

# 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.

Poverty and Economic Hardship			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people living in poverty	18.8%	14.1%	2014-2018
Black	36.1%	23.5%	
White	15.5%	10.6%	
Latinx	35.3%	28.5%	
Asian	14%	11.9%	
American Indian	34.8%	25.1%	
Child poverty rate	27.9%	20.2%	

Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics			
	County	State	Year
Jobless worker : Job openings	493 : 392	182,598 : 283,392	Feb. 2020
Unemployment rate	3.8%	3.3%	2019
Change in number of people employed since December 2007	1,234 more	611,291 more	2007, 2019
Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$18.44	\$22.94	2019
Hourly median wage	\$14.52	\$17.19	2019
Change in median wage since 2009 recovery began	grew 1 cent	grew 38 cents	2009, 2019
Median Household Income	\$41,262	\$53,922	2018

Access to Affordable Housing			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent	50.2%	52.9%	2014-2018
Percentage of people paying more than 50% of income toward rent	25.0%	23.9%	2014-2018
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	\$679	\$881	2019
Number of hours needed to work to afford a two-bedroom unit at fair market rate	72 hours a week	94 hours a week	2019

Healthy Lives and Communities			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents without health insurance	14%	11.1%	2014-2018
Life expectancy	76.7 years	77.6 years	2016-2018
Black	***	75.2 years	
White	76.7 years	78.4 years	
Mental health provider : residents	1 : 692	1 : 409	2019
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	13.8%	12.1%	2019

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

\* 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](http://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](http://NCJustice.org/snapshots)**