This report summarizes the leading health issues identified by North Carolina counties, hospitals, and stakeholders for strategic planning by NC TraCS, and its collaborating investigators and community partners, to better address the health needs of North Carolinians. Activities for this report were conducted from mid-January - April 2016.

Data were also gathered from stakeholders across the state who provide paid or volunteer services in their communities or regions. A total of 21 (19.4%) of 108 responded to an invitation to complete an online survey designed to assess their perceptions of the prevailing health and social priorities (based on the top priorities from the CHAs and CHNAs) and recommended plans for immediate action.

The following table lists the top 10 health priorities from the CHAs, CHNAs, and stakeholders. Obesity, healthcare access, mental health, chronic disease management, cardiovascular disease/hypertension, and diabetes were the most frequently listed priorities. Substance abuse was a frequently identified priority for the CHAs and CHNAs. Cancer remained among the top 10 priorities — and while its priority ranking varied, stakeholders, despite lower frequency in response, ranked it as highest priority.

Based on priority frequency, the hospital CHNAs focused more on individual health conditions (e.g., diabetes, cancer, cardiovascular disease) while the county CHAs focused more on population health characteristics (e.g., physical activity and nutrition). For stakeholders’ recommended plans for immediate action (data not shown), the most frequently mentioned activities were increased representation of stakeholders in affected populations, sustained mechanisms of engagement, and creation of communication liaisons.

### Conclusion
Given the different audiences responding to these assessments, the overlap of health priorities as they are ranked highlights important areas of need in the state of North Carolina. In a cursory comparison with prior rankings, substance abuse research is a major priority in 2016. NC TraCS will focus on strategies around these common priorities along with increased engagement of a variety of stakeholders.