



Changes and Trends over Ten Years in the Child Welfare Caseload in North Carolina

April 2013

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April 2013



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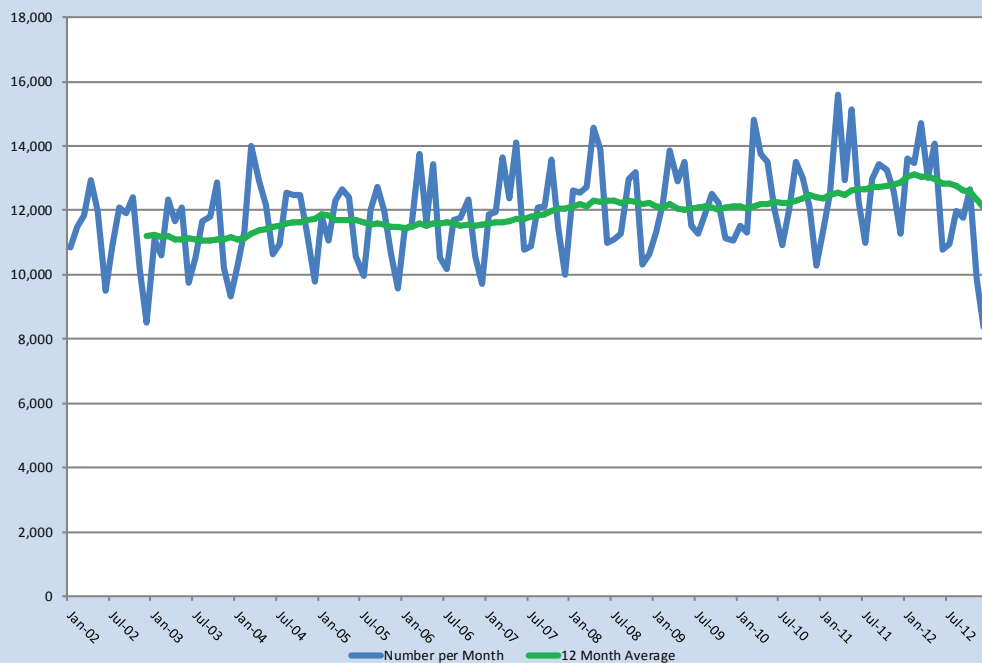
This report explores changes and trends in the child welfare caseload in North Carolina. This analysis is based on data extracted from the Services Information System (SIS) in early April 2013. These extracts are used to construct and maintain a longitudinal file that tracks the experiences of children and youth who have been involved with the child welfare system in North Carolina. The analysis explores changes in the number of children reported as victims of maltreatment, the number of those reports which are substantiated, and the number of children entering foster care. Long-term trends are also discussed.

Figure One illustrates the changes in the number of reports of maltreatment¹ over time (specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table One). As the figure indicates, the number of reports of maltreatment received monthly has increased slightly over time and is illustrated

Figure



The Number of Children Reported as Victims of Maltreatment Over Time



¹ The reports of maltreatment tracked in Figures One through Five of this report do not provide a unique count of children per year. There are a number of instances in which a child may be counted more than once in the analyses for this report. For example, a child may have more than one report investigated within a calendar year. Also, there are some instances where two separate investigations—as indicated by date of case decision on the DSS-5104 form—about an individual child are concluded within the same calendar month. However, instances where there are separate allegations of maltreatment for an individual child—as indicated by the form identification number—with the same case decision date are collapsed into a single report. Also, state policies require that when a report of maltreatment is received, all children living in the home must be assessed as a possible victim of maltreatment. As a result, the number of children reported as victims of maltreatment could fluctuate based upon the sizes of families involved, even as the number of reports remains steady.

by the twelve month average trend line. In 2002, the monthly number of children reported was more than 11,000 and rose to about 11,800 at the end of 2004. The monthly number of reports settled around 11,500 in 2005 and 2006 before rising above 12,000 beginning in 2007 to 2010. The monthly number of reports continued to increase throughout 2011 and reached 13,000 reports in early 2012. The monthly number of reports declined slightly to just under 13,000 reports in the latter part of 2012. In March 2011, the monthly number of reports reached its highest point in the past ten years at 15,605 children. The monthly numbers of reports for November and December 2012 will likely increase as data are updated over time.

Figure One also indicates that there is variation from month to month in the number of children reported. That variation is further illustrated in **Figure Two** which shows the pattern of the number of reports received each month by year from January 2008 through December 2012. As the figure indicates, the number of reports received generally peaks in March or May, then falls in June and July before beginning a slight rise through October. The number of reports then declines through December. The patterns for 2011 and 2012 appear to follow those of prior years; however, the peaks for reports for January and February in 2012 were higher than other years. Reports for November and December 2012 will likely rise as data are updated over time.

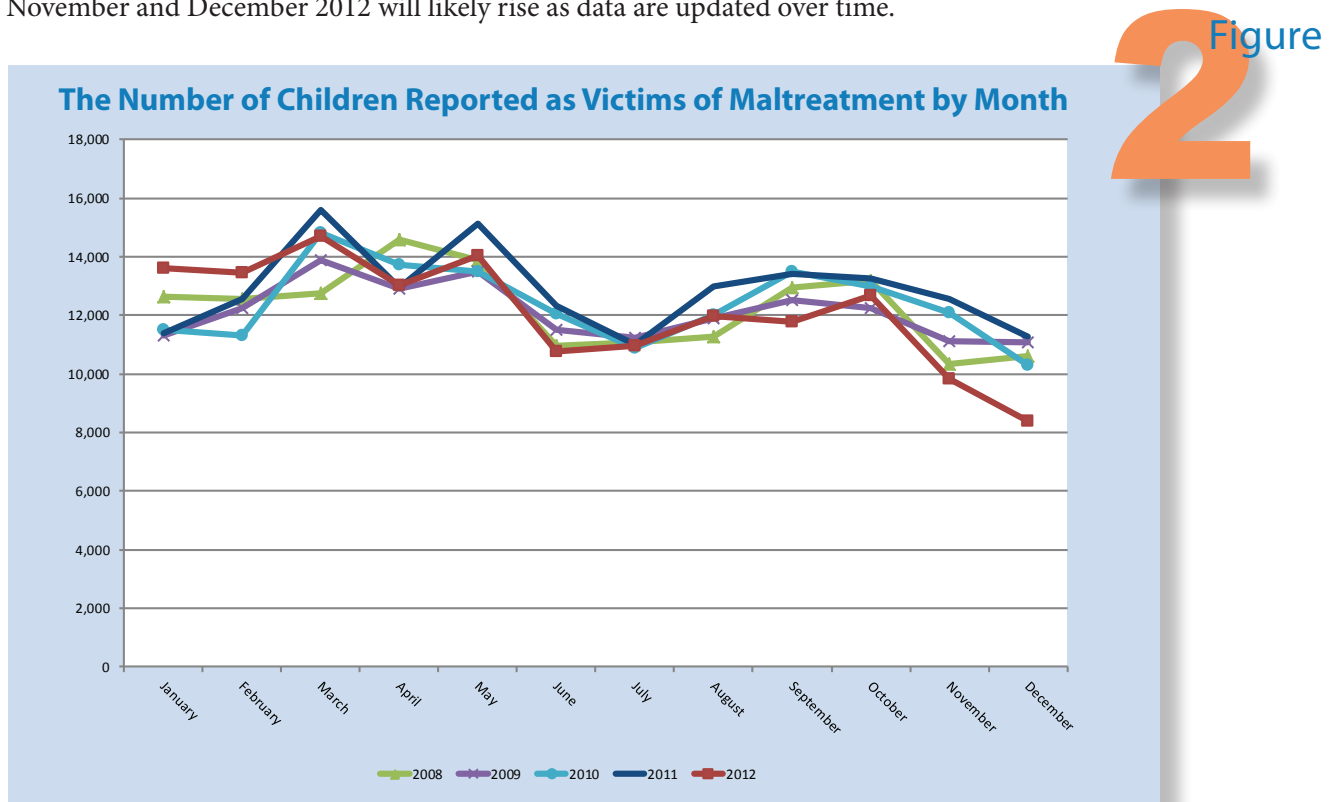
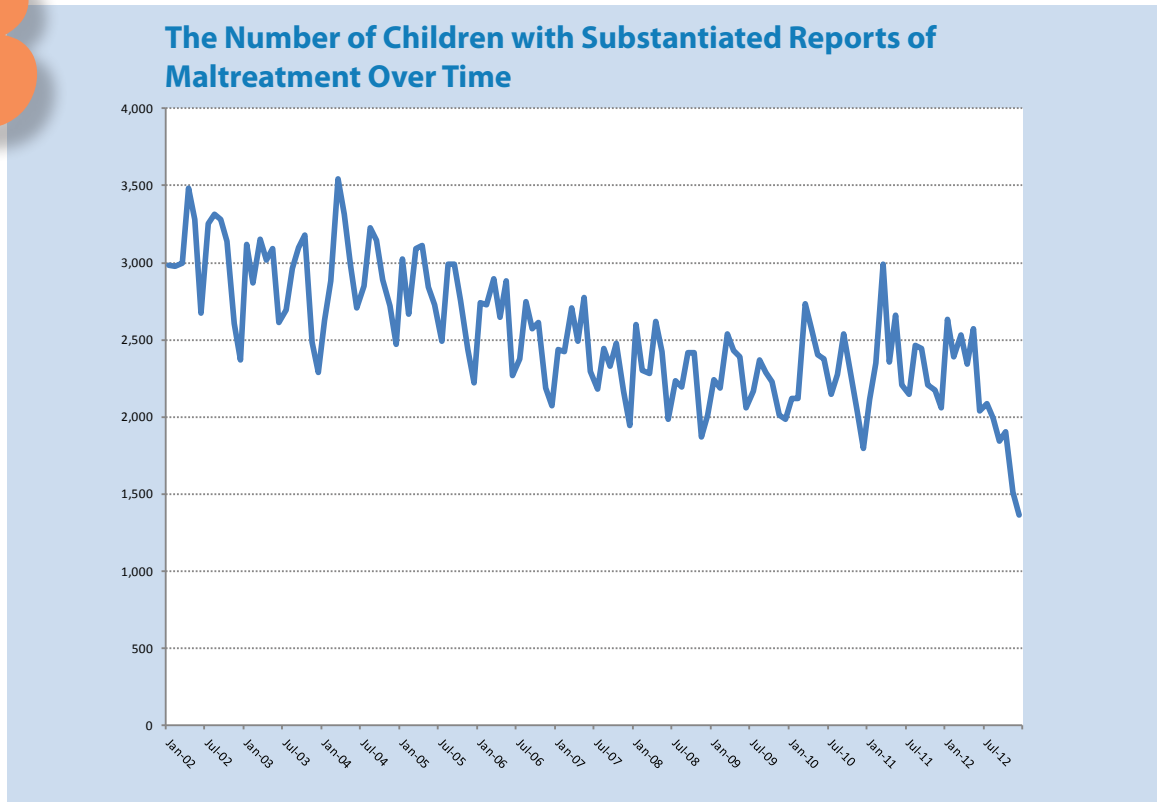


Figure Three illustrates the number of children whose reports of maltreatment were substantiated. Specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table Two. A report is considered substantiated if it has a finding of abuse, neglect, abuse and neglect, dependency, or services needed. It does not include instances where the finding was services provided, child protective services no longer needed. Again, these reports are not based on a unique count of children per year. As the figure indicates, the number of children whose report is substantiated has declined over time, from around 3,000 per month in 2002 to around 2,300 per month between 2009 and

2012. The decline generally corresponds to the implementation of the Multiple Response System (MRS) between 2001 and 2006 (see Appendix B for a fuller description of MRS).

