Mecklenburg County has the largest population of any county in the State of North Carolina. The County includes the City of Charlotte, towns of Cornelius, Davidson, and Huntersville (north of Charlotte); and the towns of Matthews, Mint Hill, and Pineville (south and southeast of Charlotte). Mecklenburg County is home to more than 990,000 residents making it the most populous county between Atlanta, Georgia and Washington, DC.

Sitting nicely in the Piedmont, between the mountains and the coast, Mecklenburg County has attracted a large and growing number of people from around the country and the world in recent years. As a major hub for one of the country’s largest airlines it is easy to get here. This access has helped attract several Fortune 500 and Fortune 1000 companies. With a world-renowned park and recreation system, robust tree canopy and a range of professional sports teams, people who come here find an energized downtown and range of living options from urban to suburban.

The 2015 Mecklenburg County: Community Pulse report includes economic, social and environmental metrics and indicators for Mecklenburg County. The report provides the community with information on the current state of Mecklenburg County and an indication of where the County is headed in the next several years. The report reflects the County’s social and community capital. Although the County has seen significant positive growth and change over the last decade, there are areas of opportunity to make it an even better place for all. The report highlights information on the local economy; demographic composition of residents; educational attainment and income earnings; health behaviors; and air, land and water quality indicators. These topics should be informative to the community, as these areas all play a pivotal role in making Mecklenburg County a great place to LIVE, WORK and RECREATE.
The population of Mecklenburg County is projected to grow by 24% from 2010 to 2020.

North Carolina’s population is projected to grow by 11% during the same time period.

Source: U.S. Census 2010 to the 2013 population estimates.
In 2014, there were an estimated 274,000 persons over the age of 50. By 2020, there will be an estimated 330,000 persons over the age of 50.

Over the next 15 years, persons age 65 and older will be the fastest growing segment of Mecklenburg County’s population.
MECKLENBURG COUNTY RESIDENTS BY RACE/ETHNICITY

- White alone, not Hispanic or Latino: 49.3%
- Black or African American: 32.1%
- Hispanic or Latino: 12.6%
- Asian: 5.2%
- American Indian and Alaska Native: 0.8%
- Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander: 0.1%

In 2012, Mecklenburg County became a “majority-minority” county.

NET MIGRATION TO AND FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N.C.

NET MIGRATION TO AND FROM MECKLENBURG COUNTY, N.C.

Most Commonly Spoken Languages

- #1 English
- #2 Spanish
- #3 Vietnamese

Source: 2013 US Census Bureau State & County Quick Facts

Source: UNC Carolina Population Center: Carolina Demography

Source: Census 2008-2012 5-year ACS county-to-county migration flows
WHERE PERSONS MOVED FROM AND TO IN THE U.S.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau: 2008-2012 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates for Mecklenburg County, the top locations persons moved from were Suffolk County, New York (county seat is Town of Riverhead on Long Island), second most common was Miami-Dade County, Florida (county seat is Miami), and third was Hudson County, New Jersey (county seat is Jersey City).

The top locations persons moved to were Union County, North Carolina, the second most common was York County, South Carolina, and the third was Tarrant County, Texas (county seat is Fort Worth).

WHERE PERSONS MOVED FROM AND TO IN NORTH CAROLINA
Veterans Affairs’ Expenditures and Veterans Population
(by federal fiscal year)

Source: U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Fifteen high schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system had a four-year cohort graduation rate of over 90%:

1. Cato Middle College High School (100%)
2. Military & Global Leadership Academy at Marie G. Davis (100%)
3. Ardrey Kell High School (97.7%)
4. Providence High School (97.3%)
5. Northwest School Of The Arts (96.9%)
6. Mallard Creek High School (95.8%)
7. Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology (95.5%)
8. Math, Engineering, Technology & Science at Olympic High (92.8%)
9. W. A. Hough High School (92.4%)
10. North Mecklenburg High School (92.3%)
11. David W. Butler High School (91.8%)
12. Renaissance School at Olympic High School (91.5%)
13. Myers Park High School (91%)
14. South Mecklenburg High School (90.8%)
15. Hawthorne High School (90.6%)

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Over the past five years, graduation rates for all racial/ethnic categories have improved and gaps between groups have narrowed.
According to the U.S. Census 2013 American Community Survey, more than 70% of Mecklenburg County residents have at least some college, an associate's degree, bachelor's degree or graduate/professional degree.

