



Hidden Homeless:

An Estimate of Young Children
Experiencing Homelessness in
North Carolina
School Year 2024-25

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Introduction

Homelessness at any age can have devastating effects; however, young children are particularly susceptible to the negative outcomes associated with homelessness because their brains are developing rapidly.¹ In 2021, Early Years released *An Invisible Crisis: Early Childhood Homelessness—A Primer* by Anna Sucsy², a report on early childhood homelessness found that 30-40% of people experiencing homelessness were in families with children. Because families often stay with friends or extended family, stay in motels and hotels, sleep in cars, rather than sleep on the streets, childhood homelessness is often hidden from public view.³

Erin Patterson, senior director of the nonprofit SchoolHouse Connection, says the definition of homelessness in the federal *McKinney-Vento Act*—lacking a “fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence”—is broader than living on the streets or in a shelter. It includes families staying in motels or in overcrowded or unsafe housing.

“We call this ‘hidden homelessness,’” Patterson says, noting that many families avoid shelters, often out of fear that their housing status might trigger involvement from child welfare authorities. She says her group has seen families of four or five sleeping on the floor in a closet of a larger home, or parents staying with abusive partners simply to keep a roof over their child’s head.

A child’s earliest years are a critical period for brain development, influenced by their relationships, experiences, and environments. The right ingredients can prepare the brain for optimal development. Science supports the importance of giving children a safe, healthy, and nurturing start from birth.

The National Scientific Council on the Developing Child describes these early years as “a time of great opportunity and of great vulnerability for brain development.” While toxic stress, trauma, and experiences like homelessness increase the risk for stress-related disease and cognitive impairment well into adulthood, intervening efforts to prevent harm and promote well-being can reduce the risk of long-term adverse outcomes.”

Housing instability—whether from frequent moves or threats of homelessness elevates toxic stress in children and caregivers alike. Instability is linked to a host of problems, some that compound others. Research has shown such stress results in poor birth outcomes; increased risk for respiratory infections, fever, and asthma; more frequent emergency room use; developmental delays; and increased mental health challenges.⁴

1 Shonkoff, J. (2017). Breakthrough Impacts: What Science Tells Us About Supporting Early Childhood Development. *YC Young Children*, 72(2), 8–16. https://developingchild.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Science_Early_Childhood_Development.pdf

2 Anna Sucsy (2021) *An Invisible Crisis: Early Childhood Homelessness – A Primer* <https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/program/early-childhood-homelessness>

3 Bassuk, E. L., & Friedman, S. M. (2005). Facts on Trauma and Homeless Children: (315322005-001) [Data set]. American Psychological Association. <https://doi.org/10.1037/e315322005-001>

4 The National Council of State Legislators (December 2025) *What State Policy Makers Need to Know About Early Childhood Homelessness*. <https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/what-state-policymakers-need-to-know-about-early-childhood-homelessness>

Definition of Homelessness Used in this Estimate.

Two official federal definitions of homelessness that apply to families, depending on the source of funding and the laws that govern the programs. The estimate in this report uses the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.

1.The McKinney-Vento Definition of Homelessness

The U.S. Department of Education and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services use the McKinney-Vento definition of homeless for K-12 education and early care and education programs. The McKinney-Vento definition of children experiencing homelessness is that the family *lacks a fixed, regular, and adequate night-time residence, which include:*

Shared housing/doubled up children who are sharing housing with others due to loss of housing, economic hardship, or a similar reason.

Shelters and transitional housing all types of emergency, family, youth, and transitional shelters.

Hotels or motels residing in hotels or motels due to a lack of alternative, adequate housing.

Unsheltered children staying in substandard housing, cars, parks, abandoned buildings, or other places not meant for humans to live. It also includes children staying in temporary trailers and campgrounds due to inadequate alternative housing.

2.The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Definition of Homelessness

HUD uses a different definition for implementation of homeless and housing programs. Continuum of Care (CoC's)⁵ provide funding for homeless services including shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing which are funded by HUD, so these programs use the HUD definition of homeless. The primary difference between the two definitions is that HUD does not include living with others due to economic hardship or living in motels and hotels. However, HUD regulations do allow for eligibility if the family has a 14-day eviction notice or a notice to leave a shared housing arrangement if they have no other financial resources and no other housing options.

⁵ A Continuum of Care (CoC) is a regional or local planning body that coordinates funding for homeless families and individuals including outreach, intake, and assessment, emergency shelter, transitional housing, permanent supportive housing, and rapid rehousing. North Carolina has 13 CoC's. <https://endhomelessness.org/resources/policy-information/what-is-a-continuum-of-care/>

Methodology

While the actual number of children experiencing homelessness is unknown, an estimate can be made to assist policymakers, funders, and service providers to help understand the extent of need in our communities for additional affordable housing, homeless services, and early care and education (ECE).

It is important to note that all the data in this report is an estimate based on a methodology. It is not a count of young children experiencing homelessness and it is not a count of children receiving services.

The methodology for estimating the number of young children was developed by the University of Michigan in conjunction with SchoolHouse Connection (UM/SHC), a national organization that provides training, technical assistance, and advocacy for children experiencing homelessness. UM/SHC produced estimates for the school years 2022-23 and 2023-24 at the national and state level.⁶

The UM/SHC estimation methodology is calculated as the percentage of first grade public school students who were identified as homeless under the McKinney-Vento definition during the school year. This percentage is then applied to the number of younger children by age.

Source of Data for the Estimate

The UM/SHC methodology relies on three pieces of data to calculate the estimates of children experiencing homelessness. This is the source of data used in this report.

Data needed to calculate the estimate	Source of Data
Number of students experiencing homelessness in first grade	NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) Homeless Education Program 2024-25 School Year https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/federal-program-monitoring/consolidated/title-i-part-improving-academic-achievement-disadvantaged/homeless-education-and-mckinney-vento-programs The data is considered preliminary until the U.S. Department of Education has finalized it.
Enrollment in first grade	NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI) https://apps.schools.nc.gov/
Population by age	Office of the State Demographer, North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management population by age projections for 2025 (OSBM) https://www.osbm.nc.gov/facts-figures/population-demographics/state-demographer Another source for this data is the Census Bureau American Community Survey, but the release of the data at the county level by age for 2024-25 was not released in time for this report.

⁶ SchoolHouse Connection (2025). Infant and Toddler Homelessness Across 50 States: 2022-23. <https://e1.nmcdn.io/assets/schoolhouse/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Infant-and-Toddler-Homelessness-Across-50-States-2022-2023.pdf>

One of the drawbacks of the UM/SHC methodology is that it assumes that the same percentage (first grade percent) would apply to all younger ages (<1, 1, 2, 3, and 4).

Based on prior work, the author believes that there is a likelihood that infants could be underestimated. A prior study by the author of this report, using data from the Homeless Management System (HMIS), found that the highest rate of homelessness in HUD homeless programs was for infants. The rate was twice as high as age 6 (first grade), which is used in the UM/SHC methodology. The HMIS data used in this study was limited to three out of twelve CoC's in North Carolina so it was not known if this pattern would remain if the other nine CoC's were included in the study. It is also unclear whether it is valid to apply data from the HUD HMIS system which uses the HUD definition of homelessness to estimates of need based on the McKinney-Vento definition of homelessness.⁷

Several alternative methodologies were considered. Public schools in North Carolina collect data on younger siblings of children identified as experiencing homelessness in grades K-12. This data is potentially useful in identifying children birth to age 4 who are experiencing homelessness and who need services. However, this data leaves out younger children aged birth-4 who do not have siblings in public school, which is a sizable number of children.

Another alternative considered was the use of data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) which is used by Continuum of Care (CoC's)⁸ to collect data for planning and reporting to HUD. However, this data source is a measure of homeless services provided, rather than an estimate of need, and would therefore miss a considerable number of children who are not eligible for HUD services or who reside in areas that do not provide HUD-funded services. In addition, not all homeless service providers include families, and therefore there could be wide variation in the number of young children between counties that does not reflect the underlying need.

