

## **Section 1. The Human Condition on Cape Cod Project**

The Barnstable County human services community is dedicated to the improvement of the “human condition” of all of the Cape’s permanent, year-round residents. In the pursuit of that end, the Barnstable County Department of Human Services, working in conjunction with the Barnstable County Health and Human Services Advisory Council has, for well over a decade, served as the central coordinating body around which research and program development/improvement efforts have revolved. The Department has been involved in literally dozens of needs assessment research efforts over the years. In recent years, seven needs assessment research projects have been conducted here on Cape Cod. These studies, some as recent as 2008, and others dating to 1998, have been instrumental in assessing the needs of Cape Cod’s permanent, year-round resident population regarding human services, including the need for healthcare services. These seven research efforts are the following:

1. Monitoring The Human Condition on Cape Cod Study
2. Cape Cod & Islands Elder Caregivers Needs Assessment
3. The Human Condition 2001 Project - Household Survey
4. The Human Condition 2001 Project - Key Informant Survey
5. Cape Cod Household Transportation Survey
6. Community Health Needs Assessment Project (CHNAP) Study
7. Barnstable County 1998 Healthcare Access Study: Benchmark Survey

**The Human Condition on Cape Cod Project** is the mechanism through which the fruits of these seven research efforts translate into action—action to improve the human condition of all Cape Codders.

Through the work of The Human Condition Project’s research team and various study committees, important research conclusions have been enunciated. These conclusions result from the evaluation and analysis of a database of over two million pieces of information detailing the human service needs of Barnstable County residents. This huge database of information is the direct result of data collected through the seven above-noted needs assessment studies.

From these conclusions, “working groups” of citizens, service providers, and local human services officials have sought to craft sets of recommendations for action—actions aimed at improving the human condition of all permanent, year-round residents of Cape Cod.

### **Ongoing Research:**

While the vast majority of primary research work is behind us, much important research lies ahead. Recent “data mining” efforts have helped to further inform Advisory Council members as to subtleties in the study data as well as valuable year-to-year trends. “Data mining” is an ongoing effort. Additional research projects are contemplated, focused on further refining our knowledge in areas of concern to the human condition of Cape Codders.

**This Addendum to the Volume 1 Findings Report: Preliminary Research**

While additional research into the healthcare and human service needs of the Cape's rapidly growing senior/elder population would be valuable, much useful and timely information is already known. This Addendum documents the extensive body of information concerning the Cape's senior and elder residents that has been collected throughout the five years of our *Monitoring The Human Condition on Cape Cod Study*.