

# Edgecombe County

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## Table of Contents

- 2.....Introduction**
- 3.....Summary of Barriers**
- 4.....Barriers by Race & Ethnicity**
  - Overview*
  - Black & African American*
  - Hispanic & Latinx*
- 8.....Social & Community Context**
  - Demographics*
- 13.....Neighborhood & Built Environment**
  - Housing*
  - Transportation*
  - Internet Access*
  - Crime*
- 16.....Economic Stability**
  - Income*
  - Poverty*
  - Employment*
  - Food Security*
- 20.....Education**
  - Public Schools*
  - Economically Disadvantaged Students*
- 22.....Community Health**
  - Healthcare Access*
  - Impact of COVID-19*
- 24.....Resources**

## Introduction

In 2019, an estimated 52,648 people resided in Edgecombe County. This is a 6.4% decrease from 56,247 in 2010. In the western area of the county, near the town of Rocky Mount, the population decreased by as much as 46%. The census tracts exhibiting the most intense population decline also have more Black or African American households. Edgecombe County has a significantly lower median income and a significantly higher poverty rate when compared to the rest of North Carolina and the U.S. Edgecombe County has a lower rate of higher educational attainment and a higher high school dropout rate than the rest of North Carolina and the U.S. Nearly every school in Edgecombe County received a 'C' or lower from the NC Department of Public Instruction, and over half of the public schools are considered 'low performing.' Limited internet and computer access further exacerbate the education, income, and poverty gaps in Edgecombe County, and is therefore a major barrier to food security. Internet and computer access has become more essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. Edgecombe County residents without a computer or internet access cannot work from home. Students with limited internet and computer access face increased difficulty keeping up with their online education.

<b>Overview of Barriers Edgecombe County, NC</b>	<b>Black Households</b>	<b>Hispanic/LatinX Households</b>	<b>White Households</b>
2019 Median Household Income	<b>\$31,846</b>	<b>\$36,532</b>	<b>\$45,234</b>
2019 Poverty Rate	<b>29.4%</b>	<b>18.6%</b>	<b>15.5%</b>
% of Population with Bachelor's Degree	<b>10%</b>	<b>8%</b>	<b>17%</b>

## Summary of Barriers

### Income & Poverty

	Edgecombe County	North Carolina	United States
2019 Median Household Income	\$36,866	\$54,602	\$62,843
2019 Family Poverty Rate	20.3%	10.6%	9.5%
2019 Child Poverty Rate	37.1%	21.2%	18.5%

### Internet Access

% of Households w/o Computer	23%
% of Households w/o Broadband	35.7%
% of Households w/o Internet Access	32.21%

### Education

13 out of 14 Edgecombe County Public Schools received a 'C' or lower on their NCDPI school report card. 8 schools in the district were classified as 'low performing' following the 2019-2020 school year.

### Community Health

Edgecombe County has a very high rate of heart disease, stroke, high blood pressure, and diabetes.

- Heart disease has an age-adjusted death rate of 196.2 per 100,000, which is higher than the state rate of 159 per 100,000.
- Cerebrovascular disease (stroke) has an age-adjusted death rate of 92.4 per 100,000 compared to 43.1 per 100,000 in the state.
- 41% of residents reported having high blood pressure.
- The adult obesity prevalence rate is 40.4%.

