

## Native American Awareness Day Set for June 8

### Honoring Healing and Heritage

On Sunday, June 8 the community is invited to gather in unity and celebration at the upcoming Native American Awareness Day, taking place from 12:00 noon until 5:00 p.m. This public event will highlight themes of recovery, education, prevention, and therapy while honoring Native American traditions through ceremonies, music, and cultural expression.

The event aims to raise awareness about issues impacting Native communities, particularly in the areas of health, substance abuse prevention, and mental wellness. Through a combination of educational booths, therapy resources, and cultural sharing, attendees will have the opportunity to learn, heal, and connect.

#### Featured activities will include:

- Traditional Native American ceremonies
- Guest Speaker Spiritual Leader Ron Eagle Wolf Sandoval
- Live music and drumming performances
- Informational sessions on recovery and prevention
- Therapeutic workshops and wellness activities
- Cultural education displays and community networking

“This day is about creating space for healing and awareness, while also celebrating the beauty and resilience of Native cultures,” said Chief Cochise Medicineshield Zerambo. “We welcome everyone to join us in learning, honoring, and supporting Native voices.”

The event is free and open to the public, and families are encouraged to attend. Food, craft & community resources will also be available on-site. Donations are appreciated.

Come join the event for a powerful and uplifting day that brings together culture, community, and compassion.

More information is available from Frank Zerambo at: [medicineshield2024@gmail.com](mailto:medicineshield2024@gmail.com) or (980) 410-2885.

## Anson County’s March Unemployment Rate

**Anson County** Anson County’s unemployment rate for March was 4.2%. In February it was 4.5%.

Anson’s total labor force in March was 9,015, with 8,6375 employed and 378 unemployed. In February the total labor force was 8,897, with 8,495 employed and 402 unemployed.

**Statewide** Statewide the unemployment rate for March was 3.7%. In February it was 3.7%.

Unemployment rates (not seasonally adjusted) decreased in 43 counties in March 2025, increased in 29, and remained unchanged in 28. Hyde County had the highest unemployment rate at 6.8 percent while Camden County had the lowest at 2.8 percent.

Seven of the state’s metro areas experienced rate increases, five decreased, and three remained unchanged. Among the metro areas, Asheville had the highest rate at 4.8 percent while Raleigh had the lowest at 3.1 percent. The not seasonally adjusted statewide rate was 3.7 percent.

When compared to the same month last year, not seasonally adjusted unemployment rates increased in 44 counties, decreased in 30, and remained unchanged in 26.

Seven metro areas experienced rate increases over the year, five decreased, and three remained unchanged.

The number of workers employed statewide (not seasonally adjusted) increased in March by 30,225 to 5,105,044, while those unemployed decreased by 191 to 195,211. Since March 2024, the number of workers employed statewide decreased 8,623, while those unemployed increased 4,939.

## Americans Want Early Alzheimer’s Diagnosis & Treatment and Are Open to Risk-Taking to Slow Disease Progression

As the number of Americans living with Alzheimer’s disease tops more than 7 million for the first time, nearly 4 in 5 Americans would want to know if they had Alzheimer’s disease before it impacted their lives. They also want treatment, even if it comes with risks, as long as it slows the progression of the disease. These are among the insights uncovered in the 2025 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures report released by the Alzheimer’s Association. ([alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures](https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures))

The 2025 Facts and Figures report provides an in-depth look at the latest national and state-by-state statistics on Alzheimer’s prevalence, mortality, dementia care workforce, costs of care and impact on caregivers.

#### New disease-related statistics for North Carolina revealed the following:

- Number of North Carolina residents aged 65 and older living with Alzheimer’s: 210,500, which accounts for 11.6% of adults over age 65
- Statewide deaths from Alzheimer’s disease: 4,272
- Statewide mortality rate from Alzheimer’s (per 100,000 people): 39.9%
- Number of North Carolina residents serving as unpaid family caregivers: 381,000
- Total hours of unpaid care provided: 739 million
- Total value of unpaid care: \$13 billion

“This year’s report finds that the impact of Alzheimer’s on individuals and families continues to be significant,” said Katherine Lambert, CEO, Alzheimer’s Association - Western Carolina Chapter. “Now more than ever, we need to work to advance disease research and treatments that can slow the current trajectory and help all North Carolina families affected by Alzheimer’s and other dementia.”

