

2011 CATAWBA COUNTY CHILD DATA SNAPSHOT

DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

- **159,125** total population
- **24%** under the age of 20

| Age Range | Children | Percent |
|----------------|----------|---------|
| Under 5 years | 10,758 | 6.7% |
| 5 to 9 years | 10,918 | 6.9% |
| 10 to 14 years | 10,302 | 6.5% |
| 15 to 19 years | 10,203 | 6.4% |

| Race/Ethnicity | Percent |
|------------------|---------|
| Caucasian | 82% |
| African-American | 8% |
| Other/Mixed Race | 7% |
| Asian | 3% |
| Hispanic* | 14% |

Source: Western Piedmont Council of Governments
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2008 American Community Survey

Poverty

- In 2008, **13.8%** of Catawba County families were **living below poverty** * compared to 11.1% in 2007¹
- **5%** of all households in Catawba County (2,902 households) have no vehicle available for personal use²

*A family with 2 minor children is considered below poverty if their earnings were **less than \$21,200** per year

¹Source: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37035.html>
²Source: 2009 American Community Survey

Food Assistance

- Between 2000 and June 2010, Catawba County saw a **389%** increase (4,956 to 24,252) in Food Assistance recipients
- In 2010, **44.6%** (10,045) of Food Assistance recipients were 20 years of age or younger

Source: North Carolina Food Stamp database

Child Support

- In 2009-10, Catawba County Social Services collected **\$13.4 million** in child support for **over 7,800 children**
- The average child support payment in 2010 was **\$187.39** per month
- Child Support Enforcement collects **71.6%** of the amount owed compared to 65.6% statewide; this is impacted by unemployment of absent parents

Source: North Carolina Child Support database

Living Arrangements

| Child under 18 years living with: | Catawba County | Percent | North Carolina | Percent |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|---------|----------------|---------|
| Parents | 31,891 | 85.9% | 1,951,475 | 89.1% |
| Grandparents | 3,538 | 9.5% | 147,888 | 6.8% |
| Other Relative | 1,116 | 3.0% | 55,195 | 2.5% |
| Non Related Adult/Foster | 593 | 1.6% | 35,603 | 1.6% |
| TOTAL | 37,138 | 100% | 2,190,165 | 100% |

Source: <http://factfinder.census.gov> 2006-2008 estimates survey data

POVERTY & ECONOMIC WELLBEING

Housing

- **36%** of Catawba County renters are unable to afford a 2 bedroom apartment (compared with 44% of N.C. renters)¹
- The average hourly wage needed to afford a 2 bedroom apartment and utilities is **\$11.50**. In Catawba County, a minimum hour wage earner (\$7.25/hour) must work **75 hours /week** to afford the fair market rent for a 2 bedroom apartment¹
- **38%** of renters and **21%** of home owners in Catawba County have housing costs that exceed 35% of their income²
- Between 2000 and 2009, Catawba County foreclosures increased **211%** (from 284 to 886)³
- In a 2009 point in time count, **30 children** were identified as homeless of **320** homeless individuals surveyed in our county⁴

¹Source: National Low Income Housing Coalition

²Source: 2009 American Community Survey

³Source: Western Piedmont Council of Governments

⁴Housing Visions Point in time Count 1/2009—Point in Time Count is a one day count of homeless in the Hickory area

Employment

- As of Dec. 2010, the unemployment rate in Catawba County was **12.3%** compared to NC rate of 9.8%¹
- Of the workforce 25 years old and older in 2009, **21%** had not completed high school, **31%** had a high school diploma or equivalent, **22%** attended some college, **8%** had an Associate Degree, **13%** had a Bachelor Degree and **5%** had a Graduate Degree²

¹Source: NC Employment Security Commission

²Source: 2009 American Community Survey

Work First

- As of June 2010, **231** families received a cash payment of **\$214.36** per month through the Federal Work First Program (*a federal program providing Cash and Employment Services for families meeting established criteria*)
- **179** of these were "child only cases" (guardian, usually a grandparent, receives a check for a dependent child)
- In 2010, **52%** of the children in Work First caseloads had a valid child support order

