

# milestones

While it is well documented that Spartanburg County has many challenges in the area of public health, there is a great momentum building within the County to better public health and increase the well-being of all citizens. Community leaders and organizations are partnering together to address needs. One way in which this is being done is through establishing initiatives believed to have a positive impact on public health. Recently, community leaders in public health shared some of the milestones achieved in the past three years, which include:



- Launch of AccessHealth Spartanburg
- Establishment of the United Way SafetyNet Council
- Creation of the Childhood Obesity Taskforce
- Formation of a partnership between local funders and the South Carolina Campaign to Prevent Teenage Pregnancy
- Implementation of The Nurse Family Partnership Program
- Adoption of a county-wide Bicycle/Pedestrian Master Plan
- Inception of Birth Matters, a doula program for low-income women
- Opening of C.C. Woodson Community Center
- Leveraging of local and national grants to address public health needs in Spartanburg County
- Development of ReGenesis Health Care onsite dental office and pharmacy to serve the needs of both children and adults

# quotes

“Spartanburg’s **awareness** of the health challenges facing our community has increased sharply in the last several years. Most importantly, we are **doing** things to address health! We have a tremendous task ahead of us, but Spartanburg is poised for tremendous **improvement**.”

**RENEÉ ROMBERGER**

*Vice President for Community Health Policy and Strategy  
Spartanburg Regional*



“I have been extremely impressed with the level of **commitment** to improving the quality of life in Spartanburg County. There is an amazing willingness to work **together** to improve our health outcomes. **Everyone** is focused on the goals. It is great to be a community partner in Spartanburg.”

**MATT PETROFES**

*Health Director  
Department of Health and Environmental Control – Region 2*



“The greatest **impact** we can have in addressing physical and mental health disparities in Spartanburg County is to focus on ways to improve the social, environmental and educational conditions for **all** people who live, work and study here.”

**MARSHA DOWELL, PHD, RN**

*Senior Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
University of South Carolina Upstate*



Spartanburg Community Indicators Project  
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## mission

Spartanburg Community Indicators Project is a collaboration of The Spartanburg County Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, Spartanburg County Government, and The University of South Carolina Upstate. It reports on progress of key issues that are the clearest indicators of quality of life in the County of Spartanburg, South Carolina. Its goal is to report on data and community initiatives to inspire dialogue and strategy that lead to changes within the community.

LEARN MORE and GET INVOLVED at [www.StrategicSpartanburg.org](http://www.StrategicSpartanburg.org)

- Get the full health report.
- Find events about health or Spartanburg Community Indicators Project.
- Spread the news. We can provide a presentation for your group on the health data.
- Give your opinion about health in our community online discussions.
- Sign up to receive further updates on the project.

partner collaborators:

United Way of the Piedmont

Spartanburg County Government

THE SPARTANBURG COUNTY FOUNDATION

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA UPSTATE



PUBLIC HEALTH

## public health dashboard 2011

A summary of how **Spartanburg** measures up according to public health indicators.

**spartanburg**  
community indicators  
project

Inspiring dialogue, strategy and change.

[www.StrategicSpartanburg.org](http://www.StrategicSpartanburg.org)

# goal areas

## public health

Our citizens will be increasingly healthy, demonstrating decreasing incidence and prevalence of health risk factors and poor health outcomes.



- Infant Mortality
- Teen Risk Behavior
- Overweight and Obesity
- Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Teen Child Bearing
- Chronic Diseases
- Behavioral Health
- Prenatal Care
- Tobacco Use
- Mortality
- Immunizations
- Dental Health
- Access to Health Care
- Barriers to Health
- Birth Weight
- Health Disparities and Inequities



[www.StrategicSpartanburg.org](http://www.StrategicSpartanburg.org)



## education

Our children will excel academically, and our citizens will demonstrate high levels of baccalaureate degree attainment, rendering Spartanburg the best educated county in the state.



## economy

Our citizens will have access to living wage jobs and our communities will be economically viable.



## natural environment

Our citizens will manage our natural resources in a way that will support current and future generations.



## social environment

Our community will be characterized by stable families, low crime, affordable housing, and access to opportunity.



## community engagement

Our citizens will have access to opportunities for civic engagement that promote community well-being and an enriched quality of life.

