

2026 KIDS COUNT® DATA PROFILE

NORTH CAROLINA

OVERALL SCORE

537
BETTER

OVERALL RANK

32

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

SCORE: **599** BETTER | RANK: **28**

	UNITED STATES			NORTH CAROLINA		
Children in poverty US 11,117,000 NC 382,000	17% 2019	15% 2024	↓ BETTER	20% 2019	17% 2024	↓ BETTER
Children whose parents lack secure employment US 18,420,000 NC 604,000	26% 2019	25% 2024	↓ BETTER	26% 2019	26% 2024	STABLE
Children living in households with a high housing cost burden US 22,385,000 NC 654,000	30% 2019	31% 2024	↑ WORSE	26% 2019	28% 2024	↑ WORSE
Teens not in school and not working US 1,218,000 NC 33,000	6% 2019	7% 2024	↑ WORSE	7% 2019	6% 2024	↓ BETTER

EDUCATION

SCORE: **409** WORSE | RANK: **24**

	UNITED STATES			NORTH CAROLINA		
Young children (ages 3 and 4) not in school US 4,277,000 NC 151,000	52% 2015-19	54% 2020-24	↑ WORSE	57% 2015-19	60% 2020-24	↑ WORSE
Fourth graders not proficient in reading US N.A. NC N.A.	66% 2019	70% 2024	↑ WORSE	64% 2019	70% 2024	↑ WORSE
Eighth graders not proficient in math US N.A. NC N.A.	67% 2019	73% 2024	↑ WORSE	63% 2019	69% 2024	↑ WORSE
High school students not graduating on time US N.A. NC N.A.	14% 2018-19	13% 2023-24	↓ BETTER	14% 2018-19	13% 2023-24	↓ BETTER

N.A.: Not available

Note: Rankings show how states compare. Scores range from 0 (worst) to 1,000 (best) and reflect child well-being relative to a 2019 baseline; changes over time indicate progress or decline. Scores are not percentages or a finish line; higher scores indicate better outcomes.

Explore data on children and families at datacenter.aecf.org.



THE ANNIE E. CASEY
FOUNDATION

HEALTH	SCORE			RANK		
	541 WORSE			32		
	UNITED STATES			NORTH CAROLINA		
Low birth-weight babies US 308,966 NC 11,345	8.3% 2019	8.5% 2024	↑ WORSE	9.3% 2019	9.2% 2024	↓ BETTER
Children without health insurance US 4,648,000 NC 137,000	6% 2019	6% 2024	STABLE	6% 2019	6% 2024	STABLE
Child and teen deaths per 100,000 US 21,189 NC 846	25 2019	27 2024	↑ WORSE	27 2019	33 2024	↑ WORSE
Children and teens (ages 10 to 17) who are overweight or obese US N.A. NC N.A.	31% 2018-19	30% 2023-24	↓ BETTER	31% 2018-19	31% 2023-24	STABLE

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY	SCORE			RANK		
	601 BETTER			32		
	UNITED STATES			NORTH CAROLINA		
Children in single-parent families US 23,472,000 NC 782,000	34% 2019	34% 2024	STABLE	37% 2019	35% 2024	↓ BETTER
Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma US 7,868,000 NC 247,000	12% 2019	11% 2024	↓ BETTER	12% 2019	11% 2024	↓ BETTER
Children living in high-poverty areas US 5,419,000 NC 138,000	9% 2015-19	7% 2020-24	↓ BETTER	8% 2015-19	6% 2020-24	↓ BETTER
Teen births per 1,000 US 137,273 NC 5,168	17 2019	13 2024	↓ BETTER	18 2019	14 2024	↓ BETTER

N.A.: Not available

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NC Child | ncchild.org | 919.834.6623

Find additional data on this state's children and families at datacenter.aecf.org/NC.

Learn about child well-being and state scores and rankings at www.aecf.org/databook.