



Community Needs Assessment FY 2022-2023

Community Needs Assessment: Children and Families in Onslow County, North Carolina

Introduction: One Place, formerly known as Onslow County Partnership for Children, stands as a pillar in Onslow County, North Carolina, championing the cause of children and families for over two decades. Through dedication and unwavering commitment, One Place has sculpted a legacy of care, supporting the community's youngest members and their families. Firmly rooted in the belief that investing in children and families is crucial, One Place envisions a future where every child is nurtured, protected, and equipped with the resources essential for a thriving life.

History and Initiatives: Established in October 1998, One Place received its 501(c)3 tax status to administer Smart Start funding for Onslow County. Smart Start, a program designed to bridge service gaps for young children and their families, became the cornerstone of One Place's mission. Over the years, One Place has garnered support from diverse sources, including but not limited to the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the City of Jacksonville, the County of Onslow, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

I. Programs and Services:

Child Advocacy Center

The Child Advocacy Center (CAC) of Onslow County provides comprehensive services responding to allegations of physical abuse and sexual abuse of children from birth to 17. The CAC is where hope and healing begin for children and families that experience child abuse trauma by putting the victim's needs first. These services include specialized interviews, sensitive medical exams, advocacy, and links to evidence-based mental health services and other referrals to improve the lives of children and their families in our community. The Child Advocacy Center staff partners with a multi-disciplinary team to deliver these comprehensive services. The National Children's Alliance accredits the CAC. Our primary strategic goal is reducing child abuse and neglect in our community.

Child Care Resource & Referral- Consumer Education and Referral Services

In Onslow County, many parents and early educators struggle to find the resources to help their children thrive. Child Care Resource & Referral Services (CCR&R) staff listen to their needs, provide guidance, and connect with community programs and resources that benefit children. Staff works to educate parents on the First 2000 days and the importance of choosing high-quality preschool and child care facilities that support children's healthy development to be healthy, safe, nurtured, and ready for school and learning. Education is provided to increase knowledge and help parents understand the N.C. Quality Ratings Improvement System and licensure process. Consumer information allows parents to recognize better and choose the best facility for their family. CCR&R offers an extensive training program for educators and community members to strengthen and increase knowledge of the early childhood workforce.

Child Care Resource & Referral- Training and Technical Assistance Services

Families deserve to trust that the child care facility that they select for their children is high quality. The Technical Assistance (T.A.) Team at One Place supports the coaching, mentoring,

and professional development of our community's early educators (teachers and administrators). The team provides resources, increases knowledge, and supports the implementation process for improving early education environments for children and their families. The TA Team utilizes the Framework for the North Carolina Technical Assistance Practitioner Competencies to partner with educators to develop strategic plans using pre-assessments, identified improvement methods, coaching, and follow-up with post-assessments to document program growth. Technical assistance aims to improve and sustain quality, as demonstrated through the N.C. Star Rated Licensing Program. These services help impact young children, their teachers, and families across our community.

Community Education & Development

One Place provides a strategic campaign designed to increase community awareness of early childhood programs and services that work to enhance the early childhood system of care. We partner with individuals and community stakeholders to increase knowledge that will assist all children with access to services and promote their healthy development. Community events such as our annual Diamonds and Denim Fundraising Benefit bring hundreds of community members and businesses together to talk about the needs of children and how working together is essential to ensure that all children are healthy, safe, nurtured, and learning and ready to succeed.

Early Head Start

One Place is the grantee for Early Head Start in our community. Early Head Start is a federal program regulated by the Department of Health and Human Services - Office of Head Start and serves families with children up to the age of three and pregnant women who meet Head Start eligibility. The program is funded to provide comprehensive services to 72 infants and toddlers, as well as six expectant mothers. Services are provided through a partnership with Early Learning Academies Excel Learning Centers. Children are in a classroom setting Monday through Friday for 8 hours each day and participate in planned activities to support each child's individual development using the Head Start Early Learning Outcomes Framework, the Creative Curriculum, and the North Carolina Foundations for Early Learning and Development. The growth and development of each child are tracked through formative assessments with individualized goals set in partnership with families. While Early Head Start is focused on school readiness, children and their families are fully supported through comprehensive services that ensure children are on track developmentally and receiving appropriate intervention services, including medical, dental, and vision care, and are supported across all developmental domains.

Early Literacy & Learning

School readiness begins at birth. Our Early Literacy & Learning program works to increase knowledge of the importance of language and daily reading to young children in our community. Children who are exposed to language and print-rich home and preschool environments are more likely to be reading on grade level at the end of third grade. Our county is participating in the N.C. Pathways to Grade-Level Reading program and our literacy programs, such as Story Walks in the Parks, Little Free Libraries, and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, increase access to books for children. We work daily through our programs and community education to share the importance of child development and the

First 2,000 Days of a child's life. Our highly interactive program reaches thousands of children in our community annually.

North Carolina Pre-Kindergarten

One Place is the contractor for NC Pre-Kindergarten, a state-funded, high-quality program designed to enhance school readiness for at-risk eligible 4-year-old children. NC Pre-Kindergarten has a proven track record in North Carolina. This high-quality early childhood program implements an evidence-based curriculum that aligns with the N.C. Foundations for Early Learning and Development provides a comprehensive program that supports children's development in approaches to play and learning, emotional and social development, health and physical development, language development and communication, and cognitive development.

Smart Start Subsidy Child Care Quality Enhancement Initiative

Our technical assistance team collaborated with child care centers in Onslow County to create strategic goals based on programmatic needs using a list of structured technical assistance plans to include Organizational Practices for Continuous Quality Improvement, Effective Teaching Practices to Improve Classroom Management, Healthy Child Initiative, and Using an N.C. Approved Curriculum, Classroom Assessment Scoring System, Intentional Teaching, and NAEYC Accreditation. Early educators received strengths-based coaching to support the program improvement process. Programs received enhancements based on Smart Start Dual Subsidy funding requirements to further provide resources to support and sustain program improvement.

Smart Start Subsidy Three School

One Place created a high-quality preschool program modeled after the successful NC Pre-Kindergarten program to serve eligible 3-year-old children and provide them with an additional year of preschool that would improve school readiness through Smart Start Dual Subsidy funding. Teachers and teacher assistants must meet strong educational requirements and participate in technical assistance and professional development coaching throughout the year. Nearly half of the children served in Three School participated in NC Pre-Kindergarten the following year.

Vision, Mission, and Values:

Our Vision: All children and families are safe, healthy, and living to their fullest potential.

Our Mission: When they have challenges, we connect all children and their families to programs and resources that provide opportunities and hope.

Our Values: **Act Responsibly-** Embracing internal and external accountability for the organization and those we serve with integrity and good character. **Be Innovative-** Seeking solutions through flexibility and creativity and introducing new methods and ideas. **Engage Collaboratively-** Working jointly to build on individual strengths and create positive outcomes. **Be Inclusive-** Honoring everyone's differences as vital assets that enrich our community and strengthen our collective power to make positive changes. **Seek to Understand-** Improving each other, our organization, and those we serve through informed

decision-making based on data, objectivity, past learnings, and genuine curiosity. **Exemplify Servant Leadership**- Being a servant leader to bring order and stability to our constituents, organization, and community.

Purpose of the Community Needs Assessment: As One Place continues its legacy of service, understanding the evolving needs of the community is paramount. This Community Needs Assessment serves as a litmus test, guiding One Place to identify existing challenges and untapped opportunities. By comprehensively evaluating the needs of children and families in Onslow County, One Place aims to strengthen its initiatives, forge new partnerships, and create tailored solutions that resonate with the community's essence.

In the pages that follow, this assessment analyzes Onslow County's demographic landscape, educational systems, healthcare services, social support networks, and community engagement efforts. Through meticulous analysis, this assessment aims to pave the way for a more resilient, supportive, and empowered community where every child's potential can develop and every family can thrive.

II. One Place Service Area

Onslow County: Embracing a Legacy, Shaping the Future (Onslow County Government, 2023)

History: Onslow County, nestled in the southeastern coastal plain of North Carolina, boasts a rich tapestry woven with the threads of history. In 1713, enticed by the allure of waterways and the majestic longleaf pine forests, the first European settlers ventured here. Originally part of the colonial precincts of Carteret and New Hanover, the county was officially formed in 1734 and christened in honor of the Honorable Arthur Onslow, the esteemed Speaker of the British House of Commons. A significant chapter unfolded in 1752 when a devastating hurricane prompted the relocation of the county courthouse from Town Point to Wantland's Ferry. This settlement, incorporated in 1842, earned the name Jacksonville, paying homage to President Andrew Jackson.

Transformation and Growth: Traditionally a patchwork of sparsely populated agrarian and maritime communities, Onslow County underwent a profound transformation in the early 1940s. The establishment of the Army's Camp Davis near Holly Ridge (now closed) and the creation of Camp Lejeune in 1941 ushered in an era of change and growth, shaping the county's identity in new ways.

Geography: Spanning 767 square miles of flat, gently rolling terrain, Onslow County stands as a testament to North Carolina's natural beauty. Situated approximately 120 miles east of Raleigh and 50 miles north of Wilmington, the county's heart, Jacksonville, serves as the county seat. Onslow County's embrace extends to the incorporated towns of Holly Ridge, Richlands, Swansboro, North Topsail Beach, part of Surf City, and the unincorporated Sneads Ferry. Dominating the landscape is the imposing presence of the U.S. Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, encompassing more than 156,000 acres and home to over 43,000 marines and sailors.

Onslow County offers a blend of natural wonders and modern attractions. With over 30 miles of pristine beaches, meandering rivers teeming with marine life, and lush forests echoing the

calls of diverse wildlife, the county is a haven for outdoor enthusiasts. Noteworthy is the New River, stretching 40 miles and holding the unique distinction of being the only large river in the continental United States with both headwaters and mouth within the same county. Amidst this backdrop, agriculture remains a vital force, with Onslow County's fertile farmlands yielding abundant crops.

Government Structure: Rooted in the late 19th century, Onslow County's local government structure stands on the foundations of democratic principles. A five-member Board of Commissioners, elected at large for four-year terms, forms the cornerstone of governance. These commissioners craft policies and ordinances that come to life through the dedicated efforts of the County Manager and the skilled staff, shaping Onslow County's future with foresight and expertise.

As history and progress intertwine, Onslow County continues to evolve, preserving its heritage while embracing the promise of tomorrow. With its natural splendor, vibrant communities, and robust governance, Onslow County stands as a testament to the enduring spirit of the people who call it home.

Military Presence in Onslow County: (United et al. Bureau, 2023)

In Onslow County, the profound honor of hosting Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River is deeply cherished. Camp Lejeune, recognized as the "Home of Expeditionary Forces in Readiness," holds the distinction of being the oldest Marine Corps base in North Carolina. Positioned in close proximity to the ports of Wilmington and Morehead City, Camp Lejeune serves a vital purpose as a training ground and maintenance hub for combat-ready units prepared for expeditionary deployment. As the second largest military base in the state, it stands as a cornerstone of national defense and community pride.

The significance of these military installations is underscored by their substantial workforce and the families they accommodate. Combined, Camp Lejeune and Marine Corps Air Station New River employ an impressive 45,079 active-duty military personnel and 3,570 civilians. These bases also provide a home for 45,610 family members and 21,210 retirees, fostering a strong sense of community and support.

The impact of military presence extends beyond the bases, resonating within the broader Onslow County community. Remarkably, nearly seven out of ten county residents have military affiliations, reflecting the integral role the military plays in the lives of the people here. Moreover, Onslow County is a haven for veterans, with approximately 24,000 veterans calling this vibrant community home, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's data from 2016 to 2020.

In Onslow County, the military presence is not just a statistic; it's a testament to the enduring partnership between the armed forces and the community. It exemplifies the shared commitment to service, sacrifice, and the unbreakable spirit that defines this remarkable county.

