

North Carolina's Opportunity Youth

myFutureNC Opportunity Youth Network

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CAROLINA
POPULATION CENTER

CAROLINA
DEMOGRAPHY

Overview

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3. Who are Opportunity Youth?
4. County-level estimates

About Carolina Demography: What we do



Data Acquisition

We know where to find relevant data and can translate complex information based on the questions you need to answer. (We can also help you determine what questions to answer.)



Custom Population Estimates and Projections

Using Stata, SAS and R, we can project populations or school enrollments that give insight into how your community will shift in the coming years.



Data Analysis and Interpretation

We can identify potential policy responses to demographic change and analyze the impact of current or proposed policies on specific populations.



Workshops, Trainings and Presentations

We convene and engage your stakeholders and decision-makers to facilitate understanding and dialogue and strengthen the capacity of your organization to communicate data-driven ideas.

About Carolina Demography: What we do

We help leaders throughout our state answer the question: **Where is North Carolina heading?**

Located within the Carolina Population Center at UNC-Chapel Hill, we use population-level data and other available research to provide context and perspective to people working to shape North Carolina's future.

Changes to State Dashboard

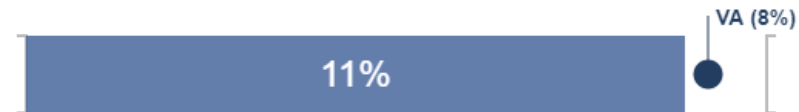
Changes on state dashboard

- “Disconnected Youth” → “Opportunity Youth”
- 16-19 → 16-24



Percentage of North Carolina 16-24-year-olds neither in school or working (indicator shown as distance from 100%)

Filter by Demographic Group:



Last updated: 2019

● = Top southern state : only available for totals, not available for all indicators

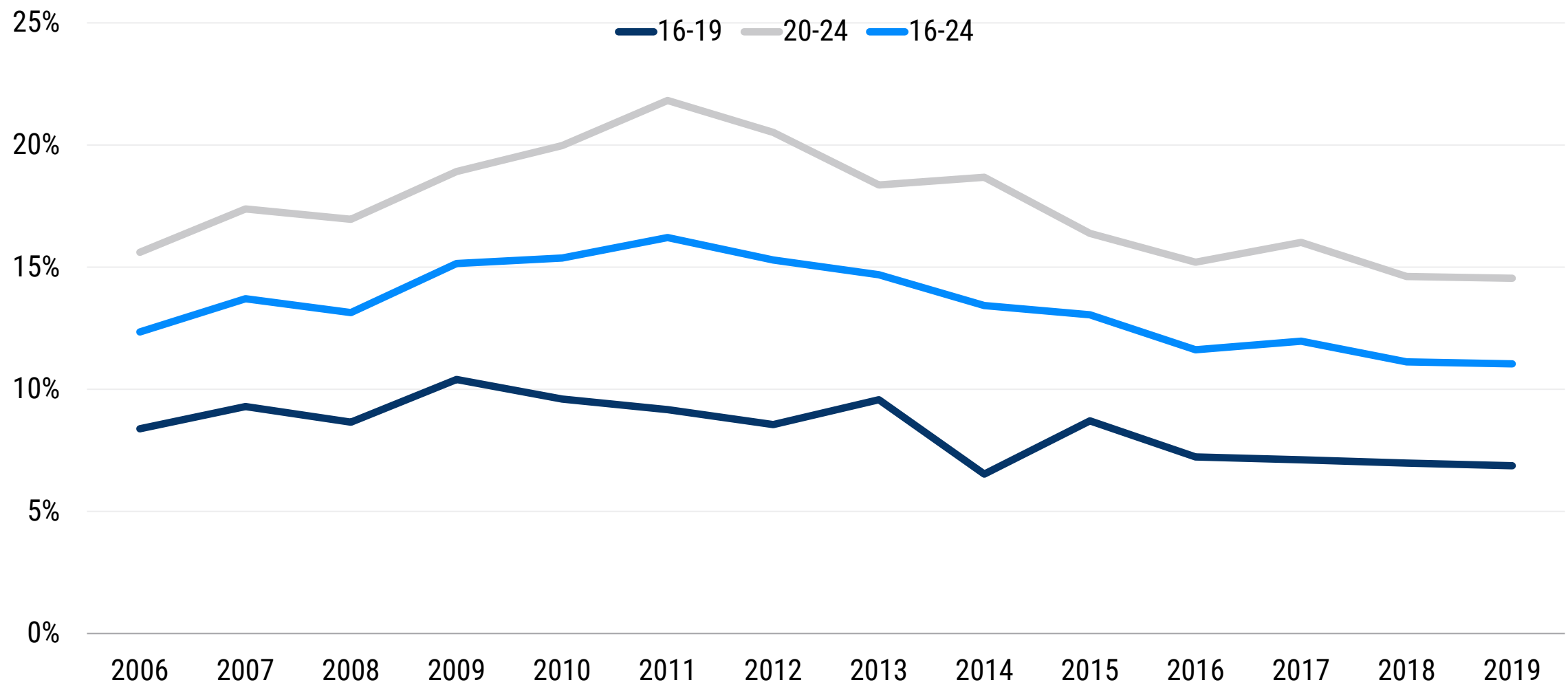


Measure of America has used this definition in its data calculations and analysis on youth disconnection since its first report on the topic, *One in Seven*, published in 2012.