⁷ Kotz, Rosalind (2021), *Homelessness Among Infants, Toddlers, Preschool and School-Age Children in Orange County, Durham County and "Balance of State" Continuums of Care, FY 2021*.

⁸ A Continuum of Care (CoC) is designated by HUD for planning and administration of HUD funding for homeless services in defined geographic areas. North Carolina has 13 CoC's that include all the counties in the state.

Estimate of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina

The estimates of young children experiencing homelessness in North Carolina for School Year 2024-25 is:

- 17,754 children aged birth to 4 (including 4-year-olds) are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in North Carolina.
 - » 10,672 infants and toddlers aged birth to 2 (including 2-year-olds) are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in North Carolina⁹.
 - » 7,082 pre-school age children aged 3-4 (including 4-year-olds prior to entering kindergarten) are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in North Carolina.

Estimate of Children Birth to Age 4 (including 4's) Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina, School Year 2024-25

Age Group		#/%
Infant & Toddler	Age 0-2 (inclusive of 2's)	10,672
Pre-School (not in K)	Age 3-4 (inclusive of 4's)	7,082
Age 0-4 (not in K)	Age 0-4 (inclusive of 4's)	17,754
Age 0-4 (inclusive of 4's)	Percent Homeless age 0-4	2.9%

⁹ This report uses the Zero to Three organization definition of infant and toddler as beginning at birth ending at 36 mos. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/good-question/what-age-is-an-infant-understanding-this-early-stage-of-development/> and <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/what-age-is-a-toddler/>

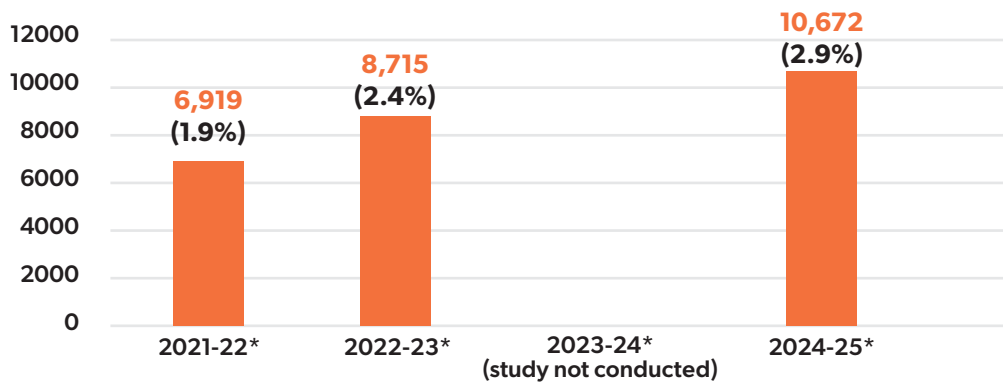
Change in Homelessness over time

A major finding is the significant growth in the number and percentage of children who are homeless over the last three years.

The University of Michigan/SchoolHouse Connection data for 2021-22 and 2022-23 were used to make this estimate of change over time. The 2024-25 estimate is reported in this document. Prior year data from UM/SHC (birth to 3, including 3's) was modified by the author to compare infant and toddler (age birth to 2, including 2's) for all years to produce the data on homelessness over time.¹⁰

Over the three-year period the number of infants and toddlers (age birth to 2, including 2's) experiencing homelessness increased from 6,919 (1.9%) to 10,672 (2.9%). This was an estimated increase of 3,753 or a 54.2% increase over three years.

Infant and Toddler Homelessness in North Carolina Change Over Time Chart



Infant and Toddler Change Over Time Table

Infant & Toddler 0-2		#/%
2021-22	#	Infant & Toddler
2022-23	0-2	2.4%
2023-24 (study not conducted)	%	N/A
2024-25	10,672	2.9%
	# Change	% Change
2022 to 2023 One-Year Change	1,796	26.0%
2023 to 2024 One-Year Change	N/A	N/A
2023 to 2025 Two-Year Change	1,957	22.5%
2022 to 2025 Three-Year Change	3,753	54.2%

¹⁰ This report uses the Zero to Three organization definition of infant and toddler as beginning at birth ending at 36 mos. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/good-question/what-age-is-an-infant-understanding-this-early-stage-of-development/> and <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/what-age-is-a-toddler/>

The trend analysis from UM/SHC is only available at the state level and for infants and toddlers. Given that the UM/SHC estimates are based on 1st grade percentage, and the number of children in North Carolina by age (<1, 1, 2, 3, and 4) was not significantly different, it is highly likely that the increase would also extend to children age birth to 4. To see this trend at the county level in North Carolina would require county level estimates to be made on an annual or biannual basis.

Since this is such a substantial increase it could be due to many factors. One factor could be that the increase is due to the underlying population change and/or changes in the public-school enrollment. To try to answer that question population and school enrollment data were collected which found that the population increase over the three years was 1.9%, and the public-school enrollment in first grade declined by (-2.8%). While this could result in a slight change in the estimates, it would not be an underlying cause of the significant increase.

Another possibility is that the school districts improved their identification of children experiencing homelessness and/or improved their data collection and reporting. A representative from the Homeless Education office at the NC Department of Public Instruction was asked if this was possible and he did not think that the improvement was significant enough during these three years to account for the increase.

Based on this analysis, it is likely that there was a real increase in children experiencing homelessness over the three years.

Geographic Location of Homelessness

The estimates in this report use the same UM/SHC methodology to make estimates at the county level. A few counties have multiple school districts so the data for the school districts were combined to report the estimate at the county level. The estimate for North Carolina is the sum of 100 county estimates.

Five urban counties account for close to half of all children estimated to be experiencing homelessness in School Year 2024-25

	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Mecklenburg	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Wake	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
Guilford	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Durham	548	371	919	4.5%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Top 5 counties	5,070	3,396	8,466	4.2%
95 rural and small-town counties	5,602	3,686	9,288	2.3%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

The estimate of children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness is almost evenly split between urban and rural/small town counties.

Five urban counties with large cities including Wake (Raleigh), Durham (Durham), Mecklenburg (Charlotte), Guilford (Greensboro), and Buncombe (Asheville) accounts for 48% of the total estimate of children experiencing homelessness in North Carolina aged birth to 4.

The other ninety-five (95) counties account for an estimated 52% of all children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness in North Carolina. These counties are primarily medium to small cities, towns, and rural areas. Seventy-eight (78) counties are classified as rural by the North Carolina Rural Center based on very low population density.¹¹

Wide variation at the county level

A wide variation was found between the 100 counties in North Carolina for both the estimate (#) and rate (%) of children experiencing homelessness. The estimate ranges from a high of 3,106 to a low of 5, with an average of 178 per county. The rate ranges from .02% to 10.3%. This variation is hidden by the North Carolina average of 2.9%, indicating the usefulness of making estimates below the state level.

Both the total estimate (# of children) and the rate (% of all children) are useful ways to look at the extent of early childhood homelessness at the county level. Even a county with a small population could have a higher rate than a county with a larger population which indicates a potential local issue which should be investigated further.

