

Orange County

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Introduction

Overview of Barriers Orange County, NC	Black Households	Hispanic/LatinX Households	White Households
2019 Median Household Income	\$44,533	\$49,539	\$78,139
2019 Poverty Rate	20.8%	21.9%	12.5%
% of Population with Bachelor's Degree	38%	57%	82%

Summary of Barriers

Housing & Gentrification

	Orange County	North Carolina	United States
Median Gross Rent (2019)	\$1,093	\$907	\$1,062

- Orange County's overall median gross rent increased 10.15% from 2014 to 2019.
- Home values increased 13.5% from 2019 to 2020.

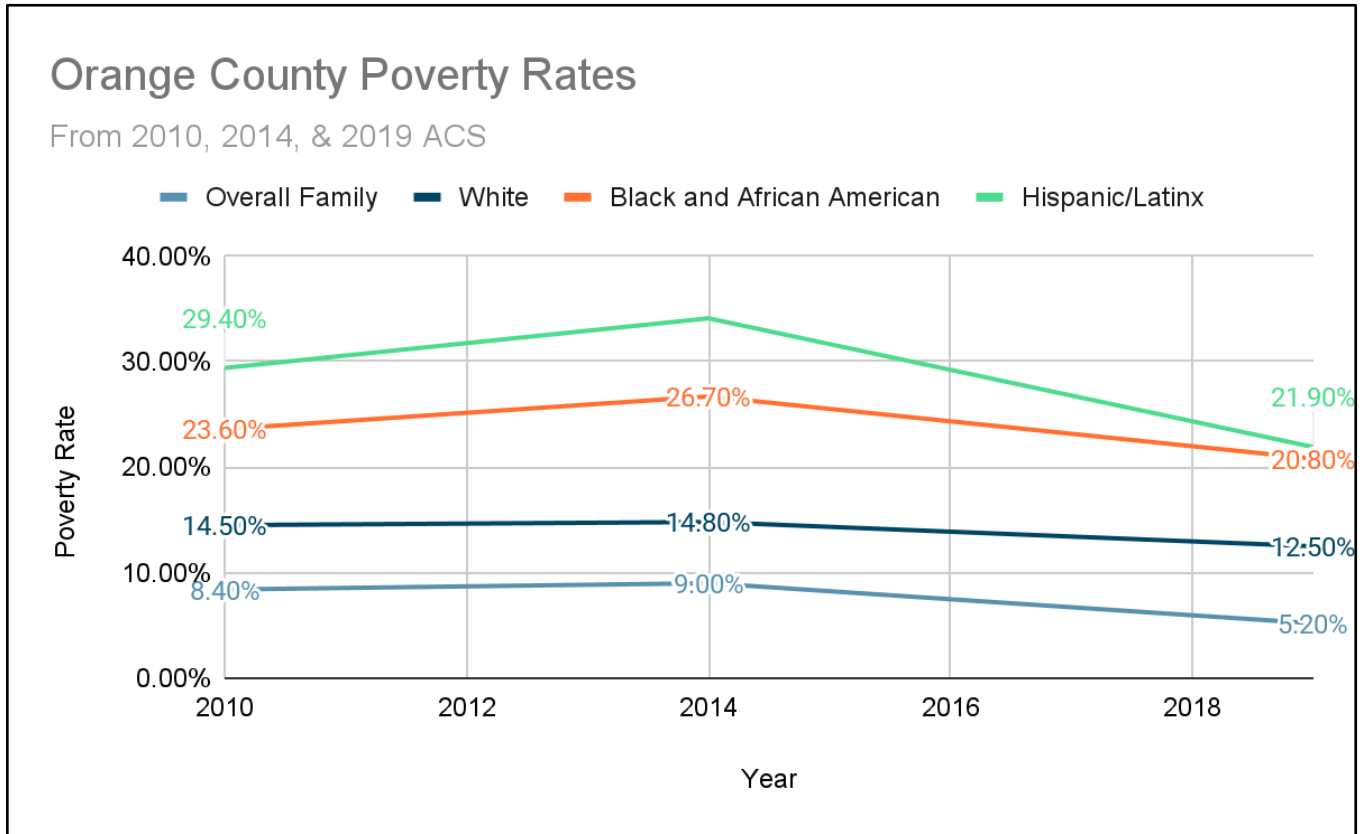
Income & Poverty

	Orange County	North Carolina	United States
Median Household Income	\$71,723	\$54,602	\$62,843
Family Poverty Rate (2019)	5.2%	10.6%	9.5%
Child Poverty Rate (2019)	11.4%	21.2%	18.5%

