



North Carolina Early Childhood Data

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Overview

1. **NC Early Childhood Action Plan**
2. **NC Early Childhood Action Plan and Data**
3. **Early Childhood Data Initiatives**
4. **North Carolina Early Childhood Integrated Data System (NC ECIDS)**

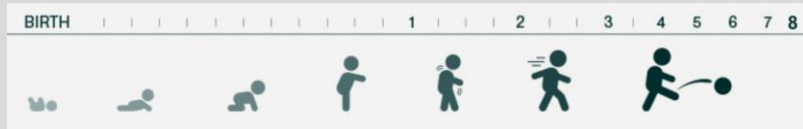




North Carolina Early Childhood Action Plan

How we are defining “Early Childhood”

**Birth – 8 Years-Old
(typically through third
grade)**



Age Range



*Health, Child Welfare, and
Early Education*



Our Vision for NC's Children

All North Carolina children
will get a healthy start
and develop to their full
potential in safe and
nurturing families, schools
and communities.

Our Guiding Principles



Children and families are at the center of our work.



Brain and developmental science are fundamental.



Alleviate inequity to ensure that all of North Carolina's children can reach their fullest potential.



Build upon existing strengths and partnerships in early childhood systems.



Set bold priorities and achievable goals for North Carolina's young children.



Track progress toward all goals, ensuring transparency, accountability, and good stewardship of resources.

Early Childhood Action Plan Structure

Each goal features:

- Commitment
- 2025 Target(s)
- Sub – Targets

Each category features:

- Strategies

Online data dashboard and county reports





1. HEALTHY BABIES

Babies across North Carolina from all backgrounds will have a healthy start in their first year of life.

- NC has the 11th highest infant mortality rate in the country.
- The African American infant mortality rate in NC is over twice as high as the white infant mortality rate.

2025 Target

Decrease the statewide infant mortality disparity ratio from 2.5 to 1.92, according to data provided by the State Center for Health Statistics

Sub-Targets

Percent of babies born at a low birth weight

Percent of young women with a preventive health visit in last year

Percent of infants who are ever breastfed

Percent of mothers indicating their pregnancy was intended

Percent of families living at or below 200% of the federal poverty level

A photograph of a teacher, a woman wearing glasses and a patterned headscarf, sitting on the floor and reading from a red book to a group of young children. The children are sitting around her, looking at the book with interest. The setting appears to be a classroom or a play area with colorful decorations on the walls.

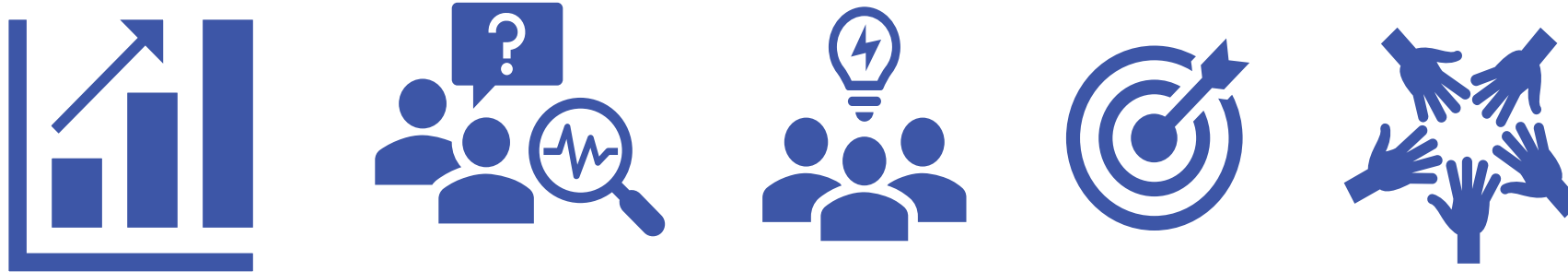
Data in the Early Childhood Action Plan

Early Childhood Action Plan & Data



- Data-informed framework
- Data on over 50 measures
- Tracking progress toward 2025 goals
- Speak the same language about state priorities to better align data systems, collection and ongoing access

