

Community Needs Assessment Project
United Way Tar River Region
2014 Data Overview

From Section IV. Education

- 2013 Birth-Kindergarten/Early Education Programs: State spending per child declined almost \$3,000 in a 10-year period to \$4,960 per child enrolled in an early education program in 2013. Head start programs are 100% locally funded.
- End-of-Grade testing in Nash and Edgecombe Counties: Grade-school level end-of-grade test scores in both Nash and Edgecombe counties fall below state averages.
- High School Drop-Out Rates: Nash and Edgecombe counties' high school drop-out rate are higher than the state average, but have declined significantly over the last 5 years.
- Post-Secondary Education: Tar River Region residents have a lower high school graduation rate and four-year post-secondary degree attainment rate than the state average.

From Section V. Income and Employment

- Unemployment Rates, 2013: Edgecombe County 19%, Nash County 14%, NC Avg. 11.7%
- 2013 Median Income: Edgecombe County \$35,000; Nash County \$50,000; NC Median \$50,000
- Families Below Poverty Line, 2013: Edgecombe County 19%; Nash County 14%, NC Avg. 13%
- Cost of Living: Rocky Mount (both Nash and Edgecombe Counties) have relatively low city tax rates and median home values as compared to other municipalities in North Carolina. However, utility costs are higher than many other municipalities.
- Homelessness: The North Carolina Commission to End Homelessness reported a Point-In-Time Count of 54 Edgecombe County residents and 139 Nash County residents as homeless on January 29, 2013.

From Section VI. Health

- Death Rates in Edgecombe and Nash Counties are 1,041.8 and 986.7 per 100,000 persons, respectively.
- Leading causes of death in Edgecombe and Nash Counties are Cancer, Heart Disease, and Cerebrovascular Disease.
- Health Insurance: 20.4% and 16.7% of Edgecombe and Nash County residents, respectively, do not have health insurance coverage. The state level of uninsured persons is 16.5% (2013).
- Mental Health and Substance Abuse: Rates of Serious Mental Illness and Suicidal Thoughts are congruent with national averages. Substance abuse rates, state-wide, are lower than national averages.

From Section VII. Other Risk Factors

- Teenage pregnancy: The pregnancy rate for teens ages 15 to 19 in North Carolina dropped 11% in 2013, and is less than half where it was in 2000.
- Crime: In Rocky Mount, one in approximately 80 persons will be victimized by violent crime and one in 20 will be victimized by a property crime. In Tarboro, one person in 200 will be victimized by violent crime and approximately one in 30 persons will be the victim of a property crime.
- Juvenile Delinquency: The rate of juvenile crime in Edgecombe County is 31.9 per 1,000 persons. The rate for Nash County is 23.95 per 1,000 persons.
- Gang Activity: In 2013, Nash County was reported to have 3 gangs active in the county; Edgecombe County was reported to have 15 active gangs.

Referral Services

- Through in-house and NC 2-1-1 calls, United Way Tar River Region disseminated information and made referrals for 1,662 callers. The top reasons for calls are rent/mortgage assistance, utility payment assistance, emergency housing assistance, food assistance, medical assistance, disaster relief assistance, and transportation assistance.