NC Child
The Voice for North Carolina's Children

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The County Data Cards are organized by NC Child into five results areas: A Strong Start, Family Economic Security, Nurturing Homes & Communities, High-Quality Education, and Health & Wellness. Results are population-level conditions of well-being that promote children's healthy growth and development.

To provide a snapshot of how each indicator has changed over time, a base year and the most recent data year available are presented. Indicators where current or base year data is unavailable at the time of publishing or cannot be compared to the previous year's Data Cards due to changes in methodology are designated with a "- -" symbol.

Comparison data are provided for illustrative purposes, and users should exercise caution when drawing conclusions or trends from two point-in-time statistics. Due to delays in data collection and reporting, base and current data years may vary across indicators. Additionally, due to differences in data collection, timeframes, and methodology, county-level information from the data cards should not be compared to state averages reported in different data sources.

In most cases, indicators are presented as rates or percentages. Although comparisons can be made across counties using rates and percentages, users are encouraged to exercise caution when comparing statistics based on low number events. Rates based on small numbers are unstable and should be interpreted with caution.

- A *percentage* represents a ratio expressed as a fraction of 100. A percentage is a rate per 100.
- A *rate* is a ratio expressed per a certain number of units, commonly per 1,000 or 100,000. A rate is not a percentage.

For more information, contact Whitney Tucker at whitney@ncchild.org.

DATA SOURCES

Demographic Data

Child population by age group

- What It Measures: The number of children under age 18 and in a particular age group.
- Data Source: NC Office of State Budget Management, State Demographics Branch. County Estimates by Age Group and Single-Year of Age.

Live births
- What It Measures: The number of babies born alive.
- Data Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Live Birth Data.

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A Strong Start

Women who receive early prenatal care

- What It Measures: The percentage of women with a live birth who were determined to have received prenatal care during their first trimester of pregnancy.
- Data Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Live Birth Data.

Babies born at a low birthweight

- What It Measures: The percentage of newborns weighing less than 2,500 grams, or approximately 5.5 pounds.
- Data Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Live Birth Data.

Babies born pre-term

- What It Measures: The percentage of live births before 37 weeks of gestation.
- Data Source: N.C Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Live Birth Data.

Family Economic Security

Children living in poor or low-income homes

- What It Measures: The percentage of children under age 18 who live in households earning less than 200 percent of the federal poverty line as defined by the U.S. Office of Budget and Management. In 2018, the federal poverty line was $20,780 for a family of three.
- Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table B17024.

Children in households that are food insecure

- What It Measures: The percentage of children under age 18 who live in households that lack consistent access to adequate food.
- Data Source: Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, A. Crumbaugh, M. Kato & E. Engelhard. Map the Meal Gap 2019: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2019.

Median household income

- ▪ What It Measures: The threshold that divides household income into two halves, with 50 percent of households falling below that benchmark and 50 percent of households above. This measure includes income of the householder and all other people 15 years and older in the household, whether or not they are related to the householder.
- ▪ Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table CP03.

Nurturing Homes and Communities

Delinquency rate per 1,000 youth ages 6-15

- ▪ What It Measures: The rate per 1,000 juveniles ages 6-15 years old of delinquent complaints received by court services offices. Also referred to as the 'juvenile crime rate'. NOTE: Effective Dec. 1, 2019, 16- and 17-year-olds who commit crimes in North Carolina will no longer automatically be charged in the adult criminal justice system. Implementation of 'Raise the Age' legislation will alter this indicator in the future to include older youth within this juvenile rate.
- ▪ Data Source: N.C. Department of Public Safety, N.C. Juvenile Justice County Data Book.

Children assessed for abuse or neglect per 1,000

- ▪ What It Measures: The rate of children under age 18 who were assessed for abuse or neglect per 1,000.
- ▪ Data Source: Duncan, D.F., Kum, H.C., Flair, K.A., Stewart, C.J., Vaughn, J.S., Guest, S., Rose, R.A., Malley, K.M.D. and Gwaltney, A.Y. (SFY 2017). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.2). University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families. Retrieved March 27, 2019 from http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/.

Teen births per 1,000 girls ages 15 to 17

- ▪ What It Measures: The rate of live births to mothers ages 15 to 17 per 1,000 girls.
- ▪ Data Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. NC Resident Fertility Rates.

High-Quality Education

3rd grade students scoring proficient in reading

- ▪ What It Measures: The percentage of third grade students who score proficient on the state-level end-of-grade reading assessment.
- ▪ Data Source: N.C. Department of Public Instruction, Accountability Services Division. State, District, and School-Level Drilldown Performance Data.

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High school students graduating on time

- ▪ What It Measures: The percentage of ninth grade students who graduate in four years with a high school diploma.
- ▪ Data Source: N.C. Department of Public Instruction. 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate.

Residents with a bachelor's degree or higher

- ▪ What It Measures: The percentage of adults age 25 and older who hold a bachelor's, professional, or terminal degree.
- ▪ Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table S1501.

Health and Wellness

Children without health insurance

- ▪ What It Measures: The percentage of children under age 19 who currently lack health insurance coverage. A respondent is considered uninsured if they lacked coverage at the time the survey was administered.
- ▪ Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table B27001.

Infant mortality per 1,000 live births

- ▪ What It Measures: The rate of infant deaths per 1,000 babies born alive.
- ▪ Data Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. North Carolina Infant Mortality Report, Table 1.

Child deaths per 100,000

- ▪ What It Measures: The rate of child deaths from all causes per 100,000 children under age 18.
- ▪ Data Source: N.C. Department of Health and Human Services, State Center for Health Statistics. County Health Data Book.