Barriers by Race & Ethnicity

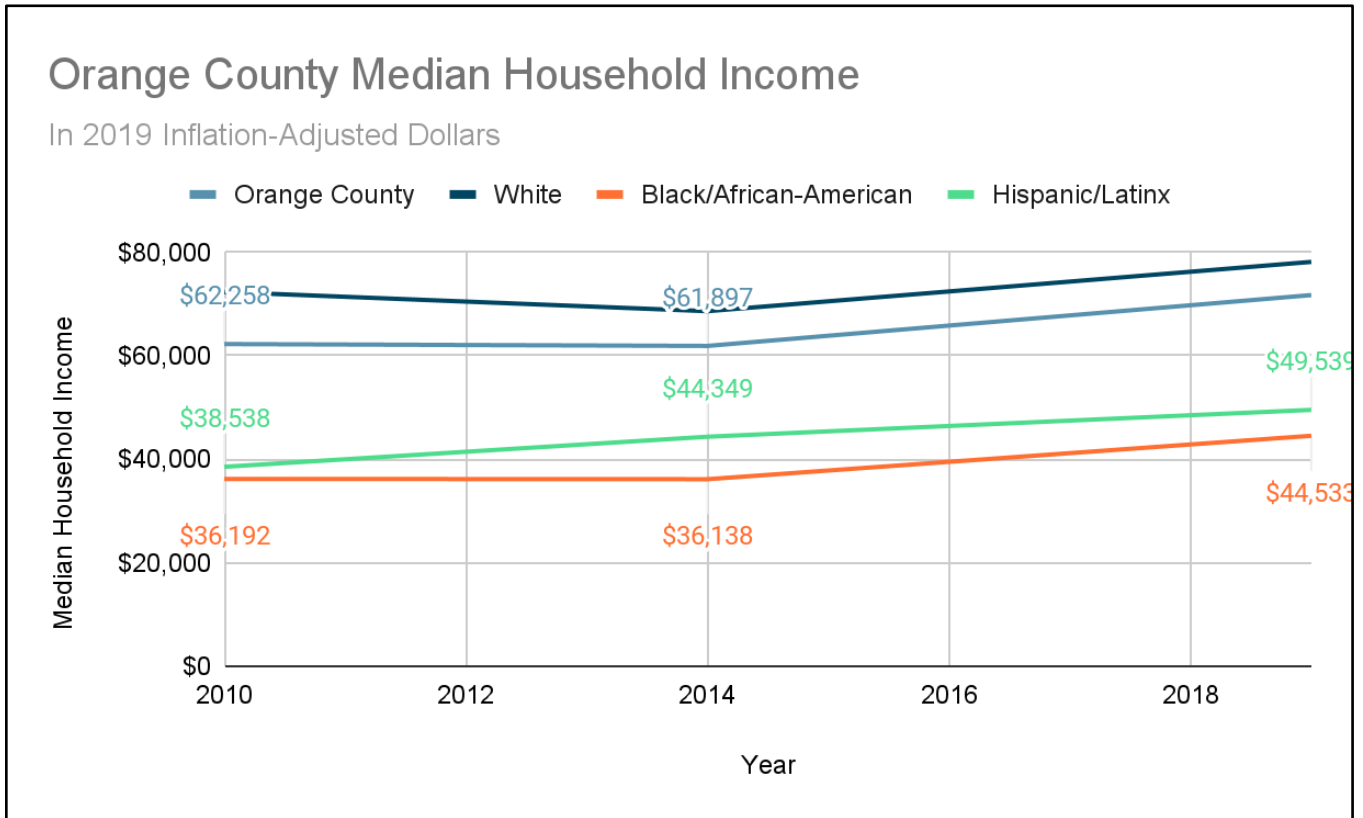
Overview

Figure 1: Poverty by Race



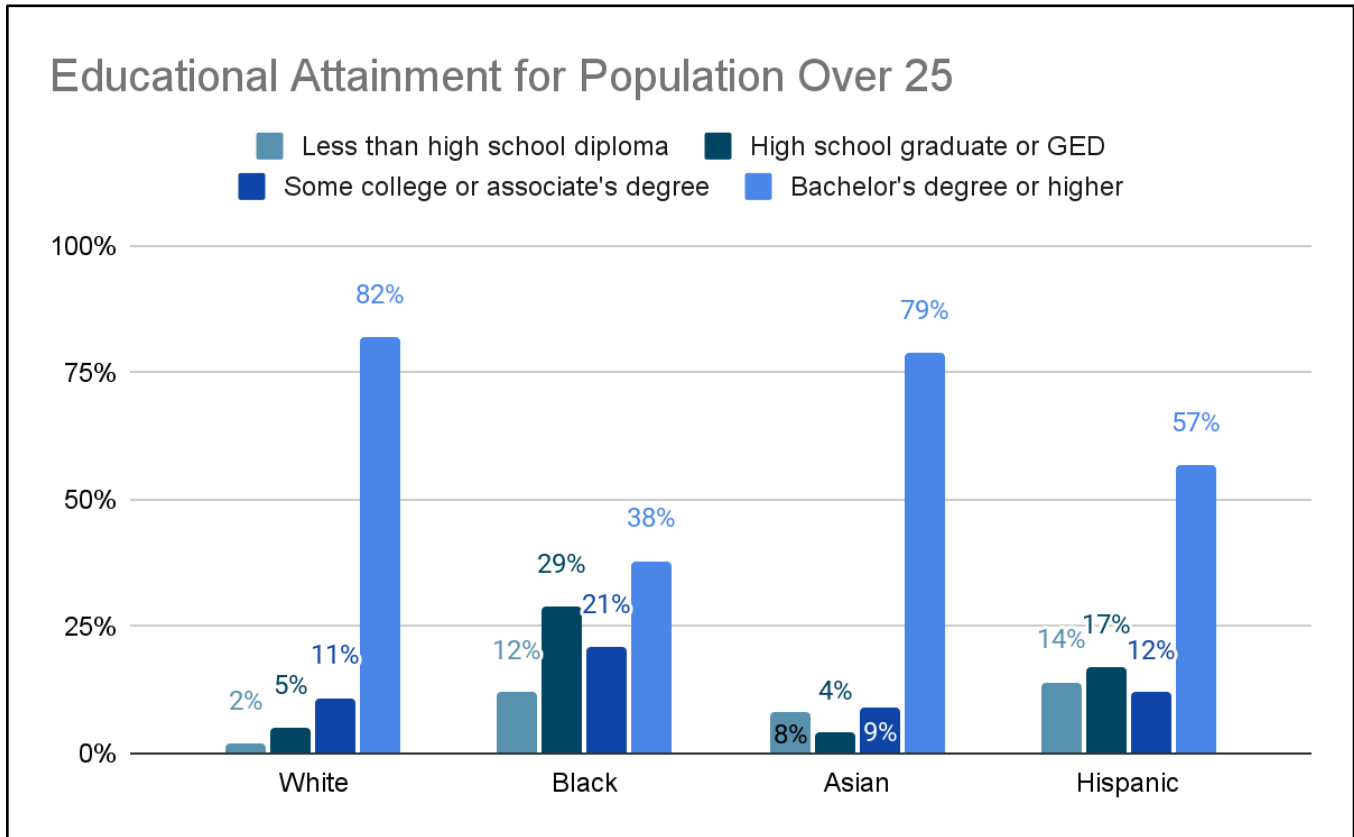
In 2019, 21.9% of Hispanic/Latinx households, 20.8% of Black households, and 12.5% of white households lived in poverty in Orange County.

Figure 2: Median Income by Race



Orange County's 2019 median household income was \$71,723. Median income was \$78,139 for white households, \$44,533 for Black households, and \$49,539 for Hispanic/Latinx households.

Figure 3: Education by Race



Black & African American

- Black households have the lowest median income in Orange County.
 - The median income for Black households was \$44,533 in 2019, while the overall median income for Orange County was \$71,723.
 - Median income for Black households is consistently \$20-25,000 lower than the median household income for white households (see *Figure 1*).
- 20.8% of Black households lived in poverty in 2019, compared to 5.20% of all Orange County residents.
 - The poverty rate for Black households is consistently 10-15% higher than the poverty rate for white households (see *Figure 2*).
- Black households have lower rates of higher educational attainment.
 - 12% of Black residents over age 25 did not graduate high school.
 - 38% of Black residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree, which is lower than the rate of bachelor's degree attainment for white and Asian residents.

Hispanic & Latinx

- The median income for Hispanic households was \$49,539 in 2019. The overall median income in Orange County was \$71,723.
 - The median income for Hispanic households is consistently \$15-20,000 lower than the median income for white households (see *Figure 1*)
- Hispanic and Latinx households have the highest poverty rates in Orange County.
 - In 2019, 21.90% of Hispanic households lived in poverty.
 - The poverty rate for Hispanic and Latinx households is consistently 10-15% higher than the poverty rate for white households (see *Figure 2*).
 - In Carrboro, 40% of Hispanic or Latinx households lived in poverty in 2019.
- Hispanic and Latinx households have lower rates of higher educational attainment in Orange County.
 - 14% of Hispanic or Latinx residents above age 25 did not complete high school.
 - 57% of Hispanic or Latinx residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree, compared to 82% of white residents and 79% of Asian residents.

Social & Community Context

Key Points

Demographics

Population

- 144,836 people lived in Orange County in 2019. The county covers an area of 398 sq. miles with a population density of 336 people per sq. mile.¹
 - The population grew 11.1% between 2010 and 2019, with an increase of 14,783 residents. This is slightly more than the state average of 10%.²
 - Compared to other counties in the Triangle, Orange County has grown the slowest since 2010. Wake County's growth rate was 23.4% and Durham County's growth rate was 19.1%.

¹SE:A00002. Population Density (Per Sq. Mile). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 20, 2021, from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12850131

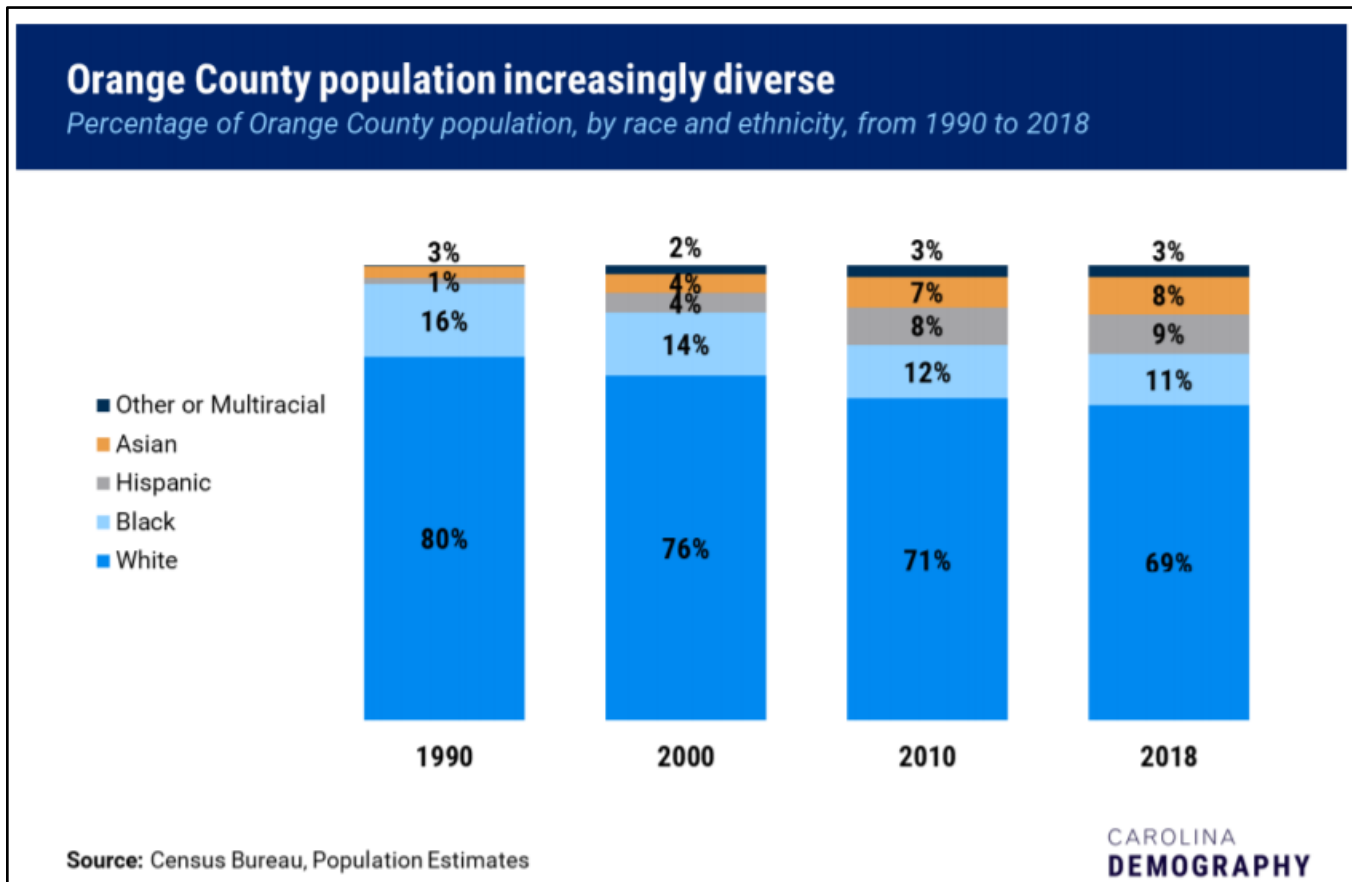
²Carolina Demography. (2020, May 15). *Memo 1: Population Change and Census 2020 Response*. <https://www.ncdemography.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Memo-1-Population-Change-and-2020-Census-Response.pdf>

