

2014

WELL-BEING OF NC CHILDREN KIDS COUNT DATA BOOK

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OUR MISSION

NC Child advances public policies that improve the lives of North Carolina's children. We work statewide to ensure that all children are healthy, safe well-educated and economically secure by engaging communities and informing decision-makers.



2014 KIDS COUNT

Data Book

- Tracks 16 indicators of child well-being across four areas: Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community.
- Examines recent trends comparing data from years 2005 and 2012.
- Provides state-by-state rankings.
- Informs public policy planning and decision-making.
- Explores the context for change in child well-being over the past 20 years.

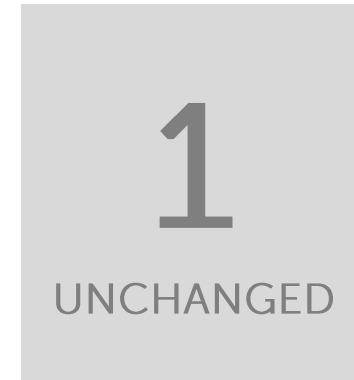
2014 National Highlights



Health and education gains continue: with improvements in all 4 indicators in each category.



Economic progress lags, even after the recession: indicators are worse than the mid-decade years.

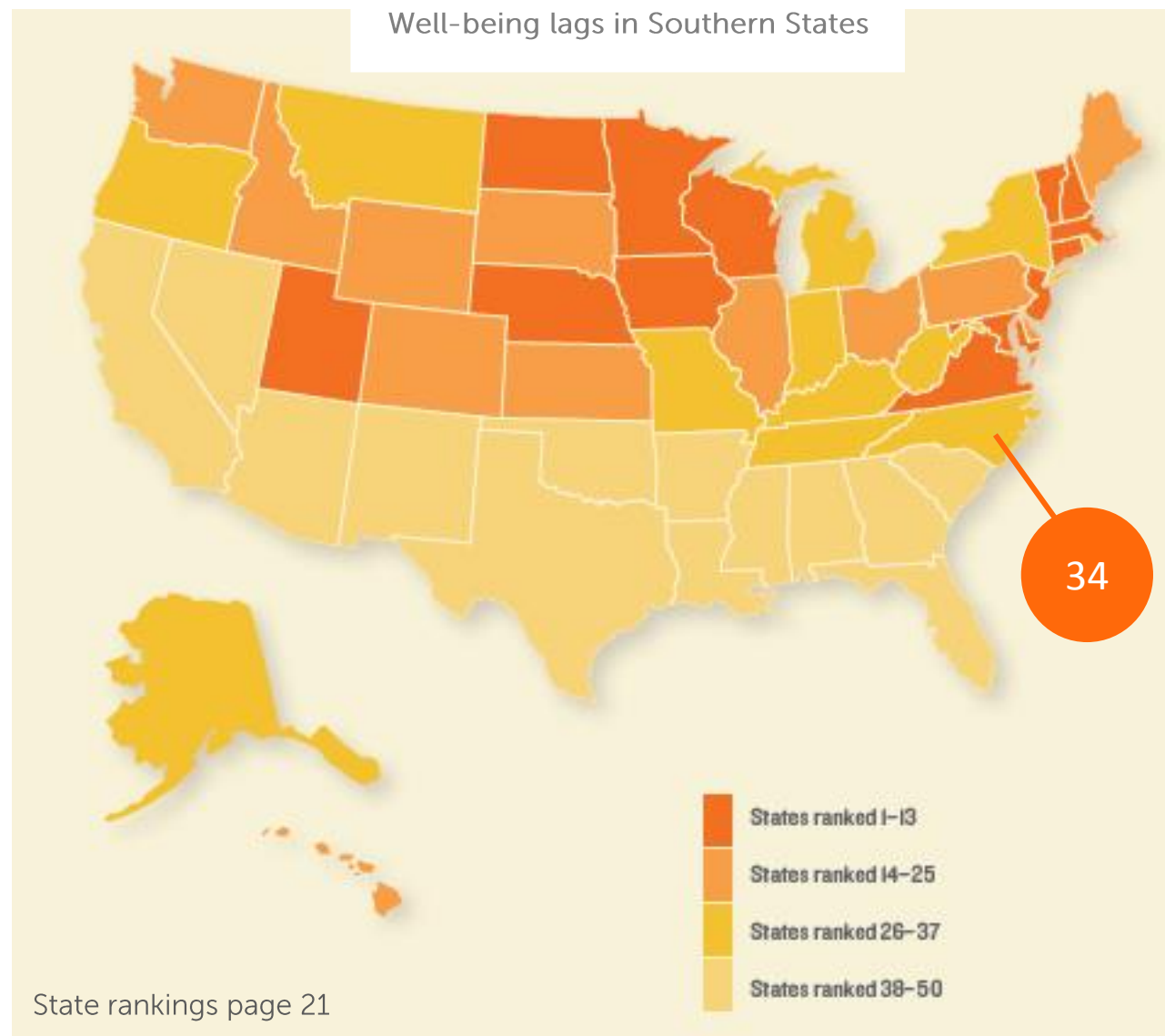


Mixed picture on Family and Community: teen birth rates have improved, but more children are growing up in high-poverty areas.

NATIONAL TRENDS
in Child Well-
Being since
1990

- Steady improvement in child poverty until 2000, marred by multiple recessions throughout the '00s.
- Improved math and reading scores and high school graduation rates for students of all races and income levels.
- Only one health indicator has worsened since 1990—the percentage of low birthweight babies.

OVERALL Rank by State



2014 North Carolina Highlights



Large gains in health and education: Improvements in child and teen deaths, graduation and academic achievement.

