFY 2024
- The Jackson County WIC program employs a staff with more than 82 years of combined years of WIC service.



WIC and Nutrition Services

Medical Nutrition Therapy

- Medical nutrition therapy (MNT) is an evidence-based, individualized nutrition process meant to help treat certain medical conditions.
- Registered Dietitians (RDs) provide Medical Nutrition Therapy by appointment, with a physician referral.
- **Our program is one of the few MNT providers in WNC at this time.**

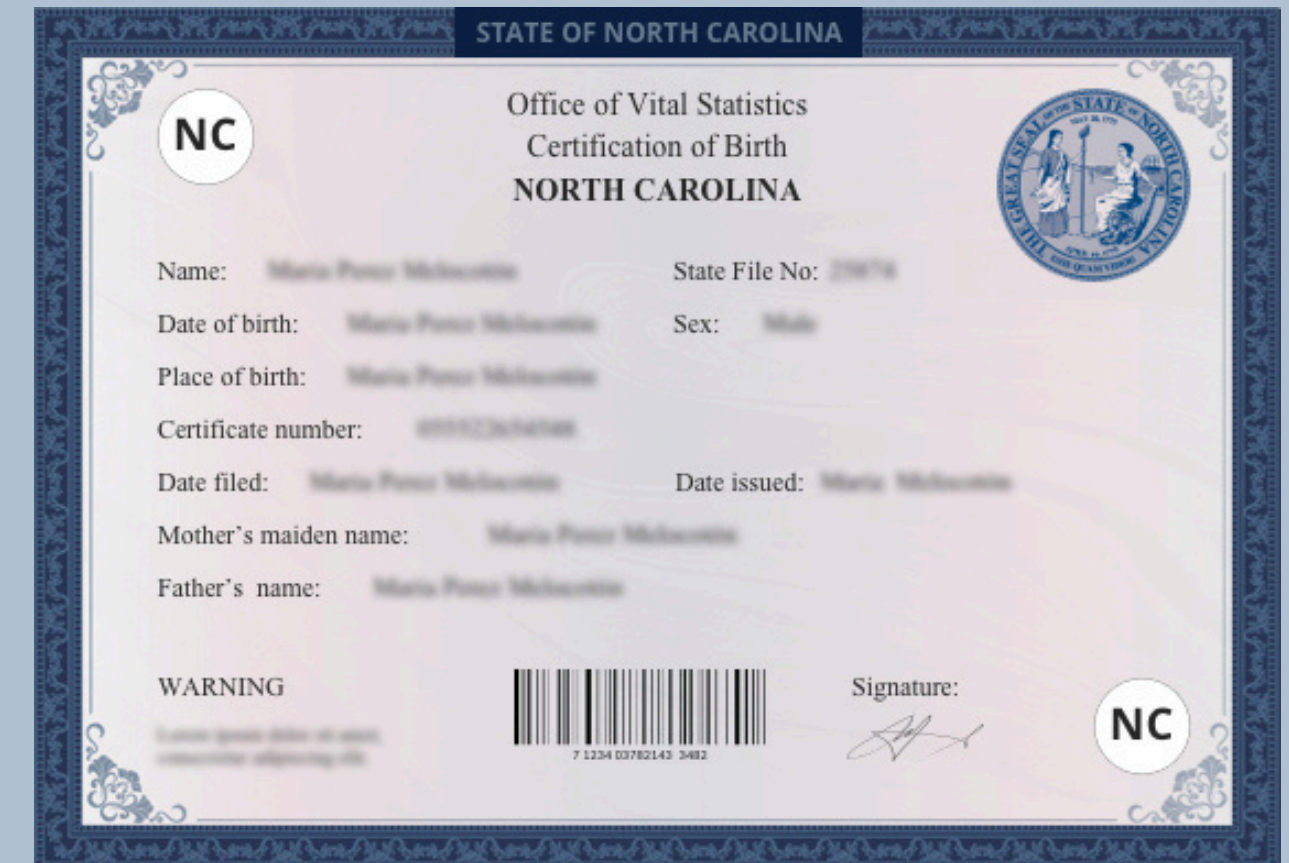


Diabetes Self-Management Education and Support Program (DSMES)

- JCDPH is a part of the umbrella program Diabetes Smart NC, achieving ADA Recognized Status in 2009.
- DSMES focuses on self-care behaviors such as healthy eating, being active and monitoring blood sugar and is a key step in improving health outcomes and quality of life for people with diabetes.
- Our program has years of data to demonstrate the program success.