## Barriers by Race & Ethnicity

### Overview

Figure 1: Median Income by Race

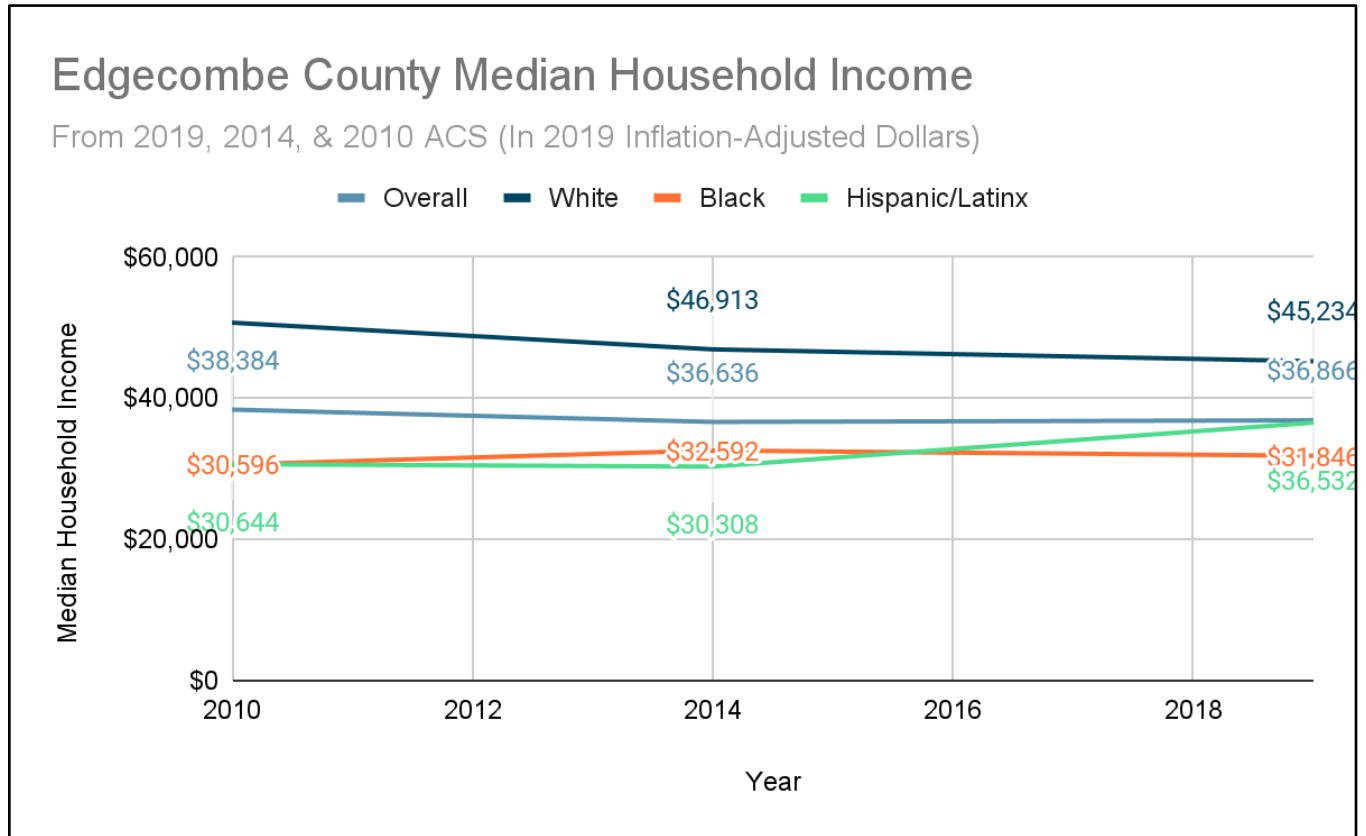


Figure 2: Poverty by Race

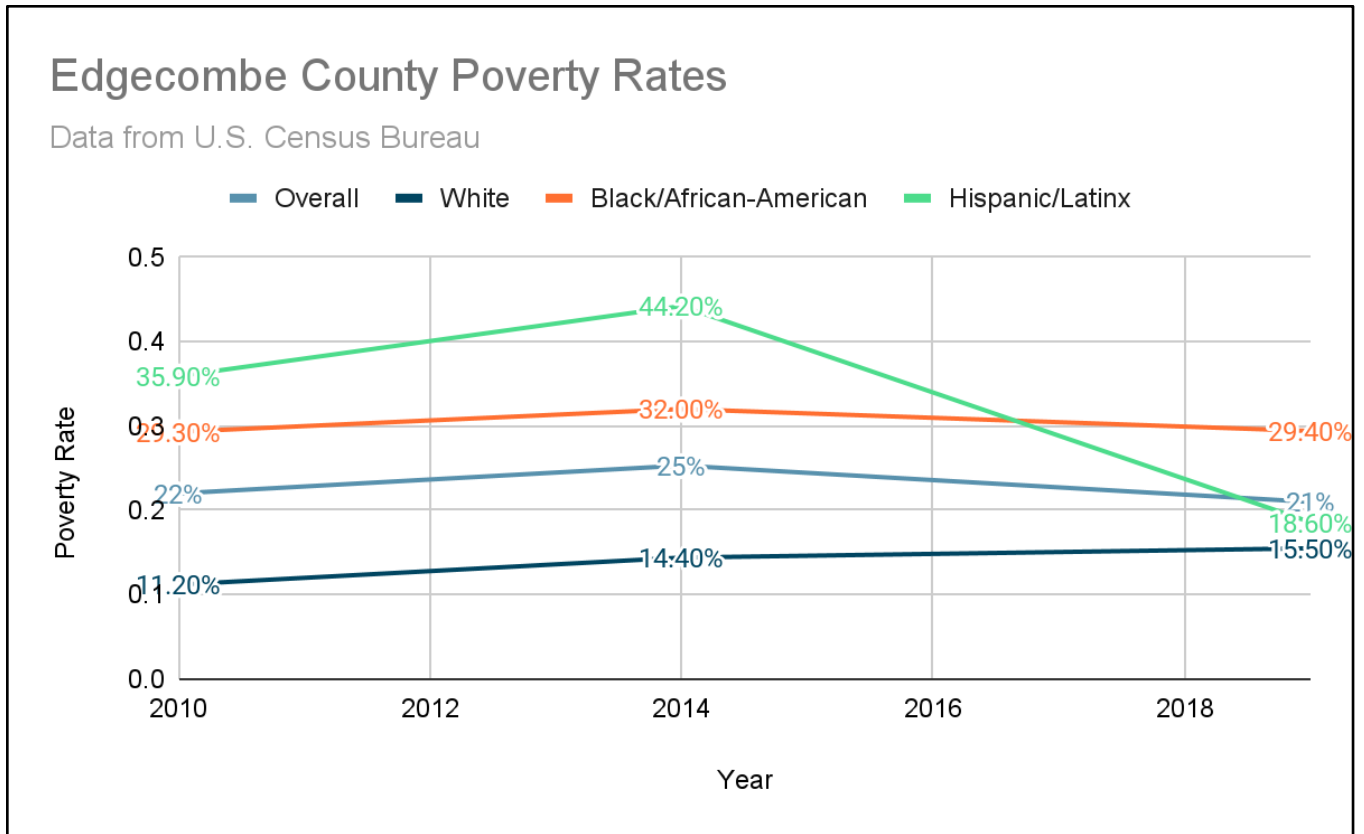
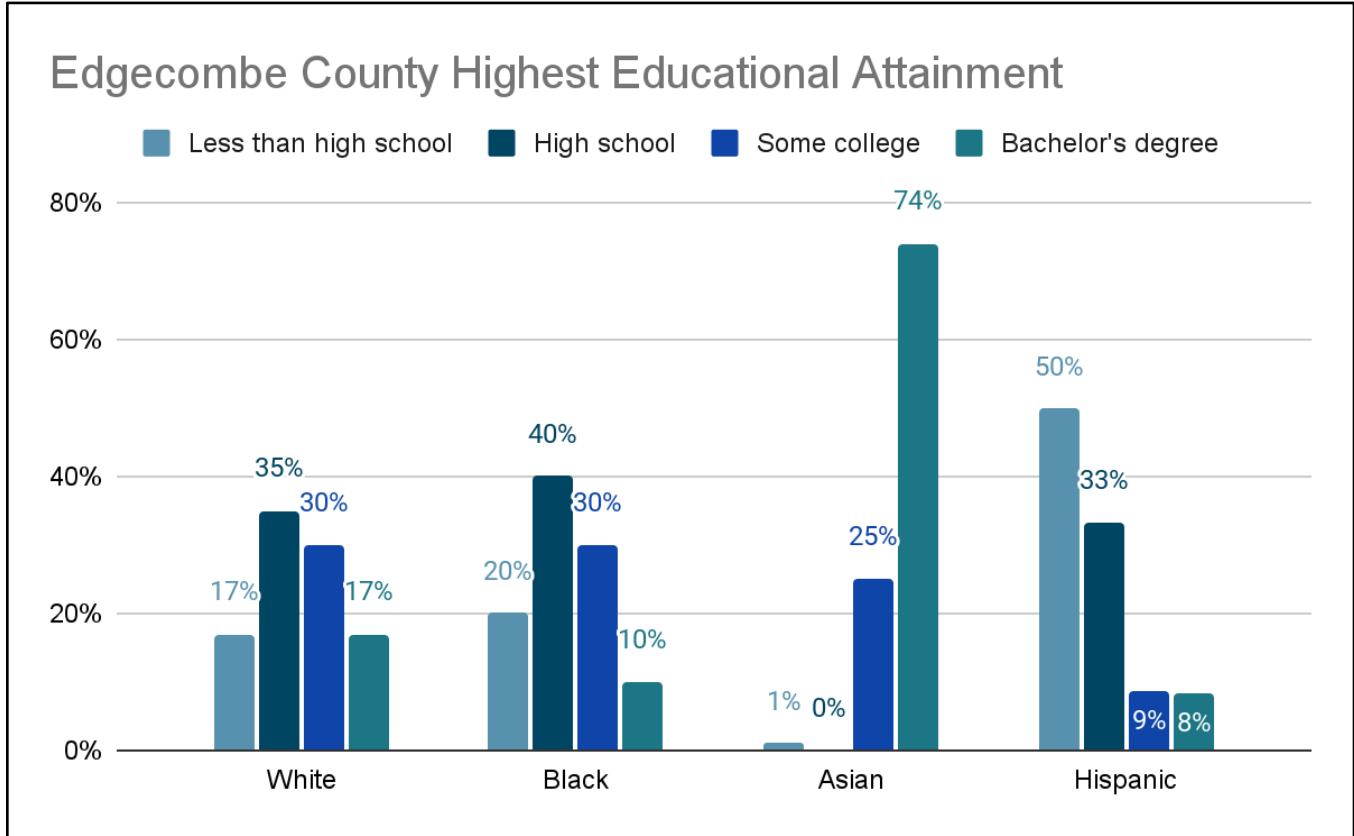


Figure 3: Educational Attainment by Race<sup>1</sup>



## Black & African American

- Black households have the lowest median income in Edgecombe County.
  - The median income for Black households was \$31,846 in 2019, while the overall median income for Edgecombe County was \$36,866.
  - Median income for Black households is consistently \$10,15,000 lower than the median household income for white households (see *Figure 1*).
- Black households have the highest poverty rates in Edgecombe County.
  - 29.4% of Black households lived in poverty in 2019, compared to 21% of all Edgecombe County residents.

<sup>1</sup>TownCharts. (2021). *Edgecombe County, North Carolina Education Data*. <https://www.towncharts.com/North-Carolina/Education/Edgecombe-County-NC-Education-data.html>

- The poverty rate for Black households is consistently 15-20% higher than the poverty rate for white households (see *Figure 2*).
- Black households have lower rates of higher educational attainment.
  - 20% of Black residents over age 25 did not graduate high school.
  - 10% of Black residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree, which is lower than the rate of bachelor's degree attainment for white and Asian residents.

## Hispanic & Latinx

- The median income for Hispanic households was \$36,532 in 2019. The overall median income in Edgecombe County was \$36,866.
  - The median income for Hispanic households is consistently \$10-15,000 lower than the median income for white households (see *Figure 1*)
- Hispanic and Latinx households had the highest poverty rates in Edgecombe County until 2019.
  - In 2019, 18.6% of Hispanic households lived in poverty. This was a major decrease from 44% in 2014.
- Hispanic and Latinx households have the lowest rates of higher educational attainment in Edgecombe County.
  - 50% of Hispanic or Latinx residents above age 25 did not complete high school.
  - 8% of Hispanic or Latinx residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree.