Source: Measure of America

NC opportunity youth rate higher with inclusion of ages 20-24

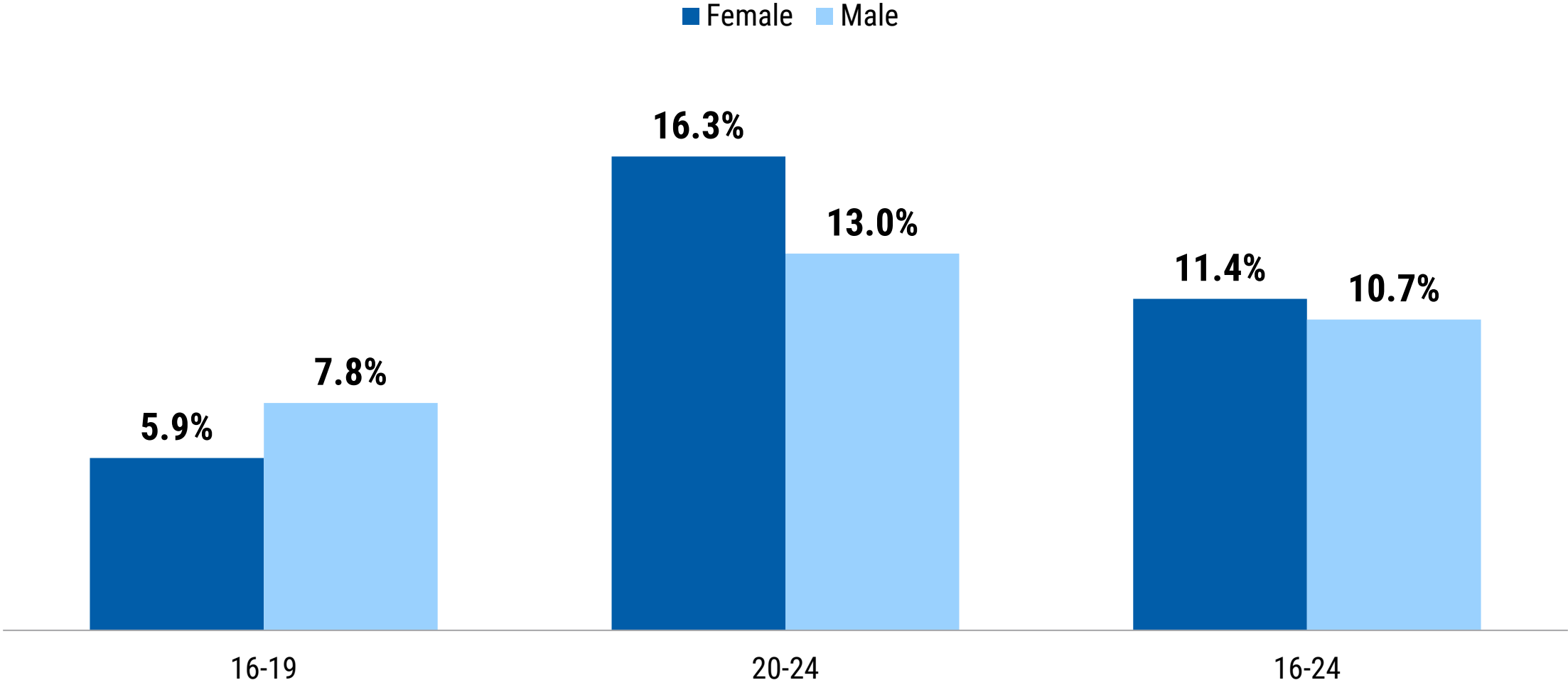
NC opportunity youth rate by age group, 2006-2019



Source: American Community Survey

Including 20-24 increased disconnection for women

NC opportunity youth rate by age group and sex, 2019



Source: American Community Survey

Who are Opportunity Youth?

		DISCONNECTED YOUTH (%)		CONNECTED YOUTH (%)
LIVING IN POVERTY	30.9		16.5	
LIVING WITH A DISABILITY	17.4		5.4	
LIVING IN AN INSTITUTION	5.9		0.3	
DID NOT COMPLETE HIGH SCHOOL	23.8		2.9	
HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA/ NO FURTHER EDUCATION	52.3		23.3	
BACHELOR'S DEGREE	5.2		9.1	
WOMEN WITH CHILDREN	24.0		5.7	
MARRIED	11.1		6.5	
NONCITIZEN	7.3		5.6	
LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY	6.9		4.0	
UNINSURED	25.4		11.0	
RECEIVES MEDICAID	37.4		18.8	

Source: Measure of America calculations using US Census Bureau American Community Survey, 2019.

11%

of NC 16-24-year-olds were not working and not in school in 2019

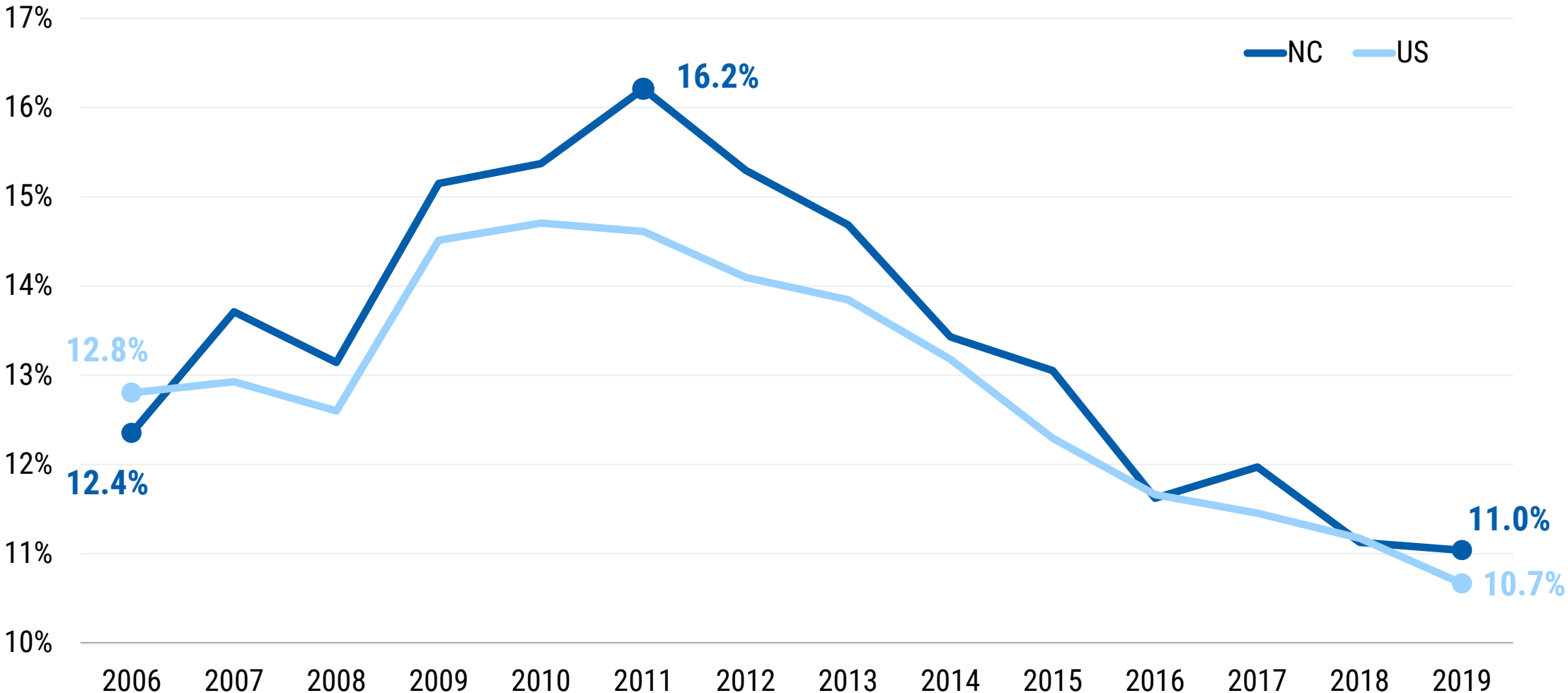
This includes individuals who are unemployed, incarcerated, or at home for family reasons

