

UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Catawba  
County  
Profile 2009

Charlotte Regional  
Indicators Project

**The Charlotte Regional Indicators Project.** *The Charlotte Regional Indicators Project compiles objective, reliable, and relevant measures for the 14-county bi-state Charlotte region on indicators important to the region's quality of life. By measuring the indicators over time and comparing them to state or national data, the Indicators Project provides policy-makers, civic leaders, and the public with a solid foundation for engaging in efforts to address the region's challenges.*

*The indicators are organized in ten theme areas:*

- *Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life;*
- *Economy;*
- *Education;*
- *Environment;*
- *Government and Citizen Participation;*
- *Health;*
- *Housing;*
- *Public Safety;*
- *Social Well-Being; and,*
- *Transportation.*

*The Charlotte Regional Indicators Project is an initiative of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. It is funded in part by Advantage Carolinas, the Foundation for the Carolinas, and the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation. Indicators are recommended by consensus of Task Forces of regional experts in each of the ten theme areas, and are evaluated by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute researchers for feasibility before indicator data is gathered, added to the Indicators database and incorporated into Indicators Project reports. Indicator data is updated throughout the year as source agencies release the relevant data sets, and is made available on the Indicators Project website. A comprehensive Indicators Report is produced every two years.*

*More information about the Indicators Project and the most recent comprehensive Indicators Report are available at [www.ui.uncc.edu](http://www.ui.uncc.edu).*

# Catawba County Profile 2009

**The County Profile Reports.** *The County Profile Reports present individual county indicator data in a format intended to make it easy to examine relationships between indicators and across themes for a single county. Each County Profile Report begins with a concise summary of indicator highlights for the county, then presents a quick-reference table of the most recent indicator data, and finally provides more detailed indicator trend data in user-friendly charts. The reports are available for each of the region's fourteen counties, and are produced every two years.*

**Summary Highlights.** For the most recent indicator data, Catawba out-performs the region on nearly all indicators in these two theme areas:

Public Safety  
Social Well-Being

Catawba lags the region on nearly all indicators in these theme areas:

Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life  
Economy  
Environment  
Government and Citizen Participation  
Health



(Note that for some individual indicators, “lagging the region” means the indicator rates are *higher* than the regional composite rates, and that for other indicators, “lagging the region” means that the indicator rates are *lower* than the regional composite percentage. The same is true for “out-performing the region.”)

Looking at trends over time, key Catawba County indicators demonstrating appreciable change over the most recent available five-year time periods include:

- Grants Expenditures Per Capita (+95.6%, 2007 vs. 2005)
- Gonorrhea Rate Per 100,000 (+66.7%, 2007 vs. 2003)
- Giving Per Capita (Public Charities) (+66.2%, 2007 vs. 2003)
- Construction Cost Per Unit Permitted (+64.2%, 2007 vs. 2003)
- Developed Acreage (+51.2%, 2006 vs. 1996)
- Chlamydia Rate Per 100,000 (+47.7%, 2007 vs. 2003)
- People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Fatality (+42.9%, 2006 vs. 2001)
- Unemployment Rate (-31.3%, 2007 vs. 2003)
- Minority Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births (-29.1%, 2007 vs. 2003)

## Quick-Reference Indicator Table

### Catawba County Profile 2009

Indicator by Theme	Year	Region <sup>1</sup>	County	County	
				Percent Change	From Year
<b>Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life</b>					
Grants Expenditures Per Capita	2007	\$0.84	\$0.79	95.6	2005
Library Funding Per Capita	2007	\$25.66	\$14.70	4.6	2004
Library Print Holdings Per Capita	2006	1.6	1.8	-17.3	2002
<b>Economy</b>					
Unemployment Rate	2007	5.1	5.5	-31.3	2003
Total Employment, All Industries	2007	1,148,937	88,677	2.5	2003
Number of Business Establishments	2007	68,947	4,632	8.0	2003
Average Annual Wage	2007	\$34,995	\$34,112	15.7	2003
Per Capita Income	2006	\$34,958	\$30,074	13.7	2002
Median Household Income	2007	\$44,772	\$43,618	8.5	2003
<b>Education<sup>2</sup></b>					
Percent Change in Public School Enrollment vs. Prior Year <sup>3</sup>	2006-07	3.8	2.1	1.1	2002-03
			3.2		
Percent Population with Bachelors Degree or Higher	2007	28.2	18.0	5.9	2000
Average SAT Score	2007-08	992	1013	1042	2003-04
			981		
High School Cohort Graduation Rate	2007-08	71.9	81.2	76.8	2005-06
			81.0		
Percent of Graduates Pursuing Higher Education	2005-06	82.9	83.0	86.9	2001-02
			77.0		
Public School Expenditures Per Pupil	2005-06	\$7,362	\$7,028	\$7,466	2001-02
			\$8,078		
Per Pupil Capital Expenditures, 5 Year Avg.	2005-06	\$857	\$551	\$732	2004-05
			\$124		
<b>Environment</b>					
Vehicle Emissions of Nitrogen Oxides, Pounds Per Capita	2002	82.8	103.6	NA	NA
Average Daily Water Consumption, Gallons Per Capita	2002	160.9	204.3	-10.5	1997
Solid Waste Disposal, Pounds Per Capita	2007	3,188.0	2,765.2	4.9	2004
Developed Acreage, Per Capita	2006	0.41	0.54	51.2	1996
<b>Government and Citizen Participation</b>					
Percent Voter Turnout of Registered Voters	2008	68.5	67.5	13.9	2004
Registered Public Charities Per 1,000	2007	2.5	2.3	13.9	2004
Public Charities Filing Form 990 Per 1,000	2007	0.9	0.8	3.9	2004
Private Foundations Filing Form 990 per 1,000	2007	0.21	0.17	-14.0	2004
Giving Per Capita (Public Charities)	2007	\$724.55	\$410.77	66.2	2003
Giving Per Capita (Private Foundations)	2006	\$110.04	\$20.56	22.3	2002
<b>Health</b>					
Birth Rate Per 1,000	2007	15.1	13.5	-2.4	2003
Total Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births	2007	6.7	8.1	3.0	2003
White Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births	2007	5.6	7.3	16.4	2003
Minority Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births	2007	9.6	12.3	-29.1	2003
Total Mortality Rate Per 100,000	2007	747.5	902.0	-0.5	2003
Heart Disease Mortality Rate Per 100,000	2007	170.7	188.2	-9.3	2003
Cancer Mortality Rate Per 100,000	2007	167.4	215.2	8.0	2003
Suicide Rate Per 100,000	2007	11.0	16.7	2.3	2003

## Quick-Reference Indicator Table

### Catawba County Profile 2009

Indicator by Theme	Year	Region <sup>1</sup>	County	County	
				Percent Change	From Year
<b>Health cont'd</b>					
Chlamydia Rate Per 100,000	2007	241.7	272.4	47.7	2003
Gonorrhea Rate Per 100,000	2007	148.6	149.7	66.7	2003
<b>Housing</b>					
Housing Units Per 1,000	2007	430.2	430.0	-1.2	2003
Percent Single Family Detached Housing	2000	67.1	66.1	-1.4	1990
Percent Single Family Attached Housing	2000	2.8	2.5	50.8	1990
Percent Multi-family Housing	2000	18.2	15.1	-2.4	1990
Percent Mobile Home or Trailer Housing	2000	11.8	16.2	6.8	1990
Percent Other Housing	2000	0.1	0.1	-89.8	1990
Percent Owner Occupied Housing	2007	69.2	69.7	-3.9	2000
Percent Renter Occupied Housing	2007	30.8	30.3	10.3	2000
Number of Housing Units Permitted Per 1,000	2007	11.4	4.7	-20.3	2003
Construction Cost Per Unit Permitted	2007	\$165,197	\$244,632	64.2	2003
Average Residential Sales Price	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average Apartment Vacancy Rate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Average Apartment Rental Rate	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
<b>Public Safety</b>					
Calls for Emergency Service (911) Per Capita	2007	0.78	0.74	10.7	2005
Crime Index Per 10,000	2007	531.0	504.3	4.3	2003
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Total	2007	153,726	11,617	-10.7	2001
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Property Damage Only	2007	94,140	6,911	-10.8	2001
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Fatality	2007	746	50	42.9	2001
People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Non-fatal Injury	2007	58,840	4,656	-11.1	2001
Investigated Workplace Fatalities	2008	12	2	-33.3	2004
<b>Social Well-Being</b>					
Percent Individuals Living in Poverty	2007	11.9	10.4	14.5	2000
Percent Families Living in Poverty	2007	8.6	7.5	14.6	2000
Percent Children Living in Poverty	2007	15.9	14.5	-20.8	2003
Percent of Report of Child Abuse or Neglect Substantiated	2005-06	22.2	23.1	4.2	2004-05
Percent Births to Mothers Under Age 18	2007	3.8	3.7	2.2	2003
Elderly Assistance Rate	2007	42.2	42.1	-7.7	2000
<b>Transportation</b>					
Percent of Workers 16 or Older Driving to Work Alone	2007	81.7	85.3	4.5	2000
Percent of Workers Commuting More Than 25 Minutes	2007	42.3	27.9	12.2	2000

For each indicator for which county-level data is available as of January, 2009, this table presents the most recent data for the county and the region, along with a percent change for the county. County percent change represents a five-year trend wherever possible: it is the percent change from a prior year (the “from year” column) to the most recent data; generally, the “from year” is five years prior. Indicator definitions and data sources can be found at the end of this document. Regional data is calculated as a fourteen county average whenever possible, and exceptions to this are detailed in the endnotes. Unless otherwise noted, “Per 1,000” or “per 100,000” refers to population.