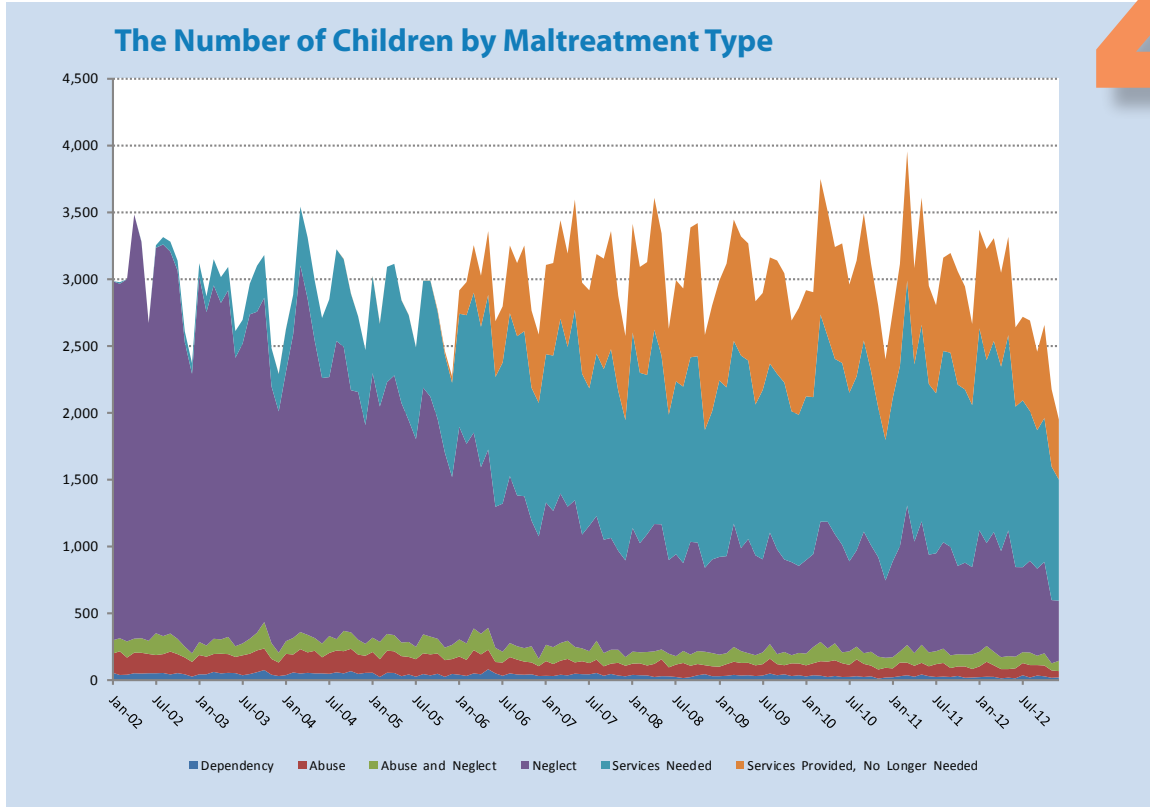
Figure 3



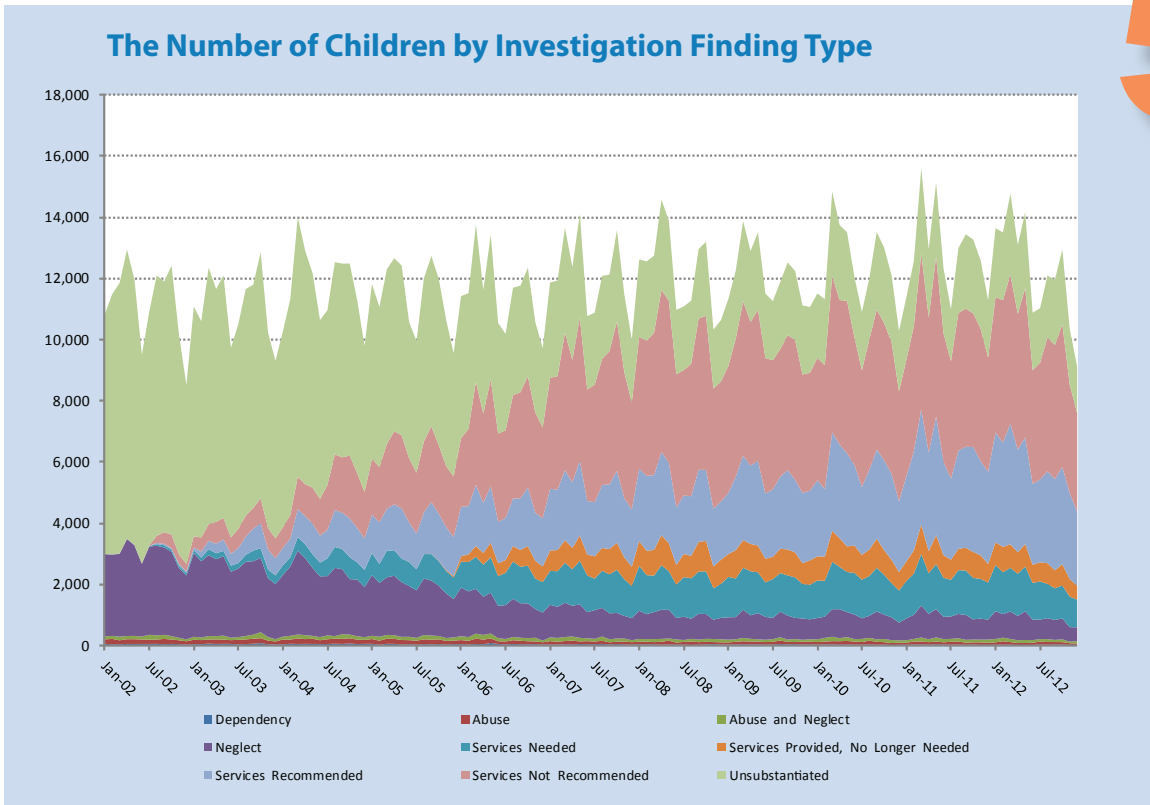
The changes in the type of maltreatment found over time are shown in **Figure Four**. In addition to the types presented in Figure Three (i.e., abuse, neglect, abuse and neglect, dependency, and services needed), this figure contains the count of children whose maltreatment investigation found that services were provided to the child or family during the protective services investigation but that child protective services were no longer needed. These reports do not provide a unique count of children per year. Specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table Three. As the figure indicates, there has been a decline in the number of children found to be victims of neglect. This decline corresponds with an increase in the number of children where the investigation into the maltreatment concluded that services were needed. In mid-2006, there also was an increase in the number of maltreatment investigations which concluded that as the result of the services provided during the protective services investigation, no additional services were needed. In addition to the decrease in the number of instances where children and youth were found to be victims of neglect, there is a slight decrease over time in the number of children who were found to be victims of abuse.

Figure Five illustrates how findings from the investigation of maltreatment reports have changed over time. As the figure indicates, while there has been a decrease in the findings of abuse, neglect, abuse and neglect, and dependency, there has also been a decrease in the number of unsubstantiations. This decline in unsubstantiations is likely due to a decrease in the number of investigations routed through the investigative track. That notion is further supported

4 Figure



5 Figure

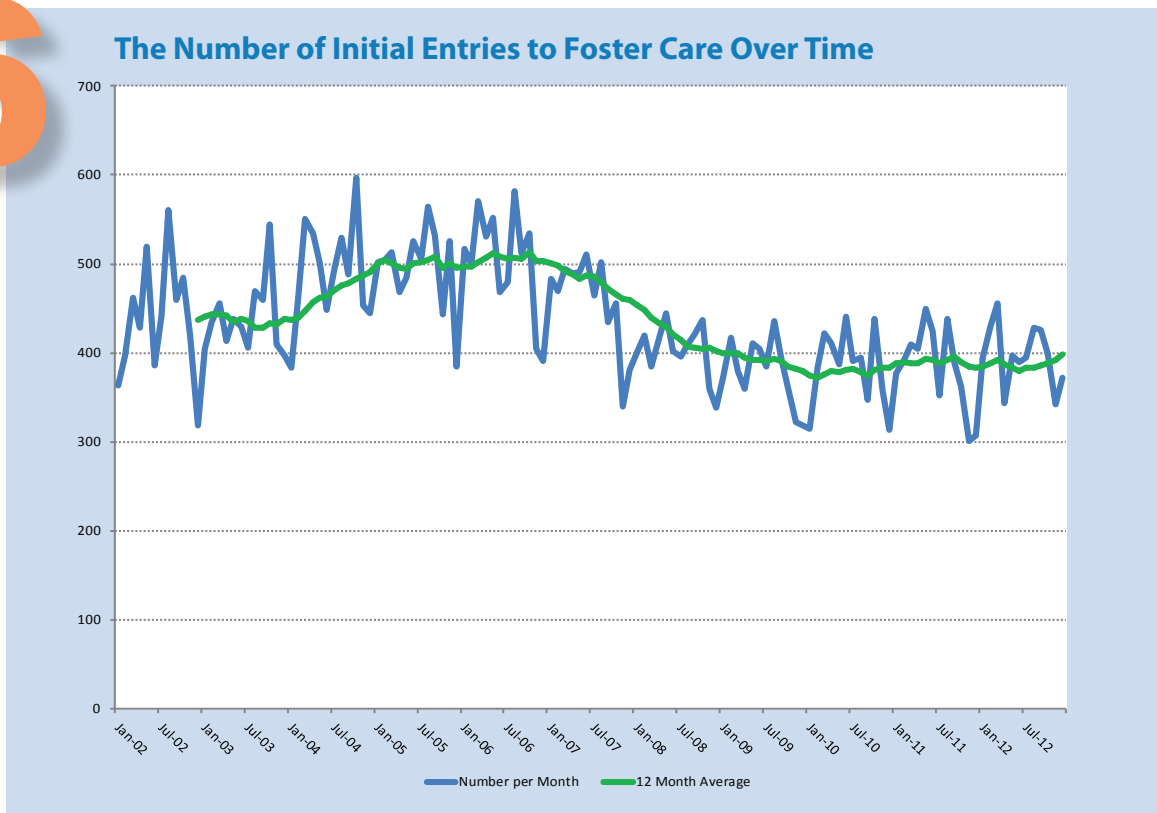


by the increase in the number of findings of services not recommended, an outcome of the family assessment track. Figure Five also shows an increasing number of findings of services recommended. The increase reflects the growth of MRS. Even after the expansion of MRS statewide in 2006, the number of findings of services recommended has continued to grow. As Figure Four suggested earlier, the monthly sum of findings of abuse; neglect; abuse and neglect; dependency; services needed; and services provided, protective services no longer needed, has remained fairly steady over time. With the expansion of MRS, there appears to have been an increase in the number of families and children recommended for services above the number of children determined to be victims of maltreatment.

