Charlotte Regional Indicators

Charlotte Data Day: Using Data for Community Development
March 26, 2013

Laura Simmons
Who we are

- The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, applied research and consulting services outreach unit of UNC Charlotte.

“The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute – over forty years of seeking solutions to the social, economic, and environmental challenges facing our communities.”
• 14-County Charlotte Region:
  – Anson, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan, Stanly, and Union counties in N.C.
  – Chester, Lancaster, and York counties in S.C.
Charlotte Regional Indicators

- Provides access to a wealth of data in an interactive format
- Assists citizens and leaders in addressing public policy challenges facing the Charlotte region
- Benchmark indicators across track the quality of life in the 14-county region
• Originally funded by grants from
  – Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation
  – John S. and James L. Knight Foundation
  – Foundation For The Carolinas
  – Advantage Carolina

• Concept dates to 2004. First report was released in 2007, followed by county profiles in 2009.
• Transformed from static, printed report to dynamic online resource
  – Revised original set of indicators (54 to 35)
  – Added Indicator Partners, which expanded data in certain areas
  – Website launched in summer 2011
  – All data are available online, free to the public at ri.uncc.edu
• Continue to refine website and add new features
Regional Indicators Data

- Data for multiple geographies
  - 14-county Charlotte region
    - As a unit and individual counties
  - Charlotte MSA and 12 benchmark MSAs
  - North and South Carolina
Regional Indicators Data

- **Arts, Recreation & Cultural Life**: Discover the extent of Arts Jobs & Businesses and financial Support for the Arts in the region.
- **Demographics**: Learn about the region's Population growth and its Age & Gender and Race & Ethnicity profiles.
- **Economy**: Find regional Unemployment trends, Income levels, and the major Industries for Employment and Businesses.
- **Education**: Compare Graduation Rates, Student Achievement, and Enrollment levels for the region's school districts.
- **Environment**: Learn about the Air Quality and extent of urban Development in the region.
- **Government & Citizen Participation**: See what Voter Turnout and Charitable Giving are like in the Charlotte region.
- **Health**: Observe Mortality rates, STD rates, Health Care Coverage, and Maternity and Birth indicators for the region.
- **Housing**: Explore the state of the region's Housing Stock and Home Prices.
- **Public Safety**: Investigate the prevalence of Crime and the level of Traffic Safety in the region.
- **Social Well-Being**: Look at the severity of Poverty, Teen Pregnancy, and Child Abuse in the region's counties.
- **Transportation**: Study the Commuting Means, Commute Time, and Average Travel Delay of the region's workers.
Website features

- Rotating stories highlight interesting data and analysis and recent reports

- **Latest data** releases provide alerts when new data are available
Website features

- Explore data by theme with *Indicator Explorer*

- Explore data by county with *Regional Explorer*
Visualizing Data

- Explore data through interactive maps and charts
Telling the Story

CHARLOTTE REGIONAL INDICATORS PARTNERS

MeckEd

CMS: Mapping measures of progress and pain

Laura Simmons
03.15.12

The MeckEd partner page contains data on student demographics, more in-depth student performance data, budget figures, data on teachers and other personnel, as well as survey data from parents and teachers. Wherever possible, the CMS district numbers are compared to the state and Wake County and Guilford County schools. Click here for an example.

Mocklenny charters: Maps, data and more

John Chester
01.15.13

In the 2011-12 school year charter school students in Mecklenburg number 38,281, or 5.68 percent of the 674,557 students enrolled in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools. The newly launched United Way Collective Impact for Children Initiative has the overarching goal to increase the cohort graduation rate for all students who perform satisfactorily by 15 participating United Way agencies by the 2020-21 school year. Project LIFT, a philanthropic initiative that aims to accelerate improvement in academic outcomes for children in the West Charlotte corridor, set one of its goals for 2014.

Local nonprofit MeckEd has organized information on local charter schools in a way that will help make it easier to understand more about each school and the results each is achieving. Bill Anderson, MeckEd's executive director explains, "MeckEd believes it is crucial to provide accurate and objective information about all charter schools in Mecklenburg County. MeckEd plans to provide this information – including academic performance, student demographics and per-pupil expenditures – annually. The summary of charter schools in Mecklenburg County that MeckEd compiled is available at: http://www.mecked.org"
Indicator Partnerships

- A collaboration between the Institute and community organizations to collect, analyze and publish data through the Charlotte Regional Indicators website
- On-going partnerships collectively fund research and outreach infrastructure
- Offers agencies with little to no research capacity a low-cost alternative for quality data collection, analysis, and research
• Questions?
• Let’s explore the website!
  –ri.uncc.edu