

ALAMANCE COUNTY

STATE OF THE COUNTY HEALTH REPORT



DECEMBER 2010



ALAMANCE COUNTY DEMOGRAPHICS-AT A GLANCE

Below you will find the demographics for Alamance County and the state of North Carolina, according to the US Census, The Annie E. Casey Foundation-Kids Count Data Center, and the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina. Alamance County consists of nine municipalities. Burlington is the most populated city in the County and Graham is the County's second most populated.

Demographics	Alamance County	North Carolina
Population (2009 est.)	150,358	9,380,884
White	69.7%	70.5%
African American	17.8%	21%
Hispanic/Latino	11.5%	7.6%
Asian	1.4%	2.0%
American Indian and Alaska Native	0.2%	1.1%
Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander alone	0.1%	0.0%
Other Race	8.7%	3.4%
Median Household Income (2009)	\$42,739	\$43,674
Mean Household Income (2009)	\$54,450	\$59,700
Per Capita Income (2009)	\$22,040	\$23,803
Population Below Poverty Level (2009)	15.4%	16.3%
Persons without Health Insurance (2009)	16.4%	16.1%
Children Living in Poverty (under 18yrs old) (2008)	22.8%	19.9%
Households that Received Food Stamps (October 2010)	10,317	686,890
Unemployed (Sept. 2010)	9.9%	9.6%
Students Eligible for Free & Reduced School Lunch (2007)	52%	53.7%

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This SOTCH Report will be disseminated directly to the Alamance County Board of Health, Healthy Alamance Board of Directors, Alamance County United Way, Alamance County Community Council Members, Alamance County Libraries, Alamance-Burlington Schools, and Alamance Regional Medical Center. The information compiled in this report will be posted on the Alamance County website, www.alamance-nc.com, and the Health Alamance website, www.healthyalamance.com. A press release will be issued to all local media summarizing the contents of this report. To obtain more information about this SOTCH please contact Alamance County Health Department (336) 227-0101. To become more involved with the local initiatives please contact Healthy Alamance (336) 513-5590. Your time in reading this report is appreciated.

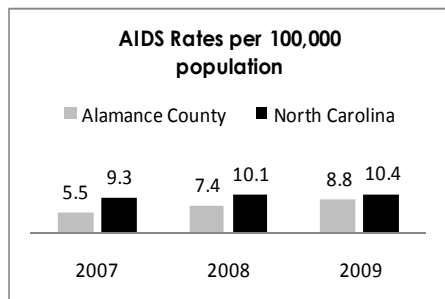
MORBIDITY-COMMUNICABLE DISEASE

According to the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics and the North Carolina HIV/STD surveillance Report, many Alamance County communicable disease rates have changed since the 2009 SOTCH was released..

Disparities

- Incidence rates for syphilis, gonorrhea, and AIDS remain higher among Minorities compared to the total rate for Alamance County.
- The Minority gonorrhea rate although higher than the total rate continues to decline; from 581.3 per 100,000 population in 2003-2007 to 509.8 per 100,000 population in 2005-2009.
- The Minority syphilis rate, though it remains higher than the total Alamance County rate, has continued to decrease from 8.2 per 100,000 population in 2003-2007 to 7.3 per 100,000 in 2005-2009. Additionally, it is lower than the state Minority rate of 10.7 per 100,000 population.

Communicable Disease Rates per 100,000 population (2005-2009)	North Carolina	Alamance County Rate
Gonorrhea	174.2	152.3
Primary & Secondary Syphilis	3.9	2.7



Strengths

- Alamance County's gonorrhea rate decreased from 160.7 per 100,000 in 2003-2007 to 152.3 per 100,000 in 2005-2009 and is significantly lower than the state rate of 174.2 per 100,000.
- Alamance County's 3 year (2007-2009) AIDS cases average rate is 7.2 per 100,000 population compared to the state rate of 9.9 per 100,000.