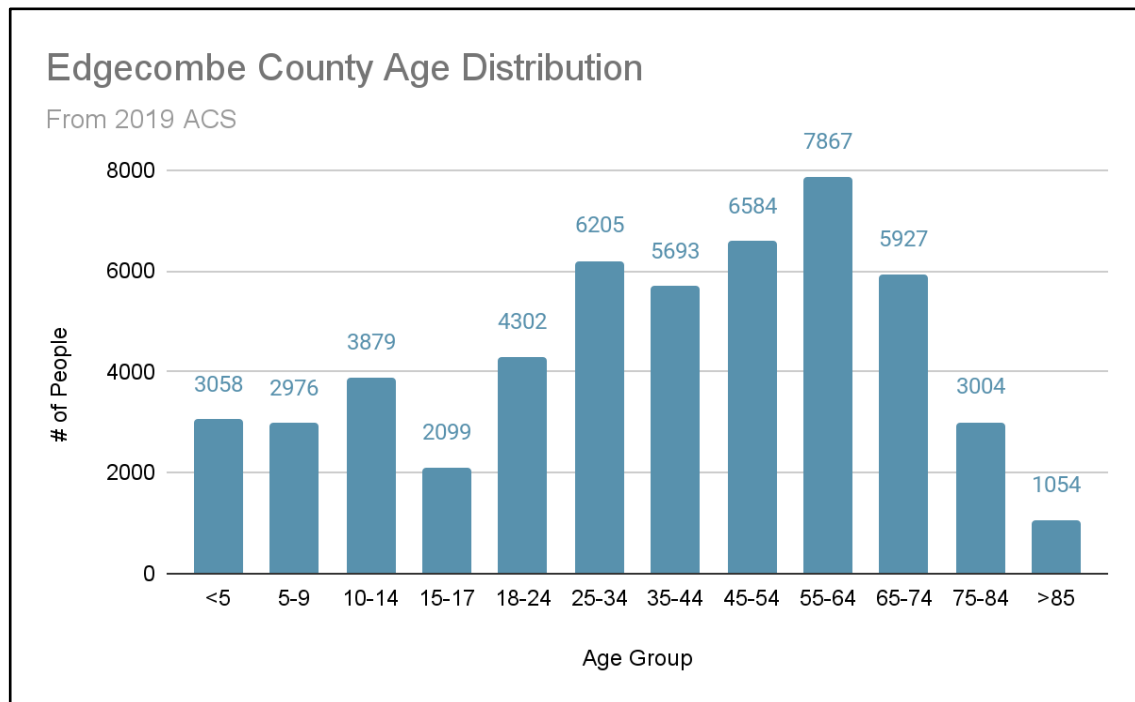
## Social & Community Context

### Demographics

#### Population

- 52,648 people live in Edgecombe County, which covers an area of 505 sq. miles with a population density of 104 people per sq. mile.<sup>2</sup>
- The population is 54.7% urban and 45.3% rural.<sup>3</sup>
- There are 2,578 veterans living in Edgecombe County. 49.3% of veterans (1,271) are over the age of 65. 44.5% of veterans (1,148) served in the Vietnam War.<sup>4</sup>
- 12.3% of the population under age 65 has a disability.

#### Age<sup>5</sup>



<sup>2</sup>SE:A00002. Population Density (Per Sq. Mile). (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)

<sup>3</sup>AccessNC. (2020). *County Profile Edgecombe County (NC)* [Fact sheet]. North Carolina Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division. <https://accessnc.nccommerce.com/DemoGraphicsReports/pdfs/countyProfile/NC/37065.pdf>

<sup>4</sup>SE:A16001. Period of Military Service for Civilian Veterans 18 Years and Over. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)

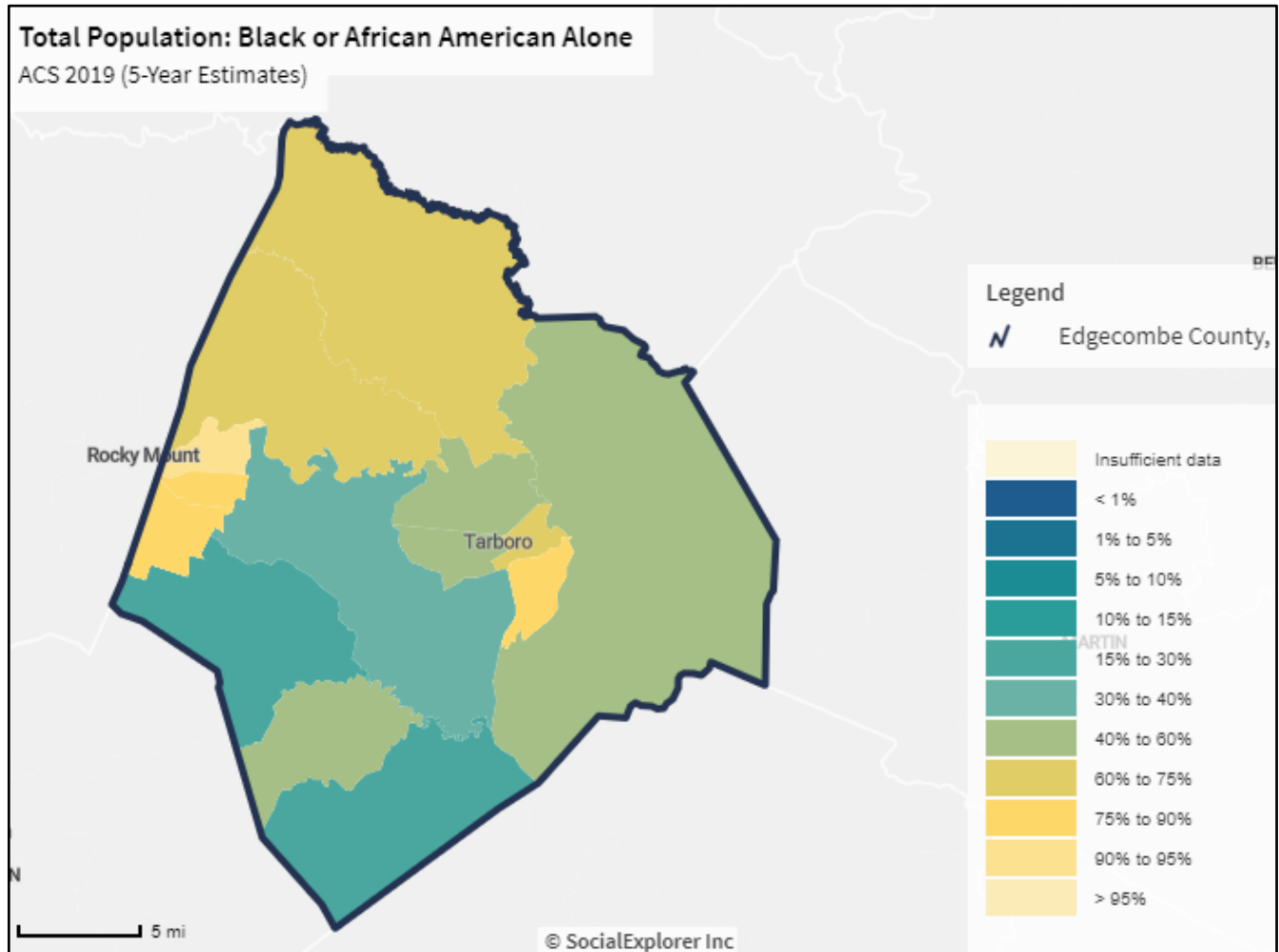
<sup>5</sup>SE:A01001. Age. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)



## Race & Ethnicity

- Edgecombe County is 57.6% Black or African-American, 39.4% white, and 4.6% Hispanic or Latinx.<sup>6 7</sup>