Source: North Carolina Department of Social Services Eligibility Information System

EARLY CHILDHOOD & PRESCHOOL

Childcare in Catawba County

- In 2010, **39%** (4,175) of Catawba County children 0-5 years old attended a childcare facility¹ compared to **53%** (5,353) in 2009
- In 2010, **72%** of children in childcare were in 3 or higher star care (out of 5 stars) and approximately **60%** of those children were in 4 or 5 star care². This is compared to 96% of children in 3 or higher star care in 2009
- In 2010, the average cost of childcare for a child 0-36 months old is **\$123.08/week**¹
- In 2009, **83%** of children under 6 years of age who lived in single parent households had a working parent³
- In May 2010, **1,279 eligible families** received assistance to pay for child care³

¹Source: National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies

²Source: Catawba County Early Childhood Support Team

³Source: Catawba County DSS Day Care Unit

Licensed Childcare (2010)

- **53** childcare centers
- **16** public pre-kindergartens
- **29** family childcare homes (home-based care)
- **23** school-age programs (before and after school care)

Source: North Carolina Division of Child Development

EDUCATION K-12

Student Population and Graduation Rates

| District | Total Student Population ¹ | Percent to Graduate (08-09) ² |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| Catawba County Schools (CCS) | 17,296 | 83.2% |
| Newton-Conover City Schools (NCCS) | 2,954 | 88.6% |
| Hickory Public Schools (HPS) | 4,411 | 68.6% |
| North Carolina (NC) ² | 1.46 million | 74.2% |

Population count is based on average daily attendance

¹Source: <http://schools.nationalrelocation.com>; <http://newton.schoolfusion.us>

²Source: <http://www.ncpublicschools.org>

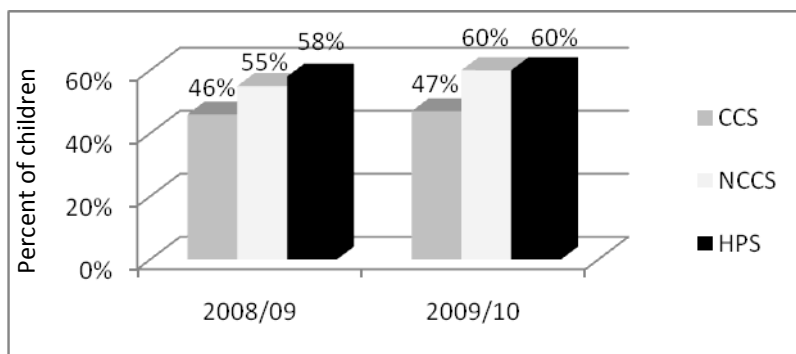
Performance on End of Grade Tests, Grades 3-8

(Percentage of Students' Scores at or Above Proficiency)

| | 2009-2010 | |
|------|-----------|-------|
| | Reading | Math |
| CCS | 74.7% | 87.9% |
| NCCS | 70.3% | 85.9% |
| HPS | 67.7% | 80.9% |
| NC | 70.1% | 81.8% |

Source: www.ncschoolreportcard.org

Free or Reduced Lunch by District



Source: Catawba County Schools, Newton Conover City Schools and Hickory Public Schools

Performance on End of Course Tests, Grades 9-12

(Percentage of Students' Scores at or Above Proficiency)

| | 2009-2010 |
|------|-----------|
| | Percent |
| CCS | 88.1% |
| NCCS | 85.9% |
| HPS | 79.3% |
| NC | 80.7% |

Source: www.ncschoolreportcard.org

Achievement Gap

Percent of Students Who Passed Both Reading & Math End of Grade Tests (2009-2010)

| System | Economically Disadvantaged | White | Black | Hispanic |
|--------|----------------------------|-------|-------|----------|
| CCS | 59.8 | 77.6 | 51.0 | 52.7 |
| NCCS | 58.6 | 78.6 | 50.0 | 54.8 |
| HPS | 49.7 | 81.1 | 40.2 | 49.7 |
| NC | 52.1 | 78.7 | 47.0 | 51.5 |