The new report shows prevalence, disease-related deaths and cost of caring for those living with Alzheimer’s are rising across the country. Among the findings:

- 7.2 million people aged 65 and older are living with Alzheimer’s disease, over 4% increase from last year’s report.
- It’s estimated that 200,000 adults younger than 65 have younger-onset Alzheimer’s.
- Total annual costs of caring for people living with Alzheimer’s and other dementias (excluding unpaid care) is projected to be \$384 billion in 2025.
- Additionally, nearly 12 million family members and friends provide 19.2 billion hours of unpaid care, valued at an additional \$413 billion.
- Deaths due to Alzheimer’s disease more than doubled between 2000 and 2022.

An accompanying special report, American Perspectives on Early Detection of Alzheimer’s Disease in the Era of Treatment, highlights a national survey of more than 1,700 U.S. adults, aged 45 and older, examining awareness and attitudes of early detection and diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease, tests used to help diagnose Alzheimer’s and treatments that can slow progression of the disease.

#### Among the findings revealed in the new survey:

- Americans want to know early if they have Alzheimer’s disease and want access to testing. Nearly 4 in 5 Americans (79%) would want to know if they had Alzheimer’s disease before having symptoms or before symptoms interfere with daily activities. More than 9 in 10 Americans would definitely or probably want a simple test (e.g. blood-based biomarker test) if it was available. The number one reason for wanting a simple test is to allow for earlier treatment and care.
- If diagnosed with Alzheimer’s, most Americans would want medication to slow its progression and would highly value information about the disease and treatment. More than 9 in 10 Americans (92%) would probably or definitely want to take a medication that could slow the progression of Alzheimer’s disease following an Alzheimer’s diagnosis. Nearly three in five Americans (58%) said they would accept a moderate or high level of risk with taking an anti-amyloid medication to slow the progression of Alzheimer’s disease. Nearly 1 in 4 Americans (22%) are willing to accept high risk.
- Americans’ top concerns about Alzheimer’s testing are insurance coverage, accuracy and cost. 44% worry that insurance won’t cover future care and treatment. Other top concerns include test accuracy, cost, potential to lose confidence in abilities and not being allowed to do certain activities, such as driving.
- Americans are optimistic that the next decade will bring new treatments to slow, prevent and even cure Alzheimer’s disease. Four in 5 Americans (81%) believe new treatments to stop the progression of Alzheimer’s will emerge in the next decade, and 66% believe new treatments to prevent Alzheimer’s will be available soon.

“The survey underscores the need for advancing new treatments and making early diagnosis easier and more accessible to anyone concerned about their memory and thinking,” said Lambert. “We’re encouraged that the survey finds people want to be proactive in addressing cognitive concerns. That’s a real positive because early diagnosis of Alzheimer’s offers the best opportunity for care, management and treatment of the disease.”

**More information:** [alz.org](https://www.alz.org) & [alz.org/northcarolina](https://www.alz.org/northcarolina), and Alzheimer’s Association - Western Carolina Chapter on Facebook, X and Instagram.

## Anson County AA Meeting Schedules

The Anson County Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) Group meets on Mondays at 7:30 p.m. for an Open Topic Meeting. (Except the 2nd Monday of each month is an Open Big Book Study.)

The Harmony Group meets on Wednesdays at 12 noon for an Open Discussion Meeting. Anyone who thinks they may have a problem with drugs or alcohol, AA wants to help.

All meetings are held at the AA Building, located at 2177 Country Club Road in Wadesboro, across from EMS. Meetings are non-smoking and handicap accessible.

## Chair Exercise Classes at the Library

The Hampton B. Allen Library is hosting chair exercise classes every Thursday in May. Class begins at 10:00 a.m. in the library’s Pritchett Room. Everyone is welcome. Any questions please call 704-694-5177.

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