

The State of Ethnic Charlotte

An Urban League of Central Carolinas Project

Health Indicators

Prepared by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

October 2011

Special points of interest:

- Blacks and Hispanics had lower percents of prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy than whites did in all areas studied.
- The percent of births to women under the age of 18 was higher for Blacks and Hispanics in comparison to Whites in each area studied.
- In all areas studied, Hispanics had the highest percent of mothers with less than twelve years of education.
- In all areas studied, Blacks had the highest percent of live births with low and very low birth weights.
- In all areas studied, the percent (adults) of Other races with health insurance coverage was lower when compared to Whites.

Introduction

The State of Ethnic Charlotte, 2011 is the first project of the Joe Martin Institute for Inclusive Policy at the Urban League of Central Carolinas. The State of Ethnic Charlotte (SOEC) works with the Urban Institute of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte to assess the conditions and experiences of all people in the Charlotte region. The SOEC will measure ethnic progress and disparities both quantitatively and qualitatively across four Equality Index areas including economics, education, health, and social justice.

The region of interest includes the following counties in North Carolina: Cabarrus, Catawba, Gaston, Iredell, Mecklenburg, Rowan, and Union. This region also includes York County in South Carolina.

Methodology and Data Interpretation for Index Values

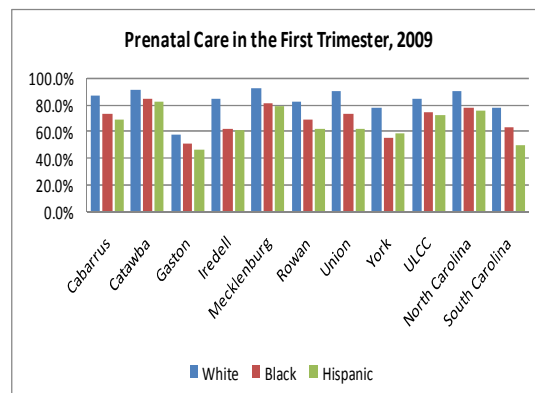
The measures from this project were adapted from the national Urban League's Black America Equality Index. The State of Ethnic Charlotte Equality Index examines the progress and disparities among the five major racial/ethnic groups in the region including Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, and Whites as a reference group. These indicators were calculated utilizing 52 data measures in the four Equality Index areas that were available at the county level.

The Equality Index can be interpreted as the relative status of Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians compared to Whites in the Urban League of Central Carolina's Region. For any of the four indicators, the Equality index refers to the ratio between that measure for Blacks, Hispanics, Asians, and American Indians compared to Whites. Ideally, the index should be as close to 100% as possible. Depending on the measure of interest, an index much less than or much greater than 100% suggests that the racial/ethnic minority is doing worse relative to Whites. To use prenatal care in the 1st trimester in Cabarrus as an example, an index of $83.7\% = 72.9\% / 87.1\%$, where 72.9% is the percent of Black women beginning prenatal care in the first trimester and 87.1% is the percent of White women beginning prenatal care in the first trimester. The interpretation for this index is that the percent of Blacks in Cabarrus beginning prenatal care in the first trimester is only 83.7% of that compared to Whites. For ease of presenting the index, indices under 100% are referred to as fractions, so 83.7% would be just over 4/5. To use another example, percent of births to mothers under 18 in Mecklenburg County, an index of $694.9\% = 4.9\% / 0.7\%$, where 4.9% is the percent of births to mothers under 18 for Hispanics and 0.7% is the percent of births to mothers under 18 for Whites. For ease of presenting the index, indices with a value greater than 100% were changed to a rate. The interpretation for this index is that the percent of births to mothers under 18 for Hispanics is 6.9 times that for Whites. For this report, the greatest disparity for each county is explained.

Prenatal Care in the First Trimester

Prenatal care refers to the medical care a woman receives while pregnant. This care involves blood tests and physical examinations in order to ensure the health of both the mother and the baby. In the ULCC region, the percent of prenatal care in the first trimester was lower for all groups than the North Carolina average but higher than the South Carolina average.

