



North Carolina's Shifting Demographics:

What it Means for the Future

NC Association of Financial Aid Administrators
Virtual Conference
November 7th, 2023

Dr. Nathan Dollar, PhD

Executive Director, Carolina Demography

About Carolina Demography

Who we are

Carolina Demography is the applied demography unit of the Carolina Population Center (CPC) at UNC-Chapel Hill. We are a non-partisan team of population scientists working for the people of North Carolina.

Our Mission

We help people understand a changing North Carolina to make informed decisions.

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About Carolina Demography: What We Do



Find and Collect Data

We work with you to determine the data you need, and where and how to access that data.



Clean, Analyze, & Interpret Data

We use rigorous methods to translate the data and provide meaningful context.



Communicate data and engage stakeholders

We strengthen the capacity of your organization to communicate data-driven ideas.



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10,667,874

2022 North Carolina total population



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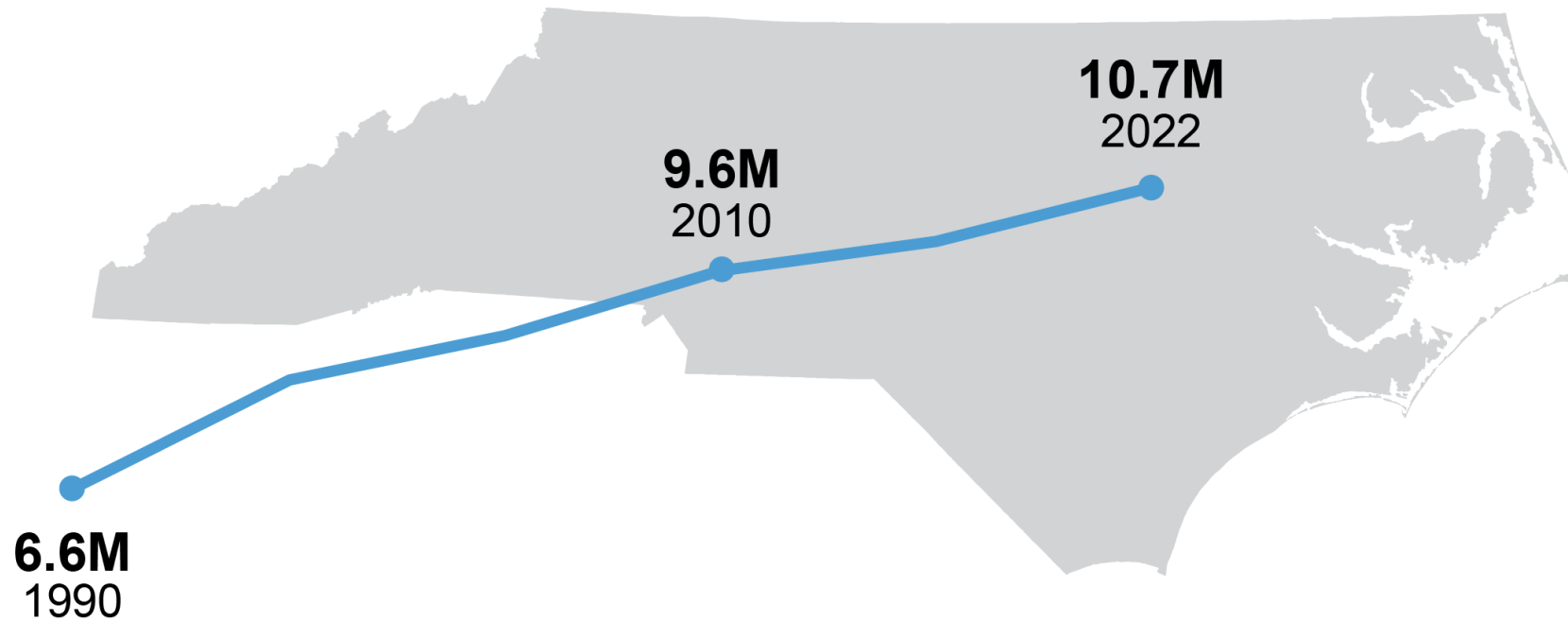
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Source: US Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program, Vintage 2022

Current population

+ 4.1 million new North Carolina residents since 1990



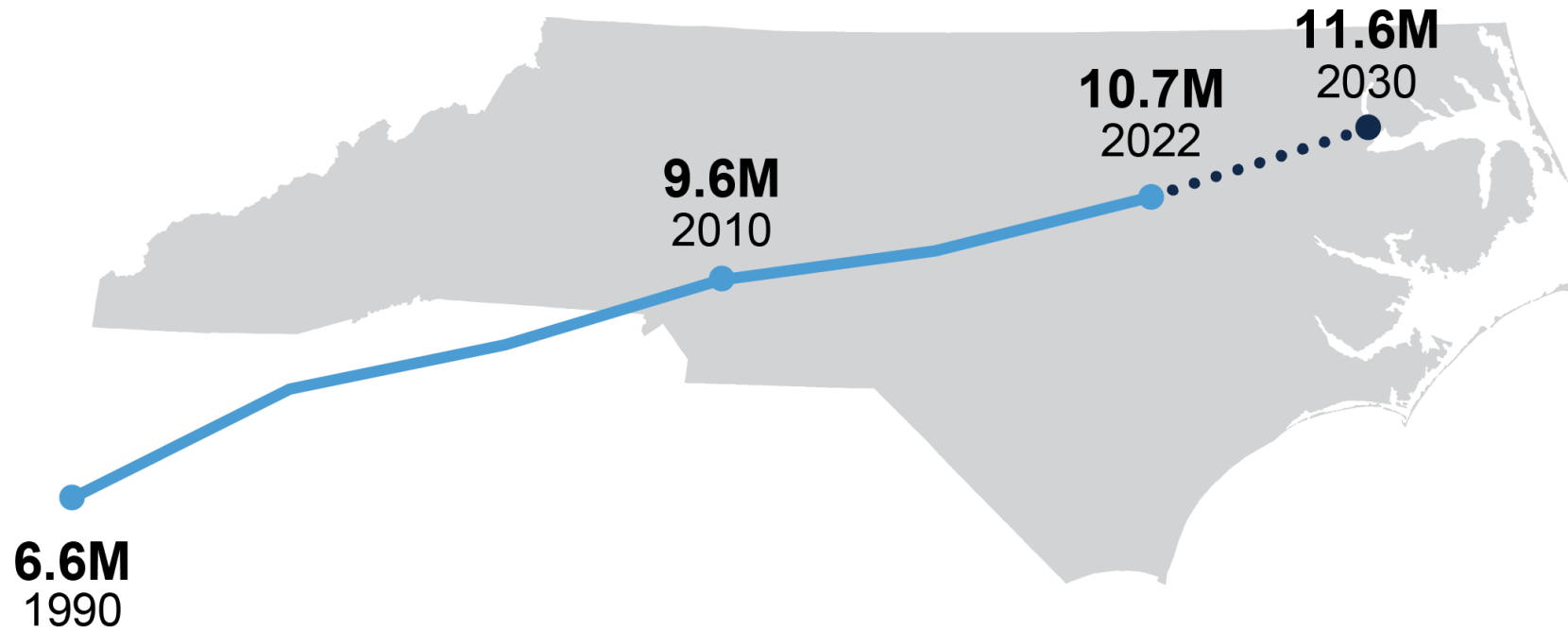
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Population projected to reach 11.6 million by 2030

Projected population growth



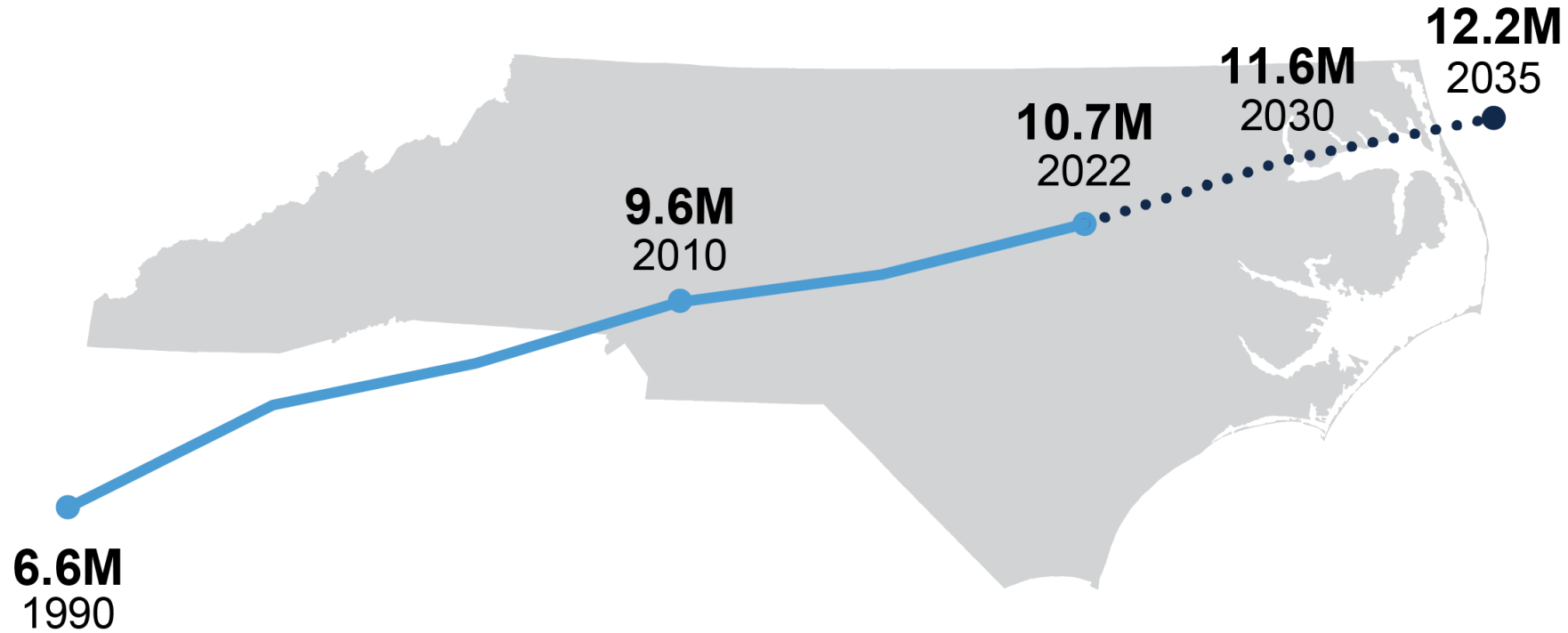
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Population projected to reach 12.2M by 2035

Projected population growth



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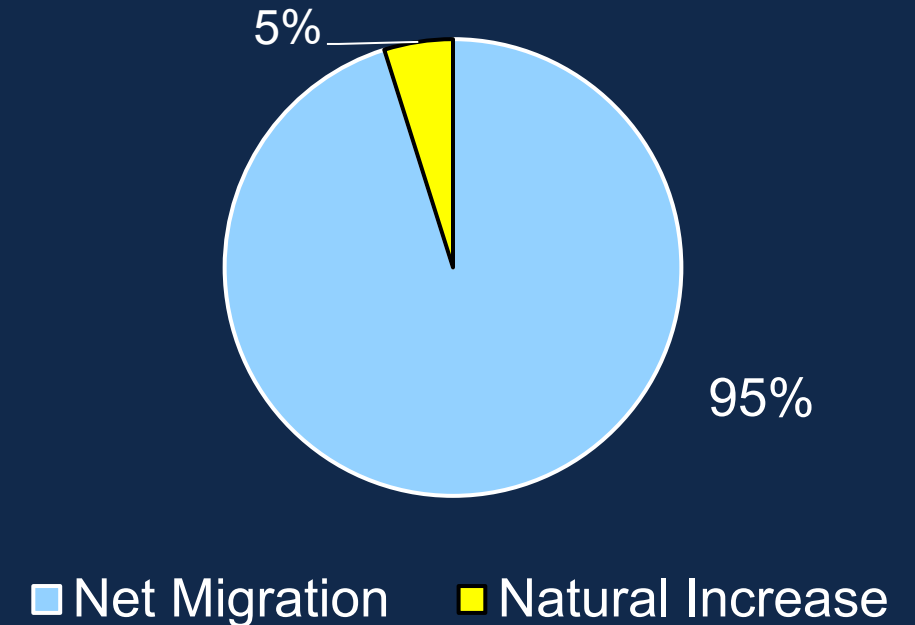
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Components of Population Change from July 1, 2021 - July 1, 2022

NC Population change: +133,088

Components of Change:

- **Natural Increase** (Births – Deaths) = 6,459
- **Net Migration** (International + Domestic) = 126,226

