Perinatal Health Strategic Plan Town Halls
Data Resource: Perinatal Care Region 2 Northwestern

The Perinatal Care Regions (PCRs) were created through the establishment of the NC Perinatal Health Care Program in 1974 after the NC General Assembly ratified the Perinatal Health Care Bill in 1973. The original design criteria were that each region would have: 1) a Level III hospital; 2) contain 300,000 to 1 million people; 3) counties within a 2-hour travel time to the regional centers; and 4) at least one Area Health Education Center. While the work done through the NC Perinatal Health Care Program has transformed into other programs and initiatives over the years due to legislative changes and funding opportunities, the PCRs have remained. There are currently six regions that cover all 100 counties. The number of counties in each region varies, with the smallest region comprising eight counties and the largest twenty-nine. The NC State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS) provides vital statistics data for each of these regions in many of their annual reports and publications and per ad hoc requests. The Maternal Health Innovation Program's State Provider Support Network is organized by these PCRs.

Data Considerations

To highlight inequities in health outcomes due to interpersonal, institutional, and systemic racism, every effort has been made to provide data for racial and ethnic population groups for each of the indicators. Racial/ethnic categories are defined by the data source and are not consistent across the indicators. Non-Hispanic is abbreviated NH in all charts and tables.

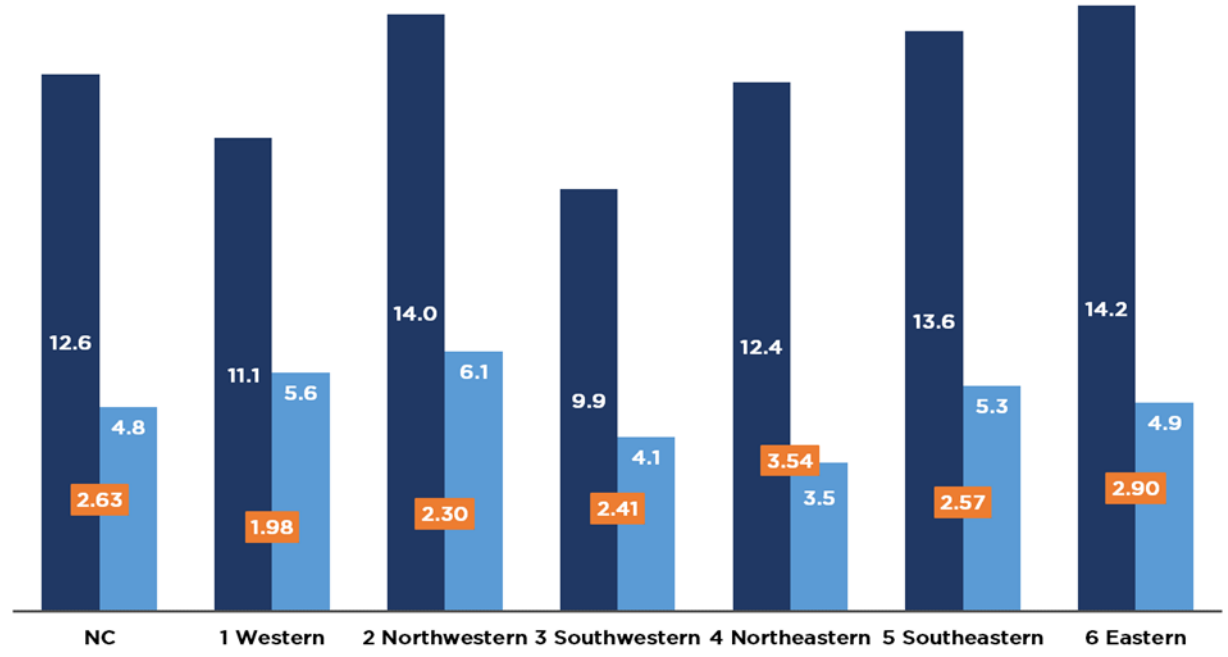
NC DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Division of Public Health

Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section
www.publichealth.nc.gov • NCDHHS is an equal opportunity employer and provider. • 9/2023

Overarching Indicators

1) Eliminate the Black/white disparity in infant mortality (# of infant deaths for every 1,000 live births)

Resident Black and White Infant Mortality Rates & Black/White Disparity Ratios, NC and Perinatal Care Regions 2017-2021



The Black/white Disparity Ratio is the Black Infant Mortality Rate (IMR) divided by the white IMR. In NC for the 2017-2021 time period, Black babies were 2.6 times more likely to die than white babies.