Vital Records

- In NC, the administration of Vital Records falls under the purview of the local health department.
- NC General statute outlines the responsibilities of the Health Department and the Health Director in managing vital records, including birth and death certificates.
- The Local Health Director serves as the local registrar and is responsible for vital records services within their jurisdiction.
- The Health Director appoints Deputy Registrars to process these records, in Jackson County we currently have 2 Deputy Registrars.
- Collaborate with Register of Deeds, local hospital, & funeral homes
- In FY 25 we registered 141 births and 320 deaths

This is a sample of a North Carolina Birth Certificate. The header at the top reads "STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA" and "Office of Vital Statistics Certification of Birth NORTH CAROLINA". It includes a circular seal on the right side. The form contains fields for personal information: Name (Maria Ponce Melendez), State File No. (20074), Date of birth (Maria Ponce Melendez), Sex (Male), Place of birth (Maria Ponce Melendez), Certificate number (0000000000), Date filed (Maria Ponce Melendez), Date issued (Maria Melendez), Mother's maiden name (Maria Ponce Melendez), and Father's name (Maria Ponce Melendez). At the bottom, there is a "WARNING" section, a barcode with the number 7 1234 03782143 3482, a signature line with a handwritten signature, and another "NC" logo in the bottom right corner.

Environmental Health

- Permit Center implemented a new software program to link departments for access to records and application process.
 - Held education and Q&A sessions for the public
 - Developed “How to guides” for website to assist the public
- FY 25 Lead Time: 0.98 Days Until 1st Contact for Septic/Well Applications, 3.05 days to 1st Appointment and to 5.08 days to permit issued
- Processed 581 onsite wastewater applications and 157 well applications
- Collected 816 water samples
- Implemented an Operation and Maintenance program for Onsite
- Performed 806 Food and Lodging Inspections
- Provided Septic Installers training for western North Carolina septic installers continuing education requirements (178 participants in 2025)
- Provided education to restaurant owners through ServSafe and outreach, to school cafeteria staff, and 5th graders for field day
- Assisted with training for WNC Regional Early Care and Education Summit to Child Care Workers in Western North Carolina (121 participants in 2024)
- Responded to needs due to Hurricane Helene with water supply sampling, water supply repairs, septic repairs, boil water notices and other needs for EH as presented.
- Held education meeting with pool operators for updates to the Pool Drain Safety Compliance Sheet
- Assisted other counties with services during Helene recovery



Animal Control and Shelter

- Responsibilities:
 - Enforce county ordinance and state laws applicable to cruelty to animals
 - Rabies control and prevention
 - Investigate animal cruelty
 - Maintaining the Animal Shelter
- Continue to expand community partnerships for monthly pet sponsorships, adoption events, and pet food/supply donations
- Hold 3 Rabies Vaccine clinics a year: last Saturday in March, June, & Sept.
 - March clinic administered 100 rabies and 77 distemper vaccines!
- Helene response free pet food distribution:
 - 3x/week for 6 months!
 - Transitioned to once monthly--next event is July 11th 2-4 PM
 - \$10,000 grant from ASPCA for hurricane relief efforts
- Animal Control Officer Trainings (NACA, euthanasia, certified rabies vaccinators) and SMART Shelter training
- Volunteer program



Emergency Preparedness

- Enhance public safety and response capabilities during public health emergencies such as disease outbreaks, natural disasters, chemical or radiological incidents, and severe weather events.
- Collaborate closely with Jackson County Emergency Management, the Western Region, and State Public Health Preparedness and Response teams.
- Conduct and participate in emergency response exercises, including:
 - A Chemical Incident Tabletop Exercise with community partners (June 2025)
 - A Measles Outbreak Tabletop Exercise (June 2025)
 - Annual Flu Clinics utilized as real-time preparedness drills
- Hurricane Helene response: staffed emergency operation center, shelters, PODS, door-to-door visits
- Update and revise the County Shelter Plan in 2025 with DSS and EM.
- Continuously improve communication and coordination with local partners to strengthen community-wide emergency preparedness.



