

WHOLE CHILD HEALTH DIVISION OF CHILD AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Children and Families in North Carolina



WHAT WE DO

The **Whole Child Health (WCH)** section of the NC Department of Health and Human Services focuses on improving children's health, wellness, and behavioral well-being. Our approach is comprehensive, addressing the physical, emotional, and social needs of children through five key units:



Child Behavioral Health



Genetics and Newborn Screening



Child and Family Wellness



School, Adolescent, and Child Health



Best Practices

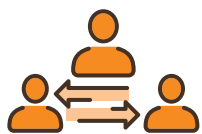
These units work together to help ensure that North Carolina's children and families thrive in safe, stable, and supportive environments.

SCHOOL, ADOLESCENT, AND CHILD HEALTH UNIT

MISSION

We support children with a focus in schools, school health centers, and programs in local health department and community settings.

KEY PROGRAMS



Care Management for At-Risk Children - Improves care for children with special health care needs by linking families to services that will meet the child's specific needs



School Nursing Support - Provides technical assistance to North Carolina's school nurses and school staff to improve health services in school and ensure students are healthy and able to succeed



School Health Centers - Increases access to physical and mental health services such as mental health counseling, health education, physical and dental exams, and nutrition support for youth ages 10-19 through 30+ centers in local communities

IMPACT

Over **3.4 million** children impacted annually



>3.4 MILLION CHILDREN

School Nurses - Support **over 3.3 million** children



>3.3 MILLION CHILDREN

School Health Centers - **10,500** children served



10,500 CHILDREN

Care Management for At-Risk Children - **44,693** children supported



44,693 CHILDREN

CHILD BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT

MISSION

We provide a network of services to support children with behavioral health challenges, helping families access resources and care.

KEY PROGRAMS



NC-PAL (NC Psychiatric Access Line) - provides mental health education to North Carolina clinical and social service providers so they are best able to support children and families



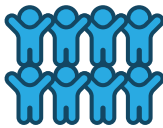
System of Care - Puts the family at the center of their child's care while including other child-serving agencies like schools, juvenile justice, social services, and primary care in families' plans for their child's care



Intensive Alternative Family Treatment (IAFT) / Therapeutic Foster Care (TFC) - IAFT is program for children and young adults with behavioral and emotional challenges involved with the foster care system that provides a family-like setting with trained professional parents in the community, diverting children from emergency departments

IMPACT

4,471 children served directly



4,471 CHILDREN

NC-PAL: Over 1 million children supported



>1 MILLION CHILDREN

1,023,981 children and families reached



1,023,981 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Rapid Response Team (RRT): 212 New referrals supported from July 2023 - June 2024



212 NEW REFERRALS

Youth Mental Health First Aid: 1,875 school and community professionals trained to support children



1,875 SCHOOL & COMMUNITY PROFESSIONALS

FAST FACTS

\$65 million allocated annually for behavioral health services



\$65 MILLION

\$14 million awarded through a 4-year SAMHSA grant to develop System of Care



\$14 MILLION

Included in the 2023 budget was a historic **\$80 million child behavioral health investment**, which is expanding access to school and community behavioral health services and increasing foster care capacity to meet the complex needs of children in the community, eliminating emergency department and county Department of Social Services (DSS) boarding; DCFW leverages over \$30 million of this funding to lead key initiatives within this priority



\$80 MILLION

GENETICS AND NEWBORN SCREENING UNIT

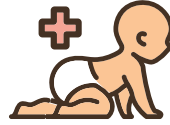
MISSION

We ensure early detection of health conditions in newborns, offering services like hearing and metabolic screenings, and support for children with genetic conditions.

KEY PROGRAMS



Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) - Connects families to resources for children with hearing loss



Newborn Metabolic Screening - Screens all newborns for over 30 health conditions, ensuring early detection and intervention

IMPACT

4,828 children served directly



4,828 CHILDREN

EHDI - Supports **1,614 children** with hearing loss



1,614 CHILDREN

Over **2,500 infants** receive follow-up services annually



>2,500 INFANTS

Newborn Metabolic Screening - Screens over **122,000 newborns** each year



>122,000 NEWBORNS

Nationally recognized for leadership in newborn screening



NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED

BEST PRACTICES UNIT

MISSION

We ensure that children receive high-quality health services that are evidence-based and in line with best practices, particularly for children who are at-risk for chronic physical, developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions and need health-related services beyond those generally required by children.

KEY PROGRAMS



CYSHCN Help Line - Provides resources and referrals for families of children with special health care needs



Family Trainings - Equips caregivers with knowledge and skills to support their children's health



Medicaid Outreach - Encourages Medicaid enrollment in underserved and minority communities

IMPACT

1,147 children served directly



1,147 CHILDREN

Help Line - **532 inquiries** from caregivers



532 INQUIRIES

Family Trainings - **615 parents** trained



615 PARENTS

30,220 people impacted through outreach and education

30,220 PEOPLE

Medicaid Outreach - Reached **29,385 families**



29,385 FAMILIES

CHILD AND FAMILY WELLNESS UNIT

MISSION

We improve the health and safety of young children by supporting families and providing evidence-based early childhood programs.

KEY PROGRAMS



Child Care Health Consultation - Offers support and education to enhance the quality of care and safety in early care and education (ECE) programs



Home Visiting Programs - Provides resources, guidance, and parenting support at home through two primary evidence-based programs



Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Home Visiting - Connects pregnant women and families to resources and skills to raise children who are healthy and ready to succeed



Nurse-Family Partnership (NFP) Home Visiting - Equips first-time moms with the care and support they need for a healthy pregnancy through regular visits with nurses with specialized training



Triple P (Positive Parenting Program) - Equips parents with strategies and skills they need for healthy family relationships and to prevent child abuse and neglect

IMPACT

11,585 children served directly



11,585 CHILDREN

Home Visiting - 1,866 children served



1,866 CHILDREN

Triple P - 9,719 parents and children impacted

9,719 PARENTS & CHILDREN

229,546 children and families reached

229,546 CHILDREN AND THEIR FAMILIES

Child Care Health Consultation - Over 239,000 children supported in daycare settings



239,000 CHILDREN

CONTACT INFORMATION:



To learn more about Whole Child Health programs and how the Division of Child and Family Well-Being supports North Carolina's children and families, visit ncdhhs.gov/DCFw

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Division of Child and Family Well-Being (DCFw) consists of 1000 employees dedicated to delivering services and resources to more than 2 million children and their families in the areas of nutrition, early development, behavioral and physical health.

Our teams serve children and families in all 100 counties and contribute significant financial benefits to the state. North Carolina allocates \$55 million in state funds to support DCFw programs, which leverage an additional \$5 billion in federal funding, the majority of which goes directly to children and families while stimulating the state's retail economy. Recently, in response to Hurricane Helene, DCFw provided Disaster SNAP and Food and Nutrition Services benefits to 380,000 individuals in western North Carolina, injecting \$85 million in federal funds into the local economy.

In just three years since its establishment, DCFw has already achieved notable early wins such as implementing the SUN Bucks program, which provided over 1 million students with \$120 each for summer food purchases, contributing \$129 million to the state's economy. Investments in early development, nutrition security, and physical and behavioral health are vital for enhancing the lives of children and families and the broader economy. At DCFw, we are guided by that mission: to ensure North Carolina's children are healthy and thriving in safe, stable and nurturing families, schools and communities.

