

Our Vision

A Cherokee County where all residents understand our community's potential, take pride in our accomplishments, and work together toward a shared quality of life.

Our Mission

To connect individuals and organizations in Cherokee County to develop a positive culture of learning and good health for personal success and economic prosperity.

Milestones

Scholarships: The Honorable Rufus H Foster **KNOW(2)** scholarship, provides qualified residents of Cherokee County the unique opportunity to attend college tuition-free.

Talk to Me: Talk to Me is an early language and literacy project founded in partnership with **KNOW(2)**.

Eat Smart Move More Cherokee County: This public health initiative collaborates with community partners to educate, inspire, promote, and advocate healthy choices and life skills that improve health outcomes and quality of life for all.

BGEN: The **KNOW(2)** business generator has helped over 20 businesses establish, grow, and prosper in Cherokee County.

Neighborhood Ambassadors: This outreach team reaches a broad base of the community. Our ambassadors build trusting relationships rooted in service to help where needed and inspire adults and children.

Plant Managers Forum: Quarterly meetings are hosted by local businesses to discuss challenges facing Cherokee County and improve economic vitality.

Campo Giorno: An annual county wide field day competition for elementary students celebrates both academic and athletic achievement.

Quotes

"Reviewing indicators is our scorecard; and like coaches reviewing film of the football game, we can indicate actions needed to **improve** education, economic development, and crime & safety in Cherokee County."

Barry Morgan
First Piedmont Federal



"As you can see from the **updated** community indicators report, much progress has been made, but much remains to be done. The goal of **KNOW(2)** is to convene groups and individuals interested in addressing these problem areas and assist them in their efforts. Great things can be accomplished in Cherokee County if we all work **together**."

Cody Sossamon
The Gaffney Ledger



"In order for a community to **thrive**, leaders along with concerned citizens must keep their fingers on the pulse of key **driving** indicators to **ensure** the needle is moving in a positive direction."

Ann Angermeier,
Upstate Workforce Investment Board



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Cherokee County 2017 Community Indicators Update



Dashboard Report

Partner Collaborators



GOALS

Education

Our residents will excel and obtain certification necessary for economic success.



Public Health

Our residents will have access to healthy choices to improve health outcomes.

Economic Development

Our residents will have access to obtain and retain living wage jobs for an economically viable community.

Family & Youth

Our residents will have access to resources to improve family dynamics and reduce risk factors.

Crime & Safety

Our residents will have an active partnership with public safety officials to create safe spaces for all.



Campo Giorno

EDUCATION

Key Measures	County Status	Indicator Detail
Educational Attainment	Better	2% increase in bachelor and graduate degrees since 2012
Earnings by Educational Attainment	Worse	Lower than National average earnings in every category for Cherokee County.
High School Dropout Rate	Better	Blacksburg High remains relatively unchanged since 2012. Gaffney High has improved.
High School Graduation	No Change	Rate increased in 2017 and 2018, is not reported in this update
High School Completers enrolled as College Freshman	Worse	Though slightly higher in 2013, in enrollment in Cherokee County was higher than state average in 2016.
Post Secondary Completion	No Change	South Carolina college students graduate at higher than national averages.

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK

Key Measures	County Status	Indicator Detail
Quarterly Workforce Indicators	Better	Job creations have increased since 2013.
Wages by Educational Level	Worse	Median earnings have decreased.

CRIME AND SAFETY

Key Measures	County Status	Indicator Detail
Violent and Non-Violent Crime	No Change	Currently below state average
Juvenile Crime	Better	Decreased since 2012 statewide
Drug Crime	No County Data	Decreased since 2006 statewide
Elder Abuse	No Data	Highest factors of abuse nationally are verbal and financial abuse of elderly.
Fire Safety	No Change	Low and consistent numbers since 2006 in Cherokee County
Traffic and Highway Safety	No Change	Little change since 2005 in Cherokee County

