Chatham County population is the oldest and most racially and ethnically homogeneous one in the region. Although the share of adults with at least a bachelor’s degree is the lowest in the Triangle, it still is relatively high compared to national standards.

- **10%** Average Unemployment Rate*
- **14%** Average Poverty Rate *
- **36%** Average Share of the population 25+ with a Bachelor’s Degree or more*

* 2010-2014 average
The Town of Siler City is the most populous municipality in the county with 8,279 people (2014).

Altogether, 22% of county residents lived in a municipal area. This was the smallest share in the region.

The Towns of Siler City & Pittsboro were home to approximately 18 out of every 100 county residents in 2014.

POPULATION DENSITY
101 persons per square mile (2014)

POPULATION GROWTH & CHARACTERISTICS

URBANIZATION

YEAR
1990-2014

POPPULATION
by 15,000

1990 49,329
2000 63,505
2010 68,725
2014 ESTIMATION

(2014)

(2014)

(2014)

(2014)
Half of Chatham County residents were older than 46 years of age giving Chatham County the OLDEST population in the Triangle in 2014.

33% of residents were born outside of NC or the American South (2014).

If projections hold, the county’s population may grow by 37% from 2010 to 2030 rising to 86,776. That translates to an average gain of 1,164 people per year.

9% of county residents were FOREIGN-BORN (2014).

People of color accounted for 14% of the population OVER the age of SIXTY FIVE.

29/100 residents are people of color.

People of color accounted for 47% of the population UNDER the age of EIGHTEEN.

* in 2014.
36% of residents, on average, ages 25+ had earned at least a Bachelor’s Degree (2010-2014)

43% Non-Hispanic White Adults
14% African American Adults
6% Hispanic Adults

45% African American Adults
69% Non-Hispanic White Adults
20% Hispanic Adults

CHATHAM COUNTY SCHOOLS

57% of public 3rd grade students in Chatham Schools were grade-level proficient in reading. (2014-2015)

87% of students in the 9th grade during 2011-2012 graduated in four years.

The cohort graduation rates were:
89% Non-Hispanic White Students
92% African American Students
80% Hispanic Students

YOUTH LITERACY

That year, students who tested at an advanced level:

NON HISPANIC WHITE STUDENTS
57%

AFRICAN AMERICAN STUDENTS
32%

HISPANIC STUDENTS
26%

*Indicates Benchmark
In 2013, an estimated 7,750 residents of Chatham County were food insecure (at risk of hunger or hungry). This total included 2,900 children, that’s 21 of every 100.

On the night of January 28, 2015, there were 11 people experiencing homelessness in Chatham County.

Some 53 of every 100 students in Chatham Schools were enrolled in the free and reduced National School Lunch Program. Academic year: 2014-2015.

Average Civilian Unemployment Rates 2010-2014

- Non-Hispanic White: 8%
- Hispanic: 13%
- African American: 18%

14% of Chatham County residents lived with incomes below the federal poverty level (on average, 2010-2014).

- Hispanic Residents: 40%
- African American Residents: 20%
- Non-Hispanic White Residents: 9%

23/100 children in Chatham County on average lived in households with incomes below the federal poverty level (on average, 2010-2014).

- Hispanic Children: 50%
- African American Children: 28%
- Non-Hispanic White Children: 11%
Triangle Community Foundation believes that information has the power to drive positive community change. Our community is growing and changing, and we want to engage people across the region in understanding these evolving needs at the regional and at the county level, and working together to make a difference. We hope that you will explore these data points and indicators, and that they will spark questions and great conversation that will bring us all together to ensure that the Triangle is a place where everyone can thrive.

Visit us at www.trianglecf.org

**Data Sources**

- Feeding America, *Mind the Meal Gap: 2015*
- N.C. Department of Public Instruction, "Free and Reduced Meal Application Data: 2014-2015"
- N.C. Department of Public Instruction, *North Carolina 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate Report for the 2014-15 School Year*
- N.C. Office of State Budget and Management, Population Estimates Program
- N.C. Office of State Budget and Management, Population Projections Program
- State Library of North Carolina, "N.C. County Formation"
- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, various years
- U.S. Census, Bureau, Decennial Census of Population and Housing, various years.