MORTALITY

Rank	Cause	Number	%
1	Disease of heart	326	22.4
2	Cancer	310	21.3
3	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	98	6.7
4	Cerebrovascular diseases (stroke)	93	6.4
5	Alzheimer's disease	70	4.8
6	All other unintentional injuries	60	4.1
7	Diabetes mellitus	43	2.9
7	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome, & nephrosis	43	2.9
9	Pneumonia & influenza	30	2.1
10	Septicemia	22	1.5
	All other causes (Residual)	363	24.9
	Total Deaths—All Causes	1458	100.0

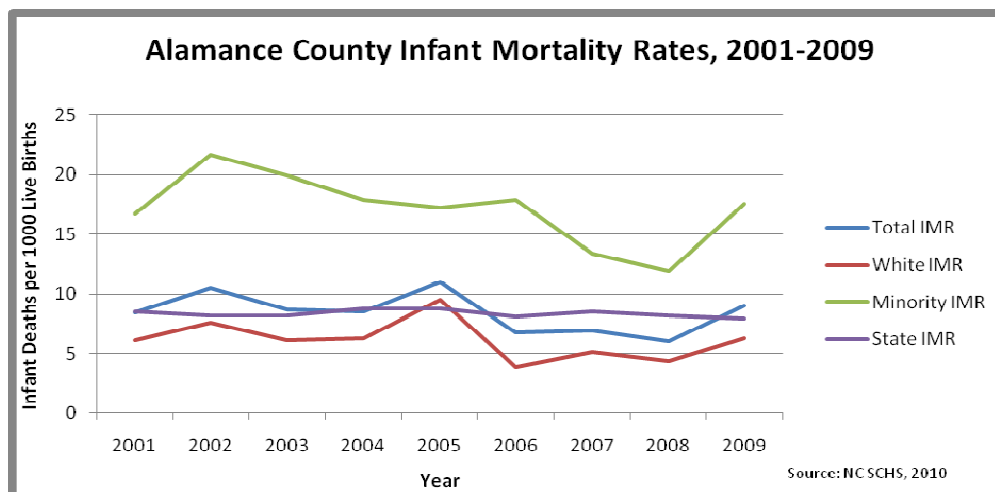
Source: State Center for Health Statistics, North Carolina

The most recent data available from the North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics for calendar year 2008 reveals that the leading causes of death in Alamance County are similar to those in counties across the state.

In Alamance County, Heart Disease reclaimed the top position as the leading cause of death (22.4% of deaths in 2008), followed by Cancer (21.3%), and Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases (6.7%). These top three causes of death accounted for half of the deaths in the county from January 1 through December 31, 2008.

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant mortality is defined as a death that occurs before an infant's first birthday. Alamance County's infant mortality rate for 2009 was 9.0 infant deaths per 1,000 live births. This marks the first time in four years that the county has experience an increase in infant deaths. The total births dropped from 2,015 in 2008 to 1,884 in 2009 while the total infant deaths increased from 12 in 2008 to 17 in 2009. The white infant mortality rate for Alamance County is 6.3 deaths per 1,000 live births while the infant mortality rate among minorities is 17.5 deaths per 1,000 live births. Minorities are 2.8 times more likely to experience an infant death than their white counterparts.



CenteringPregnancy®: In August 2009, Alamance County Health Department (ACHD) began offering CenteringPregnancy® prenatal care to maternity clients. Centering alters routine prenatal care by bringing women out of exam rooms and into groups for their care. Women have their initial OB visit in a traditional setting at which time they are invited to join 10-12 other women with similar due dates in meeting together regularly for prenatal care and health education. The groups form between 12 and 16 weeks of pregnancy and continue through the early postpartum period meeting every month for the first four months and then bi-weekly. Women learn not only from the facilitator but more importantly from one another and their own experiences.