- County residents with graduate or professional degrees earn a median income that is 2.5 times higher than the median income for someone with only a high school education.
- The median household income in Mecklenburg County is $55,444 (U.S. Census 2009-2013 data).
Poverty rate is a key economic indicator used to evaluate economic conditions within communities. It measures the percentage of individuals whose income is below the poverty threshold. The poverty rate for Mecklenburg County residents decreases as the amount of education increases.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
In 2013, an estimated 147,896 Mecklenburg County residents lived below the poverty line.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau: 2013 American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates
MECKLENBURG COUNTY HOURLY WAGE COMPARISONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Hourly Wages</th>
<th>1 Adult</th>
<th>1 Adult, 1 Child</th>
<th>1 Adult, 2 Children</th>
<th>1 Adult, 3 Children</th>
<th>2 Adults</th>
<th>2 Adults, 1 Child</th>
<th>2 Adults, 2 Children</th>
<th>2 Adults, 3 Children</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Living Wage</td>
<td>$10.02</td>
<td>$19.68</td>
<td>$24.41</td>
<td>$30.39</td>
<td>$15.19</td>
<td>$18.29</td>
<td>$19.76</td>
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<td>Poverty Wage</td>
<td>$5.21</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>$10.60</td>
<td>$7.00</td>
<td>$8.80</td>
<td>$10.60</td>
<td>$12.40</td>
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<td>Minimum Wage</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
<td>$7.25</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The poverty wage and minimum wage are lower than the living wage for all groups. This means that many families earn less than living wage.

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator: http://livingwage.mit.edu/

TYPICAL HOURLY WAGES FOR VARIOUS PROFESSIONS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Profession</th>
<th>Hourly Wage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food Preparation and Serving Related</td>
<td>$8.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal Care and Services</td>
<td>$13.20</td>
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<tr>
<td>Building and Grounds Cleaning and Maintenance</td>
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<td>Healthcare Support</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sales and Related</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transportation and Material Moving</td>
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<tr>
<td>Farming, Fishing and Forestry</td>
<td>$12.87</td>
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<tr>
<td>Production</td>
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<tr>
<td>Office and Administrative Support</td>
<td>$14.33</td>
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<tr>
<td>Protective Services</td>
<td>$15.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Construction and Extraction</td>
<td>$15.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>Arts, Design, Entertainment, Sports and Media</td>
<td>$16.12</td>
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<tr>
<td>Community and Social Services</td>
<td>$16.22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Installation, Maintenance and Repair</td>
<td>$18.48</td>
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<td>Education, Training and Library</td>
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<td>Legal</td>
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<td>Healthcare Practitioner and Technical</td>
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<td>Life, Physical and Social Science</td>
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<td>Business and Financial Operations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Architecture and Engineering</td>
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<tr>
<td>Computer and Mathematical Management</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$43.89</td>
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</table>

HOMELESSNESS IN MECKLENBURG COUNTY

Quick Facts:
- 2,014 Total Homeless Persons
- 81% of Total Homeless were African-American
- 203 Chronically Homeless Persons
- 164 Unsheltered Persons
- 157 Homeless Veterans

The Point in Time (PIT) Count is federally mandated to determine the prevalence and characteristics of homeless people in the United States.

• This is an unduplicated one-night count of both sheltered and unsheltered homeless populations. Mecklenburg County’s count occurred on January 29, 2014.

• The PIT Count is a useful tool in understanding homelessness at a point in time but does not capture all the people who:
  - Experience periods of homelessness over the course of a year.
  - Are living in motels, staying with family/friends, in jail or living in a treatment facility.
  - Are unsheltered but not visible on the day of the count.

Source: Charlotte-Mecklenburg Point in Time Count Report

Source: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Living Wage Calculator: http://livingwage.mit.edu/
Before the recession, unemployment was between four and six percent, for the United States, North Carolina, and Mecklenburg County. Beginning in 2009, the State and County saw higher unemployment rates than the national average.

Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics
Mecklenburg County now has more jobs than before the recession. Total employment has grown from approximately 566,000 in 2007 to 585,000 in 2013. Health care related employment is now the largest category. Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate fell from the largest category of employment in 2007 to the second largest in 2013.

Single-family building permits indicate growth in housing. Building permits are an economic indicator that signal consumer confidence, and also provide insight into complementary spending in the local economy. Mecklenburg County experienced strong growth in housing through the early 2000s. During the economic recession, fewer permits were requested, indicating fewer homes were being built during those years. Single-family building permits have slowly recovered, though not yet to pre-recession levels.

