

# SOCIAL CAPITAL DATA BRIEF: GIVING & RECEIVING SUPPORT

## BACKGROUND

**Social capital** is having the networks, norms, and structures that promote upward economic mobility by increasing social stability and widening access to key resources.<sup>1</sup> In 2019, the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute partnered with Leading on Opportunity, Opportunity Insights, Foundation for the Carolinas, Communities In Schools, the YMCA of Greater Charlotte, and SHARE Charlotte, with additional funding support from the Gambrell Foundation, to conduct a new baseline measurement of social capital in Mecklenburg County. One way of measuring social capital is to measure the giving and receiving of different types of support, including financial, non-financial, education and career advice, and connections.<sup>2</sup> This data brief looks at the demographic trends in giving and receiving support in Mecklenburg County.

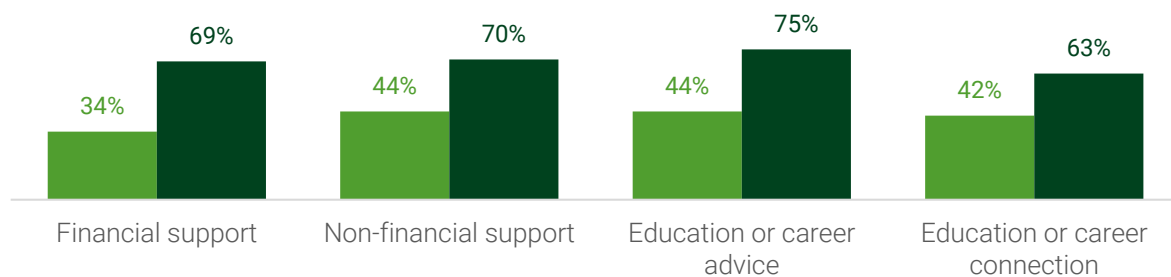


Social capital can create opportunities for upward economic mobility<sup>2</sup>

## DEMOGRAPHIC TRENDS

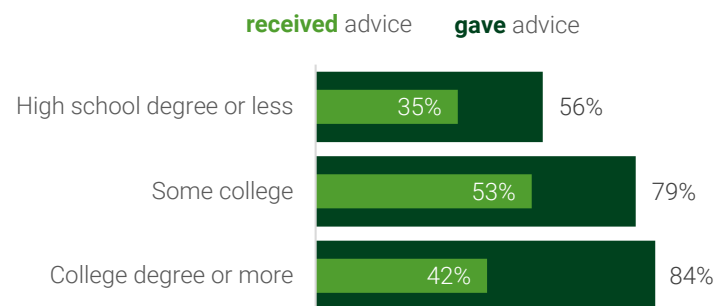
The 2019 Social Capital Survey consisted of a 400-person sample that was demographically representative of Mecklenburg County. Survey questions asked respondents to respond yes or no to a series of questions to indicate whether in the past 12 months, outside of people in their household or paid work, whether they had given or received 1) financial help; 2) non-financial help; 3) educational or career advice; and 4) educational or career connections. The descriptive findings for percent of respondents who received or gave each type of support are below. Results were also analyzed to determine how responses varied by demographic characteristics. Statistically significant trends are reported.<sup>3</sup>

Percent of respondents who **received** and **gave** each type of support



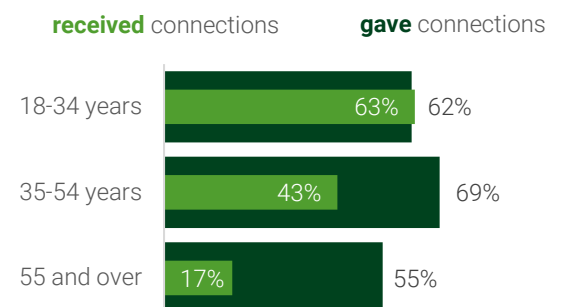
### EDUCATION OR CAREER ADVICE

**Respondents with a high school degree or less received less education or career advice**, compared to those with some college or a college degree. Those with a high school degree or less also gave education or career advice less frequently. At all education levels, individuals reported giving advice more often than they received it.



### EDUCATION OR CAREER CONNECTIONS

**Young people (ages 18 to 34) most often received education or career connections.** Those 55 and over least often reported receiving connections.