- 5,441 veterans live in Orange County, making up 4.7% of the civilian population.
 - Nearly half of the veteran population is over the age of 65.³
 - The Vietnam War is the most common service period for veterans in Orange County. 42% of veterans (1,787) served in the Vietnam War.⁴
- 5.8% of the population under 65 has a disability.

Race & Ethnicity

- Orange County is 75% white, 11.4% Black or African-American, 8.5% Hispanic or Latinx, and 8.1% Asian.⁵

Figure 4: Population Change by Race & Ethnicity



³SE:A16002. Veteran Status for the Civilian Population. In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 20, 2021, from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12850131

⁴Data USA. (2021). *Orange County, NC*. Datawheel. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/orange-county-nc>

⁵SE:A03001. Race. In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 20, 2021, from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12850131

- Orange County is becoming increasingly diverse. The share of Asian and Hispanic residents has increased from 1990 to 2018. Over 1 in 4 residents is now Black, Hispanic, or Asian.
- The Hispanic and Asian populations have grown faster than other groups.
 - The share of Orange County's population that is white or Black has decreased from 1990 to 2018: -11 percentage points and -5 percentage points, respectively. Meanwhile, the share of Hispanic and Asian residents has increased: +8 and +5 percentage points, respectively.
 - Together, Asian and Hispanic residents formed a larger share of the population in 2018 than Black residents alone: 17% vs. 11%.

Figure 5: Distribution of Black & African American Population

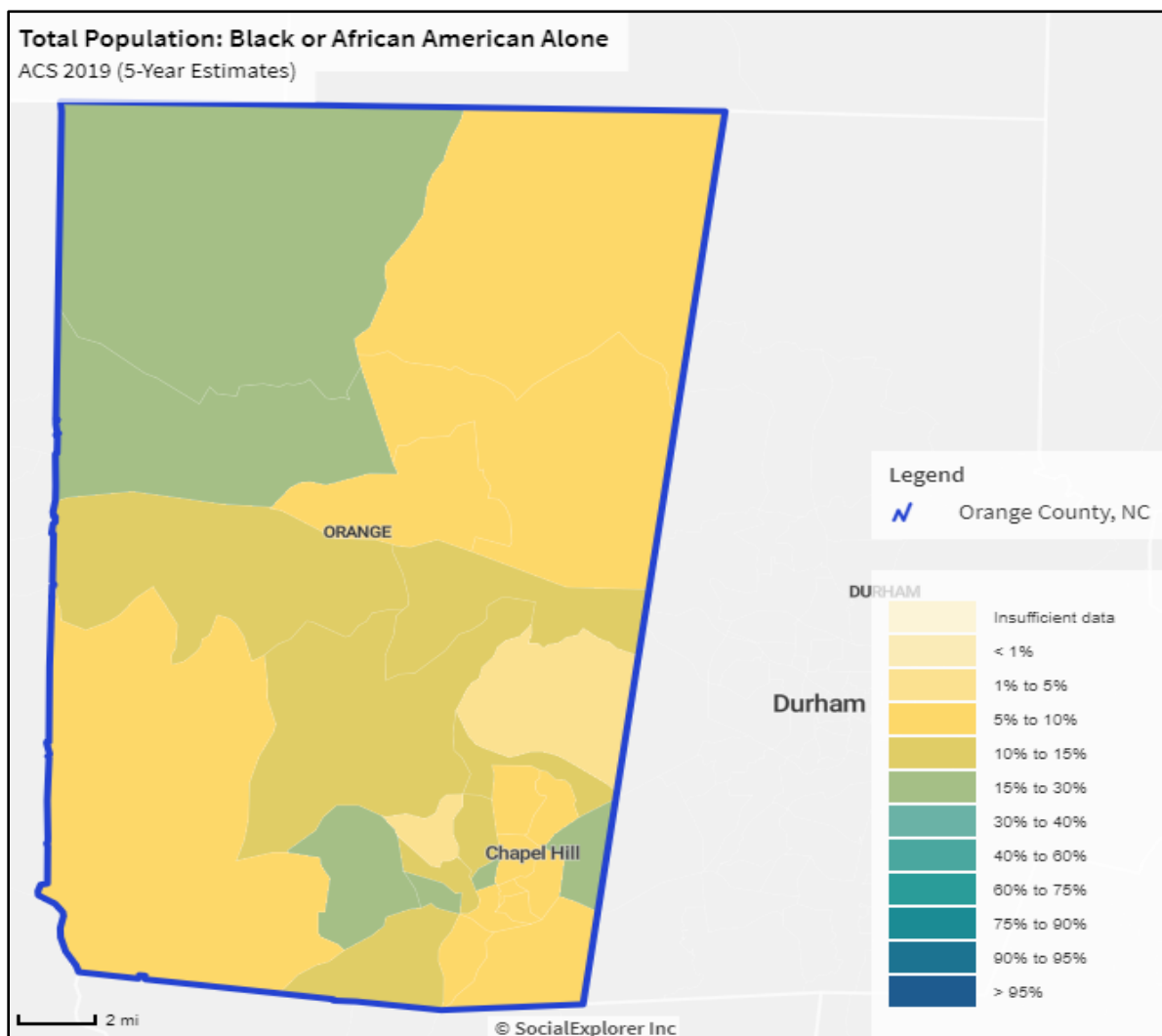
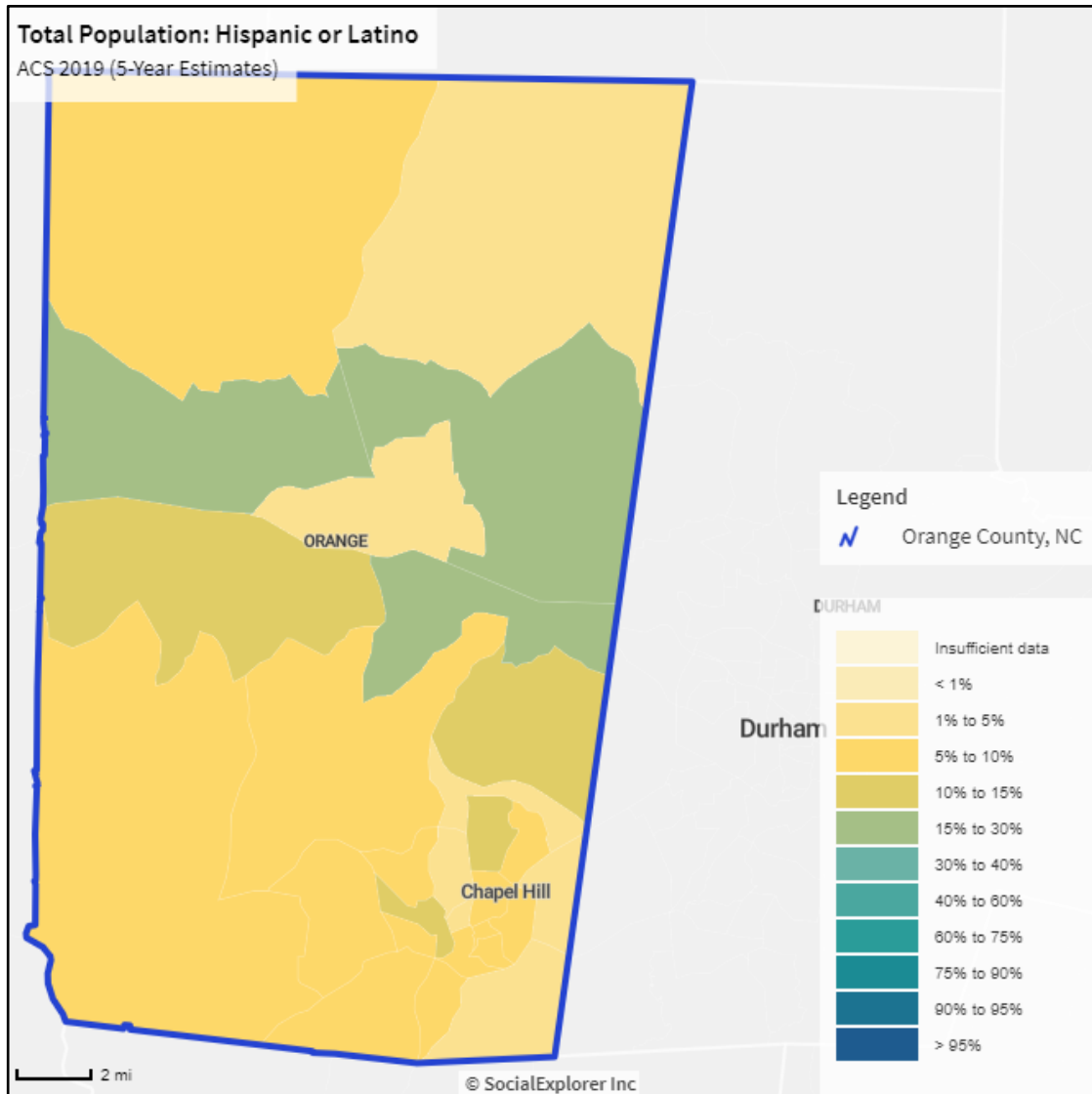


