

UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

**Chester
County
Profile 2009**

Charlotte Regional
Indicators Project

The Charlotte Regional Indicators Project. *The Charlotte Regional Indicators Project compiles objective, reliable, and relevant measures for the 14-county bi-state Charlotte region on indicators important to the region's quality of life. By measuring the indicators over time and comparing them to state or national data, the Indicators Project provides policy-makers, civic leaders, and the public with a solid foundation for engaging in efforts to address the region's challenges.*

The indicators are organized in ten theme areas:

- *Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life;*
- *Economy;*
- *Education;*
- *Environment;*
- *Government and Citizen Participation;*
- *Health;*
- *Housing;*
- *Public Safety;*
- *Social Well-Being; and,*
- *Transportation.*

The Charlotte Regional Indicators Project is an initiative of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. It is funded in part by Advantage Carolinas, the Foundation for the Carolinas, and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Indicators are recommended by consensus of Task Forces of regional experts in each of the ten theme areas, and are evaluated by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute researchers for feasibility before indicator data is gathered, added to the Indicators database and incorporated into Indicators Project reports. Indicator data is updated throughout the year as source agencies release the relevant data sets, and is made available on the Indicators Project website. A comprehensive Indicators Report is produced every two years.

More information about the Indicators Project and the most recent comprehensive Indicators Report are available at www.ui.uncc.edu.

Chester County Profile 2009

The County Profile Reports. *The County Profile Reports present individual county indicator data in a format intended to make it easy to examine relationships between indicators and across themes for a single county. Each County Profile Report begins with a concise summary of indicator highlights for the county, then presents a quick-reference table of the most recent indicator data, and finally provides more detailed indicator trend data in user-friendly charts. The reports are available for each of the region's fourteen counties, and are produced every two years.*

Summary Highlights. For the most recent indicator data, Chester lags the region on nearly all indicators in these theme areas:

- Economy
- Education
- Environment
- Government and Citizen Participation
- Health
- Public Safety
- Social Well-Being

There are mixed results for Chester in these theme areas:

- Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life
- Housing
- Transportation



(Note that for some individual indicators, “lagging the region” means the indicator rates are *higher* than the regional composite rates, and that for other indicators, “lagging the region” means that the indicator rates are *lower* than the regional composite percentage.)

Looking at trends over time, key Chester County indicators demonstrating appreciable change over the most recent available five-year time periods include:

- Grants Expenditures Per Capita (+206.4%, 2007 vs. 2005)
- Minority Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births (+147.2%, 2006 vs. 2003)
- Solid Waste Disposal, Pounds Per Capita (-75.7%, 2007 vs. 2004)
- Giving Per Capita (Private Foundations) (+73.4%, 2006 vs. 2002)
- Percent Mobile Home or Trailer Housing (+65.3%, 2000 vs. 1990)
- Heart Disease Mortality Rate Per 100,000 (-38.8%, 2006 vs. 2003)
- Total Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births (-34.6%, 2006 vs. 2003)
- Percent of Workers Commuting More Than 25 Minutes (+33.5%, 2000 vs. 1990)
- Gonorrhea Rate Per 100,000 (+33.4, 2006 vs. 2002)
- Library Print Holdings Per Capita (+30.3%, 2006 vs. 2002)

Quick-Reference Indicator Table

Chester County Profile 2009

Indicator by Theme	Year	Region ¹	County	County	
				Percent Change	From Year
Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life					
Grants Expenditures Per Capita	2007	\$0.84	\$0.23	206.4	2005
Library Funding Per Capita	2005	\$30.04	\$19.92	28.1	2004
Library Print Holdings Per Capita	2006	1.6	3.0	30.3	2002
Economy					
Unemployment Rate	2007	5.1	11.2	2.8	2003
Total Employment, All Industries	2007	1,148,937	9,698	-9.7	2003
Number of Business Establishments	2007	68,947	583	-5.5	2003
Average Annual Wage	2007	\$34,995	\$33,964	17.1	2003
Per Capita Income	2006	\$34,958	\$26,310	21.1	2002
Median Household Income	2007	\$43,508	\$36,522	10.4	2003
Education					
Percent Change in Public School Enrollment vs. Prior Year ²	2006-07	3.8	-0.6	-8.3	2002-03
Percent Population with Bachelors Degree or Higher	2000	23.2	9.6	5.8	1990
Average SAT Score	2007-08	992	979	5.0	2003-04
High School Cohort Graduation Rate	2006-07	72.5	70.1	-7.1	2005-06
Percent of Graduates Pursuing Higher Education	2005-06	82.9	54.2	-1.6	2001-02
Public School Expenditures Per Pupil	2006-07	\$8,299	\$9,034	22.9	2002-03
Per Pupil Capital Expenditures, 5 Year Avg.	2006-07	\$1,048	\$388	-22.9	2004-05
Environment					
Vehicle Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides, Pounds Per Capita	2002	82.8	111.8	NA	NA
Average Daily Water Consumption, Gallons Per Capita	2003	182.2	193.2	-11.2	2001
Solid Waste Disposal, Pounds Per Capita	2007	2,047.8	368.4	-75.7	2004
Developed Acreage, Per Capita	2006	0.41	0.92	25.9	1996
Government and Citizen Participation					
Percent Voter Turnout of Registered Voters	2006	68.5	67.2	-5.0	2002
Registered Public Charities Per 1,000	2007	2.5	2.6	21.9	2004
Public Charities Filing Form 990 Per 1,000	2007	0.9	0.5	-10.3	2004
Private Foundations Filing Form 990 per 1,000	2007	0.21	0.09	-22.9	2004
Giving Per Capita (Public Charities)	2007	\$724.55	\$85.83	16.6	2003
Giving Per Capita (Private Foundations)	2006	\$110.04	\$6.62	73.4	2002
Health					
Birth Rate Per 1,000	2006	15.1	14.6	9.3	2002
Total Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births	2006	7.4	6.3	-34.6	2003
White Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births	2006	5.6	0.0	-100.0	2003
Minority Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births	2006	12.1	12.9	147.2	2003
Total Mortality Rate Per 100,000	2006	769.9	1077.9	3.2	2003
Heart Disease Mortality Rate Per 100,000	2006	163.8	192.2	-38.8	2003
Cancer Mortality Rate Per 100,000	2006	176.2	248.0	15.8	2003
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	2006	12.5	12.2	-17.7	2003
Chlamydia Rate Per 100,000	2006	305.6	554.3	21.1	2002
Gonorrhea Rate Per 100,000	2006	198.6	303.2	33.4	2002

