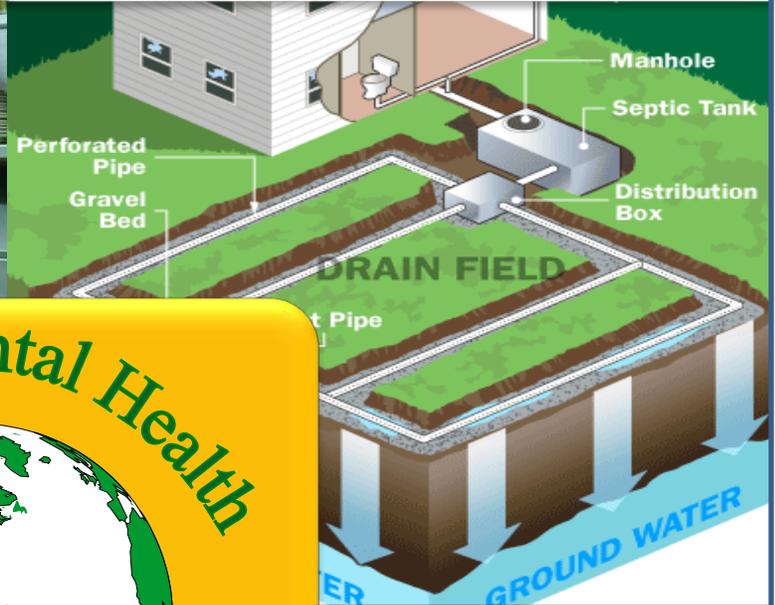


**Food, Lodging & Institutions
Restaurants / Hotels / Nursing Homes**



**Onsite Water Protection
Septic Tanks & Wells**



**Tattoo
Establishments**



**Childcare Centers &
Schools**



Public Swimming Pools

Environmental Health

Benefits Everyone!

Working Together For Your Health
Craven County Health Department
(252) 636-4936
envhealth@cravencountync.gov

**Environmental
Laboratory**



**Healthy Homes & Children's
Environmental Health
Asthma & Lead**



**Animal
Services
&
Rabies
Control**





Craven County Health Department
Division of Environmental Health
 PO Drawer 12610 📍 2818 Neuse Boulevard
 New Bern, NC 28561
 (252) 636-4936 📧 EnvHealth@cravencountync.gov

Environmental Health Mission Statement

"To safeguard life, promote human health, and protect the environment through the practice of modern environmental health science, the use of technology, rules, public education, and above all, dedication to the public trust."

Environmental Health provides education, surveillance and enforcement of state laws & regulations, Board of Health rules & county ordinances.

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

The Craven County Health Department - Division of Environmental Health seeks to build upon the history of public health and to assist in maintaining a healthy environment in which it is pleasant to live and work. This Division strives to respond to the dynamics and growth of our county and the changing priorities of Public Health. This is accomplished through the development and implementation of programs designed to assist in the promotion of healthy living and the mitigation of adverse environmental factors.

*Environmental health and protection refers to protection against environmental factors that may adversely impact human health or the ecological balances essential to long-term human health and environmental quality, whether in the natural or man-made environment. – **National Environmental Health Association***

The Division protects public health and safety through preventive measures designed to identify and control the spread of disease. This is accomplished primarily by (1) the promotion of environmental health through education of the general public and (2) through the enforcement of state and local Public Health regulations. This Division provides education, inspections, consultations, and enforcement of appropriate local, state and federal laws, rules, and regulations in accordance with proper policies and procedures.

In Craven County, the Division of Environmental Health currently consists of the following sections:

- Onsite Water Protection
 - Onsite Wastewater
 - Private Drinking Water Wells
 - Migrant Housing
- Food, Lodging and Institutions
- Children's Environmental Health
 - Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention
 - Asthma Management
- Rabies and Animal Control
- Environmental Health Laboratory
- Management Support

The current staff consists of

- 1 Environmental Health Director
- 1 Environmental Health Supervisor
- 2 Environmental Health Program Specialists
- 8 Environmental Health Specialists
- 1 Soil Scientist
- 2 Management Support
- 1 Chemical Technician (part-time)
- 1 Animal Control Supervisor



- 2 Animal Control Officers
- 2 Animal Shelter Attendants (one is part-time)
- 1 Office Assistant at the Animal Services Center

MANAGEMENT SUPPORT SECTION

This section's goal is to ensure that citizens' requests, data and other information are distributed in a timely manner to the appropriate personnel/section. Among these are:

- Applications for well and wastewater permits, lead-based paint inspections, and food, lodging & institutional plan reviews and permits,
- Water sample analyses,
- Rabies vaccination documentation,
- Animal microchipping registration,
- Complaints or inquiries from citizens, and
- Various other requests for services.

This section ensures that required reports, forms, and permits are completed and submitted to the appropriate person or agency and maintained in-house in either digital or hard-copy filing systems. This section researches and locates documents, such as older septic permits, upon request by realtors, contractors and the general public. This section is also responsible for accounts receivable, accounts payable, and researching/purchasing supplies. Assisting with the various needs of staff and with special projects are integral duties of the management support section.

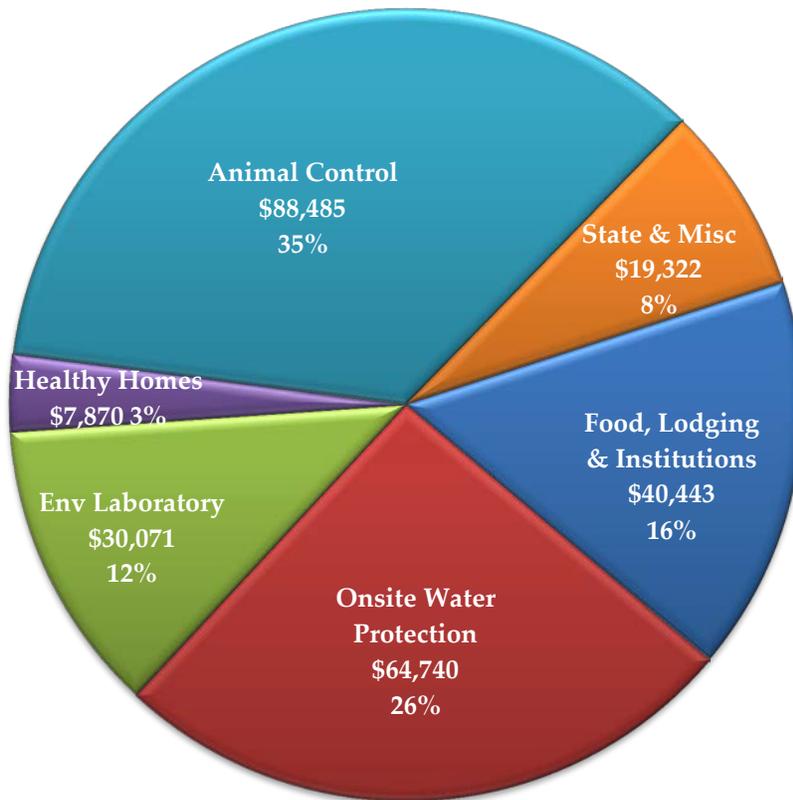
FINANCES

The Environmental Health Section receives funds from several sources.

