

# Economic and Social Conditions

- 18.2% of the people live on incomes less than the federal poverty rate (in Virginia – 10.5%)\*
- 43.4% live on incomes less than 200% of the federal poverty rate (Virginia –27.1%)\*
- Per capita income in Southwest Virginia (\$18,706) is only 67% as high as Virginia's per capita income (\$28,063)\*
- 11.8% of population is enrolled in Medicaid (Virginia – 7.1%)\*



# Economic and Social Conditions

- **49.3% of the population over the age 25 has no high school diploma (Virginia –24.8%)\***
- **15.6% of the people in our area are over the age of 65 (Virginia – 11.2%)\***
- **Of the 100 poorest counties in the United States, 37 are located in central Appalachia\*\***

\* Health and Resource Data Guide 2000, Virginia Department of Health – Center for Primary Care and Rural Health

\*\* North American Mission Board

# DEATH RATES from Common Causes are higher in our service area than in Virginia overall

People in the service area are:

- 25% more likely to die from heart disease
- 46% more likely to die from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
- 47% more likely to die from pneumonia or influenza
- 34% more likely to die from diabetes
- 62% more likely to die from chronic liver disease
- 61% more likely to die from unintentional injuries and
- 72% more likely to commit suicide.

Data source: Virginia Health Statistics, Volume I, 1999 – 2003. These are averages based on **age-adjusted death** rates for the years 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, and 2003.

## HIGHER DEATH RATES

- The age-adjusted death rate in Southwest Virginia is 18% higher than the age-adjusted death rate for Virginia overall.
- Adults aged 25-44 in the SW VA region die 60% faster than the same age group in Virginia.
- Adults aged 45-64 in the service area die 30% faster than their Virginia peers.





**Endocrinology Team from UVA**

# Pharmacy Connection

- Provides free medication to eligible patients through the participation of pharmaceutical companies
- Provides essential medications to those in need
- Assists patients through the difficult process of eligibility and application
- Generated over \$500,387.00 worth of free medications from pharmaceutical companies in 2009
- This program exists in conjunction with the Virginia Health Care Foundation and Mountain Empire Older Citizens Agency.

# PARTNERS IN TELEMEDICINE

- Utilizes an advanced computer system and broadband telecommunications that provides specialty services to patients
- Enables real time communication between local providers and medical specialist at the University of Virginia
- Provided by the Southwest VA Alliance for Telemedicine in collaboration with UVA Health System
- Allows patients in secluded rural areas to go to local facilities, increases convenience and lowers cost of care for people with serious acute and chronic illnesses



2009 Clintwood Health Fair



# REMOTE AREA MEDICAL (RAM) Health Expedition

- In addition to HW's regular rotations, the Health Wagon staff spearheads the annual Remote Area Medical (RAM) Expedition.
- Held annually in Wise, Virginia at Wise Co. Fairgrounds
- FREE three day event
- Volunteer physicians, nurse practitioners, dentists, nurses, opticians, ophthalmologists, dental hygienists, etc.
- The primary focus is eye, dental and medical care.

# REMOTE AREA MEDICAL (RAM) Health Expedition

- Eye- exam and prescription glasses made
- Dental- cleanings, fillings, extractions, and dentures
- Medical-
  - Specialist Exams- endocrinology, cardiology, nephrology, ENT, pulmonology, dermatology, etc
  - Labs
  - Digital Mammograms
  - Pap Smears
  - Chest X-Ray, Pulmonary Function Testing
  - Sigmoidoscopy
  - Women's Health Procedures- LEEPs, colposcopies
  - Ultrasounds
  - Hearing Exam and Hearing Aids
  - Bone Density
  - Echocardiograms and EKGs
  - Skin Biopsies
  - Onsite Pharmacy



# RAM 1999

- 1,640 Patient Encounters
- \$300,000 Value of Care



# RAM 2009

- This event is the largest event of its kind in the nation.
- Provided over 5,598 patient encounters.
- Provided in excess of \$1.9 million dollars in free care
- 1,700 plus volunteers.



# RAM Collaboration Across the State and Beyond

- Virginia Dept. of Health- Lenowisco Health Dept.
- Virginia Dental Association
- UVA Health Systems
- Lions Clubs of Virginia and International
- Volunteer Optometric Services to Humanity (VOSH)
- American Breast Cancer Foundation
- University of Appalachia College of Pharmacy
- Women's Cancer Advocacy Network
- Logisticare
- Many hospitals, colleges, universities, civic groups, churches, businesses, local governments, and individuals make the event possible



**Remote Area Medical** (07-20-07) Wise, VA

Tim C. Cox





