



# THE VIEW

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## Cabarrus County 2023 Trends Report



**CABARRUS COUNTY**  
*America Thrives Here*

## The View

The 2023 Trends Report was created by the Cabarrus County Strategy Team as a guide for County elected officials and leaders. The information was compiled in early 2023 from sources such as County management, government agencies, research organizations and media outlets.

To learn more about the document and the information presented within it, email [EKLandrum@cabarruscounty.us](mailto:EKLandrum@cabarruscounty.us).

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## About us

Cabarrus County, incorporated in 1792, is in the Piedmont section of the State of North Carolina and is bordered on the north by Rowan and Iredell counties, on the east by Stanly County, on the south by Union County and on the west by Mecklenburg County. Cabarrus encompasses approximately 230,400 acres.

There are six municipalities in the County, the largest of which is the City of Concord (the County seat). Concord is approximately 124 miles from the City of Raleigh and 18 miles northeast of the City of Charlotte. The second largest municipality is the City of Kannapolis. The towns of Mount Pleasant, Harrisburg, Midland and Locust are smaller municipalities in the county.

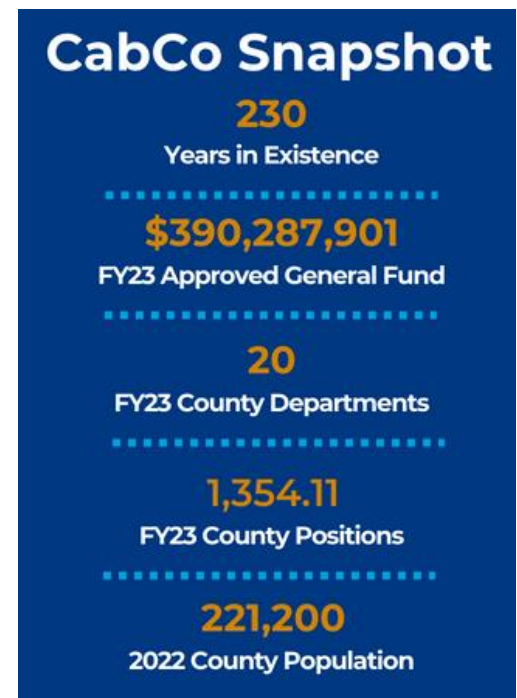
The United States Census Bureau estimated a county population of 231,278 as of July 2021, making the county the 10th largest in North Carolina. The county is empowered to levy a property tax on both real and personal property located within its boundaries.



**Cabarrus County Board of Commissioners** (left to right) Chris Measmer, Lynn Shue (Vice Chair), Steve Morris (Chair), Kenny Wortman and Barbara Strang

## How we operate

- The County has operated under the Board of Commissioners-County Manager form of government since 1976.
- Policy-making and legislative authority are vested in a governing board consisting of five commissioners. The governing board is responsible for, among other things, passing ordinances, adopting the budget, appointing committees and hiring the County manager, clerk to the board, tax administrator and County attorney.
- Board members are elected on a partisan basis, serving four-year staggered terms, with new members (two or three) elected every two years.
- The County manager serves as the chief executive and is responsible for carrying out the policies and ordinances of the governing board, overseeing the day-to-day operations of the government and appointing the heads of the various departments.



## 2022 Community Survey

More than two-thirds of Cabarrus residents maintain a positive opinion of the county, with quality of life satisfaction scores rating higher than the national average across several categories, according to the 2022 Community Survey Findings Report.

According to the survey, 79% of respondents were either “very satisfied” or “satisfied” with Cabarrus County as a place to raise children, while 78% said the same for the county as a place to live. Seventy-three percent responded similarly about the overall quality of life.



*CabCo residents walk the trails at Rob Wallace Park*

The survey also revealed that residents want County leadership to focus on affordable housing, employment and services for those ages 50 and older over the next five years.

These are areas where the County and its partners could positively impact a large percentage of households by addressing resident-reported needs, including services for those ages 50 and older, affordable housing (no more than 30% of total income), recreational programs and facilities and high-speed broadband internet.

Nearly 30% of respondents disagreed with a question about whether County Government is transparent. Thirty-two percent were neutral.

### Community Survey: How we compare to the national average

Cabarrus County rated significantly above the national average (5% or more above) in 16 of the 20 areas that were comparatively assessed on the survey. The table below shows how Cabarrus County compares to the national average:

Service	Cabarrus County	U.S.	Difference	Category
As a place to live	78%	50%	28%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
Sheriff's Office	83%	55%	28%	Impression of Programs & Services
As a place to raise children	79%	62%	17%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
Emergency Medical Services	89%	72%	17%	Impression of Programs & Services
Active Living and Parks services	68%	51%	17%	Impression of Programs & Services
Quality of services offered to citizens	65%	51%	14%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
Animal Control services	63%	50%	13%	Impression of Programs & Services
How safe you feel in neighborhood at night	75%	63%	12%	Perceptions of Safety
Library services	78%	66%	12%	Impression of Programs & Services
Waste reduction services	69%	57%	12%	Impression of Programs & Services
Emergency Mgmt. & Fire Marshal's Office	89%	78%	11%	Impression of Programs & Services
As a place to retire	62%	52%	10%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
How safe you feel in parks	65%	56%	9%	Perceptions of Safety
Value received for tax dollars/user fees	43%	34%	9%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
As a place to work	65%	58%	7%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
How safe you feel in neighborhood during the day	90%	83%	7%	Perceptions of Safety
Crime prevention	52%	50%	2%	Perceptions of Safety
Leadership provided by elected officials	38%	39%	-1%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
Level of public involvement in local decision making	28%	34%	-6%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
Efforts to inform about local issues & decisions	37%	44%	-7%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration

## Community Survey: How we compare to other North Carolina counties

Cabarrus County rated above the North Carolina County average in 11 of the 19 areas that were comparatively assessed on the survey; the County rated significantly above in four of these areas. The table below shows how Cabarrus compares to the NC county average:

Service	Cabarrus County	North Carolina Counties	Difference	Category
As a place to raise children	79%	68%	11%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
Animal Control services	63%	55%	8%	Impression of Programs & Services
Quality of services offered to citizens	65%	58%	7%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
How safe you feel in neighborhood at night	75%	69%	6%	Perceptions of Safety
As a place to retire	62%	59%	3%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
Overall quality of life	73%	70%	3%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
Value received for tax dollars/user fees	43%	41%	2%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
Emergency Medical Services	89%	88%	1%	Impression of Programs & Services
How safe you feel in neighborhood during the day	90%	89%	1%	Perceptions of Safety
Waste reduction services	69%	68%	1%	Impression of Programs & Services
As a place to live	78%	78%	0%	Perceptions of Quality of Life
Active Living and Parks services	68%	69%	-1%	Impression of Programs & Services
Level of public involvement in local decision making	28%	29%	-1%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
Library services	78%	79%	-1%	Impression of Programs & Services
Sheriff's Office	83%	84%	-1%	Impression of Programs & Services
Emergency Mgmt. & Fire Marshal's Office	89%	91%	-2%	Impression of Programs & Services
Efforts to inform about local issues & decisions	37%	41%	-4%	Perceptions of Govt. Administration
How safe you feel in parks	65%	72%	-7%	Perceptions of Safety
As a place to work	65%	73%	-8%	Perceptions of Quality of Life

## Community Survey: Other survey highlights

**Satisfaction with customer service from County employees:** Survey administrators noted high scores in several questions related to customer interactions with the County, including ratings significantly above the national average in these customer service areas:

- Respect and professionalism of the interaction (83% 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')
- Accuracy of information and assistance given by County employees (78% 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')
- How quickly County staff responded to residents (75% 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')
- How well an issue was handled by County employees (73% 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')
- Ease of contact (72% 'very satisfied' or 'satisfied')

**Involvement in local government:** Seventy-one percent of respondents are aware of their ability to attend or speak at public meetings, while 69% are aware of participation in public hearings. Fifty-three percent follow Cabarrus County Government on social media platforms, and half of all respondents know they can serve on a citizen committee.

**Education:** Eighty-nine percent of survey respondents believe school facilities are adequate, while 86% believe school facilities are safe.

# 2022 Workplace Climate Survey

## Workplace Climate Survey: Patterns over time



The Cabarrus County Workplace Survey was conducted in December 2022 by the Local Government Workplaces Initiative of the School of Government at the University of North Carolina - Chapel Hill (UNC). This is the second time Cabarrus County participated. The first survey was administered in December 2020.

The survey has two purposes. The first is to allow employees to share their opinions on their workplace with Cabarrus County senior leaders. The second is to provide data for academic research.



*CabCo Employee Appreciation Day at Atrium Health Ballpark*

Employee participation in the survey is voluntary and confidential. UNC reported averages of survey results across the organization, by department, and broad demographic categories of employees, but never by job title or demographic categories within departments. The County does not know who responded.

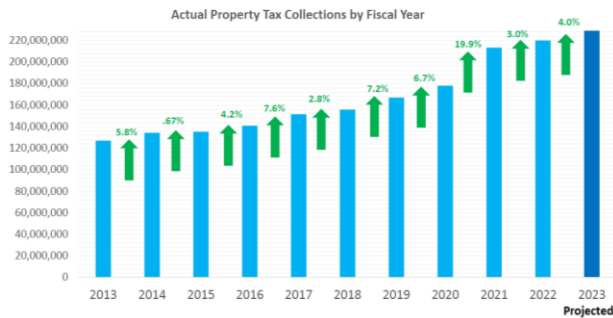
This anonymity is considered an important opportunity to lend the employee voice to how senior leaders understand the Cabarrus County workplace and how it can be improved.

# County insights

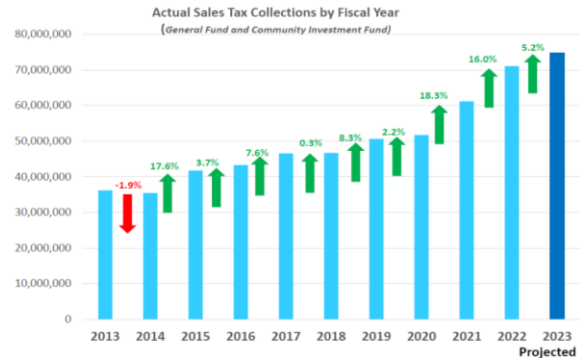
## Budget, Tax and Finance

The County continues to see increasing revenues, even throughout the pandemic. As of February 2023, property tax revenues are projected to increase 4 percent and collection rates continue to exceed 98 percent. Sales tax revenues have largely been higher in the first six months in FY23 than in years past.