Making data actionable

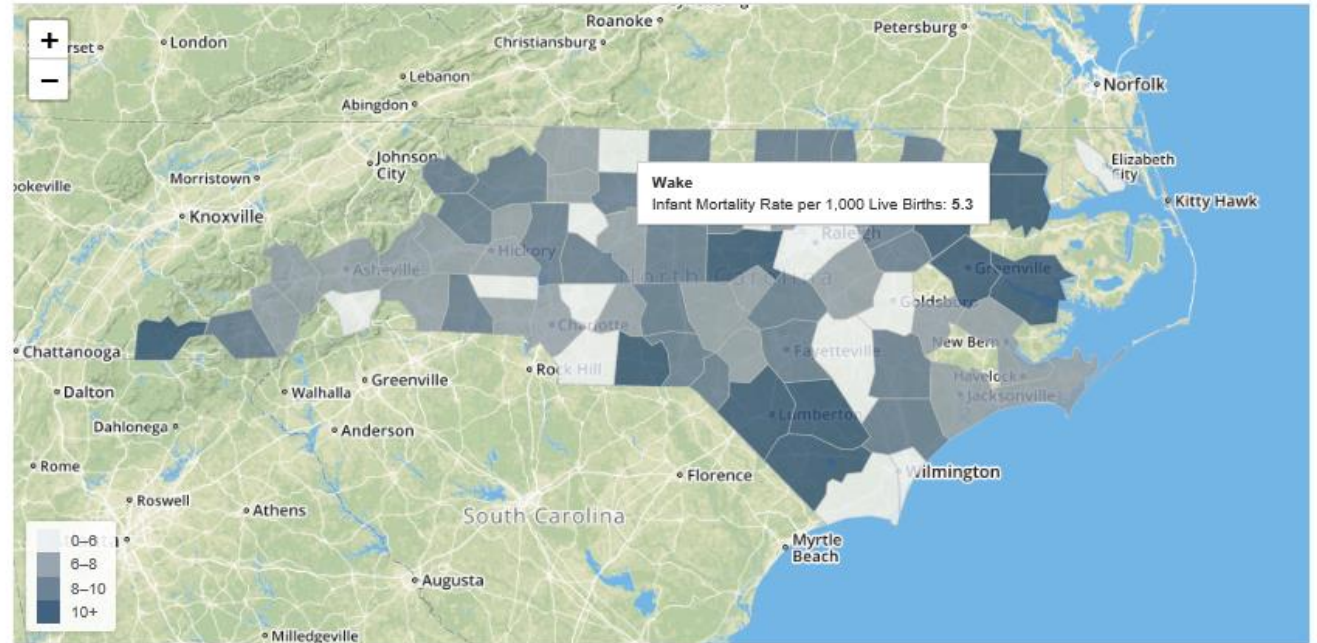


- Informing state programs, investments, and policies
- Tracking data through public-facing data dashboards through 2025
- County level reports for local planning and implementation
- Supporting advocacy work

Early Childhood Action Plan: Statewide Data Dashboard

- Data on over 50 measures
- Interactive
- 2020 updates in progress
- Open to the public
- Visit ncdhhs.gov/early-childhood

Infant Mortality Rates in North Carolina by County, 5-year Estimates 2013-2017



Data Source: State Center for Health Statistics (SCHS), Division of Public Health (DPH), NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)

*Technical note: The above scale represents infant mortality rates, calculated as the number of infant (under 1 year of age) deaths divided by the total number of live births during the same time period. Rates are shown in infant deaths per 1,000 live births. Unshaded counties are those that had infant mortality rates based on small numbers (fewer than 10 deaths) and were therefore considered unstable.

A young boy with dark hair, wearing a blue and white plaid button-down shirt, is pointing his right index finger upwards. He has a joyful expression with a wide smile and eyes looking slightly to the right. The background is a dark, textured wooden wall. The text is overlaid in white, sans-serif font, centered on the image.

It's an exciting time for early
childhood data in North
Carolina! What's next?