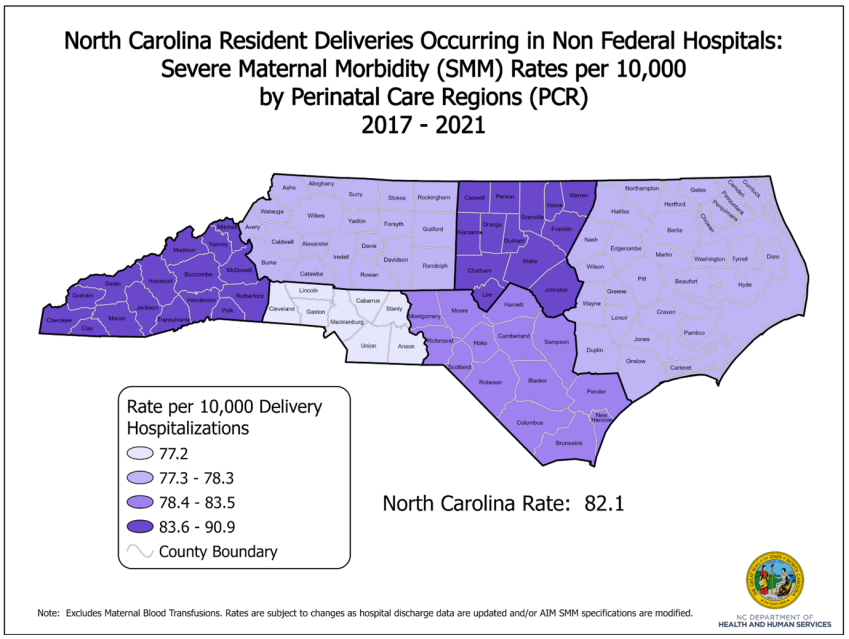
Perinatal Care Region 2 Northwestern Infant Death Rates (per 1,000 live births), 2017-2021										
County	NH Black Infant Deaths	NH Black Births	NH Black IMR	NH White Infant Deaths	NH White Births	NH White IMR	Total Infant Deaths	Total Births	Total IMR	Black:white Disparity Ratio
Alexander	0	66	0.0	12	1527	7.9	14	1795	7.8	0.0
Alleghany	0	7	0.0	1	378	2.6	2	478	4.2	0.0
Ashe	0	12	0.0	5	923	5.4	5	1063	4.7	0.0
Avery	0	5	0.0	4	606	6.6	5	681	7.3	0.0
Burke	3	170	17.6	22	3139	7.0	34	4362	7.8	2.5
Caldwell	6	206	29.1	19	3168	6.0	31	3895	8.0	4.9
Catawba	9	778	11.6	32	5282	6.1	57	8299	6.9	1.9
Davidson	8	1000	8.0	30	6262	4.8	52	8779	5.9	1.7
Davie	4	132	30.3	10	1530	6.5	15	1969	7.6	4.6
Forsyth	98	6197	15.8	53	9813	5.4	189	21839	8.7	2.9
Guilford	162	12063	13.4	48	10551	4.5	258	30099	8.6	3.0
Iredell	21	1358	15.5	39	6383	6.1	68	9463	7.2	2.5
Randolph	4	501	8.0	52	5312	9.8	73	7700	9.5	0.8
Rockingham	13	853	15.2	13	3047	4.3	32	4450	7.2	3.6
Rowan	19	1418	13.4	30	4899	6.1	53	7929	6.7	2.2
Stokes	1	55	18.2	7	1796	3.9	8	1975	4.1	4.7
Surry	1	128	7.8	18	2778	6.5	22	3735	5.9	1.2
Watauga	0	18	0.0	15	1471	10.2	16	1678	9.5	0.0
Wilkes	3	135	22.2	19	2734	6.9	24	3358	7.1	3.2
Yadkin	0	44	0.0	13	1389	9.4	16	1836	8.7	0.0
*Technical Note: Rates based on small numbers (fewer than 10 deaths) are unstable & should be interpreted with caution.										

