Why does this report matter?

Our data represents people. Whether describing people or the places they live, the data we hold, curate, and use for research and decision-making reflect human lives. Much of Data Trust data is collected during very difficult points in people's lives. This brings added responsibility, both in terms of protecting the privacy of data, but also in using it so it benefits the people reflected.

COMMUNITY DATA INSIGHTS

370,434 **UNIQUE PEOPLE** had administrative data included in the Data Trust in 2023, approximately 32% of the Mecklenburg County population.
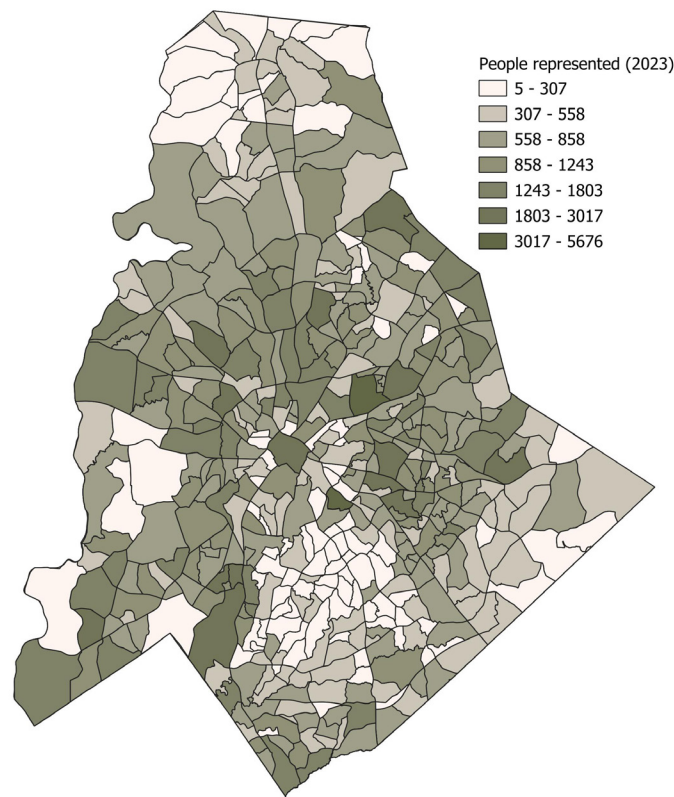
52.5% **FEMALES** (n=194,327) were represented in Data Trust data in 2023.

<40 **MEDIAN AGE** when people last entered a program in each of our other datasets *(except for one data partner)*.

49.6% **BLACK OR AFRICAN AMERICAN INDIVIDUALS** (n=183,609) were represented in Data Trust data in 2023. White individuals were 23.9% (n=88,874) of the data.

Understanding representation is essential. When compared to Mecklenburg County, people who identify as Black or African American, or who are captured in multi-racial categories are overrepresented in Data Trust data. People in the Data Trust data are also disproportionately located in lower income, "crescent" neighborhoods in Charlotte-Mecklenburg.

Understanding representation matters for accurate research and interpretation. It matters in the recruitment of new data partners, board and committee members. And it points to the importance of understanding data in context and using multiple types of data to get a better picture of the people and their experiences in our community.

FIGURE 19 – People in the Data Trust are represented in every NPA, with the lowest numbers in south and southeast parts of the county.

Organizations and programs in our community are connected by the people they serve. The ability to see connections across programs and partners allows researchers, leaders, and advocates to ask questions about them to better coordinate services, observe gaps, and better serve those in our community that are engaged in multiple organizations and systems. And importantly, since most of our data are collected on difficult days in people's lives it shows us that some people and neighborhoods are more likely or less likely to to experience the quality of life we seek for everyone in the region.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM

The 2024 State of Our Data Report

URBAN INSTITUTE
REGIONAL DATA TRUST

» *Scan the QR code or visit ui.charlotte.edu/state-of-our-data to read the full report and learn more.*

2023 OVERLAPPING DATA SETS

22% IN MORE THAN ONE PARTNER'S DATA SET
(n=81,924)

3.6% IN THREE OR MORE DATA SETS
(n=13,427)

78% IN ONLY IN ONE DATA SET
(n=288,510)

Note: All percentages are people represented in the Data Trust data.

In a chord diagram *(pictured right)*, the greater the thickness of the chords, the more people represented.