Figure 6: Hispanic Population Distribution



Immigration⁶

- 15.8% of Chapel Hill residents were born outside of the U.S. These immigrants and refugee residents make up 9,600 of approximately 61,000 Chapel Hill residents.
- 26.4% of immigrants (2,536) are from China, 9% are from India, 5.4% are from Korea, 4.6% are from the U.K., and 4.2% are from Mexico.
- Since 2005, 1,186 refugees have arrived in Orange County; most come primarily from Burma/Myanmar, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, El Salvador, Haiti, Iran, Iraq, Laos, Russia, and Syria.

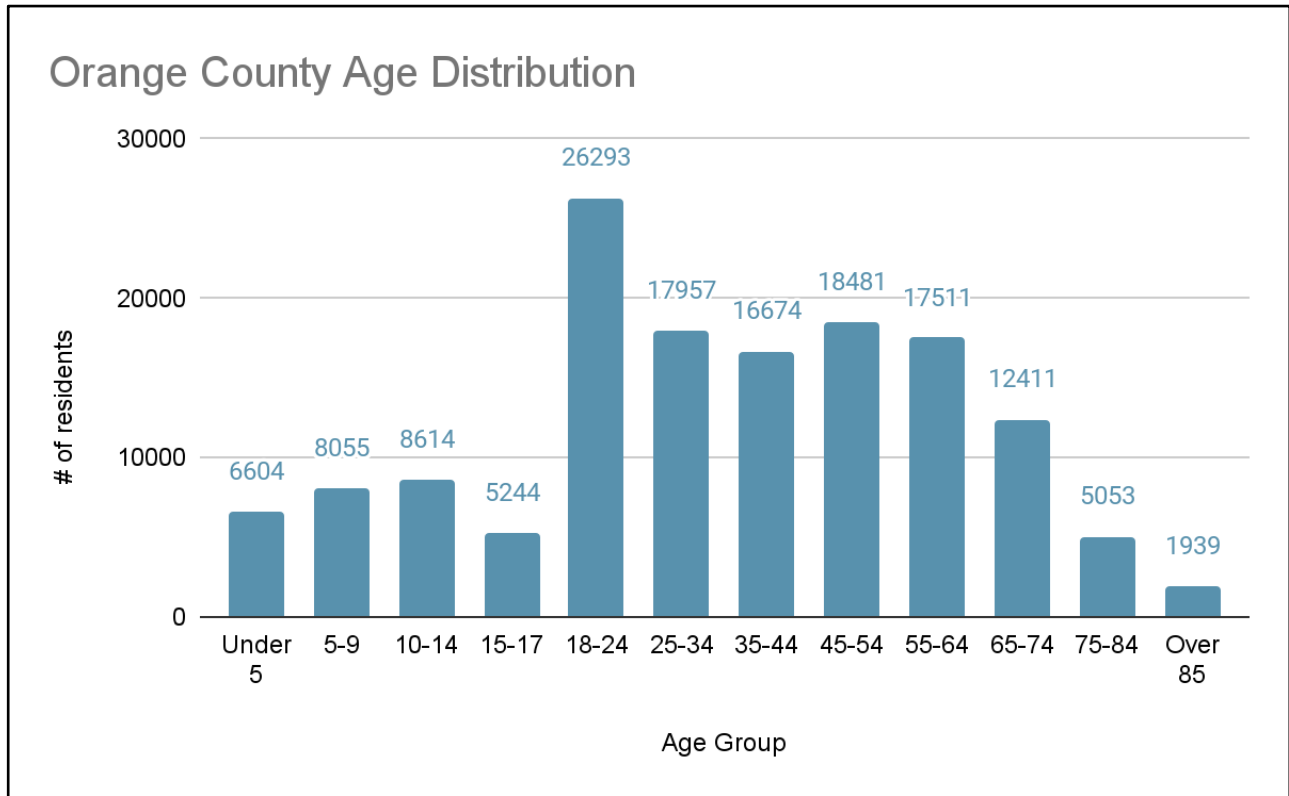
Figure 7: Median Income for Foreign-Born Residents

⁶Town of Chapel Hill. (2019). *Immigrants and Refugees*. <https://www.townofchapelhill.org/government/departments-services/housing-and-community/community-connections/immigrants-and-refugees>

Chapel Hill	Born in the U.S.	Not Born in the U.S.	Not Born in U.S., Naturalized Citizen	Not Born in U.S., Non-Citizen
Median Household Income (2019)	\$72,268	\$79,490	\$113,355	\$55,562

- Residents born outside of the U.S. *without* U.S. citizenship have lower household incomes than residents *with* U.S. citizenship. Chapel Hill residents not born in the U.S or who are naturalized citizens have a higher median household income than residents born in the U.S.