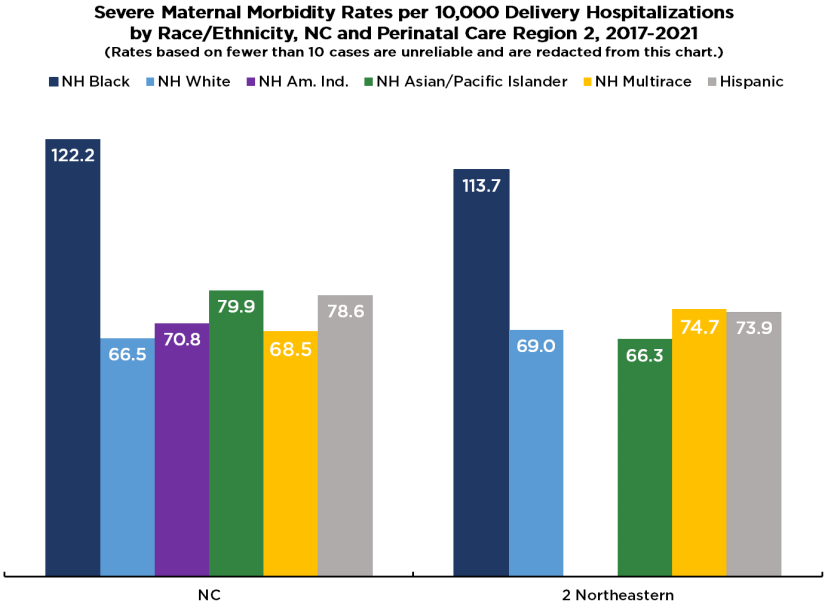
Source: NC Vital Statistics/State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS)

Overarching Indicators

2) Eliminate the Black/white disparity in severe maternal morbidity (SMM), excluding transfusions

Severe maternal morbidities (SMM) are unexpected outcomes of labor and delivery that result in significant short- or long-term consequences to birthing individual's health. The source of these data are the NC Inpatient Hospital Discharge data files (excludes discharges from federal facilities and out-of-state hospitals). Cases in which blood transfusion was the only indicator of SMM are typically excluded, given that the number of units transfused is unknown in these data, and blood transfusion alone may not represent a "truly severe" event.





PCR 2 Northwestern Severe Maternal Morbidity Rates, 2017-2021

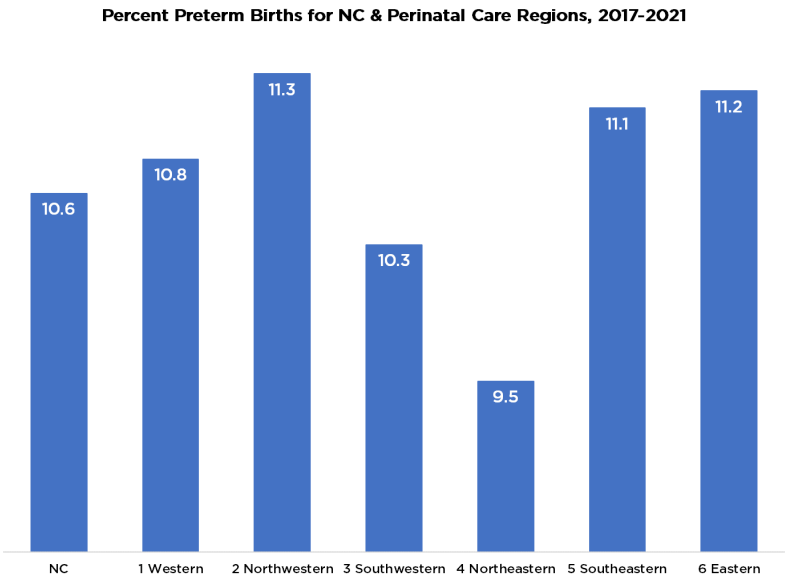
County of Residence:	SMM *(excluding transfusions)*	Total Deliveries	SMM Rate per 10,000 Deliveries	County of Residence:	SMM *(excluding transfusions)*	Total Deliveries	SMM Rate per 10,000 Deliveries
Alexander	11	1,682	65.4	Guilford	283	29,783	95.0
Alleghany	2	407	*	Iredell	62	9,174	67.6
Ashe	13	1,031	126.1	Randolph	45	7,022	64.1
Avery	6	681	*	Rockingham	31	4,230	73.3
Burke	35	3,967	88.2	Rowan	49	7,079	69.2
Caldwell	31	3,710	83.6	Stokes	16	1,927	83.0
Catawba	42	8,088	51.9	Surry	34	3,579	95.0
Davidson	62	7,965	77.8	Watauga	6	1,508	*
Davie	15	1,879	79.8	Wilkes	33	3,013	109.5
Forsyth	145	21,518	67.4	Yadkin	19	1,762	107.8

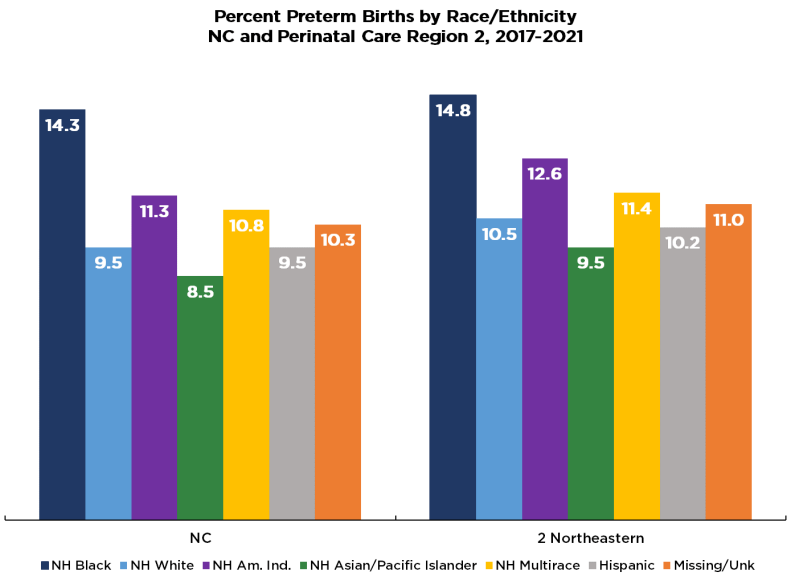
**Rates based on fewer than 10 discharges are unreliable/unstable & are not presented*

Source: NC DPH/Inpatient Hospital Discharge database

Overarching Indicators

3) Decrease the percentage of preterm births to 7.3% or less for all racial/ethnic groups (Preterm means baby was born <37 weeks gestation.)





