



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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CHILD DATA SNAPSHOT DESCRIBES HEALTH AND WELLNESS OF COUNTY'S CHILDREN

HICKORY -- The 2012 Catawba County Child Data Snapshot was recently released, providing an updated picture of the health and wellness of the county's children.

This information was developed and compiled by the Children's Agenda Planning Committee, appointed by the Catawba County Commissioners. The committee's vision is to ensure a safe community where all children are engaged, enriched and equipped to reach their full potential. The Child Data Snapshot was first developed in October 2009 and is updated annually. This report reflects the most recent information available at the time the snapshot was created.

In the 2012-13 school year, 49 percent of students in Catawba County Schools receive free or reduced-price lunches. Some 64 percent of Newton-Conover students receive free or reduced price lunches. Hickory Public Schools has 58 percent of its students in this category.

In 2010-11, the Catawba County Schools had a graduation rate of 86.2 percent. Newton-Conover City Schools had a graduation rate of 83 percent, and Hickory Public Schools had a rate of 76.5 percent. North Carolina as a whole had a high school graduation rate of 77.9 percent.

In 2011-12, Catawba County Social Services received 3,024 Child Protective Services reports on 6,071 children. Of those reports, 66 percent or 2,009 met the criteria for investigative or family assessments and 525 reports were substantiated (found in need of services). In 2011-12, 111 children entered foster care; 44 percent of these children were younger than 5 years old. In 2010, the infant mortality rate in Catawba County was 9.3 per thousand live births compared to a state rate of 7.0.

In 2009, 38 percent of 2-18 year olds in Catawba County were considered overweight based on their Body Mass Index. In 2011, 77 percent of Catawba County's children ages 24-35 months received their recommended vaccines compared to 65 percent statewide. In 2011, there was one pregnancy to 10-14 year olds and 253 pregnancies among 15-19 year olds. In 2010, 10.5 percent of children and youth (birth-20 years old) received Medicaid in Catawba County.

In 2011, there was a 29 percent decrease in youth served by the Juvenile Crime Prevention Council in Catawba County, from 424 in 2010 to 301 in 2011. [The complete report may be seen at this link.](#)