Figure Six reports the number of children entering foster care for the first time. Specific monthly numbers can be found in Appendix A, Table Four. According to the figure, the number of children entering foster care generally ranged between 400 and 500 per month between 2002 and 2004. There appears to have been an increase between 2005 and 2007, when the number of children entering care centered around 500 per month. In mid-2007, the number entering each month began to fall and has ranged between a high of 511 children in June 2007 to a low of 314 in December 2010. For 2012, the number of children entering per month ranged between 456 in March and 342 in November. The twelve month average trend line suggests that the number of children entering per month remained between 380 and 390 in 2010 and most of 2012. However, the number entering care per month increased slightly to about 400 children at the end of 2012.

Figure

6



Trends in the Annual Number of Children in Foster Care for the State and by County

We analyzed ten year trends in the annual number of children in foster care for North Carolina and by county. These numbers reflect the total unique number of children in DSS custody at any point during a one year time period. For North Carolina, the annual number of children in care at any point during the calendar year increased from 15,453 children in 2003 to a high of 17,391 children in 2006 (see **Figure Seven**). The number of children declined thereafter to a low of 13,514 children in 2012. Overall, North Carolina has seen a significant decrease in the annual number of children in foster care over the past ten years.

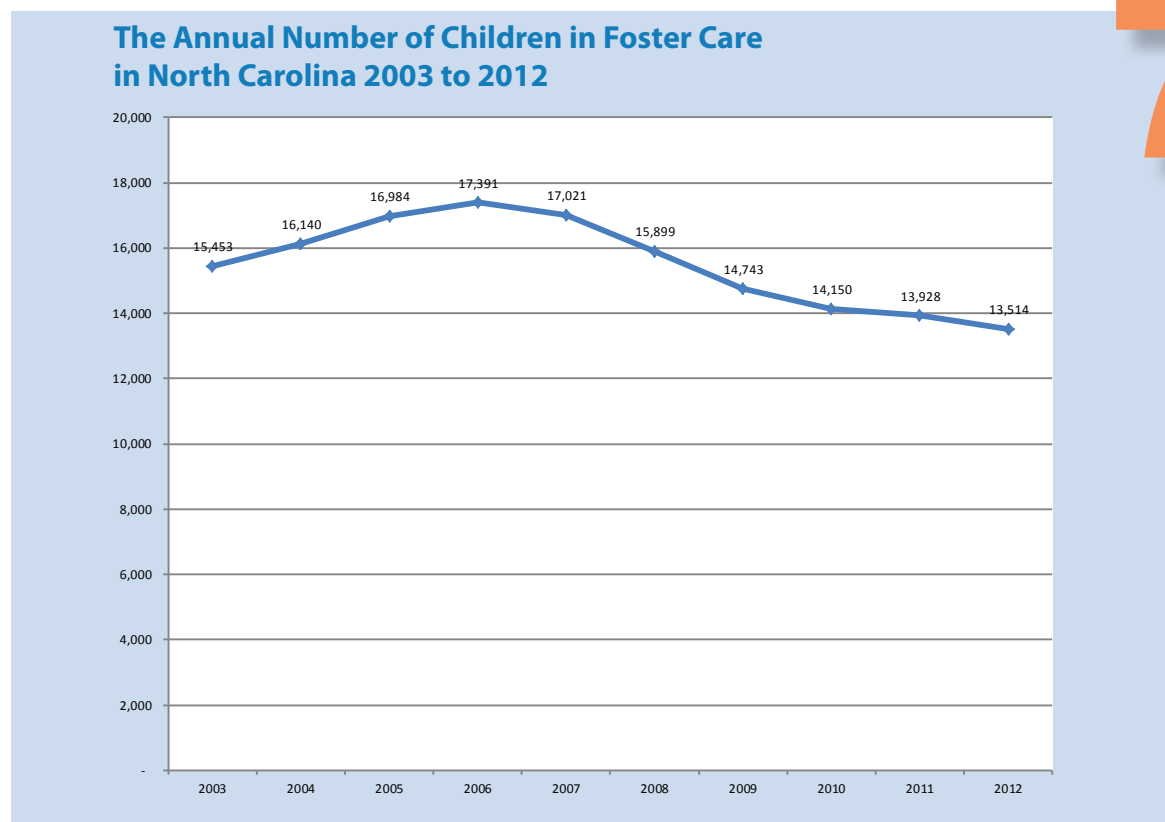


Figure 7

Given that trends for the state as a whole may not reflect those of individual counties, we also analyzed the annual number of children in foster care by county. Table 1 shows the ten counties with the largest annual numbers of children in foster care for calendar year 2012 as well as the number of children in foster care in these counties in 2003 and the county's child population² in 2003 and 2012 for comparison. While five of these ten counties experienced a decrease in the annual number of children in foster care, five (Cumberland, Wake, Robeson, Caldwell, and Cleveland) had an increase in the number of children in foster care.

² U.S. Census Bureau, annual population estimates for children aged 0 to 17, July 1 reference date (<http://www.census.gov/popest/estimates.html>).

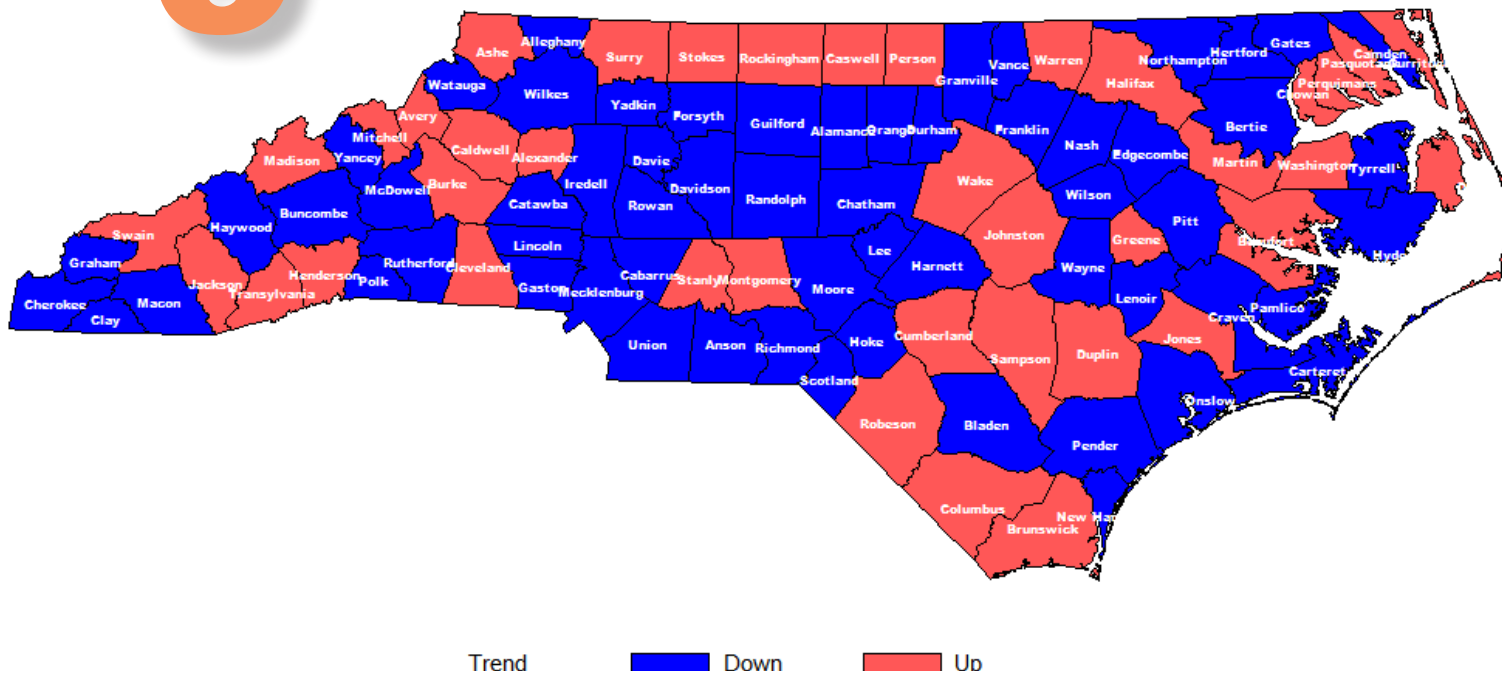
| Rank in 2012 | County Name | Child Population in 2003 | Children in Foster Care 2003 | Child Population in 2012 | Children in Foster Care 2012 |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 | Mecklenburg | 187,100 | 1,480 | 238,469 | 950 |
| 2 | Cumberland | 84,687 | 910 | 86,092 | 921 |
| 3 | Wake | 173,044 | 771 | 239,466 | 847 |
| 4 | Guilford | 102,756 | 795 | 114,911 | 493 |
| 5 | New Hanover | 34,676 | 784 | 40,597 | 460 |
| 6 | Robeson | 35,439 | 364 | 36,399 | 402 |
| 7 | Buncombe | 45,746 | 429 | 49,008 | 364 |
| 8 | Caldwell | 18,482 | 166 | 18,266 | 344 |
| 9 | Cleveland | 24,566 | 280 | 22,464 | 328 |
| 10 | Gaston | 47,666 | 401 | 48,975 | 324 |

The annual number of children in foster care in a given county is sensitive to the size of that county's child population. In other words, counties with larger child populations tend to have larger numbers of children in foster care whereas those with smaller populations tend to have smaller numbers of children in care. To minimize the impact of child population, we analyzed the rate of annual children in foster care per 1000 children in the county's child population. The rate per 1000 allows a standardized comparison across counties. Table 2 displays the ten counties with the highest rates per 1000 in calendar year 2012 as well as their rates in 2003 and the county's child population in 2003 and 2012. Eight of these ten counties experienced an increase in foster care rate per 1000 between 2003 and 2012. See Appendix A, Table Five, for the child population, annual number and rate per 1000 of children in foster care in 2003 and 2012 for all 100 counties and the state.

| Rank in 2012 | County Name | Child Population in 2003 | Children in Foster Care 2003 | Rate per 1000 in 2003 | Child Population in 2012 | Children in Foster Care 2012 | Rate per 1000 in 2012 |
|--------------|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | Swain | 3,144 | 20 | 6.36 | 3,269 | 73 | 22.33 |
| 2 | Graham | 1,761 | 39 | 22.15 | 1,899 | 40 | 21.06 |
| 3 | Caldwell | 18,482 | 166 | 8.98 | 18,266 | 344 | 18.83 |
| 4 | McDowell | 6,233 | 151 | 24.23 | 5,241 | 93 | 17.74 |
| 5 | Cherokee | 5,066 | 83 | 16.38 | 5,068 | 89 | 17.56 |
| 6 | Martin | 4,193 | 38 | 9.06 | 4,054 | 67 | 16.53 |
| 7 | Avery | 3,426 | 35 | 10.22 | 2,995 | 49 | 16.36 |
| 8 | Madison | 6,226 | 71 | 11.40 | 6,508 | 96 | 14.75 |
| 9 | Haywood | 11,407 | 158 | 13.85 | 11,189 | 165 | 14.75 |
| 10 | Cleveland | 24,566 | 280 | 11.40 | 22,464 | 328 | 14.60 |

Figure 9

Four-Year Children in Foster Care Rate per 1000 Trend Comparison: (2009-2010 vs. 2011-2012)



Summary

Since 2002, there has been a gradual increase in the monthly number of children with reports of maltreatment. There has been a gradual decrease in the number of reports that are classified as substantiations. That decrease is not as apparent when MRS assessments with a finding of services provided, services no longer needed are included. Also, following the implementation of MRS, there has been a gradual decrease in the combined number of assessments with a finding of unsubstantiated or services not recommended. There has been an increase in the number of cases with an MRS finding of services recommended. Initial entries into foster care increased until 2006-2007 and then declined before stabilizing to just below 400 per month in 2010-2011. Recent data suggests a slight increase to about 400 children per month at the end of 2012.

