

## DATA RESOURCES FOR NORTH CAROLINA COUNTIES

Stay current with demographic trends and analysis on our blog (<http://demography.cpc.unc.edu/blog>) and Twitter (@ncdemography). Here's our guide to key data resources for North Carolina counties. Carolina Demography can be engaged to help you with any of these resources and more.

### DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

#### Decennial Census

The Census is conducted every ten years on April 1<sup>st</sup>. It is a complete count of all housing units and all individuals and contains information on age and sex, race and ethnicity, household structure, and home ownership. Access via American FactFinder at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

#### American Community Survey (ACS)

The ACS is an ongoing survey conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau. It provides annually updated information about social and economic characteristics. Topics include jobs and occupations, educational attainment, veteran status, ancestry, and language. All counties and sub-county areas (such as Census tracts and places) are included in the 5-year ACS data products. Single year estimates are produced for more populous areas (population of 65,000 or more). Access at <http://factfinder.census.gov>.

#### July 1 Population Estimates

There are two sources for annually produced population estimates: the U.S. Census Bureau and the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management.

##### *U.S. Census Bureau*

The U.S. Census Bureau produces population estimates for all states, counties, cities, and towns; estimates of the demographic components of population change (births, deaths, and migration) for the nation, states, and counties; and detailed demographic estimates (sex, age, race, and Hispanic origin) for the nation, states, and counties. In addition, they produce estimates of housing units for every county. Access data at <http://www.census.gov/popest/>.

##### *NC Office of State Budget and Management (OSBM)*

The state demographer at NC's OSBM produces population estimates for North Carolina and its counties and municipalities. At the state and county level, OSBM produces estimates of the demographic components of change and population estimates by age and race. OSBM does not currently produce estimates broken out by Hispanic origin. Access data at: [http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts\\_and\\_figures/socioeconomic\\_data/population\\_estimates/county\\_estimates.shtm](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_estimates.shtm)

##### *Comparability of these two estimates*

The U.S. Census Bureau and NC OSBM estimates will differ due to differences in methodology. To compare your community to communities in other states, it is best to use the U.S. Census Bureau estimates as these are simultaneously produced for all counties in the nation.

#### Population Projections

NC OSBM produces annually updated population projections for every county in the state. These are produced for every year for the next 20 years and contain detail by age and race. At present, NC OSBM

does not include Hispanic origin in their projection breakdowns. Data can be accessed at:

[http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts\\_and\\_figures/socioeconomic\\_data/population\\_estimates/county\\_projections.shtm](http://www.osbm.state.nc.us/ncosbm/facts_and_figures/socioeconomic_data/population_estimates/county_projections.shtm)

### ECONOMIC DATA

#### Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

SAIPE are produced annually for school districts, counties, and states. The main objective of this Census Bureau program is to provide updated estimates of income and poverty statistics for the administration of federal programs and the allocation of federal funds. These estimates are produced through a model-based approach that combines data from administrative records, population estimates, the decennial census, and the American Community Survey. *These annual estimates better reflect current economic conditions than the 5-year ACS data.* Access at <http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/>.

#### Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

The SAHIE program produces state and county-level estimates of insurance coverage by detailed demographic and income groups. These are model-based estimates and are linked to the ACS data. Annual estimates are available from 2008 onwards, so SAHIE can be used to compare changes in insurance coverage over time. Access data at <http://www.census.gov/did/www/sahie/>.

#### Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

The LAUS program produces monthly and annual employment, unemployment, and labor force data for Census regions and divisions, states, counties, metropolitan areas, and many larger cities. Data can be accessed directly from the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at <http://www.bls.gov/lau/home.htm> or through NC Commerce's D4 system at <http://esesc23.esc.state.nc.us/d4/>.

#### Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW)

The QCEW program is also run through the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This program publishes a quarterly count of employment and wages at the county, MSA, state, and national levels by industry. The QCEW data cover 98% of U.S. jobs. Access data directly from the BLS at <http://www.bls.gov/cew/home.htm> or explore at NC Commerce at <http://esesc23.esc.state.nc.us/d4/QCEWSelection.aspx>.

#### Occupational Employment Statistics (OES)

OES is another BLS program and produces annual employment and wage estimates for over 800 occupations. These are produced at the national, state, and metro areas by BLS. NC Commerce Labor and Economic Analysis Division (LEAD) maintains county-level OES estimates in its D4 query system. They can be accessed at <http://esesc23.esc.state.nc.us/d4/OESSelection.aspx>.

### NEED ASSISTANCE? CONTACT CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY

Contact Rebecca Tippett at Carolina Demography (919-962-6151 or [rtippett@unc.edu](mailto:rtippett@unc.edu)) to discuss your projects and associated costs. We can help you have data-driven insights into the community you serve and its opportunities and challenges.