

## NR601 Week 1: Health Inequities Discussion

**Briefly describe demographic data for your county, including total population, median income, percentage of residents with health insurance, poverty percentage, and one additional demographic. Compare the data to state averages and discuss your findings.**

<i>Data</i>	<i>South Carolina</i>	<i>Aiken County</i>
Total Population	5,118,425	168,808
Median Income	\$64,114.00	\$68,743.00
Percentage without Health Insurance	9.1%	8.4%
Poverty Rate	14.0%	18.1%
Population over Age 65	19.2%	21.9%
Education (Bachelor's and higher)	32.6%	30.8%

**Aiken County, South Carolina**, is the 4<sup>th</sup> largest county in the state, encompassing over 1,070 square miles of land mass located along the western edge of the state. It lies adjacent to the Savannah River, which serves as the state line with the state of Georgia. Aiken County is primarily an agricultural and rural area. Many residents commute to vocations in Augusta, Georgia, and the state capital of Columbia, South Carolina. The population comprises only 3.3% of the total population in South Carolina, with a median income higher than the state average. The poverty rate is significantly higher in the county at 18.1% vs. 14%, although the uninsured percentage of the population is lower.

In researching the demographic information for this discussion, this writer was struck by the lower rates of those attaining higher education despite having a local, nationally ranked state university within its borders and access to multiple public and private universities within a 50-mile radius. This fact is surprising because the major employers in this area, besides agriculture, include the universities, the US Department of Energy, and the military cybersecurity industry. This lack of an educated population may be a determining factor in the higher unemployment rates, not listed in the graph above but known to be at an astounding rate of 6.5%, which is more than double the national average (SCRFA, 2022).

This writer's primary area of interest is the 21.9% rate of the population over age 65. According to the State of South Carolina (2022), the growth rate of aging individuals residing in or relocating to the Aiken County area has grown 34.6% since 2010 (SCRFA, 2022). As a resident in this area, it is well-known that older retirees are relocating to the county due to the lower living costs and more temperate climate. The aging population is a significant factor to be considered by this healthcare provider, as these patients present with