III. Quick Facts

Population Facts (Quick Facts Onslow County, North Carolina, 2023)	Onslow County, North Carolina
Population Estimates, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	207,298
Population estimates base, April 1, 2020, (V2022)	204,585
Population, percent change - April 1, 2020 (estimates base) to July 1, 2022 (V2022)	1.30%
Population, Census, April 1, 2020	204,576
Population, Census, April 1, 2010	177,772
Persons under 5 years, percent	8.00%
Persons under 18 years, percent	24.60%
Persons 65 years and over, percent	10.40%
Female persons, percent	44.90%
White alone, percent	76.30%
Black or African-American alone, percent	15.30%
American Indian and Alaska Native alone, percent	1.10%
Asian alone, percent	2.20%
Native Hawaiians and Other Pacific Islanders alone, percent	0.30%
Two or More Races, percent	4.80%
Hispanic or Latino percent	13.60%
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino, percent	65.50%
Veterans, 2017-2021	24,392
Foreign-born persons, percent, 2017-2021	3.80%

Housing Facts (Quick Facts Onslow County, North Carolina, 2023)	Onslow County, North Carolina
Housing units, July 1, 2022, (V2022)	87,540
Owner-occupied housing unit rate, 2017-2021	56.80%
Median value of owner-occupied housing units, 2017-2021	\$169,100

Median selected monthly owner costs -with a mortgage, 2017-2021	\$1,294
Median selected monthly owner costs -without a mortgage, 2017-2021	\$411
Median gross rent, 2017-2021	\$1,064
Building permits, 2022	1,322
Households, 2017-2021	69,246
Persons per household, 2017-2021	2.61
Living in the same house 1 year ago, percent of persons age 1 year+, 2017-2021	74.90%
Language other than English spoken at home, percent of persons age 5 years+, 2017-2021	10.10%
Households with a computer, percent, 2017-2021	95.80%
Households with a broadband Internet subscription, percent, 2017-2021	90.40%

Workforce Facts (Quick Facts Onslow County, North Carolina, 2023)	Onslow County, North Carolina
High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	91.80%
Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2017-2021	24.80%
With a disability, under age 65 years, percent, 2017-2021	13.50%
Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years, percent	10.70%
In the civilian labor force, the total percent of the population aged 16 years+, 2017-2021	45.50%
In the civilian labor force, females, percent of the population age 16 years+, 2017-2021	53.00%
Mean travel time to work (minutes), workers age 16 years+, 2017-2021	21.6
Median household income (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$54,732
Per capita income in the past 12 months (in 2021 dollars), 2017-2021	\$26,625
Persons in poverty, percent	13.90%
Total employer establishments, 2021	3,004

Total employment, 2021	36,605
Total annual payroll, 2021 (\$1,000)	1,249,669
Total employment, percent change, 2020-2021	2.10%
Total non-employer establishments, 2020	11,649
All employer firms, Reference year 2017	2,224
Men-owned employer firms, the Reference year 2017	1,168
Women-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	416
Minority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	215
Nonminority-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	1,676
Veteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	261
Nonveteran-owned employer firms, Reference year 2017	1,557

IV. Demographic Overview:

Overall Population Growth:

Onslow County, as a whole, has experienced a moderate increase in population, rising from 120,312 in April 2020 to 124,681 in July 2023, indicating a steady growth trend.

North Topsail Beach: The population increased from 1,005 to 1,059, suggesting gradual growth in this coastal community.

Surf City (pt.): This partial area of Surf City saw a rise in population from 334 to 361, indicating a slight increase in residents.

Swansboro: Witnessed a notable growth, expanding from 3,744 to 4,102, reflecting increased settlement in this area.

Jacksonville: While there was a slight decrease from 72,723 to 72,079, the city remains the most populous in the county.

Richlands: Experienced a minor increase from 2,287 to 2,418, indicating a stable growth pattern.

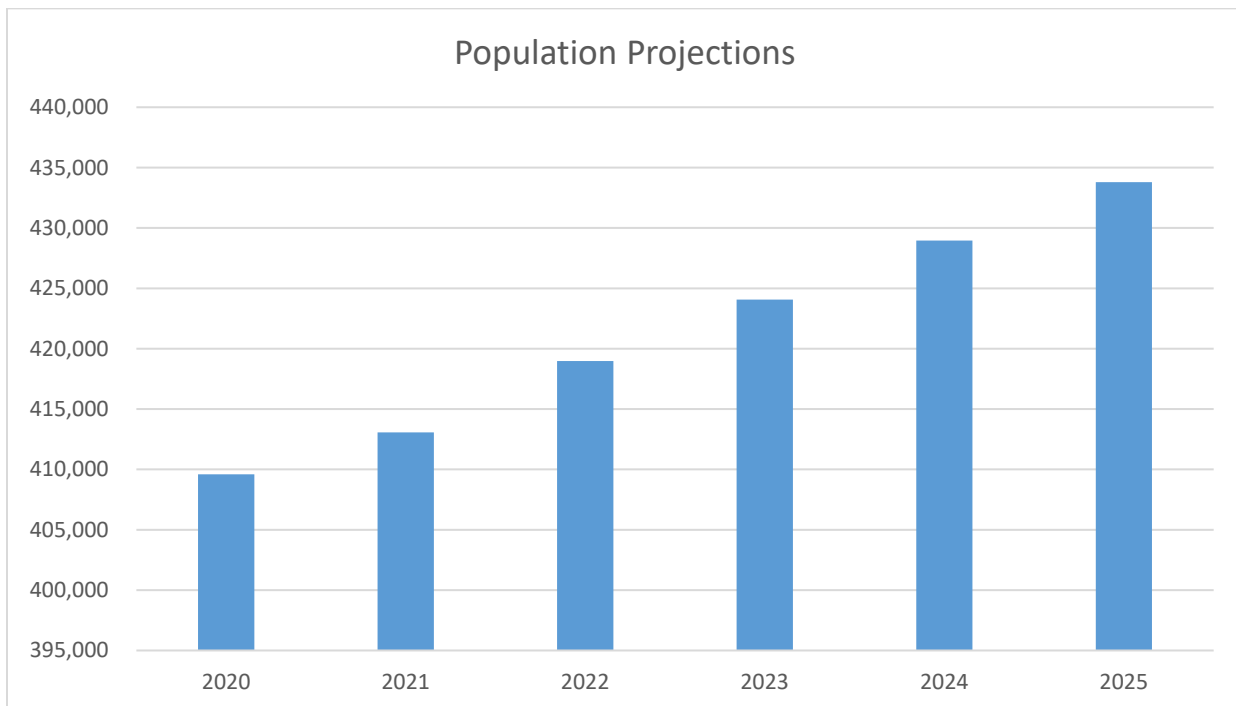
Holly Ridge: Notable growth, with the population surging from 4,171 to 4,792, suggesting significant development or influx of residents in recent years.

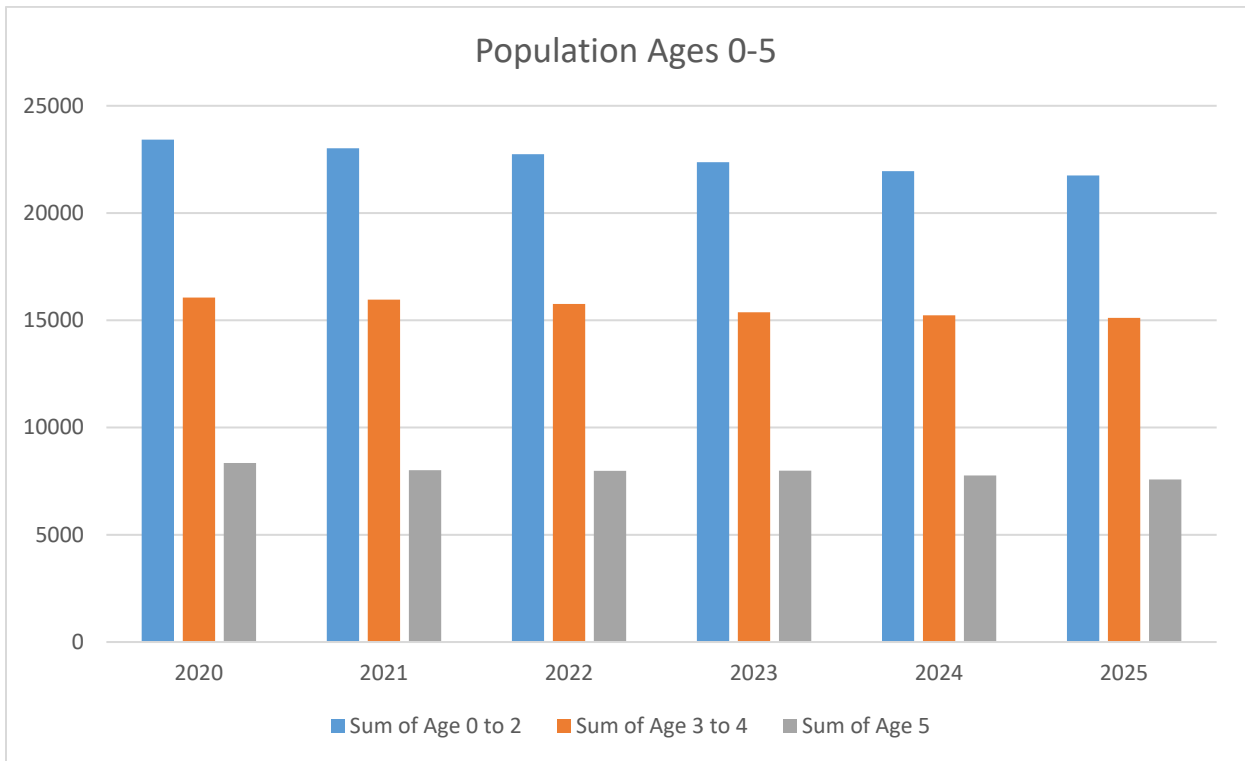
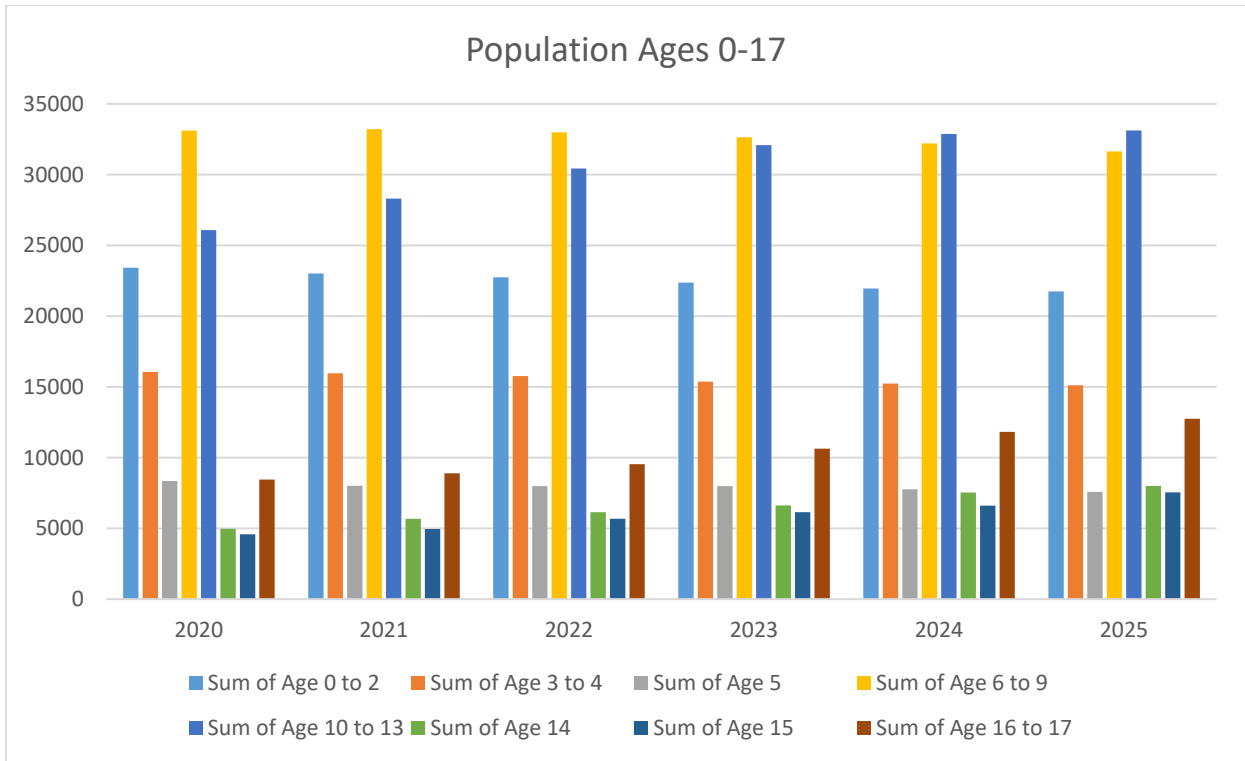
Area Name	April 1, 2020, Census Base	July 1, 2022, Certified Population Estimate (July 1, 2023, Municipal Boundaries)
North Topsail Beach	1,005	1,059
Surf City (pt.)	334	361
Swansboro	3,744	4,102
Jacksonville	72,723	72,079
Richlands	2,287	2,418
Holly Ridge	4,171	4,792
Onslow County Total	120,312	124,681

The dataset above presents the population figures for various municipalities within Onslow County, offering a snapshot of the demographic shifts over a period from April 2020 to July 2023 (State Demographer, 2023).

