

2017 Cherokee County Indicators Update 3rd Edition

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Metropolitan Studies Institute

Table of Contents

Education	2
Educational Attainment	2
Earnings by Educational Attainment.....	5
High School Dropout Rate.....	6
Percentage of Students Enrolled in the 8th Grade Not Enrolled in 12th Grade 4 Years Later	6
High School Graduation	7
High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class	8
Post-Secondary Completion	9
Occupational Outlook	11
Quarterly Workforce Indicators.....	11
Public Health	14
Infant Mortality.....	14
Birth Weight.....	15
Risk Factors for Chronic Health Conditions	18
Body Mass Index Reports.....	19
Health Professional Shortage Areas	21
Health Insurance Coverage Rates	23
Drug and Alcohol Abuse.....	26
Mortality	27
Oral Health.....	30
Mental Health	30
Family and Youth	32
Family Income	32
Teen Birth Rate	33
Domestic Violence	36
Youth Risk Behavior	38
Family Structure.....	39
Crime and Safety	41
Violent and Nonviolent Crimes.....	41

Juvenile Crime	43
<i>Rate per 1,000 juveniles</i>	43
Drug Crime	44
Elder Abuse and Neglect	45
Fire Safety	45
Highway and Traffic Safety	46
Economic Development	48
Income	48
Family Poverty	49
Cost of Living	51
Unemployment	51
Job Growth	53
Worker Commuting Patterns	56
How is Cherokee County Trending on the Indicators?	58

CHEROKEE COUNTY INDICATORS

UPDATE 2017

The original Cherokee County Community Indicators report was published in 2010 through sponsorship by the Cherokee County Community Foundation, United Way of the Piedmont, the Upstate Workforce Investment Board, and other partners. An update was produced in 2013 and this is an update of the data from that report.

Community indicators are measurements of social, environmental, economic, educational, civic, and health status that provide information about past and current trends and inform the decisions that affect the community's well-being. Because no single metric is an adequate reflection of the wellbeing of the community, multiple measures should be considered across multiple sectors.

The data provided in this report include leading, secondary, and crosscutting indicators. All data are from valid and reliable sources. To provide context, most data are reported with appropriate comparison data or trend data. Demographic analysis indicates that Greenwood and Laurens Counties are the most comparable South Carolina peers for Cherokee County.

Original sources are provided so that the reader can delve further in the data as she or he wishes. Where valid and reliable data sources are limited, the data are likewise limited. In the case of a few indicators, data have not been updated by original sources since the initial report was released. In some cases, data are reported in a slightly different way; thus, tables are adapted accordingly. A synopsis of positive and negative findings for Cherokee County by indicator is provided at the end of this report.

The following symbols have been used throughout the report as well to indicate if the county is trending up, down, or if there is no change in a specific indicator.



Trending Up



Trending Down



No Change or Mixed

Any questions may be addressed to the author of this study.

1st and 2nd Edition Author: Kathleen Brady, Ph.D., Vice Chancellor for External Relations and Partnerships & Executive Director of Metropolitan Studies Institute

Education

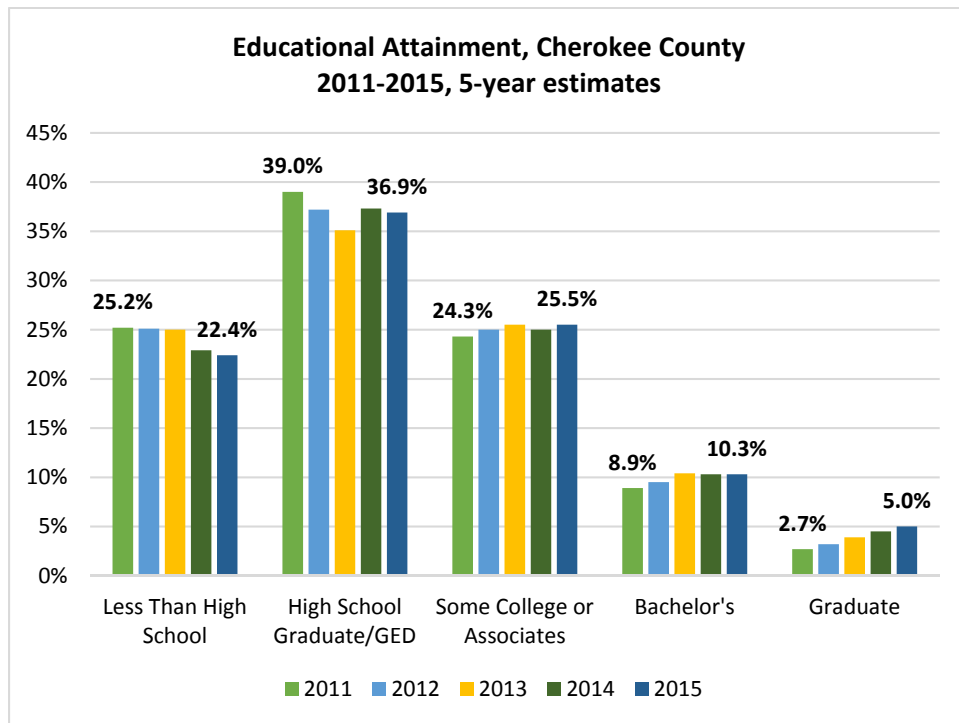
The educational status of the population is one of the strongest predictors of the quality of life in the community. There is a strong correlation between educational attainment and health outcomes, crime, poverty, employment rates, and economic development.

Educational Attainment

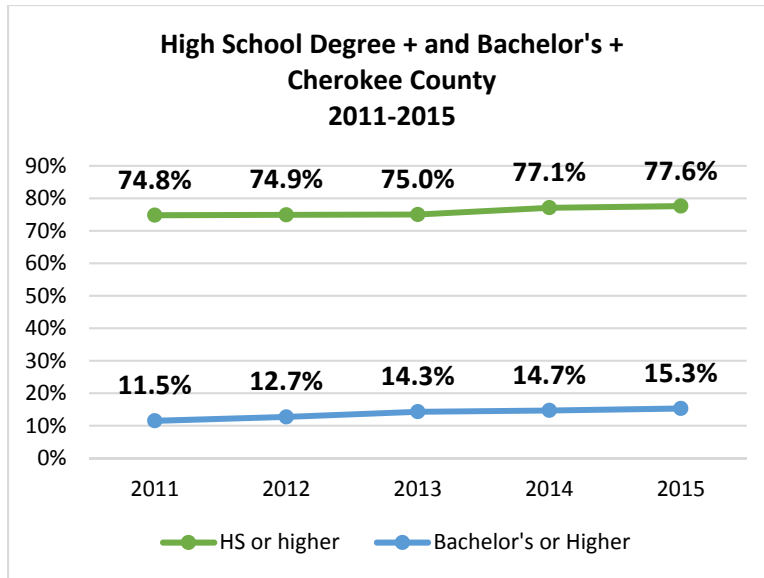
Educational attainment is a powerful predictor of a community's well-being. A higher educational attainment is strongly correlated with higher wages and lower unemployment rates. Educational attainment for a population the size of Cherokee County is best measured in 5-year estimates to render a meaningful sample size. This, coupled with the fact that educational attainment is measured for adults age 25 and over, means increases are not typically as robust as when single year estimates are used.



Update: Cherokee County's educational attainment findings reflect a positive increase in post-high school educational attainment. The most positive finding is the increase in bachelor's and graduate degrees attained by residents. Both have had approximately a 2% increase in the past 5 years. Additionally, unlike in 2011 when there was also an increase in the number of residents who failed to graduate from high school, in 2015, the data shows a 3% decrease in the population who fails to complete high school.



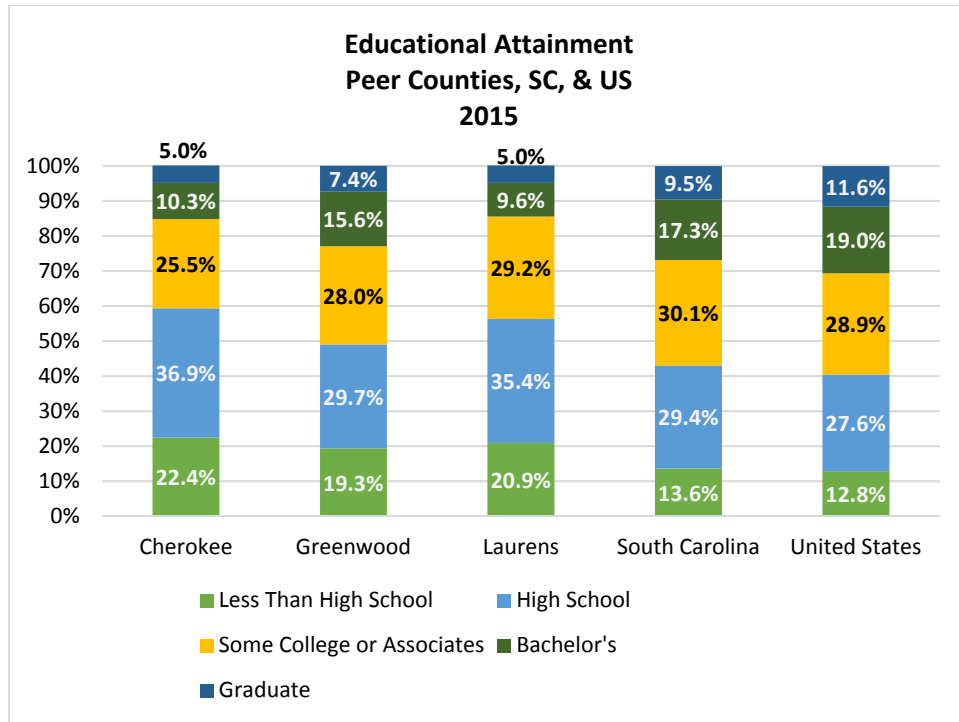
Percentages on the chart reflect 2011 and 2015 data.



When compared to the peer counties, the state, and the nation, Cherokee County has a higher percentage of those 25+ who fail to complete high school and those who have a high school diploma only. The county also lags behind all the comparison groups except Laurens County in percent of population 25+ with a bachelor's degree or a graduate degree¹.

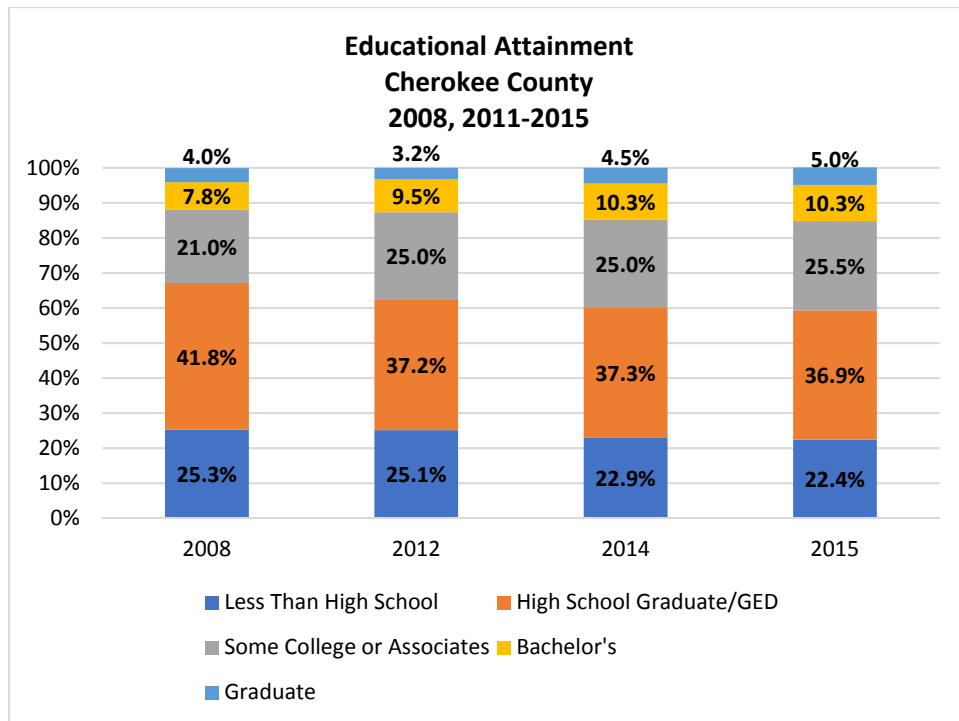
Educational Attainment, Peer Counties, SC, & US 2015		
	HS Diploma or Higher	Bachelor's or Higher
Cherokee	77.6%	15.3%
Greenwood	80.8%	23.0%
Laurens	79.2%	14.8%
South Carolina	86.3%	26.8%
United States	87.1%	30.6%

¹ American FactFinder, Educational Attainment, 2011-2015 5-year estimates



Comparison to 2010 Report

When reviewing the educational attainment for the county in the 2010 report, Cherokee County has had little change in the percent of the population who fails to graduate high school and is a high school graduate/equivalent. There have been slight gains in the percentage of the population who has some college/associates, has a bachelor's degree, or a graduate degree from 2008 to 2015.



Earnings by Educational Attainment

Higher educational attainment is strongly correlated with higher earnings, regardless of location. As educational level increases, so do earnings.



Update: Between 2011 and 2015, earnings by educational attainment in Cherokee County has had a decrease in the median, 12-month earnings for all attainment levels except for those who have attained some college/associate's degree. In comparison, all educational attainment levels in the United States increased in median earnings during the same timespan.

Even with the decrease in median earnings, there is still a strong correlation between educational attainment and earnings in the county. Earnings for those who are both less than a high school graduate and are a high school graduate are significantly lower than those with a bachelor's degree or higher in both Cherokee County and the United States.

Comparison to 2010 Report

Similar to the changes in educational attainment observed in this update, educational earnings in the 2010 report reflect increases in earnings by educational attainment, but lower earnings in the county than the national average.

Median Earnings in the Past 12 Months by Educational Attainment, Population 25+						
	Median 12-Month Earnings, 2008		Median 12-Month Earnings, 2011		Median 12-Month Earnings, 2015	
	Cherokee County	United States	Cherokee County	United States	Cherokee County	United States
Less than a high school graduate	\$20,805	\$19,989	\$ 20,652	\$ 18,794	\$ 17,273	\$ 21,320
High school graduate or equivalent	\$26,378	\$27,448	\$ 25,652	\$ 26,699	\$ 25,168	\$ 29,004
Some college or associate's degree	\$28,522	\$33,838	\$ 31,293	\$ 32,321	\$ 32,479	\$ 34,377
Bachelor's degree	\$35,622	\$47,853	\$ 39,246	\$ 48,309	\$ 36,226	\$ 50,930
Graduate or professional degree	\$51,010	\$63,174	\$ 45,777	\$ 64,322	\$ 52,271	\$ 67,286

Another strong correlation with educational attainment is poverty rates. In 2015, in Cherokee County, 33.5% of the population 25+ that failed to complete high school were below poverty level, whereas 3.9% of those with a bachelor's degree or higher were below poverty level².

² American FactFinder, Educational Attainment, 2011-2015 5-year estimates

High School Dropout Rate

High school dropout rates are often calculated differently by different sources, and are considered a controversial measure. Local dropout rates are often much higher when reported by the United States Department of Education than when reported by the South Carolina Department of Education. The rates included in this report are from the South Carolina Department of Education School Report Cards.



Update: Gaffney High School had a decrease in the dropout rate from 2007 to 2012 and that decrease has continued through 2016. Blacksburg High School's rate has remained relatively steady during the same timespan. There have been mixed changes in the dropout rate state-wide. Ware Shoals High School, Ninety-Six High School, and Clinton High School, as well as the overall state rate have increased slightly, while the other schools in Greenwood and Laurens Counties have had a decrease³.

Comparison to 2010 Report

Since the 2007 report cards, Gaffney Senior High had a significant drop in the dropout rate and Blacksburg High School has held steady.

