

Needs Assessment

1. Child Abuse and Neglect in North Carolina (2022 Data)

- Total Reports of Child Maltreatment in North Carolina (2022):
 - Over 20,000 reports of child maltreatment, including physical, emotional, and sexual abuse, as well as neglect.
 - Child Abuse Types (2022):
 - Physical Abuse: 25% of all reports
 - Emotional Abuse: 18% of all reports
 - Sexual Abuse: 14% of all reports
 - Neglect: 43% of all reports
 - Prevalence of Intergenerational Trauma:
 - 30% of children who experience abuse or neglect will become abusers in their adulthood, continuing the cycle of trauma.
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2. Family Dynamics in North Carolina

- Families with Children under 18 in North Carolina:
 - 1.7 million children under the age of 18 in North Carolina.
 - Around 25% of these children live in families with incomes below the poverty line.
 - Households with Single Parents (North Carolina):
 - 33% of households with children are single-parent households, which are at higher risk for challenges related to child abuse and neglect.
 - Substance Abuse Rates:
 - 9.4% of North Carolina adults reported heavy drinking (2019 CDC data), often correlated with child neglect and abuse.
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3. Key Gaps in Resources

A. Early Intervention Programs

- Funding for Early Intervention:
 - Less than 10% of North Carolina's child welfare funding goes toward preventative services (CDC data).
- Availability of Early Childhood Education Programs:
 - 40% of children under 5 in North Carolina do not have access to high-quality early childhood education.

B. Access to Mental Health Services

- Mental Health Providers per 100,000 People:

Needs Assessment

- North Carolina has approximately 160 mental health providers per 100,000 people (well below the national average of 200 per 100,000).
- Mental Health Treatment Gap:
 - 60% of adults and 70% of children who need mental health services do not receive them due to accessibility and affordability issues.

C. Parenting Education and Support Programs

- Availability of Parent Support Programs:
 - Approximately 5-10% of parents in North Carolina who need parenting support programs have access to them, indicating a significant 90% service gap for those in need.

D. Socioeconomic Stress and Poverty

- Poverty Rates in North Carolina:
 - 14% of North Carolina's population lives below the poverty line, and nearly 30% of children in North Carolina grow up in poverty. Poverty is a significant risk factor for child abuse and neglect.
- Access to Housing Assistance:
 - 60% of families who are at risk for child abuse and neglect report challenges in accessing stable housing.

E. Substance Abuse

- Substance Abuse Among Parents:
 - 30% of parents involved in child welfare cases report some level of substance abuse.

4. Service Utilization and Needs

A. Crisis Services and Emergency Interventions

- Demand for Crisis Services:
 - Over 15,000 children and families in North Carolina are involved in emergency response services for child abuse or neglect each year, but 50% of requests for immediate crisis intervention go unmet due to lack of resources.

B. Trauma-Informed Care Training

- Trauma-Informed Training for Providers:

Needs Assessment

- 30-40% of service providers in North Carolina have received trauma-informed care training, leaving a large percentage of families at risk of not receiving the appropriate support.

5. Potential Solutions and Strategies

A. Early Intervention and Prevention Programs

- Home Visiting Programs:
 - The Nurse-Family Partnership model (successful in North Carolina) serves over 5,000 families statewide. However, only 25% of eligible families currently benefit from these programs, suggesting a 75% service gap.

B. Mental Health and Trauma-Informed Therapy Access

- Increase in Mental Health Providers:
 - To match the national average, North Carolina would need to increase its mental health workforce by at least 25%, adding approximately 2,000 providers.

C. Socioeconomic Support Programs

- Expansion of Housing Assistance:
 - Providing housing assistance to an additional 20% of the families at risk of child abuse could significantly reduce stress and improve family stability.

6. Conclusion

By focusing on these numerical gaps and needs, North Carolina can more effectively allocate resources and design policies aimed at breaking the cycle of child abuse and intergenerational trauma. The priority areas include:

- Expanding early intervention services.
- Increasing access to mental health and substance abuse treatment.
- Providing more support for parents through education and peer support programs.
- Addressing socioeconomic disparities by expanding access to housing, childcare, and job training.



Needs Assessment

By strategically investing in these areas, North Carolina could see a significant reduction in the prevalence of child abuse and intergenerational trauma in the coming years.