Ten women enrolled in the inaugural Centering group and seven were included in evaluation measures. The average gestational age at delivery for participants was 38.7 weeks and average birth weight was 3153 grams (or 6.9 pounds). Over 85% of the participants initiated breastfeeding and 71.4% continued breastfeeding at six weeks. Over 71% of participants received a post partum visit within eight weeks of delivery. Additionally, 99% of participants reported that prenatal and post partum topics were covered adequately or well covered during Centering groups. In January 2010, the Health Department received March of Dimes funding to conduct two additional Centering groups. Current groups are scheduled for completion in December 2010. The Health Department is moving forward in planning additional groups for 2011 and is preparing for the Centering Healthcare Institute accreditation process.

In September 2010, the Health Department and WIC committed to providing Period of PURPLE Crying Dose 2 materials to clients who care for infants less than five-months old. The PURPLE campaign's aim is to inform caregiver of the normal period of inconsolable crying infants may experience and provides tips for managing crying. Additionally, childcare providers and childbirth class participants will receive PURPLE crying education through a trained health educator.

Since May 2010, the Health Department has provided 535 women of childbearing potential a one-year supply of Multivitamins with Folic Acid through the State Multivitamin Distribution Program.

The HEY Ladies Preconception Health Education program has been continued with local funds. The program provides health behavior counseling using Motivational Interviewing regarding healthy weight, smoking cessation, contraceptive use, and folic acid supplementation. As of October 2010, the program has reached 283 women.

TEEN PREGNANCY

We continue to see a decline in the Alamance County teen pregnancy rate. Recent data released in 2009 shows that there were 53.6 pregnancies per 1,000 girls aged 15-19 compared to 62.5 per 1,000 girls in 2008. This is the first time in years that the Alamance County teen pregnancy rate is slightly lower than the state rate. In 2009, among girls ages 10-14, two pregnancies were reported compared to six pregnancies in 2008. There were 301 pregnancies among girls ages 15-19 in 2009 compared to 349 pregnancies in 2008. In 2009, Alamance County had the state's

59th highest teen pregnancy rate,

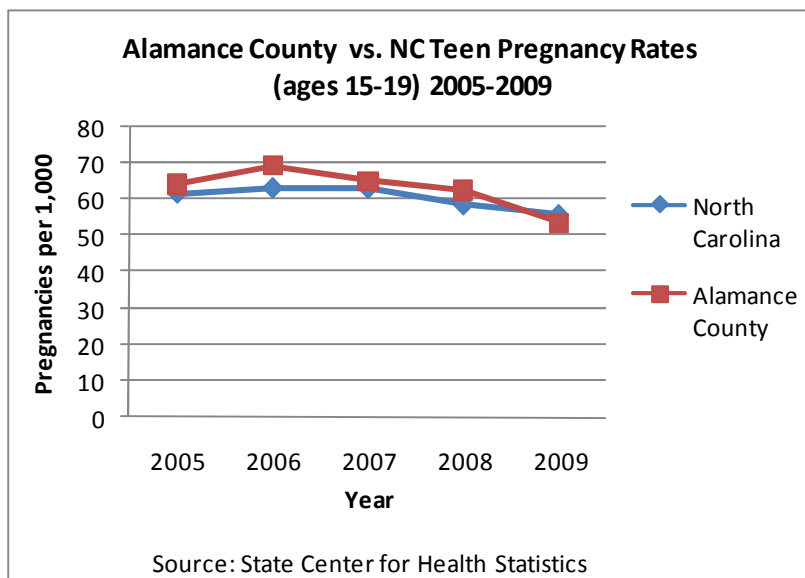
compared to having had the state's 45th highest teen pregnancy rate in 2008. The new state law known as the Healthy Youth Act could further reduce the rates of teen pregnancy.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year, the Healthy Youth Act requires schools throughout the state to provide beneficial information regarding teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted diseases in addition to discussing abstinence. Alamance County has already begun working on efforts to reduce teen pregnancy through the Teen Outreach Program (TOP) that has been implemented in middle schools since 2003.

This program teaches strategies for

pregnancy prevention and incorporates community service. Progress is still being made to increase parent-child communication as well.