Dropout Rate 2007, 2012, & 2016			
	2007 Drop Out Rate	2012 Dropout Rate	2016 Dropout Rate
Blacksburg High School	3.7	3.6	3.8
Gaffney High School	9.6	3.5	1.5
Emerald High School (Greenwood)	6.4	4.1	2.4
Greenwood High School (Greenwood)	4.5	3.6	1.5
Ware Shoals High (Greenwood)	5.9	3.7	5.5
Ninety-Six High School (Greenwood)	1.2	2.9	3.2
Laurens District 55 High School (Laurens)	7.5	4.7	4.6
Clinton High School (Laurens)	0.9	3.1	3.2
South Carolina	3.8	2.3	2.6

Percentage of Students Enrolled in the 8th Grade Not Enrolled in 12th Grade 4 Years Later


The Annie E. Casey Foundation's Kid's Count Data Center no longer reports the percentage of 8th graders who are not enrolled in twelfth grade four years later. Thus, there is no update for Cherokee County on this indicator.

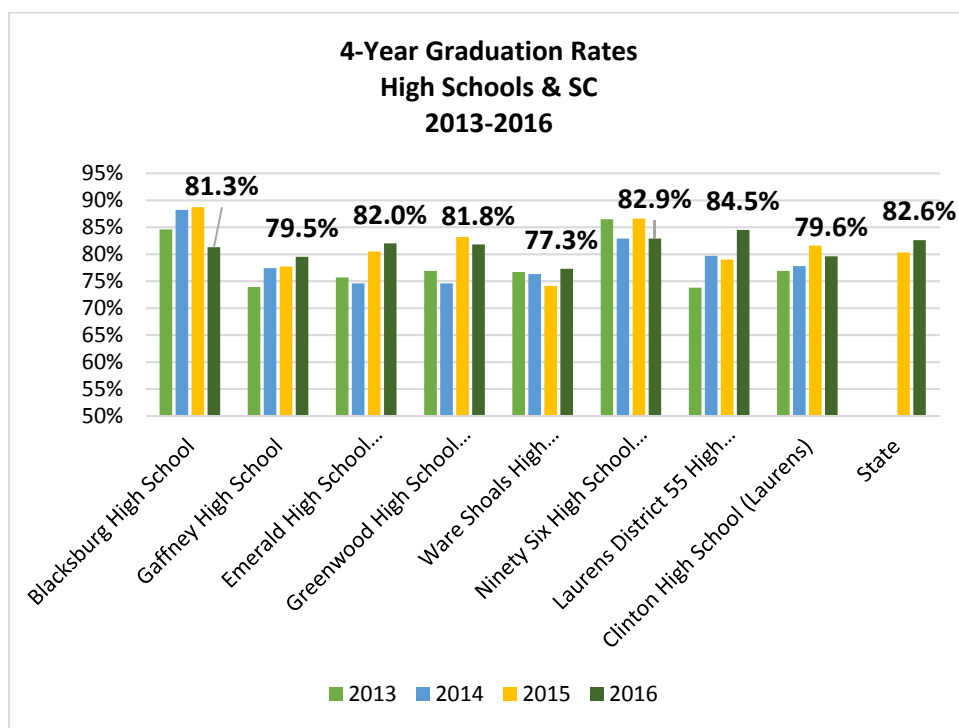
³ South Carolina Department of Education, School Report Cards, 2012 & 2016

High School Graduation

Like the dropout rate, graduation rates are calculated using various formulae. The high school graduation rates reported here are from the South Carolina Department of Education.

Note that the South Carolina Department of Education graduation rates and dropout rates do not equate to 100%.

 **Update:** Since the 2013 update, Gaffney High School has improved the 4-year graduation rate and had a rate of 79.5% in 2016. This rate is lower than Blacksburg High School, which had a rate of 81.3% in 2016. While Blacksburg High School has had a consistently higher 4-year graduation rate than Gaffney High School, the schools' rate fell in 2016 after hitting a 4 year high of 88.7% in 2015⁴.

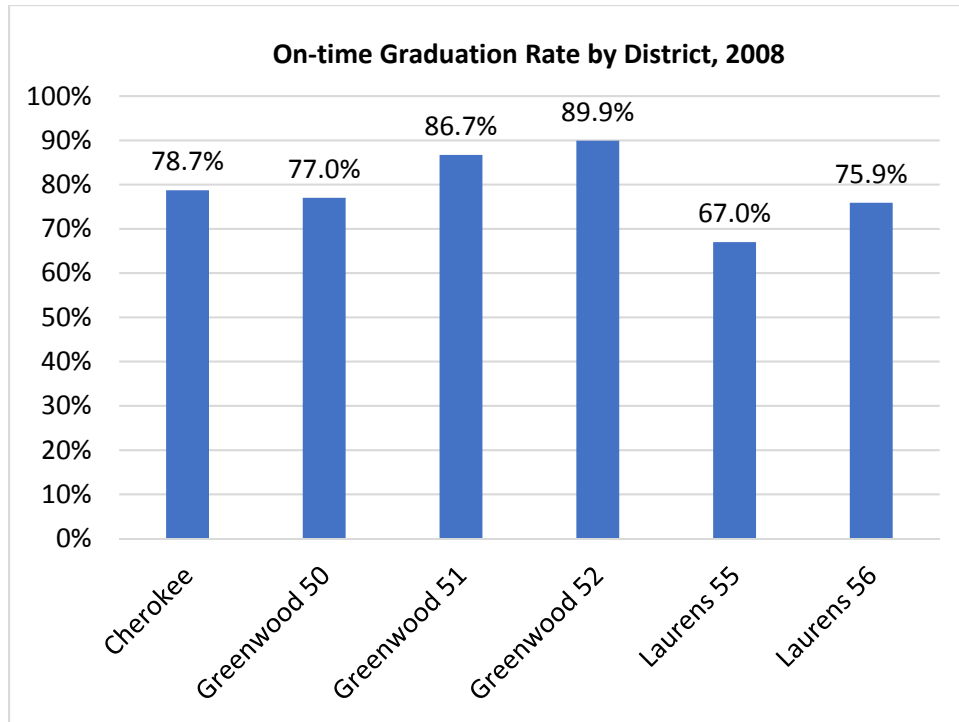


Percentages on chart are 2016 graduation rates

Comparison to 2010 Report

When comparing the individual school's graduation rate, both high schools have a higher graduation rate in 2016 than what was reported in 2008. Overall, there has been an improvement in the graduation rate among all the peer groups.

⁴ South Carolina Department of Education, School Report Cards, 2013-2016



[High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class](#)

The South Carolina Department of Education tracks high school graduates' enrollment in post-secondary institutions. Information on type of institution and whether it is in-state or out-of-state is provided.



Update: In 2016, a higher percentage of students graduating from Gaffney High School entered the freshman class than graduates from Blacksburg High School and at a higher rate than the state percentage. Both high schools in the county have had a slight drop in the percent of graduates enrolling in college from 2013 to 2016.

Of those graduates who did enroll in college, the larger percentage from both schools are enrolled at an in-state college, and a greater percentage of graduates from Gaffney High School enrolled in a 2-year college or technical college degree program in 2016; whereas a greater percentage of graduates from Blacksburg High School enrolled in a 4-year colleges.

High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class Fall 2013 and Fall 2016						
	Blacksburg High School		Gaffney High School		South Carolina	
	Fall 2013	Fall 2016	Fall 2013	Fall 2016	Fall 2013	Fall 2016
Total High School Completers	128	96	384	383	37,525	46,691
Percent of Completers Who Entered						
Freshman class	57.0%	56.3%	83.9%	81.2%	69.7%	70.8%
4-year college	25.0%	33.3%	45.1%	35.2%	39.7%	39.7%
2-year college	31.3%	17.7%	3.4%	3.7%	5.2%	5.6%
Technical college degree program	0.8%	2.1%	35.4%	41.3%	24.8%	23.3%
In-state college	95.9%	81.5%	90.4%	91.3%	90.7%	89.7%
Out-of-state college	4.1%	18.5%	9.6%	8.7%	9.3%	10.3%
Gainful employment	17.2%	33.3%	6.5%	12.3%	11.9%	14.5%
Armed forces	2.3%	5.2%	1.8%	1.8%	4.4%	4.3%

**Percentages do not equal 100% as completers could fall into two or more categories (i.e. freshman class and 4-year college)*

Comparison to 2010 Report

Both high schools have increased the percentage of high school completers who enrolled in the freshman class and have a higher percentage enrolling in 4-year colleges from 2009 to 2016.

High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class Fall 2009 and Fall 2016						
	Blacksburg High School		Gaffney High School		South Carolina	
	Fall 2009	Fall 2016	Fall 2009	Fall 2016	Fall 2009	Fall 2016
Total High School Completers	103	96	351	383	38,712	46,691
Percent of Completers Who Entered						
Freshman class	32.0%	56.3%	57.5%	81.2%	67.1%	70.8%
4-year college	10.7%	33.3%	30.5%	35.2%	40.1%	39.7%
2-year college	0%	17.7%	21.7%	3.7%	4.4%	5.6%
Technical college degree program	21.4%	2.1%	5.4%	41.3%	22.6%	23.3%
In-state college	100%	81.5%	95.0%	91.3%	90.7%	89.7%
Out-of-state college	0%	18.5%	5.0%	8.7%	9.3%	10.3%

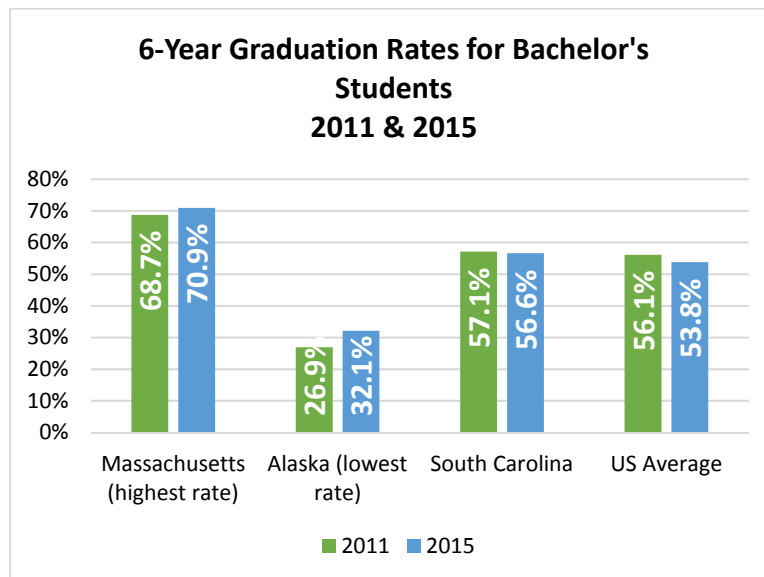
Post-Secondary Completion

College completion rates are measured in six-year cohorts because it is common for students to take up to 150 percent of the standard four-year period to graduate. College completion rates are not available by county.



Update: There has been no change in the states with the highest and lowest graduation rates since the 2013 update. State college graduation rates indicate that Massachusetts has the

highest rate and Alaska has the lowest rate for the two years of 2011 and 2015. Additionally, South Carolina college students continue to graduate at slightly higher rates than the national average⁶.



⁶ National Center for Higher Education Management Systems Information Center, 6-Year Graduation Rates of Bachelor's Students, 2011 & 2015

Occupational Outlook

The occupational outlook for a given community provides information on the various industries within the county, and often includes information such as median pay, number of jobs, turnover rates, and number of new hires during a given quarter.

[Quarterly Workforce Indicators](#)



Update: Similar to the 2013 update, job turn-over is stable, and wages (total wage and new employee wages) have increased each year. Job creations has also increased over the past 4 years⁷.

Quarterly Average Workforce Indicators for All Sectors Cherokee County 2013-2016				
	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Total Employment	16,750	16,959	16,866	16,663
Net Job Flow	64	33	82	164
Job Creation	813	744	824	1,086
New Hires	2,518	2,448	2,890	3,228
Separations	2,811	2,833	3,175	3,308
Turnover	8.0%	8.2%	8.8%	9.0%
Average Monthly Earnings	\$ 3,048	\$ 3,088	\$ 3,151	\$ 3,186
Average New Higher Earnings	\$ 1,852	\$ 1,838	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,165

*2016 Q1 and Q2 data only

⁷ United States Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LEDH, QWI Explorer

New Hires by Industry is the closest statistic we have that reflects job growth in Cherokee County⁸.

New Hires by Industry Cherokee County 2016 Quarter 3				
	New Hire Counts	End of Quarter Hiring Rate*	New Hire Average Monthly Earnings	Average Monthly Earnings
Accommodation and Food Services	597	26%	\$ 972	\$ 978
Administrative and Support and Waste Management and Remediation Services	516	40%	\$ 2,058	\$ 2,051
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting	71	62%	\$ 1,067	\$ 1,040
Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation	57	25%	\$ 1,864	\$ 1,726
Construction	185	25%	\$ 3,236	\$ 2,999
Educational Services	127	4%	\$ 1,576	\$ 1,269
Finance and Insurance	23	6%	\$ 3,355	\$ 3,191
Health Care and Social Assistance	189	10%	\$ 2,064	\$ 2,220
Information ^	4	5%	\$ 1,329	\$ 1,397
Management of Companies and Enterprises ^	9	17%	\$ 1,524	\$ 1,524
Manufacturing	747	12%	\$ 3,077	\$ 3,067
Mining, Quarrying, and Oil and Gas Extraction ^	--	--	\$ 3,091	\$ 3,091
Other Services (except Public Administration)	43	7%	\$ 1,990	\$ 1,621
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	32	12%	\$ 4,197	\$ 3,967
Public Administration	39	6%	\$ 2,322	\$ 2,319
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	34	11%	\$ 3,455	\$ 3,288
Retail Trade	576	18%	\$ 1,285	\$ 1,325
Transportation and Warehousing	646	53%	\$ 3,993	\$ 3,863
Utilities ^	4	3%	\$ 12,347	\$ 12,347
Wholesale Trade	67	9%	\$ 3,957	\$ 3,519
All NAICS Sectors (average)	3967	16%	\$ 2,244	\$ 2,174

*Hiring rate = hires as a percentage of average employment.

^data for these indicators significantly distorted; fuzzed value released, because of the small number of new hires and average employment.

⁸ United States Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, LED Extraction Tool—Quarterly Workforce Indicators, 2016 quarter 3

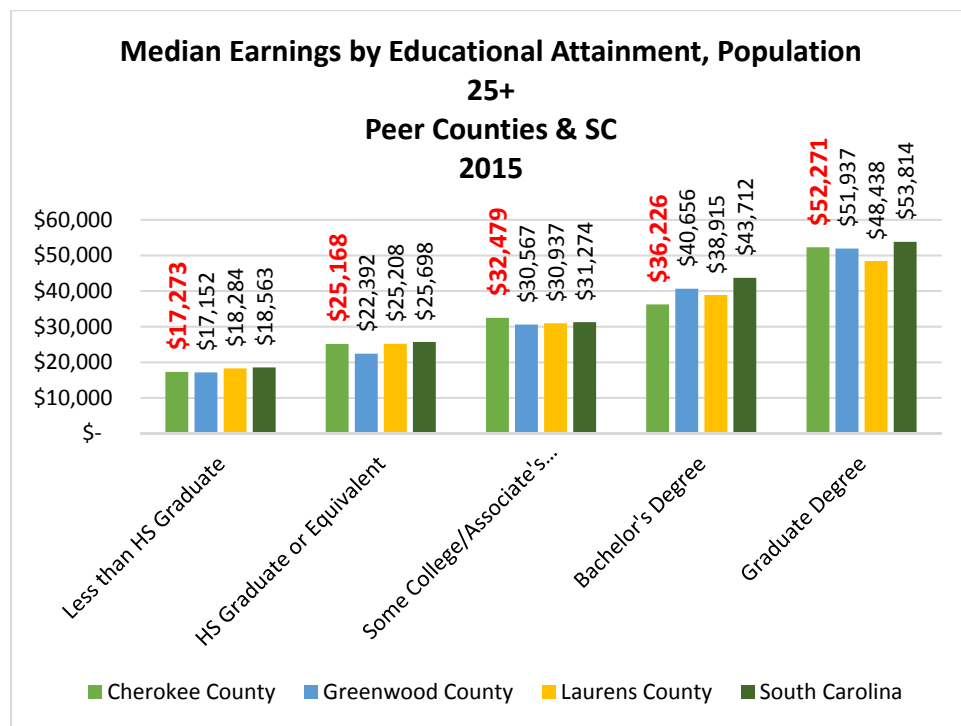
Wages by Educational Level

Wages increase by educational level whether measured at the national, state, or local level.



Update: Findings are mixed for median earnings between 2011 and 2015 in Cherokee County. From 2011 until 2014, workers with less than high school diploma, high school graduates, and those with bachelor's degrees have decreased in their median earnings, and in 2015, all workers except those with a less than high school diploma had a decrease in median earnings from the previous year⁹.

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment Population 25+ Cherokee County 2011-2015					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Less than HS Graduate	\$ 20,652	\$ 19,483	\$ 17,364	\$ 16,481	\$ 17,273
HS Graduate or Equivalent	\$ 25,678	\$ 26,420	\$ 25,635	\$ 25,181	\$ 25,168
Some College/Associate's Degree	\$ 31,293	\$ 29,734	\$ 30,681	\$ 33,766	\$ 32,479
Bachelor's Degree	\$39,246	\$ 40,339	\$ 37,813	\$ 36,580	\$ 36,226
Graduate Degree	\$ 45,777	\$ 49,714	\$ 50,250	\$ 52,405	\$ 52,271



*Red amounts represent Cherokee County median earnings

⁹ American FactFinder, Educational Attainment, 2011-2015 5-year estimate

Public Health

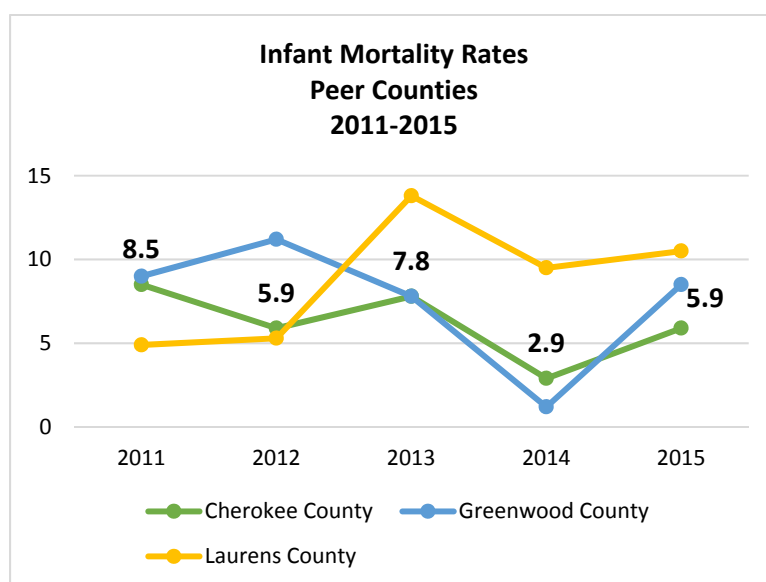
Public health indicators reflect the existence and success of efforts to promote healthy lifestyles and the avoidance of disease and injury. Where there are robust public health efforts, there is improved quality of life and life expectancy.

Infant Mortality

Infant mortality rates are important indicators of health for the whole population, reflecting that factors affecting the health of the whole population have an impact on the mortality rate of infants in each community. Infant mortality is a measure of death within the first year of life and is reported as a rate per 1,000 live births. Because there is a historic racial disparity in infant mortality, it is instructive to examine the data for both blacks and whites in the county.

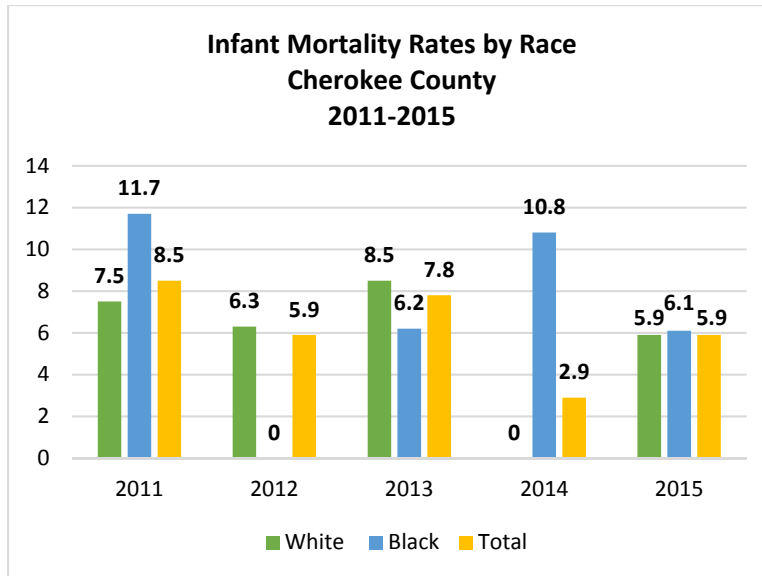


Update: Infant mortality rates in Cherokee County have improved since the 2013 update, but have fluctuated over the past 5 years. In 2015, Cherokee County had the lowest infant mortality rate (5.9) of the peer counties and was lower than the state rate (7.0). In the years of 2011-2014, there has been great variance in racial disparities in infant mortality. In 2015, a smaller gap in racial disparities was observed, but since this gap has only been observed for one year, any conclusions about a potential trend cannot be established¹⁰.



**Numbers on the graph represent Cherokee County Infant Mortality rates.*

¹⁰ South Carolina DHEC, SC Community Assessment Network (SCAN), Infant Mortality, 2011-2015



Comparison to 2010 Report

Because of the data source, a direct comparison of infant mortality rates in the 2010 report to the data reported in this update cannot be provided as the rates were calculated differently. For reference, the table that reported the infant mortality rates in the original indicators report is provided below.

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 during 2004-2006				
County Rank	County	All	White	AA & Other
43	Cherokee	16.1	13.0	25.0
42	Greenwood	15.8	8.7	28.2
39	Laurens	13.5	8.0	25.9
	S.C.	9.0	6.4	13.9

Birth Weight

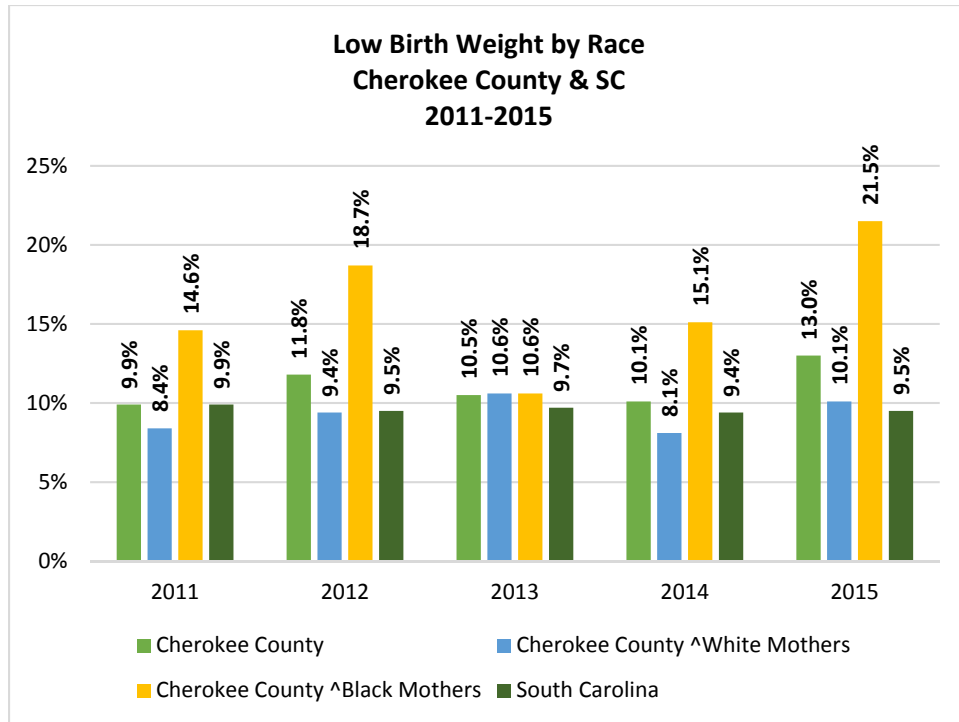
Low birth weight is a primary predictor of infant mortality, and children who had a low birth weight have higher incidences of ongoing physical disabilities, behavior problems, poor cognitive performance, and learning disabilities.



Update: In 2015, in Cherokee County, 13% of babies were born with a low birth weight; the state average was 9.5%. The percentage of babies born with a low birth weight in the county has been increasing since 2011, and the lowest percentage in most recent years was in 2011.

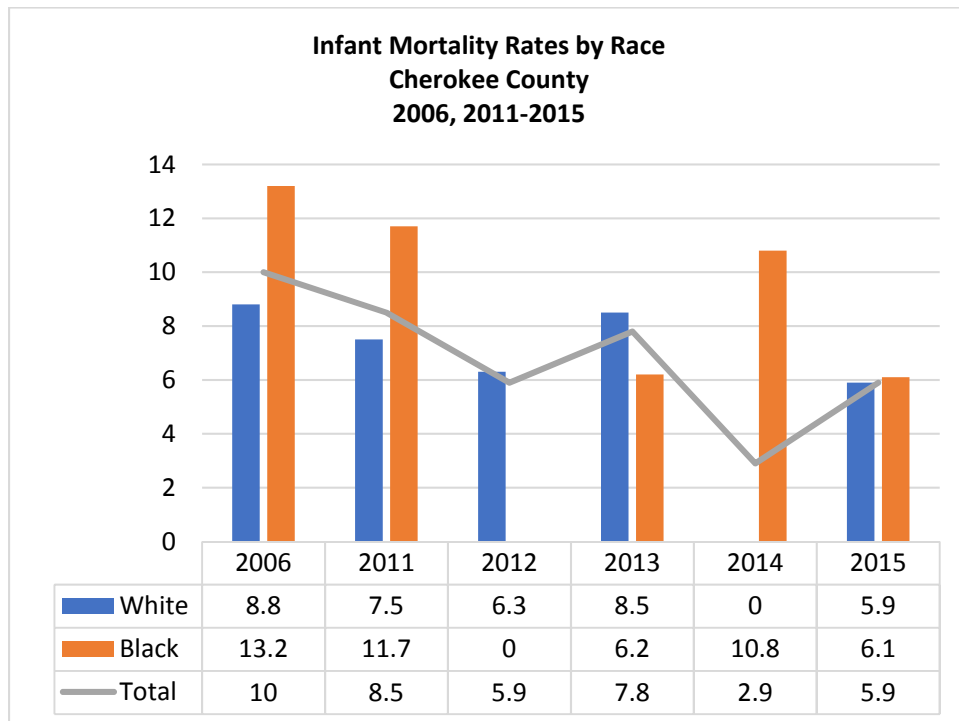
When broken down by race, in 2015, 21.5% of babies with a black mother were born with a low birth weight. Significant disparities by race in low birth weight have been observed for the past 5 years¹¹.

¹¹ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids County Data Center, Babies Born with Low Birth Weight by Race, 2011-2015



Comparison to 2010 Report

Infant mortality rates in the county fell between 2006 and 2015 and when broken down by race, mortality rates for all groups have fallen but continued to show disparities.



[Access to Prenatal Care](#)

Access to prenatal care is a primary determinant of birth weight and, therefore, infant mortality.



Update: In 2015, almost 40% of babies in Cherokee County were born to mothers with less than adequate prenatal care. This is an increase from 25.4% observed in 2010. As with other birth outcomes, disparities by race are observed in this indicator¹².

[Comparison to 2010 Report](#)

Access to prenatal care is worse in 2015 for all mothers and by race than in 2006. In comparison, the state percentage of mothers with less than adequate access to prenatal care improved during the same timeframe.

Babies Born to Mothers with Less than Adequate Prenatal Care Cherokee County & SC 2011-2015							
		2006	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cherokee County		31.1%	28.7%	28.7%	34.5%	36.9%	39.1%
	White	28.3%	27.1%	26.3%	31.1%	32.9%	35.4%
	Black	39.2%	33.9%	35.3%	45.0%	48.1%	50.3%
South Carolina		37.8%	32.2%	31.9%	32.3%	32.9%	34.1%

¹² Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center, Babies Born to Mothers with Less Than Adequate Prenatal Care, 2011-2015

Risk Factors for Chronic Health Conditions

Common behavioral risk factors contribute significantly to chronic disease and death in South Carolina. The Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) tracks the prevalence of these risk factors by county. The latest data available are for 2016.



Update: The BRFSS has changed some of its measures since 2010. On the measures that are the same since the last update, Cherokee County has seen an increase in some risk factors (sedentary lifestyle, overweight/obese, and high cholesterol) while the state percentage in those same risk factors has decreased.

Cherokee County had a higher percentage of individuals who reported that they consumed fruit and vegetables less than once per day than the state average, and the county also had a higher percentage reporting having poor physical or mental health days every day in the past 30 days (at the time of the survey)¹³.

Smoking behaviors are no longer included as part of the BRFSS. The South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control reported county level data on the 2014-2015 Adult Tobacco Survey, and it was reported that 21.8% of adults in the county were current users of cigarettes¹⁴. County level data is not available for youth smoking behaviors. According to the 2015 Youth Tobacco Survey, 52.4% of all youth in the state have tried smoking (1-2 puffs) and those that are in the 12th grade had the highest percentage who has used tobacco products one or more days in the past 30 days (30.3%¹⁵).

Risk Factors for Chronic Conditions Cherokee County & SC 2016		
	Cherokee County	South Carolina
Current Smoking*	21.8%	19.0%
Sedentary Lifestyle	38.3%	26.3%
Overweight/Obese	70.5%	66.5%
High Cholesterol	46.5%	41.0%
Consume Fruit Less than Once per Day	48.9%	45.6%
Consume Vegetables Less than Once per Day	33.7%	26.5%
Those that reported every day having poor physical or mental health keeping them from doing their usual activities, such as self-care, work, or recreation	12.0%	9.0%
Percent of those who, in the past 12 months, could not see a doctor due to cost	19.4%	18.3%

*2015 data

¹³ 2016 South Carolina Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance Survey, SC DHEC

¹⁴ 2015 Adult Tobacco Survey, SC DHEC

¹⁵ 2015 Youth Tobacco Survey, SC DHEC

State Youth Tobacco Survey South Carolina 2015		
	Percent of Total Youth	Percent of 12 th Graders Alone
To Try (1-2 puffs or more at any point)	52.4%	63.2%
To Use (1 or more days in past 30 days)	21.50%	30.3%

Comparison to 2010 Report

Because of changes in how questions are asked/what is collected as part of the BRFSS, limited comparisons can be made from the 2010 report to this update. Below is the chart from the report for reference.

