Community Health Improvement

Moving Toward a Healthier Berkeley County

Based on the 2015 County Health Rankings1, Berkeley County is ranked 8th out of 46 counties in South Carolina for health outcomes, which measures length and quality of life, and is ranked 14th for health factors, which measures health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic factors, and physical environment.

Berkeley County Demographics

Population = 198,205

- Under 18: 24.5%
- 18-64: 63.8%
- Over 65: 11.7%
- African-American: 25%
- Caucasian: 69.1%
- Hispanic: 6.1%

High School Education3: 87%
College Education3: 21%

Median Household Income2 = $52,427

- Unemployment3: 5.4%
- Poverty2: 14.4%

Berkeley County Health Statistics

Leading Causes of Death4
- Cancer
- Heart Disease
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

Risk Factors Among Adults
- 36.3% are obese5
- 24.8% are not physically active5
- 13.2% have diabetes5
- 23% currently smoke cigarettes6

Children in South Carolina

County-level data on children’s health is not currently available.

- 36% of children ages 2-17 are overweight or obese7
- 68%: Middle School S.C. students do not get the recommended 60 minutes of physical activity every day8
- 76%: High School
- 16%: High school students currently smoke cigarettes8
Berkeley County Community Health Assessment Results

Berkeley County leaders conducted a community health assessment to determine how residents feel about their health, their healthy eating and active living practices, and the areas in need of improvement. Volunteers interviewed 623 residents.

How would you rate the overall health of the community?

- Excellent: 43.85%
- Very Good: 37.30%
- Good: 4.35%
- Fair: 6.56%
- Poor: 0.82%

What are the 3 main reasons why people in your community are not often physically active?

- Too Tired After Work: 52.2%
- Not Enough Sidewalks: 44.9%
- Too Hot/Too Cold: 34.8%

What are the 3 main reasons why people in your community do not frequently eat healthy foods?

- Eat Fast Food Regularly: 65.2%
- Too Expensive: 51.7%
- Don’t Cook at Home: 48.6%

Examples of Community Action in Berkeley County

Community coalitions are working diligently to close the health disparity gap and to improve the health of their communities by providing access to healthy choices at school, work, church and in the community.

Healthy School Environments

Thirty-seven (90%) schools in Berkeley School District participated in the district wellness checklist initiative, and 36 met the minimum qualifications. A total of 7 schools have health plans. Five completed the Alliance for a Healthier Generation Assessment and Action Plan, and 2 completed the School Health Index.

Faith-Based Tobacco Initiatives

Twelve faith-based organizations adopted tobacco-free policies. This impacts more than 640 people.

Youth Engagement

The Berkeley County HYPE Project Team (10 youth), representing three church youth groups, focused on ensuring the new community center had a health focus. One HYPE Team member was invited to serve on the center’s Advisory Committee. As a result of the HYPE Team formation, the three churches have been engaging youth in activities and decisions.


SOUTH CAROLINA

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