Counties with Over 5% of children estimated to be experiencing homelessness¹²

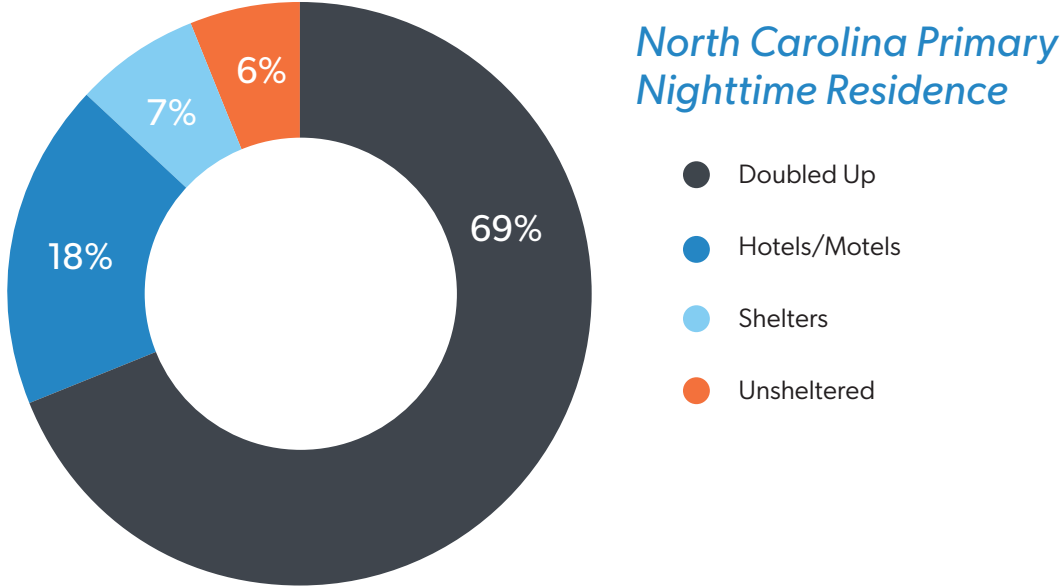
County (sorted by %)	Homeless Children Age 0-2 (including 2's)	Homeless Children Age 3-4 (including 4's)	Homeless Children Age 0-4 (including 4's)	% Percent Homeless
Rutherford	206	129	335	10.3%
Montgomery	77	48	125	9.4%
Avery	39	25	64	9.2%
Ashe	55	38	93	8.9%
McDowell	101	66	168	8.4%
Perquimans	26	18	45	7.9%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Yancey	38	25	63	7.0%
Wilkes	131	83	214	6.2%
Halifax	86	60	147	5.8%
Haywood	94	61	155	5.8%
Warren	28	19	47	5.5%
Greene	32	20	52	5.1%

¹¹ North Carolina Rural Center, County Profiles, <https://www.ncruralcenter.org/county-data/>

¹² The complete list of 100 counties in alphabetical order can be found in APPENDIX A of this report. APPENDIX B (separate document) contains the Counties sorted from high to low estimate (#) and high to low rate (%).

Nighttime Residence¹³

The McKinney-Vento definition of children experiencing homelessness lack a *fixed, regular, adequate night-time residence*.



Data on night-time residence of children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness is not available. Therefore, this report uses the North Carolina public schools K-12 data to estimate the type of primary nighttime residence based on four categories: doubled-up, shelters and transitional housing, hotels, or motels, and unsheltered. According to the North Carolina Office of Homeless Education, the percentage of the four categories has historically remained stable in North Carolina over time.

Shelters that serve families with children are not available in all areas of the state. They may be full and have stay limits for families, which contributes to the considerable number of double-up identifications. When living in a double-up situation, the family or youth may be confined to one room or area of the house, live in fear of being kicked out, and feel additional stress due to the overcrowding of the environment.

There is a high likelihood that counties that lack shelter for families would have a higher rate of shared housing and unsheltered. This level of data is withheld to protect the identification of individual children due to the small numbers that result in breaking the data into the four categories at the county level.

¹³ Source of data on nighttime residence is from the NC Department of Public Instruction, Office of Homeless Education, <https://hepnc.uncg.edu/about/> (downloaded 1/7/2026)

Hidden Homeless:

An Estimate of Young Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Summary of Findings

Homelessness at any age can have devastating effects; however, young children are particularly susceptible to the negative outcomes associated with homelessness because their brains are developing rapidly.¹⁴ Housing instability—whether from frequent moves or threats of homelessness elevates toxic stress in children and caregivers alike.¹⁵

This report is the first step in improving data on children experiencing homelessness in North Carolina aged birth to 4 (including 4's). Additional data will help us better understand the needs of young children experiencing homelessness, identify gaps in services, and guide more effective interventions.

Estimate

The estimate of children experiencing homelessness aged birth to 4 (including 4-year-olds) in North Carolina for School Year 2024-25 is:

- 17,754 children aged birth to 4 (including 4-year-olds) are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in North Carolina.
- 10,672 infants and toddlers aged birth to age 2 (including 2-year-olds) are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in North Carolina.¹⁶
- 7,082 pre-school age children aged 3-4 (including 4-year-olds prior to entering kindergarten) are estimated to be experiencing homelessness in North Carolina.
- The percentage of children aged 0-4 who are experiencing homelessness is estimated to be 2.9% of all children aged birth to 4.

¹⁴ Shonkoff, J. (2017). Breakthrough Impacts: What Science Tells Us About Supporting Early Childhood Development. *YC Young Children*, 72(2), 8–16. https://developingchild.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2015/05/Science_Early_Childhood_Development.pdf

¹⁵ The National Council of State Legislators (December 2025) What State Policy Makers Need to Know About Early Childhood Homelessness. <https://www.ncsl.org/state-legislatures-news/details/what-state-policymakers-need-to-know-about-early-childhood-homelessness>

¹⁶ This report uses the Zero to Three organization definition of infant and toddler as beginning at birth ending at 36 mos. <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/good-question/what-age-is-an-infant-understanding-this-early-stage-of-development/> and <https://www.zerotothree.org/resource/what-age-is-a-toddler/>

Change over time

A major finding is the significant increase in the number and percentage of infants and toddlers experiencing homelessness over the last 3 years. The estimate increased from 6,919 in School Year 2021-22 to 10,672 in School Year 2024-25. This was a significant increase of 3,753 infants and toddlers over 3 years. This was a 54% increase over three years.

Nighttime Residence

While data on the night-time residence of children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness is not available, an estimate has been made using data from public schools that found children in grades K-12. The data on children experiencing homelessness in grades K-12 in 2024-25 school year found:

- 69% percent of families share housing/double-up with other households due to economic hardship.
- 18% are living in motels and hotels.
- 7% report living in shelters and transitional housing.
- 6% percent are estimated to be unsheltered

Urban and Rural Counties

The estimate of children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness is almost evenly split between urban and rural/small town counties.

- Five urban counties with large cities including Wake (Raleigh), Durham (Durham), Mecklenburg (Charlotte), Guilford (Greensboro), and Buncombe (Asheville) account for 8,466 (48%) of the total estimate of children experiencing homelessness in North Carolina aged birth to 4.
- The other ninety-five counties account for an estimated 9,288 (52%) of all children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness in North Carolina. These counties are primarily small cities, towns, and rural areas. Seventy-eight of the 95 counties are classified by the North Carolina Rural Center as rural based on very low population density.¹⁷

Variation between counties

A wide variation was found between the 100 counties in North Carolina for both the estimate (#) and rate (%) of children experiencing homelessness. The estimate ranges from a high of 3,106 to a low of 5, with an average of 178 per county. The rate ranges from .02% to 10.3%. This variation is hidden by the North Carolina average of 2.9%, indicating the usefulness of making estimates below the state level.

¹⁷ North Carolina Rural Center, County Profiles, <https://www.ncruralcenter.org/county-data/>

Improving data

This report is the first step in improving data on children experiencing homelessness aged birth to 4 (including 4's) in North Carolina. Additional data will help us better understand the needs of young children experiencing homelessness, identify gaps in services, and guide more effective interventions.

Future data that could be helpful includes:

Change in homelessness over time at the sub-state (county) level

This report found considerable variation between counties as to the extent of homelessness among young children, which is hidden by the state level data. To estimate the trend at the county level in North Carolina would require county level estimates to be made using the same methodology on an annual or biannual basis.

How this helps: *County level data are more likely to be relevant to understanding the local needs and to identify possibilities and barriers to serving young children experiencing homelessness.*

Early Care and Education Access

Determine the extent to which young children experiencing homelessness are enrolled in subsidized childcare, Head Start/Early Head Start, Pre-K, home visiting, and Early Intervention.

