# North Carolina Association of County Commissioners



## 2016 NC Counties: Between the Lines

A publication of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Center for County Research

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### ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

"2016 NC Counties: Between the Lines" is a publication of the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners' Center for County Research, following the trend of previous "Map Books" and last year's "County Snapshots." Most of the data come from federal, state, and local sources, and each map includes a citation with the applicable reference.

The Center for County Research thanks the organizations and sources that helped with the data collection process including the N.C. Dept. of Public Instruction, N.C. Community College System, N.C. Dept. of Health and Human Services, Local Government Division in the N.C. Dept. of Revenue, N.C. Dept. of Commerce, Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina, N.C. Dept. of Agriculture, N.C. Dept. of Environmental Quality, N.C. State Board of Elections, N.C. Dept. of Transportation, N.C. Dept. of Public Safety, and the Local Government Commission in the Office of the State Treasurer.

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## INTRODUCTION

The North Carolina Association of County Commissioners is pleased to share this year's county data maps. "2016 NC Counties: Between the Lines" compiles 60 maps and follows in the trend of the "2015 County Snapshots" publication to highlight demographic, economic, and educational figures from North Carolina's 100 counties.

"Between the Lines" is divided into ten sections: Education, Economic Development, Health Services, Human Services, Environment, Government, Residency/Property, Transportation, Public Safety, and Demographics. These categories and the associated indicators were selected based on research at the county level, timely policy discussions, and communications and recommendations from county representatives. We hope these data will be informative and will help county officials make data-driven decisions.

Each map includes a legend and a brief description of the data point, where applicable. The collection of maps is prefaced by an overview noting overall trends and highlights gleaned from the findings. These maps and additional data indicators will also be posted on the NCACC website at www.ncacc.org.

Dr. Linda S. Millsaps Research Director Paige C. Worsham Research Attorney Jessica M. Suggs Research Intern

## THE MANY LAYERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

North Carolina has always been known for our geographic diversity with pristine beaches to open farmland, from urban areas with more than one million residents to towering mountains. However, this diversity is secondary to the social and economic diversity of the Old North State. In "Between the Lines" we explore North Carolina's many unique facets, presenting our work through 60 maps, organized into 10 distinct categories. Because many trends and "ah ha" moments can be found when the maps are considered in their totality, we are also providing the summary below. It is our hope that these visuals, along with the associated analysis, will help policy makers statewide make the best and most well-informed choices possible as they relate to the current and future work of North Carolina's 100 counties.

#### Migration Due to Shifting Economics and Personal Preferences

#### Taking the Long View

We begin this analysis by looking at long-term population trends within the 100 counties. We explore the overarching population shifts from 1970 to what is expected by 2035. By focusing on these long term population shifts and high level demographics, we hope to lay the appropriate groundwork and context to look at the economic, educational, social and physical demographics of our state, with an eye toward being 100 counties strong.

As we noted last year in our "Snapshots" publication, North Carolina's largest two counties continue to hold dominant positions in terms of population. Mecklenburg County was home to the largest portion of the state's population in 1970, and is expected to retain that position through 2035. Wake, Guilford, Forsyth, Cumberland, and Buncombe counties are also expected to retain their relative positions through 2035. Durham is similarly situated, but is the only county in the large urban group expected to move up substantially in the population rankings by 2035. Much of this urban growth is from immigration from other states and other countries.

North Carolina's urban centers are not the only areas seeing population growth. Based on historic and expected population growth, many areas expected to see the greatest proportion increases in population are on the coast, or in some cases, in the western mountains. For example, Brunswick County will see the largest movement in its population ranking, from 62nd to 25th between 1970 and 2016. By 2035, it is expected to be the 17th most populous county in the state. Similarly, Pender, Dare and Currituck are expected to move up 38 (Pender) and 27 (Dare and Currituck) positions. These are the largest positive population increases expected in the state. Some regions of the mountains will also see substantial population growth. Macon, Watauga, and Henderson moved up the rankings significantly over the past four decades, and are expected to climb even further by 2035. According to Rebecca Tippett at Carolina Demography (UNC-Chapel Hill), the 65+ population accounts for a large portion of our state's growth, with 15% of our population aged 65 or older in 2015. We know that, historically, seniors tend to be drawn to the coast and mountains so the expected long term impact to our population makes sense.

However, the mountain and coastal growth trends are not pervasive. McDowell, Surry and Wilkes counties are all expected to fall at least six positions in the population rankings by 2035. Haywood, Mitchell and Ashe are also expected to drop, although not a great deal. The associated foothill communities, for the most part, are expected to stay at about the same ranking level, or move slightly. In addition, several other coastal communities are not expected to see the growth levels mentioned above.

## THE MANY LAYERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

A small group of counties moved up in the population rankings, primarily due to their proximity to some of the urban growth centers. Union County has seen the greatest movement, going from 31st in population to eighth, a position they are expected to hold through 2035. Chatham and Franklin counties have moved up 16 and 14 positions respectively, while Harnett and Johnston moved up 12 and 11 positions since 1970. All are expected to see continued population expansion through 2035.

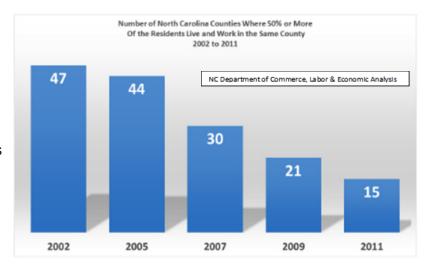
These are not the only counties projected to experience unusually robust population growth. Hoke County has moved from 76th to 54th, and is on track to move to 38th by 2035. Lincoln County has moved from 49th to 35th, and is expected to rank 31st in population in 2035. Much of Hoke County's growth is credited to Ft. Bragg. While both of these counties are near major urban centers, they are well outperforming their neighboring ring counties.

While there are exceptions, the counties losing the most population, proportionally, can be found in either the inland east, or the southeastern crescent around Richmond, Scotland, and Robeson counties. This is a continuation of a trend that started more than four decades ago and is expected to continue unless significant changes occur.

Given these population trends and several other things that become apparent from the included maps and tables, we want to draw your attention to a few key takeaways that could be of assistance in formulating your policy decisions.

## Commuting is Very Real in North Carolina... and so are Transportation Challenges

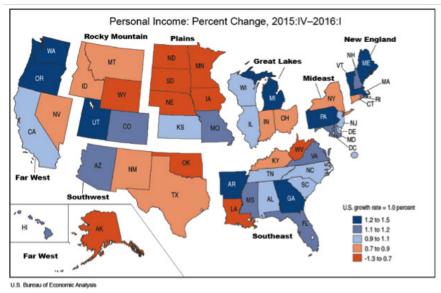
While we traditionally think of commuting as an urban phenomenon, in North Carolina that is not always the case. According to the US Census Bureau, in 18 counties, more than half of the population leaves the county to work. Much of this movement is from suburban counties into our urban hubs. The strongest example of this is the ring surrounding Wake County. In this area, five of the seven counties bordering Wake County see out-of-county commuting rates of 53% or more. The average commuting rate for all seven surrounding counties is 49.3%. While we do not know for sure, it is likely this movement is into Wake or Durham counties for work. However, once you leave the Raleigh-Durham area, the relationship becomes a little less strong. For the five counties surrounding Mecklenburg, the average out-of-county commuter rate is 43.3%. The average percent of the



working population that drives out of the county to work in the area around Buncombe is 31.6%. Commuting patterns around Cumberland are more variable, with more than 68% commuting out of their home county of Hoke, but only 25.2% commuting out of Robeson. However, some of the highest out-of-county commuting rates are far from the urban centers. For example, fully 70.7% of Jones County workers commute to a job outside their home county. Davidson, Davie, Yadkin, Alexander, Lincoln, Greene, Chowan, Warren, Caswell, and Stokes counties all have out-of-county commuting rates of more than 50%. On the other hand, we have six very rural counties where more than 6% of the occupied houses in the county do not have access to a vehicle. Six counties have more than 100 miles of unpaved road, which can also complicate transportation.

The policy implications of these patterns are varied. Road development plays a critical role in the future of many of North Carolina's counties. But that is not the end of the story. Working outside the county makes it challenging for parents to play an active role in their children's school, so educators may have to employ some creativity to enhance parental involvement. Communities with large numbers of citizens without regular access to a vehicle may need to think differently about how they deliver social services, health care and other supports. It is not surprising that those without regular access to a vehicle, particularly those in non-urban areas, struggle more than most to find employment.

## Economic Growth and Income Challenges and Opportunities Abound



On average North Carolina has experienced positive economic growth, similar to the nation as a whole during the past year. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), North Carolina experienced 1% growth in the first quarter of 2016. This follows on previous growth rates of 0.9% (1st quarter 2015), 1.4% (2nd quarter 2015), 1.2% (3rd quarter 2015), and 1.3% (4th quarter 2015). Taken together that places us 25th in growth during the last year.

More significantly, 92 counties have seen positive economic growth since the great recession in 2009. Statewide the average weekly wage has increased by 5.5% since 2014.

While things are improving, concerns remain. According to the NC Department of Commerce, only three North Carolina counties (Durham, Mecklenburg and Orange) have an average weekly wage that exceeds the national average, and one of those by only \$12 a week.

Poverty also continues to be a significant issue. Fully 24% of our state's children are considered to be living in poverty. More than 11% of our seniors

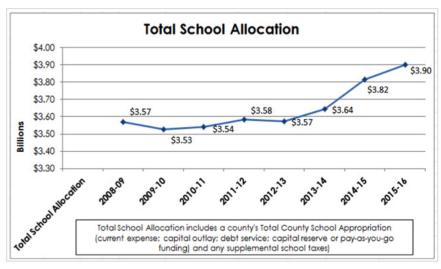
are also living in poverty. Both of these numbers are above the national average.

While this is a statewide issue, with no county with senior and childhood poverty below 4.6% and 13.4% respectively, some areas are more challenged. In both cases the numbers are highest in the upper coastal plain near the Virginia border and the Lumber River area near the South Carolina line. These counties, plus some additional areas in the eastern interior, are also the places with the highest proportion of the population living with food insecurity.

With infrastructure investment, these counties could become more economically competitive. For example, these same counties generally have less access to broadband, and have some of the lowest numbers of available economic development sites. Educational investment and continuing the focus on educational attainment could also make a significant impact. This will be challenging, however, as many of these counties have limited local property tax value.

## THE MANY LAYERS OF NORTH CAROLINA

## Educational Investment Continuing County Commitment



In the most recent fiscal year, North Carolina county governments invested, on average, 35% of their General Fund budget on education. Counties allocated \$2.7 billion in school operations, and another \$1.5 billion on capital and debt service. As the graph below shows, this reflects a continuing and expanding commitment to local schools by county officials.

Despite this investment, North Carolina local school officials have identified nearly \$8.1 billion in outstanding school construction needs. Statewide that totals to 118 new schools with 50 of those "needed immediately." In addition, it includes \$3.1 billion in renovation needs. Interestingly self-reported needs are scattered across the state with some of the largest needs in the coastal plain.

On the operations side, Dare County boasts the largest local per student contribution of \$4,366. Chatham, Durham, Orange, and Transylvania all invest more than \$3,000 per student. Robeson, Jackson, and Halifax are the greatest financial beneficiaries of the Low-Wealth School state allotments.

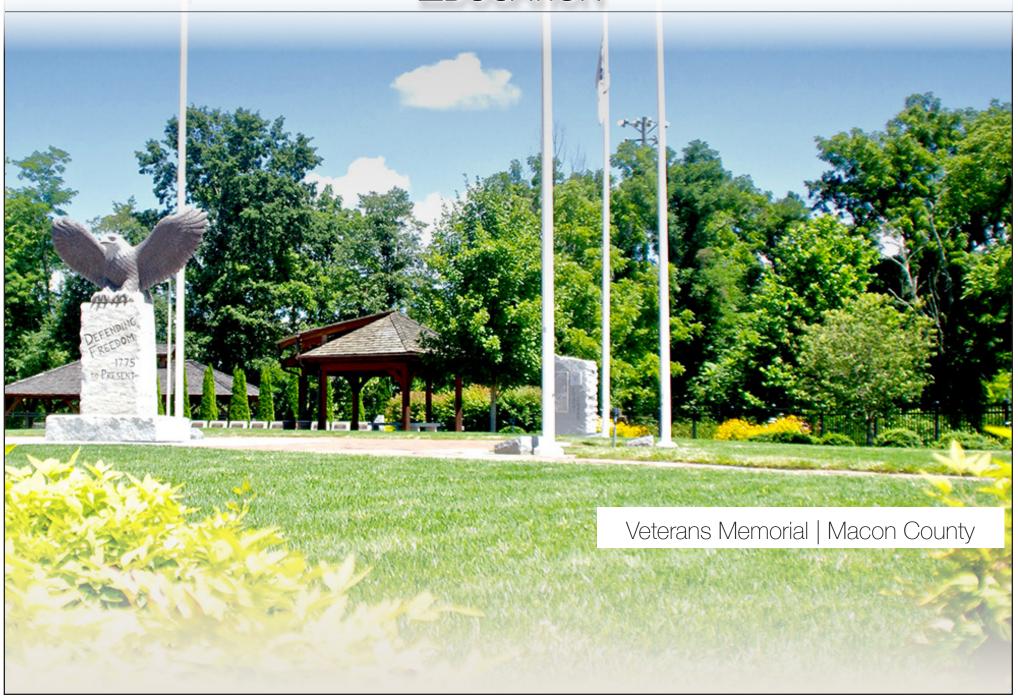
The highest high school graduation rates are found in Hyde, Dare, Union, Cherokee and Yancey. Hyde County had the lowest dropout rate in the state at less than 1%.

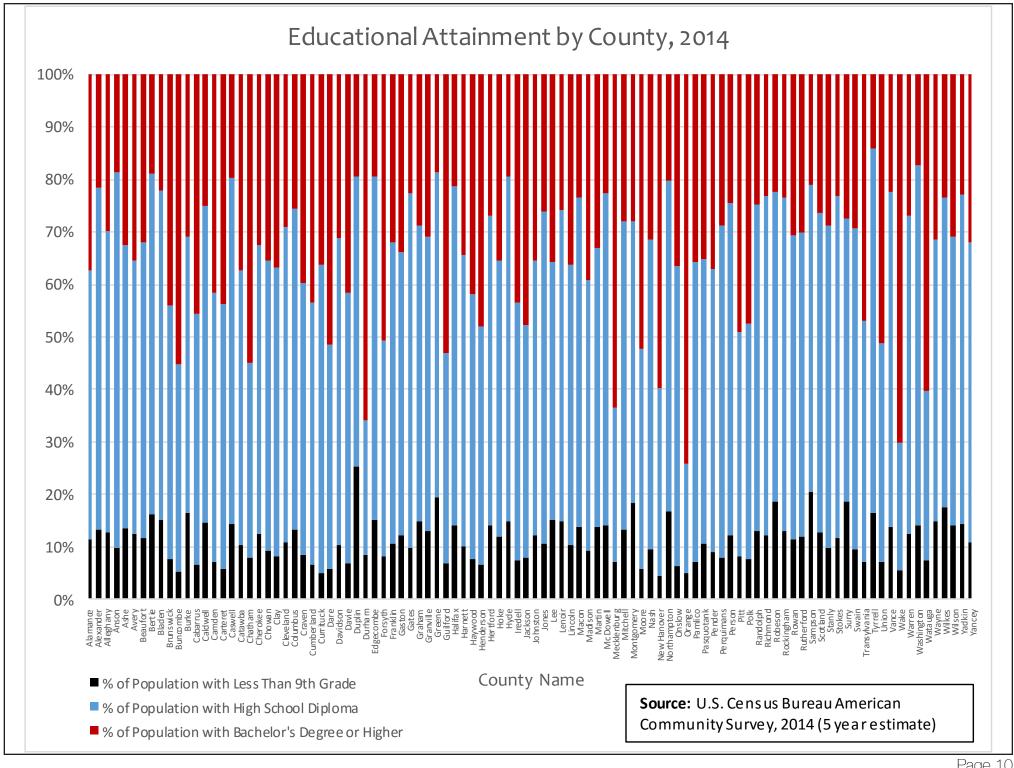
The presence of charter schools varies significantly from county to county. Mecklenburg County has 25 charter schools, the largest number in the state, followed closely by Durham with 19 charters. Several counties have no charter schools within the county. Substantial variance also exists with the proportion of the school age county population that attends a charter school. Thirty-eight percent of school age children in Northampton County attend a charter. By contrast, 40 counties did not have a single student recorded as attending a charter school.