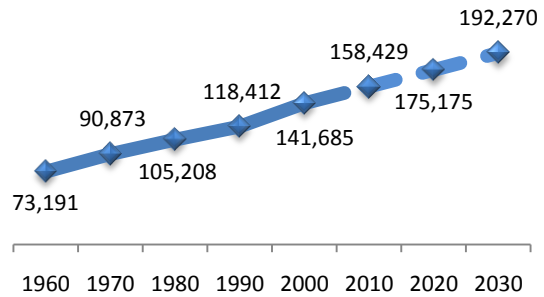
# Indicator Trend Data

## Catawba County Profile 2009

### Demographics

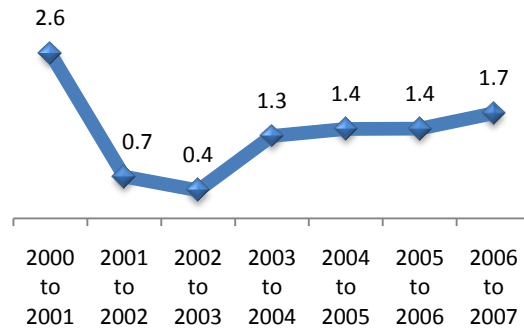
Catawba County is one of the more populous counties in the region, and experienced a 10% increase population from 2000 to 2007. Catawba County's population nearly doubled over the four decades from 1960 to 2000, and is projected to increase 36% through 2030. Catawba County showed little variation in its racial composition from 2000 to 2007, but did show an increase in ethnic diversity, with an increase in the Hispanic share of population. Although the 35-44 year old age group remained the largest, it joined the younger age groups in a decline in share, while the 45 and older groups' share increased 10% from 2000 to 2007.

**Decennial Population and Projections**



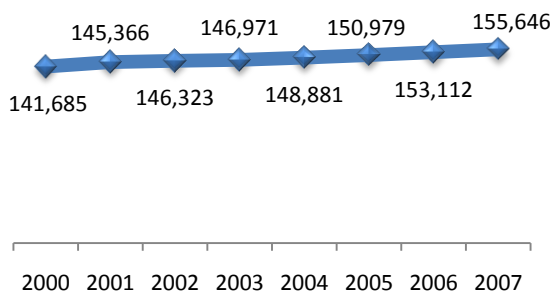
Source: NC Office of State Budget and Management, NC State Demographics; SC State Budget and Control Board Office of Research Statistics, SC Community Profiles

**Percent Population Growth**



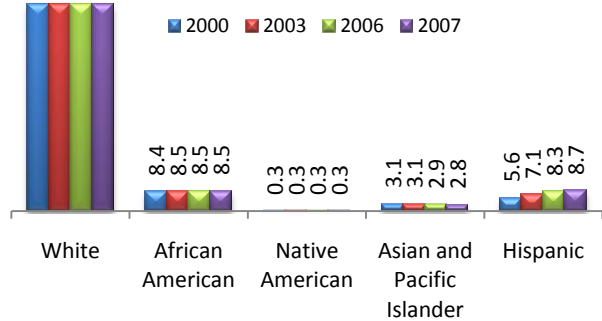
Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

**Annual Population Estimates**



Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

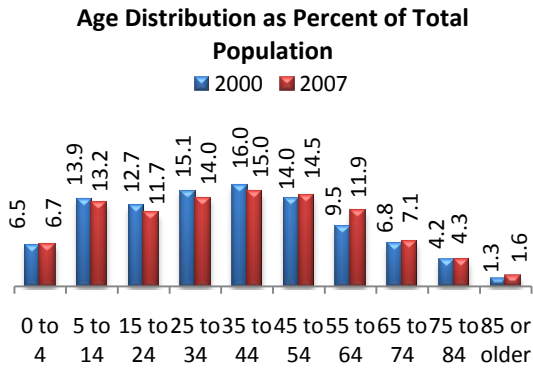
**Race and Ethnicity as Percent of Total Population**



Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009



Source: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

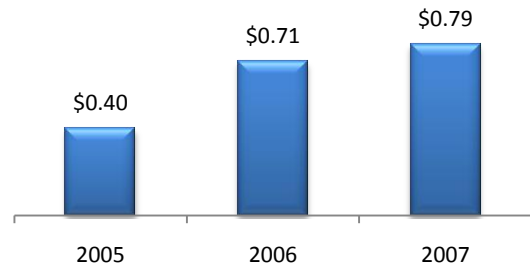
### Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life

Arts, recreation and cultural activities are measured by four indicators:

- Grants Expenditures;
- Library Holdings;
- Library Funding; and
- Arts Graduates.

Of these, only the first three have county-level data available. Per capita grant expenditures by arts and cultural organizations doubled from 2005 to 2007. Government funding for libraries per capita fluctuated around \$14.60 from 2004 to 2007. Public library print holdings per capita increased 14% from 2002 to 2005 and then decreased 28% in 2006.

### Grant Expenditures by Arts and Cultural Organizations Per Capita



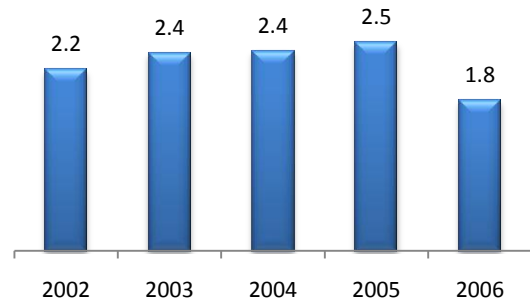
Source: North Carolina Arts Council; South Carolina Arts Commission

### Government Funding for Libraries Per Capita



Source: North Carolina Department of State Treasurer; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board

### Public Library Print Holdings Per Capita



Source: National Center for Education Statistics (Library Research Center)

## Indicator Trend Data

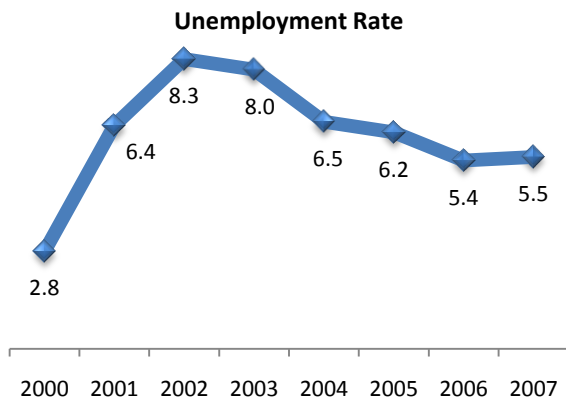
### Catawba County Profile 2009

#### Economy

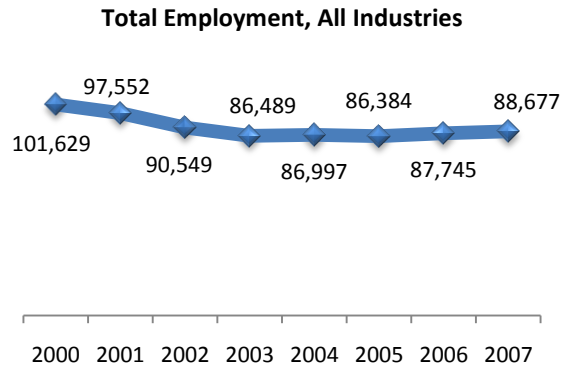
The local economy is measured by six indicators:

- Labor Force (Unemployment Rate);
- Industry Employment (Jobs);
- Business Establishments;
- Average Annual Wage;
- Per Capita Income; and
- Median Household Income.