Risk Factors for Chronic Conditions 2008				
	Cherokee	Laurens	Greenwood	S.C.
Current smoking	22%	19%	26%	20%
Sedentary lifestyle	29%	26%	34%	27%
Overweight	60%	71%	56%	66%
High Cholesterol	41%	38%	42%	43%
Less than 5 servings of fruits/vegetables per day (2007)	83%	83%	81%	81%

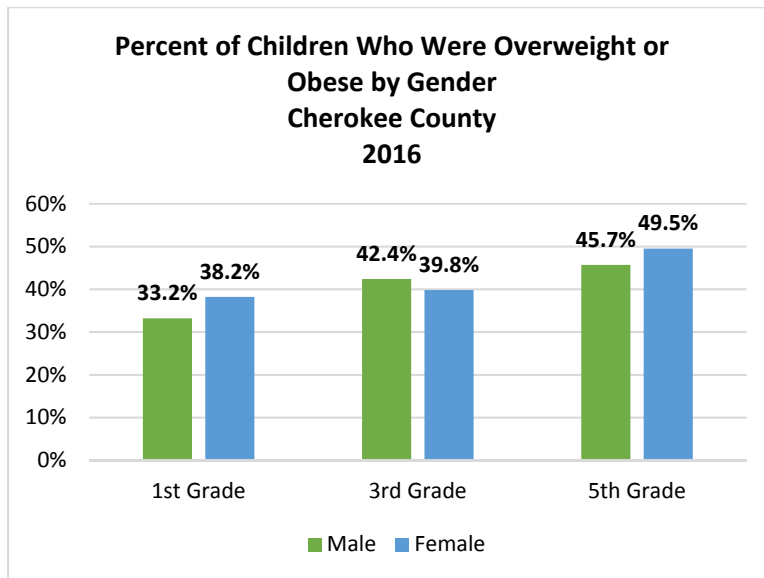
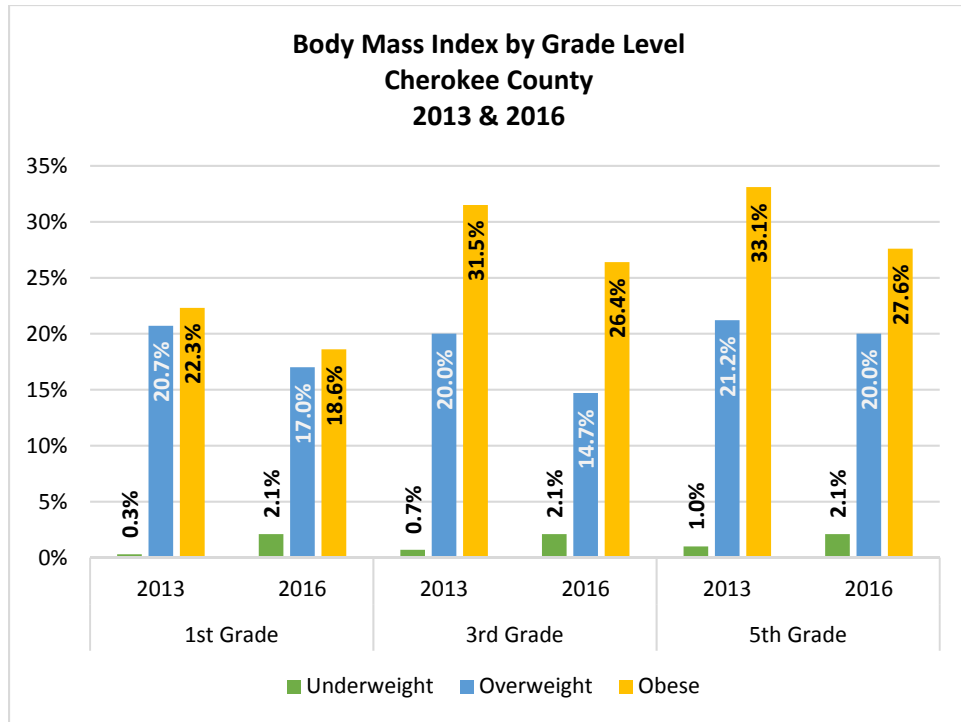
Body Mass Index Reports

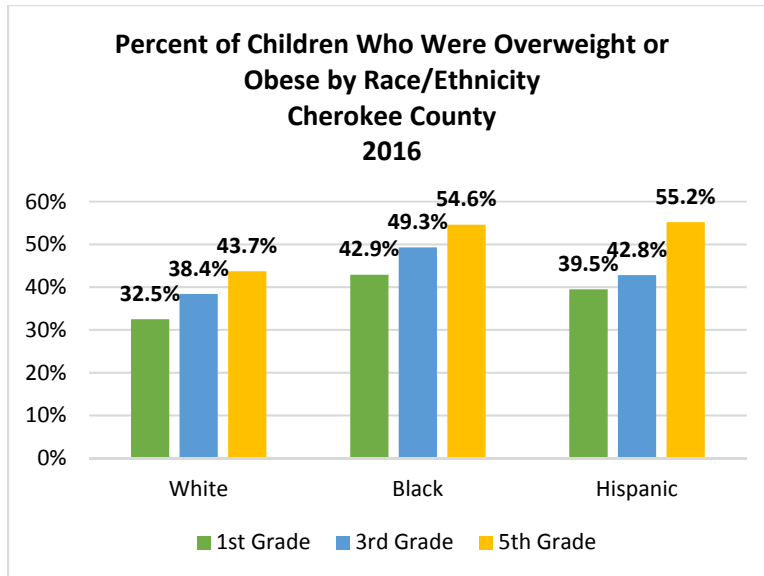
Children who are overweight or obese have a higher risk of health-related problems including high blood pressure, type-2 diabetes, and elevated blood cholesterol levels. Additionally, individuals who had a higher body weight during childhood are linked to earlier deaths in adulthood.

Since 2012, the Body Mass Index (BMI) project tracks the BMI of 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders in the county.

Between 2013 and 2016, the percentage of children in each of the three grade levels who are overweight or obese has fallen, but disparities exist by gender and race/ethnicity. Female children are more likely than their male counterparts to be either overweight or obese and children who are black or those who are Hispanic are more likely to be overweight or obese than their counterparts are¹⁶.

¹⁶ Body Mass Index Report, Cherokee County School Districts & SC DHEC, 2013 and 2016





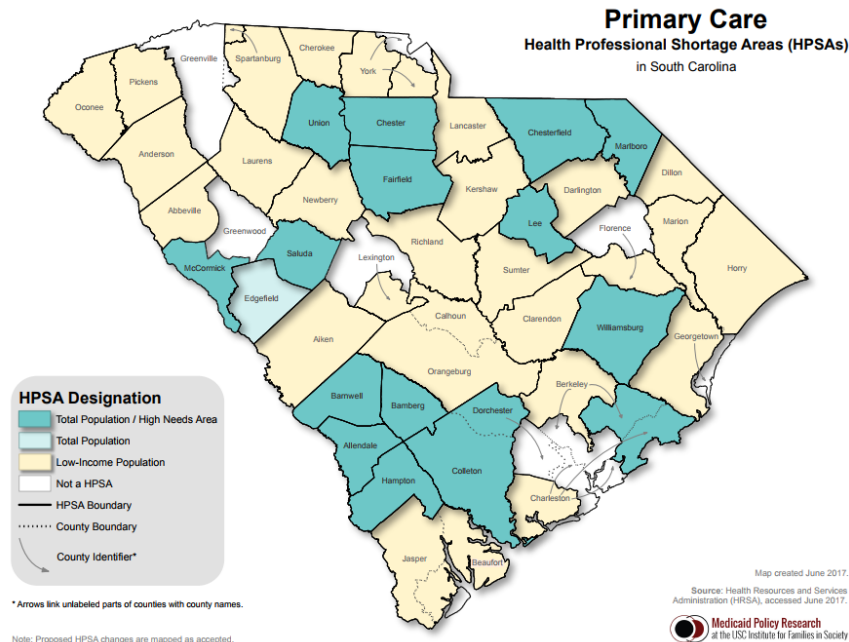
Health Professional Shortage Areas

Maintaining good health requires access to quality healthcare. The South Carolina eHealth Medicaid Statistics reports Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) by county¹⁷. HPSAs are areas in which residents are especially vulnerable to long-term health issues associated with the shortage of health professionals. For an area to be defined as a HPSA, it must meet the following basic criteria:

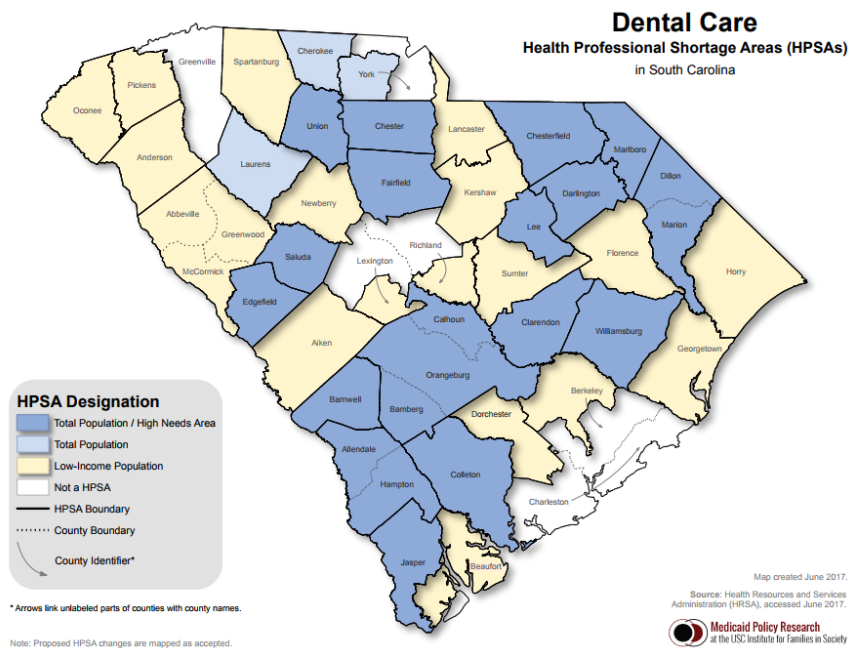
- Comprise a rationale area for health services delivery
- Exceed a specified population-to-provider ratio
- Evidenced resource over-utilization or inaccessibility

Primary Care: Cherokee County is identified as a HPSA for the low-income population; meaning there is a shortage of primary care providers for low-income residents in the county.

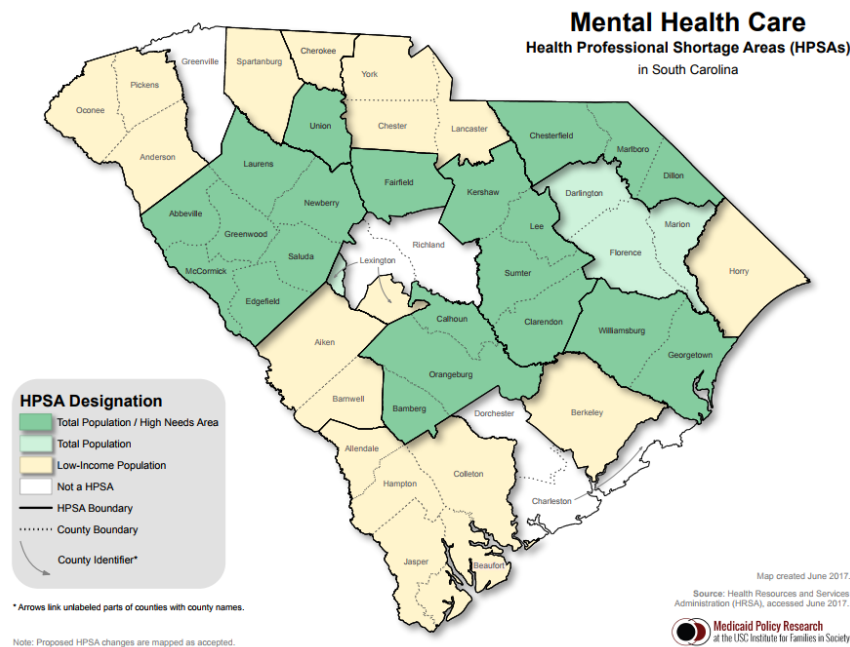
¹⁷ South Carolina eHealth Medicaid Statistics, Health Professional Shortage Areas



Dental Care: Cherokee County is identified as dental care HPSA for the total population; meaning that there is a greater ratio than 5,000 people per dentist or insufficient capacity of existing dental providers.



Mental Health Care: The County is a mental health care HPSA for the low-income population.



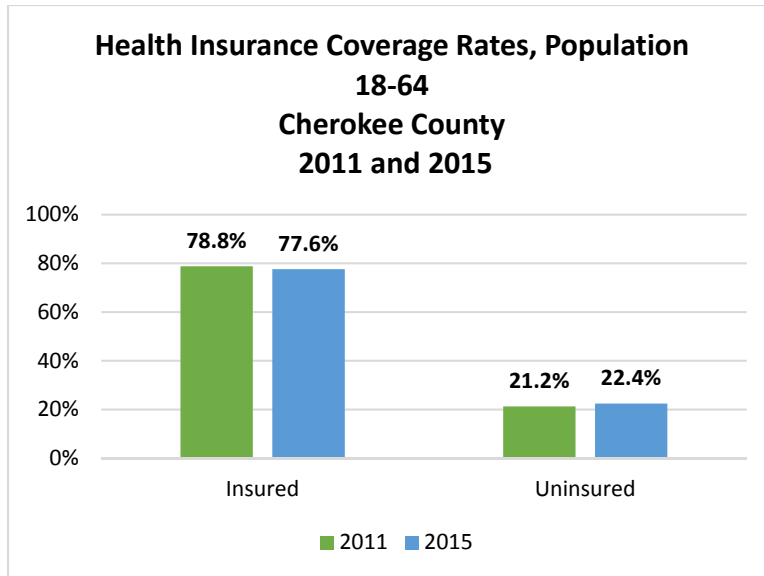
Health Insurance Coverage Rates

The health insurance coverage rate is, in part, a reflection of the quality of jobs in a specific area, and the changes in the rate of coverage and the distribution of the coverage could reflect the economic trends. In 2014, the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) produced significant changes in the insurance coverage rates.

The portion of the population that is usually measured for health insurance coverage is working age adults, 18 to 64, as this segment is exempt from public insurance by entitlement of age and income. People age 65 and older are covered by public insurance (most often Medicare) and low-income children are covered by public insurance in the form of Medicaid. Persons who do not have any source of health insurance and go without primary care often end up being treated as emergency patients – a much costlier mode of treatment than prevention or accessing primary care via insurance coverage.

➡ **Update:** There has been little change in insurance coverage rates for most of the groups in the county since the 2013 update. The county has had a decrease in the percentage of those under 18 who were uninsured (5.9%, down from 9.0% in 2011). Most notably, however, the county has had an increase in those with a bachelor's degree or higher who are uninsured (10.2%, up from 6.3% in 2011) and an increase in uninsured rates for those who did not work (30.0%, up from 22.9% in 2011)¹⁸.

¹⁸ American FactFinder, Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States, 2015 5-year estimates



**2011, 3-year estimates & 2015, 5-year estimates*

When Cherokee County is compared with the peer counties, neighboring Spartanburg County, and the state average for the 2015 period, findings are mixed but mostly consistent.

Percent Uninsured Peer Counties & SC 2015					
	Cherokee	Spartanburg	Greenwood	Laurens	South Carolina
Age					
Under 18	5.9%	5.8%	6.3%	10.5%	6.5%
18-64	22.4%	20.7%	24.2%	21.5%	21.0%
65 years and older	0.1%	0.6%	0.6%	0.1%	0.5%
Educational Attainment (population 25+ years)					
Less Than High School	20.9%	24.8%	28.0%	23.8%	27.8%
High School Graduate or Equivalent	19.2%	19.2%	20.5%	18.3%	20.3%
Some College or Associate's Degree	14.2%	13.8%	18.4%	12.9%	14.8%
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	10.2%	6.4%	6.9%	4.7%	6.1%
Work Status					
Worked Full-Time, year-round in the past 12 months	9.5%	13.0%	17.2%	13.7%	13.9%
Worked Less Than Full Time, year-round in the past 12 months	33.2%	30.4%	32.4%	30.5%	29.7%
Did Not Work	30.0%	25.7%	27.7%	25.4%	25.7%

Comparison to 2010 Report

A higher percentage of those ages 18-64 years were uninsured in 2015 than were reported in 2006 in Cherokee County. This increase in percentage was also observed in Greenwood and Laurens Counties.

Number and Percentage Uninsured 2006								
	Under age 65		Under age 19		18 to 64 years		40 to 64 years	
Cherokee County	8,544	18.1%	1,520	10.7%	7,173	21.2%	2,972	16.5%
Laurens County	9,667	16.4%	1,806	10.6%	8,017	18.7%	3,400	14.4%
Greenwood County	10,524	18.4%	1,916	10.9%	8,746	21.5%	3,633	17.0%
South Carolina	726,846	19.2%	143,706	12.8%	595,689	22.0%	258,379	17.8%

In 2013, there were 8,396 children in Cherokee County enrolled in Medicaid, and that number increased in 2015 to 9,294. Children make up 65.6% of Medicaid enrollees in Cherokee County in 2015 (up from 54% in 2012)¹⁹.

Medicaid Members by Eligibility Category (count) Cherokee County 2013 and 2015				
	Full Benefits		Limited Benefits	
	2013	2015	2013	2015
Children (0-18)	8,396	9,294	43	44
Adults (19-64)	3,175	4,018	1,325	2,374
Elderly (65+)	839	859	248	296

Medicaid Members by Eligibility Category (percentage) Cherokee County 2013 and 2015				
	Full Benefits		Limited Benefits	
	2013	2015	2013	2015
Children (0-18)	67.7%	65.6%	2.7%	1.6%
Adults (19-64)	25.6%	28.4%	82.0%	87.5%
Elderly (65+)	6.8%	6.1%	15.3%	10.9%

¹⁹ South Carolina eHealth Medicaid Statistics, Medicaid Enrollment by County, <http://www.schealthviz.sc.edu/medicaid-enrollment>

Thirty one percent of the ED visits in 2015 in Cherokee County were by individuals covered by Medicaid²⁰.

