



PERSON COUNTY PARTNERSHIP FOR CHILDREN STATE OF THE COUNTY JANUARY 2011

DEMOGRAPHICS

Between 2009 and 2010 (projected) the total number of **young children ages birth to 4 years** increased 1.9% in Person County and 1.3% in NC. The number of **all children ages birth to 17 years** experienced no growth in the county and 1.0% growth in the state. Projections for 2010 indicate that the county's birth-to-4 population comprises 69.4% **white**, 28.9% **African-American** and 1.7% non-white. At the state level, this population comprises 71.2% white, 23.4% African-American and 5.4% non-white. These percentages reflect very little change from 2009. Projections indicate increases of approximately 1.0% in the percentage of African-Americans in the county and state while indicating decreases of less than 0.5% for the white population. Excluding African-Americans, the percentage of the non-white population decreased 5.6% (n=2) in the county while increasing 1.9% (n=923) in the state. Based on figures supplied by the Census Quickfacts, the Hispanic Population in Person County has risen to 3% (up from 2.7 reported in 2008). This represents an increase of 11 preschoolers of Hispanic origin.

Projections through July 2019 indicate 12% growth in the population of children ages birth to 4 and 7.9% growth in children ages birth to 17 in Person County. **This amounts to approximately 285 children ages 0-4 within the next ten years.** In contrast, at the state level a 9.9% increase is expected in children ages birth to 4 and 11.8% for children ages birth to 17.

This data, and that presented above, lead to the following questions and concerns:

- 1) The growth in the Hispanic population has slowed in Person County as compared to other areas of the state. A high percentage of Hispanic preschoolers are served in the county's preschool programs, particularly at Earl Bradsher Preschool which currently serves over 30 children of Hispanic origin.

- 2) Is there a plan for the expected growth in the population of children ages 0-4 over the next ten years? How many additional child care spaces would be needed? In what areas of the county will the most growth be experienced? At what rate do services need to grow (i.e., what percentage of this population will need/want services)? Note, PCPFC Child Care Resource & Referral staff is actively recruiting family child care home providers and considering the feasibility of pursuing Early Head Start as opportunities arise.
- 3) If the preschool population grows as expected, what demand for child care slots and subsidies will need to be met?

Note, projections currently are based on 2000 census figures. As soon as 2010 census data is available, all applicable values will be updated.

Table 1. Population Data

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY					Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA					Gain (Loss)
		1990	2004	2006	2007	2009			2010	1990	2004	2006	2007	
Child Population¹	1990	2004	2006	2007	2009	2010		1990	2004	2006	2007	2009	2010	
Ages 0-4	2,128	2,286	2,292	2,227	2,338	2,383	1.9%	469,147	577,896	582,254	600,768	635,977	644,548	1.3%
Ages 0-17	7,453	8,570	8,652	8,693	8,555	8,557	--	1,615,683	2,069,515	2,119,135	2,185,239	2,216,249	2,237,665	1.0%
Ages 0-4²		2000	2005	2006	2009	2010			2000	2005	2006	2009	2010	
African-American		28% 640n	28% 641n	28.1% 625n	28.6% 669n	28.9% 689n	1.0%		21.6%	21.0%	21.7%	23.2% 147,291n	23.4% 150,821n	0.9%
White		69% 1,577n	70% 1,604n	70.3% 1,536n	69.6% 1,627n	69.4% 1,654n	(0.3%)		72.1%	71.4%	74.0%	71.5% 454,714n	71.2% 458,832n	(0.4%)
Hispanic		2.0% 46n	2.0% 46n	2.7% 60n	3.0* 70n		17%		4.7%	6.3%	6.7%	7.7* 48,970n		15%
Non-White					1.8% 42n	1.7% 40n	(5.6%)					5.3% 33,972n	5.4% 34,895n	1.9%

For 2009 and 2010, African-Americans were also included in the non-white group; therefore, the counts above for the non-white group were calculated by subtracting the number of African-Americans from the total number in the non-white group reported by NC OSBM.

**quickfacts.census.gov*

ECONOMIC STABILITY

INDUSTRY AND WAGES

In 2009, Person County's average weekly wages across all industry and in each of its top three industries lagged behind wages in NC. As a percentage of all industry, retail trade, manufacturing, and health care and social assistance were the **top three industries** in the county and state, with retail trade continuing to grow and manufacturing continuing its decline. At the same time, retail trade had the second lowest average weekly wages of all industry both in the county (only accommodation and food services was lower) and in the state, while manufacturing wages were the highest in the county and among the highest in the state.