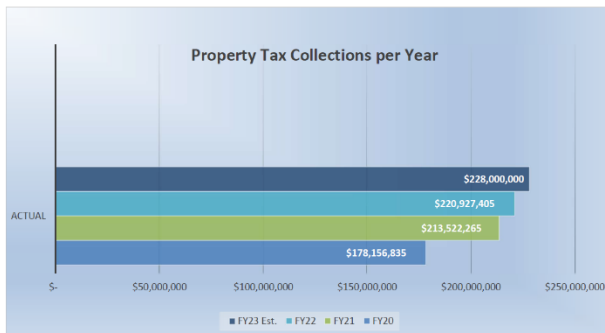
### Revenue – Property Tax Trend



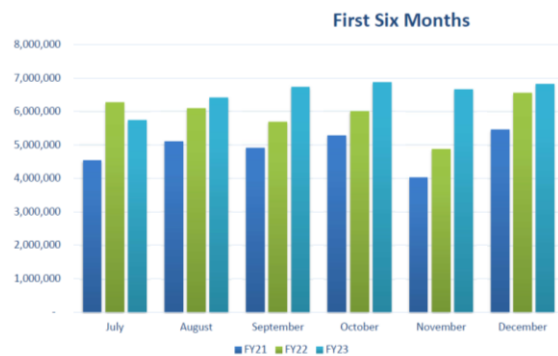
### Revenue – Sales Tax Trend



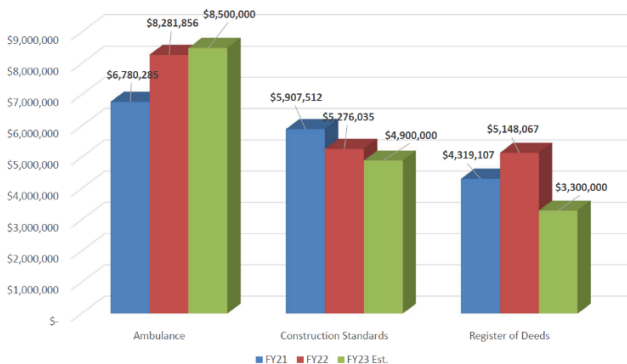
### Property Taxes



### Sales Taxes



### Revenues: Major Fees



### Revenue Outlook

Revenue Source	FY23 Budget	FY24 Projected	Variance
Property Tax	226,563,987	236,324,418	9,760,431
Sales Tax	41,400,000	45,400,000	4,000,000
Other Taxes (Cable Franchise /Gross Receipts)	893,000	815,000	(78,000)
Intergovernmental/Grants	25,147,250	24,919,007	(228,243)
Permits & Fees	9,931,343	8,376,455	(1,554,888)
Sales & Services	13,454,082	13,864,161	410,079
Investment Earnings	200,000	1,000,000	800,000
Miscellaneous	268,900	284,900	16,000
Other Financial Sources	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>317,858,562</b>	<b>330,983,941</b>	<b>13,125,379</b>

## Childcare and education

[In a 2022-2023 survey by the NC Chamber](#), North Carolina voters said the lack of affordable, quality child care is a serious problem, second only to housing and crime.

- 26% of parents with children five and under said they left the workforce because they couldn't find affordable child care
- 60% of parents with children five and under said they had to miss work because of a problem with child care
- 37% of parents with children five and under refused a job opportunity, promotion, or job change because it would increase child care expenses
- 32% of parents with children five and under did not pursue job training or continuing education because of a lack of affordable child care



*Ribbon cutting held in Cabarrus County for new child development center*

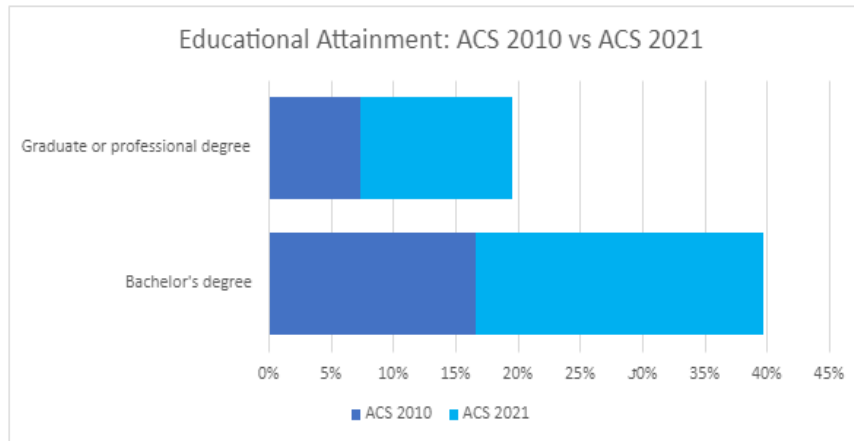
Survey respondents also noted **a link between childcare and the economy:**

- 79% agree that quality, affordable child care is important to strengthen the economy and help workers provide for their families
- 95% of North Carolinians say quality child care programs help ensure workers are able to go to work reliably
- 94% say that quality child care programs help children develop important social skills, such as self-confidence, self-discipline, and the ability to work well with others
- 93% agree that quality child care programs help children have academic success in school.

Nationally, childcare employment plummeted by more than 30% at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and is still 7% lower today, [per the U.S. Chamber](#).



Higher Education: People in Cabarrus County increasingly have higher education degrees, and many more have a Bachelor's or graduate degree, [per the American Community Survey](#)



Per the [myFutureNC Educational Attainment trends](#), school enrollment has increased by one to two percent each year up until 2020-2021, where there was a one percent decrease in enrollment. Other myFutureNC trends show:

- More children enrolled in homeschooling in 2020-2021 than in previous years
- Academic readiness has **decreased** in the areas of college- and career-ready in math and reading, across all demographics
- Yet, high school graduation rates have **increased** overall



*Above: CabCo students learn about the work of County government and potential careers available to them*

*Left: CabCo residents participate in the Library's Summer Reading Program*

## Cabarrus County Schools

Cabarrus County Schools (CCS) is comprised of a dedicated and talented staff of educators, administrators and support personnel who:

- Promote a “Students First” culture with a focus on high-quality instruction tailored to the needs of each student
- Offer families a wide range of program choices (45) with options for all students
- Commit to the safety of each student, with nurses & school resource officers in each school
- Provide students with access to a variety of extra-curricular activities

CCS is proud of its world language offerings as early as the elementary level and Career and Technical Education Academies focused on Tourism and Hospitality, Financial Technology, Health Sciences, Aviation and Aerospace, and more.

Their educators are dedicated to delivering learning experiences that are tailored to meet the needs of each student. Their workforce of committed educators includes 81% of teachers with five-or-more years of experience and 33% of Cabarrus County Schools’ teachers hold advanced degrees.

## STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:

1 Student Wellness

2 Teaching and Learning

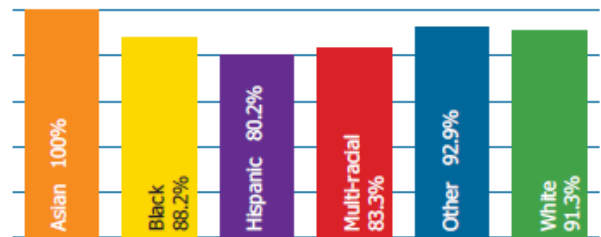
3 Diverse Talent Pipeline

4 Early Learning

5 Technology-Enhanced Learning

6 Community Alignment

### 4 Year Graduation Rates By Demographic



*Cabarrus County Schools’ students featured in the Destination 2025 Strategic Plan*

College and Career Readiness indicates that a student scored a level 4 on a state exam and is on track for college or a career. On this threshold, Cabarrus County Schools ranks:

- 7<sup>th</sup> in the state in 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade math
- 12<sup>th</sup> in the state in 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade reading
- 15<sup>th</sup> in the state in 5<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade science


North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) releases “growth” data on whether students made expected progress. Ninety-five percent of CCS elementary schools met or exceeded growth. CCS either met expected growth or exceeded expected growth in 31 of 32 subgroups of students across all schools.

Of 115 districts in the North Carolina Public School System, Cabarrus County Schools has improved its rank from 35th in 2017-18 to 12th in 2021-22, placing the school system in the top ten percent of districts in the state.




81% of CCS teachers have five or more years of experience.

33% of CCS teachers hold Advanced Degrees.



**47%**  
of high school students earned college credit in 2020-21.

**98%** of CCS graduates attend a 2- or 4-year college, go straight into the workforce, or join the military.

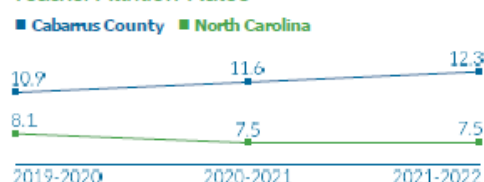


The class of 2022 earned **\$20,900,910** in scholarships.

48 CTE Pathways

45 School Choice Options

### Teacher Attrition Rates



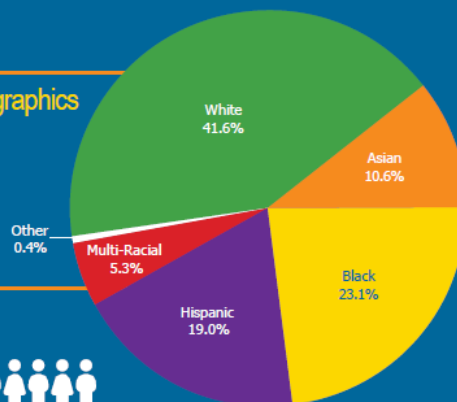
## Facts and Figures

45 Schools:



### Student Demographics

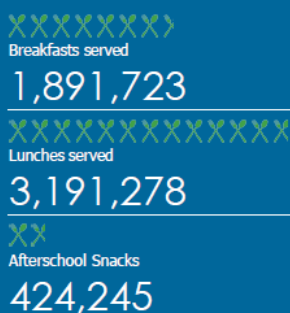
- Asian 10.6%
- Black 23.1%
- Hispanic 19.0%
- Multi-Racial 5.3%
- Other 0.4%
- White 41.6%



### Total Number of Students:

34,962 

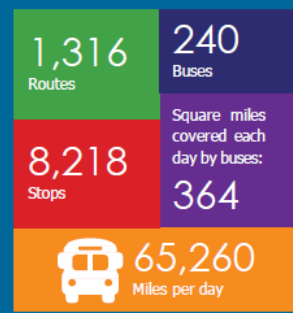
### School Nutrition



### Free and Reduced-price Lunches



### Transportation



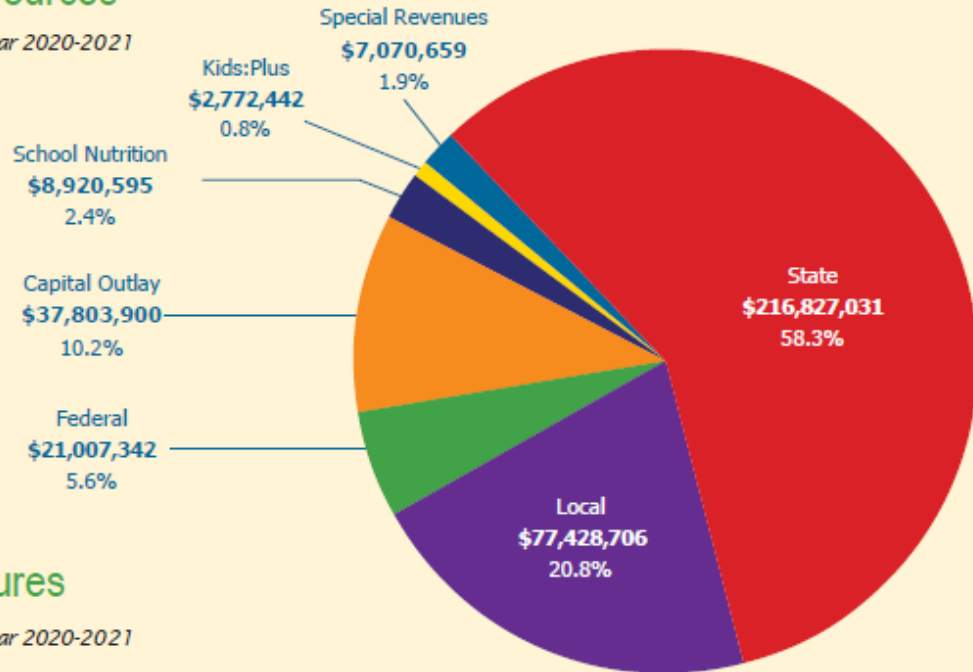
### Employees

4,047 Full-time: 343 Part-time:

# Financial Facts

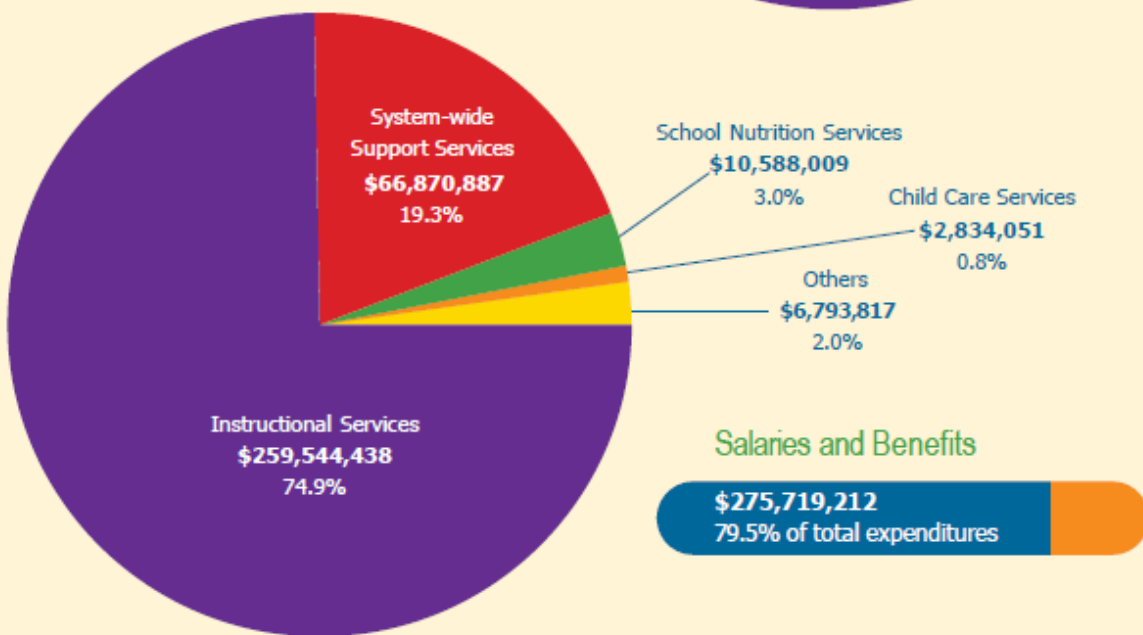
## Funding Sources

For the school year 2020-2021



## Expenditures

For the school year 2020-2021



# Locally Funded Positions

Certified = 136  
 Classified = 255  
 Total = 391

## Local Certified Supplement

*Included in Salaries and Benefits*

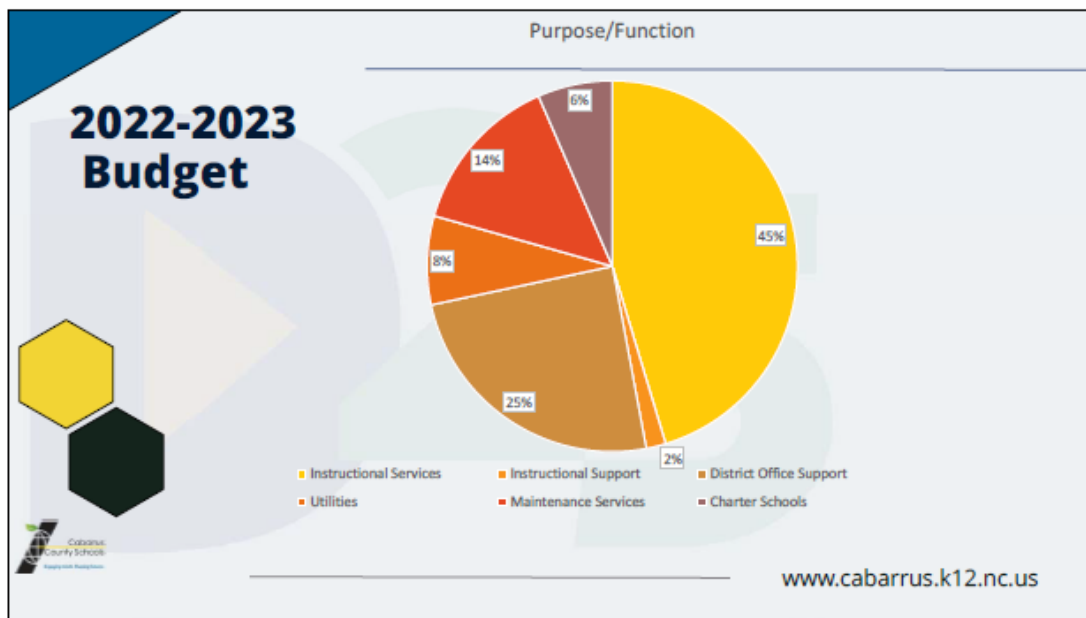
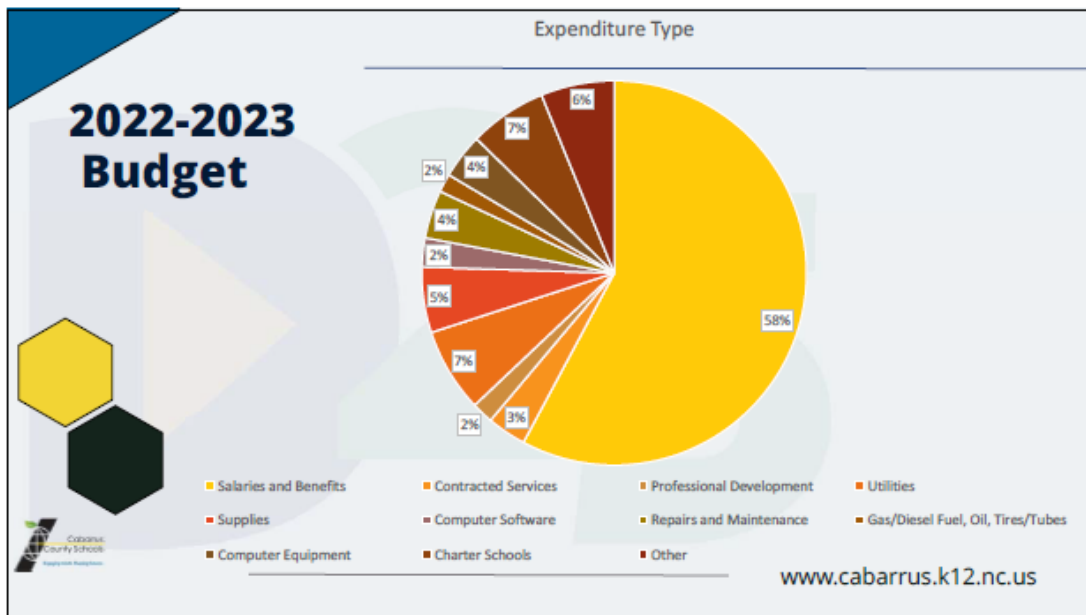
2022-2023 Budget = \$15.1 million (@12%)

Cost @ 10% = \$12.6 million (\$2.5 million difference)

- County funded at 11.5% in 2022-2023 budget
- Funding shortfall (0.5%) = \$630,000



www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us



# Kannapolis City Schools

## WHO ARE WE?

**Enrollment: 5,425**      **Staff:**

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

Hispanic	White	Black	Multi-racial
36%	30%	28%	6%

Economically Disadvantaged	Multilingual Language Learners	Special Education Services
70-76%	14%	14%

WHO ARE WE? | DEMOGRAPHICS & SOCIOECONOMICS

## WHO ARE WE?

**ENROLLMENT PER SCHOOL**

A.L. Brown High School (ALB)	1,700
Kannapolis Middle School (KMS)	1,280
G.W. Carver Elementary School (GWC)	525
Fred L. Wilson Elementary School (FLW)	460
Forest Park Elementary School (FPE)	460
Jackson Park Elementary School (JPE)	425
Shady Brook Elementary School (SBE)	290
North Kannapolis Elementary School (NKE)	255
McKnight Child Development Center (McK)	198

