



Report Methods and Data Tables

Key Methodological Notes

The data included in this report is from an approved data license request. The Data Trust team submitted a data license request that was reviewed and approved by the Data and Research Oversight Committee. Data from the request will also be used to inform recruitment to the Community Data Advisory Committee.

The years referenced in this report are calendar years. Many of our data partners share data based on the calendar year. This report highlights January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025.

Data Generation Process:

The first part of the data generation process was to identify individuals represented in the Data Trust and to create a unique ID for every person. A person could have multiple data partner IDs, so the de-duplication process assigns IDs related to the same person to a globally unique ID. To accomplish this we used a similar process as the record linkage process described below. The normal record linkage process is used to identify the same person in two different datasets. -With the de-duplication, we search for common people within the records of the same dataset. Performing the de-duplication process allowed us to get a more accurate number of the amount of unique people in the dataset.

Record Linkage Process:

The record linkage process involved connecting individuals present in different datasets. Since a common unique identifier, such as a social security number or email address, was not provided, the link primarily relied on names and birth dates to identify records representing the same person. Exact name-matching proved challenging due to variations in information such as typographical errors, shortened versions of first names (e.g., Sam vs. Samuel), or hyphenated last names where one dataset included only part of the last name while another had the full hyphenated version.

Names, dates of birth, race and gender were collected from datasets meeting the specified criteria. Names were cleaned by converting them to lowercase letters, removing whitespace and special characters, and separating multipart last names into individual records. For example, a record with the last name "Smith-Jones" was cleaned into "smith jones" and split into three records: one with "smith," one with "jones," and one retaining "smith jones." Additionally, Soundex codes—a phonetic encoding method—were generated for all names. These codes facilitated the matching process by accounting for slight spelling differences, as they could produce the same code for similar-sounding names.

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Race and gender categories were also standardized to address inconsistencies across data partners. For instance, one partner might categorize gender as "Male" and "Female," while another used "M" and "F." These categories were mapped to a common naming convention for consistent comparison. If individuals had multiple races, each race was treated as a separate record, similar to the approach for multipart last names. Consequently, a single person could be associated with multiple records. A unique key was generated for the cleaned dataset.

Once the data was cleaned, the next step involved identifying potential matching candidates. For large datasets, comparing all possible record combinations would have been computationally expensive due to the sheer volume. To narrow down the list of potential matches, subsets of fields were used: combinations of birth date with the Soundex code for first names and birth date with the Soundex code for last names. Birth dates had to match exactly, while the Soundex codes employed a Sorted Neighborhood Index to identify the closest matches, even when minor variations existed.

The resulting candidate list contained pairs of unique keys from both datasets to compare additional fields. These fields included first, middle, and last names, which were evaluated using string similarity methods that generate a score. The fields were identified as matches if the score exceeded a set threshold. We also include exact matching on the first, middle and last name fields because in some cases you may have twins where all the information is the same except for first and middle names.- The middle name may not always exist or be provided and in some cases the first name between the two records is only different by one letter.- Lets for example say that we have two records in Dataset A and also two records in Dataset B where each record represents a twin with very similar first names.-When running the comparison using only string similarity it is likely that the two records from Dataset A will match with both records in Dataset B and the process will deduplicate them into one ISC_ID. If we also add exact matching since the first name is slightly different, matching between datasets will generate different match scores since one record combination will match exactly and one will not.-This acts as kind of a tie breaker when we choose the highest scoring match candidate to determine the final matches.

Soundex codes for names, as well as birth date, race, and gender fields, required exact matches. Since birth dates were already exact matches from the candidate selection step, all potential matches shared this attribute. The standardization of race and gender fields ensured accurate comparisons.

After comparing records, a table of binary fields was generated, with columns indicating whether each field matched (1) or did not match (0). A weighted match score was calculated, prioritizing name fields, and ranged from 0 to 1, with 1 representing a perfect match. The table was also analyzed using a classification model to categorize records as either "No Match" (0) or "Match" (1).



Each record linkage dataset combination was examined to determine the threshold to use when classifying the combinations as a "Match."

In the matched dataset, checks were performed to ensure that an ID from one dataset did not match multiple IDs from the other. In cases of multiple matches, the record with the highest match score was retained, and others were excluded. If scores were identical, the records were treated as representing the same individual and assigned the same ISC_ID. The final dataset included matches and non-matches, with an ISC_ID assigned to each unique person. Matched individuals shared a common ISC_ID across both datasets. This final dataset was saved to a file and linked to subsequent outputs.

De-duplication Process

How we determine unique people in each dataset is not just a count of how many data partner provided IDs related to people there are in each dataset. -There are a few scenarios we have noticed when examining the data partner provided IDs. -The first is that sometimes there may be typos where characters that represent the IDs are not exactly the same from one deposit year to the other. The second is that IDs may not always be provided in the data or the data partner doesn't track IDs for the person. -In this case we would have to create a unique ID for the person and if that person is in multiple years of deposits they would have a different unique ID each year. -The third scenario is that having multiple IDs for a person is part of the data partners business process. -In this scenario an ID related to the person is created based on each interaction with the data partners system. -So if they have an interaction with the system a new ID is generated each time. -With every scenario, this results in the same person now having multiple IDs. If we were to just take a count of how many unique IDs there are as a representation of the number of people we would be overcounting how many people there are actually in each dataset.

We have developed a process where we use de-duplication to find IDs that represent the same person and store them into a common ID called a "dedup id" in a de-duplication table. The number of rows in the de-duplication table is based on how many unique data partner provided IDs there are in the person table since each ID gets assigned a "dedup id". The de-duplication table will have two columns, the original data partner provided ID field and the "dedup id" field. -So for example if for dataset A there is a person table that has a field called ID and the id's 100, 105 and 130 are found to represent the same person, then there would be a person_dedup table with the fields "id" and "id_dedup_id" and the records for 100, 105 and 130 would be mapped to the same "dedup id" value.

How we do this is through the record linkage process we have developed, which is used most commonly in the Data License Requests (DLR) such as the State of *Our* Data report. Record linkage

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involves comparing two datasets to find common people. This slightly different process is based on the same concepts with the difference being that we are finding common people within the same dataset. Based on the results of the de-duplication, IDs that represent the same person will be assigned a common "dedup id". We run this de-duplication process for every dataset in the Data Trust and use the "dedup id" as the main ID used in running the record linkage process for DLRs. Since this process is tied to our record linkage process as we improve the models used to predict matches or make any other enhancements to the process it may result in different de-duplication ID assignments.-This would explain if you see a count for any of the years in last year's State of *Our* Data report that is not the exact same number in the 2025 State of *Our* Data report. Another possible reason for different counts between reports is that some datasets get replaced completely every year while some are incremental updates year after year. For datasets that get replaced completely there may be changes that are made in the data partners system where some records are added or removed for various reasons which can result in information about the representation of people in the dataset changing.

