Course Project - Phase 1 - Dataset Selection

“College graduates per capita by county in North Carolina from 1970-2020”

<https://data.ers.usda.gov/reports.aspx?ID=17829#Pe8cf02345d414649bdade4e7b00630d6_6_49iT1>

Along with the percentage of college graduates among the counties populations, the data can be further analyzed by categorizing each county by its Rural-Urban Continuum Code (RUCC), to represent its level of urbanization.

**Question 1:**

Does belonging to a specific Rural-Urban continuum code have any correlation to the prevalence of college graduates among adults (over the age of 25) in North Carolinian counties? (Are more urbanized counties more educated than less urbanized ones?)

**Question 2:**

In general, has the average percentage of college graduates in each county risen since the 1970s?

**Question 3:**

Which counties in North Carolina have experienced the highest growth in the percentage of college graduates among their adult population?

**Assumptions made when analyzing this data:**

1. Adults are defined in the dataset as everyone above the age of 25 years old.
2. The “FIPS” column present in the original dataset will be omitted from my dashboard since each FIPS number corresponds to only one county, which doesn’t contribute any valuable information for the sake of this project since there are no duplicate names in NC counties.
3. Rural-Urban Continuum Codes are defined as follows:

<https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/rural-urban-continuum-codes/>

1 - Metro - Counties in metro areas of 1 million population or more

2 - Metro - Counties in metro areas of 250,000 to 1 million population

3 - Metro - Counties in metro areas of fewer than 250,000 population

4 - Nonmetro - Urban population of 20,000 or more, adjacent to a metro area

5 - Nonmetro - Urban population of 20,000 or more, not adjacent to a metro area

6 - Nonmetro - Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, adjacent to a metro area

7 - Nonmetro - Urban population of 2,500 to 19,999, not adjacent to a metro area

8 - Nonmetro - Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, adjacent to a metro area

9 - Nonmetro - Completely rural or less than 2,500 urban population, not adjacent to a metro area