- Fees for Services
 - Food Service Plan Review
 - Temporary & Limited Food Establishment Permits
 - Swimming Pool & Tattoo Permits
 - Certified Food Protection Manager Proctored Exams
 - Onsite Wastewater Permits & Approvals
 - Private Drinking Water Well Permits
 - Water Sample Analyses
 - Lead-Based Paint Inspections
 - Certified Lead Renovator Training & Exam
 - Animal Adoptions and Owner Reclaims
 - Animal Microchipping
 - Rabies Vaccinations
 - Animal Control Non-compliance fines
 - Animal Boarding
- Contracted Services
 - MCAS Cherry Point Animal Control
 - Pamlico County Animal Control
 - Tri-State Biological Lab
- State Aid-To-County
 - Aid to County is provided for all Environmental Health programs in the amount of \$4,000 per year.
- Permit Fees collected by the State

- Fees collected by the State annually for food establishments to operate are shared with the local county.
- A small financial incentive is provided to inspect summer feeding sites.
- Medicaid
 - \$15,240 is budgeted to pay for the CDP Food, Lodging & Institution Section’s Inspection Computer program from the Medicaid Cost Settlement Allocation
 - Medicaid Reimbursements for the inspections of the homes of lead-poisoned children
- Local Tax Support
 - Environmental Health earned 7.0% more revenue than budgeted.
 - Environmental Health expenditures were 5.0% less than budgeted.
 - Local tax support accounted for 84% of expenditures in FY 14/15 (\$1,223,752).

FY 14/15 REVENUE



All programs and sections in Environmental Health earned a total of \$241,010 in FY 14/15. Animal Control brought in 35% of total revenue, followed by Onsite Water Protection (26%), Food, Lodging & Institutions (16%), Environmental Laboratory (12%), State Aid to County & Miscellaneous (8%), and Healthy Homes – Children’s Environmental Health (3%).



ONSITE WATER PROTECTION SECTION

The goal of the Onsite Water Protection Section (OSWPS) is to protect the public's health by ensuring safe subsurface treatment & disposal of wastewater and the attainment of clean, potable water from private drinking wells located in Craven County, North Carolina.

Environmental Health Specialists (EHS's) from the section investigate complaints, issue permits and educate the public on topics related to onsite wastewater, drinking water wells, water supplies and general sanitation. The OSWP section includes an Onsite Wastewater Program, a Private Drinking Water Well Program, and a Migrant Housing Program, each of which are discussed below.



ONSITE WASTEWATER PROGRAM



While urbanized areas of Craven County have access to public sewer, there are significant portions of the county that are served by on-site wastewater systems (i.e. septic tank systems). The Craven County Health Department's Onsite Wastewater Program is responsible for overseeing the permitting, inspection, repair, enlargement, abandonment, operation and maintenance of all onsite wastewater subsurface treatment systems situated in the county. These septic systems collect, treat and dispose of domestic-type (i.e. residential) wastewater, and industrial-process type wastewater (produced by some businesses, plants, factories, etc.) by using the subsurface soils.



To determine the suitability of land parcels to accommodate new septic systems, detailed soil and site evaluations are performed by Onsite Wastewater staff. Based on these evaluations, either a permit allowing construction of a septic system, or a letter of denial prohibiting such, is issued. Onsite Wastewater workers also evaluate existing septic tank systems for proper functionality, proposed changes in use, and to determine if large or complicated systems (those with pumps, pre-treatment technology, electronic

components, etc.) are being properly maintained and operated. Installation inspections are performed by Environmental Health Specialists during the construction of each subsurface sewage disposal system installed in the county, to ensure compliance with State rules and regulations. When any building addition, home replacement, swimming pool, or detached structure is proposed to be built on a property already having a septic system, a site visit and evaluation for an "existing septic system approval" is performed. Most onsite and well activities are

geographically located by our workers using global positioning equipment and the county GIS system. The data is shared with the county-wide GIS “warehouse”.

In the interest of protecting public health, onsite staff members also evaluate failing septic systems and issue permits specifying for their proper repair. The section investigates complaints received from businesses, industry and the public (regarding a variety of environmental concerns), and performs other requests for service, such as water sampling, consultation, permit queries, educational presentations, etc.

Terms to Know

- **Improvement Permits (IP)** are
 - the first permit issued for a parcel of land,
 - needed before Planning Board approval of subdivisions or mobile home parks,
 - often required by finance companies prior to lending money for land purchases.
- **Construction Authorizations (CA)** are
 - required before a building permit can be issued,
 - issued before any construction can begin
 - required when repairing a malfunctioning system.
- **Operation Permits (OP)** are
 - issued after the septic system has been properly installed and inspected,
 - needed before release of final electrical power and occupancy of a structure.
- **Approvals** are issued when an applicant wants to add or build structures on an existing parcel already having a (properly functioning) septic tank system.

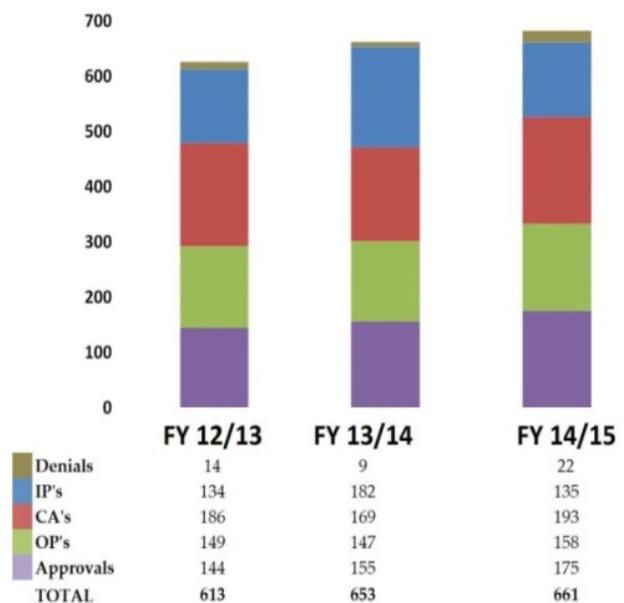
The Onsite Wastewater Program received **564** total applications in FY 14/15, and issued **661** permits and approvals during that same time period.

The issuance of nearly all Onsite Wastewater documents increased by **7.26%** in FY 14/15 when compared to the past two fiscal years. This is the result of a modest **3.5%** increase in septic system permits (mostly CAs and OPs) combined with a more substantial **17.7%** increase in (existing-system) approvals.

We also experienced a **14.2%** increase in the number of CAs issued, which may indicate a modest rise in construction starts initiated in the county. The increase in number of OPs issued shows an almost **7%** rise in the number of wastewater treatment systems installed or repaired in the county during FY 14/15.

