



## Jackson County Department of Public Health

Anna Lippard  
Health Director  
828-587-8225

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### **Jackson County Launches the Community Health Assessment Survey to Better Understand Resident Health and Opportunities for Improvement**

Over the next few weeks, the residents of Jackson County will play a crucial role in helping the Jackson County Department of Public Health identify important health needs in our community and the surrounding area. We've partnered with the national research firm PRC based in Omaha, Nebraska, to conduct the Community Health Assessment (CHA) survey with western North Carolina (WNC) residents. The confidential survey will ask about residents' health, behaviors, and experiences. Randomly selected households will receive a call from "WNC Health" and the survey is estimated to take around 20 minutes to complete.

Jackson County is one of eighteen counties participating in the CHA across (WNC). The survey covers various health-related factors, including demographics, socioeconomic, health status, disparities, behaviors, clinical care, physical environment, and quality of life. This data is the basis for our efforts to prioritize and address health challenges over the next three years. Jackson County plays a vital role in the regional CHA strategy which is led by the [WNC Healthy Impact](#) initiative, a collaborative endeavor involving hospitals, health departments, and dedicated partners committed to enhancing community health across the region. The Community Health Assessment is generously supported by the hospitals of western North Carolina and bolstered by contributions from The Dogwood Health Trust, and aims to collect comprehensive data essential for understanding and addressing regional health challenges. The WNC Community Health Assessment survey, made possible through this collective funding, equips stakeholders, including our valued funders, healthy impact partners, and policymakers, with invaluable insights to guide targeted public health interventions for the betterment of residents across WNC.

Jackson County Department of Public Health encourages all residents to take part. Meagan Cagle, Health Education Supervisor said, *"We strongly encourage residents to complete the survey if contacted. This survey helps our community by providing information that aids us in determining the current and most important health needs for our county."* The insights from the survey will help us identify areas that need attention and guide efforts to improve services and support systems for the health of all Jackson County residents.

Residents can also contribute through an online survey option. Cagle added, *"Residents of Jackson County can share their input by accessing the survey on the Jackson County Department*



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of Public Health website at [health.jacksonnc.org](http://health.jacksonnc.org) or by clicking [www.prcsurvey.com/begin/WNC2024](http://www.prcsurvey.com/begin/WNC2024)."

For Jackson County, the last community health assessment in 2021 helped highlight that 23% of residents participated in at least 150 minutes of physical activity a week and only 5.5% of residents reported consuming the recommended servings of fruits & vegetables. Elevate 828 is a free online community wellness program that has been in place to help educate, encourage and support residents thru nutrition, physical activity and stress management challenges over a 6-month period. Currently over 100 individuals are participating in the program.

For more information on Jackson County's Community Health Assessment, visit [health.jacksonnc.org](http://health.jacksonnc.org).

*\*This project is made possible through the generous contributions of WNC Hospitals and The Dogwood Health Trust. Hospital partners include:*

- *AdventHealth Hendersonville*
- *Cherokee Indian Hospital*
- *Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital*
- *Harris Regional Hospital*
- *Haywood Regional Medical Center*
- *Mission Health*
- *Rutherford Regional Health System*
- *St. Luke's Hospital*
- *Swain Community Hospital*
- *UNC Health Pardee*

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