ED Visits by Type Cherokee County 2015			
	Visits	Total Charges	Average Charge
Commercial/HMO	8,464	\$ 21,808,687	\$ 2,001
Medicaid	10,490	\$ 15,811,339	\$ 1,304
Medicare	6,361	\$ 26,426,675	\$ 2,877
Self/Indigent	8,290	\$ 16,816,950	\$ 1,616

Comparison to 2010 Report

Because of changes in how Medicare/Medicaid is reported, limited comparisons can be made from the 2010 report to this update. Below is the chart from the report for reference.

Number of Cherokee County Children Enrolled in Medicaid June 2008					
	White	African-American	Hispanic	Other	Total
Children under 1	263	168	37	29	497
Children 1-5	972	540	94	99	1,705
Children 6-14	1,424	783	72	160	2,439
Children 15-18	604	381	12	58	1,005
Total	3,263	1,872	215	346	5,696

Drug and Alcohol Abuse

The South Carolina Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services (DAODAS) no longer publicly reports data at the county level. Another indicator of drug and alcohol abuse in the county is the number of Emergency Department (ED) visits for mental health, specifically drug and alcohol use.

Update: No update from the 2013 report can be given since this is a different data set.

Since 2010, Cherokee County has had a reduction in the number of ED visits for alcohol and drug dependence, but has seen an increase in nondependent use of drugs. Nondependent use of drugs is the use/abuse of other drugs²¹. This increase in the nondependent use of drug ED visits mirrors the national trend.

²⁰ South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health Utilization Online Query System, ED Reports

²¹ South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health Utilization Online Query System, ED Reports

ED Visits (Including admissions to Inpatient via ED) Cherokee County 2010-2015						
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Alcohol Dependence Syndrome	75	64	57	58	15	8
Drug Dependence	6	18	17	17	8	**
Nondependent Use of Drugs	78	78	142	166	224	198

***Data is not reported where number of visits is less than five*


Comparison to 2010 Report

Because of changes in how drug use/abuse is reported, limited comparisons can be made from the 2010 report to this update. Below is the chart from the report for reference.

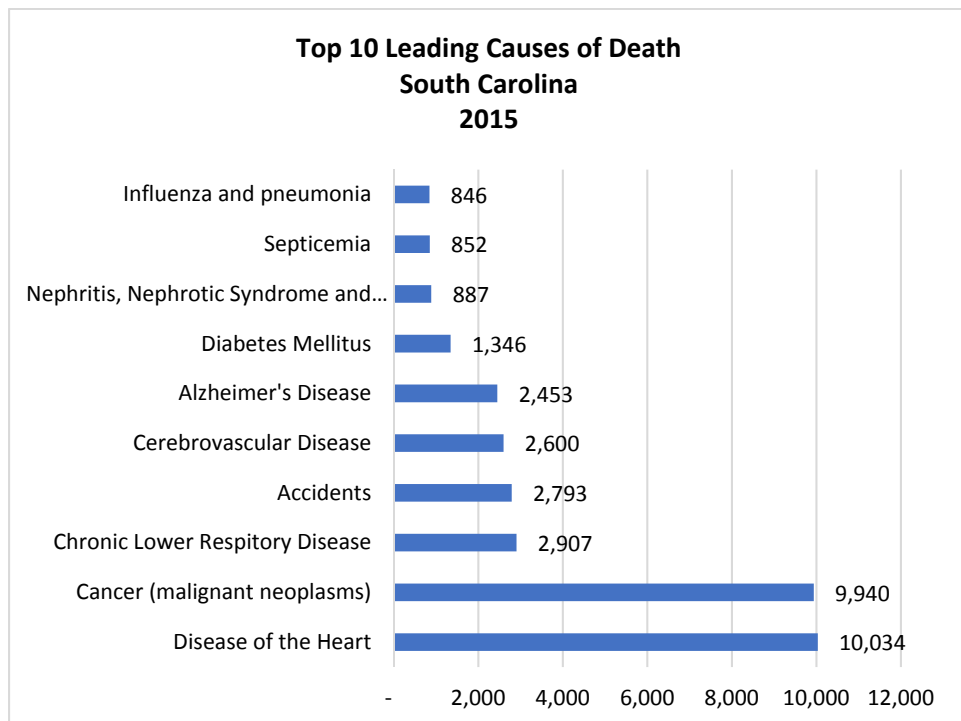
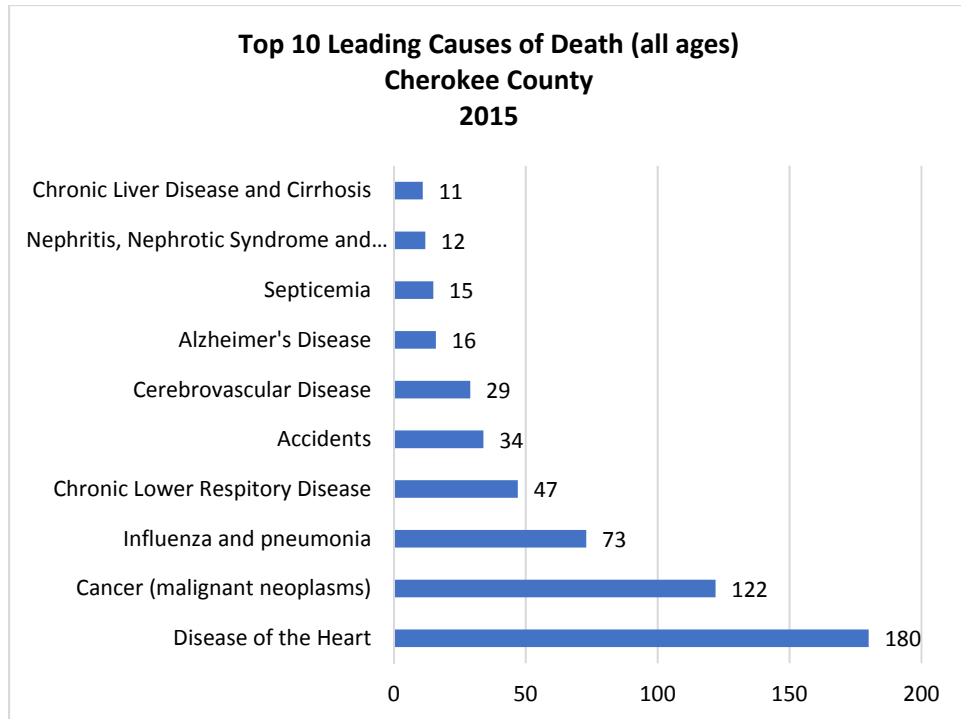
SC DAODAS Cherokee County Number of Admissions by Primary Problem						
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Alcohol	192	161	180	157	199	199
Cocaine	19	28	30	60	75	79
Marijuana	85	104	120	129	159	176
Methamphetamine	15	14	19	30	28	28
Opiates	12	9	20	16	14	30
Other Drug**	16	14	13	15	32	30
Other related problem*	8	12	25	29	14	19

Mortality

The major causes of death in South Carolina and its counties generally do not vary significantly from year to year.

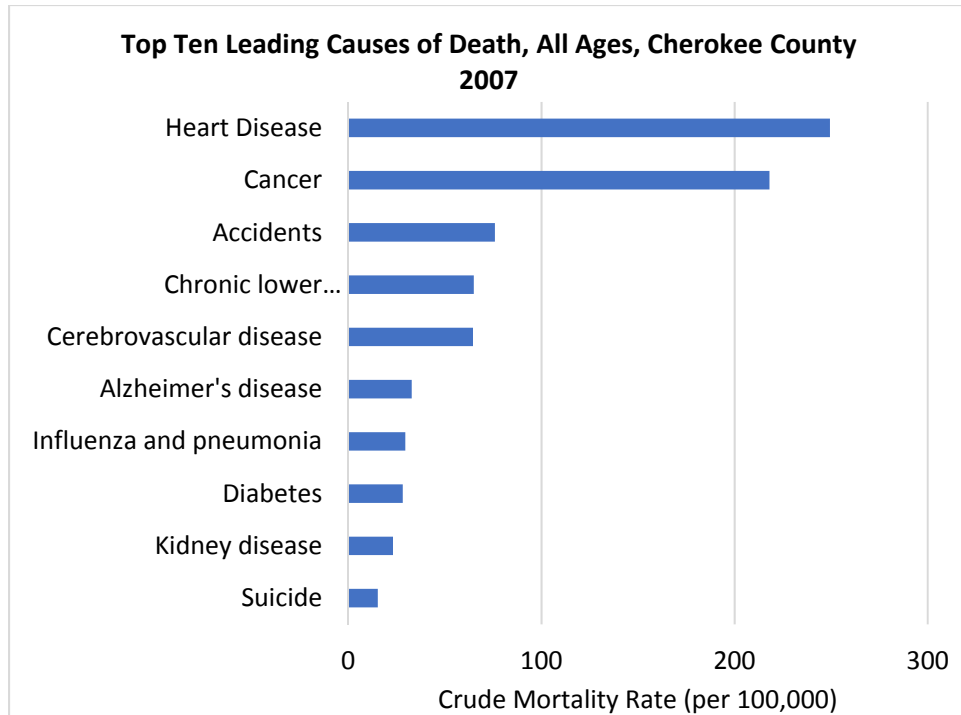
 **Update:** Since the 2013 update, Cherokee County has had a small shift in the leading causes of death. In 2015, diabetes mellitus dropped to out of the top 10 leading causes of death to 11th and septicemia was the 8th leading cause of death (septicemia was not in the top 10 in the 2013). The major causes of death have held relatively consistent with overall state mortality²².

²² South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Records, Causes of Deaths, 2015

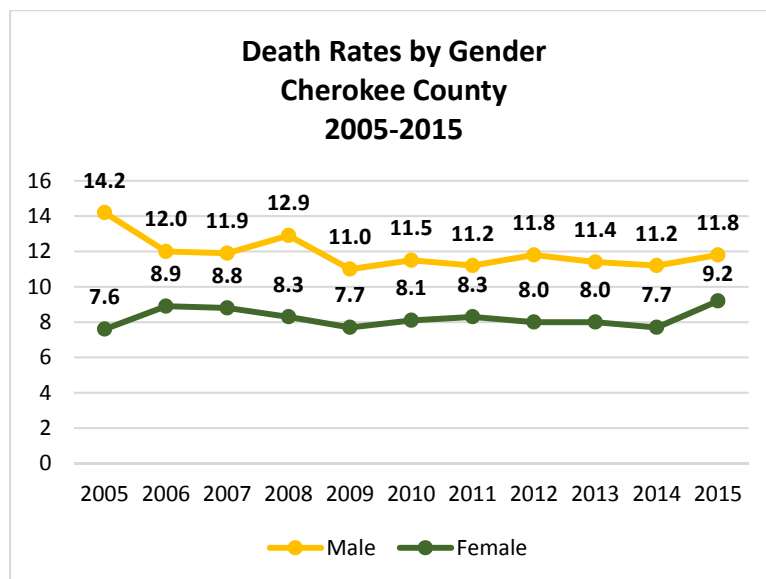


Comparison to 2010 Report

There has been little variance in the top ten leading causes of death in the county since the 2010 report.



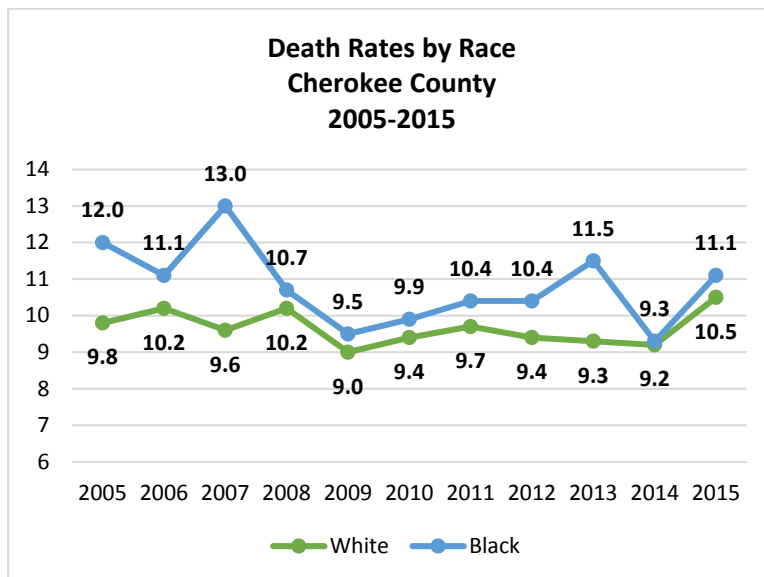
There is a disparity in the death rate by gender in Cherokee County over the past 10 years. Males consistently have had a higher death rate than females. This mirrors the trends statewide and nationally²³.



When comparing death rates by race, there is a slight disparity in Cherokee County in which blacks have consistently had a slightly higher death rate than their white counterparts have over the past 10 years.

²³ South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Records, Death Rates, 2005-2015

This disparity by race is not reflected in the state, where residents who are white have had a higher death rate over the same period than their black counterparts²⁴.



Oral Health

The South Carolina BRFSS no longer asks questions related to oral health. Thus, there is no update for Cherokee County on this indicator.

Mental Health

The best gauge of mental health morbidities and access to treatment is the number of visits to Cherokee County hospital emergency departments for mental health diagnoses, and the disposition of those visits. *Note that, because these morbidities include substance use diagnoses, they are referred to collectively as “behavioral health.”*



Update: High rates of visits to emergency departments for behavioral health diagnoses indicate that preventive or outpatient options may not be available or sufficient. Unlike the peer counties of Laurens and Greenwood, Cherokee County has had an overall decrease in the number of ED visits for behavioral health from 2012 to 2015, but has had an increase in the number of Medicaid discharges. Indigent care discharges accounts for the largest portion in 2015: 39.9% (up from 32.5% in 2012). Not unexpectedly, average charges have increased for every payer source²⁵.

²⁴ South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, SC Vital and Morbidity Statistics Report, 2015

²⁵ South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health Utilization Online Query System, ED Reports

ED Visits for Behavioral Health Cherokee County 2012 & 2015						
Payer Source	# of Visits		Total Charges		Average Charge	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Commercial/HMO	225	183	\$ 391,316	\$363,318	\$ 1,557	\$ 1,755
Medicaid	200	245	\$ 316,477	\$ 492,403	\$ 1,409	\$ 1,766
Medicare	186	187	\$ 431,411	\$ 522,566	\$ 1,884	\$ 2,354
Self/Indigent	406	296	\$ 785,134	\$ 649,142	\$ 1,658	\$ 2,003
Total	1,017	911	\$1,924,338	\$ 2,027,429		

Inpatient discharges for behavioral health diagnoses have held relatively steady, with indigent payers having a reduction in number of discharges, and overall total charges increased. Average charges decreased for Medicare patients, which differs from the 2013 update when that was the only payer source without a decrease in average charges²⁶.

Inpatient Discharges for Behavioral Health Cherokee County 2012 & 2015								
Payer Source	# of Discharges		Total Charges		Average Charge		% of Discharges Admitted via ED	
	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015	2012	2015
Commercial HMO	17	25	\$ 408,494	\$ 645,950	\$ 21,903	\$ 22,907	64.7%	56%
Medicaid	21	24	\$ 322,406	\$ 1,047,148	\$ 14,201	\$ 19,178	57.1%	41.7%
Medicare	46	48	\$ 2,115,702	\$ 1,794,782	\$ 36,472	\$ 32,687	76.1%	81.3%
Self/Indigent	22	11	\$ 394,696	\$ 377,964	\$ 15,903	\$27,179	95.5%	81.8%
Total	106	108	\$ 3,241,298	\$ 3,865,844				

Comparison to 2010 Report

In 2009, Cherokee County had 128 inpatient discharges for mental disorders with an average charge of \$27,280.


²⁶ South Carolina Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Office, Health Utilization Online Query System, Inpatient Reports

Family and Youth

Family and youth indicators allow for assessing risk in community, family, and school environments. These metrics can increase awareness of factors that predict unwanted outcomes for the largest sectors of the community.