PUBLIC HEALTH

Key Measures	County Status	Indicator Detail
Infant Mortality	Better	Fewer since 2013
Birth Weight	Worse	Lowest percentage last reported in 2011.
Access to Prenatal Care	Worse	New programs introduced since 2015 report.
Risk Factors for Chronic Health Conditions	Worse	Measured changes have occurred since 2010 update. Current figures are higher than state average.
Body Mass Index Reports	New Data	Obesity rates have fallen for 1st, 3rd, and 5th graders between 2013 and 2016.
Health Professional Shortage Areas	New Data	There is a need for more primary care providers in Cherokee County.
Health Insurance Coverage Rate	No Change	County decrease in those under 18 who were uninsured.
Drug and Alcohol Abuse	Data Set Change	Cherokee has had a reduction of Emergency Room visits for alcohol dependence, but increase in non-dependent use.
Mortality	No Change	Heart disease is the leading cause of death, followed by cancer.
Mental Health	Better	Over \$3 million in emergency department charges accrued in Cherokee County in 2015.

FAMILY AND YOUTH

Key Measures	County Status	Indicator Detail
Family Income	Mixed	Poverty rates higher than state & national averages. Increased median household income.
Teen Birth Rate	Better	Five year trend shows decrease.
Domestic Violence	Better	Decreased rates and improved state rankings except domestic homicide.
Youth Risk Behavior	State Data	Texting and driving, marijuana experience, drugs on school property highest.
Family Structure	Worse	Higher % of births to single mothers.

KNOW⁽²⁾
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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

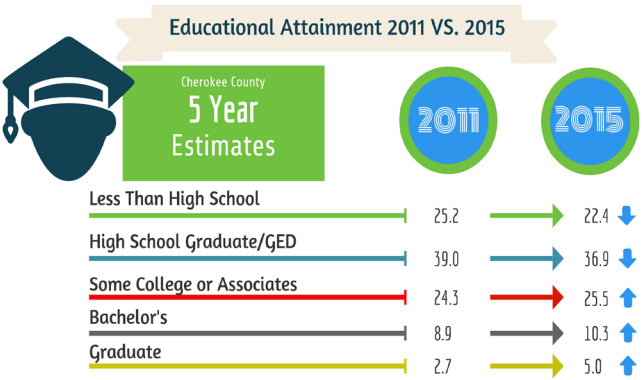
Key Measures	County Status	Indicator Detail
Income	No Change	Income measures are below national and state averages.
Family Poverty	Worse	2015 - 13,093 people in Cherokee County were living in poverty
Cost of Living	No Data	City Data only - lower than national average
Unemployment	No Change	Higher than state average
Job Growth	No Change	Average new hire rates have increased
Worker Commuting Patterns	Better	In 2015, 73% of Cherokee County residents worked in county.

HIGHLIGHTS



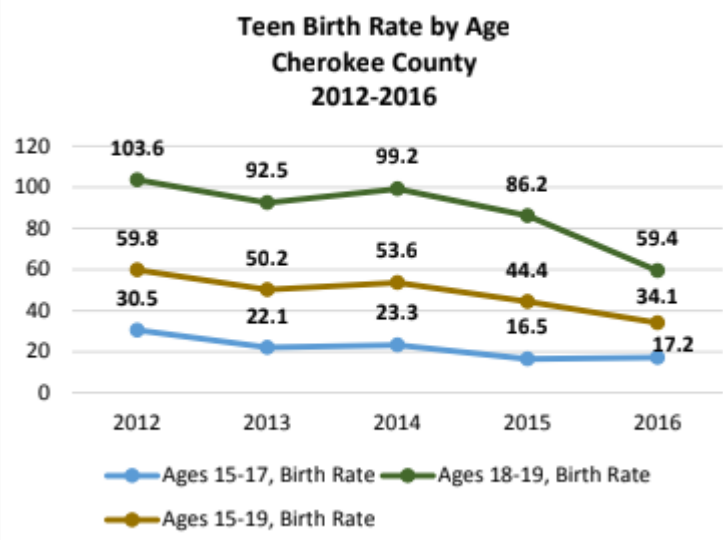
Education

High school dropout rates have decreased as education attainment in post-secondary programs has increased.



Teen Birth Rate

Teen pregnancy has substantial implications for educational and socioeconomic outcomes. Parenthood is the leading reason that teen girls drop out of school. In Cherokee County, the five-year trend continues to show a decrease in the teen birth rates across several measures.



Talk to Me

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