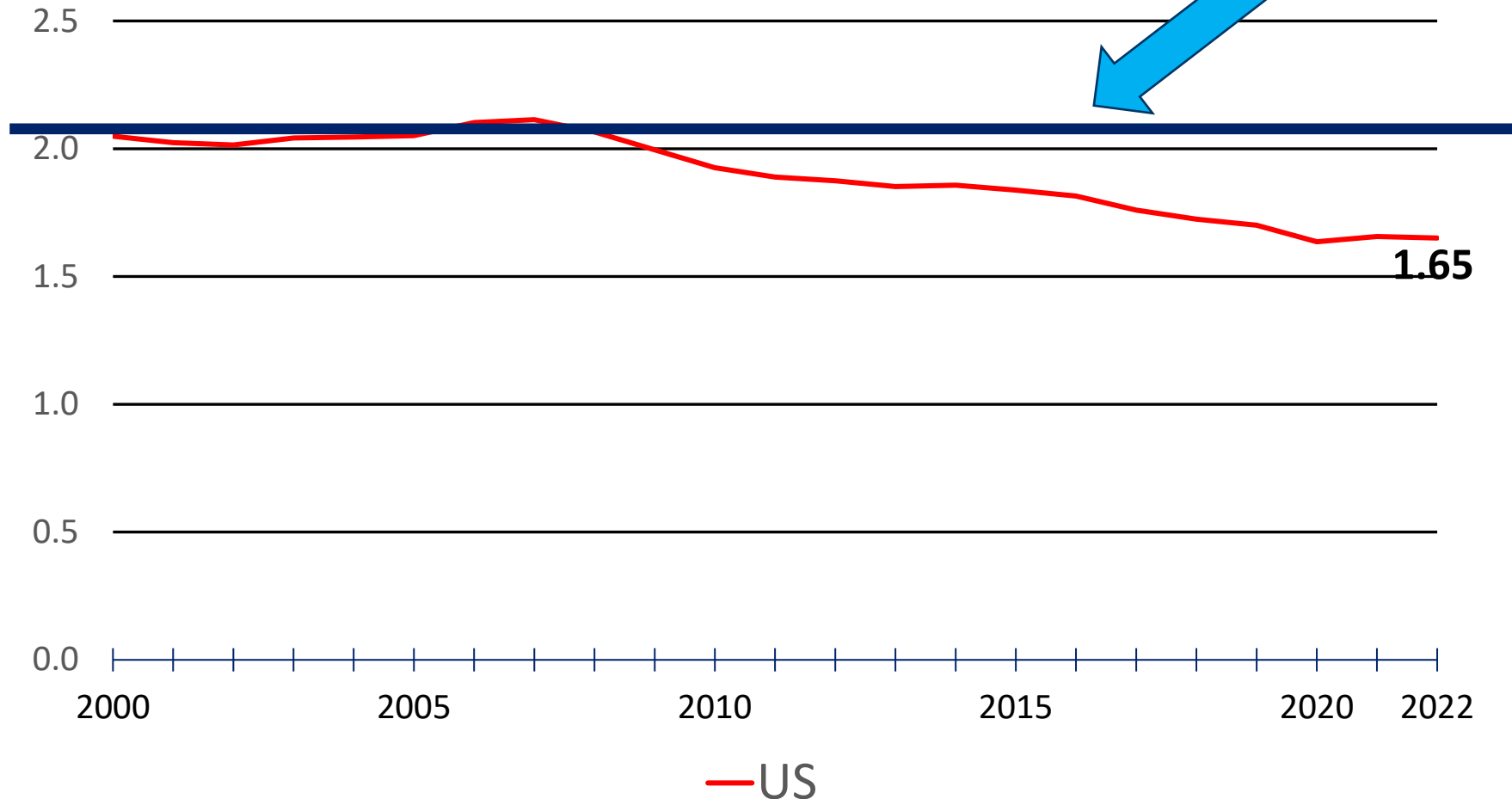


Source: US Census Bureau

Below Replacement Fertility

North Carolina Mirrors National Trend in Declining Total Fertility Rate

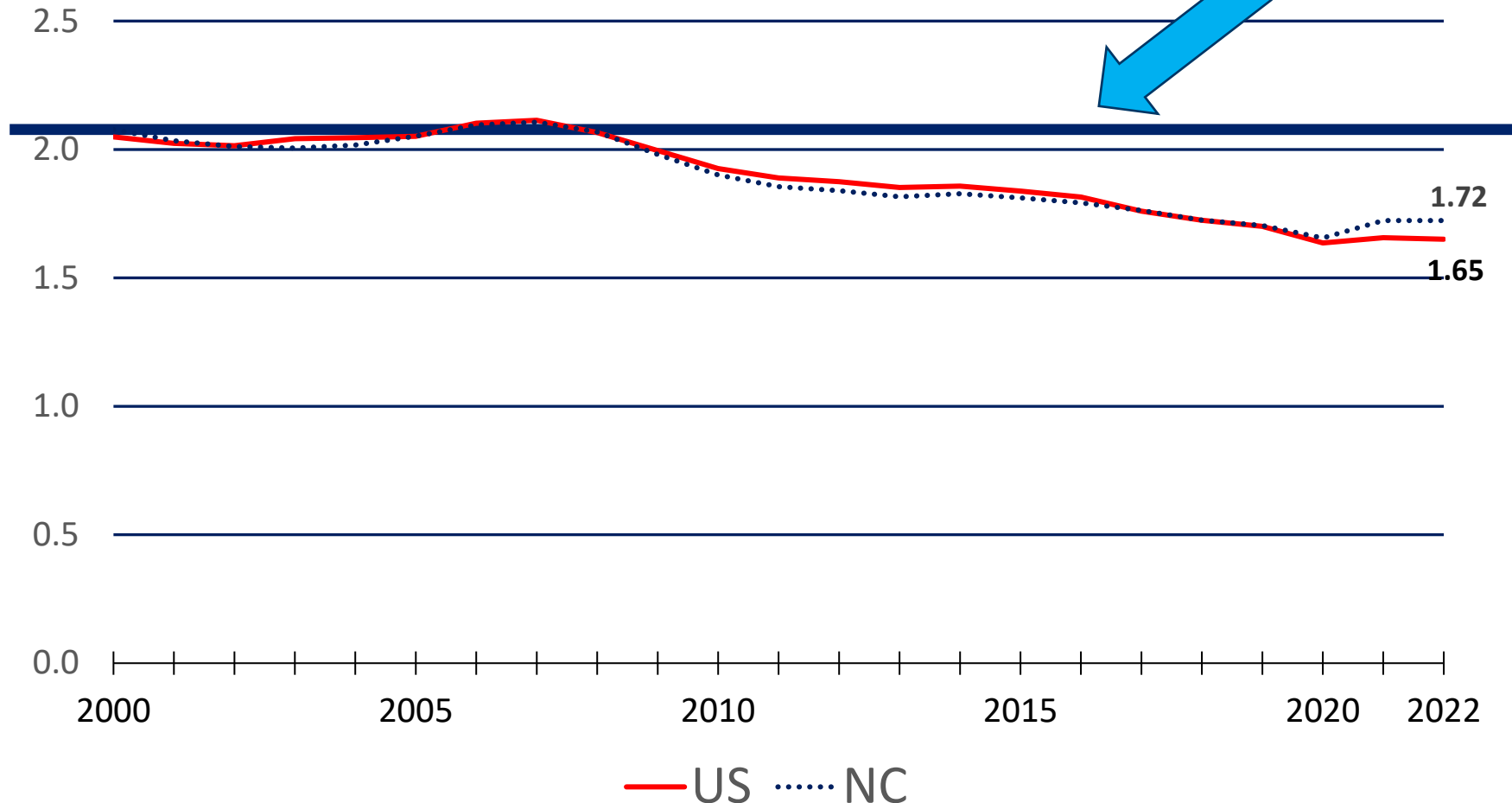
Replacement Level
2.1



Below Replacement Fertility

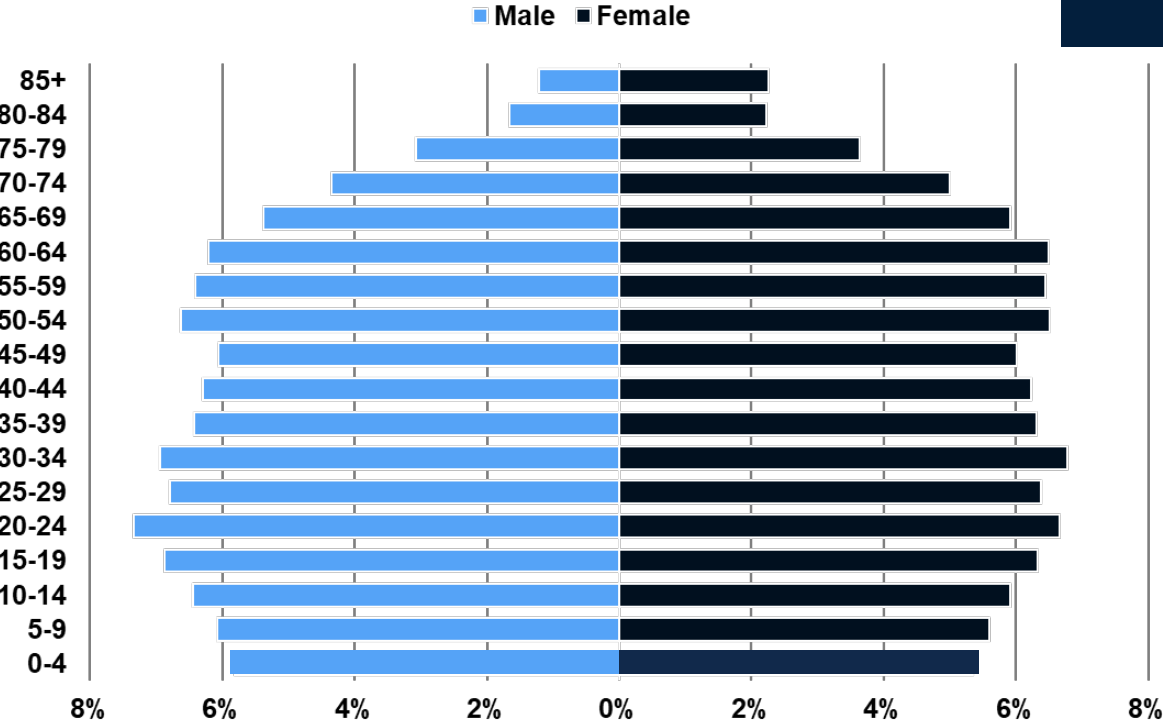
North Carolina Mirrors National Trend in Declining Total Fertility Rate

Replacement Level
2.1



We are getting older...

