Established in 1741, Edgecombe County was named for Richard Edgecombe, a member of British Parliament and a Lord of Treasury. Tarboro serves as the county seat. It is the state’s ninth oldest incorporated town. The oldest town incorporated by African Americans, Princeville, is also found in Edgecombe County.

The largest city in Edgecombe County is Rocky Mount, home to Hardee’s and Rocky Mount Instruments. Other communities located in Edgecombe County include Conetoe, Leggett, Macclesfield, Pinetops, Princeville, Sharpsburg, Speed, and Whitakers.

Edgecombe County’s historical and cultural attractions include The Grove, a colonial-era plantation and former residence of American Revolutionary War veteran and North Carolina statesman Thomas Blount, and the historic Tarboro Town Common—a large park that includes several memorials.

**ABOUT**

**EDUCATION**

**HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE:** 77%
- NC: 87% | US: 83%

**THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL:** 32%
- NC: 73% | US: 68%

**STUDENT EXPENDITURE K-12**
- $9,728

**STUDENTS RECEIVING FREE OR REDUCED LUNCH**
- 65%

**COMMUNITY COLLEGES & 4-YEAR UNIVERSITIES:**
- Edgecombe Community College

**HEALTH**

**PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS PER 10,000:** 4
- NC: 25 | US: 28

**BREAST CANCER PER 10,000**
- 3

**STROKE DEATHS PER 10,000**
- 9

**DENTISTS PER 10,000**
- 2

**GROCERY STORES PER 10,000**
- 2

**CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000**
- 46

**HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000**
- 20

**UNINSURED ADULTS**
- 16%

**OBESITY**
- 42%

**ECONOMY**

**MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** $33,892
- NC RANKING: 97th

**UNEMPLOYED**
- 9%

**LIVE IN POVERTY**
- 25%

**LARGEST EMPLOYER:**
- City Of Rocky Mount

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

**POPULATION:** 55,779
- NC RANKING: 52nd
- *ranked HIGH to LOW out of 100 counties

**COUNTY | NC AVG | US AVG**
--- | --- | ---
BLACK | 57% | 22% | 13%
WHITE | 39% | 71% | 77%
HISPANIC | 4% | 9% | 17%
MEDIAN AGE | 40 | 38 | 38
RENT ≥ 30% INCOME | 55% | 45% | 47%
FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE | 23% | 13% | 19%
PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION | 61,556 | 9.4M | 335M

**SOURCES:**
1. NC Health Data Explorer
2. NCIOM
3. NC School Report Cards
4. NC Office of State Budget and Management
5. NC DPI Statistical Profile
6. State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17
7. Cancer.gov
8. CDC
9. "About" information provided by the North Carolina History Project