The number of IPs issued in FY 14/15 was almost identical to that of FY 12/13,

Wastewater Permits, by Year

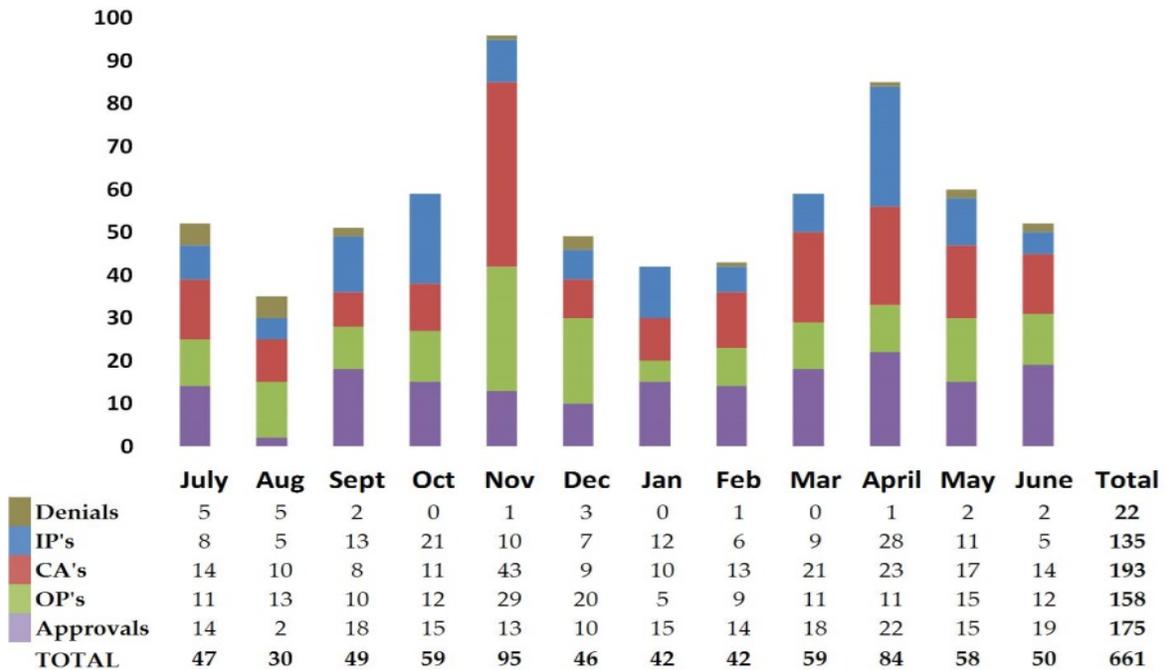


NOTE: IP = Improvement Permit, CA = Construction Authorization, OP = Operation Permit. Approvals include Detached Structures, Pools, Mobile Homes, Foundation Increases, etc.



but experienced a **25.6%** decrease from FY 13/14. This may be due to a spike in issuances of IP's in FY 13/14. Spikes in issuance of IP's are usually the result of the completion of permitting in subdivisions or mobile home parks, which typically receive all of their improvement permits at once (or over a short period of time). Over the past three fiscal years, Denials of Improvement Permits have averaged approximately 9 percent.

Wastewater Permits, by Month FY 14/15



NOTE: IP = Improvement Permit, CA = Construction Authorization, OP = Operation Permit. Approvals include Detached Structures, Pools, Mobile Homes, Foundation Increases, etc.

With regards to failing systems in the county, there were **70 CA's** issued this year to repair or replace malfunctioning septic systems compared to **123 CA's** for new or expanded septic systems. The average age of failed systems was **36 years** old. For comparison, the average age of a failing system in North Carolina is 15 years old, and in the coastal plain, closer to 11 years.

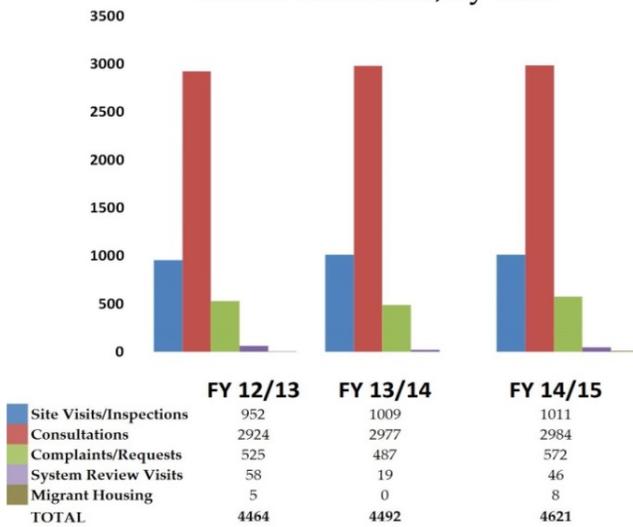


Besides evaluation and permitting of land, Onsite Wastewater staff performed an abundance of other activities in FY 14/15 to provide services to the public. The section handled **572** Complaint Investigations and Requests for Service, including collection of water samples, investigating complaints from citizens, locating permits & system layouts for realtors, contractors, banks, and citizens (performed almost exclusively by the Management Support section), providing guidance and education regarding wells and septic systems, and so on.

This represents a **15%** increase in Complaint Investigations and Requests for Service from the previous year.

Onsite staff in FY 14/15 visited at least **1011** sites to perform installation inspections of septic systems, meet with clients, surveyors, engineers, contractors, etc. and to perform measurements and other activities. In addition, staff recorded at least **2984** consults with clients, including phone calls, visits to our office, and other forms of correspondence. Furthermore, **13** subdivision and mobile home park maps were reviewed for approval, **one** engineered system was reviewed for submittal to State engineers, and **one** soil scientist report, submitted to support issuance of a permit, was reviewed.

Onsite Activities, by Year



PRIVATE DRINKING WATER WELL PROGRAM



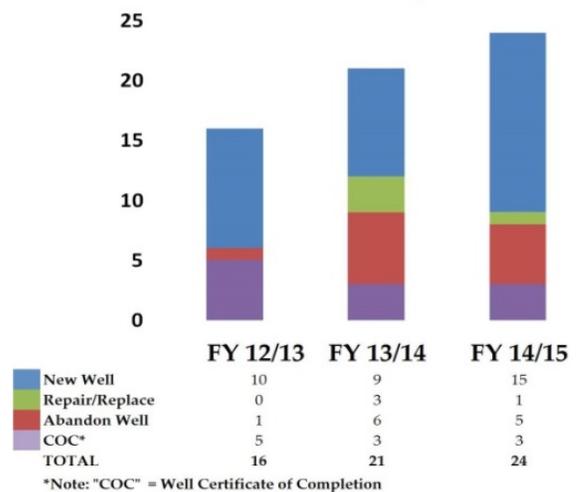
The OSWP section is also responsible for overseeing the permitting, construction, repair, sampling and abandonment of private drinking water wells (but not irrigation wells) via our Private Drinking Water Well Program. Sites are visited to confirm the suitability of each proposed location for a well, and to identify potential sources of contamination.

Well permits to construct a new well, repair an existing well, or replace a well are issued or denied based on the visit. The permits issued always show ALL permissible locations for the well, and highlight proper setbacks between the well and all identified sources of possible contamination.

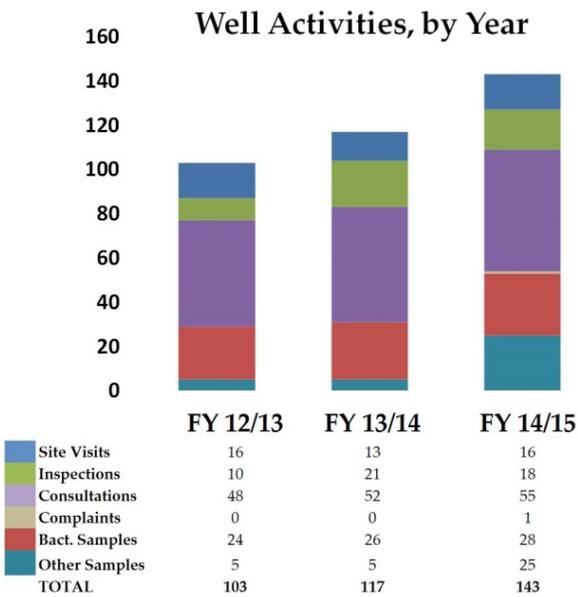
Well Program staff also perform installation inspections during construction of each well to ensure compliance with state rules and regulations.