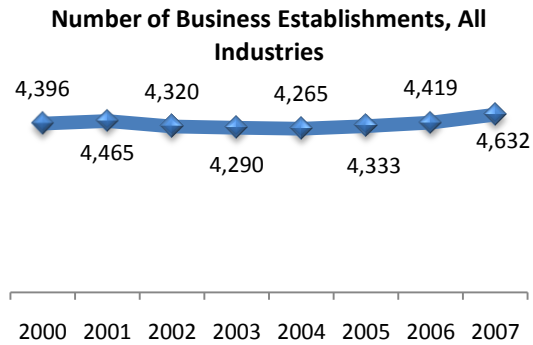
The county's unemployment rate tripled from 2000 to 2002, and then decreased one-third from 2002 to 2007. Total industry employment decreased 15% from 2000 to 2003, and then increased slightly from 2003 to 2007. The number of business establishments decreased slightly from 2001 to 2004, and then increased 9% from 2004 to 2007. Average annual wage increased 21% from 2000 to 2007. Per capita income increased 61% from 1990 to 2006. Median household income increased 3% from 2000 to 2007.



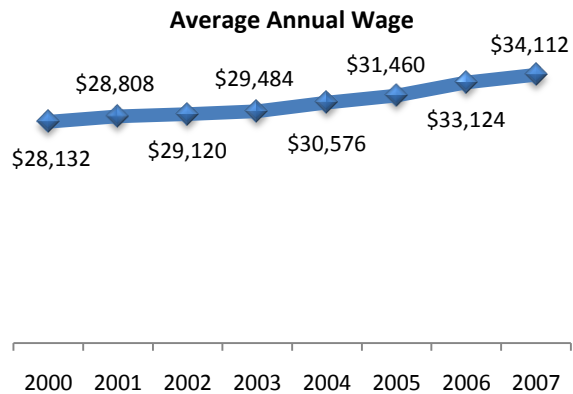
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics



Source: NC Employment Security Commission; SC Employment Security Commission



Source: NC Employment Security Commission; SC Employment Security Commission

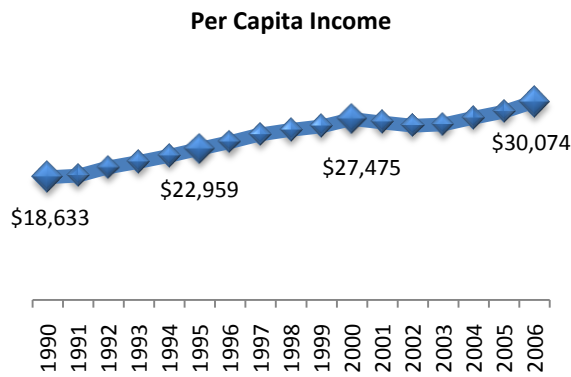


Source: NC Employment Security Commission; SC Employment Security Commission

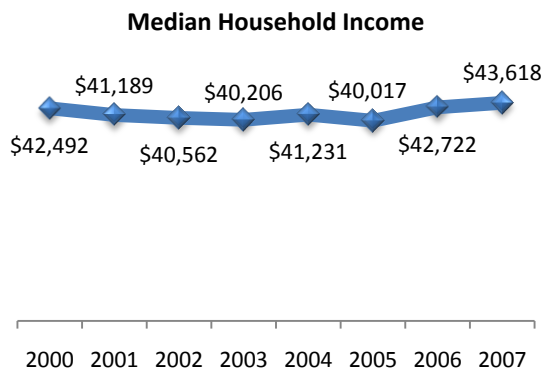


## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis



Source: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Division

### Education

Education is measured by seven indicators:

- Public Schools Enrollment;
- Educational Attainment;
- SAT Scores (Math and Verbal);
- Graduation Rate;
- College Plans;
- Expenditures Per Pupil; and
- Capital Expenditures.

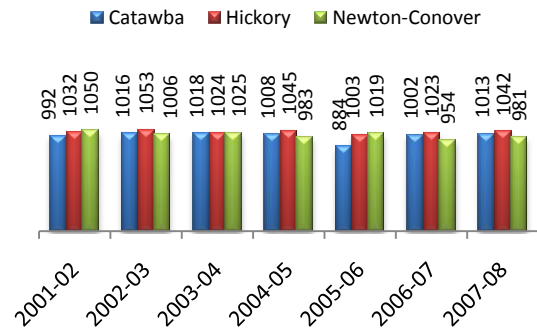
There are three public school districts in Catawba County: Catawba County, Hickory, and Newton-Conover. Public school enrollment in Catawba County district increased each year from 2000-01 to 2006-07, with the largest increase, 2.6%, in 2004-05. Enrollment in Hickory declined in 2001-02, 2002-03, and 2004-05, but increased in all remaining years. Enrollment in Newton-Conover declined in 2001-02 and again in 2004-05, but increased in all remaining years. The percentage of college graduates increased 56% from 1990 to 2005, and then decreased 19% from 2005 to 2007. Average SAT scores for Catawba and Hickory school districts each fluctuated around 1,000 from 2001-02 to 2007-08. Newton-Conover scores showed similar variation around 1,030. The high school cohort graduation rate for Catawba district remained stable from 2004-05 to 2007-08, and higher than those for Hickory and Newton-Conover. The rates for Hickory and Newton-Conover increased 9% and 20%, respectively, during that time period. The percentage of high school graduates pursuing higher education for Catawba district remained relatively stable in the low to mid-80's from 2000-01 to 2005-06, with the exception of 2003-04, when it dropped almost 30%. Hickory fluctuated around 90% and Newton-Conover remained in the 80's except for 2005-06 when it dipped to 77%. Public school expenditures per pupil for Catawba, Hickory, and Newton-Conover school districts each increased from 2000-01 to 2005-06, with Catawba spending the least

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009

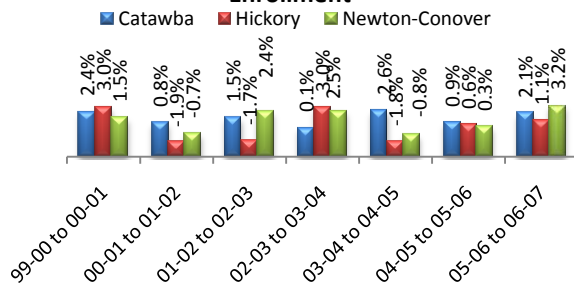
per pupil and Newton-Conover the most per pupil. The five-year average annual capital expenditure per pupil increased for Catawba district from 2004-05 to 2005-06, remained stable for Hickory, and decreased for Newton-Conover.

**Average SAT Scores (Math and Verbal)**



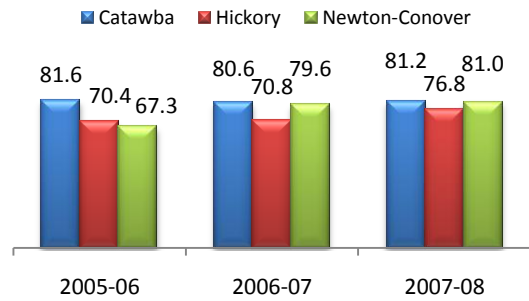
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

**Percent Change in Public School Enrollment**



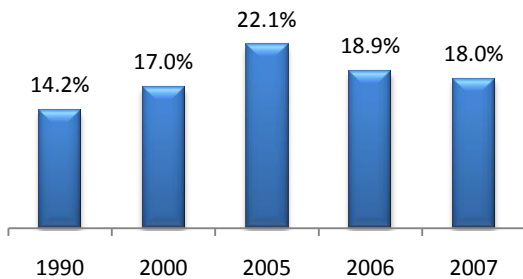
Source: National Center for Education Statistics

**High School Cohort Graduation Rate**



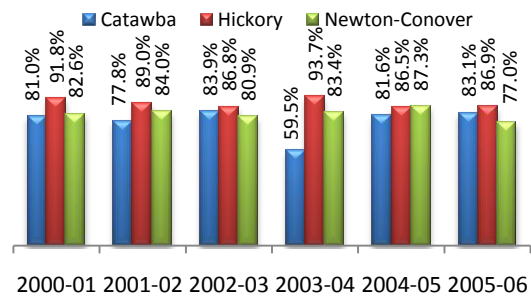
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

**Percent of Population 25 and Older with Bachelor's Degree or Higher**



Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

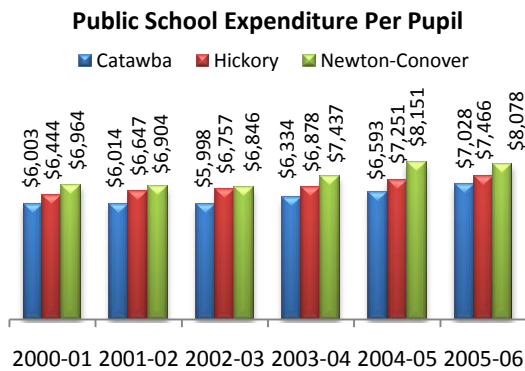
**Percent of High School Graduates Pursuing Higher Education**