Blacks and Hispanics had lower percents of prenatal care in the first trimester of pregnancy than Whites in all areas studied. The average for the region was highest for Whites (84.9%), followed by Blacks (74.3%) and Hispanics (72.3%). With the exception of York County where Blacks had the lowest percent, Hispanics had the lowest percent of prenatal care in the first trimester for all areas. Data was unavailable for any pregnancy-related indicators for Asians and American Indians.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Index Values for Prenatal Care Beginning in the First Trimester

- ◆ In Cabarrus County, Hispanics had the largest disparity with just under 4/5 that of White women beginning prenatal care in the first trimester.
- ◆ In Catawba, Hispanics had a percent just under that of Whites.
- ◆ In Gaston, Hispanics had a percent slightly under 4/5 that of Whites.
- ◆ In Iredell, Hispanics had a percent slightly over 2/3 that of Whites.
- ◆ In Mecklenburg, Hispanics had a percent over 4/5 that of Whites.
- ◆ In Rowan, Hispanics had a percent just over 3/4 that of Whites.
- ◆ In Union, Hispanics had a percent slightly over 2/3 that of Whites.
- ◆ In York, Blacks had a percent over 2/3 that of Whites.
- ◆ For the ULCC region, Hispanics had a percent slightly above 4/5 that of Whites.
- ◆ In North Carolina, Hispanics had a percent slightly above 4/5 that of Whites.
- ◆ In South Carolina, Hispanics had a percent slightly under 2/3 that of Whites.

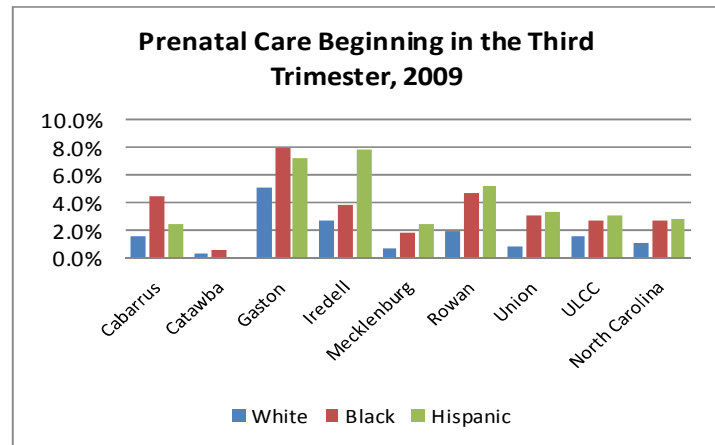
	Black/White	Hispanic/White
Cabarrus	83.7%	79.7%
Catawba	92.5%	90.0%
Gaston	89.1%	79.8%
Iredell	73.3%	71.1%
Mecklenburg	87.2%	85.1%
Rowan	83.4%	75.4%
Union	80.8%	68.9%
York	71.3%	76.2%
ULCC Region	87.5%	85.1%
North Carolina	86.5%	83.8%
South Carolina	81.0%	63.4%

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Prenatal Care Beginning in the Third Trimester

For prenatal care beginning in the third trimester of pregnancy, higher rates were seen for both Blacks and Hispanics in comparison to Whites in almost every area studied. The only exception was in Catawba County, where Hispanics had 0.0% of women beginning prenatal care in the third trimester.

For the region, Hispanics had the largest percent of women who did not receive prenatal care until the third trimester at 3.0%, followed by Blacks (2.7%) and Whites (1.6%). Data was unavailable for York County and South Carolina.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Index Values for Prenatal Care Beginning in the Third Trimester

- ◆ In Cabarrus County, Blacks had the largest disparity with a rate 2.7 times that of White women beginning prenatal care in the third trimester.
- ◆ In Catawba, Blacks had a rate 2.3 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Gaston, Blacks had a rate 1.6 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Iredell, Hispanics had a rate 2.8 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Mecklenburg, Hispanics had a rate 3.6 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Rowan, Hispanics had a rate 2.7 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Union, Hispanics had a rate 4.0 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For the ULCC region, Hispanics had a rate 1.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In North Carolina, Hispanics had a rate 2.7 times that of Whites.