Population age structure by sex, 2022

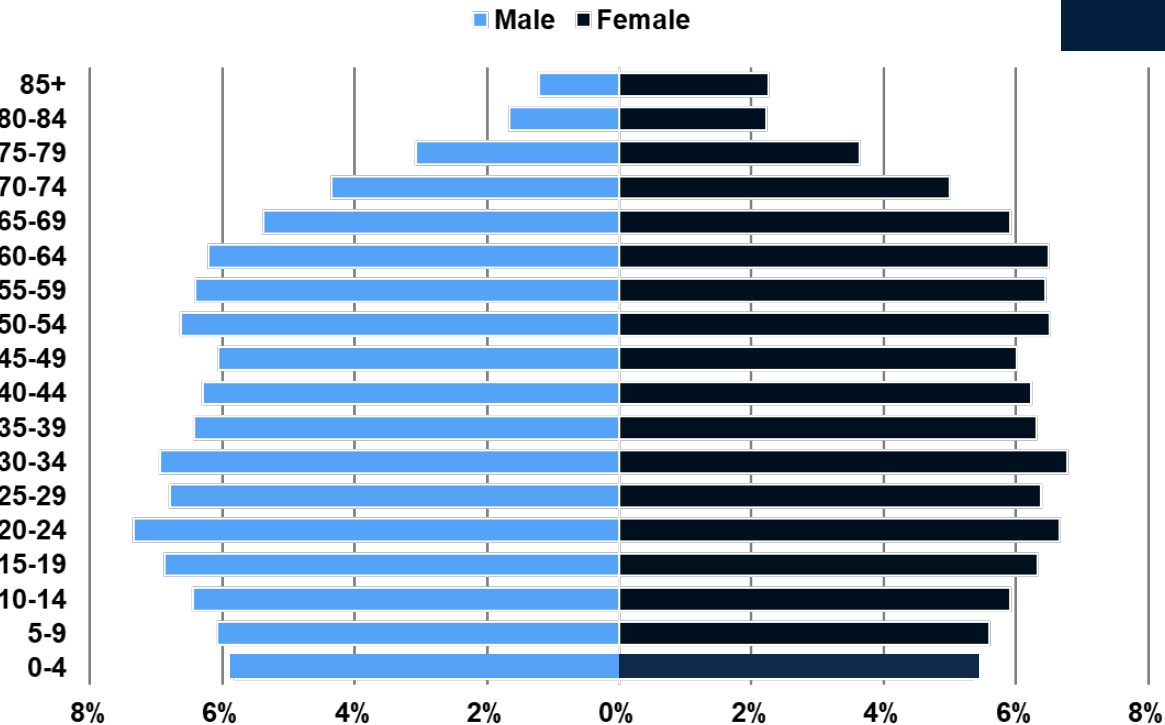


Median Age
39.2

Source: US Census Bureau 2022 Population Estimates

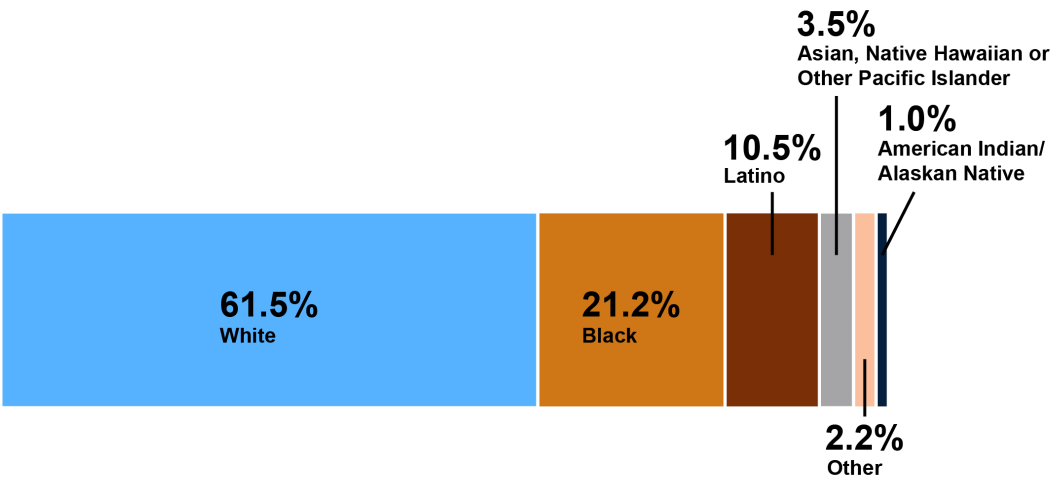
We are getting older and more diverse

Population age structure by sex, 2022



Median Age
39.2

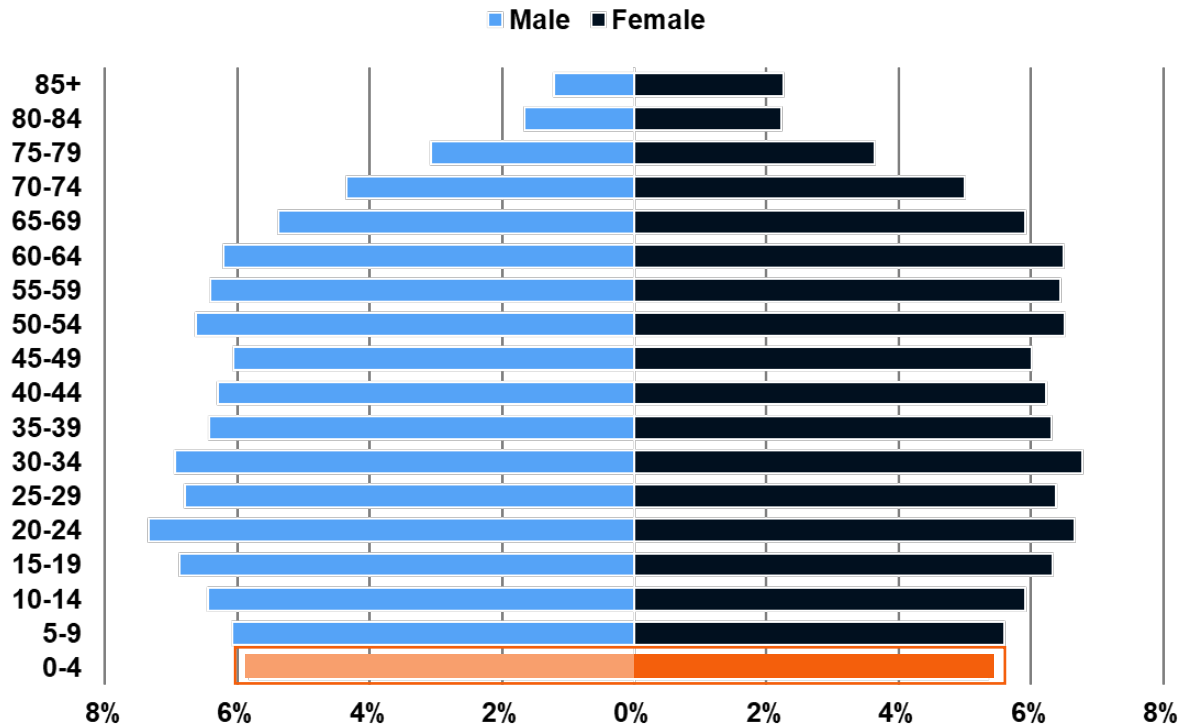
Racial/Ethnic Composition of Overall NC Population, 2022



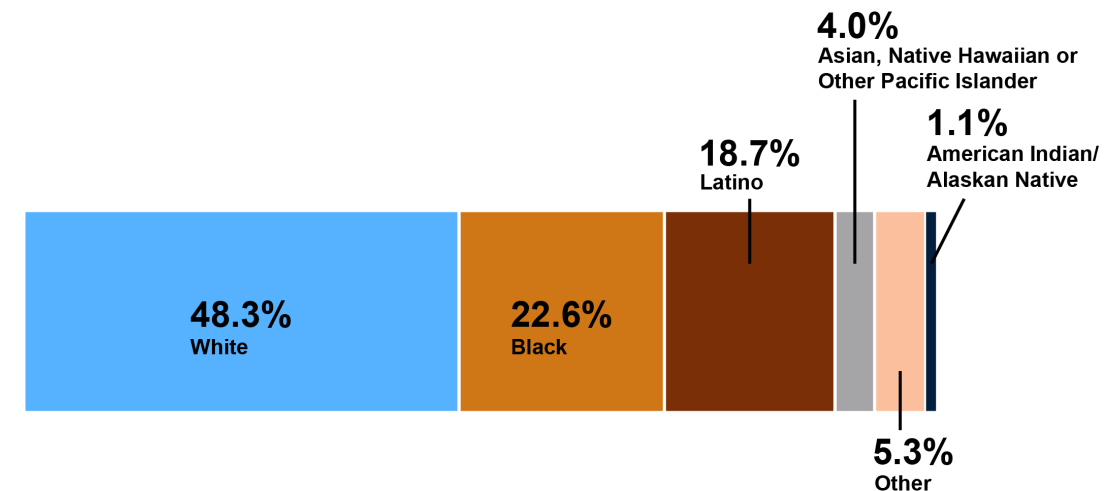
Source: US Census Bureau 2022 Population Estimates

Pre-School Aged Kids are the most diverse

Population age structure by sex, 2022



Racial/Ethnic composition of ages 0-4



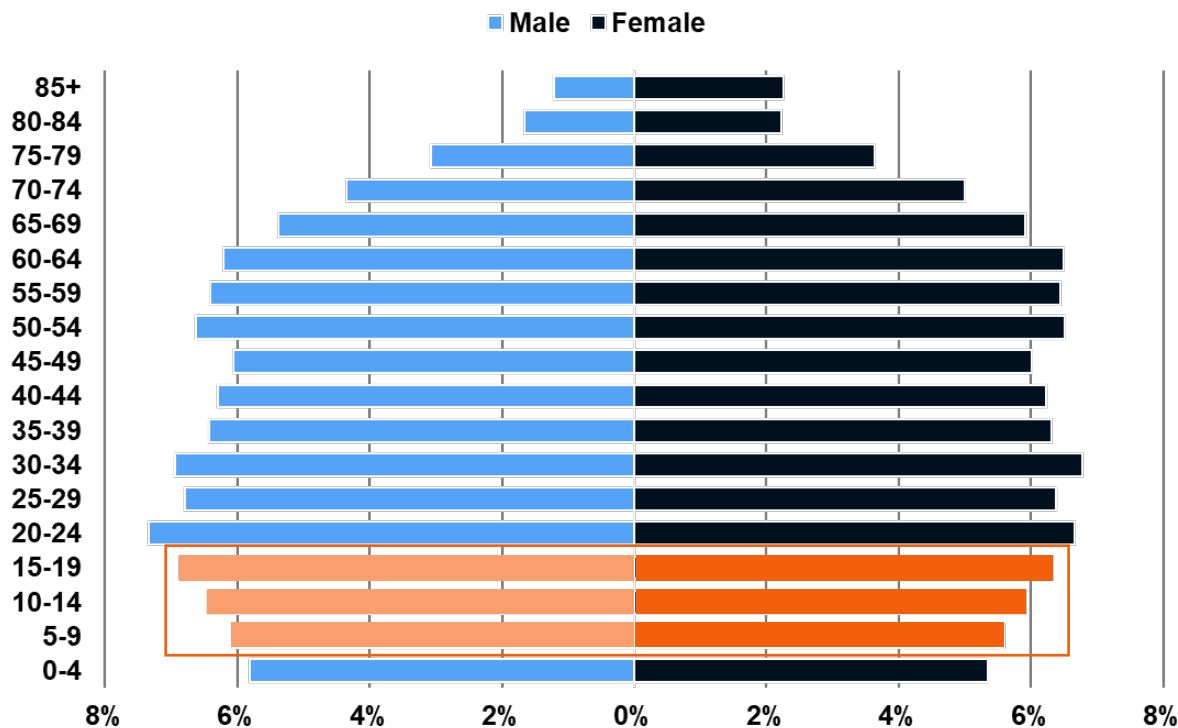
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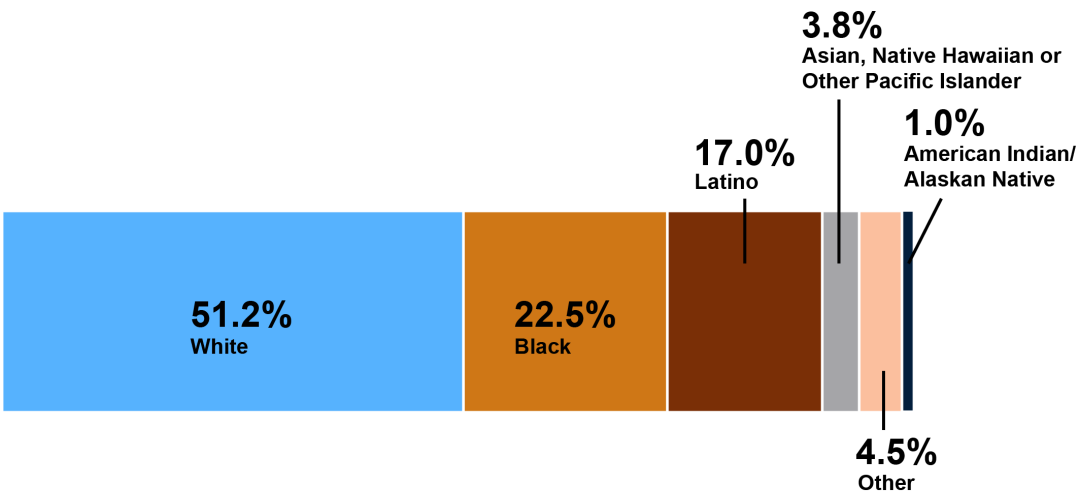
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School-Age Children are also more diverse

