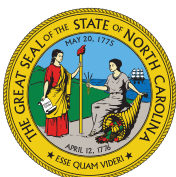


# Perinatal Health Equity Collective: Data Indicators

ANNUAL UPDATE 2025



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health

# General Summary

The North Carolina Perinatal Health Equity Collective (NC PHEC) comprises over 500 public, nonprofit, and private industry partners, as well as individuals with lived experience from across the state, who are committed to improving perinatal health outcomes. NC PHEC serves as the backbone for the Perinatal Health Strategic Plan (PHSP), a statewide roadmap for improving the health and wellness of people of reproductive age, inclusive of addressing infant mortality, maternal mortality, and severe maternal morbidity.

Monitoring progress on the PHSP includes tracking four overarching measures as well as 34 indicators across three broad areas: (1) Addressing economic and social inequities, (2) Strengthening families and communities, and (3) Improving health care for all people of childbearing age. This report highlights both improvements and persistent challenges in perinatal health across the PHSP's economic, social, and health care data indicators.

## Goal 1. Addressing Economic and Social Inequities

The data on economic and social inequities reveal both progress and ongoing challenges across various racial and ethnic groups. There have been notable improvements in reducing the Black/white disparity in unemployment, but Black populations continue to have an unemployment rate almost two times higher than non-Hispanic (NH) white populations. Efforts to reduce poverty among people of reproductive age and families have yielded significant declines across most groups, particularly for Asians/Pacific Islanders and Hispanics. Home ownership rates increased overall, with Hispanic populations experiencing the most significant gains. There were also positive trends in breastfeeding rates among Black, American Indian, and multiracial groups.

Despite these gains, disparities remain and, in some cases, have worsened. Life expectancy has decreased for all groups, with NH Black, NH American Indian, and Hispanic populations experiencing the largest declines. Housing cost burdens increased slightly for some groups, especially white and Asian/Pacific Islanders, though there were decreases for Hispanic and multiracial populations. Educational outcomes present ongoing concerns, as high school graduation rates and third grade reading proficiency have declined for nearly all groups compared with baseline.

## Goal 2. Strengthening Families and Communities

Data on strengthening families and communities indicate several areas of improvement. Each racial and ethnic group saw a decrease in the percentage of children living in areas of concentrated poverty, except for American Indians, who experienced a slight increase. Violent deaths showed a concerning upward trend, however, especially among NH American Indian and NH Black populations. Efforts to train local health department staff in client-centered care and reproductive life planning expanded to nearly all local health departments across NC.

When examining access to services for youth transitioning to adult health care, the numbers remained essentially unchanged, with some improvement for NH white populations. The percentage of parents who received parenting-related emotional support from their partner increased overall, with NH Black parents reporting the largest gains. Progress was also made in narrowing Black/white disparities in incarceration rates, though the gap remains significant. Challenges also persist in areas like violent deaths, poverty concentration, and access to certain health and support services, indicating ongoing opportunities for targeted improvement.

### Goal 3. Improving Health Care for All People of Childbearing Age

The PHSP 2022-2026 data indicators related to improving health care for people of reproductive age show several areas of progress. Routine check-ups among adults ages 18 to 44 increased by 8.1% overall, with NH American Indian populations achieving the highest rate at 90.5%. There were notable improvements in service uptake of the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program compared with baseline, with increases of nearly 20% for NH white families and 13% for Hispanic families. There were decreases in the percentage of people who smoked cigarettes in the three months before pregnancy across all racial groups. Birth rates for adolescents ages 15 to 17 also dropped among all groups, with the most significant decreases seen in NH American Indian and Hispanic populations. These gains indicate that certain minority populations, particularly American Indians and Hispanics, are making substantial growth in several key health metrics.

Despite these advancements, there are notable opportunities for improvement. Preventive medical visits among adolescents decreased slightly. Overall, while the proportion of minority populations who graduate medical school in NC did not greatly change from baseline, there were increases in multiracial, Asian, American Indian and Hispanic graduates. There was a slight decrease of graduates who identify as Black. Maternal care access also saw mixed results, including a reduction in early prenatal care access for most groups except NH American Indians and NH Asians. Disparities worsened in fetal mortality rates between NH Black and NH white populations, and postpartum visit rates for Medicaid enrollees declined from baseline. Additionally, dental service utilization among Medicaid recipients fell across all racial groups. Addressing these gaps – especially in preventive care, maternal health care access, and provider diversity – remains critical for achieving improved health outcomes for all people of reproductive age.

### Conclusion

While North Carolina has made measurable progress in areas such as poverty reduction, increased home ownership, higher rates of routine health check-ups, and expanded civic participation, persistent gaps remain. Declines in life expectancy, educational achievement, access to preventive and maternal health care, and continued racial and ethnic disparities highlight the need for sustained, focused interventions. The collective members' ongoing efforts, guided by comprehensive data and community involvement, are crucial to addressing these complex challenges and achieving positive perinatal health outcomes for all statewide.

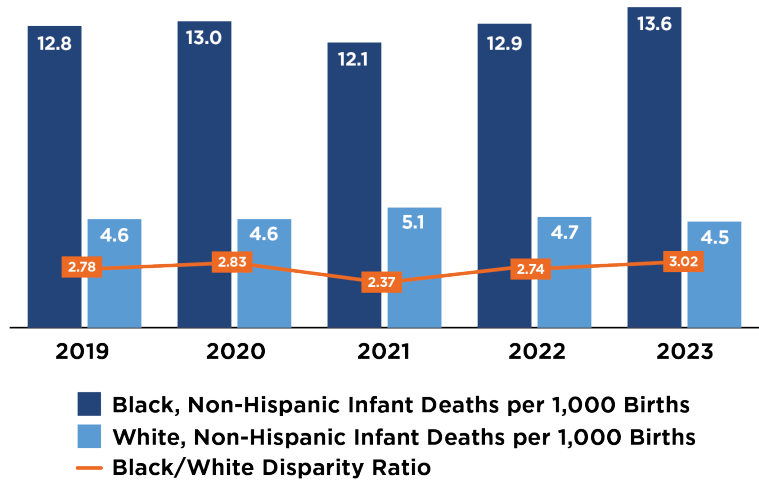
# Overarching Indicators

**OVERARCHING INDICATOR 1:**  
Eliminate the Black/white disparity in infant mortality.

**2026 GOAL 1.9**

While the overall NC infant mortality rate (IMR) has been steady from 2019 to 2023, the Black/white disparity has increased. This is related to an increased IMR for NH Black infants (+6%) and a slight decrease in the IMR for NH white infants (-2%).

