

Jimmy Newkirk

Jimmy Newkirk serves as Physical Activity Coordinator for the North Carolina Division of Public Health. Jimmy is committed to increasing the physical activity levels of North Carolinians through increased opportunities for physical activity. He guides several state and local physical activity programs and initiatives including the promotion of Active Community Environments through land use and transportation planning as well as walk to school initiatives. He represents the Division of Public Health on school physical activity and physical education issues. Jimmy provides physical activity expertise for statewide evaluation systems as well as data monitoring and surveillance systems. He serves as liaison for statewide partnerships such as North Carolina Action for Healthy Kids, NC Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force, NC Office on Disabilities and Health, NC Department of Transportation, and the NC Smart Growth Alliance.

Throughout his 18 plus years of professional experience in exercise science, health promotion and public contact, Jimmy has presented for national and state audiences, including the 16th National Conference on Chronic Disease Control and Prevention, and an array of state and local conferences and workshops. He currently serves as a liaison to the CDC Nutrition and Physical Activity Work Group (NUPAWG) as well as to the National Physical Activity Network Steering Committee and many other collaborative groups.

Prior to joining the NC Division of Public Health, Jimmy served as the Regional Coordinator for the Cardiovascular Health Program in 12 southeastern counties in North Carolina, providing expertise on policy and environmental approaches to health promotion. He also has served as Director of Health Promotion and Wellness for a U.S. Army Hospital in Germany where he was responsible for the creation, marketing, and evaluation of all health promotion activities for community, media, patients and staff. Jimmy has also worked as the Assistant Director of the Wellness Research Laboratory at the University of Maryland. He served in the US Army for four years as a photojournalist working with various media including military and civilian magazines, newspapers, advertisements and television.

Jimmy earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiological Sciences from the University of Maryland and is a current member of the North Carolina Alliance for Athletics, Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance.