### County Facts: Cherokee County, NC
Population 28,000

#### The Local Economy

- **Unemployment rate**: 5.1% (Cherokee County), 4.5% (NC), 4.4% (United States)
- **Poverty rate**: 20.2% (Cherokee County), 16.9% (NC), 15.1% (United States)
- **Median family income (000s)**: $57 (Cherokee County), $50 (NC), $41 (United States)
- **Population growth 2000-2017**: 16% (Cherokee County), 16% (NC), 7% (United States)
- **Manufacturing share of workforce**: 12% (Cherokee County), 10% (NC), 7% (United States)
- **Farming share of workforce**: 28% (Cherokee County), 15% (NC), 4.7% (United States)
- **Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)**: 7.0% (Cherokee County), 3.0% (NC), 4.7% (United States)

#### How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- **Percent graduating any college**: 46% (Cherokee County), 46% (NC), 39% (United States)
- **Percent reaching upper-middle class**: 20% (Cherokee County), 16% (NC), 11% (United States)
- **Percent achieving American Dream**: 10% (Cherokee County), 6% (NC), 6% (United States)
- **Percent giving birth as a teen**: 23% (Cherokee County), 22% (NC), 16% (United States)
- **Percent landing in jail**: 1.5% (Cherokee County), 1.5% (NC), 0.9% (United States)
- **Local school expenditure per student (000s)**: $6.4 (Cherokee County), $5.4 (NC), $5.2 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Young Harris College†</th>
<th>North Carolina 4-year-college average</th>
<th>U.S. 4-year-college average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income share of students</td>
<td>5.7%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student success rate</td>
<td>36.0%</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
</tr>
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<td>4-Year Colleges</td>
<td>23.8%</td>
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<td>22.7%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>32.9%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Tri-County CC (public)</th>
<th>North Carolina 2-year-college average</th>
<th>U.S. 2-year-college average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
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<td>17.3%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cherokee County</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>103</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25\textsuperscript{th}-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau