



SMART START OF DAVIDSON COUNTY STATE OF THE COUNTY MAY 2009

DEMOGRAPHICS

In 2008, the numbers of **children ages 0-4** and **ages 0-17** in Davidson County decreased (from the prior reporting period) by 4% and 2%, respectively, as compared to small increases in these groups in the state. Review of census data on the **total population** from 2000 to 2005 showed a 62.5% increase in the county's **Hispanic** population and a 34% increase in the state. When the average rates for the 3-year period 2005-07 are compared to 2008 rates, the percent of Hispanics increased 11% in the county (6%) and 10.4% in NC (7.4%). The percentage of **African-Americans** in the county decreased 3% as compared to a 1.4% increase in the state; the Davidson County percentage (9.4%) is significantly lower than that of the state (21.6%).

Data indicate that the percentage of the **non-white population** in both Davidson County (17.4%) and NC (32.8%) increased by 45% and 17%, respectively. The percent of the **white population** in the county (82.6%) reflects a 6.1% decrease; the state's white population (67.2%) reflects a 4.6% decrease.

Table 1. Population Data

CATEGORY	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON			GAIN (LOSS)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA			GAIN (LOSS)
	1990	2004	2006	2008		1990	2004	2006	2008	
Child Population¹										
Ages 0-4	8,480	10,006	9,989	9,576	(4%)	469,147	577,896	582,254	622,644	1.7%
Ages 0-17	30,535	36,395	37,120	36,413	(2%)	1,615,683	2,069,515	2,119,135	2,216,438	1.2%
Total Population²										
Total Population	2000	2005	05-07	2008		2000	2005	05-07	2008	
Total Population	147,246	153,361	154,922	158,166	2%	8,049,313	8,661,263	8,869,861	9,222,414	3.9%
African-American	9.1%	9.3%	9.7%	9.4%	(3%)	21.6%	21.0%	21.3%	21.6%	1.4%
Hispanic	3.2%	5.2%	5.4%	6%	11%	4.7%	6.3%	6.7%	7.4%	10.4%
White	87.1%	86.8%	88%	82.6%	(6.1%)	72.1%	71.4%	70.5%	67.2%	(4.6%)
Non-White			12%	17.4%	45%			28%	32.8%	17%

ECONOMIC STABILITY

Following the steep upward trend in the **unemployment rate** in the country, both Davidson County and NC experienced significant increases -- approximately 35% -- in unemployment, with both being above the national rate as of July 2009. The county unemployment rate as of December 2008 was 10% and increased to 13.4% as of July 2009. These rates were higher than in NC, where the unemployment rate was 8.1% as of December 2008 and 11% in July 2009.

Between 2007 and 2008, the **median household income** in Davidson County increased by 1.5%, a smaller increase than in the state, which saw a 4.2% increase. The county median household income in 2008 remained below that of the state and, in fact, the gap between the county and state widened. The county **average weekly wage** between 2007 and 2008 increased

¹ 2008 estimates from North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management: (NC OSBM) at http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/demog/statesingleage_2000_2009.html; prior years' data from Kids Count Data Center at <http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliiks.cgi>

² From NC OSBM at http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data and US Census Bureau at www.factfinder.census.gov

approximately 2%; the average county wage (\$595) was significantly lower than that of the state (\$793).

The percentage of **children in poverty** in the county decreased 7.9% between 2007 and 2008, but remained above 2001 and 2004 levels. Despite this decrease, the percentage of children in poverty in the county (21%) remained higher than in the state (19.9%).

