

health EQUITY day

START THE CONVERSATION!



Health Equity Day took place at Salem College on April 30, 2009. Over 200 individuals representing various organizations and neighborhoods attended this day-long event which was initiated by the Health Equity Action Team (HEAT) of the Forsyth County Healthy Community Coalition. The goal of the event was to celebrate the collaborative work of HEAT and other organizations in raising awareness about health inequities in our community.

Health Equity Day began with a screening of the “In Sickness and In Wealth” segment of the award-winning *Unnatural Causes: Is Inequality Making Us Sick* documentary series. A lively discussion followed the screening. “It is a topic that affects all of us and everyone should get involved. We need to all learn this and share it with others,” was a comment made by one participant. An overwhelming 96% of participants felt the content of the particular video shown was worth sharing with others.



Reverend Willard Bass, Dr. Sylvia Flack, and Dr. David Mount were panel participants who shared their insights as to what their organizations are doing and what the community can do to reduce/eliminate health inequities. They continued their conversation about Health Equity at the reception.

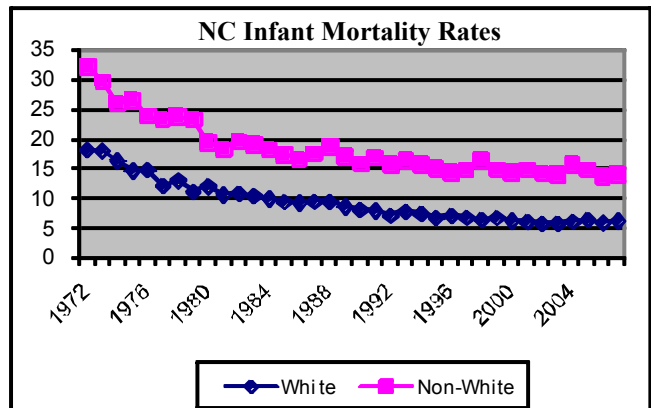
98% of the attendants rated the event as good to excellent, and 90% felt the event was energizing and motivating. One participant commented that, “the information further illuminated that health inequities are still alive in our community.” Another shared that “it allowed me to see healthcare in the community on a broader spectrum.”

Dr. Monroe, Director of the Forsyth County Health Department, provided an overview of health inequality in Forsyth County.

One of the slides from his presentation shows that an African-American baby born in North Carolina is almost 2.5 times more likely to die in his/her first year of life than a Caucasian baby.



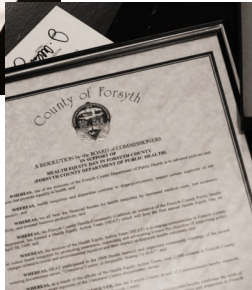
In Forsyth County, African American babies die at a rate 3 times greater than Caucasian babies.



HIGHLIGHTS OF SUCCESS!



Mayor Allen Joines and County Commission Chair Dave Plyler both proclaimed April 30, 2009 as Health Equity Day in Winston-Salem and Forsyth County.



Health Equity Day was fun! A reception followed the program and participants enjoyed music and song from the Healing Force. There was even a little DANCING!



The Health and Wellness Action Team of CHANGE (Communities Helping All Neighbors Gain Empowerment) received the 1st Annual **Health Policy Achievement Award** for their work in advocating for a Board of Health Rule on Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention.



One of several young people from the Winston-Salem Youth Arts Institute shared spoken word performance during the reception.

Jim Toole, Chair of the Health Equity Action Team, offered words of welcome to Health Equity Day participants and was the emcee for the reception.



How can you get engaged in community change to eliminating health disparities?

1. Contact Willard Tanner to arrange to host a showing of the Unnatural Causes DVD series
2. Get involved with one of the many organizations/groups focused on policy change such as Healthy Community Coalition and CHANGE.
3. Contact your legislator to learn more about policies impacting your community
4. Visit the Healthy Community Coalition's Website at www.healthycommunity.ws to obtain more information

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