141,000

NC 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school in 2019

NC youth disconnection down from 2011 peak

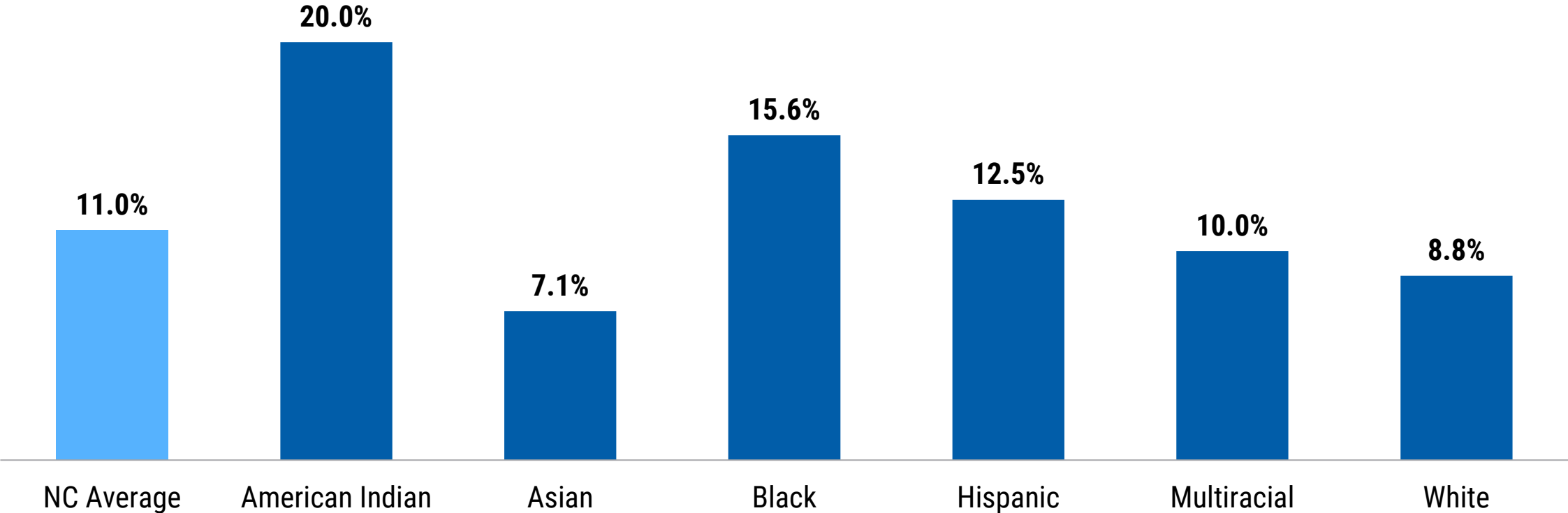
% of 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school, NC vs. US, 2006-2019