Quick-Reference Indicator Table

Chester County Profile 2009

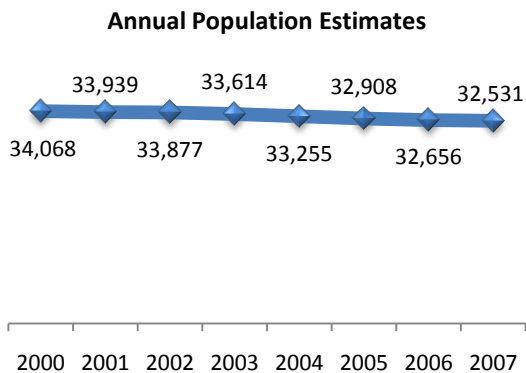
Indicator by Theme	Year	Region ¹	County	County	
				Percent Change	From Year
Housing					
Housing Units Per 1,000	2007	430.2	456.1	5.0	2003
Percent Single Family Detached Housing	2000	67.1	65.9	-11.3	1990
Percent Single Family Attached Housing	2000	2.8	0.5	-50.5	1990
Percent Multi-family Housing	2000	18.2	6.5	-12.1	1990
Percent Mobile Home or Trailer Housing	2000	11.8	26.7	65.3	1990
Percent Other Housing	2000	0.1	0.4	-63.0	1990
Percent Owner Occupied Housing	2000	70.0	78.4	2.5	1990
Percent Renter Occupied Housing	2000	30.0	21.6	-8.3	1990
Number of Housing Units Permitted Per 1,000	2007	11.4	2.6	9.2	2003
Construction Cost Per Unit Permitted	2007	\$165,197	\$139,898	6.0	2003
Average Residential Sales Price	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average Apartment Vacancy Rate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average Apartment Rental Rate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Public Safety					
Calls for Emergency Service (911) Per Capita	2006	1.00	1.27	3.8	2005
Crime Index Per 10,000	2006	519.6	556.7	-0.2	2002
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Total	2006	151,778	720	-28.4	2001
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Property Damage Only	2006	92,873	370	-28.7	2001
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Fatality	2006	700	7	40.0	2001
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Non-fatal Injury	2006	58,205	343	-28.7	2001
Investigated Workplace Fatalities	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Social Well-Being					
Percent Individuals Living in Poverty	2000	9.8	15.3	NA	NA
Percent Families Living in Poverty	2000	7.2	11.9	NA	NA
Percent Children Living in Poverty	2007	15.9	27.8	24.4	2003
Percent of Report of Child Abuse or Neglect Substantiated	2005-06	22.2	31.1	NA	NA
Percent Births to Mothers Under Age 18	2006	3.9	8.0	20.8	2002
Elderly Assistance Rate	2000	45.1	48.1	NA	NA
Transportation					
Percent of Workers 16 or Older Driving to Work Alone	2000	81.0	79.0	10.2	1990
Percent of Workers Commuting More Than 25 Minutes	2000	41.8	46.2	33.5	1990

For each indicator for which county-level data is available as of January, 2009, this table presents the most recent data for the county and the region, along with a percent change for the county. County percent change represents a five-year trend wherever possible: it is the percent change from a prior year (the “from year” column) to the most recent data; generally, the “from year” is five years prior. Indicator definitions and data sources can be found at the end of this document. Regional data is calculated as a fourteen county average whenever possible, and exceptions to this are detailed in the endnotes. Unless otherwise noted, “Per 1,000” or “per 100,000” refers to population.

Indicator Trend Data Chester County Profile 2009

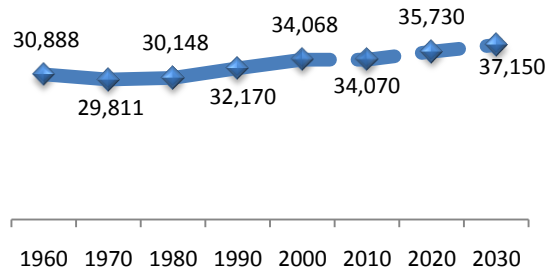
Demographics

Chester County is one of the least populous counties in the region. Its population decreased by 4.5% from 2000 to 2007. The pattern of slow growth generally held true over the past four decades and is projected to continue through 2030. The county saw negative annual population growth rates from 2000 through 2007, with the greatest decrease in population occurring from 2003 to 2004, a decline of 1.1%. The county's racial and ethnic profile remained relatively unchanged from 2000 to 2007, although the county did show a decrease in its African American share of population and an increase in its Hispanic share of population. Between 2000 and 2007, the county's age distribution showed a shift towards older age groups. Although the 35-44 year old group remained the largest, it joined the younger groups in a decline in size, while the 45 and older groups increased.



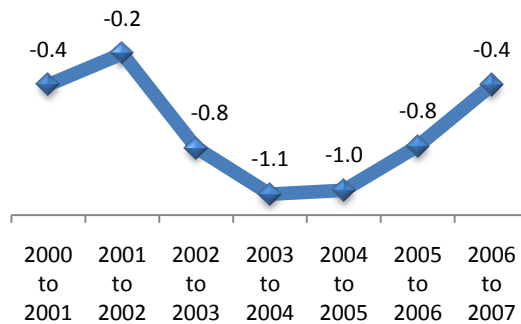
Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Decennial Population and Projections



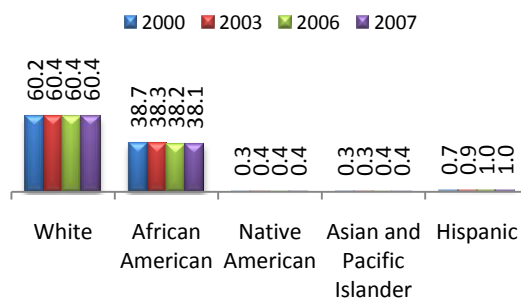
Source: NC Office of State Budget and Management, NC State Demographics; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board Office of Research Statistics, SC Community Profiles

Percent Population Growth



Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

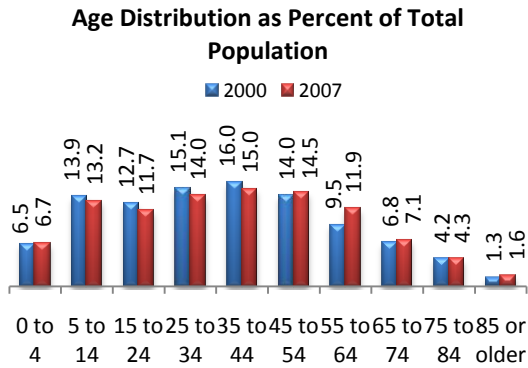
Race and Ethnicity as Percent of Total Population



Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Indicator Trend Data

Chester County Profile 2009



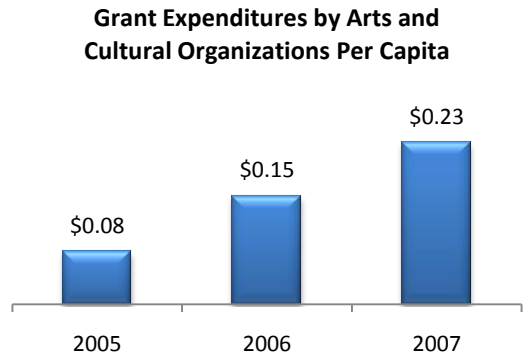
Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life

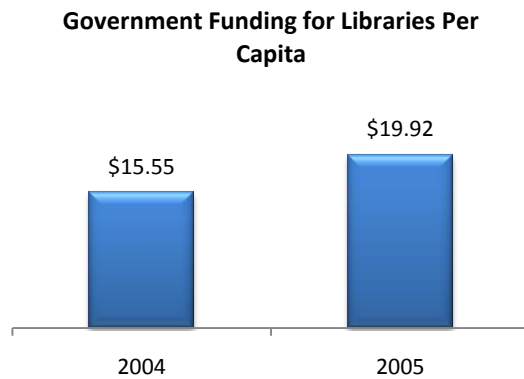
Arts, recreation and cultural activities are measured by four indicators:

- Grants Expenditures;
- Library Holdings;
- Library Funding; and
- Arts Graduates.

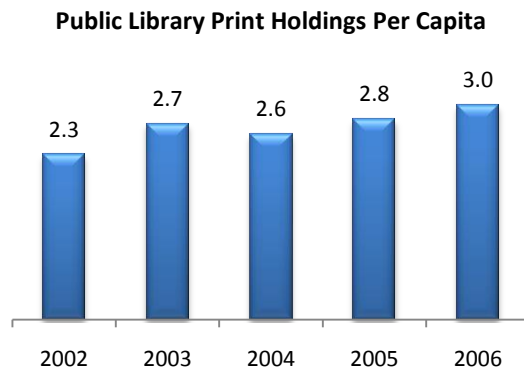
Of these, only the first three have county-level data available. Per capita grant expenditures by arts and cultural organizations almost tripled from 2005 to 2007. Government funding for libraries per capita increased 28% from 2004 to 2005. Public library print holdings per capita increased 30% from 2002 to 2006.