Table 2. Economic Indicators

CATEGORY	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON			GAIN (Loss)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA			GAIN (Loss)
	2000	2005	2007	2008		2000	2005	2007	2008	
Income & Employment	2000	2005	2007	2008		2000	2005	2007	2008	
Median Household Income ³	38,640	39,680	43,321	43,997	1.5%	39,184	40,729	44,670	46,549	4.2%
	2003	2006	12/08	5/09		2003	2006	12/08	05/09	
Unemployment rate ⁴	7.5	5.8	10.0	13.4	34%	6.1	4.5	8.1	11.0	36%
	2003	2007	2008			2007	2008			
Average weekly wage ⁵	\$503	\$584	\$595		2%		\$778	\$793		1.9%
Poverty Indicators⁶	2000	05-07	2007	2008		2000	05-07	2007	2008	
Families below poverty level	7%	9.6%	13.9%	12.4%	10.7%	9.0%	11.7%	10.6%	10.9%	2.8%
Individuals below poverty level	10.1%	12.9%	15.9%	15.1%	(5%)	12.3%	14.8%	14.3%	14.6%	2%
	2001	2004	2007	2008		2001	2004	2007	2008	
Children in poverty	15%	19%	22.8%	21%	(7.9%)	16%	19%	19.5%	19.9%	2%
	2001	2005				2001	2005			
Percent of Children (0-5) Enrolled in Regulated Child Care Receiving Subsidies	52%	40%			(23%)	40%	36%			(10%)
	2001	2005	2007			2001	2005	2007		
Children receiving F/RL			38%			40%	48%	54.8%		14%
	2000	2005	2007			2000	2005	2007		
Children receiving Work First	2%	1.3%	1.2%		(7.6%)	4%	2.7%	2.1%		(22%)

³ U.S. Census Bureau at www.factfinder.census.gov

⁴ <http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/servlet/SurveyOutputServlet;jsessionid=a230ccfaef58521e324c;http://data.bls.gov/PDQ/outside.jsp?survey=la>

⁵ <http://www.nccommerce.com>; <https://edis.commerce.state.nc.us/>

⁶ www.factfinder.census.gov/; www.kidscount.org

These trends raise the following issues for consideration:

- 1) Are increases in child poverty linked to increases in the Hispanic population? How has child poverty been affected by the 2008-2009 economic crisis? How have the “working poor” been affected by the 2008-2009 economic crisis?
- 2) Are increases in child poverty segregated to certain areas of the county, and if so, which areas?
- 3) Have “safety net” resources grown at the same pace as need?

HEALTH

Medicaid participation rates in 2004, the last year for which data are available, were comparable between Davidson County (31%) and North Carolina (33%). These rates reflected increases from the rates in 2000. **Health Choice** rates for the county and the state were the same in 2004, when the county rate increased 8.3% in 2007 at the same time the state rate decreased 10%. In 2007, the county rate (6.5%) was higher than for the state (5.4%).

Since 2005, the **infant mortality rate** in Davidson County has increased while decreasing in North Carolina. As compared to the 5-year average rate for 2003-07, the 1-year 2007 rate increased 8% in the county (9.4%) and 1% in the state (8.5%). In 2007 the county infant mortality rate among minorities (25.9%) was more than three times that of Caucasians (7.1%); this reflects a 40% *increase* in the county rate as compared to a 3% decrease in the state. At the same time, there was a 4% decrease among Caucasians in the county. In addition, the county rate among minorities was significantly higher in the county (25.9%) than in the state (13.9%) while the rates among Caucasians were comparable between the county (7.1%) and state (6.3%).

In 2007, as compared to the 5-year averages for 2003-07, there was no real change in the overall percentage of babies born with **low birth weight**. The county minority population had a 6% increase while there was a 2% increase in NC. In the county, low birth weight overall and for each of the demographic groups were slightly higher but still comparable to NC. There was a 24% increase in the rate of **mothers who smoked** among the county’s minority population, while all other groups at both the state and county levels experienced a decrease. The largest decrease, 9%, was seen among Caucasians at the state level.

