

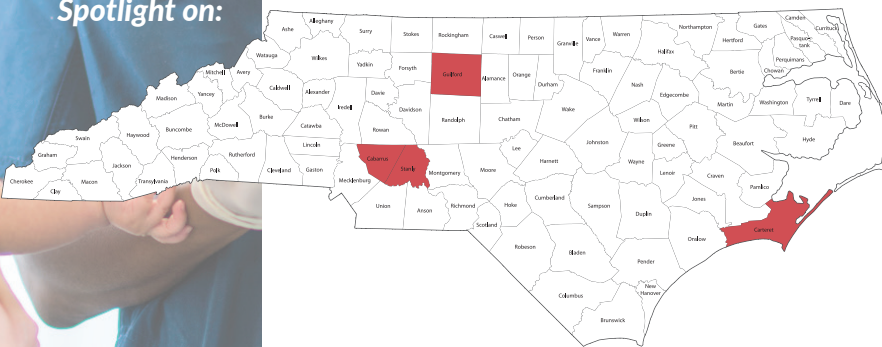
Advancing Child & Family Health



Spotlight on:

Smart Start works to ensure families of young children, starting from birth have the resources they need for maternal, perinatal, and postpartum health, and that children birth-to-five years old are healthy. This early support includes mental health support and lactation support.

Local Partnerships move the needle forward on health and safety by connecting parents and families with resources that support social determinants of health—the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. Across the Network, Partnerships provide referrals to critical resources which include connecting parents to safe car seats and child passenger safety education, to medical providers, and to home visiting and parent education.

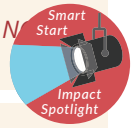


Smart Start is committed to ensuring children have the tools and resources they need to establish healthy behavior patterns. This includes building positive relationships around health and wellness through nutrition and food education and the incorporation of physical activity at child care centers and homes.

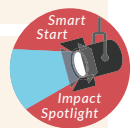
Smart Start also plays a key role in the screening for development delays for young children long before they start school. Through Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD), children receive routine screenings as part of their well child visit across the state.

By supporting children right from the start, Smart Start comprehensively supports children and their families.

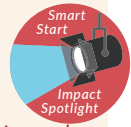
The Carteret County Partnership for Children referred a mother with depression to therapy where she healed from childhood abuse and began a journey towards alcohol use disorder remission. Through consistent support, she has remained employed and has been promoted. Her children also avoided a potential out of home placement and are now flourishing in child care and N Pre-K!



Cabarrus Partnership for Children hosted an Emergency Dental program and treated a three-year-old boy presenting with four decay areas in his primary second molars. Through continued education and trust-building, his mother has now brought in other children and may even receive dental care herself.



Stanly County Partnership for Children fostered a promising collaboration between its Early Childhood Resource Center (ECRC) and Pfeiffer University's Pediatric Occupational Therapy Doctorate program. The doctoral students visit the ECRC during their lab days throughout the semester, leveraging the center's resources for specific assignments. Both the ECRC and Pfeiffer University are optimistic about the outcomes of this partnership and eagerly anticipate its continued evolution.

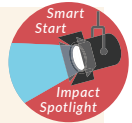




Keeping Children Safe & Healthy

Child Care Health Consultants (CCHCs) play an important role in ensuring the health and development of young children. CCHCs are trained health professionals who work with child care programs to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate strategies to achieve high quality, safe and healthy environments. NCPC and the Smart Start Network have worked with partners to expand access to CCHCs to every county in the state. Through the work of Smart Start, the North Carolina Child Care Health and Safety Resource Center, and other partners, all counties in North Carolina have access at some level to CCHCs.

Guilford County Partnership for Children tackled a staffing crisis at a child care center, with concerns about their sick-child exclusion policy. Thanks to the partnership, a CCHC nurse intervened, listening to staff worries about illnesses spreading at the center. After providing an example of a center policy and emphasizing daily health checks, the staff felt reassured, choosing to remain at the center.



See Data and Tables on page 37



Advancing Child & Family Health

Smart Start Local Partnerships spent over \$2.6 million on health-related programs to support children and families.

State Expenditures of Health Services:	
Early Intervention Services	\$1,272,050.25
Prenatal/Newborn Services	\$837,113.02
Assuring Better Child Health and Development (ABCD)	\$304,057.60
Health Care Access and Support	\$217,579.96
Oral Health Services	\$23,869.68

Partnerships Lead on Child & Family Health

Smart Start Local Partnerships reported that they served as leaders in their communities on various health outcomes:

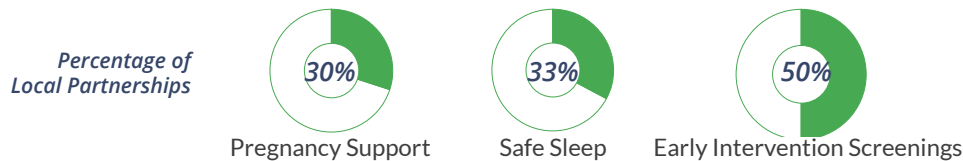
3 Areas that Local Partnerships lead on with NC State Appropriation and private funding include*:



Partnerships also led on Postpartum and Pregnancy Support.

Partnerships Support on Child & Family Health

3 Areas that Local Partnerships participated in within communities include*:



Partnerships also participated in breastfeeding support, oral health, and child passenger safety activities.

Early Childhood Health Referrals

Smart Start is a key reason why children receive critical early intervention services across the state because of Assuring Better Health and Development (ABCD).

ABCD helps primary health care practices perform general developmental and autism-specific screenings and connects children to specialized therapies and other early intervention services.

ABCD serves **48,671 children** annually.

*The results are based on a survey of 66/75 Smart Start Local Partnerships.

Smart Start Prioritizes Health

NCPC serves on state and regional committees to lead, advise, and collaborate on child and family health priorities.

NCPC participates on over 20 Child and Family Health committees and workgroups, including:

NC Perinatal Health Strategic Plan Team

**NC Inter-agency
Coordinating Council (NC ICC)**

North Carolina Child Fatality Task Force

**North Carolina Infant and Early Childhood
Mental Health Association (NCIMHA)**

**Statewide Advisory Committee on Infant
Mental Health Endorsement®**

**NC Breastfeeding-Friendly Child Care
Designation Application Review Committee**

**Early Well Coordinating Team (formally Social
Emotional Health Initiative Leadership)**

**NC State Health Improvement Plan- Adverse
Childhood Experiences (ACE's) Subcommittee**

NC Violence Prevention Team

Child FindACCESS State Leadership Team

AND MORE!