

# Community Profile

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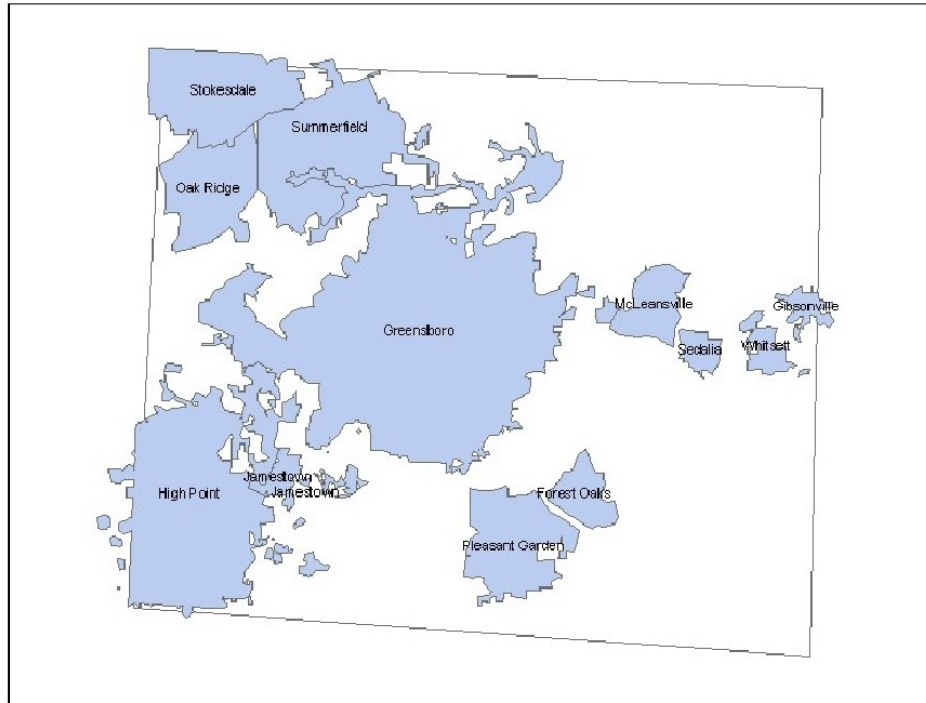
Guilford County is in the heart of the central Piedmont of North Carolina, which is known for its rolling hills and moderate climate. The third largest county in North Carolina with a size of 649 square miles, Guilford County offers the conveniences that come with the urban living combined with respite of beautiful natural areas. It is bordered by Rockingham County to the north, Alamance County to the east, Forsyth County to the west and Randolph County to the south. Several primary roadways, including Interstate 40, 85, and Highway 421, 70 and 29, facilitate travel within the Triad area and to other surrounding cities and states. In addition, a beltway around Greensboro, Interstate 480 is being built. The Piedmont Triad International (PTI) Airport, which is located in the northwest part of the county, provides convenient air travel for residents and visitors.

Guilford County was founded in 1771 and was named after Francis North, the first Earl of Guilford. With the growth of the North Carolina Railroad in the mid 1800s, Guilford County grew into an industrial center based in the manufacture of textiles, apparel and furniture. Today Guilford County strives to build upon that base with the motto of “Building Tomorrow, Today.”

Greensboro and High Point, two of the three cities that make up what is known as the Triad area are in Guilford County. Winston Salem is just a short drive to the west in Forsyth County. Greensboro, home to over 229,000, was historically known as the Gate City because of its central location between Washington, DC and Atlanta, Georgia and New York and Florida. Greensboro was founded as the county seat in 1808 as it was the geographical center of the county. The City of High Point, which was granted its charter in 1859, earned its name because it was the highest point between Charlotte and Goldsboro along the North Carolina railroad.

In addition to these two urban centers, there are eight other municipalities within Guilford County, including Gibsonville, Jamestown, Oak Ridge, Pleasant Garden, Sedalia, Stokesdale, Summerfield, and Whitsett. The map on the next page shows these municipalities. There are also several smaller communities, including Brown Summit, Climax, Deep River, Julian, McLeansville, Monticello, Osceola, Pomona, Rudd, Sedgefield, and Vandalia.