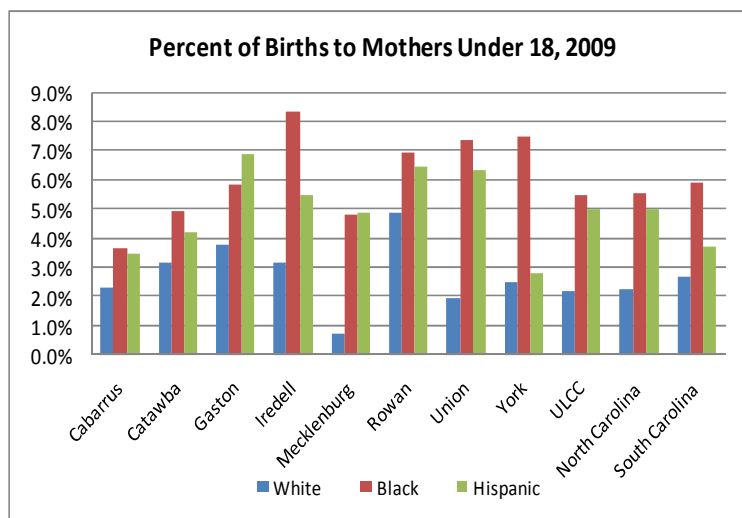
	Black/White	Hispanic/White
Cabarrus	273.2%	148.5%
Catawba	230.2%	0.0%
Gaston	159.5%	143.9%
Iredell	139.9%	284.7%
Mecklenburg	267.0%	355.9%
Rowan	245.8%	268.7%
Union	356.4%	399.4%
York	N/A	N/A
ULCC Region	173.3%	191.3%
North Carolina	260.4%	269.3%
South Carolina	N/A	N/A

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Percent of Births to Mothers Under the Age of 18

The percent of births to women under the age of 18 were higher for Blacks and Hispanics in comparison to Whites in each area studied. The regional averages for all groups were the same as the North Carolina average. The regional averages for Whites and Blacks were lower than the South Carolina average but the regional average was higher for Hispanics.

Blacks had the highest percent of births to mothers under the age of 18 in the region at 5.5%, followed by Hispanics (5.0%) and Whites (2.2%). The highest percent for any group was for Blacks in Iredell County (8.4%) while the lowest was for Whites in Mecklenburg County at 0.7%.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Index Values for Percent of Births to Mothers Under the Age of 18

- ◆ In Cabarrus County, Blacks had the largest disparity with a rate 1.6 times that of White mothers under 18.
- ◆ In Catawba, Blacks had a rate 1.6 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Gaston, Hispanics had a rate 1.8 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Iredell, Blacks had a rate 2.6 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Mecklenburg, Hispanics had a rate 6.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Rowan, Blacks had a rate 1.4 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Union, Blacks had a rate 3.8 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In York, Blacks had a rate 3.0 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For the ULCC region, Blacks had a rate 2.5 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In North Carolina, Blacks had a rate 2.5 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In South Carolina, Blacks had a rate 2.2 times that of Whites.

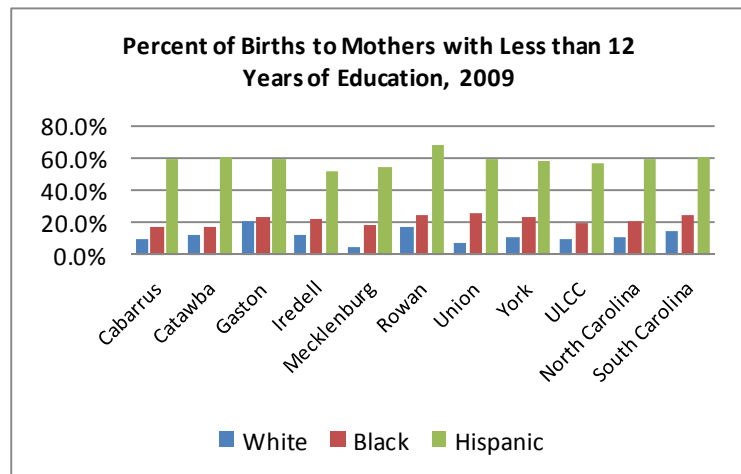
	Black/White	Hispanic/White
Cabarrus	158.1%	150.0%
Catawba	155.4%	133.3%
Gaston	156.2%	183.9%
Iredell	262.7%	172.9%
Mecklenburg	690.7%	694.9%
Rowan	142.9%	133.1%
Union	379.1%	326.9%
York	298.5%	110.1%
ULCC Region	250.3%	228.5%
North Carolina	246.0%	223.5%
South Carolina	220.9%	138.5%

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Percent of Births to Mothers with Less Than 12 Years of Education

In all areas studied, Hispanics had the highest percent of mothers with less than twelve years of education, followed by Blacks and then Whites. The regional average was lower for all groups than the North and South Carolina state averages.