Population age structure by sex, 2022

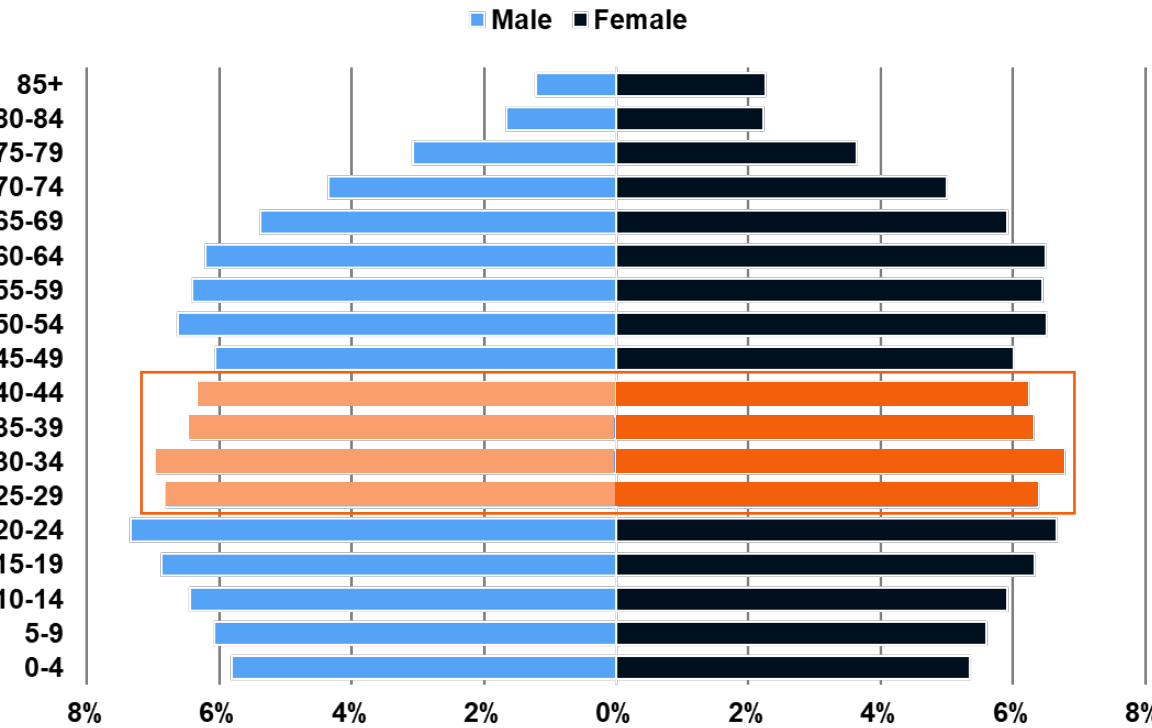


Racial/Ethnic composition of ages 5-19

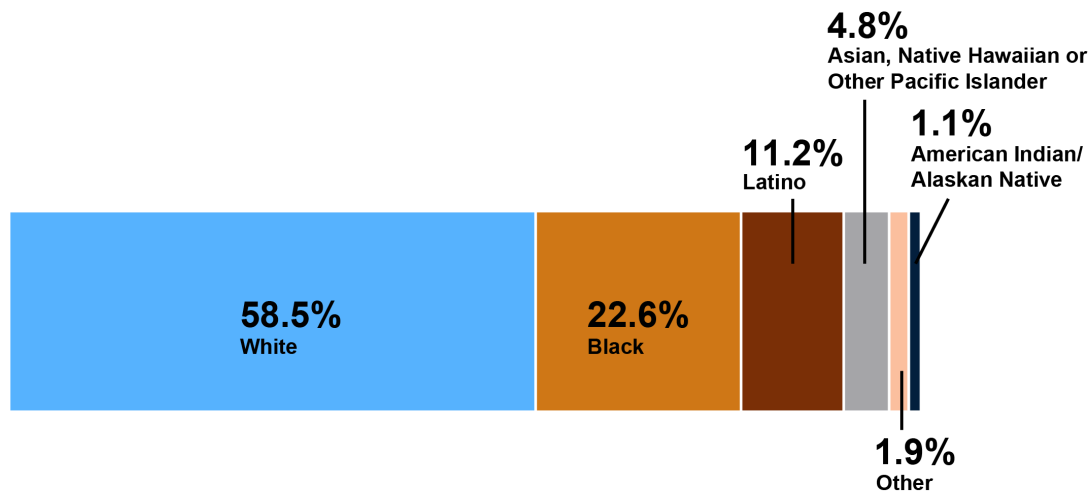


Prime-Working Age Cohort is becoming more diverse

Population age structure by sex, 2022



Racial/Ethnic composition of ages 25-44



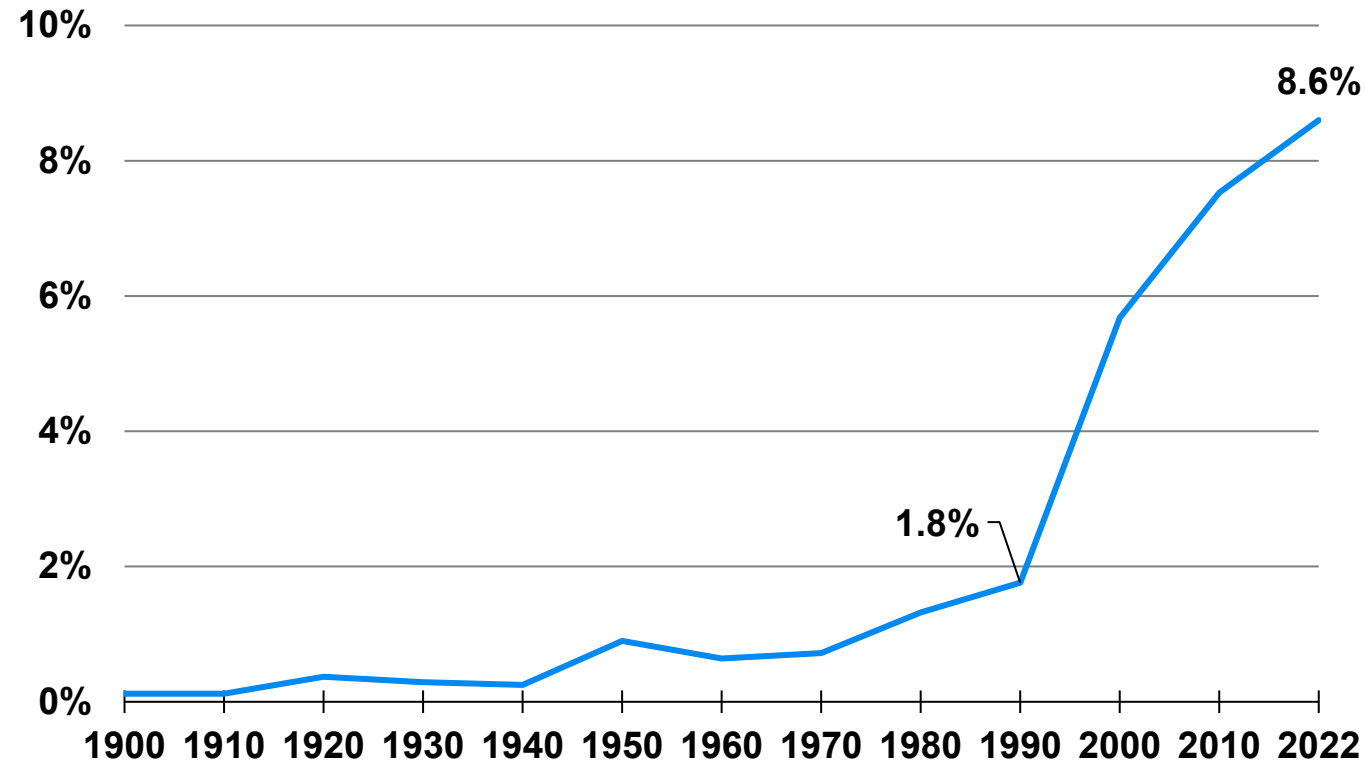
8.6%

918K

Of North Carolina's
population is foreign-born

Exponential Growth in NC Foreign-Born Population since 1990

Percent of NC Population that is Foreign-Born



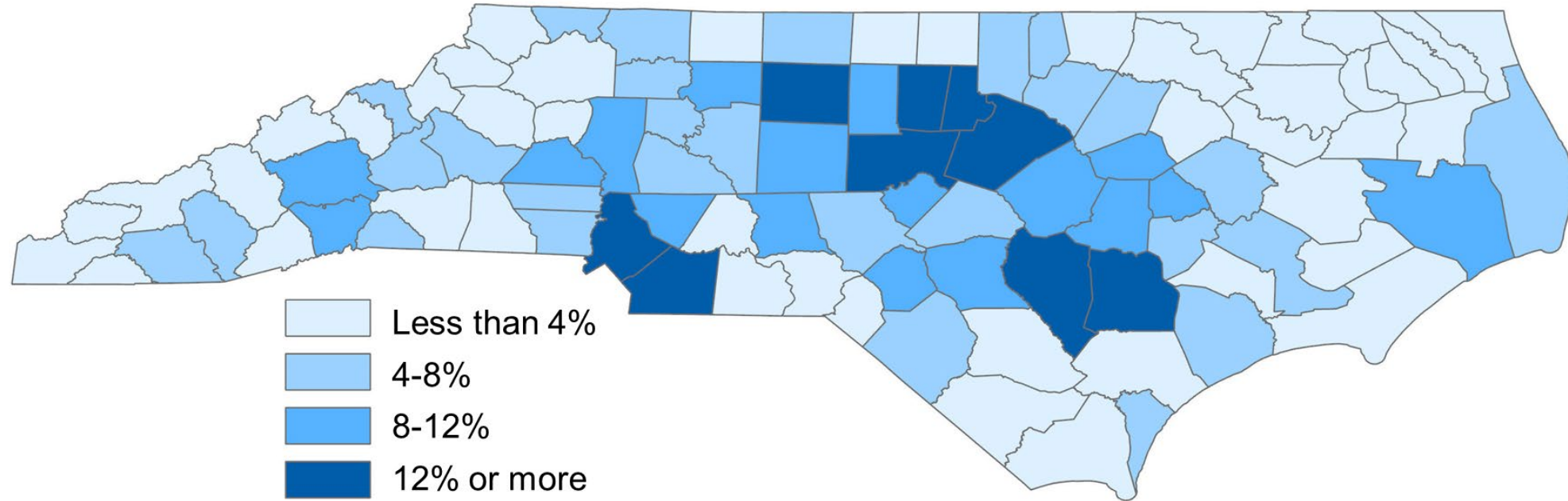
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Foreign-born share high in both urban and rural areas

Foreign-born as a share of total population by county, 2021



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA



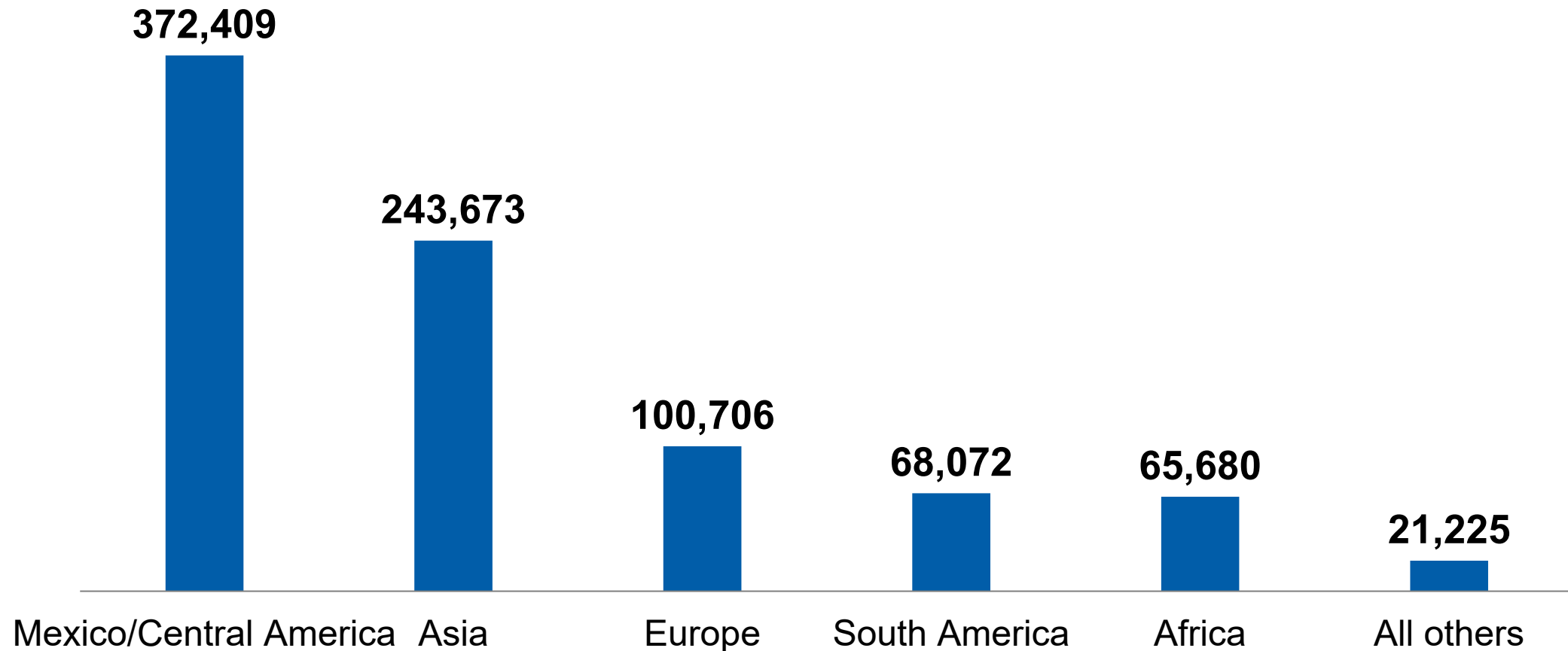
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Mexico/Central America, and Asia most common regions of origin

NC foreign-born population by world region of birth, 2021

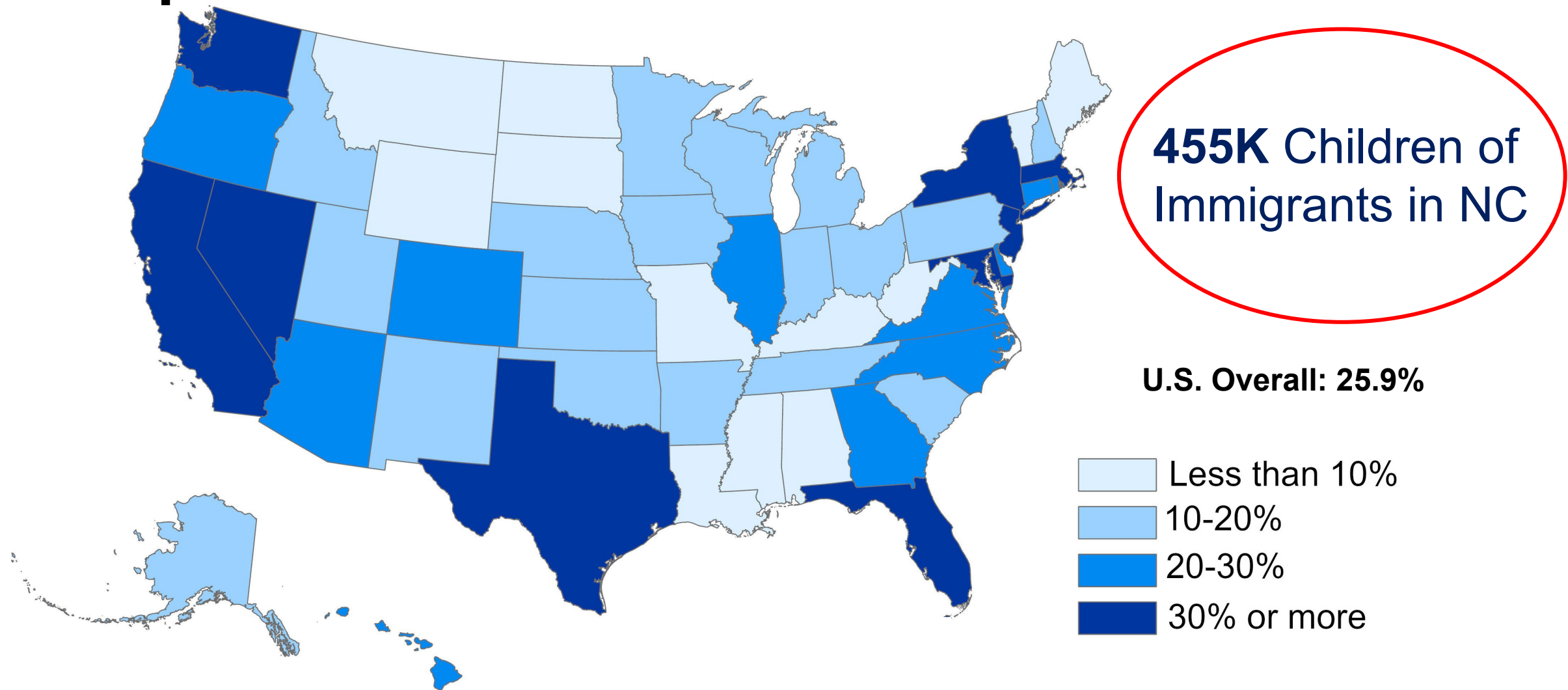


Source: U.S. Census Bureau, IPUMS-USA

Let's look at the Children of
Immigrants (i.e. our current and
future students)