Family Income

Income is generally used as a measure of the economic well-being of a community and a measure of how well residents of the community are living. Income is measured variously to capture subtle but important differences.

 **Update:** In Cherokee County, most of the findings related to income are mixed. The percentage of each group below poverty has increased since 2011, apart from married-couple families, which decreased. Per capita, median household, and median family incomes have all increased since 2011. Overall, income is lower and poverty rates are higher in Cherokee County than the state and national averages²⁷.

Population Below Poverty Level Cherokee County 2015						
		Number Below Poverty	Percent Below Poverty	2011 Percent Below	South Carolina	United States
All Residents		13,093	23.8%	21.8%	17.9%	15.5%
	Children under age 18	4,594	34.8%	32.3%	26.3%	21.7%
Families						
	Married Couples		9.5%	18.1%	5.8%	5.6%
	Female Householder, no husband present		45.7%	44.9%	35.7%	30.6%
Households		13,630	18.9%	19.8%	15.1%	13.2%
	Households below FPL that receive food stamps	2,466	57.8%	55.6%	55.2%	51.3%

²⁷ American FactFinder, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2015, 5-year estimates
 American FactFinder, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families, 2015, 5-years estimate
 American FactFinder, Food Stamps/SNAP, 2015, 5-year estimates

Family Household and Income Statistics 2015				
	Cherokee County	2011 Cherokee County	South Carolina	United States
Average Household Size	2.68	2.63	2.56	2.64
Average Family Size	3.35	3.03	3.13	3.24
Per Capita Income (in 2015 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)	\$ 19,279	\$ 16,911	\$ 24,604	\$ 28,930
Median Household Income	\$ 35,389	\$ 32,458	\$ 45,483	\$ 53,889
Median Family Income	\$ 45,724	\$37,742	\$ 56,343	\$ 66,011

Comparison to 2010 Report

Median household and family incomes have barely increased from 2008 and a higher percentage of residents and children under the age of 18 live in poverty in 2015 than in 2008.

Family Income Estimates 2008	
	Cherokee
Average household size	2.62
Average family size	3.32
Median household income	\$35,299
Median family income	\$45,593
Individuals below poverty level	19.1%
Families with children under 18 below poverty level	23.7%
<i>Married-couple families</i>	12.4%
<i>Female householder, no husband present</i>	46.3%
Households below poverty level	21.6%
Households below poverty level that receive food stamps	68.0%

Teen Birth Rate

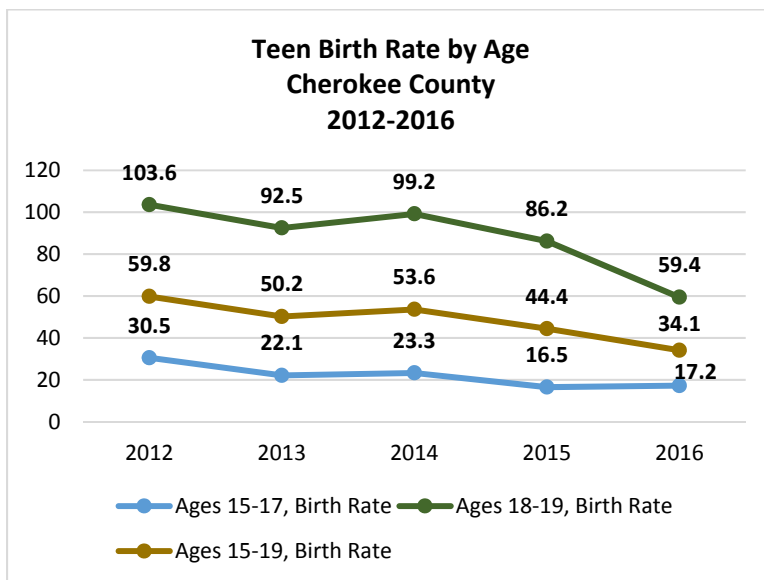
Teen pregnancy has substantial implications for educational and socioeconomic outcomes for the teen mother. Parenthood is the leading reason that teen girls drop out of school. More than 50% of teen mothers never graduate from high school. Compared to their counterparts, approximately 90% of

women who do not give birth during their teenage years will graduate from high school²⁸. Additionally, less than 2% of teen moms earn a college degree by age 30²⁹.

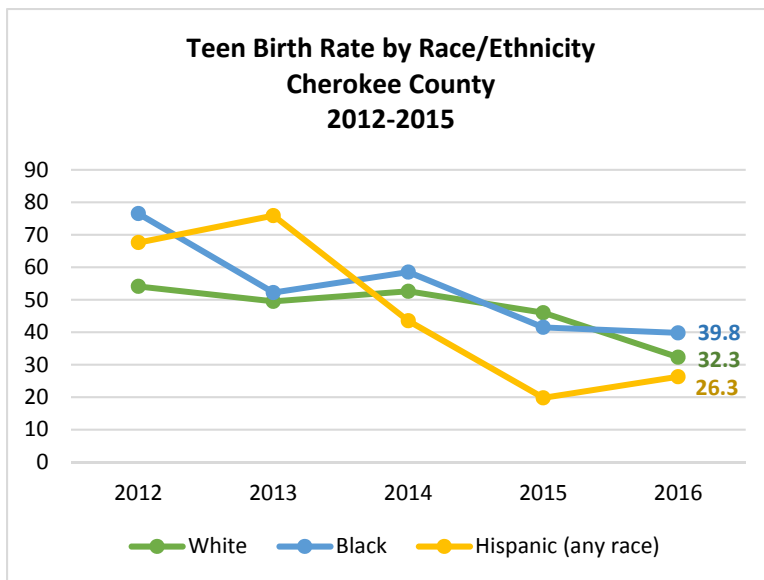


Update: In Cherokee County, the five-year trend continues to show a decrease in the teen birth rates across several measures. However, there are still disparities by age and race.

Teenagers ages 18-19 and those who are black have higher birth rates than their counterparts do³⁰.



**Per 1,000 population*



**Per 1,000 population*

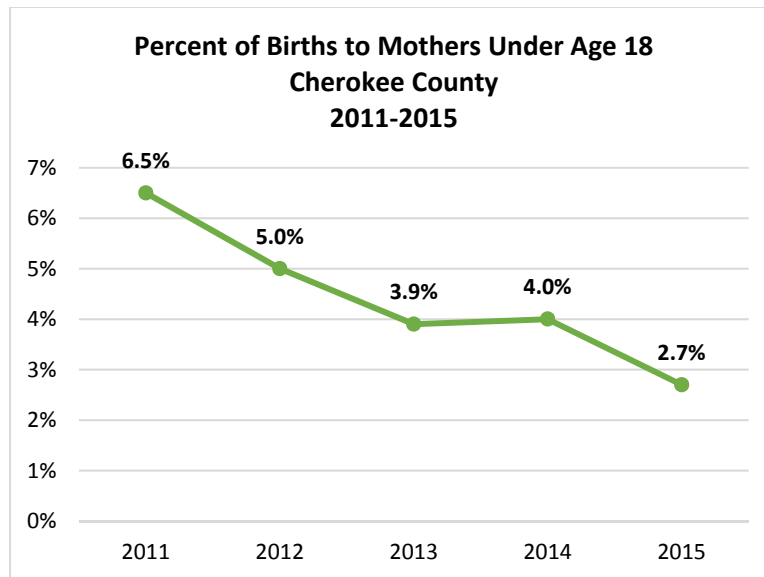
***Numbers represent 2016 teen birth rate by race/ethnicity*

²⁸ Center for Disease Control and Prevention, About Teen Pregnancy, <https://www.cdc.gov/teenpregnancy/about/index.htm>

²⁹ DoSomething.org, 11 Facts about Teen Pregnancy, <https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-teen-pregnancy>

³⁰ South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control, Birth Rate, 2012-2015

The percentage of births to mothers under the age of 18 has continued to decrease in the county³¹.



The percent of teen girls ages 14-17 who became pregnant in Cherokee County has also continued to decrease³².

Percent of Teen Girls Ages 14-17 Who Became Pregnant Cherokee County 2011-2015				
2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
3.7%	2.6%	2.1%	2.1%	1.4%

[Comparison to 2010 Report](#)

Because of different data sources, limited comparisons can be made from the 2010 report to this update. Below is the chart from the 2010 report for reference.

³¹ Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center, Births to Mothers under 18, 2012-2015

³² Annie E. Casey Kids Count Data Center, Percent of Teen Girls Ages 14-17 Who Became Pregnant, 2012-2015

Teen Pregnancy, Cherokee County 1997, 2004, 2007				
Total Number	1997	2004	2007	% change 2004-2007
Ages 10-19	177	152	192	+26%
Incidence Rate per 1,000	1997	2004	2007	% change 2004-2007
Ages 10-19	50.3	41.4	52.1	+26%
<i>Black 10-19</i>	52.3	55.3	72.3	+31%
<i>White 10-19</i>	49.4	36	43.9	+22%
Ages 15-17	71.8	42.9	51.8	+21%
Ages 18-19	127.4	148.6	167.1	+12%

Domestic Violence

South Carolina has long had one of the highest rates of domestic violence and homicide by domestic violence in the country.



Update: In 2012 (most recent year data available), Cherokee County domestic violence rate has continued to fall to a rate of 78.9 per 10,000 residents (down from 103.7 in 2008) and this rate places the county at the 39th highest rate of the state's 46 counties (28th in 2008). Cherokee County improved in all the categories except domestic homicide. The county was ranked 12th in 2012, up from a ranking of 26th in 2008³³.

³³ South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety and Justice Programs, *The Rule of Thumb: A Five Year Overview of Domestic Violence in South Carolina, 2008-2012*

SC Domestic Violence Statistics Cherokee County 2012		
	Number	Rank* Among 46 Counties
Domestic violence victimization total	439	30
Domestic violence victimization rate**	78.9	39
Domestic homicide	2	12
Domestic sexual violence	20	20
Domestic aggravated assault	31	39
Domestic simple assault	338	27
Domestic intimidation	47	29
Criminal domestic violence proxy	100	29
Ex-spouse violence victimization	12	24
Family violence victimization	158	31
Marital violence victimization	89	29
Romantic relationship violent victimization	181	30

*1 = highest number of incidents, 46 = lowest number of incidents

**Rate per 10,000 residents

Domestic Violence in South Carolina

In 2014, SCCADVASA's domestic violence member organizations across the state provided shelter to approximately **2,729 individuals**. They also provided non-shelter services-including counseling, court advocacy, and support services- to about **15,786 individuals**, and answered over **20,993 hotline calls**.

The Attorney General's has office noted that more than **36,000 victims** report a domestic violence incident to law enforcement statewide annually. This is staggering considering that many victims never call or make a report to law enforcement.

South Carolina ranks **second in the nation** for women killed by men according to the Violence Policy Center. Of the homicide victims who knew their offenders, **68%** were murdered by a husband, common-law husband, ex-husband, or boyfriend.

Source: South Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Press Kit for Reporting on Domestic Violence

Comparison to 2010 Report

In 2008, Cherokee County had one criminal domestic violence homicide and was ranked 13th among the counties in the state for reported incidents of domestic assaults per population. *It is important to note that changes in laws or definitions may play a role in changes in the rates of domestic violence in the county.*

Youth Risk Behavior

There are no updated measures for teen risk behaviors for Cherokee County. The last measures were taken from the SC DAODAS school survey in 2001-2002.

Below is the state report for selected questions from the 2015 High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey reported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Percentage of High School Youth, South Carolina High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey 2015						
	Total	Female	Male	White	Black	Hispanic
Drove when they had been drinking alcohol <i>(in a car or other vehicle one or more times during the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey)</i>	4.5%	3.5%	5.5%	4.6%	3.2%	--
Texted or e-mailed while driving a car or other vehicle <i>(on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey, among students who had driven a car or other vehicle during the 30 days before the survey)</i>	37.6%	39.1%	36.3%	44.8%	26.7%	--
Carried a weapon <i>(such as, a gun, knife, or club, on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)</i>	20.5%	9.6%	31.3%	27.5%	10.7%	15.4%
Were electronically bullied <i>(counting being bullied through e-mail, chat rooms, instant messaging, Web sites, or texting during the 12 months before the survey)</i>	14.1%	20.4%	8.0%	16.9%	10.2%	13.2%
Were ever physically forced to have sexual intercourse <i>(when they did not want to)</i>	7.2%	8.4%	6.0%	6.7%	6.4%	14.6%
Drank five or more drinks of alcohol in a row <i>(within a couple of hours on at least 1 day during the 30 days before the survey)</i>	11.5%	12.3%	10.7%	13.8%	7.6%	12.1%
Currently used marijuana <i>(one or more times during the 30 days before the survey)</i>	17.8%	19.1%	16.5%	6.9%	5.0%	7.6%
Ever took prescription drugs without a doctor's prescription <i>(such as Oxycontin, Percocet, Vicodin, codeine, Adderall, Ritalin, or Xanax, one or more times during their life)</i>	16.4%	16.8%	16.0%	24.0%	19.6%	28.9%
Were offered, sold, or given an illegal drug on school property <i>(during the 12 months before the survey)</i>	22.8%	21.5%	24.0%	35.8%	46.7%	--
Ever had sexual intercourse	40.3%	37.0%	43.6%	7.2%	11.0%	--
Had sexual intercourse with four or more persons <i>(during their life)</i>	8.7%	4.9%	12.8%	26.7%	27.7%	--
Did not see a dentist <i>(for a check-up, exam, teeth cleaning, or other dental work during the 12 months before the survey)</i>	30.4%	30.8%	30.1%	71.8%	75.0%	63.8%

Family Structure

Family structures, including marital status of the parents at the time of birth and during childhood, are strong predictors of outcomes of youth. Children who live in single parent households have more negative outcomes than their counterparts who are raised by both biological parents.



Update: Cherokee County continues to have a consistently higher percentage of births to single mothers than the state average and, in 2015, the county had the highest rate among all the peer counties. The percentage of births to single mothers in the county has held steady over the past 5 years; however, those percentages are higher than the previous 5 years (2006-2010)³⁴.

Births to Single Mothers (Including Paternity-Acknowledged) Peer Counties & SC 2011-2015					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Cherokee	58.2%	59.5%	57.3%	56.6%	57.7%
Greenwood	56.3%	58.2%	57.9%	61.4%	55.9%
Laurens	59.9%	57.0%	30.2%	56.3%	56.6%
South Carolina	46.9%	47.8%	47.1%	47.3%	46.4%

Comparison to 2010 Report

In 2008, Cherokee County birth to single mothers was 51.3% and was higher than the state average (45.4%).

The percentage of households with children that are headed by married-couples has held steady in Cherokee County from 2011 to 2015, while the percentage of households with children headed by single females increased. When compared to the peer counties, state, and nation, only Laurens County has had a higher increase in percentage of households headed by single females than Cherokee County³⁵.

Composition of Households with own Children Under 18 Peer Counties, SC, & US 2008, 2011, & 2015						
	Married-Couple			Female Householder, no husband present		
	2008	2011	2015	2008	2011	2015
Cherokee	61.0%	65.0%	61.2%	32.5%	28.5%	29.6%
Laurens	62.9%	54.6%	51.5%	28.6%	33.3%	38.8%
Greenwood	67.5%	55.7%	58.9%	28.5%	36.9%	26.9%
South Carolina	63.7%	62.7%	62.5%	29.7%	29.9%	29.9%
United States	68.9%	67.6%	67.3%	23.8%	24.8%	24.8%

³⁴ Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center, Births to Single Mothers, 2011-2015

³⁵ American FactFinder, Households and Families, 2011 and 2015 5-year estimates

Comparison to 2010 Report

Married-couple families has held relatively consistent between 2008 and 2015, but there has been a small reduction in the percentage of households comprised of female householder, no husband present in Cherokee County during the same timeframe.


Crime and Safety

To implement proactive strategies to keep the community safe, it is imperative that accurate, timely, and complete crime data be available.

Violent and Nonviolent Crimes

Crime data are collected consistently throughout South Carolina in accordance with the National Incident-Based Reporting System (NIBRS). There are eight offense categories: murder, sexual battery (rape), robbery, aggravated assault, breaking and entering, larceny, motor vehicle theft, and arson. These are typically categorized as violent crimes (murder, sexual battery, robbery, and aggravated assault) and property crimes (breaking and entering, larceny, and motor vehicle theft) to provide basic measures of crime. *Arson is not considered a property crime through state reporting documents.*

Since only those crimes that are reported are counted, there is no way of determining the actual number of crimes committed.