Demographics:

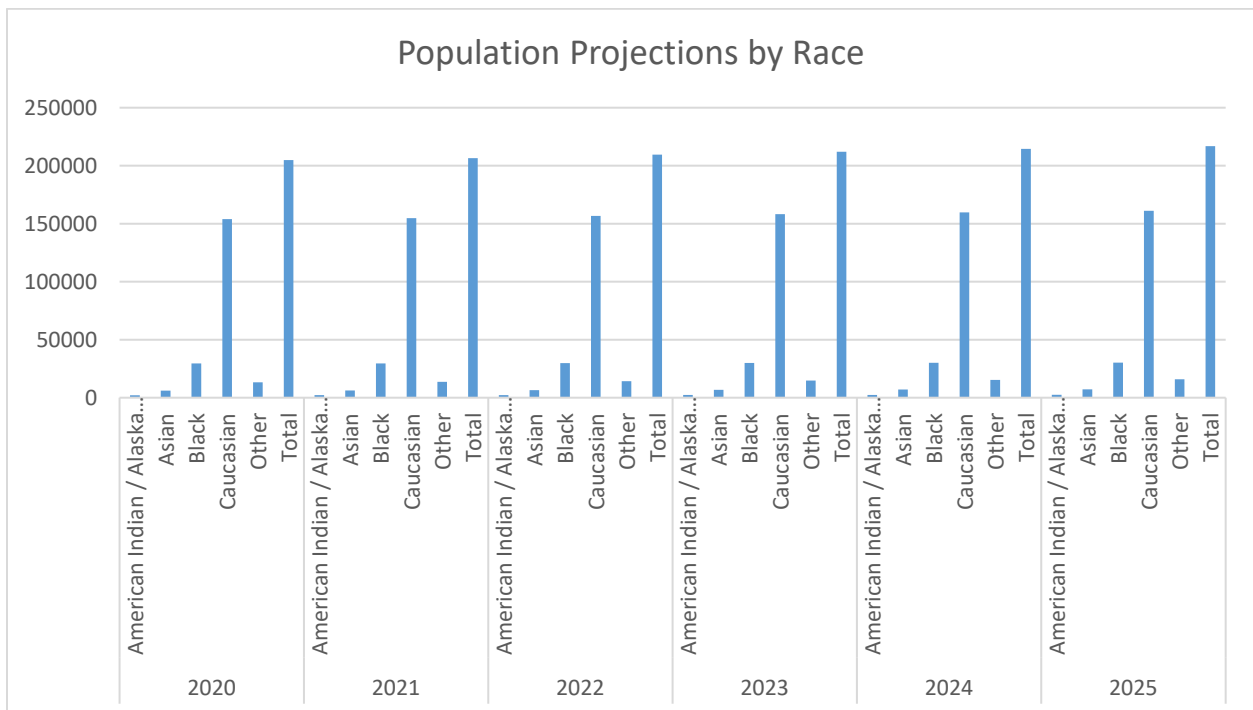
The North Carolina Office of State Budget Management provides a detailed overview of the projected demographic composition in Onslow County, focusing on various racial groups, gender, and age categories from 2020 to 2025 (State Demographer, 2023).





1. Age Group Analysis:

- Young population (0-17 years):**
 - The young population remains diverse, with variations in racial and gender compositions.
 - Initiatives focusing on education, healthcare, and community engagement are essential for ensuring their well-being.
- Working-Age Adults (18-64 years):**
 - This segment displays considerable diversity, reflecting the county's inclusivity.
 - Workforce development programs and vocational training can enhance economic opportunities for this group.
- Elderly population (65+ years):**
 - The elderly demographic is steadily growing, emphasizing the need for healthcare and social services tailored to their specific requirements.
 - Elderly care facilities and accessible healthcare services become paramount in addressing their needs.

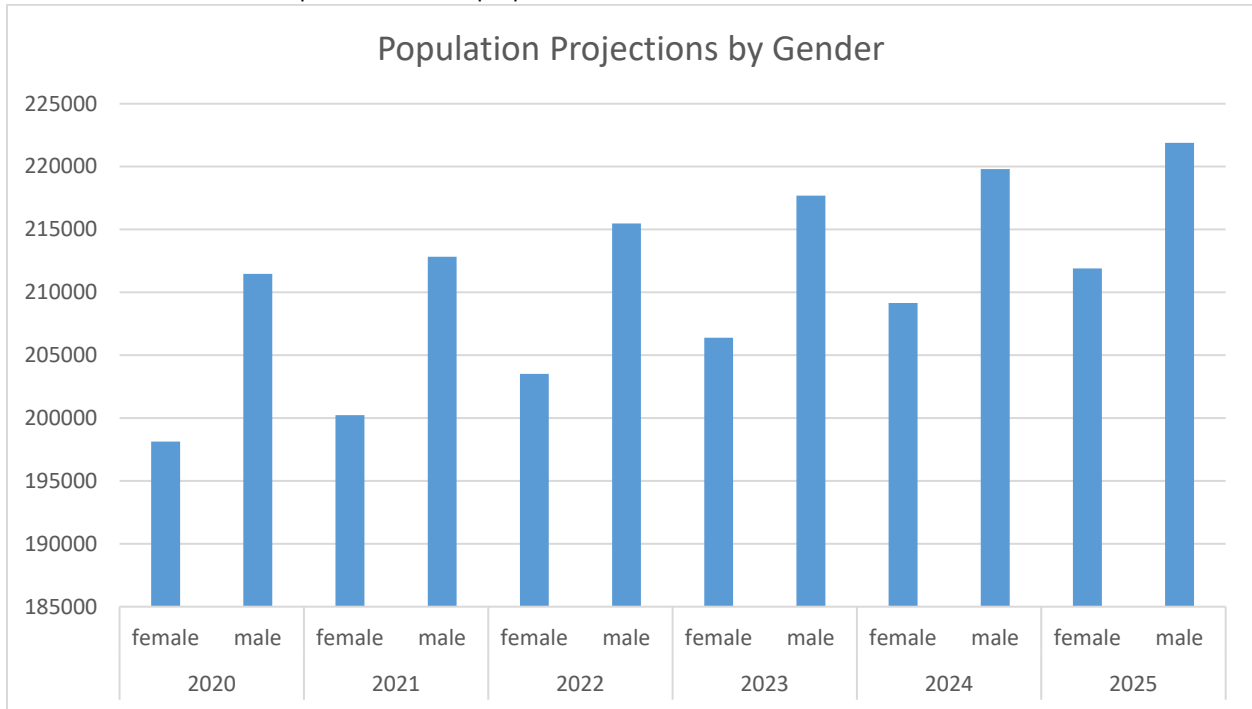


2. Racial Disparities and Opportunities:

- Black and Hispanic Communities:**
 - Young populations within these communities signal potential growth. Investment in education and skill development can uplift these demographics.
 - Addressing disparities in healthcare access is crucial to ensuring their overall well-being.
- White Population:**
 - Diverse age groups within the White population indicate stability. Focus on healthcare services for the elderly and educational support for the youth can enhance their quality of life.

- **Asian and Other Ethnicities:**

- Small but growing, these communities present opportunities for cultural enrichment and economic diversity.
- Language support, cultural awareness programs, and small business initiatives can empower these populations.



3. Gender Dynamics:

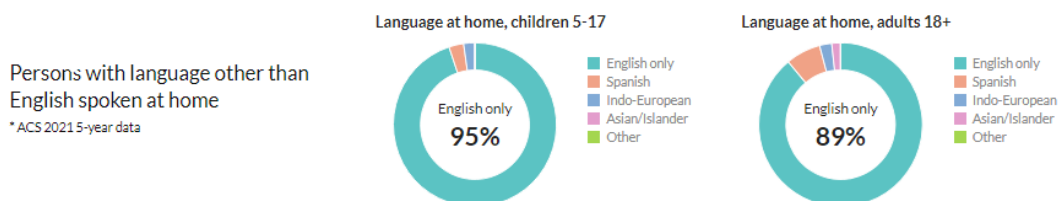
- **Female Population:**

- Females constitute a significant portion across age, race, and ethnic groups, emphasizing their influence on community development.
- Initiatives promoting women’s education, entrepreneurship, and healthcare access can empower this demographic.

- **Male Population:**

- Males, particularly in working-age groups, play a vital role in the county’s economy.
- Programs encouraging vocational training, mental health support, and mentorship can harness their potential for community growth.

Language at Home:



(U.S. Census Bureau, 2022)

The data suggests that Onslow County, while diverse in its language usage, does not exhibit the same level of linguistic diversity as the U.S. or the state of North Carolina, particularly among working-age adults.

1. Language Distribution across Age Groups:

• 5 to 17 Years:

- **English Dominance:** The majority of individuals in this age group speak only English across all three regions: U.S., North Carolina, and Onslow County.
- **Spanish Speakers:** There are significant numbers of Spanish speakers in this age group, especially in the U.S. and North Carolina. Onslow County has a smaller population of Spanish speakers in this age range compared to the state and national averages.
- **Other Languages:** There are smaller populations speaking other Indo-European languages and Asian/Pacific Island languages, with limited representation in Onslow County.

• 18 to 64 Years:

- **English Proficiency:** The dominance of English speakers continues into the 18 to 64 years age group across all regions.
- **Spanish and Other Languages:** While there are considerable Spanish speakers, especially in the U.S. and North Carolina, the population speaking other Indo-European languages and Asian/Pacific Island languages is also notable. Onslow County shows a lower prevalence of non-English languages in this age group compared to state and national figures.

• 65 Years and Over:

- **English Proficiency:** English proficiency remains dominant in this age group, with a similar trend as observed in younger adults.
- **Spanish and Other Languages:** Spanish speakers persist in this age group, although the numbers are relatively smaller compared to the younger age brackets. There are also limited speakers of other Indo-European languages and Asian/Pacific Island languages, with a minimal presence in Onslow County.

2. Comparison between Regions:

• Onslow County vs. State and National Averages:

- **English Dominance:** Onslow County, like the rest of North Carolina, follows the national trend of English dominance in language usage.
- **Limited Diversity:** Compared to the national and state averages, Onslow County has a lower diversity of languages spoken at home, especially in the 18 to 64-year-old age group. The county has a relatively small population speaking languages other than English and Spanish.

Socioeconomics:

Household Income: In the context of household income in the past 12 months, adjusted for inflation in 2022 dollars, the data provided compares figures from the United States, the state of North Carolina, and Onslow County, NC.