Hispanics had the highest percent of births to mothers with less than twelve years of education in the region at 56.7%, followed by Blacks (20.0%) and Whites (9.8%). The highest percent for any group was for Hispanics in Rowan County at 68.5%, while the lowest was for Whites in Mecklenburg County at 4.4%.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data. (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Index Values for Mothers with Less Than 12 Years of Education

- ◆ In Cabarrus County, Hispanics had the largest disparity with a 6.0 times that of White mothers with less than 12 years of education.
- ◆ In Catawba, Hispanics had a rate 4.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Gaston, Hispanics had a rate 2.8 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Iredell, Hispanics had a rate 4.2 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Mecklenburg, Hispanics had a rate 12.4 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Rowan, Hispanics had a rate 4.2 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Union, Hispanics had a rate 7.7 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In York, Hispanics had a rate 5.5 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For the ULCC region, Hispanics had a rate 5.8 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In North Carolina, Hispanics had a rate 5.3 times that of Whites. In South Carolina, Hispanics had a rate 4.2 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For Blacks, the largest disparity was in Mecklenburg County where Blacks had a rate 4.2 times that of Whites.

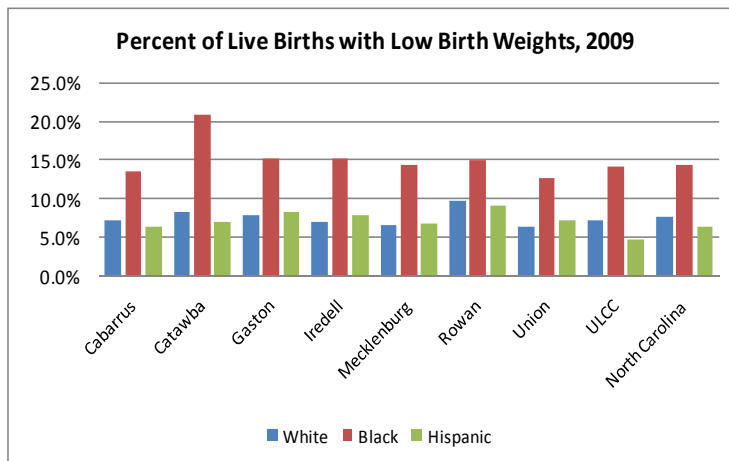
	Black/White	Hispanic/White
Cabarrus	170.0%	600.5%
Catawba	143.5%	494.4%
Gaston	110.3%	279.9%
Iredell	179.7%	424.4%
Mecklenburg	423.5%	1242.9%
Rowan	146.1%	417.7%
Union	342.7%	774.9%
York	218.5%	546.0%
ULCC Region	203.7%	578.0%
North Carolina	186.7%	530.7%
South Carolina	168.0%	423.4%

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data. (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Percent of Live Births with Low Birth Weights

Low birth weight is defined as any baby born weighing under 2,500 grams, or approximately 5.5 pounds. Data for this indicator was not available for South Carolina or York County.

In all areas studied, Blacks had the highest percent of live births with low birth weights. The highest percent of low birth weight babies was for Blacks in Catawba County at 20.8% of live births. The lowest percent seen was 6.3% for Hispanics in Cabarrus County.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Index Values for Percent of Live Births with Low Birth Weights

- ◆ In Cabarrus County, Blacks had the largest disparity with a rate 1.9 times that of Whites for low birth weight births.
- ◆ In Catawba, Blacks had a rate 2.5 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Gaston, Blacks had a rate 1.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Iredell, Blacks had a rate 2.2 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Mecklenburg, Blacks had a rate 2.2 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Rowan, Blacks had a rate 1.5 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Union, Blacks had a rate 2.0 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For the ULCC region, Blacks had a rate 2.0 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In North Carolina, Blacks had a rate 1.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ Hispanics had lower rates of live births with low birth weights than Blacks for all areas studied. Union had the largest disparity with the Hispanic rate 1.1 times the rate for Whites.