Overall, North Carolina has seen a significant decrease in the annual number and rate of children in foster care in the past ten years. However, trends for the state as a whole may not reflect those of individual counties. For example, 31% of counties experienced an increase in the rate per 1000 of children in foster care over the last ten years and 39% experienced an increase in the last four years. With more counties experiencing an increase in the foster care rate and across more regions of the state, this trend will be an important one to track in the coming months.

Appendix A

Table 1

The Number of Children Reported As Maltreated

| Month | Number of Children Reported |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| Jan-02 | 10,830 |
| Feb-02 | 11,483 |
| Mar-02 | 11,852 |
| Apr-02 | 12,941 |
| May-02 | 11,964 |
| Jun-02 | 9,500 |
| Jul-02 | 10,918 |
| Aug-02 | 12,095 |
| Sep-02 | 11,901 |
| Oct-02 | 12,414 |
| Nov-02 | 10,164 |
| Dec-02 | 8,517 |
| Jan-03 | 11,080 |
| Feb-03 | 10,602 |
| Mar-03 | 12,350 |
| Apr-03 | 11,653 |
| May-03 | 12,093 |
| Jun-03 | 9,733 |
| Jul-03 | 10,511 |
| Aug-03 | 11,653 |
| Sep-03 | 11,793 |
| Oct-03 | 12,853 |
| Nov-03 | 10,224 |
| Dec-03 | 9,308 |
| Jan-04 | 10,269 |
| Feb-04 | 11,335 |
| Mar-04 | 14,005 |
| Apr-04 | 12,907 |
| May-04 | 12,170 |
| Jun-04 | 10,637 |
| Jul-04 | 10,963 |
| Aug-04 | 12,531 |
| Sep-04 | 12,483 |
| Oct-04 | 12,487 |
| Nov-04 | 11,297 |
| Dec-04 | 9,798 |
| Jan-05 | 11,817 |
| Feb-05 | 11,067 |
| Mar-05 | 12,297 |
| Apr-05 | 12,660 |
| May-05 | 12,420 |
| Jun-05 | 10,579 |
| Jul-05 | 9,951 |
| Aug-05 | 12,013 |
| Sep-05 | 12,729 |
| Oct-05 | 11,987 |
| Nov-05 | 10,640 |
| Dec-05 | 9,554 |
| Jan-06 | 11,422 |
| Feb-06 | 11,514 |
| Mar-06 | 13,759 |
| Apr-06 | 11,629 |
| May-06 | 13,425 |
| Jun-06 | 10,541 |
| Jul-06 | 10,187 |
| Aug-06 | 11,697 |
| Sep-06 | 11,763 |
| Oct-06 | 12,348 |
| Nov-06 | 10,573 |
| Dec-06 | 9,718 |
| Jan-07 | 11,864 |
| Feb-07 | 11,929 |
| Mar-07 | 13,653 |

| Month | Number of Children Reported |
|--------|-----------------------------|
| Apr-07 | 12,371 |
| May-07 | 14,108 |
| Jun-07 | 10,769 |
| Jul-07 | 10,879 |
| Aug-07 | 12,083 |
| Sep-07 | 12,123 |
| Oct-07 | 13,583 |
| Nov-07 | 11,464 |
| Dec-07 | 10,001 |
| Jan-08 | 12,621 |
| Feb-08 | 12,555 |
| Mar-08 | 12,743 |
| Apr-08 | 14,576 |
| May-08 | 13,886 |
| Jun-08 | 10,972 |
| Jul-08 | 11,083 |
| Aug-08 | 11,269 |
| Sep-08 | 12,958 |
| Oct-08 | 13,192 |
| Nov-08 | 10,330 |
| Dec-08 | 10,632 |
| Jan-09 | 11,317 |
| Feb-09 | 12,241 |
| Mar-09 | 13,875 |
| Apr-09 | 12,896 |
| May-09 | 13,504 |
| Jun-09 | 11,507 |
| Jul-09 | 11,255 |
| Aug-09 | 11,880 |
| Sep-09 | 12,517 |
| Oct-09 | 12,245 |
| Nov-09 | 11,117 |
| Dec-09 | 11,064 |
| Jan-10 | 11,508 |
| Feb-10 | 11,321 |
| Mar-10 | 14,833 |

| | |
|--------|--------|
| Apr-10 | 13,741 |
| May-10 | 13,507 |
| Jun-10 | 12,040 |
| Jul-10 | 10,905 |
| Aug-10 | 12,003 |
| Sep-10 | 13,515 |
| Oct-10 | 13,000 |
| Nov-10 | 12,092 |
| Dec-10 | 10,285 |
| Jan-11 | 11,392 |
| Feb-11 | 12,564 |
| Mar-11 | 15,605 |
| Apr-11 | 12,944 |
| May-11 | 15,125 |
| Jun-11 | 12,311 |
| Jul-11 | 10,985 |
| Aug-11 | 12,977 |
| Sep-11 | 13,436 |
| Oct-11 | 13,262 |
| Nov-11 | 12,567 |
| Dec-11 | 11,276 |
| Jan-12 | 13,622 |
| Feb-12 | 13,472 |
| Mar-12 | 14,696 |
| Apr-12 | 13,019 |
| May-12 | 14,055 |
| Jun-12 | 10,784 |
| Jul-12 | 10,952 |
| Aug-12 | 11,977 |
| Sep-12 | 11,786 |
| Oct-12 | 12,664 |
| Nov-12 | 9,845 |
| Dec-12 | 8,378 |

Table 2

The Number of Children Substantiated (including Services Needed)

| Month | Number of Children with a Substantiated Report |
|--------|--|
| Jan-02 | 2,985 |
| Feb-02 | 2,977 |
| Mar-02 | 2,999 |
| Apr-02 | 3,483 |
| May-02 | 3,281 |
| Jun-02 | 2,671 |
| Jul-02 | 3,253 |
| Aug-02 | 3,314 |
| Sep-02 | 3,280 |
| Oct-02 | 3,138 |
| Nov-02 | 2,609 |
| Dec-02 | 2,370 |
| Jan-03 | 3,119 |
| Feb-03 | 2,871 |
| Mar-03 | 3,149 |
| Apr-03 | 3,015 |
| May-03 | 3,091 |
| Jun-03 | 2,611 |
| Jul-03 | 2,695 |
| Aug-03 | 2,966 |
| Sep-03 | 3,100 |
| Oct-03 | 3,180 |
| Nov-03 | 2,484 |
| Dec-03 | 2,290 |
| Jan-04 | 2,624 |
| Feb-04 | 2,882 |
| Mar-04 | 3,542 |
| Apr-04 | 3,312 |
| May-04 | 2,985 |
| Jun-04 | 2,709 |
| Jul-04 | 2,849 |
| Aug-04 | 3,223 |

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Sep-04 | 3,148 |
| Oct-04 | 2,890 |
| Nov-04 | 2,720 |
| Dec-04 | 2,469 |
| Jan-05 | 3,022 |
| Feb-05 | 2,665 |
| Mar-05 | 3,092 |
| Apr-05 | 3,114 |
| May-05 | 2,841 |
| Jun-05 | 2,730 |
| Jul-05 | 2,489 |
| Aug-05 | 2,988 |
| Sep-05 | 2,988 |
| Oct-05 | 2,757 |
| Nov-05 | 2,435 |
| Dec-05 | 2,224 |
| Jan-06 | 2,741 |
| Feb-06 | 2,730 |
| Mar-06 | 2,899 |
| Apr-06 | 2,643 |
| May-06 | 2,883 |
| Jun-06 | 2,268 |
| Jul-06 | 2,376 |
| Aug-06 | 2,745 |
| Sep-06 | 2,573 |
| Oct-06 | 2,610 |
| Nov-06 | 2,187 |
| Dec-06 | 2,074 |
| Jan-07 | 2,438 |
| Feb-07 | 2,426 |
| Mar-07 | 2,704 |
| Apr-07 | 2,492 |
| May-07 | 2,771 |
| Jun-07 | 2,292 |
| Jul-07 | 2,183 |
| Aug-07 | 2,443 |
| Sep-07 | 2,326 |
| Oct-07 | 2,476 |
| Nov-07 | 2,165 |

| Month | Number of Children with a Substantiated Report |
|--------|--|
| Dec-07 | 1,945 |
| Jan-08 | 2,601 |
| Feb-08 | 2,299 |
| Mar-08 | 2,283 |
| Apr-08 | 2,622 |
| May-08 | 2,426 |
| Jun-08 | 1,986 |
| Jul-08 | 2,235 |
| Aug-08 | 2,196 |
| Sep-08 | 2,415 |
| Oct-08 | 2,418 |
| Nov-08 | 1,872 |
| Dec-08 | 2,011 |
| Jan-09 | 2,242 |
| Feb-09 | 2,190 |
| Mar-09 | 2,538 |
| Apr-09 | 2,428 |
| May-09 | 2,391 |
| Jun-09 | 2,062 |
| Jul-09 | 2,170 |
| Aug-09 | 2,368 |
| Sep-09 | 2,291 |
| Oct-09 | 2,226 |
| Nov-09 | 2,011 |
| Dec-09 | 1,985 |
| Jan-10 | 2,122 |
| Feb-10 | 2,117 |
| Mar-10 | 2,735 |
| Apr-10 | 2,570 |
| May-10 | 2,403 |
| Jun-10 | 2,373 |
| Jul-10 | 2,150 |
| Aug-10 | 2,272 |
| Sep-10 | 2,541 |
| Oct-10 | 2,309 |
| Nov-10 | 2,038 |

| | |
|--------|-------|
| Dec-10 | 1,797 |
| Jan-11 | 2,110 |
| Feb-11 | 2,348 |
| Mar-11 | 2,990 |
| Apr-11 | 2,358 |
| May-11 | 2,659 |
| Jun-11 | 2,211 |
| Jul-11 | 2,146 |
| Aug-11 | 2,461 |
| Sep-11 | 2,445 |
| Oct-11 | 2,207 |
| Nov-11 | 2,175 |
| Dec-11 | 2,058 |
| Jan-12 | 2,631 |
| Feb-12 | 2,390 |
| Mar-12 | 2,533 |
| Apr-12 | 2,340 |
| May-12 | 2,573 |
| Jun-12 | 2,041 |
| Jul-12 | 2,088 |
| Aug-12 | 1,994 |
| Sep-12 | 1,841 |
| Oct-12 | 1,906 |
| Nov-12 | 1,516 |
| Dec-12 | 1,365 |