**Resident Black and White Infant Mortality Rates and Black/White Disparity Ratio, NC, 2019-2023**



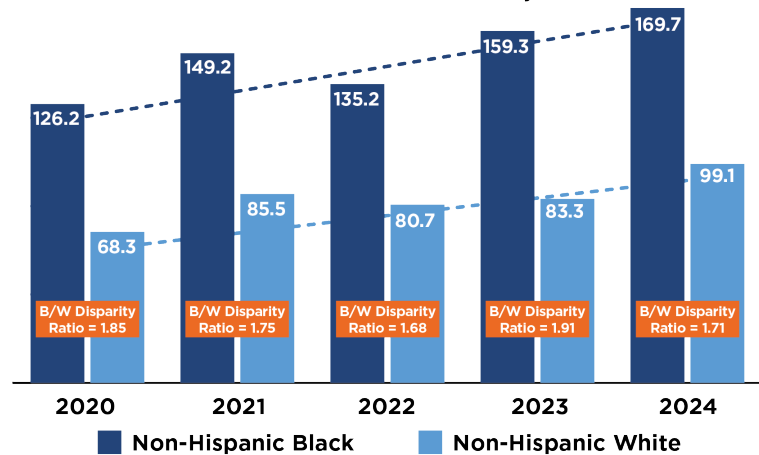
Source: Title V Office Analysis of NC Birth and Death Certificate data

**OVERARCHING INDICATOR 2:**  
Eliminate the Black/white disparity in Severe Maternal Morbidity rate per 10,000 deliveries

**2026 GOAL 1.7**

The disparity in the severe maternal mortality (SMM) rate for NH Black and NH white women has narrowed; however, the SMM rates for both race categories increased from 2020 to 2024.

**Recent Trends in SMM Rates NH Black & NH White Deliveries, NC**



\*Severe Maternal Morbidity (excluding transfusions) rates per 10,000 deliveries.  
Note: These figures are subject to changes as hospital discharge data are updated and/or AIM SMM specifications are modified.  
Source: Title V Office Analysis of NC Inpatient Hospital Discharge data

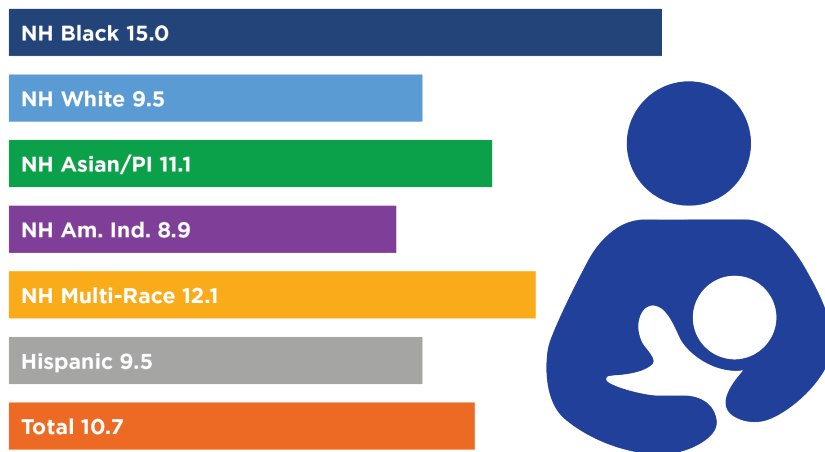
**OVERARCHING INDICATOR 3:**

Decrease the percentage of preterm births to 7.3% or less for all racial/ethnic groups.

**2026 GOAL 7.3%**

The overall preterm birth rate for all race/ethnicities has remained steady from 2019 to 2023 except for NH Asian/Pacific Islander & NH Black women for whom preterm rates have increased.

**Percent Preterm Births by Race/Ethnicity, North Carolina, 2023**



Source: Title V Office Analysis of NC Birth Certificate data

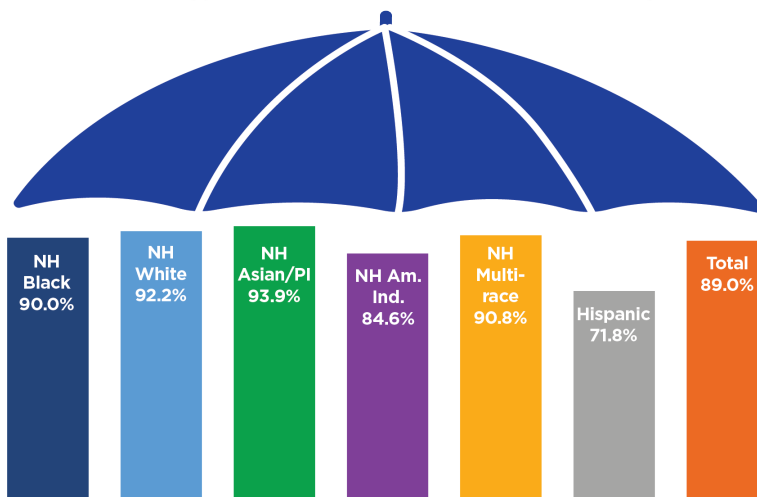
**OVERARCHING INDICATOR 4:**

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

**2026 GOAL 90%**

The percentage of non-elderly (0-64 years) people in North Carolina with health insurance has increased for all race/ethnicities from 2018 to 2023.