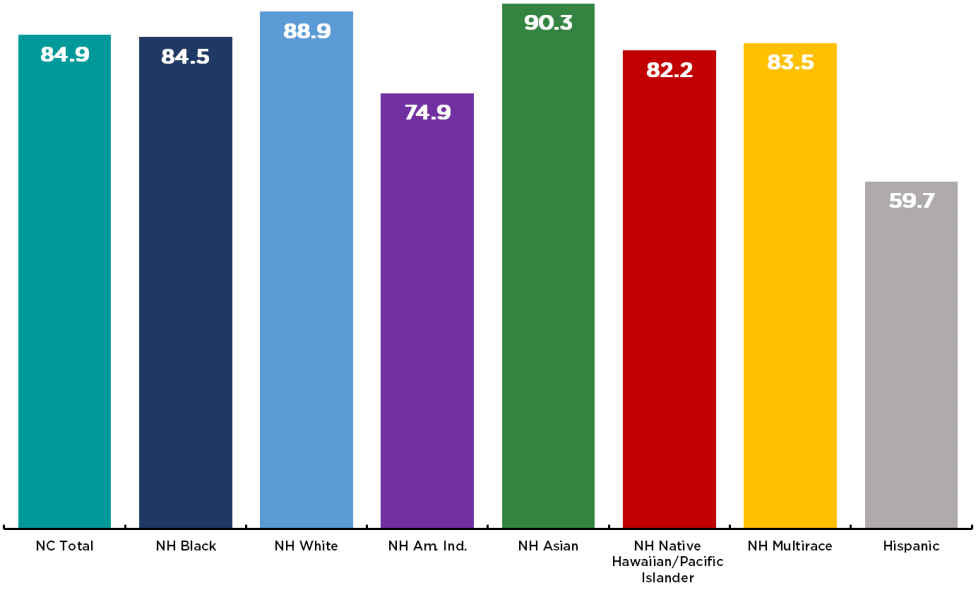
Perinatal Care Region 2 Northwestern Preterm Births (<37 weeks gestation), 2017-2021																
	NH Am. Indian		NH Asian/PI		NH Black		Hispanic		Missing/Unk		NH Multiracial		NH White		TOTAL	
County	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births	Total Births	% Preterm Births
Alexander			38	5.3	66	15.2	129	12.4	2	0	33	9.1	1527	9.1	1795	9.5
Alleghany	1	0			7	0	83	6	1	100	8	0	378	8.7	478	8.2
Ashe	4	0	3	0	12	25	115	12.2			6	0	923	12.4	1063	12.3
Avery	1	100	6	0	5	0	60	6.7	1	100	2	0	606	12.2	681	11.7
Burke	9	0	300	10.3	170	14.7	629	9.2	12	8.3	103	15.5	3139	9.7	4362	9.9
Caldwell	6	0	45	4.4	206	16.5	347	8.6	1	0	122	11.5	3168	10.8	3895	10.9
Catawba	12	0	644	7.1	778	13.5	1333	9	11	27.3	239	10.5	5282	10	8299	10
Davidson	43	20.9	177	16.9	1000	16.7	1080	10.9	13	23.1	204	7.4	6262	12	8779	12.5
Davie	6	0	22	9.1	132	17.4	242	8.7	2	50	35	5.7	1530	11.1	1969	11.1
Forsyth	71	9.9	657	8.1	6197	16.9	4707	11.3	38	5.3	356	12.4	9813	9.9	21839	12.2
Guilford	143	14.7	2271	9.4	12063	13.6	4198	9.6	96	6.3	777	13.4	10551	9.5	30099	11.2
Iredell	17	5.9	356	9.8	1358	15.1	1126	9.2	29	6.9	194	10.8	6383	9.5	9463	10.3
Randolph	33	6.1	174	12.6	501	14.6	1558	8.7	7	0	115	9.6	5312	11.6	7700	11.2
Rockingham	12	16.7	25	4	853	14.4	406	13.8	5	20	102	12.7	3047	9.9	4450	11.2
Rowan	20	25	130	16.9	1418	14.2	1308	10.1	10	0	144	11.8	4899	11.2	7929	11.7
Stokes	9	0	5	0	55	9.1	89	11.2	1	0	20	10	1796	10.9	1975	10.8
Surry	5	20	17	23.5	128	17.2	766	9.9	4	50	37	2.7	2778	10.5	3735	10.7
Watauga			43	14	18	22.2	129	13.2	3	0	14	0	1471	11.3	1678	11.5
Wilkes	3	33.3	24	4.2	135	12.6	407	10.1	6	66.7	49	6.1	2734	12	3358	11.8
Yadkin	1	0	9	11.1	44	15.9	373	13.9	3	0	17	17.6	1389	11.7	1836	12.3

Source: NC Vital Statistics/State Center for Health Statistics

Overarching Indicators

4) Increase health insurance rates to 90% or above for all racial/ethnic groups

Percent of People Age 19-64 in NC with Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity, 2021