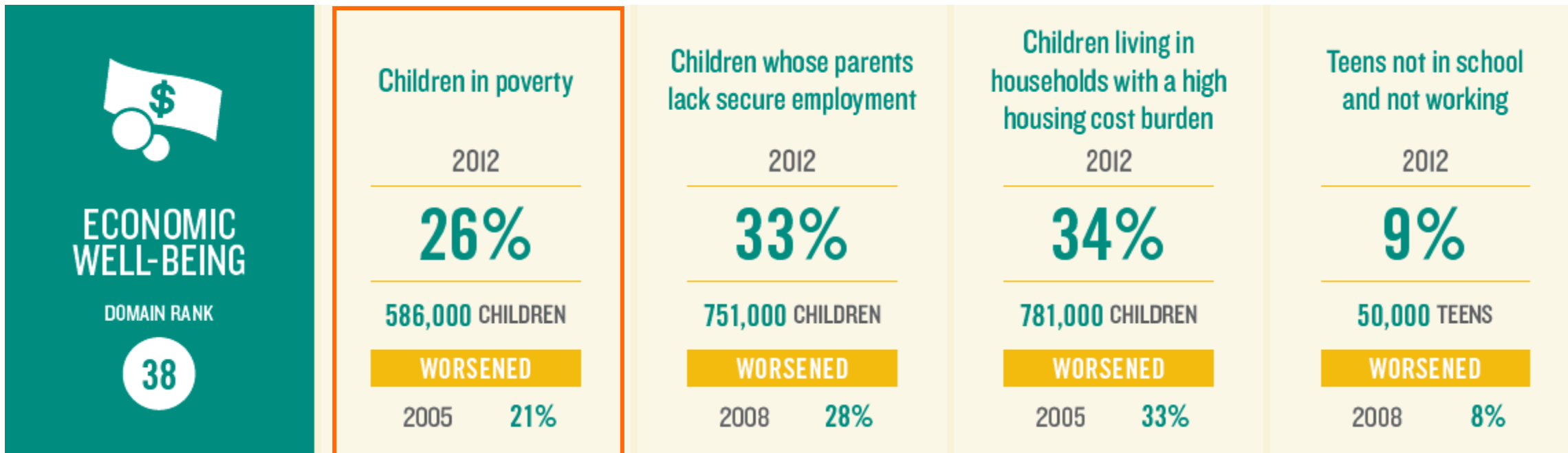


Slipping economic security: All 4 indicators of economic well-being declined

