State of the Children: Mecklenburg County

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Charlotte, NC
Demographics

- Total Mecklenburg County population: 827,445
- Total child population (0-19): 236,823
- Child population under five: 66,558
- Median household income: $51,945
- Individuals below poverty level: 11.3%
- Children under 18 below poverty level: 14.6%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2006 American Community Survey
Child Fatality

- In 2007, there were 142 infant and child deaths in Mecklenburg County.
- The infant mortality rate was 6.5 per 1,000 live births in 2007.

Source: NC Division of Public Health – Women’s and Children’s Health Section; State Center for Health Statistics.
Social Services

Food Stamps

- Food stamp utilization is on the rise in Mecklenburg County; since 2005, the total number of recipients has increased every year

![Food Stamp Utilization Chart]

Food Stamp Utilization
September 2005-September 2008
Mecklenburg County

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total # of Recipients</th>
<th>Individuals Less than 18</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>74915</td>
<td>33132</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>77815</td>
<td>33600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>83080</td>
<td>34524</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>91393</td>
<td>36966</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Social Services, Food & Nutrition Services
Social Services

Work First

- At the end of the 3rd quarter 2008, there were 774 recipients of Work First, including 532 children

Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Social Services
Social Services

Foster Care

• 1,627 children in DSS custody in FY 07
  – 37% were ages 0-5
  – 31% were ages 6-12
  – 26% were ages 13-17
  – 6% were 18 and over

• 69% were African-American; 15% were Caucasian

Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services
Social Services
Child Maltreatment

- There were 9,741 reports of child abuse in FY08

- 5,389 cases were substantiated, services needed or services recommended
  - 452 substantiated cases
  - Services needed for 1,411 cases
  - Services recommended for 3,526 cases

Source: Mecklenburg County Department of Social Services
As of June 30, 2008…

• The average annual fee for child care in Mecklenburg County is $8,674 for center-based care for children age 0-5

• 53% of surveyed parents cited cost as the reason they did not find child care

• There were 7,878 children receiving subsidized child care in Mecklenburg County; there were 6,825 children on the waiting list for subsidized care

Source: Child Care Resources, Inc.
Early Care & Education

- In Mecklenburg County, 62% of licensed child care facilities are 4 or 5 star rated; research demonstrates that programs with better educated staff and higher program standards have better child outcomes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Star Rating</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent of Star Rated Programs</th>
<th>Percent of Total Licensed Programs (819)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>27%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>786</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>96%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Child Care Resources, Inc.
Education
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Student Population

In 2007....

• There were 133,041 students in the CMS system

• 97 different languages spoken by the students

• 46% received free/reduced lunch; nearly 69,000 snack meals were served due to the debt owed on student accounts

• Nearly 11% of students had a disability

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Education
Achievement

- In 2007, 64% of students were at or above grade level at EOG testing

- Educational disparities exist for minority and free/reduced lunch students; African-American and Hispanic students are less likely to be at or above grade level at EOG testing as are free/reduced lunch students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>Hispanic</th>
<th>White</th>
<th>LEP</th>
<th>Paid Lunch</th>
<th>F/R Lunch</th>
<th>Students with Disabilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>64.3%</td>
<td>47%</td>
<td>54.9%</td>
<td>86.3%</td>
<td>46.8%</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>31.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>63.3%</td>
<td>45.4%</td>
<td>53.4%</td>
<td>85.7%</td>
<td>37.7%</td>
<td>80.5%</td>
<td>45.1%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>79.1%</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>93.5%</td>
<td>51.8%</td>
<td>91.2%</td>
<td>65.9%</td>
<td>43.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
• Entering 03-04 ninth graders graduating by 06-07; referred to as the “4-year Cohort Graduation Rate”

• Graduation rates are lower for minority and economically disadvantaged students when compared to white students

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subgroup</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All Students</td>
<td>73.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>70.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>77.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native American</td>
<td>44.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>80.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>62.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>61.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-Racial</td>
<td>71.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>87.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economically Disadvantaged</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Limited English Proficient</td>
<td>62.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students With Disabilities</td>
<td>45.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools
Juvenile Justice

- In 2007, there were 3,709 delinquent complaints in Mecklenburg County.
- There were 913 admissions to detention and 47 YDC commitments.
- Risk factors for juvenile crime include prenatal factors, poverty, history of child abuse, poor school outcomes, and family conflict and disruption.

Source: NC Department of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention
Health

- Over 16% of births are to moms who did not have prenatal care in the 1st trimester

- According to the NC Nutrition & Physical Activity Surveillance System, 16% of children are overweight and over 16% are at risk for overweight

- There are 1,100 CMS students to every 1 school nurse

- 13% of CMS students, grades 6-12, are smokers

- Nearly 12% of NC children currently do not have or at some point in the past 12 months, did not have, health insurance

Source: Mecklenburg County Health Department; NC NPASS; NC State Center for Health Statistics CHAMP Survey Results 2007
Mental Health

• In 2007, 30% of clients served by Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health were under the age of 18

• 9% of services provided by Area Mental Health were Children’s Developmental Services, for children 0-3

• An estimated 10-12% of NC children have a severe emotional disturbance

• According to a 2008 Mecklenburg County report, it is estimated that 15,833 children birth through five have a diagnosable mental health disorder. Many studies indicate that only one-third of these children receive treatment

Source: Mecklenburg County Area Mental Health 2007 Briefing Book; NC Division of Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities & Substance Abuse Services; “An Assessment of Infant Mental Health Needs in Mecklenburg County,” Smart Start of Mecklenburg County
Homelessness

• In June 2008, there were 2,493 homeless students enrolled in Charlotte-Mecklenburg schools
  – The number of homeless students is on the rise; up 13% from June 2007 and up 35% from 2006

• Homeless children get sick twice as often as other children; they have twice as many ear infections; four times as many asthma attacks; twice as many hospitalizations

• Homeless children go hungry twice as often as other children and 25% of homeless children report eating less after becoming homeless

• Mecklenburg County’s shelter for women and children is regularly at or beyond capacity (200 beds plus 30 overflow)

Source: Mecklenburg County Point in Time Count; A Child’s Place; National Center on Family Homelessness, 1999; Sandel, Sharfstein, and Shaw, 1999; Institute for Children and Poverty,
Youth Risk Behaviors

- 34% of CMS high school students have had at least 1 drink of alcohol on one or more days in the past 30 days.
- 16% engaged in binge drinking in the last 30 days.
- 22% of CMS high school students rode in a car with a driver who had been drinking alcohol in the past 30 days.

Source: CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey in collaboration with Mecklenburg County Health Department
Youth Risk Behaviors

- 47% of high school students have had sexual intercourse; 16% have had sexual intercourse with four or more people during their lifetime

- 20% have been harassed or bullied on school property one or more times in the past 12 months

- 28% report feeling so sad or depressed they stopped doing some of their usual activities; 13% attempted suicide one or more times in the last year

Source: CDC Youth Risk Behavior Survey in collaboration with Mecklenburg County Health Department
For more information please contact:
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