Source: www.ncschoolreportcard.org

English as a Second Language (2010)

| School System | Total Student Population* | Home language other than English | Limited English Proficiency (LEP) | Percent Student with LEP |
|---------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|
| CCS | 17,199 | 2,968 | 1,377 | 8.0% |
| NCCS | 2,910 | 670 | 428 | 14.7% |
| HPS | 4,285 | 941 | 642 | 14.9% |

Limited English Proficiency is determined by scoring a lower than the set standard score on an English fluency test

* Population count is point in time count

Source: Catawba County Schools, Newton Conover City Schools and Hickory Public Schools

HEALTH & WELLBEING

Child Abuse & Neglect

- The Catawba County Department of Social Services accepted **1,804** Child Protective Services reports in 2009/10
- Of those reports **23% (412)** were substantiated (found in need of services)
- In 2008, **177** children entered foster care, and the average length of time in foster care for all children served in 2008 was **18 months**
- Currently about **50%** of children in foster care are **5 years old or younger**

Source: Catawba County Social Services

Teen Pregnancy

- In 2009, there was **3** pregnancies among girls **10-14 years old**
- In 2009, there were **297** pregnancies among **15-19 year olds** in Catawba County
- **31% (92)** of the pregnancies to 15-19 year olds were **repeat pregnancies**
- In 2009, Catawba County had a teen pregnancy rate of **55.8 per 1,000 15-19 year olds** compared to the state rate of **56** and the 2008 rate of **60.3**

Source: DHHS State Center for Health Statistics

Infant Mortality

- The infant mortality rate for Catawba County in 2009 was **7.1** compared to the NC rate of **8.4**

Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

Uninsured, Medicaid & North Carolina Health Choice*

- In 2008, **13.7%** of children (0-18) and **20%** of adults (19-64) in Catawba County did not have health insurance¹
- In 2008, **34.5%** of North Carolina's non-elderly residents were uninsured for one month or more²
- As of June 2009, **6%** of Catawba County residents qualified for North Carolina Health Choice compared to **5%** in the state.³
- In 2009, **9%** of children and youth 0-20 years old received Medicaid in Catawba County and **20%** of all Catawba County residents received Medicaid benefits³
- As of June 2010, **2,441** children (6-18 years old) in Catawba County were enrolled in North Carolina Health Choice⁴; **61%** (1,489) are 6-12 years old⁴ and **39%** (952) are 13-18 years old⁴

*North Carolina Health Choice is a free or reduced cost comprehensive health care program for children. If a family makes too much money to qualify for Medicaid but too little to afford rising health insurance premiums, children may qualify for NCHC.⁵

¹Source: State of the County Health Report Catawba County 2008

²Source: Families USA <http://www.familiesusa.org>

³Source: NC Medicaid Paid Claims Data unless indicated otherwise and includes recipients

⁴Source: NC Medicaid Database

Sexually Transmitted Diseases

- In 2009, **32%** (290) of all reported STD cases (902) in Catawba County were to teenagers ages 13-19. This is an increase from 29% in the previous year
- Of these, **82%** (237) were females and **18%** (53) were males

Source: North Carolina Electronic Disease Surveillance System (NC EDSS)

Childhood Obesity

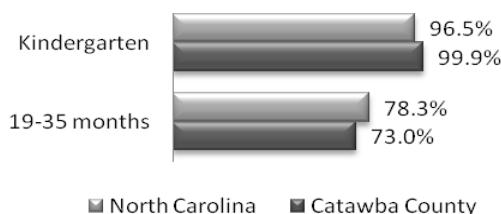
- In 2009, **1 in 3** children in Catawba County were **overweight**¹
- From 2004-2008 the number of overweight children ages 5-11 **increased 0.8%**, while the number of overweight children ages 12-18 **increased 2%**²
- As of 2008, **44.2% of children ages 2-20** were at risk for being **overweight** or were overweight in Catawba County³