Age



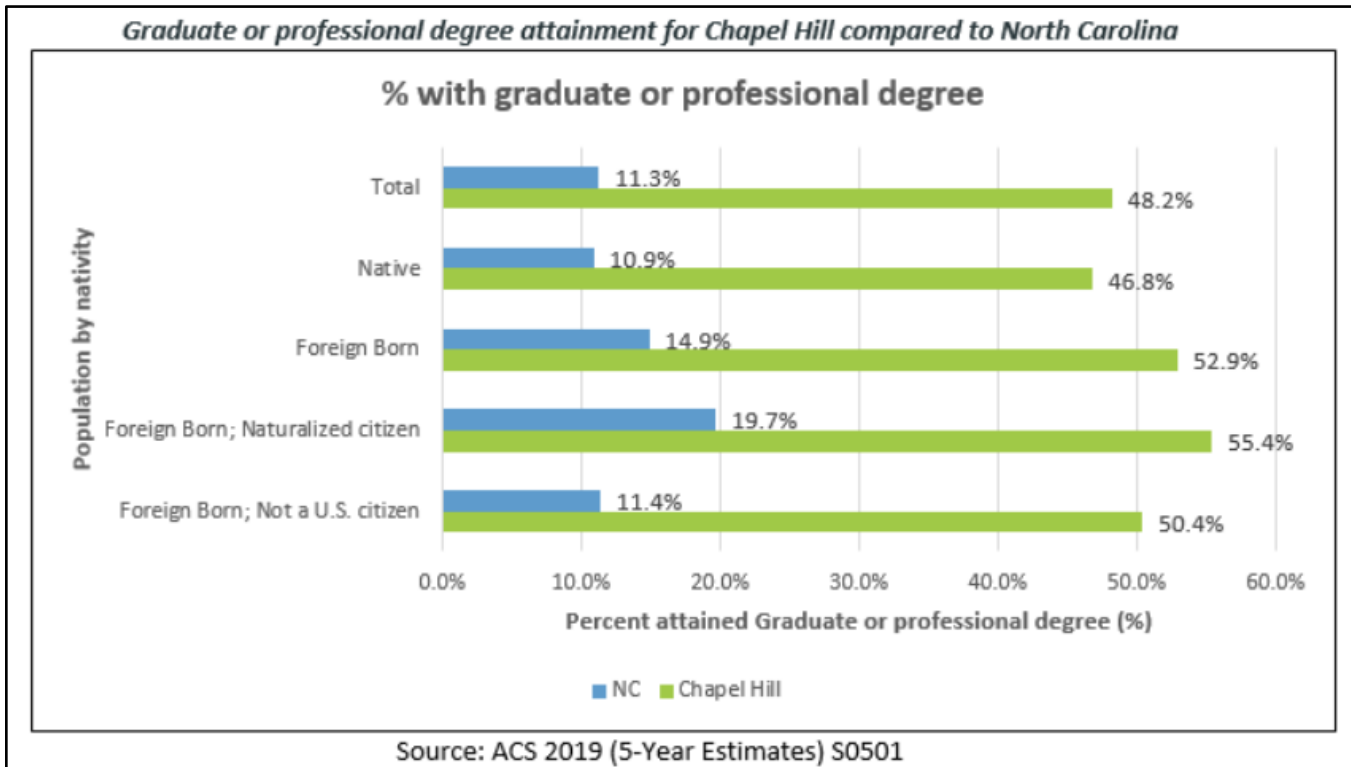
- The majority of Orange County’s population growth is taking place in the 65+ age category.
- 61.5% of population growth from 2010 to 2018 was in the 65+ category, or 7,575 out of 12,325 total new residents.

Education

	Orange County	North Carolina	United States
Bachelor’s Degree	25.8%	20.0%	19.8%
Some College	19.4%	30.9%	28.9%

High School	13.6%	25.7%	27%
Less than	7.3%	12.2%	12.0%

Figure 8



- More foreign-born Chapel Hill residents have graduate or professional degrees than residents outside the U.S. This reflects the global recruiting practices of institutions of higher education and companies in the Triangle area.

Single-Parent Households

11.6% of households are single-parent households, and 8.5% of households are single-mother households.⁷ 23.6% of children live in a single-parent household.

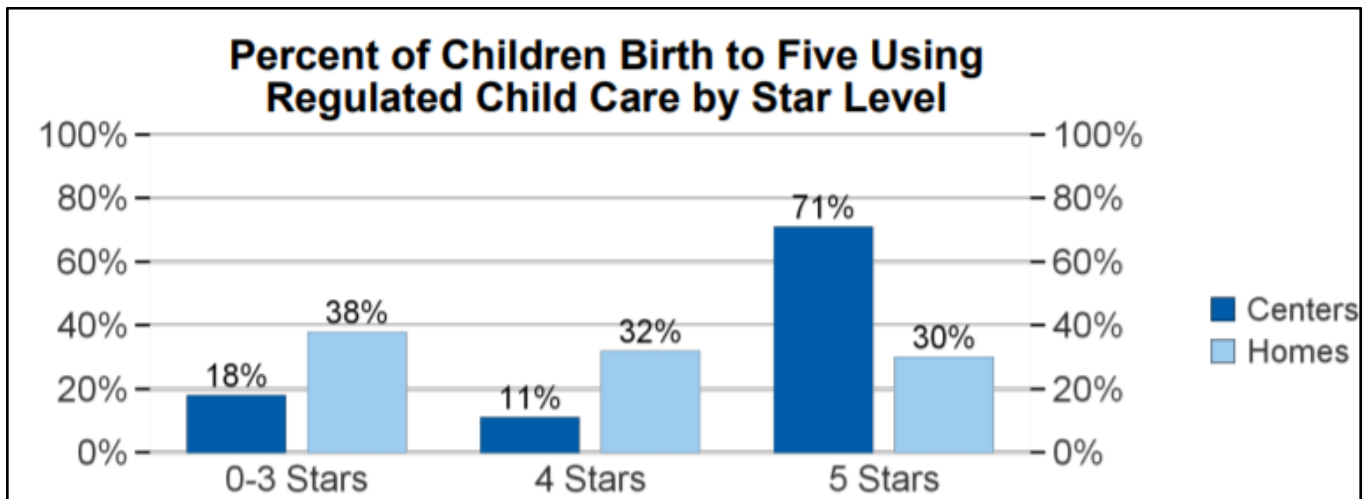
Census tracts with a higher percentage of minority residents, including those listed previously, have a higher percentage of single parent households. Tracts in these areas range from 20 to 35% of households with a single parent.

⁷SE:A10008. Households by Household Type. In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 20, 2021, from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12850131

Child Care

- 4,292 children under age 6 live in a household where the sole parent or both parents in the household are working. This number represents 59% of all children under six.⁸
- As of February 2021, 569 infants and toddlers were enrolled in child care centers in Orange County, compared to 1,122 pre-pandemic.⁹
- 83% of infants and toddlers in Orange County are enrolled in high-quality care centers (4- or 5-star rankings), compared to the state average of 65%.¹⁰
- The market rate for a 4- or 5-star child care center is just over \$1,400 for a toddler or infant, and over \$1,200 for a two-year-old.

Figure 9: Child Care in Orange County



© 2021 Child Care Services Association. Figures derived using the most recent available data from Child Care Services Association, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Child Resource and Referral Council, NC Head Start State Collaboration Office, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

⁸Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Young Children and their Families in Orange County* [Fact sheet]. https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=§ion_id%5B%5D=4&rep_month=4&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=68

⁹Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Infant and Toddler Care in Orange County* [Fact sheet]. https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=§ion_id%5B%5D=7&rep_month=4&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=68

¹⁰Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Early Care & Education Use in Orange County* [Fact sheet]. https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=§ion_id%5B%5D=3&rep_month=4&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=68