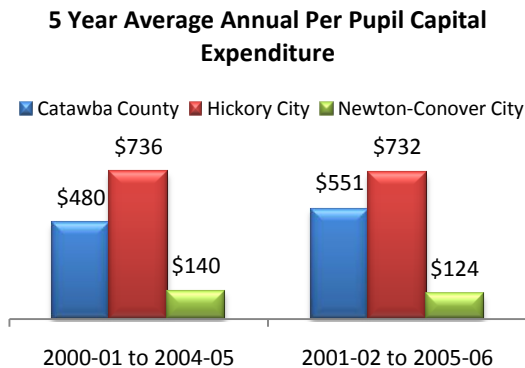
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009



Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education



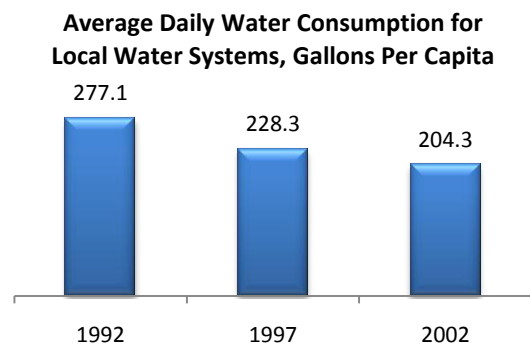
Source: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

### Environment

The environment is measured by six indicators:

- Air Quality Index (“AQI”);
- Vehicular Emissions;
- Water Consumption;
- Impaired Streams;
- Solid Waste Disposal; and
- Developed Acreage.

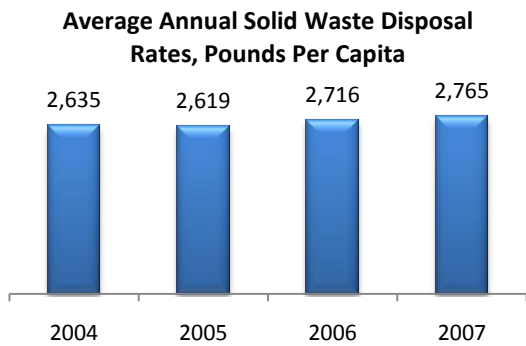
Of these, county-level data are available for all but AQI Days and Impaired Streams, which are available only at larger regional scales. While multi-year trend data are not available for per capita on-road vehicular NOx emissions, the Catawba County rate for 2002(103.6) was well above the average for the Charlotte region (82.8). Per capita average daily water consumption decreased 26% from 1992 to 2002. The per capita average annual amount of solid waste sent to landfills per capita increased 5% from 2004 to 2007. Developed acres per person in Catawba County rose each decade from 1976 to 2006, with the greatest increase from 1985 to 1996 when developed acres per person tripled. The number of developed acres per person is projected to increase almost 40% from 2006 to 2030.



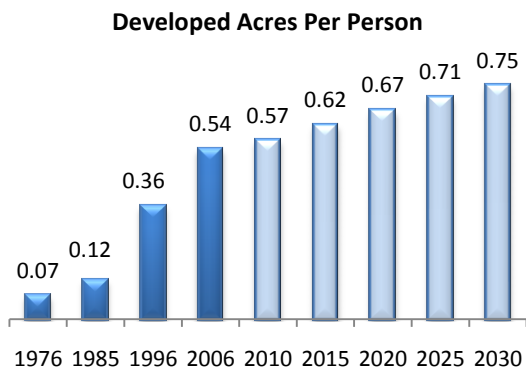
Source: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009



*Source: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control*



*Source: UNC Charlotte Center for Applied GIS*

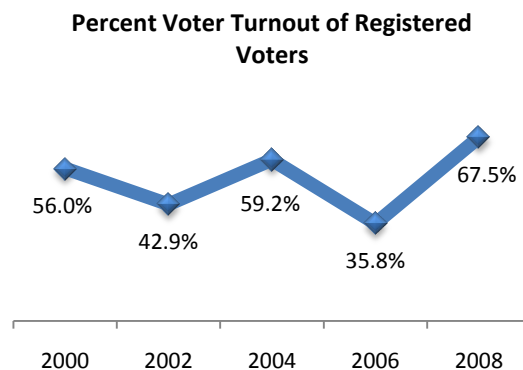
### Government and Citizen Participation

Indicators of government and citizen participation focused on five measures of voter turnout and charitable giving:

- Voter Turnout;
- Public Charities;
- Private Foundations;
- Giving to Public Charities; and
- Giving to Private Foundations.

Catawba County's voter turnout was higher in the 2008 presidential election

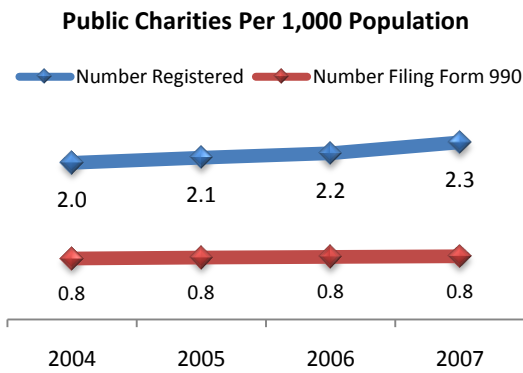
when compared to the 2004 and 2000 presidential elections, but the 2006 mid-term election turnout was significantly lower than in 2002. The ratio of public charities to population increased 15% from 2004 to 2007, while the corresponding ratio for larger public charities only (those using IRS Form 990 to report income greater than \$25,000) remained stable. The ratio to population for larger private foundations (those using IRS Form 990 to report income greater than \$25,000) decreased 10% from 2004 to 2007. Per capita giving to public charities increased 68% between 2001 and 2007, and fluctuated during that time period between a high of \$411.14 (2004) and a low of \$164.42 (2002). Per capita giving to private foundations increased 80% from 2001 to 2006, and fluctuated during that time period between a high of \$26.36 (2003) and a low of \$11.41 (2001).



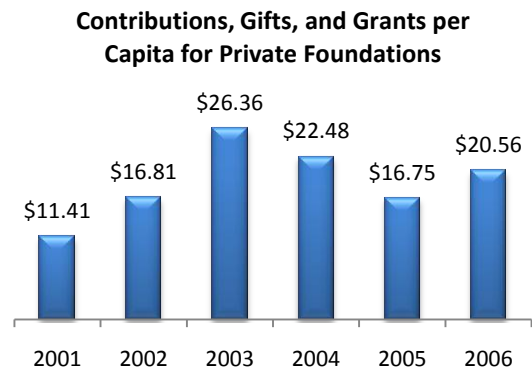
*Source: North Carolina State Board of Elections; South Carolina State Board of Elections*

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009

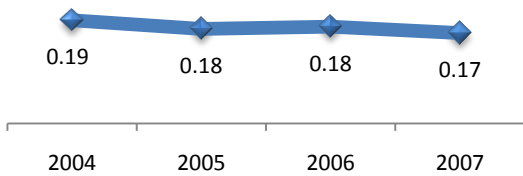


Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics



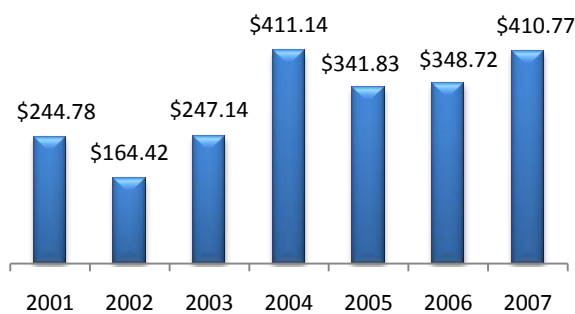
Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

**Number of Private 501(c)(3) Foundations Filing Form 990 Per 1,000 Population**



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

**Contributions, Gifts, and Grants per Capita for Public Charities**



Source: National Center for Charitable Statistics

### Health

Health is measured by five indicators:

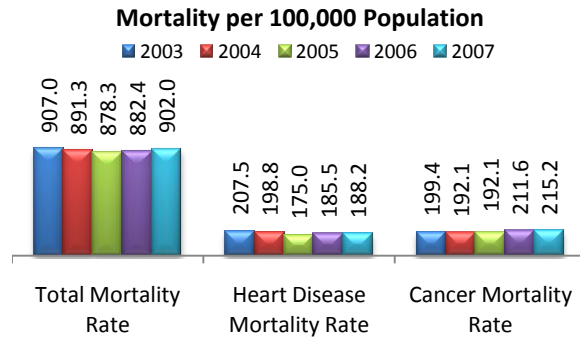
- Birth Rate;
- Infant Mortality;
- Mortality Rate;
- Suicide Rate; and
- Sexually-Transmitted Diseases Rate.