Source: American Community Survey

Higher rates of disconnection among BIPOC young adults

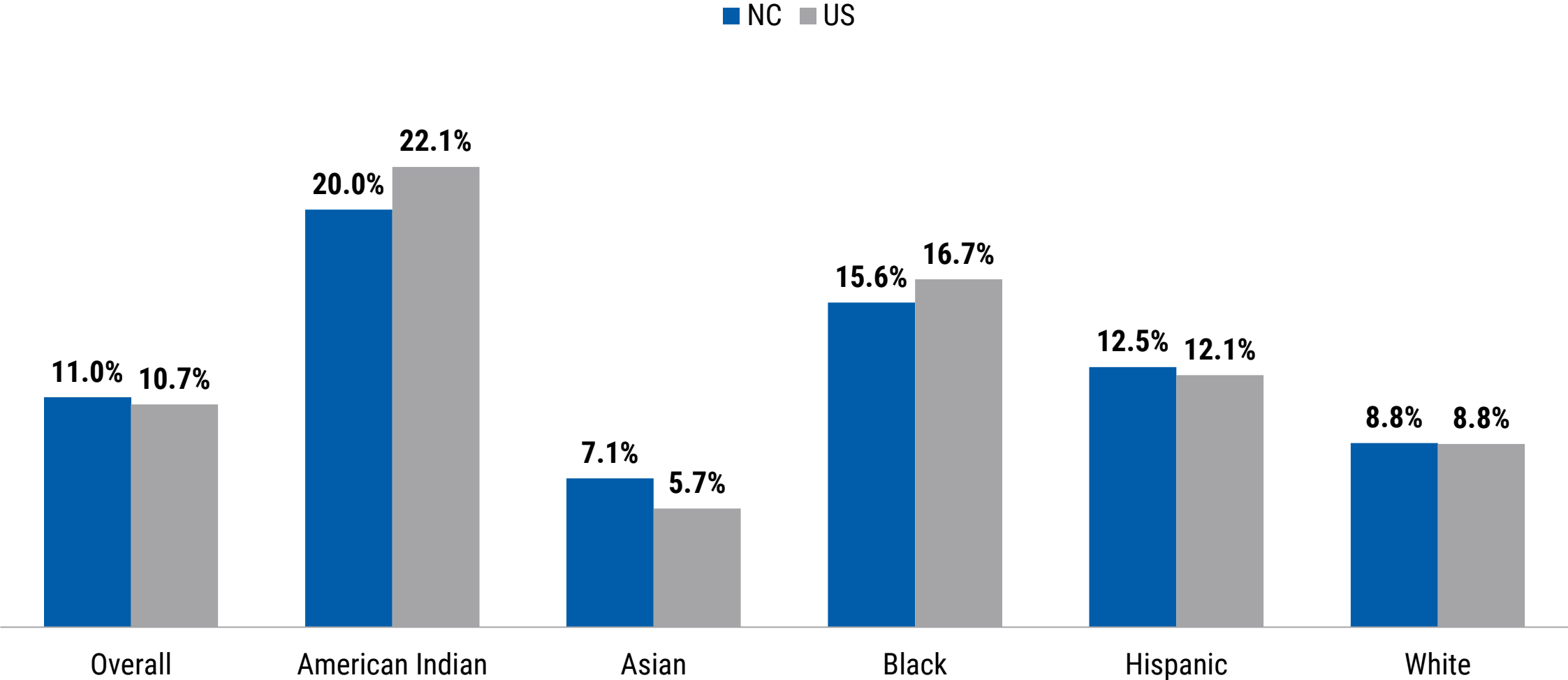
NC opportunity youth (16-24 years old) by race, 2019



Source: American Community Survey

NC patterns broadly similar to nation

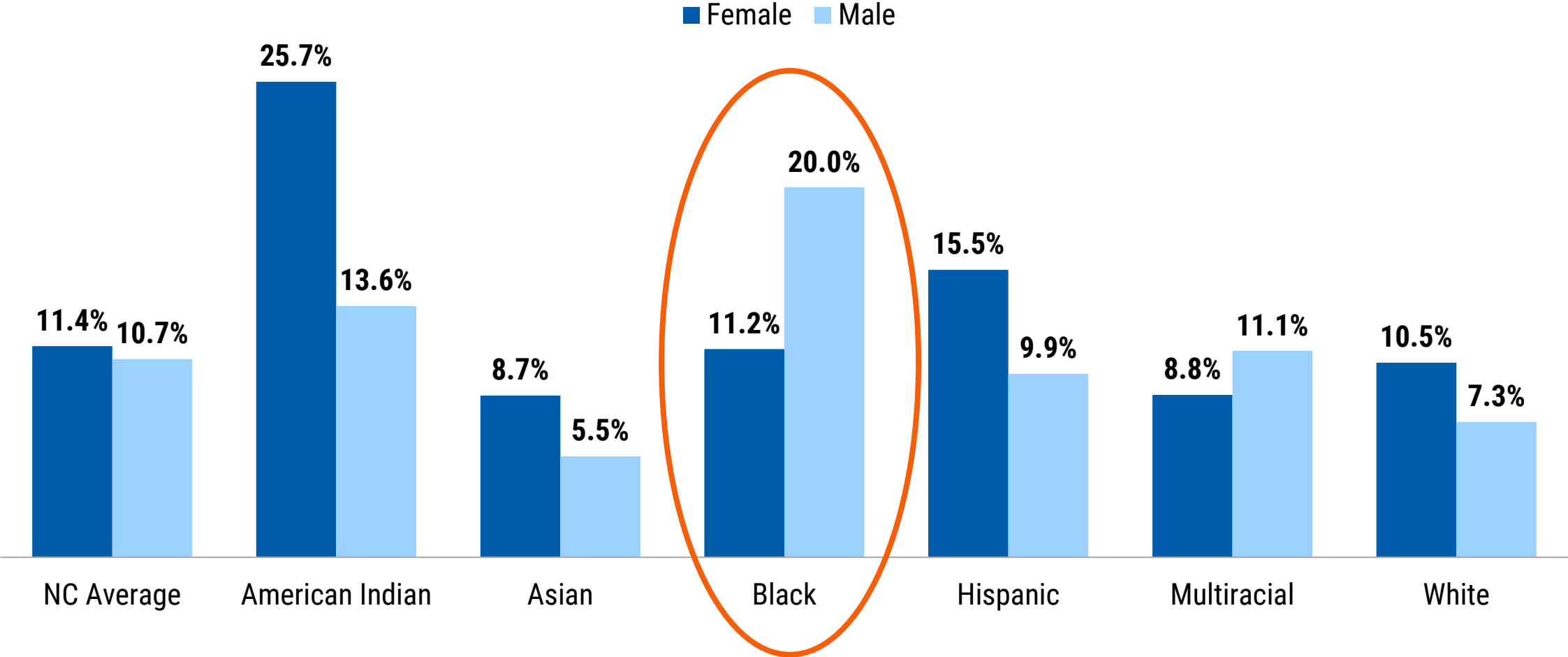
Opportunity youth (16-24 years old) by race, NC vs. US, 2019