Early Childhood Data Webpage

- With so many great initiatives, they needed one-stop shopping

NCDHHS

Search All DHHS Websites

NC.GOV AGENCIES JOBS SERVICES

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NCDHHS > About > Department Initiatives > Early Childhood

Early Childhood

Early Childhood Action Plan
Developing a bold vision for better outcomes for NC's children.
[Read the Plan](#)

Healthy Safe and Nurtured Learning and Ready to Succeed

Early Childhood Action Plan
A bold vision for NC's children.

Early Childhood Data
The data driving our goals.

NC Early Childhood Summit
Supporting young children and their families.

Take Action
Make a commitment to NC kids.

Early Childhood
Why it matters.

News
The latest on efforts to improve outcomes for NC kids.

B-3 Interagency Council
Birth through Third Grade Interagency Council, jointly led by NCDHHS and NCDPI.

North Carolina children deserve the chance to grow, thrive, and succeed, starting in early childhood. Today, too many of our state's children face difficult challenges, some beginning as early as infancy.

Early Childhood Data Webpage: Visit ncdhhs.gov/early-childhood

NCDHHS Search All DHHS Websites... [NC.GOV](#) [AGENCIES](#) [JOBS](#) [SERVICES](#)

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Early Childhood Data

We have a bold vision for changing outcomes for young children in North Carolina. To reach that vision, we know that quantitative data helps to make visible what can often be hard to explain. How can we measure and show growth in children’s health, safety, wellbeing, and early learning? See the resources below that are helping us tell the story of young children from birth through age eight across the state, and inform how we can take action for kids and families in North Carolina.

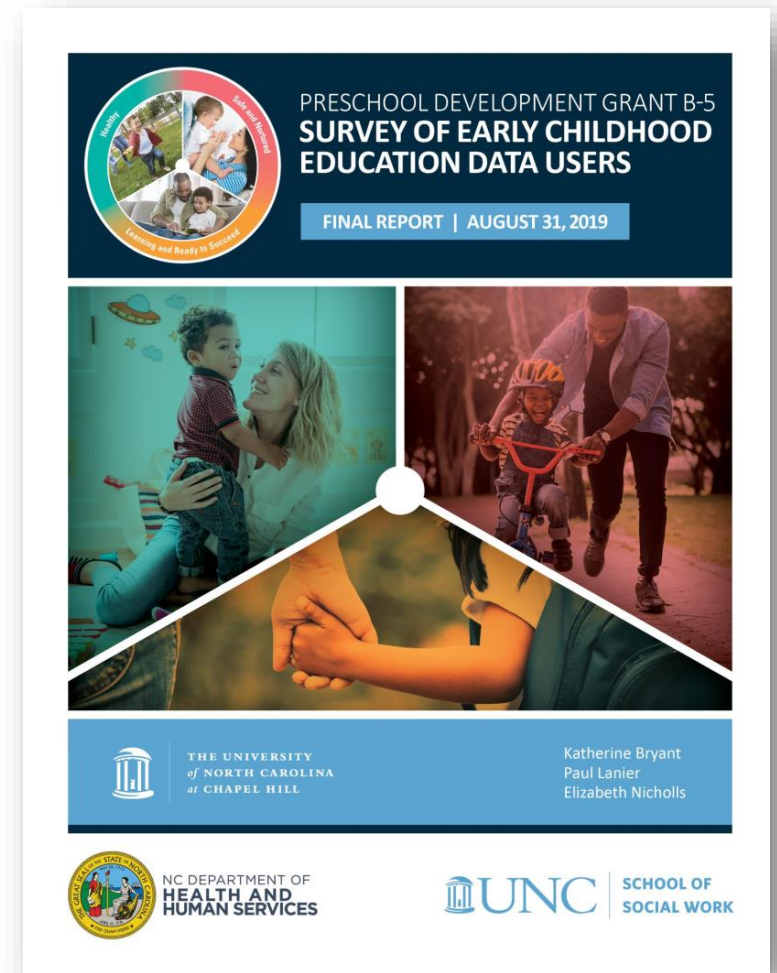
- [Early Childhood Action Plan Data Dashboards](#)
- [Early Childhood Action Plan County Data Reports](#)
- [Early Childhood Action Plan Data Appendix](#)
- [NC Early Childhood Integrated Data System](#)
- [NC Early Childhood Data Advisory Council](#)
- [Survey of Early Childhood Data Users by UNC – Chapel Hill School of Social Work, Jordan Institute for Families](#)

Early Childhood

- [Early Childhood Action Plan](#)
- Early Childhood Data**
- [Early Childhood Action Plan County Data Reports](#)
- [Early Childhood Data Dashboard](#)
- [Early Childhood News](#)
- [Early Childhood, Why It Matters](#)
- [NC Early Childhood Summit](#)
- [Take Action for NC Kids](#)

Recent Report by UNC – CH on Early Childhood Data Users

- **Funded through federal Preschool Development Grant**
 - **Aligned to B – 3 Interagency Council Recommendation**
 - **Survey drafted, piloted, and fielded in May 2019**
 - **Distributed widely via email lists, social media, and fliers at in-person events**
 - **Hundreds of responses**
 - **Recommendation Four: Data transparency at the state level. Provide accessible and timely information to improve access to state administrative data.**
-
- **Read the full report: <http://bit.ly/2qA8m8l>**



Early Childhood Action Plan County Level Data Reports

- Requests from counties for easier access to the data prioritized in the plan at the local level
- Desire to use county level data for:
 - Strategic planning
 - Peer county comparisons
 - Meeting existing data requirements for other local assessments
- Expressed desire to have data available in an easily accessible, printer-friendly report format
- Went live in November



Early Childhood Data Advisory Council

- Led by the NC Early Childhood Foundation, with support from the Duke Endowment
- Improve quality and scope of early childhood data, and advocate for and facilitate better data sharing
- Provide guidance, feedback, and support to ground the state's early childhood work in data and research
- Build partnerships with other existing data groups
- Create strategies to prioritize where to start to fill current gaps in early childhood data collection

Education Longitudinal Data System

- State system that will link student and workforce data from all levels of education + the state's workforce system
- “System of systems”
- Facilitate and enable the exchange of student data among agencies and institutions
- Generate timely and accurate information about student performance to improve systems and guide decision-making





NC★ECIDS

North Carolina Early Childhood
Integrated Data System

What is NC ECIDS?

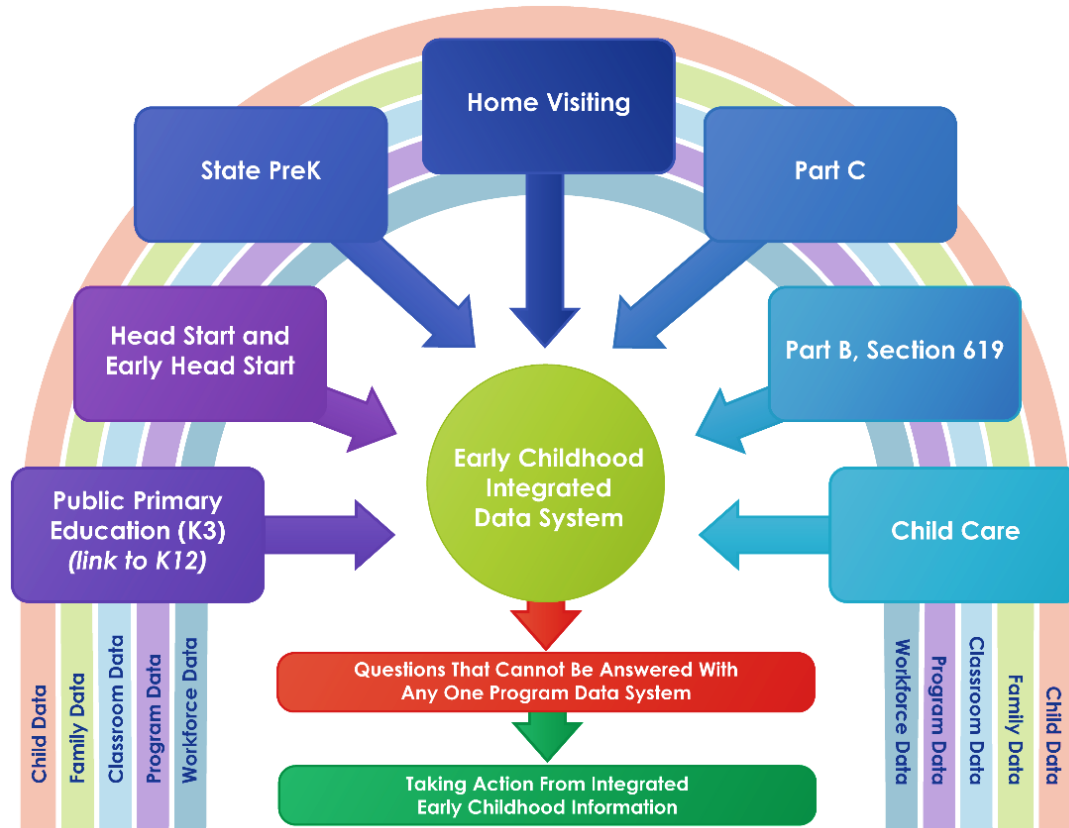
NC ECIDS is the single source for integrated early childhood data for selected education, health, and social services programs to help answer key policy and program questions.



NC★ECIDS

North Carolina Early Childhood
Integrated Data System

What Is an Early Childhood Integrated Data System?



Source: Statewide Longitudinal Data Systems Grant Program

- Many states across the country have an ECIDS – NCECIDS is known as one of the strongest systems across the US
- Collects, integrates, maintains, stores, and reports information from early childhood programs
- Crosses multiple agencies within a state that serve children and families from birth to age 8
- Includes data on the individual child, the child's family, the classroom, the program/providers, and other services that provide comprehensive care and education for young children

(Information sourced from: What is an ECIDS, NCES 2014)

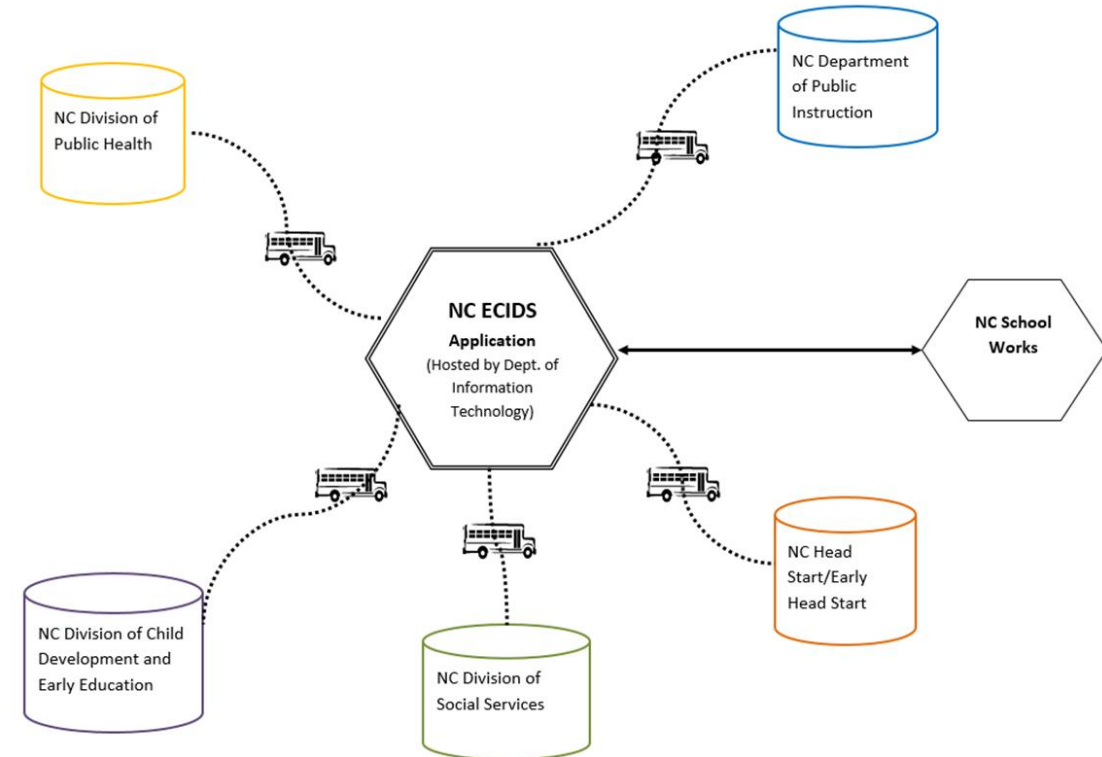
What is NCECIDS designed to do?

- Integrate early childhood data across programs in North Carolina
- Create distinct, unduplicated counts of which children are being served and where
- Link data to answer difficult questions (e.g., Part C and Part B)
- Users, particularly researchers, are able to request data to answer key policy and program questions, provided they clear the request process



Key Participating Agencies

- **NCDHHS**
 - NC Division of Child Development and Early Education (DCDEE) **NC Pre-K, Subsidized child care**
 - NC Division of Public Health (DPH) **Early Intervention Infant Toddler Program - IDEA Part C**
 - NC Division of Social Services (DSS) **Food & Nutrition Services, Child Protective Services**
- **NC Department of Public Instruction (DPI)**
 - Office of Early Learning **Preschool Exceptional Children Program - IDEA Part B (619)**
- **NC Head Start/Early Head Start State Collaboration Office**
- **Technology management provider: NC Department of Information Technology**



Governance Council Structure



**Executive
Committee**

- Secretary of NCDHHS or Designee
- Superintendent of NCDPI or Designee
- Division Directors, NCDHHS
- Director of OEL, NCDPI
- NC SchoolWorks leadership, NCDPI
- Director, Head Start State Collaboration Office
- Early Childhood Policy Advisor, Office of Governor
- Deputy Secretary for Technology, NCDHHS
- Chief Data Officers
- Director, GDAC
- Assistant Director of Analytics, GDAC

**Research
Stakeholders**

**Program
Management
Committee**

- Program Managers
- Program IT/Data staff
- Systems Analysts/Data staff, NCDIT/GDAC

Governance Council Responsibilities



**Executive
Committee**

Executive Committee responsible for:

- Setting compliance and data privacy policies and standards
- Recommendations and approvals for current and future data use, analyses, and reporting
- Key decision-making on data access, use, and sharing
- Approving, signing, and revising (as needed) the Agency MOA
- Ensuring that decisions are aligned with the best interests of their organization

**Research
Stakeholders**



**Program
Management
Committee**

Program Management Committee responsible for:

- Selecting and approving data elements
- Recommendations around privacy and confidentiality of records
- Coordinating submission of data and approval of data requests
- Promoting responsible use of data to make informed data policy decisions
- Reviewing and recommending issues to be resolved by the Executive Committee

NC ECIDS Web Portal • www.ecids.nc.gov



Log In

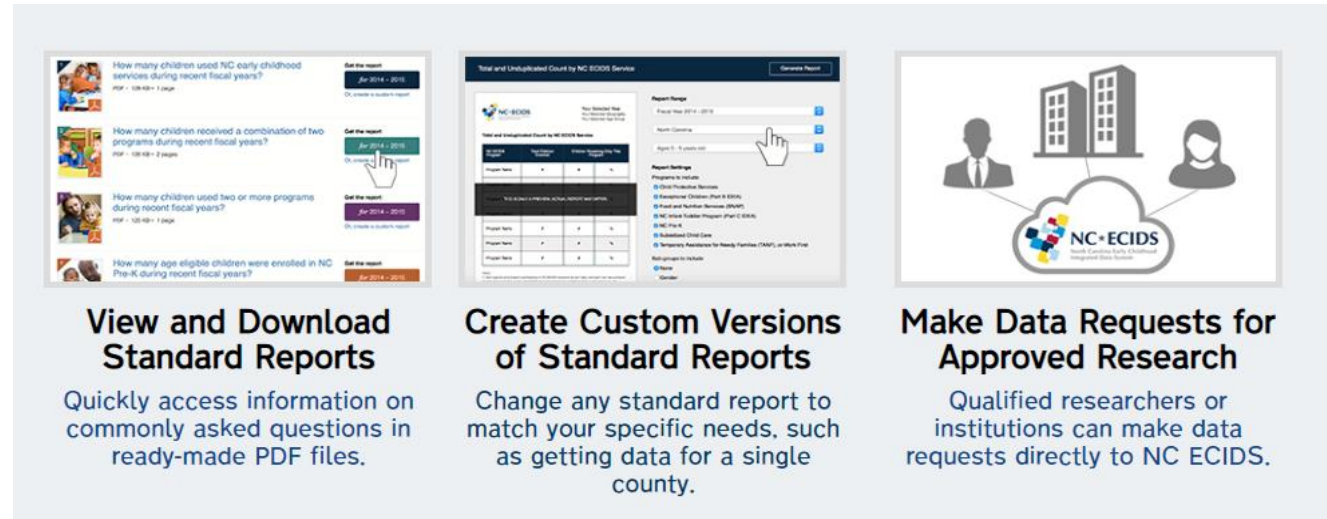
Your source for North
Carolina early childhood
reports and data.



Pop-up blockers must be disabled to access reports.

Intended Users and Uses

- All Users (general public, participating state agencies, policymakers, researchers)
 - Standard Reports
 - Query/Customizable Reports
- Internal and External Researchers
 - Dedicated data request portal for individual research and program requests



View and Download Standard Reports
Quickly access information on commonly asked questions in ready-made PDF files.

Create Custom Versions of Standard Reports
Change any standard report to match your specific needs, such as getting data for a single county.

Make Data Requests for Approved Research
Qualified researchers or institutions can make data requests directly to NC ECIDS.

Current Reports

- Total and unduplicated number of children using services
- Children receiving multiple services
- Customizable reports available by county, age, race/ethnicity, gender



How many children used NC early childhood services during recent fiscal years?

PDF • 325KB • 1 page



How many children received a combination of two programs during recent fiscal years?

PDF • 416KB • 2 pages



How many children used two or more programs during recent fiscal years?