The birth rate decreased 8% from 2002 to 2004, and then increased slightly from 2004 to 2007. Total infant mortality rates increased slightly from 2003 to 2007, although there was considerable variation highlighted by decreases of 35% and 24% in 2004 and 2006, respectively. White infant mortality rates followed a similar pattern, while minority infant mortality rates showed both greater variability and an overall decrease of 29%. Total mortality remained relatively stable from 2003 to 2007. The mortality rate for heart disease decreased 9% from 2003 to 2007. The mortality rate for cancer increased 8% from 2003 to 2007. The suicide rate for

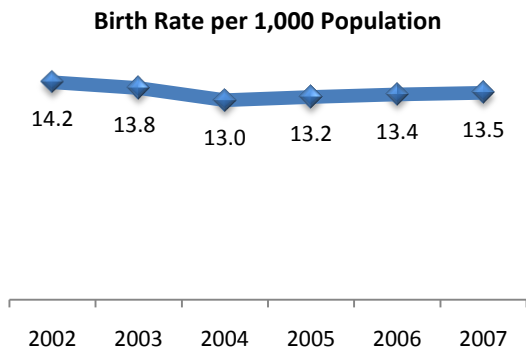
## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009

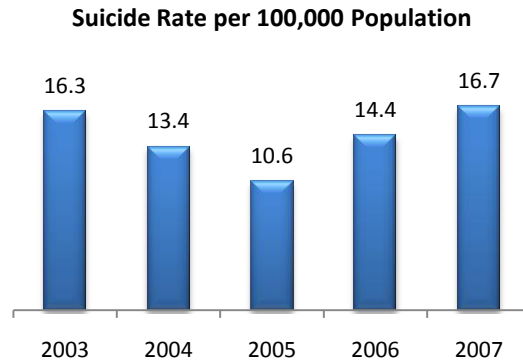
Catawba County decreased 35% from 2003 to 2005, and then increased 58% from 2005 to 2007, returning to 2003 levels. Incidence rates for the sexually-transmitted disease, chlamydia, increased by two-thirds from 2002 to 2006, and then decreased 9% in 2007. Incidence rates for gonorrhea more than doubled from 2002 to 2006, and then decreased 8% in 2007.



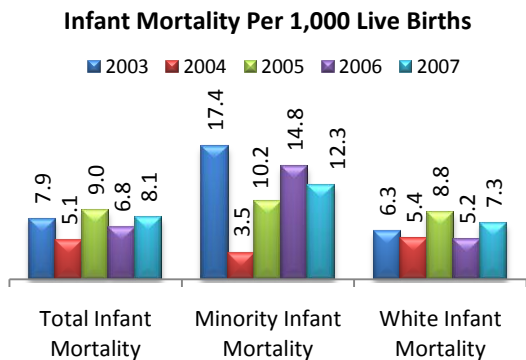
*Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control*



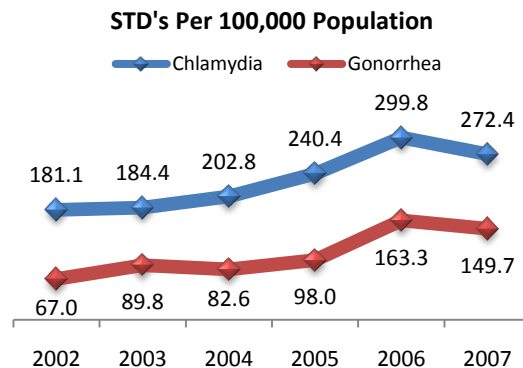
*Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control*



*Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control*



*Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control*



*Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control*

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009

#### Housing

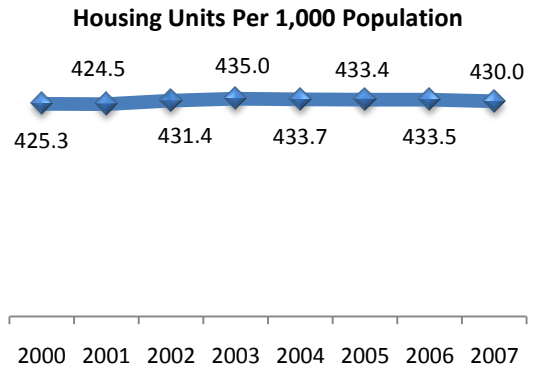
Housing is measured by six indicators:

- Housing Units;
- Housing Types;
- Home Ownership;
- Residential Construction;
- Sales; and,
- Rental and Vacancy Rates.

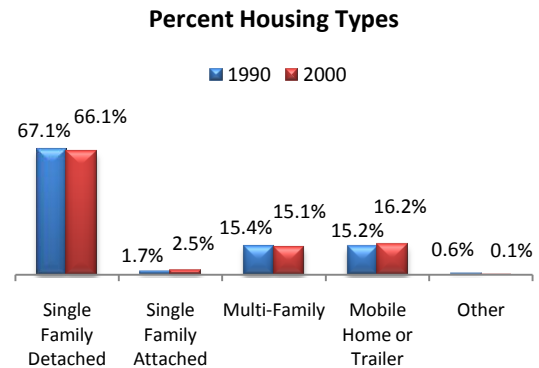
Of these, Sales and Rental and Vacancy Rates are unavailable for Catawba County.

The ratio of housing units to population remained stable from 2000 to 2007.

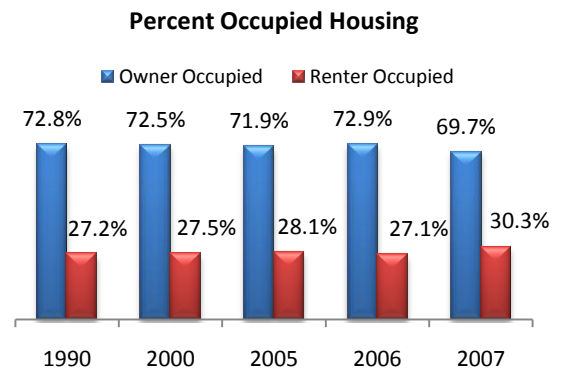
Housing type was dominated by single family detached housing in both 1990 and 2000. Multi-family housing and mobile home or trailer housing had roughly equal shares in 1990, but mobile home or trailer housing's share increased in 2000. Owner occupied housing decreased slightly from 1990 to 2007. As measured by housing units permitted per 1,000 persons, residential construction declined by nearly half from 2000 to 2007. Construction cost per unit permitted more than doubled from 2000 to 2007, with the only decrease (14%) occurring in 2001.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates Division



Source: US Census: Decennial

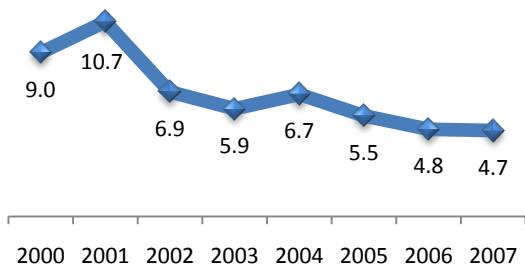


Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

## Indicator Trend Data

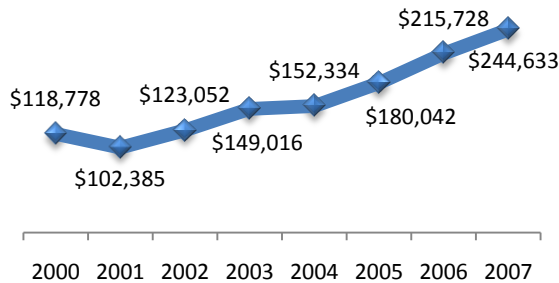
### Catawba County Profile 2009

**Number of Housing Units Permitted per 1,000 Population**



*Source: US Census: Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics*

**Construction Cost per Unit Permitted**



*Source: US Census: Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics*

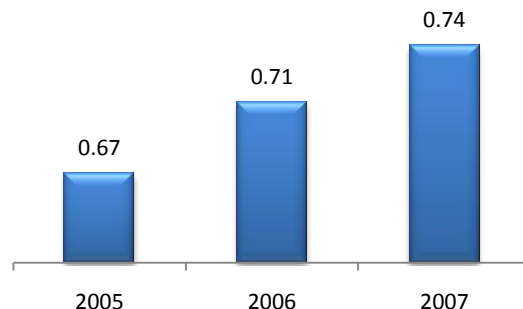
### Public Safety

Public Safety is measured by six indicators:

- 911 Calls;
- Crime Index;
- Vehicle Accidents;
- Workplace Fatalities;
- Public Safety Education; and
- Evacuation Plans and Disaster Preparedness.