How this helps: *Identifies service gaps, highlights barriers to enrollment, and informs strategies to increase participation in programs proven to stabilize families and support child development.*

Housing and Homeless Services Utilization

Assess how often families with young children access HUD-funded Continuums of Care and other community-based supports such as food pantries, multi-service organizations, recovery programs, and community development agencies.

How this helps: *Reveals where families are seeking help, uncovers missed opportunities for coordinated entry, and guides resource alignment across housing and early childhood systems.*

Infant Undercount and Data Quality

Identify additional data sources to address the likely undercount of infants and refine current estimates.

How this helps: *Ensures more accurate population counts, which directly influence funding levels, service planning, and policy decisions.*

Pregnancy and Postpartum Needs

Understand the specific needs of pregnant women and families during the first year after birth, including the health and human services they receive and the effectiveness of those supports.

How this helps: *Strengthens early intervention and housing stability strategies during a critical developmental window for infants and a high-risk period for family homelessness.*

Doubled Up and Motel/Hotel Situations

Examine the characteristics of families estimated to be living doubled-up (69%) or in motels/hotels (18%) and distinguish stable multi-generational arrangements from unstable shared housing.

How this helps: *Improves identification of hidden homelessness, guides outreach strategies, and clarifies which families need immediate housing support versus preventive services.*

Homeless Prevention for Families with Young Children

Explore interventions such as eviction prevention, short-term rent assistance, move-in support, and legal services, and assess their effectiveness.

How this helps: *Identifies which prevention strategies reduce homelessness for families with very young children and informs investment in the most effective approaches.*

Role of School District Homeless Liaisons

Document the extent of services provided to children aged birth to 4 experiencing homelessness through school district liaisons, including school-based pre-K, referrals, and direct supports for younger siblings of enrolled students.

How this helps: *Clarifies the role schools play in early identification, strengthens cross-system coordination, and highlights opportunities to reach families earlier.*

Rural counties and service delivery areas

Assess the availability of housing, homeless, early care and education, and health services available in the 78 rural counties and the barriers to accessing those resources.

How this helps: *A better understanding could lead to identifying potential solutions to overcome the barriers and lack of resources.*

Taking Action

North Carolina

The North Carolina Action Plan for an Early Childhood Homelessness Support System is a comprehensive strategy designed to support young children experiencing homelessness and provides a detailed guide to ensure that young children in our state who are unhoused receive all early childhood resources and services available in their communities. The Plan focuses on enhancing collaboration across sectors, increasing access to high-quality childcare and housing, and implementing evidence-based practices to mitigate developmental risks. The Plan, supported by the Preschool Development Grant (PDG B-5), is bold but achievable.



Read the Action Plan for an Early Childhood Homelessness Support System

Key Components of the Action Plan Implementation include:

- 1** **Build capacity and support for professionals** who work with young children to identify and provide appropriate services for children experiencing homelessness and their caregivers
- 2** **Build the capacity of organizations** to design and implement equitable policies & practices that (a) mitigate potential trauma of homelessness, (b) empower parental engagement, leadership, and advocacy, (c) prioritize homeless families and young children, and (d) use a two-generation approach to proactively connect caregivers and their children to resources necessary to meet family goals.
- 3** **Create integrated, accessible, equitable, and child-centered community-based systems change plans** focused on the needs of young children and caregivers experiencing homelessness.
- 4** **Improve, leverage, and integrate** early childhood homelessness data.
- 5** **Leverage diverse funding sources** to support Goals 1-4.

Yay Babies! — is a statewide network of professionals dedicated to ensuring that North Carolina children from birth to age five who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness receive the early intervention services they need and have access to high-quality, affordable early childhood education. Anyone who is interested in current activities supporting families experiencing homelessness can join Yay Babies!

For information on how to get involved contact Laura Hewitt, Child Care and Development Fund Coordinator, at the NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education, laura.hewitt@dhhs.nc.gov or Angela Lewis with the NC Partnership for Children, alewis@smartstart.org.



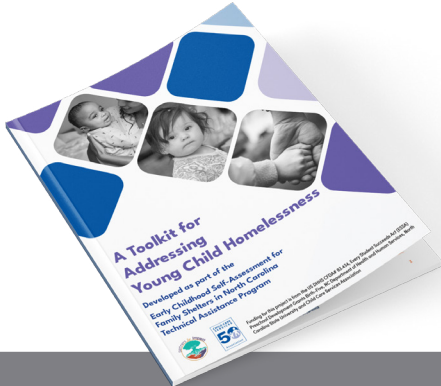
The Young Child Homelessness Outreach Project of North Carolina

This project is being implemented by Early Years¹⁸ and Partners for Impact¹⁹ and is funded by the NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE).

The goal is to ensure that children in families experiencing homelessness have positive childhood experiences and stability that help build resilience. This project is designed to strengthen relationships and capacity of family service providers (shelters, food pantries, crisis service, clinics, and others) and to help them connect families to high quality child care and subsidies through the Child Care Resource & Referral (CCR&R) Enhanced Consumer Education and Referral.

In the pilot years of this project, 2025-2026, focused local outreach is taking place in seven counties across North Carolina (Edgecombe, Nash, Catawba, Chatham, Wake, Guilford, and Forsyth). In addition, extensive statewide outreach is providing awareness, strategies, research, and explanation of policies and various program eligibility guidelines. This information is distributed through a statewide newsletter, webinars and a social media campaign. You can Sign up for the quarterly e-news, Young Child Homelessness Journal of NC, for helpful articles and resources to support addressing the needs of young children experiencing homelessness.

From 2021-2024, Early Years contracted with Partners for Impact to complete a three-year pilot project addressing the needs of young children experiencing homelessness using the Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters (ECSAT) to help family shelters to assess their environments, their processes, and how they work to support young children. Using this assessment tool, Partners for Impact provided technical assistance for nine family shelters across the State of North Carolina. This work culminated in the development of the “Toolkit for Addressing Young Child Homelessness.”



[Download this resource](#)

¹⁸ More information about Early Years can be found at <https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/>

¹⁹ More information about Partners for Impact can be found at <http://www.partnersforimpact.com>



The North Carolina Partnership for Children (NCPC) is a statewide organization with partner organizations (SMART START's) in every county or multi-county area in North Carolina.

The organization has taken a co-leadership role (with Early Years) in implementing the North Carolina **Action Plan for an Early Childhood Homelessness Support System**.

NCPC and the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education also provide co-leadership to Yay Babies! in support of collaborative state partner action plan implementation.

NCPC has developed a "Smart Solutions catalog" to identify programs and interventions that are effective and impactful for use by Smart Start Local Partnerships. **The Early Childhood Self-Assessment Tool for Family Shelters (ECSAT)** has been included in the catalog.

A "Technical Assistance, Consultation and Coaching Industry Standard Smart Solution" is currently in development, based on the "Self-Assessment Tool for Early Childhood Programs Serving Families Experiencing Homelessness."

The Learning Module is on the Early Years page. <https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/resource/learning-module-for-early-childhood-programs-serving-children-experiencing-homelessness>

Additional information on NC Smart Start Partnerships including a list of contacts can be found at <https://www.smartstart.org/in-your-community/>



Early Years is a leader and advocate in childcare services on the local, state, and national level. We collaborate with many partners, businesses, and stakeholders to address needs within the childcare system. We are only one part of the broader community's commitment to create changes that helps every child. As we grow, we come closer to the day when all children, and their teachers, have the tools they need for success.

The organization has taken a co-leadership role (with The NC Partnership for Children) in implementing the North Carolina Action Plan for an Early Childhood Homelessness Support System.