Data Partner Legend – Abbreviations and Colors (next page)

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FIGURE 2 – Standing Data Partner Names, Abbreviations, and Colors

NAME	ABBREV. & COLOR	DOMAIN
Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department – Adult Victims	CMPD	Justice & Safety
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Homeless Management Information System (28 partner organizations)	HMIS	Housing & Homelessness
Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools	CMS	Education
City of Charlotte Housing and Neighborhood Services – House Charlotte	House CLT	Housing & Homelessness
Crisis Assistance Ministry	Crisis	Housing & Homelessness
Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont	GW	Economy & Work
Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region – Critical Home Repair	Habitat – CHR	Housing & Homelessness
Habitat for Humanity of the Charlotte Region – Homeowner	Habitat – Homeowner	Housing & Homelessness
Housing Collaborative	HC	Housing & Homelessness
INLIVIAN (includes waitlist)	INLIVIAN	Housing & Homelessness
Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance	LNA	Economy & Work
Mecklenburg County Child, Family and Adult Services – Abuse and Neglect Investigations	CFAS – ANI	Justice & Safety
Mecklenburg County Child, Family and Adult Services – Children in Custody	CFAS – CIC	Justice & Safety
Mecklenburg County Child, Family and Adult Services – Family In Home Services	CFAS – FIHS	Justice & Safety
Mecklenburg County Department of Community Resources – Economic Services	DCR – ES	Economy & Work
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office – Arrest Processing Center	MCSO – Arrest	Justice & Safety
Mecklenburg County Sheriff's Office – Booking	MCSO – Booking	Justice & Safety



How many unique people are reflected in our administrative data?

Count of Unique Individuals Overall

Using the year field to filter the dataset for records between 2016 and 2025 a table is created for each dataset that will contain the ISC_ID and a record for each year they are in the dataset. The tables are aggregated together into one dataset with a unique record for each ISC_ID and year the person is in each dataset. The table is then grouped by year and a count of every ISC_ID per year is calculated and reported below.

To obtain the Mecklenburg County population, we used the American Community Survey 1-year estimates.

Figure 3

CATEGORY	DATA_YEAR	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_MECKLENBURG_COUNTY
Unique People in Data Trust	2016	412452	40.8
Unique People in Data Trust	2017	398908	38.6
Unique People in Data Trust	2018	395340	37.5
Unique People in Data Trust	2019	388306	36.1
Unique People in Data Trust	2020	380683	34.8
Unique People in Data Trust	2021	397884	36.1
Unique People in Data Trust	2022	422839	37.9
Unique People in Data Trust	2023	419337	36
Unique People in Data Trust	2024	414474	34.4
Unique People in Data Trust	2025	397572	33
Mecklenburg County Population	2016	1011761	
Mecklenburg County Population	2017	1034311	
Mecklenburg County Population	2018	1054185	
Mecklenburg County Population	2019	1074384	
Mecklenburg County Population	2020	1095192	
Mecklenburg County Population	2021	1101084	
Mecklenburg County Population	2022	1115332	
Mecklenburg County Population	2023	1163789	
Mecklenburg County Population	2024	1206285	

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Mecklenburg County Population	2025	1206285	
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Count of Unique Individuals by Data Partner

Using the year field to filter the dataset for records between 2016 and 2025 a table is created for each data partner dataset that will contain the ISC_ID and a record for each year they are in the dataset. The data is combined into one main table where all data partners are present. The data partner and year fields are used to group the data and get the count of the number of ISC_IDs represented in each data partner's dataset for every year between 2016 and 2025. The most recent year of available data is returned in the table below.

Figure 4

DATASET	DATA_YEAR	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE
DCR - ES	2025	210580
CMS	2025	169481
Crisis	2025	47940
CMPD	2025	44763
MCSO - Booking	2024	14958
CFAS - ANI	2025	11952
HMIS	2025	10337
INLIVIAN	2025	5084
MCSO - Arrest	2022	4506
GW	2025	4009
HC	2025	1334
CFAS - FIHS	2025	959
Habitat - CHR	2025	215
CFAS - CIC	2025	206
Habitat - Homeowner	2025	167
LNA	2025	139
House CLT	2025	101



What are the characteristics of the people in the Data Trust's administrative data?

Here we explore the race, ethnicity, gender, age, geography and income characteristics of the people in the Data Trust.

Normalization: The data collected about people's characteristics may vary from partner to partner. The Data Trust *normalizes* these data, meaning we make methodological decisions to standardize the data so they can be grouped and compared. Namely, we normalize the names of the racial, ethnic and gender groups because there is variation across data partners. The Data Trust acknowledges the need to standardize data as well as the risk of doing so, particularly when it can obscure and oversimplify identities.

Representation: In several places, this report describes proportionate representation and disproportionate overrepresentation or underrepresentation. This refers to how the data we hold compares to data on the overall population of the county or the particular area we are describing. Understanding representation is important in the use and interpretation of Data Trust data.

Race

For each race a query is provided to get the data from the Race_Ethnicity_Gender table. For each specific race the data obtained represents ISC_IDs that only report as the one race. The category Two or More Races as the name suggests represents ISC_IDs that are linked to multiple races in the Race_Ethnicity_Gender table. That data in Figure 6 contains the output for only the most recent year in the State of *Our Data* report (2025). Figure 7 represents all years in the State of *Our Data* Report (2016-2025). The percentage is calculated by dividing the number of people in each category by the total number of ISC_IDs during that record's year. Since each race category represents only people that represent the one race the percentages will add up to 100%.

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Figure 6

DATA_YEAR	RACE	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE
2025	American Indian or Alaska Native	607	0.2
2025	Asian	17304	4.4
2025	Black or African American	185388	46.6
2025	Blank	357	0.1
2025	Hispanic or Latino	37670	9.5
2025	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	281	0.1
2025	Two or more races	63078	15.9
2025	Unknown	6230	1.6
2025	White	86657	21.8

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Figure 7

For the purposes of this chart and section, all people with more than one race are in the Two or more races category.

DATA_YEAR	RACE	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE
2016	American Indian or Alaska Native	617	0.1
2016	Asian	17559	4.3
2016	Black or African American	200000	48.5
2016	Blank	366	0.1
2016	Hispanic or Latino	24100	5.8
2016	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	203	0
2016	Two or more races	58442	14.2
2016	Unknown	4084	1
2016	White	107081	26
2017	American Indian or Alaska Native	528	0.1
2017	Asian	17466	4.4
2017	Black or African American	190134	47.7
2017	Blank	525	0.1
2017	Hispanic or Latino	24611	6.2
2017	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	208	0.1
2017	Two or more races	59886	15
2017	Unknown	4346	1.1
2017	White	101204	25.4
2018	American Indian or Alaska Native	525	0.1
2018	Asian	17785	4.5
2018	Black or African American	187527	47.4
2018	Blank	452	0.1
2018	Hispanic or Latino	24966	6.3
2018	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	242	0.1

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2018	Two or more races	61690	15.6
2018	Unknown	3800	1
2018	White	98353	24.9
2019	American Indian or Alaska Native	505	0.1
2019	Asian	17766	4.6
2019	Black or African American	181990	46.9
2019	Blank	499	0.1
2019	Hispanic or Latino	27012	7
2019	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	251	0.1
2019	Two or more races	61488	15.8
2019	Unknown	3830	1
2019	White	94965	24.5
2020	American Indian or Alaska Native	482	0.1
2020	Asian	17677	4.6
2020	Black or African American	180102	47.3
2020	Blank	819	0.2
2020	Hispanic or Latino	27557	7.2
2020	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	240	0.1
2020	Two or more races	61015	16
2020	Unknown	3191	0.8
2020	White	89600	23.5
2021	American Indian or Alaska Native	558	0.1
2021	Asian	18028	4.5
2021	Black or African American	192349	48.3
2021	Blank	796	0.2
2021	Hispanic or Latino	26899	6.8
2021	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	247	0.1
2021	Two or more races	63484	16
2021	Unknown	3345	0.8