**Percent of Non-Elderly (0-64 years) People in North Carolina with Health Insurance by Race/Ethnicity, 2023 American Community Survey**



# Baseline and Most Recent Data for PHEC Indicators

Note:

- A green arrow (↘ or ↗) means that the indicator is moving in the right direction (improving). A red arrow (↙ or ↖) means that the indicator is moving in the wrong direction (not improving). The arrows do not indicate the magnitude of the improvement or worsening of the indicator.
- Trends have not been tested for statistical significance.
- Disparity ratios are provided when indicated by the data point.

## Goal 1: Address Economic and Social Inequities

### POINT 1: UNDO RACISM

#### 1.1 Eliminate the Black/white disparity in unemployment

	2015-19	2019-23	Trend	1.1 Goal met?
<b>Total</b>	<b>5.6%</b>	<b>4.8%</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Black/white Disparity Ratio</b>	<b>2.12</b>	<b>2.00</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>	<b>Moving in the right direction?</b>
Black	9.1%	7.6%	Decreasing ↘	<b>Yes</b>
NH White	4.3%	3.8%	Decreasing ↘	
American Indian/Alaskan Native	8.2%	6.1%	Decreasing ↘	
Asian	3.9%	4.0%	Increasing ↗	
Two or More Races	8.7%	6.2%	Decreasing ↘	
Hispanic	5.8%	5.0%	Decreasing ↘	

Data Source: American Community Survey/US Census Bureau Table S2301

**SUMMARY:** Overall, the Black/white disparity in unemployment decreased slightly during the most recent 5-year period. However, unemployment rates among Black populations remain twice as high as NH white populations. American Indian and Multiracial populations both had unemployment rates 1.6 times higher than NH white. Declines in unemployment occurred among nearly all racial/ethnic groups, with Multiracial and American Indian populations experiencing the steepest declines.

### 1.2 Eliminate the Black/white disparity in short-term suspensions (rate per 1000 enrolled students)

	2018-19	2023-24	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>130.9</b>	<b>162.3</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>
<b>Black/white Disparity Ratio</b>	<b>3.81</b>	<b>3.66</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>
Black	282.0	335.0	Increasing ↗
White	74.0	91.5	Increasing ↗
American Indian	217.0	346.9	Increasing ↗
Asian	31.0	23.0	Decreasing ↘
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	90.0	141.6	Increasing ↗
Two or More Races	160.0	201.6	Increasing ↗
Hispanic	79.0	107.6	Increasing ↗

1.2 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: NC Department of Public Instruction Consolidated Data Report

SUMMARY: The disparity between short-term suspension rates for Black and white students decreased during 2023-2024. However, suspension rates increased for all racial/ethnic groups except for Asian students who experienced declining suspension rates. Black and American Indian students had the highest suspension rates, with both having rates more than 3 times higher than NH white students.

### 1.3 Increase life expectancy (years)

	2016-18	2021-23	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>78.1</b>	<b>76.0</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>
NH Black	75.4	72.4	Decreasing ↘
NH White	78.3	76.4	Decreasing ↘
NH American Indian/ Alaskan Native	75.0	70.6	Decreasing ↘
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	88.8	86.4	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	90.5	86.5	Decreasing ↘

1.3 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **No**

Data Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics Life Expectancy Reports

SUMMARY: Life expectancy decreased overall as well as for every racial/ethnic group since the baseline period. NH American Indian residents had the lowest life expectancy in 2021-23, with an estimated life expectancy 6 years lower than NH white residents. NH Asian/Pacific Islander and Hispanic residents both had the highest estimated life expectancy at 86 years.

## POINT 2: SUPPORT WORKING PARENTS AND FAMILIES

### 2.1 Increase the percentage of children ages 0 to 2 years whose families receive child care subsidies and are enrolled in 3-, 4-, or 5-star centers

This indicator has been retired due to a lack of available data by race/ethnicity.

### 2.2 At least 87.5% of infants from all racial/ethnic groups are breastfed at hospital discharge

	2019	2023	Trend	<b>2.2 Goal met? No</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.8%</b>	<b>81.5%</b>	<b>Increasing</b> ↗	
NH Black	69.8%	70.9%	Increasing ↗	
NH White	83.7%	83.5%	Decreasing ↘	
NH American Indian/ Alaskan Native	51.4%	56.5%	Increasing ↗	
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	88.6%	86.6%	Decreasing ↘	
NH Multiracial	78.9%	80.3%	Increasing ↗	
Hispanic	87.5%	86.1%	Decreasing ↘	

Data Source: Title V Office analysis of NC Birth Certificate data

SUMMARY: Breastfeeding rates increased very slightly from 2019 to 2023 overall as well as for NH Black, NH American Indian/Alaskan Native and Multiracial groups. NH American Indian/Alaskan Native populations demonstrated the largest improvement. However, no group met the PHEC goal of 87.5%.

## POINT 3: REDUCE POVERTY AMONG PEOPLE OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE AND FAMILIES

### 3.1 Decrease the percentage of individuals living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for all racial/ethnic groups

	2015-19	2019-23	Trend	<b>3.1 Goal met? Yes</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>34.4%</b>	<b>31.1%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘	
NH Black	47.6%	42.8%	Decreasing ↘	
NH White	26.2%	24.0%	Decreasing ↘	
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	53.6%	50.5%	Decreasing ↘	
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	27.4%	20.7%	Decreasing ↘	
NH Multiracial	41.3%	35.2%	Decreasing ↘	
Hispanic	58.8%	49.3%	Decreasing ↘	

Data Source: ACS/US Census Bureau

SUMMARY: Poverty rates among people of reproductive age decreased from the baseline period overall as well as for all racial/ethnic groups. NH Asian/Pacific Islander individuals experienced the largest declines compared to the baseline period. Poverty rates were highest among NH American Indian & Hispanic groups, who both had poverty rates more than twice as high as NH white.

