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Statistical Profile of Unmarried Women: North Carolina

Narrative Brief – Updated August 2016

Unmarried women in North Carolina:

- Make up 26.1% of the population
- Are diverse (33.9% African American, 4.5% Hispanic, 2.0% Asian), and over one in five (21.0%) are single moms with children under 18
- Are somewhat younger than the state's overall population (median age of 46 vs. 48 for overall population, 31% under 30 vs. 20% for overall population)
- Are about as likely as the overall population to have obtained at least some post-high school education (58% for unmarried women vs. 60% for overall population), but less likely to have attained a college degree (21% for unmarried women vs. 29% for overall population)
- Are slightly less likely to be in the labor force (57% for unmarried women vs. 62% for overall population), but slightly more likely to be unemployed (6.7% for unmarried women vs. 5.9% for overall population)
- Experience a disproportionately large gender wage gap, with median earnings for full-time, year-round work of \$35,111 (69.7% of men's earnings)
- Are much more likely to have low incomes (40% with household income of less than \$25,000 vs. 26% of the overall population) and live in poverty (26% below the federal poverty line vs. 14% of overall population)
- Are about as likely as men to have been without health insurance coverage for all of 2014 (13% for unmarried women vs. 12% for men) and much more likely than married women to have been without such coverage (7%).

All figures are for vote eligible population only, and are derived from Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey March Supplement*, March 2015, and Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey*, November 2015. Figures for population, age distribution, educational attainment, labor force participation, and median earnings are for 2015, whereas those for distribution of household income, health insurance coverage and poverty rates are for 2014.

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