The *2017 County Data Cards* are organized by NC Child's 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 a base year is unavailable or cannot be compared over time 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.

The data cards compile 24 demographic and child well-being indicators for each county compared to the state average. 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 designated by a "*" on the data cards.

- 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 particular number of units, commonly per 1,000 or 100,000. A rate is not a percentage.

DATA SOURCES

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.

3 and 4-year olds enrolled in school

What it measures: The percentage of children ages 3 to 4 who are enrolled in a nursery school, preschool, or kindergarten.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table S1401.

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 2015, the federal poverty line was $20,090 for a family of three.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table B17024.

Child food insecurity rate

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 2017: Food Insecurity and Child Food Insecurity Estimates at the County Level. Feeding America, 2017.

Median family income

What it measures: The threshold that divides family income into two halves, with 50 percent of families falling below that benchmark and 50 percent of families above. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a family consist of two or more people (one of whom is the householder) related by birth, marriage, or adoption residing in the same housing unit.

Data Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey Five-Year Estimates. Table CP03.

Unemployment rate

What it measures: The percentage of the labor force who are unemployed and looking for a job.

Data Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

Nurturing Homes & Communities

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.

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, Gwaltney, A.Y., and Gogan, H.C. (2015). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.2). Special data request December 2016.

Children in foster care per 1,000

What it measures: The rate of children under age 18 who are in temporary state custody through out-of-home foster care per 1,000. Children in foster care may live with relatives or with unrelated foster parents. Foster care can also refer to placement settings such as group homes, residential care facilities, emergency shelters, and supervised independent living.

Data Source: Duncan, D.F., Kum, H.C., Flair, K.A., Stewart, C.J., Vaughn, J.S, Guest, S., Rose, R.A, Gwaltney, A.Y., and Gogan, H.C. (2015). Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food & Nutrition Services in North Carolina (v3.2). Special data request December 2016.

High-Quality Education

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 & Wellness

Uninsured by age

What it measures: The percentage of children under age 19 or adults ages 18 to 64 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, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates.

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.

Children enrolled in Medicaid/NC Health Choice

What it measures: The number of children under age 18 who are enrolled in North Carolina's public health insurance programs.

Data Source: Special data request to NC Division of Health and Human Services, Division of Medical Assistance. January 2017.

NC Child

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.

Child Population

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.

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.

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