#### A Word about Agriculture

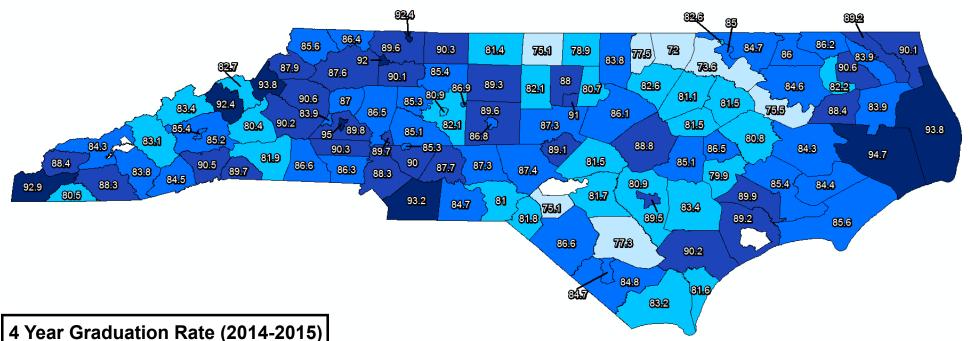
In 2014, according to the NC Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, North Carolina farm cash receipts totaled \$13.1 billion. Of this 67.4% was generated from livestock while the remaining 32.6% came from crops. This makes North Carolina the 8th largest farming state in the country, 7th in livestock production. As usual, Duplin and Sampson counties dominate the market with each country generating more than \$1.0 billion in farm cash receipts.

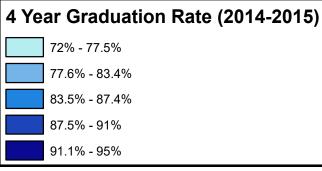
## EDUCATION





#### High School Graduation Rate, 2014

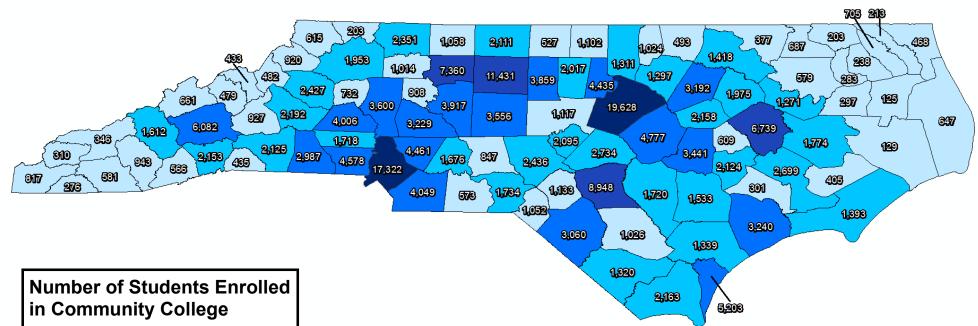




**Source:** NC Department of Public Instruction, 2014-2015

**Note:** <u>4 Year Graduation Rate</u> is the percentage of students graduating from high school after 4 years in each district. These values <u>do not</u> include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

#### Community College Enrollment, 2014—2015



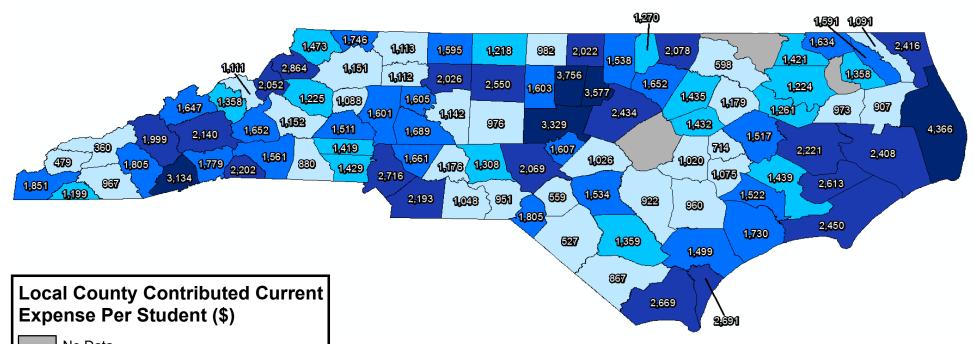
Number of Students Enrolled in Community College

125 - 1,133
1,134 - 2,734
2,735 - 6,082
6,083 - 11,431
11,432 - 19,628

**Note**: These values represent the number of students enrolled in community college from that county. These values <u>do not</u> include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

Source: NC Community College System, 2014-2015

#### Local Current Expense Per Student (ADM), 2015—2016



Local County Contributed Current

Expense Per Student (\$)

No Data

1 - 1,179

1,180 - 1,473

1,474 - 1,851

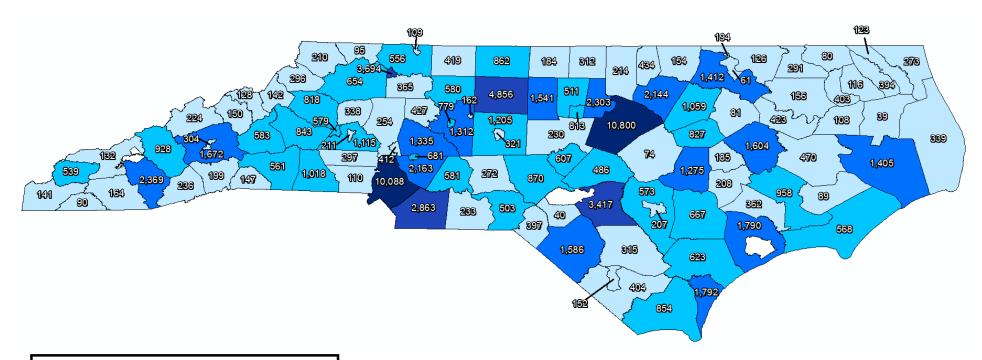
1,852 - 2,864

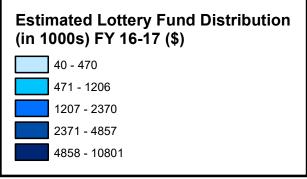
2,865 - 4,366

**Source:** As self-reported by the county for the NCACC Budget and Tax Survey, 2015—2016

**Note:** <u>Local County-Contributed Current Expense Per Student</u> is the amount of money reportedly allocated to be spent on each individual student by the county over the course of the school year. This map does not include Charter funding.

#### Estimated North Carolina Education Lottery Fund Distribution, 2016

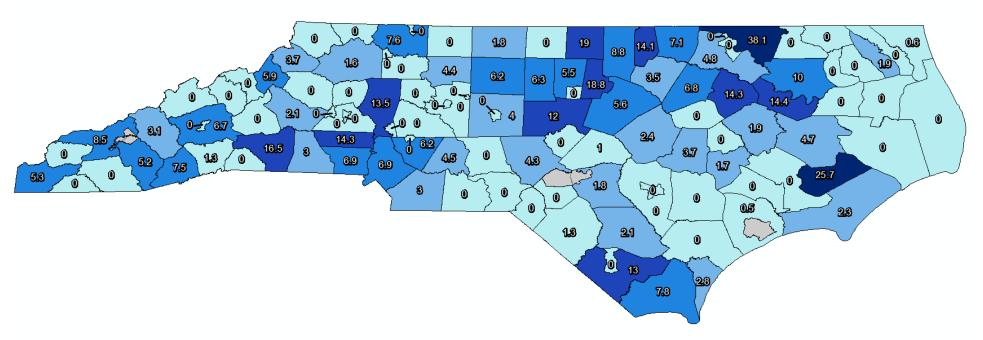


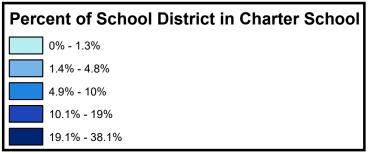


Source: NC Department of Public Instruction, 2016—2017

**Note:** Estimated NC Education Lottery Fund Distribution is the amount of money estimated to be allocated to each school district from lottery proceeds. Total monies that can be allocated to all 115 school districts in North Carolina are capped at \$100 million out of the total amount raised by the lottery. These values do not include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

## Percent of K-12 Students Enrolled in a Charter School, 2015—2016

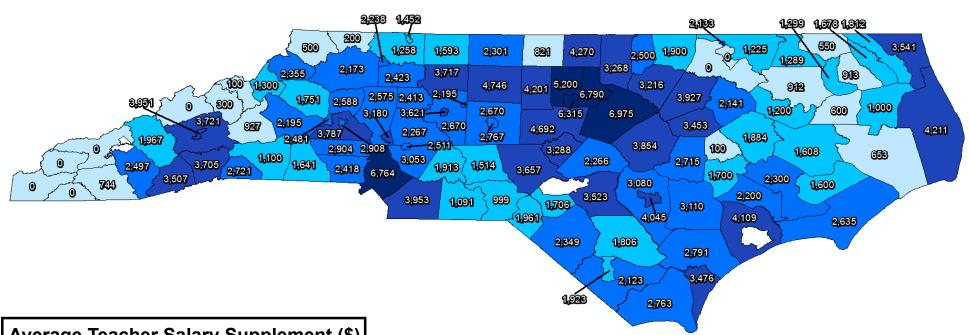


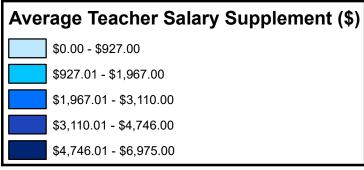


**Source:** NC Department of Public Instruction

**Note:** These values represent the percent of ALL K-12 district students enrolled in public Charter Schools instead of traditional public or private schools. These values <u>do not</u> include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

#### Average Teacher Salary Supplement, 2015—2016

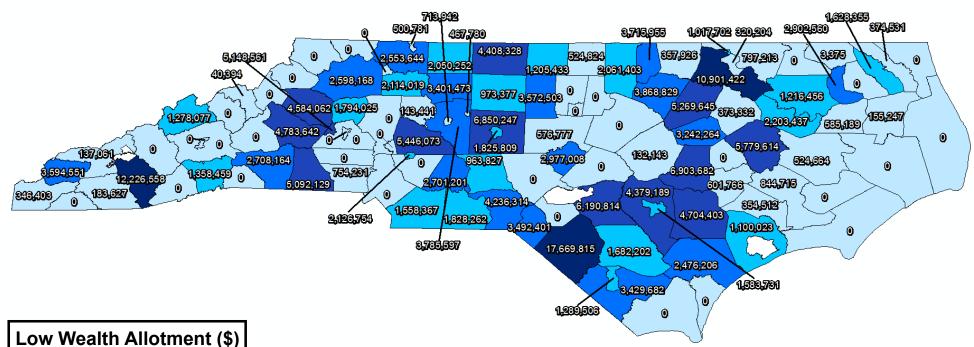




**Source:** North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, 2015—2016

**Note:** Average Teacher Salary Supplement is the amount of additional, locally-funded salary that a teacher receives for working in a particular school district. These values <u>do not</u> include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

#### Low-Wealth Allotment Per School District, 2016



Low Wealth Allotment (\$)

\$0.00 - \$844,715.00

\$844,715.01 - \$2,203,437.00

\$2,203,437.01 - \$4,236,314.00

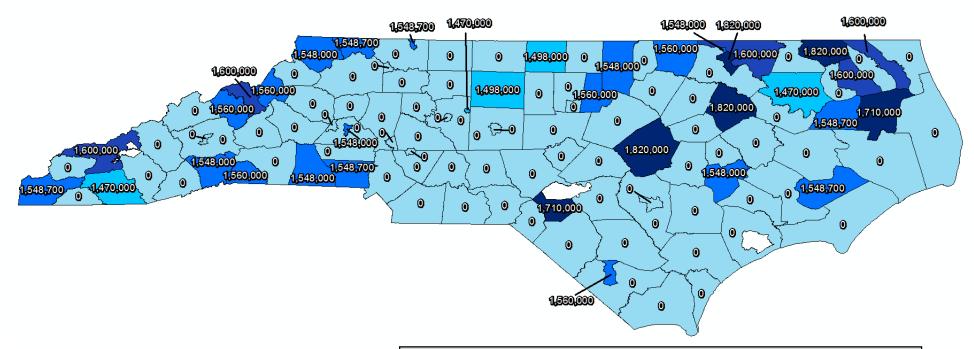
\$4,236,314.01 - \$6,903,682.00

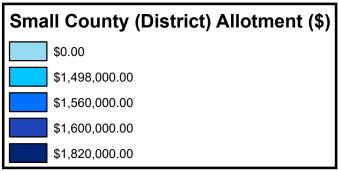
\$6,903,682.01 - \$17,669,815.00

Source: NC Department of Public Instruction, 2016-2017

**Note**: <u>Low-Wealth</u> allotment is the state allocation to provide supplemental funds in counties that do not have the ability to generate revenue to support public schools at the average state level. These values <u>do not</u> include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

## Small County (District) Allotment Per School District, 2016

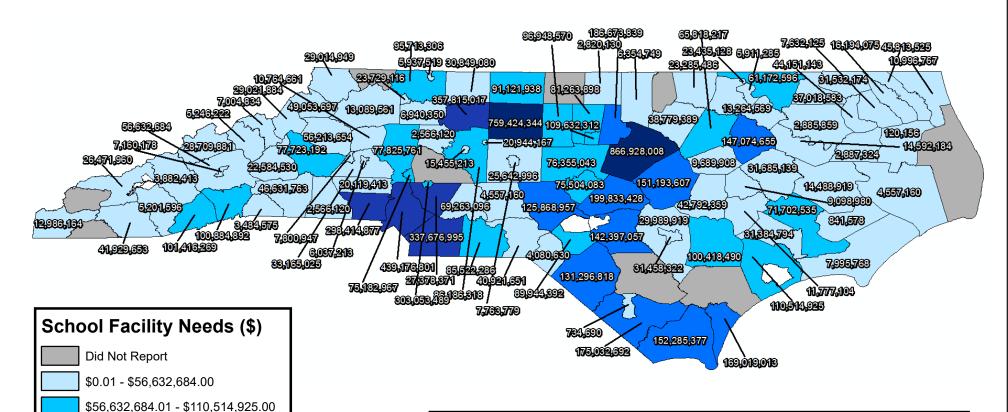




Source: NC Department of Public Instruction, 2016-2017

**Note:** Small County (District) Allotment is the state allocation to provide additional funds to small school districts based on Average Daily Membership (ADM). To qualify, a school district must have fewer than 3,200 students. Based on ADM ranges, each school district will receive a pre-determined amount of funding. These values <u>do not</u> include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