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2021	White	92178	23.2
2022	American Indian or Alaska Native	630	0.1
2022	Asian	18771	4.4
2022	Black or African American	205464	48.6
2022	Blank	1068	0.3
2022	Hispanic or Latino	29325	6.9
2022	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	276	0.1
2022	Two or more races	67467	16
2022	Unknown	4580	1.1
2022	White	95258	22.5
2023	American Indian or Alaska Native	668	0.2
2023	Asian	18111	4.3
2023	Black or African American	200052	47.7
2023	Blank	1378	0.3
2023	Hispanic or Latino	31882	7.6
2023	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	287	0.1
2023	Two or more races	66779	15.9
2023	Unknown	6327	1.5
2023	White	93853	22.4
2024	American Indian or Alaska Native	639	0.2
2024	Asian	17959	4.3
2024	Black or African American	191976	46.3
2024	Blank	517	0.1
2024	Hispanic or Latino	37333	9
2024	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	272	0.1
2024	Two or more races	66251	16
2024	Unknown	6815	1.6
2024	White	92712	22.4
2025	American Indian or Alaska Native	607	0.2

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2025	Asian	17304	4.4
2025	Black or African American	185388	46.6
2025	Blank	357	0.1
2025	Hispanic or Latino	37670	9.5
2025	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	281	0.1
2025	Two or more races	63078	15.9
2025	Unknown	6230	1.6
2025	White	86657	21.8

Figure 8

DATA_YEAR	RACE	CATEGORY	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE
2025	American Indian or Alaska Native	Data Trust	607	0.2
2025	American Indian or Alaska Native	Mecklenburg County	1430	0.1
2025	Asian	Data Trust	17304	4.4
2025	Asian	Mecklenburg County	78941	6.5
2025	Black or African American	Data Trust	185388	46.6
2025	Black or African American	Mecklenburg County	349848	29
2025	Hispanic or Latino	Data Trust	37670	9.5
2025	Hispanic or Latino	Mecklenburg County	204920	17
2025	Multi-Racial	Data Trust	63078	15.9
2025	Multi-Racial	Mecklenburg County	53293	4.4
2025	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Data Trust	281	0.1
2025	Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	Mecklenburg County	534	0
2025	Other race, unknown, or blank	Data Trust	6587	1.7
2025	Other race, unknown, or blank	Mecklenburg County	7959	0.7
2025	White	Data Trust	86657	21.8
2025	White	Mecklenburg County	509360	42.2



Note: Mecklenburg County population uses the American Community Survey 1 year estimates, 2024. The Data Trust percentages are from 2025.

Figure 9

This figure will report the race of people based on the overall count and the number of people that were linked to more than one dataset using the most recent year in the State of *Our* Data report (2025). For each specific race the data obtained represents ISC_IDs that only report as the one race.-The category Two or More Races as the name suggests represents ISC_IDs that are linked to multiple races in the Race_Ethnicity_Gender table.-The data is calculated by getting the ISC_IDs and dataset records related to 2025 and creating a pivot table on the dataset column, where the dataset columns are a binary field indicating if the ISC_ID is present in each dataset.-This information is joined with the Race_Ethnicity_Gender table and can be used to get the "Overall" count of people and then filtered by ISC_IDs that are linked to multiple datasets to calculate the "2+ datasets" count.

DATA_YEAR	RACE	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE	CATEGORY
2025	American Indian or Alaska Native	607	0.2	Overall
2025	Asian	17304	4.4	Overall
2025	Black or African American	185388	46.6	Overall
2025	Blank	357	0.1	Overall
2025	Hispanic or Latino	37670	9.5	Overall
2025	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	281	0.1	Overall
2025	Two or more races	63078	15.9	Overall
2025	Unknown	6230	1.6	Overall
2025	White	86657	21.8	Overall
2025	American Indian or Alaska Native	30	0	2+ datasets
2025	Asian	1598	1.8	2+ datasets
2025	Black or African American	53014	59.7	2+ datasets
2025	Blank	1	0	2+ datasets

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2025	Hispanic or Latino	1479	1.7	2+ datasets
2025	Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	5	0	2+ datasets
2025	Two or more races	27499	31	2+ datasets
2025	Unknown	17	0	2+ datasets
2025	White	5090	5.7	2+ datasets

Gender

This output will get the number of people that are associated with only one type of gender and calculate the percentage. For the Unknown category this combines the records that are only Unknown, Blank and records with more than one gender. The counts will add up to the total number of people in all the datasets.

Figure 10

DATA_YEAR	GENDER	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE
2025	A gender other than singularly male or female	14	0
2025	Female	207764	52.26
2025	Male	183576	46.17
2025	Unknown	6218	1.56

Age

Figure 19 will provide age statistics (min, median, max) for each dataset in the DLR using the dataset's latest available year.-For most datasets this is 2025, with the exception of MCSO - Arrest (2022) and MCSO - Booking (2024). Also for Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance (LNA) we received data for 2025 but only for adults, which is why the minimum age is 19.-For each dataset a table filtered by the latest available year is created with the ISC_ID and Age fields. The age field is used to calculate the quantile values for the 1st and 99th percentile and this will represent the lower and upper bounds of acceptable values.-The upper and lower bounds are calculated for each dataset table separately.-These values are then used to filter out the outliers that fall outside the upper and lower bounds for the records related to the dataset table. Then the statistics are generated on the filtered table.



Figure 11

DATASET	MIN	MEDIAN	MAX
CFAS - ANI	0	8	17
CFAS - CIC	0	8	18
CFAS - FIHS	0	7	17
CMPD	18	35	79
CMS	4	11	18
Crisis	20	39	76
DCR - ES	0	22	82
GW	18	37	72
HC	19	42	74
HMIS	0	34	72
Habitat - CHR	35	68	92
Habitat - Homeowner	2	15	61
House CLT	23	35	66
INLIVIAN	6	37	77
LNA	19	57	85
MCSO - Arrest	18	31	63
MCSO - Booking	18	32	65

Where do people in the Data Trust live?

Figure 12

To understand which parts of Charlotte/Mecklenburg County are represented by the Data Trust data, we geocoded the addresses in the datasets and aggregated them to neighborhood profile areas (NPAs). Location data is not available with all partners. The address data used in this section is from CMS, DCR – ES, Crisis, CMPD, Habitat - CHR, Habitat - Homeowner, House CLT, Housing Collaborative (HC), INLIVIAN and Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance (LNA).



Detailed data tables are available on request.

How are people reflected across partners?

Figure 13

This figure will report the percentage of people based on the number of datasets they are associated with during the most recent year of the State of *Our* Data report (2025). A dataset containing the ISC_IDs and the datasets and years they are associated with is loaded and filtered to include only 2025. A pivot table is then created where a record is created for every ISC_ID and a binary column is created for each dataset where the value is 1 if the ISC_ID is associated with the dataset and 0 if it is not. The binary dataset columns are summed across and stored in a field called NUMBER_OF_DATASETS to indicate how many datasets an ISC_ID is associated with. The NUMBER_OF_DATASETS is grouped into a category where the values 1, 2 and 3 remain the same value, but records where NUMBER_OF_DATASETS ≥ 4 are set to the value 4+.-The table is then grouped by NUMBER_OF_DATASETS and then aggregated by summing the NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE.