The diagram shows the overlap across all datasets from 2016 through 2023. Organizations and programs are connected in a variety of ways across the people they serve, presenting opportunities to understand the nature of the overlap and more comprehensively develop and consider solutions that span organizations and focus on people.
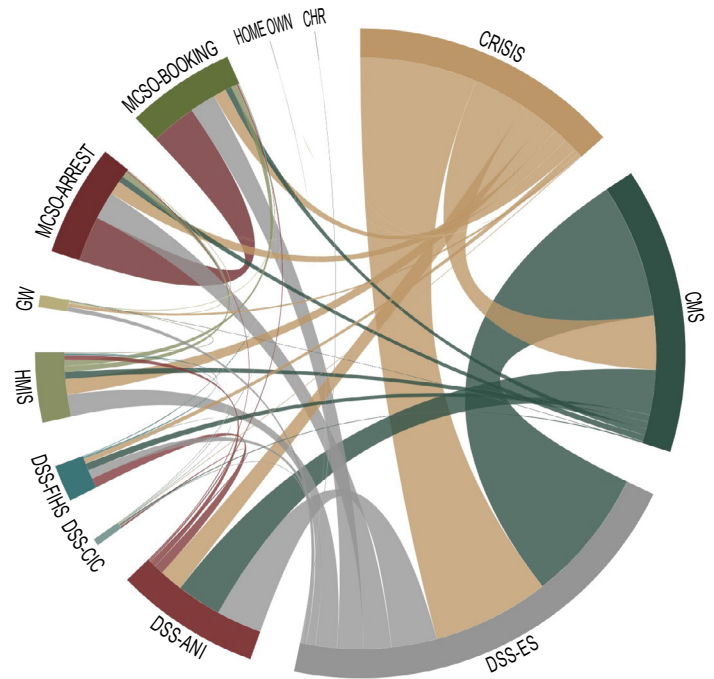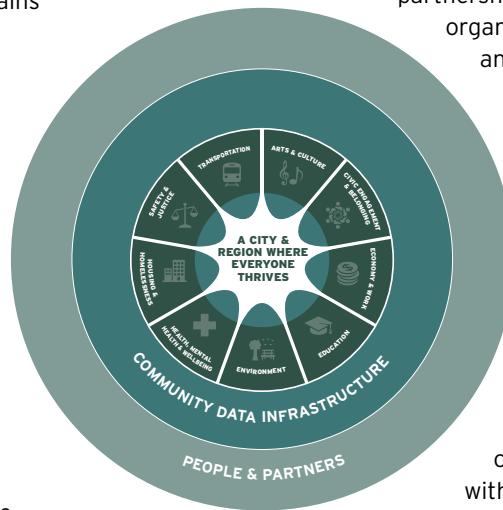

FIGURE 25 – Every data partner serves people who are also served by other partners (n=288,626).

Our Community Data Infrastructure:

• The Institute + Data Trust work across nine **interconnected domains** that influence quality of life and thriving at individual, organizational, and community levels. Our community data infrastructure supports understanding and improving nine interconnected domains that influence quality of life and thriving at individual, organizational, and community levels.

• Our **community data infrastructure** includes the data tools we provide like our integrated administrative data system, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Quality of Life Explorer, and the emerging Regional Explorer. It also includes the services, technology, policies, and practices that ensure access, security, ethical use, and impact.

• And crucially, our community data infrastructure is inextricably linked to the **people and partners** who contribute data, expertise, and context, join us in research and dialogue, and put the tools, services, and information to work for our communities and region. These relationships not only support our work, they are also what makes our infrastructure notable.

partnership that links data across service and organizational silos to make connections visible and provide information our community can act on. Together, the Institute + Data Trust bridge knowledge and action, equipping changemakers in our Charlotte region so all of our communities thrive.

Equipping changemakers requires infrastructure – the components, systems, and practices necessary to consistently, effectively, and ethically put data to use for community benefit.

The State of *Our* Data Report provides our communities, partners, and stakeholders with an accessible summary of this enduring infrastructure, and particularly the data we hold in trust and why it matters.

About the Charlotte Urban Institute + Data Trust

The UNC Charlotte Urban Institute (Institute) is our region's applied research and community outreach center. The Charlotte Regional Data Trust (Data Trust) is a community-university

We invite you to join us as a partner in this work.

Scan the QR Code to let us know if you are interested in becoming a data partner or learning more about using our community data.