Source: American Community Survey

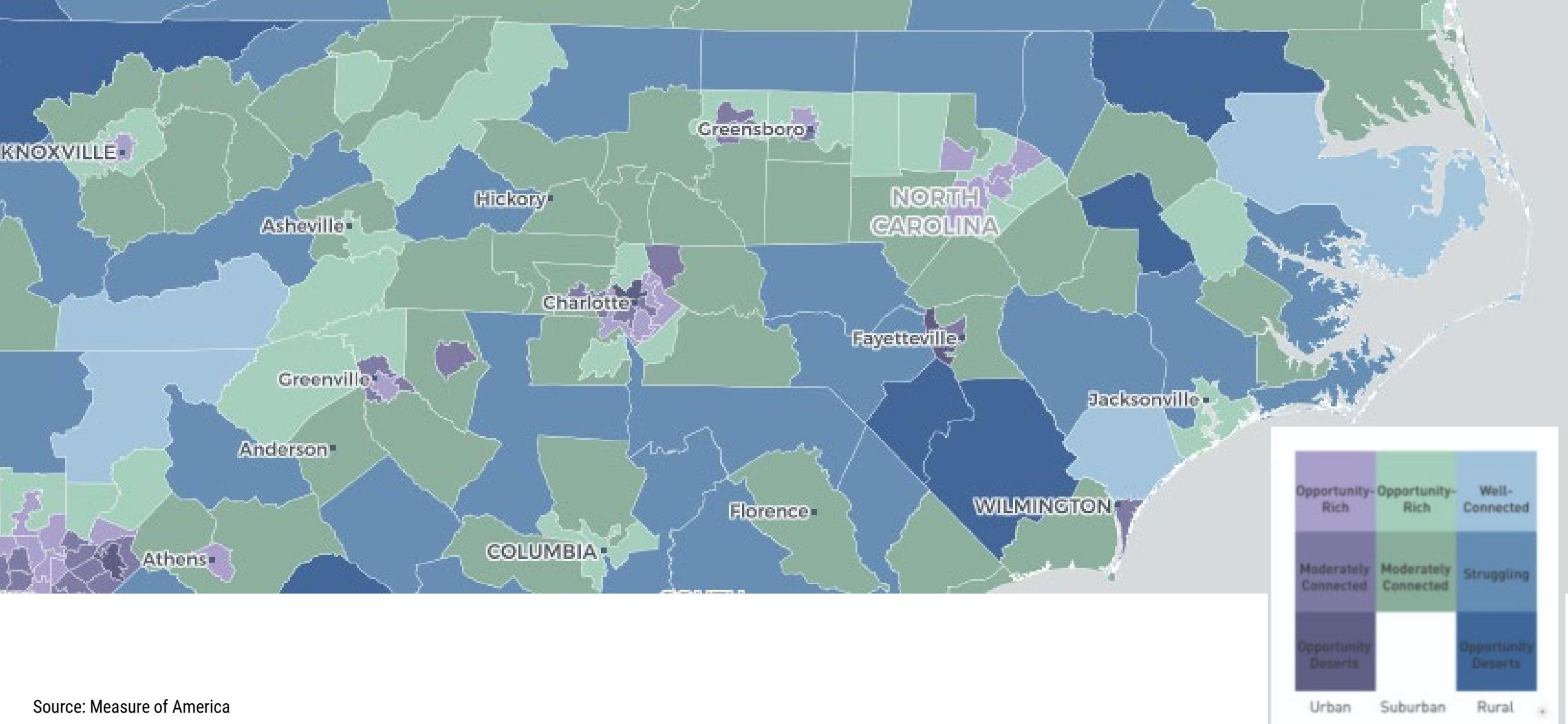
Except for Black and Multiracial, women have higher rates of disconnection than men

NC opportunity youth (16-24 years old) by race and gender, 2019



Source: American Community Survey

Opportunity deserts in NE, Sandhills, Charlotte, and Fayetteville



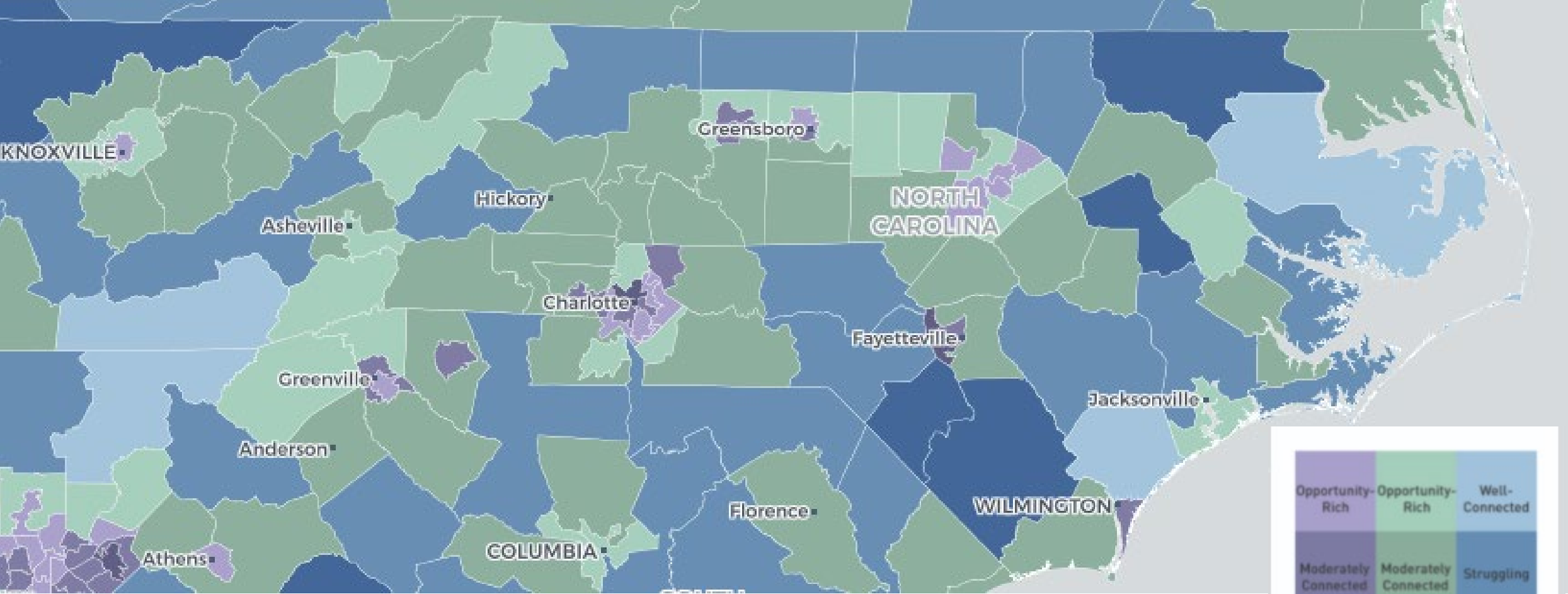
Source: Measure of America

County-level estimates

A word about PUMAs...