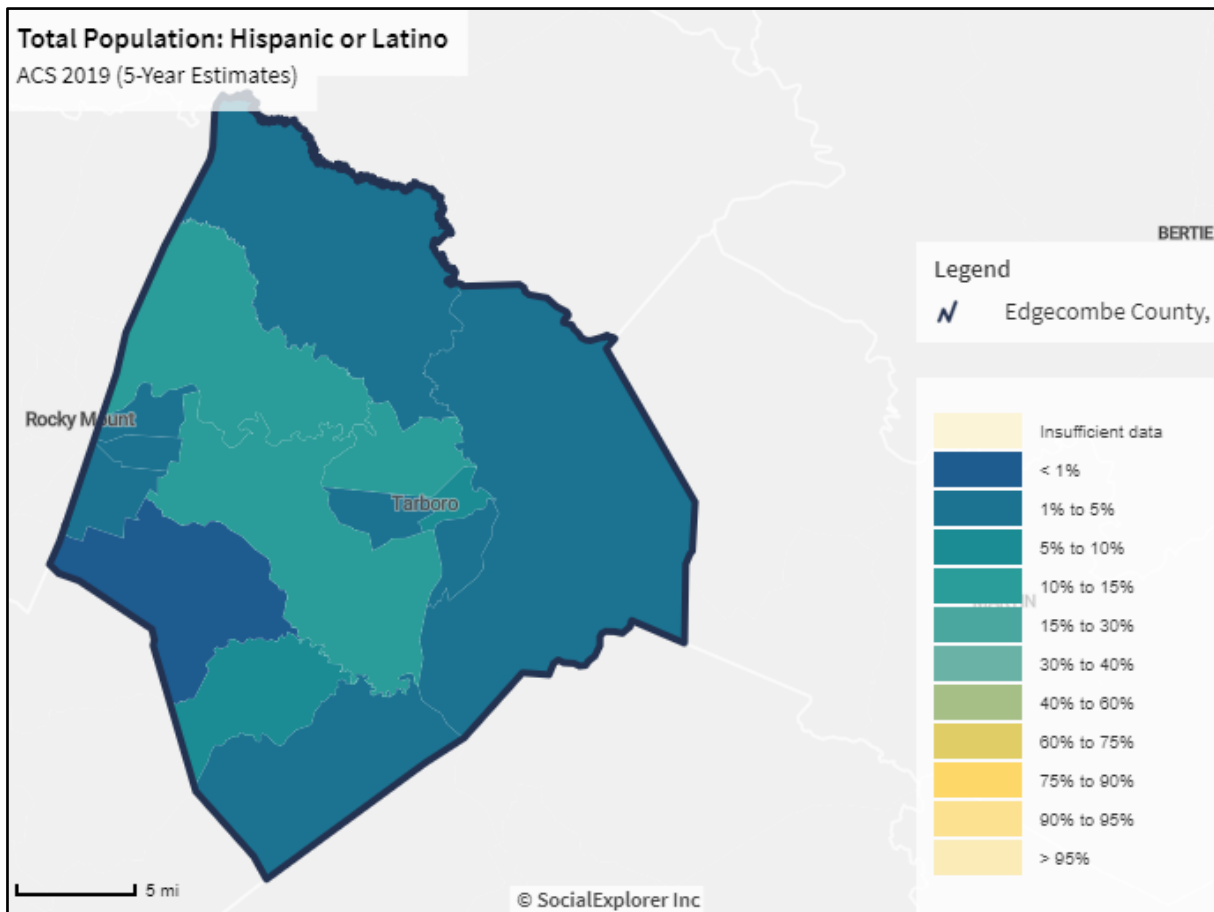
Figure 4: Black and African American Population



<sup>6</sup>SE:A0300. Race. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)

<sup>7</sup>SE:A04001. Hispanic or Latino by Race. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)

Figure 5: Hispanic and Latinx Population



### Immigration<sup>8</sup>

- As of 2018, 2.18% of Edgemcombe County, NC residents (1.17k people) were born outside of the United States, which is lower than the national average of 13.7%.
  - In 2017, the percentage of foreign-born citizens in Edgemcombe County, NC was 2.1%, meaning that the rate has been increasing.

### Single-Parent Households<sup>9</sup>

- 61.2% of children live in a single-parent household.

<sup>8</sup>Data USA. (2021). *Edgemcombe County, NC*. Datawheel. <https://datausa.io/profile/geo/edgemcombe-county-nc>

<sup>9</sup>SE:A10008. Households by Household Type. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)

- 20.1% of households are headed by a single parent.
- 17% of households are headed by a single mother.

## Child Care

- As of May 2021, 2,328 children under age 6 live in a household where the sole parent or both parents work. This number represents 66% of all children under age 6.<sup>10</sup>
  - 12% of children participated in the state subsidized child care program in April 2021 to help offset the high cost of child care.
- 163 children from 0-3 years of age and 389 children from 3-5 years of age are currently enrolled in a licensed early care and education center in Edgecombe County.<sup>11</sup>
  - Of these children under three years of age, 71% are in 4- and 5-star centers.
  - Of these children three to five years of age, 93% are in 4 or 5-star centers.
- In February 2021, 184 infants and toddlers in Edgecombe County were enrolled in child care centers. This number compares to 176 enrolled in child care centers prior to the pandemic.<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>10</sup>Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Young Children and their Families in Edgecombe County* [Fact sheet].

[https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\\_id%5B%5D=4&rep\\_month=5&rep\\_year=2021&rep\\_month\\_end=&rep\\_year\\_end=&county\\_id%5B%5D=33](https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section_id%5B%5D=4&rep_month=5&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=33)

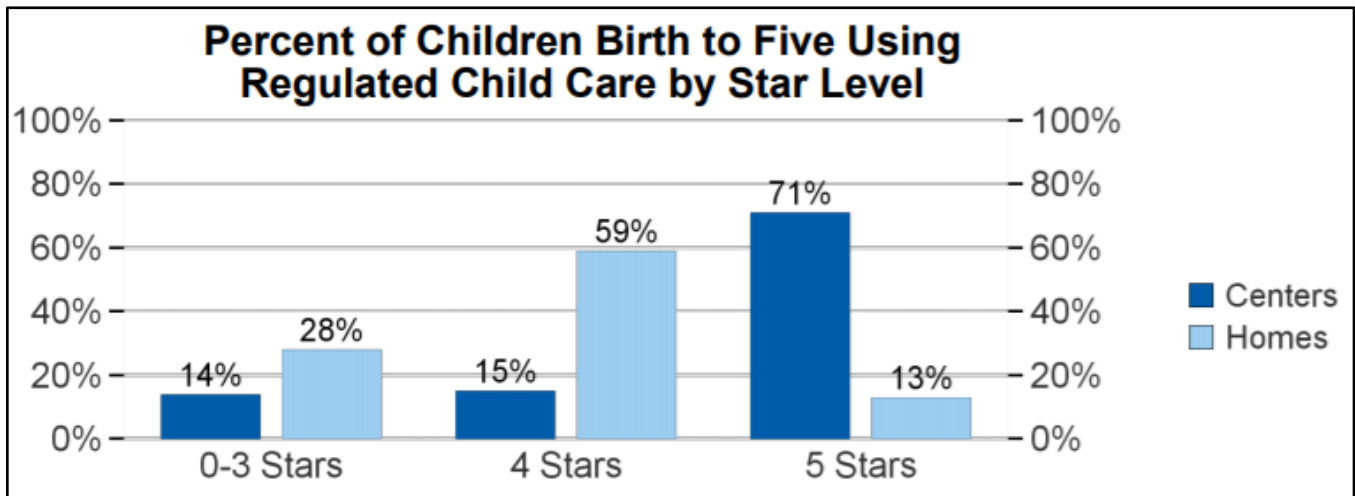
<sup>11</sup>Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Early Care & Education Use in Edgecombe County* [Fact sheet].

[https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\\_id%5B%5D=3&rep\\_month=5&rep\\_year=2021&rep\\_month\\_end=&rep\\_year\\_end=&county\\_id%5B%5D=33](https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section_id%5B%5D=3&rep_month=5&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=33)

<sup>12</sup>Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Infant and Toddler Care in Edgecombe County* [Fact sheet].

[https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\\_id%5B%5D=7&rep\\_month=5&rep\\_year=2021&rep\\_month\\_end=&rep\\_year\\_end=&county\\_id%5B%5D=33](https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section_id%5B%5D=7&rep_month=5&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=33)

Figure 6: Edgecombe County Child Care



© 2021 Child Care Services Association. Figures derived using the most recent available data from Child Care Services Association, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Child Resource and Referral Council, NC Head Start State Collaboration Office.