Water sampling of new and existing wells is performed by our specialists to test for organic, inorganic, and bacteriological indicators of water contamination. Water samples collected from newly-installed wells are primarily tested at the State Lab of Public Health in Raleigh, North Carolina. Water samples from existing wells may be tested at the Craven County Environmental Health Laboratory or at the State lab, depending on the parameters desired.

Well Permits, by Year



Since Craven County has an extensive public water network (and since irrigation wells are not covered in the State’s drinking water well rules) the number of people requiring well permits in Craven County is much less than those requiring septic system permits and approvals. **Even so, there has been a visible increase in the number of permits issued in the period culminating in FY 14/15.**

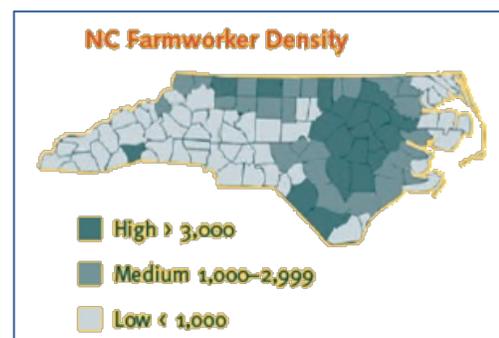


Private Drinking Water Well Program staff performed many different well-related activities to safeguard our citizen’s private water supplies, including installation inspections, well water sampling and other visits and consultations. In FY 14/15, **28** bacteriological water samples from new and existing private wells were collected by our staff to test for potential contamination. **Twenty-two** of these were tested at the State Laboratory of Public Health (samples submitted to the State lab must always be collected by a certified Environmental Health Specialist). The remainder were tested at the Craven County Environmental Health Laboratory. **Fourteen** water samples were collected by citizens themselves and submitted for testing locally at the Craven

County Health Department Laboratory (discussed later in this document) which can accept owner-collected samples and provides a much faster turnaround time than the State lab. Additionally, well program staff made consultations with **55** clients and performed **18** well inspections during the 14/15 fiscal year.

MIGRANT HOUSING PROGRAM

The Migrant Housing Program is also included in the Onsite Water Protection Section. This program’s primary goal is to ensure that seasonal migrant labor camps located in Craven County provide safe drinking water, sanitary facilities and adequate wastewater disposal to their workers. We receive inspection requests from the local farmers before they may obtain workers. Workers may number in the hundreds. Inspections are made, corrections put in place, and post-inspection reports are provided to the appropriate regulatory agencies. Like the other sections of the Onsite Water Protection Section, we have seen a modest rise in numbers of migrant camps needing inspection in recent years, with **5 camps inspected in FY 12/13, 7 camps in FY 13/14, and 8 camps in FY 14/15.**



FOOD, LODGING AND INSTITUTIONS SECTION

This section's goal is to ensure food safety and sanitation in regulated establishments. The Food and Lodging program conducts unannounced inspections, in a variety of facilities including: restaurants, food stands, meat markets, nursing homes and hospitals, school cafeterias & buildings, residential care facilities, daycares, mobile food units and pushcarts, summer camps, jails, bed & breakfast homes, and other lodging facilities. Permitting of temporary food stands (food booths for festivals, carnivals, fairs, etc.) is also done throughout the year. Environmental Health Specialists work to ensure compliance with all sanitation laws through routine inspections, education, construction plan review, and complaint investigations.



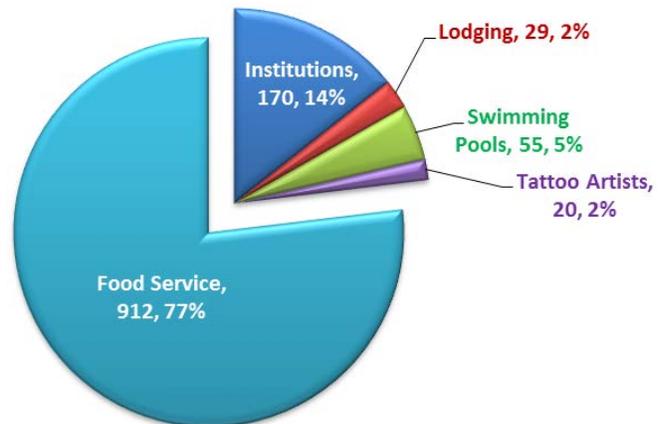
All scores and inspection reports for facilities inspected by the Craven County Health Department can be found on the Craven County Website, specifically on the Food, Lodging, and Institutions webpage of the Health Department, https://public.cdpehs.com/NCENVPBL/ESTABLISHMENT/ShowESTABLISHMENTTablePage.aspx?ESTTST_CTY=25.

INSPECTIONS

1821 inspections were made at the Craven County regulated facilities in FY 14/15. These inspections are classified as either *Sanitation*, *Permitting*, or *Compliance* Inspections. 65% of all inspections are Sanitation Inspections and the vast majority of all inspections (80%) are conducted in food service facilities.



Inspection Types in All Establishments



Sanitation Inspections in All Establishments

Sanitation Inspections are conducted at each facility based on North Carolina General Statute requirements. The Public Health laws describe the minimum number of inspections which must be conducted depending on the facility type and the potential risk to the public's health. Some facilities require a minimum of four

sanitation inspections each year, while others are only required to be inspected once. These are most often unannounced inspections and a grade card is posted based on the results of the inspection where required by law.

NC Division of Public Health collects permit fees from food and lodging establishments on an annual basis. Two-thirds of the money collected is distributed to county health departments to help improve environmental health inspection programs. A county's allocation is based on the percentage of required inspections conducted at food service and lodging establishments. Craven County has completed 99.8% of these required inspections since FY 11/12. In FY 14/15, we conducted 860 of the 862 required minimum inspections at the 343 food service and lodging facilities. Additionally, since FY 13/14, we have completed 100% of the minimum number of required inspections in all establishment types.

77% of the Sanitation Inspections are conducted for food service facilities, which include restaurants, school lunch rooms, institutional food service, food stands, mobile food units, push carts, temporary food stands, meat markets and locally regulated seafood markets and vehicles. 14% of the inspections are conducted at institutions, which include nursing homes, private and public school buildings, summer camps, hospitals, jails, child day care centers, adult day centers, and residential care group homes.



Compliance Inspections are conducted to investigate a complaint or to verify that a problem has been corrected. Staff responds to all complaints received from the public regarding a regulated facility and investigate by conducting inspections, interviews and document review. 86% of the compliance inspections are conducted at food service establishments. Some violations documented in the sanitation inspection must be corrected in a limited time-frame, and many of these compliance inspections are performed to verify whether or not the violation is corrected. The grade the establishment received is not changed based on this correction.



Undercooked Chicken

Permit Inspections are conducted to issue a permit to operate a new establishment or for a new owner to operate an existing establishment. Many facilities are required to submit plans of the proposed layout for approval prior to opening to the public. Appointments are often made to conduct this type of inspection. 87% of the permits are issued for food service.



Tattoo Artists and Swimming Pools must obtain new permits each year.

Sometimes other agencies are consulted to help answer questions a manager or facility director may have. Other agencies include local Building Inspection Departments, Fire Marshal's Offices, US Food and Drug Administration, the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, and the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

HEALTHY HOMES & CHILDREN'S ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

This sections' goal is to ensure that the public receives the highest quality of service from the Health Department in its implementation of programs that relate to children's environmental health. This section concentrates on disease prevention and management through environmental controls. We encourage families to provide healthy homes so their children can thrive. Our two major programs are Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention and Pediatric Asthma Management.



