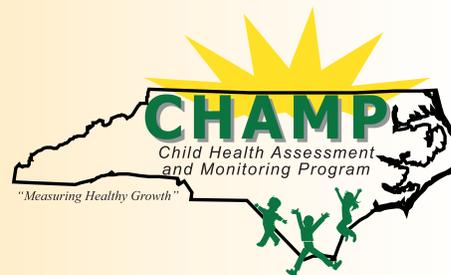


Children Raised by a Caregiver with a Disability

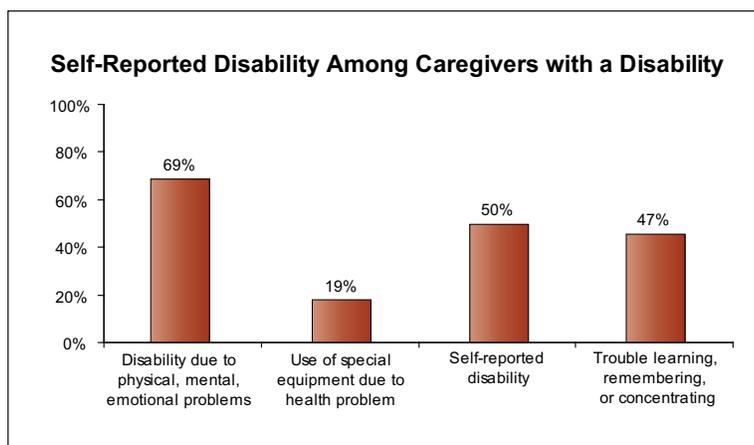
North Carolina 2007–2008*



March 2010

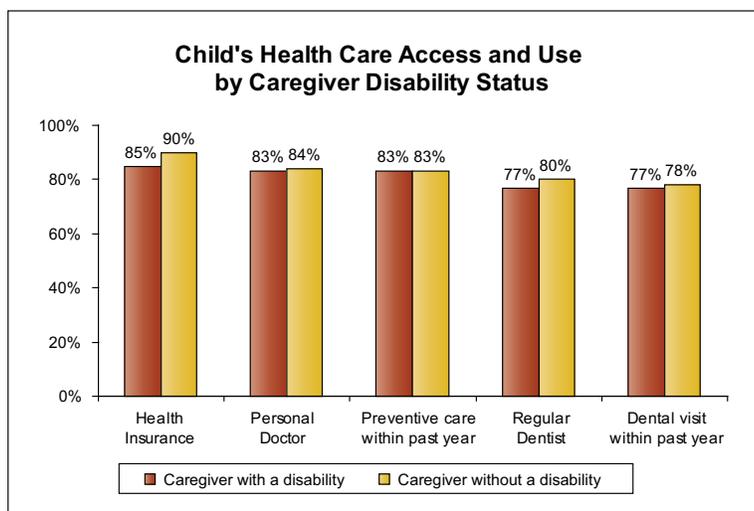
Caregiver Disability

Based on endorsement of one to four questions about disability, 23 percent of non-institutionalized adults over the age of 18 in North Carolina who provide primary care for a minor self-report as having a disability. Among caregivers with a disability, 69 percent reported limitation in activities due to a physical, mental, or emotional problem; 19 percent reported use of special equipment due to a health problem (e.g., cane, a wheelchair, a special bed, or a special telephone); 50 percent self-reported as having a physical, mental, emotional, or communication-related disability; and 47 percent reported trouble learning, remembering, or concentrating because of an impairment or health problem. Among caregivers defined as disabled, 51 percent replied yes to one disability question, 20 percent replied yes to two disability questions, 21 percent replied yes to three disability questions, and 8 percent replied yes to all four disability questions. Child health status, school performance, and food insecurity varied by caregiver disability status, even after controlling for caregiver education and income levels.



