NC Child

How Healthy Are Wilkes Children?

A woman's health and well-being before pregnancy sets the stage for her baby's future health outcomes.

1 in 22 births in Wilkes County (4.5%) is to a woman who received very late or no prenatal care, putting both mother and baby at higher risk for pregnancy complications or poor birth outcomes.

Low birth weight has been found to be the strongest predictor of infant mortality.

1 in 10 Wilkes babies is born at a low birth weight.

33.5% of Wilkes children live in poverty. Poverty is linked to greater risk for health challenges like:

- Diabetes
- Heart Disease
- Obesity
- Developmental delays

Health insurance coverage helps children achieve and maintain their best health

1 in 18 Wilkes children (5.7%) is uninsured, 844 of whom may be income eligible for Medicaid or NC Health Choice.

LIFE EXPECTANCY AT BIRTH

A baby born today in Wilkes County would live 4.5 less years than a baby born in the county with the highest life expectancy.

We can improve child health

- ☑ Expand Medicaid to cover adults below 138 percent of the federal poverty line.
- ☑ Support interventions to reduce infant mortality, like the CFTF Healthy Babies Bundle.
- ☑ Invest in early intervention services to reduce the effects of developmental delays

To view data sources and notes, visit www.ncchild.org.

Wilkes

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Quick Facts

69,184 people live in Wilkes County. 1 in 5 residents (15,323) is a child under the age of 18.

The child population is 5.2% African American, 0.1% American Indian, 0.6% Asian, 10.1% Latino and 82.5% non-Hispanic White.

The median household income is $33,159.

4,670 children in Wilkes (30.5%) live in food insecure households.

ACCESS TO CARE AND PREVENTION	Wilkes			NORTH CAROLINA	
	2013	2009	% CHANGE	2013	2009
Percent of children uninsured[1]:					
All children	5.7%	**	**	7.4%	**
Children below 200 percent of poverty	6.2%	**	**	8.9%	**
Number of children ages 0-3 receiving early intervention services[2]	133	132	.8%	19,914	17,606
Asthma hospital discharges per 100,000 children ages 0-14	66.1	80.7	-18.1%	148.9	175.0
Medicaid enrolled children who use dental services:					
Ages 1-5	70.8%	62.4%	13.5%	67.0%	55.0%
Ages 6-14	77.7%	77.7%	-0.1%	71.0%	62.0%
Ages 15-20	60.9%	58.6%	3.9%	52.0%	48.0%

DEATH AND INJURY	Wilkes			NORTH CAROLINA	
	2013	2009	% CHANGE	2013	2009
Percent of preterm births (<37 weeks of pregnancy)	13.8%	**	**	11.4%	**
Number of child deaths ages 0-18	9	9	--	1,292	1,486
Infant deaths per 1,000 live births*	10.9	7.1	--	7.0	7.9
Percent of babies born to women who smoke	18.9%	--	--	10.3%	--

HEALTH RISKS	Wilkes			NORTH CAROLINA	
	2013	2009	%CHANGE	2013	2009
Unemployment rate	8.9%	12.7%	-29.9%	7.9	10.6
Teen pregnancies per 1,000 girls ages 15-17	16.7	28.1	-40.6%	16.6	30.1
Percent of live births to mothers who have less than a high school education	20.2%	**	**	17.0%	**

HEALTH GAPS	TOTAL	AFRICAN AMERICAN	AMERICAN INDIAN	ASIAN	LATINO	WHITE
Live births	645	34	0	N/A	81	523
Percent of children in poverty*	33.5%	34. %	90.1%	S	58.2%	29.1%
Percent of infants born at a low birth weight*	10.1%	14.7%	N/A	N/A	13.6%	9.4%
Number of infant deaths	7	1	0	N/A	0	6

[1]Five-year estimate for the period ending in the year shown. [2]Sate fiscal year. Health disparity data are for 2013. *Rates based on small numbers are unstable and should be interpreted with caution. Percent change is not presented for small numbers. **Due to changes in data collection or methodology, current data are not comparable to the base year. For complete data sources and notes, visit www.ncchild.org or contact Laila A. Bell at laila@ncchild.org.

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