

Rimini Protokoll: 100% The Triangle
Casting Chart
Methodological Memo

DEFINING THE RESEARCH TRIANGLE

Because this production of Rimini Protokoll’s “100% City” includes the region referred to as the Research Triangle, and not a specific city, the first step in the process was to define the geographic boundaries of NC’s Research Triangle. Although there is no official consensus regarding the boundaries of the Triangle, the region got its names from Research Triangle Park (RTP) and the three surrounding Research 1 universities in Raleigh (NC State), Durham (Duke), and Chapel Hill (UNC-Chapel Hill). Given that these three cities constitute the core of the region, we define the Triangle to include the three counties, Wake, Durham, and Orange, where these cities are located.

Once the boundaries of the Triangle were defined, Carolina Demography provided a demographic profile of the population of Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties.

DATA & ANALYSIS

For the demographic profile, we analyzed data from the U.S. Census Bureau’s [American Community Survey \(ACS\)](#) 1-year Public-Use microsample, obtained from the [Integrated Public-Use Microdata Series \(IPUMS-USA\)](#).¹ Every year the U.S. Census Bureau releases the ACS 1-year population estimates that includes geographic areas with populations with at least 65,000 residents, a population threshold met by Wake, Durham, and Orange Counties. In this dataset, counties that meet this threshold are identified by Federal Identification Processing Standards (FIPS) codes. Table 1 shows the counties, the FIPS codes, and the 2021 population estimates. According to these estimates, the total population for the Triangle in 2021 was 1,626,052.

Table 1. Triangle Counties, FIPS codes, and 2021 Population Estimates

County	FIPS	Population Estimates
Wake	37183	1,150,581
Durham	37063	326,215
Orange	37135	149,256

Source: 2021 ACS 1-year PUMS obtained from IPUMS-USA

VARIABLES

Limiting the analysis to the populations of our three counties, we calculated the demographic profile of the Triangle based on 6 criteria:

- Sex (regardless of gender identity)
- Age
- Race/Ethnicity
- Living Arrangement

- Nativity (U.S.-born/Foreign-born)
- Relative Share of County Population

Sex

To estimate the sex-ratio of the Triangle we used the sex variable in the ACS dataset. The ACS only collects data on sex, and does not include information on gender or gender identity. You can read more about that [here](#). According to our estimates, 49 percent of the Triangle population was male, and 51 percent was female.

Age

To estimate the age composition, we used the single-year age variable in the ACS and re-coded it into the age groups displayed in Table 2.

Table 2. Age Composition of the Triangle Population, 2021

Age Group	Population Estimate	Percentage
0-4	90,510	5.6
5-9	93,554	5.8
10-14	109,607	6.7
15-19	118,463	7.3
20-29	230,072	14.2
30-44	358,137	22.0
45-54	221,572	13.6
55-64	190,102	11.7
65-74	135,202	8.3
75+	78,833	4.9
TOTAL	1,626,052	100

Source: ACS 1-year PUMS obtained from IPUMS

Race/Ethnicity

In the ACS, respondents self-identify their race and report whether they are of Hispanic origin. Following common practice, to estimate the racial and ethnic composition of the Triangle, we collapsed first combined the original racial categories, Chinese, Japanese, and Other Asian or Pacific Islander into one “Asian or Pacific Islander” category. We also combined the racial categories, Other race - not elsewhere classified, Two Major Races, and Three or More Major Races into one “More than One Race or Other” category. Finally, we combined our recoded race variable with the Hispanic origin variable to create one variable with Hispanic/Latinx as its own racial category. Table 3 shows the racial composition of the Triangle based on these estimates.

Table 3. Racial and Ethnic Composition of the Triangle, 2021

Race/Ethnicity	Population	Percent
White	900,710	55.4
Black	340,882	21.0
Latino	178,530	11.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	119,225	7.3
American Indian/Alaska Native	2,904	0.2
Other	83,801	5.2
TOTAL	1,626,052	100

Source: ACS 1-year PUMS obtained from IPUMS

Living Arrangement

To estimate the living arrangement category, we used the ACS variable *Marital Status*, which provides an estimate of the population that is single, married, divorced or separated, or widowed. The ACS data only collects data on cohabiting partners if one of the partners is the head of the household, identified in the *Relationship to Head of Household* variable. We used this variable to combine Triangle residents who were married or cohabiting. Because of the limitations of the data, it is likely that we underestimate the population that is cohabiting. The Triangle population by living arrangement is shown in Table 4.

Table 4. Living Arrangements of the Triangle, 2021

Living Arrangement	Population	Percent
Single	900,710	55.4
Married or Cohabiting	340,882	21.0
Divorce or Separated	178,530	11.0
Widowed	119,225	7.3
TOTAL	1,626,052	100

Source: ACS 1-year PUMS obtained from IPUMS

Nativity

Given that most of the population change in the Triangle in recent years has been due to domestic and foreign-born migration, we decided to include nativity in the demographic profile as well. Considering that many U.S.-born immigrants in the Triangle will likely be captured through the snowball sampling we used for the casting protocol, we estimated the percent of the Triangle population that is foreign-born to ensure that foreign-born Triangle residents were represented in the cast. To estimate the U.S.-born and foreign-born population we recoded the ACS variable *Citizen*. Respondents who reported that they were naturalized citizens or non-citizens were categorized as foreign-born. These figures are shown in Table 5

Table 5. Triangle Population by Nativity, 2021

Nativity	Population	Percent
U.S.-Born	1,393,814	85.7
Foreign-Born	232,238	14.3
Total	1,626,052	100

Source: ACS 1-year PUMS obtained from IPUMS

REFERENCES

Steven Ruggles, Sarah Flood, Matthew Sobek, Danika Brockman, Grace Cooper, Stephanie Richards, and Megan Schouweiler. IPUMS USA: Version 13.0 [dataset]. Minneapolis, MN: IPUMS, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.18128/D010.V13.0>