Specifically, **4th quarter 2009** data indicate that the **average weekly wages** across all industry in Person County (\$664) were 81% of that in NC (\$817). By the 1st quarter of 2010, retail trade accounted for 16% of Person County employment, followed by manufacturing and health care and social assistance services, both accounting for 13% of county employment. Average weekly wages in the county's top three industries ranged from a low of \$377 in retail trade to a high of \$877 in manufacturing, lower than the wages for these industries in the state (quarter 4, 2009), which ranged from a \$489 in retail trade to \$1,007 in manufacturing.

Table 2. Industry and Wages

CATEGORY	PERSON				Gain (Loss)	NC			Gain (Loss)
	03Q4	08Q4	09Q4	10Q1		03Q4	08Q4	09Q4	
Average Weekly Wages ³	\$582	\$635	\$664	\$596	(10%)	\$679	\$793	\$817	3.0%
Top Three Industries	2003	2007	09Q4	10Q1		2003	2007	09Q4	
Retail Trade (as a percentage of total industry)	12.6%	14.4%	16.0%	16%	0%	11.6%	11.7%	11.8%	0.8%
Retail Trade average weekly wage	\$312	\$405	\$433	\$377	(13%)	\$413	\$467	\$489	4.7%
Manufacturing	27.9%	16.0%	13.0%	13%	0%	16.8%	13.6%	11.4%	(16.2%)
	\$694	\$878	\$943	\$877	(7%)	\$765	\$896	\$1,007	12.4%
Health care and social assistance	11.4%	13.4%	12.1%	13%	7%	12.1%	12.8%	14.6%	14.1%
	\$472	\$440	\$586	\$506	(14%)	\$623	\$778	\$867	11.4%

Between 2003 and 2007, the industries with the largest growth in Person County were wholesale trade, retail trade and educational services, which saw growth of 190%, 14% and 18%, respectively. However, since 2007, the total number of jobs across all industries decreased with the one exception being Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation. Despite its 10.4% increase in number of jobs, it accounted for only 1.2% of all jobs in the county.

As of 1st quarter of 2010 (most recent data available), the top ten employers in Person County⁴

were:

- 1) Person County Board of Education (500-999 employees)
- 2) County of Person (500-999 employees)
- 3) Progress Energy Service Co. (250-499 employees)
- 4) Person Memorial Hospital (250-499 employees)
- 5) GKN Automotive Components (250-499 employees)
- 6) Piedmont Community College (250-499 employees)
- 7) Wal-Mart Associates, Inc. (250-499 employees)
- 8) North American Aerodynamics Inc. (250-499 employees)
- 9) Eaton Corporation (100-249 employees)
- 10) Us Flue Cured Tobacco Growers, Inc. (250-499 employees)

<u>2008 Top Ten Employers:</u>	
1.	Person Co. Bd. Of Education
2.	Person Memorial Hospital
3.	County of Person
4.	GKN Automotive
5.	Progress Energy
6.	Eaton Corp.
7.	Wal-Mart Associates
8.	Georgia Pacific
9.	Piedmont Community College
10.	AlSCO Metals

Despite the negative **job growth** recently in both the county and state, which is consistent with the overall economic conditions in the country, future job growth outlook is more positive, with growth in the county and state expected to exceed 18%.

Comparison of US Census Bureau 3-year averages for 2005-07 and 2006-08 indicate that **median household income** in the county (\$45,321) rose 8.1% and was comparable to that of the state (\$46,107), which rose 5.1%. Additionally, Person County averages behind North Carolina in per capita income (\$21,817 vs. \$25,015), median family income (\$54, 529 vs. \$73,258), and the percentage of households with income at or above \$75,000 (29.9% vs. 46.4%).⁵ Note that comparison of median household income is based on 3-year averages from the US Census Bureau. Annual median household income data for the county and state are not available for the same year from a single source, making comparison difficult. In the county, 19.13% of household income is at or above \$75,000 as compared to 33.98% in the state.

Table 3. Household Income Distribution

Household Income Distribution ⁶	Person County		NC Average	
	Most Recent Data	2008	Most Recent Data	2008
<\$25,000	28.85%	42%	16.68%	27%
\$25,000 - \$49,999	29.52%	31%	29.55%	30%
\$50,000 - \$74,999	22.50%	18%	19.79%	20%
\$75,000 - \$100,000	10.60%	5%	10.56%	11%
>\$100,000	8.53%	4%	23.42%	13%

The 2009 annual **unemployment rate** for Person County (11.4%) increased 65.2% as compared to a 120.8% increase in NC's annual unemployment rate. Nonetheless, the county unemployment rate (11.4%) remained higher than in NC (10.6%), continuing the trend since at least 2000. Some progress was made in 2010, with the county unemployment rate measuring 10.1% (July 2010) and then decreasing further to 9.3% in November.