WHO ARE WE? | ENROLLMENT

## 2022-23 AREAS OF FOCUS

- Employee Retention
- Beginning Teacher Support
- Local Supplement
- Science of Reading Training
- School Leadership Transitions
- Academic Growth
- Teacher Assistants and Bus Drivers
- Staff Diversity
- Data Driven Instruction
- School Safety
- Core Behavior Practices
- Hispanic Community Partnerships
- Social-Emotional Learning
- School Branding
- KCS Community Communication

2022-23 AREAS OF FOCUS

## BACKGROUND ON FUNDING CATEGORIES

ALL FUNDS	REVENUE	% OF TOTAL FUNDING
Local - Cabarrus County	\$9,474,469.00	12.18%
Local - Rowan County	\$2,935,806.00	3.78%
Local - Fund B	\$1,564,679.81	2.01%
State Funds	\$39,449,809.00	50.73%
Federal Funds	\$14,290,096.05	18.38%
Capital Funds	\$1,782,466.00	2.29%
School Nutrition	\$4,012,350.00	5.16%
Head Start	\$4,255,330.05	5.47%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$77,765,005.91</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

BACKGROUND ON FUNDING CATEGORIES

## MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

- Using \$900,000 of grant funding to improve door security and camera systems PreK-6
- Knox Boxes for police
- Rekeying G.W. Carver to one key type
- Metal detection improvements
- ADA concrete improvements
- All schools with updated digital radios for internal communication
- KPAC updating
- Memorial Stadium grading and drainage improvements

MAINTENANCE AND GROUNDS IMPROVEMENTS

## CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

**Met With**

- City of Kannapolis Planning Director
- Cabarrus County Schools GIS Analyst / Demographic Specialist

**Available Elementary Space**

- Anticipate needing 37 classrooms by 2026
- Currently have 13 available classrooms

Largest housing development expansion within KCS district since the early 2000s (map does not include infill housing)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

## INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES | QUALITY PERSONNEL

**1.0% Increase in Supplement \$260,000**

Our top priority is ensuring every student has access to a quality teacher every day. By increasing our local supplement by 1.0% we are better equipped to retain and attract the very best educators for our students.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES | QUALITY PERSONNEL

## INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES | QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

**Increase Support for Science of Reading \$150,000**

- Procurement of curriculum that aligns to the Science of Reading and the national shift in reading instruction.
- Equipping over 70 teachers & support staff with the latest tools to support their craft.
- Supporting over 1100 students in grades 3 - 5.

INSTRUCTIONAL SERVICES | QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES

# Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

## 2018-2023 Strategic Plan Themes

**LEARN**

How can Rowan-Cabarrus Community College increase the community's educational attainment that leads individuals, families and the region to prosperity, sustainability and success?

**ENGAGE**

How can Rowan-Cabarrus Community College best prepare students to be responsible and productive citizens?

**INNOVATE**

How can Rowan-Cabarrus Community College serve the community of the future?

**LEAD**

How can Rowan-Cabarrus Community College be a catalyst for change?

## RENOVATE | RESTORE | REINVENT

### Leveraging Cabarrus Economic Development & College Growth

46.1% of our graduates are from Cabarrus County.

2018-2021 Cabarrus County enrollment grew 23.5%. Cabarrus County population grew 15.1%.

Short-term enrollment increased from 43,720 to 58,959 – an increase of 38.9% over 2021.

South Campus facilities need increased capacity and updated infrastructure.

## IN 2022, WE CELEBRATED OUR DRIVE-THRU GRADUATION!

**1,389** graduates received degrees, diplomas, and certificates!

*46.1% (641) of graduates were from Cabarrus County.*

## Enrollment

Rowan-Cabarrus is the 8<sup>th</sup> largest community college in the state and boasts the 4<sup>th</sup> largest Corporate & Continuing Education program.

## Cabarrus County Enrollment (2016-2021)

*Annually, the College serves over 20,000 students.*

<p>Cabarrus County enrollment grew from 3,515 to 4,345 - a 23.5% increase.</p>	<p>Cabarrus County enrollment outpaced the College's overall enrollment by nearly 8%.</p>	<p>Cabarrus County's population grew 15.1%.</p>
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**Associate degree attainment in Rowan and Cabarrus Counties is ahead of the national average.**

## Rowan-Cabarrus is a Partner for Cabarrus County's Future

### Workforce Development

- 58,959 Continuing Education course registrations during calendar 2022, a 38.9% increase over 2021.
- Development of NC BioWorks Certification to support Eli Lilly Project
- Increasing Work-Based Learning connections for businesses and students

### Economic Development

- Over 5,000 estimated hotel room nights through the Okuma Machine Tool Academy & the RJG Plastic
- Injection Molding training program
- Brought national recognition to Cabarrus County by hosting 2022 National Conference for National Council of Advance Technology Centers

## ROWAN-CABARRUS COMMUNITY COLLEGE IS A SOLID INVESTMENT!

**\$283 MILLION** IN INCOME ADDED TO THE LOCAL ECONOMY ANNUALLY.

SOURCE: 2021 EMSI

## THE FUTURE IS HERE AND WE NEED STRATEGIC INVESTMENT IN SOUTH CAMPUS.

Rowan-Cabarrus Community College

**South Campus Site Plan**

Legend

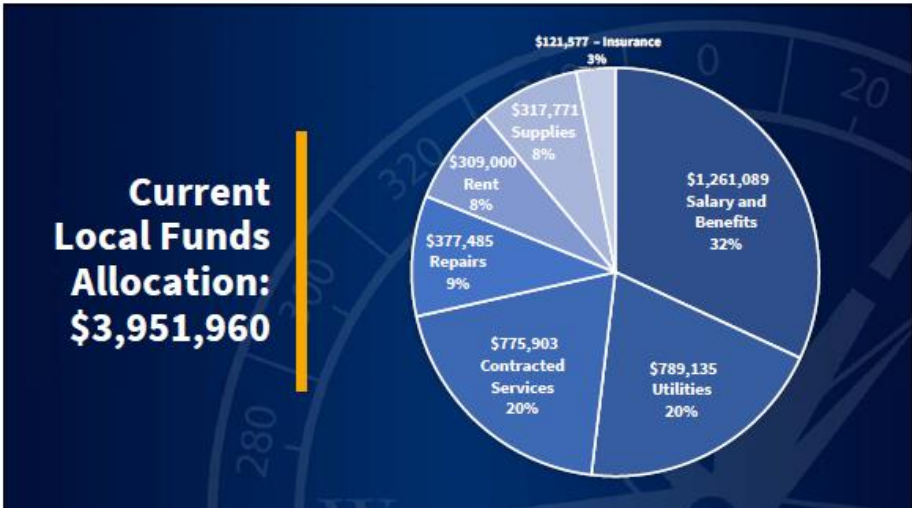
- Existing Properties
- Newly Acquired Properties (2023)
- Desired Properties

## Key Cabarrus County Programs

We made your investment count by utilizing last year's funding to develop:

- New Welding Lab has 12 welding bays and already has a waiting list.
- Expanded EMS/Paramedic program enrollment has increased by 15% from 2021 to 2022.
- NCMI celebrates 49 industry partners, 17 of which are located in Cabarrus County.

## Two "A" Rated Early Colleges & a Successful Career & College Promise Program



### Strategic Priority

**RENOVATE | RESTORE | REINVENT**  
**SOUTH CAMPUS**

THROUGH

LAND ACQUISITION	RENOVATING CURRENT SOUTH CAMPUS BUILDINGS	CONSTRUCTING A NEW WORKFORCE INNOVATION CENTER
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### RENOVATE | RESTORE | REINVENT

<p>46.1% of our graduates are from Cabarrus County.</p>	<p>2016-2021 Cabarrus County enrollment grew 23.5%. Cabarrus County population grew 15.1%.</p>
<p>Short-term enrollment increased from 43,720 to 58,959 – an increase of 38.9% over 2021.</p>	<p>South Campus facilities need increased capacity and updated infrastructure.</p>



## Local economy

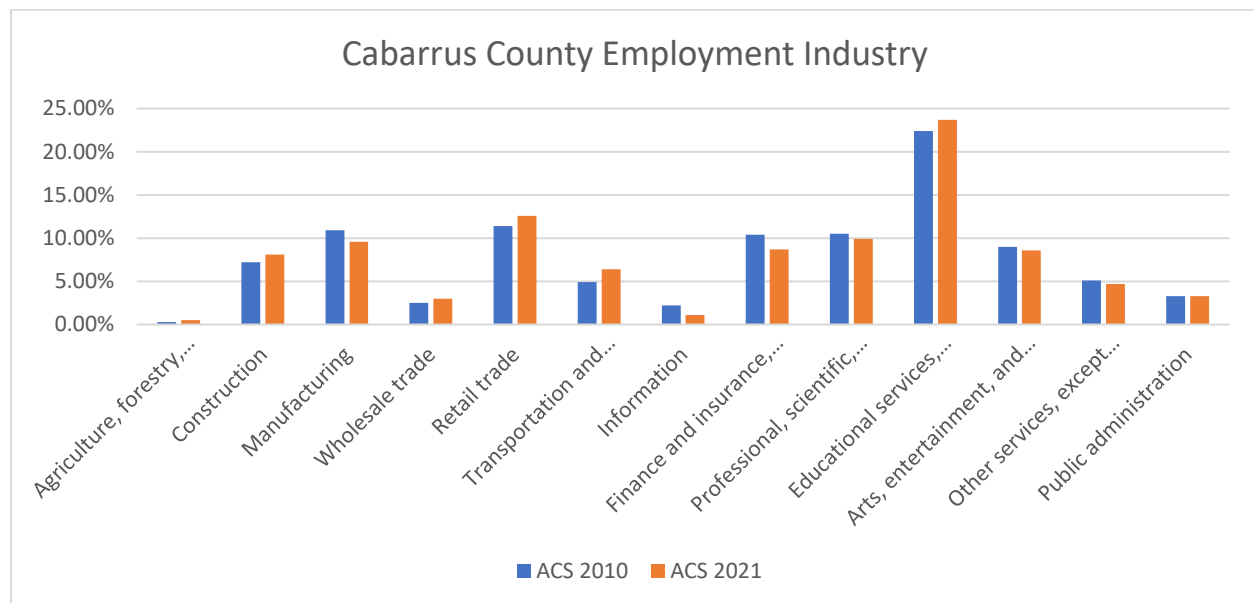
Cabarrus County is one of 10 counties located in the Charlotte-Gastonia-Concord, NCSC Metropolitan Statistical Area (Charlotte MSA), which consists of Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Rowan and Union counties in North Carolina and Chester, Lancaster and York counties in South Carolina. The Charlotte MSA, anchored by the City of Charlotte, was the 22nd largest metropolitan statistical area in the United States as of the 2020 Census.