19.8% of children in NC have at least one foreign-born parent

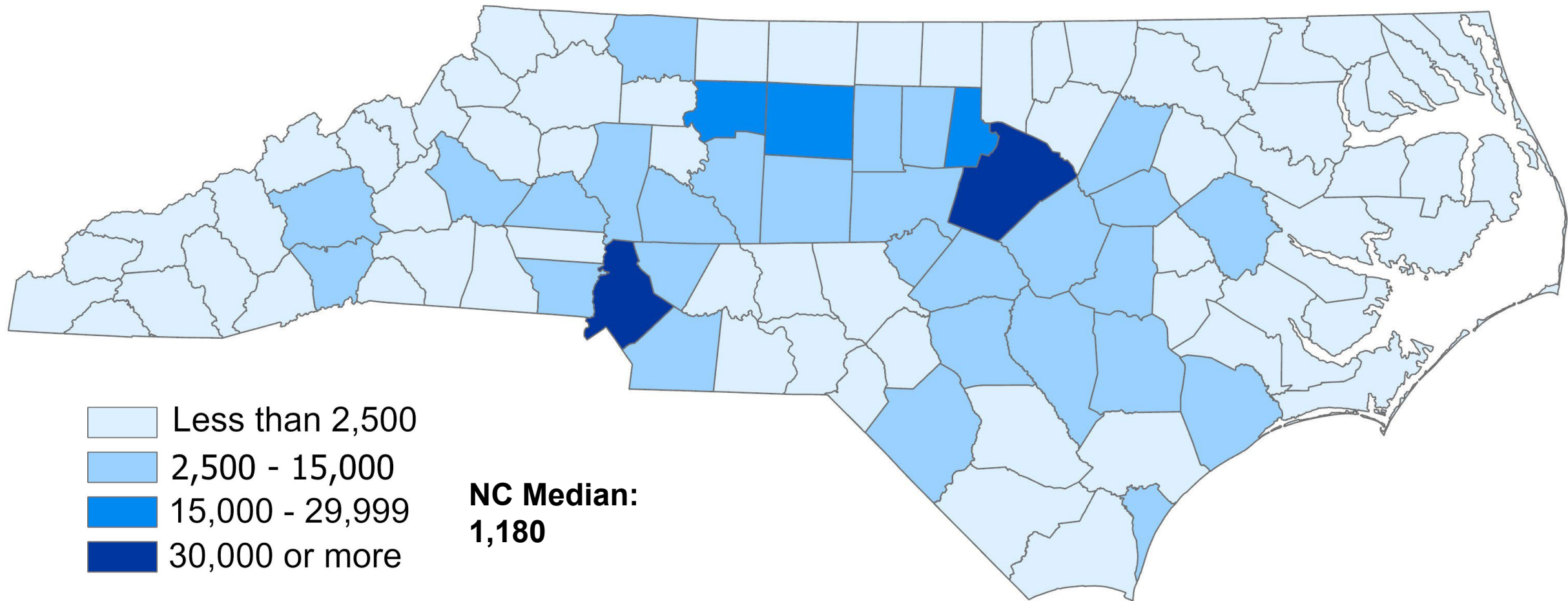
% of children with at least one foreign-born parent by state, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Wake and Mecklenburg counties have the largest numbers of children of immigrants

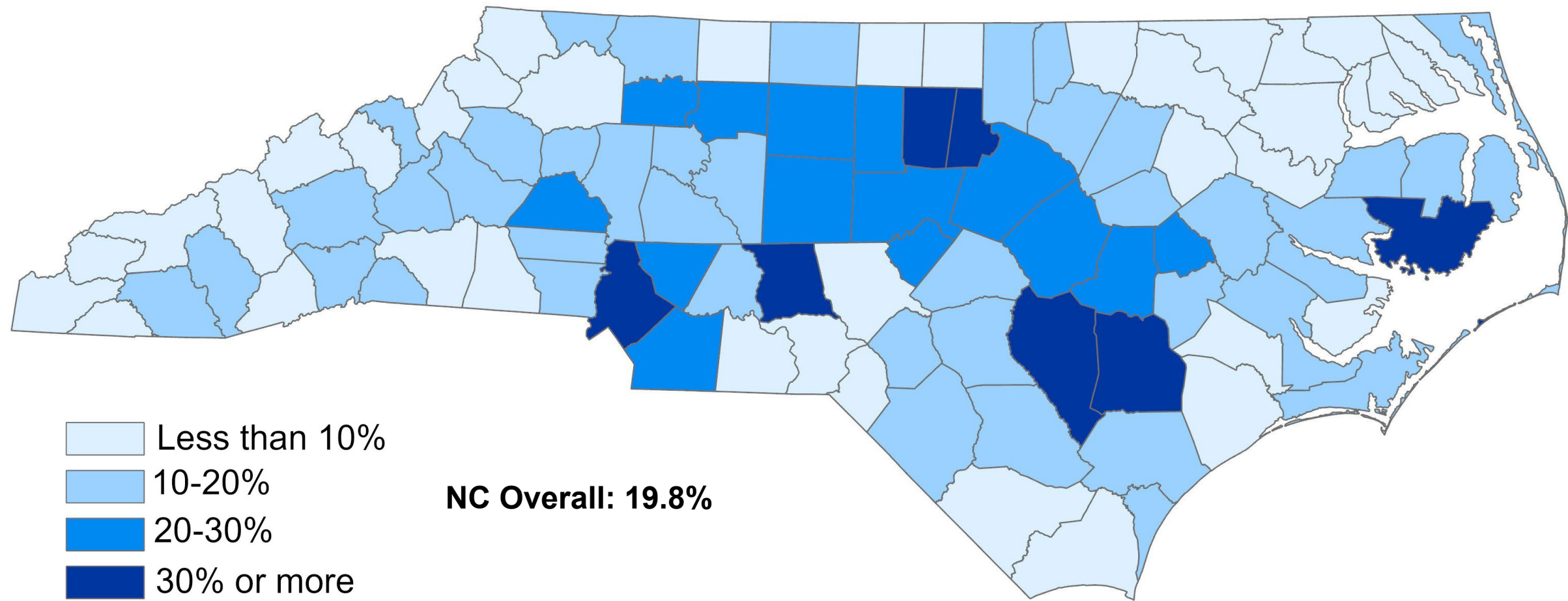
Number of children of immigrants by NC county, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 5-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Duplin, Mecklenburg, and Durham have the largest shares of children of immigrants

% of children with at least one foreign-born parent by NC county, 2021



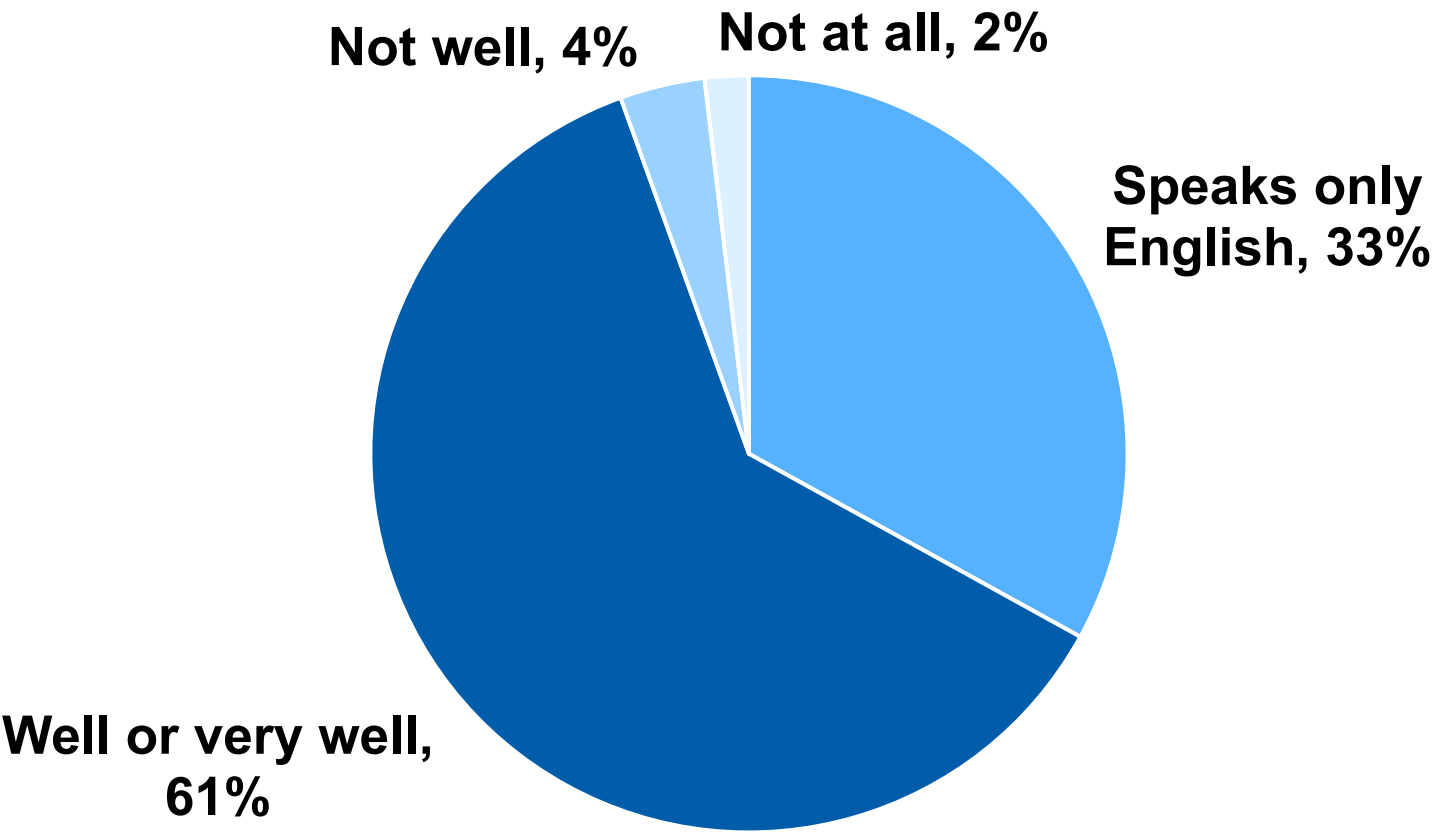
Source: American Community Survey, 5-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

87.5%

of NC Children of immigrants
are U.S.-born citizens, 2021

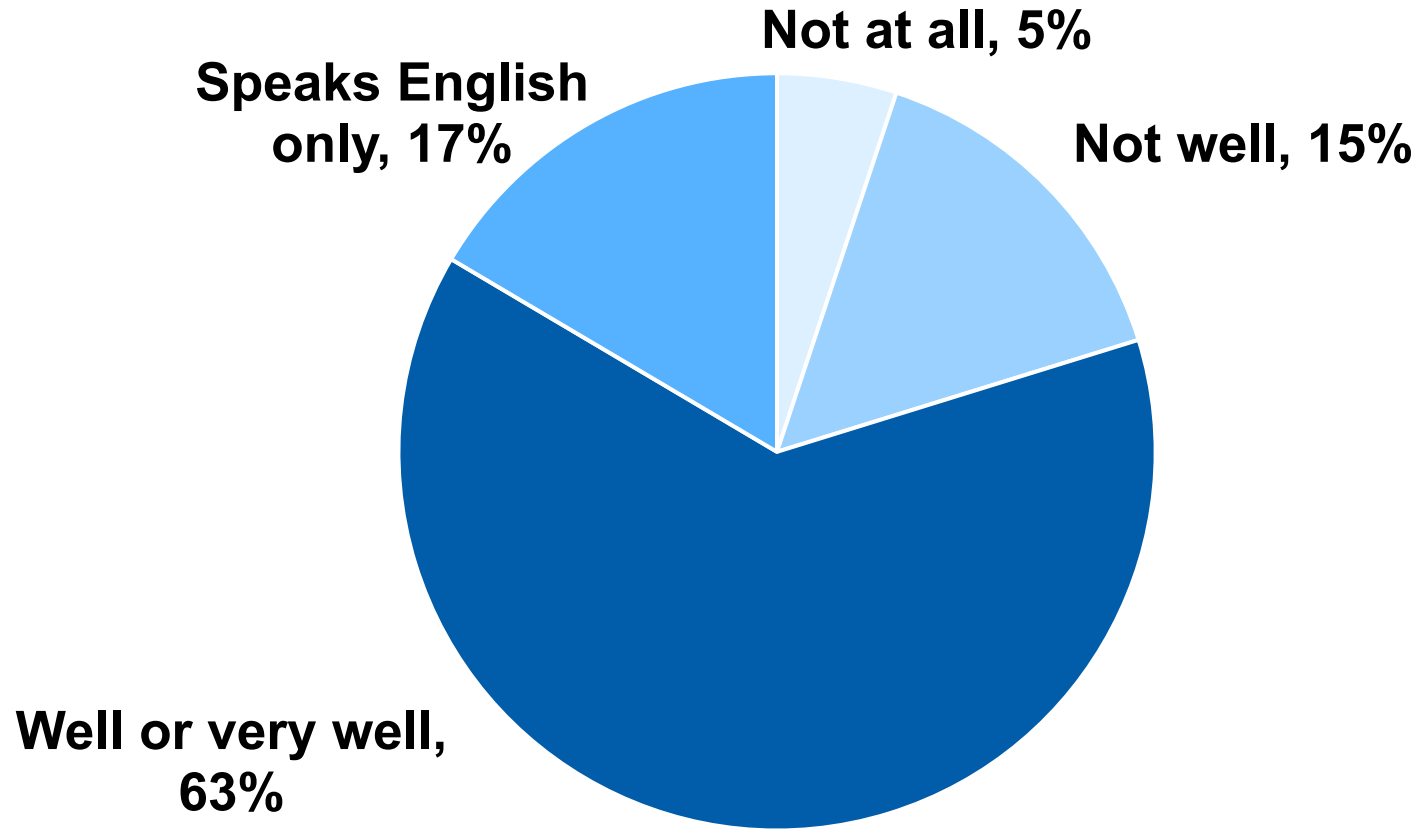
Most children (age 5+) of immigrants speak English only, or are bilingual and Speak English well or very well