# Guilford County Municipalities



-  Guilford County
-  Municipalities

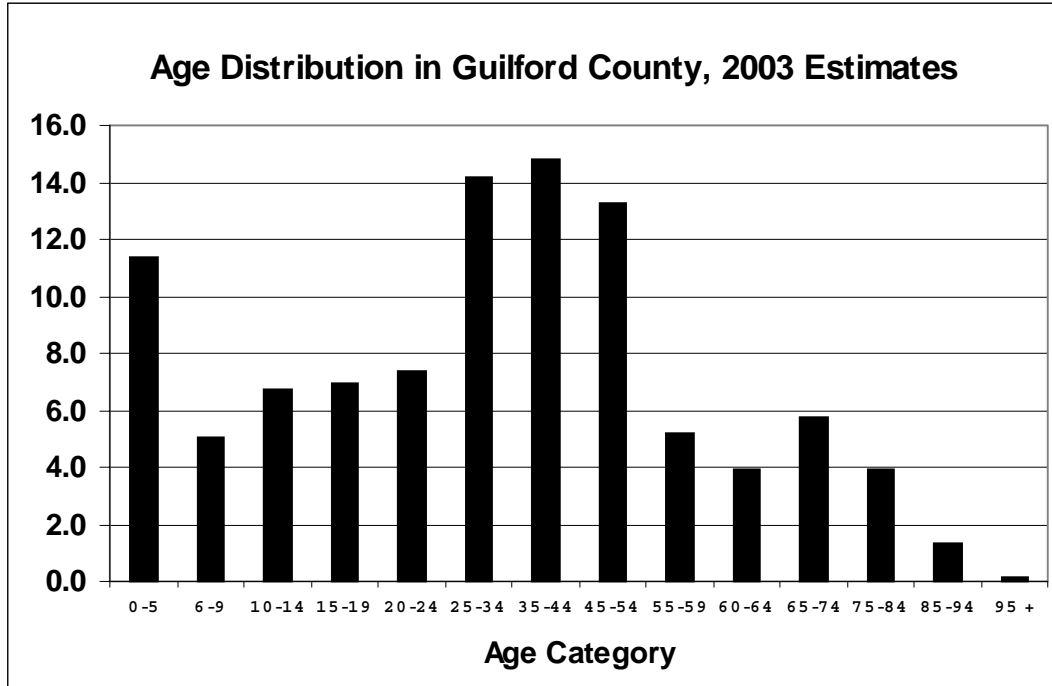


## Demographics

Between 1990 and 2000, the population of Guilford County increased from 347,420 to 421,048, a 21.2 percent increase, reflecting the growth in North Carolina as a whole.<sup>1</sup> According to the North Carolina State Data Center, there were and estimated 434,693 people in Guilford County in 2004. The following table highlights the recent growth in several municipalities.<sup>2</sup>

Municipalities	April 2000	July 2004	Growth	Percent Growth
Guilford County	421,048	434,693	13,645	3.2%
Greensboro	223,891	233,148	9,257	4.1%
High Point (part)	84,656	88,999	4,343	5.1%
Jamestown	3,088	3,258	170	5.5%
Stokesdale	3,267	3,465	198	6.1%
Gibsonville (part)	2,231	2,313	82	3.7%
Oak Ridge	3,988	4,231	243	6.1%
Summerfield	6,894	7,227	333	4.8%
Whitsett	686	709	23	3.4%

The median age was 35.17 years of age. Approximately 51 percent were female and 49 percent were male. The 2003 estimated age distribution in Guilford County is illustrated in the chart below.<sup>3</sup>