Due to the positive feedback of last year's billboard message, "Every Morning an Alamance County Teen Wakes up Pregnant, Talk to Your Kids before it's Too Late", billboards were purchased through a community partnership to post throughout Alamance County focusing on parent-teen communication. The billboards were launched in May to coincide with teen pregnancy prevention month. This message helped increase awareness about teen pregnancy and encouraged the importance of dialogue between parents and teens as a prevention tactic. This billboard served as a constant reminder to the community about what's happening locally and how there's still more work that needs to be done in reducing teen pregnancy.



AIR QUALITY

Local air quality affects how you live and breathe. Like the weather, it can change from day to day or even hour to hour. The Healthy Alamance Child Asthma Coalition is working to make outdoor air quality easy to understand. They are keeping the community informed about the quality of air they breathe by seeking to reduce the burden of asthma in Alamance County through public awareness, education, and administration of asthma related activities. In October 2009, the Coalition was awarded the Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts grant to raise awareness on air quality. The current Air Quality Awareness Flag program was expanded to include 26 additional schools and the Coalition purchased Air Quality Awareness magnets to be placed on all 16 Environmental Health vehicles. Anti-idling signs were also purchased and displayed at prominent drop-off and pick-up locations at all Alamance County schools. These signs will serve as a reminder to bus drivers, parents and caregivers the importance of turning off their car when waiting for their child.

In September 2010, the Healthy Alamance Child Asthma Coalition was awarded additional funds from the Enhancing Local Asthma Efforts grant to expand their public awareness efforts and provide more education to child care facilities and parks and recreation departments throughout the County. By May 1st, 2011, a comprehensive air quality campaign will be developed to promote awareness of the Air Quality Index (AQI) and the Air Quality Forecast in Alamance County. The AQI is an index for reporting daily air quality. It tells you how clean or polluted your air is, and what health effects you may experience within a few hours or days after breathing polluted air. The "Know the Code" advertising on billboards, ACTA buses, and other designated locations will help residents become aware of the air they breathe on a daily basis. To follow the air quality forecast at home or at work, please follow this link: <http://xapps.enr.state.nc.us/aq/ForecastCenter>.

KNOW THE CODES!



Know the Codes advertising that will be part of a comprehensive public awareness campaign by May 1st, 2011



No Idle Zone signs that can be found at all schools in Alamance County.



Air Quality magnets that are on all 16 Environmental Health vehicles.

Substance Abuse

Tobacco Prevention

Healthy Alamance Substance Abuse Task Force (SATF)

The Healthy Alamance Substance Abuse Task Force (SATF) acts as an advisory board for the administration of the NC Health and Wellness Trust Fund Teen Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Initiative grant that passes through fiscal agent, Alamance-Caswell Local Management Entity (LME) where it is currently in the second year of a three-year grant phase. A variety of tobacco prevention activities are conducted through this grant and the SATF, including youth empowerment, support for the Tobacco-Free Schools policy in the Alamance-Burlington School System (ABSS), merchant education, support for smoke-free restaurants and bars, community education, and parent education.

The LME continues to work with the local Alcohol Law Enforcement (ALE) to ensure that tobacco and alcohol merchants are educated on the laws surrounding the sale of age-restricted products. In the summer of 2010, Alamance TRU and youth from several other counties in the region visited 42 Alamance County tobacco retailers to promote the Red Flag campaign, which encourages the careful checking of ID for age-restricted products, and to conduct **StoreAlert** surveys, in which tobacco ads are identified and counted within stores.

TRU – Tobacco.Reality.Unfiltered – is a statewide youth movement promoting tobacco use prevention and cessation among young people. Alamance TRU is composed of teens from ABSS high schools and continues to expand its membership. The teens are trained in tobacco-related topics, from Tobacco 101 to Advocacy 101, and are actively involved in the planning and implementation of tobacco prevention programming in ABSS and across the county.



