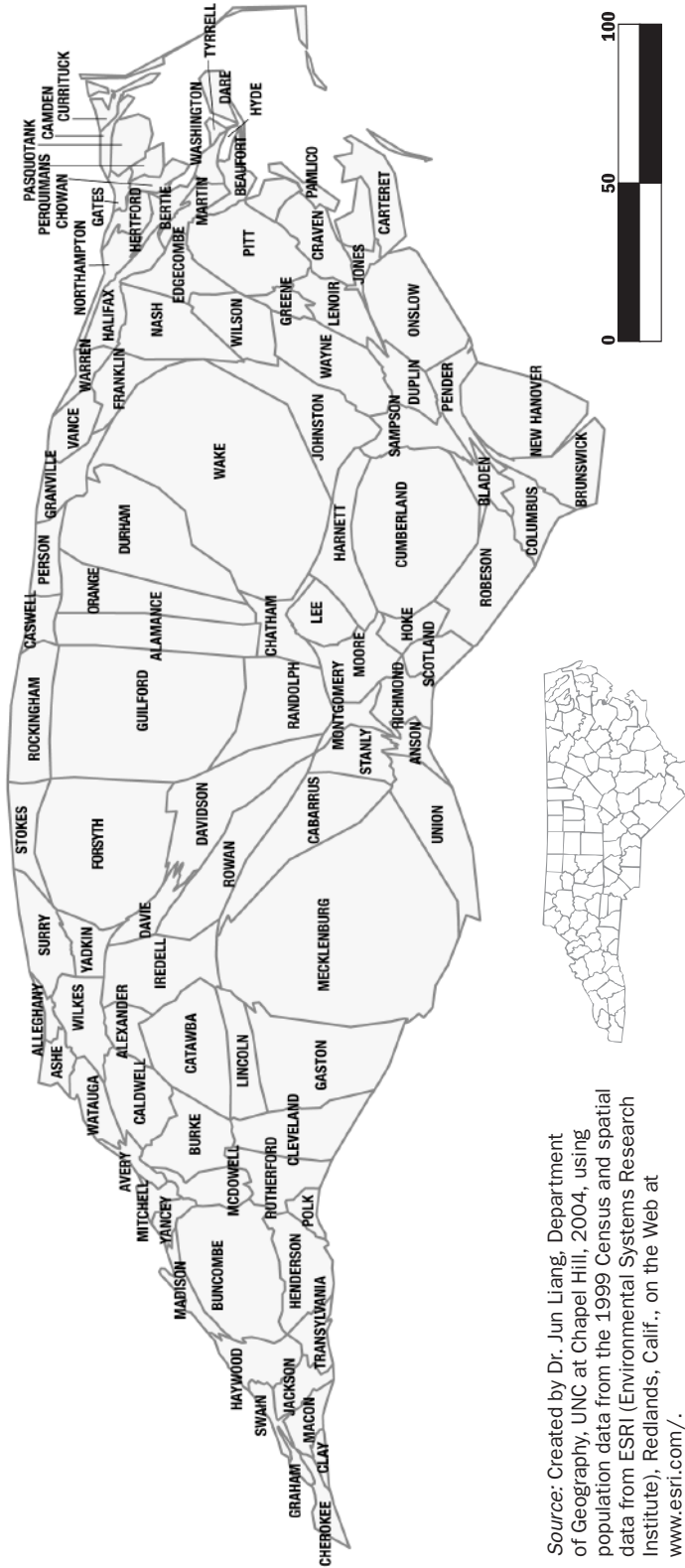


North Carolina by County Population



Source: Created by Dr. Jun Liang, Department of Geography, UNC at Chapel Hill, 2004, using population data from the 1999 Census and spatial data from ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute), Redlands, Calif., on the Web at www.esri.com/.

A Different Way of Seeing North Carolina

This large map of North Carolina is actually a “cartogram,” a map in which the sizes of counties have been rescaled according to their population. It visually communicates what many people already know: that a large part of the state’s population resides in the arc of counties between Mecklenburg and Wake.

and Tyrrell County’s population of 4,156. The ten most populous counties in the state account for 4 out of 10 residents (41.2 percent), and five of these counties—Buncombe, Cumberland, Gaston, New Hanover, and Onslow—are outside the Mecklenburg-Wake arc. Thirteen of the state’s 100 counties have populations under 15,000, and fifty have populations under 50,000.

—Editor