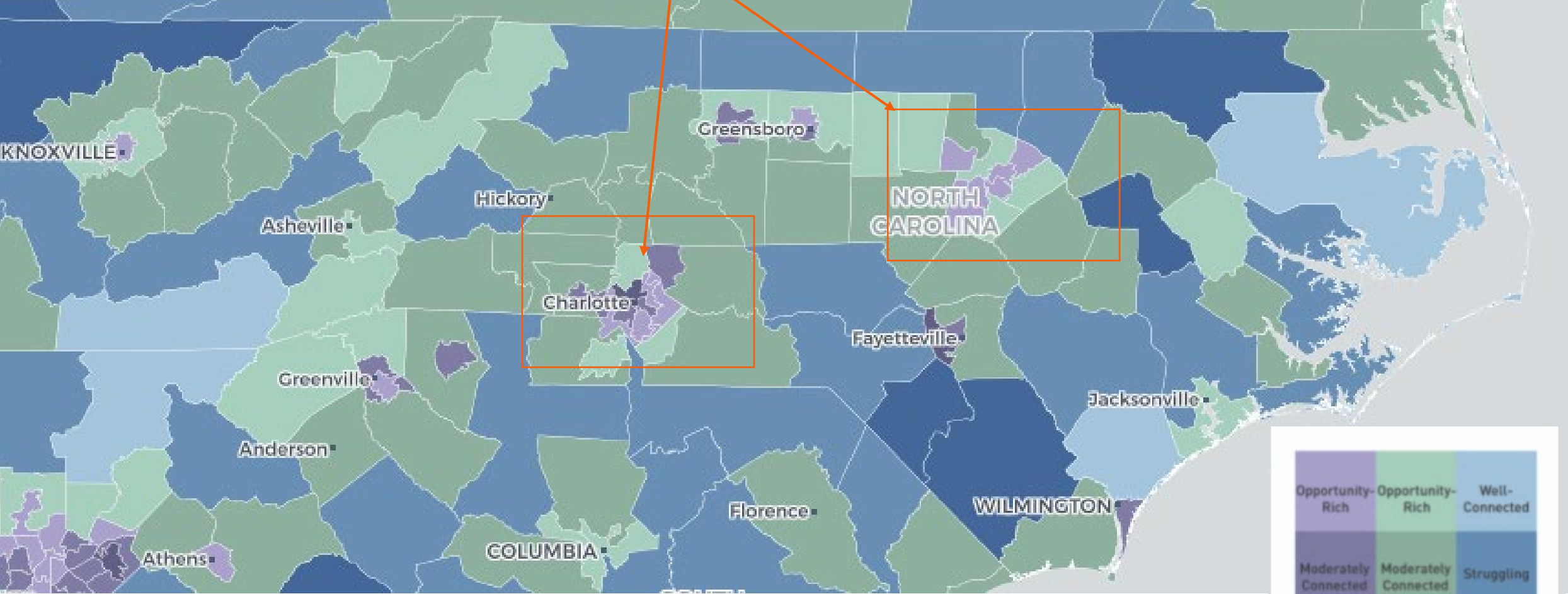


These shapes are called **PUMAs** – **P**ublic **U**se **M**icrodata **A**reas



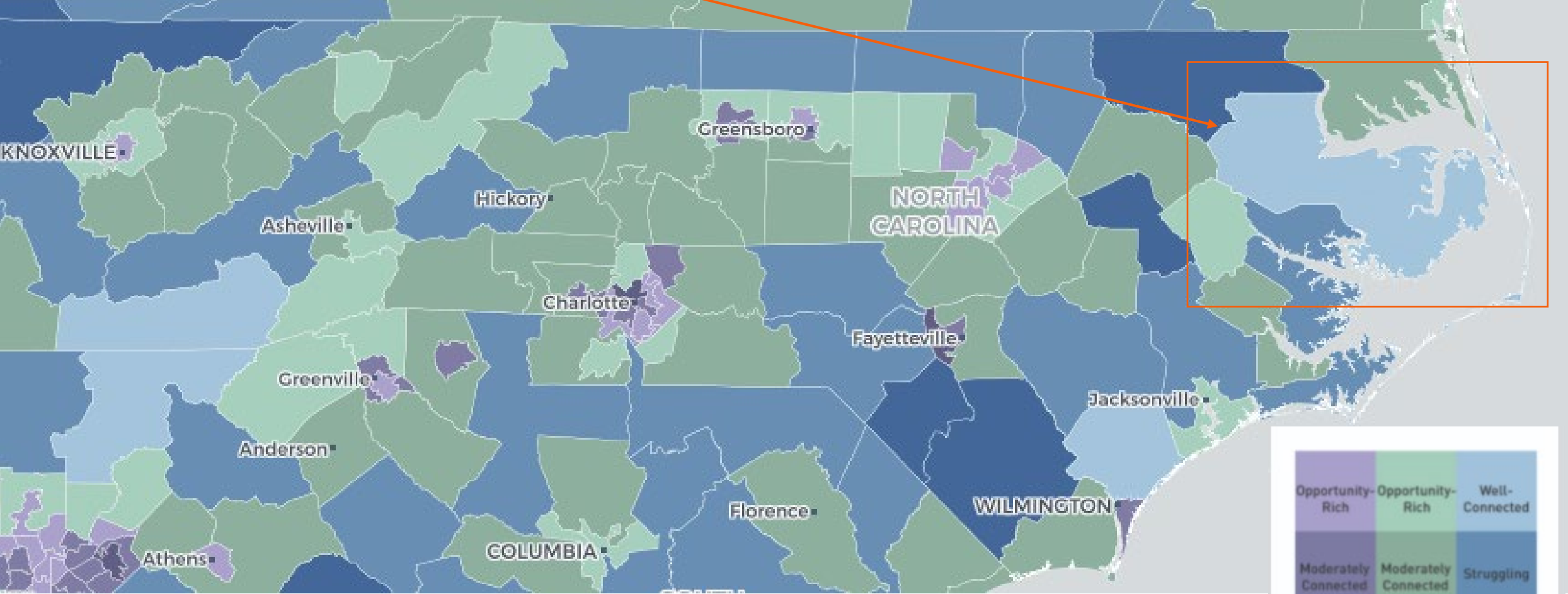
Source: Measure of America

In populous counties, there are multiple PUMAs



Source: Measure of America

Smaller counties are clustered together within a PUMA



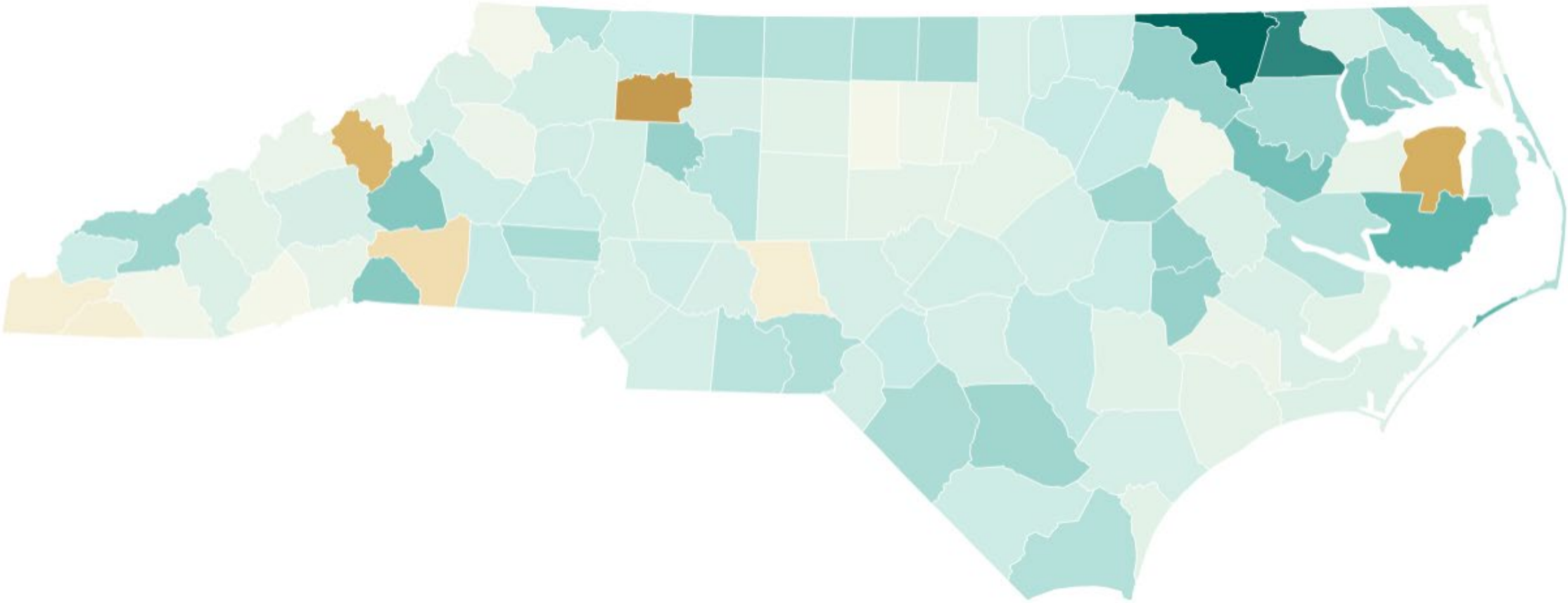
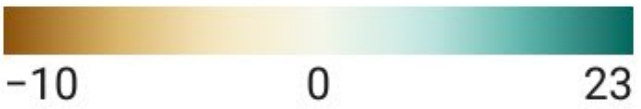
Source: Measure of America

Methodology

1. Used 2015-2019 American Community Survey microdata
2. Directly estimate from PUMA, where appropriate
3. For county clusters:
 - Calculate race-specific opportunity youth rates for parent PUMA
 - Apply to county population ages 16-24 by race (from population estimates)
 - Aggregate to obtain county totals, weighting for counties split across PUMAs