Income

\$31,210

Per capita income

about 80 percent of the amount in North Carolina: \$38,701

about three-quarters of the amount in United States: \$41,804

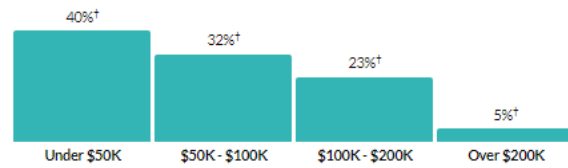
\$62,460

Median household income

about 90 percent of the amount in North Carolina: \$67,481

about 80 percent of the amount in United States: \$74,755

Household income



(U.S. Census Bureau, 2022)

Household Income in the Past 12 Months (In 2022 Inflation-adjusted Dollars)

Income	United States	North Carolina	Onslow County, NC
Total:	129,870,930	4,299,266	75,898
Less than \$10,000	7,119,554	232,212	3,162
\$10,000 to \$14,999	4,835,372	172,200	2,001
\$15,000 to \$19,999	4,199,024	159,776	3,049
\$20,000 to \$24,999	4,613,942	159,672	2,475
\$25,000 to \$29,999	4,505,665	162,210	4,463
\$30,000 to \$34,999	4,919,383	187,766	3,761
\$35,000 to \$39,999	4,595,520	170,723	3,147
\$40,000 to \$44,999	4,880,911	184,252	3,651
\$45,000 to \$49,999	4,357,917	166,655	4,765
\$50,000 to \$59,999	8,933,741	326,126	5,731
\$60,000 to \$74,999	12,162,341	435,678	7,566
\$75,000 to \$99,999	16,650,769	558,943	10,774
\$100,000 to \$124,999	12,853,713	411,954	8,320
\$125,000 to \$149,999	9,091,289	276,370	4,040
\$150,000 to \$199,999	11,273,011	319,173	5,454
\$200,000 or more	14,878,776	375,556	3,539

(U.S. Census Bureau, 2022)

1. **Income Distribution:**

- The majority of households in Onslow County fall within the middle-income brackets, with significant representation in the \$50,000 to \$99,999 range.
- There's a substantial number of households earning between \$30,000 and \$49,999, indicating a sizable working-class population.
- Relatively fewer households have incomes below \$30,000, suggesting a relatively stable economic environment.

2. **Economic Disparities:**

- The presence of households in higher income brackets (\$100,000 and above) signifies a well-off population, likely professionals, managers, or business owners.
- Discrepancies between lower-income households (below \$30,000) and higher-income households highlight economic disparities, which could influence local social and economic policies.

3. **Economic Stability:**

- The distribution indicates a diverse economy with a mix of blue-collar and white-collar employment opportunities, contributing to a stable economic base.
- The presence of households in higher income brackets suggests the availability of well-paying jobs, potentially in sectors like healthcare, defense, or education.

Unemployment:



(U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2023)

1. Initial Spike Due to COVID-19 (2020):

- The data shows a significant spike in the unemployment rate in April 2020, reaching 13.6%. This spike can be attributed to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which led to widespread job losses and economic uncertainty.

2. Recovery and Fluctuations (2020-2021):

- Following the peak in April 2020, the unemployment rate gradually declined over the months as businesses adapted to the pandemic-related challenges and economic activities resumed.
- Throughout 2020 and 2021, the unemployment rate fluctuated, indicating a period of economic instability. However, the rate generally decreased, albeit with minor fluctuations, indicating a gradual recovery.

3. Stability and Mild Fluctuations (2022-2023):

- From 2022 onwards, the unemployment rate remained relatively stable, hovering around the 4% to 5% range. This stability suggests a certain degree of economic recovery and resilience in the local job market.
- Although there are minor fluctuations, the overall trend shows a consistent unemployment rate, indicating a relatively steady economic environment.

4. Post-Pandemic Economic Stability:

- The data from 2022 and 2023 indicate that the local economy has stabilized post-pandemic, with the unemployment rate staying within a moderate range. This stability is a positive sign, suggesting that the economy has adapted to the challenges posed by the pandemic.

5. Current Status (August 2023):

- As of August 2023, the unemployment rate stands at 4.2%. This figure indicates a relatively healthy job market, although it's important to note that economic conditions can be influenced by various factors, and continued monitoring is essential.

Housing:

Units & Occupancy

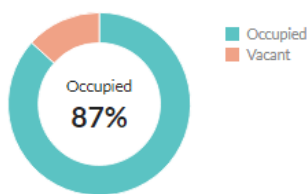
87,536

Number of housing units

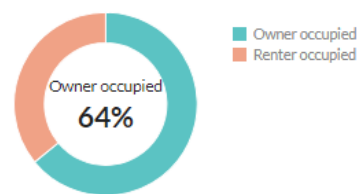
North Carolina: 4,892,627

United States: 143,772,900

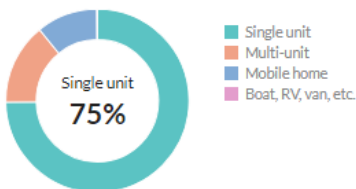
Occupied vs. Vacant



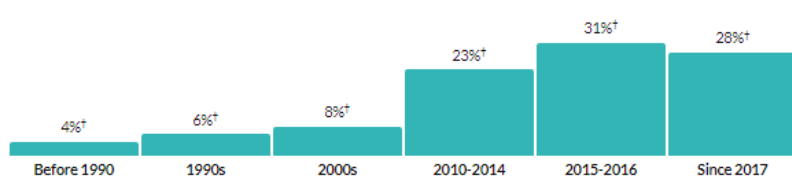
Ownership of occupied units



Types of structure



Year moved in, by percentage of population



(U.S. Census Bureau, 2022)

Onslow County's housing landscape is distinctively shaped by its military presence, resulting in a higher ratio of renters, a lower overall occupancy rate, and a substantial influx of new residents. Notably, the county experienced a remarkable surge in new residents, particularly renters, surpassing both state and national norms. This trend suggests a potentially transient population largely influenced by the military presence in the region.

Despite its smaller population, Onslow County stands out in terms of owner-occupied households, aligning with the state and national trends. This phenomenon can be attributed to a blend of stable local employment opportunities and military personnel investing in homes during their assignments in the area.

Furthermore, Onslow County exhibits a lower occupancy rate than both state and national averages. This can be attributed to various factors, including seasonal fluctuations related to vacation homes, the transient nature of the military population, or economic conditions affecting housing availability. Additionally, the county displays a slightly lower homeownership rate compared to state and national figures, indicating a relatively higher proportion of renters. This trend could stem from the significant presence of military personnel, who often opt for renting, or a younger demographic with a decreased inclination towards homeownership.

Transportation:

Transportation to work

21.6 minutes

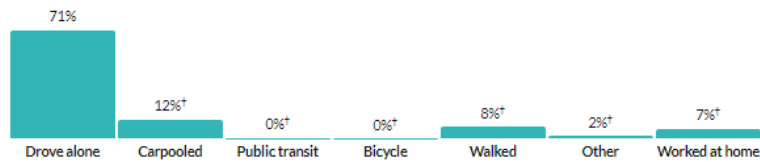
Mean travel time to work

* ACS 2021 5-year data

about 90 percent of the figure in North Carolina:
25

about 80 percent of the figure in United States:
26.8

Means of transportation to work



* Universe: Workers 16 years and over

Private vehicle usage dominates the commuting landscape in Onslow County, so there's an opportunity to diversify transportation options.

Overall Trends:

- **Car Usage Dominates:** Across all levels (USA et al.), the majority of workers commute using private vehicles (cars, trucks, or vans). In the USA, 82% drive alone, while in Onslow County, 73.5% do so.
- **Public Transportation:** Relatively low usage of public transportation is observed in all areas. Onslow County particularly exhibits limited usage, with only 0.4% utilizing public transit.

1. Gender Disparities:

- **Male Commuters:** Males tend to rely more on private vehicles. Carpooling and public transport use are notably lower among males, with only a small percentage opting for these modes.

- **Female Commuters:** Females show a slightly higher inclination towards carpooling and public transport compared to males. However, car usage is still predominant among females.

2. Public Transportation Insights:

- **Low Public Transport Adoption:** Public transport usage is significantly lower in Onslow County than both the state and national averages, indicating a need for improved public transit infrastructure and awareness campaigns.
- **Minimal Rail Transit:** Subway, elevated rail, and commuter train usage is negligible in Onslow County, suggesting these modes are not significant parts of the transportation landscape.

3. Remote Work and Other Modes:

- **Remote Work:** A notable proportion of workers (2.9% in Onslow County) opt for remote work. This trend aligns with the global rise in remote work, likely influenced by technological advancements and the changing nature of employment.
- **Other Modes:** Bicycling and walking are eco-friendly options chosen by a small percentage of workers. Onslow County exhibits slightly higher numbers in these categories, potentially indicating a local preference for these environmentally conscious commuting methods.

Natural Disasters and Pandemic Impact on Onslow County:

In September 2018, Hurricane Florence wreaked havoc upon Onslow County and its neighboring areas, ranking among the costliest hurricanes in U.S. history. Its destructive path led to an estimated \$22 billion in damages, affecting personal property, government structures, farms, businesses, and commercial properties in North Carolina. The aftermath in North Carolina included 15 direct fatalities and 25 indirect fatalities, leaving a profound impact on the affected communities. Onslow County bore a substantial brunt, with over 11,000 homes and businesses sustaining damage, totaling more than \$525 million in losses. The community is still grappling with the enduring repercussions of this catastrophic event.

In March 2020, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic sent shockwaves globally. Institutions, including One Place, swiftly closed their doors to the public, adapting to remote work to continue their vital services for children and families. However, the pandemic introduced a slew of challenges, amplifying existing stressors such as job loss, school closures, food insecurity, unaddressed health issues, and a sense of isolation due to reduced social and community interactions. Research indicates that such traumatic events can have enduring adverse effects on the healthy development of children (NC Child, 2020).

The confluence of these natural disasters and the pandemic underscores the resilience and adaptability of the community and the organizations serving it. Through innovation and unwavering dedication, efforts persist in ensuring that families receive essential support despite the challenges posed by these unprecedented events.

II. Education:

License Type	7/1/2017	7/1/2018	7/1/2019	7/1/2020	7/1/2021	7/1/2022
Temporary Home	0	1	1	0	0	1
Temporary Center	1	1	2	1	1	1
Provisional Home	1	0	0	0	0	0
Provisional Center	1	0	0	1	1	0
GS110	6	7	7	8	7	7
Center 1 star	1	1	1	1	1	1
Center 2 star	1	0	0	0	0	0
Center 3 star	5	7	6	7	5	5
Center 4 star	4	2	4	6	7	6
Center 5 star	28	27	27	25	25	26
Home 1 star	10	9	5	6	6	5
Home 2 star	2	2	1	0	0	0
Home 3 star	13	14	12	10	10	9
Home 4 star	7	6	6	4	4	2
Home 5 star	1	1	1	1	1	0
Total Licensed Child Care Programs- Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Homes	81	78	73	70	68	63

(Division of Child Development and Early Education, 2023)

Number of Staff						
Program Type	7/1/2017	7/1/2018	7/1/2019	7/1/2020	7/1/2021	7/1/2022
Family Child Care Home	36	34	27	21	21	17
Child Care Center	581	562	573	610	583	582
Total	617	596	600	631	604	599

(Division of Child Development and Early Education, 2023)

Children Served						
Program Type	7/1/2017	7/1/2018	7/1/2019	7/1/2020	7/1/2021	7/1/2022
Family Child Care Home	254	235	189	153	154	102
Child Care Center	3946	3286	3604	3514	3156	3138
Total	4200	3521	3793	3667	3310	3240

(Division of Child Development and Early Education, 2023)

Analysis of Child Care Programs, Staff, and Children Served Data

Child Care Programs: The data shows a decline in the total number of licensed child care programs from 81 in 2017 to 63 in 2022. There was a decrease across various license types, particularly in the number of home-based care programs, indicating a potential shift in the child care landscape or regulatory changes favoring center-based care.

