



Healthy North Carolina

A Better State of Health 2020

North Carolina ranks 35th among U.S. states in terms of our overall health, and for most of the past 20 years, our rank has been even lower. With the release of the Healthy North Carolina 2020 objectives, the Division of Public Health (DPH) and its partners have begun a 10-year journey that focuses on prevention with an emphasis on engaging communities to move North Carolina to **A Better State of Health**.

These newly created Healthy North Carolina 2020 health objectives address all aspects of health with the aim of improving the health status of every North Carolinian. Through Healthy NC 2020 (HNC2020), we will mobilize the state to achieve a common set of health objectives. Our goal is to be one of the healthiest states in the nation.

We invite you to visit the new Healthy North Carolina 2020 website at www.publichealth.nc.gov/hnc2020 to read more about the objectives and targets and “sign” a resolution in support of making North Carolina a healthier state.

Over the course of the next decade, HNC2020 will help drive state and local-level activities to improve population health. HNC2020 will contribute to the essential goals of public health by providing a basis for monitoring population health status to identify community health problems; informing, educating, and empowering people about health issues; mobilizing community partnerships to identify and solve health problems; linking people to needed health services; and researching new insights and innovative solutions to health problems.

An important part of HNC2020 is an emphasis on accountability. If we are to achieve our goals, we must be willing to examine our progress along the way. Beginning in 2012, DPH will publish an annual HNC2020 status report to document successes and areas for improvement.

In partnership with others in business, government, philanthropy, faith-based entities and education, HNC2020 is working to support the vision for all North Carolinians to achieve and maintain optimal health through a focus on the promotion of health and the prevention of disease. Our goals are ambitious, but achievable. We hope you will join us in this journey towards **A Better State of Health**.