Shift to 16-24 increased disconnection for most counties

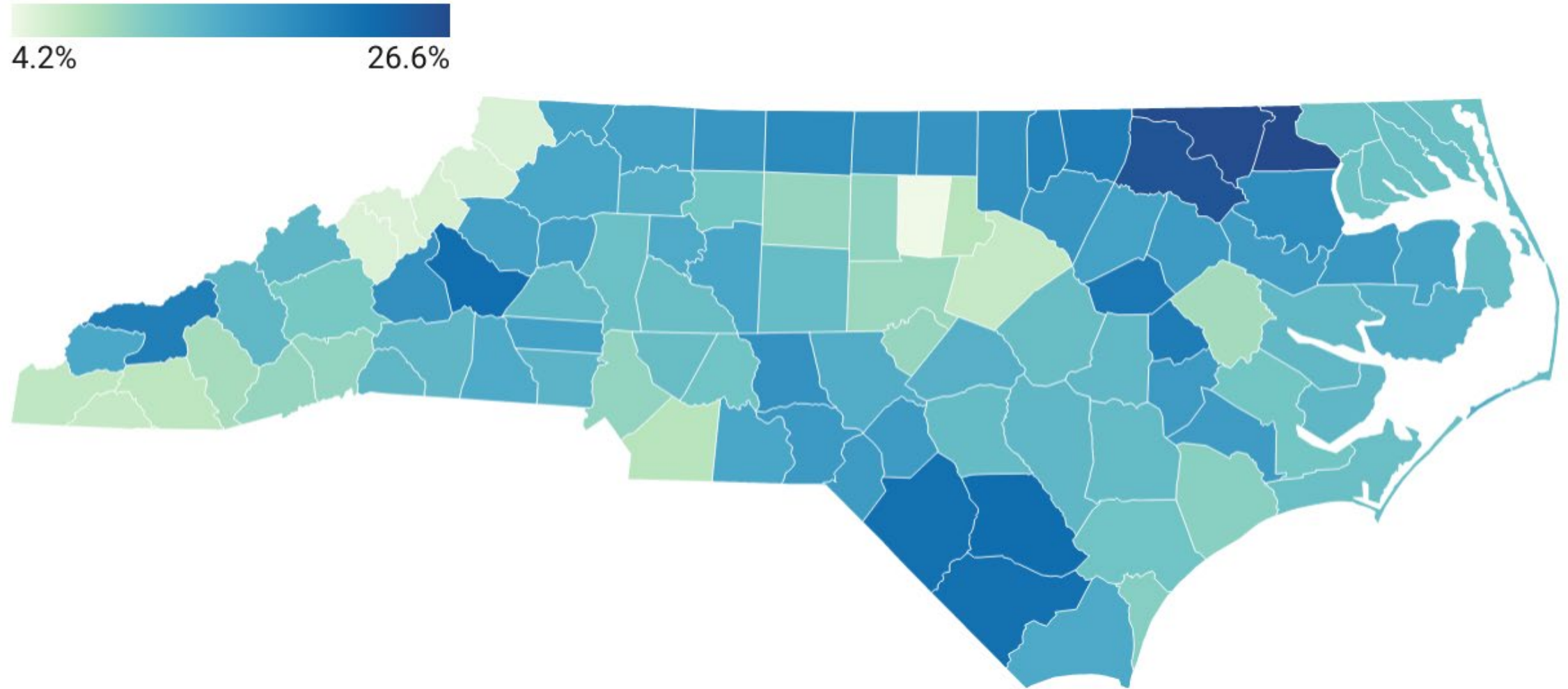
Change in opportunity youth rate (16-24 vs. 16-19), 2015-2019



Source: Carolina Demography calculations using 5-Year ACS microdata from IPUMS-USA, 5-Year ACS summary tables from the U.S. Census Bureau, and CDC SEER population estimates.

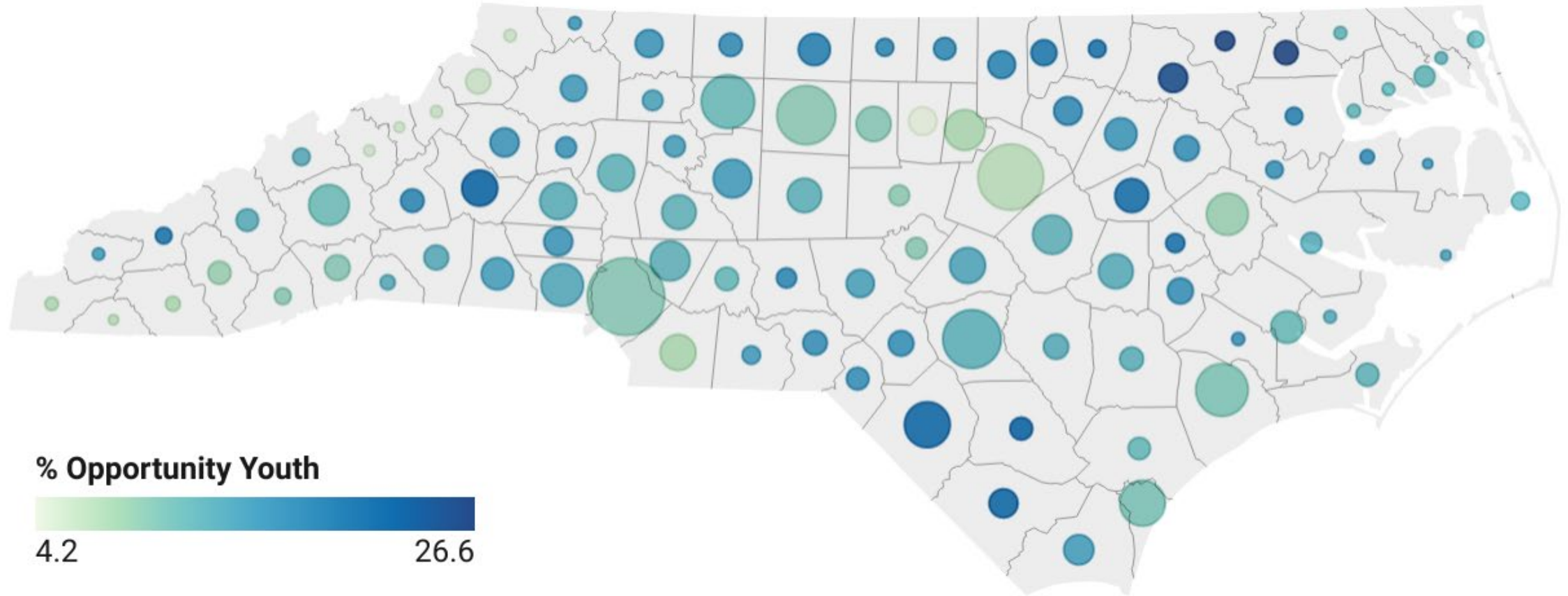
Youth disconnection rates >25% in Northeast NC

Percent of 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school for NC counties, 2015-2019



Largest number of opportunity youth in Mecklenburg

Number of 16-24-year-olds not working and not in school by NC county, 2015-2019



Circle is sized to represent size of opportunity youth population. Shading represents the share of 16-24-year-olds classified as opportunity youth.

COVID-19 impact

- Unemployment spiked
- Educational enrollments dropped
- Learning outcomes declined

Young workers hit hard by the COVID-19 economy

Workers ages 16–24 face high unemployment and an uncertain future

NEA News

Finding the Lost Students of the Pandemic

Educators have gone above and beyond to locate missing students, and their work is not done.

Few Positives in Final Fall Enrollment Numbers

Community colleges saw the largest enrollment declines this fall. Matriculation by first-time freshmen also fell sharply.

Sobering test results confirm pandemic's toll on state's schoolchildren

Work With Us

What questions do you have
about your community?

What data do you need to make
better decisions?



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