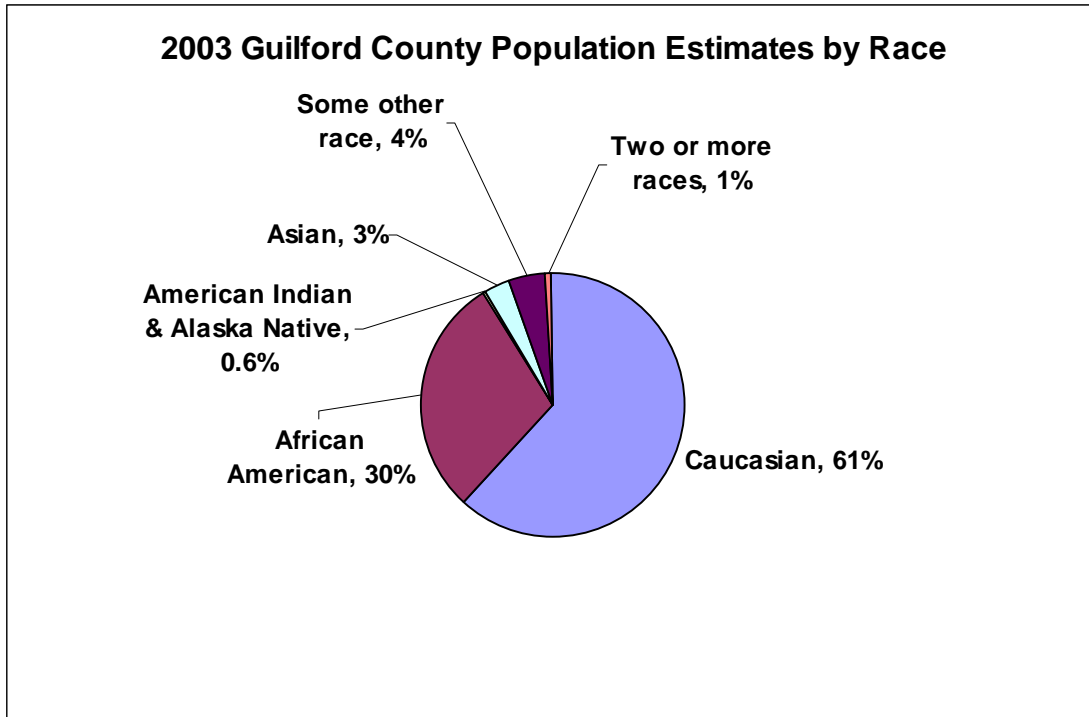


<sup>1</sup>U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2003.

<sup>2</sup> North Carolina State Data Center. H<http://demog.state.nc.us/>H

<sup>3</sup> North Carolina State Data Center. H<http://demog.state.nc.us/>H

According to 2003 Census estimates, about 61 percent of the Guilford County population is Caucasian, while 29.6 percent is African American. Three percent of the population is Asian, half a percent is estimated to be American Indian, and more than six percent is estimated to be some other race or two or more races.<sup>4</sup> The Latino population increased from 2,887 in 1990 to 15,986 in 2000, a 453 percent increase.<sup>5</sup>



Guilford County’s growing diversity is reflected in the schools, neighborhoods and the county’s economy. There are now almost a hundred languages spoken and seventy counties of origin represented within the Guilford County Schools.<sup>6</sup> Guilford County is home to approximately 60,000 people who are immigrants or live in families that speak a language other than English at home. Of those, it is estimated that 15,000 come from Asia, 10,000 come from various African countries, and about 5,000 come from Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Of those who speak a language other than English at home, it is estimated that 42 percent speak Spanish and 58 percent speak some other language.<sup>7</sup>

### Households<sup>8</sup>

There were an estimated 177,000 households in Guilford County in 2003. The average household size is estimated at 2.37 people. Families make up 68 percent of the households in Guilford County. This figure includes both married-couple families (50%) and other families (18%). Non-family households made up 32 percent of all households in Guilford County. Most of the non-family

<sup>4</sup> U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2003.

<sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, 1990 and 2000.

