

Council for Women & Youth Involvement Releases Report on Status of Women: Poverty and Opportunity

Report concludes series examining major issues impacting North Carolina women

The NC Department of Administration's Council for Women and Youth Involvement has released the 2022 Status of Women in North Carolina: Poverty and Opportunity Report.

Produced in partnership with the Institute for Women's Policy Research, the report presents data on poverty, economic security, access to opportunities, and support that helps North Carolina women and families achieve economic success. Data was collected based on four key poverty and opportunity indicators including health insurance coverage, educational attainment, business ownership and poverty rates. Most of the data comes from 2019, but the report also shares emerging data on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While report data suggests that modest progress has been made since 2016, North Carolina still has a great deal of room for improvement, earning an overall D+ and ranking 28th among other states. With Governor Roy Cooper's leadership, North Carolina is working to improve progress in healthcare access, educational attainment, and support for women in the workforce.

"While we've had some successes over the past few years, the data remains disconcerting and we must continue to press for greater progress for women in North Carolina," said NC Department of Administration Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell. "Lifting up women also helps families and entire communities and it will take all of us to improve the financial well-being, health and educational status of women and families across our state."

Key findings from the report include:

- North Carolina ranks 44th nationally for its share of women (aged 18 to 64 years old) with health insurance (85.5%), falling below the national average of 88.7%. Additionally, there are large racial and ethnic disparities in health insurance coverage for women ranging from 90 percent of Asian/Pacific Islander women with health insurance to nearly 60 percent of Hispanic women insured.
- North Carolina is among the states with the largest share of women-owned businesses, ranking tenth in the nation.
- Poverty, especially among women of color and single mothers, is a persistent problem. More North Carolina women live in poverty compared with women in the US overall, with 13.6% of the state's women aged 18 and older living in poverty.
- Educational attainment among North Carolina's women varies greatly across counties. The share of women with a bachelor's or higher ranges from a low of 10% in Hyde County to a high of 61% in Orange County.

To improve economic security and opportunities for North Carolina women and families, the report makes several policy recommendations including the expansion of affordable health care, improving gender wage disparities, and enhancing support of women-owned businesses.

Under Governor Cooper's leadership, efforts are underway to improve healthcare access, educational attainment, and better support women in the workforce. Governor Cooper continues to champion the expansion of Medicaid, which would benefit hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, bring billions of dollars into the state's economy, and create high-quality jobs. To improve educational access and attainment, Governor Cooper launched the Longleaf Commitment program to help North Carolinians get the skills they need by making community college debt-free and the Finish Line Grants program to help community college students stay on track to complete their training in the face of financial emergencies. To help ensure women can stay in the workforce, Governor Cooper provided paid parental leave for state government employees and has encouraged other North Carolina employers to do the same. He also signed an executive order to prohibit the use of salary history in the state hiring process, which can perpetuate gender pay gaps.

High-quality, affordable child care is critical to women's economic security and participation in the workforce. Cooper's administration is providing North Carolina Child Care Stabilization Grants and other support to increase access to high-quality child care and provide better wages and benefits for the early childhood educator workforce that is primarily women. Governor Cooper also led efforts to expand funding for the NC Pre-Kindergarten Program and Smart Start.

The report shows that North Carolina ranks tenth in the nation for the share of women-owned businesses, with almost 2 in 5 businesses (38.9%) owned by women. In addition, businesses owned by a woman or racial ethnic minority account for 58% of NC's small businesses. To support North Carolina's small, women and minority-owned businesses, Governor Cooper created the ReToolNC Small Business Grant Program to address the need for capital by diverse businesses hit hard by the COVID pandemic. Thus far the ReToolNC program has provided over \$20 million in grant funds with \$11.6 million going directly to more than 600 certified women-owned businesses.

"To continue improving the outlook for women and the future of our state, we must invest in expanding opportunities and resources for the advancement of women and their families across North Carolina," said Council for Women and Youth Involvement Director Danielle Carman.

Poverty and Opportunity is the final publication of a four-part series that highlights key issues impacting the lives of women across North Carolina. All four Status of Women Reports are resource tools that can be used for shaping public policies, prioritizing investments, and setting programmatic goals to improve the lives of women and families across the state. The first three reports focused on employment and earnings, health and wellness and political participation.

To learn more about this or other reports in the Status of Women in North Carolina series, visit NC Department of Administration website: ncadmin.nc.gov.

About NCDOA and the NC Council for Women and Youth Involvement
The N.C. Department of Administration acts as the business manager for North Carolina state government. Under the leadership of Secretary Pamela B. Cashwell, the department oversees government operations and advocacy programs. The department's advocacy programs help to promote and assist diverse segments of the state's population that have been traditionally underserved. NCDOA's Council for Women and Youth Involvement division advises the governor, state legislators and state leaders on issues that impact women and youth.