 **Update:** Cherokee County's rate in total violent crime is below the state average and has decreased between 2012 and 2015. However, the county's robbery and aggravated assault rates have increased during the same timeframe, but are lower than the rate reported in the last indicators update³⁶.

The legal definition of sexual battery (previously rape) changed in 2012 to include additional crimes that were not part of the previous definition. Rates prior to 2012 cannot be compared to those from 2012 to current because of this definition change. The change in definition resulted in increases in sexual battery rates for all counties and the state.

Violent Crimes Peer Counties & SC 2012 and 2015											
		Violent Crime Total		Sexual Battery		Murder		Robbery		Aggravated Assault	
		#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Cherokee	2012	217	39	58	10.4	3	0.5	19	3.4	137	24.6
	2015	209	37.2	24	4.3	3	0.5	32	5.7	150	26.7
Greenwood	2012	835	119.7	78	11.2	7	1	75	10.8	675	96.8
	2015	486	69.2	62	8.9	4	0.6	58	8.3	326	51.8
Laurens	2012	487	73.5	42	6.3	13	1.6	49	7.4	390	58.9
	2015	376	56.45	31	4.7	4	0.6	29	4.4	312	46.8
South Carolina	2012		55.9		5.09		0.7		9.6		42
	2015		49.5		5		0.8		8.1		35.6

Rate is per 10,000 population

³⁶ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Crime in South Carolina Book, 2012 & 2015

Cherokee County property crime rates have increased in all categories from 2012 to 2015 and the county has a higher rate than the state average in total property crime, breaking and entering, and larceny. The only property crime rate that was below the state average in 2015 was motor vehicle theft³⁷.

Property Crime Peer Counties & SC 2012 and 2015									
		Property Crime Total		Breaking and Entering		Larceny		Motor Vehicle Theft	
		#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
Cherokee	2012	1,017	182.7	338	60.7	580	104	99	17.8
	2015	1,995	355	470	83.6	1,405	250	113	20.1
Greenwood	2012	3,695	529.7	982	140.8	2,590	371	123	17.6
	2015	3,135	448.9	590	84.5	2,455	352	79	11.3
Laurens	2012	2,414	364.5	726	109.6	1,571	237	117	17.7
	2015	2,081	312.4	536	80.5	1,375	206	156	23.4
South Carolina	2012		382.2		95.4		258		28.8
	2015		336.9		71.3		237		27.5

Rate is per 10,000 population

Comparison to 2010 Report

Cherokee County has improved in most of the crime rates from 2008 to 2015.

Note: rates reported for rape cannot be compared to the rates reported for sexual battery in the charts above because of change in definition in 2012. Additionally, changes in laws or definitions may play a role in changes in the rates in the county.

Violent Crimes 2008									
Violent Crime		Rape		Murder		Robbery		Aggravated Assault	
#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
263	48.4	8	1.5	4	0.74	55	10.1	196	36.0
Property Crimes 2008									
Property Crime		Breaking or Entering		Larceny		Motor Vehicle Theft			
#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate	#	Rate
2,734	436.4	652	119.9	1,528	280.9	194	35.7		

Rate is per 10,000 population

³⁷ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Crime in South Carolina Book, 2012 & 2015

Juvenile Crime

Negative indicators in a community, such as poverty and unemployment, are factors that, when coupled with other triggers, may contribute to juvenile crime rates, and may lead to future illegal activities and adversely affect a person's lifelong health and well-being.



Update: The South Carolina State Law Enforcement Division no longer reports juvenile violent and property crimes at the county level; only statewide rates are reported. From 2012 to 2015, the statewide juvenile crime rates have decreased in both violent and property crimes³⁸.

While Cherokee County continues to have a lower rate of juveniles detained and committed to DJJ facilities than the state rate and the counties of Greenwood and Laurens, the county has had an increase in the rate of juveniles detained since 2012³⁹.

Rate of Juveniles Detained and Committed to DJJ Facilities Peer Counties & SC FY 2012-2013 and 2015-2016				
	Rate Detained		Rate Committed	
	2012-2013	2015-2016	2012-2013	2015-2016
Cherokee	4	6	1	1
Greenwood	9	8	6	5
Laurens	12	13	3	4
South Carolina	9	8	3	3

Rate per 1,000 juveniles

Comparison to 2010 Report

The rate of juveniles detained in the county has increased since the 2010 report, but the rate committed has held relatively steady.

Rate of Juveniles Detained and Committed to DJJ Facilities FY 2007-08		
	Rate Detained	Rate Committed
Cherokee	3	2
Laurens	6	3
Greenwood	10	8
Total	11	5

Rate per 1,000 juveniles

³⁸ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division, Crime in South Carolina Book, 2012 & 2015

³⁹ South Carolina Department of Juvenile Justice, Annual Statistical Reports, 2012-2013 & 2015-2016

Drug Crime

The SC State Law Enforcement Division does not report drug crime statistics by county. Some statewide findings for 2015 include⁴⁰:

- Drug arrest rate decreased by 5% between 2014 and 2015
 - Drug law arrest rate has increased by 72.1% since 1991
- DUI arrests decreased by 2.1% from 2014 to 2015
 - DUI arrests have decreased by 46.2% since 1991
- Liquor law violations from 2014 to 2015 decreased by 6.4% and have decreased by 65.6% since 1991
- Drunkenness arrests have decreased by 16.1% between 2014 and 2015 and have decreased by 69.1% since 1991

South Carolina Drug Crimes 10-year trend		
	Number of Arrests	Rate Per 10,000
Drug Law Arrests <i>arrests for crimes related to production, distribution, or use of certain controlled substances and the equipment utilized in their preparation or use</i>		
2006	38,556	88.5
2015	35,226	71.9
% Change	-8.6%	-18.7%
Driving Under the Influence <i>arrests for driving or operating a vehicle while mentally or physically impaired as the result of using alcohol, legal drugs, illegal drugs, or narcotics</i>		
2006	9,506	21.8
2015	17,781	36.3
% Change	87.1%	66.5%
Liquor Law <i>violations include the violation of laws pertaining to the manufacture, sale, or distribution of alcoholic beverages</i>		
2006	14,300	32.8
2015	8,880	18.1
% Change	-37.9%	-44.7%
Drunkenness <i>arrests for drunk and disorderly conduct, common drunkard, habitual drunkard, and intoxication</i>		
2006	12,912	29.6
2015	9,409	19.2
% Change	-27.1%	-35.1%

⁴⁰ South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Crime in South Carolina, 2015


Elder Abuse and Neglect

There is no update for Cherokee County on this indicator. The latest national statistics from the National Center on Elder Abuse (NCEA) indicate⁴¹:

- The most frequently reported types of elder abuse include verbal mistreatment (9%) and financial mistreatment (3.5%)
- Factors that might make someone more at risk of becoming a victim of elder abuse include:
 - Low social support
 - Dementia
 - Functional impairment or poor physical health
 - Lower income/poverty
- Perpetrators are most likely to be adult children or spouses
- According to the National Ombudsman Reporting System data, in 2014, 7.6% of the total complaints regarding abuse in long-term care facilities reported to Ombudsman programs involved abuse, gross neglect, or exploitation
- Elders who experience abuse have a 300% higher risk of death than those who do not experience abuse and are 3 times more likely to be admitted to a hospital

Fire Safety

The South Carolina Office of the State Fire Marshall, Division of Fire and Life Safety has the statutory authority to collect, analyze, and disseminate fire data provided by fire departments in South Carolina. In 1983, South Carolina adopted the National Fire Incident Reporting System (SCFIRS) to collect consistent data on emergency responses by local fire departments.

 **Update:** Cherokee County continues to have a low and consistent number of annual fire fatalities for the last 11 years. Overall, the number of fatalities statewide has been consistent during the same timeframe⁴².

Civilian Fire Fatalities 11 Year Trend by Peer Counties & SC 2006-2016											
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
Cherokee	1	1	0	2	1	0	2	0	3	1	0
Greenwood	1	1	0	2	5	0	0	0	2	2	0
Laurens	0	4	3	0	3	0	3	0	2	1	0
South Carolina	89	60	74	79	65	57	70	71	96	78	77

⁴¹ National Center on Elder Abuse, Statistics/Data, <https://ncea.acl.gov/whatwedo/research/statistics.html> accessed 10.30.2017

⁴² South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, Division of Fire and Life Safety, 2016 Fire Fatality Statistics

Comparison to 2010 Report

There has been little change since 2000 in the number of civilian fire fatalities in the county.

S.C. Civilian Fire Fatalities, Trend by County										
	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cherokee	1	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	2
Laurens	4	1	2	3	0	1	0	4	3	0
Greenwood	1	1	1	1	2	0	1	1	0	2
State Total	100	76	92	94	88	81	89	60	74	79

Highway and Traffic Safety

The South Carolina Department of Public Safety analyzes all motor vehicle collision reports and produces an annual *Traffic Collision Fact Book* with state-wide and local data. Traffic collisions are responsible for billions of dollars in economic loss in the state each year. In 2015 (latest year data available), there were 979 traffic fatalities in the State of South Carolina, an increase of 19% from 2014. In 2015, there were 58,604 reported traffic injuries. There was an increase of the death rate per mile driven to 1.89 deaths per hundred million vehicle miles traveled. Traffic collisions cost an economic loss of \$4.12 billion dollars in 2015.



Update: Cherokee County has had a consistent county ranking from 2011 to 2015 in total collisions and injury by collisions. The county has fluctuated in county rank for fatal collisions, having its best ranking in 2012, and the motor vehicle death rate has increased for the past 4 years⁴³.

⁴³ South Carolina Department of Public Safety, Highway Safety & Justice Programs, Traffic Collision Fact Book, 2006-2015

Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Trends Cherokee County 2011-2015					
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Total collisions ranking by county	19	21	19	20	20
Fatal collisions ranking by county	24	34	25	20	26
Injury collisions ranking by county	20	19	21	21	20
Number of SC driver's licenses	41,364	41,676	41,813	42,107	42,588
Number of SC vehicle registrations	49,482	49,882	50,712	50,668	51,278
Motor vehicle death rate per 100,000	25.2	16.1	16.1	26.6	30.1
Economic loss (rounded to \$100,000)	\$ 40,970,200	\$ 33,577,400	\$ 32,987,000	\$ 53,998,000	\$ 61,194,800

Rank out of 46 counties

Comparison to 2010 Report

There has been little change in the county's ranking in each of the categories for motor vehicle collisions since 2005.


Cherokee County Motor Vehicle Traffic Collision Trends 2005-2007			
	2005	2006	2007
Total collisions ranking by county	19	19	18
Fatal collisions ranking by county	14	33	25
Injury collisions ranking by county	19	19	19
Number S.C. drivers licenses	40,056	40,545	38,655
Number S.C. vehicle registrations	51,692	46,923	48,290
Motor vehicle death rate per 100,000 population	47	15	34
Economic loss (rounded to \$100,000)	\$51,700,000	\$31,200,000	\$42,400,000

Economic Development

Economic indicators drive the market and, in many ways, determine future investment in the community. Economic development is imperative to bringing living wage jobs and a higher standard of living to the community.

Income

Various indicators measure income and the table below provide income estimates for Cherokee County with comparison to the state average and the national average.

 **Update:** All the income measures for Cherokee County continues to be significantly less than the state and national average, and Cherokee County had a slight decrease in the median worker earnings (16+) between 2011 and 2015⁴⁴.

Income Estimates 2011 and 2015 Cherokee County, SC, & US						
	Cherokee		South Carolina		United States	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Per Capita Income (in 2015 Inflation Adjusted Dollars)	\$ 17,910	\$ 19,279	\$ 23,854	\$ 24,604	\$ 27,915	\$ 28,930
Median Household Income	\$ 35,025	\$ 35,389	\$ 44,587	\$ 45,483	\$ 52,762	\$ 53,889
Median Family Income	\$ 45,513	\$ 45,724	\$ 55,220	\$ 56,343	\$ 64,293	\$ 66,011
Median Worker Earnings (16+)	\$ 25,442	\$ 25,170	\$ 26,695	\$ 27,172	\$ 30,259	\$ 30,926

Comparison to 2010 Report

Per capita income is higher in 2015 than that which was reported in 2008. Median household income and median family income have had very small increases from 2008 to 2015.

Income Estimates 2008					
	Cherokee County	Greenwood County	Laurens County	S.C.	U.S.
Per Capita Income	\$18,389	\$22,470	\$19,003	\$23,668	\$27,466
Median Household Income	\$35,299	\$41,306	\$38,811	\$44,326	\$52,175
Median Family Income	\$45,593	\$52,766	\$47,693	\$54,710	\$63,211
Average Weekly Wage (second quarter, 2009)	\$618	\$666	\$622	\$685	\$840
Individuals Below Poverty Level	19.1%	15.2%	18.9%	15.5%	13.2%

⁴⁴ American FactFinder, Per Capita Income in the Past 12 Months, Income in the Past 12 Months, & Earnings in the Past 12 Months, 2011 and 2015, 5-year estimates

Family Poverty

Poverty is correlated with negative outcomes such as low educational status, increased crime rates, poorer health, and an increase of teen childbearing, among others. South Carolina continues to have a higher poverty rate than the national average.



Update: In 2015, Cherokee County had the highest rate of poverty out of the 10 Upstate counties in both the percentage of people living in poverty (23.8%) and the percentage of children, 18 and under living in poverty (34.8%). The county was one of only three who had an increase in percentage in both populations from 2011 (Abbeville and Anderson Counties both had increases). Cherokee County, in 2011, had the second highest percentage of residents living in poverty and the third for highest percentage of children living in poverty.

Poverty fell for the other seven counties, the state, and nation during the same time span⁴⁵.

Poverty by Upstate County, SC, & US 2011 and 2015								
	Total People in Poverty		Percent of People in Poverty		Children, 18 and Under in Poverty		Percent Children, 18 and Under in Poverty	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Abbeville*	5,017	5,471	20.5%	22.5%	1,576	1,814	28.2%	33.4%
Anderson	27,496	34,265	14.8%	18.0%	9,668	12,487	21.9%	29.0%
Cherokee*	11,846	13,093	21.8%	23.8%	4,311	4,594	32.3%	34.8%
Greenville	71,063	66,346	15.8%	13.8%	28,513	19,704	25.8%	17.4%
Greenwood	13,934	12,790	20.9%	18.9%	4,830	3,423	30.2%	21.5%
Laurens	15,810	11,142	24.5%	17.3%	6,406	4,681	42.4%	32.2%
Oconee	15,822	15,848	21.5%	21.1%	5,258	4,215	33.2%	28.3%
Pickens	22,720	21,564	20.3%	18.8%	5,669	3,289	23.8%	14.6%
Spartanburg	54,461	42,347	19.5%	14.7%	19,397	14,333	28.4%	21.2%
Union*	5,952	5,605	20.9%	20.3%	1,958	1,813	30.2%	30.4%
South Carolina	856,938	790,715	18.9%	16.6%	296,759	256,179	27.8%	24.0%
United States	48,452,035	46,153,007	15.9%	14.7%	16,386,500	15,000,273	22.5%	20.7%

*Smaller counties use 3-year estimates for 2011 and 5-year estimates for 2015

Comparison to 2010 Report

Cherokee County had the 4th highest percentage of total people who live in poverty in the Upstate and the 3rd highest percentage of children under 18 in poverty in 2007.

⁴⁵ American FactFinder, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, 2011 and 2015, 1-year, 3-year, and 5-year estimates

Family poverty continues to increase across the peer counties, the state, and the nation, and Cherokee County had the highest percentage of family poverty rates in all categories in 2015. Families with children under the age of 18 have a much higher poverty rate than all families, and in 2015, 58.2% of families that consisted of a female householder (no husband present) with children lived in poverty⁴⁶.

All families include families with and without children. Cherokee County rates for families with children are included to provide context.