<sup>6</sup> Guilford County Schools, 2005. H[http://www.gcsnc.com/index\\_main.htm](http://www.gcsnc.com/index_main.htm)H

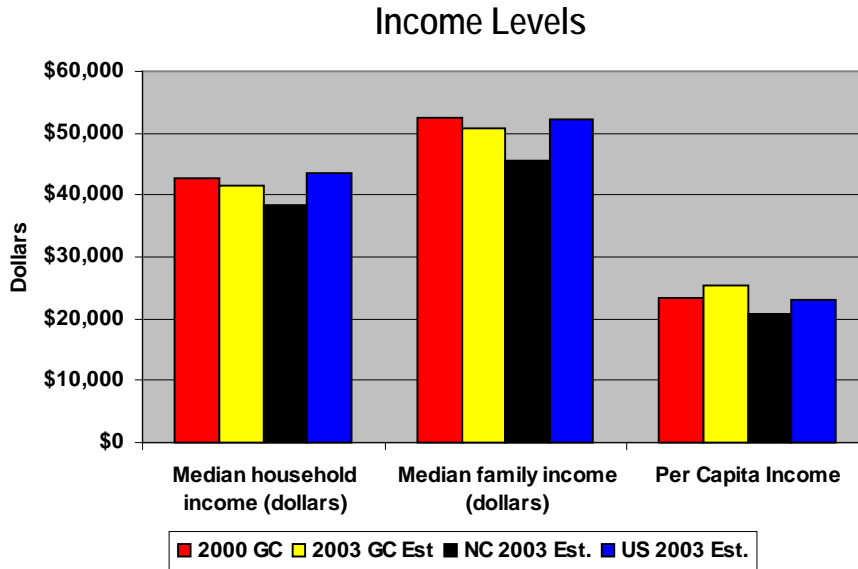
<sup>7</sup> U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2003.

<sup>8</sup> U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2003.

households were people living alone, but some were comprised of people living in households in which no one was related to the householder.

### Income & Poverty<sup>9</sup>

The median household income in Guilford County for 2003 is estimated at \$41,578, less than the \$42,618 in 2000, as was the median family income, dropping from \$52,638 in 2000 to an estimated \$50,654. The per capita income for 2003 is estimated at \$23,110, while in 2000 it was \$23,340.

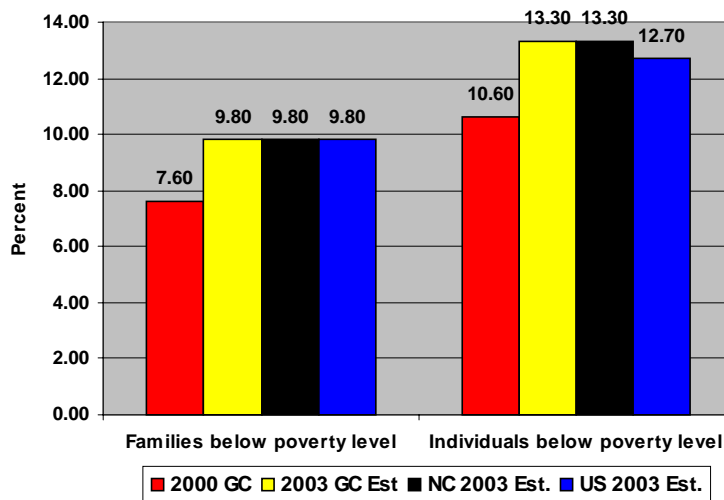


In 2003, it is estimated that the majority of households (84%) received earnings, while a quarter (25%) received Social Security and seventeen percent received retirement income other than Social Security. The average income from Social Security was \$12,875. These income sources are not mutually exclusive. Some households received income from more than one source.

Differences in health outcomes and access to social and health care resources often reflect differences in education, occupation, income, and wealth. It is estimated that 13 percent or 55,333 individuals were in poverty, up three percent from 2000. 21 percent of related children under 18 were below the poverty level, compared with eight percent of people 65 years old and over. Ten percent of all families, or an estimated 11,733 families and 30 percent of families with a female householder and no husband present had incomes below the poverty level.

<sup>9</sup> U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2003.