Health Education & Community Outreach

Health Priorities:

- Determined by the Community Health Assessment
- Healthy Eating- education/ awareness on consuming healthy foods (fruits/ veggies) and food insecurities
- Substance Use- Support Opioid Settlement funded programs, Overdose education and Naloxone distribution program
- Mental Health- community education and awareness including suicide prevention

Substance Use Prevention:

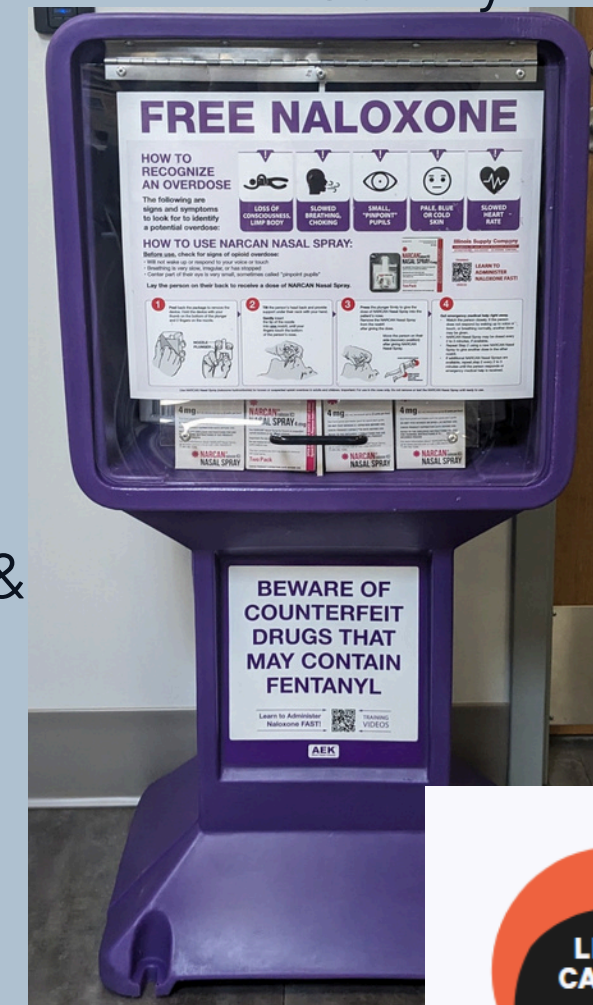
- Planning and evaluation of Opioid Settlement Funds
- Formed the Opioid Settlement Council to determine needs & priorities for funding
- Provides education for community members
- First wave of funding approved in June 2025 for 3 years

Hepatitis C Bridge Counselor:

- Regional position
- Connects those that test positive for Hepatitis C to treatment and resources.

Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention:

- 3 R's (Rights, Respect, Responsibilities) curriculum
- Grant funded program
- Implemented with 9th grade students in Jackson County



Hepatitis C is a leading cause of liver cancer.



Millions of Americans have hepatitis C. Many don't know it.



Hepatitis C can be cured.

Health Education & Community Outreach

Cullowhee Community Garden:

- Organic, donation based garden
- 794 lbs of organic produce donated to local food relief in 2024
- Volunteer workdays on Wed. & Sat.
- Internship opportunities

Safe Kids Jackson County:

- Promotes injury prevention for children ages 0-14
- Partners include: Harris EMS, Emergency Management, Fire Depts, Sheriffs Office, JCPS, Parks & Rec Dept.
- Bicycle safety, Child Passenger Safety, Water Safety, Medication Safety, Hot Car Awareness, Firearm safety, Safe sleep, etc.
- 8 events from March -June 2025, reaching over 700 participants
- 9 Life Jacket Loaner Stations throughout the county
- 4 local fire depts. and EM are designated Car Seat Checking Stations





Located at:

538 Scotts Creek Rd., Sylva

Hours of Operation:

Monday- Friday, 7:30 AM- 5 PM

(Late clinic 2nd Wed. of the month, until 7 PM)

Call us at: 828-586-8994

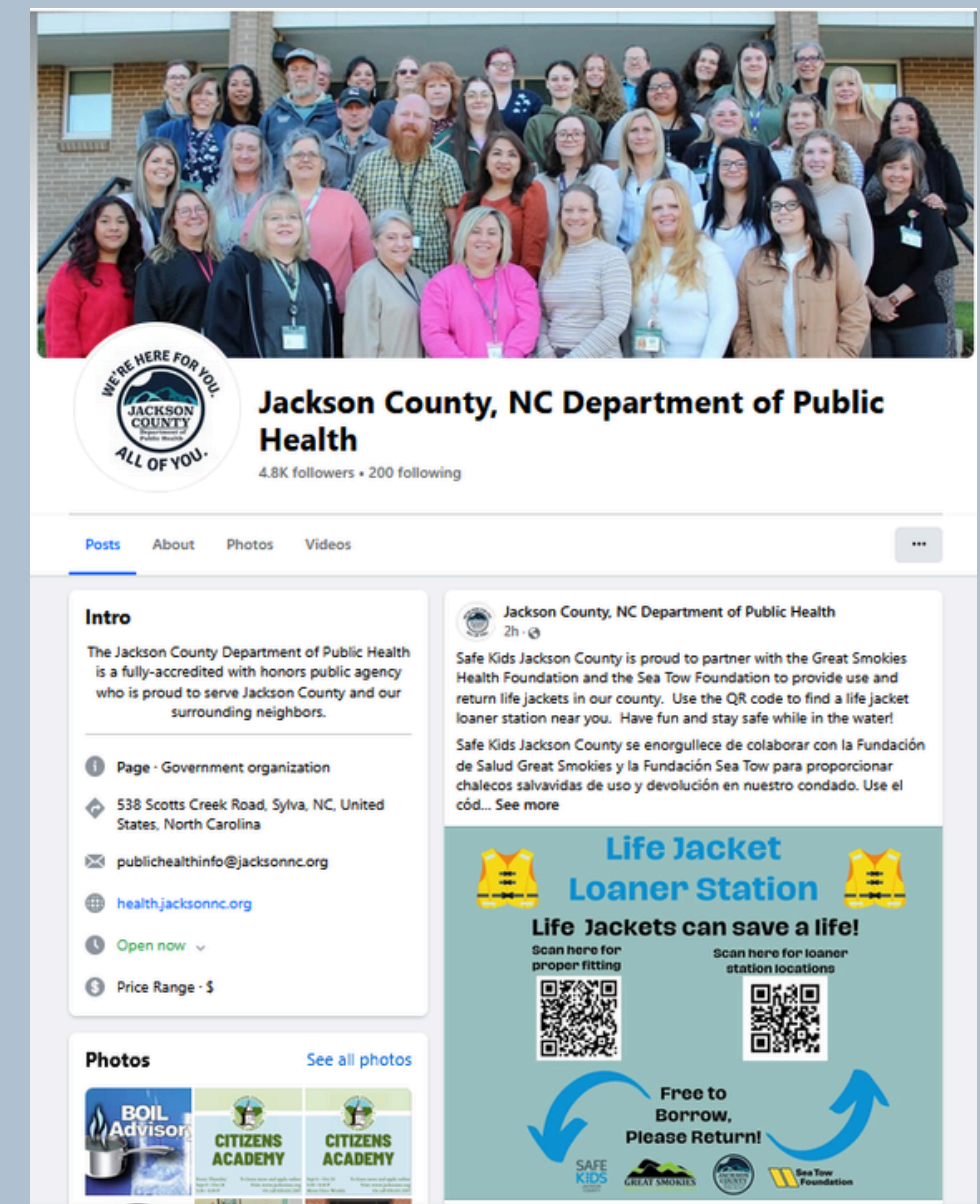
Visit our website:

<http://health.jacksonnc.org/>

Stay Up to Date:

Find us on Facebook and Instagram!

Need more information?



WE'RE HERE FOR YOU!



**JACKSON
COUNTY**

Department of
Public Health

ALL OF YOU.