

Neighborhood and Built Environment

Definition: The community where someone lives, including its physical, environmental, and societal conditions and its impact on individual and family health and well-being.

Core Pillars of Harm Reduction Based on Neighborhood and Built Environment

1) Access to Safe & Supportive Spaces

- Well-designed neighborhoods with **safe public spaces** (parks, community centers) provide alternatives to high-risk environments that may contribute to substance use or violence.
- Supervised consumption sites or harm reduction centers in accessible areas help reduce overdose deaths and promote safer substance use practices.

2) Availability of Healthcare and Harm Reduction Services

- Neighborhoods with accessible **healthcare clinics, needle exchange programs, and mental health services** support harm reduction by reducing infections (e.g., HIV, Hepatitis C) and offering treatment options.
- Mobile health units in underserved areas provide outreach and harm reduction resources where traditional healthcare facilities are scarce.

3) Housing Stability and Quality

- Unstable housing or homelessness increases exposure to high-risk behaviors, violence, and limited healthcare access.
- Supportive housing models (e.g., **Housing First**) reduce harm by providing stable shelter and access to social services without requiring abstinence.

4) Transportation and Infrastructure

- Reliable public transportation ensures that individuals can reach harm reduction services, medical care, and support networks.
- Poor infrastructure (e.g., lack of sidewalks, unsafe streets) can increase barriers to accessing necessary health services.

5) Environmental Safety and Crime Prevention

- High-crime areas may discourage individuals from seeking harm reduction services due to fear of violence or law enforcement encounters.
- Community-led safety initiatives and **violence prevention programs** help create environments where harm reduction services can be more effective.

6) Access to Nutritious Food and Clean Water

- Food deserts (areas with limited access to fresh, healthy food) contribute to poor health outcomes, exacerbating vulnerabilities to substance use and chronic disease.
- Clean water access is essential for hygiene, preventing infections, and improving overall well-being.

W-S Harm Reduction Organizations and Their Outreach

Twin City Harm Reduction Collective

639 S. Green St, W-S, NC 27101

- Outreach: worked with detoxes, treatment centers, jails, MAT providers, shelters, street outreach (walking around and talking to people in the community), and delivery services

Coalition of Drug Abuse Prevention

8025 North Point Blvd #225, W-S, NC 27106

GreenTree

930 S Broad St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

FROST (Forsyth Regional Opioid & Substance Use Team)

799 N. Highland Ave, Winston Salem NC 27101

- Outreach: syringe service programs, overdose prevention and reversal education, peer education, advocacy for people who use drugs
- Partners: Work with 80 different community agencies including Twin City, ARCA, GreenTree, Novant Health, and North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition

Wake Forest University

930 S Broad St, Winston-Salem, NC 27101

Rehabilitation Centers in W-S

- **Addiction Recovery Care Association**
- **Winston-Salem Comprehensive Treatment Center (CTC)**
- **Insight Human Services, Inc.**
- **Full Life Counseling and Recovery**
- **Silas Creek Rehabilitation Center**
- **Carty Addiction Medicine and Internal Medicine Clinic**
- **Novant Health**
- **Alcohol and Drug Services**
- **Path of Hope**
- **Old Vineyard Behavioral Health**
- **Daymark & Behavioral Health Urgent Care**
- **Four Directions Counseling and Recovery Center**
- **Advancing Forward Health**
- **Green Tree Peer Center**

Many of these centers provide outpatient services.

W-S Neighborhood Harm Reduction

Twin City

- Uses mobile unit to exchange syringes and narcan (Main operation at Green Street United Methodist Church)
- Stopping by different homeless camps in need of supplies
- Neighborhood Street Sweep (canvas the neighborhood, pick up litter, and look for syringes/paraphernalia)
- Community Training/Education
- Hepatitis C Testing/Education
- HIV Testing/Education
- Safe Sex Items
- STI Testing & Treatments

FROST

- Syringe Service Programs (SSP)
- HIV/HCV/STI testing and referrals
- Reversal education
- Referrals to substance use treatment
- Advocacy for people who use drugs (PWUD)
- State Drug Use Conference
- Partner with Students for Sensible Drug Policy in Forsyth County