Source: North Carolina Arts Council; South Carolina Arts Commission



Source: North Carolina Department of State Treasurer; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board



Source: National Center for Education Statistics (Library Research Center)

Indicator Trend Data

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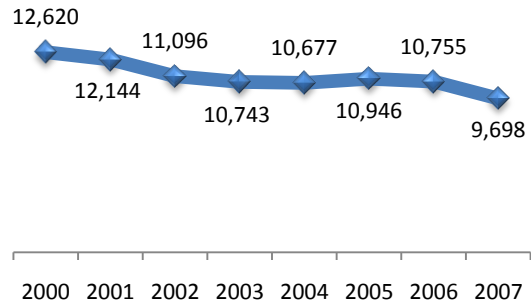
Economy

The local economy is measured by six indicators:

- Labor Force (Unemployment Rate);
- Industry Employment (Jobs);
- Business Establishments;
- Average Annual Wage;
- Per Capita Income; and
- Median Household Income.

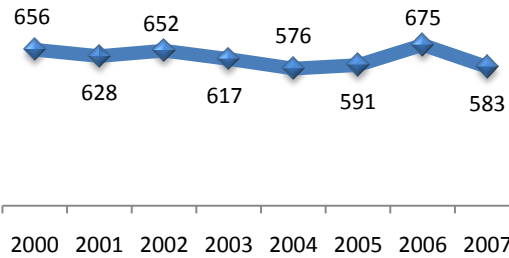
The county's unemployment rate more than doubled from 2000 to 2007 and increased every year from 2000 to 2007 except for 2004 and 2005. Total industry employment decreased by 23.2% from 2000 to 2007. The number of business establishments in Chester County decreased 11% from 2000 to 2007. Average annual wage increased 30% from 2000 to 2007, and per capita income increased 112% from 1990 to 2006. Median household income increased 12% from 2000 to 2007.

Total Employment, All Industries



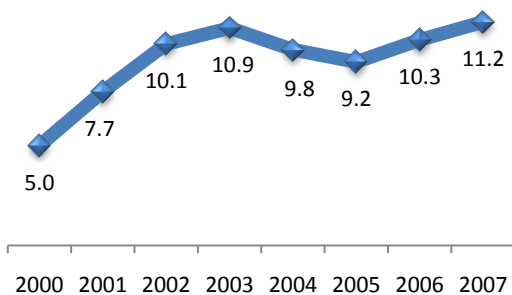
Source: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Number of Business Establishments, All Industries



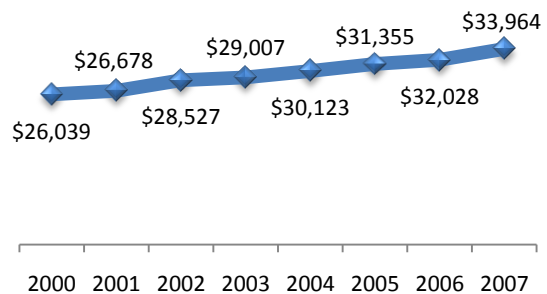
Source: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Unemployment Rate



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Average Annual Wage

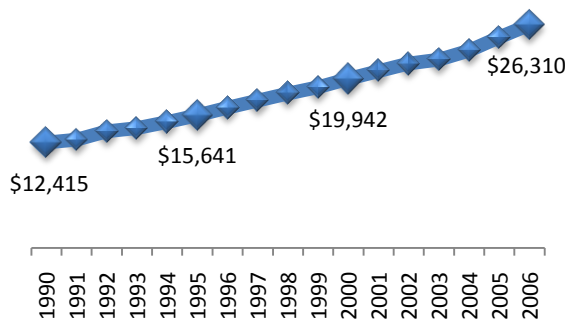


Source: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Indicator Trend Data

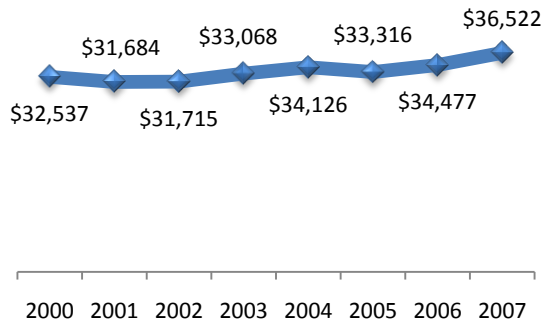
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Per Capita Income



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Median Household Income



Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Division

Education

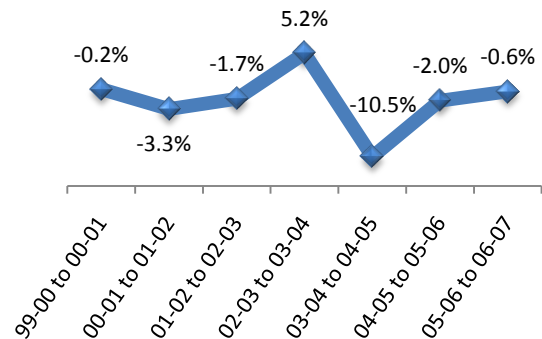
Education is measured by seven indicators:

- Public Schools Enrollment;
- Educational Attainment;
- SAT Scores (Math and Verbal);
- Graduation Rate;
- College Plans;
- Expenditures Per Pupil; and
- Capital Expenditures.

Public school enrollment in Chester County decreased each year from 2000-01

to 2006-07 except for 2003-04. The percentage of college graduates in Chester County increased 5.5% from 1990 to 2000. Average SAT scores fluctuated around 900 from 2001-02 to 2005-06, then increased to 979 by 2007-08. The high school cohort graduation rate decreased 7% from 2005-06 to 2006-07. High school graduates pursuing higher education hovered around 60% from 2000-01 to 2004-05, then decreased to 54% in 2005-06. Public school expenditures per pupil increased 50% from 2000-01 to 2006-07. The five-year average annual per pupil capital expenditure decreased 23% from 2004-05 to 2006-07.

Percent Change in Public School Enrollment

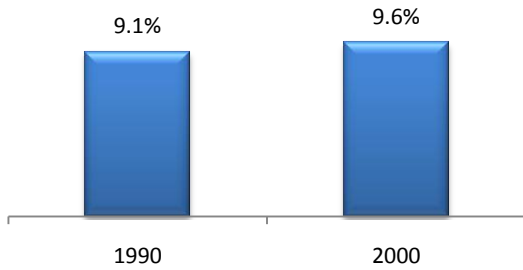


Source: National Center for Education Statistics

Indicator Trend Data

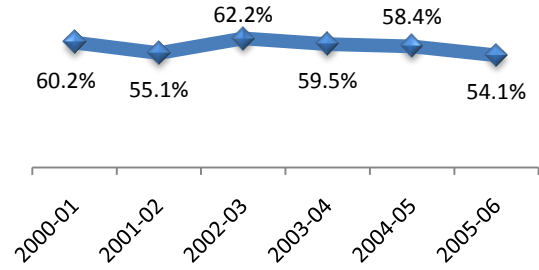
Chester County Profile 2009

Percent of Population 25 and Older with Bachelor's Degree or Higher



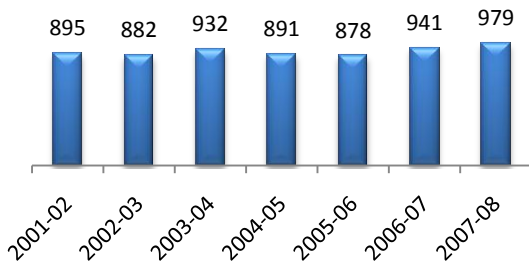
Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Percent of High School Graduates Pursuing Higher Education