Table 3

The Number of Children by Type of Finding (Not Based on a Unique Count of Children; Some Children May Have Multiple Reports Investigated at the Same Time)

| Month | Dependency | Abuse | Abuse and Neglect | Neglect | Services Needed | Services Provided, No Longer Needed | Services Recommended | Services Not Recommended | Unsubstantiated |
|--------|------------|-------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Jan-02 | 56 | 143 | 99 | 2,687 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 7,836 |
| Feb-02 | 39 | 177 | 98 | 2,651 | 12 | 0 | 0 | 10 | 8,496 |
| Mar-02 | 41 | 128 | 121 | 2,709 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 8,848 |
| Apr-02 | 52 | 154 | 105 | 3,172 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 9,458 |
| May-02 | 50 | 155 | 109 | 2,963 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2 | 8,677 |
| Jun-02 | 52 | 144 | 99 | 2,376 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 4 | 6,821 |
| Jul-02 | 52 | 136 | 163 | 2,883 | 19 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 7,640 |
| Aug-02 | 54 | 141 | 135 | 2,929 | 55 | 0 | 38 | 234 | 8,509 |
| Sep-02 | 43 | 171 | 135 | 2,856 | 75 | 0 | 42 | 381 | 8,198 |
| Oct-02 | 53 | 142 | 114 | 2,755 | 74 | 0 | 44 | 445 | 8,787 |
| Nov-02 | 44 | 126 | 81 | 2,276 | 82 | 0 | 62 | 302 | 7,191 |
| Dec-02 | 27 | 110 | 64 | 2,090 | 79 | 0 | 53 | 249 | 5,845 |
| Jan-03 | 44 | 144 | 98 | 2,735 | 98 | 0 | 84 | 366 | 7,511 |
| Feb-03 | 44 | 132 | 83 | 2,494 | 118 | 0 | 204 | 457 | 7,070 |
| Mar-03 | 62 | 134 | 114 | 2,643 | 196 | 0 | 274 | 543 | 8,386 |
| Apr-03 | 51 | 147 | 107 | 2,517 | 193 | 0 | 311 | 714 | 7,613 |
| May-03 | 55 | 140 | 129 | 2,592 | 175 | 0 | 374 | 704 | 7,924 |
| Jun-03 | 53 | 121 | 80 | 2,157 | 200 | 0 | 389 | 531 | 6,202 |
| Jul-03 | 37 | 149 | 89 | 2,242 | 178 | 0 | 495 | 624 | 6,697 |
| Aug-03 | 46 | 152 | 112 | 2,426 | 230 | 0 | 596 | 682 | 7,409 |
| Sep-03 | 60 | 163 | 132 | 2,401 | 344 | 0 | 719 | 674 | 7,300 |
| Oct-03 | 76 | 161 | 198 | 2,426 | 319 | 0 | 822 | 810 | 8,041 |
| Nov-03 | 41 | 118 | 118 | 1,921 | 286 | 0 | 648 | 709 | 6,383 |
| Dec-03 | 31 | 101 | 74 | 1,804 | 280 | 2 | 563 | 646 | 5,807 |
| Jan-04 | 38 | 159 | 95 | 2,014 | 318 | 2 | 565 | 669 | 6,409 |
| Feb-04 | 58 | 134 | 124 | 2,271 | 295 | 0 | 618 | 769 | 7,066 |
| Mar-04 | 50 | 182 | 128 | 2,742 | 440 | 0 | 915 | 1,060 | 8,488 |
| Apr-04 | 55 | 153 | 131 | 2,515 | 458 | 0 | 915 | 1,047 | 7,633 |
| May-04 | 51 | 169 | 95 | 2,220 | 450 | 0 | 1,001 | 1,172 | 7,012 |
| Jun-04 | 51 | 120 | 103 | 1,986 | 449 | 0 | 884 | 1,200 | 5,844 |
| Jul-04 | 48 | 156 | 126 | 1,937 | 582 | 0 | 933 | 1,466 | 5,715 |
| Aug-04 | 59 | 163 | 85 | 2,230 | 686 | 0 | 1,206 | 1,816 | 6,286 |

| Month | Dependency | Abuse | Abuse and Neglect | Neglect | Services Needed | Services Provided, No Longer Needed | Services Recommended | Services Not Recommended | Unsubstantiated |
|--------|------------|-------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Sep-04 | 51 | 166 | 152 | 2,124 | 655 | 3 | 1,188 | 1,811 | 6,333 |
| Oct-04 | 68 | 167 | 123 | 1,811 | 721 | 3 | 1,263 | 2,052 | 6,279 |
| Nov-04 | 47 | 144 | 112 | 1,852 | 565 | 0 | 1,127 | 1,790 | 5,660 |
| Dec-04 | 55 | 128 | 89 | 1,636 | 561 | 0 | 1,027 | 1,522 | 4,780 |
| Jan-05 | 56 | 155 | 107 | 1,979 | 725 | 3 | 1,253 | 1,829 | 5,710 |
| Feb-05 | 24 | 133 | 130 | 1,760 | 618 | 4 | 1,358 | 1,803 | 5,237 |
| Mar-05 | 56 | 165 | 125 | 1,883 | 863 | 0 | 1,373 | 2,118 | 5,714 |
| Apr-05 | 54 | 162 | 121 | 1,943 | 834 | 0 | 1,503 | 2,386 | 5,657 |
| May-05 | 30 | 150 | 102 | 1,790 | 769 | 2 | 1,638 | 2,392 | 5,547 |
| Jun-05 | 43 | 131 | 112 | 1,657 | 787 | 2 | 1,292 | 2,100 | 4,455 |
| Jul-05 | 26 | 131 | 92 | 1,554 | 686 | 1 | 1,169 | 1,991 | 4,301 |
| Aug-05 | 46 | 155 | 142 | 1,845 | 800 | 1 | 1,358 | 2,324 | 5,342 |
| Sep-05 | 36 | 157 | 133 | 1,794 | 868 | 2 | 1,699 | 2,479 | 5,561 |
| Oct-05 | 48 | 152 | 110 | 1,644 | 803 | 13 | 1,535 | 2,238 | 5,444 |
| Nov-05 | 25 | 125 | 94 | 1,459 | 732 | 28 | 1,410 | 1,986 | 4,781 |
| Dec-05 | 47 | 111 | 106 | 1,255 | 705 | 47 | 1,271 | 1,985 | 4,027 |
| Jan-06 | 41 | 136 | 128 | 1,590 | 846 | 175 | 1,615 | 2,244 | 4,647 |
| Feb-06 | 32 | 120 | 123 | 1,493 | 962 | 248 | 1,578 | 2,528 | 4,430 |
| Mar-06 | 51 | 174 | 162 | 1,465 | 1,047 | 355 | 1,993 | 3,372 | 5,140 |
| Apr-06 | 44 | 149 | 154 | 1,246 | 1,050 | 382 | 1,635 | 2,923 | 4,046 |
| May-06 | 82 | 146 | 164 | 1,333 | 1,158 | 476 | 1,852 | 3,491 | 4,723 |
| Jun-06 | 51 | 85 | 106 | 1,055 | 971 | 417 | 1,360 | 2,881 | 3,615 |
| Jul-06 | 33 | 99 | 81 | 1,108 | 1,055 | 420 | 1,375 | 2,864 | 3,152 |
| Aug-06 | 51 | 122 | 105 | 1,249 | 1,218 | 506 | 1,556 | 3,375 | 3,515 |
| Sep-06 | 43 | 111 | 100 | 1,128 | 1,191 | 547 | 1,693 | 3,466 | 3,484 |
| Oct-06 | 41 | 98 | 101 | 1,136 | 1,234 | 641 | 1,915 | 3,637 | 3,545 |
| Nov-06 | 44 | 89 | 121 | 940 | 993 | 578 | 1,583 | 3,270 | 2,955 |
| Dec-06 | 31 | 74 | 55 | 916 | 998 | 511 | 1,571 | 2,973 | 2,589 |
| Jan-07 | 33 | 110 | 122 | 1,064 | 1,109 | 668 | 2,016 | 3,628 | 3,114 |
| Feb-07 | 31 | 90 | 126 | 1,019 | 1,162 | 692 | 1,976 | 3,707 | 3,128 |
| Mar-07 | 41 | 105 | 132 | 1,118 | 1,308 | 736 | 2,288 | 4,499 | 3,426 |
| Apr-07 | 36 | 123 | 136 | 1,003 | 1,194 | 699 | 2,140 | 4,003 | 3,037 |
| May-07 | 49 | 84 | 116 | 1,097 | 1,425 | 824 | 2,451 | 4,683 | 3,379 |
| Jun-07 | 45 | 97 | 96 | 851 | 1,203 | 681 | 1,750 | 3,642 | 2,404 |