### Education<sup>13</sup>

Figure 7: Highest Educational Attainment as % of Population Over 25

	Edgecombe County	North Carolina	United States
Bachelor's Degree	9.4%	20.0%	19.8%
High Schools (Includes Equivalency)	37.5%	25.7%	27.0%
Less than High School	18.9%	12.2%	12.0%

<sup>13</sup>SE:A12001. Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 9, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12858862](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12858862)

## Neighborhood & Built Environment

### Housing

- Median gross rent was \$695 in 2019. This is a 0.93% *decrease* from \$702 in 2014.
- 59.4% of housing units were occupied by their owner in 2019 (Data USA, 2021).
- 18.0% of residents spend 30-49% of their income on rent. 21.7% of residents spend more than 50% of their income on rent.<sup>14</sup>
- 28.1% of homeowners spend 30-49% of their income on homeownership expenses. 12.2% of homeowners spend more than 50% of their income on homeownership expenses.<sup>15</sup>
- The typical home value of homes in Edgecombe County is \$64,723. Edgecombe County home values have gone up 5.7% over the past year.<sup>16</sup>
- The median property value in Edgecombe County was \$85,200 in 2018, which is lower than the national average of \$229,700 (Data USA, 2021).
  - Between 2017 and 2018 the median property value increased by 1.43% from \$84,000 to \$85,200.
- The homeownership rate in Edgecombe County is 59.4%, which is lower than the national average of 63.9% (Data USA, 2021).

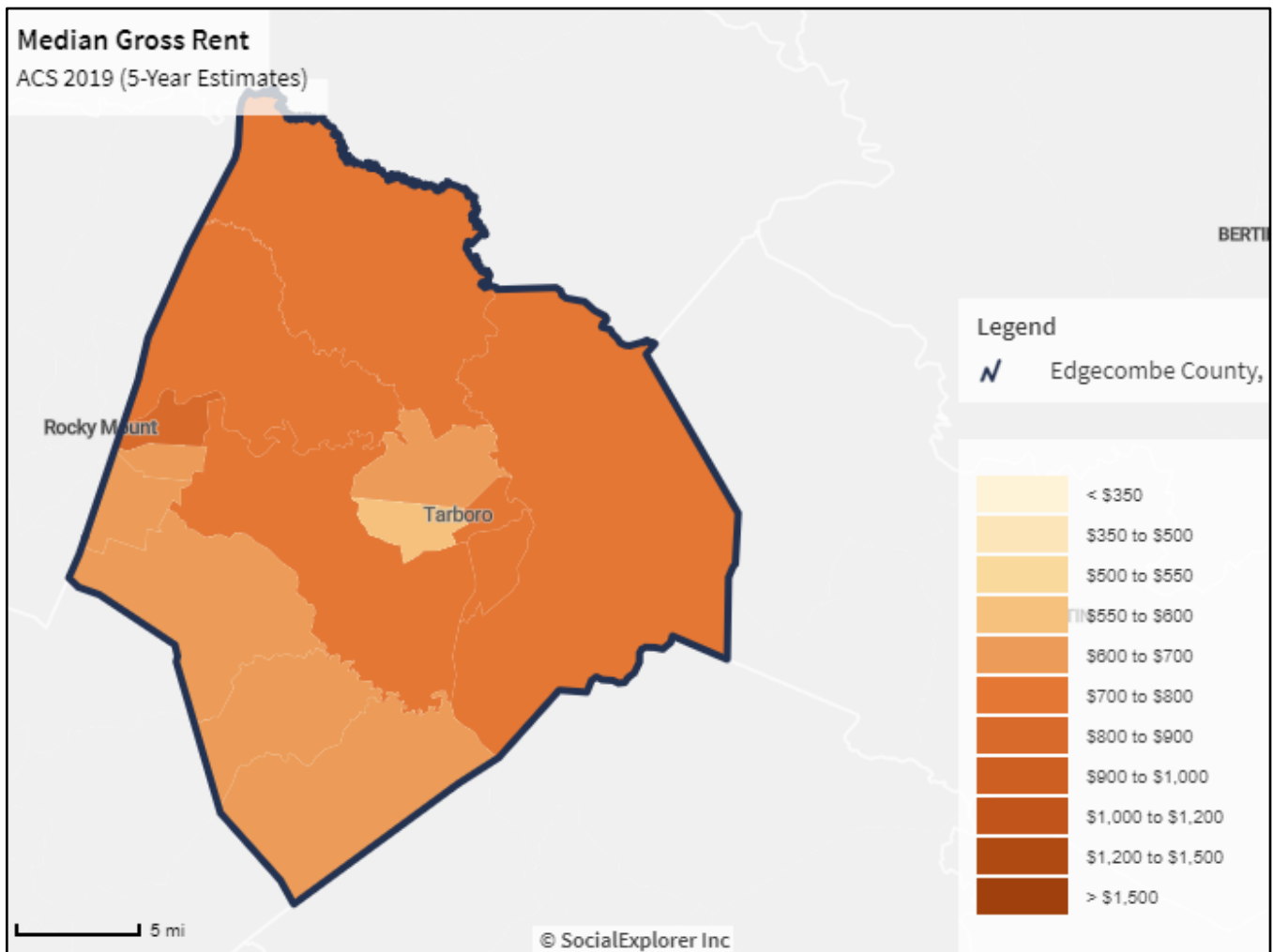
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<sup>14</sup>SE:B18002. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Rent. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 14, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12861313](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12861313)

<sup>15</sup>SE:B10040. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Selected Home Ownership Expenses. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 14, 2021, from [https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\\_5yr/R12861313](https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019_5yr/R12861313)

<sup>16</sup>Zillow. (2021, June 30). *Edgecombe County Home Values*. <https://www.zillow.com/edgecombe-county-nc/home-values/>

Figure 8: Median Gross Rent



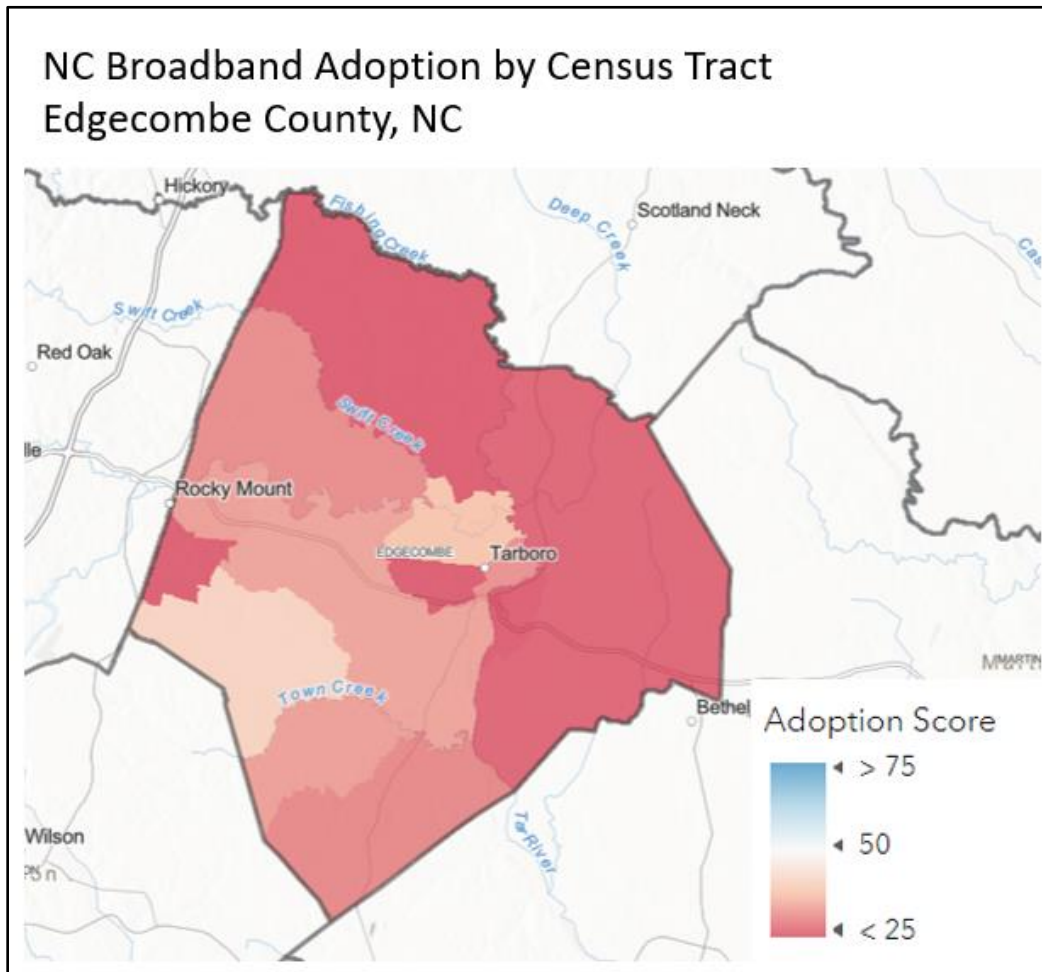
## Transportation

- 3.66% of households (774) do not own a car. 35% have two cars, and 23.3% have one car (Data USA, 2021).