About the Institute for Women's Policy Research (IWPR)
The Institute for Women's Policy Research is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization that conducts and communicates research to inspire public dialogue, shape policy, and improve the lives and opportunities of women of diverse backgrounds, circumstances and experiences. IWPR also works in collaboration with the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics at American University.

Church

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APRIL 17

Easter Service

At Deep Springs Baptist Church, 1908 Deep Springs Church Rd, Peachland. Sunrise Service 7am, Breakfast 7:30am, Sunday School 8:30am, Easter Musical "If That Isn't Love" at 10am. Info 704-272-8108

APRIL 21 & 22

Easter Sunday Morning Sunrise Service

6:30am at Pleasant Hill AME Zion Church, located on Hwy 109 South in Wadesboro, with Rev. Boulware, Asst. Minister at Union Spring AME Zion Church in Monroe.

APRIL 21 & 22

Prophetic Encounter Service

at Victory Temple Miracle Center, 7pm nightly with Kingdom Living Ministries Prophet Bobby Hogan. The public is invited

APRIL 23

Pastoral Installation Service

for Pastor Tobias Wall at Saron MBC, 2285 Winfield Rd, Polkton, 3pm with Bishop John H. Walker of MBC Charlotte

Events

APRIL 9

Distinguished Man of the Year Program

5pm at Harris Chapel AME Zion Church in Morven, with speaker Jimmy Chambers. Presented by Morven Chapter of Las Amigas. Masks required.

APRIL 11 - MAY 4

A Matter of Balance

Free class to reduce the fear of falling & increase activity levels of older adults. Mondays & Wednesdays, 2-4pm at Grace Senior Center. Info & register 704-694-6616

APRIL 12

Board of Education Budget Development Workshop

3pm in the Administrative Office Board Meeting Room, located at 320 Camden Rd in Wadesboro.

APRIL 16

"Sons Need Their Fathers" Health Fair 12 noon-3pm at Wadesboro Park, 1000 Gatewood Rd. Covid testing & vaccinations, health screenings, guest speaker, balloon release & free food. Please RSVP Tasha Coleman by April 13 at 704-961-6299

ONGOING EVENTS

Food Pantry

Free food every Wed, 9-11am at Burnsville Recreation & Learning Ctr. 704-826-8182

Free Food Distributed by Anson Crisis Ministries

Every Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 8am-1pm. It is located at 117 North Rutherford Street in uptown Wadesboro. Telephone is 704-694-2445

Free Food Distribution at Feed My Lambs every Tuesday, Thursday & Friday, 1-4pm. Located at 2290 Hwy 74 West, Wadesboro. 704-695-1820

MoMs Meeting

Support group for mothers of multiples, third Tuesdays, 6:30pm, Lockhart-Taylor Center, 704-695-1031

Family Caregiver Support Group

First Mondays, 7-8:30pm, Peachland United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall, anyone concerned with Alzheimer's disease invited

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Anson County Schools Spring Athletic Stats

Anson High School Track

• Kathy McMillan Invitational at Forest Hills. Gracie Stinson 1st Shot Put & Discus; Jemia Raley 3rd Long Jump; Janiaya Maxwell 4th Triple Jump; Erin Lookabill 3rd Shot Put; Janiyah Maxwell 4th Long Jump; Johntavious Booker 3rd 110 Hurdles; 4x100 Meter Relay 2nd Jamison Allen, Kendrick Maye, Adwyn Gaddy, Johntavious Booker; LaBrandon Cole 2nd Discus

Anson High School Baseball

• March 29 - West Stanly 15, Anson 0. Elijah Stewart 1-1
• March 30 - West Stanly 24, Anson 0. Elijah Stewart 1-1; Kole Dutton 1-2
• April 1 - West Stanly 11, Anson 1. Mason Hyatt 1-2, 1 Run Scored; Luke Hyatt 1-2, double, RBI

Anson High School JV Baseball

• March 29 - West Stanly 13, Anson 0

Anson High School Softball

• March 28 - Anson 3, Union Academy 0. Cierra Lear 2-4, 1 RBI; Audrey Hyatt 1-2, 1 RBI; Haileigh Boone (W) 7 IP, 4 H, 2 BB, 9 SO
• March 29 - Anson 9, CATA 0. Jada Harrington 2-3; Camryn Martin 2-2, 2 HR, 4 RBI; Erin Lookabill 1-2, 1 RBI; Cierra Lear (W) 7 IP, 3 H, 2 BB, 8 SO
• April 1 - Anson 6, Parkwood 1. Cierra Lear 1-2; Camryn Martin 2-3, 1 HR, 2 RBI; Audrey Hyatt 1-2, 2 RBI; Laney Hill 1-1; Lauren Dutton 2-3, 1 RBI; Mallory Sikes 1-3; Emma Steagall 1-3; Haileigh Boone (W) 7 IP, 5 H, 1 BB, 12 SO

Anson High School Golf

• At Redbridge 5th Place. Huntley (53); Cale (55); Andrew (56); Seth (57); Conner (60)

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