| Month | Dependency | Abuse | Abuse and Neglect | Neglect | Services Needed | Services Provided, No Longer Needed | Services Recommended | Services Not Recommended | Unsubstantiated |
|--------|------------|-------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| Jul-07 | 44 | 84 | 89 | 939 | 1,027 | 733 | 1,767 | 3,843 | 2,353 |
| Aug-07 | 54 | 100 | 141 | 933 | 1,215 | 744 | 2,060 | 4,119 | 2,717 |
| Sep-07 | 33 | 71 | 99 | 848 | 1,276 | 826 | 2,113 | 4,354 | 2,504 |
| Oct-07 | 47 | 77 | 104 | 836 | 1,412 | 883 | 2,354 | 4,879 | 2,991 |
| Nov-07 | 35 | 95 | 98 | 740 | 1,197 | 711 | 1,935 | 4,118 | 2,535 |
| Dec-07 | 29 | 79 | 65 | 723 | 1,049 | 629 | 1,877 | 3,492 | 2,058 |
| Jan-08 | 40 | 84 | 90 | 924 | 1,463 | 812 | 2,371 | 4,301 | 2,536 |
| Feb-08 | 37 | 89 | 83 | 816 | 1,274 | 792 | 2,453 | 4,418 | 2,593 |
| Mar-08 | 36 | 74 | 101 | 881 | 1,191 | 844 | 2,444 | 4,653 | 2,519 |
| Apr-08 | 24 | 98 | 94 | 952 | 1,454 | 986 | 2,721 | 5,297 | 2,950 |
| May-08 | 30 | 127 | 73 | 936 | 1,260 | 916 | 2,626 | 5,300 | 2,618 |
| Jun-08 | 29 | 67 | 102 | 701 | 1,087 | 642 | 1,887 | 4,352 | 2,105 |
| Jul-08 | 24 | 93 | 63 | 762 | 1,293 | 757 | 1,914 | 4,098 | 2,079 |
| Aug-08 | 16 | 113 | 90 | 657 | 1,320 | 734 | 1,949 | 4,325 | 2,065 |
| Sep-08 | 23 | 85 | 84 | 843 | 1,380 | 971 | 2,360 | 4,943 | 2,269 |
| Oct-08 | 37 | 84 | 97 | 811 | 1,394 | 996 | 2,322 | 5,036 | 2,420 |
| Nov-08 | 45 | 67 | 101 | 628 | 1,031 | 710 | 1,889 | 3,929 | 1,930 |
| Dec-08 | 30 | 74 | 99 | 700 | 1,108 | 792 | 1,900 | 3,921 | 2,008 |
| Jan-09 | 30 | 71 | 90 | 731 | 1,320 | 747 | 1,994 | 4,148 | 2,186 |
| Feb-09 | 33 | 87 | 82 | 726 | 1,262 | 926 | 2,400 | 4,504 | 2,221 |
| Mar-09 | 40 | 98 | 111 | 922 | 1,367 | 907 | 2,759 | 5,052 | 2,619 |
| Apr-09 | 35 | 94 | 89 | 769 | 1,441 | 891 | 2,561 | 4,696 | 2,320 |
| May-09 | 37 | 93 | 72 | 854 | 1,335 | 876 | 2,769 | 4,939 | 2,529 |
| Jun-09 | 31 | 80 | 76 | 747 | 1,128 | 772 | 2,136 | 4,424 | 2,113 |
| Jul-09 | 35 | 85 | 88 | 696 | 1,266 | 726 | 2,204 | 4,225 | 1,932 |
| Aug-09 | 50 | 111 | 109 | 834 | 1,264 | 794 | 2,358 | 4,168 | 2,192 |
| Sep-09 | 37 | 83 | 75 | 783 | 1,313 | 848 | 2,595 | 4,413 | 2,375 |
| Oct-09 | 44 | 68 | 99 | 692 | 1,323 | 817 | 2,371 | 4,574 | 2,257 |
| Nov-09 | 31 | 95 | 61 | 696 | 1,128 | 679 | 2,298 | 3,869 | 2,260 |
| Dec-09 | 37 | 88 | 79 | 651 | 1,130 | 799 | 2,275 | 3,856 | 2,150 |
| Jan-10 | 28 | 83 | 88 | 699 | 1,225 | 794 | 2,482 | 3,999 | 2,111 |
| Feb-10 | 37 | 90 | 121 | 695 | 1,174 | 785 | 2,213 | 4,047 | 2,159 |
| Mar-10 | 34 | 108 | 144 | 900 | 1,549 | 1,014 | 3,212 | 5,120 | 2,755 |
| Apr-10 | 24 | 115 | 99 | 947 | 1,385 | 935 | 3,063 | 4,725 | 2,448 |

| Month | Dependency | Abuse | Abuse and Neglect | Neglect | Services Needed | Services Provided, No Longer Needed | Services Recommended | Services Not Recommended | Unsubstantiated |
|--------|------------|-------|-------------------|---------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|
| May-10 | 32 | 117 | 127 | 816 | 1,311 | 837 | 3,045 | 4,979 | 2,243 |
| Jun-10 | 24 | 103 | 81 | 805 | 1,360 | 894 | 2,633 | 4,173 | 1,967 |
| Jul-10 | 25 | 90 | 101 | 673 | 1,261 | 809 | 2,226 | 3,811 | 1,909 |
| Aug-10 | 30 | 126 | 95 | 720 | 1,301 | 866 | 2,602 | 4,259 | 2,004 |
| Sep-10 | 24 | 98 | 80 | 909 | 1,430 | 950 | 2,914 | 4,577 | 2,533 |
| Oct-10 | 29 | 80 | 104 | 796 | 1,302 | 804 | 2,934 | 4,489 | 2,465 |
| Nov-10 | 12 | 68 | 96 | 744 | 1,118 | 761 | 2,810 | 4,304 | 2,182 |
| Dec-10 | 20 | 73 | 75 | 578 | 1,051 | 603 | 2,309 | 3,599 | 1,977 |
| Jan-11 | 22 | 66 | 84 | 717 | 1,221 | 644 | 2,790 | 3,800 | 2,052 |
| Feb-11 | 30 | 102 | 83 | 787 | 1,348 | 763 | 3,227 | 4,096 | 2,132 |
| Mar-11 | 37 | 94 | 132 | 1,044 | 1,683 | 965 | 3,767 | 5,094 | 2,793 |
| Apr-11 | 26 | 82 | 95 | 834 | 1,325 | 720 | 3,220 | 4,416 | 2,233 |
| May-11 | 43 | 87 | 135 | 923 | 1,471 | 950 | 3,882 | 5,221 | 2,418 |
| Jun-11 | 30 | 74 | 104 | 731 | 1,276 | 734 | 3,053 | 4,198 | 2,115 |
| Jul-11 | 24 | 96 | 97 | 732 | 1,197 | 659 | 2,643 | 3,844 | 1,697 |
| Aug-11 | 27 | 102 | 107 | 796 | 1,430 | 698 | 3,205 | 4,507 | 2,117 |
| Sep-11 | 24 | 67 | 95 | 811 | 1,452 | 746 | 3,304 | 4,512 | 2,432 |
| Oct-11 | 32 | 71 | 91 | 661 | 1,356 | 847 | 3,430 | 4,369 | 2,413 |
| Nov-11 | 18 | 85 | 89 | 687 | 1,296 | 770 | 3,079 | 4,327 | 2,233 |
| Dec-11 | 20 | 64 | 109 | 653 | 1,212 | 606 | 3,017 | 3,728 | 1,875 |
| Jan-12 | 23 | 80 | 109 | 909 | 1,511 | 737 | 3,592 | 4,426 | 2,255 |
| Feb-12 | 26 | 112 | 118 | 770 | 1,368 | 831 | 3,406 | 4,657 | 2,212 |
| Mar-12 | 25 | 86 | 102 | 895 | 1,429 | 769 | 3,940 | 4,882 | 2,643 |
| Apr-12 | 14 | 69 | 89 | 794 | 1,379 | 702 | 3,355 | 4,436 | 2,256 |
| May-12 | 19 | 64 | 97 | 940 | 1,461 | 735 | 3,489 | 4,883 | 2,480 |
| Jun-12 | 14 | 75 | 87 | 670 | 1,200 | 593 | 2,645 | 3,715 | 1,880 |
| Jul-12 | 37 | 91 | 82 | 635 | 1,248 | 625 | 2,710 | 3,818 | 1,780 |
| Aug-12 | 20 | 93 | 94 | 686 | 1,120 | 677 | 3,005 | 4,370 | 2,027 |
| Sep-12 | 35 | 78 | 70 | 651 | 1,036 | 587 | 2,980 | 4,385 | 2,131 |
| Oct-12 | 29 | 81 | 91 | 684 | 1,076 | 696 | 3,178 | 4,666 | 2,452 |
| Nov-12 | 18 | 55 | 53 | 473 | 998 | 578 | 2,804 | 3,542 | 1,817 |
| Dec-12 | 21 | 47 | 77 | 450 | 905 | 450 | 2,426 | 3,220 | 1,529 |

Table 4

The Number of Children Initially Entering Foster Care

| Month | Number of Children Initially Entering Care |
|--------|--|
| Jan-02 | 363 |
| Feb-02 | 397 |
| Mar-02 | 462 |
| Apr-02 | 428 |
| May-02 | 520 |
| Jun-02 | 386 |
| Jul-02 | 442 |
| Aug-02 | 561 |
| Sep-02 | 459 |
| Oct-02 | 484 |
| Nov-02 | 421 |
| Dec-02 | 318 |
| Jan-03 | 405 |
| Feb-03 | 435 |
| Mar-03 | 456 |
| Apr-03 | 413 |
| May-03 | 438 |
| Jun-03 | 430 |
| Jul-03 | 406 |
| Aug-03 | 469 |
| Sep-03 | 459 |
| Oct-03 | 544 |
| Nov-03 | 410 |
| Dec-03 | 397 |
| Jan-04 | 383 |
| Feb-04 | 462 |
| Mar-04 | 550 |
| Apr-04 | 534 |
| May-04 | 501 |
| Jun-04 | 448 |
| Jul-04 | 496 |
| Aug-04 | 529 |

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Sep-04 | 488 |
| Oct-04 | 597 |
| Nov-04 | 453 |
| Dec-04 | 444 |
| Jan-05 | 502 |
| Feb-05 | 505 |
| Mar-05 | 513 |
| Apr-05 | 468 |
| May-05 | 485 |
| Jun-05 | 526 |
| Jul-05 | 506 |
| Aug-05 | 564 |
| Sep-05 | 532 |
| Oct-05 | 443 |
| Nov-05 | 526 |
| Dec-05 | 384 |
| Jan-06 | 517 |
| Feb-06 | 499 |
| Mar-06 | 570 |
| Apr-06 | 531 |
| May-06 | 552 |
| Jun-06 | 468 |
| Jul-06 | 479 |
| Aug-06 | 582 |
| Sep-06 | 512 |
| Oct-06 | 535 |
| Nov-06 | 404 |
| Dec-06 | 391 |
| Jan-07 | 483 |
| Feb-07 | 470 |
| Mar-07 | 494 |
| Apr-07 | 489 |
| May-07 | 491 |
| Jun-07 | 511 |
| Jul-07 | 465 |
| Aug-07 | 502 |
| Sep-07 | 435 |
| Oct-07 | 456 |

| Month | Number of Children Initially Entering Care |
|--------|--|
| Nov-07 | 340 |
| Dec-07 | 381 |
| Jan-08 | 402 |
| Feb-08 | 419 |
| Mar-08 | 384 |
| Apr-08 | 417 |
| May-08 | 445 |
| Jun-08 | 402 |
| Jul-08 | 396 |
| Aug-08 | 410 |
| Sep-08 | 421 |
| Oct-08 | 437 |
| Nov-08 | 360 |
| Dec-08 | 338 |
| Jan-09 | 372 |
| Feb-09 | 417 |
| Mar-09 | 379 |
| Apr-09 | 360 |
| May-09 | 411 |
| Jun-09 | 405 |
| Jul-09 | 384 |
| Aug-09 | 436 |
| Sep-09 | 394 |
| Oct-09 | 361 |
| Nov-09 | 322 |
| Dec-09 | 318 |
| Jan-10 | 315 |
| Feb-10 | 383 |
| Mar-10 | 422 |
| Apr-10 | 411 |
| May-10 | 387 |
| Jun-10 | 441 |
| Jul-10 | 391 |
| Aug-10 | 395 |
| Sep-10 | 347 |

| | |
|--------|-----|
| Oct-10 | 438 |
| Nov-10 | 359 |
| Dec-10 | 314 |
| Jan-11 | 377 |
| Feb-11 | 392 |
| Mar-11 | 409 |
| Apr-11 | 404 |
| May-11 | 449 |
| Jun-11 | 424 |
| Jul-11 | 352 |
| Aug-11 | 438 |
| Sep-11 | 390 |
| Oct-11 | 362 |
| Nov-11 | 301 |
| Dec-11 | 307 |
| Jan-12 | 394 |
| Feb-12 | 431 |
| Mar-12 | 456 |
| Apr-12 | 344 |
| May-12 | 397 |
| Jun-12 | 390 |
| Jul-12 | 394 |
| Aug-12 | 428 |
| Sep-12 | 426 |
| Oct-12 | 399 |
| Nov-12 | 342 |
| Dec-12 | 372 |