#### School District Facility Needs



**Source:** As self-reported in the 2015—2016 Department of Public Instruction Statewide Facility Needs Survey

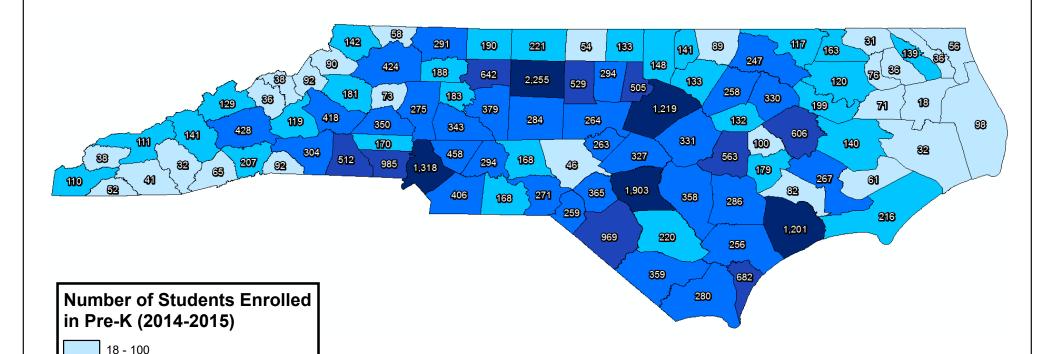
\$110,514,925.01 - \$199,833,428.00

\$199,833,428.01 - \$439,176,801.00

\$439,176,801.01 - \$866,928,008.00

**Note**: School District Facility Needs is the total amount of funds a school district believes is needed to complete any renovations, additions, or improvements to all of the public schools facilities in the district over the next five years. These values do not include the Camp Lejeune School District (Onslow County), Fort Bragg School District (Cumberland and Hoke Counties), or the Eastern Cherokee Reservation School District (Swain and Jackson Counties).

#### Pre-Kindergarten Enrollment, 2014-2015



**Source:** NC Division of Child Development and Early Education—Early Education Branch Programs and Educational Services

101 - 221 222 - 458

459 - 985

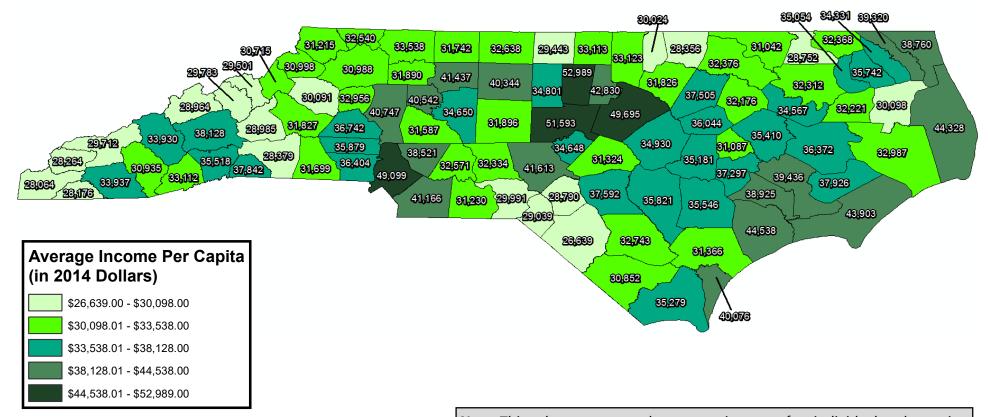
986 - 2,255

**Note:** These values represent the number of children that received any NC Pre-K services during the 2014-2015 school year. This number exceeds the budgeted number of children, as a single child slot can be occupied by more than one child due to turnover.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



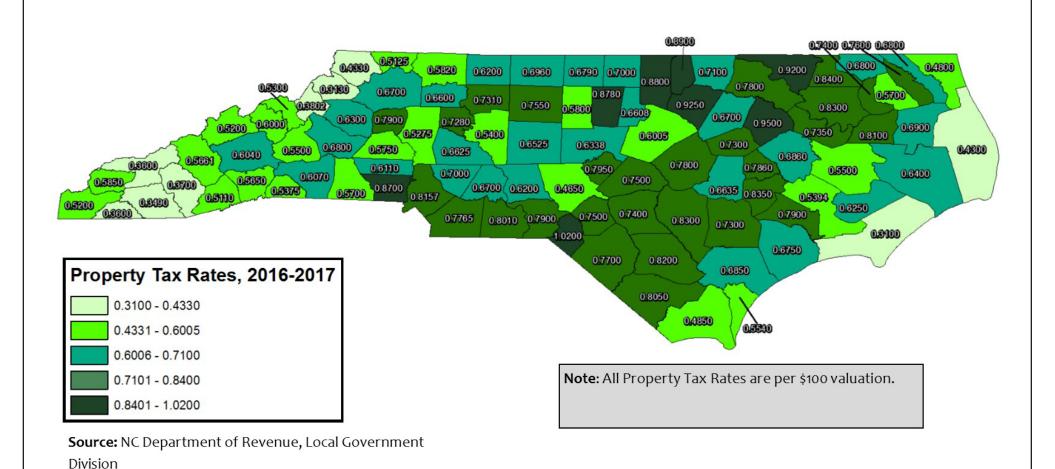
#### Average Income Per Capita, 2014



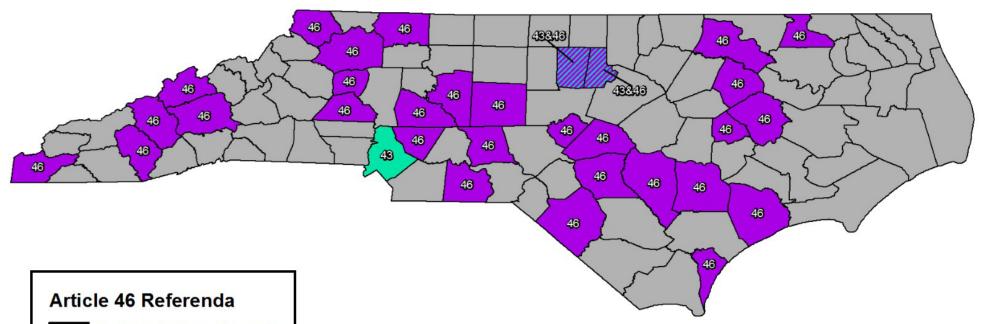
**Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce—Bureau of Economic Analysis, Per Capita Personal Income, 2014

**Note:** This value represents the average income of an individual each year in a county. The North Carolina Average Income Per Capita is \$39,171.

#### Property Tax Rates, 2016-2017



### Counties Levying Sales Tax Article 43, Article 46, or Both



Neither Article 43 or 46

Article 43

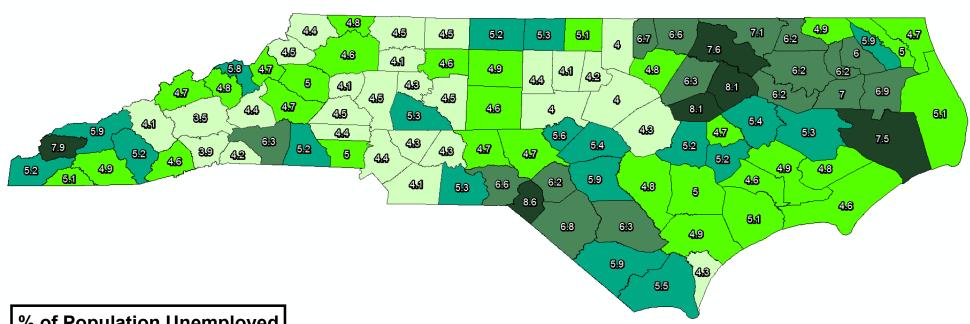
Article 46

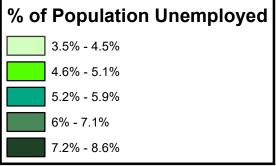
Article 43 and 46

**Source:** NC Department of Revenue, Local Government Division

**Note:** This map shows counties that passed a referendum to levy the Article 43 Sales and Use Tax, Article 46 Sales and Use Tax, or both, as of July 2016.

#### Percent of Population Unemployed (as of May 2016)

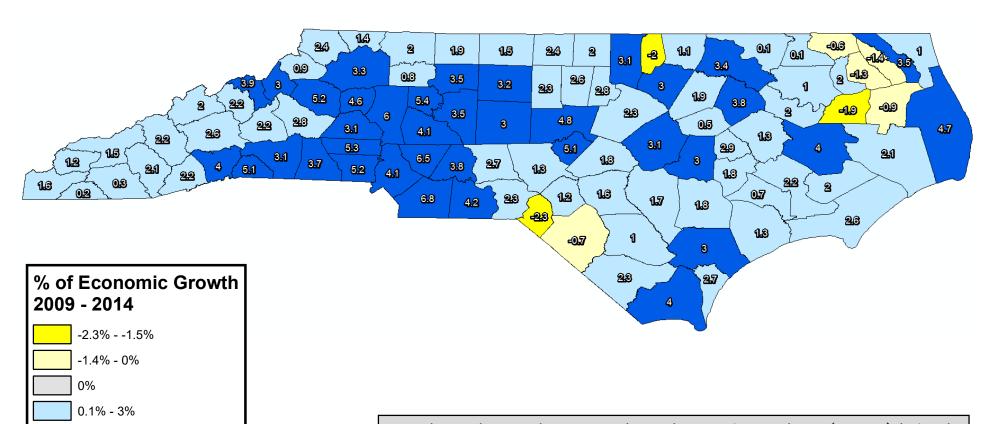




**Source:** NC Department of Commerce—Labor and Economic Analysis Division, May 2016

**Note:** The national unemployment rate (percent) as of May 2016 is 4.7% and the North Carolina average is 6.1%.

#### Percent of Economic Growth, Between 2009-2014

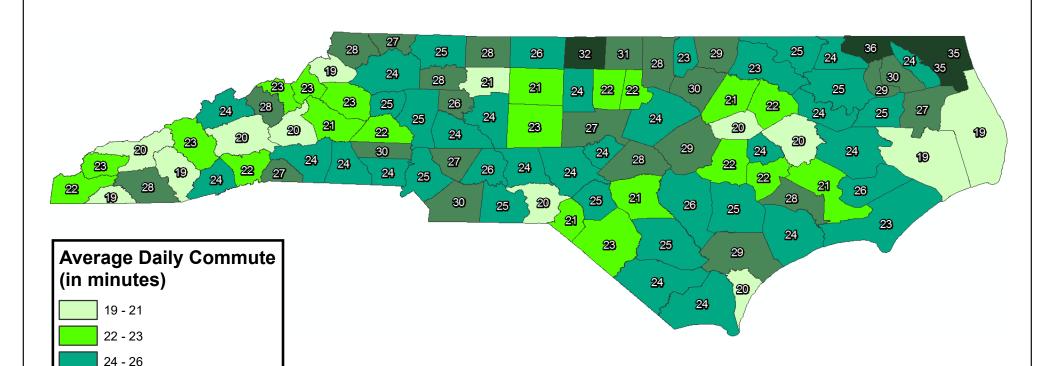


**Source:** U.S. Department of Commerce—Bureau of Economic Analysis, 2009-2014

3.1% - 7%

**Note:** These values are the compound annual economic growth rate (percent) during the post-recession period between 2009 and 2014.

#### Average Daily Commute, 2014

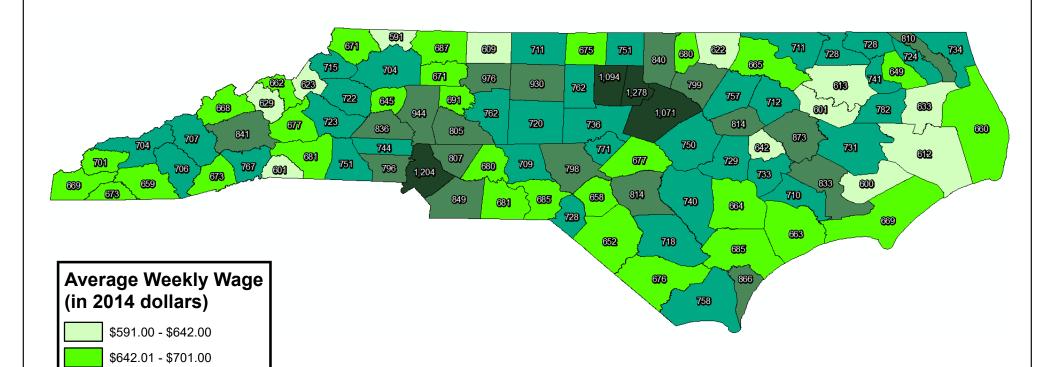


**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimate)

27 - 31 32 - 36

**Note:** The average daily commute in the United States is 25.4 minutes.

### Average Weekly Wage, 2015



Note: Average Weekly Wage is defined as the average amount of money an individual in a

county will earn. The National Average Weekly Wage is \$1,082.

Source: NC Department of Commerce, Labor and

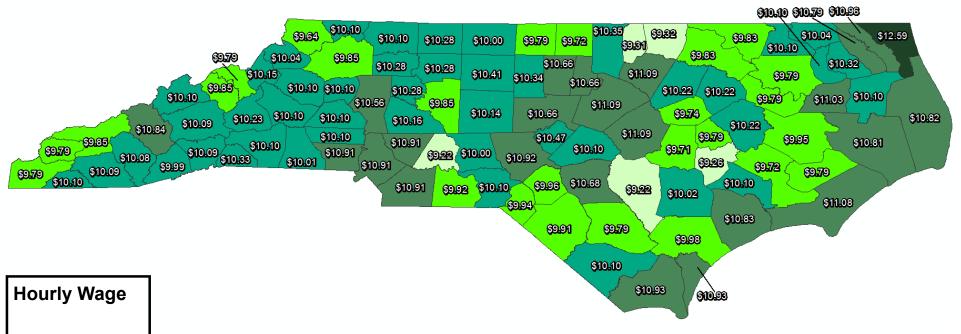
\$701.01 - \$782.00

\$782.01 - \$976.00

\$976.01 - \$1,278.00

**Economic Analysis Division** 

### Living Wage (Hourly), 2014



Note: Living Wage (Hourly) is defined as the minimum hourly pay an individual must earn

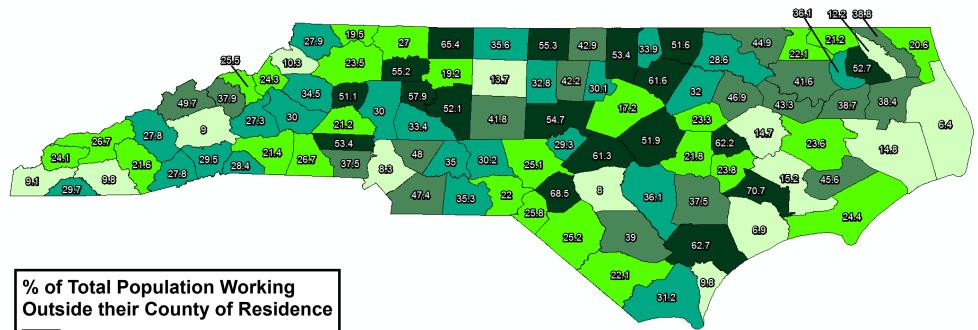
in order to support themselves (1 Adult) in the county, given that the individual is working

full-time (2080 hours per year). North Carolina's Average Living Wage (Hourly) is \$10.53.