## Poverty Levels



## Governance and Political Climate

An eleven member Board of Commissioners governs the business of Guilford County with daily operations addressed by the County Manager and Deputy County Manager. The Board is made up of nine representing specific districts and two at large members.<sup>10</sup> Both Greensboro and High Point operate under a city council. The city council serves as the legislative branch of government with a city manager serving as the chief executive officer. In both Greensboro and High Point, the city council consists of the Mayor, three members who are elected at large and five council members elected from their districts, all which serve two-year terms.<sup>11</sup>

Of the 281,015 registered voters in Guilford County in 2002, 49 percent were registered Democrat and 34 percent were registered Republican. 86.57 percent of Guilford County residents who were eligible to vote were registered in 2002. Of those registered voters in 2002, white voters were over-represented among registered voters, while other races were under-represented.<sup>12</sup>

A Comparison of Guilford County and North Carolina Voter Registrations, 2002		
	Guilford County	North Carolina
Registered Voters	281,015	5,038,826
Registered Democrats	137,872	2,436,727
Registered Republicans	94,989	1,727,309
White Registered Voters	197,502	3,933,220
Black Registered Voters	77,276	91,162
Other Registered Voters	4,538	132,742
Percent of Eligible Population Registered to Vote	86.57%	80.20%
Voting Precincts	156	2,732

<sup>10</sup> Guilford County, 2005. H<http://gcms0004.co.guilford.nc.us/H>

<sup>11</sup> City of Greensboro, 2005. H<http://www.greensboro-nc.gov/default.htm>H and City of High Point, 2005. H<http://www.high-point.net/H>

<sup>12</sup> North Carolina State Board of Elections, 2005. H<http://www.sboe.state.nc.us/H>

Percentage of Guilford County Registered Voters by Race, 2002		
	Percent of Registered Voters	Guilford County Population
White	70.28%	61.49%
Black	27.50%	29.59%
Other	1.62%	8.92%

## Education

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Guilford County Schools (GCS), the public school district in Guilford County, is the third largest school district in North Carolina. GCS has more than 67,000 students enrolled in 108 schools, including 64 elementary schools, 20 middle schools, 14 high schools, and four middle college high schools that are located on local college campuses. GCS also has the Early College at Guilford, several academies, and Gateway Education Center and McIver Education Center, outstanding programs for severe and profoundly handicapped children and youth. There are also 33 private schools in Guilford County serving close to 8,000 students.<sup>13</sup>

Guilford County has eight colleges and universities within its boundaries support a collective enrollment of over 40,000 students. Two state-supported universities, the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, which was founded in 1892, and North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University, a historically black university that began in 1891, support the highest number of enrollees, 15,329 and 10,383 respectively.<sup>14</sup> Guilford Technical Community College, a part of the North Carolina community college system has over 11,000 curriculum students and over 20,000 continuing education students at five locations in the county.<sup>15</sup> Guilford County is also fortunate to have several smaller private schools, including Bennett College, a historically black college for women, Guilford College, High Point University, Greensboro College, and John Wesley College.<sup>16</sup> These institutions offer a wide range of academic programs for young adults and non-traditional students.

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<sup>13</sup> Guilford County Schools, 2005. H[http://www.gcsnc.com/index\\_main.htm](http://www.gcsnc.com/index_main.htm)H

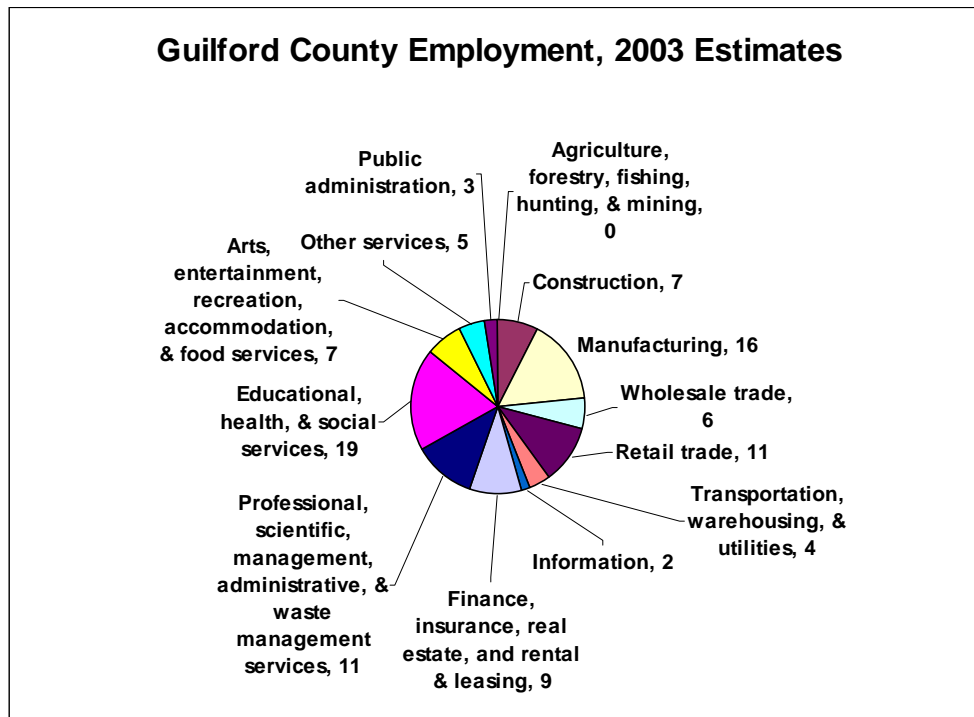
<sup>14</sup> University of North Carolina at Greensboro, 2005. H<http://www.uncg.edu>H and North Carolina and Agricultural and Technical State University, 2005, H<http://www.ncat.edu/>H

