

Mothers & Young Children



Women of childbearing age (15-44) & children under age 5 account for 20% of the population in Mitchell and Yancey counties.

% of children under 5 living in poverty (2020)



% of pregnancies receiving prenatal care in the first trimester



Pregnancy rates are lower in Mitchell County than NC

Pregnancy rates are higher in Yancey County than NC

76% of Mitchell County births are physician attended & 97% happen in hospitals.

82% of Yancey County births are physician attended & 94% happen in hospitals.

No OB/GYN practices full-time in either Mitchell or Yancey county & women must travel out of the area to give birth at a hospital.

Families must travel out of the county to access a licensed pediatrician or pediatric-specific practice, or inpatient hospital services for children.



With this segment of population projected to increase, the demand for pediatric, women's care, & labor & delivery services will also increase.

Youths



Young people aged 5 to 19 make up 15% of the population

% of children under 18 living in poverty (2020)



Graduation rates in Mitchell County are lower than NC

Graduation rates in Yancey County are similar to NC



The lack of local pediatric specialists & the limited network of mental health providers leaves the youth population vulnerable.

Adults



Working-age adults (ages 18 to 64) make up 55% of the population

% of adults aged 18-64 without health insurance



Median household income in Mitchell County is \$7,800 lower than the state average.

Median household income in Yancey County is \$12,000 lower than the state average.



The lack of local specialists & the burden of traveling out of the county for healthcare adds cost & stress to a medical system that is already unaffordable for many in our communities.

Seniors



Adults age 65 & older make up 25% of the population. The 85+ age group is projected to grow by 2050.

% of those with a disability aged 65+ (2020)



% of households with no vehicle access with householders aged 65+ (2020)



Retirement income is higher in Mitchell County compared to NC

Retirement income is lower in Yancey County compared to NC

Heart disease, cancer, chronic lower respiratory diseases, & Alzheimer's disease are the leading causes of death for seniors.

More than 50% of passenger miles driven by Mitchell County Transportation were for the elderly in 2021-2022.

More than 40% of passenger miles driven by Yancey County Transportation were for the elderly in 2021-2022.

The lack of local specialists is compounded by an aging healthcare workforce: 24% of physicians in Mitchell County and 36% in Yancey County are over the age of 65. As with other age groups, the need to travel to access healthcare remains a barrier for seniors.