POVERTY INDICATORS

Three-year averages for 2006-08 indicate that the percentage of **families below poverty level** in Person County was 13.5% as compared to 10.8% in NC. These percentages reflect a 1.5% *increase* in the county at the same time the state saw a significant *decrease* of 21.7%. Annual 2008 data indicate that the **child poverty rate** in the county (18.6%) remained lower than in state (19.9%), which saw a 2.1% increase. The percentages of children in Person County receiving Work First (2.0%) and free or reduced price lunch (55.1%) were comparable to those of the state.

2009 federal poverty guidelines established an annual wage of \$22,050 as the poverty threshold.

The 2009 Poverty Guidelines for the 48 Contiguous States and the District of Columbia	
Persons in family	Poverty guideline
1	\$10,830
2	14,570
3	18,310
4	22,050
5	25,790

6	29,530
7	33,270
8	37,010
For families with more than 8 persons, add \$3,740 for each additional person.	

Data from North Carolina Department of Commerce indicate that there are a number of Person County occupations that fall below this threshold value. As shown below, the median annual Person County wages for (a) healthcare support, (b) food preparation and service, (c) grounds cleaning and maintenance, (d) personal care and services, (e) sales, and (f) farming, fishing, and forestry all are below \$22,000. Together these occupations account for 26 percent of Person County employed residents.

Occupation Title	Estimated Employment	Percent of Total Employed	Median Annual Wage
Management Occupations	320	4%	\$78,338
Business and Financial Operations Occupations	180	2%	\$49,201
Computer and Mathematical Occupations	50	1%	\$43,619
Architecture and Engineering Occupations	100	1%	.
Life, Physical, and Social Science Occupations	40	0%	\$49,394
Community and Social Services Occupations	170	2%	\$39,343
Education, Training, and Library Occupations	990	12%	\$29,644
Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports, and Media Occupations	40	0%	\$26,844
Healthcare Practitioners and Technical Occupations	560	7%	\$45,570
Healthcare Support Occupations	.	--	\$18,076
Protective Service Occupations	220	3%	\$35,260
Food Preparation and Serving-Related Occupations	390	5%	\$16,205
Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance Occupations	260	3%	\$17,650
Personal Care and Service Occupations	320	4%	\$16,665

Occupation Title	Estimated Employment	Percent of Total Employed	Median Annual Wage
Sales and Related Occupations	1,200	14%	\$18,189
Office and Administrative Support Occupations	1,440	17%	\$27,569
Farming, Fishing, and Forestry Occupations	40	0%	\$15,833
Construction and Extraction Occupations	480	6%	\$32,188
Installation, Maintenance, and Repair Occupations	910	11%	\$47,279
Production Occupations	.	--	\$31,696
Transportation and Material Moving Occupations	610	7%	\$25,521

Table 4. Economic and Poverty Indicators

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY				Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NC				Gain (Loss)
	2000	05-07	06-08	2009			2000	05-07	06-08	2008		
Median Household Income ⁷	\$37,368	\$41,930	\$45,321	\$45,335		(.03%)	\$39,184	\$43,867	\$46,107	\$51,411		11.5%
	2002	2006	2007	2009	Q42010		2002	2006	2007	2009	Q42010	
Unemployment Rate ⁸	9.2	5.5	6.9	11.4	9.3%	(18%)	6.7	4.5	4.8	10.6	9.7%	(8%)
	2000	2003	2004	06-08	2009		2000	2003	2004	06-08	2009	
Families below poverty level ⁹	12%	12.5%	13.6%	13.8%	14.6% ¹	6%	12.3%	13.4%	13.8%	10.8%	16.2%	5%
Child Poverty	2000	2005	2007	2008	2009²		2000	2005	2007	2008	2009	
Children in poverty ¹⁰	14.7%	18.9%	18.6%	18.6%	20.7%	11%	16.5%	20.8%	19.5%	19.9%	22.5%	13%
Children receiving Work First	3.6%	3.5%	2.0%			(42.9%)	3.9%	2.7%	2.1%			(22.2%)
	2001	2005	2007				2001	2005	2007			
Children receiving F/RL ¹¹	40%	47%	55.1%			17.2%	40%	47.7%	54.8%			14.9%
		2004		2009			2000		2004	2009		
Children receiving Food Stamps		18%					12%		18%	13%		(27.8%)

US Census Bureau data for median household income indicates \$44,630 for Person County (2008) and \$46,574 for NC (2008); 2009 median household income data is not yet available for NC from the US Census Bureau or NC EDIS.

¹ <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/povertyrates/PovListpct.asp?st=NC&view=Percent&longname=North%20Carolina>

² <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/povertyrates/PovListpct.asp?st=NC&view=Percent&longname=North%20Carolina>

HOUSING

Three-year averages for 2006-08 indicate that the **median home cost** in Person County continued to fall behind the average in NC. At the same time, the county home occupancy rate is higher than for the state, and the percentage of homes owned in the county (70.9%) is slightly higher than in the state (68.1%). The Person County **property tax rate** of \$7.70 (per \$1,000) is lower than the NC average of \$8.46.

Table 5. Housing Indicators

Housing Indicators ¹²	Person County		NC	
	2008	2010	2008	2010
Median Home Age ¹³	38	26	24	24
Median Home Cost	\$119,900	\$116,200	\$229,800	\$145,600
Property Tax Rate	\$0.077 per \$100 valuation		\$.0846 per \$100 valuation	
Occupancy				
Housing Vacant	7.4%	11.8%	11.1%	14.2%
Homes Owned	47%	70.9%	63%	68.1%
Homes Rented	46%	29.1%	27%	31.9%
Owner-Occupied Units by Value (2010)				
<\$50,000	12.6%		9.6%	
\$50,000-\$99,999	27.5%		20.2%	
\$100,000-\$149,999	23.8%		22.1%	
>=\$150,000	36.1%		48.1%	

COST OF LIVING

Benchmarked against the United States (value=100), data indicate that Person County had, on average, an overall lower cost of living and lower than the average in NC. Specifically, food and utilities were lower in the county while miscellaneous costs were higher. US Census Bureau data indicate that Person County homeowner costs are lower than in the US and NC. Specifically, for the 3-year period 2006-08, the percent of homeowners with a mortgage who spent at least 30% of monthly household income on housing costs was 25.5% in Person County, 31.4% in NC and 37.4% in the US. The percent of renters with gross rent of at least 30% of monthly household income was comparable between the county and state (47%) and slightly lower than in the US (49.6%).

Table 6. Cost of Living

CATEGORY	PERSON ¹⁴	NC ¹⁵ 4 TH QUARTER 2009	US
Overall	89	96.4	100
Food	98	103.8	100
Utilities	88	97.4	100
Miscellaneous	103	100 ¹⁶	100
Health		104.4	100
Housing		88.2	100
Transportation		96.6	100

These trends raise the following issues for consideration:

- 1) Note the erosion of purchasing power, as represented by average weekly wage. This has implications for ability to provide high quality early learning environments and will support an upward trend in the percent of children living in poverty.
- 2) Person County's unemployment rate improved somewhat from 2009 to 2010, with a decline to 9.3%. This rate, however, still is relatively high and reflects underlying difficulties in economic development in this region of the state.

- 3) Will there continue to be growth in retail trade (or other service industries)? What impact will this have on families? What industries are most supportive of families with children? Is there available and affordable child care for workers in these industries?
- 4) There appear to be increases in child and family poverty – is there a corresponding increase in demand for services and support? If so, are adequate services available?
- 5) With the shift in employment from manufacturing jobs to those in retail, health care and social assistance, there is a corresponding loss of health care insurance coverage for families/children.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

PUBLIC HEALTH

In 2009, **Health Choice** enrollment in the county was 6.2% as compared to 6% in NC, reflecting increases of 3.3% and 7.1%, respectively. Overall, 19% of the county population and 15% of the state population were **Medicaid eligible**. Of the total Medicaid population, approximately 21.9% in the county and 26.5% in the state were children ages birth to 5 years. Of the total birth-to-5 population, 55.1% in the county and 52.4% in the state were Medicaid eligible, reflecting increases of 6.2% in the county and 3.1% in the state. Note that available Medicaid data for 2000-04 is for the birth-to-18 population while data starting in 2007 identifies multiple age groups (i.e., 0-5, 6-11, 12-20), making direct comparison between these two sets of data difficult.

BIRTH OUTCOMES

In 2009, the county's overall **infant mortality rate**, as well as the rates among both the Caucasian and minority groups, was lower than in NC. The county saw a decrease of 3% overall with the largest drop occurring among Caucasians. The overall rate for the county was 1.5 percentage points lower than for NC. **However, the minority group rate (21.7) was 1.5 times higher than that of the state (14.1).** Between 2005 and 2006, when African-Americans were tracked as a separate demographic group, Person County had experienced a significant *decrease* in infant mortality while there had been an *increase* among Caucasians. With respect to **low birth weight** and **mothers who smoked**, the overall rates in the county were higher than those of the state; in 2008, county rates increased and NC rates decreased.