# leading indicators

Key variables that reflect the state of public health status, and that are useful predictors of health trends.

key measures	county status	indicator detail
<b>public health</b>		
Infant Mortality Rate	Mixed	Spartanburg County infant mortality is lower than SC rate and is decreasing. Disparity by race in Spartanburg County is greater than the SC average.
Childhood Overweight and Obesity	Worse	Childhood obesity has tripled since 1980. SC ranks 13th for childhood obesity. Spartanburg County rates mirror SC average.
Teen Risk Behaviors	Mixed	Spartanburg County youth have lower risk behaviors and risk attitudes compared to statewide peers; however, Spartanburg County high school students exhibit significantly greater high-risk behaviors.
Chronic Disease	Better	Spartanburg County chronic disease rates are generally higher than the SC average and peer county* rates.

# secondary indicators

Other variables that have a direct impact on public health, are tangentially reflective of the state of public health, or derive from leading indicators.

key measures	county status	indicator detail
<b>public health</b>		
Prenatal Care Compared to SC	Same	Spartanburg County is comparable to SC average for women who receive less than adequate prenatal care.
Prenatal Care by Race	Worse	There is inequity by race for less than adequate prenatal care.
Birth Weight Compared to SC	Same	Spartanburg County ranks 29th of all SC counties for low birth weight. Rates of low birth weight and very low birth rate mirror SC average.
Immunizations	Worse	Compared to SC average, Spartanburg County children have lower rates of full immunization against preventable diseases. Statewide immunization rates have improved; however, rates have not improved in Spartanburg County.
Teen Childbearing (Ages 15-17)	Better	There was a 5% decrease in teen pregnancies for girls, ages 15-17, in Spartanburg County from 2004 to 2007.
Teen Childbearing (Ages 18-19)	Worse	There was a 6% increase in teen pregnancies for girls, ages 18-19. The county rate exceeds SC average and rates in all three peer counties*.
Repeat Teen Pregnancies	Worse	Spartanburg County ranks 8th for repeat teen pregnancies.
Behavioral Health in Adolescents	Same	Consistent percentages of adolescents in Spartanburg, Greenville, Richland, and Charleston counties received treatment through emergency departments for mental disorders.
Tobacco Use in Adolescents	Better	A lower percentage of Spartanburg County high school students use tobacco products as compared to SC average.
Chronic Disease: Diabetes	Mixed	County diabetes rates are comparable to SC average; however, the rate of hospitalized cases is lower in Spartanburg County. The death rate for diabetes is higher in Spartanburg County. There is disparity by race for visits to emergency departments, inpatient hospitalization, and death.
Chronic Disease: Hypertension, Heart Disease, and Stroke	Mixed	The rate of hypertension and heart disease treated in hospitals is lower in Spartanburg County; however, the rate for stroke is higher. There is disparity by race for all three conditions.

key measures	county status	indicator detail
<b>public health</b>		
Chronic Disease: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) and Asthma	Worse	The rate of hospital treatment for COPD is higher in Spartanburg County than national average. The death rate in Spartanburg County is higher than SC average.
Adult Overweight and Obesity Rate Compared to State Average	Same	Sixty-five percent of Spartanburg County adults are overweight or obese (SC = 66%), 30% are obese (SC = 29%), and 28% are sedentary (SC = 27%).
Adult Immunization Rate	Worse	On average, SC adults receive almost twice the rate of vaccination for flu than Spartanburg County adults. The rate of pneumonia vaccination for SC is over twice that of Spartanburg County.
Behavioral Health in Adults	Better	On average, Spartanburg County residents report about the same number of "mentally unhealthy" days as SC residents.
Drugs and Alcohol	No Change	Compared with peer counties*, Spartanburg County had the least number of visits to emergency departments for drug / alcohol use and dependence; however, Spartanburg County recorded the highest average charge.
Mortality	Worse	Spartanburg County residents have a two-year lower life expectancy than the national average. Disparity by race is evident in Spartanburg County for leading cause of death.
Sexually Transmitted Infections	Better	Spartanburg County has lower incidence rates for diagnosed AIDS and HIV cases than peer counties* and SC. Spartanburg County's Chlamydia rate is also lower than SC average.
Tobacco Use in Adults	Worse	A significantly higher percentage of Spartanburg County adults smoke tobacco than SC average.
Access to Health Care	Same	Physician to population ratios for Spartanburg County and SC are equivalent; however, most of Spartanburg County is medically underserved.
Access to Dental Health Care	Worse	Spartanburg County is designated as a Dental Health Professional Shortage Area (HPSA) for low-income residents.
Access to Mental Health Care	Worse	Spartanburg County is designated as a Mental Health HPSA for low-income residents.
Health Disparities and Inequities	Same	Minorities, low-income individuals, and undereducated individuals experience disproportionate shares of negative health outcomes. Residents of rural areas demonstrate poorer health outcomes compared to urban residents. This is comparable to SC.
Insurance Coverage	Worse	A higher percentage of Spartanburg County residents are uninsured compared to SC and national averages.
Emergency Department Usage	Worse	Emergency department usage is extremely high for self-pay / indigent patients.