CHILDHOOD LEAD POISONING PREVENTION

The objective of this program is to prevent childhood lead poisoning by

- (1) Identifying children with elevated levels of lead in their blood through routine and targeted screening;
- (2) Identifying lead hazards in the environments of children with elevated lead levels and in the community;
- (3) Reducing exposure to lead hazards through remediation and education; and
- (4) Primary prevention through the education of contractors who could create lead hazards with common renovation activities.



This program has formed a partnership with Jones, Pamlico and Lenoir counties. Working with area health care providers and the Public Health Departments, **The Craven-Jones-Pamlico-Lenoir Lead Poisoning Prevention Partnership** not only responds to the needs of identified lead-poisoned children, but strives to prevent children from being poisoned in the first place by (1) promoting lead-safe housing & enrollment in the NC Preventive Maintenance Program, (2), identifying lead-based paint & hazards prior to federally funded remodeling work and (3) teaching lead-safe work practices to remodeling workers.

North Carolina's Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Program (CLPPP) currently coordinates clinical and environmental services aimed at eliminating childhood lead poisoning. It is part of the Environmental Health Section of the Public Health Division in the NC Department of Health and Human Resources. Using data that is most currently available, there were approximately 2,481 children ages 6 months to

six years screened for blood lead poisoning in 2011. Of those children who were screened, 1 was confirmed as having an elevated blood lead level between 10 – 19 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dl).

Craven County does exceptionally well at screening the children most at risk for lead poisoning. We screened 93.1% of those ages 1 and 2 enrolled in Medicaid in 2011, which is the latest year available, and had the fourth highest percentage in the State. We also did very well screening all children ages 1 and 2 by screening 64.3%. At 0.4%, our percentage of children who initially test at or above 10 µg/dl is the same as the state's percentage and the average of our peer counties.

Objective 1
Identify children with elevated levels of lead in their blood through routine and targeted screening

Childhood Blood Surveillance Data, 2011					
Children Tested	Ages 1 and 2 Years			6 months to 6 years	
	% Tested All Children	% Tested Medicaid	First Test % ≥ 10	Confirmed ≥ 10 – 19	Confirmed ≥ 20
Craven	64.3	93.1	0.4	1	0
State	52.0	80.7	0.4	105	22

Source: North Carolina Childhood Blood Lead Surveillance Data, NC Environmental Health Section, Children's Environmental Health, 2011

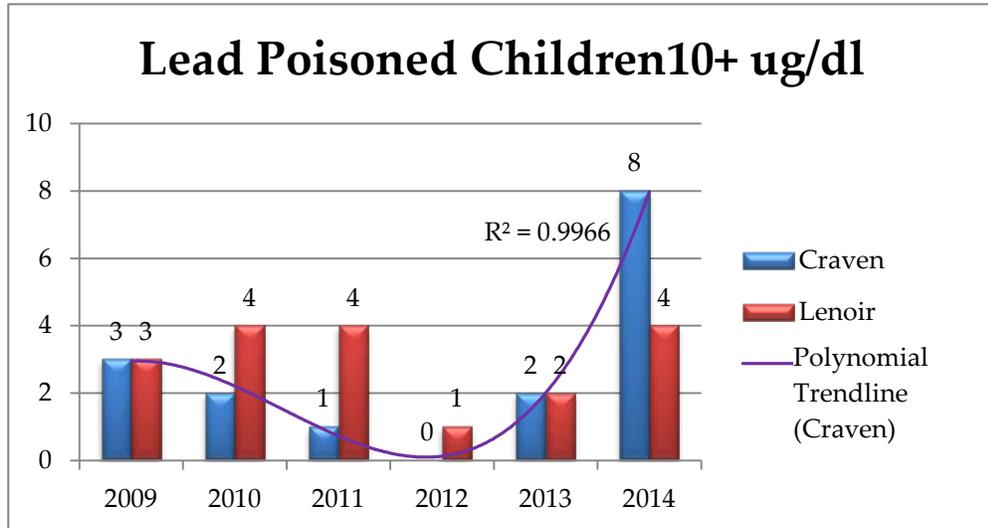
- "Percent Tested" is the number of children tested divided by the target population. Children are counted as being tested for lead poisoning in successive years until they are confirmed to have a lead level >10 micrograms per deciliter (µg/dL).
 - "Target Population" is based on the number of live births in preceding years.
 - "Number Tested" is an unduplicated count of children tested for lead poisoning within the calendar year.
- "Confirmed" lead levels are based on a child receiving two consecutive blood lead test results >10 µg/dL within a six-month period and are based on the confirmation date and are classified according to the highest level confirmed during the calendar year. The categories "Confirmed 10-19" and "Confirmed >20" are mutually exclusive.
- "Percent Tested Among Medicaid" is based on a data match of blood lead tests with Medicaid encounter data and includes ages 9-35 months. This larger 9-35 months category reflects Health Check visits and blood lead testing for children around their first and second birthdays and up to age three.

In 2012, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) changed the recommendations to begin diagnostic (confirmation) testing for all children who have an initial blood test result of 5 µg/dl or greater, and recommends that Public Health get involved. We began tracking this data in 2014. Sometimes a child will begin at a lower level of concern and later test at a higher level, especially when no interventions or education is offered. Our goal is to offer consultations and home inspections as soon as possible to help prevent this unhealthy progression.

Lead Poisoned Children, FY 14/15	Childhood Blood Surveillance Data, FY 14/15			
	<u>5 – 9</u>	<u>10 – 19</u>	<u>≥ 20</u>	<u>Total</u>
Craven County	10	4	2	16
Partner Counties [Jones / Pamlico / Lenoir]	8	4	0	12



During 2014, Craven County saw a dramatic rise in the number of children with elevated blood lead levels above 10 µg/dl; two children actually were confirmed as lead poisoned with blood lead levels at or above 20 µg/dl. Craven County conducts lead poisoning investigations in Lenoir, Pamlico and Jones Counties, and this jump was not seen in any of these counties.



Objective 2
Identify lead hazards in the environments of children with elevated lead levels and in the community

Craven County conducts investigations of the environments of children with elevated blood lead levels; in 2014, we investigated 14 homes and/or childcare centers in Craven County and two in Lenoir County. Most of



these children were exposed through a family member's job renovating old homes or had renovation work done in their residence. We are developing a program to pilot with the City of New Bern Inspections Department to help the NC Health Hazards Control Unit enforce regulations that only Certified Renovators work for compensation in residences and child-occupied facilities built before 1978.



One residence was required to have the lead-hazards eliminated and was required to develop a plan to remediate the residence. The other homes received recommendations and advice on how to remediate the lead-hazards identified in their home; we do not track compliance with recommendations.

Objective 3
Reduce exposure to lead hazards through remediation and education

Objective 4

Primary prevention through the education of contractors who could create lead hazards with common renovation activities.

Craven County has taught lead-safe work practices since 1999 to contractors in an effort to prevent children from being poisoned as a result of renovation work in their homes. In 2009, we became accredited by the EPA and the State of North Carolina to teach Lead Safety in Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP). We taught 53 students in FY 14/15.



ASTHMA MANAGEMENT

Craven County has been addressing childhood asthma since 1995 and adult asthma since 2008 by teaching asthma management classes, conducting home assessments, and recommending and providing products to reduce the patient's exposure to asthma triggers. Compared to the National Healthy People 2020 goals and North Carolina statistics, Craven County has reduced the hospitalization rates for each of the age ranges (0-4, 5-64, and 65+) significantly.