1-800-QUIT-NOW

The SATF and Alamance TRU continue to promote public knowledge of the ABSS 100% Tobacco-Free Schools Policy and also work with ABSS to promote best practices to increase compliance with the policy. Students, staff, and the general public are encouraged to quit smoking or using other tobacco products by taking advantage of **QuitlineNC** (1-800-QUIT-NOW), a free and confidential service that is proven to help people quit.

On January 2, 2010 House Bill 2 - **North Carolina's Smoke-Free Restaurants and Bars Law** went into effect. This new legislation provides protection from secondhand smoke in restaurants and bars. The Environmental Health Section of Alamance County Health Department has been working closely throughout the year with local businesses to educate them and monitor compliance with the new law. A billboard campaign was seen along interstate I85/40 in Alamance County for the initial three months of implementation for the general public. Overall the majority of restaurants and bars in the county have maintained compliance; we have had approximately a dozen reported complaints/violations come in over the year in regard to a few bars.



To get involved with Alamance TRU, e-mail AlamanceTRU@gmail.com. For more information on the Underage Drinking Initiative, please contact Karen Webb, kwebb7@bellsouth.net

Substance Abuse

Alcohol Prevention - Underage Drinking

The Elon Community Coalition to Prevent Underage Drinking completed year two of the North Carolina Coalition Initiative (NCCI) grant culminating in the completion of the National Coalition Academy through CADCA (Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America). Efforts of the coalition addressed the local problem of underage drinking through the use of environmental strategies through advocacy, alcohol purchase surveys, campaigns such as 0-1-2 Model Responsible Drinking, Talk It Up, Lock It Up!, coordination of youth empowerment and the implementation of PRIDE Surveys with middle and high school students in the Alamance-Burlington School System .

Highlights:

Through funding from the N.C. Coalition Initiative, the PRIDE Survey, a national survey developed to measure alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, was administered for the first time in our community revealing that 20% of 9th graders and 37% of high school students reported using alcohol in the past 30 days. Middle school students who reported using alcohol indicated that they started using at age 10 while high school students who reported using alcohol started at age 13. 16% of middle school students and 54% of high school students reported that getting alcohol was easy.

Talk It Up, Lock It Up! a statewide campaign to change the physical environment relative to youth access to alcohol in the homes was led locally by the Alamance County Youth Advisory Council (ACYAC). Talk It Up, Lock it Up! is a two prong approach to raise community awareness about the extent of the problem of youth taking alcohol from the home and raising community support for adults to monitor and lock up alcohol in their homes. Through community awareness events such as participation in local National Night Outs and Town Hall Meetings adults were asked to pledge to not provide alcohol to anyone underage 21 and to lock up their alcohol.



Through the Alamance County Youth Advisory Council, April was proclaimed Alcohol Awareness and Talk It Up, Lock It Up! Month by the Alamance County Board of Commissioners, the Burlington City Council and the Town of Elon Board of Aldermen.



Advocacy efforts included communication with elected officials and the community to support raising the tax on beer, a proven method to reduce underage drinking, opposition to the naming the new amphitheatre in Raleigh the Bud Light Amphitheatre that was successfully voted down by the N.C. ABC Commission, and support for North Carolina to continue to be a control state for governmental regulation of the distribution of alcohol through licensing of outlets, limitations on hours of operation, taxation and policies.

Alcohol Purchase Surveys conducted twice per year in the community show a positive trend in the sale rate (21% in 2008 to 15% in 2010) by clerks who would have sold alcohol to a youthful appearing individual without checking for proper identification.