The County's rapid growth, largely attributable to its position in the Charlotte metropolitan region, has continued during this period of economic prosperity.

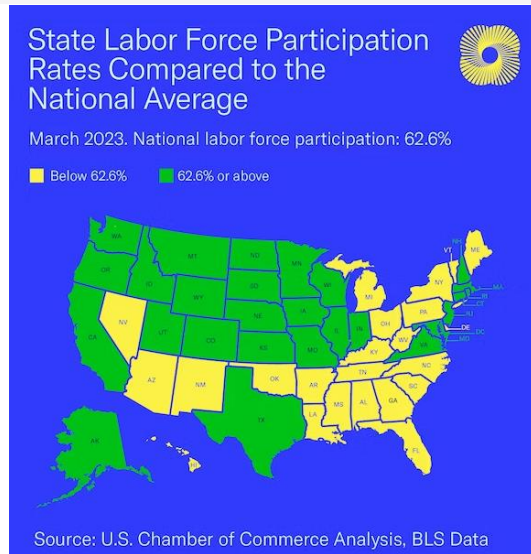
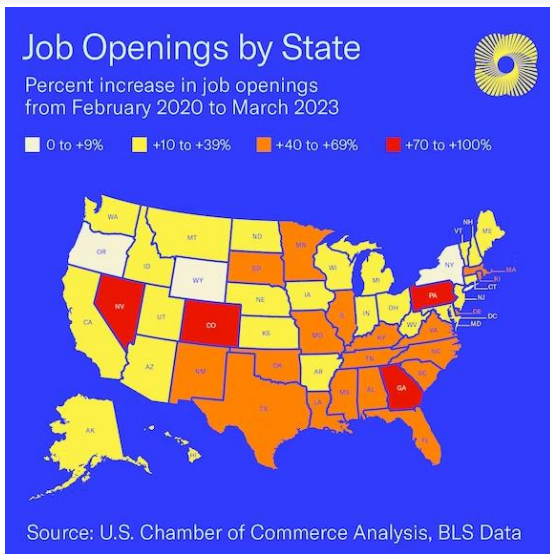
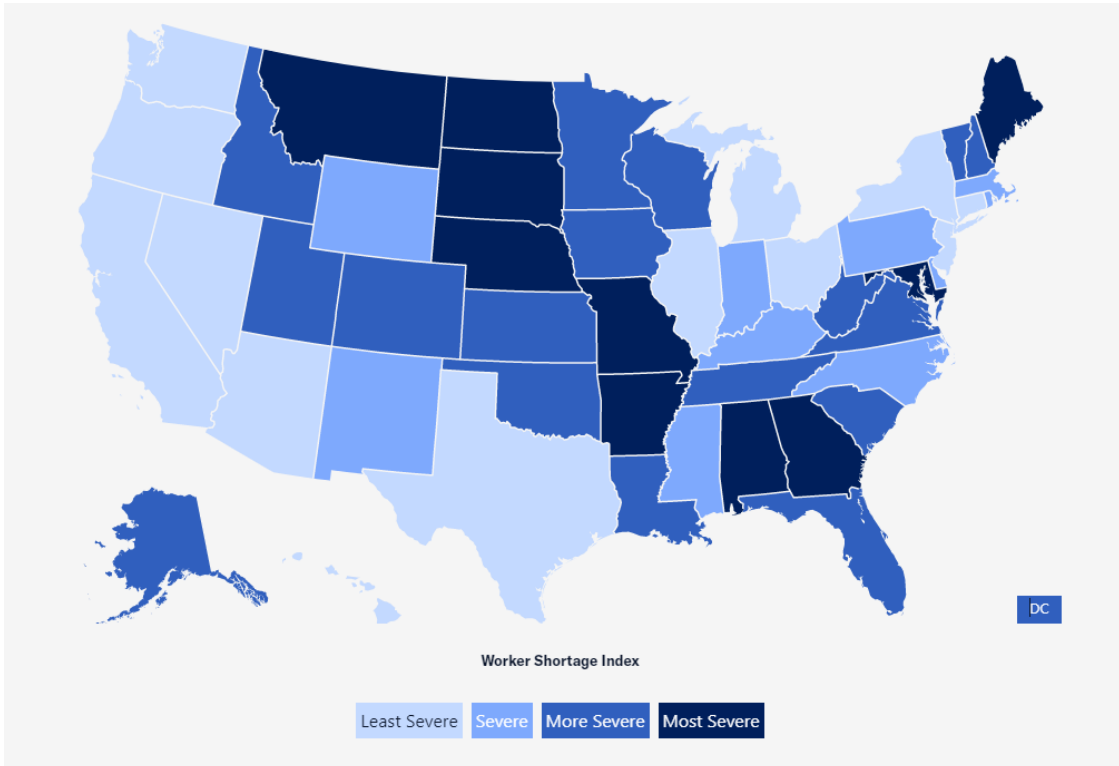
Historically, the County's economy was primarily dependent on agriculture and the textile industry, but its proximity to Charlotte and access to major interstate highways helped diversify the County's economy through investments in biotechnology, healthcare, manufacturing, industrial and business parks, warehousing and distribution, entertainment and hospitality, retail and aviation.

Employment Industry trends, [per ACS](#):

- Increases in fields of education, health and social services; retail; construction; transportation and warehousing
- Decreases in finance and real estate
- Stabilization in public administration



The national worker shortage has been categorized as “severe” in North Carolina, [per the U.S. Chamber](#).



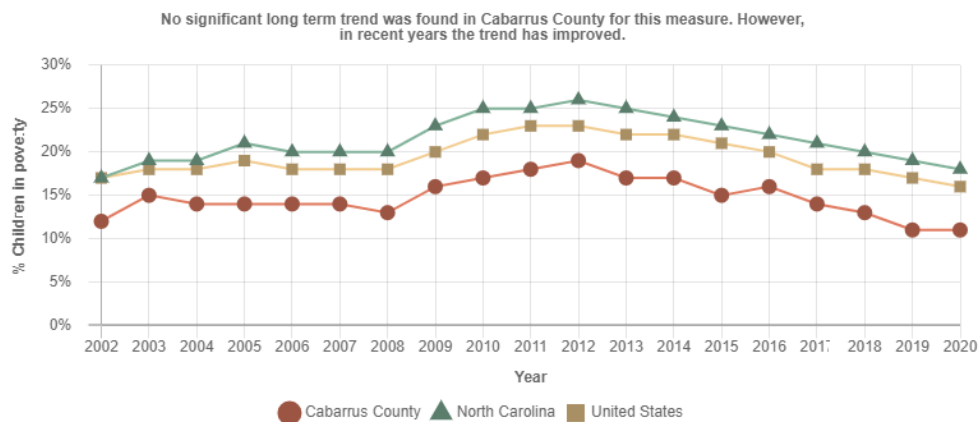
Oregon, Illinois, Alaska, Oklahoma, Utah and New Jersey are the only states that have a higher percentage of their labor force working than before the pandemic. The vast majority have seen their labor forces shrink because of early retirements, increased savings, less immigration, among other factors, [per the U.S. Chamber](#).

## Poverty and unemployment

Poverty rates in Cabarrus County are trending down, with unemployment rates at around pre-pandemic levels:

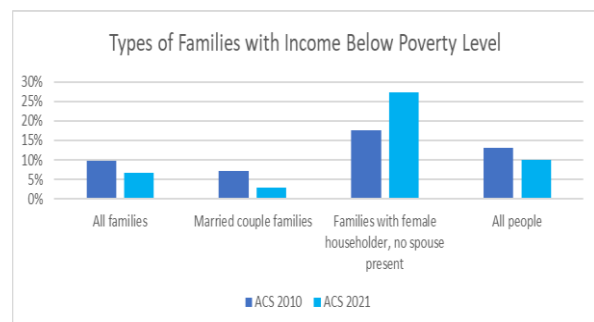
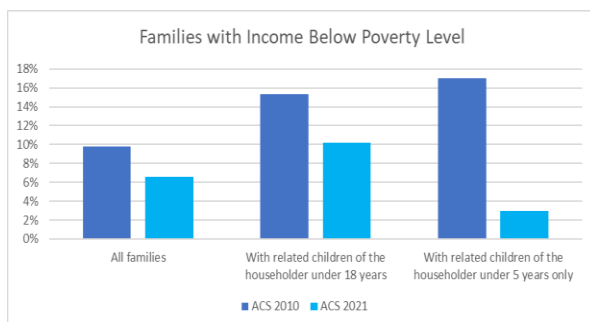
- Unemployment: 3.4%
- Poverty Rate: 10.2%, down from 10.4% in 2010
- [Deep poverty rate](#) (percentage of people living in a household with a total cash income below 50% of the U.S. Census Bureau's poverty threshold): 4.5%, down from 4.9% in 2010, [per PovertyUSA](#)
- 11% of people under age 18 in Cabarrus County live in poverty, [per County Health Rankings](#)
  - Trend is getting better and is lower from the state rate of 18% and the national rate of 16%
- Female-run households with no spouse present have increased in poverty to 27%, up from 17% in 2010, per ACS

Children in poverty in Cabarrus County, NC  
County, state and national trends



Click on the circle, triangle or square above to show corresponding data points on the county, state and national level.

Notes:  
Prior to 2005, Children in poverty was based on the Current Population Survey; beginning in 2005, it was based on the American Community Survey.

