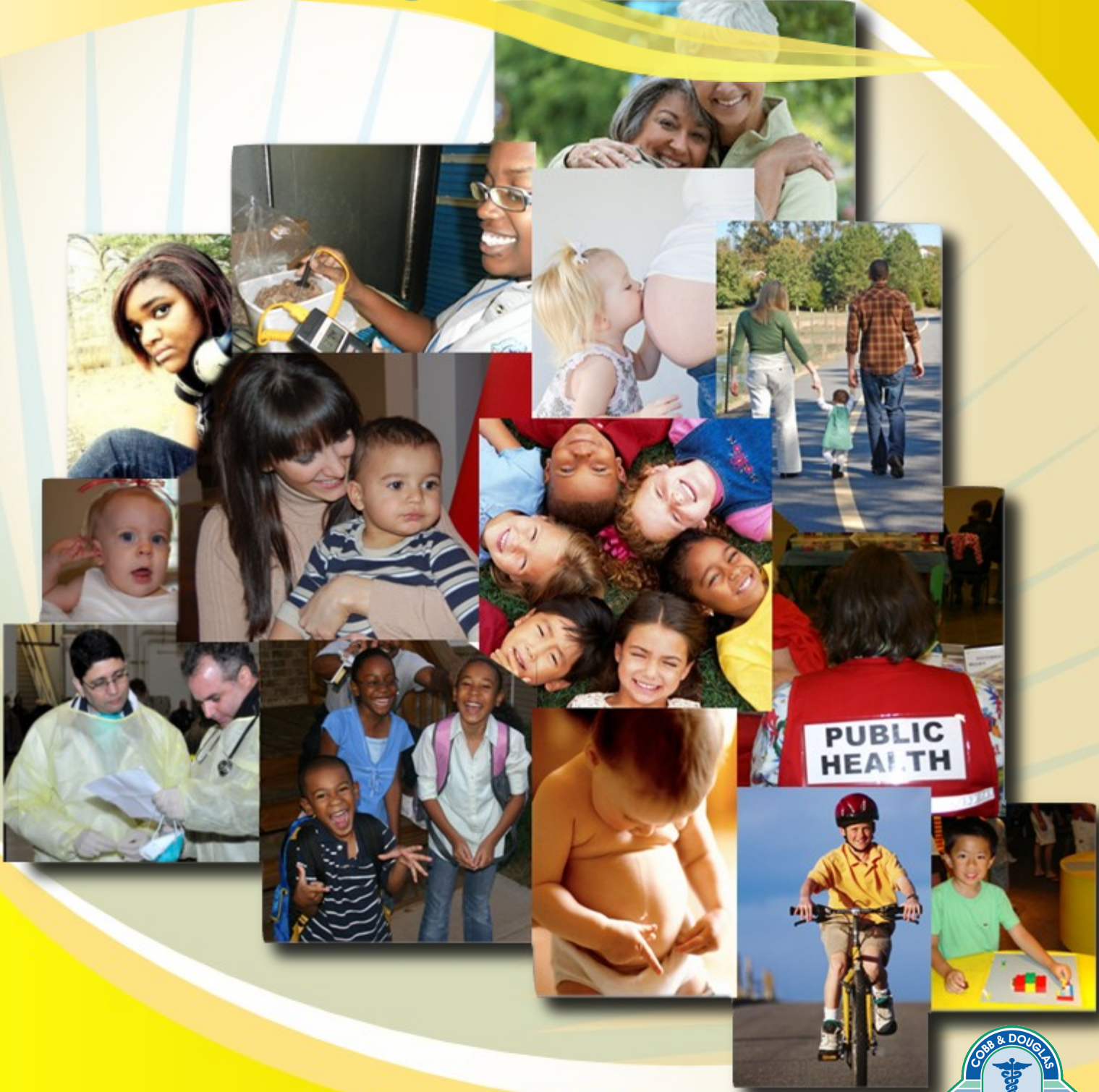


Highlights



HIGHLIGHTS

Highlights

Cobb and Douglas Public Health (CDPH) staff designed [How Healthy Are We?](#) to provide a general assessment of Douglas County residents' health. We partnered with the Douglas County Community Services Board to provide the information for the section on behavioral health. The contents of this report represent information we track, trend and use to assess our community's current and future health needs. We hope this report provides you with valuable information regarding the health of the community in which we live, work and play. Below are highlights from the report.

Population

The population in Douglas County continues to grow and has a large percentage of youth and an increasing percentage of minority populations.

- Almost one-third of the population is under the age of 19.
- Minority populations grew 73.9% and the Hispanic population grew 118.6% over the past 5 years.
- From 2002-2009 unemployment rates in Douglas County have been higher than in Georgia and have increased in 2009 to 10.4%.
- In Douglas County 10.7% of individuals are in poverty.

Access to Care

Residents must have access to healthcare (facilities and providers) in order to be healthy.

- Primary care physicians (family practitioners, internists and pediatricians) make up 43.5% of Douglas County physicians. These physicians provide the gateway to healthcare, including specialty care.
- The Georgia Health Disparities Report 2008 gave Douglas County a grade of an F in two categories including Access to Primary Care Providers and Primary Care Safety Net.
- It is estimated that 18.5% of residents in Douglas County lack health insurance.