Children (Age 5+) of immigrants English fluency in NC, 2021



1 in 5 parents of children of immigrants do not speak English at all or not well

Parents English fluency among children of immigrants in NC, 2021

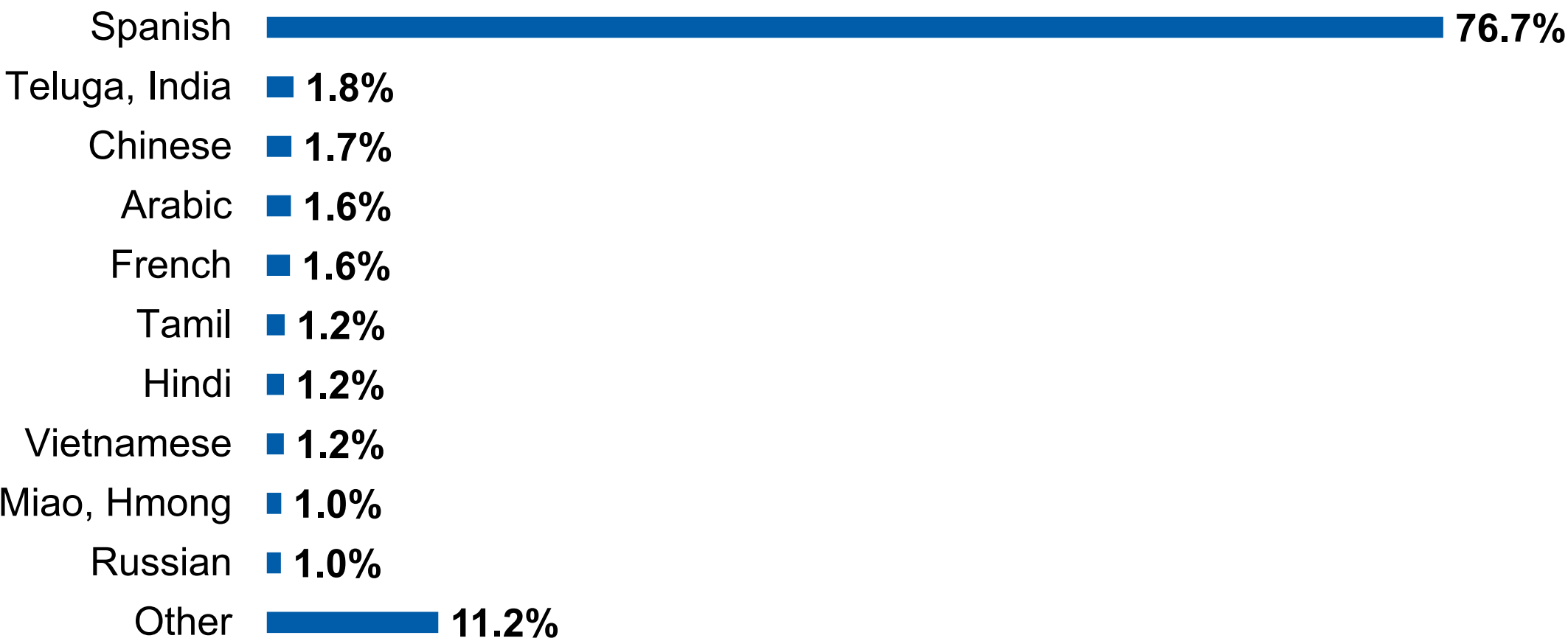


Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent language fluency is based on the foreign-born parent with the highest language fluency

Other than English, most children of Immigrants speak Spanish at home, but nearly 25% speak another language

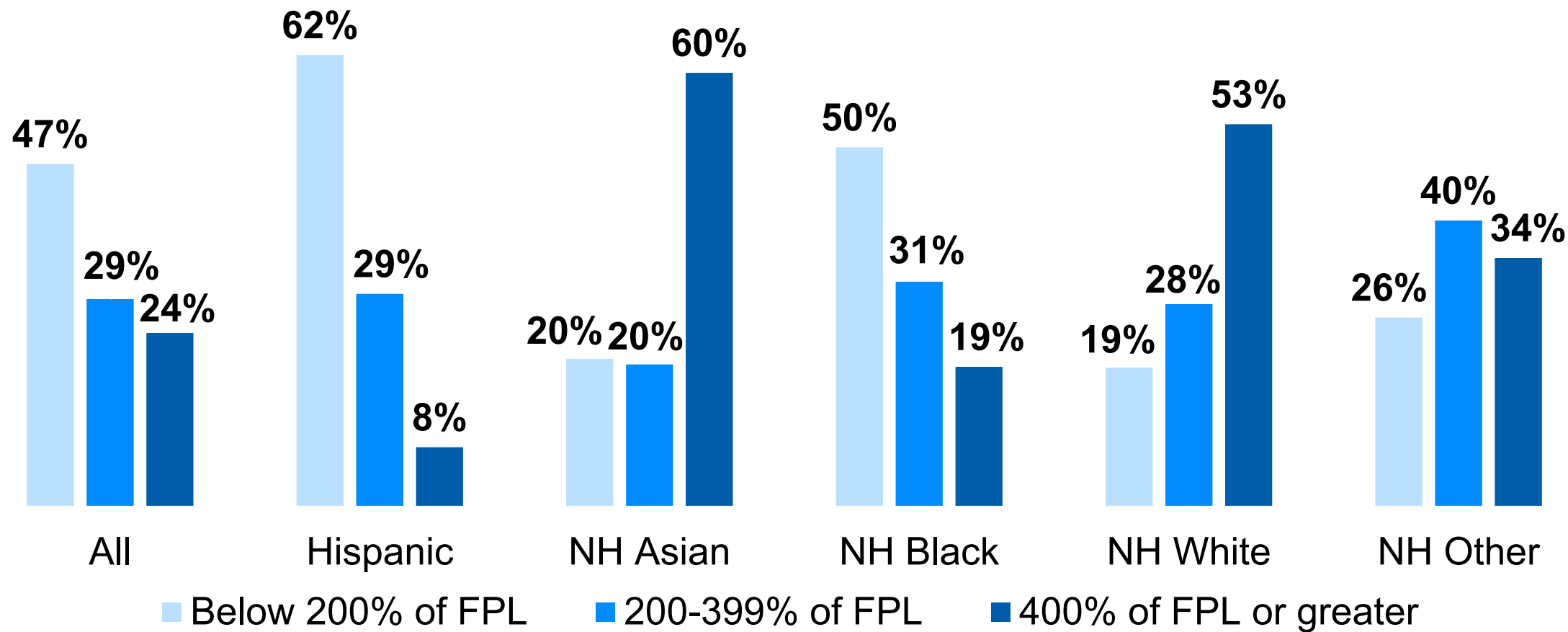
Non-English Languages spoken at home among children of immigrants in NC, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

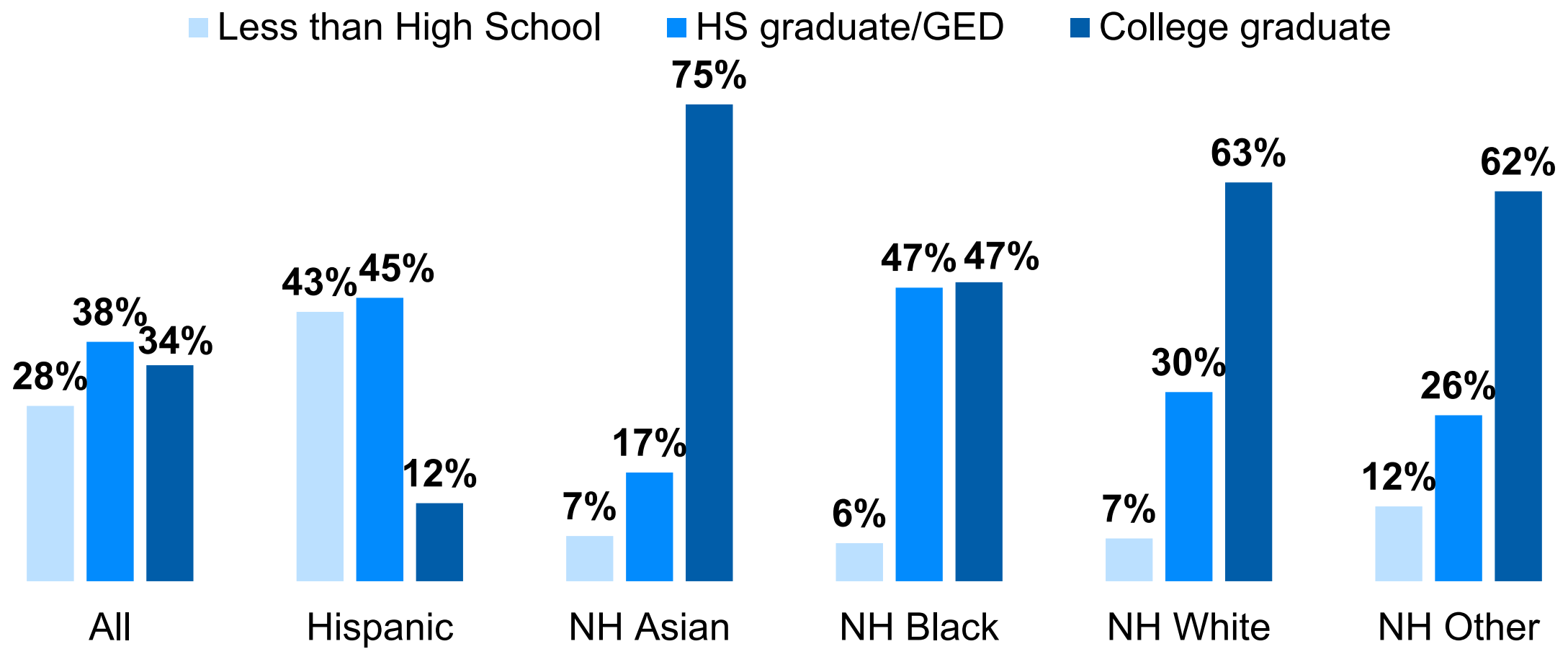
Many children of immigrants grow-up in low-income families

Poverty distribution of parents among children of immigrants in NC by child's race/ethnicity, 2021



The educational attainment of foreign-born parents varies substantially by race/ethnicity

Educational attainment of parents among children of immigrants in NC by child's race/ethnicity, 2021



Source: American Community Survey, 1-year 2021, U.S. Census Bureau

Note: Parent's educational attainment is based on the foreign-born parent with the highest educational attainment.