<sup>15</sup> Guilford Technical Community College, 2005. H<http://technet.gtcc.cc.nc.us/>H

<sup>16</sup> Bennett College, 2005. H<http://www.bennett.edu/>H , Guilford College, 2005. H<http://www.guilford.edu/>H , High Point University, 2005. H<http://www.highpoint.edu/>H , Greensboro College,2005. H<http://www.gborocollege.edu/>H , John Wesley College, 2005. H<http://www.johnwesley.edu/site/templates/jwc.aspx>H

## Industry

Like many communities in North Carolina, Guilford County has had to adapt to the changes in the business climate in North Carolina. Guilford County has a strong economic history within the textile, apparel, and furniture industries. For example, High Point is the known home of the biannual International Home Furnishing Market. With foreign competition and increased automation in the traditional industries, Guilford County continues reduce the impact of job loss in these industries and capitalize on new employment opportunities to add to the economic diversity as the chart below illustrates.<sup>17,18</sup>



The largest employers include Guilford County include:<sup>19</sup>

20 Largest Employers in Guilford County	Number of Employees
Guilford County School System	8,000
Moses H. Cone Health Systems	6,200
Sears Regional Credit Card Center	3,000
American Express	2,800
Guilford County Government	2,700
City of Greensboro	2,400

<sup>17</sup> Natelson Company, Inc. Greensboro and Guilford County Cluster Analysis, October 5, 2001.

<sup>18</sup> U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2003.

<sup>19</sup> Greensboro Chamber of Commerce. H[www.greensboro.org](http://www.greensboro.org)H

Tyco Electronics	2,000
High Point Regional Hospital	1,975
UPS	1,900
Bank of America	1,800
Thomas Built Buses	1,800
Old Dominion Freight Line, Inc.	1,500
Cone Mills Corporation	1,500
Lorillard Tobacco Company	1,500
TIMCO, Inc.	1,500
Marconi Commerce Systems	1,500
Cone Mills Corporation	1,475
City of High Point	1,400
Koury Corporation	1,300
Aetna US Healthcare	1,200

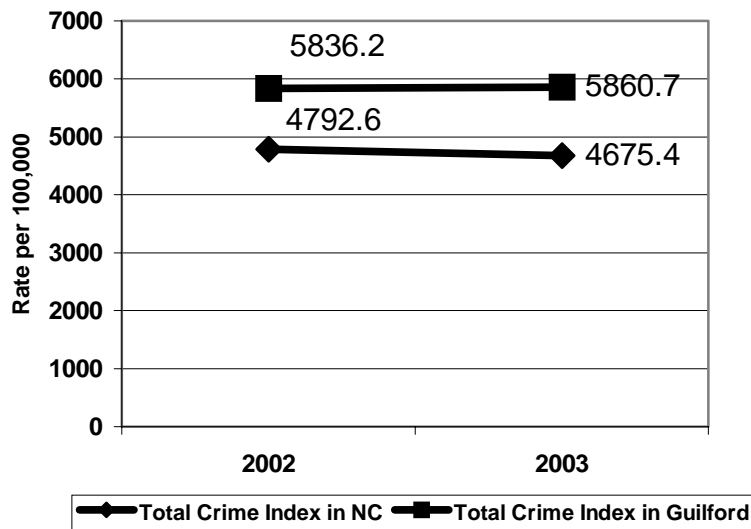
Public and private efforts to recruit additional industry by Guilford County Department of Community and Economic Development, Greensboro Economic Development Partnership, High Point Economic Development Corporation, Action Greensboro, Piedmont Triad Partnership and others continue to build upon this rich history. Effort includes providing incentives for businesses to relocate here and supporting expansion into science, technology, and other areas.

