The Impact of COVID-19 on North Carolina

UNC Public Policy Graduates and Students

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10:00 am
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Sections

1. The Health Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic
2. The Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic
3. The Pandemic and Government Assistance
4. The pandemic’s impact is not equal for all North Carolinians.
5. Looking Ahead: The Challenge of Returning to K-12 Public School
Section 1

The Health Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

• Probability of death once infected with COVID-19 is higher in counties with greater concentrations of animal farms or meat-processing plants

• Counties with greater probability of death once infected with COVID-19 tend to have higher poverty rates

• Urban areas followed stay-at-home order more closely than rural areas
Figure 1: Top 10 Counties With Greatest Probability of Death Once Infected With COVID-19

Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services North Carolina COVID-19 Dashboard
Data were updated as of July 7, 2020.
Figure 2: Correlation Between COVID-19 Deaths and Population Below Poverty Line

Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services North Carolina COVID-19 Dashboard and US Census American Community Survey 2018
Figure 3: Urban Areas Followed Stay At Home Order More Closely Than Rural Areas

Source: Apple Maps Mobility Trends Reports, 2020

Notes: Baseline was calculated for each county as an average of all mobility data from 1/13-1/31/20. The average mobility during the state-mandated Stay At Home order (3/31-5/8/2020) was compared to baseline. Phase One began at 5 pm on 5/8/2020. This data is generated by counting the number of requests made to Apple Maps for directions in select countries, counties, and cities. Regional averages are weighted by county population. Only driving data is included at the county level. For Raleigh, Charlotte, and Greensboro, driving and walking data are equally weighted and transit data is excluded.
Section 2

The Economic Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic

• By May 2020, unemployment in N.C. was higher than at the height of the Great Recession

• Western N.C. suffered highest unemployment rates in April, with some recovery in May

• Long-term layoffs have soared and those 21,000+ jobs will not return to N.C. anytime soon
Figure 4: Unemployment in N.C. is higher than the Great Recession by May 2020

Figure 5: Soaring Unemployment in April 2020, especially Western N.C.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Highest</th>
<th>County Since Feb</th>
<th>April unemployment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>+17.10 PP</td>
<td>+17.10 PP</td>
<td>20.10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dare</td>
<td>+16.40 PP</td>
<td>+16.40 PP</td>
<td>24.50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba</td>
<td>+15.40 PP</td>
<td>+15.40 PP</td>
<td>18.80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Recovery in May 2020 in some N.C. counties; Unemployment worsening in others

**Table 1**

**IMPROVED** Unemployment from April to May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>May Unemployment</th>
<th>Since April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Alexander</td>
<td>14.00%</td>
<td>6.4 percentage points DOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dare</td>
<td>19.60%</td>
<td>4.9 percentage points DOWN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catawba</td>
<td>16.00%</td>
<td>2.8 percentage points DOWN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Table 2**

**WORSENED** Unemployment from April to May

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>May Unemployment</th>
<th>Since April</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Swain</td>
<td>19.70%</td>
<td>5.0 percentage points UP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyde</td>
<td>15.00%</td>
<td>3.4 percentage points UP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hertford</td>
<td>14.40%</td>
<td>2.6 percentage points UP</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 6: Long-term Layoffs Expectations (Large Companies) for N.C.

Cumulative # employees laid off as reported under WARN

- Total
- Temporary
- Permanent

Section 3

The Pandemic and Government Assistance

• More people are having to rely on government sponsored programs in order to protect themselves from the impact of the pandemic.
Figure 7: Racial disparities in Stimulus Payment Use in N.C. (June 25-30)

37% of Hispanic or Latino respondents did not receive a stimulus payment at all.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau Household Pulse Survey June 25 - June 30, Stimulus Table 1
Figure 8: Wealthier counties saw larger job loss in April 2020. Black residents filed most unemployment claims.

Source: NC Department of Commerce (derived from information supplied by the Division of Employment Security (DES) and reflects monthly information that DES reported to the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration (ETA) 2020.)
Figure 9: Medicaid Enrollment Soars March-June 2020, compared to 2019

Source: NC Department of Health and Human Services Medicaid Enrollment Dashboard
Figure 10: SNAP Participation in N.C. extraordinarily high since March 2020.

Typically in the summer, SNAP participation goes DOWN.

For 2020, we’re seeing the OPPOSITE.

Source: NC DHHS FNS Caseload Statistics Reports, July 2020
Author: Alexandria Huber
Section 4

The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic is not equal for all North Carolinians.

- Black and Hispanic or Latino households are more likely to have lost income, experience housing or food insecurity, or experience anxiety.

- Low-income households are more likely to have lost income group than comparatively wealthier households.
Figure 13: More Hispanic or Latino Households have lost employment income than any other racial or ethnic group since April 2020.
Figure 14: More low-income households have lost employment income than wealthier households since April 2020.

Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020
Figure 15: Black and Hispanic or Latino Renters could not pay their rent at higher rates than any other group since April 2020.

Renters are more affected than homeowners. The most affected are Hispanic or Latino renters.
Figure 16: Black and Hispanic or Latino Households have consistently reported high levels of food insufficiency since April 2020.

Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020
Figure 17: Black and Hispanic or Latino Households have consistently reported high levels of anxiety since April 2020.
Figure 18: Food-Insufficient Households report higher levels of anxiety than other households, on average, since April 2020.