Of these, county-level data are available for all except Public Safety Education. Per capita calls for emergency service increased 10% from 2005 to 2007. The crime rate for Catawba County increased 4% between 2000 and 2007, and fluctuated during that time period between a high of 514.6 (2005) and a low of 467.5 (2002). The total number of people in motor vehicle accidents decreased 11% from 2001 to 2007, based largely on the declines in people in crashes involving non-fatal injuries and in people in crashes involving property damage only. The number of people in crashes involving fatalities increased 43% during this time period. Investigated workplace fatalities ranged from zero to three from 2002 to 2008. As of early 2009, Catawba County had in place all nine evacuation planning and disaster preparedness measures.

**Calls for Emergency Service Per Capita**

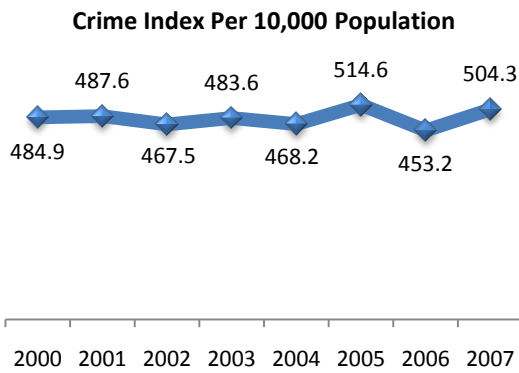


*Source: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute*

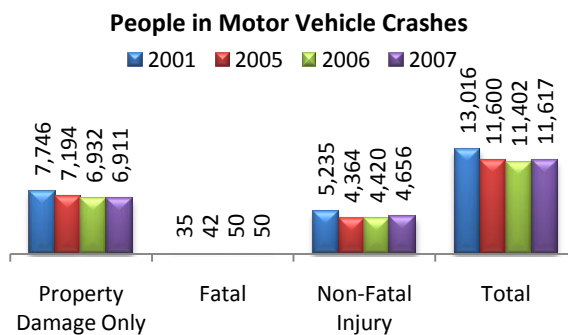


## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009



*Source: North Carolina Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division*



*Source: Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; South Carolina Department of Public Safety*



*Source: North Carolina Department of Labor; South Carolina Department of Labor*

### Evacuation and Disaster Preparedness, 2009

✔ Yes   
 ● No   
 ▼ Limited/Partial

Emergency/disaster response plan	✔
Evacuation plan	✔
Have had mock disaster drill in the last year	✔
Means to quickly warn citizens about a threat situation (Reverse 911 system)	✔
Radio interoperability for emergency personnel; full coverage within county	✔
Radio interoperability for emergency personnel; with surrounding counties	✔
Emergency response team for incidents involving chemical, biological or nuclear weapons	✔
Regular training sessions for fire, police, and emergency personnel for disaster preparation	✔
Mutual assistance agreement with surrounding counties	✔

*Source: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute*

### Social Well-being

Social Well-being indicators include these five measures:

- Poverty Rate;
- Child Poverty Rate;
- Child Abuse;
- Teenage Birth Rate; and
- Elderly Assistance Rate.

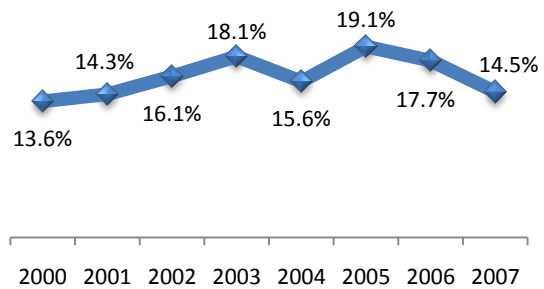
The poverty rate for individuals increased 57% from 2000 to 2005, and then decreased 48% from 2005 to 2007.

## Indicator Trend Data

### Catawba County Profile 2009

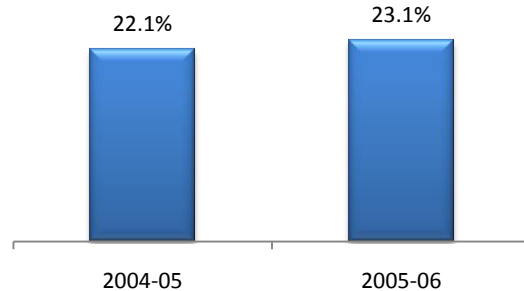
Similarly, the poverty rate for families increased 60% from 2000 to 2005, and then decreased 28% from 2005 to 2007. The percentage of children in poverty increased 40% from 2000 to 2005, and then decreased 24% from 2005 to 2007. The percentage of substantiated reports of child abuse increased slightly from 2004-05 to 2005-06. The percentage of births to teenage mothers decreased 14% from 2001 to 2007, and fluctuated during that time between a high of 4.4% (2004) and a low of 3.4% (2002). Catawba County's percentage of elderly needing assistance with daily activities decreased 16% from 2000 to 2005, and then increased 10% from 2005 to 2007.

**Percent of Children Living in Poverty**



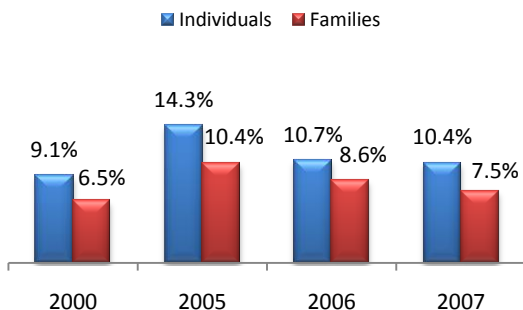
*Source: U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates*

**Percent of Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect Substantiated**



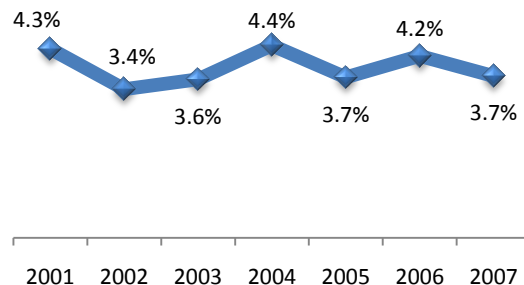
*Source: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Prevent Child Abuse South Carolina*

**Percent Living in Poverty**



*Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey*

**Percent of Births to Mothers Under Age 18**

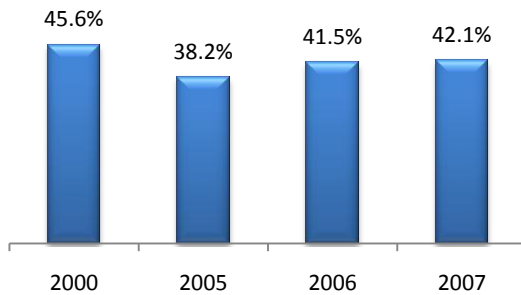


*Source: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health Statistics; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board Office of Research Statistics*

## Indicator Trend Data

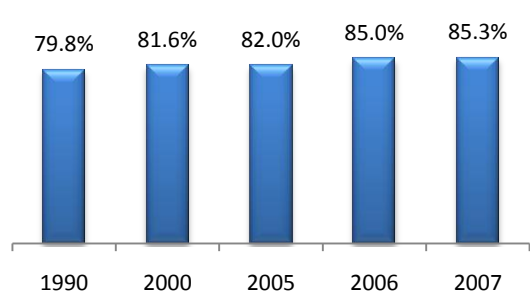
### Catawba County Profile 2009

**Percent of Elderly Needing Assistance  
to Perform Activities of Daily Living**



*Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey*

**Percent of Workers 16 or Older Driving  
to Work Alone**



*Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey*

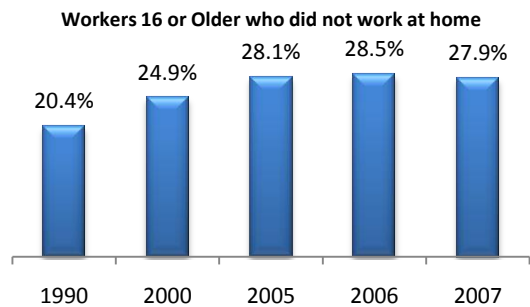
### Transportation

Transportation is measured by four indicators:

- Commuting Alone;
- Average Travel Delay;
- Commute Time; and,
- Airport Travelers.

Of these, only Commuting Alone and Commute Time are represented at the county level. Catawba County's percentage of workers driving to work alone increased 7% from 1990 to 2007. The percentage of workers commuting more than 25 minutes increased 40% from 1990 to 2006, and then decreased slightly in 2007.

**Percent of Workers Commuting More  
than 25 Minutes**



*Source: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey*

# Data Definitions

## Catawba County Profile 2009

A complete definition is given below for each indicator, identifying the specific quantitative measurement the indicator represents. Definitions are listed by theme area, with the indicator's "short name" shown first, followed by the "long name" and/or explanation of how the indicator is calculated.