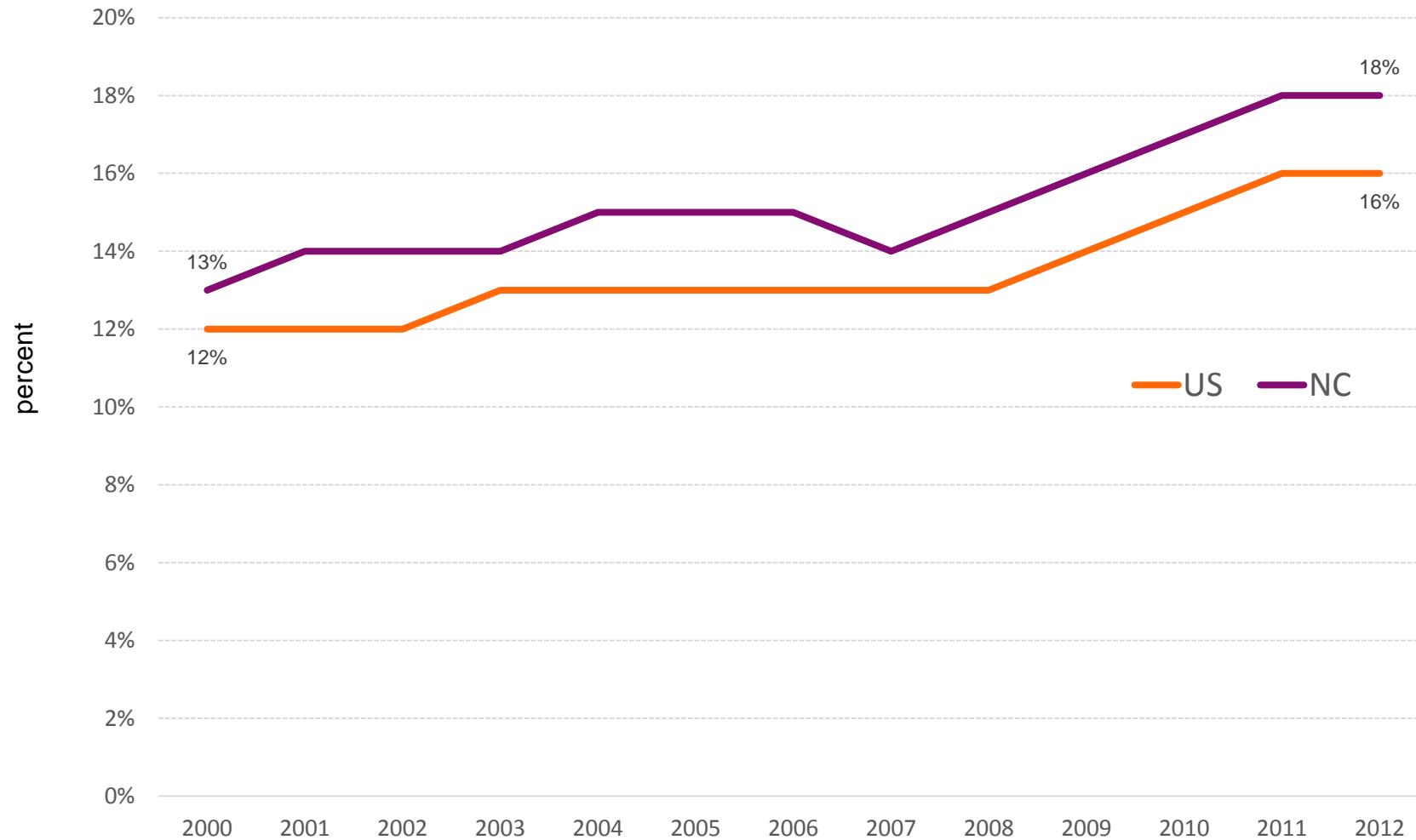


Increase in poverty risk factors: More children live in high poverty communities.

NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS

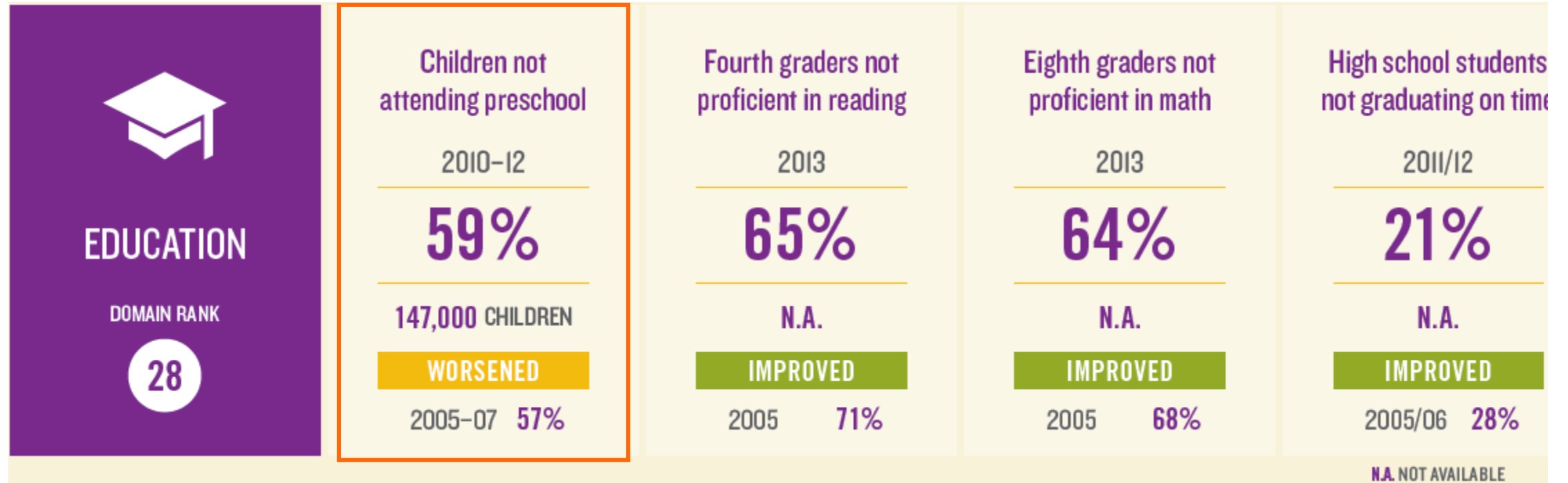


Total Poverty, 2000-2012

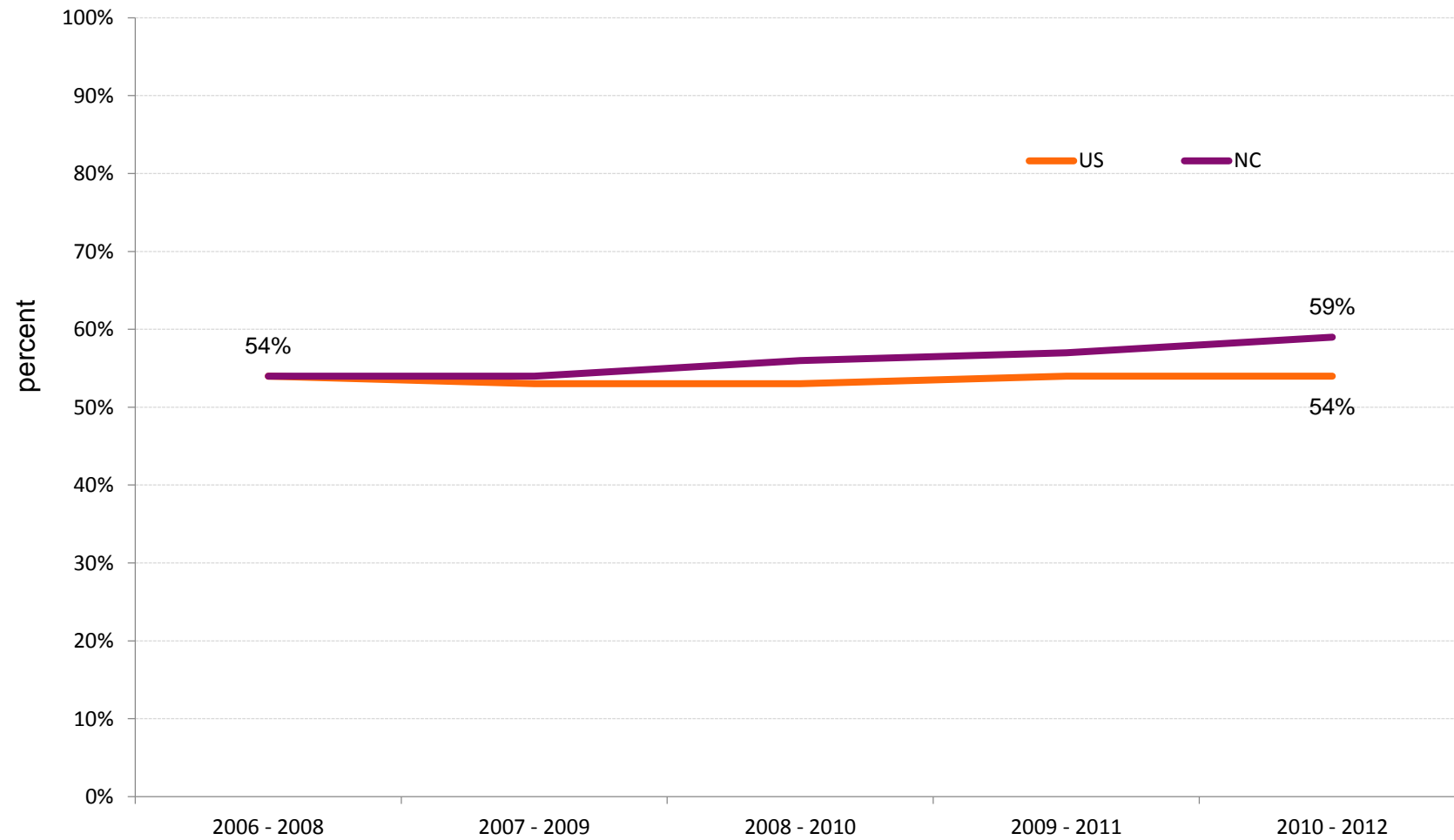


Percent of the population below the Federal