Table 3. Public Health Coverage and Birth Outcomes

CATEGORY	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON					GAIN (LOSS)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA					GAIN (LOSS)
	2000	2004					2000	2004						
Participation in Medicaid ⁷	26.3%	31%				18%	28%	33%				18%		
	2000	2004	2007				2000	2004	2007					
Enrollment in Health Choice		6%	6.5%			8.3%	4%	6%	5.4%			(10%)		
Vital Statistics⁸	2000	2004	2005	03-07 avg	2007		2000	2004	2005	03-07 avg	2007			
Infant mortality (infant deaths under one year)	10.6	7.4	7.3	8.7	9.4	8%	8.6	8.8	9	8.4	8.5	1%		
• Caucasian	10.4	6	7	7.4	7.1	(4%)	6.3	6.2	6	6.2	6.3	1.6%		
• Minority ⁹				18.5	25.9	40%				14.4	13.9	(3%)		
• African American ¹⁰	12.5	19	9.9	19.6		57%	14.4	15.6	14.9	15.7		9%		
	2000	2004	2005	03-07 avg	2007		2000	2004	2005	03-07 avg	2007			
Low Birth Weight	8.6	9	10	9.6	9.6	0%	8.8	9.1	9.2	9.1	9.2	1%		
• Caucasian	8	8.4	9.7	9.1	8.9	(2%)	7.1	7.4	7.6	7.4	7.5	1%		
• Minority				13.4	14.2	6%				13.5	13.8	2%		
• African American	12.9	13.7	12.4			(9.5%)	13	13.4	13.7			2%		
Mother Smoked	22.4	17.4	19.8	19.0	18.6	(2%)	14	12.5	12.1	11.9	11.0	(7.5%)		
• Caucasian	23.1	17.9	20.4	19.6	18.7	(4.5%)	15.1	13.2	12.6	12.5	11.4	(9%)		
• Minority				14.6	18.1	24%				10.4	10.1	(2.8%)		
• African American	16.7	12.8	14.4			13%	11.1	10.7	10.6			(1%)		

Between 2005 and 2007 the county experienced an *increase* in births to teens, which may be driven by increases in teen births to non-Caucasians (and despite a decrease in birth rate from 2004 to 2005). In addition, the percentage of low-income children in the county who were overweight in 2007 increased significantly (47%), representing a much greater increase than at the state level.

⁷ http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/clkis.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=NC&areaid=2

⁸ <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/vitalstats/volume1/2007/davidson.html>;
<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/vitalstats/volume1/2007/nc.html>

⁹ For 2007, the minority category includes African-American.

¹⁰ Compares 2000 rate to the 2003-07 average rate since no 2007 data found for African-Americans.

Table 4. Teen Birth Rates, Prenatal Care and Health Care Providers

CATEGORY	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON			GAIN (LOSS)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA			GAIN (LOSS)
	2000	2004	2005	2007		2000	2004	2005	2007	
Teen Birth Rates										
Births to teens ages 15-17 ¹¹	33	25.9	22.8	26.9	18%	33.8	26.8	26.7	26.6	(<1%)
Total births 15-17			66	83	26%			4,519	4,755	5%
• Caucasian birth rate	30.6	24.2	22.9	23.6	3%	27.1	21.9	21.6	22.4	4%
Total births			57	62	9%			2,476	2,700	9%
• African-American birth rate	46.8	36.5	22.7		(38%)	47.6	37.3	37.4		<1%
Total births			9					2,043		
• Minority birth rate				45.3					35.1	
Total Births				21					2,075	
Prenatal Care	1990	2000	2004			1990	2002	2004	2007	
Births with inadequate prenatal care ¹²			3%			5.6%	2.9%	3%	3.2%	7%
Weight	2002	2004	2005	2007			2004	2005	2007	
Percentage of low-income children who are overweight (ages 2-18)	12.4%	13%	11%	16.2%	47%		17%	17%	17.3%	2%
Health Care Providers¹³		2002	2005	2006				2005	2006	
Percentage of XIX Eligibles Receiving Dental Services Ages 0-5			21%	18.8%	(10%)			28%	23.8%	(15%)
		2002	2005	2007				2005	2007	
Population: physician ratio		1,249	1,286	1,251	(3%)				480	
Population: RN ratio		213	222	212	(4.5%)				107	
Population: dentist ratio		5,397	5,715	5,585	(2%)				2,313	

¹¹ <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2005/> and <http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/pregnancies/2007/>; minority includes African-American for 2007 data

¹² http://www.aecf.org/cgi-bin/cliks.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=NC&areaid=2

¹³ 2007 - <http://www.shepscenter.unc.edu/hp/prof07.htm>

EDUCATION AND EARLY CARE

For the 2007-2008 school year, overall **education proficiency in 3rd- and 8th-grade reading and math** in Davidson County exceeded that of the state. This has been the trend since 2003-2004 and continued until 2005-2006 when the county fell behind the state in math proficiency. For the following school year, 2006-2007, county proficiency levels again exceeded those of the state and continued this trend through 2007-2008. At the same time, in both the county and state, reading scores have significantly decreased by an average of 34%; math scores have increased between 1% and 7%.