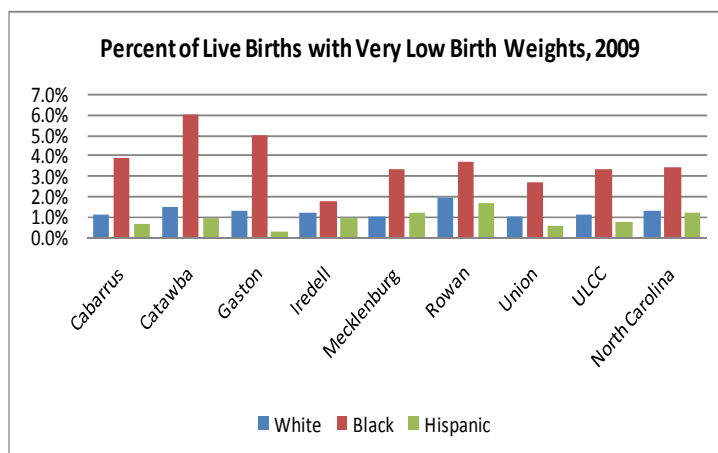
	Black/White	Hispanic/White
Cabarrus	188.8%	87.6%
Catawba	250.8%	83.7%
Gaston	192.1%	105.3%
Iredell	220.0%	112.7%
Mecklenburg	218.3%	102.4%
Rowan	154.0%	92.4%
Union	199.6%	113.4%
York	N/A	N/A
ULCC Region	197.5%	99.6%
North Carolina	191.5%	85.2%
South Carolina	N/A	N/A

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Percent of Live Births with Very Low Birth Weights

Very low birth weight refers to babies born weighing under 1,500 grams, or about 3.3 pounds. Data for this indicator was not available for South Carolina or York County.

In all areas studied, Blacks had the highest percent of live births with very low birth weights. With the exception of Mecklenburg county, Hispanics had the lowest percent of very low birth weight babies in all areas. The highest percent of very low birth weight babies was for Blacks in Catawba County at 6.0% of live births. The lowest percent seen was 0.3% for Hispanics in Gaston County.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Index Values for Percent of Live Births with Very Low Birth Weights

- ◆ In Cabarrus County, Blacks had the largest disparity with a rate 3.4 times that of White live births with very low birth weights.
- ◆ In Catawba, Blacks had a rate 4.0 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Gaston, Blacks had a rate 3.8 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Iredell, Blacks had a rate 1.5 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Mecklenburg, Blacks had a rate that 3.2 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Rowan, Blacks had a rate 1.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In Union, Blacks had a rate 2.7 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For the ULCC region, Blacks had a rate 2.9 times that of Whites.
- ◆ In North Carolina, Blacks had a rate 2.6 times that of Whites.
- ◆ For Hispanics, the largest disparity was in Mecklenburg County. Hispanics had a rate 1.2 times that of Whites.

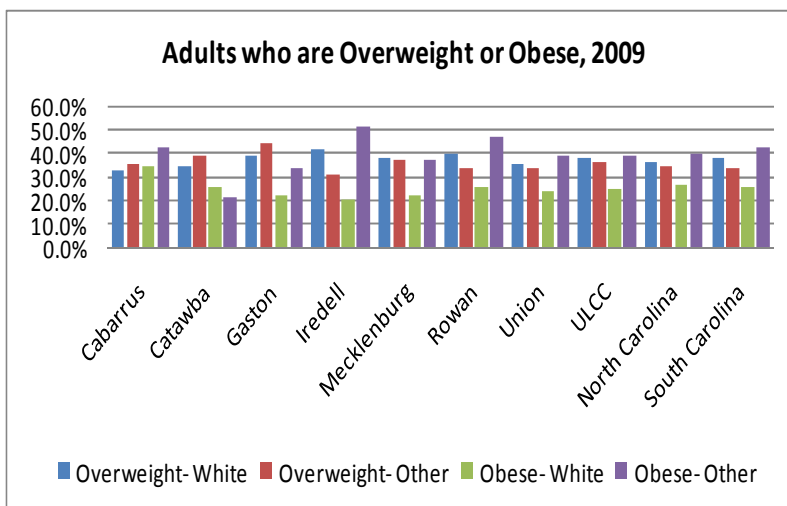
	Black/White	Hispanic/White
Cabarrus	335.6%	56.4%
Catawba	401.2%	60.3%
Gaston	381.9%	24.5%
Iredell	146.8%	77.9%
Mecklenburg	318.3%	118.8%
Rowan	187.3%	85.6%
Union	265.4%	54.5%
York	N/A	N/A
ULCC Region	292.9%	61.0%
North Carolina	264.7%	90.6%
South Carolina	N/A	N/A

