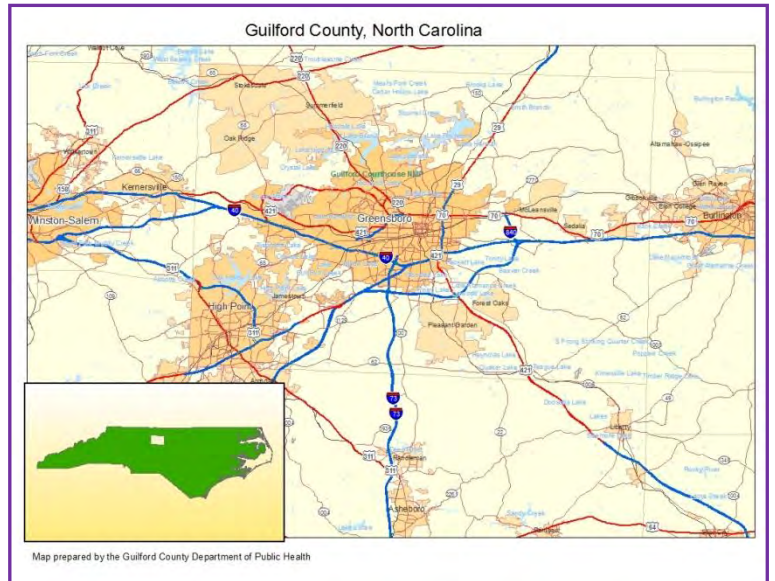


Guilford County

History & Geography

A Brief History

The north central area of North Carolina, often called the Piedmont Triad, is primarily made up of three cities—Greensboro, Winston Salem and High Point. This area has historically served as one of the major manufacturing and transportation hubs of the Southeast. Greensboro is centrally located in Guilford County, Winston Salem is in Forsyth County and High Point is spread across Guilford, Forsyth, Davidson and Randolph counties. The Piedmont Triad has now grown to include three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) - Greensboro-High Point, Winston-Salem and Burlington – and two Micropolitan Areas, Thomasville-Lexington and Mount Airy. The 2012-2013 CHA/CHNA focused on the health of those who live in Guilford County and the service areas of Cone Health and High Point Regional Health System.



Guilford County is named after Francis North, the first Earl of Guilford and British Prime Minister from 1770 to 1782. Guilford County was formed in 1771 from parts of Rowan and Orange Counties to centralize the government and courts of Guilford. Three years later, the first courthouse and county jail were built in the central part of the county. During the American Revolutionary War, the Guilford Courthouse became the location of General Nathanael Greene and Lord Cornwallis' famous battle that was a turning-point in the war and which is still reenacted today. Greensboro, one of the major population centers, was originally populated by the Occaneechi and other Siouan tribes, prior to European immigration. In the mid 1700s, the Scotch-Irish, Germans, English and Welsh settled in the area.



Guilford County was home to early industrial development, most notably textiles and furniture. The first steam powered cotton mill in the state was housed in Greensboro's Mt. Hecla Cotton Mill in 1818, an innovation that laid the groundwork for Moses and Caesar Cone, who built one of the first Southern textile finishing plants: Southern Finishing & Warehouse Company in 1893 as well as the denim manufacturing plant, Proximity Cotton Mills, in 1895. This legacy continues with the presence of VF Corporation, a major denim jeans producer. Around the same time textile manufacturing was taking root in the area, the furniture business began to flourish. In 1888, High Point's first wood furniture business was established, which gradually led to the growth of many other quality furniture companies. With this growth, came North Carolina's first furniture exposition in 1905. This event has evolved into the largest furnishings trade show in the world, the High Point Furniture Market.