NUMBER_OF_DATASETS	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE
1	308839	77.7
2	70810	17.8
3	15245	3.8
4+	2678	0.7

Figure 14

This figure will report the percentage of people based on the number of datasets they are associated with using all years that were part of the State of *Our* Data report (2016-2025). A table containing a record for every ISC_ID and binary columns for every dataset indicating if they are associated the dataset is created and used in this calculation. The binary dataset columns are summed across and stored in a field called NUMBER_OF_DATASETS to indicate how many datasets an ISC_ID is associated with. The NUMBER_OF_DATASETS is grouped into a category where the values 1, 2 and 3 remain the same value, but records where NUMBER_OF_DATASETS ≥ 4 are set to the value 4+.-The table is then grouped by NUMBER_OF_DATASETS and then aggregated by summing the NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE.

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NUMBER_OF_DATASETS	NUMBER_OF_PEOPLE	PERCENTAGE_OF_PEOPLE
1	770058	66.3
2	213643	18.4
3	102913	8.9
4+	75205	6.5

Figure 15

Partner	Data Partner	Count Overlap
CFAS - ANI	DCR - ES	6850
CFAS - ANI	CMS	6005
CFAS - ANI	No Overlap	2876
CFAS - ANI	Crisis	1978
CFAS - ANI	CFAS - FIHS	853
CFAS - ANI	HMIS	475
CFAS - ANI	CFAS - CIC	164
CFAS - ANI	INLIVIAN	12
CFAS - ANI	CMPD	10
CFAS - CIC	CFAS - ANI	164
CFAS - CIC	DCR - ES	119
CFAS - CIC	CMS	82
CFAS - CIC	CFAS - FIHS	37
CFAS - CIC	Crisis	37
CFAS - CIC	HMIS	28
CFAS - CIC	No Overlap	14
CFAS - FIHS	CFAS - ANI	853
CFAS -	DCR - ES	740

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FIHS		
CFAS - FIHS	CMS	535
CFAS - FIHS	Crisis	221
CFAS - FIHS	HMIS	60
CFAS - FIHS	CFAS - CIC	37
CFAS - FIHS	No Overlap	15
DCR - ES	No Overlap	128301
DCR - ES	CMS	50457
DCR - ES	Crisis	27465
DCR - ES	CMPD	7691
DCR - ES	CFAS - ANI	6850
DCR - ES	HMIS	5897
DCR - ES	INLIVIAN	1638
DCR - ES	GW	1238
DCR - ES	CFAS - FIHS	740
DCR - ES	HC	507
DCR - ES	CFAS - CIC	119
DCR - ES	LNA	66
DCR - ES	Habitat - CHR	63
DCR - ES	Habitat - Homeowner	23
DCR - ES	House CLT	10
MCSO - Arrest	MCSO - Booking	2314
MCSO - Arrest	DCR - ES	1609
MCSO - Arrest	No Overlap	1275
MCSO -	CMPD	652

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Arrest		
MCSO - Arrest	Crisis	386
MCSO - Arrest	HMIS	285
MCSO - Arrest	CMS	87
MCSO - Arrest	INLIVIAN	85
MCSO - Arrest	GW	31
MCSO - Booking	No Overlap	8938
MCSO - Booking	DCR - ES	4356
MCSO - Booking	CMPD	1708
MCSO - Booking	Crisis	1119
MCSO - Booking	HMIS	950
MCSO - Booking	CMS	287
MCSO - Booking	GW	158
MCSO - Booking	HC	71
MCSO - Booking	INLIVIAN	68
MCSO - Booking	CFAS - ANI	28
Crisis	DCR - ES	27465
Crisis	No Overlap	16863
Crisis	CMS	10644
Crisis	HMIS	2463
Crisis	CMPD	2414
Crisis	CFAS - ANI	1978
Crisis	INLIVIAN	465

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Crisis	GW	421
Crisis	CFAS - FIHS	221
Crisis	HC	203
Crisis	CFAS - CIC	37
Crisis	LNA	22
Crisis	Habitat - CHR	14
CMS	No Overlap	114699
CMS	DCR - ES	50457
CMS	Crisis	10644
CMS	CFAS - ANI	6005
CMS	HMIS	1219
CMS	CFAS - FIHS	535
CMS	CMPD	267
CMS	CFAS - CIC	82
CMS	INLIVIAN	41
CMS	GW	34
CMS	Habitat - Homeowner	27
GW	No Overlap	2525
GW	DCR - ES	1238
GW	Crisis	421
GW	CMPD	241
GW	HMIS	234
GW	INLIVIAN	35
GW	CMS	34
GW	HC	26
HMIS	DCR - ES	5897
HMIS	No Overlap	3382
HMIS	Crisis	2463

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HMIS	CMS	1219
HMIS	CMPD	884
HMIS	CFAS - ANI	475
HMIS	HC	376
HMIS	INLIVIAN	288
HMIS	GW	234
HMIS	CFAS - FIHS	60
HMIS	CFAS - CIC	28
Habitat - Homeowner	No Overlap	120
Habitat - Homeowner	CMS	27
Habitat - Homeowner	DCR - ES	23
Habitat - CHR	No Overlap	145
Habitat - CHR	DCR - ES	63
Habitat - CHR	Crisis	14
CMPD	No Overlap	35811
CMPD	DCR - ES	7691
CMPD	Crisis	2414
CMPD	HMIS	884
CMPD	CMS	267
CMPD	INLIVIAN	266
CMPD	GW	241
CMPD	HC	115
CMPD	CFAS - ANI	10
HC	No Overlap	660
HC	DCR - ES	507
HC	HMIS	376
HC	Crisis	203

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HC	CMPD	115
HC	INLIVIAN	59
HC	GW	26
House CLT	No Overlap	81
House CLT	DCR - ES	10
INLIVIAN	No Overlap	3284
INLIVIAN	DCR - ES	1638
INLIVIAN	Crisis	465
INLIVIAN	HMIS	288
INLIVIAN	CMPD	266
INLIVIAN	HC	59
INLIVIAN	CMS	41
INLIVIAN	GW	35
INLIVIAN	CFAS - ANI	12
LNA	DCR - ES	66
LNA	No Overlap	63
LNA	Crisis	22

How is the data used?

Figure 16

All projects either started, continued, or completed are tagged with one or more quality of life domain that relates to the project.

Domain	# of Projects
Housing & Homelessness	15
Safety & Justice	11
Economy & Work	11
Education	9
Transportation	6
Health, Mental Health, and Wellbeing,	5
Engagement	2

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Environment	1
Arts & Culture	1

Figure 17

Count of data license requests by year.

Year	# of DLRs
2016	12
2017	8
2018	6
2019	6
2020	4
2021	4
2022	6
2023	12
2024	6
2025	8

Figure 18

For data license requests requested in 2025, a count for each dataset requested is provided.