Let's look at the overall prime
working age population, 25-44



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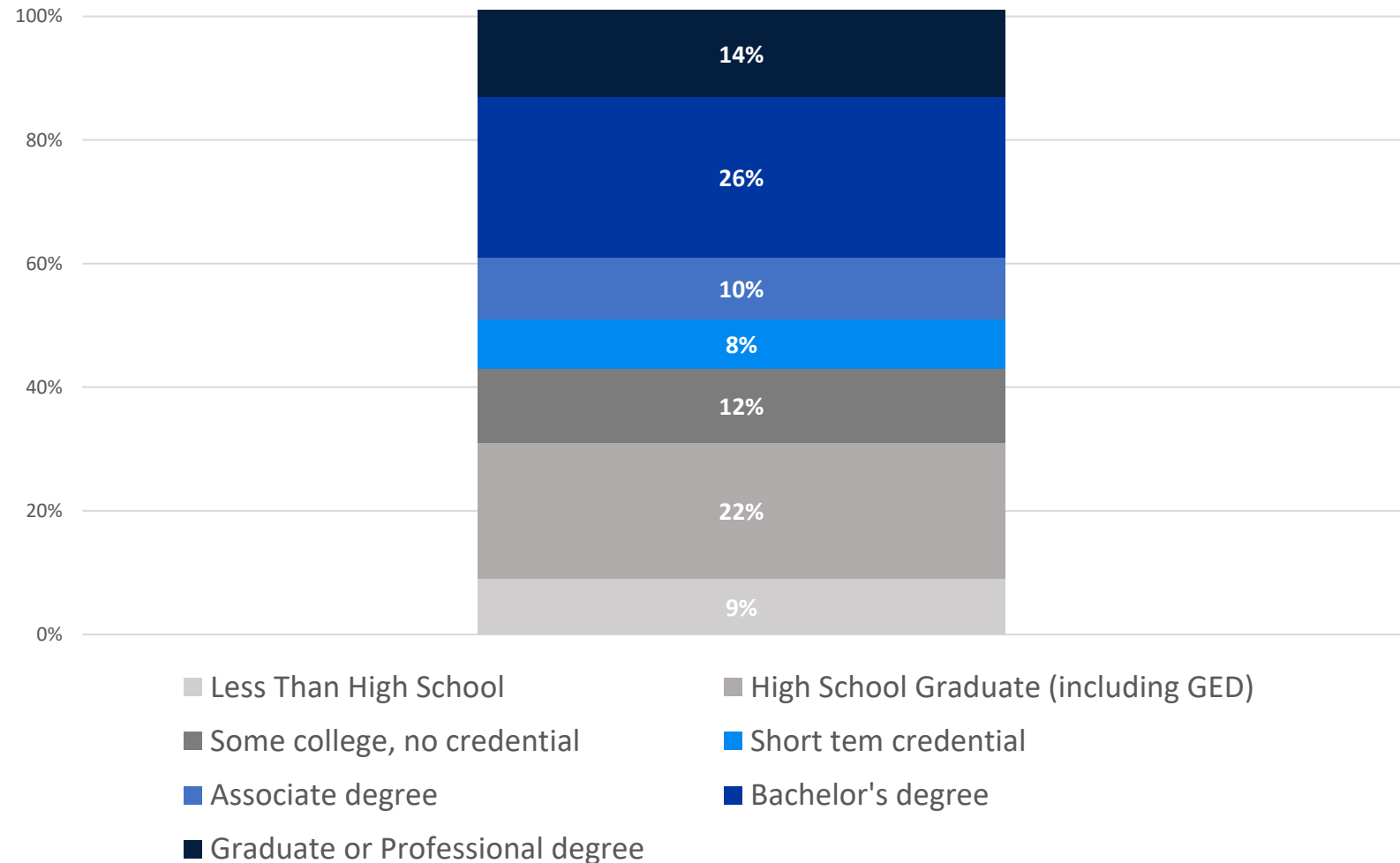
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Educational Attainment, 2021

25-44, North Carolina

57%

Have Degree or
Credential



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ACS 2021, 1 year

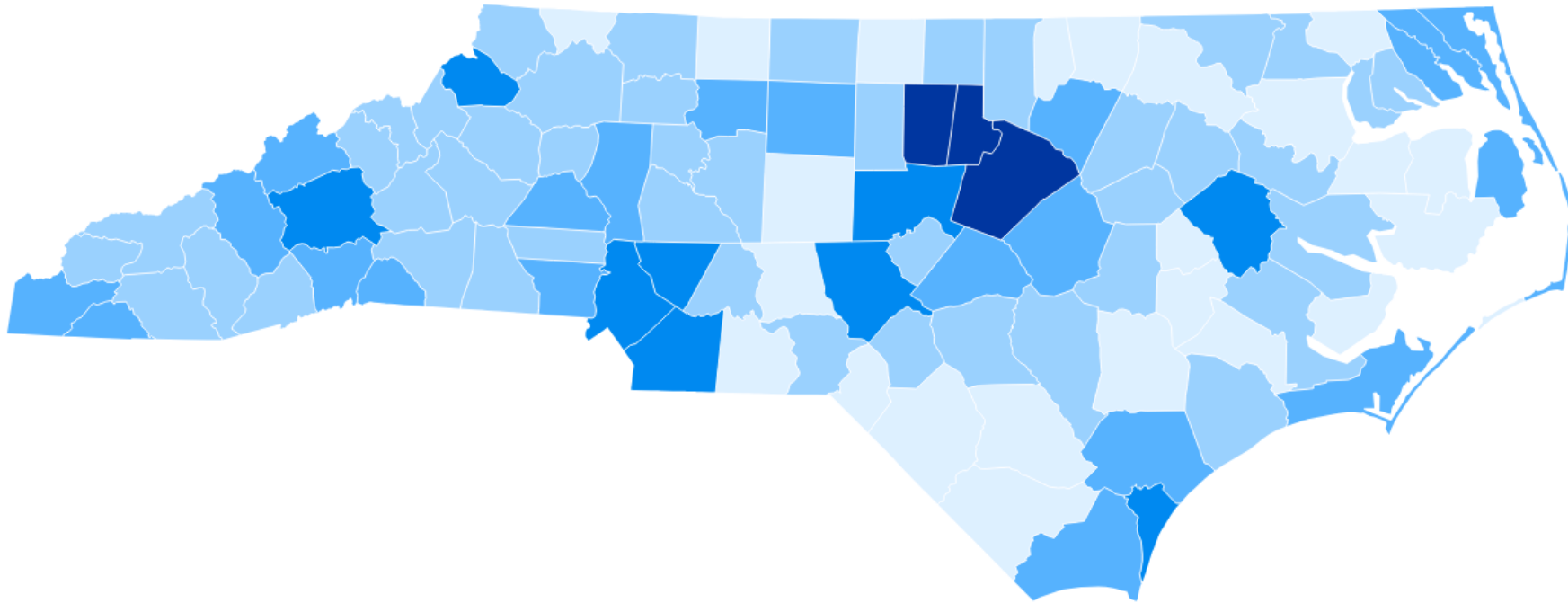
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Postsecondary Attainment 2021

Post-Secondary attainment of those 25-44 years old.

 < 27.8%  27.8%–38.7%  38.7%–49.6%  49.6%–60.5%  ≥ 60.5%



Map: Carolina Demography • Source: American Community Survey 5-year, 2021 • Created with Datawrapper



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83%

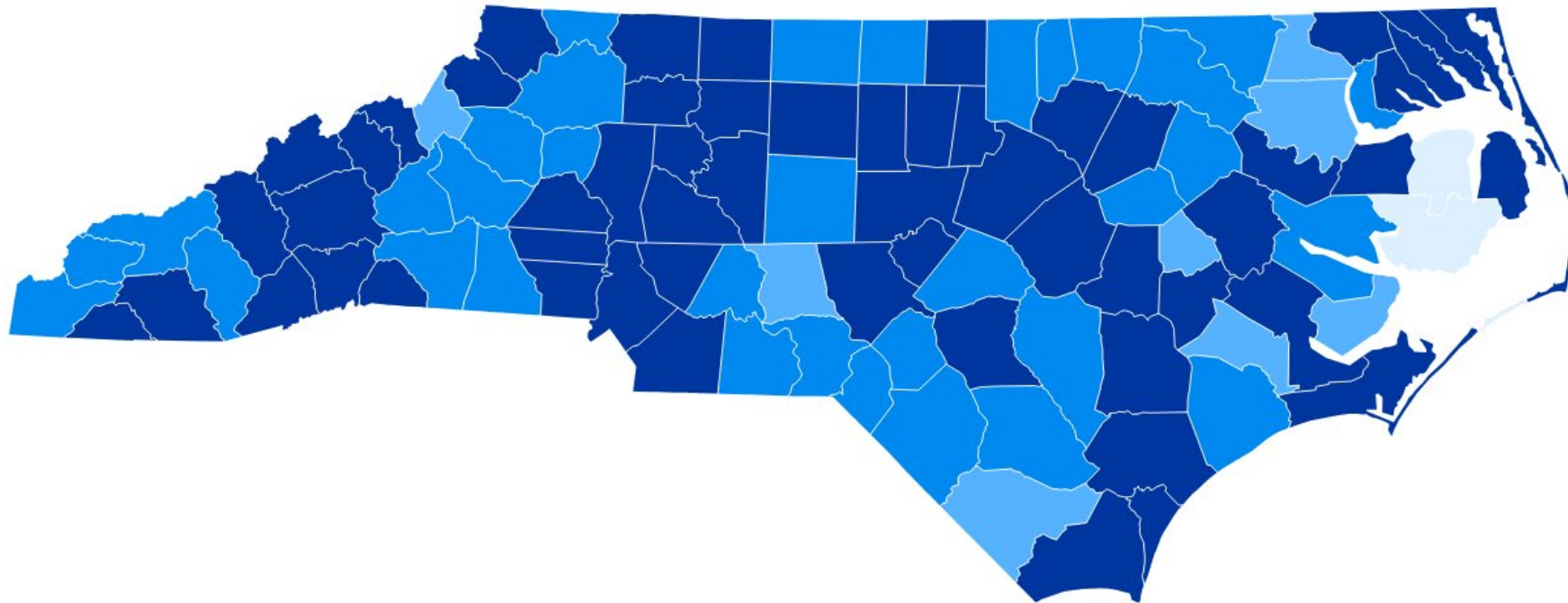
of 25-44 year olds are in the
labor force in North Carolina

Labor Force Participation Rate

2021

Labor Force Participation Rate, 25-44

< 51.6% 51.6%–61.2% 61.2%–70.8% 70.8%–80.4% $\geq 80.4\%$



Map: Carolina Demography • Source: American Community Survey 2021, 5-year • Created with Datawrapper



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Let's look at adolescents and young adults (ages 16-24)



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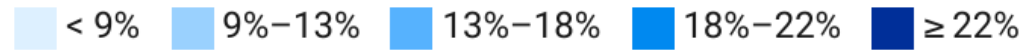
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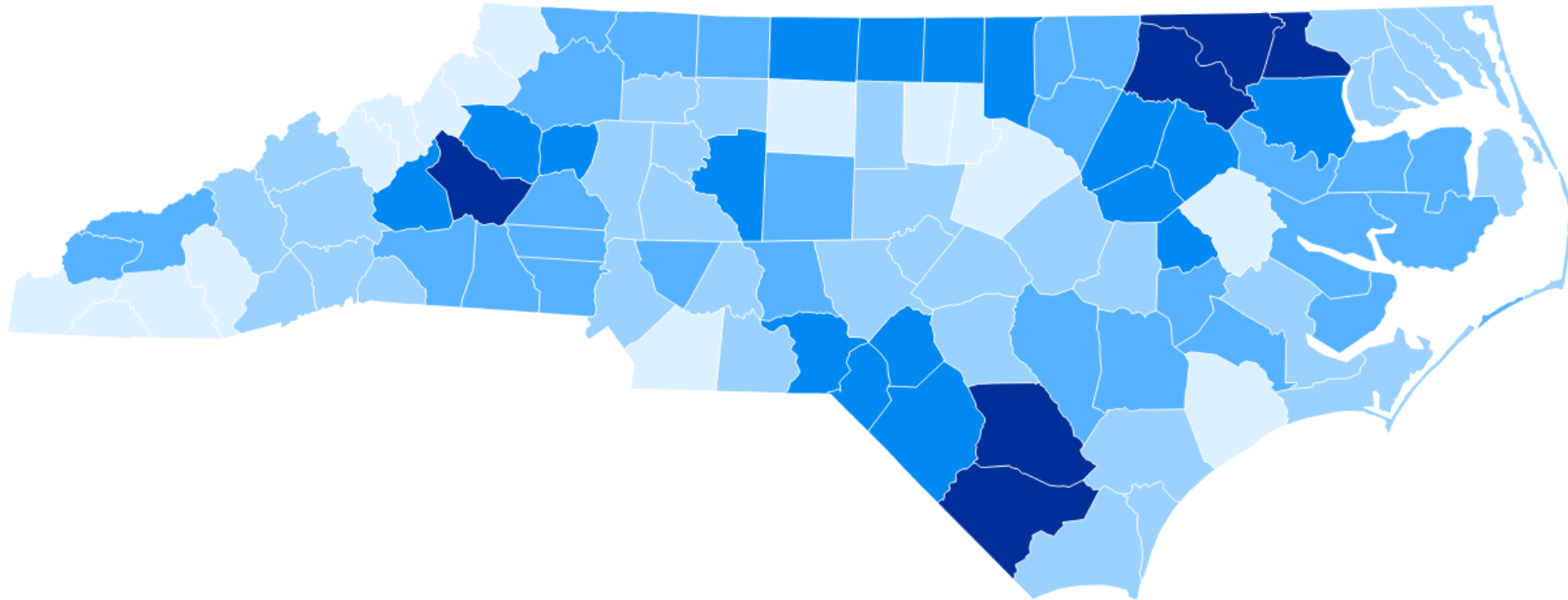
12.1%

of 16–24-year-olds were not
working and not in schools
in North Carolina

16-24, Not in School, Not Working (Both Unemployed & Not in Labor Force)

