

# North Carolina

North Carolina has a population of 10,658,700, an increase of 10% over the past decade.

## North Carolina needs to invest in ...



### Expanding Access to Health Services

- 11% of people do not have health insurance.
- Life expectancy for white newborns is 79 years, compared to 76 years for Black newborns.
- There is one mental health provider for every 390 residents.



### Making Sure Everyone Can Make Ends Meet

- There are 0.7 candidates for every job opening.<sup>††</sup>
- Rent is unaffordable for 47% of renters.
- Median worker earnings are 78% of what it takes for a family of 1 adult and 2 children to make ends meet.



### Removing Structural Barriers to Equity

- 31% of residents are considered low-income (less than \$51,500 for a family of four).<sup>\*\*</sup>
- The richest 5% of households make an average of 28 times more than the poorest 20% of households.

... the things that we need so that every person, in every county, can thrive in good times and bad.

**Table 1: Poverty and Economic Hardship**

	State
<b>Living in poverty, 2015-2019</b>	
Percentage of people living in poverty	15%
Black	22
White	10
Latinx	26
Asian	11
American Indian	25
Child poverty rate	21

**Table 2: Employment**

	State
<b>Employment, June 2021</b>	
Unemployment rate	4.9%
Number of unemployed people actively seeking work	247,430
Number of employed people	4,790,630
<b>Percent change in employment, June 2019 - June 2021</b>	
Change in unemployed people actively seeking work	18%
Change in people employed	-2%

**Table 3: Educational Attainment**

	State
<b>High school graduation, 2020</b>	
High school graduation rate	88%
Black	85
White	91
Latinx	82
Asian	94
American Indian	85
<b>College degrees, 2015-2019</b>	
Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher	31%
Men	30
Women	32
Median earnings for men with a bachelor's degree <sup>†</sup>	\$63,300
Median earnings for women with a bachelor's degree <sup>†</sup>	\$42,700

**Table 4: Income and Ability to Afford the Basics**

	State
<b>Living Income Standard, 2019</b>	
Living Income Standard* annual income (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$47,700
<b>Median earnings and income, 2015-2019</b>	
Median worker earnings	\$37,400
Median worker earnings as a percentage of Living Income Standard*	78%
Median household income	\$54,600

**Table 5: Access to Affordable Housing**

	State
<b>Rent burden, 2015-2019</b>	
Percentage of renter households paying more than 30% of income on rent	47%
Percentage of renter households paying more than 50% of income on rent	23%
<b>Fair market rent, 2021</b>	
Fair market monthly rent for a two-bedroom home	\$960
Number of work hours at minimum wage it takes to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent	102 hours per week

**Table 6: Healthy Lives and Communities**

	State
<b>Health insurance, 2015-2019</b>	
Percentage of residents without health insurance	11%
<b>Life expectancy, 2016-2018</b>	
Life expectancy in years	78
Black	76
White	79
<b>Mental health providers, 2020</b>	
Residents per mental health provider	390
<b>Food assistance, June 2021</b>	
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	15%

\* 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 \$51,500 in 2019.

† Does not include people who also have a graduate degree

†† Candidates include all people willing to work in the county, regardless of county of residence. NA values indicate insufficient data for this county.

Note: Many of the data points in this County Snapshot reflect pre-COVID-19 conditions.