Poverty Line, \$23,050/yr for a family of four in 2012.
Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey

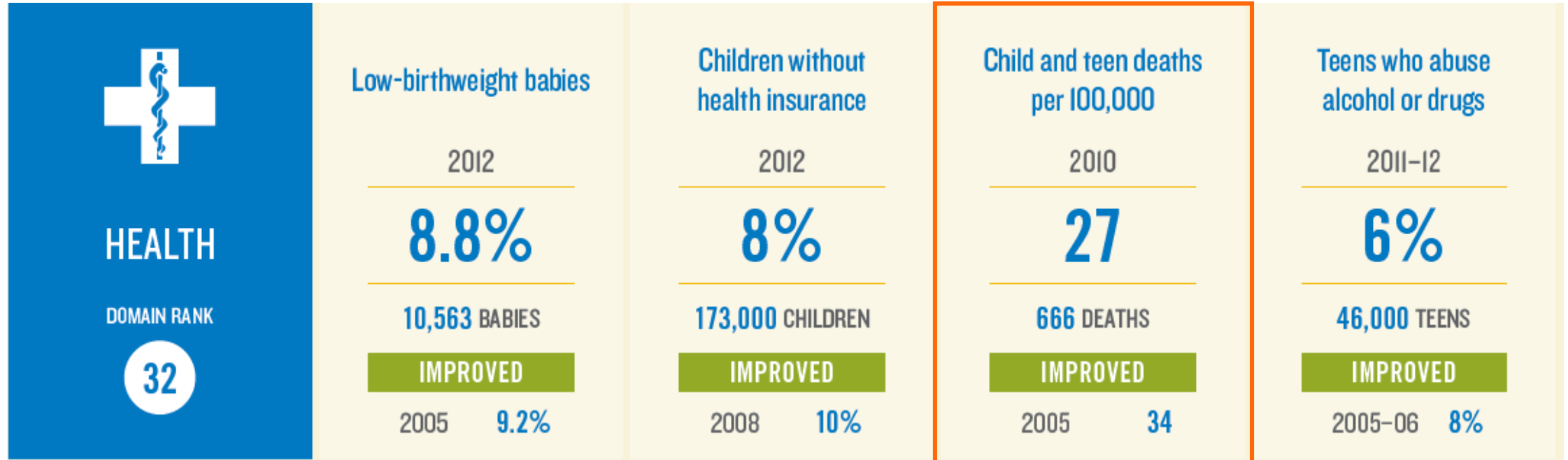
NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS



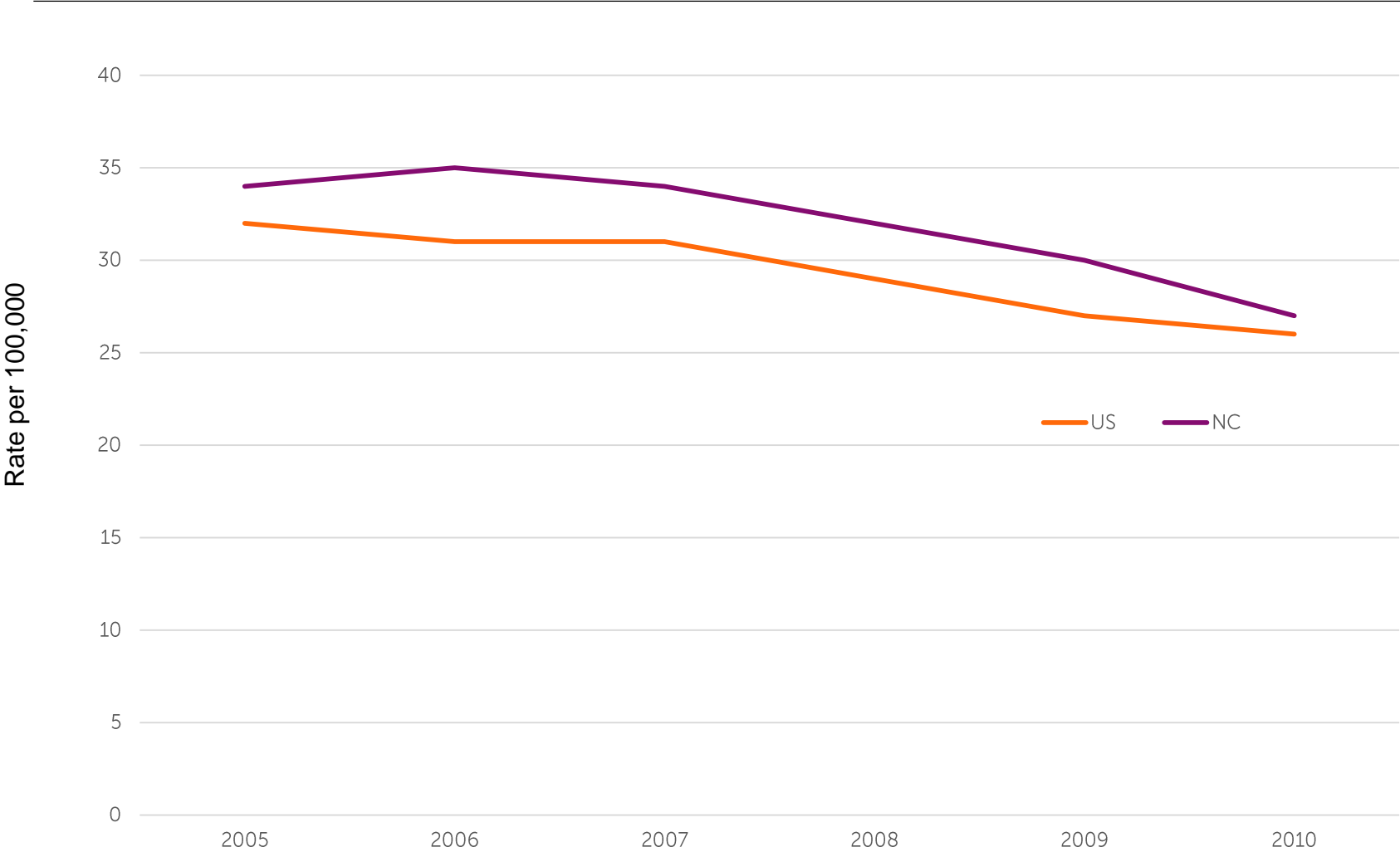
Children Not Attending Preschool



NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS



Child and Teen Death Rate (Ages 1-19), 2005-2012



Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center

NORTH CAROLINA TRENDS



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

DOMAIN RANK

36

Children in
single-parent families

2012

37%

812,000 CHILDREN

WORSENER

2005 34%

Children in families where
the household head lacks
a high school diploma

2012

14%

331,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005 16%