Table 7. Public Health and Birth Outcomes

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY					Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA					Gain (Loss)
	2000	2004	2007	2008	2009	2000		2004	2007	2008	2009			
Public Health¹⁷	2000	2004	2007	2008	2009			2000	2004	2007	2008	2009		
Enrollment in Health Choice 0-18	4.1%	6.1%	6.0%	6.0%	6.2%		3.3%	3.6%	5.9%	5.4%	5.6%	6.0%		7.1%
Medicaid Eligibles ages 0-18	30.2%	35.2%					16.6%	28%	33%					13%
Medicaid Eligibles ages 0-5			1,373	1,430	1,533		7.2%			352,132	372,527	396,596		6.5%
• % of Medicaid population			21.3%	21.3%	21.9%		2.8%			26.5%	26.7%	26.5%		(<1%)
• % of population ages 0-5			50.1%	51.9%	55.1%		6.2%			48.7%	50.8%	52.4%		3.1%
Birth Outcomes¹⁸	1997	2002	2005	2006	2008*	2009		1997	2002	2005	2006	2008*	2009	
Infant mortality	16.7	6.3	13.3	10.6	6.2	6.4	3%	9.2	8.2	8.8	8.1	8.2	7.9	(4%)
• Caucasian	14.2	3	6.2	9.2	6.4	0.0		6.9	5.9	6.4	6.0	6.0	5.4	(10%)
• African-American	21.9	14	30.5	13.8				14.8	14.2	14.9	13.6			
• Minority					6.0	21.7	262%					13.5	14.1	4%
	2000	2004	2005	2006	2008			2000	2004	2005	2006	2008		
Low Birth Weight	12	11	9.5	8.7	11.2		28.7%	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.1		--
• Caucasian	11.7	8	8.7	7.7	7.0		(9.1%)	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.3		(1.4%)
• African- American	12.7	19	11.5	11.0			(4.3%)	13	13.4	13.7	13.4			(2.2%)
• Minority					19.2		--					13.5		--
Mothers Smoked	16.6	19	14.2	14.0	15.8		12.9%	14	12.5	12.1	11.5	10.4		(9.6%)
• Caucasian	17.9	18.7	14.6	15.6	16.2		3.8%	15.1	13.2	12.6	12.0	10.9		(9.2%)
• African- American	13.5	19.7	13	10.3			(20.8%)	11.1	10.7	10.6	10.2			(3.8%)
• Minority					15.0							9.3		

TEEN PREGNANCIES AND BIRTHS

The fertility rate for teens ages 15-19 decreased by 15 from 2008 to 2009. Repeat pregnancies along the same age group also decreased from 2008 to 2009. In 2009 there were no pregnancies among girls 10-14. The county's minority birth rate continued to be noticeably higher than its Caucasian birth rate, mirroring the trend in the state, although the gap has narrowed noticeably since 2000.

HEALTHCARE

Births with inadequate prenatal care in the county (1%) continued to be below the state (2.9%), and the **population-to-healthcare provider ratios** in the county were lower than in the state, with county ratios being less than half those in NC. Data for 2006-07 indicate that the percentage of XIX eligibles ages birth to 5 years receiving dental services in the county was comparable to the state.

OBESITY

As regards child obesity in Person County, both state and local representatives are tracking county statistics. Local data from the Community Services Team Nurse indicate that, for preschoolers, child obesity has declined somewhat over the past five years. However, the absolute values for obesity levels (over one-third of preschoolers) still is very troubling.

Person County Preschool Children	Percent Overweight/Obese
2007	45%
2008	25%
2009	35%
2010 June	40%
2010 December	36%

Table 8. Births to Teens and Healthcare

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY					Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA					Gain (Loss)
	2000	2004	2005	2006	2008	2009		2000	2004	2005	2006	2008	2009	
Teen pregnancies (ages ≤ 14)	4	1	0	1	2		50%	551	472	468	405	376		(7.2%)
Total teen births (ages ≤ 14)	4	0	0	0	1	0	(100%)	335	286	255	254	235	179	(24%)
• Caucasian births	2	0	0	0	0	0	--	128	119	101	121	105		(13.2%)
• Minority births	2	0	0	0	1	0	(100%)	207	167	154	133	130		(2.3%)
Repeat pregnancies (teen mothers ages 14 and younger)						0							5	
Fertility rate for teens (ages 15-17)	26.4	24.1	23.8	23.6	29.6		25.4%	33.8	26.8	26.7	26.3	25.1		(4.6%)
Total births to teens (ages 15-17)		16	16	17	23		35.3%		4,425	4,519	4,606	4,730		2.7%
• Caucasian birth rate	15.1	19	12	20	25.2		26.0%	27.1	21.9	21.6	22.2	21.5		(3.2%)
• Caucasian births		8	5	9	12		33.3%		2,476	2,476	2,617	2,720		3.9%
• Minority birth rate	50.5	33	43	29.5	36.5		23.7%	47.6	37.3	37.4	34.6	32.4		(6.4%)
• Minority births		8	11	8	11		37.5%		1,949	2,043	1,989	2,010		1.1%
Births to teens aged 17 and younger				17	24	19	(21%)				4860	4965	4377	(12%)
Repeat pregnancies to teens aged 17 and younger						1							548	
Prenatal Care and Weight²⁰	1990	2000	2004	2007	2008			1990	2002	2004	2007	2008		
Births with inadequate prenatal care			3%	2.9%	1.0%		(65.5%)	5.6%	2.9%	3%	3.2%	2.9%		(9.4%)
Percentage of low-income children who		16%	16%	18.6%	15.9%		(14.5%)		17%	17%	17.3%	17.5%		1.2%

