Economic Vitality and Education in the South (EVES)
The South’s Pre-Pandemic Position
North Carolina, 2019

Poverty and Food Insecurity

- Children eligible for free or reduced price lunch: 56%
- People living in poverty:
  - All: 14%
  - Children Under 18: 19%
  - Children Under 5: 22%
  - Black: 21%
  - Hispanic: 22%
  - White: 10%
- Children living in food insecure households: 13%

Median Household Income

- Black: $41,177
- Hispanic: $46,933
- White: $65,244

On average, people of color were paid less than White people.

Childcare and Early Childhood Education

- Children under 6 with all caretakers in the workforce: 67%
- Families who lived in childcare deserts: 44%
- Four-year-olds enrolled in a public ECE program in 2020: 29%

Annual childcare expenses should cost just 7%* of a family's income, but infant care for one child cost

- 23% of the average Black household's income
- 20% of the average Hispanic household's income
- 15% of the average White household's income

If infant care cost 7% of the region's median income,

just 12 of every 100 families could afford it.

*according to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

Performance on NAEP*

Below the Proficient Level in 4th Grade

- Reading
  - Black: 80%
  - Hispanic: 77%
  - White: 50%
  - Low-Income: 79%

- Math
  - Black: 78%
  - Hispanic: 68%
  - White: 43%
  - Low-Income: 74%

Below the Proficient Level in 8th Grade

- Reading
  - Black: 85%
  - Hispanic: 72%
  - White: 58%
  - Low-Income: 80%

- Math
  - Black: 82%
  - Hispanic: 74%
  - White: 53%
  - Low-Income: 80%

*National Assessment of Educational Progress
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### Attainment and the Workforce

- **Adults 25+ with a high school diploma or less**
  - Black: 44%
  - Hispanic: 62%
  - White: 33%

- **Adults 25+ with a Bachelor’s degree or more**
  - Black: 22%
  - Hispanic: 17%
  - White: 36%

- **Adults 25-64 facing unemployment**
  - Black: 7.3%
  - Hispanic: 4.7%
  - White: 3.7%

Adults 25-64 with **higher attainment** have a higher employment-to-population ratio — they are more likely to be in the labor force.

- **Adults 25+ with lower attainment** earn less.
  - No high school credential: $23,976
  - High school or equivalent: $30,369
  - Some college or associate degree: $34,861
  - Bachelor’s degree: $50,977
  - Graduate or professional degree: $65,620

**Adults 25+ living in poverty**

- No high school credential: 26%
- High school or equivalent: 14%
- Some college or associate degree: 10%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 4%

**Adults 25-64 facing unemployment**

- No high school credential: 7.3%
- High school or equivalent: 4.9%
- Some college or associate degree: 3.4%
- Bachelor’s degree or higher: 2.2%

### 2017-2018 School Discipline

**Students who were suspended, by race:**

- **In-school suspension**
  - Black: 13%
  - Hispanic: 6%
  - White: 6%

- **Out-of-school suspension**
  - Black: 14%
  - Hispanic: 5%
  - White: 4%

**School enrollments** in the school year:

- 25% were Black
- 18% were Hispanic
- 48% were White

Of those who were referred to law enforcement,

- 42% were Black
- 17% were Hispanic
- 33% were White

Of the students who had a school-related arrest,

- 51% were Black
- 16% were Hispanic
- 27% were White

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The SEF Region includes AL, AR, DE, FL, GA, KY, LA, MD, MS, MO, NC, OK, SC, TN, TX, VA, WV

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