Source: Household Pulse Survey Data Tables, US Census Bureau, 2020
Section 5

Looking Ahead: The Challenge of Returning to K-12 Public School

• The new Support Index reveals that North Carolina K-12 Public Schools fail to meet nationally recommended ratios for school support personnel.

• The districts which are experiencing the greatest concentration of COVID-19 cases are the least prepared to support students.
Creating School Support Personnel Support Index

- New measure is a **Support Index**.

- Data on school nurses, school counselors, and school psychologists provides a rough snapshot of districts’ ability to support students during the upcoming school year.
Index Range

Minimum 1.5

Maximum 26.6

More personnel support  

Less personnel support
Figure 19: NC County School Support Index

Support Index Value

More support  
1.54 - 4.99  
5.05 - 6.29  
6.34 - 7.73  
7.74 - 26.61  

Less support

Sources: NC Statistical Profile, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI); School Psychologist/School Counseling Position Study, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI); Student to Nurse Ratios, NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS); COVID-19 North Carolina Dashboard, NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Notes: The index creates a composite score from three support personnel ratios (psychologists, guidance counselors, and nurses) in relation to their respective national recommended ratios. It aims to provide a holistic understanding of personnel support when considering school reopening and resource allocation.

Authors: Coleman Evans, Lucy Russell, David Smith
Map Creator: Anwesha Nandi
Student Support in the Era of COVID-19

• As/if students return to school in 2020-21, they will have unique physical, mental, and behavioral health needs.

• Generally, the districts which are experiencing the greatest concentration of COVID-19 cases (per 100,000) are the least prepared to support student needs.
## 10 Counties with **most** COVID-19 cases per 100,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COVID CASES PER 100,000 (7/7/20)</th>
<th>COUNTY LOCAL EDUCATION AGENCY (LEA)</th>
<th>SUPPORT INDEX</th>
<th>STUDENT : NURSE RATIO (750)</th>
<th>STUDENT : GUID RATIO (250)</th>
<th>STUDENT : PSYCH RATIO (500)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13,317</td>
<td>Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools</td>
<td>5.55</td>
<td>869.01</td>
<td>335.50</td>
<td>1,526.93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6,299</td>
<td>Wake County Schools</td>
<td>5.10</td>
<td>1,755.11</td>
<td>295.62</td>
<td>789.56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4,148</td>
<td>Durham Public Schools</td>
<td>4.82</td>
<td>1,175.04</td>
<td>280.66</td>
<td>1,064.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>3,423</td>
<td>Forsyth County Schools</td>
<td>7.66</td>
<td>1,418.25</td>
<td>352.88</td>
<td>2,181.10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3,208</td>
<td>Guilford County Schools</td>
<td>6.17</td>
<td>1,578.77</td>
<td>332.62</td>
<td>1,368.32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,926</td>
<td>Wayne County Schools</td>
<td>7.98</td>
<td>895.20</td>
<td>386.93</td>
<td>2,617.50</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,789</td>
<td>Johnston County Schools</td>
<td>6.93</td>
<td>1,765.27</td>
<td>407.27</td>
<td>1,474.32</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,595</td>
<td>Duplin County Schools</td>
<td>26.60</td>
<td>736.95</td>
<td>400.21</td>
<td>12,006.25</td>
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<tr>
<td>1,551</td>
<td>Union County Schools</td>
<td>5.71</td>
<td>957.42</td>
<td>364.75</td>
<td>1,485.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1,443</td>
<td>Gaston County Schools</td>
<td>5.95</td>
<td>1,177.94</td>
<td>326.83</td>
<td>1,536.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## 10 Counties with **fewest** COVID-19 cases per 100,000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COUNTY</th>
<th>SUPPORT INDEX</th>
<th>STUDENT : NURSE RATIO (750)</th>
<th>STUDENT : GUID RATIO (250)</th>
<th>STUDENT : PSYCH RATIO (500)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Edenton/Chowan Schools</td>
<td>4.00</td>
<td>477.25</td>
<td>373.20</td>
<td>933.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gates County Schools</td>
<td>4.81</td>
<td>527.67</td>
<td>256.50</td>
<td>NO PSYCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pamlico County Schools</td>
<td>7.81</td>
<td>325.50</td>
<td>1,229.00</td>
<td>1,229.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Carrarick County Schools</td>
<td>6.62</td>
<td>461.59</td>
<td>462.22</td>
<td>2,080.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hyde County Schools</td>
<td>2.50</td>
<td>551.00</td>
<td>176.67</td>
<td>NO PSYCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tyrrell County Schools</td>
<td>2.71</td>
<td>620.00</td>
<td>188.67</td>
<td>NO PSYCH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avery County Schools</td>
<td>3.80</td>
<td>634.67</td>
<td>268.86</td>
<td>941.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Madison County Schools</td>
<td>6.44</td>
<td>549.50</td>
<td>316.86</td>
<td>2,218.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay County Schools</td>
<td>5.05</td>
<td>640.50</td>
<td>419.33</td>
<td>1,258.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graham County Schools</td>
<td>4.05</td>
<td>539.00</td>
<td>277.75</td>
<td>1,111.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Sources:** NC Statistical Profile, NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) and NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)
Interactive Map

See: https://arcg.is/0GHfPD
Questions?


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