

Health & Wellness Task Force

Vision

VISION AT A GLANCE

In 2025, Greenville County ranks among the healthiest places to live. Residents reversed the trend in obesity, in part due to the supportive environment for recreation, exercise, and healthy lifestyles. Through active disease prevention and intervention strategies, Greenville residents live longer with less chronic disease, injury or accidental or premature death. When disease occurs, the Greenville health care system is the first choice to provide the full continuum of quality medical care for individuals of all ages and resources.

A free, safe place to exercise (walking paths, exercise trail, open shopping mall) is easily accessible to 75% of Greenville County residents, and the use of these facilities is promoted through a public awareness campaign.

Healthy People

Greenville promotes wellness through an array of community health initiatives aimed at encouraging the adoption of healthy lifestyle choices. These community-wide health education programs enhance the quality of life through the development of all dimensions of wellness -- physical, mental, emotional, social and spiritual. Businesses, industries, schools, churches and the media play a vital role in promoting Greenville's health. Education, exercise programs and support for chronic disease management are affordable, accessible, and convenient. Smoke-free public places have reduced tobacco use and eliminated the hazards of secondhand smoke.

Greenville is nationally recognized as one of the most physically active communities in the country. Recreation and entertainment programs that involve physical activity are offered in various neighborhoods and townships all year-round. Accessible sidewalks, walking trails and bike paths are safe and convenient to residents in all areas of the county. These environmental and cultural features facilitate and encourage well-being.

While acknowledging and respecting cultural differences, including our southern heritage, the importance of adopting healthy behaviors is communicated and reinforced for all, including minority and underserved populations. People are knowledgeable about how to prepare healthy recipes and keep the traditional southern-style meals to a minimum. People in Greenville County choose healthy selections from grocery stores and restaurants, where there are a variety of healthy, affordable foods.

Health Care Services and Systems of Care

While the cultural and environmental supports for health and wellness contribute to Greenville being a strong and vibrant community, access to affordable, accessible, and convenient health care services is a critical element of good health. Greenville has worked hard to develop a comprehensive and coordinated system of care that ensures all of its citizens access to health care services appropriately. Through a variety of local programs, special populations (seniors, children, chronically ill, etc.) are given specific consideration and focused service to fully support our most medically vulnerable citizens.

By 2015, increase the proportion of persons who visit the dentist or a dental clinic within the last year for any reason to 90%.

High quality healthcare facilities support the full continuum of healthcare services needed for the entire population. Every resident has a primary care doctor or "medical home." Greenville has an integrated healthcare delivery system through which health care professionals address physical and behavioral health in a coordinated and collaborative manner. The system includes community-based programs for prevention and care and ensures effective mental health and substance abuse services. Hospitals and health care providers also emphasize prevention and wellness as a component of healthy living and offer programs and support services to promote optimal health.

Medical Training, Excellence and Innovation

Greenville is recognized locally and nationally for healthcare excellence, quality and innovation. With its acclaimed services and full spectrum of specialty care, Greenville is the first choice for education, residency, and continuing education for healthcare professionals. Greenville is also recognized for its medical and health related research and innovation, contributing to both medical advancements and a strong economy.

By 2015, residents leaving Greenville for treatment elsewhere is reduced to 10 %.