Wake Forest

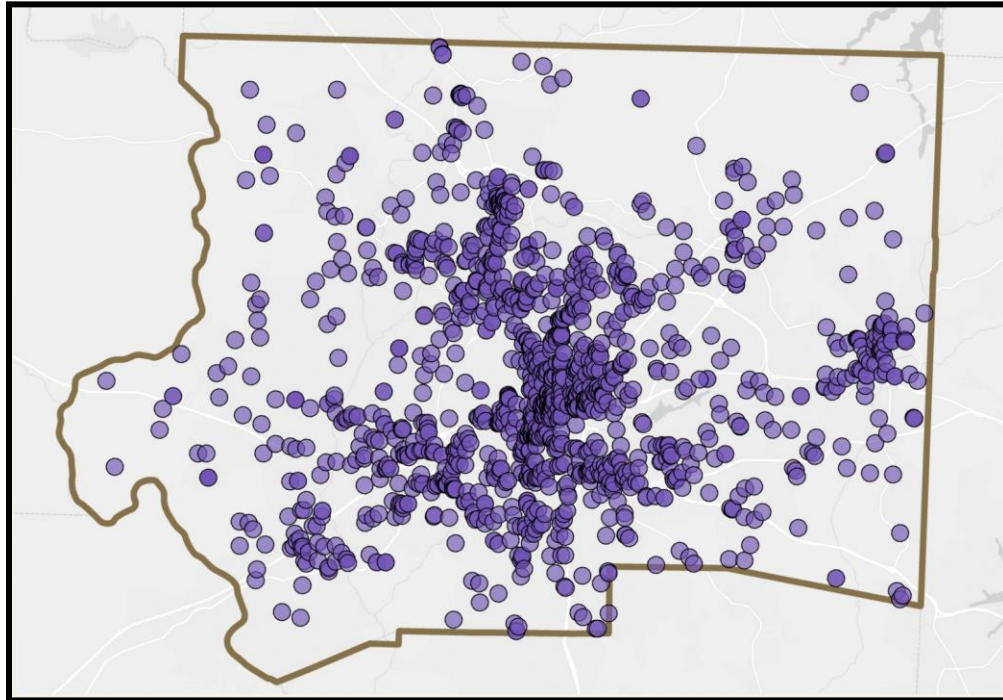
- “Studies exploring interventions and strategies to prevent, mitigate, and treat unhealthy substance use and associated harms.”
- The Office of Wellbeing (coordinates the WFU substance use prevention, harm reduction, and collegiate recovery program).

No-Cost Narcan Distribution Locations

- Forsyth County Pharmacy
- Forsyth County Detention Center Dispensing Machine
- NC Twin City Harm Reduction Collective

