HealthStats Peer Counties

Group A: Cumberland, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg, Wake
- Population size: 267,587-919,628
- Individuals living below poverty level: 12.0%-18.4%
- Population under 18 years: 23%-27%
- Population 65 years and over: 8%-13%
- Population density (people per square mile): 490-1756

Group B: Cabarrus, Catawba, Henderson, Iredell, Onslow, Union
- Population size: 106,740-201,292
- Individuals living below poverty level: 9.2%-15.8%
- Population under 18 years: 21%-30%
- Population 65 years and over: 7%-22%
- Population density (people per square mile): 233-492

Group C: Craven, Davidson, Harnett, Johnston, Randolph
- Population size: 103,505-168,878
- Individuals living below poverty level: 16.1%-18.1%
- Population under 18 years: 23%-28%
- Population 65 years and over: 10%-15%
- Population density (people per square mile): 146-295

Group D: Brunswick, Buncombe, New Hanover, Orange
- Population size: 107,431-238,318
- Individuals living below poverty level: 16.5%-18.1%
- Population under 18 years: 19%-21%
- Population 65 years and over: 10%-21%
- Population density (people per square mile): 127-1058

Group E: Alamance, Gaston, Pitt, Robeson, Rowan, Wayne
- Population size: 122,623-206,086
- Individuals living below poverty level: 18.5%-31.5%
- Population under 18 years: 22%-27%
- Population 65 years and over: 10%-15%
- Population density (people per square mile): 141-579

Group F: Carteret, Chatham, Haywood, Moore, Stanly
- Population size: 59,036-88,247
- Individuals living below poverty level: 14.1%-16.6%
- Population under 18 years: 19%-23%
- Population 65 years and over: 16%-23%
- Population density (people per square mile): 93-153

Group G: Franklin, Granville, Lincoln, Nash, Pender
- Population size: 52,217-95,840
- Individuals living below poverty level: 15.0%-16.7%
- Population under 18 years: 22%-25%
- Population 65 years and over: 12%-15%
- Population density (people per square mile): 60-263

Group H: Burke, Caldwell, Lee, Rockingham, Surry, Wilkes
- Population size: 57,866-93,643
- Individuals living below poverty level: 18.4%-19.9%
- Population under 18 years: 22%-26%
- Population 65 years and over: 14%-17%
- Population density (people per square mile): 92-227

Group I: Columbus, Duplin, Halifax, Sampson
- Population size: 54,691-63,431
- Individuals living below poverty level: 21.4%-26.9%
- Population under 18 years: 23%-26%
- Population 65 years and over: 14%-16%
- Population density (people per square mile): 62-76

Group J: Cleveland, Edgecombe, Lenoir, Rutherford, Watauga, Wilson
- Population size: 51,079-98,078
- Individuals living below poverty level: 20.9%-25.0%
- Population under 18 years: 14%-25%
- Population 65 years and over: 12%-17%
- Population density (people per square mile): 112-221

Group K: Dare, Davie, Person, Stokes, Transylvania, Yadkin
- Population size: 33,090-47,401
- Individuals living below poverty level: 12.3%-16.4%
- Population under 18 years: 18%-24%
- Population 65 years and over: 15%-26%
- Population density (people per square mile): 87-156

Group L: Alexander, Hoke, Jackson, McDowell
- Population size: 37,198-46,952
- Individuals living below poverty level: 16.9%-19.9%
- Population under 18 years: 18%-30%
- Population 65 years and over: 7%-16%
- Population density (people per square mile): 82-143

Group M: Ashe, Beaufort, Cherokee, Macon
- Population size: 27,281-47,759
- Individuals living below poverty level: 18.1%-20.7%
- Population under 18 years: 19%-22%
- Population 65 years and over: 18%-24%
- Population density (people per square mile): 58-66

Group N: Anson, Bladen, Montgomery, Pasquotank, Richmond, Scotland, Vance
- Population size: 26,948-46,639
- Individuals living below poverty level: 22.3%-28.1%
- Population under 18 years: 22%-25%
- Population 65 years and over: 14%-16%
- Population density (people per square mile): 40-179

Group O: Camden, Currituck, Pamlico, Perquimans, Polk
- Population size: 9,980-23,547
- Individuals living below poverty level: 9.7%-16.4%
- Population under 18 years: 18%-26%
- Population 65 years and over: 13%-24%
- Population density (people per square mile): 39-90

Group P: Clay, Gates, Jones, Madison, Mitchell, Swain
- Population size: 10,153-20,764
- Individuals living below poverty level: 17.5%-19.7%
- Population under 18 years: 19%-24%
- Population 65 years and over: 15%-24%
- Population density (people per square mile): 22-70

Group Q: Alleghany, Graham, Hyde, Martin, Northampton, Washington
- Population size: 5,810-24,505
- Individuals living below poverty level: 21.9%-23.4%
- Population under 18 years: 19%-23%
- Population 65 years and over: 15%-21%
- Population density (people per square mile): 9-53

Group R: Avery, Caswell, Chowan, Greene, Yancey
- Population size: 14,793-23,719
- Individuals living below poverty level: 20.3%-23.7%
- Population under 18 years: 17%-23%
- Population 65 years and over: 12%-21%
- Population density (people per square mile): 56-86

Group S: Bertie, Hertford, Tyrrell, Warren
- Population size: 4,407-24,669
- Individuals living below poverty level: 26.1%-28.7%
- Population under 18 years: 18%-21%
- Population 65 years and over: 16%-19%
- Population density (people per square mile): 11-70

Population data and land area used to calculate population density are from the 2010 Census Summary File 1. See http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_SF1/GCTPH1.ST05/0400000US37 and http://factfinder2.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/DEC/10_SF1/GCTP7.ST05/0400000US37.

The percentage of individuals living below the poverty level in 2010 is data obtained from the "Small Area Income Poverty Estimates (SAIPE)", U.S. Bureau of the Census and can be obtained at http://www.census.gov/did/www/saipe/data/statecounty/data/2010.html.

Peer counties were identified using the same county demographic variables used to create the peer county groups used in the Community Health Status Indicators (CHSI) Project. Data from the 2010 Census and poverty estimates for 2010 were used to determine the groups. Counties were first grouped by size, using the population groupings established by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) for its periodic survey of local health departments. These groups were then split by the percentage of individuals living below the poverty line. When necessary, those groups were further divided based on the age group distribution in the county (the percent of population less than 18 year and/or the percent of population 65 years or older). In some cases, all counties had similar age group distributions, so population density was used to determine the final division.

These peer county groups may differ from the CHSI Project groups as more recent data were used and the division points were based only on North Carolina data, not United States data. The peer groups also differ from the NC CATCH peer counties, as the methodology and criteria have changed.

These groupings will be reviewed annually. If significant changes are noted, the groups will be updated to reflect those changes.