The organization hosts a website for blog posts and documents on young children experiencing homelessness. <https://www.earlyyearsnc.org/program/early-childhood-homelessness> (search on homelessness)

Example of blog posts and documents available on the website:

- [Learning Module for Early Childhood Programs Serving Children Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Supporting Families Experiencing Homelessness: Child Care Policies](#)
- [Homelessness in Afterschool Resource Guide – Part 1](#)
- [Homelessness in Afterschool Resource Guide – Part 2](#)
- [North Carolina Housing Inventory Count for Families Experiencing Homelessness 2017-2021](#)
- [Ending Early Childhood Homelessness Starts with Policies that Make a Difference: A Look at CCDF State Policies for 2022-2024](#)
- [Joining the Interagency Council for Coordinating Homelessness Programs](#)
- [An Invisible Crisis: Early Years Releases a Primer on Early Childhood Homelessness](#)
- [Homelessness Among Infants, Toddlers, Preschool and School-Age Children in North Carolina](#)
- [A Data Snapshot of Young Children at Risk of Homelessness in North Carolina](#)
- [Families with Young Children Experiencing Homelessness: It's Time for Community Solutions](#)
- [Early Childhood Homelessness: A Look at CCDF State Policies for 2019-2021](#)
- [ZERO TO THREE Journal: Young Children and Families Experiencing Homelessness](#)
- [Early Childhood Homelessness – Pregnant and Parenting Youth Experiencing Homelessness](#)

National



SchoolHouse Connection is a national non-profit organization working to overcome homelessness for children and youth. The organization provides strategic policy advocacy and practical assistance in partnership with early childhood programs, schools, institutions of higher education, service providers, families, and youth. SchoolHouse Connection publishes the 50-state report on infant and toddlers experiencing homelessness [https://e1.nmcdn.io/assets/schoolhouse/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Infant-and-Toddler-Homelessness-Across-](https://e1.nmcdn.io/assets/schoolhouse/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Infant-and-Toddler-Homelessness-Across-50-States-2022-2023.pdf)

[50-States-2022-2023.pdf](https://e1.nmcdn.io/assets/schoolhouse/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/2025-Infant-and-Toddler-Homelessness-Across-50-States-2022-2023.pdf) and hosts a national family shelter community of practice. The organization recently expanded their capacity to add a new focus on data and research. For more information, please visit schoolhouseconnection.org



Thrive from the Start is a new national collaborative that brings together leaders from early childhood, housing, homelessness, health, and child welfare systems dedicated to ensuring all expectant parents, infants, toddlers, and their families have the resources and opportunities to thrive. Thrive from the Start national partners include ZERO TO THREE,

SchoolHouse Connection, Prevent Child Abuse America, Housing Is, and the National Collaborative for Infants & Toddlers (NCIT). Thrive From the Start's national policy agenda is focused on solving PN-3 homelessness and housing instability and work to build a growing network of organizations committed to cross-sector solutions for a coordinated, holistic support system. The collaborative has formed four work groups:

1. Communications – lead by Housing Is
2. State Policy – lead by Zero to Three
3. Federal Policy – lead by SchoolHouse Connection
4. Research and Data – lead by Prevent Child Abuse America

Anyone who is interested can join the work groups. More information on Thrive from the Start and how to volunteer for the work groups can be found at <https://thrivefromthestart.org/>.

Community

- Local leaders can create forums, or “communities of practice,” to bring together providers, advocates, local decision makers, and families to design systems responsive to their unique local resources, needs, opportunities, and challenges.
- Local leaders in the early care and education sector could reach out to the Continuum of Care (CoC's) in the homeless delivery sector, and the local Housing Authority to share information and develop relationships that could lead to innovative ideas on how to collaborate.
- The provider community could build awareness of early childhood programs, referral processes, the unique needs of pregnancy, infants, toddlers, and preschoolers in ways to connect with nutrition, health, early intervention, and other benefit systems, and the importance of engaging young children in high quality early learning programs.

APPENDIX A

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Counties - Alphabetical

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.

Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Alamance	153	102	255	2.6%
Alexander	12	*	21	1.2%
Alleghany	11	*	19	3.5%
Anson	14	*	23	1.8%
Ashe	55	38	93	8.9%
Avery	39	25	64	9.2%
Beaufort	16	11	27	1.3%
Bertie	*	*	14	1.8%
Bladen	33	21	54	3.1%
Brunswick	45	29	74	1.3%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Burke	44	29	73	1.7%
Cabarrus	182	119	300	2.2%
Caldwell	38	23	61	1.6%
Camden	*	*	10	2.1%
Carteret	47	32	79	3.3%
Caswell	*	*	*	0.6%
Catawba	73	51	124	1.4%
Chatham	72	46	118	3.3%
Cherokee	15	10	25	2.0%
Chowan	*	*	15	2.1%
Clay	*	*	*	1.9%
Cleveland	113	78	192	3.4%
Columbus	*	*	*	0.2%
Craven	44	29	73	1.2%
Cumberland	209	137	346	1.4%
Currituck	21	16	37	2.2%
Dare	*	*	*	0.3%
Davidson	130	89	219	2.4%

APPENDIX A

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Davie	16	12	28	1.3%
Duplin	48	31	79	2.2%
Durham	548	371	919	4.5%
Edgecombe	36	24	60	2.1%
Forsyth	271	181	452	2.0%
Franklin	75	47	122	2.7%
Gaston	209	135	344	2.5%
Gates	*	*	*	1.1%
Graham	*	*	*	1.1%
Granville	59	41	100	3.2%
Greene	32	20	52	5.1%
Guilford	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Halifax	86	60	147	5.8%
Harnett	62	41	104	1.1%
Haywood	94	61	155	5.8%
Henderson	149	98	247	4.7%
Hertford	*	*	*	0.5%
Hoke	30	21	52	1.2%
Hyde	*	*	*	4.3%
Iredell	162	105	267	2.6%
Jackson	51	33	84	4.9%
Johnston	165	108	274	1.8%
Jones	*	*	12	2.4%
Lee	85	56	142	3.5%
Lenoir	22	15	37	1.1%
Lincoln	27	18	45	0.9%
Macon	22	15	37	2.2%
Madison	27	17	44	4.5%
Martin	14	*	23	2.1%
McDowell	101	66	168	8.4%
Mecklenburg	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Mitchell	14	10	24	4.0%
Montgomery	77	48	125	9.4%

APPENDIX A

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Moore	114	74	188	3.0%
Nash	96	62	158	2.9%
New Hanover	211	137	347	3.2%
Northampton	10	*	17	2.1%
Onslow	185	125	310	1.6%
Orange	93	63	157	2.7%
Pamlico	*	*	*	1.3%
Pasquotank	33	22	55	2.4%
Pender	25	16	41	1.2%
Perquimans	26	18	45	7.9%
Person	28	19	47	2.2%
Pitt	101	66	167	1.6%
Polk	16	11	27	3.9%
Randolph	73	48	121	1.5%
Richmond	43	29	73	2.7%
Robeson	96	67	162	1.8%
Rockingham	38	24	62	1.3%
Rowan	72	50	122	1.5%
Rutherford	206	129	335	10.3%
Sampson	45	29	73	1.8%
Scotland	*	*	*	0.5%
Stanly	47	31	78	2.2%
Stokes	*	*	*	0.2%
Surry	62	39	100	2.6%
Swain	13	*	22	2.9%
Transylvania	21	13	34	2.6%
Tyrrell	*	*	*	4.0%
Union	102	66	168	1.2%
Vance	71	47	119	4.5%
Wake	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
Warren	28	19	47	5.5%
Washington	*	*	10	1.7%
Watauga	41	25	66	4.1%

APPENDIX A

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Wayne	69	45	113	1.4%
Wilkes	131	83	214	6.2%
Wilson	53	34	86	1.9%
Yadkin	28	17	46	2.3%
Yancey	38	25	63	7.0%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Counties Sorted by 0-4 Estimate Highest to Lowest

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.

Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Mecklenburg	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Wake	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
Guilford	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Durham	548	371	919	4.5%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Forsyth	271	181	452	2.0%
NewHanover	211	137	347	3.2%
Cumberland	209	137	346	1.4%
Gaston	209	135	344	2.5%
Rutherford	206	129	335	10.3%
Onslow	185	125	310	1.6%
Cabarrus	182	119	300	2.2%
Johnston	165	108	274	1.8%
Iredell	162	105	267	2.6%
Alamance	153	102	255	2.6%
Henderson	149	98	247	4.7%
Davidson	130	89	219	2.4%
Wilkes	131	83	214	6.2%
Cleveland	113	78	192	3.4%
Moore	114	74	188	3.0%
Union	102	66	168	1.2%
McDowell	101	66	168	8.4%
Pitt	101	66	167	1.6%
Robeson	96	67	162	1.8%
Nash	96	62	158	2.9%
Orange	93	63	157	2.7%
Haywood	94	61	155	5.8%
Halifax	86	60	147	5.8%
Lee	85	56	142	3.5%
Montgomery	77	48	125	9.4%

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Catawba	73	51	124	1.4%
Franklin	75	47	122	2.7%
Rowan	72	50	122	1.5%
Randolph	73	48	121	1.5%
Vance	71	47	119	4.5%
Chatham	72	46	118	3.3%
Wayne	69	45	113	1.4%
Harnett	62	41	104	1.1%
Surry	62	39	100	2.6%
Granville	59	41	100	3.2%
Ashe	55	38	93	8.9%
Wilson	53	34	86	1.9%
Jackson	51	33	84	4.9%
Carteret	47	32	79	3.3%
Duplin	48	31	79	2.2%
Stanly	47	31	78	2.2%
Brunswick	45	29	74	1.3%
Craven	44	29	73	1.2%
Sampson	45	29	73	1.8%
Burke	44	29	73	1.7%
Richmond	43	29	73	2.7%
Watauga	41	25	66	4.1%
Avery	39	25	64	9.2%
Yancey	38	25	63	7.0%
Rockingham	38	24	62	1.3%
Caldwell	38	23	61	1.6%
Edgecombe	36	24	60	2.1%
Pasquotank	33	22	55	2.4%
Bladen	33	21	54	3.1%
Greene	32	20	52	5.1%
Hoke	30	21	52	1.2%
Warren	28	19	47	5.5%
Person	28	19	47	2.2%
Yadkin	28	17	46	2.3%
Lincoln	27	18	45	0.9%
Perquimans	26	18	45	7.9%
Madison	27	17	44	4.5%

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Pender	25	16	41	1.2%
Macon	22	15	37	2.2%
Lenoir	22	15	37	1.1%
Currituck	21	16	37	2.2%
Transylvania	21	13	34	2.6%
Davie	16	12	28	1.3%
Beaufort	16	11	27	1.3%
Polk	16	11	27	3.9%
Cherokee	15	10	25	2.0%
Mitchell	14	10	24	4.0%
Martin	14	*	23	2.1%
Anson	14	*	23	1.8%
Swain	13	*	22	2.9%
Alexander	12	*	21	1.2%
Alleghany	11	*	19	3.5%
Northampton	10	*	17	2.1%
Chowan	*	*	15	2.1%
Bertie	*	*	14	1.8%
Jones	*	*	12	2.4%
Washington	*	*	10	1.7%
Camden	*	*	10	2.1%
Scotland	*	*	*	0.5%
Clay	*	*	*	1.9%
Tyrrell	*	*	*	4.0%
Hyde	*	*	*	4.3%
Pamlico	*	*	*	1.3%
Caswell	*	*	*	0.6%
Columbus	*	*	*	0.2%
Graham	*	*	*	1.1%
Stokes	*	*	*	0.2%
Gates	*	*	*	1.1%
Dare	*	*	*	0.3%
Hertford	*	*	*	0.5%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Counties Sorted Highest to Lowest Rate (%)

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.

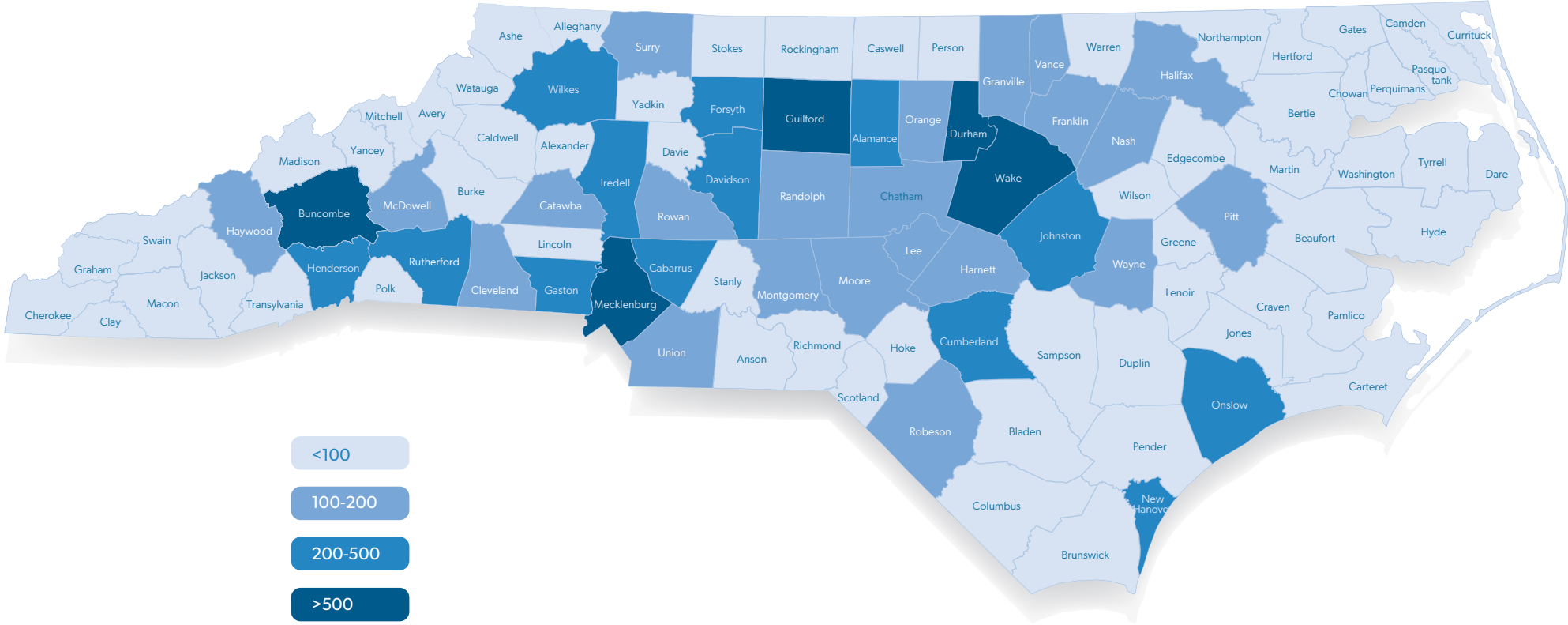
Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Rutherford	206	129	335	10.3%
Montgomery	77	48	125	9.4%
Avery	39	25	64	9.2%
Ashe	55	38	93	8.9%
McDowell	101	66	168	8.4%
Perquimans	26	18	45	7.9%
Buncombe	544	363	907	7.5%
Yancey	38	25	63	7.0%
Wilkes	131	83	214	6.2%
Halifax	86	60	147	5.8%
Haywood	94	61	155	5.8%
Warren	28	19	47	5.5%
Greene	32	20	52	5.1%
Jackson	51	33	84	4.9%
Henderson	149	98	247	4.7%
Madison	27	17	44	4.5%
Vance	71	47	119	4.5%
Durham	548	371	919	4.5%
Hyde	*	*	*	4.3%
Mecklenburg	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Watauga	41	25	66	4.1%
Mitchell	14	10	24	4.0%
Tyrrell	*	*	*	4.0%
Polk	16	11	27	3.9%
Guilford	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Wake	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
Lee	85	56	142	3.5%
Alleghany	11	*	19	3.5%
Cleveland	113	78	192	3.4%
Chatham	72	46	118	3.3%