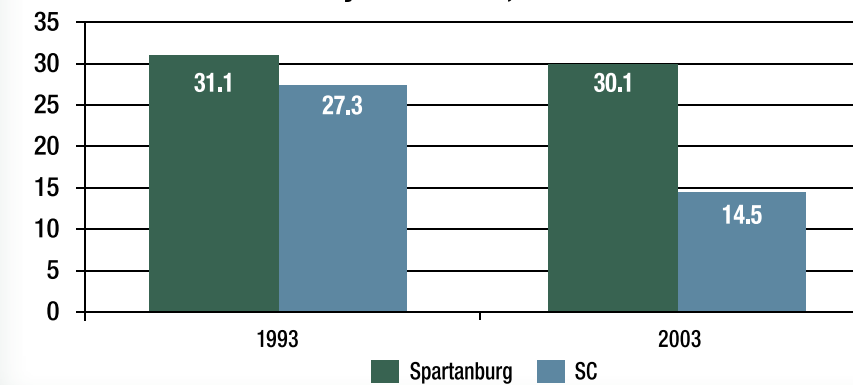
# crosscutting indicators

Leading indicators in more than one Community Indicators area (such as economy and education).

key measures	county status	indicator detail
<b>public health</b>		
Education	Worse	Spartanburg County has the lowest mean educational level of all peer counties*, SC, and the nation.
Poverty	Worse	Spartanburg County has lower per capita income, median household income, and median family income than of all peer counties*, SC, and the nation.

\* Generally peer counties include Greenville, Richland and Charleston

## Percent of Children Under Two Not Fully Immunized, 1993 and 2003



## Immunization

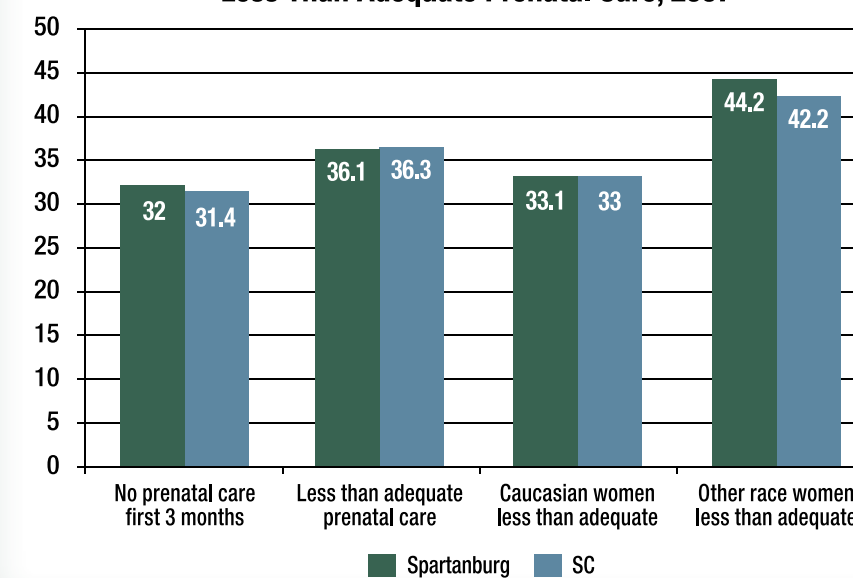
Immunization rates are an indicator of whether children are receiving adequate preventive health care. Children can receive immunizations at the local public health department if they are not able to get them through other healthcare providers. Additionally, new vaccines continue to be added to the childhood and adolescent immunization schedule.

to children statewide, have a lower rate of full immunization against such preventable diseases as Polio, Measles, Diphtheria, Tetanus, Haemophilus, Influenza B, and Pertussis.