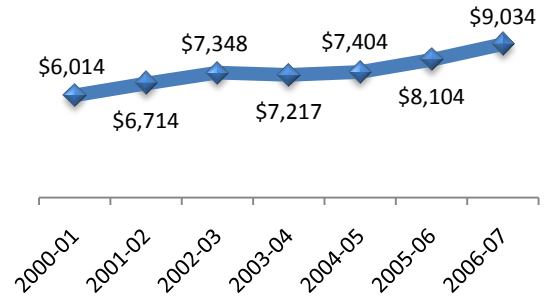
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Average SAT Scores (Math and Verbal)



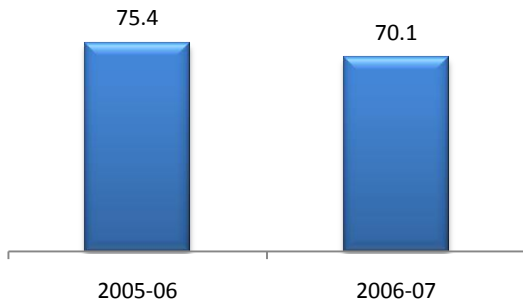
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Public School Expenditure Per Pupil



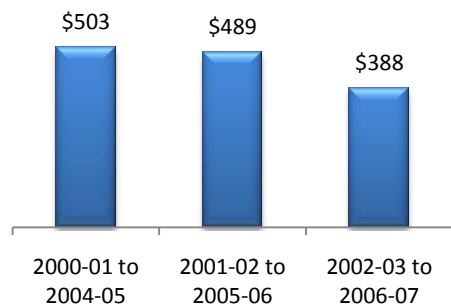
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

High School Cohort Graduation Rate



Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

5 Year Average Annual Per Pupil Capital Expenditure



Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Indicator Trend Data

Chester County Profile 2009

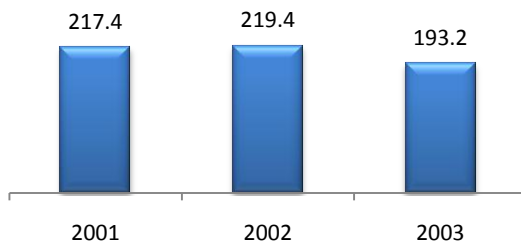
Environment

The environment is measured by six indicators:

- Air Quality Index (“AQI”);
- Vehicular Emissions;
- Water Consumption;
- Impaired Streams;
- Solid Waste Disposal; and
- Developed Acreage.

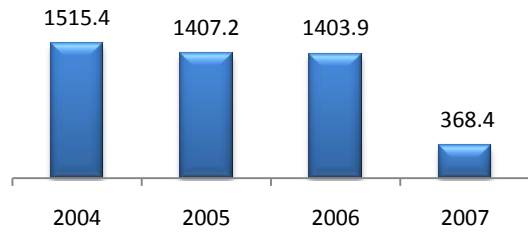
Of these, county-level data is available for all but AQI Days and Impaired Streams, which are available only at larger regional scales. While multi-year trend data for per capita on-road vehicular NOx emissions are not available, the 2002 Chester County rate (87.3) was above the average for the Charlotte region (82.8). Per capita average daily water consumption declined 11% from 2001 to 2003. The per capita average annual amount of solid waste sent to landfills decreased slowly from 2004 to 2006, and then decreased by 74% in 2007. Developed acres per person in Chester County rose each decade from 1976 to 2006 and are expected to more than double from 2006 to 2030.

Average Daily Water Consumption for Local Water Systems, Gallons Per Capita



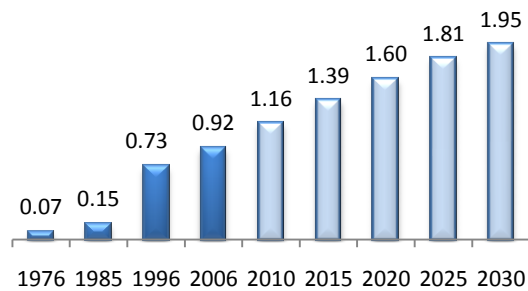
Source: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Average Annual Solid Waste Disposal Rates, Pounds Per Capita



Source: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Developed Acres Per Person



Source: UNC Charlotte Center for Applied GIS

Government and Citizen Participation

Indicators of government and citizen participation focused on five measures of voter turnout and charitable giving:

- Voter Turnout;
- Public Charities;
- Private Foundations;
- Giving to Public Charities; and
- Giving to Private Foundations.

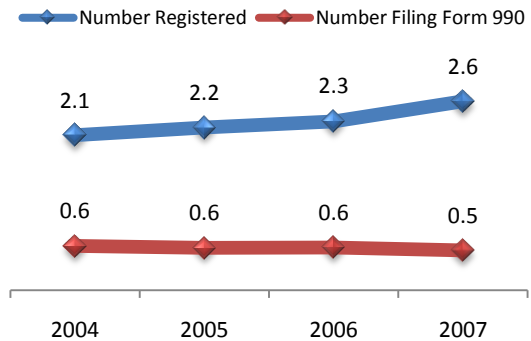
Voter turnout was substantially higher in the 2004 presidential election when compared to the 2000 presidential

Indicator Trend Data

Chester County Profile 2009

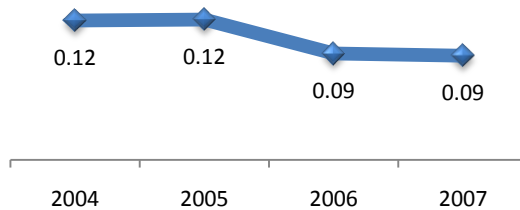
election, but the 2006 mid-term election turnout was lower than that in 2002. The ratio of all public charities to population in Chester County increased 24% from 2004 to 2007, while the corresponding ratio for larger public charities only (those using IRS Form 990 to report income greater than \$25,000) remained steady through 2006 then decreased 17% in 2007. The number of larger private foundations (those reporting income greater than \$25,000) per 1,000 population declined 25% between 2004 and 2007. Per capita giving to public charities fluctuated in a range from \$44 to \$74 between 2001 and 2004, and then jumped to above \$85 from 2006 to 2007. Per capita giving to private foundations was stable from 2001 to 2005 and then increased by two-thirds in 2006.

Public Charities Per 1,000 Population



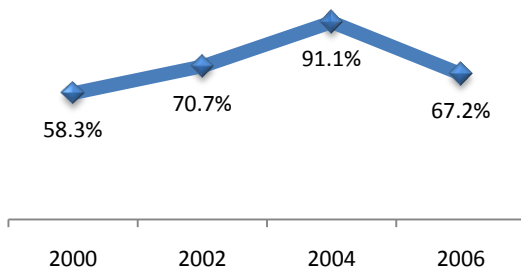
Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Number of Private 501(c)(3) Foundations Filing Form 990 Per 1,000 Population



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Percent Voter Turnout of Registered Voters



Source: North Carolina State Board of Elections; South Carolina State Board of Elections

Contributions, Gifts, and Grants per Capita for Public Charities

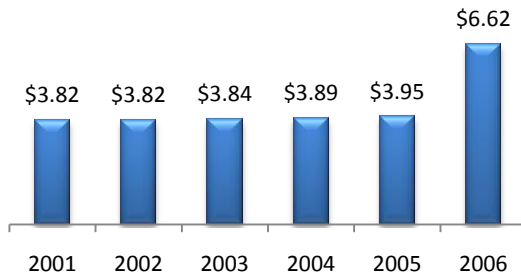


Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Indicator Trend Data

Chester County Profile 2009

Contributions, Gifts, and Grants per Capita for Private Foundations



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Health

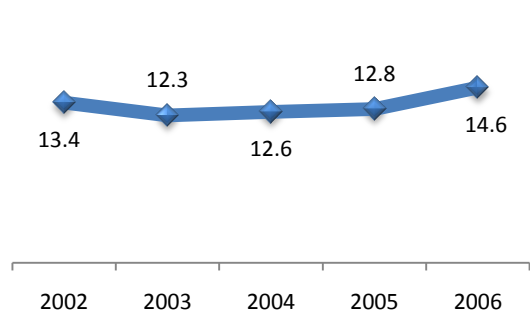
Health is measured by five indicators:

- Birth Rate;
- Infant Mortality;
- Mortality Rate;
- Suicide Rate; and
- Sexually-Transmitted Diseases Rate.