### 3.2 Reduce the proportion of children living in households with a high housing cost burden

	2018	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>27.1%</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>
Black	40.8%	40.7%	Decreasing ↘
White, NH	18.1%	19.1%	Increasing ↗
American Indian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander, Non-Hispanic	23.4%	25.4%	Increasing ↗
Two or more races	30.8%	28.7%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	36.2%	33.7%	Decreasing ↘

**3.2 Goal met? No**  
**Moving in the right direction? No**

Data Source: Kids Count tracking of American Community Survey data

**SUMMARY:** Overall, there has been no meaningful change since baseline in the proportion of NC children living in households experiencing a high housing cost burden. Housing burden increased among NH white and NH Asian/Pacific Islander groups, while burden decreased among Multiracial and Hispanic groups. While there was not a large increase in proportion from baseline, Black children were more than twice as likely to live in households with a high housing burden than NH white children.

### 3.3 By 2025, decrease the percentage of children living in food insecure homes to 17.5%

	2018	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.3%</b>	<b>18.9%</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>

**3.3 Goal met? No**  
**Moving in the right direction? Yes**

Data Source: Feeding America

**SUMMARY:** The proportion of children living in food insecure households have decreased minimally since baseline and the state has yet to achieve the PHEC goal for this metric.

### 3.4 Increase home ownership among all racial/ethnic groups

	2015-19	2019-23	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>65.2%</b>	<b>66.4%</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>
Black	45.5%	46.8%	Increasing ↗
NH White	73.4%	74.6%	Increasing ↗
Hispanic	46.0%	51.7%	Increasing ↗

**3.4 Goal met? Yes**  
**Moving in the right direction? Yes**

Data Source: ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables S2502

**SUMMARY:** Overall, home ownership rates increased slightly, with Hispanic residents experiencing the largest increase in ownership since the baseline period. NH white residents had the highest home ownership rates across both time periods.

## POINT 4: CLOSE THE EDUCATION GAP

### 4.1 At least 95% of all high school students will graduate within 4 years across all racial/ethnic groups

	SY2019-20	SY2023-24	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.6%</b>	<b>87.0%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
Black	85.2%	84.5%	Decreasing ↘
White	90.8%	89.8%	Decreasing ↘
American Indian	85.1%	82.4%	Decreasing ↘
Asian	94.4%	>95.0%	Increasing ↗
Multiracial	85.3%	83.5%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	81.7%	83.3%	Increasing ↗

1.3 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **No**

Data Source: NC Department of Public Instruction

SUMMARY: Overall, graduation rates decreased minimally from the baseline period and failed to achieve the PHEC goal of 95%. Black, white, American Indian, and Multiracial students all experienced decreasing graduation rates compared to the baseline period, while Asian and Hispanic students had the highest graduation rates, which increased from the baseline period.

### 4.2 Increase the percentage of income-eligible children enrolled in NC Pre-K statewide

	2017-18	2023-24	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>47.9%</b>	<b>57.0%</b>	<b>Increasing</b> ↗

4.2 Goal met? **Yes**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: NCDHHS Division of Child Development and Early Education

SUMMARY: The percentage of income-eligible North Carolina children enrolled in NC Pre-K increased from the baseline period. This data is not available by race/ethnicity.

### 4.3 At least 70% of students will be proficient in reading at the end of third grade

	SY2018-19	SY2023-24	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.8%</b>	<b>48.5%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
NH Black	40.8%	35.1%	Decreasing ↘
NH White	70.1%	60.8%	Decreasing ↘
NH American Indian/ Alaskan Native	44.5%	40.3%	Decreasing ↘
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	75.6%	70.1%	Decreasing ↘
NH Multiracial	59.5%	50.6%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	42.6%	34.2%	Decreasing ↘

4.3 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **No**

Data Source: NC Department of Public Instruction State Testing Results (Green Book)

SUMMARY: Reading proficiency decreased overall and among all racial/ethnic groups compared with the baseline period. Asian/Pacific Islander students are the only group meeting the PHEC goal of 70%. Reading proficiency was lowest among NH Black and Hispanic students and highest among NH Asian/Pacific Islander students.

#### 4.4 Increase racial diversity among school administrators, teachers, and other professionals

	SY2019-20	SY2024-25	Trend	<b>4.4 Goal met? Yes</b> <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
Black	17.6%	20.3%	Increasing ↗	
Other races	5.8%	7.9%	Increasing ↗	
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	

Data Source: NC DPI Public Schools Statistical Profile

SUMMARY: Racial diversity among school professionals has increased from the baseline period among professionals that identify as Black and Other non-white races.

## Goal 2: Strengthen Families and Communities

### POINT 5: INVEST IN COMMUNITY BUILDING

#### 5.1 Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in the percentages of children <18 living in areas of concentrated poverty (Census tract with >=30 percent poverty)

	2015-19	2019-23	Trend	<b>5.1 Goal met? No</b> <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>8.2%</b>	<b>7.1%</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>	
NH Black	17.8%	15.6%	Decreasing ↘	
NH White	2.6%	2.4%	Decreasing ↘	
NH American Indian/ Alaskan Native	20.6%	23.0%	Increasing ↗	
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	4.8%	2.9%	Decreasing ↘	
NH Multiracial	8.0%	6.7%	Decreasing ↘	
Hispanic	12.9%	9.9%	Decreasing ↘	

Data Source: Kids Count tracking of U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey data

SUMMARY: The overall proportion of children living in areas of concentrated poverty declined. There were declines for most racial and ethnic groups in the state, with the exception of NH American Indian/Alaskan children. Non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaskan children remain the group with the highest proportion of children living in concentrated poverty in the state.