Neighborhood & Built Environment

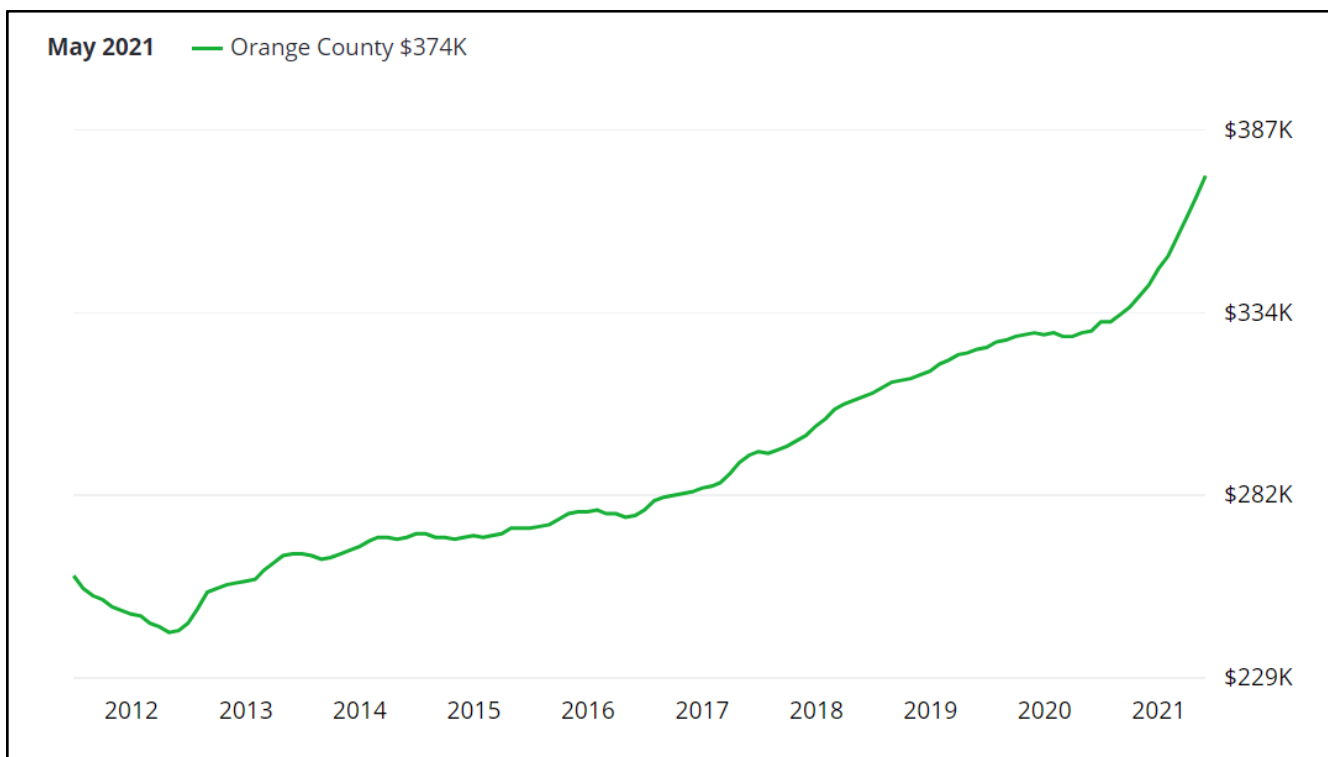
Key Points

Housing

Cost of Housing

- 37.36% of housing units in Orange County are renter-occupied (2019 ACS).
- Median gross rent is very consistent throughout Orange County, despite significant variances in income at the census tract level.
- Median gross rent was \$1,093 in 2019. This was an increase of 10.15% from \$992 in 2014 (2019 ACS).
- 26.4% of renters spend at least 50% of their income on rent. 21.5% of renters spend 30-49% of their income on rent.¹¹
- 18.7% of homeowners spend 30-49% of their income on homeownership costs. 7.4% of homeowners spend more than 50% of their income on homeownership costs.¹²

Figure 10: Orange County Median Home Values



¹¹SE:B18002. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Rent. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 28, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12853743.

¹²SE:B10040. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Selected Home Ownership Expenses. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 28, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12853743.

The typical home value of homes in Orange County is \$374,520. This value is seasonally adjusted and only includes the middle price tier of homes. Orange County home values have gone up 13.5% over the past year (Zillow, 2021).

Homelessness

- During the 2018-2019 school year, Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools identified 104 students as eligible for assistance under the McKinney-Vento Act.¹³
- 2019's Point-in-Time County Summary¹⁴ identified:
 - 76 sheltered homeless individuals;
 - 27 unsheltered homeless individuals;
 - 11 homeless families;
 - 10 homeless veterans;
 - 131 total homeless individuals

Transportation

- 96% of households in Orange County have access to a car.
 - 28.7k households have access to two cars.
 - 14.8k households have access to one car.
 - 1.42k do not have access to a car.

Orange County Public Transport and Chapel Hill Public Transit have several regular routes that connect major destinations in Orange County and Chapel Hill. There are also various on-demand services for elderly and disabled residents, Medicaid patients, and certain rural communities. However, these public transit routes still do not reach the very rural areas of the county.

Internet Access^{15 16}

- 94.3% of households in Orange County have a computer.
- 88.2% of households have a broadband internet subscription.
- 8.6% of households do not have access to an internet provider.

¹³Chapel Hill Carrboro City Schools. (2020). *McKinney-Vento Act: Homeless Assistance*. <https://www.chccs.org/domain/2629>

¹⁴Homeless Shelters Directory. (2019). *HOMELESSNESS STATISTICS FOR ORANGE, NC*. <https://www.homelessshelterdirectory.org/county/nc-orange>

¹⁵Pequeño, S. (2021, Mar 10). In Parts of Rural Orange County, Some Residents Still Don't Have Good Internet Access. *Indy Week*. <https://indyweek.com/news/orange/orange-county-broadband-access/>

¹⁶Federal Communications Commission. (2019). *NC Broadband Availability Index* [Map]. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1ca29805a2454ffab6b9579702b99e59/page/page_0

- 92% of households in Orange County had internet access in 2018.
 - 22% of Black households and 15% of Hispanic households did not have a computer or internet access.

Crime¹⁷

- The crime rate in Chapel Hill is 18 per 1,000 residents, which is higher than the national average but lower than the average for communities of a similar population size.
- The violent crime rate is below the national average (1 in 956).
- The property crime rate is higher than the national average (17 in 1,000).
- Higher crime rates are concentrated in the census tracts with greater population densities in Orange County, particularly in census tracts in and around eastern Chapel Hill.

Economic Stability

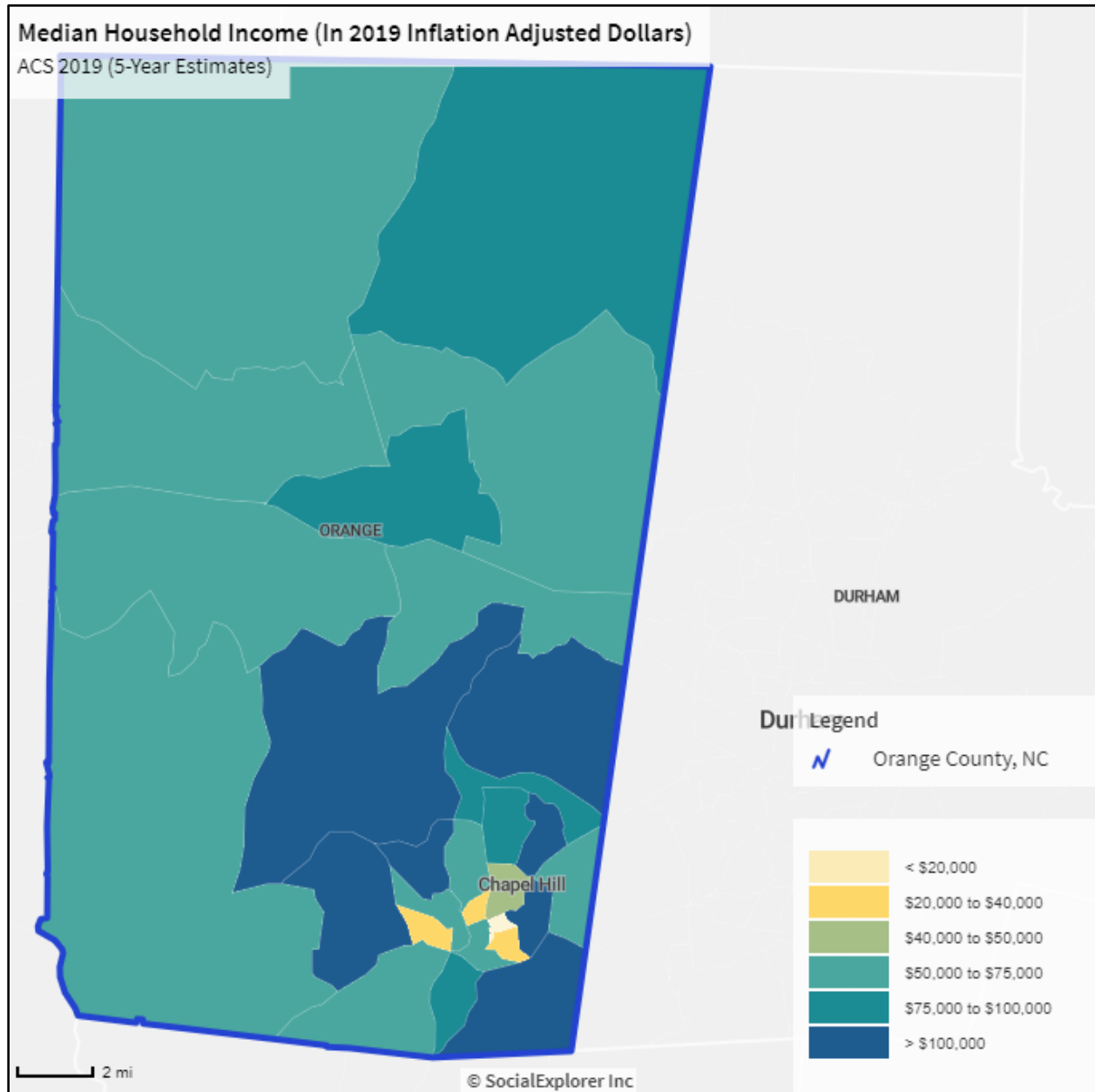
Key Points

Income

- Orange County is one of the most affluent in North Carolina, with a per-capita income of \$42,231 in 2019 compared to the state average of \$30,783.