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Live Birth Data, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/births/bd.cfm>)

Adults who are Overweight or Obese

Overweight is defined by the CDC as a Body Mass Index (BMI) between 25 and 29.9. Obesity is defined as a BMI of 30 or higher. In many areas studied, percentages of adults of Other races who were overweight were lower than percentages for Whites. For obesity though, Other races tended to have a higher percentage. Data was only available for Whites and Other races, and was not available for any category for York County.

In the region, Whites (37.8%) had a higher percent overweight than Other races (36.6%). Both groups had higher percentages than the North Carolina average. Other races (39.5%) had a higher percent of obesity in the region than Whites (24.6%). Both groups had a lower average for the region than the North and South Carolina state averages.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Risk Factors and Derived Responses (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/brfss.cfm>)

Index Values for Adults who are Overweight or Obese

For this indicator, we are only comparing two races: White and Other races. Therefore, in this section we will only report areas where there was a disparity for Other races in comparison to Whites.

- Only three counties had more overweight adults of Other races in comparison to Whites: Cabarrus, Catawba, and Gaston. In each of these counties the rate for Other races was about 1.1 times the rate for Whites.
- The rate of adults of Other races who were overweight was higher in the region than in North and South Carolina.
- In all counties, with the exception of Catawba, adults of Other races had a higher rate of obesity in comparison to Whites. Iredell had the greatest disparity, where Other races had a rate 2.6 times that of Whites.
- The rate of adults who were obese in the region is higher than the state average for North Carolina but slightly lower than the average for South Carolina.

	Overweight Other/White	Obese Other/White
Cabarrus	107.5%	124.9%
Catawba	113.2%	81.8%
Gaston	112.0%	151.1%
Iredell	75.5%	255.7%
Mecklenburg	97.7%	169.7%
Rowan	84.5%	184.2%
Union	95.5%	163.7%
York	N/A	N/A
ULCC Region	96.8%	160.7%
North Carolina	95.2%	151.5%
South Carolina	88.7%	162.9%

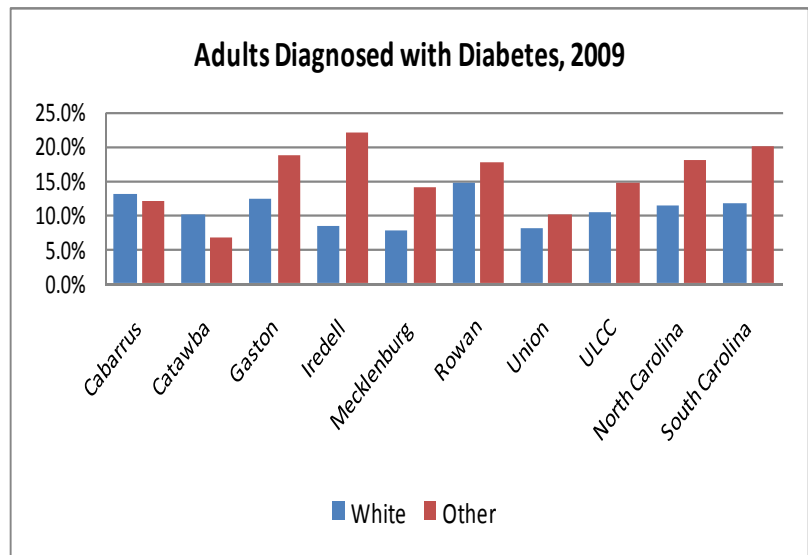
Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Risk Factors and Derived Responses (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/brfss.cfm>)

Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes

In most areas studied, Other races had a higher percentage of diabetes diagnoses in comparison to Whites. Data was only available for Whites and Other races, and information was not available for York County.

The county with the highest percentage of diabetes diagnoses for Other races was Iredell at 22.0%. Catawba had the lowest percentage at 6.9%. For Whites, the highest percent was in Rowan at 14.9%. The lowest was in Mecklenburg at 7.7%.