- **License Types:** There's a shift from home-based to center-based care, evident from the decrease in family child care homes (from 36 to 17) and a relatively stable number of child care centers over the years. The decrease in family child care homes indicates challenges faced by home-based providers due to changing regulations.
- **Star Ratings:** There is a consistent number of 5-star centers, indicating a commitment to high-quality child care.

Child Care Staff: The number of child care staff shows a gradual decrease from 2017 to 2022.

- **Staff:** The number of staff in both family child care homes and child care centers has decreased, potentially indicating a shrinking workforce or changes in staff-to-child ratios.

Children Served: The data reveals fluctuations in the number of children served, with a decline from 2017 to 2022.

- **Children Served:** Both family child care homes and child care centers experienced a reduction in the number of children served. This decline could be due to various factors, including changes in demand, closures of child care programs, or economic factors affecting families' ability to access child care services.

Overall Implications: The data suggests a shifting landscape in the child care industry, with a decline in the number of programs, staff, and children served. This trend raises concerns about the accessibility and availability of child care services. Addressing these challenges is crucial to ensuring the availability of high-quality child care services, which play a vital role in early childhood development and parental workforce participation.

Academic Readiness

Onslow County Schools	
Elementary	22
Middle	8
High	8
Alternative Learning Center	1
Virtual School	1
Career Technical Education Center	1

In Onslow County, there are several key educational goals set by the state, and the county is working to meet these targets. The goals encompass various aspects, including preschool enrollment, academic achievement, graduation rates, attendance, and student-to-school counselor ratios. Onslow County faces challenges in preschool enrollment, academic

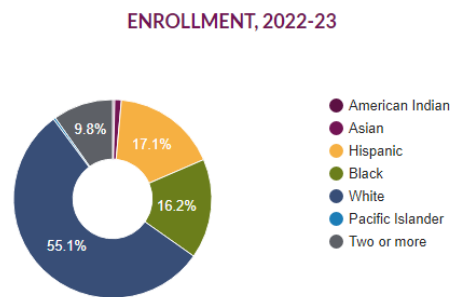
achievement, and attendance while showing positive progress in graduation rates. As of the 2021-22 school year, there were 33,686 students enrolled in K-12 education in Onslow County (2020 myFutureNC, 2023).

1. **Preschool Enrollment:** Onslow County needs to enroll 35% of eligible 4-year-olds in the NC Pre-K program to meet the state goal of 75%. Currently, there are 890 more enrollments needed. Access to early childhood education is crucial for a strong educational foundation, and efforts should be made to increase participation.
2. **Academic Achievement:** In terms of college-and-career-ready scores, Onslow County faces challenges. For reading, 27% of 3-8 graders meet the state goal of level 4 or 5, requiring 5,884 more students to achieve this. In math, 28% meet the goal, with 7,485 more students needed. Addressing curriculum effectiveness and providing additional support to students might improve these scores.
3. **Graduation Rates:** Onslow County is close to the state goal of 95% for 9th-grade graduation within four years, needing only 104 more students to meet this target. This indicates that the educational system in the county is effective in ensuring students graduate on time.
4. **Attendance:** Chronic absenteeism is a concern, with 25% of students being chronically absent. The county needs to reduce this number by 3,703 students to meet the state goal of 11%. Interventions addressing the reasons for absenteeism, such as community engagement and support services, could be beneficial.
5. **Student-to-School Counselor Ratio:** Onslow County has a higher student-to-school counselor ratio (478:1) compared to peer counties (336:1). A lower ratio allows counselors to provide more personalized support. Adequate counseling is crucial for students' mental health, academic success, and college/career planning. Efforts should be made to reduce this ratio.
6. **School Choice:** Onslow County has a diverse education landscape, with 80% of students enrolled in district schools. However, considering the variety of school choices (including home, private, and charter schools), it's important for the district to maintain high standards to compete effectively and retain students.

Onslow County Schools Enrollment, Expenditure, Class Size, and Graduation Rate:

Enrollment

Source: Statistical Profile, Pupil Information, Table 10

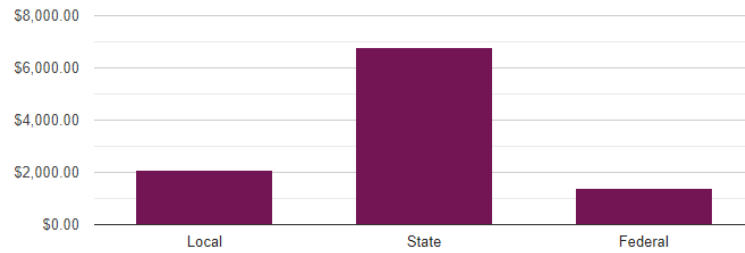


Total pupils in membership: 27,768

Expenditure

Source: Statistical Profile, Financial Information, Table 25

PER PUPIL EXPENDITURE, 2021-22

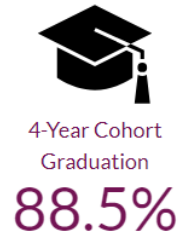


Local Rank: 68, State Rank: 112, Federal Rank: 99 out of 116 districts

Class Size and Graduation Rate

Source: North Carolina School Report Cards, North Carolina DPI Cohort Graduation Rates

Average Class Size, 2021-22

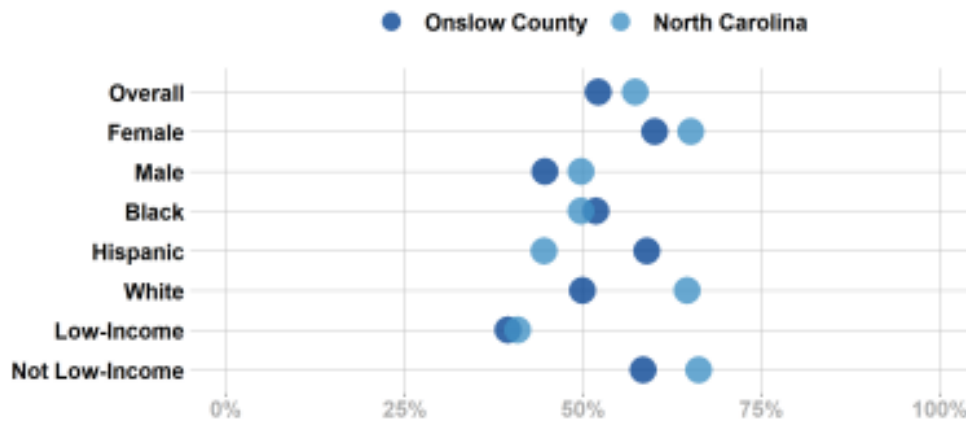


Four-year cohort graduation rate: 2017-18 entering 9th graders graduating in 2020-21 or earlier

(2023 EducationNC, 2023)

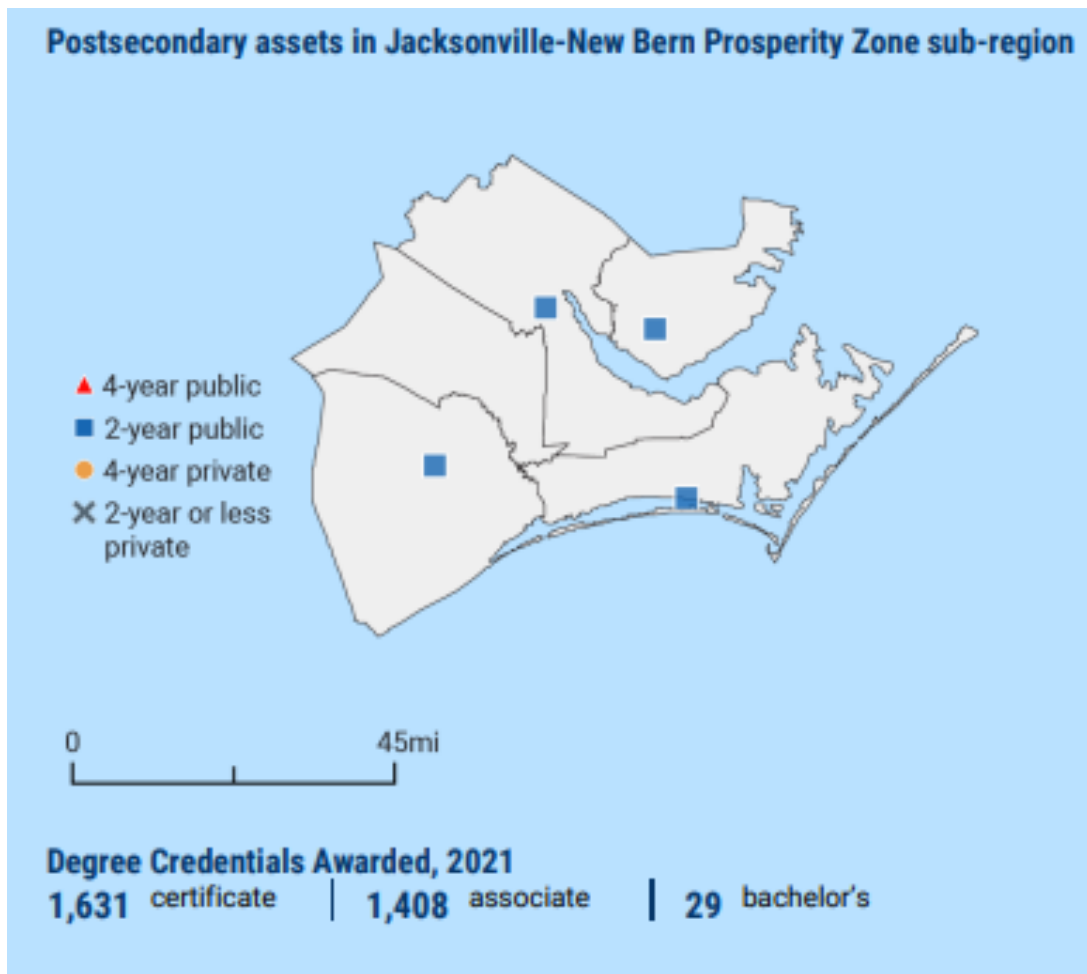
College Access and Post-Secondary Completion

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Onslow County, 2021



Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

(2020 myFutureNC, 2023)



(2020 myFutureNC, 2023)

The post-secondary educational landscape in Onslow County, as revealed by recent data, highlights several key challenges and opportunities. Onslow County can create a more supportive and conducive environment for its residents, fostering educational attainment and socio-economic progress.

Addressing these issues will not only enhance individual educational outcomes but also contribute significantly to the overall socio-economic development of the community.

1. **FAFSA Completion:** In 2022, only 50% of seniors in Onslow County completed the FAFSA, indicating a need for increased awareness and support regarding financial aid access. With 471 more completions required to meet the state goal of 80%, targeted outreach programs and workshops are essential to bridge this gap.
2. **Post-secondary Intentions and Enrollment:** While 68% of graduates expressed intentions to enroll in post-secondary education, the actual enrollment rate within 12 months (50%) is slightly lower compared to peer counties (55%).
3. **Parental Education Level:** A significant proportion (54%) of Onslow County students have parents without a college degree, which might impact students' access to information and resources about higher education.

4. **High School Graduates' Destinations:** The majority of college-goers attended in-state institutions (87%), highlighting the importance of strengthening local educational opportunities. However, the persistence rate to the second year (76%) and the rate of earning a degree or credential within 6 years (54%) are slightly lower than peer county averages (77% and 60%, respectively).
5. **Adult Learners and Student Debt:** With a significant number of residents enrolling in community college programs, managing student loan debt becomes crucial. Financial literacy programs are necessary to help individuals make informed decisions about student loans and prevent defaults, ensuring their successful educational journeys.
6. **Workforce Development and Youth Employment:** Workforce development programs in Onslow County have served a substantial number of individuals, emphasizing the community's commitment to enhancing employment opportunities. However, addressing the 10.6% of young adults not in school and not working requires targeted efforts, such as skill development programs and job placement initiatives, to engage these individuals positively.

