

Popular Government

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This issue of *Popular Government* explores various components of North Carolina's public health system. Rather than cover the waterfront in a single issue, we present a selection of public health programs and initiatives that address both well-known and emerging issues important to leaders in nonprofit and government settings.

North Carolina's state health director, Leah Devlin, begins the issue with an article defining public health and identifying some of the recent challenges and successes of the state's public health community. The range of topics that follow is as expansive as public health itself. Articles addressing jail health programs, methamphetamine labs, septic systems, and tobacco prevention and control convey to readers some of the current pressure points. Although most of the articles focus on specific issues, they represent some of the discipline's fields, including environmental health, disease prevention, health education, and provision of direct medical care.

The articles reinforce many of the themes in Devlin's lead. Each one demonstrates that the work of public health expands and adapts with every new challenge—for example, the rapid growth of clandestine methamphetamine laboratories. Each also highlights the different roles played by federal, state, and local governments and the private sector in ensuring the health of a community.

We welcome your comments on this issue and your ideas for future articles on other aspects of public health in North Carolina.

—Aimee Wall, *Guest Editor*,
and John B. Stephens, *Editor*

ON THE COVER

Immunizations are the foundation of preventive health strategies in North Carolina.

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New Public Health Law Website from the School of Government

Recently the School launched a new website, www.ncphlaw.unc.edu, to help manage the vast amount of public health law information and resources available from the School. The site contains information about courses and specific topics in the public health field. It offers a significant amount of legal information, such as answers to frequently asked questions; links to published bulletins, articles, and books; and copies of materials used in past courses. Finally, it provides links to other School websites related to public health law:

- Adolescent pregnancy, at www.adolescentpregnancy.unc.edu
- Animal control law, at www.ncanimalcontrol.unc.edu
- Medical confidentiality, at www.medicalprivacy.unc.edu

Faculty members expand and update the site regularly. Visit it if you have questions, or contact one of the faculty members: Milton Heath, Jill Moore, or Aimee Wall.

Popular Government

James Madison and other leaders in the American Revolution employed the term “popular government” to signify the ideal of a democratic, or “popular,” government—a government, as Abraham Lincoln later put it, of the people, by the people, and for the people. In that spirit *Popular Government* offers research and analysis on state and local government in North Carolina and other issues of public concern. For, as Madison said, “A people who mean to be their own governors must arm themselves with the power which knowledge gives.”

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POSTMASTER: Please send changes of address to Mark Jarrell, School of Government, CB# 3330 Knapp-Sanders Building, UNC Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3330; telephone: (919) 966-4155; fax: (919) 962-2707; e-mail: jarrell@iogmail.iog.unc.edu.

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Established in 1931, the Institute of Government provides training, advisory, and research services to public officials and others interested in the operation of state and local government in North Carolina. The Institute and the University's Master of Public Administration Program are the core activities of the School of Government at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Each year approximately 14,000 public officials and others attend one or more of the more than 200 classes, seminars, and conferences offered by the Institute. Faculty members annually publish up to fifty books, bulletins, and other reference works related to state and local government. Each day that the General Assembly is in session, the Institute's *Daily Bulletin*, available in print and electronic format, reports on the day's activities for members of the legislature and others who need to follow the course of legislation. An extensive website (www.sog.unc.edu) provides access to publications and faculty research, course listings, program and service information, and links to other useful sites related to government.

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Off the Press

Affordable Housing and Local Governments

Fall 2005 • Please visit our website for the price.
Anita R. Brown-Graham

Affordable Housing and Local Governments



Discusses the state's most important grants of authority over affordable housing to local governments and points out legal issues associated with local governments engaging in housing activities. Will help local governments determine which activities they have statutory authority to perform when responding to the affordable housing crisis growing in many parts of North Carolina. Each chapter presents a case that applies principles to a specific housing problem as addressed by the U.S. Supreme Court or by a programmatic measure.

Rule Making in North Carolina

Forthcoming Winter 2005–06
Please visit our website for the price.
Richard B. Whisnant

Rule-Making in North Carolina



Sets out the form and the method for publishing a notice of rule-making proceedings and a notice of text in the North Carolina Register, and for filing a rule in the North Carolina Administrative Code. Gives practical advice and a description of current rule-making processes. Provides a factual understanding of the rule-making process and its historical evolution, offering scholars, critics, reformers, and those who participate directly in rule making a basis for constructing their own theories of ways to improve government action.

Pregnancy and Parenting: A Legal Guide for Adolescents

Fall 2005 • Available online
Anne M. Dellinger



Final book in a series of four legal guides about minors' pregnancy and parenting in North Carolina. Will assist young women under eighteen who are pregnant or a parent, and also will inform their families. Topics covered include minors' and adults' legal responsibilities; pregnancy options; abortion, adoption, and childbirth; raising a child; education rights; employment; marriage; emancipation; housing; social services; health care; and safety issues such as abuse, neglect, assault, homelessness, and domestic violence. A separate section explains the law affecting immigrants and people who are not proficient in English. The guide will be published in English and Spanish. The School will distribute copies paid for by grant funding to social services departments, health departments, and other local and state agencies that counsel pregnant and parenting adolescents. The guide also will be available online through the Adolescent Pregnancy Project website, located at www.adolescentpregnancy.unc.edu.

Recent Publications

Punishments for North Carolina Crimes and Motor Vehicle Offenses
2005 Edition • \$18.00*

Ben F. Loeb Jr., John Rubin, and James C. Drennan

Crawford v. Washington: Confrontation One Year Later
April 2005 • \$16.00*

Jessica Smith

Final Report on City Services for Fiscal Year 2003–2004: Performance and Cost Data
2005 • \$15.00*

Prepared by William C. Rivenbark for the North Carolina Benchmarking Project

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