¹Source: State of the County Health Report Catawba County 2008

²Source: Catawba County Community Health Assessment 2007 Summary Report

³Source: Catawba County Health Partners

Immunizations: Catawba County & North Carolina 2009



Source: NCIR; NC DHHS; NC Child Health Report Card 2010

Oral Health

- In 2008-09, **79%** of 5th graders in Catawba County had permanent teeth free of decay
- In 2009, **45.8%** of children ages 1-20, who were Medicaid eligible, were receiving dental services

Source: NC Division of Medical Assistance 2010

CRIME & RISK TAKING BEHAVIOR

Juvenile Crime Rates (2008-09)

- The rate of **undisciplined* juveniles** in Catawba County per 1000 youth ages 6 to 17 is **5.11** per compared to the state average of 3.11
- The rate of **delinquent* juveniles** in Catawba County per 1000 youth ages 6 to 15 is **35.13** which represents a **28% increase** from the previous year
- **88** juveniles in Catawba County were **admitted to detention** compared to 82 in the previous year
- The rate of commitment to Youth Development Centers in Catawba County (**.30 or 5 youth**) is **below the state average of .37**
- **There was a 63% increase in youth served** by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council in Catawba County from 270 in 2007-08 to 439 in 2008-09

*Undisciplined generally refers to youth between ages 6 and 16 who are regularly truant from school, disobedient to parents/guardians, runaway or generally found in places where it is unlawful to be; delinquent refers to children between ages of 6 and 16 who commit crimes or infractions, including violation of motor vehicle laws

Source: NCDJDP 2008 and 2009 Databook

Total Number of Reportable Acts by School District (2008-2009 for all grades)

| Charged Offense | CCS | HPS | NCS |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Possession of Alcohol | 10 | 4 | 7 |
| Possession of Controlled Substance | 68 | 26 | 6 |
| Possession of a Weapon | 44 | 5 | 3 |
| Possession of a Firearm | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Assault involving Weapon | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Assault on School Personnel | 6 | 0 | 0 |
| Bomb Threat | 0 | 1 | 0 |
| Robbery without weapon | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Sexual Offense | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Totals | 129 | 36 | 21 |
| Total # of Acts per 1000 students | 7.4 | 8.1 | 7.4 |

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction Consolidated Data Reports 2008-2009

2008 Health & Wellbeing Youth Survey

Alcohol, Drug & Tobacco Use

- **34%** of middle and high school students **used alcohol** once or more in the past 30 days and **nearly one-quarter** acknowledged that they had been **drunk at least once** in the 2 week period preceding the survey
- **20%** of middle & high school students and **33%** of high school students **used marijuana** once or more in the past 12 months
- **33%** of teens **rode in a car** once or more in the last year **with someone who had been drinking**
- In the past 12 months, **13% of teens drove after drinking**
- **26%** of students in 8th-10th and 12th grades indicated they **smoked cigarettes** or have used smokeless tobacco

Mental Health

- **3,727** children and adolescents were in **need of mental health services** and approximately **45%** were served by the public system as compared to the state average of **36%**
- **25%** of youth sampled considered themselves to be depressed and 14% have attempted suicide one or more times

Sexual Activity

- **41%** of middle and high school students had sexual intercourse, up from **26%** in 2000¹
- **30%** of middle and high school students had sexual intercourse more than **3 times**¹

Source: Catawba County Community Health Assessment 2007 Summary Report
Survey results reflect self-reported data from respondents to the Search Institute Youth

The **Child Data Snapshot** was developed and compiled by the Children's Agenda Planning Committee, appointed by the Catawba County Commissioners in February, 2009. The committee's mission is to develop a **Children's Agenda**, outlining the current state of children in Catawba County and identifying overarching priority children's issues needing more attention and the areas of improved effectiveness and efficiency in the provision of children's services. The Children's Agenda will be presented to the County Commissioners and the community in early 2011. The Child Data Snapshot was first developed in October 2009 and will be updated annually.

Ensuring a safe community where all children are engaged, enriched, and equipped to reach their full potential.