Key Educational Growth Areas:

In the pursuit of enhancing future educational outcomes, Onslow County must focus on three significant opportunities for improvement (2020 myFutureNC, 2023):

- **NC Pre-K Enrollment:** A mere 35% of eligible 4-year-olds in Onslow County are enrolled in NC Pre-K programs, falling short of the suburban county average of 45%. Encouraging higher enrollment in these essential early education initiatives can significantly impact future academic achievements.
- **School Counselor Ratios:** Onslow County's student-to-school counselor ratio is notably higher at 478:1, surpassing the suburban county average of 336:1. Addressing this disparity by hiring more school counselors can ensure that students receive adequate guidance and support, promoting a conducive learning environment.
- **Adult Learner Engagement:** A significant 25% of Onslow County adults aged 25-44 have some college experience but no degree, a figure higher than the suburban county average of 17%. Initiatives aimed at re-engaging these adults in education and skill-building activities can enhance the county's workforce and overall educational landscape.

Children with Special Needs:

The provided data shows the number of students with different disability categories in Onslow County Schools over several years. There is a consistent increase in the total number of students with disabilities from 2012 to 2022. The numbers have risen from 2,908 in 2012 to 4,418 in 2022. This could be due to various factors, including better identification and diagnosis of disabilities, increased awareness, or changes in reporting methods.

Specific Disability Categories:

- **L.D. (Specific Learning Disability):** This category consistently has the highest number of students every year. It indicates a prevalent issue that needs focused attention and resources.

- **A.U. (Autism) and I.D. (Intellectual Disability) Categories:** These categories also show significant numbers, and there's a notable increase over the years. Autism, in particular, has seen a substantial rise in recent years.
- **Other Categories (H.I., O.I., SI, etc.):** While the numbers in these categories are lower compared to L.D. and Autism, they still represent a significant portion of the student population and need specific support.

Onslow County Children with Special Needs PK-12																	
Year	A.U	DB	DD	DF	ED	HI	IDMI	IDMO	IDSE	LD	MU	OH	OI	SI	TB	VI	Total
2012	197	0	225	9	121	44	138	49	10	1,137	27	547	8	363	12	21	2,908
2013	269	0	289	11	116	42	145	61	15	1,320	25	635	9	443	11	22	3,413
2011	196	0	225	9	121	44	138	48	10	1,137	25	547	8	363	12	21	2,904
2014	314	0	299	11	120	38	124	54	18	1,487	22	661	8	450	9	21	3,636
2019	502	0	254	12	141	39	112	66	14	1,558	39	902	9	439	13	17	4,117
2015	342	0	305	11	127	40	131	56	17	1,616	22	694	11	474	11	17	3,874
2017	423	0	230	13	144	37	124	62	19	1,580	33	759	7	441	12	11	3,895
2018	457	0	231	15	134	35	121	63	17	1,559	36	844	8	459	14	14	4,007
2020	561	0	282	13	137	40	109	65	17	1,547	44	939	9	431	18	12	4,224
2016	395	0	248	14	127	39	124	64	19	1,642	29	716	7	456	10	15	3,905
2021	559	0	271	12	114	32	97	58	14	1,515	46	954	8	432	16	12	4,140
2022	653	0	314	11	131	29	100	57	12	1,541	46	1,016	7	473	18	10	4,418

AU: Autism
D.B.: Deaf-Blindness
D.D.: Developmental Delay (used in early childhood education)
DF: Deafness
E.D.: Emotional Disturbance
HI: Hearing Impairment
IDMI: Intellectual Disability with a significant impairment in adaptive behavior
IDMO: Intellectual Disability with moderate impairment in adaptive behavior
IDSE: Intellectual Disability with specific learning disorder
L.D.: Specific Learning Disability
M.U.: Multiple Disabilities
OH: Other Health Impairment
O.I.: Orthopedic Impairment
SI: Speech or Language Impairment
T.B.: Traumatic Brain Injury
VI: Visual Impairment (including blindness)

(North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 2023)

Children Receiving Early Intervention Services (Birth to Three Years Old):

1. **CDSA Early Intervention Services in Onslow County (Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2021):**
 - In the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021, 241 children in Onslow County received Early Intervention services through the CDSA. This number increased from 130 in 2020, partly due to parents opting out of eligibility determination and services due to the challenges of conducting them face-to-face during the pandemic. The CDSA conducted all eligibility evaluations and services virtually during this period.
 - Additionally, there were 54 children from Onslow County with open referrals to Early Intervention through the CDSA as of June 30, 2021.
2. **Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) for Military Families:**
 - For military families residing on base, Educational and Developmental Intervention Services (EDIS) provided Part C Services.
 - Between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022, 152 children on military installations received Early Intervention services. During this period, 116 Individualized Family Service Plans (IFSPs) were developed for these children.
 - As of June 30, 2022, there were 25 children on military installations with open referrals to Early Intervention services.

This data indicates the ongoing efforts to provide essential Early Intervention services to children in Onslow County.

III. Healthcare:

Health Care Access: The data provided by the North Carolina Institute of Medicine offers valuable insights into the access to healthcare in Onslow County, North Carolina, compared to state (N.C.) and national averages.

1. **Uninsured Adults and Children:**
 - **Uninsured Adults:** In Onslow County, 16% of adults aged 18 to 64 lack health insurance, slightly higher than the state average of 13%.
 - **Uninsured Children:** Onslow County performs slightly better in insuring children, with a 5% uninsured rate, compared to the state's 4%.

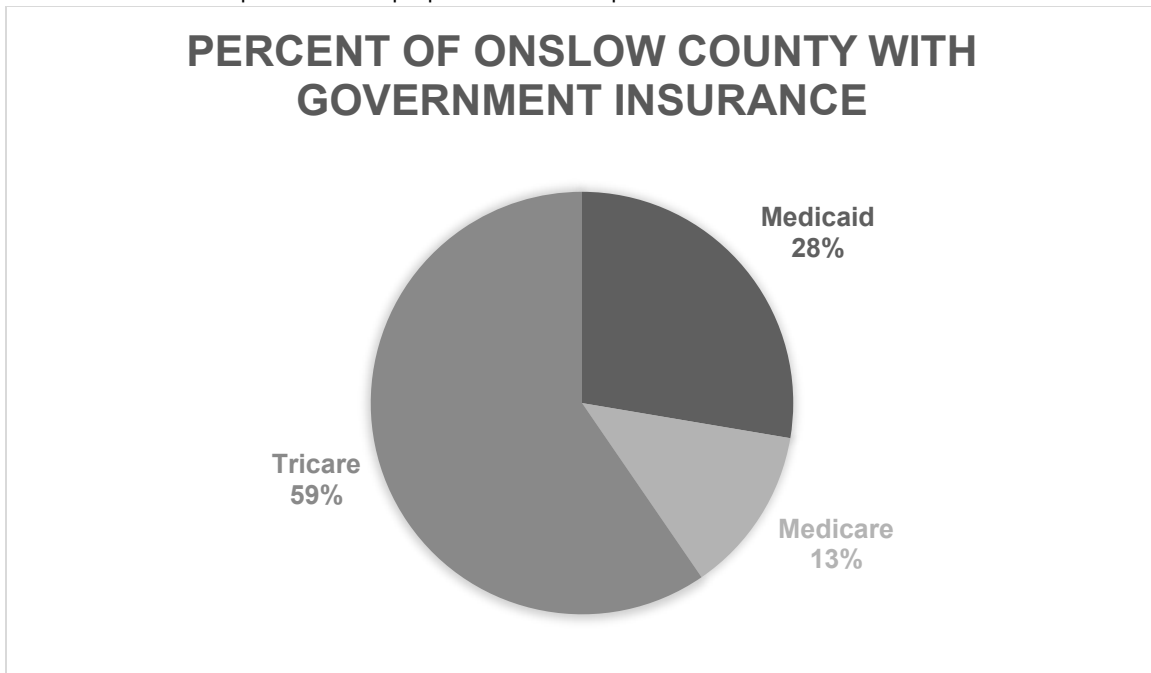
Analysis: Onslow County faces a challenge in ensuring health insurance coverage for its adult population.

2. **Medicaid & CHIP Enrollees:**
 - **Enrollment:** Approximately 25% of Onslow County's population is enrolled in Medicaid or CHIP, slightly higher than the state's 22%.

Analysis: While Medicaid and CHIP enrollment in Onslow County is higher than the state average, this suggests a significant portion of the population relies on government-sponsored healthcare programs.

3. **Health Care Workforce:**
 - **Primary Care Physicians:** Onslow County has 3 primary care physicians per 10,000 population, which is lower than the state average of 8.

- **Dentists:** The county has 4.8 dentists per 10,000 population, slightly lower than the state's 5.
- **Psychiatrists & Psychologists:** Onslow County has 2.6 mental health professionals per 10,000 people, while the state average is 3.6.
- **Birth Attendants:** The county has 9 OBGYNs, family medicine physicians, or CNMs per 10,000 population, compared to the state's 4.2.



Medicaid, Medicare, and Tricare are government-funded healthcare initiatives, each tailored to cater to distinct demographic groups. These programs are designed to provide essential medical support to older adults, individuals with disabilities, low-income individuals, as well as veterans, active duty military personnel, and their dependents.

Health and Wellness:

Onslow County has a relatively higher rate of physical activity among adults compared to the region; there are concerning rates of obesity among both adults and potentially adolescents. Additionally, the low consumption of fruits and vegetables highlights the need for targeted interventions to encourage healthier eating habits in the community.

- **Adult Obesity:** In 2018, 32.8% of adults in Onslow County had obesity, slightly higher than the state average of 27.8%. This suggests a significant portion of the adult population struggles with weight-related health issues.
- **Overweight and Obese Adolescents:** Data for overweight or obese adolescents was not available at the county level. However, considering the state's average of 30.7%, it implies a considerable portion of the adolescent population in Onslow County might also be dealing with weight issues.
- **Physical Activity:** In 2019, 45.2% of adults in Onslow County engaged in at least 150 minutes of physical activity per week. This rate is higher than the average of 41.3% in

Region 8, indicating that a significant portion of the adult population is physically active.

- **Fruit and Vegetable Consumption:** Only 14.8% of adults in Onslow County consumed fruits, vegetables, or beans five or more times per day in 2019. This number is slightly better than the regional average of 10.1%. It suggests there is room for improvement in promoting healthier dietary habits among adults in the county.

The trends and challenges outlined in the analysis below from NCIOM indicate the specific issues Onslow County faces regarding tobacco and substance use among adults and youth, unintentional poisoning deaths, opiate-related deaths, and opioid prescribing rates in the specified years. Onslow County faces substantial challenges in combating tobacco and substance use, especially among youth. Local interventions and policies in Onslow County should be targeted to address these specific concerns and challenges.

Adult Smoking:

- **2017 Smoking Rate:** 17.0%
 - Data sourced from CDC BRFSS data using a multilevel modeling approach.
 - Smoking prevalence is measured at the county level, considering factors like age, sex, race/ethnicity, poverty, and contextual effects.

Youth Tobacco Use:

- **2017 Youth Tobacco Use Rate:** 28.8% (East: 30.3%)
 - Data obtained from the N.C. Youth Tobacco Survey aggregated regionally (East et al.).
 - "Current use" refers to any tobacco product use in the past 30 days.

Unintentional Poisoning Deaths / Overdose Deaths:

- **2014-2018 Mortality Rate:** 18.5 per 100,000 population.
 - Deaths included are those where unintentional poisoning was the first listed cause of death.
 - Data collected from the N.C. Division of Public Health.

Opiate Poisoning Deaths:

- **2013-2017 Opiate Poisoning Death Rate:** 11.8 per 100,000 population (10.3 overall).
 - Covers deaths involving opium, heroin, other opioids, methadone, and/or synthetic opioids.
 - Data includes deaths with any mention of these drugs, even if multiple drugs were involved.