The birth rate remained relatively stable from 2002 to 2005 and then increased 14% in 2006. Total infant mortality rates increased 47% from 2003 to 2005, and then decreased by more than half to 6.3 in 2006. Minority infant mortality rates increased dramatically from 5.2 in 2003 to 20.5 in 2004 then showed a decreasing trend through 2006. White infant mortality rates fluctuated between 8.9 and 13.4 from 2003 through 2005, and then decreased to 0 in 2006. Total mortality rates inched up 3% from 2003 through 2006, while the heart disease mortality rate decreased 39% and the mortality rate for cancer increased 16%. The suicide rate for Chester County increased 22% from 2003 to 2005, and then decreased by one-third in 2006 to below 2003 levels. Incidence rates for the sexually-transmitted diseases, chlamydia and gonorrhea decreased from 2002 to 2003,

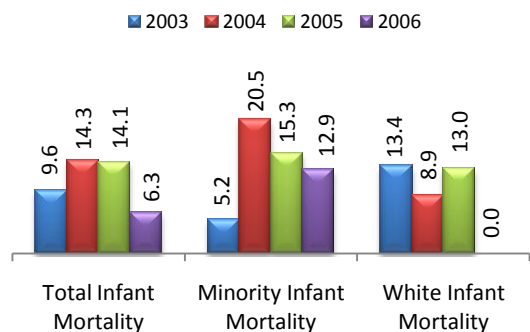
and then increased each year through 2006, for total increases of 21% and 33% respectively from 2002 to 2006.

Birth Rate per 1,000 Population



Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births

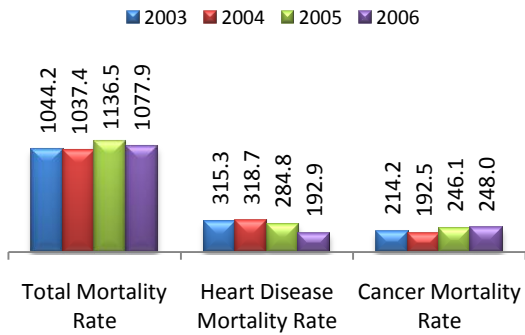


Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Indicator Trend Data

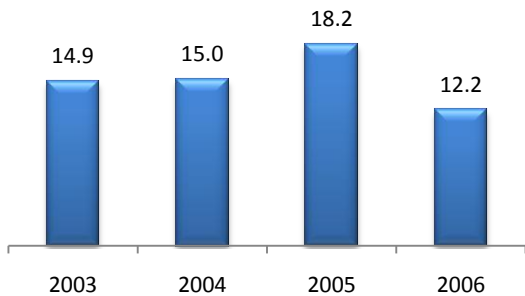
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Mortality per 100,000 Population



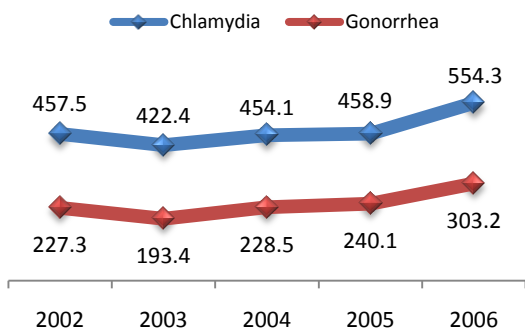
Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Suicide Rate per 100,000 Population



Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

STD's Per 100,000 Population



Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Housing

Housing is measured by six indicators:

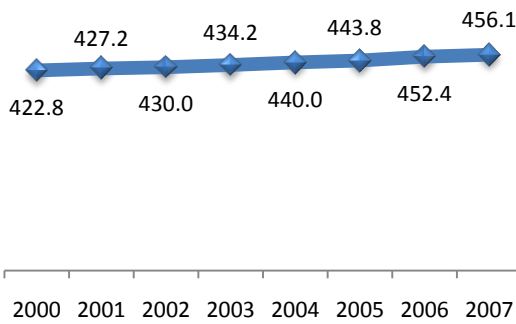
- Housing Units;
- Housing Types;
- Home Ownership;
- Residential Construction;
- Sales; and
- Rental and Vacancy Rates.

Of these indicators, Sales and Rental and Vacancy Rates are unavailable for Chester County. The ratio of housing units to population increased steadily from 2000 to 2007. Housing type was dominated by single family detached housing, followed by mobile home or trailer housing from 1990 to 2000, and mobile home or trailer housing increased during that time period at the expense of other types of housing. Owner occupied housing increased 2.6% from 1990 to 2000. As measured by housing units permitted per 1,000 persons, residential construction remained in the range of 2.4 to 2.6 from 2000 to 2007, with noticeable exceptions in 2001 and 2006 (to 3.3, a 27% increase, and 3.7, a 54% increase, respectively). Construction cost per unit permitted for Chester County showed a generally increasing trend between 2000 and 2005, dropped by almost half in 2006, and then increased by 66% in 2007 to \$139,899 (ending at 26% above 2000 cost per unit).

Indicator Trend Data

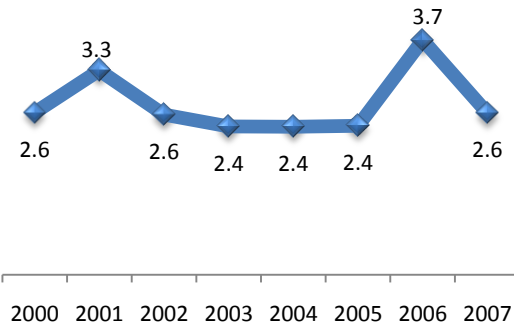
Chester County Profile 2009

Housing Units Per 1,000 Population



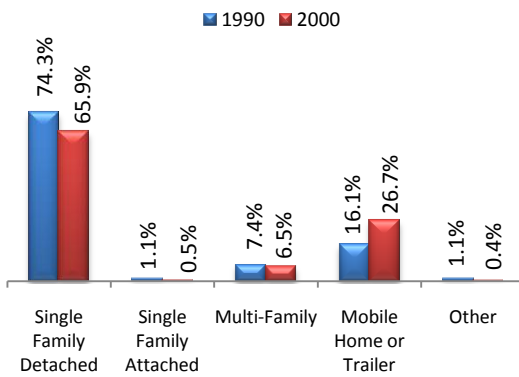
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates Division