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY				Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA				Gain (Loss)	
		2005	2006	2007	2008			2005	2006	2007	2008		
are overweight (ages 2-18)													
Healthcare²¹		2005	2006	2007	2008			2005	2006	2007	2008		
Percentage of XIX Eligibles Receiving Dental Services Ages 0-5		32%	26%			(18.8%)		28%	24%	24%			
Population: physician ratio			9.1	8.8	9.6	9.1%			20.8	20.9	21.2		1.4%
Population: RN ratio			44.1	44.6	50.1	12.3%			92.9	93.5	95.1		1.7%
Population: dentist ratio			1.9	2.4	2.1	(12.5%)			4.4	4.3	4.3		

CHILD FATALITY PREVENTION

Although deaths from Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) in NC increased 28% in 2008, there were no SIDS deaths in Person County in 2007 or 2008. In 2008, NC saw an increase in drowning and poisoning deaths among children; however, the total number of deaths due to unintentional injuries (*excludes* SIDS) decreased 9% in the state and 71% in the county.

The NC Child Fatality Prevention Team's annual report for 2007, updated in 2009, recommends that parents have access to inexpensive or free training or educational seminars in various parenting techniques and areas of child development, to include topics such as shaken baby (period of purple crying); back to sleep; including co-sleeping; proper car seat placement; safe child; and fire code law.

Table 9. Unintentional Child Fatalities

CATEGORY	Person		Gain (Loss)	NC		Gain (Loss)
	2007	2008		2007	2008	
Cause of Unintentional Child Death²²						
Motor vehicle injuries	3	1	(2%)	142	123	(15%)
Bicycle injuries	2	0	(100%)	4	3	(33%)
Fire injuries	0	0	--	24	17	(41%)
Drowning	1	0	(100%)	26	30	13%
Falls	0	0	--	2	2	0%
Poisoning	0	0	--	17	18	6%
Other unintentional injuries	1	1	0%	56	55	(2%)
Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)	0	0	--	98	136	28%

EDUCATION

EDUCATION PROFICIENCY

Overall, **education proficiency in 3rd-and 8th-grade reading and math** improved in 2009-2010. The county saw the greatest improvement in 8th grade math (8% improvement) and 3rd grade math (7% improvement) while the state saw the greatest improvement in 8th-grade reading and math (4% and 4%, respectively).

DROPOUT RATES

Dropout rates in the county remained constant for 2008-09 while decreasing in the state. County rates continued to be above those of the state, which has been the trend for the past several years. Additionally, the gap between the county and state grades 7-12 and grades 9-12 dropout rates widened in 2008-09.

Table 10. EOG Scores and Dropout Rates

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY					Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA					Gain (Loss)
	00-01	04-05	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10		00-01	04-05	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	
EOG Scores²³														
EOG proficiency, reading, 3 rd	78%	82%	81.6%	56.0%	67.2%	69%	3%	76.4%	82.3%	81.8%	54.5%	65.5%	66.4%	1%
EOG proficiency, math, 3 rd	74%	82%	71.8%	48.5%	81%	86.7%	7%	73.6%	85.1%	70.9%	73.2%	81.3%	81.9%	1%
EOG proficiency, reading, 8 th	87%	90%	87.8%	76.3%	57.5%	59.6%	4%	83.3%	87.9%	87.9%	54.2%	66.6%	69.5%	4%
EOG proficiency, math, 8 th	85%	84%	59.6%	64.4%	74.0%	79.7%	8%	79.4%	84.0%	65.1%	68.2%	80.4%	83.9%	4%
Dropout Rates²⁴	03-04	04-05	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10		03-04	04-05	06-07	07-08	08-09	09-10	
7-12 grade	3.16	3.61	3.8	3.82	3.82		--	3.29	3.23	3.63	3.43	2.93		(15.5%)
9-12 grade	4.57	5.25	5.29	5.38	5.40		0.4%	4.86	4.74	5.27	4.97	4.27		(14.1%)

CHILDCARE FACILITIES

The percentage of 5-star **child care facilities** in Person County *decreased* 32% between April 2010 and December 2010 while *increasing* 4% in the state. In both the county and state, there were *decreases* in the percentage of 2- and 4-star facilities and corresponding *increases* in the number of 1- star facilities in the county and 3-star facilities in the state. Four- and 5-star sites accounted for 36% of facilities in the county, a reduction from 9% from April 2010. Further, the county has lost 4 centers since June, with one center reopening in December. 123 slots were initially lost, but 25 slots have been reinstated. The net loss is 98 slots.

Table 11. Childcare Facilities

CATEGORY ²⁵	Base Year	PERSON COUNTY						Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA						Gain (Loss)
	6/04	10/05	1/07	12/07	4/10	12/10		6/04	10/05	1/07	12/07	4/10	12/10			
Percent 1 star child care centers/homes	29%	26%	26%	21%	22.8%	27.6%	21%	28%	22%	20%	20%	16.7%	15.2%	(9%)		
Percent 2 star child care centers/homes	--	--	9%	6%	12.4%	10.6%	(15%)	2%	1%	2%	5%	12.3%	11.7%	(5%)		
Percent 3 star child care centers/homes	35%	30%	30%	29%	22.9%	19.1%	(17%)	36%	37%	34%	29%	20.5%	21.2%	3%		
Percent 4 star child care centers/homes	31%	41%	30%	31%	27%	27.5%	(2%)	23%	28%	28%	26%	22.5%	22.1%	(2%)		
Percent 5 star child care centers/homes	4%	2%	6%	13%	12.5%	8.5%	(32%)	10%	12%	16%	19%	21.5%	22.4%	4%		

*Since April 2010, Person County lost: one (1 star), one (2 star), one (3 star), two (4 stars). Also, the largest center went from a 5 star license to a special provisional license which will be reassessed in Jan.-Feb. 2011.

Issues for consideration in education include:

1. Should the Partnership consider ways to incentivize for day care facilities to seek a higher level of licensure? The transition to the 2 component system has settled and there are centers and homes that have very limited interest, if any, in pursuing higher than a one star license. It will require additional, potentially long term, subsidies to move existing 1 and 2 star facilities to higher star ratings.

FAMILY STABILITY

Reports of child abuse in Person County *decreased* 44% from 2005-06 to 2008-09 while *increasing* 4.7% in NC. Children ages birth to 5 years accounted for 44.4% of reported cases in the county compared to 52% of reported cases in NC. Further, 44.9% of reported cases were substantiated while 81.2% were substantiated in the state. **Substantiated abuse cases** in Person County increase by 12.8% between 2005-06 and 2008-09 while the state increased 37.6%. Of substantiated cases, decreases were seen in the percentages in the county and state for cases involving abuse or in need of services, in cases related to abuse, and in cases needing family services, with county decreases being substantially higher than in NC and overall percentages being lower. Cases in which family services were recommended increased substantially (385%) with a very modest increase in the state. At the same time, the percentage in the county remained much lower than the state, continuing the trend since 2003-04.

Table 12. Child Abuse Statistics

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON			Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA			Gain (Loss)
	03-04	04-05	05-06	08-09		03-04	04-05	05-06	08-09	
Reported ²⁶										
Children ages 0-5 as percentage of total cases	46%	41.2%	49.3%	44.4%	(9.9%)	49%	49%	49.5%	52.0%	5%
Investigative findings substantiated	19% 51n	31.9% 89n	39.8% 140n	44.9% 88n	12.8%	26% 23302n	55% 32741n	59% 38101n	81.2% 54683n	37.6%
Substantiated ²⁷										
Percent of children with substantiated abuse or in need of services	13.7% 7n	11.2% 10n	15% 21n	8.0% 7n	(46.7%)	24% 2886n	14% 4529n	15% 5634n	12.7% 6917n	(15.3%)

CATEGORY	Base Year	PERSON			Gain (Loss)	Base Year	NORTH CAROLINA			Gain (Loss)
Percentage related to abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)	13.7% 7n	6.7% 6n	7.9% 11n	1.1% 1n	(86.1%)	8% 1412n	4% 1427n	4% 1498n	1.9% 1031n	(52.5%)
Family services needed	0	4.5% 4n	7.1% 10n	6.8% 6n	(4.2%)	16% 1474n	9% 3102n	11% 4136n	10.8% 5886n	(1.8%)
Family services recommended	0	0	1.4% 2n	6.8% 6n	385%	39% 4231n	21% 6982n	23% 8687n	23.5% 12872n	2.2%

Further, data from Child Protective Services indicates an increase in the number of children placed in foster care over the course of 2010. As shown below, in the last three months of 2009, an average of 65 children per month were in foster care. As of November 2010, this figure had risen to an average of 69 children per month.