\$9.22 - \$9.32 \$9.33 - \$9.98 \$9.99 - \$10.47 \$10.48 - \$11.09 \$11.10 - \$12.59

**Source:** Massachusetts Institute of Technology Living Wage Calculator (values reported in 2014 dollars)

## Percent of Total Working Population that Works Outside County of Residence, 2014

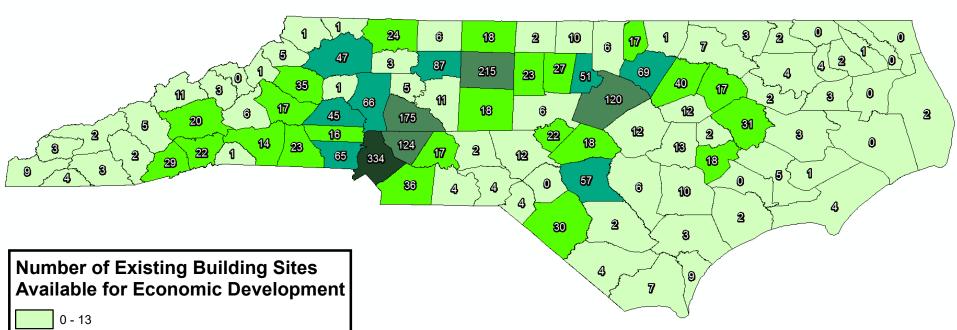


% of Total Population Working
Outside their County of Residence
6.4% - 15.2%
15.3% - 27%
27.1% - 36.1%
36.2% - 49.7%
49.8% - 70.7%

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimate)

**Note**: The value for the population working outside their county of residence does not include the population that works outside their state of residence.

## Existing Building Sites Available for Economic Development (as of June 2016)



Number of Existing Building Sites
Available for Economic Development

0 - 13

14 - 40

41 - 87

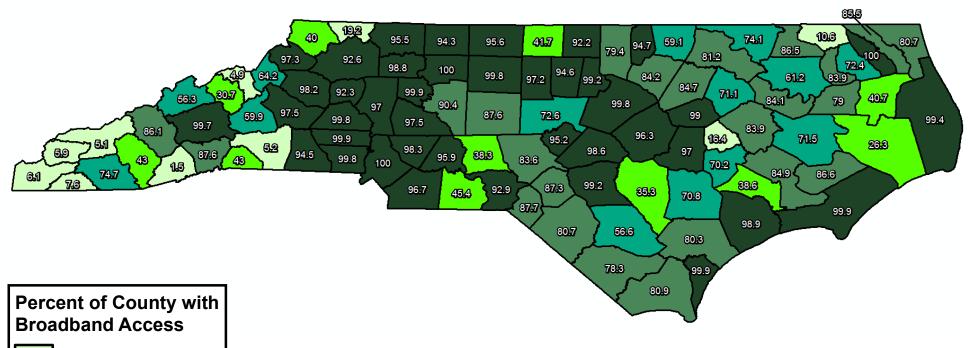
88 - 215

216 - 334

**Source:** Economic Development Partnership of North Carolina

**Note:** Existing Building Site Available for Economic Development is any existing structure with the necessary infrastructure needed for development that has been put on the market for sale or lease by the owner. Existing structures include, but are not limited to, buildings that previously housed warehouses or distribution centers, commercial buildings, offices, manufacturing facilities, and industrial facilities.

#### Percent of Counties with Broadband Access



second.

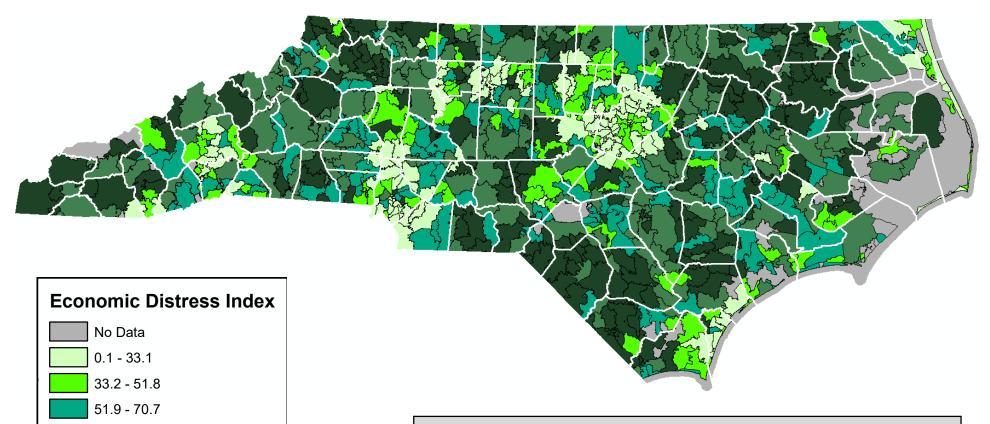
**Note:** Broadband Access is defined as having a download speed of <u>25 megabytes per</u>

Percent of County with Broadband Access

1.5% - 19.2%
19.3% - 45.4%
45.5% - 74.7%
74.8% - 90.4%
90.5% - 100%

Source: National Broadband Map, 2014

#### Economic Distress Index by Zip Code



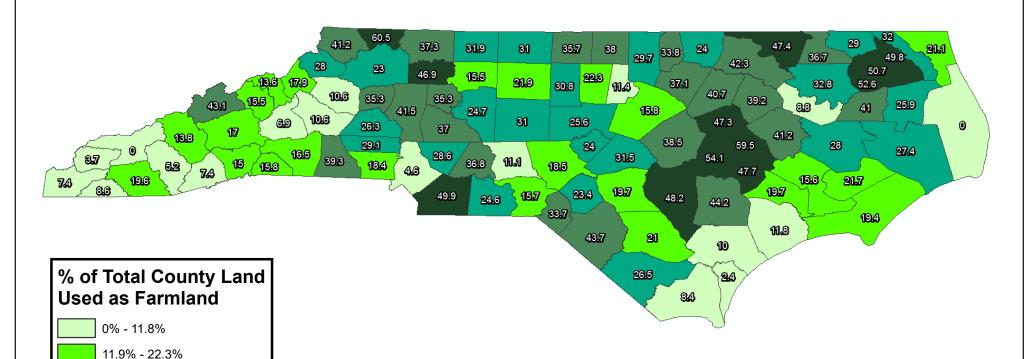
**Source:** Economic Innovation Group—Distressed Communities Index

70.8 - 86.0

86.1 - 100.0

**Note:** Economic Distress Index is calculated based on a location's combined performance on the seven well-being metrics (No high school degree, housing vacancy, adults not working, poverty, median income relative to state, change in employment, and change in business establishments). The higher the score, o (least) - 100 (most), the more economically distressed the area is.

#### Percent of County Land Used as Farmland, 2015



**Source:** NC Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Statistics—Annual Statistics Book, 2015

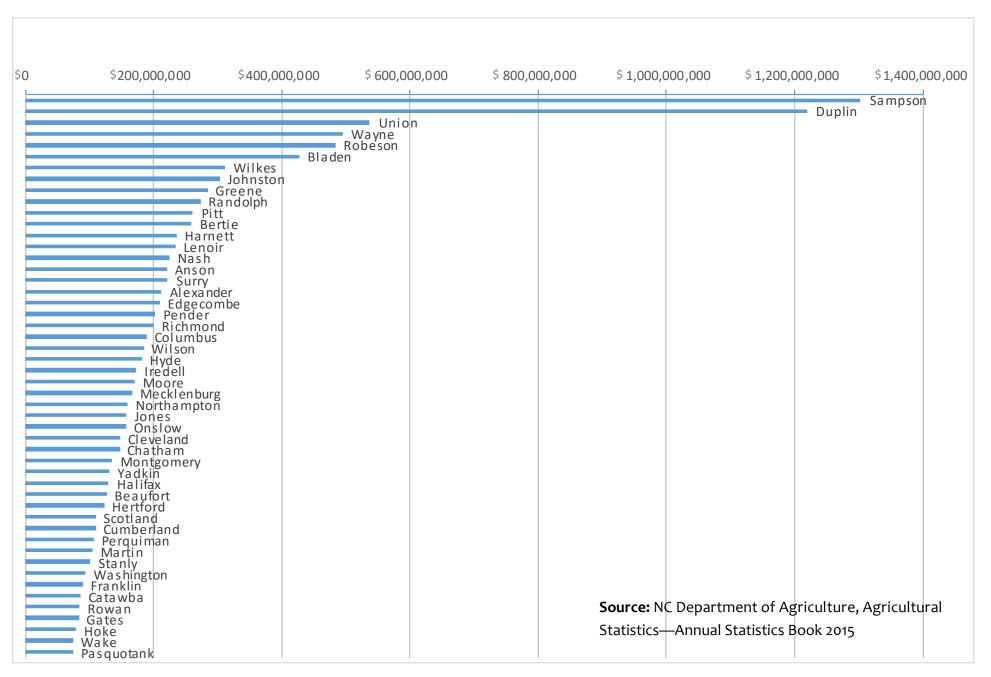
22.4% - 32.8%

32.9% - 44.2%

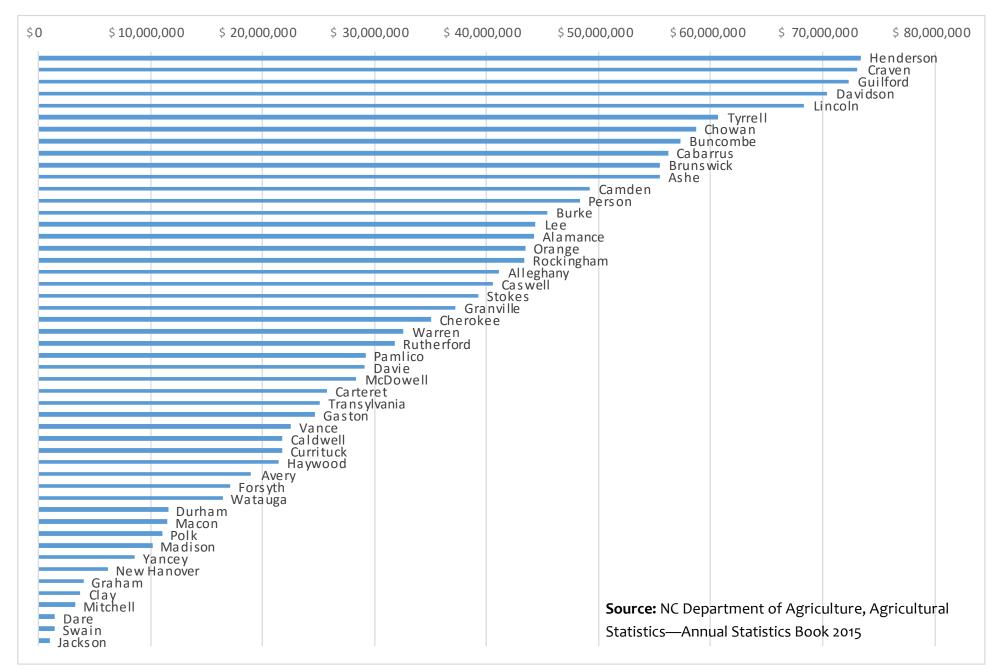
44.3% - 60.5%

**Note:** These values were calculated by dividing the values provided to the Department of Agriculture for <u>Total Farmland (Acres)</u> by <u>Total Land (Acres)</u> and multiplied by 100 to get the percentage of county land being used as farmland.

## Agricultural Cash Receipts (\$) Rankings (1-50)



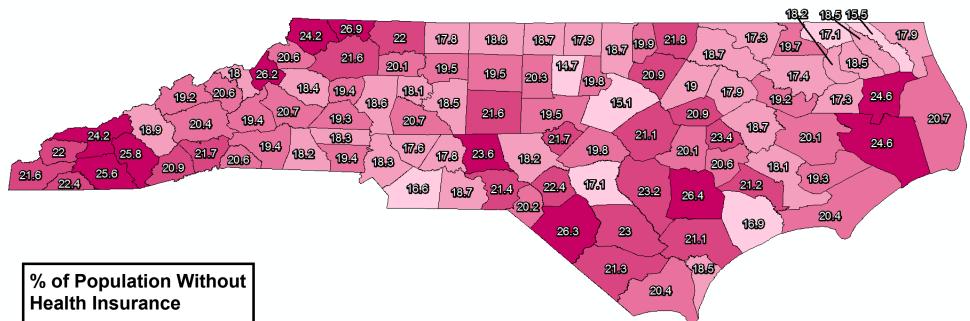
## Agricultural Cash Receipts (\$) Rankings (51-100)



## HEALTH SERVICES



#### Percent of Total Population without Health Insurance, 2016



Health Insurance

14.7% - 17.1%

17.2% - 19%

19.1% - 20.7%

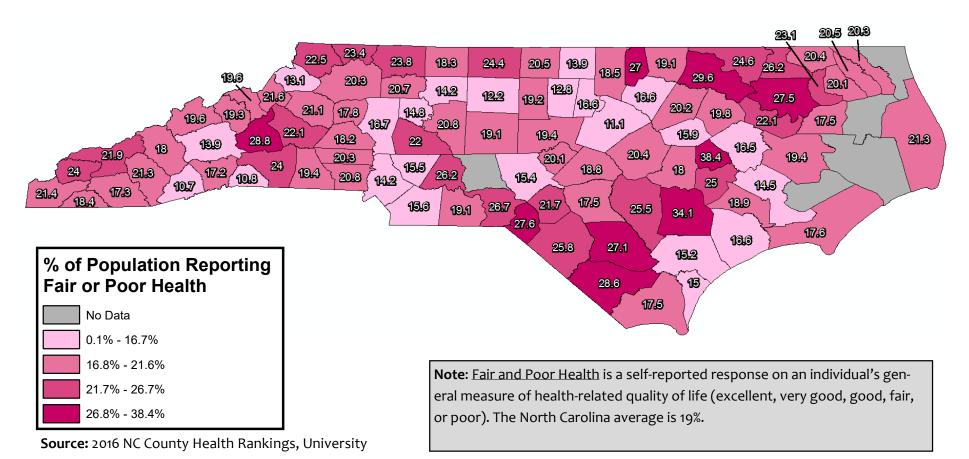
20.8% - 23.4%

23.5% - 26.9%

**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

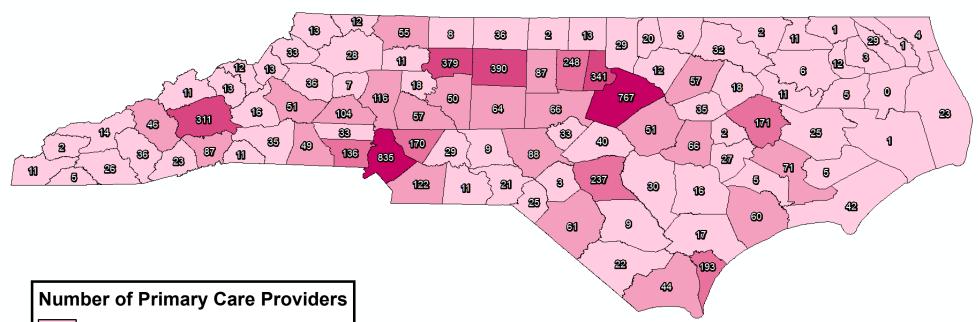
**Note:** <u>Uninsured</u> refers to the population under the age of 65 who do not have health insurance. The North Carolina average is 18%.