## 5.2 Eliminate the racial/ethnic disparities in violent deaths (rate per 100,000 people)

	2017	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>22.4</b>	<b>24.4</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>
NH Black	26.0	34.9	Increasing ↗
NH White	23.4	23.5	Increasing ↗
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	27.7	52.0	Increasing ↗
NH Asian	6.7	12.2	Increasing ↗
Hispanic	11.2	15.7	Increasing ↗

5.2 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **No**

Data Source: NC Violent Death Reporting System Annual Report

SUMMARY: Violent death rates increased overall and among all racial/ethnic groups compared with baseline. Racial disparities in violent death rates increased among NH Black and NH American Indian/Alaskan native groups, compared with NH white population. NH American Indian/Alaskan Native populations experienced the highest violent death rates in 2023, with rates more than 2.2 times higher than NH white rates. The NH Asian/Pacific Islander population had the lowest violent death rates across both time periods.

## 5.3 Increase the percentage of registered voters who voted across all racial/ethnic groups

	2018	2024	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>52.4%</b>	<b>64.6%</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>
NH Black	51.8%	61.0%	Increasing ↗
NH White	53.8%	67.4%	Increasing ↗
NH American Indian	N/A	N/A	N/A
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	45.5%	59.6%	Increasing ↗
Hispanic	38.6%	49.2%	Increasing ↗

5.3 Goal met? **Yes**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: U.S. Census, Current Population Survey via Kaiser Family Foundation State Health Facts

SUMMARY: The proportion of registered voters that voted increased from the 2018 baseline overall as well as among all reported racial/ethnic groups. 2024 was a presidential election year which may account for increased voting patterns that year.

## POINT 6: SUPPORT COORDINATION AND COOPERATION TO PROMOTE REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE WITHIN COMMUNITIES

### 6.1 By 2025, 75% of local health departments will have staff complete training on client-centered care framework, contraceptive methods and reproductive life planning

	FY20-21	FY23-24	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>33.0%</b>	<b>98.0%</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>

6.1 Goal met? **Yes**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: WICWS Reproductive Health Branch Internal Reports

SUMMARY: By 2023-24, nearly all local health departments (98%) had staff that had completed trainings on client-centered care framework, contraceptive methods, and reproductive life planning which exceeds the PHEC goal of 75%.

## 6.2 Increase the percentage of women who say their pregnancy was intended

	2019	2020	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>55.9%</b>	<b>58.6%</b>	<b>Increasing</b> ↗
NH Black	27.9%	32.9%	Increasing ↗
NH White	64.1%	70.3%	Increasing ↗
NH American Indian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	60.8%	58.5%	Decreasing ↘

**6.2 Goal met? No**

**Moving in the right direction? Unknown. Data no longer available.**

Data Source: NC Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System/State Center for Health Statistics

SUMMARY: This data is no longer available from the NC State Center for Health Statistics past 2020. This metric will not be reportable unless comparable data becomes available in the future.

## POINT 7: ENHANCE COORDINATION AND INTEGRATION OF FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES

### 7.1 Increase the number of accepted referrals to services through NCCARE360

	FY21	FY24	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>84.7%</b>	<b>78.3%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
Black	89.0%	83.1%	Decreasing ↘
White	84.6%	87.1%	Increasing ↗
American Indian	92.2%	72.2%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	78.3%	82.9%	Increasing ↗

**7.1 Goal met? No**

**Moving in the right direction? No**

Data Source: NCDHHS/NCCARE360 (Note: In FY24, there were 43,185 clients with undisclosed race or ethnicity; in FY23, there were 4,781; in FY21, there were 21,689 clients.)

SUMMARY: Overall, accepted referrals to NCCARE360 decreased from baseline to FY2024. Referrals declined the most among American Indian residents but also decreased among Black residents. White and Hispanic populations demonstrated higher proportions of accepted referrals in FY2024.

### 7.2 Increase the percentage of children ages 12-17 who receive services needed to transition to adult health care, and close the racial disparity

	2018-19	2022-23	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>19.0%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
NH Black	16.9%*	4.2%*	Unstable ↘
NH White	16.6%	22.9%	Increasing ↗
NH American Indian	N/A	N/A	N/A
NH Asian	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	27.6%*	28.4%*	Unstable ↗

**7.2 Goal met? No**

**Moving in the right direction? No**

Data Source: National Survey of Children's Health (Measure 4.15)

\*Indicator has a confidence interval width >20% points or >1.2 times the estimate and should be interpreted with caution.

SUMMARY: The proportion of children ages 12-17 that received services to transition to adult health care declined minimally from baseline overall but increased among NH white children. Figures for other racial/ethnic groups were unreliable or unavailable due to issues with small numbers surveyed.

## POINT 8: STRENGTHEN FATHER AND CO-PARENT INVOLVEMENT IN FAMILIES

### 8.1 Increase the percentage of children ages 0-17 living with parents who received day-to-day emotional support with parenting or raising children from their spouse or domestic partner

	2018-19	2022-23	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>63.6%</b>	<b>75.4%</b>	<b>Increasing</b> ↗
NH Black	44.6%	66.6%	Increasing ↗
NH White	76.7%	87.1%	Increasing ↗
NH American Indian	N/A	N/A	N/A
NH Asian	37.8%*	50.9%*	Unstable ↗
Hispanic	53.6%*	52.9%	Unstable ↘

8.1 Goal met? **Yes**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: National Survey of Children's Health (Measure 6.15)

\*Indicator has a confidence interval width >20% points or >1.2 times the estimate and should be interpreted with caution.

SUMMARY: Estimated percentages of children living with parents who received day-to-day emotional support with parenting increased overall from baseline. Figures rose among NH Black and NH white groups. Figures for other groups were unreliable or unavailable due to issues with small numbers surveyed.