## Internet Access<sup>17 18</sup>

- 23% of households do not have a computer.
- 35.7% do not have a broadband internet subscription.
- 32.21% of households do not have internet access.

Figure 9: Edgecombe County Broadband Adoption



<sup>17</sup>U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. (2019). American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau.

<https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/edgecombecountynorthcarolina/AGE295219> (Accessed on July 12, 2021).

<sup>18</sup>Federal Communications Commission. (2019). *NC Broadband Availability Index* [Map].

[https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1ca29805a2454ffab6b9579702b99e59/page/page\\_0](https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1ca29805a2454ffab6b9579702b99e59/page/page_0)

## Crime<sup>19</sup>

- The crime rate is 43.85 per 1,000 residents in a standard year, which is much higher than the national average.
- Edgecombe County is in the 17th percentile for safety, meaning 83% of counties are safer and 17% of counties are more dangerous.
- Crime is lower in the northwest part of the county, and higher in the northeast. The property crime rate is 26.73 per 1,000 residents, while the violent crime rate is 5.461 per 1,000 residents.

## Economic Stability

### Income

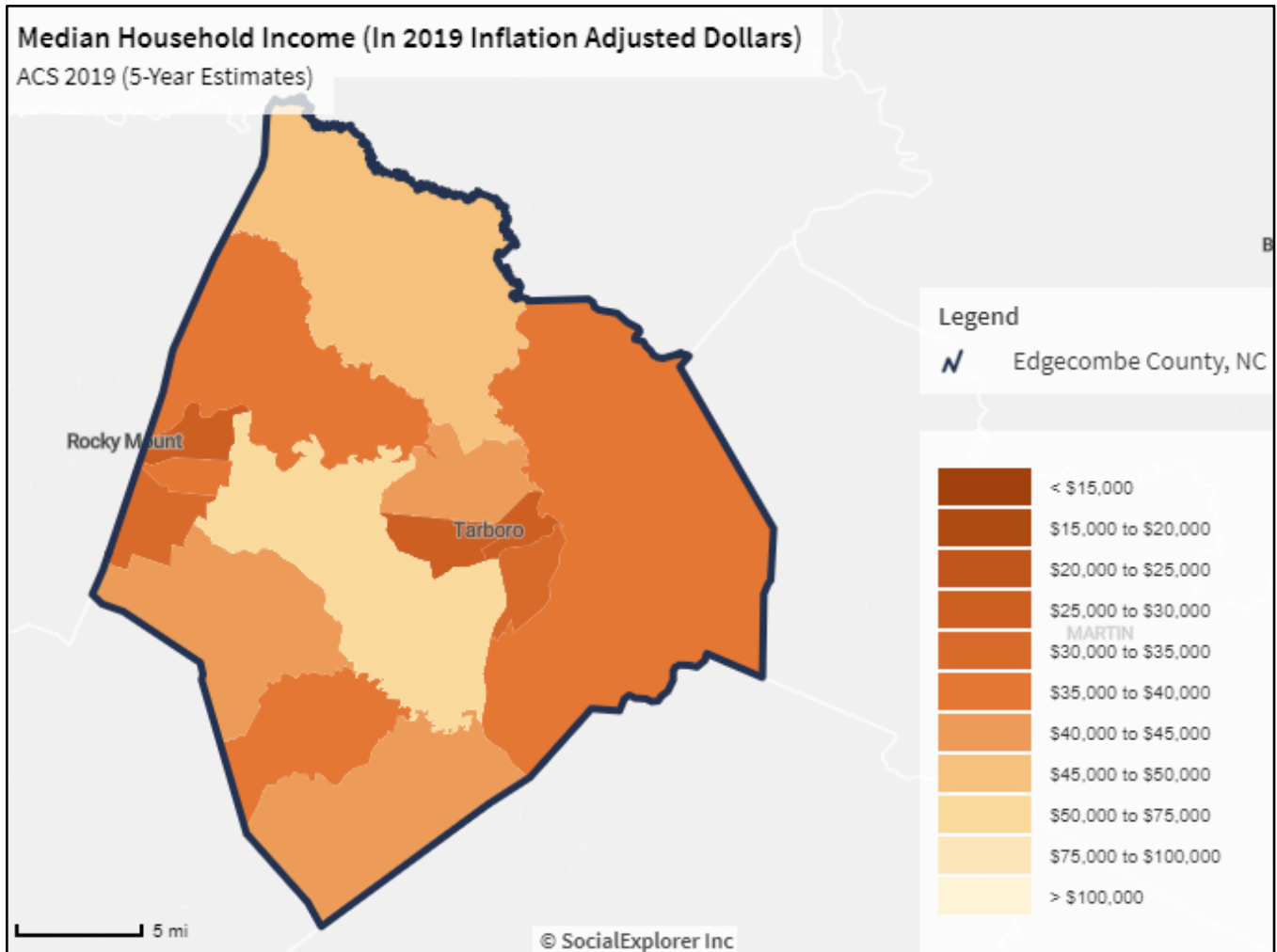
- The overall median household income in Edgecombe County was \$36,866 in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019).
- In 2018, the median household income of the 21.4k households in Edgecombe County grew to \$35,516 from the previous year's value of \$32,929 (Data USA, 2021).
- 2,400 households (11.4%) had an income under \$10k in 2018 (Data USA, 2021).

*Figure 10: Median Household Income*

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<sup>19</sup>CrimeGrade. (2021). *Crime per Capita in Edgecombe County*. <https://crimegrade.org/safest-places-in-edgecombe-county-nc>





## Poverty

- 23.6% of the population lives below the poverty line, compared to the national average of 13.1% (Data USA, 2021).
- 20.3% of families lived in poverty in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).
- 12.5% of single-mother households were below the poverty line in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).
- 37.1% of children lived in poverty in 2019 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2021).