CHRONIC DISEASE

The Healthy Alamance Chronic Disease Coalition has remained active since establishment in 2004 because chronic diseases continue to be the leading causes of death. It was formed to encourage disease prevention and reduce health disparities related to Heart Disease/Stroke, Cancer, and Diabetes by working to improve obesity rates. Most recently, the coalition has been looking at the role policy development, programming, the built environment, as well as access to healthy foods and physical activity have on obesity rates. According to the 2010 County Health Rankings, the rate of adult obesity (BMI greater than 30) is 29% in Alamance County. Obesity is often the end result of an overall energy imbalance due to poor diet and limited physical activity. Obesity increases the risk for health conditions such as coronary heart disease, type 2 diabetes, cancer, hypertension, dyslipidemia, stroke, liver and gallbladder disease, sleep apnea, and other respiratory problems, and osteoarthritis (2010 County Health Rankings). Below are some accomplishments from 2010:

Graham Walks, Downtown Walking program continues to be an ongoing program for 6-weeks fall/spring, resulting in over 100 participants.

Hillcrest Elementary School received a third year of funding through **the USDA Fruit and Vegetable** grant, the Alamance County Health Department and Healthy Alamance has continued to partner with the school system on this initiative.

The Alamance County Health Department continues to host local farmers at weekly seasonal markets for employees and clients to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables on site.

In collaboration with the municipal parks and recreation departments, a new community wide physical activity program was developed called **PARC Passport (Physical Activity and Recreation Challenge)**. This took place over the summer months (July-September) at various facilities in the county. Participants used a free passport booklet to explore recreational activities. The program concluded with a grand prize drawing for a new bicycle from J&L Bicycle Company, a local merchant, and physical activity prize packs for runner ups.

Some of the comments from the program included:

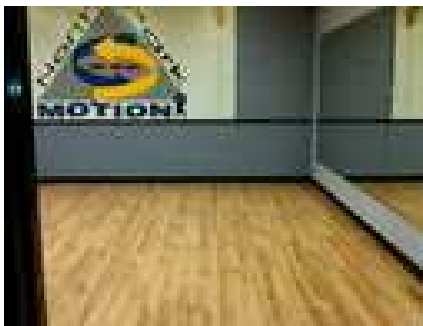
"We had a high demand for passports and stickers throughout the 3 month program," explained Glenda Linens, Alamance County Health Department. "We gave out thousands of passports and received back 74 (completed) passports that had successfully found all ten hidden stickers. We were happy to see people of different ages and parts of the county participate!"

"I saw your PARC contest at the May Memorial Library and decided to participate. While participating, I simply fell in love with the Cedarrock Park and its Disc Golf Courses. When you play these courses you will walk about 2 miles. I then started walking with trails to get in better shape. Along with eating a better diet and walking at the Cedarrock Park, I have lost 25 lbs. I was also spurred to do some activity by a recent high A1c blood test. Since losing the weight and maintaining a healthier lifestyle, I am anxious to see my next blood test results. Thanks for the program and thanks for introducing me to the beautifully maintained Cedarrock Park." – Local Resident

100% of the host sites saw new people using the facilities during the program.



CHRONIC DISEASE



The Alamance County Health Department, Healthy Alamance, along with Elon University continue to work with the City of Burlington's **North Park in Motion** program for it's third year (FIT Community funding ended in June 2010). A community based Leadership Board has been formed to assist with sustainability. The group completed a full day workshop on "Building Community through Cooperation and Diversity" facilitated by Visions Inc. A free youth dance program has completed three sessions (6 weeks each) reaching over 50 ranging in age from toddlers to teens. A reduced rate adult dance program has completed two sessions (10 weeks each) reaching over 60 people. The built environment has been improved to include traffic calming measures, outdoor exercise equipment, a new dance studio, a dance arcade game, a water fountain, lighting, bike racks and revitalized walking track. A motivational speaker provided a keynote address on "Finding Your Dynamic Destiny" with over 60 community members in attendance.

The Faith Based Initiative held a **Faith Forum** at the local community college for area church leaders (with over 30 people attending) to learn about starting a health ministry, adopting food policies and implementing physical activities.