Opioid Prescribing Rate:

- **2018 Opioid Prescribing Rate:** 56.5 prescriptions per 100 persons.
 - Data sourced from IQVIA Xponent, based on retail pharmacy samples.
 - Prescription rates are calculated at the state, county, or national level and include both new and refill prescriptions dispensed at retail pharmacies.

Mental Health:

In 2017, Onslow County experienced a significant number of mental health and substance abuse-related emergency department visits, with a rate of 1902.3 per 100,000 population. This data suggests a substantial demand for emergency mental health services within the county, indicating a pressing need for accessible mental health resources and support systems.

The consistency in rates (1880.9 per 100,000 population) across the county emphasizes the widespread nature of mental health and substance abuse-related emergencies within Onslow County. This uniformity underscores the necessity for comprehensive strategies aimed at prevention, early intervention, and community-based mental health services to address the needs of individuals facing mental health and substance abuse challenges.

The data also highlights the critical role of emergency departments in Onslow County, serving as primary points of contact for individuals in mental health crises. Adequate training and resources for healthcare professionals in these emergency settings are essential to provide timely and effective care to those in need. Additionally, this data underscores the importance of collaborative efforts between healthcare providers, local authorities, and community organizations to enhance mental health services and support systems, ultimately improving the overall well-being of individuals in Onslow County.

Child and Maternal Health:

Teen Birth Rate:

- NC: 22 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19.
- Onslow County: 47.4 births per 1,000 females aged 15-19 (2014-2018).
- Analysis: Onslow County had a significantly higher teen birth rate compared to the state average, indicating potential challenges in teen reproductive health and the need for targeted interventions and education programs.

Low Birthweight:

- NC: 9.1% of babies born with birthweight <2,500 grams.
- Onslow County: 6.8% of babies born with low birth weight (2014-2018).
- Analysis: Onslow County exhibited a lower percentage of low birth weight babies compared to the state average. While this is positive, it's crucial to maintain efforts to ensure adequate prenatal care and support for expectant mothers to further improve these outcomes.

Infant Mortality Rate:

- NC: 7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (2015-2019).
- Onslow County: 5.5 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (2015-2019).
- Analysis: Onslow County had a lower infant mortality rate than the state average, indicating relatively better infant health outcomes. This suggests that healthcare services and prenatal care in the county are potentially more effective than the state average.

Racial Disparity in Infant Mortality Rate (White, non-Hispanic):

- NC: 5.3 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (2017).
- Onslow County: Data suppressed (Rates based on fewer than 10 cases).
- Analysis: The suppressed data for Onslow County suggests there were fewer than 10 cases in the category, making it challenging to draw conclusions. However, addressing racial disparities in healthcare outcomes remains critical statewide.

Racial Disparity in Infant Mortality Rate (African American, non-Hispanic):

- NC: 12.7 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (2017).
- Onslow County: 14.8 infant deaths per 1,000 live births (2017).
- Analysis: Onslow County had a higher infant mortality rate among African American, non-Hispanic infants compared to the state average. This highlights a specific area

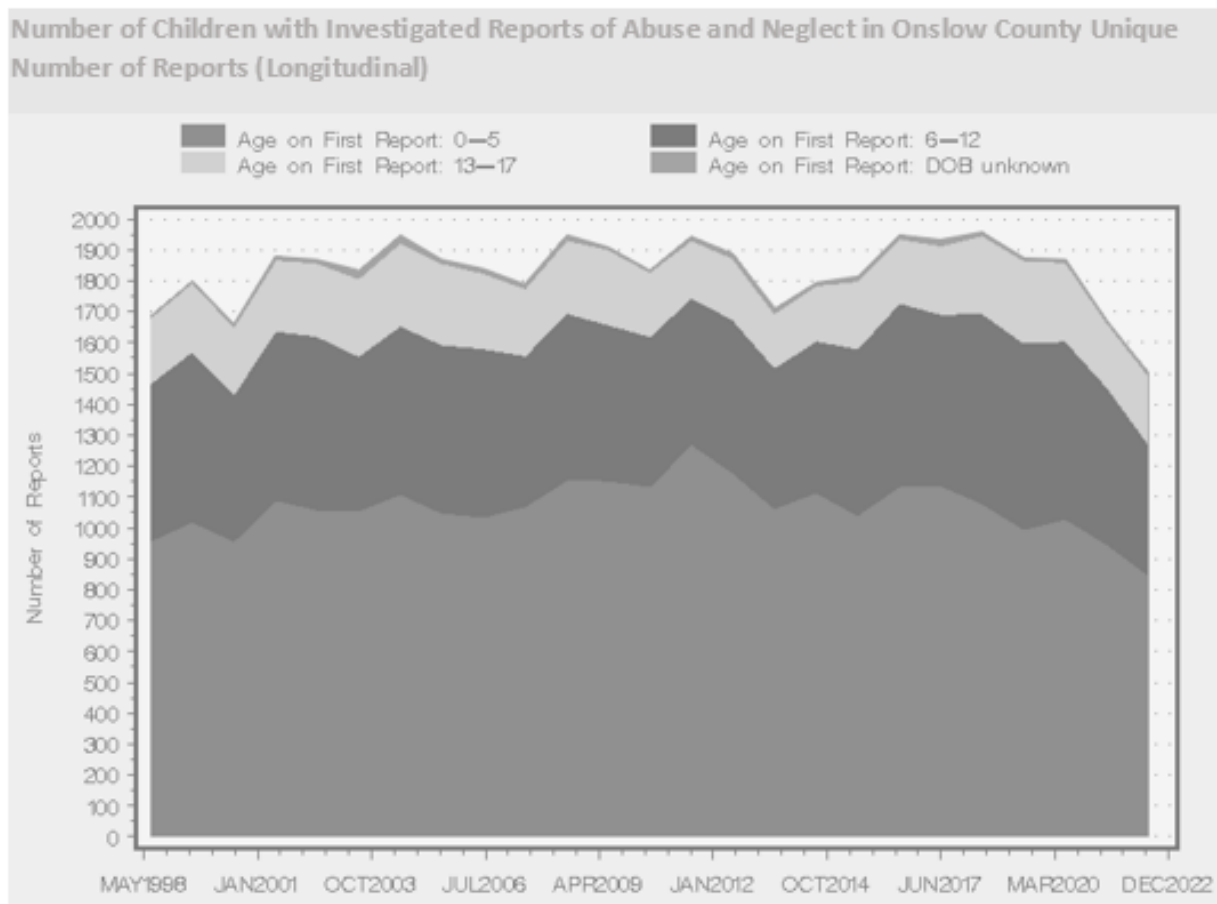
where targeted healthcare interventions and community support programs are essential to address disparities.

Vaccination Rates (6-Vaccine Series):

- NC: 73.60% of children aged 19-35 months received the combined 6-vaccine series vaccinations (2017).
- Onslow County: County-level data not available.
- Analysis: The lack of county-level vaccination data for Onslow County makes it challenging to assess local immunization rates. However, ensuring high vaccination rates is crucial for community immunity and preventing the spread of vaccine-preventable diseases, necessitating continued efforts to promote vaccination in the county.

IV. Social Services:

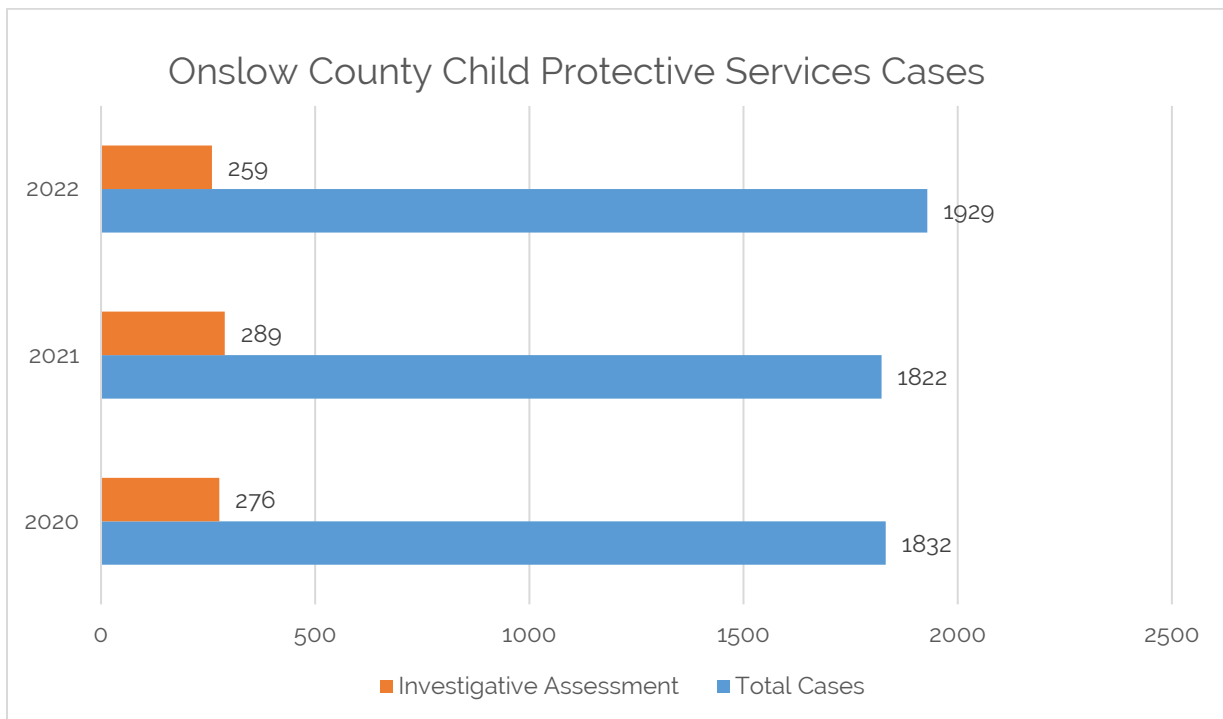
Child Welfare: The graph below presents a comprehensive overview of the Age on First Report data spanning from July 1998 to June 2022. The data is segmented into age groups (0-5, 6-12, 13-17, and DOB unknown), offering insights into the age dynamics of reported incidents over time. This historical perspective allows us to observe evolving patterns in reporting behaviors among different age brackets.



(University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families, 2023)

Key Observations:

1. **0-5 Age Group:** The data reveals a consistent decrease in incidents reported for children aged 0-5, reaching a low in recent years. This trend suggests improved preventive measures and early intervention strategies, resulting in a safer environment for young children.
2. **6-12 Age Group:** Reports for children aged 6-12 have demonstrated stability over the years. Although there are fluctuations, the numbers have remained relatively consistent, indicating a steady pattern of reporting within this age bracket.
3. **13-17 Age Group:** Incidents reported for teenagers (13-17 age group) have also shown a stable trend, with occasional fluctuations. The data emphasizes the importance of ongoing support and intervention programs tailored to adolescents.
4. **DOB Unknown:** Reports with unknown birthdates have consistently represented a minor portion of the total incidents, indicating robust record-keeping practices over the years.





The number of children served by the Child Advocacy Center (CAC) in Onslow County has varied over the years. In 2016, the CAC served 236 victims aged 0-17 years old. This number increased to 300 in 2017 but then decreased to 273 in 2018. The following year, in 2019, the CAC served 218 children. In 2020, the number rose again to 293, and in 2021, it further increased to 315. However, in 2022, the number of children served decreased to 243.

On the other hand, the data on Child Protective Services (CPS) cases in Onslow County shows the total number of cases investigated each year. In 2020, there were 1832 CPS cases, out of which 276 were subjected to investigative assessment. The total number of cases remained relatively stable in 2021, with 1822 cases, out of which 289 underwent investigative assessment. In 2022, the total number of CPS cases increased to 1929, with 259 cases undergoing investigative assessment.