*Figure 11: Edgecombe County Family Poverty*

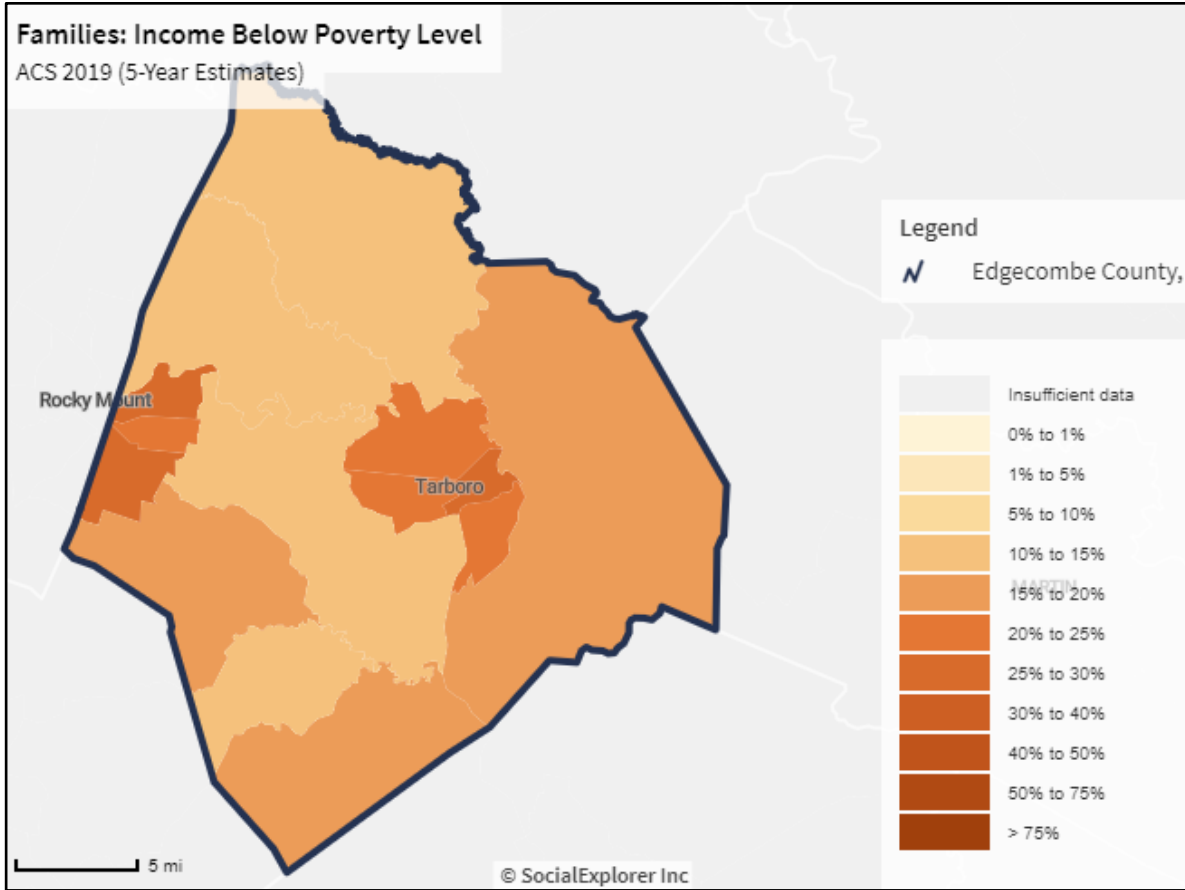
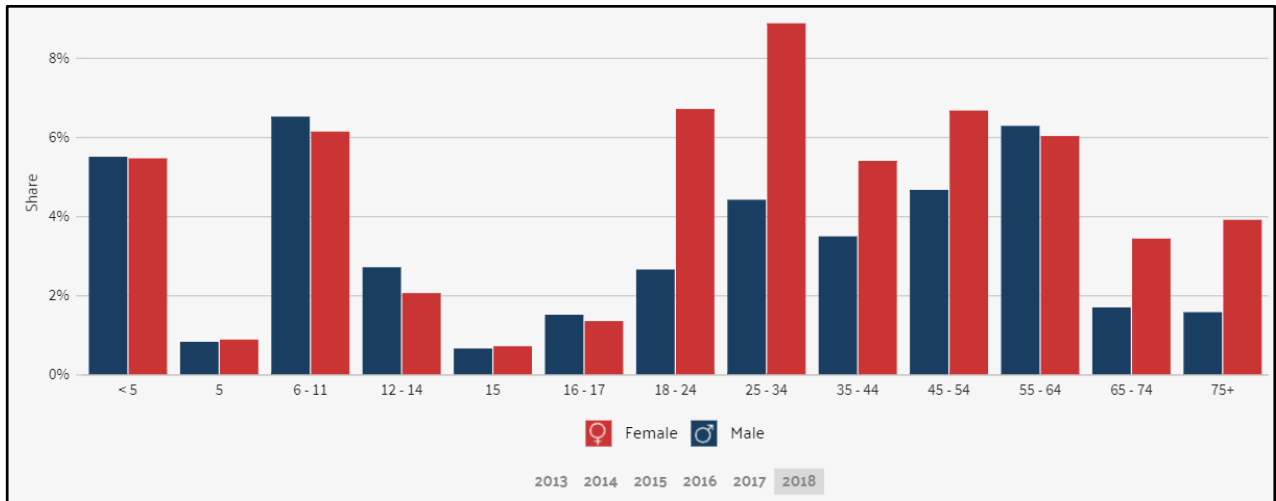


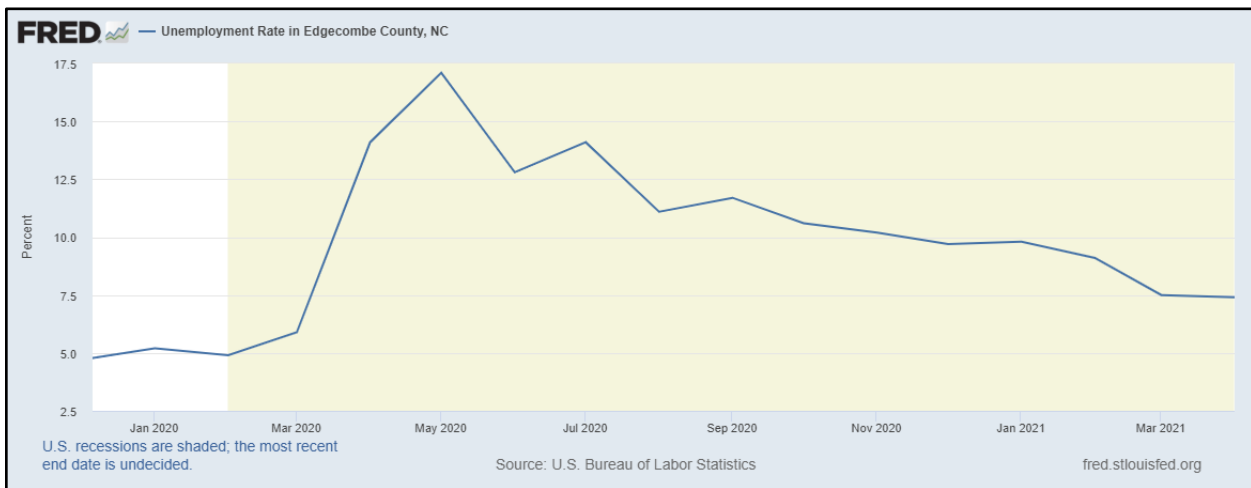
Figure 12: Poverty by Age & Gender in Edgecombe County (Data USA)



- Women ages 25 to 34 are the largest demographic living in poverty in Edgecombe County, followed by women ages 18 to 24 and then women ages 45 to 54. Women ages 25 to 34 make up 9% of the population living in poverty (Data USA, 2021).

## Employment

Figure 13: Unemployment in Edgecombe County<sup>20</sup>



- The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for Edgecombe County in April 2021 was 7.4%.

<sup>20</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate in Edgecombe County, NC [NCEDGE5URN], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NCEDGE5URN>, June 15, 2021.

- Unemployment in Edgecombe County has been trending downwards since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2020, unemployment peaked in Edgecombe County at 17.1% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021).
- Unemployment in Edgecombe County tends to be higher compared to other counties in North Carolina, averaging between 5 and 8% each month since 2017 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021).

## Food Security

HungerNet by Feeding America

<https://feedingamerica.sharepoint.com/>

*Identifying Racism in the Drivers of Food Insecurity* by Feeding America Research

<https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/feeding.america.research/viz/IdentifyingRacismInTheDriversofFoodInsecurity/Introductionv2>

## Education

### Public Schools

#### **Enrollment**

- During the 2019-2020 school year, there were 5,584 students enrolled across 14 schools in the Edgecombe County Schools district.
- 56% of students are Black, 30% are white, and 11% are Hispanic.
- Per-pupil funding in 2019 amounted to \$11,069, which is higher than the state average of \$9,938.

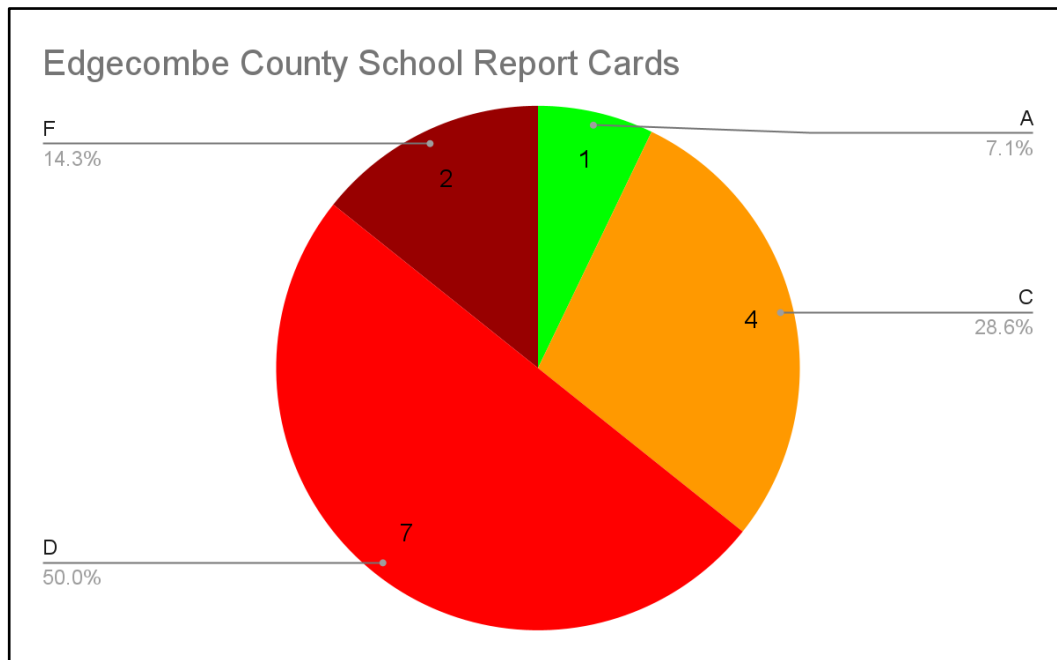
#### **School Performance<sup>21</sup>**

- Each academic year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) releases school report cards, which assign each public school a letter grade based on school performance and academic growth metrics.

