

# MECKLENBURG COUNTY

## 2018 NC DATA CARD

### NORTH CAROLINA

Child population: 2,432,812  
Percent under age six: 30%  
Number of live births: 120,756

### MECKLENBURG

Child population: 255,193  
Percent under age six: 34%  
Number of live births: 14,876



#### A STRONG START

Women who receive  
early prenatal care:

**66.5%**

2016

65.1% 2015

Babies born at  
a low birthweight:

**9.6%**

2016

9.2% 2015

Babies born  
pre-term:

**9.9%**

2016

-- 2015



#### FAMILY ECONOMIC SECURITY

Children living in  
poor or low-income homes:

**41.5%**

2016

42.0% 2015

Children in households  
that are food insecure:

**19.5%**

2015

20.5% 2014

Median family  
income:

**\$59,268**

2012-2016

\$56,854 2011-2015



#### NURTURING HOMES & COMMUNITIES

Children in foster  
care per 1,000:

**3.7**

2016

4.2 2015

Children assessed for  
abuse or neglect per 1,000:

**57.7**

2016

56.5 2015

Teen births per  
1,000 girls ages 15-17:

**10.7**

2016

14.2 2015



#### HIGH-QUALITY EDUCATION

3rd grade students  
scoring proficient in reading:

**58.4%**

2016-2017

-- 2015

High school students  
graduating on time\*:

**89.4%**

2017

89.6% 2016

Residents with bachelor's  
degree or higher:

**43.1%**

2016

42.3% 2015



#### HEALTH & WELLNESS

Children without  
health insurance:

**6.0%**

2016

-- 2015

Infant mortality per  
1,000 live births:

**7**

2016

6.1 2015

Child deaths  
per 100,000:

**52.6**

2016

50.3 2015



NC Pathways to Grade-Level Reading whole-child Measure of Success.  
Learn more at: [www.buildthefoundation.org/pathways](http://www.buildthefoundation.org/pathways).

**NC Child**  
The Voice for North Carolina's Children



# MECKLENBURG COUNTY

## Why is this important?

This data snapshot shows how children and families are faring in 15 key areas of well-being. Each year, our elected representatives have an extraordinary opportunity to use public policy to improve the lives of children and families. By expanding access to high-quality health care, strengthening our schools and early learning opportunities, and growing economic opportunity, policymakers can change a child's life trajectory. As we approach the 2018 election, we hope you will encourage candidates seeking election in your communities to address the issues presented on this card.

## Questions for Candidates:

We have created sample questions about key child well-being issues that you can ask in public forums or in conversations with candidates.

- 1 More than half of 3- and 4-year-olds in North Carolina are not enrolled in school. Well-implemented, high-quality early education can narrow the achievement gap, reduce grade repetition, and increase graduation rates. ***What is your plan to ensure access to affordable, quality early care and education for children birth to five?***
- 2 Nearly half of North Carolina's children live in poor or near-poor homes. Growing up in poverty increases the likelihood that a child will be exposed to factors that can impair brain development and lead to poor cognitive, health, and academic outcomes. ***What policies will you focus on to help families who are financially struggling to make ends meet so they can provide for their children?***
- 3 Research shows that when parents have health insurance, they have healthier babies, they are better able to stay healthy and care for their children, and their kids are more likely to have health coverage and use it. More than 200,000 adults in our state lack health insurance because they fall in the "gap" of earning too much to qualify for Medicaid and too little to afford private health insurance. ***What do you think should be done to close the health coverage gap and promote the health of children and their parents?***

**42%** of  
**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
children live in  
**POOR or**  
**LOW-INCOME**  
homes.

The infant mortality rate in  
**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**

is **7** deaths  
for  
every  
**1,000**  
births

**58%**  
of third graders in  
**MECKLENBURG COUNTY**  
are  
proficient  
in reading

For complete data notes and sources,  
visit [www.ncchild.org](http://www.ncchild.org). Contact Whitney Tucker,  
research director, with questions at [whitney@ncchild.org](mailto:whitney@ncchild.org)

\*Percentage is not reported if it is greater than 95 percent or less than 5 percent.

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## Counting Young Children in the Census

In the 2010 Census about 2.2. million children under the age of 5 were missed. That amounts to about 10 percent of the population in this age group. The omission rate for young children was higher than any other age group in the 2010 Census. Young Black and Hispanic children as well as those living in large urban areas are undercounted at a higher rate. Below are some common situations where young children may be missed in the Census.

