

High Risk Counties: Identifying Families at Risk for Poor Maternal and Child Outcomes

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Ten Risk Factors Considered to Determine County and State Need

	Risk Factors	Factor Defined
1.	First Time Medicaid Births	Percent of First Time Births on MA
2.	Teen Births	Percent of Birth Mothers Under 20
3.	Infant Mortality	Rate per 1,000 of Minority Deaths and/or Total Deaths
4.	Low Birth Weight	Percent of Births of Baby under 2500 grams
5.	Late or No Prenatal Care	Percent of First Time Medicaid Mothers starting prenatal care in Third Trimester
6.	Mother Smoked	Percent of First Time Medicaid Mothers who Smoked During Pregnancy
7.	Mother's Education Level	Percent of First Time Medicaid Mothers with Less than 12 years education
8.	Reports of Abuse & Neglect	Two-Year Average of the Number of Reports
9.	Child Poverty	Percent of Children ages 0-17 Who Live in Families Under Federal Poverty Level
10.	Unemployment	Percent of Workers Unemployed

Twenty-two Highest Risk Counties in Descending Order of Risk

Highest Risk Counties	Number of Risk Factors out of Ten that County is Among 25 Poorest Performing.	First Time MA Births Two-Year Annual Average (2007-2008)
Scotland	7	139
Columbus	6	192
Edgecombe	6	214
Halifax	6	209
Lenoir	6	186
Anson	5	87
Bertie	5	77
Cherokee	5	48
Graham	5	32
Northampton	5	61
Pamlico	5	30
Richmond	5	187
Vance	5	195
Bladen	4	106
Forsyth	4	1005
Gaston	4	600
Greene	4	56
Hertford	4	71
Jones	4	21
Sampson	4	210
Washington	4	49
Wayne	4	357

Analysis of the above 10 factors of maternal and young child health and well-being indicates that North Carolina continues to have significant needs among its youngest families and children. Twenty-two counties score poorly in four or more of the risk factors. This is an indicator of where the highest concentrations of families live who would benefit from Nurse Family Partnership Program.

The new federal home-visiting grant program requires applicant states to show how they will target the highest risk families with any home-visiting program funded by this federal funding. Nurse-Family Partnership requires at least 400 Medicaid first-time births per year. Chart at left shows multi-county regions are necessary to provide NFP to most of the highest need counties.

For more information contact

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