Davidson County's rate of duplicated **drop outs for 7-12 grade** students continued to be above the state average for 2007-2008, as was the **dropout rate for 9-12 grade** students. The percentage of adults age 25 and older with high school diplomas and/or Bachelors degrees remained below the state averages. However, the gap between the percentages of high school graduates at the county and state levels narrowed from 10.4 percentage points in 2000 to 5.1 in 2005-2007. Davidson County SAT scores in 2008 increased from the previous year and exceeded the state average¹⁴.

¹⁴ As of 2005, the total possible score on the SAT is 2400. The national average score for 2009 **college-bound seniors** was 1,509.

Table 5. EOG Scores, Drop Out Rates and Graduation Rates

CATEGORY	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON					GAIN (Loss)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA					GAIN (Loss)
	03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08		03-04	04-05	05-06	06-07	07-08			
EOG proficiency, reading, 3 rd 15	87.5%	87.7%	84.8%	85.1%	60.6%	(29%)	82.2%	82.3%	83%	82%	54.5%	(34%)		
EOG proficiency, math, 3 rd	92.6%	90%	71.3%	74.9%	80.1%	7%	88%	85.1%	86%	71%	73.2%	3%		
EOG proficiency, reading, 8 th	91.1%	92.1%	90.9%	91.7%	59%	(36%)	87.8%	87.9%	89%	88%	54.2%	(38%)		
EOG proficiency, math, 8 th	88.6%	88%	61.6%	70.1%	70.7%	<1%	84.3%	84.0%	85%	65%	68.2%	5%		
Annual dropout rate ¹⁶ (7-12 grade)	3.18	3.45	4.13	4.19	4.18	(<1%)	3.29	3.23	3.46	3.63	3.42	(6%)		
(9-12 grade)	4.52	4.86	5.79	5.85	5.96	2%	4.86	4.74	5.04	5.27	4.97	(6%)		
		2000	2005	05-07				2000	2005	05-07				
Population age 25 or older: HS graduates ¹⁷		72.0%	76.3%	77.1%		1%		82.4%	84.2%	82.2%		(2.3%)		
Population age 25 or older: Bachelors degrees		12.8%	13.8%	14.4%		4%		24.4%	27.2%	25.0%		(8%)		
		2003	2006	2007	2008			2003	2006	2007	2008			
Average SAT Score ¹⁸		997	1489	1464	1493	2%		1001	1493	1486	1489	<1%		

Between October 2005 and January 2007, a significant increase had been made in the percentage of 5-star centers and homes in Davidson County. This trend continued through July 2009 with a 25% increase in the percentage of 5-star facilities. At the same time, however, the number of 3-star facilities decreased by a significant amount (68%) while the number of 2-star facilities

¹⁵ <http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/reporting/leaperformancearchive/>

¹⁶ [http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schoolimprovement/effective/dropout/;](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/schoolimprovement/effective/dropout/)

<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/docs/research/dropout/reports/2008/712countsrates.pdf>

¹⁷ http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/ADPTable?_bm=y&-geo_id=04000US37&-qr_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_DP3YR2&-ds_name=ACS_2007_3YR_G00_&-_lang=en&-redoLog=false&-sse=on

¹⁸ <http://www.dpi.state.nc.us/docs/newsroom/news/2008-09/0826/sat-performance.pdf>

increased dramatically (325%). This is most likely due to changes in North Carolina star rating procedure which became fully effective as of January 2008. These changes mandated a shift in star rating to focus on education and program quality (and not, as in the past, compliance with laws for operating a child care facility. These laws still are in effect, but they are not included in the calculation of star rating.) While many sites have improved program quality, Davidson County is actively working to improve overall provider education.

County trends were similar in many respects to those of the state, which also saw a 25% increase in 5-star facilities, an even more dramatic increase in 2-star facilities (550%), and a significant decline, though less than the county, in the percentage of 3-star facilities. While the state experienced a decrease in 4-star facilities, the county made modest gains.