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Carteret	47	32	79	3.3%
NewHanover	211	137	347	3.2%
Granville	59	41	100	3.2%
Bladen	33	21	54	3.1%
Moore	114	74	188	3.0%
Nash	96	62	158	2.9%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%
Swain	13	9	22	2.9%
Richmond	43	29	73	2.7%
Franklin	75	47	122	2.7%
Orange	93	63	157	2.7%
Transylvania	21	13	34	2.6%
Surry	62	39	100	2.6%
Alamance	153	102	255	2.6%
Iredell	162	105	267	2.6%
Gaston	209	135	344	2.5%
Pasquotank	33	22	55	2.4%
Jones	*	*	12	2.4%
Davidson	130	89	219	2.4%
Yadkin	28	17	46	2.3%
Duplin	48	31	79	2.2%
Stanly	47	31	78	2.2%
Currituck	21	16	37	2.2%
Macon	22	15	37	2.2%
Person	28	19	47	2.2%
Cabarrus	182	119	300	2.2%
Northampton	10	*	17	2.1%
Chowan	*	*	15	2.1%
Martin	14	*	23	2.1%
Camden	*	*	10	2.1%
Edgecombe	36	24	60	2.1%
Forsyth	271	181	452	2.0%
Cherokee	15	10	25	2.0%
Wilson	53	34	86	1.9%
Clay	*	*	*	1.9%
Robeson	96	67	162	1.8%

County	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Johnston	165	108	274	1.8%
Sampson	45	29	73	1.8%
Anson	14	*	23	1.8%
Bertie	*	*	14	1.8%
Washington	*	*	10	1.7%
Burke	44	29	73	1.7%
Onslow	185	125	310	1.6%
Pitt	101	66	167	1.6%
Caldwell	38	23	61	1.6%
Randolph	73	48	121	1.5%
Rowan	72	50	122	1.5%
Catawba	73	51	124	1.4%
Wayne	69	45	113	1.4%
Cumberland	209	137	346	1.4%
Davie	16	12	28	1.3%
Rockingham	38	24	62	1.3%
Brunswick	45	29	74	1.3%
Pamlico	*	*	*	1.3%
Beaufort	16	11	27	1.3%
Union	102	66	168	1.2%
Pender	25	16	41	1.2%
Hoke	30	21	52	1.2%
Craven	44	29	73	1.2%
Alexander	12	*	21	1.2%
Graham	*	*	*	1.1%
Lenoir	22	15	37	1.1%
Gates	*	*	*	1.1%
Harnett	62	41	104	1.1%
Lincoln	27	18	45	0.9%
Caswell	*	*	*	0.6%
Hertford	*	*	*	0.5%
Scotland	*	*	*	0.5%
Dare	*	*	*	0.3%
Stokes	*	*	*	0.2%
Columbus	*	*	*	0.2%

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25



APPENDIX B

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina 2024-25

By Service Delivery Areas

*Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.
Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality*

- Smart Start Local Partnerships service areas
- Head Start/Early Head Start service areas
- Home Visiting service areas
- Continuums of Care (CoC's) service areas
- Continuum of Care (CoC) Balance of State regions

Smart Start Local Partnerships

<https://www.smartstart.org/in-your-community>

Head Start/Early Head Start

<https://headstartnc.org/state-collaboration/> and <https://buildthefoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Head-Start-Map-12.19.pdf>

Home Visiting

<https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/whole-child-health-section/child-and-family-wellness/home-visiting-programs>

Homeless Continuums of Care (CoC's) NC Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://ncceh.org> and <https://www.milvets.nc.gov/documents/files/housing/open>

Balance of State Homeless Continuum of Care (CoC) NC Coalition to End Homelessness

<https://ncceh.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/nc-bos-coc-map-new-rcs-with-numbers-6-14-18.pdf>

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Smart Start Service Areas¹

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.

Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.

Smart Start Agency	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Alamance Partnership for Children	153	102	255	2.6%
Albemarle Alliance for Children and Families	57	40	97	2.2%
Albemarle Smart Start Partnership	*	*	10	1.1%
Alexander County Partnership for Children	12	*	21	3.3%
Allegheny County Partnership for Children	11	*	19	1.2%
Alliance for Children	102	66	168	1.8%
Anson County Partnership for Children	14	*	23	1.5%
Beaufort/Hyde Partnership for Children	21	14	35	1.7%
Bertie County Partnership for Children	*	*	14	3.0%
Bladen Smart Start	33	21	54	7.0%
Blue Ridge Partnership for Children	92	60	152	7.5%
Buncombe Partnership for Children	544	363	907	7.5%
Burke County Smart Start	44	29	73	2.2%
Cabarrus Partnership for Children	182	119	300	1.6%
Caldwell County Smart Start	38	23	61	3.3%
Carteret Partnership for Children	47	32	79	0.6%
Caswell County Partnership for Children	*	*	*	1.5%
Catawba County Partnership for Children	73	51	124	3.3%
Chatham County Partnership for Children	72	46	118	0.3%
Children & Youth Partnership for Dare County	*	*	*	4.1%
Children's Council of Watauga County	41	25	66	3.4%
Cleveland County Partnership for Children	113	78	192	0.2%
Columbus County Partnership for Children	*	*	*	1.2%
Craven Smart Start	44	29	73	2.6%
Down East Partnership for Children	132	86	218	2.1%

¹ Additional information on NC Smart Start Partnerships including a list of contacts can be found at <https://www.smartstart.org/in-your-community/>

Smart Start Agency	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Duplin County Partnership for Children	48	31	79	4.5%
Durham's Partnership for Children	548	371	919	3.3%
Franklin-Granville-Vance Partnership for Children	205	136	341	3.8%
Guilford County Partnership for Children	652	435	1,087	5.7%
Halifax-Warren Smart Start Partnership for Children	114	79	194	1.1%
Harnett County Partnership for Children	62	41	104	1.3%
Hertford-Northampton Smart Start Partnership for Children	13	*	22	1.2%
Hoke County Partnership for Children & Families	30	21	52	2.6%
Hoke County Partnership for Children & Families	30	21	52	2.3%
Iredell County Partnership for Young Children	162	105	267	2.1%
Jones County Partnership for Children	*	*	12	4.5%
Lenoir/Greene County Partnership for Children	54	35	89	1.7%
Madison County Partnership for Children	27	17	44	9.4%
Martin-Pitt Partnership for Children	115	76	191	1.6%
Montgomery County Partnership for Children	77	48	125	2.7%
One Place	185	125	310	1.2%
Orange County Partnership for Young Children	93	63	157	3.2%
Pamlico Partnership for Children	*	*	*	1.8%
Partnership for Children & Families	199	131	330	1.4%
Partnership for Children Johnston County	165	108	274	2.1%
Partnership for Children of Cumberland County	209	137	346	8.9%
Partnership for Children of Lincoln/Gaston Counties	236	153	389	1.4%
Partnership for Children of the Foothills	323	206	529	2.2%
Partnership for Children of Wayne County	69	45	113	1.8%
Partnership for Children Person County	28	19	47	8.9%
Partnership for Children Sampson County	45	29	73	1.5%
Partnership of Ashe	55	38	93	3.8%
Randolph Partnership for Children	73	48	121	2.7%
Region A Partnership for Children	204	133	337	1.8%
Richmond County Partnership for Children	43	29	73	1.3%

Smart Start Agency	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Robeson County Partnership for Children	96	67	162	0.5%
Rockingham County Partnership for Children	38	24	62	1.3%
Scotland County Partnership for Children and Families	*	*	*	2.4%
Smart Start of Brunswick County	45	29	74	1.4%
Smart Start of Davidson County	130	89	219	2.0%
Smart Start of Davie County	16	12	28	4.2%
Smart Start of Forsyth County	271	181	452	3.1%
Smart Start of Mecklenburg County	1,860	1,246	3,106	1.2%
Smart Start of New Hanover County	211	137	347	2.6%
Smart Start of Pender County	25	16	41	2.3%
Smart Start of Transylvania County	21	13	34	4.7%
Smart Start of Yadkin County	28	17	46	1.5%
Smart Start Partnership for Children in Henderson County	149	98	247	2.2%
Smart Start Rowan	72	50	122	0.2%
Stanly County Partnership for Children	47	31	78	2.6%
Stokes Partnership for Children	*	*	*	4.6%
Surry County Early Childhood Partnership	62	39	100	2.2%
The Chowan/Perquimans Smart Start Partnership	35	24	60	3.7%
Tyrell-Washington Partnership for Children	11	*	18	6.1%
Wake County Smart Start	1,465	981	2,447	1.9%
Wilkes Community Partnership for Children	131	83	214	2.9%
Wilson County Partnership for Children	53	34	86	1.9%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Head Start/Early Head Start Service Areas²

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.
 Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.