These numbers reflect the fluctuating nature of child protection cases and the varying workload of agencies like the Child Advocacy Center and Child Protective Services in Onslow County over the years.

Law Enforcement Agency	2022-2023
Army Criminal Investigative Division	2
Criminal Investigative Division	5
Fayetteville Police Department	1
Federal Bureau of Investigation	2
Holly Ridge Police Department	0

Homeland Security	1
Jacksonville Police Department	31
Jones County Sheriff's Office	7
Leland Police Department	3
Maysville Police Department	0
Naval Criminal Investigative Service	27
North Topsail Beach Police Department	2
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	99
Pender County Sheriff's Office	3
Richlands Police Department	0
State Bureau of Investigation	0
Swansboro Police Department	1
Wayne County Sheriff's Office	1
Total	185

Primary Referral Source- Organization Name	Totals FY 2022-2023
Army Criminal Investigative Division	2
Criminal Investigative Division	8
Federal Bureau of Investigation	2
Jacksonville Police Department	14
Naval Criminal Investigative Service	26
North Topsail Beach Police Department	2
Onslow County Department of Social Services	123
Onslow County Sheriff's Office	65
Swansboro Police Department	1
Total	243

In the context of Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) partnerships at the One Place Child Advocacy Center, the data provided outlines the number of law enforcement agency investigations during the period 2022-2023. The data includes various agencies, with the Onslow County Sheriff's Office being the most actively involved, conducting 99 investigations. Other significant contributors include the Jacksonville Police Department (31 investigations), Naval Criminal Investigative Service (27 investigations), and Onslow County Department of Social Services (123 investigations).

1. **Onslow County Sheriff's Office:** The Onslow County Sheriff's Office stands out as the primary investigative agency, conducting a substantial number of investigations (99 cases). This indicates a strong commitment to child protection within the county and a robust partnership with One Place Child Advocacy Center.

2. **Collaboration with Military and Federal Agencies:** Military and federal agencies, including the Army Criminal Investigative Division, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Naval Criminal Investigative Service, are actively engaged in investigations. Their presence suggests collaborative efforts between local law enforcement and federal/military authorities, ensuring a comprehensive approach to cases involving military-affiliated children.
3. **Jacksonville Police Department:** The Jacksonville Police Department plays a significant role with 31 investigations, highlighting the importance of local law enforcement in child advocacy efforts. Their active involvement suggests a dedicated approach to cases within the city.
4. **Onslow County Department of Social Services:** The data indicates a substantial involvement of the Onslow County Department of Social Services, indicating an integrated approach where social services collaborate closely with law enforcement for child protection.
5. **Limited Involvement of Some Agencies:** Some agencies, such as the Holly Ridge Police Department, Maysville Police Department, and State Bureau of Investigation, show minimal or no involvement. This might indicate lower caseloads in their respective jurisdictions or a potential area for improvement in collaboration and communication within the MDT framework.

The data reflects a robust MDT partnership at One Place Child Advocacy Center, with active involvement from local, military, federal, and social services agencies. The concentration of investigations within specific agencies emphasizes the need for targeted collaboration and resource allocation, ensuring the most effective response to cases of child abuse and neglect. The data underscores the collective commitment of these agencies to child advocacy and protection in Onslow County.

One Place Child Advocacy Center Underserved Populations:

The Child Advocacy Center's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) comprises Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, Victim Advocacy, Prosecution, Mental Health, and Medical Professionals. The agency leaders form a Steering Committee meeting quarterly, addressing strategic planning, policy development, conflict resolution, and legal/ethical compliance. Members participate in case review monthly of higher-risk cases.

Our community's MDT promotes health equity for adolescent abuse victims by providing comprehensive medical exams by the only two local rostered and credentialed child abuse medical experts. Coalition members actively assist families in obtaining health insurance and referrals to primary care, bridging gaps in their long-term access. Licensed Mental Health Professionals trained in evidence-based modalities approved by the National Children Alliance, ensure that adolescent abuse victims receive mental health services through linkage agreements with community mental health providers and our one on-site CAC mental health provider. **All services are provided at no cost to the family.**

To best serve adolescent abuse victims, we honor the experiences and perspectives of all MDT members. We strive to create and maintain working and learning environments that are

inclusive, equitable, and welcoming. Our MDT participates in annual professional development as required Child Advocacy Center accreditation, including a day-long diversity, equity, and access retreat. These training topics help prioritize and raise awareness of best practices to facilitate diversity, equity, and access for adolescents and families served in the Child Advocacy Center. The activities are facilitated in collaboration with the Rotary District 7730 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion committee, ensuring a team of experienced trainers representing various races, genders, sexual orientations, and lived experiences. This particular training session is focused on a discussion of local demographics and identifying the top three underserved populations in our community to determine whether our coalition reflects the community we serve and create a plan to improve representation and the availability of services while making any accommodations necessary to address the needs of the identified groups.

Underserved Populations:

- **Hispanic**
- **LGBTQIA+**
- **Deaf**

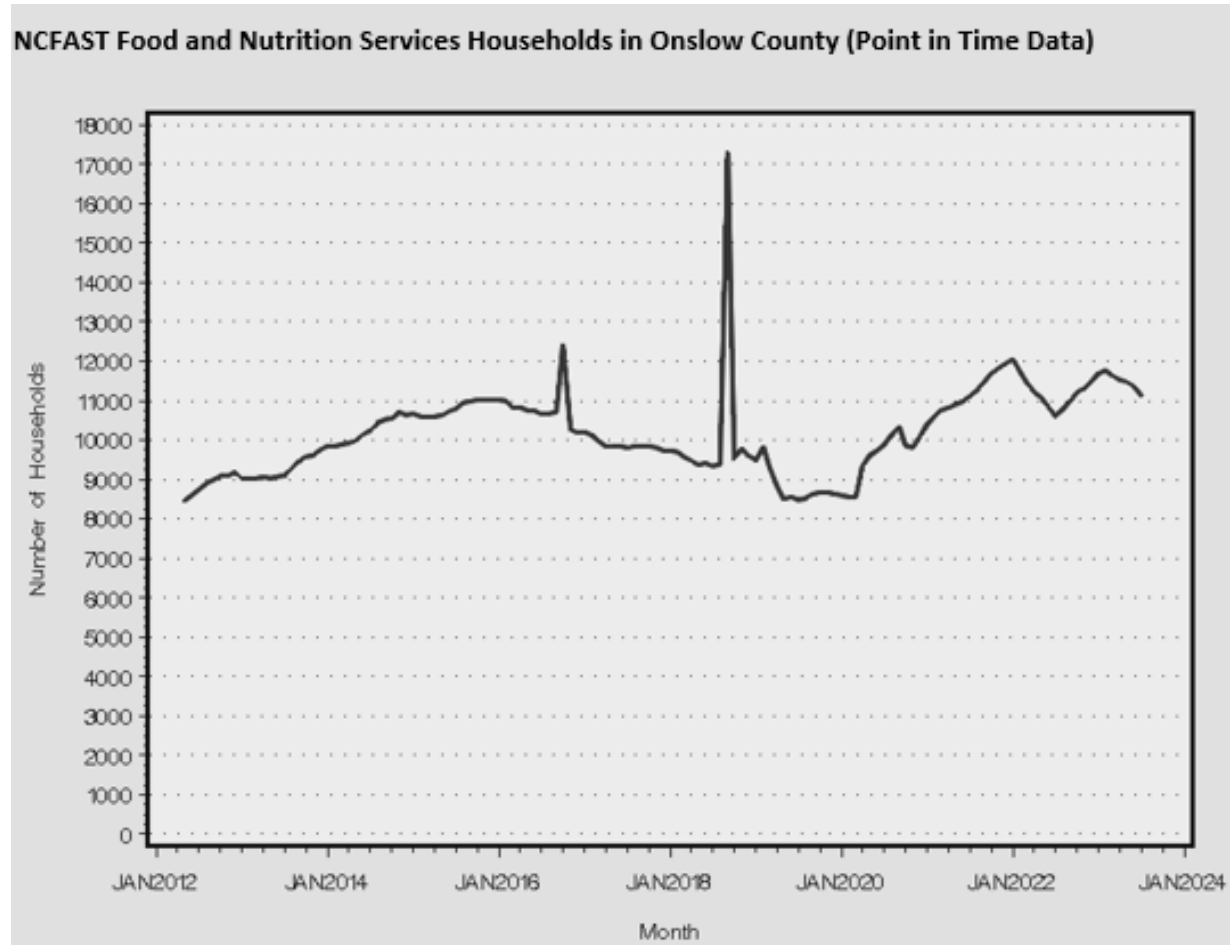
Plan to Improve Representation and Availability of Services:

- MDT Team members and CAC staff will create a system for sustainable and regular data collection on the identified underserved populations.
- MDT Team members and CAC staff will create a system for ongoing review and evaluation of data collected on the identified underserved populations.
- MDT Team members and CAC staff will complete Diversity, Equity & Access trainings specific to the identified underserved populations on an ongoing basis.
- MDT Team members and CAC staff will utilize community partnerships and relationships to invite the participation of community members who are reflective of the identified underserved populations.
- MDT Team members and CAC staff will utilize established community agencies and resources already in place that serve the identified underserved populations.

Food Insecurity:

Childhood hunger in Onslow County is rampant. Children in households that are food insecure account for 16.8% of our population (N.C. Child, 2023). Kids without adequate food over the weekend often suffer from stomachaches, the inability to focus, chronic absences, and frequent headaches. Long-term food insecurity can also result in behavioral problems, lower physical functions, and depressive disorders, especially in adolescents (2023 United Way of Onslow County, 2023). The United Way of Onslow County sponsors a program called Children Healthy Eating on Weekends (CHEW). This program assists children by providing backpacks filled with child-friendly, easy-to-prepare meals over the weekend. During the 2020-2021 school year, the CHEW! The program served 855 children each weekend at 34 Onslow County schools through the distribution of 23,961 bags, a total of 143,766 meals to food insecure children (2023 United Way of Onslow County, 2023).

Food and Nutrition Services: The graph below (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Jordan Institute for Families, 2023) provides a comprehensive view of households receiving Food and Nutrition Services, offering insights into the demographics of these households from February 2020 to July 2023. Understanding the composition of these households is vital for tailoring social support programs effectively.



Key Observations:

1. Stable Household Numbers:

- The number of households availing of Food and Nutrition Services remains relatively consistent, ranging from around 9,000 to 12,000 throughout the recorded period.

2. Demographic Composition:

- **Racial Diversity:** Caucasian households form the majority, followed by Black/African American households. There is also representation from other racial backgrounds and Hispanic households.
- **Gender Distribution:** The households show a balanced gender distribution, with both males and females being beneficiaries of the program.
- **Age Groups:** The households include individuals of various age groups, with notable representations from children between 5 and 17 years and individuals aged 65 and older.

Monthly Fluctuations:

1. Racial Diversity:

- The numbers of Caucasian and Black/African American households demonstrate consistent patterns, reflecting stable participation in the program.
- Race-Other and Hispanic Households: Fluctuations are noted, suggesting varying needs within these communities over time.

2. Gender and Age Groups:

- Gender Balance: Both males and females receive assistance consistently, indicating an equitable distribution of aid.
- Age Groups: While the number of individuals aged 65 and older remains relatively stable, fluctuations are observed among children and teenagers, possibly indicating varying family dynamics and economic conditions.

V. Recommendations:

- Strengthening early childhood education programs and increasing their accessibility.
- Collaborating with healthcare providers to improve healthcare access for children and families.
- Enhancing social services and support systems, addressing gaps in services.
- Promoting community engagement through outreach programs and events.

Conclusion: By conducting this comprehensive Community Needs Assessment focused on children and families, One Place can develop targeted strategies and initiatives to address the identified challenges. Collaboration between community stakeholders, local government, and nonprofit organizations will be vital to creating a supportive environment where children and families can thrive, ensuring a brighter future for the entire community.

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