### **Demographics**

**Annual Population Estimates:** Measures the annual estimate of population.

**Decennial Population and Projections:** The measurement of past population and future population projections on a decennial basis.

**Percent Population Growth:** This indicator measures the annual percentage growth of the population from the previous year.

**Race and Ethnicity:** This indicator measures the composition of both race and ethnicity for the population.

**Age Distribution:** Age Distribution looks at the range of ages for the population.

### **Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life**

**Grants Expenditures:** Dollars per capita in state and federal appropriations awarded to arts and cultural organizations through the North Carolina Arts Commission and the South Carolina Arts Commission.

**Library Holdings:** Per capita number of public library print holdings and print serial subscriptions (excluding electronic documents.)

**Library Funding:** Per capita government funding for public libraries (excluding libraries at state universities or colleges.)

**Arts Graduates:** Annual number of undergraduate and graduate degree completions in the arts, music and theater from all institutions of higher education in the region, including private and public universities, technical and community colleges and other colleges.

### **Economy**

**Labor Force:** The civilian workforce is the number of workers employed or looking for work, including members of the military. The labor force

unemployment rate is the ratio of the number of unemployed to the total civilian workforce.

**Industry Employment:** Total Employment, All Industries is the total number of jobs across all industry classifications. Employment by Industry is the number of jobs in each industry sector by the North American Industry Classification System's standard two-digit sector codes.

**Business Establishments:** Business Establishments, All Industries, is the total number of physical locations of businesses in all industry classifications; note that a business may have more than one physical location, each of which counts as a "business establishment." Business Establishments by Industry is the number of business establishments in each industry sector by the North American Industry Classification System's standard two-digit sector codes.

**Average Annual Wage:** Average Annual Wage, All Industries is the annual total wages across all jobs, divided by total number of jobs in all industry classifications. Average Annual Wage by Industry is the annual total wages in jobs in a given industry sector (defined by the North American Industry Classification System's standard two-digit sector codes) divided by the total number of jobs in that same industry sector.

**Per Capita Income:** Total personal income divided by total population.

**Median Household Income:** Median Household Income is the income of the particular household for which there are an equal number of households with more income and of households with less income.

### **Education**

**Public School Enrollment:** Public School Enrollment is the percentage change in public school enrollment from the previous school year, by school district and for the region. The enrollment data includes students from pre-kindergarten through grade 12.

**Education Attainment:** This indicator measures the percentage of the working-age population (age 25 and older) with a bachelor's degree or higher.

**SAT Scores:** Examines the average Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score as a percentage of the U.S. average score, for each of the region's 21 school districts and for the region as a whole. Average scores are published both for individual high schools and for school districts, based on

## Data Definitions

### Catawba County Profile 2009

scores of all students taking the SAT in a given year. Students taking the SAT are mostly juniors in high school, but can include some sophomores and seniors as well.

**Graduation Rate:** The figures are the four-year cohort graduation rate, which reflects the number of graduating seniors in a given year as a percentage of the number of enrolled ninth graders from three years prior – in effect, it is the percent of ninth graders who graduate four years later.

**College Plans:** This indicator tracks the higher-education plans of high school seniors for the year after they graduate from public high schools. Percentages are calculated for students planning on attending two-year, four-year or community colleges, and for those with no plans for higher education (this may include military service).

**Expenditures Per Pupil:** This indicator measures expenditures per pupil in public schools, excluding capital expenditures. A regional figure was estimated for each school year by multiplying expenditures per pupil by enrollment figures for each school district. The sum of total expenditures across all districts was divided by the total regional enrollment to estimate the regional expenditure per pupil.

**Capital Expenditures:** Public school capital expenditures per pupil are measured both for school districts and the region. A five-year average is calculated because capital spending by school districts fluctuates significantly from year to year. Total capital expenditures were divided by total enrollment to produce an annual per pupil capital expenditure for each school year. Those annual figures were then averaged to produce an average per pupil capital expenditure in public education for the five-year period.

#### **Environment**

**Air Quality Index:** The percentage of Air Quality Index (AQI) days per year in the “Unhealthy” ranges for the Charlotte-Gastonia-Rock Hill Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The EPA calculates a daily AQI based on the measurement of five major air pollutants regulated by the Clean Air Act, as recorded at approximately 4,000 monitoring stations across the country. The five pollutants are: ground-level ozone, particle pollution (also known as particulate matter), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxides (NOx). A daily index value is calculated for each air pollutant measured. The highest of those index

values is the AQI value, and the pollutant responsible for the highest index value is the “Main Pollutant.”

**Vehicle Emissions:** This indicator measures on-road vehicular emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) in the 14-county region. States are required by the EPA to collect and report emissions data every three years.

**Water Consumption:** The indicator examines local water system use in average gallons per day per person served by the water systems. This indicator includes only the use of water by local water systems filing reports with the states, and excludes water used for agriculture or power generation, water drawn from individual wells and permitted water intakes by residential or industrial water consumers. These local water systems include municipal, county, and private water systems.

**Impaired Streams:** This indicator measures looks at impaired stream miles as a percentage of total stream miles in the 11 North Carolina counties in the Charlotte region. It also examines monitoring sites reporting impaired streams in the three South Carolina counties in the region.

**Solid Waste Disposal:** The Solid Waste Disposal indicator quantifies the disposal of municipal solid waste (MSW) and construction and demolition (C&D) debris. Both states adjust their county-level data to exclude waste “imported” from other places and to include waste “exported” to other places, providing a measure of waste generated from within each county that is disposed at landfills, regardless of where the disposal occurs.

**Developed Acreage:** This indicator measures developed land in acres per person. Developed acres include both residential and nonresidential development, excluding agriculture, and are assessed using satellite imagery, taken at roughly 10-year intervals from 1976 to 2006.

#### **Government and Citizen Participation**

**Private Foundations:** Private Foundations are registered 501(c)(3) private foundations that have filed Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990. Foundations designated as 501(c)(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code are exempt from federal income taxes because they are operated solely for religious, charitable, scientific, public-safety (testing), literary or educational purposes; amateur sports competition or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

## Data Definitions

### Catawba County Profile 2009

**Public Charities:** Public Charities are registered 501(c)(3) public charities in the region, including those that have filed an Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990. Public charities designated as 501(c)(3) organizations under the Internal Revenue Code are exempt from federal income taxes because they are operated solely for religious, charitable, scientific, public safety (testing), literary or educational purposes; amateur sports competition or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals.

**Giving (Public Charities):** This indicator measures the amount of contributions, gifts, and grants given to 501(c)(3) public charities located in the region and filing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990.

**Giving (Private Foundations):** This indicator measures the amount of contributions, gifts and grants received by 501(c)(3) private foundations located in the region and filing Internal Revenue Service (IRS) Form 990.

**Voter Turnout:** This indicator represents the percentage of registered voters who voted in election years 2000, 2002, 2004 and 2006.

#### **Health**

**Mortality Rate:** Mortality Rates are calculated as the number of deaths per 100,000 population. Mortality Rates for heart disease and cancer were also calculated.

**STD Rate:** These indicators report sexually transmitted disease rates for Gonorrhea and Chlamydia as the number of cases per 100,000 persons.

**Infant Mortality Rate:** Infant Mortality Rates reflect deaths of infants aged one year or younger per 1,000 live births. The data also compare infant mortality rates for minorities and whites.

**Birth Rate:** Birth Rate measures the number of live births reported per 1,000 persons.

**Suicide Rate:** Suicide Rate is reported as deaths by suicide per 100,000 persons.

#### **Housing**

**Housing Units:** The indicator represents the number of housing units per capita and includes all types of residential development, encompassing single-family homes, apartments, condos, townhomes and all other housing types.

**Housing Types:** Housing Types include single-family detached, single-family attached (row houses or townhomes), multi-family units, mobile homes and all other housing (such as boats, RVs and vans).

**Home Ownership:** Home Ownership measures owner-occupied and renter-occupied housing as a percentage of occupied housing units.

**Residential Construction:** This indicator measures the number of housing units for which building permits were issued. The indicator is expressed as housing units per 1,000 persons.

**Sales:** This indicator measures the rate of residential real estate closings (the number of closings per 1,000 persons) and the average price of such home sales for single-family homes, condominiums and townhomes.

**Rent and Vacancy Rates:** The apartment vacancy rate is the percent of all apartments that are vacant as of the date of the survey call on that certain day. The rental rate is the average rent in dollars per month.

#### **Public Safety**

**911 Calls:** This indicator measures the annual per capita calls for 911 Emergency Service.

**Crime Index:** This indicator measures the number of crimes per 10,000 persons. It is the sum of the crime rates per 10,000 persons for seven categories of crimes: murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor-vehicle thefts.