Common situations where young children are missed in the Census	Why young children might be missed in this situation	How you can help
The young child splits time between two or more homes, for example, when parents are divorced and have joint custody.	The person filling out the census may be confused about whether the young child should be included on their census questionnaire or may assume the child is counted at the other home where the child sometimes stays.	Emphasize that the census counts everyone where they live and sleep most of the time, even if the child may stay elsewhere sometimes. If the child truly spends equal amounts of time between two homes, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1. Coordinate with the other parent or caregiver, if possible, so the child is not counted at both homes.
The young child lives or stays with a relative such as a grandparent.	The person filling out the census questionnaire may be confused about whether the young child should be included on the form, especially if a parent does not live there or the child stays there only part of the time.	Emphasize that if a child is living in that household most of the time, they should be counted in that household. If it's not clear where the child lives or sleeps most of the time, count them where they stayed on Census Day, April 1. Encourage moms with young children to ask other household members to make sure they and their children are included on the Census form.
The young child lives in a lower-income household.	Households that are struggling economically are less likely to respond to the census. Young children are more likely than older children to live in low-income households.	Explain that responding to the census helps determine \$675 billion in local funding for programs such as food stamps (also called Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). When children are missed in the census, local programs miss out on funding that is based on the number of children counted.  Explain that the number of young children counted in the Census is also used to plan school construction, which can prevent overcrowding in schools.
The young child lives in a household with young parent(s).	Young parents are less likely than older parents to return the census questionnaire which increases their odds of their household being missed altogether.	Explain that filling out the census yourself, on your own schedule, is easier than having to respond when a census worker knocks on your door. Remind these households that it should only take about 10 minutes to fill out and can be done online or over the phone. Encourage moms with young children to ask other household members to count them and their children on the form.
The child is a newborn.	Newborns are missed at a high rate, especially those born close to the April 1st Census date.	Encourage moms with young children to make sure they and their young child are included in the census questionnaire.



Common situations where young children are missed in the Census	Why young children might be missed in this situation	How you can help
The young child lives in a large household.	The census letter may get "lost in the shuffle" in a busy household, particularly one with more than one young child to care for.	Remind people that everyone in the household should be included on the census questionnaire if they live there most of the time.
The young child lives in a household that is multigenerational, or includes extended or multiple families.	Young children are more likely to be missed when their parent is not the person filling out the census form and particularly if they are not related to the person completing the form.	<p>Explain that everyone living in the household should be included in the census questionnaire.</p> <p>Also tell them that responding to the census helps determine \$675 billion in local funding for programs such as food stamps (also called Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program or SNAP), the National School Lunch Program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). When children are missed in the census, local programs miss out on funding that is based on the number of children counted.</p> <p>If the parent of the young child is not the person filling out the census questionnaire, make sure to ask the person filling out the questionnaire to include all young children.</p>
The young child lives in a household that rents or recently moved.	In the hustle and bustle of moving responding to the census can sometimes be overlooked. It is also possible that the census letter is discarded by a new tenant.	Encourage renters or recent movers to complete their census questionnaire right ways online or over the phone to make sure they are not missed. Efforts should be focused on multi-unit structures where households are often missed.
The young child lives in a household where they are not supposed to be living, for example, they are living with their grandparents in senior citizen housing.	Some parents or caregivers might be afraid to include a child on their census form if that child is not supposed to be living with them. It could be because the home is only for retirees, or some members of the family or the child is undocumented.	Emphasize the Census Bureau's legal commitment to keep census responses confidential. Explain that the law prevents census responses from being shared with anyone and also prevents the Census Bureau for using response for any kind of enforcement purposes.
The child lives in a household with recent immigrants or foreign-born adults.	Immigrants may not be familiar with the purpose of the census, or they may have privacy concerns and deliberately conceal all or part of their household.	<p>Work with community members to conduct outreach in ethnic neighborhoods with recent immigrants. Try to use "trusted voices" to reach immigrant communities. Focus efforts on the community's gathering places like local grocery stores, places of worship, and small restaurants.</p> <p>Emphasize the Census Bureau's legal commitment to keep census responses confidential. Explain that the law prevents census responses from being shared and also prevents the Census Bureau from using responses for any kind of law enforcement purposes.</p>