

# Chatham County

Chatham County has a population of 78,200, an increase of 21% over the past decade.  
North Carolina's population increased 10% over the past decade.

## North Carolina needs to invest in ...



### Expanding Access to Health Services

- 12% of people do not have health insurance.
- Life expectancy for white newborns is 82 years, compared to 77 years for Black newborns.
- There is one mental health provider for every 720 residents.



### Making Sure Everyone Can Make Ends Meet

- There are 22 candidates for every job opening.<sup>††</sup>
- Rent is unaffordable for 45% of renters.
- Median worker earnings are 80% of what it takes for a family of 1 adult and 2 children to make ends meet.



### Removing Structural Barriers to Equity

- 25% 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 27 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**

	County	State
<b>Living in poverty, 2015-2019</b>		
Percentage of people living in poverty	10%	15%
Black	18	22
White	7	10
Latinx	22	26
Asian	1	11
American Indian	92	25
Child poverty rate	16	21

**Table 2: Employment**

	County	State
<b>Employment, June 2021</b>		
Unemployment rate	3.9%	4.9%
Number of unemployed people actively seeking work	1,410	247,430
Number of employed people	34,950	4,790,630
<b>Percent change in employment, June 2019 - June 2021</b>		
Change in unemployed people actively seeking work	6%	18%
Change in people employed	0%	-2%

**Table 3: Educational Attainment**

	County	State
<b>High school graduation, 2020</b>		
High school graduation rate	87%	88%
Black	83	85
White	90	91
Latinx	85	82
Asian	>95	94
American Indian	NA	85
<b>College degrees, 2015-2019</b>		
Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher	42%	31%
Men	41	30
Women	43	32
Median earnings for men with a bachelor's degree <sup>†</sup>	\$75,300	\$63,300
Median earnings for women with a bachelor's degree <sup>†</sup>	\$50,400	\$42,700

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

	County	State
<b>Living Income Standard, 2019</b>		
Living Income Standard* annual income (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$51,800	\$47,700
<b>Median earnings and income, 2015-2019</b>		
Median worker earnings	\$41,300	\$37,400
Median worker earnings as a percentage of Living Income Standard*	80%	78%
Median household income	\$67,000	\$54,600

**Table 5: Access to Affordable Housing**

	County	State
<b>Rent burden, 2015-2019</b>		
Percentage of renter households paying more than 30% of income on rent	45%	47%
Percentage of renter households paying more than 50% of income on rent	20%	23%
<b>Fair market rent, 2021</b>		
Fair market monthly rent for a two-bedroom home	\$1,134	\$960
Number of work hours at minimum wage it takes to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent	120 hours per week	102 hours per week

**Table 6: Healthy Lives and Communities**

	County	State
<b>Health insurance, 2015-2019</b>		
Percentage of residents without health insurance	12%	11%
<b>Life expectancy, 2016-2018</b>		
Life expectancy in years	81	78
Black	77	76
White	82	79
<b>Mental health providers, 2020</b>		
Residents per mental health provider	720	390
<b>Food assistance, June 2021</b>		
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	7%	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](https://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.