

Memo 2: Community Health and Wellbeing

7/7/2020

Health Indicators in Orange County

Orange County ranks highly across health indicators except physical environment

- According to county health rankings from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Orange County ranked among the top five counties in North Carolina for five of the six major health indicators:
 - Length of Life (1st)
 - Quality of Life (4th)
 - Health Behaviors (3rd)
 - Clinical Care (1st)
 - Social and Economic Factors (3rd).ⁱ
- However, Orange ranks 46th out of 100 counties in Physical Environment factors (see “Weaknesses” below for more information).

County Health Indicators

County health rankings by health indicator, 2019

2020 Health Indicator	Orange	Chatham	Who is #1
Length of Life	1	7	Orange
Quality of Life	4	14	Wake
Health Behaviors	3	2	Wake
Clinical Care	1	10	Orange
Social and Economic Factors	3	17	Wake
Physical Environment	46	73	Graham

Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings

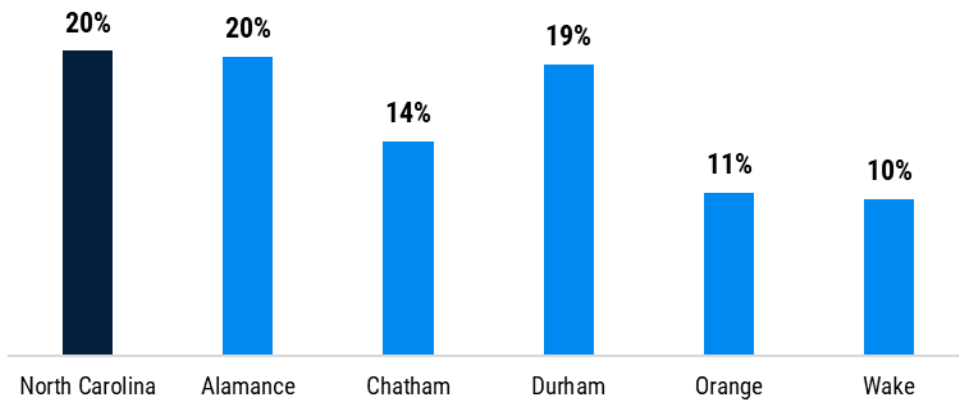
Strengths

Smaller share of children living in poverty than NC and most peer counties

- As of 2018, the child poverty rate in Orange County was 11% - 9 percentage points below the state average (20%)ⁱⁱ
- The child poverty rate in Orange was also lower than all peer counties except Wake (10%)

Child poverty rates significantly lower in Orange County than the state

Poverty rates under age 18, 2018



Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)

Teen pregnancy rates exceptionally low in Orange County

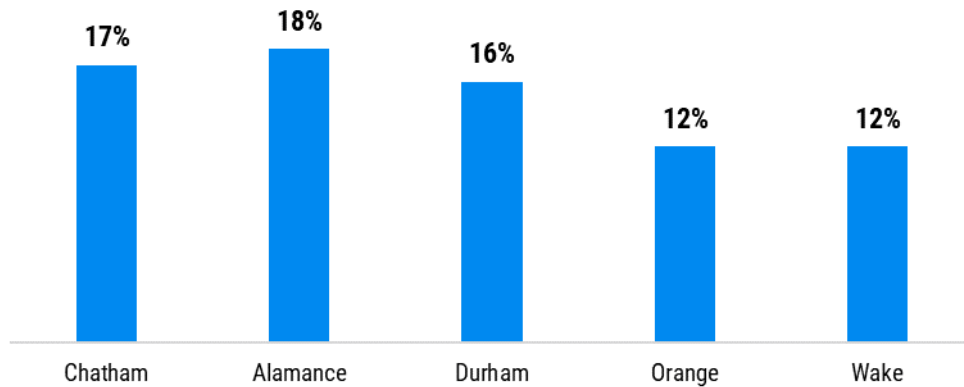
- The number of births to mothers aged 15-19 was just 5 per 1,000 Orange County residents, on average, from 2012 to 2018.
 - The only other county with a similarly low rate is Watauga County, home to Appalachian State University, highlighting low birth rates among teens ages 18-19 who are enrolled in college.
- This is compared to an average of 24 births per 1,000 residents ages 15-19 statewide, 13 in Wake County, and 17 in Chatham County.
- Pregnancy rates among high school age teens (15-17) remain too low to calculate in Orange County. with just 8 reported pregnancies to 15-17-year-olds in 2018. (Rates based on small numbers—under 20 cases—are unstable and are not reported by the NC State Center for Health Statistics.)ⁱⁱⁱ

Access to health insurance higher in Orange County than most surrounding counties

- As of 2017, 12% of Orange County adults under age 65 were uninsured – below the adult uninsured rates for North Carolina (13%), Chatham County (17%), Alamance County (18%), and Durham County (18%)^{iv}

Fewer adults lack access to health insurance in Orange County than peers and state

Percentage of adults under 65 without health insurance, 2017



Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)

Rates of child abuse and neglect have declined annually in Orange County

- In 2018, 26.9 children per 1,000 were assessed for abuse or neglect – down 4.5 from last year's rate (31.4).^v
- This rate peaked at 41.5 children per 1,000 in 2015 and has steadily declined on an annual basis.

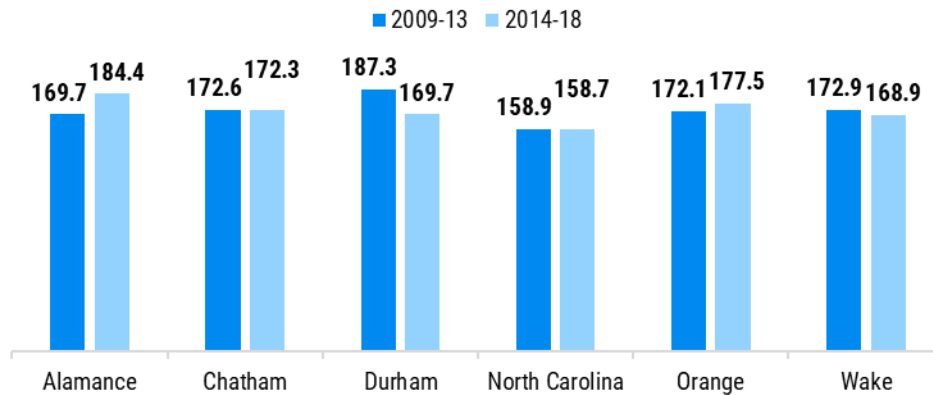
Weaknesses

Female breast cancer rates have risen since 2013

- In Orange County, the rate of breast cancer was 177.5 women per 100,000 in 2018 – up 5.4 since 2013 – representing a small but significant increase over time.^{vi}
- Among peer counties and the state, there were reductions in breast cancer rates among Wake County (-4), Durham County (-17.6), and the state (-0.2).
- Alamance County also saw a substantial increase in breast cancer rates (+14.7).

Breast cancer rates see minor increase in Orange County since 2013

Breast cancer incidence rates, 2009-13 vs. 2014-18



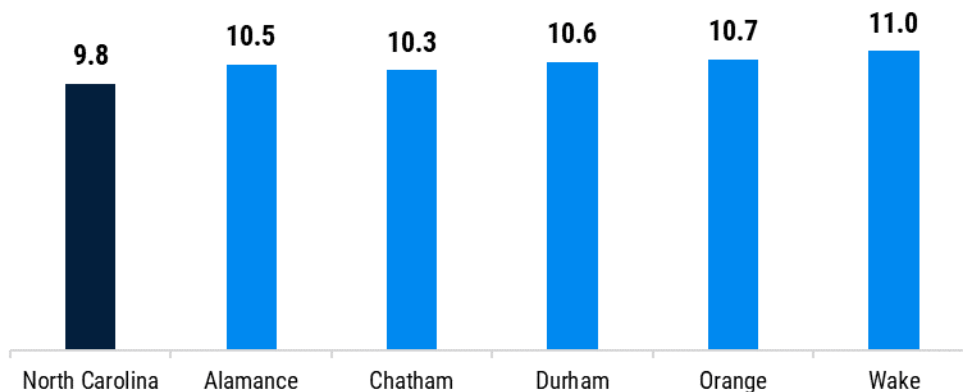
Source: NC State Center for Health Statistics

Orange County ranks poorly in certain environmental factors

- While ranked highly in all other health indicators assessed by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Orange County ranked 46th out of 100 counties in Physical Environment.
- Factors for this include:
 - Low air quality – fine particulate matter was at higher levels than most peers and the state in 2014.^{vii}
 - Water quality – At least one community water system in Orange County had a drinking water violation in 2018.^{viii}

Daily air pollution in Orange County considerably higher than the state




Average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter



Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, County Health Rankings

ABOUT CAROLINA DEMOGRAPHY

Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use data and other available research to help you put a face or a story on the population level changes facing your community. Our analysts provide a full array of demographic data and research services to inform decision making, evaluation, and policy across North Carolina, where we serve organizations and people in all 100 counties.

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- ⁱ For more information, visit countyhealthrankings.org
- ⁱⁱ US Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)
- ⁱⁱⁱ NC State Center for Health Statistics
- ^{iv} US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE)
- ^v NC Child
- ^{vi} NC State Center for Health Statistics, Cancer Incidence Rates
- ^{vii} CDC, National Environmental Public Health Tracking Network
- ^{viii} EPA, Safe Drinking Water Information System (SDWIS)