Dataset	# of DLRs
DCR - ES	6
HMIS	5
CMS	5
Crisis	4
MCSO - Booking	4
MCSO - Arrest	4
HC	3
CMPD	3
Atrium Health	3

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CFAS - ANI	3
GW	3
CFAS - FIHS	2
LNA	2
External dataset	2
CFAS - CIC	1
Habitat - Homeowner	1
Habitat - CHR	1
INLIVIAN	1
House Charlotte	1

Figure 19

For data license requests requested in 2025, a count of the requesting entity is provided.

Requestor Type	# of DLRs
UNC Charlotte Faculty/Student	4
UNC Charlotte Urban Institute	3
Nonprofit - Outside of Region	1



New Data Partners

In 2025, 15 more partners joined the Data Trust by either signing or re-signing their data sharing agreements. This includes both completely new partners and partners who were involved previously and have re-engaged. This also includes both partners who share data for the Explorer tools and/or individual-level administrative data. Forty-six percent (7) of new partners share individual-level administrative data and 53% (8) of new partners share data for the explorer tools. We focused on building partnerships in the environment and engagement domains. In 2025, we obtained four new partners in the environment domain and three new partners in the engagement domain, representing arts, culture, and science organizations.

The table below provides more information about the new data partners. The “New or Updated” column specifies if the partner is new to the Data Trust or whether they have re-engaged with the Data Trust after a time by resigning updated agreements. The “Data Type” column indicates if the partner is sharing individual-level administrative data or data for the explorer tools. The “Domain” column indicates the quality of life domain that aligns with the data partner. HMIS refers to agreements that only apply to data collected by agencies who provide services to people experiencing homelessness and who contribute to the Homeless Management Information System, or HMIS.

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Data Partner Name	Description	New or Updated	Data Type	Domain
Roof Above	Roof Above is a comprehensive homeless service provider serving 1,400 people per day through a spectrum of services ranging from street outreach, day services, emergency shelter, and permanent supportive housing. They unite communities to end homelessness, one life at a time. The agreement was for the SECU-Rise on Clanton data license request, where data about people residing at the Rise on Clanton was shared with the Data Trust to link with other data.	Updated (project-specific)	Integrated Administrative Data	Housing & Homelessness
Charlotte Heat Mappers	The Charlotte Heat Mappers aim to better understand the varying effects of extreme heat across our urban area and to work with local partners to mitigate its impacts on community health and wellbeing. Data from the 2024 heat mapping effort was shared for the Quality of Life Explorer	New	Explorer Data	Environment
Catawba Riverkeeper	Responsible for monitoring water quality in the Catawba River Basin. Shares swim guide water quality testing data.	New	Explorer Data/Other	Environment
Yadkin Riverkeeper	Responsible for monitoring water quality in the Yadkin River Basin. Shares swim guide water quality testing data.	New	Explorer Data/Other	Environment
Charlotte Bilingual Preschool	Provides high-quality bilingual education for preschool aged children in	Updated (project-specific)	Integrated Administrative Data	Education

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	Charlotte-Mecklenburg			
Haw River Assembly	Responsible for monitoring water quality in the Haw River Basin. Shares swim guide water quality testing data, and trash trap data	New	Explorer Data/Other	Environment
Charlotte Museum of History	The Charlotte Museum of History saves and shares the Charlotte region's history, connecting the past to current issues and opportunities. Shares information about members and visitors.	New	Explorer Data	Arts & Culture
Mint Museum	Established in 1936, The Mint Museum is a leading, innovative cultural institution and museum of international art and design. Shares information about members and visitors.	New	Explorer Data	Arts & Culture
Medic	Medic provides emergency medical services and ambulance services to Mecklenburg County. The agreement was for the SECU-Rise on Clanton data license request, where data about people residing at the Rise on Clanton was shared with the Data Trust to link with other data.	New (project-specific)	Integrated Administrative Data	Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing
Levine Museum of the New South	Over thirty years ago, Levine Museum of the New South was founded as a history museum that tells everyone's story and confront difficult issues with historical context. Shares information about members and visitors.	New	Explorer Data	Arts & Culture
DreamKey Partners	DreamKey Partners, Inc, is a private, nonprofit real estate development and finance corporation that	New	Integrated Administrative Data	Housing & Homelessness

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	addresses affordable housing holistically. DreamKey Partners develops real estate including rental and homeowner units; administers programs to support households such as homeownership education and counseling, down payment assistance and lending, and emergency assistance; and conducts strong community engagement.			
Ada Jenkins Center	Ada Jenkins Center serves people in and around Cornelius, Davidson, and Huntersville communities to create lasting solutions for economic stability.	New	Integrated Administrative Data	Housing & Homelessness;
Novant Health	Novant Health is an integrated network of hundreds of medical facilities providing a seamless and personalized healthcare experience for communities across North Carolina and South Carolina. The agreement was for the SECU-Rise on Clanton data license request, where data about people residing at the Rise on Clanton was shared with the Data Trust to link with other data.	Updated (project-specific)	Integrated Administrative Data	Health, Mental Health, & Wellbeing

New Data

In 2025, we gained 14 new datasets. Six datasets contain aggregate or spatial data to be used on the Explorer tools or for other research. Four of these datasets are related to the environment domain and allow us to better understand water quality and heat in our region. Two of these datasets are related to the arts and culture domain and are part of work associated with re-building an arts and culture variable on the Quality of Life Explorer.

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Seven of the new datasets contain individual level data to be linked in the Data Trust. We obtained six new datasets from Mecklenburg County Child, Family, and Adult Services from their Services for Adults Division. We also obtained new data from Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance. The new data is described in the table below. The “Dataset / Variable” column indicates whether the new data is an entire new dataset or new variables to an existing dataset. The “Domain” column indicates the quality of life domain that aligns with the dataset. [Detailed information about all data available at the Data Trust can be found here.](#)

Data Partner	Data Description	Dataset / Variable	Domain
Mecklenburg County Child, Family, and Adult Services - Services for Adults	The Services for Adults data contains 5 datasets related to serving seniors in Mecklenburg County. Those datasets include: ● Meck Transportation ● SCNP Homebound & Congregate ● Adult Protective Services ● Guardianship ● In Home Aid ● Adult Day Care The Data Trust is in the process of loading the datasets and they should be represented in next year’s report.	Dataset	Safety & Justice; Economy & Work; Health, Mental Health, & Wellbeing
Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance	Data about residents who participate in the Lakeview Universal Basic Income gift card program. Also includes a resident wellbeing survey.	Dataset	Economy & Work
Yadkin Riverkeeper	Swim guide data - data about water quality collected throughout the summer. Also has data about trash collected from the rivers.	Dataset	Environment
Haw River Assembly	Swim guide data - data about water quality collected throughout the summer. Also has data about trash collected from the rivers.	Dataset	Environment
Catawba Riverkeeper	Swim guide data - data about water quality collected throughout the summer. Also has data about trash collected from the rivers.	Dataset	Environment
Mint Museum	Aggregate data about visitors and members.	Dataset	Arts and Culture

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Medic	Data about patients meeting specific criteria to match to the residents at the Rise on Clanton.	Dataset (project-specific)	Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing
Levine Museum of the New South	Aggregate data about visitors and members.	Dataset	Arts and Culture
Charlotte Heat Mappers	Aggregate data about heat index, to go on Quality of Life Explorer	Dataset	Environment



Data Use Summaries

The Institute and Data Trust maintain a community data infrastructure so that the data can be used for community benefit, specifically through research, evaluation and planning. All data is de-identified before release. As a resource to both the community and the University, we engage researchers who are based in our local government and nonprofits, as well as academic researchers doing community-engaged research and advancing knowledge in the nine domains we address. This section details the use and impact of the Explorer tools, the ways in which Data Trust data were used, the projects completed by Institute researchers, and engagements by the Institute and Data Trust in 2025.

