**Questions Addressed in**

**Forthcoming SOG Report Comparing Local Public Health Agencies**

***DRAFT***

1. **The Legal Landscape: Local Public Health in North Carolina**
   1. Background
      1. What did we want to learn?
      2. How did we gather information?
   2. The Public Health System
      1. Why does North Carolina have a public health system and local public health agencies?
      2. What types of services do local public health agencies provide?
      3. Are local public health agencies required to have certain categories of staff or organize the workforce in particular ways?
      4. How are local public health services financed?
   3. Comparing Agency Types
      1. What types of local public health agencies presently exist in North Carolina?
      2. Do the legal definitions of the different agency types provide the complete picture of how local governments provide public health services?
      3. May any county form or participate in any of the types of local public health agency?
      4. How are the different types of local public health agencies similar?
      5. What are the key differences between the different types of local public health agencies?
      6. What role do county commissioners play in the creation and operation of local public health agencies?
      7. May county commissioners directly assume the duties of local boards of health? If so, what duties would they assume?
2. **The Perspectives: What the Stakeholders Say**
   1. Background
      1. What were we trying to learn?
      2. How did we gather information?
   2. Benefits and Challenges
      1. What do stakeholders perceive as the benefits and challenges of the agency types?
   3. Advice
      1. Do stakeholders have any advice for counties that may be considering changing from one agency type to another?
3. **The Numbers: Comparing the Types of Local Public Health Agencies**
   1. Background
      1. What did we want to learn?
      2. What types of agencies did we compare?
      3. What measures did we analyze and where did we get the data?
   2. Financing
      1. Does source of funding vary by agency type?
      2. Do median total expenditures per capita vary by agency type?
      3. Do total expenditures per capita vary within agency types?
      4. Does the median proportion of expenditures per capita from different funding sources vary by agency type?
   3. Workforce
      1. Do median FTEs per 1,000 population vary by agency type?
      2. Do FTEs per 1,000 population vary within agency type?
   4. Information Technology
      1. Does the ability to supplement or replace state-provided clinical and billing software vary by agency type?
      2. Does the use of mobile technology vary by agency type?
   5. Services Delivered
      1. Does the median percentage of services offered vary by agency type?
   6. Performance on Selected Service Delivery Outputs and Community Health Outcomes
      1. Does agency type explain variation in performance on selected service delivery outputs or community health outcomes?
      2. If agency type does not explain variation in performance, what does?

For more information, see the project website: [www.ncphagencies.unc.edu](http://www.ncphagencies.unc.edu).