The Asthma Coalition of Eastern Carolina
Breathing Should Be Easy!

Asthma Coalition
of Eastern Carolina
Breathing Should Be Easy!

Since 1995, we have promoted self-management and have several programs and projects to help ensure that every patient receives quality, consistent care in order to lead productive *NO ATTACKS* lives. The program receives referrals from area pediatric health-care providers, Craven County Primary Care and the MERCI Clinic.



In Craven County, the in-patient hospitalization rates have dropped 56% for 0-14 year-olds and 59% for All-Ages in the past 10 years.

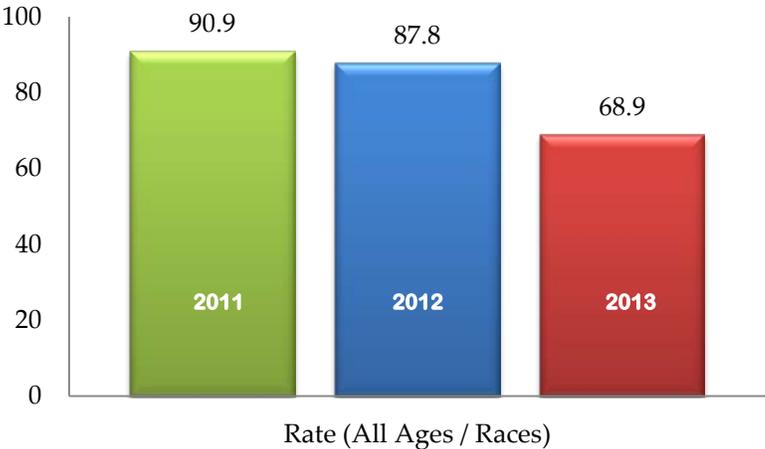
- This program provides:
- Asthma Management Workshops for Parents of children with asthma and Adult Asthma Patients
 - Environmental Interventions, which can include pillow case allergen-barrier covers, mattress allergen-barrier covers, roach baits, HVAC filters and other site-specific products.
 - Home Assessments are conducted to identify asthma triggers in the home and other Healthy Homes issues with low-cost / no-cost remediation.

This program struggled in FY 14/15 because of loss of funding and loss of a key staff member. We are successfully re-energizing this program in FY 15/16. We gave a presentation at the State Asthma Summit and are piloting a program with ECU and Vident Health that will follow patients' lung functions more closely before and after the environmental interventions are placed in the home.

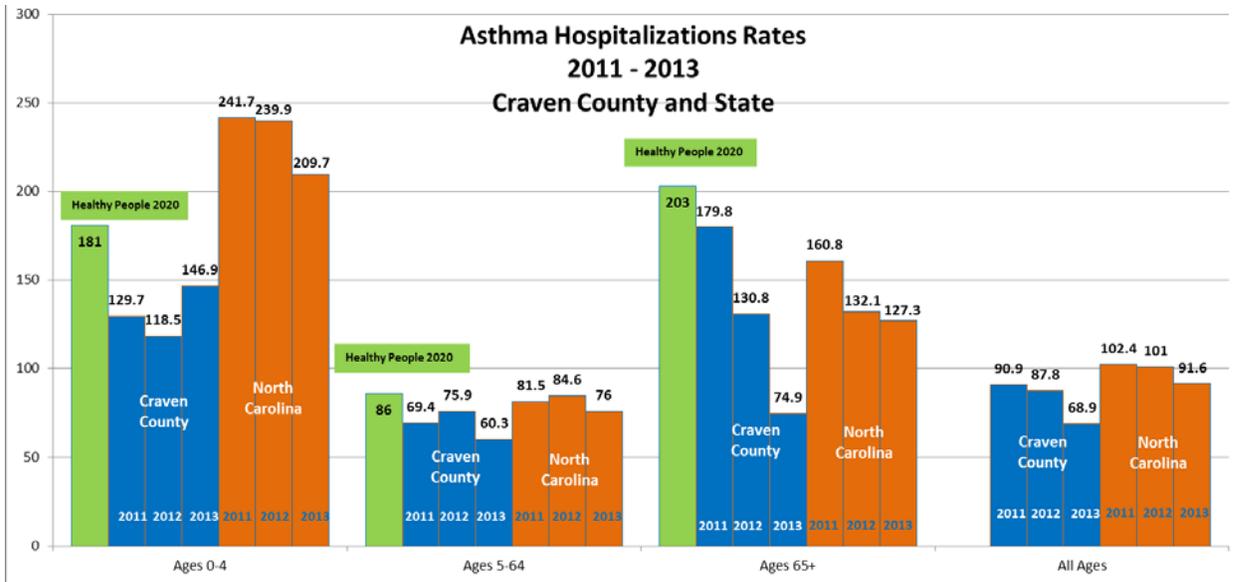
2014-2016 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL

Goal 3 in the 2014 – 2016 Craven County Health Department’s Strategic Plan is to *Reduce the rate of asthma related hospital admissions from 90.9^{2011 Data} to 85.6^{2013 Data} per 10,000.*

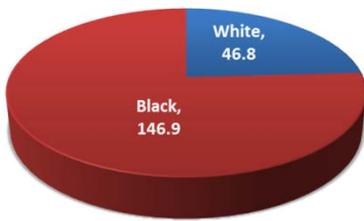
The rate of hospitalizations due to asthma was 90.9 in 2011, which was the closest year available at the time the strategic plan was written. The rate dropped to 87.8 in 2012 and to 68.9 in 2013. This asthma hospitalization rate is for all ages and races. The NC Center for Health Statistics stratified this data in 2014 and was also able to provide additional years and race.



When comparing ages, reference was made to the Federal Healthy People 2020 Asthma Hospitalization Goals to get an indication on whether or not our rates would be considered normal. Craven County’s hospitalization rates are below these goals for all three age ranges, (4, 5-64 and 65+).



The rate of asthma hospitalizations for the black population is significantly higher than the white subset, and actually increased during this three-year time period, from 131.8 to 146.9 admissions per 10,000.



Even though Craven County consistently has more than three times the white population as the black, the same number of whites and blacks were admitted into the hospital for asthma in 2013. This indicates that specialized programs targeting the black population need to be developed to address this health disparity.

CLANDESTINE METHAMPHETAMINE LABORATORIES

Methamphetamine (meth) is a drug that can be easily made using ingredients purchased in local stores. Places where meth is made are called illegal clandestine laboratories, meth labs, or clan labs. The chemicals used to make meth can pose multiple dangers to both public health and the environment. By North Carolina law,



meth contaminated properties must be decontaminated before re-occupancy. To ensure the protection of public health, State rules establish decontamination standards and procedures to ensure that properties used as meth laboratories are rendered safe for habitation (source: Occupational & Environmental Epidemiology, http://epi.publichealth.nc.gov/oec/a_z/meth.html).

Craven County Health Department is notified by the State Bureau of Investigation when an illegal meth lab is discovered. Since 2004, the Environmental Health Section has enforced the decontamination requirements. After having a low number of meth labs for several years, Craven County has had 3 in FY 14/15. This increase may be the result of the use of a new method of cooking the meth, called the “One-Pot”. It allows people to make smaller, more frequent batches with less pre-cursor supplies. The same decontamination regulations apply no matter which method is used to prepare the meth.



ANIMAL / RABIES CONTROL SECTION

The Craven Pamlico Animal Services Center (CPASC) is located at 1639 Old Airport Road in New Bern NC.

