

## Providers

Mitchell County has 18 physicians per 10,000 people & Yancey County has only 8 physicians per 10,000 people; the average NC county has 28 physicians per 10,000 people. The patchwork network of healthcare services currently available locally may not be sufficient for a population which suffers disproportionately from heart disease, cancer, & respiratory diseases. Successfully meeting the challenges of provider recruitment and retention requires ongoing collaborative community efforts among individuals and groups in the area engaged in healthcare delivery.

## Awareness

Mitchell & Yancey Counties have abundant agencies, nonprofits, & institutions, each focused on some aspect of healthcare. The recent pandemic saw them working together & learning from each other in new ways. But the local community, particularly those new to the area, may not be aware of the resources available to them. Promoting telemedicine, maintaining accurate information on websites, & building capacity for patient advocacy could help ensure that citizens of all ages in the SEARCH region can access the healthcare they need.

*To learn more about the needs assessment process, the dataset collected & other related reporting products, please visit the SEARCH website.*

## WHAT'S HELPING PEOPLE OF ALL AGES IN OUR AREA?

- A centrally located 25-bed critical access hospital.
- A Federally Qualified Health Clinic with locations in each county.
- Several agencies dedicated to the health & well-being of children.
- A number of providers in private practice.
- In each county:
  - A hospice and palliative care agency
  - Ambulance and Emergency Medical Services
  - A senior center
  - A public health department
  - A robust transportation system
  - A mental health service agency
  - Nursing homes and adult care centers
  - Physical therapy, rehabilitation and wellness centers
- Agencies dedicated to serving needs such as:
  - Education for Alzheimer's caregivers
  - Activities for children being raised by grandparents
  - Transportation for those without it
  - In-school healthcare via telehealth
  - Assistance with medical bills

This list of local assets available to advance good health outcomes is encouraging. Success will come when they work together.

## Contact Us

[www.searchwnc.org](http://www.searchwnc.org)  
[searchwnc@gmail.com](mailto:searchwnc@gmail.com)  
Facebook: S E A R C H w n c  
PO Box 1626  
Burnsville NC 28714