Table 5

Child Population, Annual Number and Rate per 1000 of Children in Foster Care in 2012 and 2003 by County and State

| County Name | Child Population in 2003 | Children in Foster Care 2003 | Rate per 1000 in 2003 | Child Population in 2012 | Children in Foster Care 2012 | Rate per 1000 in 2012 |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Alamance | 32,830 | 161 | 4.90 | 35,777 | 133 | 3.72 |
| Alexander | 8,410 | 43 | 5.11 | 8,296 | 65 | 7.84 |
| Alleghany | 2,091 | 5 | 2.39 | 2,179 | 26 | 11.93 |
| Anson | 6,334 | 34 | 5.37 | 5,724 | 18 | 3.14 |
| Ashe | 4,806 | 26 | 5.41 | 5,151 | 51 | 9.90 |
| Avery | 3,426 | 35 | 10.22 | 2,995 | 49 | 16.36 |
| Beaufort | 10,501 | 79 | 7.52 | 10,394 | 103 | 9.91 |
| Bertie | 4,947 | 18 | 3.64 | 4,240 | 22 | 5.19 |
| Bladen | 7,986 | 60 | 7.51 | 7,915 | 21 | 2.65 |
| Brunswick | 16,298 | 181 | 11.11 | 20,262 | 205 | 10.12 |
| Buncombe | 45,746 | 429 | 9.38 | 49,008 | 364 | 7.43 |
| Burke | 21,226 | 192 | 9.05 | 20,066 | 188 | 9.37 |
| Cabarrus | 36,778 | 269 | 7.31 | 49,179 | 111 | 2.26 |
| Caldwell | 18,482 | 166 | 8.98 | 18,266 | 344 | 18.83 |
| Camden | 1,832 | 7 | 3.82 | 2,507 | 6 | 2.39 |
| Carteret | 12,181 | 153 | 12.56 | 12,622 | 85 | 6.73 |
| Caswell | 5,399 | 47 | 8.71 | 4,641 | 17 | 3.66 |
| Catawba | 35,861 | 298 | 8.31 | 36,164 | 291 | 8.05 |
| Chatham | 12,221 | 164 | 13.42 | 13,866 | 138 | 9.95 |
| Cherokee | 5,066 | 83 | 16.38 | 5,068 | 89 | 17.56 |
| Chowan | 3,500 | 9 | 2.57 | 3,279 | 25 | 7.62 |
| Clay | 1,691 | 8 | 4.73 | 1,943 | 28 | 14.41 |
| Cleveland | 24,566 | 280 | 11.40 | 22,464 | 328 | 14.60 |
| Columbus | 13,818 | 77 | 5.57 | 13,330 | 100 | 7.50 |
| Craven | 22,312 | 86 | 3.85 | 24,152 | 81 | 3.35 |
| Cumberland | 84,687 | 910 | 10.75 | 86,092 | 921 | 10.70 |
| Currituck | 4,913 | 34 | 6.92 | 5,558 | 38 | 6.84 |
| Dare | 6,620 | 89 | 13.44 | 6,837 | 74 | 10.82 |
| Davidson | 36,773 | 244 | 6.64 | 38,269 | 186 | 4.86 |
| Davie | 8,948 | 51 | 5.70 | 9,591 | 58 | 6.05 |
| Duplin | 13,233 | 38 | 2.87 | 15,089 | 55 | 3.65 |
| Durham | 54,560 | 322 | 5.90 | 62,015 | 248 | 4.00 |
| Edgecombe | 14,806 | 196 | 13.24 | 13,476 | 103 | 7.64 |

| County Name | Child Population in 2003 | Children in Foster Care 2003 | Rate per 1000 in 2003 | Child Population in 2012 | Children in Foster Care 2012 | Rate per 1000 in 2012 |
|-------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Forsyth | 77,025 | 430 | 5.58 | 85,831 | 187 | 2.18 |
| Franklin | 12,896 | 77 | 5.97 | 14,755 | 81 | 5.49 |
| Gaston | 47,666 | 401 | 8.41 | 48,975 | 324 | 6.62 |
| Gates | 2,798 | 7 | 2.50 | 2,791 | 0 | 0 |
| Graham | 1,761 | 39 | 22.15 | 1,899 | 40 | 21.06 |
| Granville | 12,207 | 87 | 7.13 | 12,971 | 77 | 5.94 |
| Greene | 4,822 | 16 | 3.32 | 4,946 | 51 | 10.31 |
| Guilford | 102,756 | 795 | 7.74 | 114,911 | 493 | 4.29 |
| Halifax | 14,596 | 122 | 8.36 | 12,322 | 70 | 5.68 |
| Harnett | 26,094 | 256 | 9.81 | 32,988 | 143 | 4.33 |
| Haywood | 11,407 | 158 | 13.85 | 11,189 | 165 | 14.75 |
| Henderson | 19,275 | 133 | 6.90 | 21,922 | 179 | 8.17 |
| Hertford | 5,501 | 53 | 9.63 | 5,159 | 15 | 2.91 |
| Hoke | 10,581 | 64 | 6.05 | 14,799 | 54 | 3.65 |
| Hyde | 1,146 | 8 | 6.98 | 1,070 | 1 | 0.93 |
| Iredell | 33,700 | 185 | 5.49 | 40,230 | 300 | 7.46 |
| Jackson | 6,454 | 35 | 5.42 | 7,038 | 57 | 8.10 |
| Johnston | 35,140 | 150 | 4.27 | 47,665 | 119 | 2.50 |
| Jones | 2,551 | 22 | 8.62 | 2,060 | 11 | 5.34 |
| Lee | 13,243 | 52 | 3.93 | 15,160 | 58 | 3.83 |
| Lenoir | 14,734 | 114 | 7.74 | 14,178 | 56 | 3.95 |
| Lincoln | 16,516 | 95 | 5.75 | 18,329 | 100 | 5.46 |
| Macon | 9,802 | 31 | 3.16 | 9,645 | 54 | 5.60 |
| Madison | 6,226 | 71 | 11.40 | 6,508 | 96 | 14.75 |
| Martin | 4,193 | 38 | 9.06 | 4,054 | 67 | 16.53 |
| McDowell | 6,233 | 151 | 24.23 | 5,241 | 93 | 17.74 |
| Mecklenburg | 187,100 | 1,480 | 7.91 | 238,469 | 950 | 3.98 |
| Mitchell | 3,330 | 63 | 18.92 | 2,937 | 42 | 14.30 |
| Montgomery | 6,738 | 31 | 4.60 | 6,658 | 29 | 4.36 |
| Moore | 17,027 | 105 | 6.17 | 19,168 | 58 | 3.03 |
| Nash | 22,628 | 56 | 2.47 | 22,599 | 70 | 3.10 |
| New Hanover | 34,676 | 784 | 22.61 | 40,597 | 460 | 11.33 |
| Northampton | 5,036 | 31 | 6.16 | 4,484 | 16 | 3.57 |
| Onslow | 39,163 | 276 | 7.05 | 45,123 | 307 | 6.80 |
| Orange | 24,373 | 183 | 7.51 | 27,778 | 147 | 5.29 |

| County Name | Child Population in 2003 | Children in Foster Care 2003 | Rate per 1000 in 2003 | Child Population in 2012 | Children in Foster Care 2012 | Rate per 1000 in 2012 |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pamlico | 2,569 | 21 | 8.17 | 2,376 | 16 | 6.73 |
| Pasquotank | 8,689 | 85 | 9.78 | 9,017 | 42 | 4.66 |
| Pender | 9,848 | 110 | 11.17 | 12,058 | 81 | 6.72 |
| Perquimans | 2,521 | 11 | 4.36 | 2,710 | 5 | 1.85 |
| Person | 8,838 | 56 | 6.34 | 9,115 | 91 | 9.98 |
| Pitt | 32,435 | 183 | 5.64 | 37,985 | 135 | 3.55 |
| Polk | 3,750 | 41 | 10.93 | 3,761 | 50 | 13.29 |
| Randolph | 33,542 | 185 | 5.52 | 34,598 | 154 | 4.45 |
| Richmond | 12,047 | 56 | 4.65 | 11,360 | 43 | 3.79 |
| Robeson | 35,439 | 364 | 10.27 | 36,399 | 402 | 11.04 |
| Rockingham | 21,736 | 77 | 3.54 | 20,366 | 219 | 10.75 |
| Rowan | 32,868 | 333 | 10.13 | 32,298 | 222 | 6.87 |
| Rutherford | 15,012 | 206 | 13.72 | 14,882 | 135 | 9.07 |
| Sampson | 15,898 | 100 | 6.29 | 16,130 | 177 | 10.97 |
| Scotland | 9,711 | 79 | 8.14 | 8,877 | 75 | 8.45 |
| Stanly | 14,505 | 62 | 4.27 | 13,569 | 62 | 4.57 |
| Stokes | 10,800 | 60 | 5.56 | 10,187 | 99 | 9.72 |
| Surry | 17,097 | 49 | 2.87 | 16,961 | 91 | 5.37 |
| Swain | 3,144 | 20 | 6.36 | 3,269 | 73 | 22.33 |
| Transylvania | 5,830 | 76 | 13.04 | 5,732 | 65 | 11.34 |
| Tyrrell | 938 | 7 | 7.46 | 792 | 0 | 0 |
| Union | 39,546 | 135 | 3.41 | 61,371 | 143 | 2.33 |
| Vance | 12,021 | 146 | 12.15 | 11,375 | 99 | 8.70 |
| Wake | 173,044 | 771 | 4.46 | 239,466 | 847 | 3.54 |
| Warren | 4,539 | 49 | 10.80 | 4,194 | 35 | 8.35 |
| Washington | 3,376 | 24 | 7.11 | 2,925 | 12 | 4.10 |
| Watauga | 6,705 | 52 | 7.76 | 7,077 | 42 | 5.93 |
| Wayne | 29,249 | 160 | 5.47 | 30,498 | 132 | 4.33 |
| Wilkes | 15,225 | 213 | 13.99 | 15,204 | 202 | 13.29 |
| Wilson | 19,099 | 123 | 6.44 | 19,903 | 79 | 3.97 |
| Yadkin | 8,973 | 110 | 12.26 | 8,756 | 94 | 10.74 |
| Yancey | 3,752 | 96 | 25.59 | 3,518 | 51 | 14.50 |
| North Carolina | 2,034,988 | 15,453 | 7.59 | 2,287,593 | 13,514 | 5.91 |