#### Percent of Total Population Reporting Fair or Poor Health, 2016



of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

#### Number of Primary Care Providers, 2016

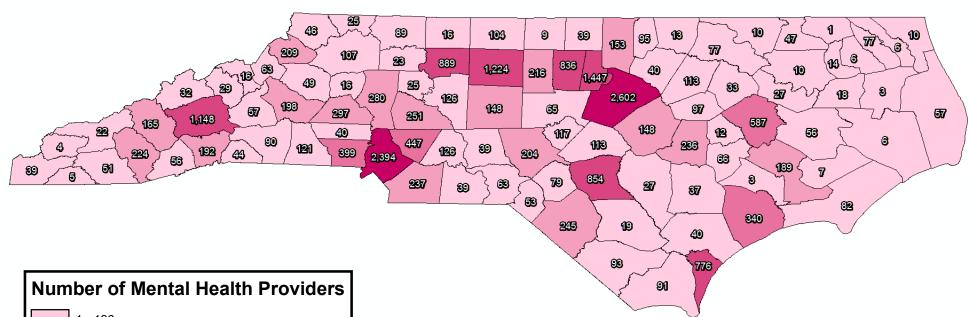


0 - 42 43 - 122 123 - 248 249 - 390 391 - 835

**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

**Note:** <u>Primary Care Provider (Physician)</u> is any non-federal, practicing physician (MDs and DOs) under the age of 75 who specializes in general practice medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, or pediatrics.

#### Number of Mental Health Providers, 2016

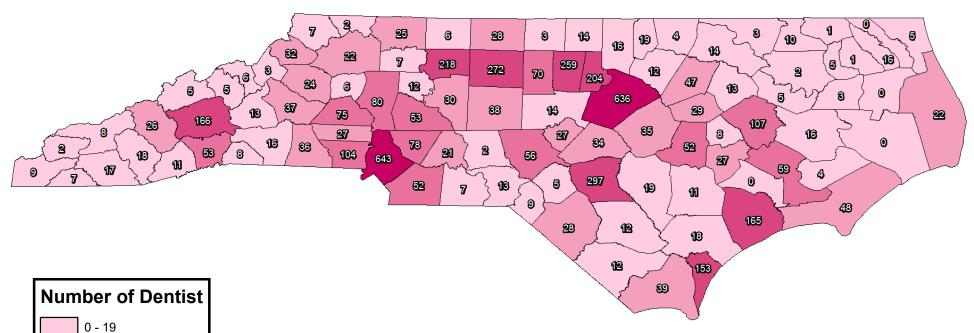


1 - 126 127 - 297 298 - 587 588 - 1,447 1,448 - 2,602

**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

**Note:** Mental Health Providers include psychiatrists, psychologists, licensed clinical social workers, counselors, marriage and family therapists, advanced practice nurses specializing in mental health care, and any of the above mentioned providers treating alcohol and other drug abuse.

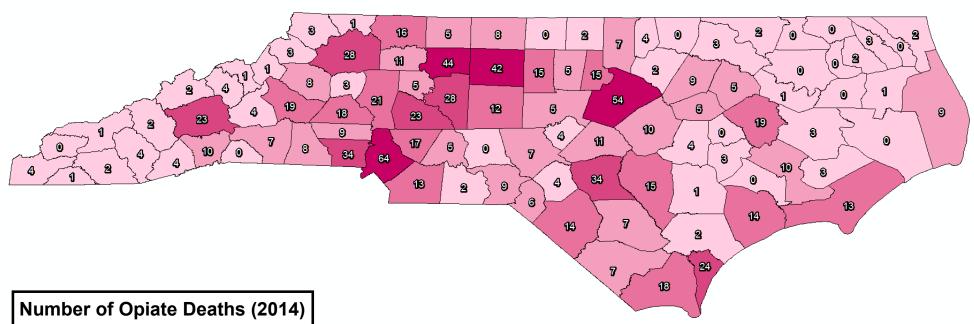
#### Number of Dentists, 2016



0 - 19
20 - 48
49 - 107
108 - 297
298 - 643

**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

#### Number of Opiate Deaths, 2014



Number of Opiate Deaths (2014)

0 - 4

5 - 11

12 - 21

22 - 34

35 - 64

**Source:** NC Public Health—NC Injury and

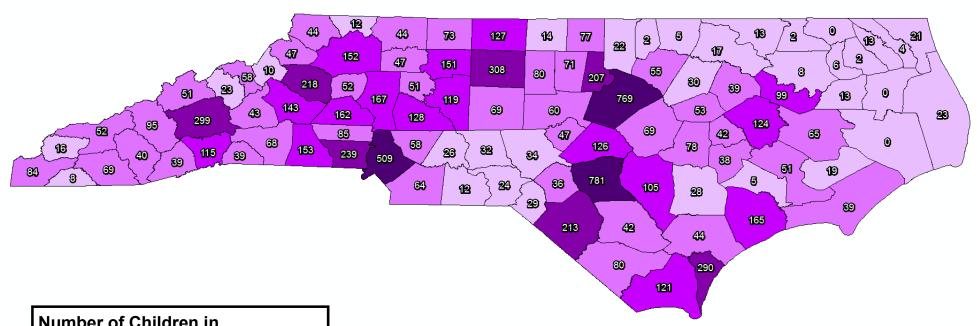
Violence Prevention Branch

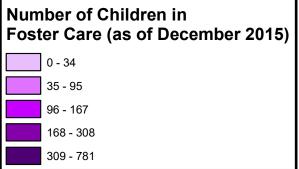
**Note:** Opiate Deaths are any deaths where the cause of death was listed as poisoning from opium, heroin, other opioids, methadone, and/or other synthetic opioid. There were 913 total opiate deaths in NC in 2014.

### HUMAN SERVICES



# Number of Children in Foster Care (as of December 2015)

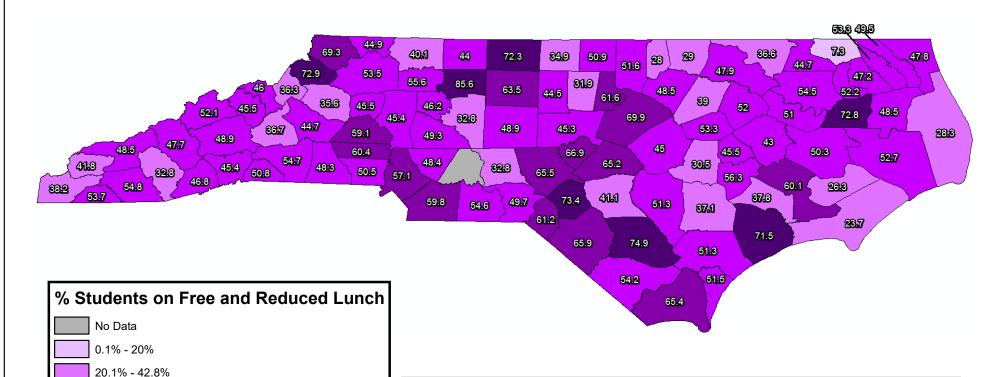




**Note:** <u>Foster Care</u> includes the number of children open for foster care services at the end of each month. This number <u>does not</u> include children open for adoption.

**Source:** 2015 Child Welfare Workforce Databook, NC Department of Health and Human Services

#### Percent of Students on Free and Reduced Lunch, 2015—2016



42.9% - 57%

57.1% - 71.3%

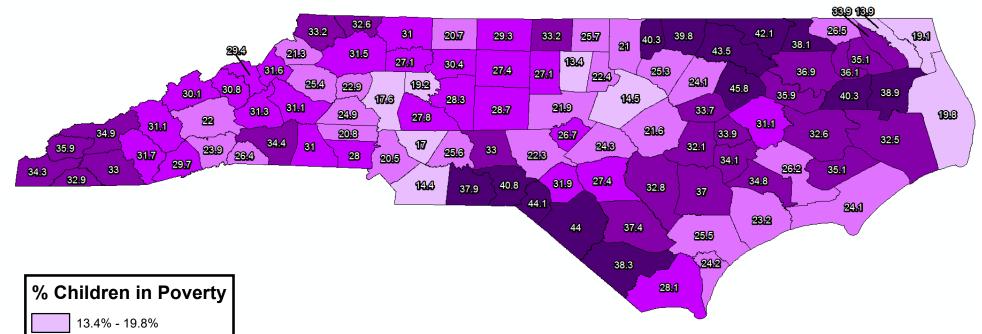
71.4% - 85.6%

Source: 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University

**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

**Note:** Students that qualify for free and reduced lunch programs are typically also living in poverty. The percent of students eligible and on free or reduced lunch is often a good indicator for poverty. The North Carolina statewide average is 47%.

### Percent of Children Living in Poverty, 2016



% Children in Poverty

13.4% - 19.8%

19.9% - 26.5%

26.6% - 31.9%

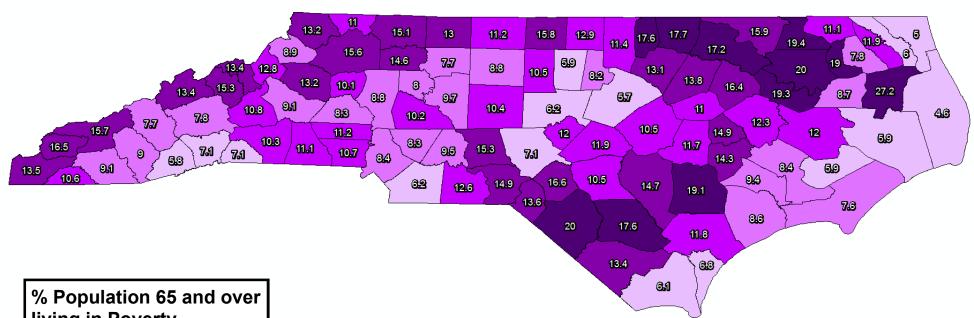
32% - 37.4%

37.5% - 45.8%

**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

**Note:** <u>Poverty</u> is defined as everyone in the family living below the poverty threshold determined for the state. In North Carolina the poverty threshold is set at \$23,283 or less annual income for a family of four, and \$11,945 or less annual income for an individual. The statewide percent of children in poverty is 24%.

#### Percent of Population 65 and Older Living in Poverty, 2014

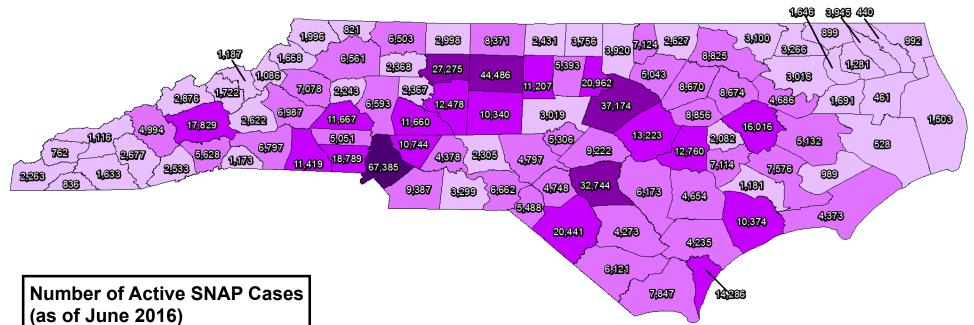


% Population 65 and over living in Poverty
4.6% - 7.1%
7.2% - 9.7%
9.8% - 12.9%
13% - 16.6%
16.7% - 27.2%

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimate)

**Note:** <u>Poverty</u> for this age group is defined as an annual income of \$11,367 or less for an individual over 65, and \$14,326 or less for two individuals under the age of 65 living together. The statewide average is 11.6%.

#### Active SNAP Cases (as of June 2016)



Number of Active SNAP Cases (as of June 2016)

440 - 3,945

3,946 - 9,387

9,388 - 20,962

20,963 - 44,486

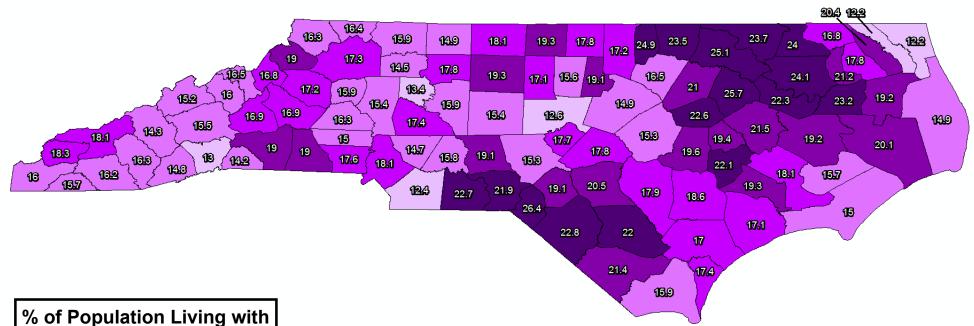
44,487 - 67,385

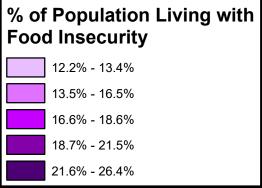
**Source:** NC Department of Human and Health

Services Division of Social Services

**Note**: <u>SNAP</u> is the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program overseen by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. SNAP is most commonly known as Food Stamps. On average, there are 1,703,700 total Active SNAP cases.

#### Percent of Population Living with Food Insecurity, 2016

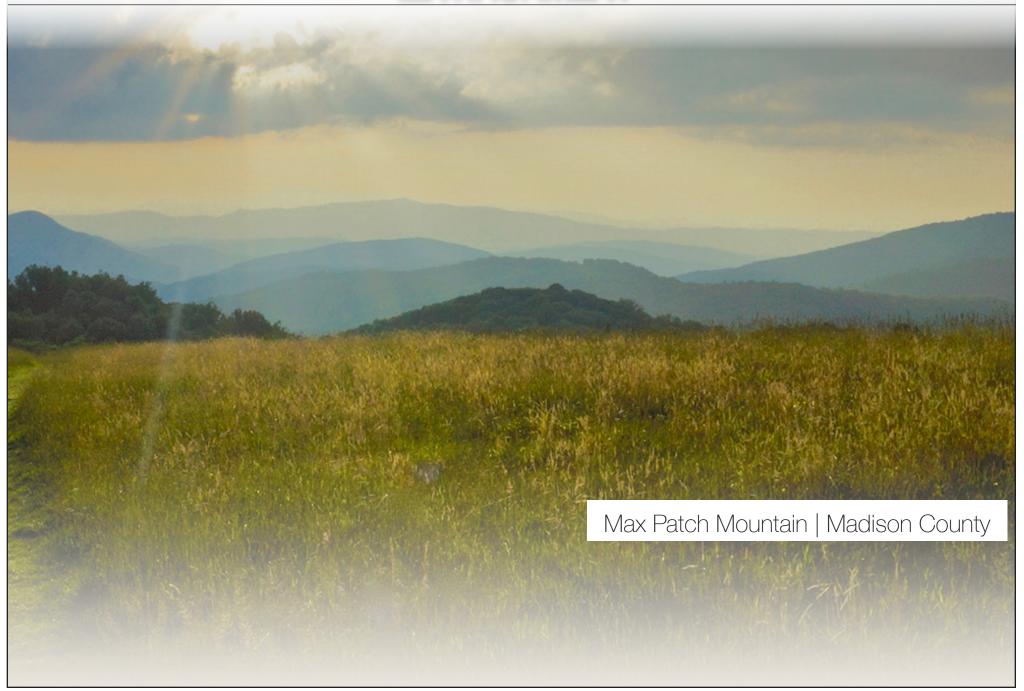




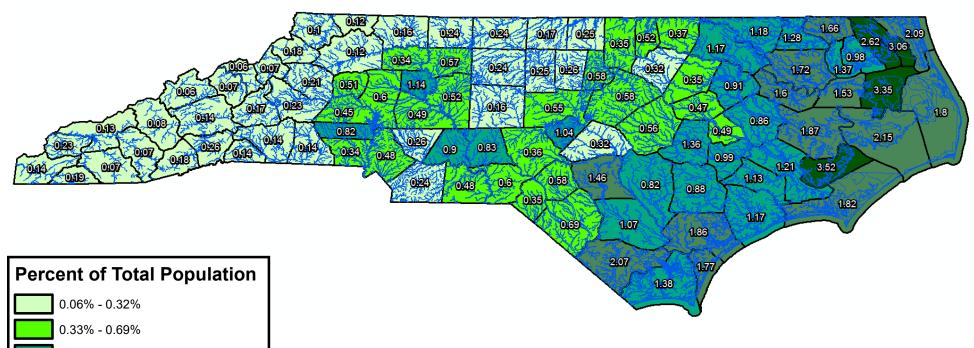
**Source:** 2016 NC County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

**Note:** <u>Food Insecurity</u> is defined as the percent of the population that does not have access to a reliable source of food.

## Environment



## Percent of 2015 Total Population Living in a FEMA Defined High Flood Risk Area

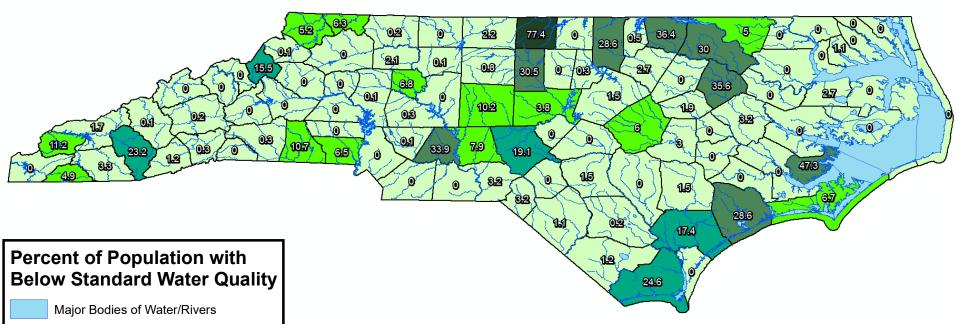


0.06% - 0.32%
0.33% - 0.69%
0.7% - 1.38%
1.39% - 2.15%
2.16% - 3.52%
FEMA High Risk Area (Blue Lines)

**Source**: Federal Emergency Management Agency; U.S. Census Bureau 2015 Population Estimate

**Note**: High Flood Risk Area, a.k.a. Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), is defined by FEMA as an area that has a 1% chance of being inundated by a flood event that equals or meets the base-line flood for that area (base-line = 100 year flood event). The <u>values</u> are calculated assuming the population is equally distributed across the county.

## Percent of Total Population with Below Standard Water Quality



Percent of Population with Below Standard Water Quality

Major Bodies of Water/Rivers

0% - 3.3%

3.4% - 11.2%

11.3% - 24.6%

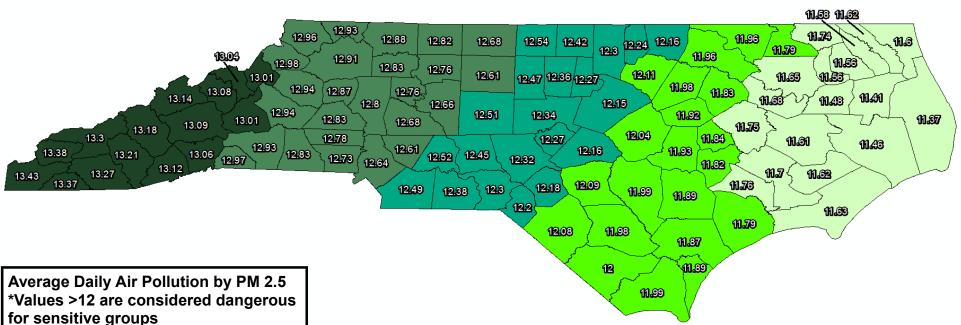
24.7% - 47.3%

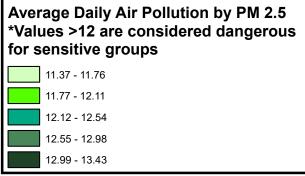
47.4% - 77.4%

**Source:** 2016 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, Environmental Protection Agency

**Note:** <u>Below Standard Water Quality</u> is defined as the annual average percent of the population served by community water systems who receive drinking water that does not meet all applicable health-based drinking water standards (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program). These values are reported to the state and counties by the EPA.

## Average Daily Concentration of Particulate Matter (<2.5) Air Pollution

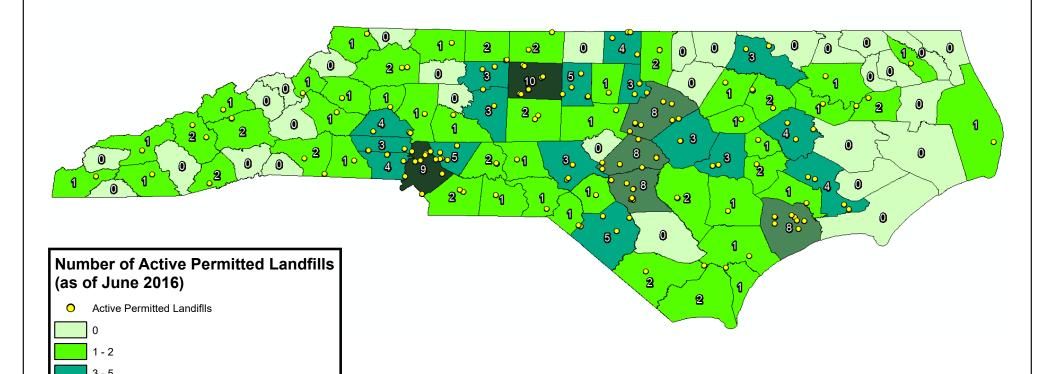




**Source:** 2016 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute; Environmental Protection Agency

**Note:** Particulate Matter (<2.5) is an air pollutant that is smaller than 2.5 micrometers in diameter. These particles can be directly emitted from sources such as forest fires, or can form when gases emitted from power plants, industries and automobiles react to each other in the air. These particles can cause a decrease in lung function, chronic bronchitis, asthma, and other adverse pulmonary issues (Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Program). The North Carolina average is 12.3.

#### Number of Active Permitted Landfills



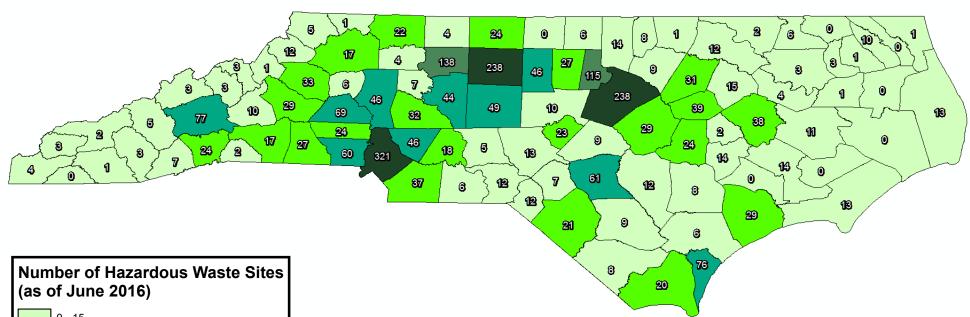
**Source**: NC Department of Environmental Quality

6 - 8

9 - 10

**Note:** <u>Active Permitted Landfills</u> are defined as landfills permitted by the state and actively collecting waste.

#### Number of Hazardous Waste Sites



(as of June 2016)

0 - 15

16 - 39

40 - 77

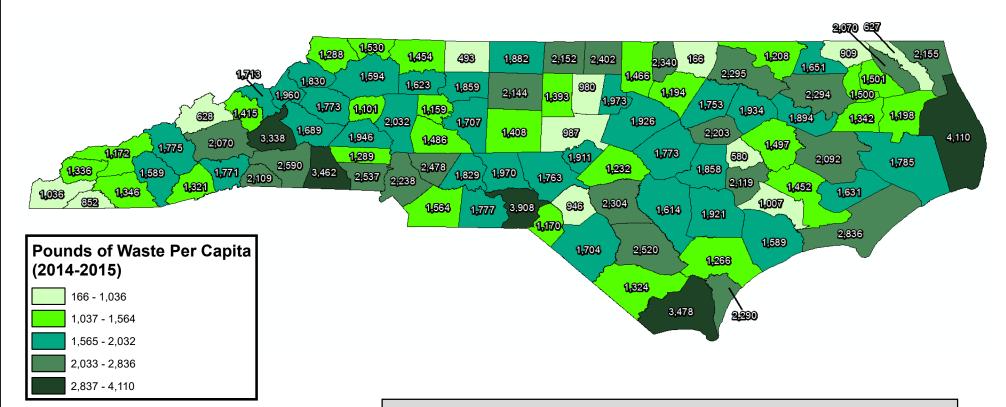
78 - 138

139 - 321

Source: NC Department of Environmental Quality

**Note:** <u>Hazardous Waste Sites</u> are defined as sites within North Carolina that are regulated by the hazardous waste portions of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) (NCDEQ).

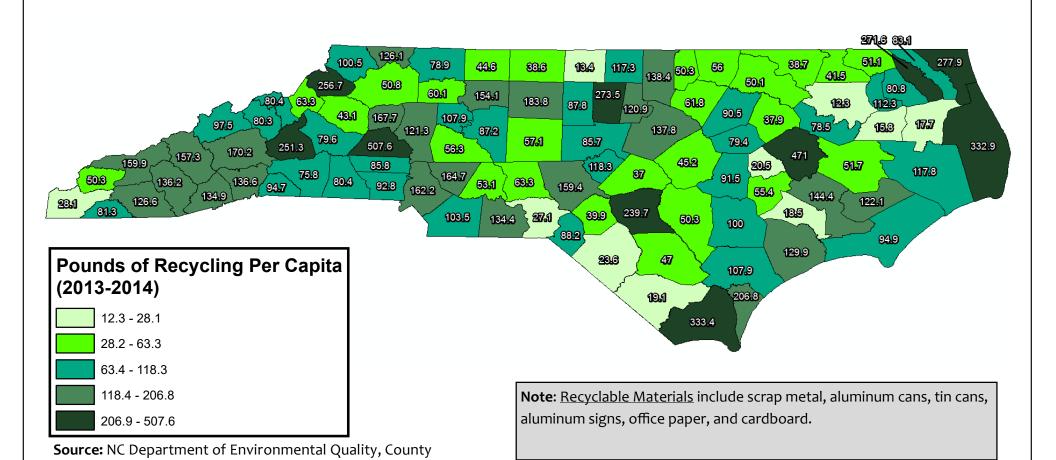
#### Amount of Waste Produced Per Capita, 2014



**Source:** NC Department of Environmental Quality —Solid Waste Management Annual per Capita Report, 2014-2015

**Note**: <u>Waste</u> is defined as "everyday trash," any garbage disposed of in a dumpster, and any construction/demolition materials (i.e. carpet, concrete, wood, etc.) disposed of. This number represents the amount of waste produced per person in pounds between 2014 and 2015. This number <u>does not</u> include Industrial or Animal Waste.

#### Pounds of Recycling Per Capita, 2013

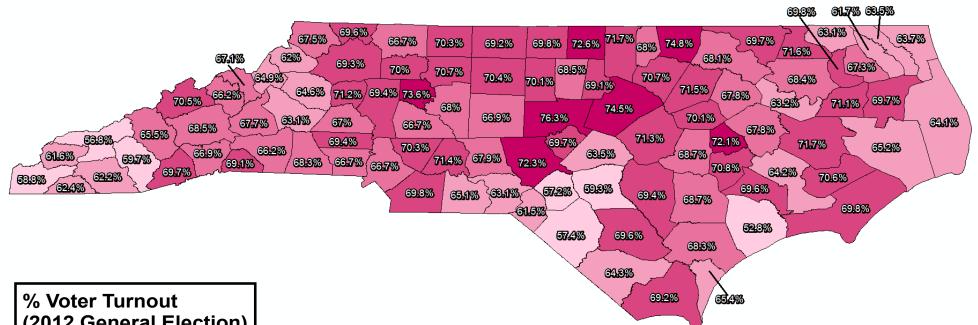


Recycling Program Performance, 2013—2014

### GOVERNMENT



#### Percent Registered Voter Turnout, 2012 General Election

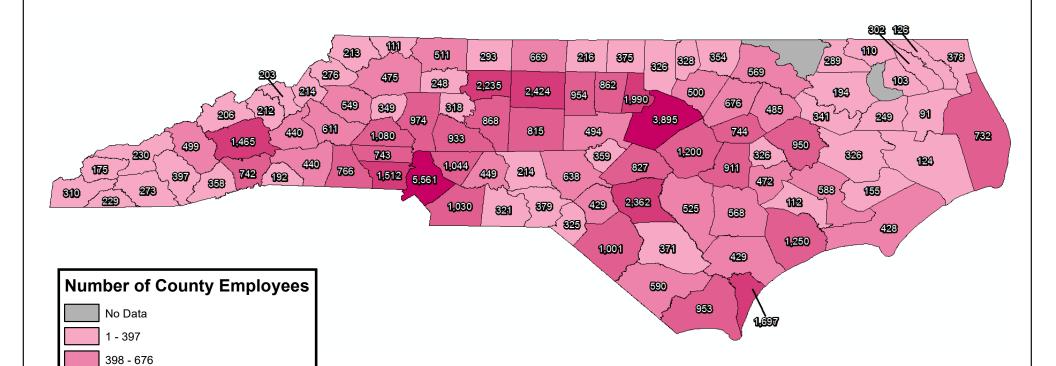


% Voter Turnout (2012 General Election) 52.83% - 59.68% 59.69% - 65.41% 65.42% - 68.72% 68.73% - 71.74% 71.75% - 76.32%

Source: NC State Board of Elections

**Note:** <u>Percent Registered Voter Turnout</u> is the percent of the total population of 18 and over that is registered to vote, and that voted during the 2012 General Election (these numbers include early voters). Statewide voter turnout was 68.42%.

#### Number of County Employees, 2015—2016

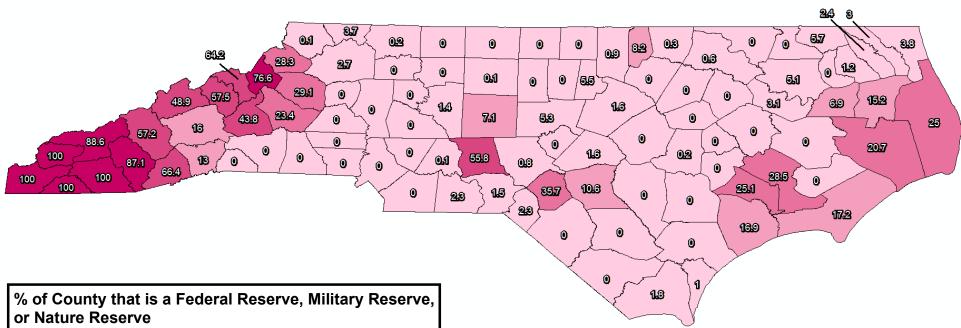


**Source:** As self– reported by each county for the NCACC Budget and Tax Survey, 2015 –2016

677 - 1,250 1,251 - 2,424 2,425 - 5,561

**Note**: <u>County Employee</u>: for purposes of the Budget and Tax survey, included any employee in the Register of Deeds, Administration, Board of Elections, Public Works, Health and Human Services, or the Sheriff's offices.

## Percent of County Land Considered a Federal, Military, or Nature Reserve (as of March 2016)



% of County that is a Federal Reserve, Military Reserve, or Nature Reserve

0% - 5.7%

5.8% - 17.2%

17.3% - 35.7%

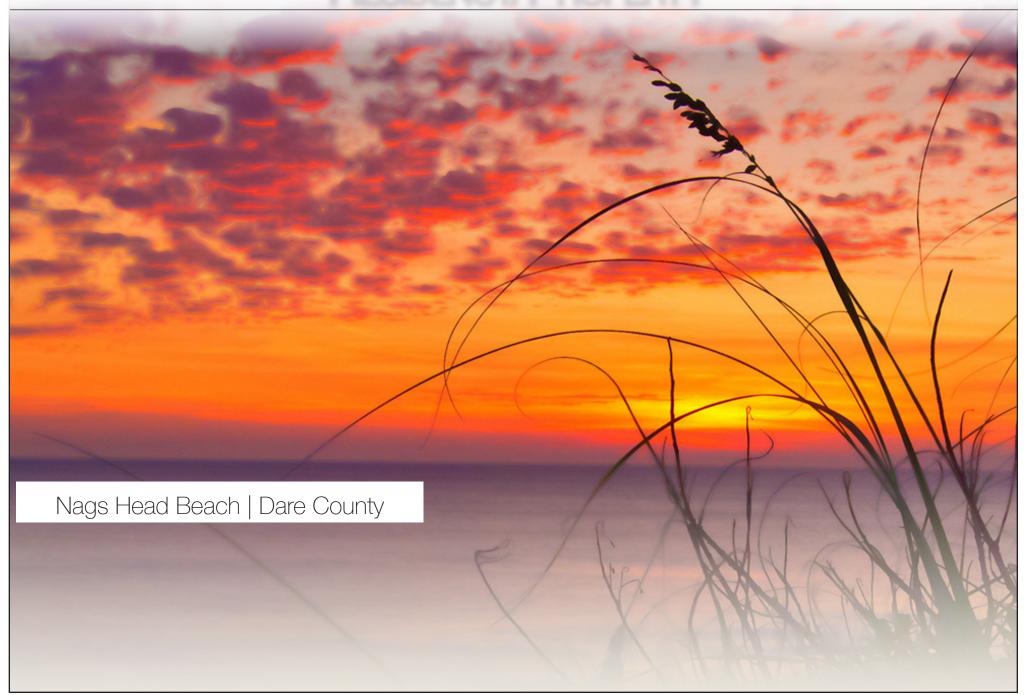
35.8% - 66.4%

66.5% - 100%

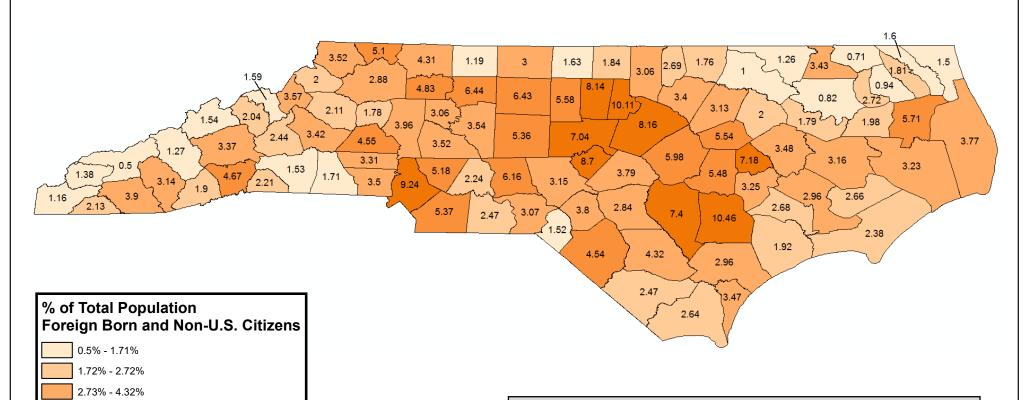
**Source:** United States Geological Survey

**Note:** Federal Reserve Area: is an area that is reserved for mining of different minerals, or use of particular watersheds. Military Reserve Area: is an area that is owned and operated by a branch of the U.S. Military, including bases and training grounds not located on base (i.e. Fort Bragg Army Base, Camp Lejeune Marine Base). Nature Reserve Area: is an area that is meant to protect wildlife, plant life, fragile ecosystems, or Natural Parks (i.e. Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Cape Lookout National Seashore).

## RESIDENCY/PROPERTY



## Percent of Total Population -Foreign Born and Non-U.S. Citizens



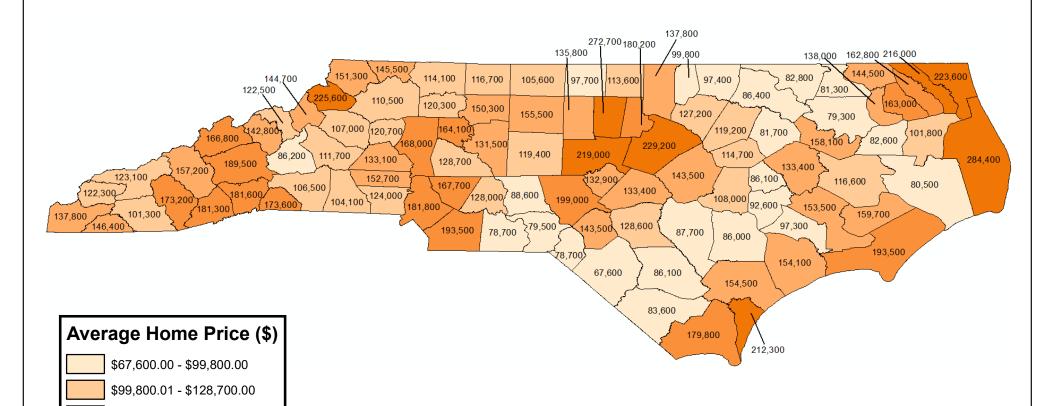
**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimates)

4.33% - 6.44%

6.45% - 10.46%

**Note:** Foreign Born and Non-U.S. Citizens are individuals in the county that were born outside of the United States and are not naturalized U.S. citizens. The average percent of total population that are foreign born and non-U.S. citizens in North Carolina is 3.5%.

#### Average Home Price



the county to cost.

Note: Average Home Price is the average price an individual can expect a home in

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimates)

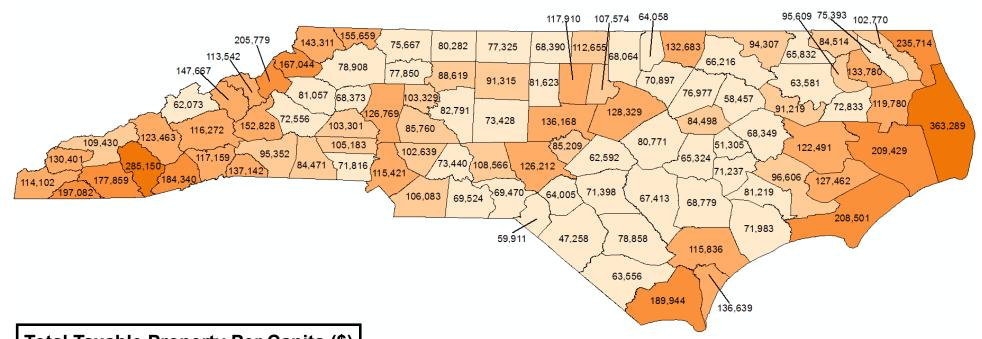
\$128,700.01 - \$159,700.00

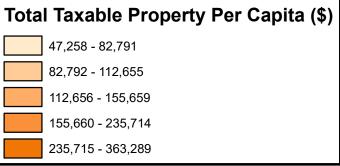
\$159,700.01 - \$199,000.00

\$199,000.01 - \$284,400.00

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#### Total Taxable Property Per Capita, 2015



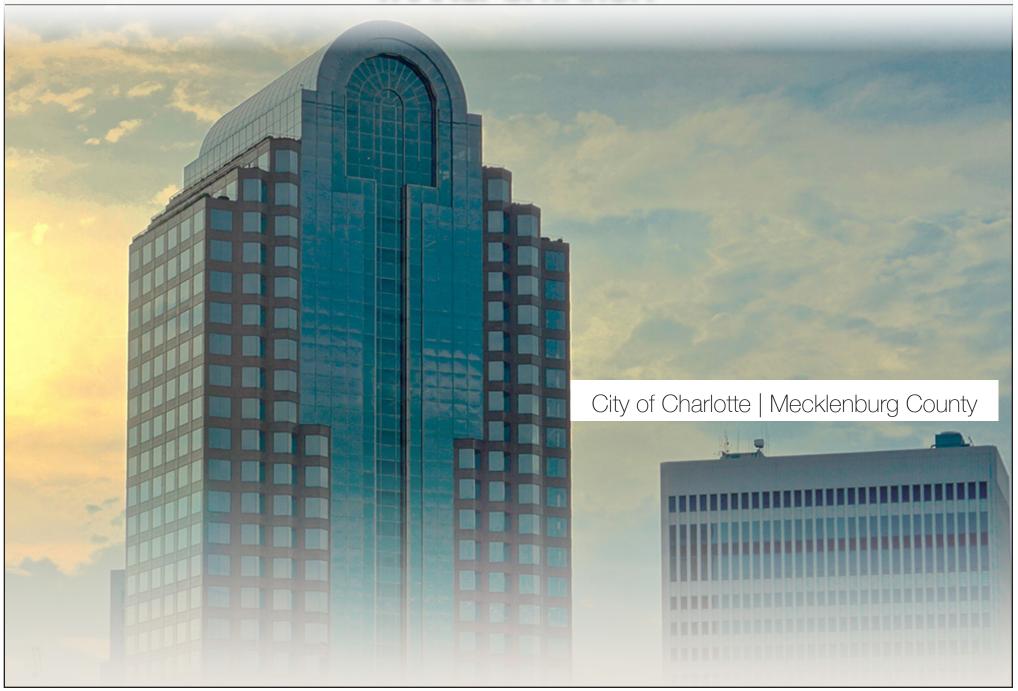


Source: NC Department of Revenue,

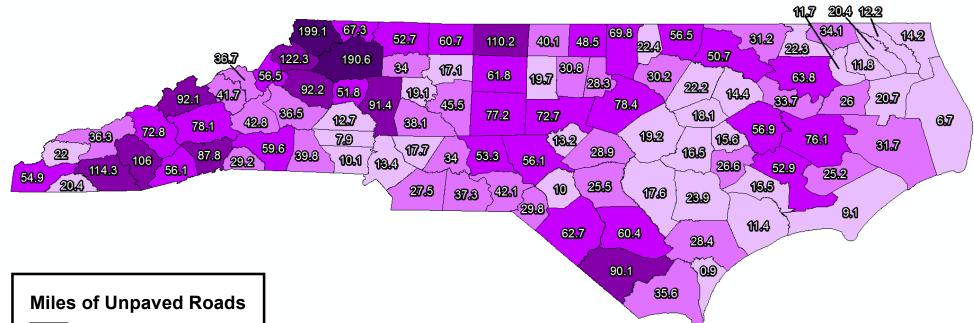
Local Government Division

**Note**: <u>Total Taxable Property</u> is the total value of all property in North Carolina that is subject to tax.

### TRANSPORTATION



#### Miles of Unpaved Roads, 2016



Miles of Unpaved Roads

0.9 - 23.9

24 - 45.5

45.6 - 78.4

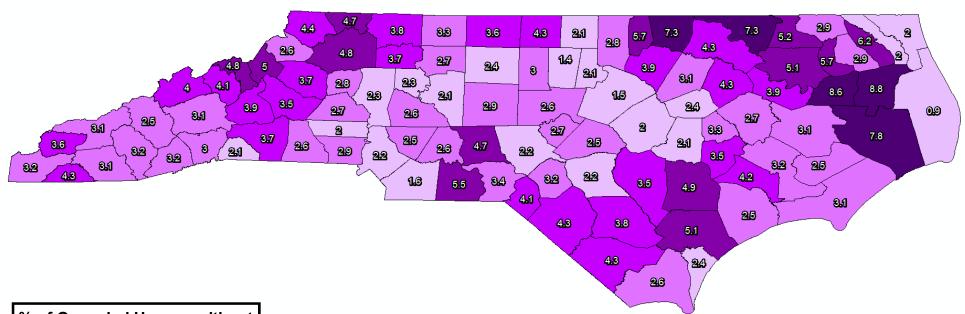
78.5 - 122.3

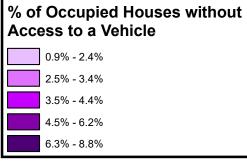
122.4 - 199.1

Source: NC Department of Transportation

**Note**: <u>Unpaved Roads</u>: is any state maintained road that is not paved with some form of concrete or asphalt.

#### Percent of Occupied Houses without Access to a Vehicle, 2014

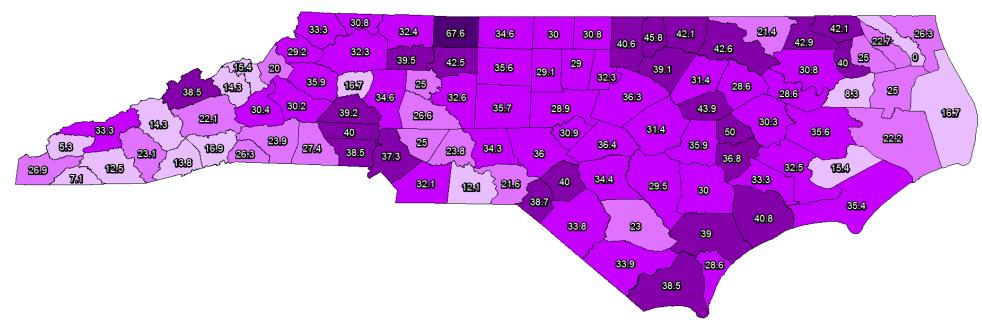


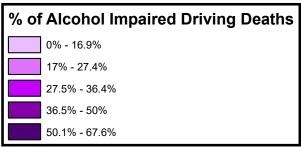


**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimates)

**Note:** <u>No Access to a Vehicle</u> means that no current home occupant owns a vehicle or has easy access to one.

#### Percent of Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths, 2016





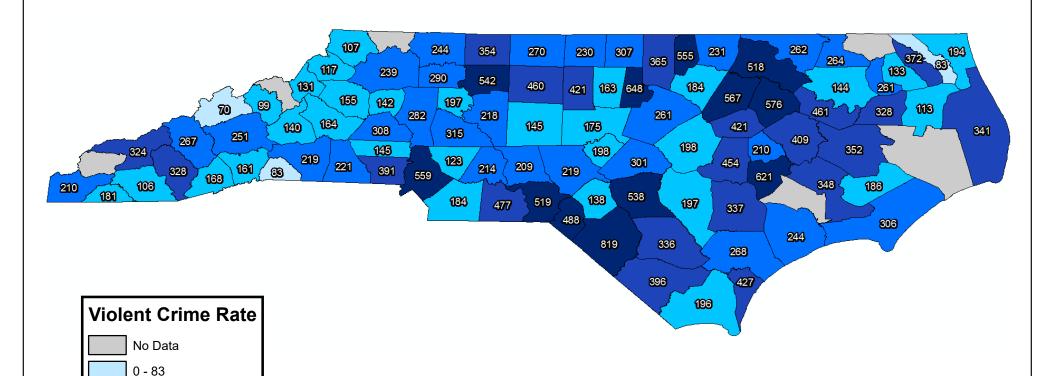
**Source:** 2016 County Health Rankings, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute

**Note:** Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths are the percent of motor vehicle crashes with alcohol involvement. The percentage is out of the total number of motor vehicle deaths in a given year.

### Public Safety



#### Violent Crime Rate, 2016



per every 100,000 people.

Note: Violent Crime Rate is the number of violent crimes committed, normalized

**Source:** 2016 County Health Rankings, University of

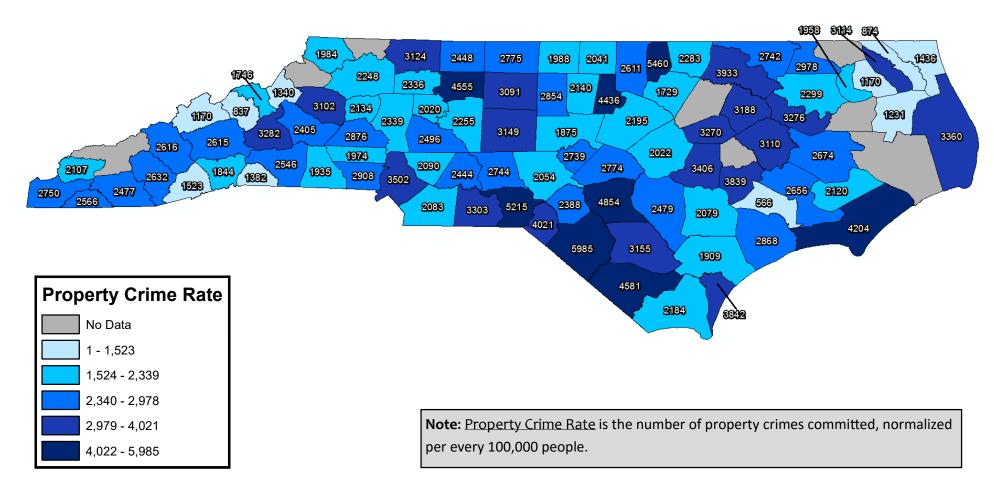
Wisconsin Population Health Institute

84 - 198 199 - 315

316 - 477

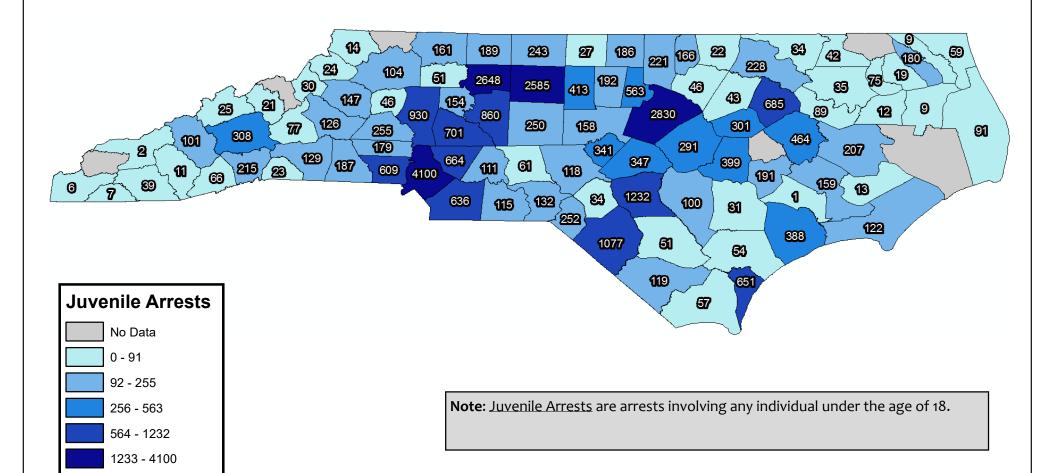
478 - 819

#### Property Crime Rate, 2016



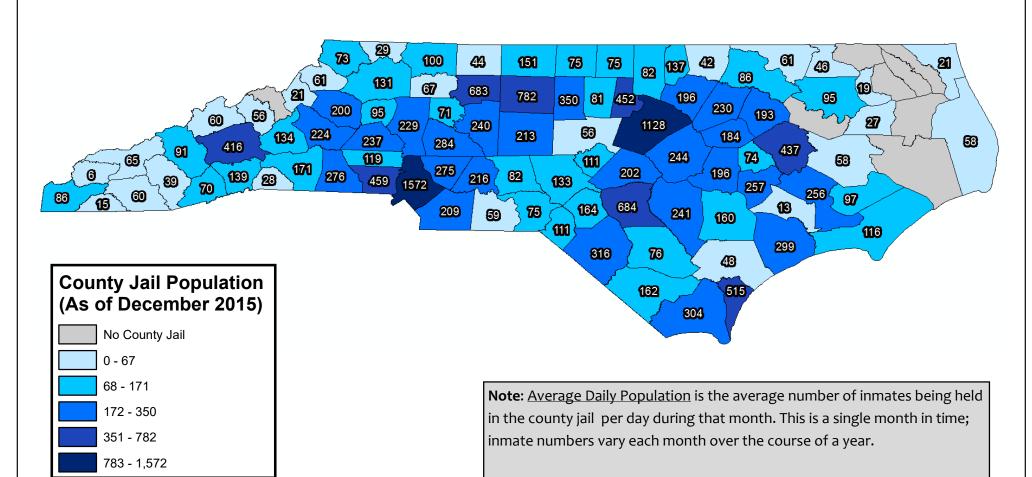
Source: NC Department of Public Safety

#### Juvenile Arrests, 2015



Source: NC Department of Public Safety

#### County Jail Average Daily Population as of December 2015

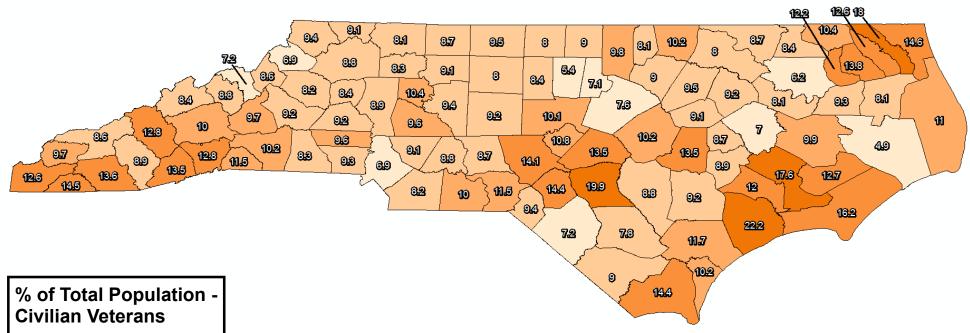


**Source:** NC Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Health Service Regulation—Jails and Detention Unit

### DEMOGRAPHICS



#### Percent of Total Population—Civilian Veterans



% of Total Population - Civilian Veterans

4.9% - 7.6%

7.7% - 9.5%

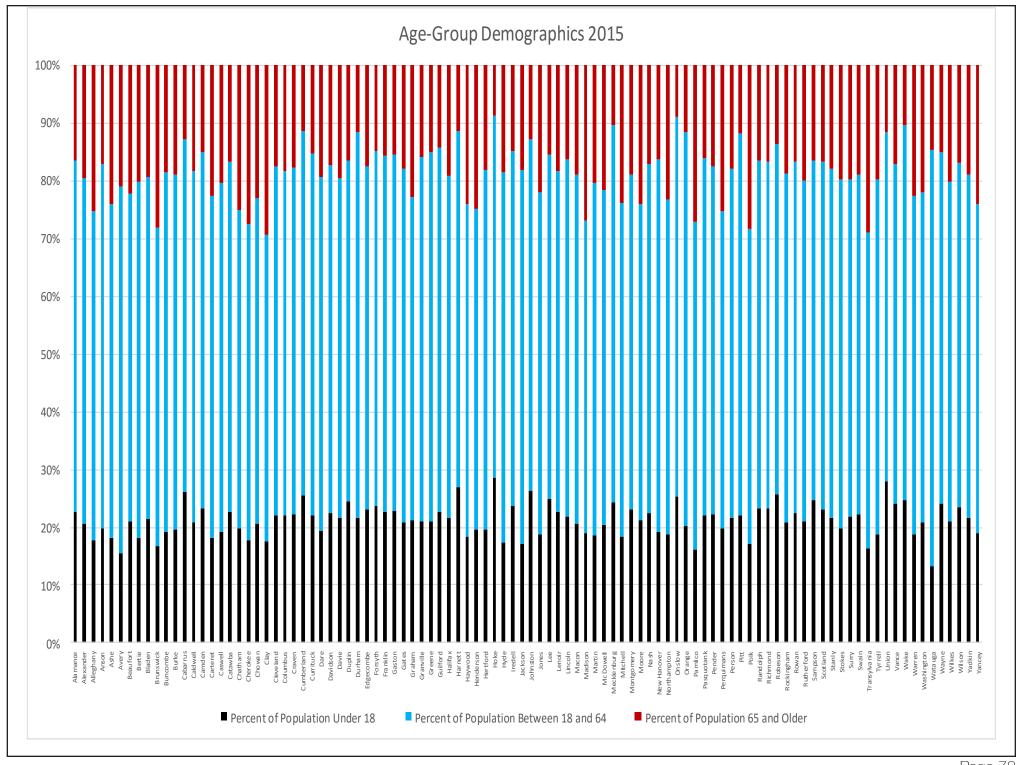
9.6% - 11.7%

11.8% - 16.2%

16.3% - 22.2%

**Source:** U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2014 (5 year estimates)

**Note:** <u>Civilian Veterans</u> include any individuals who have been discharged from the United States Military, are members of the reserves, or are active duty military members currently serving a civilian assignment.



## Ranking Based on 2016 Total Population (1970 Rank, Projected 2035 Rank)

- 1. Mecklenburg (1, 1)
- 2. Wake (3, 2)
- 3. Guilford (2, 3)
- 4. Forsyth (4, 4)
- 5. Cumberland (5, 6)
- 6. Durham (8, 5)
- 7. Buncombe (7, 7)
- 8. Union (31, 8)
- 9. New Hanover (16, 9)
- 10. Gaston (6, 12)
- 11. Cabarrus (18, 10)
- 12. Onslow (9, 13)
- 13. Johnston (24, 11)
- 14. Pitt (19, 16)
- 15. Iredell (22, 14)
- 16. Davidson (11, 19)
- 17. Alamance (10, 15)
- 18. Catawba (12, 21)
- 19. Randolph (17, 22)
- 20. Orange (27, 18)
- 21. Rowan (13, 24)
- 22. Robeson (15, 26)
- 23. Harnett (35, 20)
- 24. Wayne (14, 23)
- 25. Brunswick (62, 17)

- 26. Henderson (41, 25)
- 27. Craven (23, 27)
- 28. Cleveland (20, 29)
- 29. Moore (44, 28)
- 30. Nash (26, 34)
- 31. Rockingham (21, 32)
- 32. Burke (25, 35)
- 33. Caldwell (29, 36)
- 34. Wilson (28, 30)
- 35. Lincoln (49, 31)
- 36. Surry (34, 40)
- 37. Chatham (53, 33)
- 38. Wilkes (36, 42)
- 39. Carteret (50, 41)
- 40. Rutherford (37, 45)
- 41. Sampson (39, 43)
- 42. Franklin (56, 39)
- 43. Stanly (40, 46)
- 44. Duplin (45, 44)
- 45. Haywood (42, 47)
- 46. Lee (52, 50)
- 47. Pender (75, 37)
- 48. Lenoir (30, 51)
- 49. Granville (47, 48)
- 50. Columbus (38, 52)

- 51. Edgecombe (33, 53)
- 52. Watauga (65, 49)
- 53. Halifax (32, 56)
- 54. Hoke (76, 38)

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- 56. Stokes (63, 55)
- 57. Richmond (43, 61)

Beaufort (46, 54)

Pasquotank (55, 64)

- 58. McDowell (51, 59)
- 59. Vance (48, 60)
- 60. Jackson (67, 57)
- 61. Davie (74, 63)
- 63. Person (58, 65)
- 64. Alexander (71, 58)
- 65. Yadkin (60, 70)
- 66. Dare (94, 67)
- 67. Scotland (54, 71)
- 68. Macon (79, 62)69. Bladen (57, 69)
- 70. Transylvania (69, 66)
- 71. Montgomery (72, 72)
- 72. Cherokee (77, 74)
- 73. Ashe (70, 73)
- 74. Anson (64, 75)
- 75. Currituck (95, 68)

- 76. Hertford (61, 78)
- 77. Caswell (73, 77)
- 78. Martin (59, 80)
- 79. Madison (78, 76)
- 80. Greene (81, 81)
- 81. Northampton (66, 83)
- 82. Polk (86, 79)
- 83. Warren (80, 82)
- 84. Bertie (68, 89)
- 85. Yancey (85, 85)
- 86. Avery (84, 86)
- 87. Mitchell (83, 87)
- 88. Swain (90, 84)
- 89. Chowan (87, 90)
- 90. Perquimans (92, 88)
- 91. Pamlico (89, 91)
- 92. Washington (82, 95)
- 93. Gates (91, 93)
- 94. Alleghany (93, 92)
- 95. Clay (99, 94)
- 96. Jones (88, 96)
- \_\_\_\_\_
- 97. Camden (98, 97)
- 98. Graham (96, 98)
- 99. Hyde (97, 99)
- 100. Tyrrell (100, 100)

Source: Log Into North Carolina, OSBM (http://data.osbm.state.nc.us). The first number in the parentheses is the county's population ranking in 1970, and the second is the projected 2035 rank.



#### NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

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