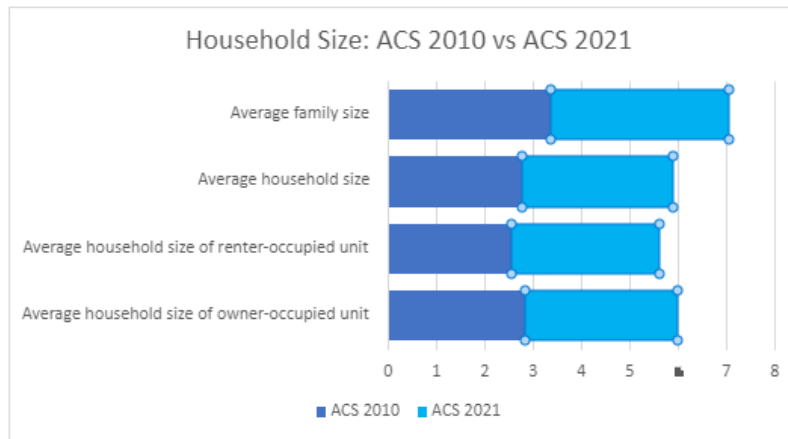


## County population

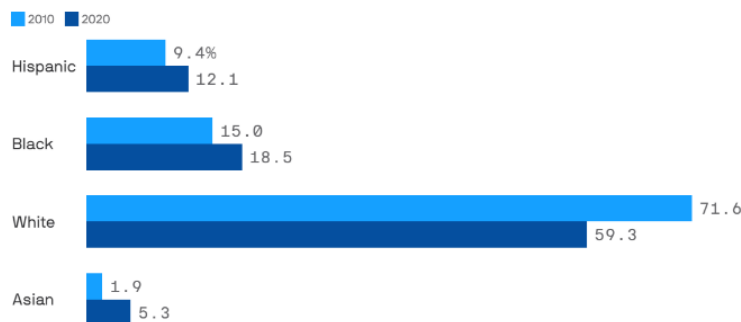
- Cabarrus County grew 26.8% - or nearly 50,000 people - from 2010-2020 while in comparison, during that same time period, North Carolina's population only increased by only 9.5%. Cabarrus County is projected to grow another 15% to 269,867 residents by 2030, [per the NC OSMB](#).
- Between 2020 and 2021, Cabarrus' population increased by 2.4%, or just under 5,500 people, according to the latest Census estimates. Mecklenburg County's population grew 0.6% in that time, [per a Charlotte Axios article](#).
- The White population is declining and all other races increasing. The Asian population are increasing at the greatest pace.
- The changes are almost entirely fueled by people of color. Throughout the decade, nearly 48,000 people were added to Cabarrus County's population through both migration and birth. The Black population increased by more than 15,000 people or 56%; the Hispanic population grew by just fewer than 10,500 or 63%; and the Asian population jumped by 8,473, or 245% [per a Charlotte Axios article](#).



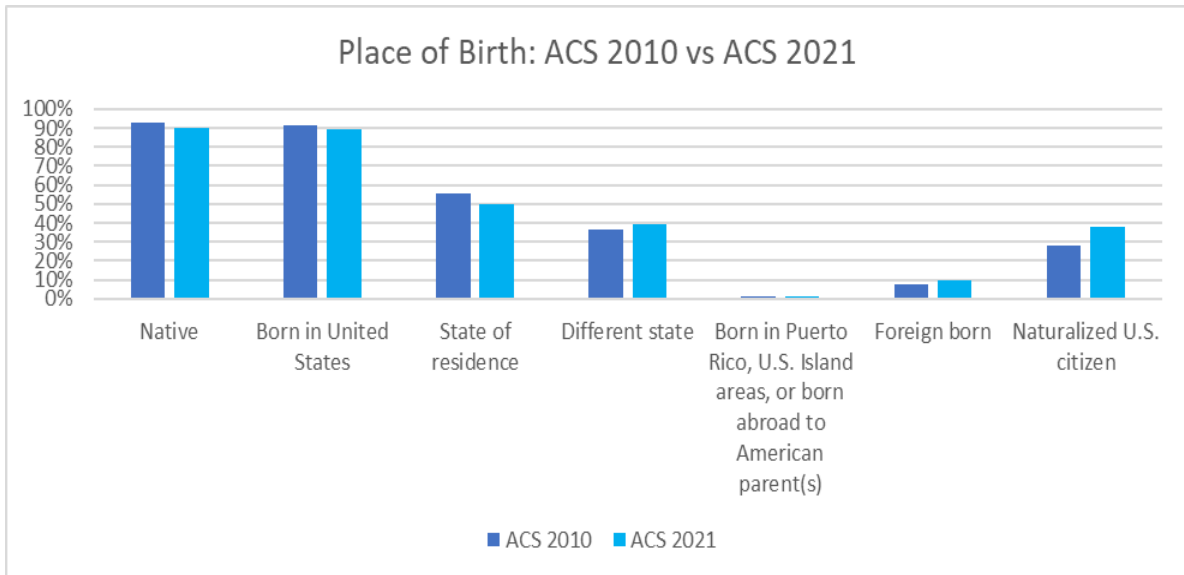
*New-home construction in a Concord neighborhood*



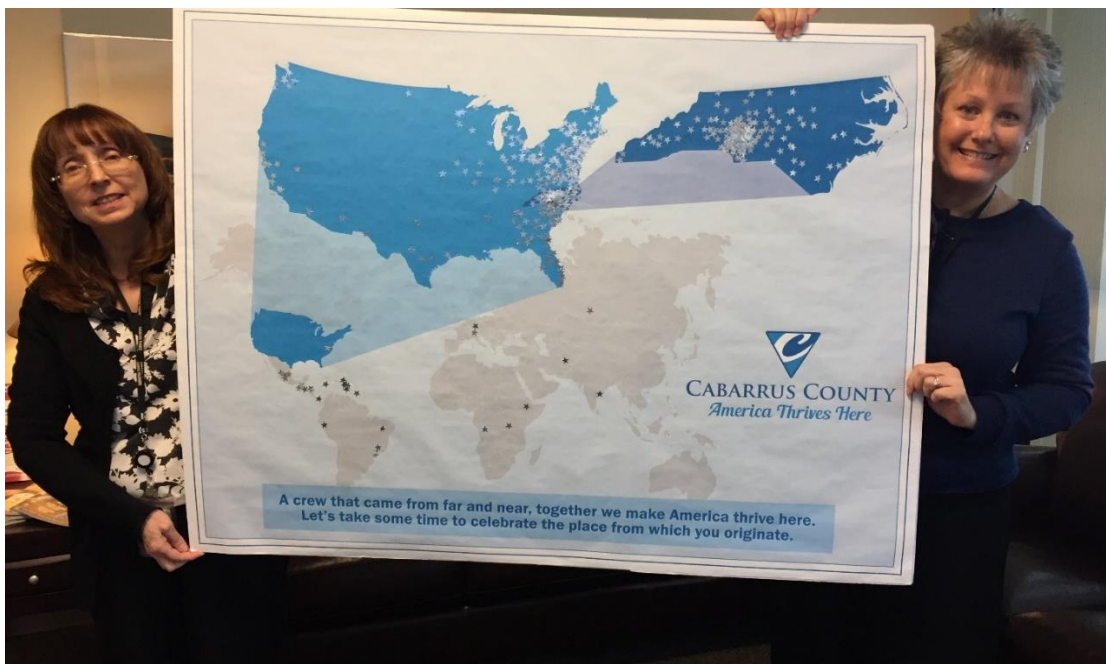
### Percentage of Cabarrus County population in 2010 and 2020, by race/ethnicity



- People in Cabarrus County are increasingly from other places – foreign-born, non-native, and naturalized citizens (vs home-grown or from the same state) [per American Community Survey](#)
- While much of Charlotte’s growth has been fueled by those early in their career, outlying counties like Cabarrus saw an influx of people in their mid-30s and 40s with children. They’re moving for the ability to purchase a larger home for a lower price, [per a Charlotte Axios article](#).
- Families are larger, [per American Community Survey data](#)

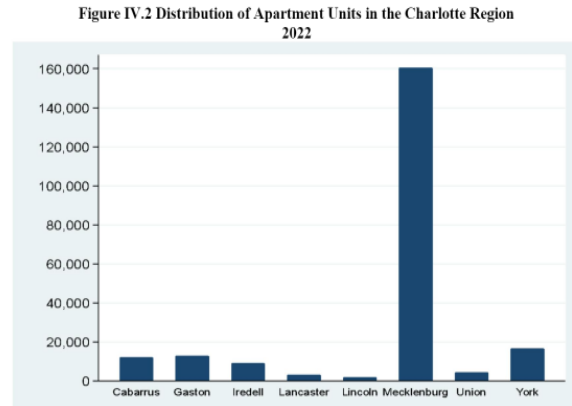
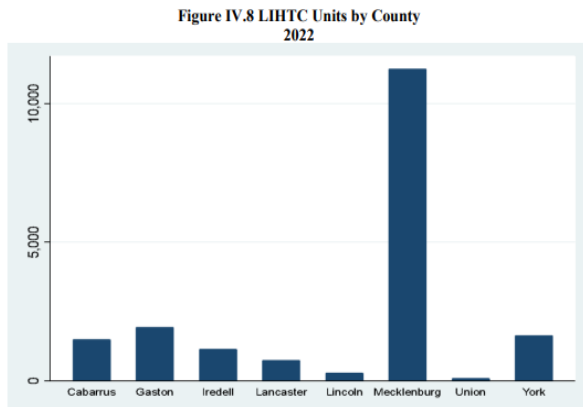


***Team CabCo is made up of employees from across the nation and the world***



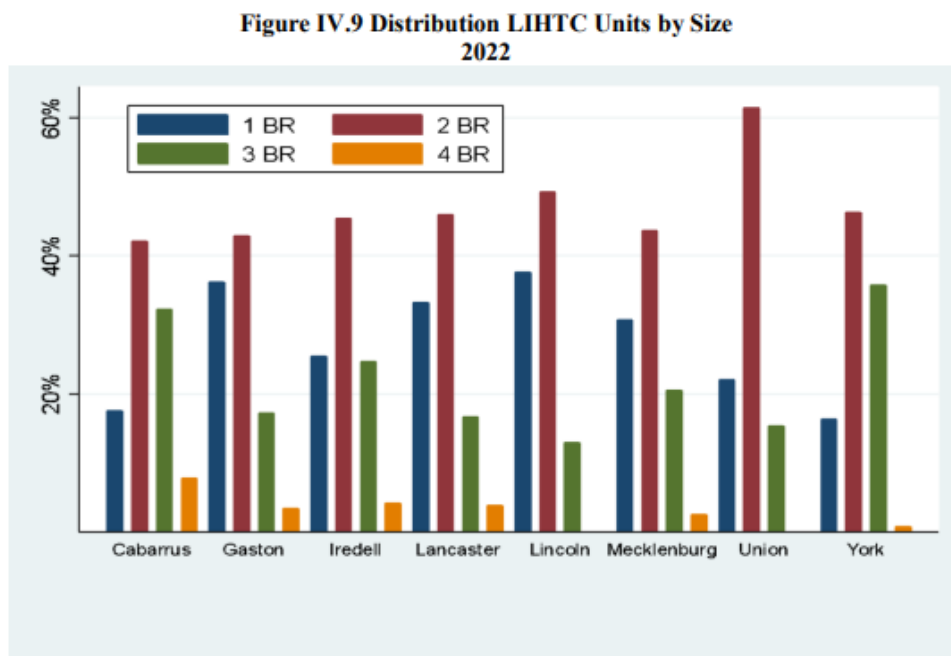
## County housing

Cabarrus has a comparatively high rate of subsidized and public housing.