More details about each project are below. Contact DataTrust@charlotte.edu with any questions.

Data License Requests

Quality of Life Explorer 2025 Update

Project Lead and Organization	Katie Zager, Charlotte Urban Institute
Project Description	Annual request to update variables on the Quality of Life Explorer.
Domain(s)	Education; Economy and Work
Data Requested and Linked	● Addresses geocoded to the Neighborhood Profile Area for the following variables: ○ DCR -ES (September 2024) ■ Recipients of Food and Nutrition Services ○ CMS (2023/24) ■ Graduation rate ■ Student attendance (to calculate student absenteeism) ■ Test proficiency in elementary, middle and high school ■ Neighborhood school attendance

Evaluation of the Lakeview Guaranteed Basic Income Program

Project Lead and Organization	Drew Reynolds, PhD, Common Good Data, LLC
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Project Description	This project seeks to demonstrate the impact of the Guaranteed Basic Income Program at Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance beyond immediate economic relief. This study is being conducted in the context of research on policies related to universal basic income (UBI) and cash transfer programs. Understanding the potential impact of the gift card program will inform decision-making for both Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance as well as other entities interested in supporting the economic mobility of residents living in concentrated poverty.
Domain(s)	Education; Economy & Work; Safety & Justice; Housing & Homelessness
Data Requested and Linked	This project was the first use of data from Lakeview Neighborhood Alliance as a new Data Partner of the Data Trust. Residents of Lakeview and recipients of the gift cards were linked with other data at the Data Trust. The Data Trust created two comparison groups - one for adults and one for children. The datasets and years requested are below: ● CMS: 2019/20-2024/25 ● DCR - ES: 2019-2024 ● HMIS: 2019-2024 ● GW: 2019-2024 ● Crisis: 2019-2024 ● MCSO - Booking: 2019-2024 ● CFAS - ANI: 2019-2024

Assessing the role of peer support specialists in housing stability using the homeless management information system: A retrospective matched cohort study

Project Lead and Organization	Lindsay Miller, UNC Charlotte Health and Human Services
Project Description	The purpose of this study is to understand the relationship between the implementation of Peer Support Specialists (PSS) and re-entry to homelessness services among people in Mecklenburg County, NC. People experiencing homelessness have reported increases in their quality of life,

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	social support, and greater physical and mental health when exposed to PSS, however little is known about the use of PSS among people who have recently exited homelessness. The aim of this study is to explore the association between people who transition to permanent housing programs that offer peer support services and their housing stability compared to those who are in housing programs without peer support, controlling for covariates.
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness
Data Requested and Linked	This project used data from HMIS, only for years 2019-2023.

SECU - The Rise on Clanton

Project Lead and Organization	Eric Moore, PhD and Jenny Hutchison, PhD, Charlotte Urban Institute
Project Description	The intent of this project is to examine the effects of housing individuals experiencing homelessness in a new residential living building – SECU The Rise on Clanton – managed by Roof Above. This will be a multi-phase project, with the objectives of the first phase consisting of the following: ● Describe the residents of The Rise, including demographics and previous experiences with homelessness. ● Describe the resident's use of local support services, criminal justice involvement, and healthcare utilization. ● Determine the feasibility of a comparison group for the second phase and reach an agreement with Roof Above on the research design.
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness; Safety & Justice; Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing; Economy & Work
Data Requested and Linked	For this project, an external dataset was shared by Roof Above that contained information about the residents of The Rise on Clanton. This data was then linked with other data at the Data Trust. This project also included two health

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	datasets from Novant Health and Medic. The requested datasets and years requested are below: ● HMIS: 2020-2024 ● DCR - ES: 2020-2023 ● MCSO - Booking: 2020-2023 ● CMPD: 2020-2023 ● Atrium/Advocate Health: 2020-2023
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State of Our Data 2025

Project Lead and Organization	Project Leads: Sydney Idzikowski and Nick Occhipinti, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute/Data Trust
Project Description	The purpose of this project is to understand the groups represented within and across partner agency datasets at the Charlotte Regional Data Trust and how those groups may or may not be proportionality representative of the Mecklenburg County population. The groups that are available across data partner data are race, ethnicity, age, and gender. As available, other groups may also be included such as disability status, veteran status, immigrant, and geography (zip code). This project will also seek to understand how people are linked between the each of the data partners. This project will cumulate in the Data Trust's annual State of Our Data Report.
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness; Safety & Justice; Economy & Work; Education
Data Requested and Linked	This project requests data from all regular data partners of the Data Trust. It is updated annually. The requested datasets and years requested are below: ● Crisis: 2016-2024 ● CMS: 2015/16-2023/24 ● DCR – ES:, 2016-2024 ● CFAS – ANI: 2016-2024 ● CFAS – FIHS: 2016-2024 ● CFAS – CIC: 2016-2024 ● GW: 2020-2024 ● HMISL 2016-2024

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	● MCSO – Bookings: 2016-2024 ● MCSO: Arrest: 2016-2022 ● Habitat - Homeowner: 2017 - 2024 ● Habitat CHR: 2017 - 2024 ● HC: 2020-2024 ● House CLT: 2016-2024 ● CMPD: 2016-2024 ● INLIVIAN:, 2017-2024
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Understanding how Charlotte Bilingual Preschool Prepares Dual Language Learners for Success in Elementary School

Project Lead and Organization	Project Lead: Drew Gadaire, PhD, UNC Charlotte Department of Psychological Sciences
Project Description	This study will utilize archival data from the Charlotte Regional Data Trust to understand how Charlotte Bilingual Preschool graduates' engagement, academic performance, and behavior in Kindergarten through 5th grade compare to that of Latinx students in a matched comparison group, who did not attend a dual language preschool program. Additionally, this study will examine how the engagement and experiences of students and families at Charlotte Bilingual Preschool relate to students' engagement, academic achievement, and behavior in elementary school. Study findings will inform Charlotte Bilingual Preschool's continuous quality improvement efforts, enhance understanding of the effects of high-quality dual language immersion ECE programs, and inform future early childhood programs and policies to prepare DLLs from Spanish-speaking households for success in elementary school and beyond.
Domain(s)	Education
Data Requested and Linked	For this project, an external dataset was provided by Charlotte Bilingual Preschool and matched with CMS data. The requested datasets and years requested are below: ● CMS: 2018/19-2024/25



