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RECENT REPORT SHOWS ORANGE COUNTY HAS LONGEST LIFE EXPECTANCY BUT THAT DOESN'T TELL THE WHOLE STORY

Orange County, NC (June 9, 2015) –[Supplemental data cards](#) for the [NC Child report](#) released on May 26th, indicate a baby born in North Carolina is expected to live 78.3 years. That number has significant variance depending on the county a person lives in. The report states Orange County has the longest life expectancy in the state, 81.7 years. The county-level pictures were produced by Laila A. Bell, director of research and data at NC Child, by compiling data on social, economic, and health outcomes.

Indicators used by the report were children living in poverty, low birth weight, food insecurity, and a mother’s access to prenatal care. Those indicators fall in line with another study called [ACES](#) (Adverse Childhood Experiences Study), which highlights the effects of a child’s maltreatment and later life health and wellbeing. It is this research, combined with the significant economic disparities in Orange County, which led to the development of the [Family Success Alliance](#).

“What we know is there are pockets of poverty in Orange County surrounded by pockets of wealth. What we see are significant disparities that will ultimately affect whether children are able to reach their full potential,” said Dr. Colleen Bridger, health director for Orange County.

Block data from the 2012 [American Community Study](#) (ACS) which shows five year estimates of income and poverty reflect communities in Orange County with poverty rates of more than 50% which are neighboring communities with as low as 0% or 1%. A direct comparison of the Family Success Alliance zones shows:

	Orange County	Zone 4	Zone 6
Low Birth Weight Babies	6.7%	12%	5.6%
New mothers with less than a high school degree	15%	30%	20.7%
Percentage of Families in Poverty	17.3%	25%	22%

The Family Success Alliance is working collaboratively with community members, organizations, government agencies, and school systems to level the playing field for children throughout the entire county. Initial programming focuses on [kindergarten readiness and family literacy](#).

“When looking at data, it is important to understand that from 30,000 feet a community might look like there are no worries at all, but when you zoom in and truly understand the situation from street level, the picture can change significantly,” said Allison Young, informatics manager for the Orange County Health Department working in partnership with the Family Success Alliance.

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