Head Start & Early Head Start Agency	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Action Pathways	209	137	346	1.4%
Beaufort-Jasper Economic Opportunity	16	11	27	1.2%
Blue Ridge Community Action	82	52	134	1.6%
Blue Ridge Opportunity Commission	197	128	326	6.5%
Catawba County Schools	73	51	124	1.4%
Chapel Hill Training-Outreach Project	93	63	157	2.7%
Cherokee AIAN	15	10	25	2.0%
Child Care Resources	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Choanoke Area Development Association	108	74	183	3.7%
Cleveland County School District	113	78	192	3.4%
Coastal Community Action	103	67	170	1.8%
Community Action Opportunities	571	380	951	7.3%
Duplin County Board of Education	48	31	79	2.2%
Durham Partnership for Children	548	371	919	4.5%
East Coast Migrant Head Start Project	529	345	875	2.0%
Economic Improvement Council	117	80	198	2.3%
Family Services	271	181	452	2.0%
Four Square Community Action	28	28	57	2.6%
Franklin-Vance-Warren Opportunity	233	154	388	3.5%
Gaston Community Action	236	153	389	2.1%
Greene Lamp	54	35	89	2.1%
Guilford Child Development	652	435	1,087	3.7%
ICARE	162	105	267	2.6%
Intermountain Children's Services	132	85	217	5.7%
Johnston-Lee-Harnett Community Action	312	205	520	1.8%

² Ten counties are served by two agencies. The data for those counties is duplicated so that the total for all agencies will be larger than the total for North Carolina. There is a Head Start locator at <https://headstartnc.org/head-start-center-locator/>

Head Start & Early Head Start Agency	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Kannapolis Board of Education HS & EHS	182	119	300	2.2%
Macon Program for Progress	22	15	37	2.2%
McDowell County Schools	101	66	168	8.4%
Mountain Projects	145	94	239	5.4%
Nash Edgecombe Economic Development	185	120	304	2.4%
New Hanover County Schools	211	137	347	3.2%
Onslow County Partnership for Children	185	125	310	1.6%
Pender County Board of Education	25	16	41	1.2%
Person County School District	28	19	47	2.2%
Polk County Schools	16	11	27	3.9%
Regional Consolidated Service	12	*	21	1.2%
Regional Consolidated Services	229	152	382	2.0%
Rockingham County Schools	38	24	62	1.3%
Rutherford County Board of Education	206	129	335	10.3%
Salisbury-Rowan Community Action Agency	249	170	419	2.0%
Southeastern Community Action Partnership	212	144	357	1.4%
Telamon Corporation	1,537	1027	2,565	3.7%
The Enola Group	94	60	155	1.6%
Union County Community Action	57	38	96	2.4%
Verner Center for Early Learning	544	363	907	7.5%
Wayne Action Group for Economic Solvency	69	45	113	1.4%
Western Carolina Community Action	170	111	281	4.3%
Yadkin Valley Economic Development District	109	70	179	1.8%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Home Visiting Service Areas³

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.
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Home Visiting Service Area	Home Visiting Program	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Blue Ridge	Healthy Families (MIECHV)	853	563	1,416	6.4%
Buncombe County	Nurse-Family Partnership (MIECHV)	544	363	907	7.5%
Catawba Valley	Healthy Families (MIECHV)	419	274	693	2.4%
Durham and Person County	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	576	390	966	4.3%
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	177	115	292	4.3%
Foothills	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	206	129	335	10.3%
Foothills - McDowell and Rutherford	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	101	66	168	8.4%
Forsyth County	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	209	135	344	2.5%
Gaston and Lincoln County	Nurse-Family Partnership (MIECHV)	304	152	456	2.1%
Guilford County	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Mecklenburg County (Care Ring of NC)	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Northeastern	Nurse-Family Partnership (MIECHV)	306	204	510	2.7%
Pitt County	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	101	66	167	1.6%
Robeson County	Nurse-Family Partnership (MIECHV)	137	94	231	1.5%
Rockingham and Stokes County	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	41	26	67	1.0%
Southwest Non-Tribal Site	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	204	133	337	3.7%
Wake County	Nurse-Family Partnership (other funding)	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
North Carolina		10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

³ MIECHV are federal funds received by North Carolina and administered by the Child and Family Well Being office at NC DHHS. There are other Home Visiting programs in North Carolina that do not receive MIECHV funding. Several counties have more than one Home Visiting program. This duplicates the data so the total for Home Visiting exceeds the total for North Carolina. For further information on Home Visiting: <https://www.ncdhhs.gov/divisions/child-and-family-well-being/whole-child-health-section/child-and-family-wellness/home-visiting-programs>

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Continuum of Care (CoC's)⁴

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.
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Head Start & Early Head Start Agency	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
Asheville/Buncombe County CoC	544	363	907	7.5%
Chapel Hill/Orange County CoC	93	63	157	2.7%
Charlotte/Mecklenburg County CoC	1,860	1,246	3,106	4.2%
Durham City/Durham County CoC	548	371	919	4.5%
Fayetteville/Cumberland County CoC	209	137	346	1.4%
Gastonia/Cleveland/Gaston/Lincoln County CoC	349	231	581	2.4%
Greensboro/High Point/Guilford County CoC	652	435	1,087	3.7%
Northwest CoC	329	213	543	6.1%
Raleigh/Wake County CoC	1,465	981	2,447	3.7%
Wilmington/Brunswick/New Hanover/Pender CoC	281	182	462	2.3%
Winston-Salem/Forsyth County CoC	271	181	452	2.0%
Balance of State CoC	4,066	2,675	6,748	2.3%
North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

⁴ A Continuum of Care (CoC) is designated by HUD for planning and administration of HUD funding for homeless services in defined geographic areas. North Carolina has 13 CoC's that include all the counties in the state.

Estimate of Children Experiencing Homelessness in North Carolina School Year 2024-25

Balance of State Continuum of Care (CoC's) Regions⁵

Note: This is an estimate of need, it is not a count, and it is not the number of children being served.

Counties with an * indicate the estimate has been withheld to assure confidentiality.

BOS Region	Balance of State (BoS) 13 Regions	Homeless Infants & Toddlers 0-2	Homeless Pre-School Age 3-4	Homeless Children Age 0-4	% Percent Homeless Age 0-4
1	Southwest	230	150	380	2.8%
2	Southern Mountains	392	251	643	2.6%
3	UNI 5	268	177	447	2.2%
4	DISSY	271	175	446	2.2%
5	Piedmont	533	355	887	2.0%
6	PRACC	294	193	488	1.9%
7	Heart of Carolina	663	434	1102	2.2%
8	Southeast	137	94	231	2.5%
9	Tar Heel Regional Committee	461	307	770	3.4%
10	Neuse Regional Committee	269	174	440	1.4%
11	Northeast Homeless Coalition	114	78	193	3.6%
12	Inner Banks	146	95	241	3.6%
13	Housing Alliance of Coastal Carolina	288	192	480	1.7%
	Balance of State CoC	4,066	2,675	6,748	2.3%
	North Carolina	10,672	7,082	17,754	2.9%

⁵ The Balance of State CoC is divided into 13 Regions that encompass seventy-nine primarily rural counties.