Project BOOST Retrospective Outcomes Analysis

Project Lead and Organization	Annelise Mennicke, PhD, UNC Charlotte School of Social Work
Project Description	Project BOOST is a hospital-based violence intervention program (HVIP). The goal of HVIPs is to reduce youth/young adult involvement in violent incidents, which can be monitored through readmission to the hospital. However, hospital readmissions alone cannot fully capture involvement in violent incidents. There is a need to evaluate the effectiveness of Project BOOST on violent incidents and social outcomes using data available from other sources. Specifically, Project BOOST participants could be monitored for engagement with other systems. The goal of this project is to use the Charlotte Data Trust to link data across systems to assess outcomes associated with Project BOOST participants. Specifically, we will investigate violent recidivism and social determinants of health outcomes across systems (e.g., law enforcement, child welfare, schools).
Domain(s)	Safety & Justice; Health, Mental Health & Wellbeing; Housing & Homelessness; Economy & Work
Data Requested and Linked	For this project, an external dataset was provided by Advocate Health. This dataset included people who are referred to Project BOOST and either participated or declined participation. The dataset also includes a social drivers of health screening. This data is linked with other data at the Data Trust. Additionally, a custom dataset from HMIS was provided for this project. The requested datasets and years requested are below: ● CMS: 2021/2022 - 2023/2024 ● Crisis Assistance Ministry: 2022-2024 ● HMIS: 2022-2023 ● CFAS - FIHS: 2022-2024 ● CF AS - ANI: 2022-2024 ● DCR - ES: 2023-2024 ● CMPD : 2022 ● HC: 2022-2024 ● MCSO - Booking 2022-2024

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- GW: 2022
- HMIS CUSTOM (Supplemental tool): 2022-2024
- HMIS CUSTOM (TAY-VI_SPDAT V2): 2022-2024

The Role of Social Services in Reducing Housing Instability: A Local Analysis in Charlotte, North Carolina

Project Lead and Organization	Clysha Whitlow, PhD student, UNC Charlotte Department of Psychological Services (Dr. Andrew Gadaire, supporting faculty)
Project Description	This study investigates whether breadth of multi-service contact, defined as interaction with two or more distinct service systems, is associated with variation in repeated housing-related service system contact using administrative data sources that capture system-observed housing crisis contact over time. Using a bioecological framework (Bronfenbrenner, 1979), the study explores how the interplay between institutional service systems, neighborhood contexts, and household-level characteristics is associated with patterns of housing-related system contact over time. Rather than evaluating the performance or effectiveness of individual agencies or programs, the study focuses on system level service exposure and coordination patterns and their associations with repeated contact with housing crisis-oriented service systems, without making causal claims about housing outcomes or stability.
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness; Economy & Work
Data Requested and Linked	This projects requested all people who identified as Black or African American, alone or in combination with another race or ethnicity. The requested datasets and years requested are below: ● Crisis Assistance Ministry: 2015-2024 ● HMIS: 2013-2024 ● HC: 2017-2024 ● DCR - ES: 2013-2024



Completed Projects

The list below details the projects completed at the Institute and Data Trust. x projects were completed in 2025. The projects largely explored the housing and homelessness, safety and justice, and economy and work domains. Two projects were completed by researchers outside the Institute. More than half (54%, n=6) used linked administrative data from the Data Trust. Links to the reports are provided as available.

Student Emergency Fund - An Exploratory Analysis of Community Connections

Project Lead and Organization	Ellissa Brooks Nelson, PhD, UNC Charlotte Division of Student Affairs
Released	January 2025
Project Description	The Vice Chancellor for UNC Charlotte's Division of Student Affairs requested that Student Affairs Research and Assessment take a deeper look into our students who request Student Emergency Funds (SEF). This project identified whether students who request SEF are receiving (or received in the past) selected community resources or have had interactions with selected agencies outside of the university. You can read findings here.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Education; Housing & Homelessness; Economy & Work; Safety & Justice

Quality of Life Explorer 2025 Update

Project Lead and Organization	Katie Zager, Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	March 2025
Project Description	Annual request to update variables on the Quality of Life Explorer.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Education; Economy & Work

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Examining Educational Outcomes for Children Involved in Foster Care

Project Lead and Organization	Robert Pinka, PhD, Council for Children's Rights
Released	March 2025
Project Description	This project investigated educational outcomes of school-aged youth involved in the foster care system. The project used comparison groups of children in CMS experiencing homelessness and students who are neither homeless nor in foster care.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Education; Economy & Work; Safety & Justice

Transition age foster care youth and housing instability

Project Lead and Organization	Bridget Anderson and Jenny Hutchison, Ph.D., UNC Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	June 2025
Project Description	This project examined the total prevalence of homelessness among foster-care youth and youth who participated in the Extended Foster Care program. The project reported on risk and protective factors for homelessness. This project was part of the State of Housing Instability and Homelessness Report series. You can read results here.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness; Safety & Justice; Economy & Work

Understanding proportionality and representation in Data Trust datasets

Project Lead and Organization	Sydney Idzikowski, Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	June, 2025

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Project Description	This project was the initial data request for the annual State of Our Data Report. The report serves at the annual report for the Data Trust shows who is represented in the data, how people are linked across datasets, and how the data are used. You can read previous reports here.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Education; Housing & Homelessness; Economy & Work; Safety & Justice

The Influence of Tutoring Services on Elementary Students Below Grade Level Math

Project Lead and Organization	Eric Moore, Ph.D., UNC Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	June 2025
Project Description	The project evaluated the effectiveness of Heart Math Tutoring (HMT). HMT is a math tutoring program that Works with dedicated volunteers to help elementary students develop foundational math skills. The project examined if there are differences between in academic performance between students who receive tutoring through HMT and those who do not; whether the tutoring method and/or number of tutoring sessions affected academic performance.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Education; Economy & Work

Good Jobs Charlotte - Workforce Development

Project Lead and Organization	Eric Moore, Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	December 2025
Project Description	This project sought to improve the understanding of local Work development clients and their needs. The project examined the data that are collected by Work agencies; the extent to which clients access Work agencies; and what other community services do clients of Work agencies

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	engage with. This study focused on a critical issue: the fragmented nature of Work development data. The project connected various information strands by highlighting this disjointed data environment, forming a unified representation that illustrates the challenges and opportunities within the local Work landscape.
Used Data Trust Data	Yes
Domain(s)	Economy & Work; Housing & Homelessness

A Home for All

Project Lead and Organization	Sydney Idzikowski, Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	June 2025
Project Description	Via the United Way of Greater Charlotte, this project provided data capacity building and support for six agencies involved with the community-wide effort to end homelessness and housing instability in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. The data capacity building will support the evaluation of the Initiative and help to ensure that high quality data is being collected ahead of, during, and after the evaluation. The Institute conducted in-depth assessments of the data practices at the organizations and offered recommendations to strengthen those data practices
Used Data Trust Data	No
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness

Ascent Housing Impact Fund - Phase 1

Project Lead and Organization	Jenny Niu , Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	April 2025

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Project Description	This project developed an evaluation framework to assess the overall influence of the Housing Impact Fund on the well-being of households within their communities. The evaluation framework prioritizes the monitoring and measurement of long-term impacts of housing stability, as well as measurements related to the Community Health Worker and peer-parenting education programs. Phase 1 prepares the work of Phase 2, which will include data collection and an evaluation.
Used Data Trust Data	No
Domain(s)	Housing & Homelessness

Sugar Creek Charter School TIMS Computerized Bus Routing

Project Lead and Organization	Andrew McComery , Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	June 2025
Project Description	The Institute's TIMS staff assisted Sugar Creek Charter with training and software/data support services within the existing TIMS computerized bus routing software.
Used Data Trust Data	No
Domain(s)	Transportation

Alternatives to Violence 3 - Year Evaluation

Project Lead and Organization	Angelique Gaines & Fatima Rodriguez Caba , Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	December 2025
Project Description	The Institute evaluated the Alternatives to Violence program in Beatties Ford. This evaluation looked at three years of the program. <u>Read the findings here.</u>



Used Data Trust Data	No
Domain(s)	Safety & Justice

Knight Foundation West End News Ecosystem

Project Lead and Organization	Angelique Gaines, Charlotte Urban Institute
Released	July 2025
Project Description	This project investigated news sources and engagement, the information ecosystem in Charlotte's West End, and whether that information ecosystem is meeting the needs of residents and businesses. Read the findings here.
Used Data Trust Data	No
Domain(s)	Engagement

Community Engagements

The Institute and Data Trust regularly engages with both the UNC Charlotte campus community and the larger community in the Charlotte Region. We also share our work and learn from others at conferences. Below we detail how the Institute and Data Trust engaged with the community and shared our work in 2025.

- 5 engagements with the UNC Charlotte Campus Community
 - Faculty open house (urbanCORE explore)
 - UNC Charlotte Community Engagement Showcase
 - UNC Charlotte Center for Community, Heritage, and the Arts - Quality of Life Explorer presentation
 - Levine Scholars - Quality of Life Explorer presentation
 - Public Health Graduate students - Quality of Life Explorer presentation
- 10 engagements with the Charlotte Region Community
 - The Institute + Data Trust participated in a "Data Day" with Piedmont Promise, an alliance of conservation and environmental organizations across the Piedmont of NC. The goal of the event was to introduce the organizations to the Data Trust, walk through data sharing agreements, and conduct a data inventory to explore the available data. Several UNC Charlotte faculty members were also in attendance to consider the potential research uses of the available data.
 - Dr. Lori Thomas and Dr. Liz Morrell presented the Quality of Life Explorer at the County Manager's request during a two-day Mecklenburg County Community Collaboration Planning



Retreat, November 20-21, 2025. The presentation provided a framework for local leaders (including several Data Trust Board members) from across various sectors to think about developing goals and strategies for a countywide Quality of Life Scorecard under development by the Mecklenburg County Office of Strategy and Innovation.

- Sydney Idzikowski presented to the Charlotte Rotary Club about the Data Trust
- Sydney Idzikowski and Lori Thomas presented to the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission about the Institute, Explorer tools, and Data Trust
- Hosted the [2025 Schul Forum](#)
- Katie Zager presented the Quality of Life Explorer to the Mecklenburg County Internal Consultants
- Katie Zager and Angelique Gaines presented the Quality of Life Explorer and hosted a data walk with the Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services Youth Leadership Board
- Katie Zager presented the Quality of Life Explorer to the Camino Research Institute
- Katie Zager and Asha Ellison trained Charlotte-Mecklenburg librarians and other library staff on how to use the Quality of Life Explorer and share with the community.
- Regular use of and presentations to the community about the Quality of Life Explorer, including regular use by the Innovation Incubator Project.
- 16,834 visitors to the Quality of Life Explorer, roughly the same as last year.
- [Our research/data was featured by 10 media outlets, in 5 publications and garnered 33 media mentions](#)
- Had a successful first year of the [Impact, Data, and Evaluation Academy](#), helping 96 unique organizations from nonprofits, to social impact organizations, to universities, to government agencies build internal capacity around data and evaluation.
- Featured on 2 podcasts:
 - Mecca Howe and Sydney Idzikowski talked about the importance of data on the Queen City Green podcast
 - Sydney Idzikowski talked about ethical data use and governance on the [Common Good Data podcast](#).
- 11 conference presentations and other engagements
 - Hosted the 2025 National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP) meeting in Charlotte. Worked in collaboration with NNIP to organize the annual meeting. Dr. Lori Thomas, Sherri Chisholm along with Laura Yates Clark and Tonya Jameson conducted the opening session on how economic mobility has shaped Charlotte for the past 10 years at the annual meeting of the National Neighborhood Indicators Partnership (NNIP), a national technical assistance network of the national Urban Institute, held in Charlotte, Sept. 10-12. Institute staff members Sydney Idzikowski, Dr. Liz Morrell, and Asha Ellison and UNC Charlotte faculty members Dr. Katherine Idziorek and Dr. Alicia Dahl were also featured in sessions throughout the meeting.
 - The Data Trust is featured in two case studies in the recent release of Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy's *Toolkit for Centering Racial Equity throughout Data Integration*.
 - Dr. Lori Thomas and Jamaal Kinard along with Deja Kemp, Director of Legal Policy for Actionable Intelligence for Social Policy (AISP), led a breakout session entitled "Building a Model for Data + Equity + Community in Charlotte" at GEO 2025 Learning Conference in Charlotte on May 5.,



- Dr. Lori Thomas and Associate Director Sydney Idzikowski are leading a panel “*Centering Community Voice in the Ethical Governance and Use of Data*” at the ADRCon (Administrative Data Research Conference) 2025 - Data For Public Good in Washington DC - June 23-25.
- Dr, Lori Thomas is co-PI on a recently awarded National of Science Foundation (NSF) grant *Collaborative Research: The Charlotte Data Science Corps - Cross-Institutional Flexible Pathways and Immersive Community Capacity Building*.
- Dr. Lori Thomas joined the Executive Committee for the Consortium of University Public Service Organizations (CUPSO) as Vice-President. She continues to co-lead a national workgroup on university F&A practices with Mavis Asiedu-Frimpong, JD at the Senator Walter Rand Institute at Rutgers University, Camden.
- Dr. Lori Thomas and Sydney Idzikowski participated on a national webinar entitled, *Southern Data Infrastructure: Past Lessons, Current Gaps, Future Opportunities* hosted by the Southern Economic Advancement Project (SEAP) and the Louisiana Public Health Institute (LPHI) on December 8, 2025.
- The Data Trust hosted a Data Trust Dialogue about AI with board and committee members, facilitated by Barbie Bigelow.
- Group attended PACE Conference (Byron White, Tamara Johnson, Holly Middleton, Julia Meyarzum, Toye Watson, Kennicia Fortson, Heather Coffey, Erin Washburn, and community partner Rickey Hall)
- Attended CUMU (Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities) - Fatima Rodriguez Caba, Tamara Johnson
- Tamara Johnson is on the editorial board for Gateways Journal
- 4 peer-reviewed presentations:
 - Hall, R., Hammelman, C., & Watson, T. (2025, February 12). *Building impactful community-university partnerships through a shared power approach* [Conference presentation]. 2025 Pathways to Achieving Civic Engagement (PACE) Conference, Greensboro, NC, United States.
 - Idziorek, K., Jason, K., McCully, M., & Watson, T. (2025, September). *Beyond boundaries: Advancing the urban mission through innovation, equity, and community partnership* [Conference presentation]. 30th Annual Coalition of Urban and Metropolitan Universities (CUMU) Conference, Baltimore, MD, United States.
 - Morrell, E. (2025, November). *The Black Progress Effect in the Charlotte Region: Insights from Chetty's 2023 Economic Mobility Study*. 2025 Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers Conference, Lexington, KY.
 - Howe, M., Wiley, A., & Venier, M. (2025, March 12). *Silicone Wristbands: A noninvasive method for measuring chemical exposure & opportunities for human biological research*. 2025 Human Biology Association Annual Meetings, Baltimore, Maryland, 50th anniversary “Over the Horizons” session.