Demographic and Work Force Data for Winston-Salem/Forsyth County

REQUEST DATE: Friday, April 15, 2016

REQUEST:
Information was requested on Winston-Salem/Forsyth county demographics and work force.

The request was particularly interested in information on the following:

- Educational Attainment by Race
- Unemployment Levels by Race
- Drop Out Rates by Race
- Average Salary/Household Income by Race
- Other high-level employment and workforce data broken out by race for the city/county

ASSIGNED FORSYTH FUTURES STAFF MEMBER(S): Elizabeth Lees, Director of Data and Research with assistance from Adam Hill, Megan Grigg, Adrienne Cherry, and Wesley Morris

REQUEST RESPONSE DATE: Monday, April 18, 2016

RESEARCH METHOD:
Preliminary data from the current Forsyth Futures study on poverty in addition to some preliminary data from The Forsyth Promise were pulled to fill this informational request. Educational Attainment by Race, Unemployment levels by Race, and Household Income by Race information was retrieved from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey and analyzed for statistically significant differences between sub-groups at the 95% confidence level using the statistical method described by the Census Bureau in A Compass for Understanding and Using American Community Survey Data: What General Data Users Need to Know (http://www.census.gov/content/dam/Census/library/publications/2008/acs/ACSGeneralHandbook.pdf). Drop out level by race data was pulled from the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system and differences between sub-groups are not a metric Forsyth Futures currently tracks and have not yet been tested for statistical significance. Peer counties and cities were selected for Forsyth Futures’ upcoming poverty study using a computer algorithm to select the city/county pairs that are the most similar to Winston-Salem/Forsyth County across several demographic factors.
Data Sources:


- **Dropout Rates by Race**: Winston-Salem/Forsyth County Schools, Dropout Prevention, Dropout Reports ([http://wsfcs.k12.nc.us/Page/1048](http://wsfcs.k12.nc.us/Page/1048))


RESULTS:

**Educational Attainment by Race**

As shown in Figure 1, a measurably higher percentage of White, Non-Hispanic residents have an Associate’s degree or higher than African-American and Hispanic/Latino residents.

White, Non-Hispanic residents are almost four times as likely to have an associate’s degree or higher as Hispanic/Latino residents and the gap between White, Non-Hispanic residents and African American residents with an Associate’s degree or higher is almost twenty percentage points.

**FIGURE 1.** Percent of Population Over 25 with an Associate’s Degree or Higher, by Race, Forsyth County, 2014
Unemployment Levels by Race
Winston-Salem

As seen in Table 1 and Figure 2, African-American residents have measurably higher rates of unemployment in Winston-Salem than Hispanic/Latino residents and White, Non-Hispanic residents, and Hispanic/Latino residents have measurably higher rates of unemployment than White, Non-Hispanic residents.

The unemployment rate in Winston-Salem for Hispanic/Latino residents is not measurably different than that of the United States, North Carolina, or Winston-Salem’s peer cities.

Unemployment rates for African-American residents in Winston-Salem are measurably higher than those of the United States and all of Winston-Salem’s peer cities.

The unemployment rate for White, Non-Hispanic residents in Winston-Salem is measurably higher than that of North Carolina and some of Winston-Salem’s peer cities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>White, Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Winston-Salem</td>
<td>18.3</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>10.5*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Little Rock</td>
<td>13.2</td>
<td>5.3</td>
<td>11.9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette</td>
<td>12.7</td>
<td>3.9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>15.8</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greensboro</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>7.9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke</td>
<td>12.8*</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicates that estimate may be unreliable for some purposes (CV>30)
Less reliable data has been omitted (CV>30)
Green highlighting indicates that unemployment rate is measurably lower than that of Winston-Salem
FIGURE 2. Unemployment Rate by City and Race, 2010–2014

*Indicates that estimate may be unreliable for some purposes (CV12-30)
Less reliable data has been omitted (CV>30)

Forsyth County

As seen in Table 2 and Figure 3, African-American residents have measurably higher rates of unemployment in Forsyth County than Hispanic/Latino residents and White, Non-Hispanic residents, and Hispanic/Latino residents have measurably higher rates of unemployment than White, Non-Hispanic residents.

The unemployment rate in Forsyth County for Hispanic/Latino residents is not measurably different than that of the United States, North Carolina, or Forsyth County’s peer counties.

Unemployment rates for African-American residents in Forsyth County are measurably higher than those of most of Forsyth County’s peer counties.

And, the unemployment rate for White, Non-Hispanic residents in Forsyth County is measurably higher than that of the United States and North Carolina and most of Forsyth County’s peer counties.
**TABLE 2. Unemployment Rate by County and Race, 2010-2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Black or African-American</th>
<th>White, Non-Hispanic</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>16.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>16.8</td>
<td>8.6</td>
<td>10.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>12.3</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>9*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lafayette Parish*</td>
<td>11.2</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>15.3</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>10.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilford County*</td>
<td>13.9</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>8*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Forsyth County*</td>
<td>17.4</td>
<td>6.6</td>
<td>10.2*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Roanoke City*</td>
<td>12.8</td>
<td>6.3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Indicates that estimate may be unreliable for some purposes (CV12-30)
Less reliable data has been omitted (CV>30)
Green highlighting indicates that unemployment rate is measurably lower than that of Winston-Salem

**FIGURE 3. Unemployment Rate by County and Race, 2010-2014**

*Indicates that estimate may be unreliable for some purposes (CV12-30)
Less reliable data has been omitted (CV>30)
Green highlighting indicates that unemployment rate is measurably lower than that of Winston-Salem
Dropout Rate by Race

Table 3 and Figure 4 show that a preliminary analysis of dropout rates for students in the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system indicates that Hispanic/Latino students may have a higher dropout rate than African-American and White, Non-Hispanic students.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dropout Rate</th>
<th>African-American</th>
<th>Hispanic/Latino</th>
<th>White, Non-Hispanic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2.8%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>2.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

FIGURE 4. Dropout Rate of High School Students in Forsyth County by Race 2012–2013

Household Income by Race

Households headed by African-American and Hispanic/Latino householders have measurably lower median incomes than those headed by Asian-American and White, Non-Hispanic householders as seen in Figure 5.

The median income of households headed by Asian-American householders is more than twice as high as those headed by African-American and Hispanic/Latino householders.