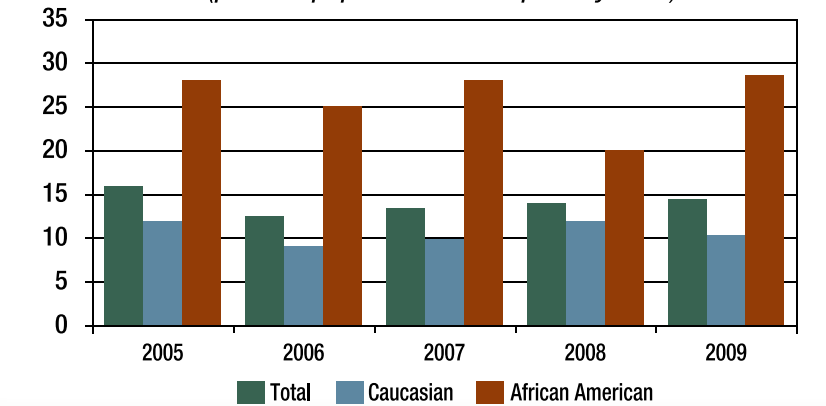
Of children under age two who are seen in public health clinics, Spartanburg County has a significantly higher percentage who are not fully immunized (30.1%) than the state (14.5%). Although the state rate (27.3%) has much improved since 1993, the county rate (30.1%) has not.

According to analysts at the Immunization Division of SCDHEC, roughly 17.5% of children less than two years old are not fully immunized in South Carolina. Furthermore, SCDHEC birth registry data for two-year-old children shows that Spartanburg County children, as compared

## Percent of Women Who Received Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care, 2007



## Spartanburg County Poverty Rates, 2005-2009 (percent population below poverty level)



## Socioeconomic Status

One of the strongest and most consistent predictors of morbidity and mortality is socioeconomic status (SES). Results of a 1992 study (Winkely, Jatulis, Frank & Fortmann) found that socioeconomic predictors of health persist across most all diseases and continue to predict health through the lifespan. SES includes financial, occupational, and educational dimensions. Of these dimensions, education is the strongest and most consistent predictor of health. Studies quantifying the relative impact of each dimension of SES report that education is the strongest predictor of health. Hypotheses suggest that education facilitates the acquisition of positive social, psychological, and economic skills and assets that have health impacts beyond those realized through income alone. These assets include positive attitudes about health, access to preventive health services, and membership in peer groups that promote positive health behaviors along with higher self-esteem and self-sufficiency.

Because educational level is a strong predictor of income level, there is also a strong correlation between income and health status. The official U.S. poverty rate in 2009 was 14.3%, up from 13.2% in 2008. This was the second statistically significant annual increase in the poverty rate since 2004 and was the highest poverty rate since 1994. The 2009 poverty rate for South Carolina was 17.1%, up from 15.7% in 2008. The counties within the state with the lowest population density tend to have the highest poverty rates. The 2009 poverty rate for Spartanburg County was 14.7%, up from 14% in 2008. Poverty rates continue to be higher for minorities. The 2009 poverty rate for African Americans in Spartanburg County was 28.8%, up from 20.4% in 2008.

## Prenatal Care

Good prenatal care is strongly associated with healthy birth weight and healthy babies. Conversely, delayed or insufficient prenatal care can be associated with low birth weight and other health risks for infants. Spartanburg County data in 2007 is almost equal to the state average for women who received less than adequate prenatal care. In 2007, over one third (33.1%) of Caucasian women in Spartanburg County received less than adequate prenatal care, and 44.2% of

non-Caucasian women received less than adequate prenatal care. In 2007, 40 Spartanburg County women who gave birth had no prenatal care at all.

Of peer counties\*, Spartanburg and Charleston demonstrate increases from 2005 to 2007 in lack of first trimester prenatal care and less than adequate prenatal care. The state aggregate also demonstrated an increase in both categories.

\* Generally peer counties include Greenville, Richland and Charleston