In July, NC Prevention Partners, Pfizer Pharmaceuticals, Alamance Regional Medical Center, Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce, Elon University, Healthy Alamance and the Alamance County Health Department sponsored the Alamance Leadership Academy as part of the **Work Healthy America® Initiative**. Twenty-five local businesses committed to creating a culture of wellness in the workplace met to begin a three year process of affecting positive health behavior change and reduce preventable health care costs. Each organization completed a survey to examine their current wellness practices. Subsequently an action plan was developed for each participating organization as well as tools and on-going support is provided to reshape workplace policies and management strategies. The focus areas of activities include Nutrition, Physical Activity and Tobacco environments and Leadership Culture of Wellness.

The coalition hosted a strategic planning forum for community leaders addressing obesity called, **"Moving from Thick to Fit."** State representatives set the framework for the dialogue where over 40 key stakeholders then brainstormed possible interventions for Alamance County.

To get involved with the Chronic Disease Coalition please contact Healthy Alamance or Chairperson, Diane Duffy, MD.


TRANSPORTATION

The Transportation Task Force was formed under the auspices of United Way's Community Council after the 2007 Community Assessment was completed. The group has worked hard to educate and advocate for the development of public transportation in Alamance County. As a result over 1,000 people signed a petition in 2009 in support of public transportation for Alamance County.

Our plan for 2010 was to begin seeing system execution; starting with a Park & Ride Service, then a Feeder Service and finally a Fixed Route Service. Unfortunately, implementation has been delayed. In order for service development to begin and federal funding to come down, the County as well as the municipalities in Alamance County would need to approve a local match and agree on an implementation plan. These elected boards have yet to approve such funding mechanisms.

Although the concept of mass transit has not been reached, Elon University implemented a pilot BIO BUS loop (Spring Semester 2010) that was open to students as well as community members/local professionals. The success of the pilot resulted in the loop being continued for the 2010-11 school year. The loop runs from campus to East Burlington human service agencies and most recently a stop was added at Walmart and Cummings High School (Fall Semester 2010). Students can use this FREE service to complete service learning hours and volunteer. Local residents can take the bus to appointments and local professionals can use it for meetings and visiting other colleagues. The university has seen tremendous response.

Spring 2010 ridership was 1,147 with 39% students, faculty and staff and 61% community members. Assessment indicated a steady increase in ridership from February to May. Fall 2010 ridership remains strong with over 1,000 riders in the first 10 weeks. These are positive results given the route has limited schedule/stops.




Mon-Thurs 2:30 - 6:30 pm

**Downtown/
East
Burlington
Express
Route**

	(A) Elon University Merrill Center	(B) S. Spring St. (May Memorial Library)	(C) Duke & Stockard Sts (Boys and Girls Club)	(D) Cummings High School	(E) Walmart S. Graham Highway Rd	(F) N Graham Highway St (Pos. Alt. Youth Ctr)	(G) Chandler Ct (Burlington Human Services)	(H) W. Trade St (Allied Churchway)	(A) Elon University Merrill Center
START 2:30 pm		2:40	2:44	2:52	2:58	3:01	3:07	3:12	3:28
3:30 pm		3:40	3:44	3:52	3:58	4:01	4:07	4:12	4:28
4:30 pm		4:40	4:44	4:52	4:58	5:01	5:07	5:12	5:28
5:30 pm		5:40	5:44	5:52	5:58	6:01	6:07	6:12	END 6:28 pm

www.elon.edu/elonbiobus

Emergency? Call 911



The Carolina Corridor
Alamance County, North Carolina
Greenway, Greenways
Economic Development
Convention & Visitors Bureau

**ALAMANCE COUNTY AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE RESOLUTION
SUPPORTING THE DEVELOPMENT OF PARK-AND-RIDE PUBLIC TRANSIT
SERVICE TO AND FROM ALAMANCE COUNTY**

WHEREAS the Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce adopted a resolution in February 2009 in support of referencing the final report of the 21st Century Committee as a policy framework for determining specific solutions for sustainable funding sources for the state's multi-modal transportation needs; and,

WHEREAS Alamance County is a member county of the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation; and

WHEREAS Alamance County is an important link between the Triad and Triangle public transit systems; and

WHEREAS more than 10,000 Alamance County residents commute to Guilford and Orange Counties to work and more than 6,000 Guilford and Orange County residents commute to Alamance County to work and pursue educational opportunities; and

WHEREAS park-and-ride public transit enhances economic development; and

WHEREAS Sixty-nine percent of Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce members support implementing park-and-ride service, operated by the Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation, that would connect Alamance County with the rest of the system;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Alamance County Area Chamber of Commerce supports the development of park-and-ride public transit service to and from Alamance County.

