OUR CHILDREN – OUR OPPORTUNITY

COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN’S RIGHTS
## US QUICK FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7,593,000</td>
<td>Children without health insurance (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7,593,000</td>
<td>Children with at least one unemployed parent (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,052,000</td>
<td>Percent of children under five living in poverty (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,508,000</td>
<td>Children in homes that experienced food insecurity (2010-2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>672,824</td>
<td>Children who are confirmed victims of maltreatment (2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: KidsCount data center
Where does NC Stand?

26% Children live in poverty

10th highest child poverty rate

12th highest deep poverty rate

Source: 2012 American Community Survey
### NC QUICK FACTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Number</strong></th>
<th><strong>Fact</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>219,000</td>
<td>Children without health insurance (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>226,000</td>
<td>Children with at least one unemployed parent (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30%</td>
<td>Percent of children under five living in poverty (2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>569,000</td>
<td>Children in homes that experienced food insecurity (2010-2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22,943</td>
<td>Children who are confirmed victims of maltreatment (2011)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: KidsCount data center
NC CHILD POVERTY BY RACE

Source: 2012 American Community Survey
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Family Type</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Note</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Single Moms with children</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>(41.5%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single Dads with Children</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>(23.7%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married Couples with Children</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
<td>(8.7%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
POVERTY AND POTENTIAL

Factors that may affect the health and development of children in poverty

- Low birth weight
- Inadequate health care
- Food insecurity
- Environmental pollutants
- Family relations and family stress
- Neighborhood characteristics

CHILD POVERTY IN NATIONAL HEADLINES

• In 2011, 48% of 50 million US public-school students qualified for free or reduced-price meals.

• Over 1.1 million homeless children and you are enrolling in US public schools
  • States showing largest Increase:
    North Dakota, 212%  Wyoming, 40%
    Maine, 58%  South Dakota, 35%
    North Carolina, 53%  Vermont, 31%
    Michigan, 42%

• Standardized tests are the focus of school reform, BUT “Children can’t become high achievers in school if they arrive in class hungry, sick, exhausted, traumatized.”  (Oct. 24)

Source: Washington Post
WHERE TO START?
POSITIVE SUPPORTS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Affordable housing
System of care – wrap around services
Quality early learning experiences

Meaningful relationships

Parent education and support
Workforce development
Out of school time experiences
UNDERSTANDING THEIR RIGHTS

WHAT ARE THEY?
CHILD WELFARE: WHAT RIGHTS DO I HAVE?

1. To be safe and free from abuse

2. If in Social Services custody:
   • visitation with siblings and parents unless determined inappropriate by the court
   • practice own religion
   • regular health care (including treatment for any illness, emotional, developmental, or physical disability)
EDUCATION: RIGHTS FOR “AT RISK” STUDENTS

1. Student’s at risk of academic failure have a right to a written Personal Education Plan (PEP).
   • “at risk” is level I or II on EOG/EOC, failing grades, absences, suspensions

2. School administration shall give notice of the PEP and a copy of the PEP to the student’s parent/guardian.
   • Parent should be included in the implementation and ongoing review or PEP’s.

3. PEP must include:
   • Diagnostic evaluations
   • Intervention strategies (mentoring, tutoring, summer school, smaller classes, modified instruction, etc.)
   • Monitoring strategies
EDUCATION: CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES

- Individualized Education Plan (IEP)
- 504 Plan
- Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE)
- Manifestation Determination Review (MDR)
McKinney Vento Act is a federal law that entitles children who are homeless to Free Appropriate Public Education. Requires schools to remove barriers to their enrollment, attendance, and success in school.

Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 is a federal law that addresses concerns about outcomes for children who have entered foster care placement.
SCHOOL DISCIPLINE:
MYTHS DEBUNKED!

**Myth 1**
Children with disabilities are not subject to the same school rules and sanctions as children without disabilities.

**Myth 2**
Children are not afforded due process.

**Myth 3**
School suspensions don’t cause criminal charges.
JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

What is a juvenile?

Who is defined as a delinquent juvenile?

What about those that are age 16 to 18? NC is one of two states that treat children 16+ as adults.
WHAT ARE CHILDREN ENTITLED TO IN JUVENILE COURT?

• Any child under the age of 16 is presumed to be indigent and is appointed an attorney if involved in the court process.

• What rights do children have in juvenile court?
  • To know what they are charged with.
  • To remain silent.
  • To have a lawyer present during questioning.
  • If you are under the age of 14, a parent must be present.
  • To deny the charges and have a trial.
THE REALITY

Juvenile Delinquency in NC

- Violent Offenses: 2.0%
- Serious Offenses: 22.0%
- Minor Offenses: 66.0%
- Infractions & Status: 10.0%

Source: NC Dept. of Public Safety
QUESTIONS?

COUNCIL FOR CHILDREN'S RIGHTS