

The interactive County Data Snapshots 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.

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. Missing data indicates data that was suppressed due to small case size or population size.

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 Victoria Crouse at vikki@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: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019 One-Year Estimates. Tables B01001B-I.

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. 2019 North Carolina Live Birth Data.

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. 2018 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. 2018 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. 2018 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 with incomes below the federal poverty line as defined by the U.S. Office of Budget and Management. In 2019, the federal poverty line was \$21,330 for a family of three.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019 Five-Year Estimates. Tables B17001B-I.

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 2020: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2020.

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, 2019 American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Tables B19013B-I

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:** Special data request to N.C. Department of Public Safety, Nov 2020. Population estimates used to calculate rate were retrieved from: Puzzanchera, C., Sladky, A. and Kang, W. (2020). "Easy Access to Juvenile Populations: 1990-2019." Online.

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 via special data request October 2020. Counties began to transition to the NCFAST data system in August of 2017. Complete legacy data are tracked for counties that have transitioned; for these counties current NCFAST data are used to provide demographics of children in foster care. Data for counties that have not transitioned remain complete and up to date. This estimate reflects only the counties that have not transitioned and are still using the legacy system.

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. 2019 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. 2018-19 School Assessment and Other Indicator Data Report. Data for the 2019-2020 school year was not available due to a COVID-19 related delay.

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 2019 One-Year Estimates. Tables B15002B-I. American Community Survey 2019 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: County estimates by race/ethnicity were retrieved from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019 Five-Year Estimates. Tables C27001B-I. Total county estimates were retrieved from: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2019 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. 2019 North Carolina Infant Mortality Report, Table 1.

Child deaths per 1,000

- 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. 2014-2018 County Health Data Book.