Figure 11: Median Household Income

¹⁷Neighborhood Scout. (2021). *Chapel Hill, NC Crime Rates*. <https://www.neighborhoodscout.com/nc/chapel-hill/crime#description>



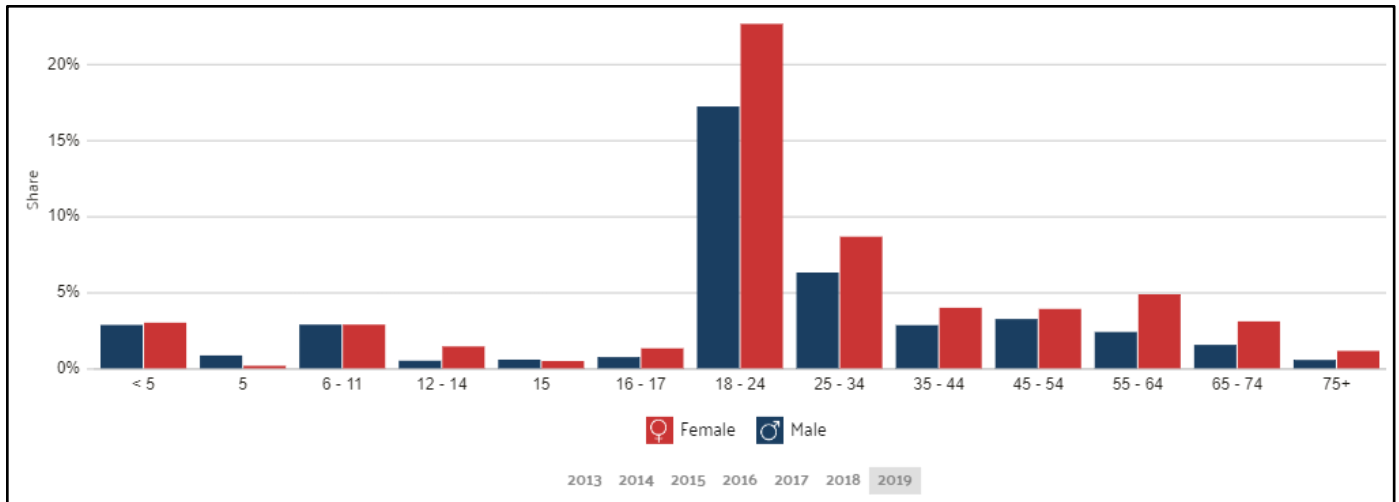
It is important to note that many of the central tracts in Chapel Hill have a high percentage of UNC students living off-campus. The presence of these students in these census tracts can distort measurements of income and poverty.

Poverty

- 14.1% of Orange County's population lived below the poverty line in 2019. This is slightly higher than the state average of 13.6% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

- 5.2% of families in Orange County reported income at or below the poverty line in 2019. This is lower than the state average of 10.6% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).
- 11.4% of children lived in poverty in Orange County in 2019. This is lower than the state average of 21.2% (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).

Figure 12: Poverty by Age & Gender

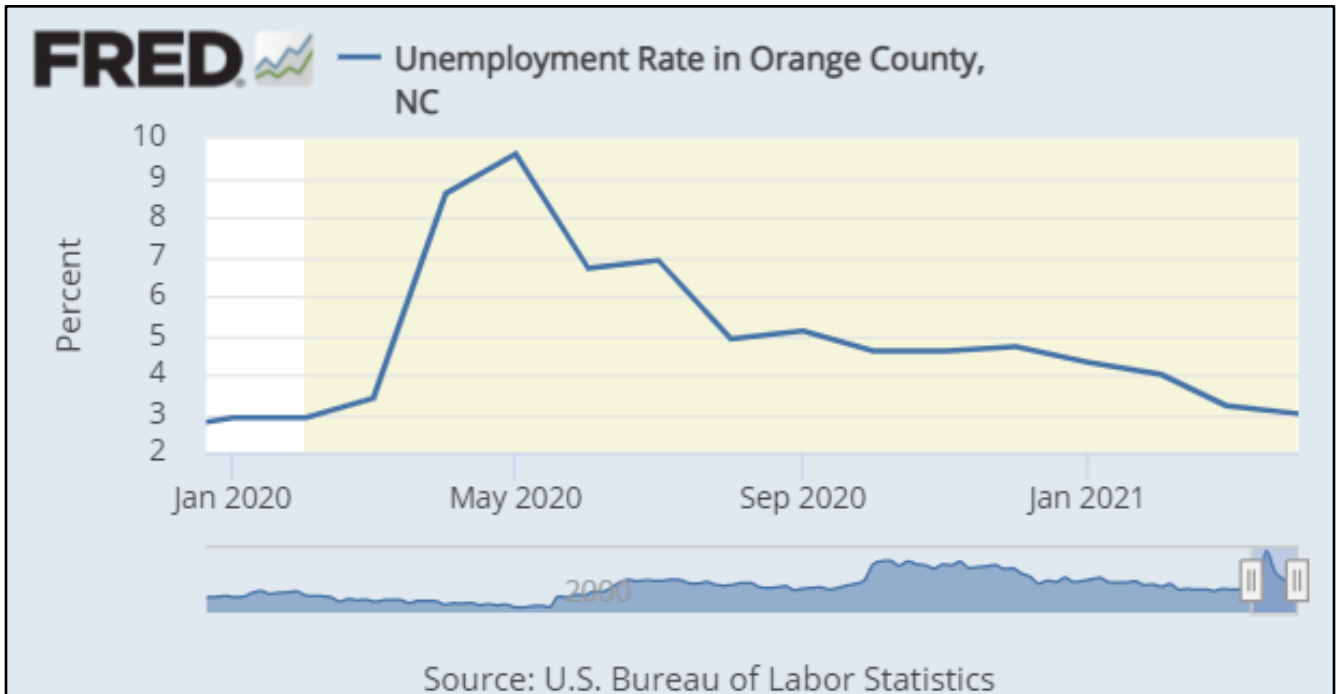


- Women ages 18 to 24 make up the largest demographic living in poverty. In 2018, women ages 18 to 24 made up 24% of the population living in poverty, followed by men ages 18 to 24 (19.2%) and women ages 25 to 34 (8.91%) (Data USA, 2021).

Employment

Figure 13: Orange County Unemployment Rate¹⁸

¹⁸U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate in Orange County, NC [NCORAN2URN], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NCORAN2URN>, June 14, 2021.



- The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for Orange County in April 2021 was 3.0%.
- Unemployment in Orange County has been trending downwards since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2020, unemployment peaked in Orange County at 9.6%.
- Before the onset of COVID-19, Orange County's unemployment rate tended to fluctuate between 3 and 4%.

Food Access

HungerNet by Feeding America

<https://feedingamerica.sharepoint.com/>

Identifying Racism in the Drivers of Food Insecurity by Feeding America Research

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/feeding.america.research/viz/IdentifyingRacismIntheDriversofFoodInsecurity/Introductionv2>

Education

Public Schools

Enrollment^{19 20}

- Orange County contains both the Orange County Schools district and the Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools district.
 - Orange County Schools enrolled 7,642 students across 13 schools during the 2019-2020 school year.
 - Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools enrolled 12,687 students across 19 schools during the 2019-2020 school year.
- 50.2% of CHCCS students are white, 17.5% are Hispanic, 13.6% are Asian, and 11.3% are Black. 56% of OCS students are white, 24% are Hispanic, 14% are Black, and 1% are Asian.
- Per-pupil funding in Orange County Schools amounted to \$11,496 in 2019. In Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools, per-pupil funding was \$12,956. In both school districts, per-pupil funding is higher than the state average of \$9,938.

School Performance^{21 22}

- Each academic year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) releases school report cards, which assign each public school a letter grade based on school performance and academic growth metrics.