1. This is the working definition of social capital developed by the Charlotte Social Capital Research Committee.; 2. Chetty, Raj, Nathaniel Hendren, Patrick Kline, and Emmanuel Saez. (2014.). 3. Statistical significance was determined by regression analysis, which controlled for age, education, income, race, and employment status (for advice and connections only).

# AFRICAN AMERICANS RECEIVED MORE SUPPORT THAN WHITE RESPONDENTS

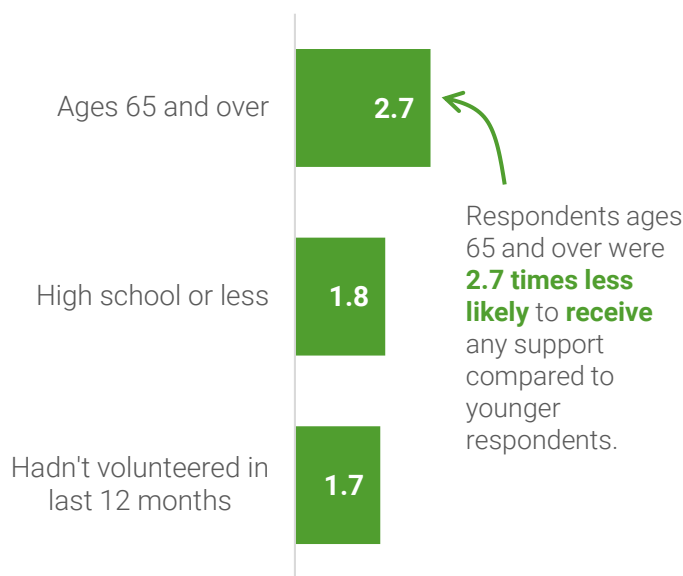
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Regardless of age, education level, or income, **African Americans were nearly twice as likely to receive financial support and more than twice as likely to receive an education or career connection as White respondents.**<sup>4</sup> Also, African Americans were more likely to have lower trust in neighbors, police, and people in their community than White respondents.<sup>4,5</sup> These findings reflect the potential role of informal networks in minority communities and bring to light cultural factors that may not have been captured in the survey and are not explained in the literature.

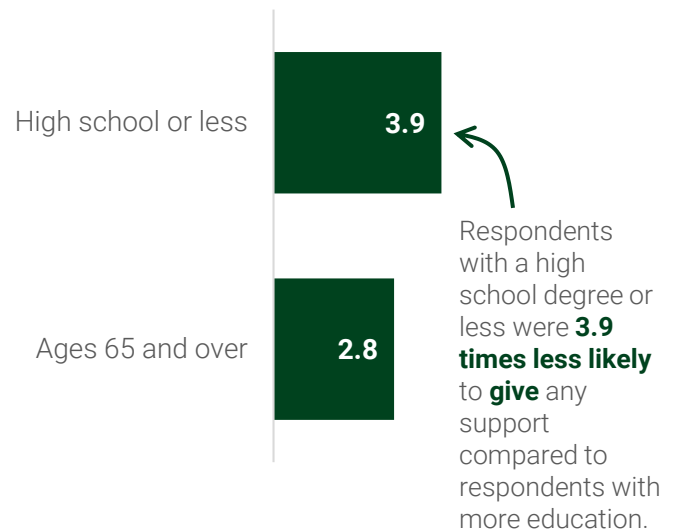
## WHO ISN'T RECEIVING ANY SUPPORT?

Respondents ages 65 and over and respondents with a high school degree or less were less likely to give or receive any type of support (i.e. financial support, non-financial support, education or career advice, education or career connections).<sup>6</sup> Volunteerism was also associated with giving and receiving support. Those who volunteered were more likely to give and receive support, while those who didn't volunteer were less likely to give or receive support.<sup>7-8</sup>

Respondents less likely to **receive** ANY support from others:<sup>6</sup>



Respondents less likely to **give** ANY support to others:<sup>6</sup>



4. Results are statistically significant. Statistical significance is determined by regression analysis, which controlled for variance caused by age, race, education, and income. 5. For more information on social trust, see the Social Trust Data Brief. 6. Regression analysis was used to determine significance, controlling for age, race, and education. Race, ethnicity, income, residency status, and trust level (e.g. trust in neighbors, in other races) were analyzed and found non-significant.; 7. Respondents who hadn't volunteered in the last 12 months were 14 times less likely to have given support than those who had volunteered. This was not shown on the graphic due to space constraints.; 8. For more information on volunteerism, see Volunteerism Data Brief.

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