Number of Housing Units Permitted per 1,000 Population



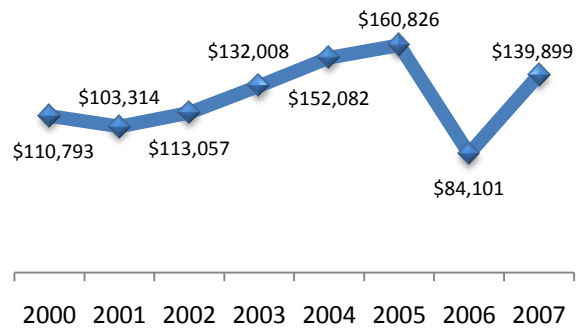
Source: US Census: Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics

Percent Housing Types



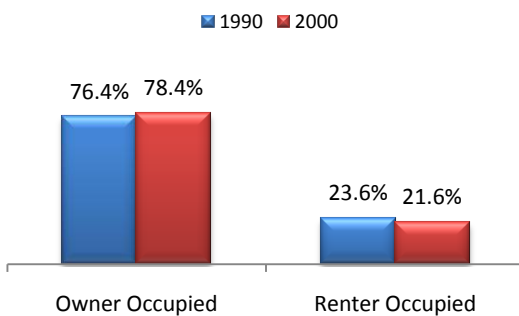
Source: US Census: Decennial

Construction Cost per Unit Permitted



Source: US Census: Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics

Percent Occupied Housing



Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Public Safety

Public Safety is measured by six indicators:

- 911 Calls;
- Crime Index;
- Vehicle Accidents;
- Workplace Fatalities;
- Public Safety Education; and
- Evacuation Plans and Disaster Preparedness.

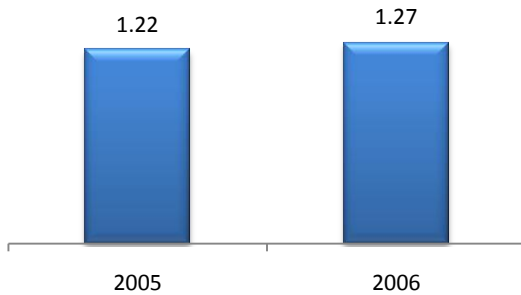
Of these, county-level data are available for all except Public Safety Education and

Indicator Trend Data

Chester County Profile 2009

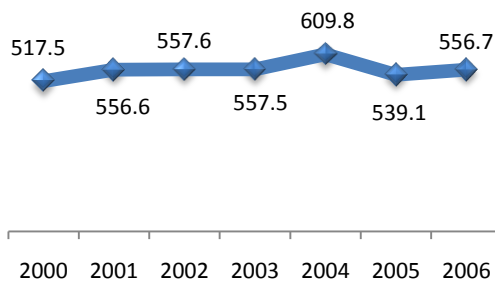
Workplace Fatalities. Per capita calls for emergency service increased 4% from 2005 to 2006. The crime rate for Chester County increased by 17.8% from 2000 to 2004, and then decreased 8.7% through 2006. The total number of people in motor vehicle accidents decreased over 28% from 2001 to 2006, based largely on declines in people in crashes involving non-fatal injuries and in people in crashes involving property damage only. The number of people in crashes involving fatalities fluctuated between 5 and 16 from 2001 to 2006. As of 2009, Chester County has in place all nine evacuation planning and disaster preparedness measures.

Calls for Emergency Service Per Capita



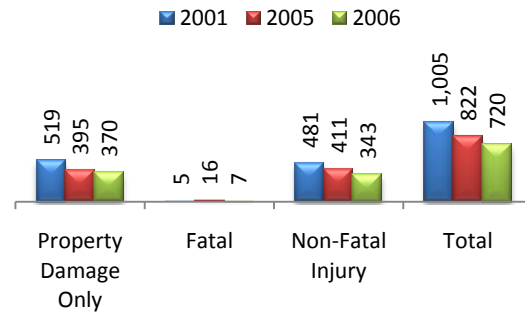
Source: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Crime Index Per 10,000 Population



Source: North Carolina Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

People in Motor Vehicle Crashes



Source: Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Evacuation and Disaster Preparedness, 2009

✓ Yes
 ● No
 ▼ Limited/Partial

Emergency/disaster response plan	✓
Evacuation plan	✓
Have had mock disaster drill in the last year	✓
Means to quickly warn citizens about a threat situation (Reverse 911 system)	✓
Radio interoperability for emergency personnel; full coverage within county	✓
Radio interoperability for emergency personnel; with surrounding counties	✓
Emergency response team for incidents involving chemical, biological or nuclear weapons	✓
Regular training sessions for fire, police, and emergency personnel for disaster preparation	✓
Mutual assistance agreement with surrounding counties	✓

Source: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Indicator Trend Data

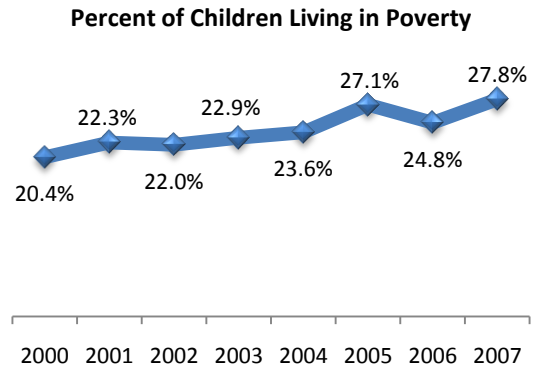
Chester County Profile 2009

Social Well-being

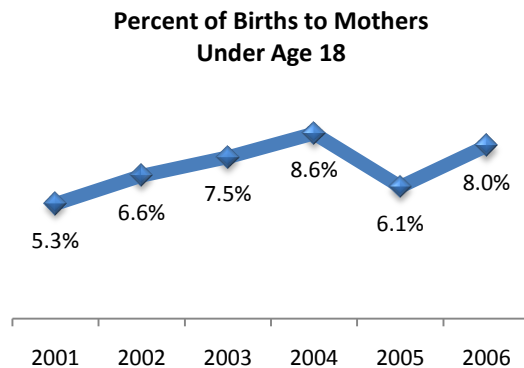
Social Well-being indicators include these five measures:

- Poverty Rate;
- Child Poverty Rate;
- Child Abuse;
- Teenage Birth Rate; and
- Elderly Assistance Rate.

Multi-year trend data for poverty rates of individuals and families, child abuse rates and the elderly assistance rate are not available at the county level. The 2000 Chester County poverty rate for individuals (15.3%) was higher compared to both the average of the Charlotte region (10.9%) and the South Carolina state average (14.1%). The poverty rate for families (11.9%) in Chester County was also higher compared to 2000 levels for the average of the Charlotte region (8.3%) and the South Carolina state average (10.7%). The percentage of substantiated reports of child abuse (31%) was higher compared to the Charlotte regional average (23.5%), but lower than South Carolina's state average (37%) for 2005-06. Chester County's percentage of elderly needing assistance with daily activities (48.1%) was above the regional average (46.4%) and the South Carolina state average (45.8%) for 2000. The percentage of children in poverty increased more than one third from 2000 to 2007. The teenage birth rate rose 62% from 2001 to 2004, decreased 29% in 2005, and then increased 31% in 2006.



Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates



Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board Office of Research Statistics

Transportation

Transportation is measured by four indicators:

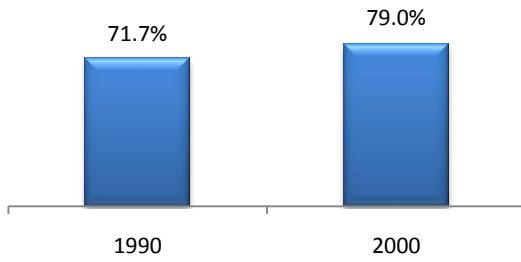
- Commuting Alone;
- Average Travel Delay;
- Commute Time; and
- Airport Travelers.