This section’s goal is to promote public health by keeping the rabies virus out of the human population. North Carolina is saturated with rabies, mainly in wildlife. The virus is transmitted through the saliva or nervous tissue of the infected animal and is nearly 100% fatal. In FY 2014/2015, four animals tested positive for the rabies virus. This included the county’s first positive canine in over 30 years. This puppy exposed multiple people to the virus.

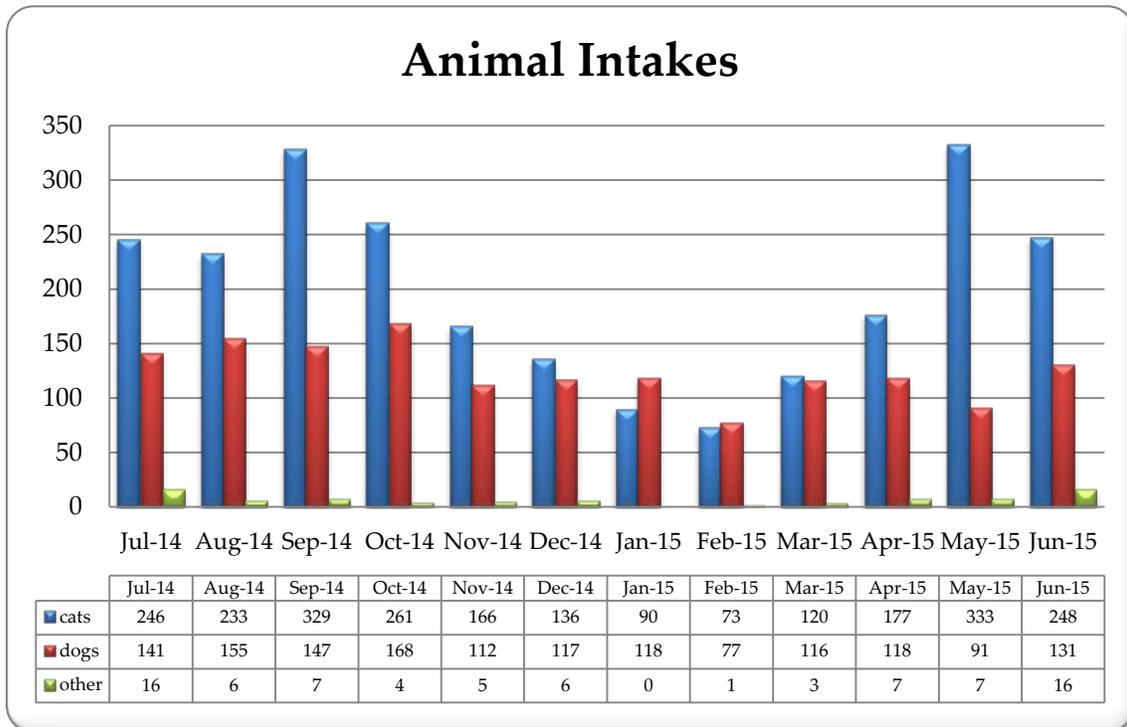


To keep humans safe and lower the risk of rabies exposure, CPASC is tasked with the following:

- Ensuring the mandatory vaccination of dogs, cats, and ferrets. Domestic animals are the buffer between wildlife and humans. By vaccinating pets, humans have a much lower risk of exposure to the virus. With three Certified Rabies Vaccinators on staff, CPASC is able to offer a convenient and inexpensive way for the public to keep their pets’ rabies vaccination current.
- Removing stray, dangerous, and unvaccinated animals from the community and from contact with humans. Animals with unknown vaccination history are treated as unvaccinated, and extra care is taken when handling such animals.
- Quarantining or rabies testing of animals that have bitten a person. If a dog, cat, or ferret bites a human, it will typically undergo a 10 day quarantine to observe for symptoms of the virus. If a biting animal cannot be quarantined, or in the case of wildlife, a specimen of the animal is sent to the North Carolina State Laboratory of Public Health for testing.



There was a total intake of 3,981 animals into the shelter during FY 14/15. Historically we experience a higher intake of cats versus dogs, mostly due to the high number of feral cats in our jurisdiction. In FY 14-15, cats made up 56% of the total animal intake. Dogs made up 40%, with the remaining 4% other species. The source of our intake is primarily owner surrenders, with ACO pick-ups, public drop-off of strays, legal holds (cruelty cases, etc) and bite quarantines making up the remainder. Animals originate from a various jurisdictions: Craven County, Pamlico County, and Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

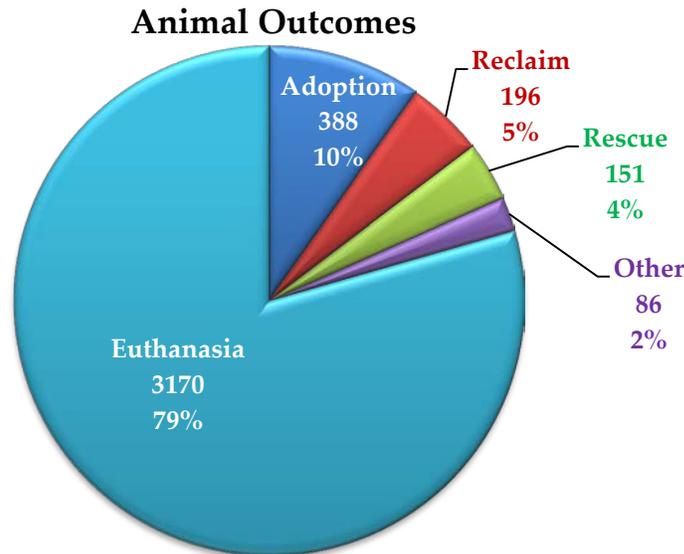


A main goal of CPASC is to reduce the intake number yearly. Through education, mandatory surgical alteration of all animals adopted from CPASC, and utilization of a Low Income Spay/Neuter program for Craven County residents, we continue to strive to reduce the number of animals coming through our doors.

CPASC continues to create new relationships with private adopters as well as rescue and humane organizations in an effort to increase our live release rate. Partnering with for profit and other non profit entities provides exposure to the animals in our care, with a goal to increase adoptions. Volunteers play an essential role in maintaining the mental and physical health of the animals, thus increasing their adoptability.

Euthanasia is still a necessary service. In general, all happy, healthy, and friendly animals are given every opportunity for adoption. Feral or aggressive animals are not placed for adoption. CPASC also offers to the public owner requested euthanasia at no charge to ease the pain and suffering of companion animals.