Table 6. Star-Rated Child Care Providers

CATEGORY ¹⁹	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON				GAIN (LOSS)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA				GAIN (LOSS)
	6/2004	10/2005	1/2007	7/2009 ²⁰		6/2004	10/2005	1/2007	7/2009 ²¹			
Number 1 star child care centers/homes	28%	22%	17%	17%	0%	28%	22%	20%	18%	(10%)		
Number 2 star child care centers/homes	2%	3%	4%	17%	325%	2%	1%	2%	13%	550%		
Number 3 star child care centers/homes	38%	40%	37%	12%	(68%)	36%	37%	34%	20%	(41%)		
Number 4 star child care centers/homes	20%	21%	26%	27%	4%	23%	28%	28%	22%	(21%)		
Number 5 star child care centers/homes	13%	14%	16%	20%	25%	10%	12%	16%	20%	25%		

¹⁹ 2004-2007; www.smartstart-nc.org; SmartNet

²⁰ 2009 - Includes classifications of Child Care Centers and Family CC Homes rated 1-5 stars only; data represents 92% (110) of sites in Davidson County (119); remaining sites hold GS 110 or temporary licenses; percentages based on total number of sites in Davidson County (119); <http://ncchildcaresearch.dhhs.state.nc.us/search.asp>

²¹ 2009 - Includes classifications of Child Care Centers (4,955) and Family CC Homes (3,765) rated 1-5 stars only; data represents 93% (8,080) of sites in North Carolina (8,752); remaining sites hold GS 110 or temporary licenses; percentages based on total number sites in NC (8752); <http://ncchildcaresearch.dhhs.state.nc.us/search.asp>

FAMILY STABILITY

Between 2005-06 and 2007-08 the number of **reported cases of abuse and neglect** increased in Davidson County by 1% while increasing 8% in the state. During 2007-08, 87% of reported cases in the county were substantiated, representing a 2% increase from 2005-06; in NC 79% of reported cases were substantiated, a 34% increase. The percentage of reported cases involving children ages birth to 5 years increased 3% in Davidson County (54%) and 2% in NC (51%).

In 2007-08 the percent of cases of **substantiated abuse or in need of services** in Davidson County was 10% of total substantiated cases as compared to 12% in NC. These percentages reflect decreases of 33% for the county and 20% for the state. The percentage of these cases in the county (10%) was lower than in the state (12%), while having been 15% for both in 2005-06. In Davidson County, 1.2% of substantiated cases were abuse related and 8% resulted in the need for family services. This compares favorably to the state, where 2% were abuse related and 10% were in need of family services. These percentages reflect decreases for both the county and the state; however, county percentage decreases (70% abuse related; 27% needing services) were significantly higher than decreases for the state (50% abuse related; 9% needing services). The percentage of substantiated cases resulting in the recommendation of family services was 8% in Davidson County, a 48% *decrease*, and 10% in NC, a 4% *increase*.

Table 7. Child Abuse Statistics

CATEGORY	BASE YEAR	DAVIDSON			GAIN (LOSS)	BASE YEAR	NORTH CAROLINA			GAIN (LOSS)
	98-99	04-05	05-06	07-08		98-99	04-05	05-06	07-08	
Abuse/Neglect Reports ²²	98-99	04-05	05-06	07-08		98-99	04-05	05-06	07-08	
Total cases reported	1,355	963	1,040	1,053	1%	61,132	65,083	64,673	69,921	8%
Children ages 0-5 as a percentage of reported cases	48%	50%	56%	54%	3%	48%	49%	50%	51%	2%
Percent of investigative findings substantiated	24%	75%	85%	87%	2%	25%	55%	59%	79%	34%
Substantiated Cases ²³	98-99	04-05	05-06	07-08		98-99	04-05	05-06	07-08	
Percent of children with substantiated abuse or in need of services ²⁴	2.4%	20%	15%	10%	(33%)	10%	14%	15%	12%	(20%)
Percent related to abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)	10%	5%	4%	1.2%	(70%)	10%	4%	4%	2%	(50%)
Family services needed	0	15%	11%	8%	(27%)	0	9%	11%	10%	(9%)
Family services recommended	0	29%	33%	17%	(48%)	0	21%	23%	24%	4%

Issues for consideration and reflection with regard to family support include:

1. Outreach and education regarding abuse and neglect, especially with regard to a growing Hispanic population. The cultural sensitivity of service providers must be considered here.

²² Percentages are based on the total number of reported cases; www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/stats/cr.htm

²³ Percentages are based on the total number of substantiated cases; www.dhhs.state.nc.us/dss/stats/cr.htm

²⁴ Due to the way data are reported, both state and county percentages may include some duplication of abuse cases and those in need of services.