Percent of Families Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below Poverty Level Peer Counties, SC, & US 2011 and 2015						
	All Families		Married Couple Families		Female Householder (no husband present)	
	2011	2015	2011	2015	2011	2015
Cherokee	16.3%	18.9%	10.1%	9.5%	34.6%	45.7%
with children	27.6%	28.9%	18.1%	13.8%	44.9%	58.2%
Greenwood	16.4%	18.6%	6.3%	7.7%	43.6%	44.8%
Laurens	15.4%	16.4%	8.3%	8.1%	31.6%	35.5%
South Carolina	13.7%	13.5%	6.1%	5.8%	36.2%	35.7%
United States	11.1%	11.3%	5.5%	5.6%	30.3%	30.6%

**2011 data is 3-year estimates and 2015 is 5-year estimates*

Comparison to 2010 Report

The percentage of the families by each category whose income is below poverty level is higher in 2015 than what was reported in the 2010 report.

Percent of Families With Related Children Under age 18 Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below Poverty Level 2008			
	All Families	Married Couple Families	Female Householder (no husband present)
Cherokee	15.2%	8.4%	39.1%
Greenwood	11.1%	3.5%	34.8%
Laurens	13.0%	8.0%	29.9%
South Carolina	11.5%	4.7%	33.0%
United States	9.6%	4.6%	28.2%

⁴⁶ American FactFinder, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Families, 2011 and 2015, 3-year and 5-year estimates

Cost of Living

The Cost of Living Index is a gauge of the amount of money required to maintain a set standard of living by quantifying the variation in the purchasing power of the United States dollar over geographical locations. The standard reference is the United States average of 100. An amount below 100 means the cost of living in each geography is cheaper than the United States average. A cost of living index above 100 means it is more expensive.

Update: Sperling's no longer reports cost of living at the county level. Only city level data is reported. Gaffney has an overall cost of living index of 79.4. The three highest categories in the cost of living index in Gaffney are utilities (99.2), health (96.4), and transportation (96.3). In comparison, the city of Spartanburg has a cost of living index of 85.7 and the three highest categories are food (105.2), health (99.2), and transportation (97.1)⁴⁷.


Comparison to 2010 Report

Cost of living is no longer reported at the county level and the information from the 2010 report is not comparable to the data reported above. The chart from the 2010 report is provided below for reference.

Annual Cost of Living Index 2007			
	Cost of Living Index Value	Per Capital Income	Adjusted Per Capita Income
Cherokee	0.80	\$24,794	\$30,877
Laurens	0.81	\$26,237	\$32,593
Greenwood	0.83	\$27,297	\$32,967
South Carolina	0.86	\$31,103	\$36,124
United States	1.0	\$38,615	\$38,615

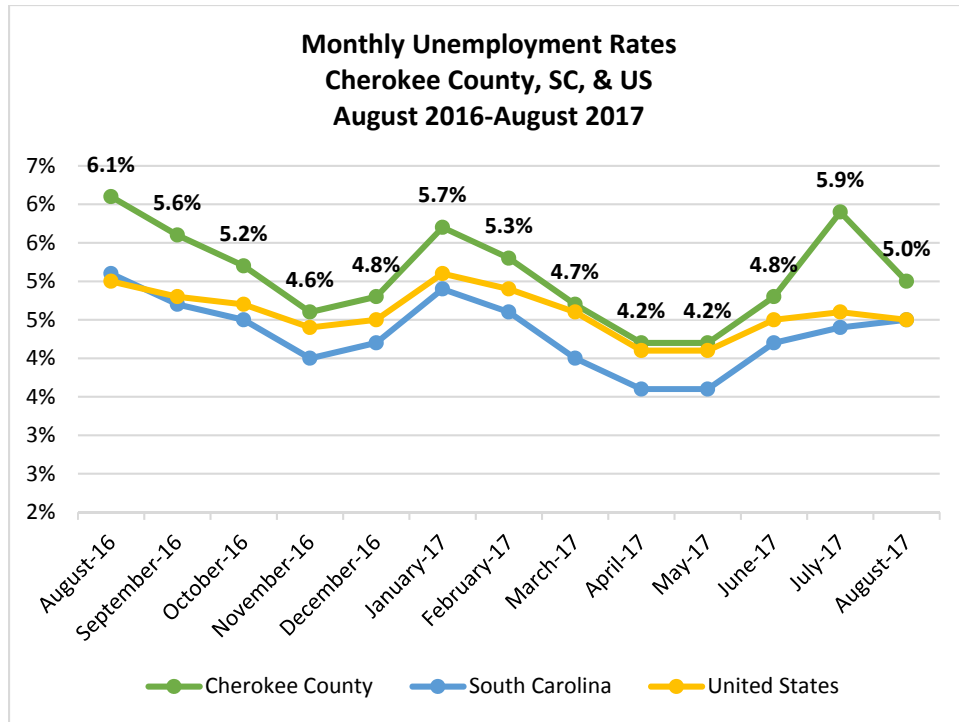
Unemployment

When individuals are unemployed, the community loses. Families lose wages, the economy loses the purchasing power of those individuals, and the workforce loses production of goods or services. The unemployment rate is represented as a percentage by taking the number of individuals who are jobless and available to work (unemployed) and dividing that by the number of people in the labor force (those actively employed and unemployed).

 **Update:** Cherokee County continues to have a higher rate of unemployment than the state and national average, but the rate has fallen overall since the 2013 update⁴⁸.

⁴⁷ Sperling's Best Places, Cost of Living Comparison, Gaffney and Spartanburg

⁴⁸ South Carolina Works Online Services, Community Profiles, Cherokee County



**Percentages on chart reflect Cherokee County unemployment rates*


Comparison to 2010 Report

Unemployment in Cherokee County has fallen significantly since the 2010 report and the Aug 2016-July 2017 annual average (5.1%) is lower than any of the annual averages in the chart below.

Average Annual Unemployment Rate 2004-2009						
	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cherokee	8.8	7.9	7.6	6.7	9.1	16.4
Greenwood	8.7	9.1	7.9	6.9	7.7	12.9
Laurens	7.1	6.7	6.8	7.1	7.4	12.0
South Carolina	6.8	6.8	6.4	5.6	6.9	11.7
United States	5.5	5.1	4.6	4.6	5.8	9.3

Job Growth

Quarterly workforce indicators reflect the churning in the labor market as workers enter and exit jobs and businesses expand and contract.

 **Update:** In Cherokee County, net job flow continues to increase after a drop during 2014, the turnover rate is stable, and average new hire wages have increased. Average monthly earnings have increased, although just slightly⁴⁹.

Quarterly Average Workforce Indicators for All Sectors Cherokee County 2013-2016				
	2013	2014	2015	2016*
Total Employment	16,750	16,959	16,866	16,663
Net Job Flow	64	33	82	164
Job Creation	813	744	824	1,086
New Hires	2,518	2,448	2,890	3,228
Separations	2,811	2,833	3,175	3,308
Turnover	8.0%	8.2%	8.8%	9.0%
Avg Monthly Earnings	\$ 3,048	\$ 3,088	\$ 3,151	\$ 3,186
Avg New Higher Earnings	\$ 1,852	\$ 1,838	\$ 1,990	\$ 2,165

*2016, Q1 and Q2 data only

Comparison to 2010 Report

Total employment in 2015 is lower than in 2009. Net job flow and creations have increased and turnover rates stayed steady. Average monthly earnings and average new higher earnings are higher in 2015 than in 2009.

⁴⁹ United States Census Bureau, Center for Economic Studies, QWI Explore, Cherokee County, 2011-2016 Quarters

Quarterly Job Growth Indicators Cherokee County & SC 2009		
	Quarterly Average, Second Quarter 2008 - first Quarter 2009	
	Cherokee County	S.C.
Total Employment	21,454	1,824,231
Net Job Flows	-491	-15,831
Job Creation	742	93,552
New Hires	2,639	285,533
Separations	3,670	361,671
Turnover	8.6%	10.0%
Average monthly earnings	\$2,800.25	\$3,134.50
Average monthly New Hire earnings	\$1,826.75	\$1,985.50

For the Upstate Workforce Development Area, comprised of Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties, occupational growth has not met the projected rate. However, growth continues, with an increase projected annual growth rates⁵⁰.

Projected Occupational Growth Rates Upstate Workforce Development Area*					
2008 Estimate	2018 Projected	Annual Growth Rate	2014 Estimate	2024 Projected	Annual Growth Rate
159,479	167,029	0.5%	160,330	179,772	1.15%

*Spartanburg, Cherokee, and Union Counties

Cherokee County has had an increase in number of businesses, average monthly employment, and average weekly wage between 2011 and 2016. The average weekly wage increased by \$47 and 1,749 more individuals were employed in monthly average employment⁵¹.

⁵⁰ South Carolina Works Online Services, Workforce Development Area Community Profile, Upstate WDA

⁵¹ United States Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages, QCEW Databases

Cherokee County Employment and Wages by Industry Annual Average 2011 and 2016						
	Number of Companies		Average Monthly Employment		Average Weekly Wage	
	2011	2016	2011	2016	2011	2016
Private, Goods-Producing	146	154	6,236	6,923	\$ 814	\$ 898
Natural Resources and Mining	4	4	102	*	\$ 446	*
Construction	73	78	594	*	\$ 707	*
Manufacturing	69	73	5,540	5,986	\$ 832	\$ 898
Private, Service-Providing	703	697	9,035	9,835	\$ 499	\$ 524
Trade, Transportation, & Utilities	262	270	3,803	4,136	\$ 562	\$ 554
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	39	34	528	568	\$ 658	\$ 683
<i>Retail Trade</i>	195	201	2,337	2,457	\$ 382	\$ 396
<i>Transportation & Warehouse</i>	18	24	829	1,021	\$ 883	\$ 751
<i>Utilities</i>	10	11	109	90	\$ 1,504	\$ 1,818
Information	10	8	116	69	\$ 579	\$ 952
Financial Activities	94	83	535	561	\$ 708	\$ 752
Professional & Business Services	81	83	628	979	\$ 482	\$ 562
Education & Health Services	76	68	1,950	1,778	\$ 543	\$ 604
Leisure & Hospitality	94	99	1,715	1,913	\$ 255	\$ 290
Other Services	87	88	289	399	\$ 429	\$ 490
Total Federal Government	6	5	94	104	\$ 990	\$ 1,053
Total State Government	14	17	186	207	\$ 666	\$ 686
Total Local Government	31	31	1,896	2,057	\$ 672	\$ 690
Education & Health Services	22	22	1,336	1,466	\$ 689	\$ 697
Total All Industries	900	904	17,446	19,215	\$ 635	\$ 682

*Data does not meet the BLS or State agency disclosure standards

Comparison to 2010 Report

Most industries have had an average weekly wage increase from 2008 to 2016. Notably, education and health services saw a decrease in average weekly wage during the same timeframe.

Cherokee County Employment and Wages by Industry 2008 Annual Average				
	Number of Companies	Average Monthly Employment	Average Quarterly Wage	Average Weekly Wage
Total Private	907	17,155	32,008	616
Private, Goods-Producing	170	7,542	40,783	784
Natural Resources and Mining	3	48	41,899	806
Construction	99	1,322	40,942	787
Manufacturing	68	6,171	40,740	783
Private, Service-Providing	737	9,614	25,125	483
Trade, Transportation and Utilities	271	4,121	28,968	557
<i>Wholesale Trade</i>	39	569	37,227	716
<i>Retail Trade</i>	200	2,246	20,307	391
<i>Transportation & Warehousing</i>	21	1,189	37,422	720
<i>Utilities</i>	11	118	68,720	1,322
Information	10	78	38,872	748
Financial Activities	95	539	32,672	628
Professional and Business Services	97	934	24,378	469
Education and Health Services	73	1,845	27,149	522
Leisure and Hospitality	94	1,814	12,213	235
Other Services	97	281	23,025	443
Total Federal Government	7	96	48,561	934
Total State Government	14	211	35,234	678
Education and Health Services	1	5	37,230	716
Total Local Government	32	2,079	35,515	683
Education and Health Services	22	1,458	36,637	705
TOTAL	960	19,540	32,497	625

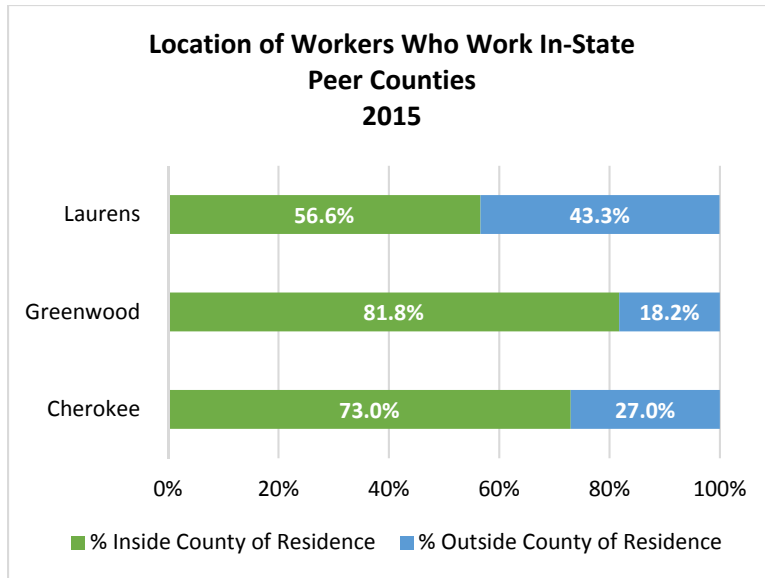
Worker Commuting Patterns

Commuting patterns, or the flow of workers from place of residence to place of work, is an indicator of several economic conditions for a given area. Primarily, these patterns can reflect the availability and quality of work locally and in surrounding communities.



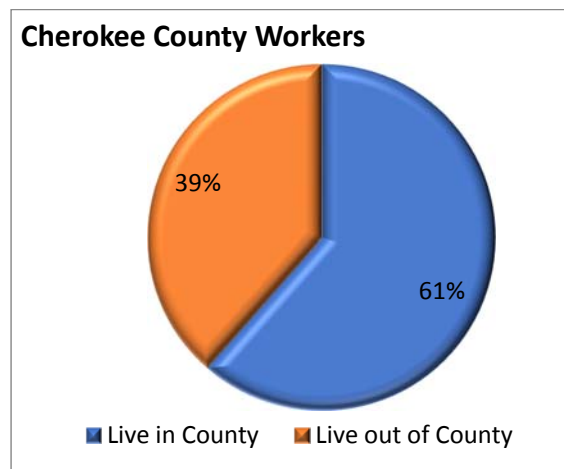
Update: In 2015, 73% of Cherokee County residents worked in county, compared to 69.1% in 2011. Greenwood County continues to have a higher percentage of residents who work in county⁵².

⁵² American FactFinder, Sex of Workers by Place of Work—State and County Level, 2015, 5-year estimates



























Comparison to 2010 Report




More workers in Cherokee County also live in the county in 2015 than did in 2006.



How is Cherokee County Trending on the Indicators?

Education	
Educational Attainment	
Earnings by Educational Attainment	
High School Dropout Rate	
Percentage of students enrolled in 8 th grade not enrolled in 12 th grade 4 years later	<i>Data no longer reported</i>
High School Graduation	
High School Completers Enrolled in College Freshman Class	
Post-Secondary Completion	
Occupational Outlook	
Quarterly Workforce Indicators	
Wages by Educational Level	
Public Health	
Infant Mortality	
Birth Weight	
Access to Prenatal Care	
Risk Factors for Chronic Health Conditions	
Body Mass Index Reports	<i>New data</i>

Health Professional Shortage Areas	<i>New data</i>
Health Insurance Coverage Rate	
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	<i>Data set changed, unable to compare</i>
Mortality	
Oral Health	<i>Data no longer reported</i>
Mental Health	
Family and Youth	
Family Income	
Teen Pregnancy	
Domestic Violence	
Youth Risk Behavior	<i>Data no longer reported at county level</i>
Family Structure	
Crime and Safety	
Violent and Non-Violent Crime	
Juvenile Crime	
Drug Crime	<i>Data not reported at county level</i>
Elder Abuse and Neglect	<i>Data not reported at county level</i>
Fire Safety	
Traffic and Highway Safety	
Economic Development	
Income	

Family Poverty	
Cost of Living	<i>Data no longer reported for county, city data only</i>
Unemployment	
Job Growth	
Worker Commuting Patterns	