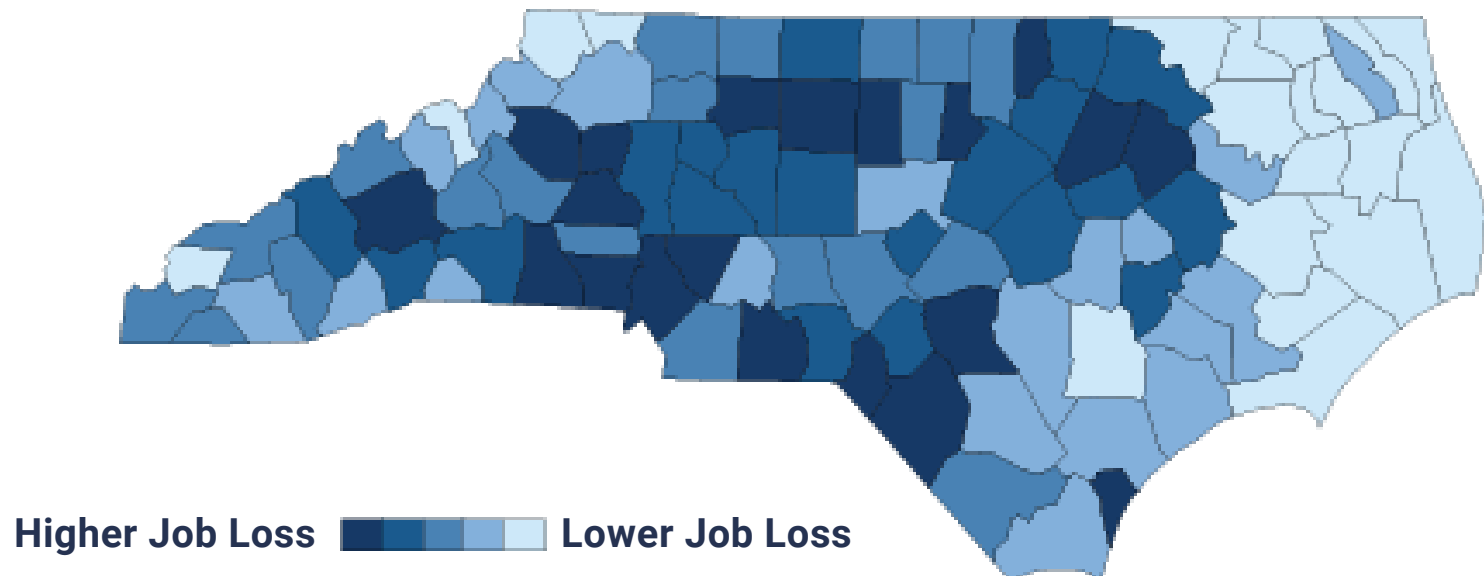


SOCIAL VULNERABILITY, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND MEDICAID ENROLLMENT ACROSS NORTH CAROLINA DURING COVID-19

Fact sheet developed by: Laura Benzing Duke University '21

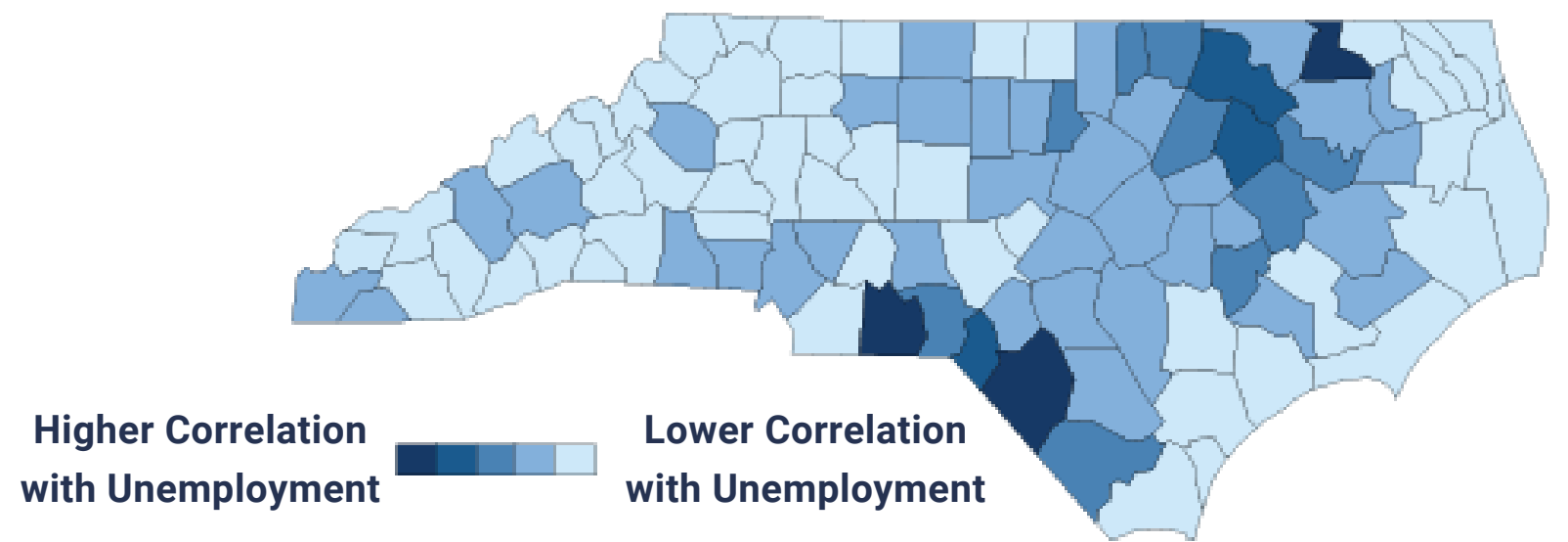
UNEMPLOYMENT

From February to August 2020, nearly 140,000 North Carolinians became unemployed. Job loss was uneven across counties.



MEDICAID ENROLLMENT

Pandemic-induced unemployment was weakly correlated with changes in Medicaid enrollment statewide but we uncovered underlying differences. The most socially vulnerable counties saw a connection between growing unemployment and Medicaid enrollment.



SOCIAL VULNERABILITY

We used the CDC Social Vulnerability Index to identify counties with greater resource needs based on demographics, socioeconomic conditions, and infrastructure like housing and transportation.

More socially vulnerable communities may have stronger informal networks that share information people need to access Medicaid.

From February to August 2020, over:



150,000

North Carolinians enrolled in Medicaid.

To qualify for Medicaid in NC, most adults must:

Be parents, disabled or caregivers

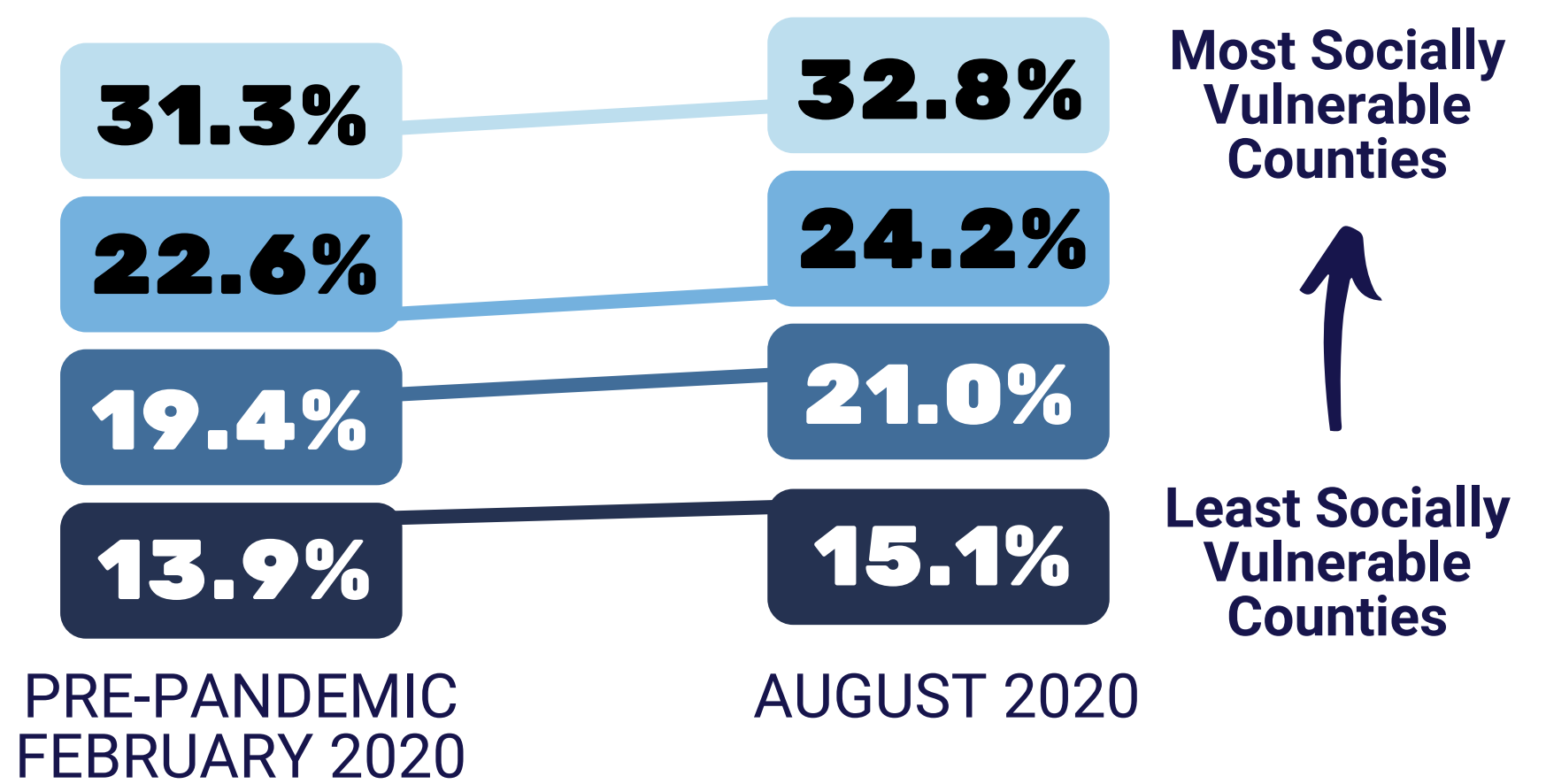


Make under **41%** of the federal poverty level

48%

of new Medicaid enrollees from February to August 2020 were income-eligible children.

SHARE OF COUNTY POPULATION ENROLLED IN MEDICAID



THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC REVEALED THE RISKS OF DEPENDING ON EMPLOYERS FOR ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE. NORTH CAROLINA MEDICAID WAS NOT AN OPTION FOR MANY WHO LOST THEIR JOBS.

INCREASING ACCESS TO HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE, FOR EXAMPLE, THROUGH MEDICAID EXPANSION, WOULD HELP NORTH CAROLINA RECOVER FROM THIS CRISIS AND PREPARE FOR THE NEXT ONE.

UNINSURANCE IN NC ROSE FROM

11.4%

IN 2019 TO A PROJECTED

20%

DURING THE PANDEMIC.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION & CITATIONS](#)