Children living in
high-poverty areas

2008-12

12%

279,000 CHILDREN

WORSENER

2000 4%

Teen births per 1,000

2012

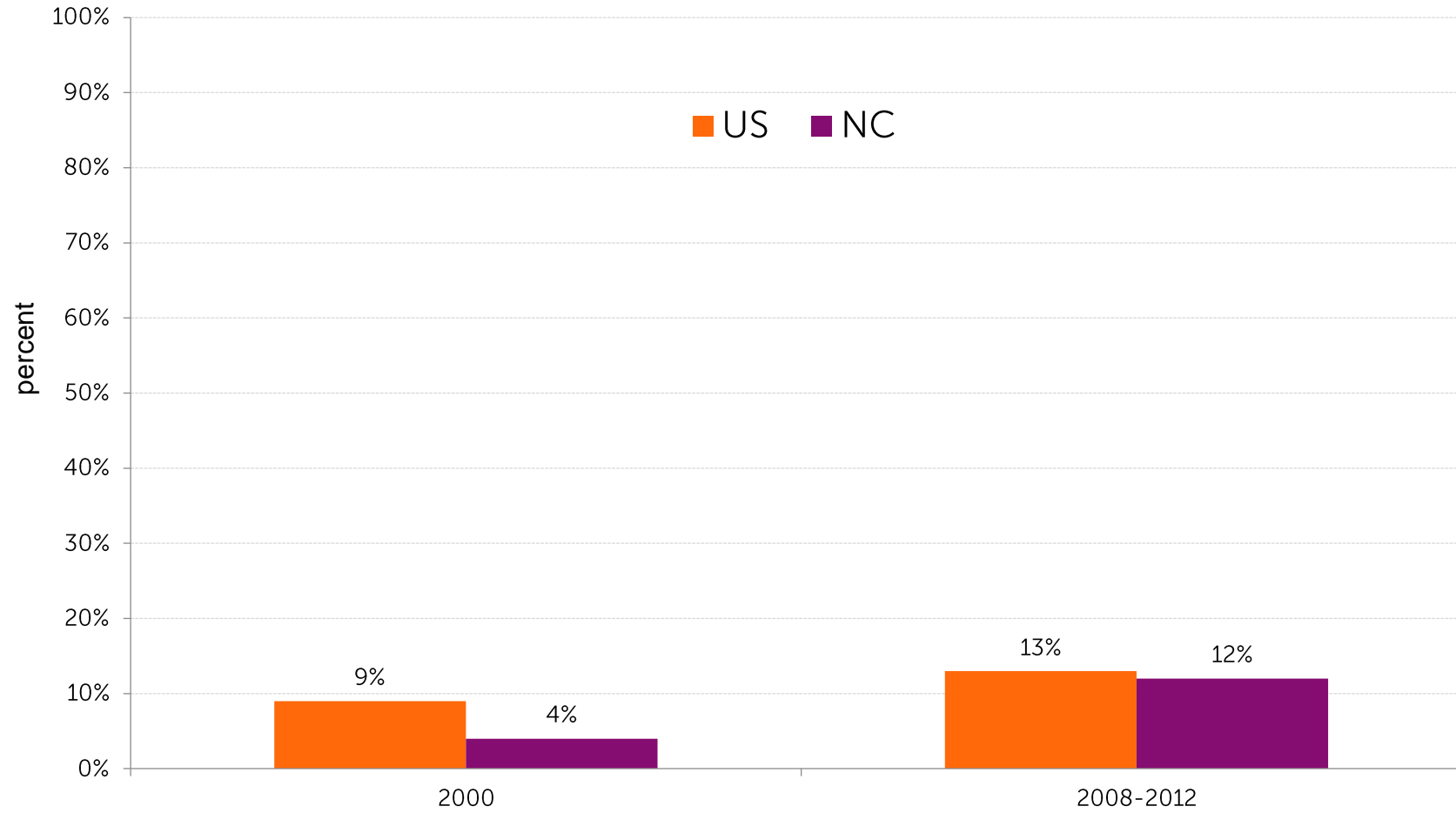
32

10,077 BIRTHS

IMPROVED

2005 48

Children Living In Areas Of Concentrated Poverty, 2000 and 2008-2012



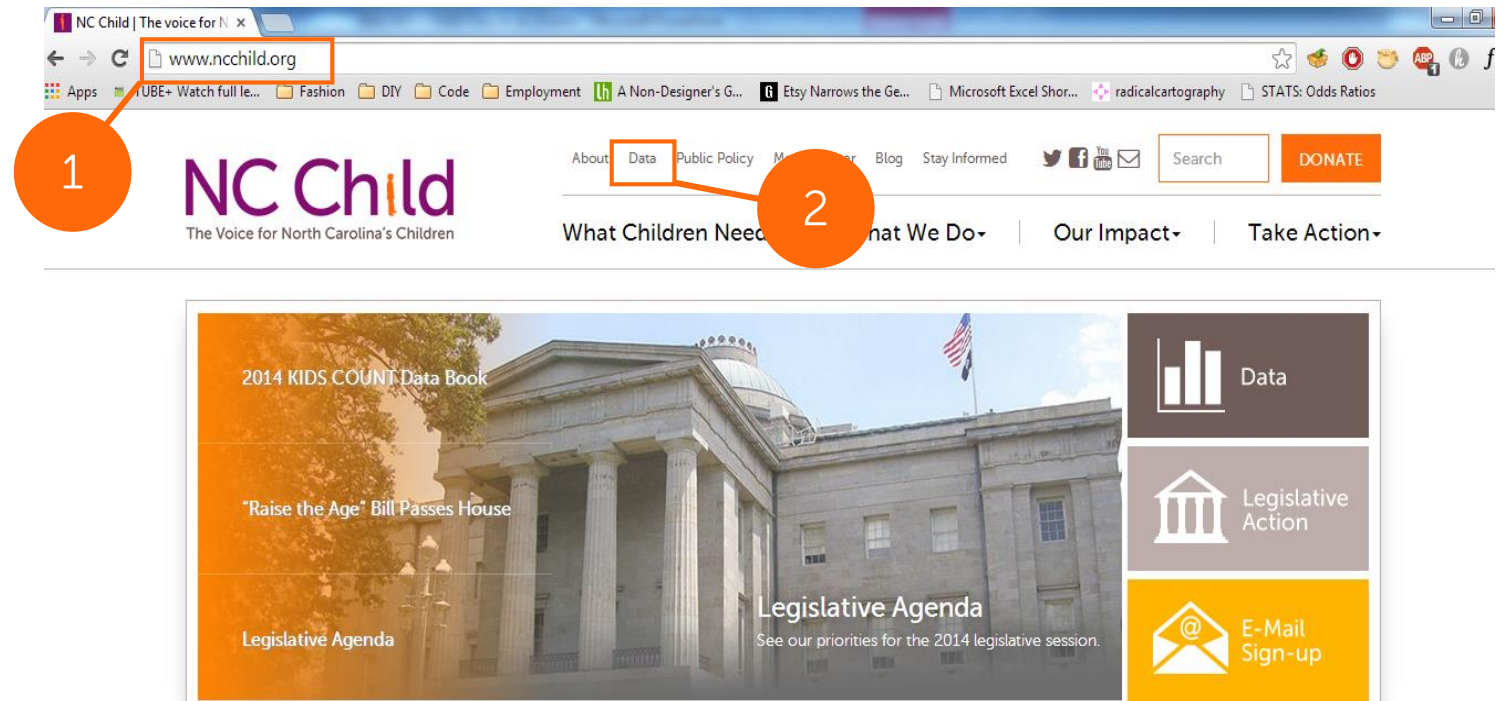
Children living in census tracts with poverty rates of 30 percent or more.
Source: KIDS COUNT Data Center

NC TRENDS

Implications

- More children living in poverty placing them at risk for poorer academic, health, and financial outcomes later in life.
- Investments in health and education have yielded improvements in those areas.
- Greater attention to slipping indicators and their long-term implications.

TRACKING THE WELL-BEING OF North Carolina Children



Access more than 100 indicators of child well-being at the state and community level.



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Contact our team for research, data, and analysis of the latest policy issues affecting NC children and their families:

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