Child's Health Care Access and Use

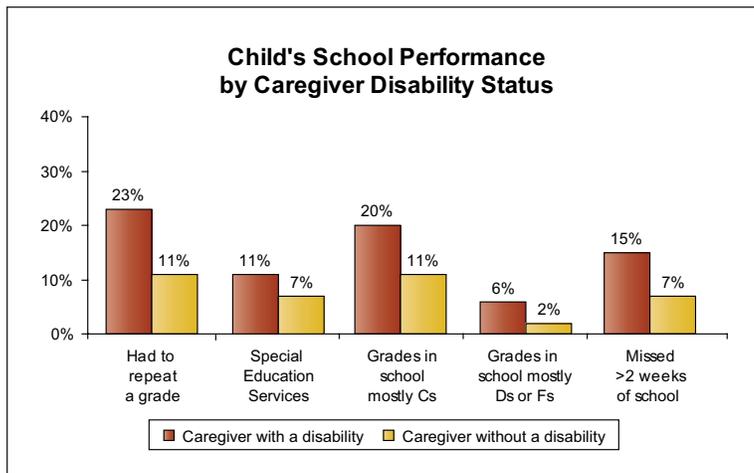
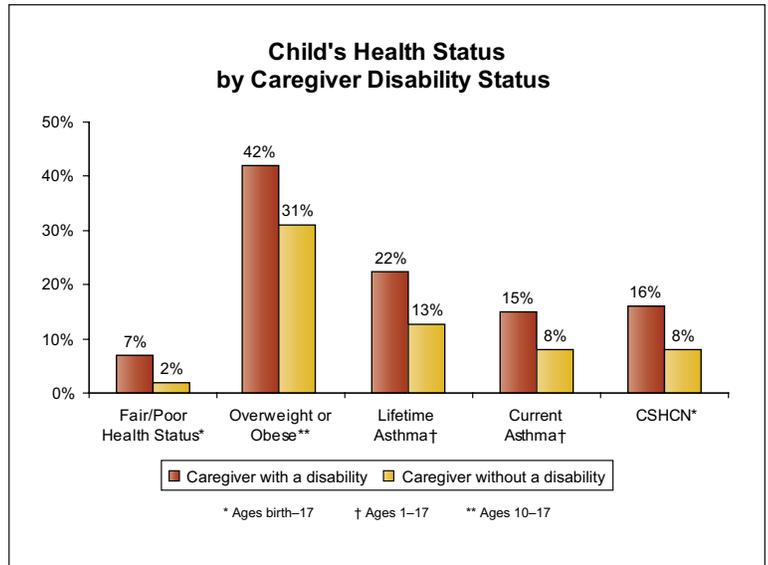
Rate of child health insurance coverage during the past 12 months was similar between children raised by a caregiver with or without a disability. However, type of insurance coverage was found to vary by caregiver disability status. Forty-nine percent of children raised by a caregiver with a disability were enrolled in Medicaid or North Carolina Health Choice, compared to 25 percent of children raised by a caregiver without a disability. The majority of children raised by a caregiver without a disability had private health insurance (67%), compared to children raised by a caregiver with a disability (42%). Other indicators of child health care access and use did not vary by caregiver disability status. The majority of children had a personal doctor or nurse and have had a preventive care or well child check-up within the past 12 months. Rates of whether a child has a regular dentist and visited a dentist within the past 12 months were similar between children raised by a caregiver with and without a disability.



* The North Carolina Child Health Assessment and Monitoring Program (NC CHAMP) is a surveillance system that collects information about the health characteristics of children from birth to age 17. This fact sheet includes data collected in 2007 and 2008 on 4,571 surveys of children ages 0 to 17; ages 0–4 (28%); 5–9 (28%), 10–13 (21%), and 14–17 years (23%). Weight status categories for ages 10–17 are estimated from caregiver report of child's height and weight and based on BMI percentiles for age and sex: <5 percent = Underweight, 5–84 percent = Recommended Range, 85–94 percent = Overweight, ≥ 95 percent = Obese. Caregiver disability status was assessed through the North Carolina BRFSS (www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/brfss). For further information about NC CHAMP, please visit www.schs.state.nc.us/SCHS/champ.

Child's Health Status

When asked to rate their child's health, caregivers with a disability were less likely than caregivers without a disability to rate their child's health as "excellent" (43% vs. 60%) and were more likely to rate their child as having "fair or poor" health (7% vs. 2%). Children (ages 10–17 years) raised by a caregiver with a disability were more likely to be overweight or obese (42%), compared to children raised by a caregiver without a disability (31%). Children raised by a caregiver with a disability were more likely to have ever been told by a doctor that they have asthma (22% vs. 13%) and currently have asthma (15% vs. 8%). Children raised by a caregiver with a disability were twice as likely to be a child with special health care needs (CSHCN) identified by the current need or use of more medical care, mental health or education services than is usual for most children of the same age, than children raised by a caregiver without a disability.



School Performance (Ages 4–17 Years)

Child's school performance was found to vary by caregiver disability status. Children raised by a caregiver with a disability were more likely than children raised by a caregiver without a disability to have had to repeat a grade since entering kindergarten (23% vs. 11%) and receive special education services (11% vs. 7%). Caregivers with a disability were more likely than caregivers without a disability to report their child received mostly Cs (20% vs. 11%) and Ds or Fs (6% vs. 2%) in school during the past 12 months. Children raised by a caregiver with a disability were more likely to miss more than two weeks of school due to an illness or injury (15%), compared to children raised by a caregiver without a disability (7%).

Food Insecurity

Caregivers with a disability were more likely to be enrolled in the Food Stamp Program (27%), compared to caregivers without a disability (10%). Caregivers with a disability were more likely than caregivers without a disability to report having to cut the size of their child's meals during the past 12 months because they did not have enough money for food (11% vs. 5%). Caregivers with a disability were less likely than caregivers without a disability to report "never" having to rely on low-cost food because they were running out of money for food (53% vs. 73%) and were more likely to report having to rely on low-cost food "very often" during the past 12 months (10% vs. 3%).