Source: NC Department of Commerce - Labor & Economic Analysis Division
Source: United States Census Bureau
CHRONIC DISEASES

% Premature Deaths (< 65 years) due to four major chronic conditions
(Cancer, Diabetes, Heart Disease and Stroke)

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009-2013

- Mecklenburg County residents ranked Chronic Disease as the leading public health concern (2013 Community Health Assessment).

- A review of local mortality data show one-third of all deaths are premature (occurring before 65 years) and four major chronic diseases account for nearly 50% of all premature deaths in Mecklenburg County. Chronic diseases are tied to several modifiable risk factors such as smoking, poor nutrition, and physical inactivity.

- The percent of premature deaths related to chronic conditions has declined over time and is below the State average. Despite these improvements, chronic diseases remain widespread and costly health problems for the County. In 2013, nearly 189,000 residents (19%) reported having two or more chronic conditions. During this same time period, hospital in-patient charges due to cancer, diabetes, heart disease, and stroke totaled over $533 million for Mecklenburg County residents.

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, 2009-2013
• Tobacco Use: Approximately 170,000 Mecklenburg County adults report currently smoking tobacco.

• Overweight/Obese: More than 604,000 Mecklenburg County residents are either overweight or obese.

• Physical Activity: Nearly 1 in 5 Mecklenburg County residents report being physically inactive.

• Over 174,000 residents in Mecklenburg County are estimated to be uninsured. This estimate does not reflect 2014 enrollments under the Affordable Care Act (ACA).

• In a 2013 Community Health Assessment by Mecklenburg County, Mecklenburg County residents ranked Access to Care as the third leading public health concern.


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2009 - 2013 Population estimates
In a 2013 Community Health Assessment by Mecklenburg County, Mecklenburg County residents ranked Mental Health as the second leading public health concern.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for residents aged 25 to 64 years.

Despite recent improvements, teens remain at increased risk for suicide. In 2011, an estimated 15% of Charlotte-Mecklenburg high school students reported attempting suicide at least once in their lifetime.

• Poor Mental Health Days is the average number of days in the previous 30 days adults report their mental health was not good. Poor mental health days provide a general indication of wellness, health related quality of life, and mental distress.

• The percent of Mecklenburg County residents reporting seven or more poor mental health days in the past 30 days is similar to the State’s average rate. However, disparities exist across income levels, with individuals making less than $50,000 annually reporting twice as many poor mental health days as those making $50,000 or more.

Source: North Carolina State Center for Health Statistics, Behavior Risk Factor Surveillance, 2009-2013
• An estimated six new HIV cases are diagnosed in Mecklenburg County each week.

• HIV infection includes all initial diagnoses of HIV as well as those diagnosed with AIDS. As of December 31, 2013, over 5,200 persons are living with HIV/AIDS in Mecklenburg County.

• For example, African Americans account for less than 33% of the County’s total population but represent more than 70% of persons living with HIV/AIDS.

• From 2001 to 2010, HIV disease death rates in the County decreased approximately 200%, from 13.3 deaths per 100,000 to 4.3 per 100,000.

• Racial and ethnic disparities related to HIV deaths persist. African-Americans are nearly 12 times more likely to die of HIV in Mecklenburg County than are Whites.

Source: Park and Recreation Infographic October 2014
The two primary contributors to Mecklenburg County’s Air Quality Index (AQI) are particulate matter and ozone.

The most significant sources of air pollution are mobile sources (such as vehicles).

**Community Health – Get Active**

Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation

- 240 Athletic Fields
- 109 Basketball Courts
- 149 Tennis Courts
- 44 Volleyball Courts
- 18 Recreation Centers
- 7 Fitness Centers
- 21 Gymnasiums
- 14 Disc Golf Courses
- 5 Golf Courses
- 5 Pools

- 210+ Parks and Facilities
- 240 Miles of Trails

**Air Quality**

Annual Average Quality Index - Mecklenburg County, NC

- Very Unhealthy
- Unhealthy
- Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups
- Moderate
- Good

Source: Mecklenburg County 2014 State of the Environment Report

http://charmeck.org/mecklenburg-county/LUESA/SOER/Pages/AirQuality.aspx
The Miles Suitable Program Measure is based on bacteria counts in the streams. Prior to 1998 only 15% of Mecklenburg County creeks were “suitable for prolonged human contact and recreational opportunity and supportive of various species of aquatic life;” by 2014 that percentage had risen to 82%.

In Fiscal Year 2014, 34% of residential solid waste in Mecklenburg County was diverted away from landfills to be recycled or composted; this is an increase from 33% in Fiscal Year 2013 and 31% in Fiscal Year 2012.

Sources: Mecklenburg County – Land Use and Environmental Services Agency – Solid Waste Division