### 8.2 Eliminate the Black/white disparity in the incarceration rate (per 100,000) [Note that this is for people 13 and older.]

	2018	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>235</b>	<b>192</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
<b>Black/white Disparity Ratio</b>	<b>2.63</b>	<b>2.32</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
Black	486	378	Decreasing ↘
White	185	163	Decreasing ↘
American Indian	467	424	Decreasing ↘
Asian	19	15	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	84	80	Decreasing ↘

1.3 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics analysis of NC Department of Public Safety data (numerator) & special tabulation population estimates prepared by the US Census Bureau (denominator)

SUMMARY: Incarceration rates decreased overall as well as across all racial/ethnic groups in the state. The disparity between incarceration rates for Black and white populations decreased in 2023 compared with the baseline period of 2018 but significant disparities persist. Incarceration rates remained more than 2 times higher among Black and American Indian populations.

## Goal 3: Improve Health Care for All People of Reproductive Age

### POINT 9: EXPAND ACCESS TO HIGH QUALITY HEALTH CARE

#### 9.1 At least 84% of people ages 18-44 will have received a routine checkup in the past year

	2019	2023	Trend	<b>9.1 Goal met? No</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>69.3%</b>	<b>75.7%</b>	<b>Increasing</b> ↗	
NH Black	78.1%	80.6%	Increasing ↗	
NH White	68.1%	76.8%	Increasing ↗	
NH American Indian	N/A	90.5%	N/A	
Hispanic	62.0%	67.0%	Increasing ↗	

Data Source: NC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System/State Center for Health Statistics

**SUMMARY:** The proportion of adults ages 18 to 44 that received an annual checkup increased among all reported racial and ethnic groups. NH American Indian populations had the highest rates of routine checkups in 2023, with approximately 9 in 10 reporting a routine visit in the past year.

#### 9.2 Increase the percentage of adolescents ages 12 through 17 who have a preventive medical visit in the past year

	2019-20	2022-23	Trend	<b>9.2 Goal met? No</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? No</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>81.7%</b>	<b>81.5%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘	
NH Black	84.3%*	81.5%*	Unstable ↘	
NH White	83.8%	84.1%	Increasing ↗	
NH American Indian	N/A	N/A	N/A	
NH Asian	N/A	N/A	N/A	
Hispanic	79.7%*	76.4%*	Unstable ↘	

Data Source: National Survey of Children's Health (NPM 10)

\*Indicator has a confidence interval width >20% points or >1.2 times the estimate and should be interpreted with caution.

**SUMMARY:** The proportion of children ages 12-17 years who have preventative visits changed minimally from baseline overall. While the proportion of NH white children with preventative visits increased slightly, data for minority groups were either unreliable or unavailable due to issues with small numbers surveyed.

### 9.3 Increase the percentage of (North Carolina) medical school graduates who identify as Black, Hispanic, or American Indian

	2018	2023	Trend
Black, American Indian/ Alaskan Native or Hispanic	12.1%	12.0%	Decreasing ↘
Black	10.2%	9.0%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	1.7%	2.6%	Increasing ↗
American Indian/Alaskan Native	0.2%	0.4%	Increasing ↗
Asian	15.5%	22.6%	Increasing ↗
Multiracial	5.3%	9.9%	Increasing ↗

9.3 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **No**

Data Source: Association of American Medical Colleges via Kaiser Family Foundation

SUMMARY: The proportion of medical school graduates who identify as Black, American Indian/Alaskan Native or Hispanic remained virtually unchanged from baseline figures, with the proportion of Black graduates decreasing and Hispanic and American Indian/Alaskan Native graduates increasing slightly.

### POINT 10: IMPROVE ACCESS TO AND QUALITY OF MATERNAL CARE IN ALL SETTINGS

#### 10.1 Increase the percentage of infants born to people receiving prenatal care in their first trimester

	2019	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>73.3%</b>	<b>72.0%</b>	<b>Decreasing ↘</b>
NH Black	66.3%	65.5%	Decreasing ↘
NH White	80.4%	79.9%	Decreasing ↘
NH American Indian/ Alaskan Native	66.5%	72.4%	Increasing ↗
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	73.3%	74.2%	Increasing ↗
NH Multiracial	69.7%	69.0%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	61.9%	58.5%	Decreasing ↘

10.1 Goal met? **No**

Moving in the right direction? **No**

Data Source: Title V Office analysis of NC Birth Certificate data

SUMMARY: Timely prenatal care remained virtually unchanged overall as well as among NH Black, NH white, NH Asian/Pacific Islander, and NH Multiracial groups. First trimester care increased a moderate degree among NH American Indian and decreased among Hispanic populations. Overall, Hispanic populations continue to have the lowest rates of first trimester care, while NH white populations continue to have the highest rates.

### 10.2 Eliminate the Black/white disparity in fetal mortality (Rates per 1,000 deliveries)

	2015-19	2019-23	Trend	<b>10.2 Goal met? No</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? No</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>	
<b>Black/White Disparity Ratio</b>	<b>2.27</b>	<b>2.74</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>	
NH Black	11.6	12.9	Increasing ↗	
NH White	5.1	4.7	Decreasing ↘	
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	8.9	8.5	Decreasing ↘	
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	4.8	3.8	Decreasing ↘	
NH Multiracial	4.5	8.3	Increasing ↗	
Hispanic	5.6	5.6	Decreasing ↘	

Data Source: Title V Office analysis of NC Fetal Death Certificate data

SUMMARY: The Black/white disparity in fetal mortality increased in 2019-2023 compared with the baseline period due to an increase in the fetal death rate among NH Black and a decrease among NH white populations. Multiracial populations also experienced increased fetal mortality, while NH American Indian, NH Asian/Pacific Islander, and Hispanic groups demonstrated decreasing rates.

### 10.3 Increase the percentage of WIC-eligible families that receive WIC services

	2019	2022	Trend	<b>10.3 Goal met? Yes</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>56.8%</b>	<b>64.0%</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>	
NH Other than White-Only	58.0%	62.0%	Increasing ↗	
NH White-Only	53.2%	63.0%	Increasing ↗	
Hispanic	60.6%	68.6%	Increasing ↗	

Data Source: US Department of Agriculture Food Nutrition Service

SUMMARY: Compared with the baseline period, the percentage of WIC-eligible families that received WIC services increased overall as well as for all subgroups.

### 10.4 Increase the percentage of MPW recipients who receive at least one dental service

	FY19	FY24	Trend	<b>10.4 Goal met? Yes</b>  <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>6.8%</b>	<b>11.7%</b>	<b>Increasing ↗</b>	
Black	8.0%	12.9%	Increasing ↗	
White	6.3%	11.2%	Increasing ↗	
American Indian	6.5%	12.9%	Increasing ↗	
Asian	7.3%	9.8%	Increasing ↗	
Hispanic	3.7%	7.4%	Increasing ↗	

Data Source: NCDHHS Division of Health Benefits (NC Medicaid)

SUMMARY: Compared with the baseline period, the percentage of MPW (Medicaid for Pregnant Women) families that received at least one dental service increased overall as well as for all subgroups.

## POINT 11: INCREASE ACCESS TO PRECONCEPTION, REPRODUCTIVE, AND SEXUAL HEALTH CARE FOR PEOPLE OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE

### 11.1 Decrease the percentage of people who smoke in the 3 months before pregnancy

	2019	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>10.1%</b>	<b>4.7%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
NH Black	9.9%	5.3%	Decreasing ↘
NH White	12.7%	5.7%	Decreasing ↘
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	21.6%	14.5%	Decreasing ↘
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	1.2%	0.5%	Decreasing ↘
NH Multiracial	14.8%	7.5%	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	2.3%	1.2%	Decreasing ↘

11.1 Goal met? **Yes**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: Title V Office analysis of NC Birth Certificate Data

SUMMARY: Pre-pregnancy smoking rates declined overall, as well as among all racial/ethnic groups compared with the baseline period. NH American Indian/Alaskan Native groups continue to have the highest rates of pre-pregnancy smoking, however their rates have decreased substantially since baseline.

### 11.2 Decrease the birth rate for 15 to 17 year olds (rate per 1,000)

	2019	2023	Trend
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.7</b>	<b>6.1</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘
NH Black	11.2	8.4	Decreasing ↘
NH White	3.8	2.8	Decreasing ↘
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	17.2	9.6	Decreasing ↘
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	1.7	N/A	N/A
NH Multiracial	10.4	9.6	Decreasing ↘
Hispanic	16.3	12.1	Decreasing ↘

11.2 Goal met? **Yes**

Moving in the right direction? **Yes**

Data Source: Title V Office analysis of NC Birth Certificate data (numerator) and special tabulation population estimates provided by the US Census Bureau (denominator)

SUMMARY: Teen birth rates decreased from the baseline period overall as well as among all reported racial/ethnic groups. In 2023, teen birth rates were highest among the Hispanic population and lowest among NH white population.

**11.3 Increase the percentage of local health departments (LHDs) offering same day insertion of both contraceptive implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs)**

	2019	2024	Trend	<b>11.3 Goal met? No</b> <b>Moving in the right direction? Unknown. Data not comparable.</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>74%</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>Not Comparable</b>	

Data Source: NC Family Planning Local Health Department Clinical Practice Survey

SUMMARY: The wording of the survey question was changed in 2021 and as a result, data is no longer comparable to baseline. The new survey question asks whether the LHD has a same-day insertion policy/procedure for LARCs, long-acting reversible contraceptive, (IUD and/or Implant) in place.

**11.4 Reduce the newly diagnosed HIV annual rate to 7.8 (rate per 100,000 people)**

	2019	2023	Trend	<b>11.4 Goal met? No</b> <b>Moving in the right direction? Yes</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>15.5</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘	
NH Black	45.0	39.0	Decreasing ↘	
NH White	5.2	6.0	Increasing ↗	
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	16.5	9.6	Decreasing ↘	
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	7.0	4.8	Decreasing ↘	
NH Multiracial	N/A	31.5	N/A	
Hispanic	21.2	29.7	Increasing ↗	

Data Source: NC HIV Surveillance Report

SUMMARY: Rates of HIV remained virtually unchanged in 2023 overall. HIV rates decreased among NH Black, American Indian, and Asian/Pacific Islander populations. Rates of HIV increased among Hispanic and NH white populations. Disparities in HIV rates persist, with Hispanic, NH Black and NH Multiracial populations having rates substantially higher than NH white population across both time periods.

## POINT 12: PROVIDE INTERCONCEPTION CARE

### 12.1 Increase the percentage of women enrolled in Medicaid who had a postpartum visit between 1 and 12 weeks after delivery

	2019	2023	Trend	12.1 Goal met? <b>No</b> Moving in the right direction? <b>No</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>68.8%</b>	<b>60.7%</b>	<b>Decreasing</b> ↘	

Data Source: NC Medicaid

SUMMARY: Rates of postpartum visits among Medicaid recipients decreased in 2023 compared with the 2019 baseline period. However, issues with reporting for this metric may be impacting postpartum visit rates.

### 12.2 Reduce the proportion of births conceived within 18 months of previous birth

	2019	2023	Trend	12.2 Goal met? <b>No</b> Moving in the right direction? <b>No</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>35.8%</b>	<b>38.1%</b>	<b>Increasing</b> ↗	
NH Black	36.2%	36.9%	Increasing ↗	
NH White	38.2%	42.0%	Increasing ↗	
NH American Indian/Alaskan Native	37.7%	41.9%	Increasing ↗	
NH Asian/Pacific Islander	29.3%	31.5%	Increasing ↗	
NH Multiracial	38.4%	42.4%	Increasing ↗	
Hispanic	29.1%	30.7%	Increasing ↗	

Data Source: Title V Office analysis of NC Birth Certificate data

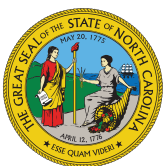
SUMMARY: The proportion of births with short birth intervals increased slightly from baseline overall as well as for every racial/ethnic group compared to the baseline period. NH American Indian and Multiracial births experienced the largest increases.

# Quick Glance of PHEC Data Indicators and Goals

PHEC Data Indicators		Goal met?	Moving in the right direction?
<b>GOAL 1: ADDRESS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL INEQUITIES</b>			
<b>Point 1: Undo racism</b>			
1.1	Eliminate the Black/white Disparity in Unemployment	No	Yes
1.2	Eliminate the Black/white disparity in short-term suspensions (rate per 1000 enrolled students)	No	Yes
1.3	Increase life expectancy	No	No
<b>Point 2: Support working parents and families</b>			
2.1	Increase the percentage of children ages 0 to 2 years whose families receive child care subsidies and are enrolled in 3-, 4-, or 5-star centers	N/A (retired)	N/A (retired)
2.2	At least 87.5% of infants from all racial/ethnic groups are breastfed at hospital discharge	No	Yes
<b>Point 3: Reduce poverty among people of reproductive age and families</b>			
3.1	Decrease the percentage of individuals living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level for all racial/ethnic groups	Yes	Yes
3.2	Reduce the proportion of children living in households with a high housing cost burden	No	No
3.3	By 2025, decrease the percentage of children living in food insecure homes to 17.5%	No	Yes
3.4	Increase home ownership among all racial/ethnic groups	Yes	Yes
<b>Point 4: Close the education gap</b>			
4.1	At least 95% of all high school students will graduate within 4 years across all racial/ethnic groups	No	No
4.2	Increase the percentage of income-eligible children enrolled in NC Pre-K statewide	Yes	Yes
4.3	At least 70% of students will be proficient in reading at the end of third grade	No	No
4.4	Increase racial diversity among school administrators, teachers, and other professionals	Yes	Yes

PHEC Data Indicators		Goal met?	Moving in the right direction?
<b>GOAL 2: STRENGTHEN FAMILIES AND COMMUNITIES</b>			
<b>Point 5: Invest in community building</b>			
5.1	Eliminate racial/ethnic disparities in the percentages of children <18 living in areas of concentrated poverty (Census tract with >=30 percent poverty)	No	Yes
5.2	Eliminate the racial/ethnic disparities in violent deaths (rate per 100,000 people)	No	No
5.3	Increase the percentage of registered voters who voted across all racial/ethnic groups	Yes	Yes
<b>Point 6: Support coordination and cooperation to promote reproductive justice within communities</b>			
6.1	By 2025, 75% of local health departments will have staff complete training on the reproductive justice framework and/or reproductive life planning	Yes	Yes
6.2	Increase the percentage of women who say their pregnancy was intended	No	Unknown. Data no longer available.
<b>Point 7: Enhance coordination and integration of family support services</b>			
7.1	Increase the number of accepted referrals to services through NCCARE360	No	No
7.2	Increase the percentage of children ages 12-17 who receive services needed to transition to adult health care, and close the racial disparity	No	No
<b>Point 8: Strengthen father and co-parent involvement in families</b>			
8.1	Increase the percentage of children ages 0-17 living with parents who received day-to-day emotional support with parenting or raising children from their spouse or domestic partner	Yes	Yes
8.2	Eliminate the Black/white disparity in the incarceration rate (per 100,000) [Note that this is for people 13 and older.]	No	Yes

PHEC Data Indicators		Goal met?	Moving in the right direction?
<b>GOAL 3: IMPROVE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL PEOPLE OF REPRODUCTIVE AGE</b>			
<b>Point 9: Expand access to high quality health care</b>			
9.1	At least 84% of people ages 18-44 will have received a routine checkup in the past year	No	Yes
9.2	Increase the percentage of adolescents ages 12 through 17 who have a preventive medical visit in the past year	No	No
9.3	Increase the percentage of (North Carolina) medical school graduates who identify as Black, Hispanic, or American Indian	No	No
<b>Point 10: Improve access to and quality of maternal care in all settings</b>			
10.1	Increase the percentage of infants born to people receiving prenatal care in their first trimester	No	No
10.2	Eliminate the Black/white disparity in fetal mortality (Rates per 1,000 deliveries)	No	No
10.3	Increase the percentage of WIC-eligible families that receive WIC services	Yes	Yes
10.4	Increase the percentage of MPW (Medicaid for Pregnant Women) recipients who receive at least one dental service	Yes	Yes
<b>Point 11: Increase access to preconception, reproductive, and sexual health care for people of reproductive age</b>			
11.1	Decrease the percentage of people who smoke in the 3 months before pregnancy	Yes	Yes
11.2	Decrease the birth rate for 15- to 17-year-olds (rate per 1,000)	Yes	Yes
11.3	Increase the percentage of local health departments (LHDs) offering same day insertion of both contraceptive implants and intrauterine devices (IUDs)	No	Unknown. Data not comparable.
11.4	Reduce the newly diagnosed HIV annual rate to 7.8 (rate per 100,000 people)	No	Yes
<b>Point 12: Provide interconception care</b>			
12.1	Increase the percentage of women enrolled in Medicaid who had a postpartum visit between 1 and 12 weeks after delivery	No	No
12.2	Reduce the proportion of births conceived within 18 months of previous birth	No	No



NC DEPARTMENT OF  
**HEALTH AND  
HUMAN SERVICES**  
Division of Public Health

**Women, Infant, and Community Wellness Section**  
[www.dph.ncdhhs.gov](http://www.dph.ncdhhs.gov) • NCDHHS is an equal opportunity  
employer and provider. • 3/2026