<u>Month</u>	<u># CPS Reports Received</u>	<u># Accepted</u>	<u># Children in DSS Custody (Foster Care)</u>
October '09	53		64
November '09	47	38	67
December '09	41	31	65
January 2010	41	34	63
February 2010	43	30	60
March 2010	59	52	62
April 2010	50	37	67
May 2010	60	51	66
June 2010	43	34	70
July 2010	50	43	71
August 2010	62	45	73
September 2010	64	52	73
October 2010	41	32	74
November 2010	39		78
December 2010			
January 2011			
February 2011			
March 2011			

Issues for consideration and reflection with regard to family support include:

- 1) Outreach and recruitment for family support efforts. Ensure that every child with reported abuse and neglect receives referrals (and follow up) to family support and parenting services.
 - 2) Provision and impact of intensive versus non-intensive services
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REFERENCES

- ¹ 2009 and later data from NC Office of State Budget and Management (NC OSBM): www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_projections.shtm Data for years before 2009: www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/clijs.cgi
- ² Data for 2009 and later years from NC OSBM; data for 2006 and prior years: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/37/37145.html>; persons of Caucasian origin also may identify as Hispanic, leading to some duplication in counts.
- ³ NC and Person County data, aggregate of all types of industry by 2-digit industry sector: <http://eslmi23.esc.state.nc.us/ew/EWYear.asp?Report=1>
- ⁴ https://edis.commerce.state.nc.us/docs/topEmployers/topEmp_37145.pdf
- ⁵ US Census Bureau 3-year averages for 2006-08: <http://www.factfinder.census.gov>
- ⁶ Most recent data for NC and Person Co. at bestplaces.net: <http://www.bestplaces.net/>
- ⁷ 2005-07 and 2006-08 averages from US Census Bureau: <http://quickfacts.census.gov/>; 2008 and 2009 annual data from EDIS: www.edis.commerce.state.nc.us/EDIS/demographics.html
- ⁸ Years prior to 2009: http://www.nccommerce.com/NCDOCWEBAPP/Resources/CountyProfiles/pdf/Person_2007Q2.pdf; 2009 EDIS: www.edis.commerce.state.nc.us/EDIS/demographics.html;
- ⁹ Years prior to 2008: <http://www.naccrra.org/randd/data/docs/NC.pdf>; 2008:
- ¹⁰ http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/clijs.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=NC&areaid=74; 2008 data from USDA Economic Research Service: <http://www.ers.usda.gov/Data/PovertyRates/PovListPct.asp?ST=NC&view=Percent&Longname=NC>

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- ¹¹ Kids Count Data Center:
http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=NC&areaid=74
- ¹² US Census Bureau American Community Survey 3-year estimates for 2006-08:
www.factfinder.census.gov
- ¹³ Median home age for NC and Person Co: <http://www.bestplaces.net>
- ¹⁴ Person County is the most recent available at bestplace.net, date not specified:
http://www.bestplaces.net/County/Person-North_Carolina.aspx
- ¹⁵ 2009 data for NC, except miscellaneous: Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC): http://www.missourieconomy.org/indicators/cost_of_living/index.stm
- ¹⁶ NC data for the miscellaneous category from
http://www.bestplaces.net/State/North_Carolina.aspx#
- ¹⁷ 2000-04 Health Choice and Medicaid data from Kids Count Data Center:
<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data>
- 2007-09 Health Choice and Medicaid data from NC Division of Medical Assistance (NC DMA)
<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dma/elig/index.htm>
- ¹⁸ NC State Center for Health Statistics: infant mortality, low birth weight and mothers who smoked: <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/vitalstats/volume1/2008/>
- ¹⁹ <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/>
- ²⁰ Kids Count Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data>
- ²¹ Kids Count Data Center: <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/data>; NC Health Professions Data Center (NC HPDC): www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp/profiles.htm
- ²² NC State Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics, Child Deaths in NC:
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/vitalstats.cfm>;
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/deaths/child/CFinNC2008.pdf>
- ²³ <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/leaperformancearchive/>
- ²⁴ <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schoolimprovement/effective/dropout/>
- ²⁵ SmartNet: www.smartstart-nc.org;
http://ncchildcare.dhhs.state.nc.us/pdf_forms/statistical_detail_report_april_2010.pdf
- ²⁶ Previous years' data for investigative findings substantiated has been updated to reflect the most recent available. Percentages are based on the total number of reported cases; percentages based on unique number of children by first every report cohort:
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/stats/cr.htm
- ²⁷ Percentages are based on the total number of substantiated cases;
www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/stats/cr.htm