

## Low marks for children's health

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Data released yesterday suggests North Carolina has a long way to go towards improving the quality of children's health.

The 2007 N.C. Child Health Report Card issued low ratings in several areas including children's dental health; overweight children; alcohol, tobacco and substance abuse among teenagers; and the number of low-birthweight infants. The report is issued by Action for Children North Carolina and the N.C. Institute of Medicine. According to the data, the number of children living without health insurance in 2006 rose to 13 percent, up 20 percent from five years ago. One in five of Carolina's children lives in poverty, the report says.