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<sup>21</sup>North Carolina School Report Cards. (2020). *Edgecombe County Public Schools*. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. <https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/district?district=330LEA&year=2019&lng=en>

Figure 14: Edgecombe County School Report Cards

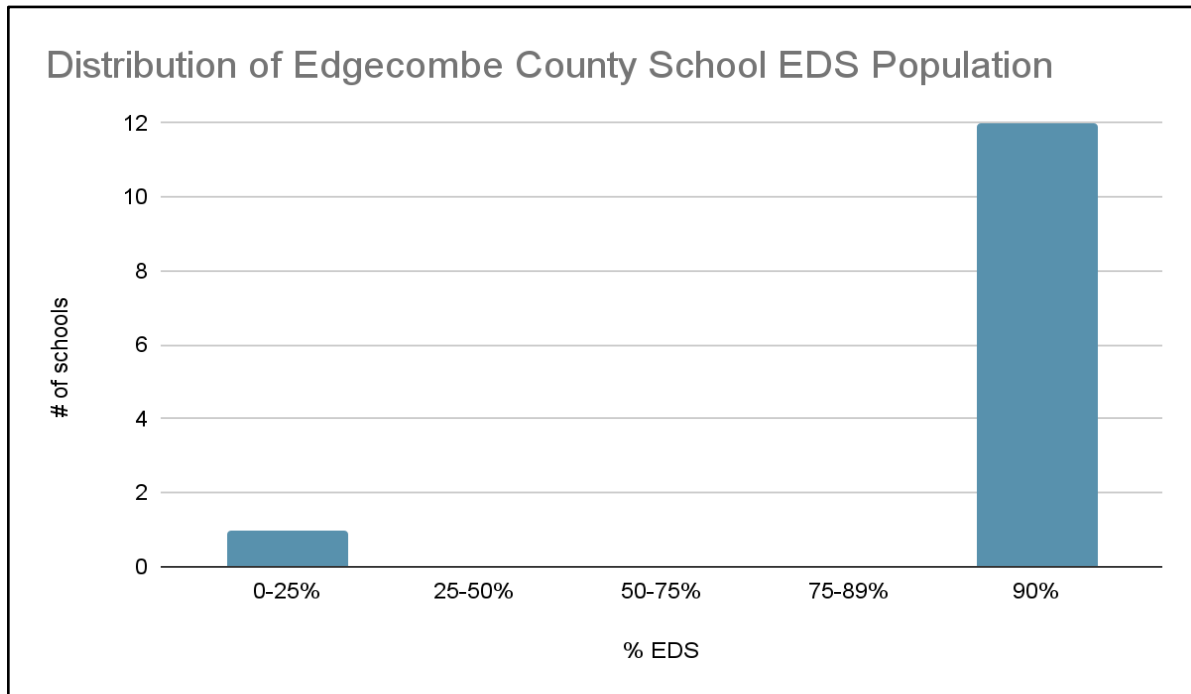


- During the 2018-2019 school year, one school in Edgecombe County received an 'A' ranking, 4 received a 'C', 7 received a 'D', and 2 received an 'F'.
- 6 schools exceeded their 2019-2020 growth targets. 6 schools met but did not exceed their growth targets, and 2 schools did not meet their growth targets.
- 8 schools in the district were classified as 'low-performing' following the 2019-2020 school year.

### Economically Disadvantaged Students

- 5,997 students in Edgecombe County Public Schools relied on free lunch services, and less than 10 students relied on reduced lunch services during the 2019-2020 school year.
- More than 90% of all 2019-2020 ECPS students were identified as economically disadvantaged, based on enrollment in free and reduced lunch programs.

Figure 15: Edgecombe County School EDS



- There is only one school in Edgecombe County where less than 25% of students are economically disadvantaged.
- There are 12 schools in Edgecombe County where more than 90% of students are economically disadvantaged.
- Edgecombe County has the highest ratio of schools with EDS populations at or above 90% to schools with EDS populations below 90%. Nearly all schools have EDS populations at or above 90%, indicating that there is a high level of poverty among households in the school district and a very high need for food services in Edgecombe County.

## Community Health

### Key Points

#### Heart Disease & Stroke

- Heart disease is the leading cause of death in Edgecombe County, with an age-adjusted death rate of 196.2 per 100,000. This is higher than the state rate of 159 per 100,000 and the national rate of 178.8 per 100,000.
- Cerebrovascular diseases are the third leading cause of mortality in Chatham County.

- The age-adjusted death rate due to cerebrovascular disease (stroke) is 92.4 deaths per 100,000 population in Edgecombe County, compared to 43.1 per 100,000 in the state and 36.9 per 100,000 in the U.S.
- In 2018, 41% of Edgecombe County health survey respondents reported having high blood pressure, and 28% reported having high cholesterol.
- 17.9% of the Medicare population in Edgecombe County experienced heart failure, compared to the state average of 12.5% and the national average of 13.5%.

### **Diabetes**

- Edgecombe County has a 19.5% prevalence rate of diabetes. This is a 3% increase from 16.4% in 2020 (DataUSA, 2021).

### **Obesity**

- The adult obesity prevalence rate is 40.4%, a 2% increase from 38% in 2020 (DataUSA, 2021).

### **Maternal & Child Health**

- 12.8% of babies born from 2014-2018 in Chatham County had a low birthweight (<2500 grams) compared to 9.1% of babies statewide.
- The infant mortality rate from 2014-2018 was 11 deaths per 1,000 live births, compared to the state average of 7 per 1,000.
  - Infant mortality is higher for African American babies (12.7 per 1,000) and lower for white babies.

### **Healthcare Access**

- 89.7% of the population has health coverage (DataUSA, 2021).
  - 34% are on employee plans.
  - 28.7% are on Medicaid.
  - 13% are on Medicare.
  - 11.2% are on non-group plans.
  - 1.64% are on military or VA plans.
- There are 50 licensed physicians in Edgecombe County, or 9.5 for every 10,000 people (AccessNC, 2020).

- Primary care physicians see an average of 2,889 patients per year (DataUSA, 2021).

## Impact of COVID-19<sup>22 23 24</sup>

- As of August 2021:
  - There have been 5,826 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic.
  - There have been 114 deaths attributed to COVID-19.
  - 34.23% of the population has been fully vaccinated.<sup>25</sup>
- Edgecombe County's white population makes up 36% of vaccinations while comprising 40% of the population.
- African Americans make up 40% of confirmed cases, 20% of COVID-19 deaths, and 54% of vaccinations while comprising 59% of the total population.
- The Hispanic or Latinx population makes up 9% of confirmed cases, 2% of COVID-19 deaths, and 5% of vaccinations while comprising 5% of the total population.

## Resources

AccessNC. (2020). *County Profile Edgecombe County (NC)* [Fact sheet]. North Carolina Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division.  
<https://accessnc.nccommerce.com/DemoGraphicsReports/pdfs/countyProfile/NC/37065.pdf>

Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Early Care & Education Use in Edgecombe County* [Fact sheet]. [https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\\_id%5B%5D=3&rep\\_month=5&rep\\_year=2021&rep\\_month\\_end=&rep\\_year\\_end=&county\\_id%5B%5D=33](https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-repo/search/?repoSearch=&section_id%5B%5D=3&rep_month=5&rep_year=2021&rep_month_end=&rep_year_end=&county_id%5B%5D=33)

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<sup>22</sup>North Carolina Department of Health & Human Safety. (2021). *Vaccinations*. <https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations>

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