Cherokee County

Cherokee County has a population of 29,972, an increase of 9.3% over the past decade.

We all thrive when we ...

- **Expand Access to Health Services**
  - 14% of people do not have health insurance.
  - The average life expectancy for newborns is 76.7 years.
  - There is one mental health provider for every 692 residents.

- **Provide Affordable Housing for All**
  - Rent is unaffordable for 50.2% of renters.
  - 25.0% of people spend more than half of their income on rent.
  - The median hourly wage is only 78.7% of what’s needed for 1 adult and 2 children to make ends meet (LIS*).

- **Address Structural Barriers to Equality**
  - 41.1% of residents are considered low-income (less than $50,200 for a family of four).**
  - The richest 5% of households make an average of 16 times more than the poorest 20% of households.

... make the investments needed to promote shared prosperity for everyone in every county in N.C.

The Budget & Tax Center’s Economic Snapshots provide a look at how well counties in North Carolina are faring across key indicators of economic well-being and opportunity. Contact Leila Pedersen at leila@ncjustice.org or 919-861-1451 for media inquiries or other questions.
### Poverty and Economic Hardship

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people living in poverty</td>
<td>18.8%</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>36.1%</td>
<td>23.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>34.8%</td>
<td>25.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child poverty rate</td>
<td>27.9%</td>
<td>20.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in number of people employed since December 2007</td>
<td>1,234 more</td>
<td>611,291 more</td>
<td>2007, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)</td>
<td>$18.44</td>
<td>$22.94</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hourly median wage</td>
<td>$14.52</td>
<td>$17.19</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change in median wage since 2009 recovery began</td>
<td>grew 1 cent</td>
<td>grew 38 cents</td>
<td>2009, 2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median Household Income</td>
<td>$41,262</td>
<td>$53,922</td>
<td>2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Healthy Lives and Communities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of residents without health insurance</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>76.7 years</td>
<td>77.6 years</td>
<td>2016-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>76.7 years</td>
<td>78.4 years</td>
<td>2016-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental health provider: residents</td>
<td>1 : 692</td>
<td>1 : 409</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of residents receiving SNAP</td>
<td>13.8%</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Educational Attainment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Graduation rate</td>
<td>92.5%</td>
<td>86.5%</td>
<td>2018-2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>83.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>91.8%</td>
<td>89.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Latinx</td>
<td>&gt;95%</td>
<td>81.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>***</td>
<td>94.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>81.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of adults with Bachelor's degrees</td>
<td>15.9%</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree, men</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's degree, women</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>32.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor's</td>
<td>$42,880</td>
<td>$61,426</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor's</td>
<td>$39,856</td>
<td>$41,197</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Access to Affordable Housing

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>County</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>Year</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent</td>
<td>50.2%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of people paying more than 50% of income toward rent</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>23.9%</td>
<td>2014-2018</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit</td>
<td>$679</td>
<td>$881</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of hours needed to work to afford a two-bedroom unit at fair market rate</td>
<td>72 hours a week</td>
<td>94 hours a week</td>
<td>2019</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover the basic expenses. See more at NCJustice.org/LIS.
** A family of four is considered low-income if they make below 200% of the federal poverty line, or $50,200 in 2018.
*** Insufficient data

Note: This County Snapshot provides a pre-COVID-19 economic picture of counties throughout North Carolina.

For data sources or other counties, visit NCJustice.org/snapshots