Read, Approved, and Adopted this Ninth Day of September, 2010

Another positive outcome of the Transportation Task Force was the inclusion of several survey items concerning park-and-ride in the Alamance County Chamber of Commerce member survey. Results were extremely positive with 69% of the members supporting the development of park-and-ride in the County. Based on these survey results, the Chamber adopted a resolution supporting park-and-ride.

In addition, a new advocacy group has been formed called, Friends & Advocates of Sustainable Transportation (FAST). The group had their first meeting this fall and has plans for an upcoming winter meeting. The inspiration for the group seemed most appropriate after Healthy Alamance hosted a Community Planning Day called, Moving from Thick to Fit, where the proposed top idea for the county by the end of this workshop's brainstorming session was:

Connectivity/Transportation – Increase: sidewalks, bike lanes and greenways. Create more walking trails in communities and schools. Ensure roadways are pedestrian centered. Adopt a transportation system. **(with 22 Votes)**

The overall concept of transportation in Alamance County continues to make headlines as seen by the article below:

Elon students preparing for public transit survey

November 14, 2010 3:11 PM

[Michael D. Abernethy / Times-News](#)

An online survey prepared by Elon University students will be used to help gauge public interest in improving sidewalks, bicycle lanes and public transit.

The survey, which went online Friday and will run through Dec. 3, asks respondents 25 questions about pedestrian and bicycle travel and the possible need for a public transit system in Alamance County, said Sharon Hodge, head of Elon University's marketing and entrepreneurship department. Hodge's marketing students prepared the survey and will analyze the data.

Patrick Harman, director of the Hayden-Harman foundation, will present the data at a Dec. 13 meeting of Friends and Advocates of Sustainable Transit, a recently formed advocacy group for transit and pedestrian travel.

Elon student Elisabeth Cline is heading up the project. She says the survey results could be used to help the area receive state funding for sidewalk and bike-path projects.

The five-student group will also host focus groups and individual interviews to support the data gathered in the survey.

The survey is part of the university's marketing research course, required of all marketing students. Survey and research topics are selected to aid the school's Kernodle Center community partners, Hodge said. The partnership allows students hands-on market research experience and has the potential to benefit Alamance County residents, Hodge said.

The survey is available at http://atrial.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_abjFd9ScxFQNumw

Hard copies of the survey are also available by request. Those who would like to participate in focus groups or individual interviews can contact Cline by e-mail at ecline@elon.edu.



Vaccine Costs

In July 2010, changes took place with the North Carolina Immunization Program (NCIP) which affected the health department's ability to provide some vaccines at no cost. Due to cuts in the state budget, free, state-funded vaccines were no longer provided to insured children. As a result, local health departments and county governments are now forced to purchase vaccines at a considerably higher cost, placing an even greater strain on already limited local budgets. Children with Medicaid or who are uninsured are still able to receive vaccine provided by the NCIP at no cost. Insured families have been able to take advantage of transitional vaccine as a result of one-time funding approved by the North Carolina General Assembly. In order to provide a limited amount of free vaccine during this transition away from the state-funded program. Once the supply of free transitional vaccine is depleted, patients with insurance will need to use their insurance plan to receive vaccine services. In some cases, this may require a co-pay or deductible. This emerging issue continues to change, as eligibility guidelines and requirements have changed frequently since July. For up-to-date information regarding the NCIP or the health department's immunization services, please call (336) 227-0101.

