

**ORANGE COUNTY
BOARD OF HEALTH STRATEGIC PLAN
2012-2014**

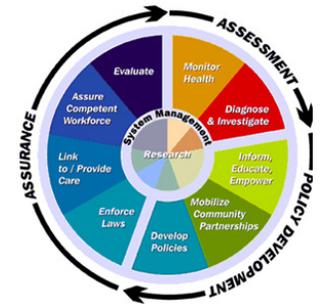
Mission

The mission of the Orange County Health Department is to enhance the quality of life, promote the health, and preserve the environment for all people in Orange County, NC.

Background

Based on the Community Health Assessment completed in 2011, The Orange County Board of Health identified three priority areas to work on over the next four years. The 2012-2014 strategic plan focuses on these priority areas and includes a timeline of action steps to lead them through the next two years, at which time they will assess their progress and develop the 2014-2016 strategic plan to build on their work.

In addition to the three priority areas, and always at the core of all the activities in which the Orange County Board of Health is involved, is a commitment to fulfilling the 10 Essential Public Health Services.



Access to Care

Issues such as lack of resource awareness, low health literacy and sporadic availability of transportation provide barriers to accessing appropriate medical service at the proper time.

- 1) Serve as a catalyst and facilitator for health access partnerships in the county;
- 2) Advocate for and pursue policies/legislation to improve access to health care;
- 3) Foster a culture of innovation at the Health Department so that new ways of addressing this issue can be tested and developed and
- 4) Communicate about effective interventions and advocate for their funding.

Childhood and Family Obesity

Obesity remains a top health concern for Orange County. Primary prevention of obesity by working with children and their families remains the most effective intervention.

- 1) Serve as a catalyst and facilitator for obesity prevention partnerships in the county;
- 2) Identify family specific, evidence-based nutrition and physical activity interventions that can be implemented throughout the county and
- 3) Advocate for and pursue policies/legislation aimed at reducing obesity through environmental and regulatory changes.

Substance Abuse/Mental Health

From exposure to environmental tobacco smoke causing an increase in cardiovascular disease, to the challenges associated with ensuring medication compliance in a depressed patient with a communicable disease, mental health and substance abuse have far-reaching health and economic impacts.

- 1) Review current smoking ban policies for expansion;
- 2) Advocate for and pursue policies/practices/legislation aimed at improving substance abuse and mental health services and
- 3) Work with partners to explore the challenges and potential solutions of integrating mental health and primary care services.

To read the full plan visit:

<http://www.co.orange.nc.us/health/BoardofHealthlinks.asp>