“The Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) program has been used extensively throughout the country, including in the Charlotte region. Figure IV.8 shows the distribution of LIHTC units by county. We note that while the vast majority of LIHTC units are in Mecklenburg County, some counties have a higher proportion of LIHTC units than general apartments.

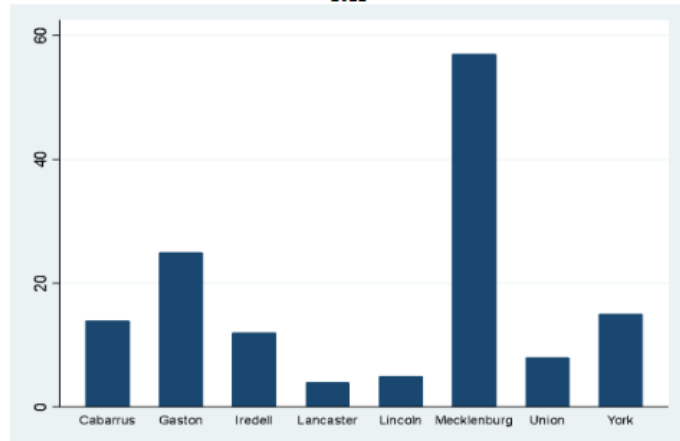
“For example, Gaston County has 1,937 LIHTC units, which is 17.2% of the 11,251 LIHTC units that Mecklenburg has. As shown in Figure IV.2, CoStar reports that Gaston County has 12,852 total apartment units or only 8% of the 160,600 units that Mecklenburg has. A similar result holds in Cabarrus County” ([Belk College: State of Housing Charlotte Report](#)).



HUD maintains a database of projects across the entire country that have contracts with HUD or with public housing authorities for project-based vouchers.

Figure IV.10 shows the distribution of those projects within the Charlotte region. This distribution shows that the need for low-income housing is spread throughout the region. Even though Mecklenburg County has the highest absolute number of these project-based voucher contracts, all the other counties such as Cabarrus, Gaston, Iredell and York have significant inventory as well.

Figure IV.10 Charlotte Region Housing Voucher Contracts by County 2022



Cabarrus has moderately high apartment rental rates in the MSA region. Figure IV.7 shows that Mecklenburg (\$1,567) has the highest average effective rent in the region, while Gaston (\$1,209) has the lowest effective rent as of 2022 YTD. Figure IV.8 shows that all but one county has single-digit vacancy rates, which average 5.5% across those counties. Union County currently has by far the highest vacancy rate. However, this is the result of a significant number of new complexes that are still in an initial “lease up” phase, which temporarily inflates vacancy from its long-run average of 6.4% (from 2000 to 2020) ([Belk College: State of Housing Charlotte Report](#)).

Figure IV.7 Effective Rent by County 2022

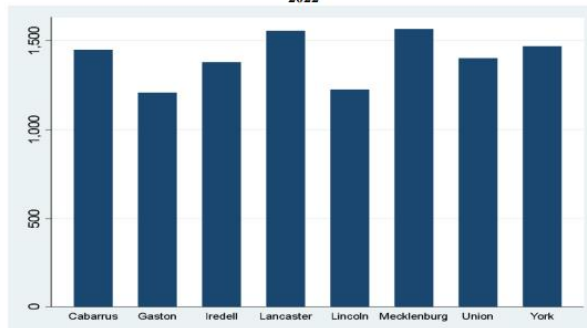
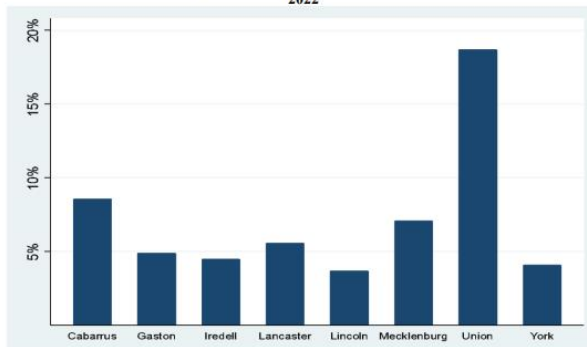


Figure IV.8 Vacancy Rate by County 2022



## Impact of trends on County services

### Supply chain issues

- Has caused a consistent decline in the supply of certain business personal property, especially motor vehicles, while the demand continues to rise. This decrease in supply is causing a scarcity of new vehicles in the market, which is leading to an increase in demand and ultimately, higher prices.
  - As a result, the tax valuations on vehicles are also increasing. Furthermore, the limited availability of new vehicles is also affecting the demand and pricing of used vehicles. As of January 1, these trends have had a positive impact on the property tax base.
- Affects construction schedules due to material shortages, lengthy lead times and delays
  - Can lead to decreased construction plan submittal and permitting
- Causes production delays for major equipment utilized by public safety agencies

### Increased inflation

- Leads to increased Federal Interest Rates
  - Increases interest payments on debt
  - May impede or have an adverse impact on real estate trends, which have displayed substantial growth and rising prices in recent years
  - Can lead to decreased construction plan submittal and permitting
- Causes Business Personal Property and Motor Vehicle tax values to rise
- Increases the cost of equipment, services and maintenance
- Negatively impacts incoming construction and demolition waste, which affects overall revenue for the Enterprise Fund, which, in turn, could affect future projects
- Raises employee health plan costs

### Economic downturn

- Negatively affects the ability of individual taxpayers to pay taxes
  - Impacts the County's tax collection rates
- Leads to an increase in the number of individuals who shelter in library facilities during operational hours
  - Increases the need for staff training and support resources to help individuals experiencing poverty, mental health issues and trauma
- Leads to an increase in the number of requests for appointments, economic aid, pantry usage and other support offered by Human and Veterans Services
  - Due to the pandemic, Human Services has experienced increases in Medicaid, FNS, Crisis Assistance and Child Welfare cases. Economic instability and uncertainty bring about increased financial strains on already cost-burdened families.
- Leads to an increase in calls to Cooperative Extension for resources that support cheaper food sources, budget-friendly meal options, cheaper youth development options and scholarships for attending programs



## Other economic factors

- The N.C. State budget has the potential to impact reimbursements for the County's courthouse operating costs
- As expenses increase, individuals look for more free community-based choices
- Changes to unemployment benefits could increase the need for job training and placement assistance

## Legislation

- Due to the passage of [NC Senate Bill 300](#), the County anticipates additional internal processing requirements, including psychological testing and the re-processing of all public safety staff fingerprints
- Recently adopted legislation to expand Medicaid is expected to increase the number of qualified individuals in the County by 15,600 to 17,946, which will impact Human Services budget and staffing levels
  - The Federal Government provides 100% funding for the program's staff, equipment, furniture and space needs
- The Families First Prevention Services Act will impact foster care placement reimbursement
- Environmental regulation changes typically mean greater operational costs to the County
  - Used Tire Recycling Fund distribution changes could affect costs for the county

## Job market and volunteerism

- Current job market trends require employers to develop creative staffing solutions
- Lower volunteerism rates:
  - Have led to a decrease in volunteer firefighters that are complicated by the amount of training and time required to become a volunteer firefighter
  - Impact local non-profit organizations and their ability to partner in emergencies
    - Necessitates the County to use paid staff to provide the bulk of emergency shelter staff

## Voting and elections

- Discussion topics could impact voting methods (i.e., Mail-in Absentee, Early Voting and/or Election Day) and increase use of Ballot on Demand at One Stop voting sites

## Mental health and wellness

- After COVID, the Library experienced more users who are in mental health, substance abuse/misuse and/or poverty crisis.
  - Confirms the importance of staff who can address psychosocial needs and trauma-informed approaches to service delivery.
- Need solutions to overcome obesity in our population, especially among children
  - A decline in youth sports is likely caused by increased use of technology

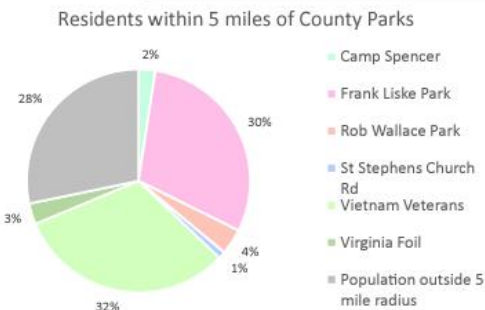
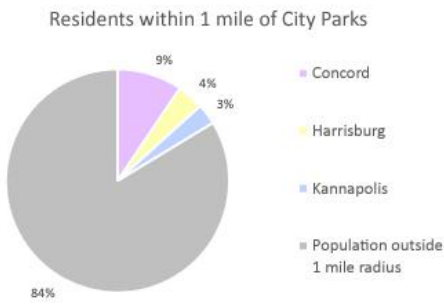
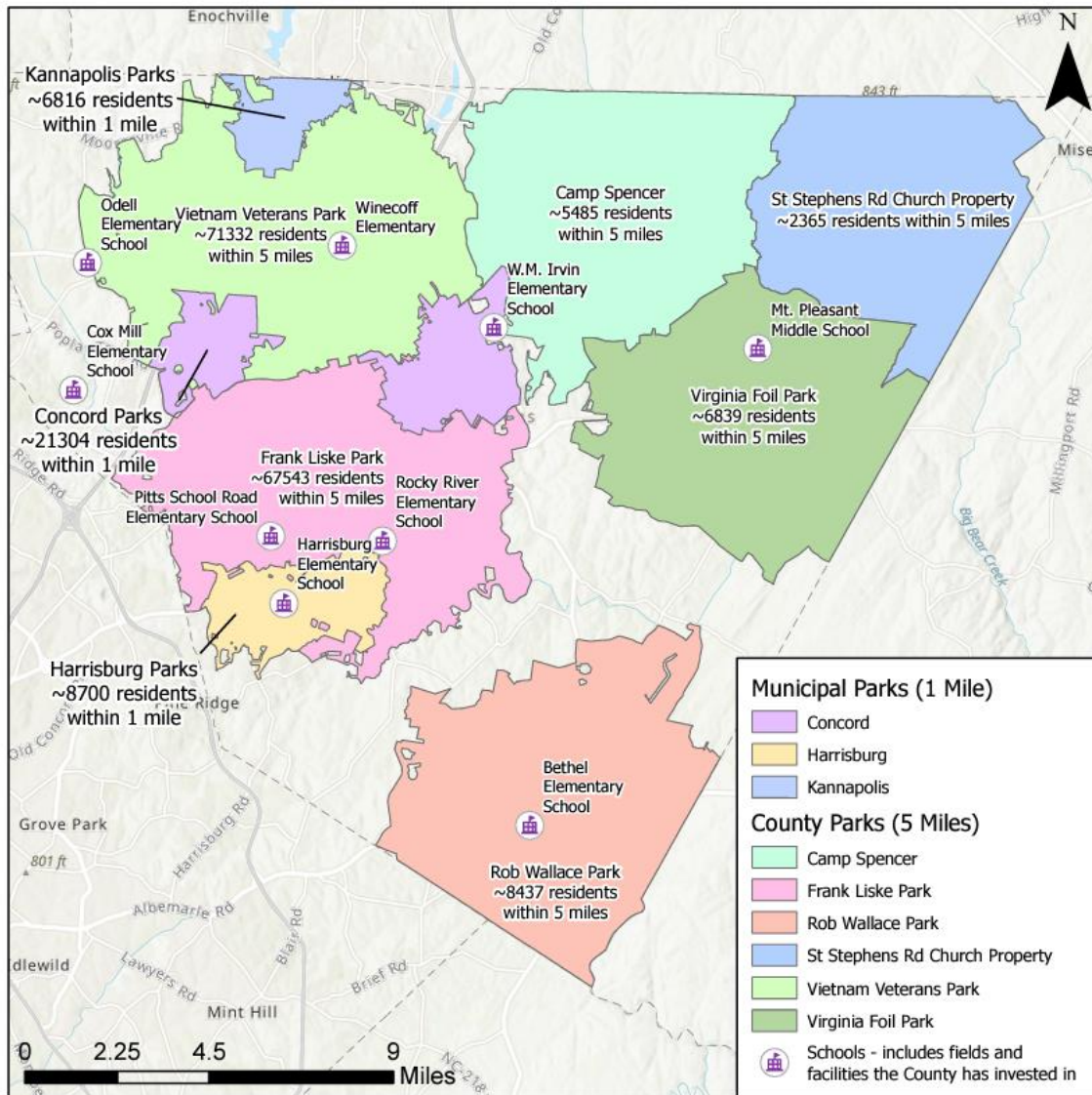
## Aging population