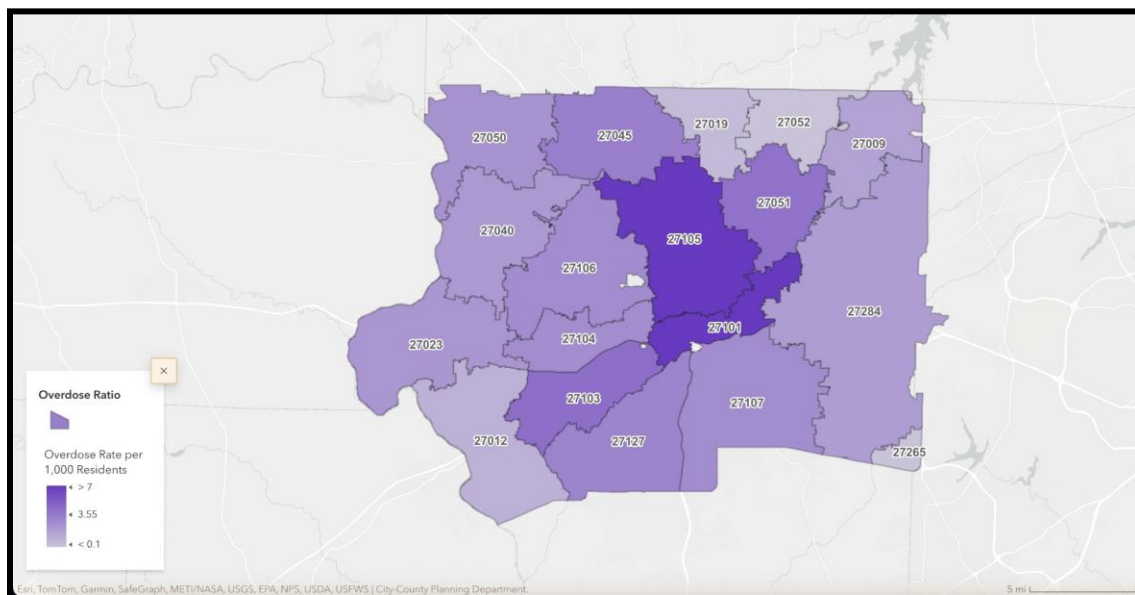
Geographic Statistics

2023 Forsyth County Overdose Response Locations



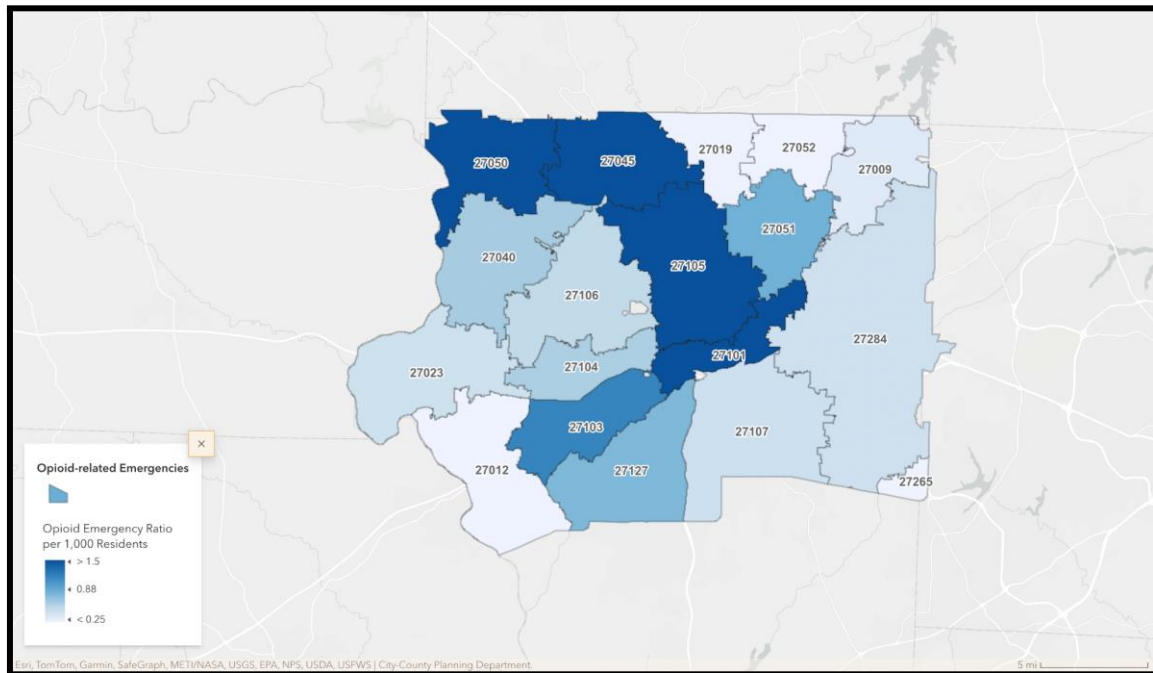
Overdose Ratio by Zip Code

Ratio per 1,000 residents



Opioid-related Emergencies by Zip Code

Ratio per 1,000 Residents



Improvements for Harm Reduction

- Expand outreach projects, in partnership with Twin City. While many of the organizations listed above have opposing missions to community outreach, the Coalition of Drug Abuse Prevention and Green Tree Peer Center are great opportunities for collaboration
- Install Prescription Medication Drop Boxes/Syringe Boxes at Parks and Recreational Centers to reduce the misuse and reuse of drugs and syringes
- Marketing developments to make knowledge more accessible for support groups, naran accessibility, and community outreach projects
- Utilize geographic statistics to pinpoint more vulnerable areas in Winston-Salem for harm reduction
- Install more no-cost naran distribution stations