## Crime<sup>20</sup>

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The Total Crime Index for Guilford County was 5,860.7 in 2003, up slightly from the year before and consistently higher than the North Carolina Total Crime Index. The Total Crime Index includes the total number of murders, rapes, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies and motor vehicle thefts. While arson is considered an Index crime, the number of arsons is not included in the Crime Index.

**Total Crime Index  
Guilford County and North Carolina**

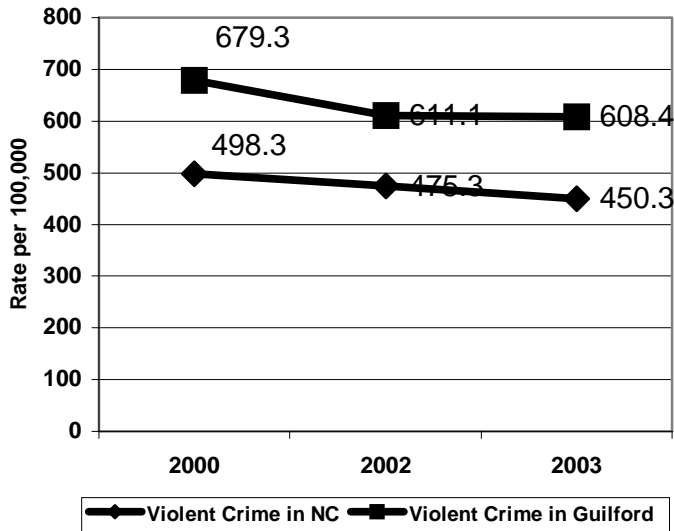


Violent crime includes the offenses of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault. Violent crime in Guilford County also consistently exceeded violent crime in North Carolina, as the chart below illustrates. Between 2000 and 2003, violent crime in Guilford County did drop from a rate of 679.3 per 100,000 to 608.4 per 100,000 population.

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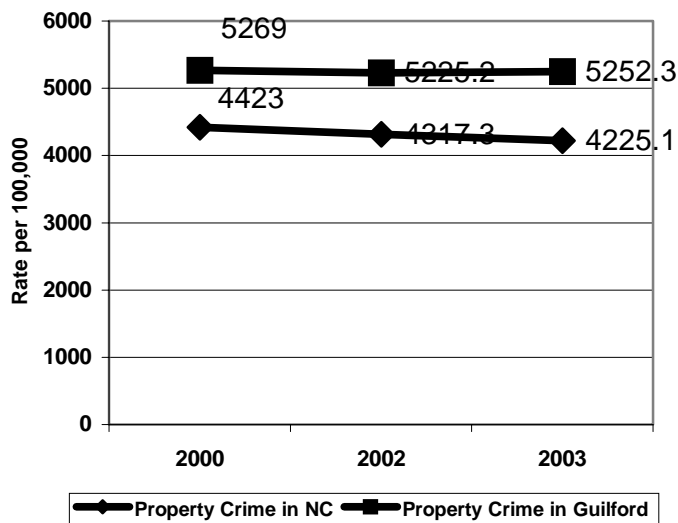
<sup>20</sup> Crime Rates in North Carolina, 2003, September 2003. North Carolina Department of Justice, State Bureau of Investigation.

### Violent Crime Index Guilford County and North Carolina



Property Crime includes burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft offenses. Property crime in Guilford County has also exceeded property crime in North Carolina. In 2003, property crime rate was 5252.3 per 100,000 population.

