Edgecombe County was formed in 1732 from Bertie County by proclamation of the Governor. The assembly did not confirm its creation until 1741. The county was named for Richard Edgecombe, who became Baron Edgecombe, an English Nobleman. It covers a 505 square mile area; 55% urban and 45% rural. The town of Tarboro is the county seat. It was incorporated in 1760 and is located on the Tar River. It has a history of a thriving river port throughout the 18th and 19th centuries and Tarboro was once considered as a candidate for North Carolina’s capital city.

Twenty-six individual properties including the historic district of Tarboro are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Many are in or near Tarboro, the county seat. They include: The Barracks, Calvary Episcopal Church, Coolman Plantation, Blount-Briders House, Oakland Plantation, the Town Common, and the Railroad Depot Complex.

In 1999, over 49% of Edgecombe County was flooded after Hurricanes Dennis, Floyd and Irene dumped over 30 inches of rain in less than two weeks. The Tar River had crest at 43 feet above flood stage, leaving more than 6,500 (10%) of the total population of the county housed in emergency shelters. Many of the county’s roads were impassable. The county was virtually an island as roads were either covered with water or blocked by fallen trees and downed power lines. Hundreds of homes were flooded causing many families to be displaced for months throughout Edgecombe County.
In 2006, the top leading causes of death in Edgecombe County were Heart Disease, Cancer, and Cerebrovascular Disease. Over the past 5 years, Heart Disease has remained the #1 leading cause of death in our county, with the exception of 2004, in which Cancer was the leading cause of death.

Chronic diseases such as heart disease, cancer, stroke and even diabetes, are the most preventable of all health problems, and the most costly. “Seven of ten Americans who die each year, or more than 1.7 million people, die of a chronic disease” (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). The major contributor to chronic disease such as heart disease and cancer is the lifestyle’s that individual’s lead. Tobacco use, lack of physical activity, and poor nutrition are three prime examples.

### Top 3 Leading Causes of Death in Edgecombe County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cause</th>
<th>2006 Edgecombe County</th>
<th>North Carolina</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Heart Disease</td>
<td># = 149, Rate = 283.0</td>
<td># = 17,189, Rate = 194.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cancer</td>
<td># = 131, Rate = 248.8</td>
<td># = 17,267, Rate = 194.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cerebrovascular Disease</td>
<td># = 54, Rate = 102.6</td>
<td># = 4,551, Rate = 51.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Emerging Issue

**Stroke Mortality**

Edgecombe County has the highest Stroke death rate in the state: 104.7 deaths per 100,000 people.

### 2006 Community Health Assessment Priorities for Edgecombe County

1. HIV/STD’s
2. Teen Pregnancy
3. Overweight
4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care

### HIV/STD’s in Edgecombe County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>HIV Disease</th>
<th>Chlamydia</th>
<th>Gonorrhea</th>
<th>Syphilis</th>
<th>Tuberculosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>872.8</td>
<td>259.7</td>
<td>218.3</td>
<td>188.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Progress Toward Health Priorities

1. HIV/STD’s
   - Edgecombe County Community Health Alliance meets quarterly to address HIV/STD’s in the community.
   - Free HIV testing at the Edgecombe County Health Department
   - Social Marketing Campaign throughout the community using billboard, movie theater and newspaper ads.
   - Education and outreach with community groups, barbershops, churches, and substance abuse facilities.

2. Teen Pregnancy
   - Family planning health services and education provided at the Edgecombe County Health Department.
   - Community Enrichment Organization holds a Teen Pregnancy Prevention Council, which meets quarterly.
   - Legislation passed new Comprehensive Sex-Education Curriculum for NC 7-9th graders beginning August 2010 school year.

3. Overweight
   - Edgecombe County Health Promotion Program in collaboration with Cooperative Extension expanded the Farmer’s Market and increased community participation.
   - Edgecombe County Employee Wellness Program established an exercise room for county employees.

4. Lack of Affordable Medical Care
   - The Edgecombe County Health Department has a full-time nurse practitioner.
   - The Edgecombe County Health Department has expanded some health services in the Rocky Mount office.

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Teen Pregnancy Trends in Edgecombe County Age 13-17

From 2007 to 2008, Edgecombe County had an increase in teen pregnancies from 62 to 73.

NC State Center for Health Statistics
Sources of Economy

Industries providing employment:
Manufacturing 26.1%, Education, Health & Social Services 16.7%, and Retail 11%

Type of Workers:
Private Wage or Salary 80%, Government 14%, Self-employed, Not Incorporated 5%

U.S. Census

Community members interested in getting involved call:
252-641-7526

The Edgecombe County Health Department exists to serve all citizens in the prevention of disease and injury through protection, promotion, and delivery of quality, cost-effective services for community, personal and environmental health.

Edgecombe County Health Department

Hours of Operation

Tarboro Office
2909 Main Street
Tarboro, NC 27886
252-641-7511

Tarboro
Monday—Friday: 8:00am—5:00pm

Rocky Mount Office
155 Atlantic Avenue
Rocky Mount, NC 27801
252-985-4100

Rocky Mount
Monday-Friday: 8:00am-5:00pm

Call to schedule an appointment