Of these, only two are represented at the county level: Commuting Alone, and Commute Time. Chester County's percentage of workers driving to work alone increased 10% from 1990 to 2000. The percentage of workers commuting more than 25 minutes increased one third from 1990 to 2000.

Indicator Trend Data

Chester County Profile 2009

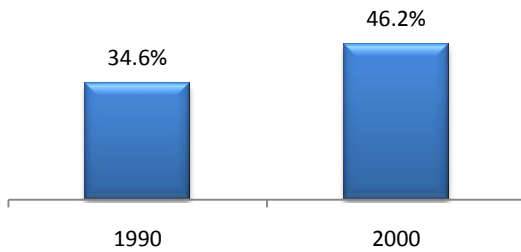
Percent of Workers 16 or Older Driving to Work Alone



Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Percent of Workers Commuting More than 25 Minutes

Workers 16 or Older who did not work at home



Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Data Definitions

Chester County Profile 2009

A complete definition is given below for each indicator, identifying the specific quantitative measurement the indicator represents. Definitions are listed by theme area, with the indicator's "short name" shown first, followed by the "long name" and/or explanation of how the indicator is calculated.

Demographics

Annual Population Estimates: Measures the annual estimate of population.

Decennial Population and Projections: The measurement of past population and future population projections on a decennial basis.

Percent Population Growth: This indicator measures the annual percentage growth of the population from the previous year.

Race and Ethnicity: This indicator measures the composition of both race and ethnicity for the population.

Age Distribution: Age Distribution looks at the range of ages for the population.

Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life

Grants Expenditures: Dollars per capita in state and federal appropriations awarded to arts and cultural organizations through the North Carolina Arts Commission and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

Library Holdings: Per capita number of public library print holdings and print serial subscriptions (excluding electronic documents.)

Library Funding: Per capita government funding for public libraries (excluding libraries at state universities or colleges.)

Arts Graduates: Annual number of undergraduate and graduate degree completions in the arts, music and theater from all institutions of higher education in the region, including private and public universities, technical and community colleges and other colleges.

Economy

Labor Force: The civilian workforce is the number of workers employed or looking for work, including members of the military. The labor force

unemployment rate is the ratio of the number of unemployed to the total civilian workforce.

Industry Employment: Total Employment, All Industries is the total number of jobs across all industry classifications. Employment by Industry is the number of jobs in each industry sector by the North American Industry Classification System's standard two-digit sector codes.

Business Establishments: Business Establishments, All Industries, is the total number of physical locations of businesses in all industry classifications; note that a business may have more than one physical location, each of which counts as a "business establishment." Business Establishments by Industry is the number of business establishments in each industry sector by the North American Industry Classification System's standard two-digit sector codes.

Average Annual Wage: Average Annual Wage, All Industries is the annual total wages across all jobs, divided by total number of jobs in all industry classifications. Average Annual Wage by Industry is the annual total wages in jobs in a given industry sector (defined by the North American Industry Classification System's standard two-digit sector codes) divided by the total number of jobs in that same industry sector.

Per Capita Income: Total personal income divided by total population.

Median Household Income: Median Household Income is the income of the particular household for which there are an equal number of households with more income and of households with less income.

Education

Public School Enrollment: Public School Enrollment is the percentage change in public school enrollment from the previous school year, by school district and for the region. The enrollment data includes students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

Education Attainment: This indicator measures the percentage of the working-age population (age 25 and older) with a bachelor's degree or higher.

SAT Scores: Examines the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score as a percentage of the U.S. average score, for each of the region's 21 school districts and for the region as a whole. Average scores are published both for individual high schools and for school districts, based on

Data Definitions

Chester County Profile 2009

scores of all students taking the SAT in a given year. Students taking the SAT are mostly juniors in high school, but can include some sophomores and seniors as well.

Graduation Rate: The figures are the four-year cohort graduation rate, which reflects the number of graduating seniors in a given year as a percentage of the number of enrolled ninth graders from three years prior – in effect, it is the percent of ninth graders who graduate four years later.

College Plans: This indicator tracks the higher-education plans of high school seniors for the year after they graduate from public high schools. Percentages are calculated for students planning on attending two-year, four-year or community colleges, and for those with no plans for higher education (this may include military service).

Expenditures Per Pupil: This indicator measures expenditures per pupil in public schools, excluding capital expenditures. A regional figure was estimated for each school year by multiplying expenditures per pupil by enrollment figures for each school district. The sum of total expenditures across all districts was divided by the total regional enrollment to estimate the regional expenditure per pupil.

Capital Expenditures: Public school capital expenditures per pupil are measured both for school districts and the region. A five-year average is calculated because capital spending by school districts fluctuates significantly from year to year. Total capital expenditures were divided by total enrollment to produce an annual per pupil capital expenditure for each school year. Those annual figures were then averaged to produce an average per pupil capital expenditure in public education for the five-year period.

Environment

Air Quality Index: The percentage of Air Quality Index (AQI) days per year in the “Unhealthy” ranges for the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The EPA calculates a daily AQI based on the measurement of five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act, as recorded at approximately 4,000 monitoring stations across the country. The five pollutants are: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx). A daily index value is calculated for each air pollutant measured. The highest of those index

values is the AQI value, and the pollutant responsible for the highest index value is the “Main Pollutant.”

Vehicle Emissions: This indicator measures on-road vehicular emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the 14-county region. States are required by the EPA to collect and report emissions data every three years.

Water Consumption: The indicator examines local water system use in average gallons per day per person served by the water systems. This indicator includes only the use of water by local water systems filing reports with the states, and excludes water used for agriculture or power generation, water drawn from individual wells and permitted water intakes by residential or industrial water consumers. These local water systems include municipal, county, and private water systems.

Impaired Streams: This indicator measures looks at impaired stream miles as a percentage of total stream miles in the 11 North Carolina counties in the Charlotte region. It also examines monitoring sites reporting impaired streams in the three South Carolina counties in the region.

Solid Waste Disposal: The Solid Waste Disposal indicator quantifies the disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition (C&D) debris. Both states adjust their county-level data to exclude waste “imported” from other places and to include waste “exported” to other places, providing a measure of waste generated from within each county that is disposed at landfills, regardless of where the disposal occurs.

Developed Acreage: This indicator measures developed land in acres per person. Developed acres include both residential and nonresidential development, excluding agriculture, and are assessed using satellite imagery, taken at roughly 10-year intervals from 1976 to 2006.

Government and Citizen Participation

Private Foundations: Private Foundations are registered 501(c)(3) private foundations that have filed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990. Foundations designated as 501(c)(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code are exempt from federal income taxes because they are operated solely for religious, charitable, scientific, public-safety (testing), literary or educational purposes; amateur sports competition or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

Data Definitions

Chester County Profile 2009

Public Charities: Public Charities are registered 501(c)(3) public charities in the region, including those that have filed an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990. Public charities designated as 501(c)(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code are exempt from federal income taxes because they are operated solely for religious, charitable, scientific, public safety (testing), literary or educational purposes; amateur sports competition or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

Giving (Public Charities): This indicator measures the amount of contributions, gifts, and grants given to 501(c)(3) public charities located in the region and filing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990.

Giving (Private Foundations): This indicator measures the amount of contributions, gifts and grants received by 501(c)(3) private foundations located in the region and filing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990.

Voter Turnout: This indicator represents the percentage of registered voters who voted in election years 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006.

Health

Mortality Rate: Mortality Rates are calculated as the number of deaths per 100,000 population. Mortality Rates for heart disease and cancer were also calculated.

STD Rate: These indicators report sexually transmitted disease rates for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia as the number of cases per 100,000 persons.

