

A PROFILE OF WAKE COUNTY CHILDHOOD INJURY &

INJURY PREVENTION

MAY 2014

Section I - Background

This report was created by the Healthy Solutions Team and the Carolina Center for Health Informatics at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill under contract by the John Rex Endowment. For the full report see <http://www.rexendowment.org/>

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I. Background

A. John Rex Endowment Background

The John Rex Endowment (JRE) was formed in 2000, the result of the purchase of Rex Healthcare by the University of North Carolina Health Care System. With a primary focus on Wake County residents, JRE seeks to support an environment where children and families in greater Wake County live healthy lives. Seven years following its charter, JRE aligned with a national call for significant attention to the issue of childhood obesity. This shifted JRE's emphasis from 'access to health care' to the health and well-being status of children and the prevention of health problems. The mission of JRE underscores a fundamental belief that all children should have support to: reach their full potential, thrive, live their lives fully, and be physically, mentally, and emotionally well.

In 2013, The John Rex Endowment (JRE) released a five-year plan entitled *Our Plan for Impact, 2013-2018* (http://files.www.rexendowment.org/what-we-fund/Our_Plan_for_Impact_2013-2018.pdf). Injury Prevention is one of four focus areas in the plan. According to Wake County stakeholders who participated in JRE's five-year planning process, the level of injury prevention activity in Wake County was lacking, and those activities that do exist are not well coordinated. In addition, there does not appear to be a community-wide consensus on priorities for preventing injury and ensuring the overall safety of Wake County children from ages 0 through 17 years.

B. Purpose of the Wake County Childhood Injury Prevention Assessment Project

To support the JRE's strategic plan and funding efforts to prevent childhood injury in Wake County, NC, JRE issued a *Request for Consultant Services* in May 2013 to:

1. **Summarize Wake County Childhood Injury Data and Gaps** (i.e., review of secondary data sources to identify the leading causes of childhood injury morbidity and mortality among Wake County children ages 0- through 17, hereafter referred to as 0-17 years));
2. **Create a Profile of Wake County Organizations Addressing Childhood Health and Safety** (i.e., primary data collection survey among organizations working in Wake County to promote childhood health and safety with a focus on those that conduct injury and/or violence prevention activities); and
3. **Investigate the Connection between the Injury Data and Organizational Profile** (i.e., compare the degree to which Wake County Organizations are addressing the leading causes of injury morbidity and mortality); and
4. **Summarize Recommendations to foster learning and commitment, build capacity, and increase funding streams for injury prevention.**

The service-oriented *Healthy Solutions* Team, within the Department of Health Behavior at The University of North Carolina (UNC) at Chapel Hill Gillings School of Global Public Health, was contracted to complete the *Wake County Childhood Injury Prevention (IP) Assessment Project* from August 1, 2013 to January 31, 2014. Based in Chapel Hill, NC, the Healthy Solutions team works with numerous local, state and national organizations across the United States. Housed at a major research institution, the team specializes in tailoring research-tested methods to build program capacity and promote the use of policy, environmental, and system strategies. *Healthy Solutions* uses 21st century solutions to help agencies, foundations, organizations, and community groups address public health challenges. UNC Team members believe the public health workforce and their non-profit partners can contribute to transformative outcomes when using strategies grounded in population-based prevention and social equity (<http://www.unc.edu/healthysolutions/index.htm>).

Healthy Solutions team members completing this project included: 1) Research Associate Professor *Dr. Carolyn E Crump*; 2) Research Associate *Mr. Robert J. Letourneau, MPH*; and 3) Research Associate *Ms. Rachel Page, MPH*. They collaborated with faculty and staff at the *Carolina Center for Health Informatics (CCHI)*, a practice-based, multidisciplinary research unit within the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. CCHI team members collaborating on this project included: 1) Director *Dr. Anna Waller, ScD*; 2) Program Director *Ms. Amy Ising, MSIS*; and 3) Graduate Research Assistant *Mr. Steven Lippmann, MSPH*.

C. Summary of Process to Complete the Wake County Childhood Injury Prevention Assessment Project

As with all of its funders, the *Healthy Solutions* and *CCHI* Teams were committed to working collaboratively with John Rex Endowment staff and other entities who were engaged in the work to complete this project. Our collaboration with CCHI's user-centered design and development approach is complimentary to the community focus of the *Healthy Solutions Team*. CCHI is committed to working with the people in the community and in particular, the end user of data, to make sure what is provided is meeting the community's needs.

The *Healthy Solutions* and *CCHI* Teams conducted regular conference calls and/or in-person meetings with staff at JRE to: a) clarify the scope of work, including review of criteria needed to implement project activities; b) provide updates on progress for each phase of work; and c) submit draft versions of methods or materials developed for the project to solicit feedback.

Team members from *Healthy Solutions* and *CCHI* facilitated a project start-up meeting with JRE staff on August 20, 2013. At this meeting, attendees completed the following primary objectives: 1) Discussed project accomplishments to date; 2) Outlined the overall goals for the project; 3) Clarified project terminology and integration of project components; 4) Discussed project identity for external communication; 5) Reviewed existing Wake County data sources and identify areas for further exploration; 6) Obtained input on data related decisions; 7) Considered criteria to apply for inclusion and exclusion in Profile (and/or data); and 8) determined when/how UNC and JRE will work together to maximize time, energy and efforts. In addition to numerous internal project meetings held among *Healthy Solutions* and *CCHI* staff, UNC Team members conducted six project update conference calls with JRE Program Director, Kate Shirah (September 9, October 8, November 7, and December 6, 2013; and January 8 and 27, 2014).

Additional information about the steps used to complete the project is detailed in Section II-Methodology.