Academia also has a long history in Guilford County. The Welsh Quakers settled the western part of Guilford County, establishing a boarding school in 1837, which grew into Guilford College, the first Southern coeducational academic institution. The following year, the Methodist Church founded Greensboro College. The State Normal and Industrial School was founded in 1891, North Carolina's first and only public institution for higher learning for women. This school later became the North Carolina Women's College, a part of the University of North Carolina system, which is now the coeducational University of North Carolina at Greensboro. The Agricultural and Mechanical College for the Colored Race, also founded in 1891, is now recognized as North Carolina Agriculture & Technical University, the largest publicly funded historically black college/university (HBCU) in the state. What began as a school for seventy African American men and women in 1873 later transitioned to a women's HBCU, Bennett College, in 1926.

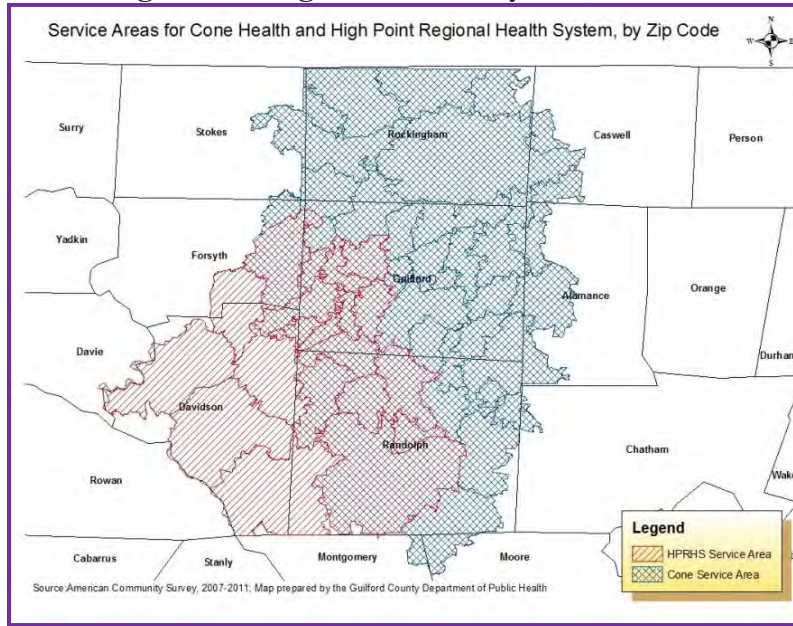


The Piedmont area and Guilford County specifically are noted to be a stop on the historic Underground Railroad, with ties to Quakers who settled in the area, including Levi Coffin. Greensboro is also a nationally known landmark within the civil rights movement. In the 1960s, students from North Carolina A&T State University and Bennett College protested segregation through sit-ins at the then white only lunch counter at the Woolworth store in downtown Greensboro. These sit-ins ignited similar efforts across the nation that fueled the desegregation at Woolworth stores and other similar establishments. The former Woolworth store location in Greensboro is now the site of the International Civil Rights Center and Museum.

Geography

The 2012-2013 CHA/CHNA was a collaborative effort between the Guilford County Department of Public Health and Cone Health and the High Point Regional Health System. The service areas of the hospital systems extend beyond the boundaries of Guilford County to include all or substantial portions of five adjacent counties: Alamance, Davidson, Forsyth, Randolph and Rockingham (See maps below). While health data were collected and assessed for all six counties for the CHNA with Guilford as the focus within the context of the larger six-county region, this report will center on Guilford County. For more detail on the hospital services area data, go to www.conehealth.com and www.highpointregional.com.

Cone Health and High Point Regional Health System Service Areas by Zip Code



The six CHNA counties are located in central North Carolina in the Piedmont region between the coastal region to the east and the mountains in the western part of the state. The area is often referred to as the “Piedmont Triad,” with the “triad” made up of the three largest cities of Greensboro (population 273,425, 2011 Census estimate), Winston-Salem (population 232,385, 2011 Census estimate) and High Point (population 105,753, 2011 Census estimate). The area comprises the third largest Metropolitan Statistical Area in North Carolina following Charlotte and Raleigh-Durham.

Community Health Needs Assessment Area