Infant Mortality Rate: Infant Mortality Rates reflect deaths of infants aged one year or younger per 1,000 live births. The data also compare infant mortality rates for minorities and whites.

Birth Rate: Birth Rate measures the number of live births reported per 1,000 persons.

Suicide Rate: Suicide Rate is reported as deaths by suicide per 100,000 persons.

Housing

Housing Units: The indicator represents the number of housing units per capita and includes all types of residential development, encompassing single-family homes, apartments, condos, townhomes and all other housing types.

Housing Types: Housing Types include single-family detached, single-family attached (row houses or townhomes), multi-family units, mobile homes and all other housing (such as boats, RVs and vans).

Home Ownership: Home Ownership measures owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing as a percentage of occupied housing units.

Residential Construction: This indicator measures the number of housing units for which building permits were issued. The indicator is expressed as housing units per 1,000 persons.

Sales: This indicator measures the rate of residential real estate closings (the number of closings per 1,000 persons) and the average price of such home sales for single-family homes, condominiums and townhomes.

Rent and Vacancy Rates: The apartment vacancy rate is the percent of all apartments that are vacant as of the date of the survey call on that certain day. The rental rate is the average rent in dollars per month.

Public Safety

911 Calls: This indicator measures the annual per capita calls for 911 Emergency Service.

Crime Index: This indicator measures the number of crimes per 10,000 persons. It is the sum of the crime rates per 10,000 persons for seven categories of crimes: murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor-vehicle thefts.

Vehicle Accidents: People in Motor Vehicle Accidents measures the total number of people in motor-vehicle accidents and whether the accidents involved a fatality, non-fatal injuries, or property damage only.

Workplace Fatalities: This indicator examines the number of workplace fatalities in the region that have been investigated or are under investigation.

Public Safety Education: Public Safety Education looks at the number of colleges and universities in the 14-county region with a two- or four-year degree in criminal justice, fire safety or emergency-medical training.

Evacuation Planning: Evacuation Planning addressed evacuation plans and disaster preparedness through a survey designed by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. Survey questions concerned reverse 911 systems, radio

Data Definitions

Chester County Profile 2009

interoperability, disaster training, disaster response and evacuation plans, mutual-assistance agreements, and related topics.

Social Well-being

Poverty Rate: This indicator measures the percentage of families and individuals in the region living in poverty. “Living in poverty” is defined by federally-determined income thresholds verifying what is needed to feed, clothe and economically sustain an individual or families of specified sizes (for example, “a family of four”.) Any family or individual whose income does not reach the threshold amount is considered to be in poverty.

Child Poverty: Child Poverty measures the percentage of children under the age of 18, living at or below the poverty level. “Living in poverty” is defined using federally-defined poverty thresholds.

Child Abuse: Child Abuse measures substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect per county for the fiscal year. It represents only the percentage of abuse and/or neglect reports made to each county’s child protective services that are substantiated by those agencies, based on investigative findings.

Teenage Birth Rate: Teenage Birth Rate measures the number of births to mothers under the age of 18 as a percent of all births.

Elderly Assistance Rate: This indicator measures the percentage of individuals age 65 or older who require assistance in performing Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Activities of Daily Living include eating, dressing, bathing, personal hygiene-related tasks, transfers (the ability to get in and out of a bed or chair), ambulation and communication.

Transportation

Commuting Alone: This indicator measures the percent of workers 16 or older who drive to work alone by car, truck or van.

Average Travel Delay: This section focuses on travel delays during peak travel times – considered to be from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The figures are calculated by dividing the number of extra travel hours by the number of peak period travelers in an urban area. The average annual travel delay per peak traveler is the yearly sum of delays per peak trip, divided by the number of travelers who started a trip during the peak period.

Commute Length: Commute Length measures the percentage of workers 16 or older not working at home who commute more than 25 minutes.

Airport Travelers: This indicator measures the number of passengers boarding planes (“enplanements”) and disembarking from planes (“deplanements”) at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Passengers making connecting flights at Charlotte/Douglas are included in these figures.

Data Sources

Chester County Profile 2009

Data Sources for each indicator are listed below. Data for the 2009 County Profiles were compiled using these sources from November, 2008 through January, 2009.

Demographics

Population Estimates: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Population Projections: NC Office of State Budget and Management, NC State Demographics; South Carolina State

Budget and Control Board Office of Research Statistics, SC Community Profiles

Population Growth: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Race and Ethnicity: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Age and Gender: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life

Grants Expenditures: North Carolina Arts Council; South Carolina Arts Commission

Arts Graduates: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), IPEDS database

Library Funding: North Carolina Department of State Treasurer; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board

Library Holdings: National Center for Education Statistics (Library Research Center)

Economy

Labor Force: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry Employment: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Business Establishments: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Average Annual Wage: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Per Capita Income: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Median Household Income: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Division

Education

Public School Enrollment: National Center for Education Statistics

Educational Attainment: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

SAT Scores: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Graduation Rate: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

College Plans: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Expenditures Per Pupil: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Capital Expenditures: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Environment

Air Quality Index: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Vehicle Emissions: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Water Consumption: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Impaired Streams: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Solid Waste Disposal: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South

Data Sources

Chester County Profile 2009

Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Developed Acreage: UNC Charlotte Center for Applied GIS

Governmental and Citizen Participation

Private Foundations: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Public Charities: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Giving (Public Charities): National Center for Charitable Statistics

Giving (Private Foundations): National Center for Charitable Statistics

Voter Turnout: North Carolina State Board of Elections; South Carolina State Board of Elections

Health

Mortality Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

STD Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Infant Mortality Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Birth Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Suicide Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Housing

Housing Units: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates Division

Housing Types: US Census: Decennial

Home Ownership: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Residential Construction: US Census: Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics

Sales: Carolina Multiple Listing Services, Charlotte Regional Realtor

Rent and Vacancy Rates: Carolinas Real Data

Public Safety

911 Calls: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Crime Index: North Carolina Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Vehicle Accidents: Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Workplace Fatalities: North Carolina Department of Labor; South Carolina Department of Labor

Public Safety Education: National Center for Education Statistics

Evacuation Planning: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Social Well-Being

Poverty Rate: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Child Poverty Rate: U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates

Child Abuse: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Prevent Child Abuse South Carolina

Teenage Birth Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board Office of Research

Elderly Assistance Rate: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Transportation

Commuting Alone: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Data Sources

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Average Travel Delay: Texas Transportation
Institute (TTI)

Commute Length: US Census: Decennial,
American Community Survey

Airport Travelers: Charlotte/Douglas Aviation
Activity Reports

Endnotes

Chester County Profile 2009

¹Indicator data at the regional level was calculated whenever possible as a weighted average of the source data for all 14 counties. However, in the following instances, the regional figure is calculated differently:

Library Print Holdings Per Capita: Region Number represents 13 of 14 counties excluding Anson

Median Household Income: Region Number represents South Carolina state average

Public School Expenditures Per Pupil: Region Number represents the 3 South Carolina counties

Per Pupil Capital Expenditures: Region Number represents the 3 South Carolina counties

Average Daily Water Consumption, Gallons Per Capita: Region Number represents the 3 South Carolina counties

Solid Waste Disposal, Pounds Per Capita: Region Number represents the 3 South Carolina counties

Calls for Emergency Service (911) Per Capita: Region Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Lancaster and Union

²For the indicator, 'Percent Change in Public School Enrollment vs. Prior Year,' the 'County Percent Change' column contains the five year percent change in enrollment (that is, the most recent year's number of students enrolled is compared to enrollment from four years prior, instead of comparing the most recent annual percent change to the annual percent change of four years ago).

Acknowledgements

Chester County Profile 2009

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