Table 6

Average Five-Year and Two-Year Rates per 1000 of Children in Foster Care by County and State

| County Name | Average Rate 2003 - 2007 | Average Rate 2008 - 2012 | Average Rate 2009 - 2010 | Average Rate 2011 - 2012 |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Alamance | 4.65 | 4.59 | 4.87 | 4.09 |
| Alexander | 8.41 | 6.85 | 5.39 | 7.89 |
| Alleghany | 11.52 | 14.99 | 16.25 | 14.93 |
| Anson | 6.62 | 5.40 | 6.33 | 4.10 |
| Ashe | 6.51 | 6.88 | 5.72 | 9.30 |
| Avery | 8.99 | 10.49 | 8.10 | 13.77 |
| Beaufort | 7.51 | 10.10 | 10.13 | 10.68 |
| Bertie | 6.97 | 6.44 | 6.28 | 5.08 |
| Bladen | 7.26 | 4.92 | 6.38 | 3.12 |
| Brunswick | 11.32 | 8.29 | 6.76 | 8.75 |
| Buncombe | 9.35 | 7.33 | 7.41 | 6.70 |
| Burke | 9.79 | 9.10 | 8.66 | 9.66 |
| Cabarrus | 8.83 | 2.37 | 2.04 | 1.95 |
| Caldwell | 11.85 | 14.98 | 13.04 | 17.56 |
| Camden | 2.61 | 3.31 | 3.95 | 2.38 |
| Carteret | 12.03 | 7.67 | 7.96 | 7.74 |
| Caswell | 6.68 | 3.82 | 3.78 | 3.89 |
| Catawba | 9.39 | 9.03 | 9.23 | 8.17 |
| Chatham | 10.85 | 10.41 | 10.26 | 10.03 |
| Cherokee | 18.91 | 19.32 | 20.07 | 18.48 |
| Chowan | 6.27 | 6.22 | 4.96 | 6.69 |
| Clay | 10.53 | 18.31 | 20.55 | 14.30 |
| Cleveland | 10.82 | 13.76 | 13.73 | 14.31 |
| Columbus | 6.09 | 7.15 | 6.56 | 8.40 |
| Craven | 5.96 | 7.07 | 8.56 | 4.40 |
| Cumberland | 11.31 | 10.70 | 10.82 | 11.00 |
| Currituck | 7.04 | 7.13 | 6.60 | 7.26 |
| Dare | 13.57 | 9.77 | 7.94 | 10.87 |
| Davidson | 5.63 | 5.15 | 4.96 | 4.83 |
| Davie | 9.60 | 6.75 | 6.28 | 6.00 |
| Duplin | 3.17 | 3.90 | 3.61 | 4.07 |
| Durham | 6.09 | 4.80 | 4.93 | 4.14 |
| Edgecombe | 14.70 | 12.46 | 14.41 | 8.31 |
| Forsyth | 6.01 | 3.30 | 3.43 | 2.49 |

| | | | | |
|-------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Franklin | 6.81 | 6.46 | 6.65 | 5.71 |
| Gaston | 7.75 | 7.12 | 7.06 | 6.72 |
| Gates | 2.59 | 0.87 | 0.68 | 0.17 |
| Graham | 20.08 | 23.29 | 25.12 | 21.77 |
| Granville | 8.30 | 7.01 | 6.88 | 6.53 |
| Greene | 4.60 | 8.48 | 7.87 | 10.11 |
| Guilford | 7.36 | 4.89 | 4.99 | 4.40 |
| Halifax | 8.14 | 4.84 | 4.03 | 5.51 |
| Harnett | 8.68 | 5.07 | 5.14 | 4.26 |
| Haywood | 16.58 | 14.77 | 14.75 | 13.56 |
| Henderson | 8.04 | 8.35 | 8.46 | 8.64 |
| Hertford | 8.72 | 4.14 | 4.33 | 3.10 |
| Hoke | 6.47 | 4.65 | 5.03 | 3.40 |
| Hyde | 5.30 | 1.80 | 2.08 | 0.93 |
| Iredell | 6.24 | 7.36 | 7.81 | 7.43 |
| Jackson | 7.02 | 6.66 | 5.50 | 6.38 |
| Johnston | 3.95 | 2.57 | 2.39 | 2.53 |
| Jones | 7.84 | 4.50 | 4.50 | 4.71 |
| Lee | 4.09 | 3.54 | 3.71 | 3.67 |
| Lenoir | 8.45 | 5.96 | 6.47 | 4.36 |
| Lincoln | 6.70 | 5.98 | 5.56 | 5.06 |
| Macon | 5.68 | 6.94 | 7.56 | 4.75 |
| Madison | 12.39 | 14.85 | 14.62 | 16.61 |
| Martin | 13.20 | 14.51 | 12.81 | 15.01 |
| McDowell | 25.26 | 19.11 | 19.65 | 19.04 |
| Mecklenburg | 7.98 | 5.17 | 5.43 | 4.23 |
| Mitchell | 13.17 | 10.89 | 10.51 | 13.45 |
| Montgomery | 4.28 | 3.67 | 3.27 | 3.96 |
| Moore | 7.44 | 4.31 | 4.47 | 3.26 |
| Nash | 3.39 | 3.57 | 3.78 | 3.21 |
| New Hanover | 21.80 | 13.74 | 14.27 | 12.34 |
| Northampton | 6.59 | 5.62 | 5.90 | 3.75 |
| Onslow | 8.82 | 7.17 | 6.75 | 6.24 |
| Orange | 7.97 | 6.60 | 7.37 | 5.62 |
| Pamlico | 14.00 | 10.46 | 12.98 | 6.57 |
| Pasquotank | 8.80 | 4.61 | 4.18 | 4.35 |
| Pender | 14.64 | 8.26 | 8.30 | 7.14 |
| Perquimans | 4.74 | 2.43 | 1.37 | 3.09 |
| Person | 6.69 | 10.67 | 11.20 | 11.22 |

| | | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Pitt | 6.52 | 4.58 | 4.76 | 3.81 |
| Polk | 14.70 | 13.33 | 13.19 | 12.53 |
| Randolph | 6.33 | 5.27 | 5.16 | 4.67 |
| Richmond | 4.99 | 4.19 | 4.45 | 3.48 |
| Robeson | 11.13 | 7.91 | 6.15 | 10.25 |
| Rockingham | 6.16 | 9.17 | 8.09 | 10.42 |
| Rowan | 9.71 | 7.77 | 8.12 | 7.26 |
| Rutherford | 10.89 | 9.55 | 9.81 | 9.09 |
| Sampson | 6.58 | 8.89 | 8.17 | 10.59 |
| Scotland | 8.97 | 10.76 | 11.48 | 9.66 |
| Stanly | 5.96 | 4.64 | 4.38 | 4.48 |
| Stokes | 7.74 | 10.17 | 9.92 | 10.30 |
| Surry | 3.92 | 4.71 | 4.03 | 5.62 |
| Swain | 7.86 | 15.06 | 12.26 | 20.20 |
| Transylvania | 13.39 | 8.56 | 7.61 | 9.37 |
| Tyrrell | 5.69 | 1.80 | 2.61 | 1.26 |
| Union | 3.23 | 2.67 | 2.69 | 2.49 |
| Vance | 9.57 | 9.17 | 9.94 | 7.92 |
| Wake | 4.39 | 3.58 | 3.42 | 3.64 |
| Warren | 9.76 | 7.15 | 6.67 | 7.71 |
| Washington | 7.99 | 5.22 | 4.35 | 5.02 |
| Watauga | 7.40 | 8.14 | 9.84 | 6.70 |
| Wayne | 7.04 | 4.98 | 4.75 | 4.36 |
| Wilkes | 15.57 | 15.96 | 16.57 | 13.79 |
| Wilson | 6.63 | 5.51 | 5.93 | 4.38 |
| Yadkin | 10.28 | 10.99 | 11.01 | 10.87 |
| Yancey | 25.15 | 19.19 | 20.01 | 15.59 |
| North Carolina | 7.93 | 6.39 | 6.38 | 6.01 |

Appendix B

Multiple Response System (MRS) Description

MRS was implemented as a pilot program in ten counties in 2001. In 2003, 42 additional counties began applying MRS policies. MRS was expanded statewide in January 2006. Under MRS, investigations of reports of maltreatment can follow one of two tracks: investigative or family assessment. The investigative track is similar in most respects to the way maltreatment reports were handled prior to the implementation of MRS. The family assessment track, on the other hand, allows and encourages the provision of services to families that would build on their strengths and eliminate the risk of harm to their children.

Counties have some flexibility in whether to use the investigative or the family assessment track. According to policy⁴, the choice of response should be based on the approach that best provides for the child's safety, permanence, and wellbeing. State policies require that all reports of abuse follow the investigative track. In addition, the policies require that certain reports of neglect—such as those involving a child fatality or where there is medical neglect of a disabled infant—follow the investigative track as well. For other neglect or dependency reports, county departments of social services may use the family assessment response. The family assessments incorporate System of Care (SOC) principles such as involving the family in decisions, developing an individualized plan which builds on the family's strengths, fostering interagency collaboration to address the family's needs, and developing culturally appropriate responses.

Just as the tracks differ in their approach, the findings differ as well. Under the investigative track, findings for abuse, neglect, or dependency are classified as either substantiated or unsubstantiated. For reports handled through the family assessment track, the findings can be services needed; services recommended; services provided, protective services no longer needed; and services not recommended. The finding of services needed is made when there are questions about the frequency and severity of maltreatment, current safety issues, if there is a risk of harm in the future, or if the child is in need of protective services. The finding of services provided, protective services no longer needed is used if, during the assessment, a determination was made that the threat to the child's safety or the risk of future harm were great enough to require the provision of involuntary services, but the problems were addressed and services were no longer required at the end of the assessment period.

This research is funded through a contract with the North Carolina Division of Social Services. The views expressed are those of the authors. Any errors due to the interpretation of the analysis of the data are the authors' alone.

Additional information on the child welfare program at the state or county level is available through the Management Assistance for Child Welfare, Work First, and Food and Nutrition Services web site, <http://ssw.unc.edu/ma/>.

A PDF version of this report can be found at http://sasweb.unc.edu/cgi-bin/broker?_service=default&_program=dgweb.highlight.sas&label=&county=North+Carolina

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⁴ The policies for investigations are found in Volume 1: Children's Services, Chapter VIII: Child Protective Services, of the NC-DSS Family Services Manual available at <http://info.dhhs.state.nc.us/olm/manuals/dss/csm-60/man/>.