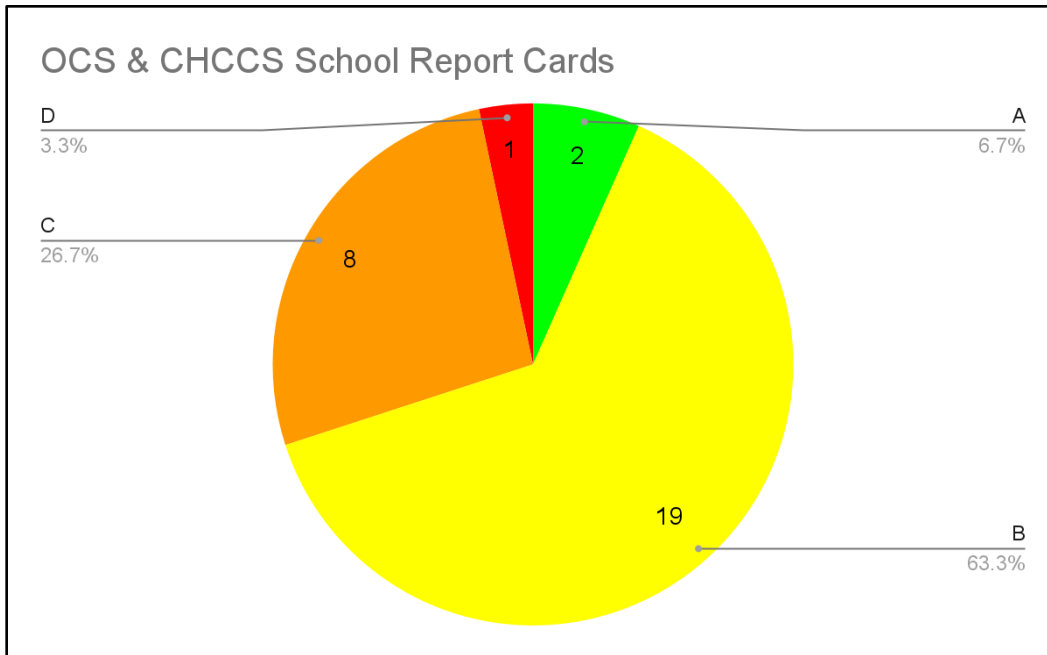
Figure 14: School Report Cards

¹⁹Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools. (2021). *Opening of School Report, 2020-21*. <https://www.chccs.org/Page/5176>

²⁰Public School Review. (2021). *Orange County Schools School District*. <https://www.publicschoolreview.com/north-carolina/orange-county-schools-school-district/3703480-school-district>

²¹North Carolina School Report Cards. (2020). *Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools*. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. <https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/district?district=681LEA&year=2019&lng=en>

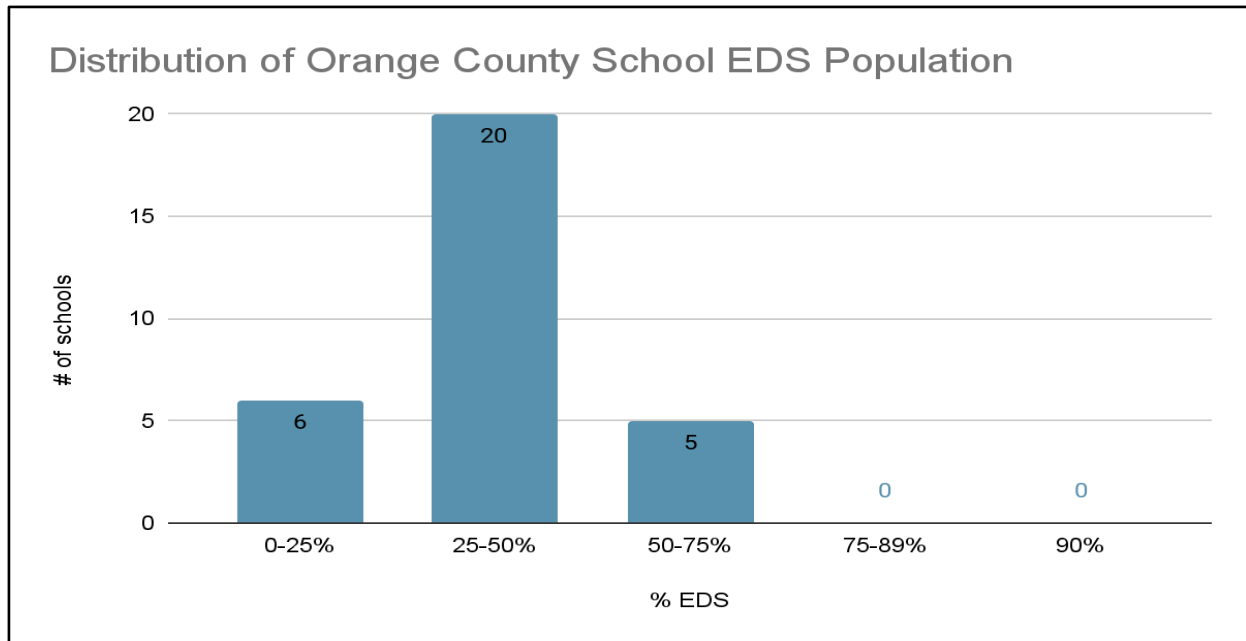
²²North Carolina School Report Cards. (2020). *Orange County Schools*. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. <https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/district?district=680LEA&year=2019&lng=en>



- During the 2018-2019 school year, 2 schools in Orange County received an ‘A’ ranking, 19 received a ‘B’, 8 received a ‘C’, and one school received a ‘D’.

Economically Disadvantaged Students

Figure 15: School EDS Population



- There are 6 schools in Orange County where less than 25% of the student population is economically disadvantaged.

- There are 20 schools where 25-50% of the student population is economically disadvantaged.
- There are 5 schools where 50-75% of students are economically disadvantaged.
- 2,875 Orange County Schools students relied on free lunch services and 319 students relied on reduced lunch services.
- 41.8% of OCS students were identified as economically disadvantaged based on enrollment in free and reduced lunch programs during the 2019-2020 school year.
- 2,888 Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools students relied on free lunch services and 462 relied on reduced lunch services.
- 26.50% of CHCCS students were identified as economically disadvantaged during the 2019-2020 school year.

Community Health

Key Points

- Orange County has a diabetes prevalence rate of 7.2% (DataUSA, 2021).
- The adult obesity prevalence rate is 21.8% (DataUSA, 2021).

Healthcare Access

- 92.8% of the population has health coverage (DataUSA, 2021).
 - 57.7% are on employee plans.
 - 8.01% are on Medicaid.
 - 9.68% are on Medicare.
 - 16.2% are on non-group plans.
 - 1.21% are on military or VA plans.
- There are 1,819 licensed physicians in Orange County (AccessNC, 2020).
- Primary care physicians in Orange County see an average of 533 patients per year (DataUSA, 2021).

Impact of COVID-19^{23 24 25}

- As of August 2021:

²³Citizen Times. (2021). *North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker*. <https://data.citizen-times.com/covid-19-vaccine-tracker/north-carolina/37/>

²⁴USA Facts. (2021). *Orange County, North Carolina Coronavirus Cases and Deaths*. <https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/state/north-carolina/county/edgecombe-county>

²⁵Orange County Health Department. (2021). *COVID-19 Dashboards*. <https://www.orangecountync.gov/2643/COVID-19-Dashboards>

- There have been 8,776 confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Orange County since the beginning of the pandemic.
 - There have been 101 deaths attributed to COVID-19.
 - 66.78% of Orange County’s population has been fully vaccinated.
- Orange County’s white population makes up 58% of total cases, 63.41% of vaccine recipients, and 74% of the total population.
 - African Americans make up 16% of cases, 18.52% of vaccine recipients, and 11% of the total population.
 - The Hispanic/Latinx population makes up 21% of cases, 15.86% of vaccine recipients, and 8.37% of the total population.

Resources

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News Articles

Pequeño, S. (2021, Mar 10). In Parts of Rural Orange County, Some Residents Still Don't Have Good Internet Access. *Indy Week*. <https://indyweek.com/news/orange/orange-county-broadband-access/>

Data sources

https://www.orangecountync.gov/DocumentCenter/View/7563/Appendix-A_Demographics?bidId=

<https://chambermaster.blob.core.windows.net/userfiles/UserFiles/chambers/568/Image/2020-SOTC-Data-Book.pdf>

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/carrborotownnorthcarolina,chapelhilltownnorthcarolina,hillsboroughtownnorthcarolina/PST045219>

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas/>

https://orangecountyfoodcouncil.files.wordpress.com/2015/11/presentation_orange-county-food-policy-council-2.pdf

Relevant news articles from the last year

https://www.newsfororange.com/community/article_e57e7c2a-8979-11eb-bc32-bfb6f179ee70.html

Several homes in Cedar Grove (one of the poorest areas in Orange County) were damaged by storms in March 2020.

https://www.newsfororange.com/community/article_cc68dcea-88c4-11eb-adbb-bf31d0a8fec5.html

BUC-EE'S (Texas based travel center chain) will not build the mixed-used development that was potentially planned in Efland. This means the jobs (approx. 200, starting at \$15/h), development and

income (approx. \$1 million in tax revenue) that were expected in the area will not happen. Efland is one of the most underserved communities in Orange County.

https://www.newsfororange.com/business/article_e4335348-67b6-11eb-97bc-a76e4a7c1ae2.html

Hispanic children in Orange County are really struggling with online learning, language barriers are an additional problem.

<https://abc11.com/virtual-learning-language-barrier-online-latinos/10443358/>