Leading Causes

There are specific leading causes of illness, hospitalization and death in the county.

- Heart disease, cancer and accidents are the leading causes of illness (morbidity), death (mortality) and premature death in Douglas County.
- The age adjusted mortality rate for Douglas County is higher than it is for Georgia.
- Pregnancy and normal delivery cause a high number of hospitalizations, indicating a growing county.
- Preventable deaths, including accidents, suicide and homicide, are the leading causes of premature deaths (death prior to age 75).

Chronic Diseases

Chronic diseases (diseases lasting longer than 3 months) such as diabetes and asthma continue to cause a high number of illnesses and deaths in the county; they also cause high healthcare costs.

- Cardiovascular disease (CVD) is a leading cause of death in Douglas County. From 2006 to 2007, there was an increase in the age adjusted mortality rate due to CVD in Douglas County from 339.2 per 100,000 to 378.6 and the rate remained above Georgia at 269.0.
- Lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer mortality for both men and women in Douglas County; from 2003-2007 the lung cancer mortality rate in Douglas County was higher for both males and females compared to Georgia.
- The age adjusted mortality rate due to breast cancer in females is slightly higher in Douglas County than in Georgia or the United States.
- Self reported behavioral data is often unavailable for Douglas County and data is reported by health district; Douglas County is a part of Health District 3-1 which includes both Cobb and Douglas Counties.
- In 2007, a higher percentage of adult residents reported being diabetic in Douglas County than in Georgia.
- From 2004-2007 a higher percent of adults In District 3-1 (16.3%) reported binge drinking compared to Georgia in 2008 (14.0%).

Infectious Diseases

Infectious diseases can spread quickly through populations, causing high numbers of illness, death and disability.

- Sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) such as gonorrhea, syphilis, AIDS and hepatitis B are prevalent in Douglas County and in Georgia.
- In 2008, Georgia ranked 3rd highest in the U.S. for rates of primary and secondary syphilis; from 2003-2007, Douglas County ranked 11th highest out of Georgia's 159 counties for the rate of syphilis (cases per 100,000 population).
- The number of tuberculosis (TB) cases in District 3-1 (Cobb and Douglas Counties) decreased by 30.0% from 2008-2009; a similar decrease was seen throughout the state of Georgia.
- Vaccine-preventable diseases are still occurring in Douglas County; childhood immunization rates are slightly lower in District 3-1 than in Georgia.

Maternal and Child Health

One can assess the overall health status of the population by analyzing the health of mothers and their babies.

- Overall pregnancy rates were slightly lower in Douglas County than in Georgia.
- Teen pregnancy rates increased overall in 2006 and 2007 in both Georgia and Douglas County.
- The Hispanic population has the highest pregnancy rates both overall and for teens (15-19 years) in the County.
- Hispanics, compared to all populations, have the highest rate of inadequate prenatal care.
- In 2007, infant mortality rates were higher in Douglas County than in Georgia. Infant mortality in from 2003-2006 in Douglas County has been consistently higher in the black population; however, in 2007 rates were higher in the white population.

HIGHLIGHTS

Maternal and Child Health (continued)

Douglas County's youth play a key role in determining the County's future health status.

- In the 2008 – 2009 school year, 17.1% of 12th grade students in Douglas County Schools reported using tobacco in the last 30 days.
- In the 2008 – 2009 school year, 6.8% of students in Douglas County reported binge alcohol drinking in the last 30 days.
- Obesity in children and adolescents continued to be a major public health concern in the United States, Georgia and the County. In 2009, 12.4% of Georgia's youth were reported as being obese compared to 12.0% in the United States.

Behavioral Health

Behavioral health refers to how a person's mental well-being affects his or her actions and ability to function.

- It is estimated that 26.6% of adults suffer from a mental disorder in a given year in Douglas County.
- Estimates suggest that approximately 6.0% of adults suffer from a serious mental illness such as major depression, bipolar disorder, or schizophrenia in Douglas County.

Community Safety

Residents must feel safe in their community in order to enjoy a good quality of life.

- The violent crime rate is lower in Douglas County than in Georgia.
- From 2004-2008, larceny was the most frequently committed crime in Douglas County.
- During the same period, injuries due to external causes (such as motor vehicle crashes, homicide, falls and suicide) accounted for 26.3% of all Douglas County Emergency Department visits; falls were the number one cause of injury-related Emergency Department visits.
- Motor vehicle crashes remain a leading cause of hospitalization and death in the county; deaths due to motor vehicle accidents have significantly increased in Douglas County from 10.8 per 100,000 in 2003 to 17.2 in 2007.

Environmental Health

The environment plays a key role in the health status of the community.

- Douglas County has an award winning water system. In 2009, drinking water met or exceeded all safety and quality standards set by the State of Georgia and the Environmental Protection Agency.
- In 2009, Metropolitan Atlanta (including Douglas County) air quality measured in the unhealthy range 16 out of the 340 days measured.
- In 2009, 8 hazardous waste sites were identified in Douglas County.
- In 2009, there were 2 rabies-positive animals reported in the County.