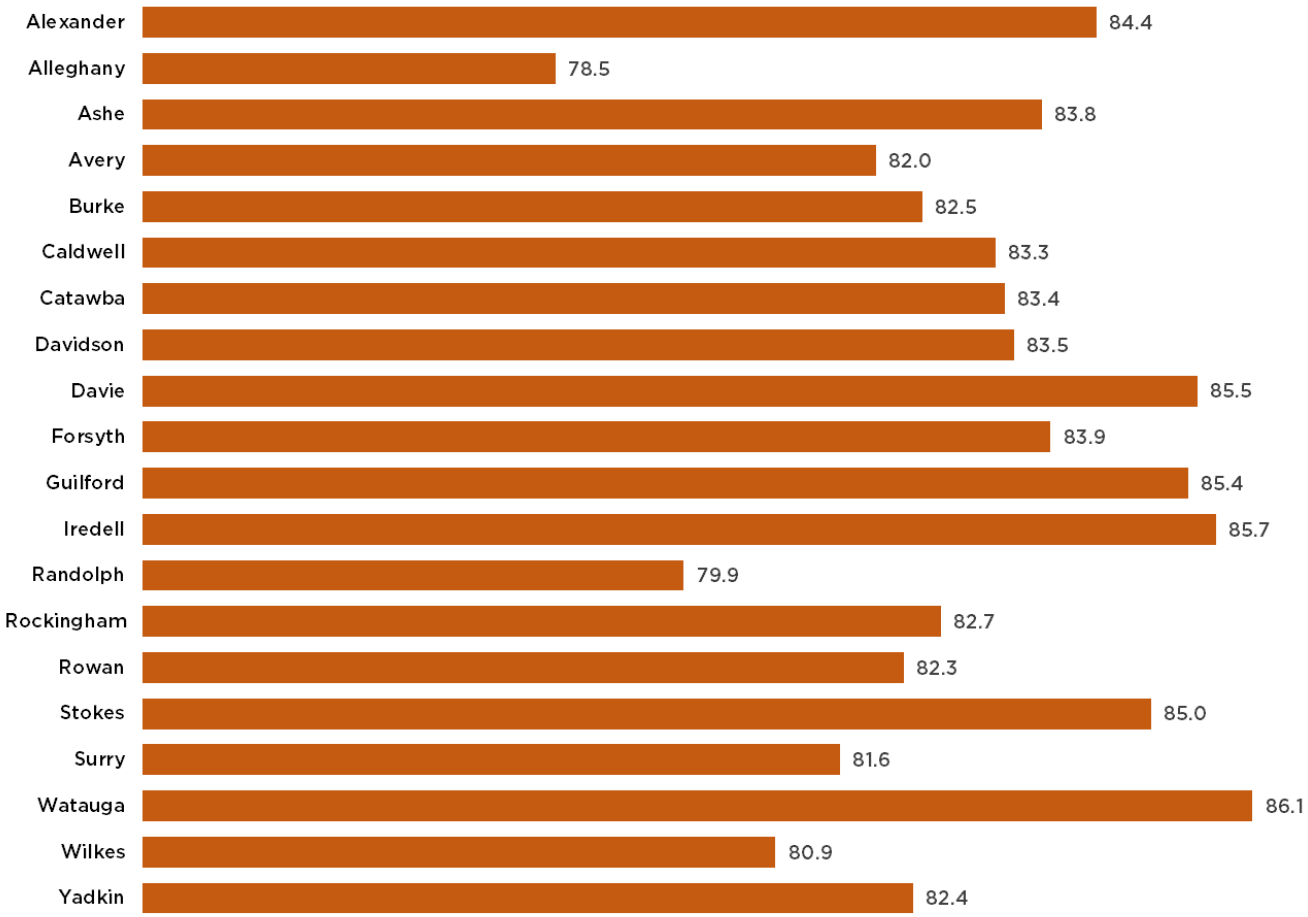


Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) uses the American Community Survey (ACS) definition of insured: Is this person CURRENTLY covered by any of the following types of health insurance or health coverage plans?

- Insurance through a current or former employer or union (of this person or another family member)
- Insurance purchased directly from an insurance company (by this person or another family member)
- Medicare, for people 65 and older, or people with certain disabilities (Note: SAHIE does not report insurance rates for people over 65 since over 98% of people over the age of 65 are insured)
- Medicaid, Medical Assistance, or any kind of government-assistance plan for those with low income or a disability
- TRICARE or other military health care
- Indian Health Services*
- Any other type of health insurance or health coverage plan (user specified)

*People whose only health coverage is Indian Health Service are uninsured as IHS is not considered comprehensive coverage.

Percent of People Age 19-64 with Health Insurance Perinatal Care Region 2 Northwestern, 2021



Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

Additional County Data Sources

State Center for Health Statistics

County Health Data Book https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/databook/
Basic Automated Birth Yearbook https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/babybook/2021.htm
NC Reported Pregnancies https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/pregnancies/2021/
Infant Mortality Statistics https://schs.dph.ncdhhs.gov/data/vital/ims/2021/

March of Dimes

Report Card https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/reports/north-carolina/report-card
State Summary https://www.marchofdimes.org/peristats/state-summaries/north-carolina?lev=1&obj=3&reg=99&slev=4&sreg=37&stop=55&top=3
Maternity Care Report: https://www.marchofdimes.org/where-you-live-matters-maternity-care-deserts-and-crisis-access-and-equity

NC Child

County Data Cards https://ncchild.org/what-we-do/insights/data/

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

County Rankings Data https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/search?f%5B0%5D=type%3Acounties&keywords=North%20Carolina