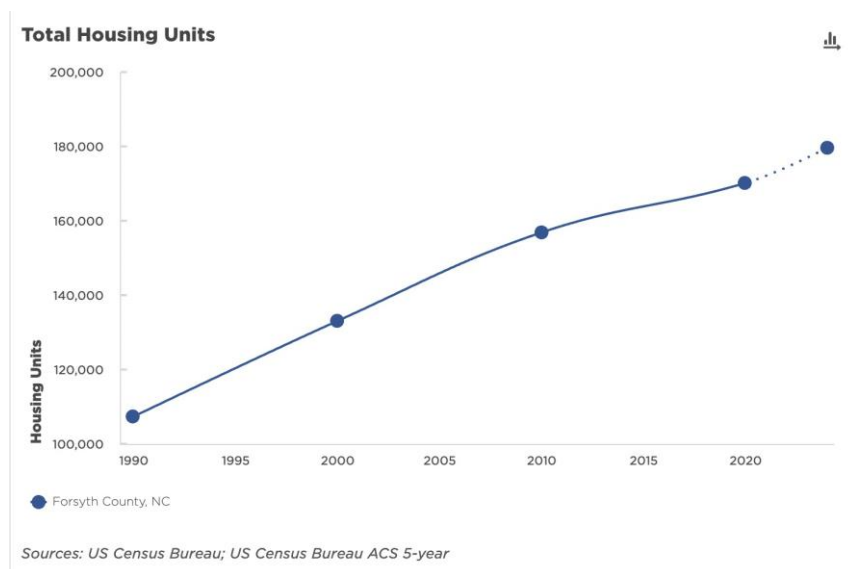
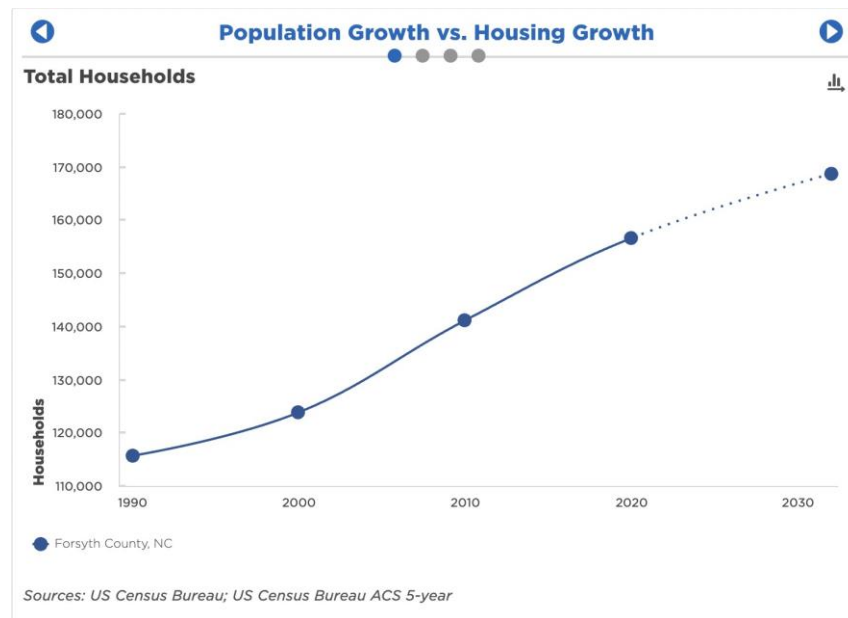
General Neighborhood and Built Environment Information of W-S

HOUSING:

Total Housing Units: **173,220**

Total Households: **155,743**

Housing growth keeps pace of household growth



Walkability of W-S:

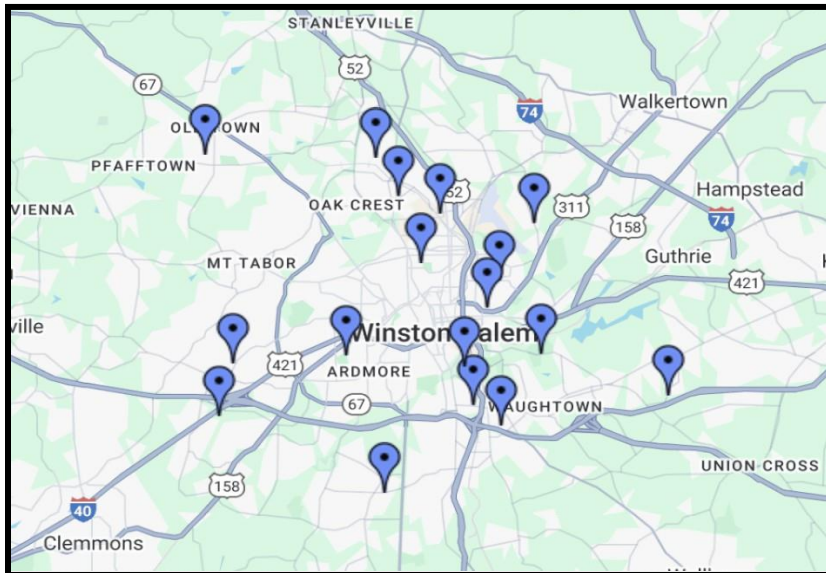
On a scale of 1 to 20 (1 being least walkable and 20 being most walkable)

Walkability Index: **7.1 out of 20**

Walkability Intersection Density Ranking: **9 out of 20**

(Intersection density is defined as the number of intersections per square kilometer at a local scale, where intersections are the junctions at which three or more road segments intersect)

Winston-Salem Parks and Recreation Locations:



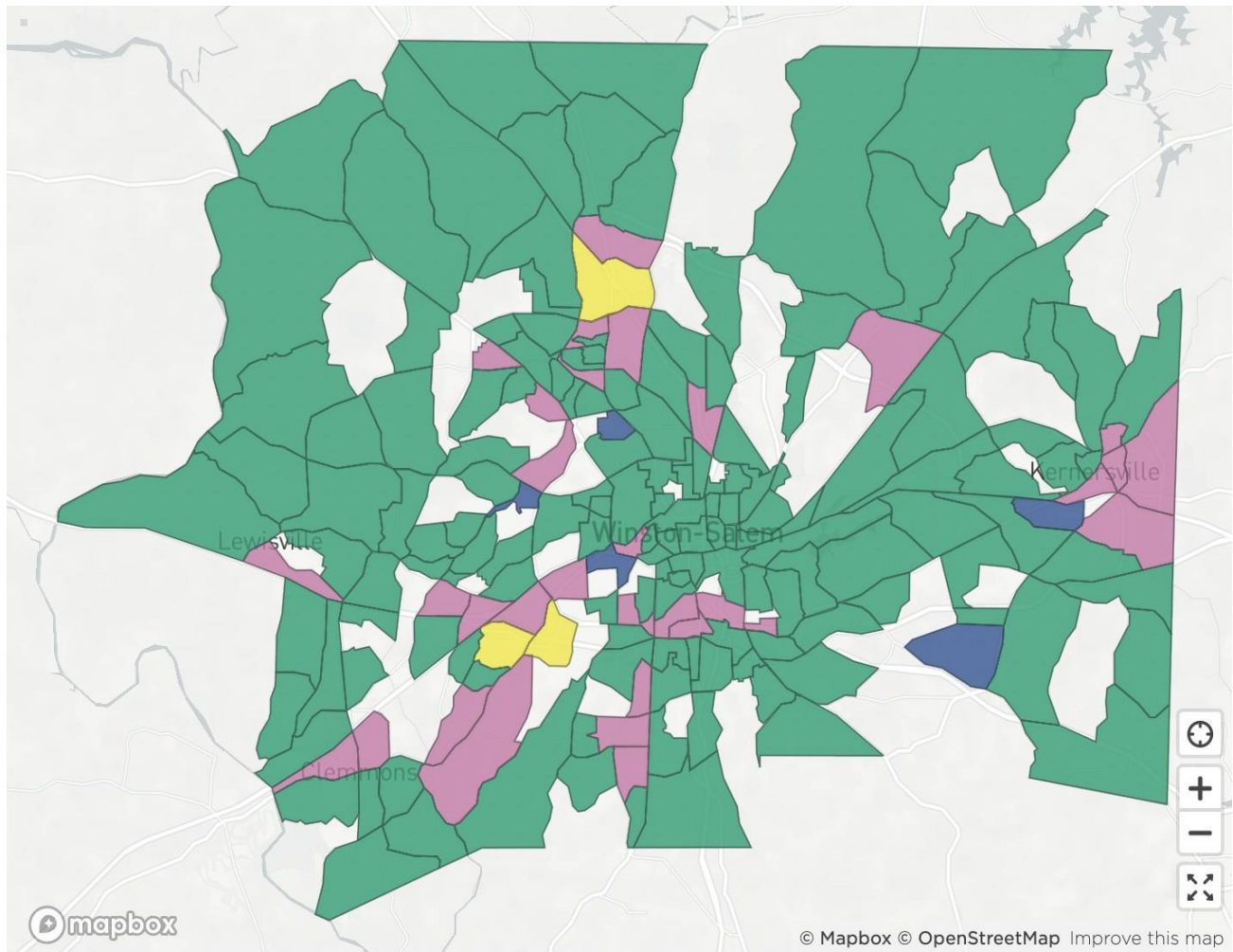
Parks and Recreational Areas serve to reduce stress, improve mental health, reduce air and water pollution, as well as mitigate urban heat islands (CDC 2025).

The City of Winston-Salem manages “79 parks that include 51 picnic shelters, 47 playgrounds, 43 soccer fields, 47 softball fields, 109 tennis courts, 8 pools, 6 volleyball courts, 25 basketball courts and a football field.” (City of Winston Salem 2022).

Winston-Salem has more than 25 miles of greenways, incorporating paved and unpaved trails, boardwalks, and bridges.

Diversity of Our Built Environment:

Land Use Mix: Retail-to-Rooftop Ratio



Category

- Large Retail Center
- Mixed-Use Neighborhood
- Primarily Residential
- Regional Retail Center

Transportation Options:

Travel Times:

Commute Mean Travel Time in Winston-Salem: **24.3 Minutes**

Median Commute Distance in Winston-Salem: **14 miles**

Internet Access:

95.2% of households in Forsyth County have a computer.

75.6% of households in Forsyth County have a high-speed internet subscription

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