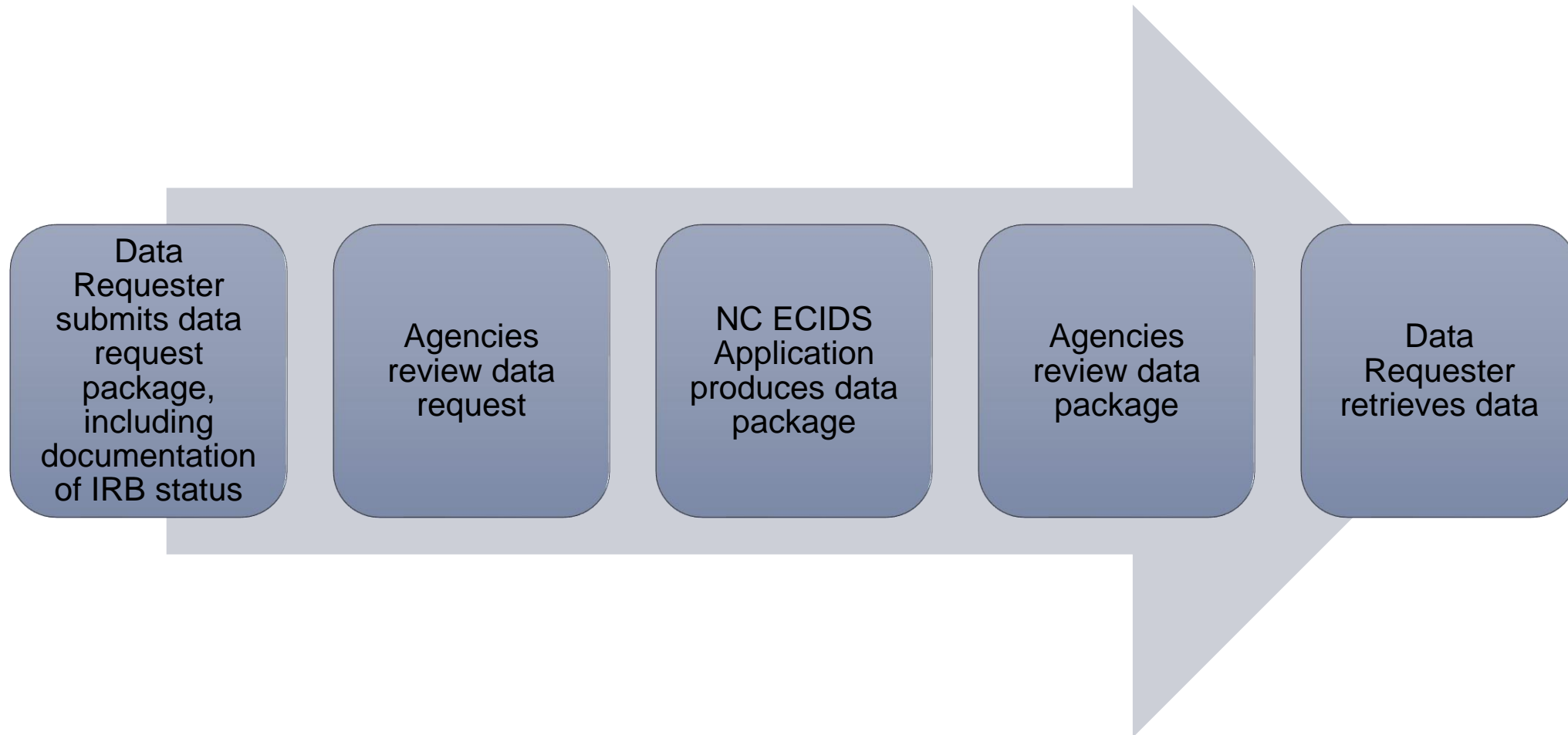
PDF • 584KB • 1 page



How many NC Pre-K age eligible children are receiving NC ECIDS Services?

PDF • 293KB • 1 page

Research Data Request Process



Research Data Request Application Package

- Data Use Profile/Proposal (DUPP)
 - Profile Section: Information about the applicant
 - Proposal/Research Request Section
 - Description and purpose of project
 - How it will improve education, health, & well-being of children in NC
 - How it addresses at least one of NC ECIDS key questions
 - Research questions and methodology
 - Why Standard and/or Query Reports will not meet their need
 - Names of any other research staff to work with data

Research Data Request Application Package

- IRB Status – Required to provide evidence of their IRB review.
- Research Confidentiality Agreement – All researchers on project must sign.
- Data Use Agreement - Official agreement between requester & NC ECIDS that covers the use, security, disclosure, and reporting of data requested in the specific Data Request.
- Research Data Elements- Data elements selected by the Data Requester.

Improvement Goals for NC ECIDS

- Better align NC ECIDS data and reporting to support priority early childhood efforts
- Expand data sources to provide more actionable information that supports the work of a diverse range of data users
- Improve and expand technology and tools available to ensure NC ECIDS is accessible and provides the best support for a diverse range of early childhood data users
- Participate in the Education Longitudinal Data System to provide more comprehensive, actionable information

Current and Future State of NC ECIDS

Strengths

- Only state source of unduplicated counts of children served by early childhood programs
- Cross-sector data
- Strong data governance structure
- One of few systems of its kind in the nation

Challenges

- Need for more efficient data access and updated reporting
- Need for consistently updated data
- Need for linkage between early childhood and later education outcomes data to provide program and policy insights

Work In Progress

- Transitioning system to SAS technology to improve data access and reporting
- Working with programs contributing data to ensure data is up-to-date
- NCDHHS, NCDPI and GDAC collaborating to develop linked data reports
- Participating in ELDS

Contact Information

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