**Vehicle Accidents:** People in Motor Vehicle Accidents measures the total number of people in motor-vehicle accidents and whether the accidents involved a fatality, non-fatal injuries, or property damage only.

**Workplace Fatalities:** This indicator examines the number of workplace fatalities in the region that have been investigated or are under investigation.

**Public Safety Education:** Public Safety Education looks at the number of colleges and universities in the 14-county region with a two- or four-year degree in criminal justice, fire safety or emergency-medical training.

**Evacuation Planning:** Evacuation Planning addressed evacuation plans and disaster preparedness through a survey designed by the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute. Survey questions concerned reverse 911 systems, radio

## Data Definitions

### Catawba County Profile 2009

interoperability, disaster training, disaster response and evacuation plans, mutual-assistance agreements, and related topics.

#### **Social Well-being**

**Poverty Rate:** This indicator measures the percentage of families and individuals in the region living in poverty. “Living in poverty” is defined by federally-determined income thresholds verifying what is needed to feed, clothe and economically sustain an individual or families of specified sizes (for example, “a family of four”.) Any family or individual whose income does not reach the threshold amount is considered to be in poverty.

**Child Poverty:** Child Poverty measures the percentage of children under the age of 18, living at or below the poverty level. “Living in poverty” is defined using federally-defined poverty thresholds.

**Child Abuse:** Child Abuse measures substantiated reports of child abuse or neglect per county for the fiscal year. It represents only the percentage of abuse and/or neglect reports made to each county’s child protective services that are substantiated by those agencies, based on investigative findings.

**Teenage Birth Rate:** Teenage Birth Rate measures the number of births to mothers under the age of 18 as a percent of all births.

**Elderly Assistance Rate:** This indicator measures the percentage of individuals age 65 or older who require assistance in performing Activities of Daily Living (ADL). Activities of Daily Living include eating, dressing, bathing, personal hygiene-related tasks, transfers (the ability to get in and out of a bed or chair), ambulation and communication.

#### **Transportation**

**Commuting Alone:** This indicator measures the percent of workers 16 or older who drive to work alone by car, truck or van.

**Average Travel Delay:** This section focuses on travel delays during peak travel times – considered to be from 6 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. The figures are calculated by dividing the number of extra travel hours by the number of peak period travelers in an urban area. The average annual travel delay per peak traveler is the yearly sum of delays per peak trip, divided by the number of travelers who started a trip during the peak period.

**Commute Length:** Commute Length measures the percentage of workers 16 or older not working at home who commute more than 25 minutes.

**Airport Travelers:** This indicator measures the number of passengers boarding planes (“enplanements”) and disembarking from planes (“deplanements”) at Charlotte/Douglas International Airport. Passengers making connecting flights at Charlotte/Douglas are included in these figures.

## **Data Sources**

### Catawba County Profile 2009

Data Sources for each indicator are listed below. Data for the 2009 County Profiles were compiled using these sources from November, 2008 through January, 2009.

#### **Demographics**

Population Estimates: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Population Projections: NC Office of State Budget and Management, NC State Demographics; South Carolina State

Budget and Control Board Office of Research Statistics, SC Community Profiles

Population Growth: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Race and Ethnicity: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

Age and Gender: US Census: Decennial, Estimates Division

#### **Arts, Recreation, and Cultural Life**

Grants Expenditures: North Carolina Arts Council; South Carolina Arts Commission

Arts Graduates: National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), IPEDS database

Library Funding: North Carolina Department of State Treasurer; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board

Library Holdings: National Center for Education Statistics (Library Research Center)

#### **Economy**

Labor Force: Bureau of Labor Statistics

Industry Employment: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Business Establishments: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Average Annual Wage: North Carolina Employment Security Commission; South Carolina Employment Security Commission

Per Capita Income: Bureau of Economic Analysis

Median Household Income: U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Division

#### **Education**

Public School Enrollment: National Center for Education Statistics

Educational Attainment: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

SAT Scores: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Graduation Rate: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

College Plans: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Expenditures Per Pupil: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

Capital Expenditures: North Carolina Department of Public Instruction; SC Dept. of Education

#### **Environment**

Air Quality Index: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Vehicle Emissions: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Water Consumption: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Impaired Streams: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Solid Waste Disposal: North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources; South



## Data Sources

### Catawba County Profile 2009

Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Developed Acreage: UNC Charlotte Center for Applied GIS

#### **Governmental and Citizen Participation**

Private Foundations: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Public Charities: National Center for Charitable Statistics

Giving (Public Charities): National Center for Charitable Statistics

Giving (Private Foundations): National Center for Charitable Statistics

Voter Turnout: North Carolina State Board of Elections; South Carolina State Board of Elections

#### **Health**

Mortality Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

STD Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Infant Mortality Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Birth Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

Suicide Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control

#### **Housing**

Housing Units: U.S. Census Bureau, Estimates Division

Housing Types: US Census: Decennial

Home Ownership: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Residential Construction: US Census: Manufacturing, Mining and Construction Statistics

Sales: Carolina Multiple Listing Services, Charlotte Regional Realtor

Rent and Vacancy Rates: Carolinas Real Data

#### **Public Safety**

911 Calls: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

Crime Index: North Carolina Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation; South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Vehicle Accidents: Highway Safety Research Center at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; South Carolina Department of Public Safety

Workplace Fatalities: North Carolina Department of Labor; South Carolina Department of Labor

Public Safety Education: National Center for Education Statistics

Evacuation Planning: Survey Questionnaire Administered by UNC Charlotte Urban Institute

#### **Social Well-Being**

Poverty Rate: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

Child Poverty Rate: U.S. Census, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates

Child Abuse: North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services; Prevent Child Abuse South Carolina

Teenage Birth Rate: NC Department of Health & Human Services State Center for Health; South Carolina State Budget and Control Board Office of Research

Elderly Assistance Rate: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

#### **Transportation**

Commuting Alone: US Census: Decennial, American Community Survey

## **Data Sources**

Catawba County Profile 2009

Average Travel Delay: Texas Transportation  
Institute (TTI)

Commute Length: US Census: Decennial,  
American Community Survey

Airport Travelers: Charlotte/Douglas Aviation  
Activity Reports

## Endnotes

### Catawba County Profile 2009

<sup>1</sup>Indicator data at the regional level was calculated whenever possible as a weighted average of the source data for all 14 counties. However, in the following instances, the regional figure is calculated differently:

Library Funding Per Capita: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Library Print Holdings Per Capita: Region Number represents 13 of 14 counties excluding Anson

Median Household Income: Region Number represents North Carolina state average

Percent Population with Bachelors Degree or Higher: Region Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester, and Stanly

High School Cohort Graduation Rate: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Average Daily Water Consumption, Gallons Per Capita: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Solid Waste Disposal, Pounds Per Capita: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Percent Voter Turnout of Registered Voters: Region Number represents 11 North Carolina counties

Birth Rate Per 1,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Total Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

White Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Minority Infant Mortality Per 1,000 Live Births: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Total Mortality Rate Per 100,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Heart Disease Mortality Rate Per 100,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Cancer Mortality Rate Per 100,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Suicide Rate Per 100,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Chlamydia Rate Per 100,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Gonorrhea Rate Per 100,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Percent Owner Occupied Housing: Regional Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester and Stanly

Percent Renter Occupied Housing: Regional Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester and Stanly

Calls for Emergency Service (911) Per Capita: Region Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Lancaster and Union.

Crime Index Per 10,000: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Total: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Property Damage Only: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Fatality: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

People in Motor Vehicle Accidents, Non-fatal Injury: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Investigated Workplace Fatalities: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

Percent Individuals Living in Poverty: Regional Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester and Stanly

Percent Families Living in Poverty: Regional Number represents 10 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester, Lancaster and Stanly

Percent Births to Mothers Under Age 18: Region Number represents the 11 North Carolina counties

## Endnotes

### Catawba County Profile 2009

Elderly Assistance Rate: Region Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester, and Stanly

Percent of Workers 16 or Older Driving to Work Alone: Region Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester and Stanly

Percent of Workers Commuting More Than 25 Minutes: Region Number represents 11 of 14 counties excluding Anson, Chester, and Stanly

<sup>2</sup>Catawba County school data is represented by the Catawba County school district, Hickory City school district, and the Newton-Conover school district

<sup>3</sup>For the indicator, 'Percent Change in Public School Enrollment vs. Prior Year,' the 'County Percent Change' column contains the five year percent change in enrollment (that is, the most recent year's number of students enrolled is compared to enrollment from four years prior, instead of comparing the most recent annual percent change to the annual percent change of four years ago).

## Acknowledgements

Catawba County Profile 2009

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