As can be expected the high numbers of feral cats received has a detrimental effect on our euthanasia rate. A total of 3,170 animals were euthanized during FY 14/15. 93% of

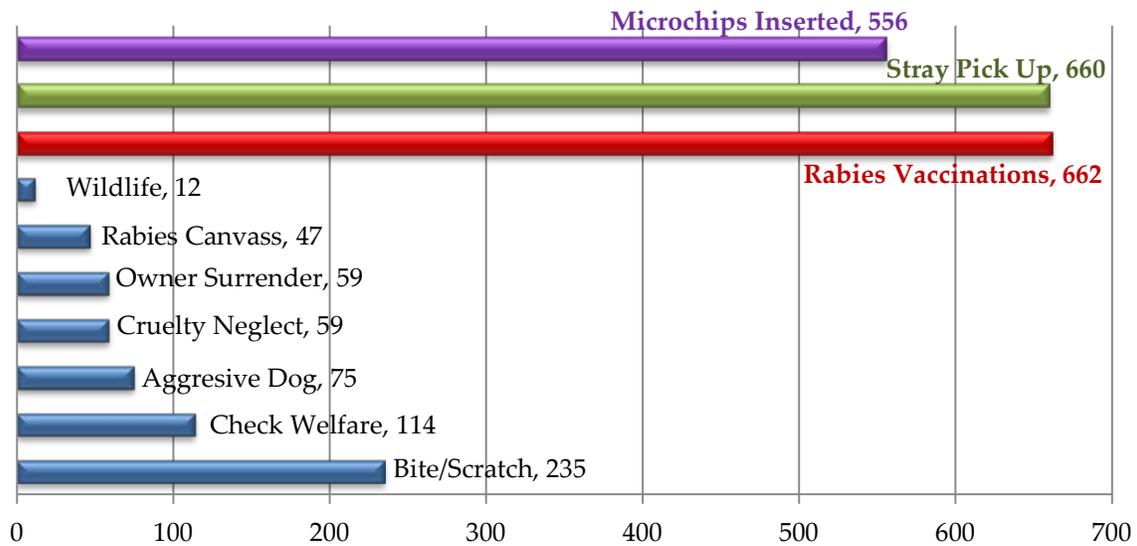


cats were euthanized, as opposed to 58% of dogs. There are various reasons for euthanasia and the reasons differ for dogs vs. cats. 21% of dogs were euthanized due to space limitations versus 15% of cats. 18% of dogs versus 40% of cats were euthanized because they were aggressive/feral/unsocialized to humans.

Although rabies prevention is the focus of this department, other services in addition to rabies vaccinations are available:

- Animal adoptions
- Owner reclaims
- Euthanasia service for pet owners
- Regulation of aggressive dogs
- Microchipping
- Low cost spay/neuter services for low income residents
- Emergency animal sheltering during disasters
- “New Leash” on Life Inmate Training Program
- Animal cruelty investigations
- Sheltering services for Pamlico County and MCAS Cherry Point





2014-2016 STRATEGIC PLAN PROGRESS TOWARDS GOAL

Goal 5 in the 2014 – 2016 Craven County Health Department’s strategic plan is to *Expand the Animal Services Center by 2015*. The listed strategies are:

- Have project approved on the County’s capital improvement plan.
- Contract with an outside source that plans and builds such facilities.
- Develop a construction plan to be approved by the Board of Health and the County Manager.



The County Commissioners have taken the leadership in this project and the shelter is expected to be expanded and renovated soon.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LABORATORY SECTION

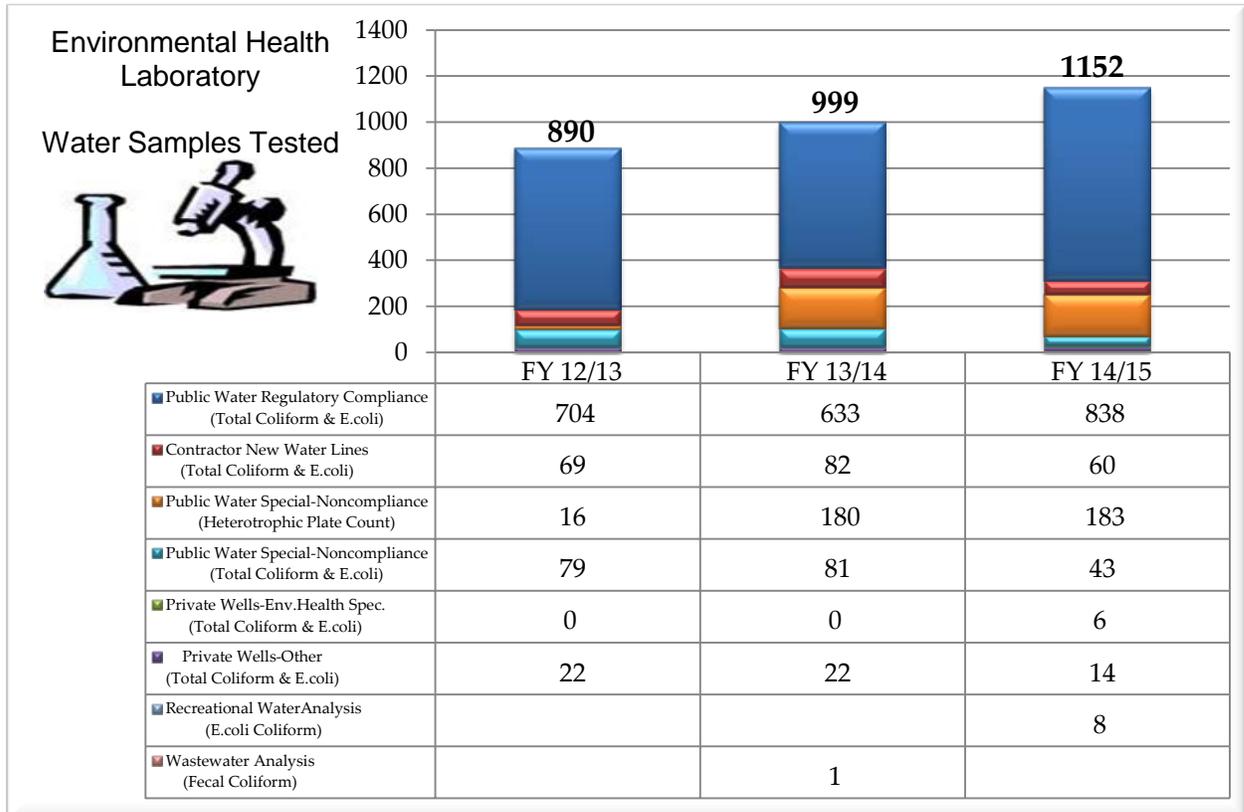
Bacteria, viruses, parasites, and other microorganisms are sometimes found in waters and can cause a variety of illnesses. The Environmental Health Laboratory’s goal is to protect the public’s health from disease-causing organisms by providing bacteriological testing of Public Water Systems, Private Wells, New Construction Plumbing, Ground Water Supplies, and Recreational Surface Waters.

WATER TESTING

The Environmental Health Laboratory is certified by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Division of Laboratory Certification. Bacteriological testing services include Total Coliform & E.coli Presence/Absence, E.coli MPN/100mL, Enterococcus MPN/100mL, and Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) MPN/mL. The Environmental Laboratory provides testing services to comply with regulatory and programs requirements such as NC Good Agricultural Practices (GAP), Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and NC Public Water Supply (PWS)

Total Coliform Compliance Monitoring Rule for Public Water Systems, US Veteran Affairs (VA) loans, City/County Inspections, and Federal Government Contracts.

The Environmental Lab currently performs compliance bacteriological testing for five public water systems in Craven, Jones, and Pamlico Counties that covers a population of approximately 76,000. In addition, anyone with a private well may request a water sample to be tested for bacterial contamination.



In FY 14/15, fifteen water samples tested positive for potential bacterial contamination.

Six were from new water lines installed by contractors for public water systems,

- Four were from private wells, and
- Five were from public water systems tested for noncompliance reasons.

Owners of public water systems are required to notify the users, sanitize the affected portions that may be contaminated, and retest. Owners of private water systems are recommended to sanitize and retest their well water.

OTHER TESTS

The Laboratory also tests food samples for bacteriological contamination, soils for mineral content or expansibility, and conducts other tests as appropriate for the sample collected.

Craven County



ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Human health depends on the food we eat, the water we drink, the air we breathe, the homes we live in, our workplaces, and the communities in which we live.

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