Opportunity Youth by County, 2021

 **< 9%** **9%–13%** **13%–18%** **18%–22%** **≥ 22%**



Map: Carolina Demography • Source: U.S. Census Bureau • Created with Datawrapper



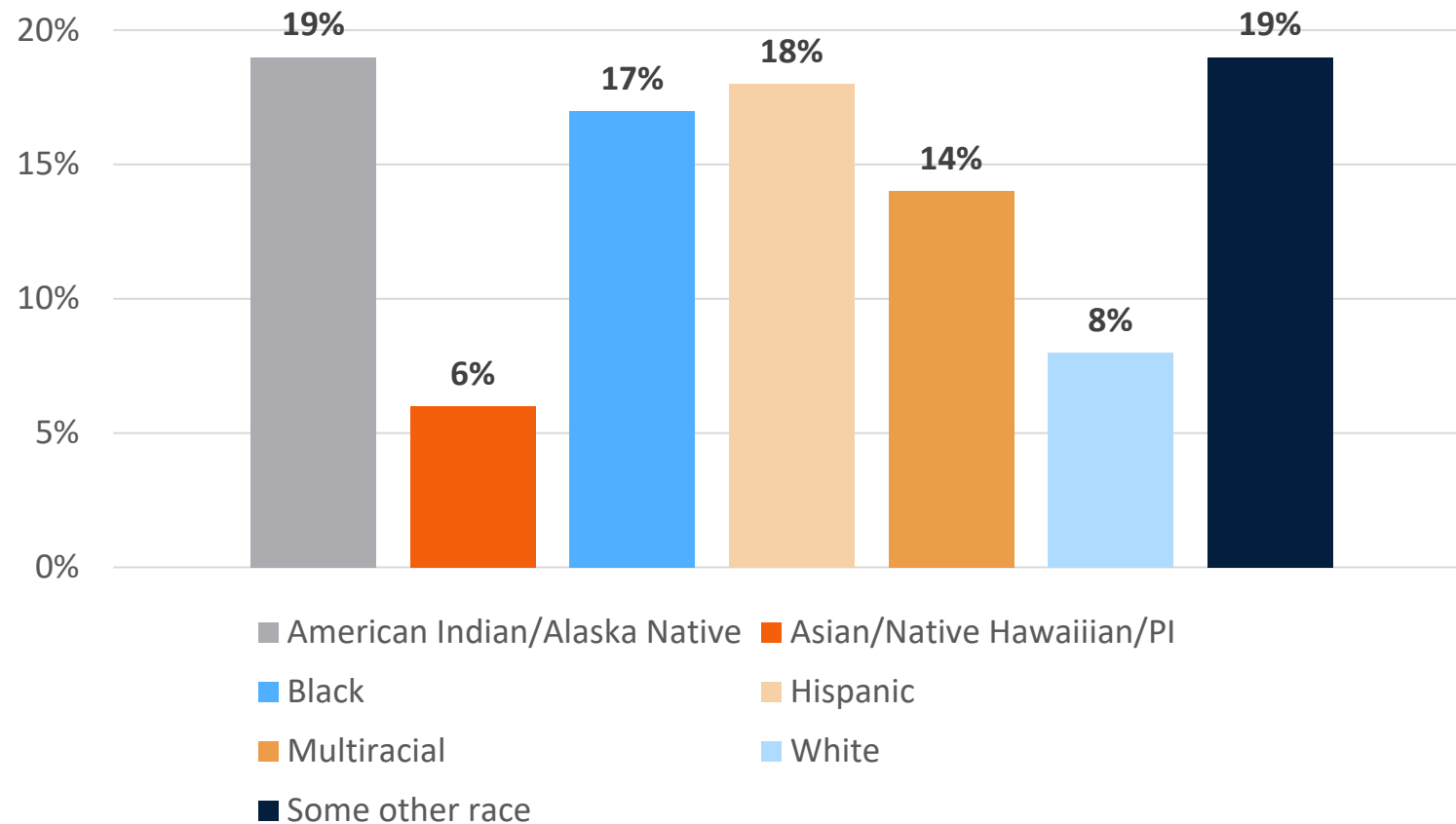
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Poverty

North Carolina: % Below Federal Poverty Line, By Race/Ethnicity



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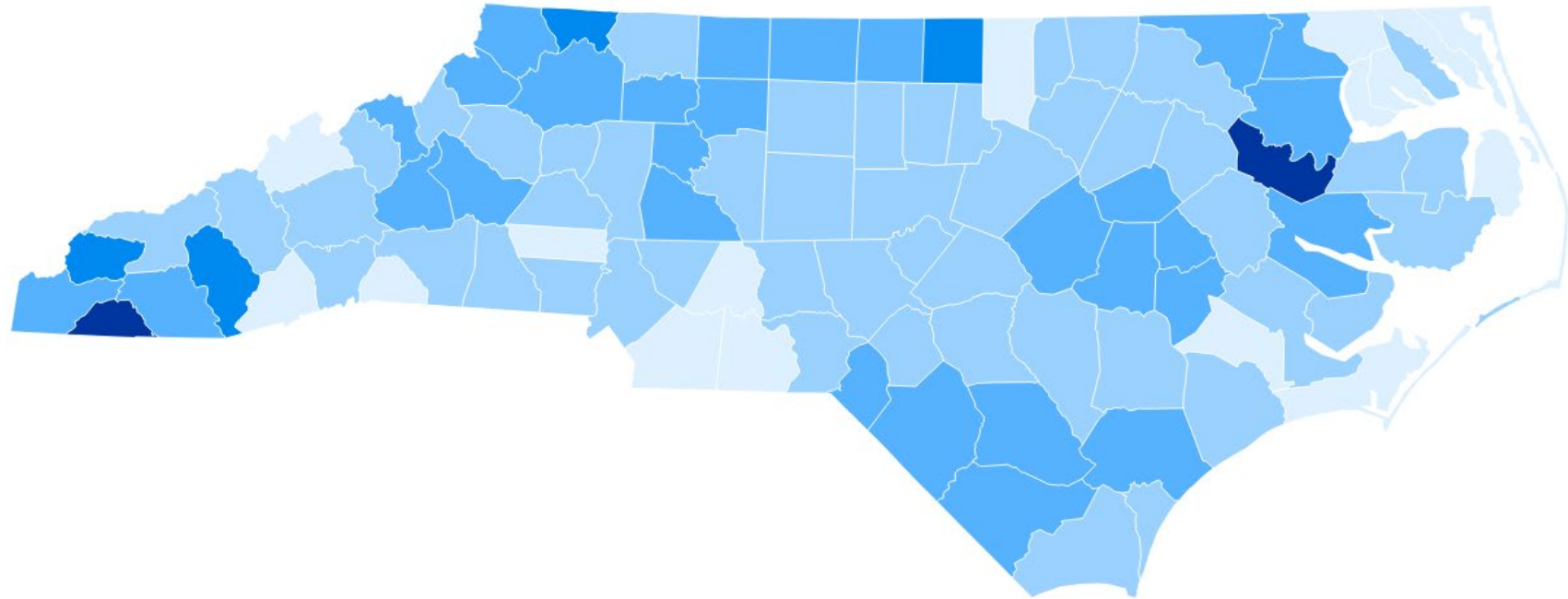
Poverty

By County

Hispanic

Below Federal Poverty Line, 2021

< 15.6% 15.6%–30.3% 30.3%–45% 45%–59.7% ≥ 59.7%



Map: Carolina Demography • Source: American Community Survey 2021, 5-year • Created with Datawrapper



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




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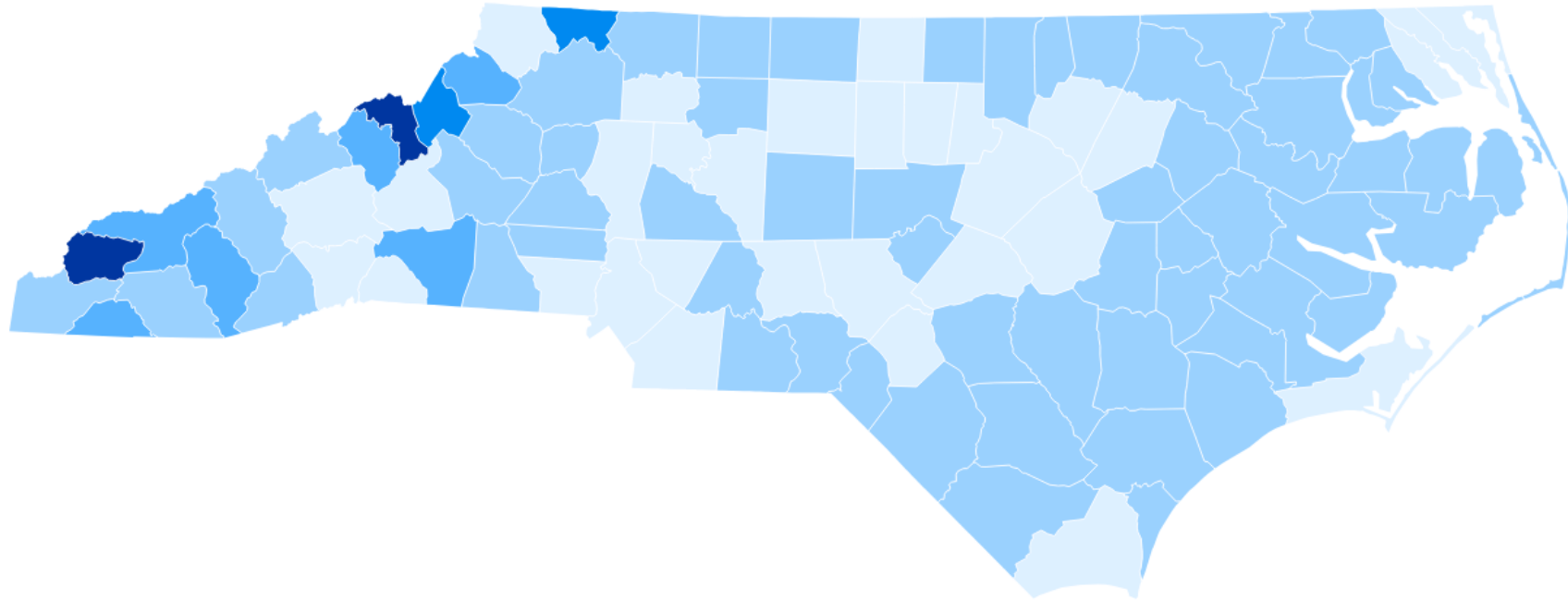
Poverty

By County

Black

Below Federal Poverty Line, 2021

 < 22.64%  22.64%–41.98%  41.98%–61.32%  61.32%–80.66%  ≥ 80.66%



Map: Carolina Demography • Source: American Community Survey 2021, 5-year • Created with Datawrapper



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




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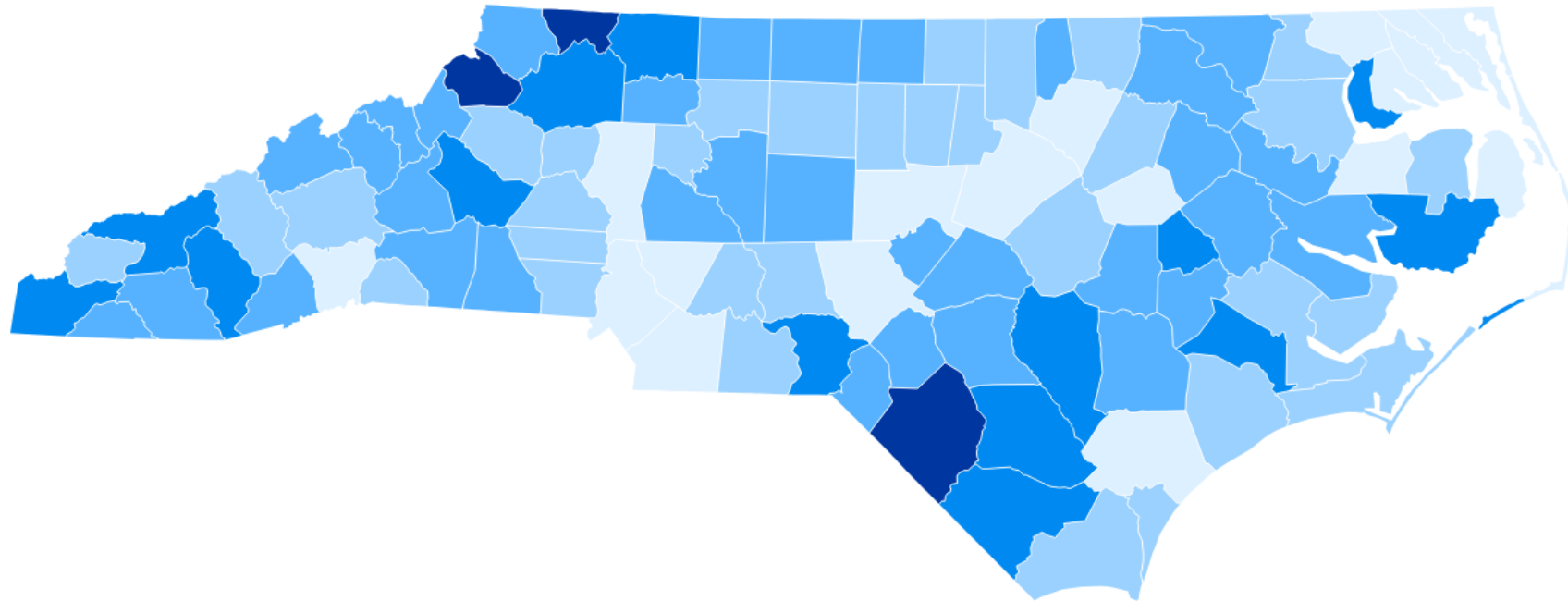
Poverty

By County

White

Below Federal Poverty Line, 2021

 < 8.76%  8.76%–12.12%  12.12%–15.48%  15.48%–18.84%  ≥ 18.84%



Map: Carolina Demography • Source: American Community Survey 2021, 5-year • Created with Datawrapper



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58%

Of NC high school seniors
completed the FAFSA in
2022

Work With Us

What questions do you have about your community?

What data do you need to make better decisions?

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