- Nationally, 10,000 people turn 65 each day
  - Need strategies to improve longevity (while living at home)
  - Physical/mental wellness of seniors will require more programs, services, facilities, greenways and parks

# Story maps

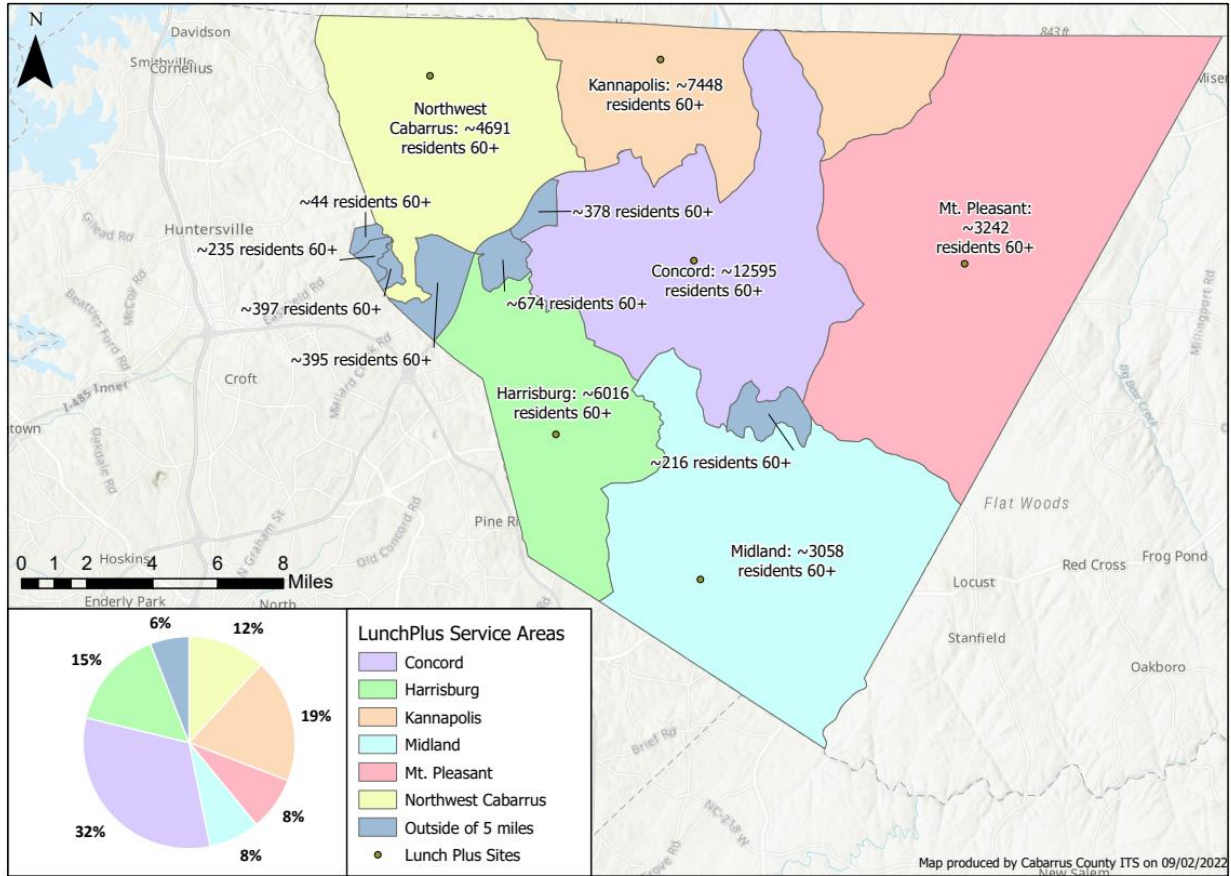
## A. Census population within five miles of Cabarrus County parks

### Cabarrus County Parks Service Areas

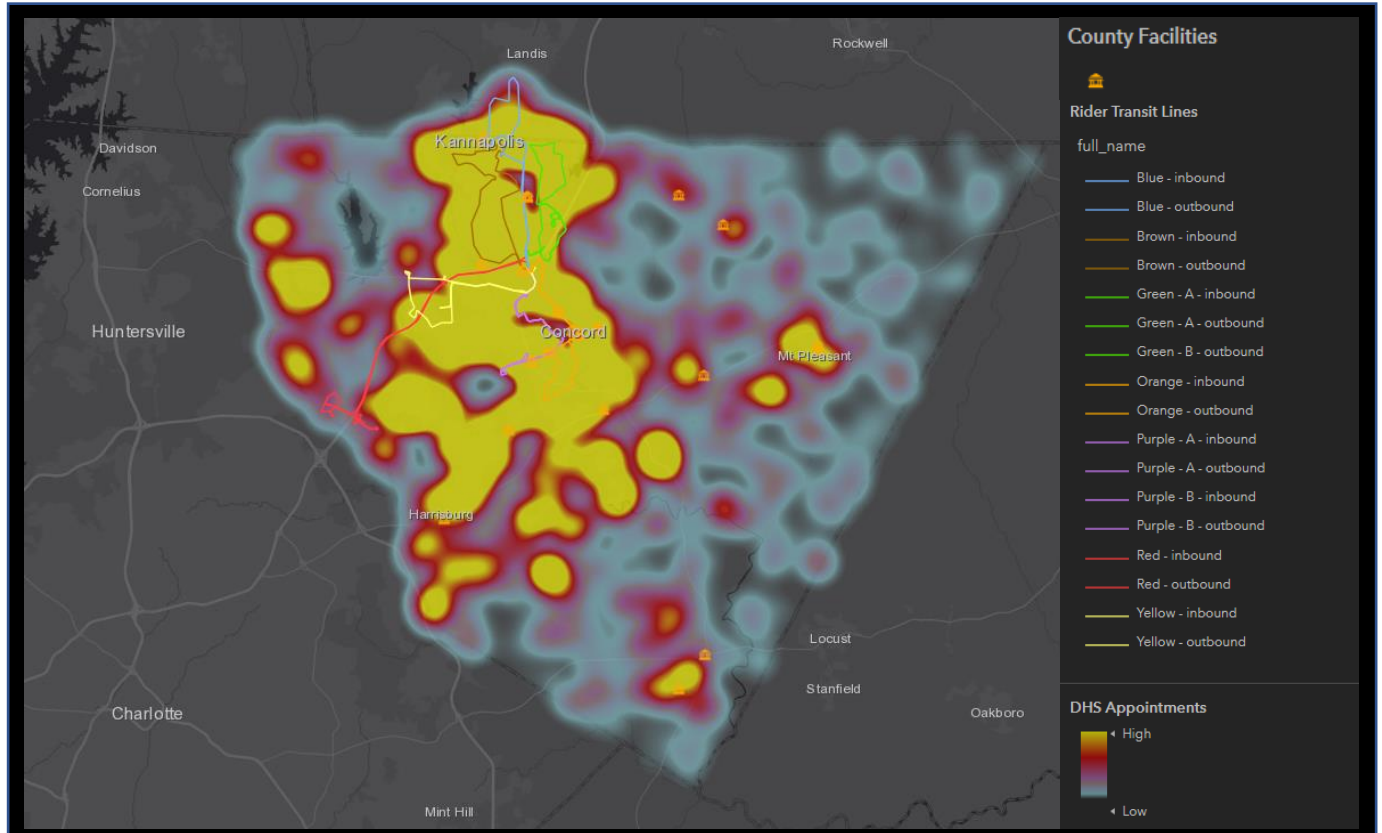


## B. Census population within five miles of a LunchPlus congregare meal site - Department of Human Services program offering

### LunchPlus Service Areas



### C. Heatmap: Department of Human Services appointments for all programs and services - Adult and Family Services, Child Welfare, Economic Family Support Services, Economic Services and Transportation



## Summary

Tracking and analyzing trends improves the County's capacity to identify and proactively address emerging issues. Transparency tools, like the Cabarrus County Trends Report, help improve understanding between the County and the community it serves by:

- Defining needs and threats
- Providing context for discussions
- Pointing out external changes and challenges
- Laying the groundwork for improved accountability
- Facilitating a better-informed decision-making process

To learn more about Cabarrus County Government and other transparency tools available to residents, visit [cabarruscounty.us](http://cabarruscounty.us) and follow the County on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @CabarrusCounty.