The regional average for Other races was 14.9%, compared to 10.6% for Whites. The North Carolina state average was 18.2% for Other races and 11.6% for Whites. The average for Other races in South Carolina was 20.2% and 11.9% for Whites.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Diabetes (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/brfss.cfm>)

Index Values for Adults Diagnosed with Diabetes

For this indicator, we are only comparing two races: White and Other races. Therefore, in this section we will only report areas where there was a disparity for Other races in comparison to Whites.

- ◆ In most areas studied, Other races had a higher rate of diabetes diagnoses in comparison to Whites. Cabarrus and Catawba counties were the only exception.
- ◆ The greatest disparity was in Iredell, where adults of Other races had a rate of diabetes diagnoses 2.6 times the rate for Whites.
- ◆ The rate of adults of Other races diagnosed with diabetes in comparison to Whites is lower in the region than both the North and South Carolina state averages.

	Other/White
Cabarrus	92.8%
Catawba	67.7%
Gaston	152.0%
Iredell	260.3%
Mecklenburg	181.3%
Rowan	118.6%
Union	125.2%
York	N/A
ULCC Region	140.7%
North Carolina	157.5%
South Carolina	170.8%

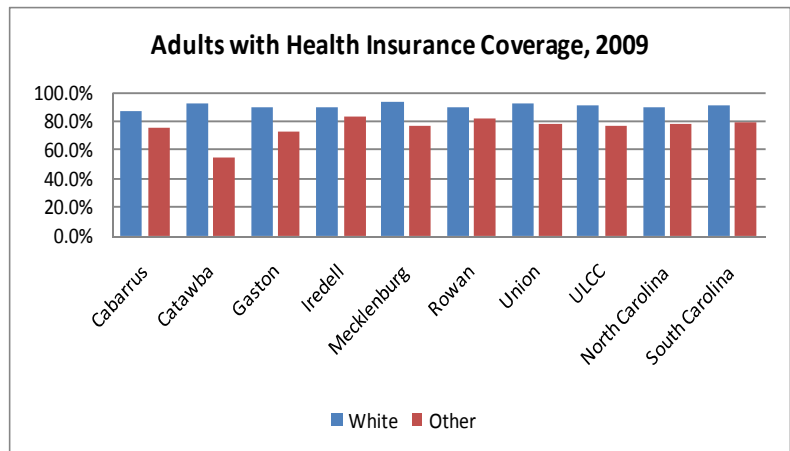
Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Diabetes (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/brfss.cfm>)

Adults with Health Insurance Coverage

In all areas studied, the percent of adults of Other races with health insurance coverage was lower when compared to Whites. Health insurance coverage includes pre-paid plans like HMOs, as well as government plans like Medicare. Data was only available for Whites and Other races, and information was not available for York County.

The regional average for Other races with health insurance coverage was 76.6%, compared to 91.0% for Whites. The North Carolina state average for Other races was 77.7% and 90.2% for Whites. The South Carolina state average was 79.5% for Other races and 91.4% for Whites.

Catawba had the lowest percent of insured adults of Other races at 55.2%, while Cabarrus had the lowest for Whites at 87.5%. Iredell had the highest percent of insured adults of Other races at 82.8% while Mecklenburg had the highest percent for Whites at 93.5%.



Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Health Care Access, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/brfss.cfm>)

Index Values for Adults with Health Insurance Coverage

For this indicator, we are only comparing two races: White and Other races. Therefore, in this section we will only report areas where there was a disparity for Other races in comparison to Whites.

- ◆ In all areas studied, adults of Other races had a lower rate of health insurance coverage in comparison to Whites. The greatest disparity was in Catawba County, where adults of Other races had a rate of health insurance coverage slightly below 3/5 that of Whites.
- ◆ The regional rate for adults of Other races with health insurance coverage in comparison to Whites was slightly lower than the North and South Carolina state averages.

	Other/White
Cabarrus	86.3%
Catawba	59.5%
Gaston	82.2%
Iredell	91.5%
Mecklenburg	82.8%
Rowan	92.2%
Union	83.3%
York	N/A
ULCC Region	84.1%
North Carolina	86.0%
South Carolina	86.9%

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009 Health Care Access, (<http://www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/data/brfss.cfm>)