### Property Crime Index Guilford County and North Carolina



## Health Care and Public Health

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There are several acute care hospitals within Guilford County, including High Point Regional Health System, which is located in High Point and Moses Cone Health System and Kindred Hospital, which are located in Greensboro. High Point Regional Health System includes High Point Regional Hospital, a 384-bed medical and surgical facility with all private patient rooms and six centers of excellence, including The Cancer Center, Carolina Regional Heart Center, The Women's Center, Piedmont Joint Replacement Center, The Neuroscience Center, and the Emergency Center. High Point Regional Hospital has received Magnet Status, considered the gold standard for nursing care.<sup>21</sup>

Moses Cone Health System is a multiple hospital system that includes The Moses H. Cone Memorial Hospital, Wesley Long Community Hospital, The Women's Hospital of Greensboro, The Behavior Health Center, and Annie Penn Hospital in Rockingham County. Cone Memorial Hospital is a 535-bed hospital that offers a wide range of medical and surgical services. The Moses Cone Heart and Vascular Center, the Level II Trauma Center, The Rehabilitation Center and the Neuroscience Center are all located there. Wesley Long Community Hospital is a 240-bed medical hospital that is also home to the Regional Cancer Center, the Orthopedic/Medical/Surgical Unit and the Diabetes Treatment Program. Women's Hospital of Greensboro is a 134-bed facility providing specialized care to women of all ages and infants who have special needs through the Level II and Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. The Behavioral Health Center is an 80-bed facility that serves adults, children and adolescents who have mental health and substance abuse treatment.<sup>22</sup> Kindred Hospital is a 124-bed acute care referral hospital that provides care to pulmonary and ventilator-dependent patients and those with other system failures who are in need of longer rehabilitation.<sup>23</sup>

Guilford Adult Health, Inc., Guilford Child Health, Inc. and the Guilford County Department of Public Health address indigent health care needs in Guilford County. Guilford Adult Health, Inc. (GAH) is a private not-for-profit joint venture between Moses Cone Health System and High Point Regional Health System in partnership with Guilford County Government insures the provision of care to those in need. GAH's mission is to provide long-term funding for indigent health care through fundraising and maintaining the contract with Guilford County. GAH supports the operations of Health Serve Community Health Clinics and High Point Regional Adult Health Center, through which services are delivered. To address indigent health care, Guilford Child Health, Inc. was formed in 1997 as a community-wide solution to the lack of health care for children. Guilford Child Health serves as the medical home for thousands of children in Guilford County.

Formed in 1911, the Guilford County Department of Public Health is the first full-time county health department organized in North Carolina and the second oldest in the nation. Dedicated to promoting health and protecting the quality of life in Guilford County, GCDPH offers a range of services addressing child health, women's health, environmental health, and health promotion/disease prevention.<sup>24</sup>

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<sup>21</sup> High Point Regional Health System, 2005. H<http://www.highpointregional.com/H>

<sup>22</sup> Moses Cone Health System, 2005. H<http://www.mosescone.com/H>

<sup>23</sup> Kindred Hospital, 2005. H<http://www.kindredhealthcare.com/H>

<sup>24</sup> Guilford County Dept. of Public Health, 2005. H<http://www.co.guilford.nc.us/government/publichealth/index.asp>H

## Faith

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Faith and spirituality plays a role in the lives and health and well being of many in Guilford County. There are several hundred Christian churches of all denominations in Guilford County, as well as several Jewish synagogues, Buddhist, Baha'I, and Hindu temples, and Muslim mosques. In 2000, Greensboro participated in Social Capital Benchmark Study. Social capital a term coined by Robert Putnam, refers to a community's connectedness, social and political involvement, and feelings of trust and reciprocity. This study found that of those surveyed, 66 percent of were members of a faith community, compared to 58 percent nationally; 70 percent attend religious services at least once a month, compared to 61 percent nationally.<sup>25</sup>

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<sup>25</sup> Social Capital Community Benchmark Survey, 2001. H<http://www.cfsv.org/communitysurvey/nc3c.html>H