myFutureNC Attainment Dashboard – Data Guidance

About

This page outlines the data elements and sources of the variables in the [myFutureNC Attainment Dashboard](#). This dashboard was produced by Carolina Demography for myFutureNC.

The dashboard shows North Carolina's progress toward the state's overall 2030 goal of 2 million adults ages 25-44 with a postsecondary degree or credential, as well as [18 educational performance indicators](#). These indicators span the education continuum, capturing key transition points for students from NC Pre-K through college completion and into the labor market.

Researchers from Carolina Demography, located within the Carolina Population Center at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, identified the best source of data for each indicator by consulting with experts from the UNC System, the NC Community College System, North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities, the NC Department of Public Instruction, the NC Department of Commerce, and the NC Department of Health and Human Services.

Carolina Demography will provide updated data for each indicator as it becomes available. In most cases, new data will be available annually; the timing of the update differs depending on the indicator.

This document provides the following information:

- Data Availability
- Update Schedule
- File Layout
- Detailed information for each indicator

Suggested Citation

Carolina Demography. *myFutureNC Attainment Dashboard: State Database*. Chapel Hill, NC: Carolina Population Center, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Contact

Questions about this data should be directed to Carolina Demography at demography@unc.edu.

Data Availability

Indicators Available for U.S. & 50 States	Years Available in File	Demographic Details Available in File			
		Sex	**Race/ Ethnicity**	**Sex by Race/ Ethnicity**	**Other**
Educational Attainment	2006-2018	X	X	X	
NAEP Fourth Grade Reading	2013, 2015, 2017, 2019	X	X	X	X
NAEP Eighth Grade Math	2013, 2015, 2017, 2019	X	X	X	X
Chronic Absenteeism	2016	X	X	X	
High School Graduation Rate	2011-2017 for all states (2006-2019 for NC only)		X		X
FAFSA Completion Rate	2018-2019	No demographic details available			
Postsecondary Enrollment Rate	2006-2018	X	X	X	
First-Year Persistence Rate	2010-2018	No demographic details available			
Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Public	2018	X	X		X
Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Private	2018	X			X
Postsecondary Completion Rate: 2yr Public	2018	X			X
Disconnected Youth	2006-2018	X	X	X	
Labor Force Participation Rate	2006-2018	X	X	X	
Family-Sustaining Wage	2006-2018	X	X	X	
NC-only Indicators					
NC Pre-K	2015-2019	No demographic details available			
College-and-Career-Ready in Reading	2019	X	X		X
College-and-Career-Ready in Math	2019	X	X		X
ACT Performance	2019	X	X		X
Labor Market Alignment	2015-2017 average	No demographic details available			

Update schedule

	Update	US & All 50 States	NC	Prosperity Zone	Counties
NC Pre K enrollment	Annual		x	x	x
College-and-Career-Ready in Reading	Annual		x	x	x
NAEP Fourth Grade Reading	2-Years	x	x		
College-and-Career-Ready in Math	Annual		x	x	x
NAEP Eighth Grade Math	2-Years	x	x		
Chronic Absenteeism	Annual	x	x	x	x
High School Graduation Rate	Annual	x	x	x	x
ACT Performance	Annual		x	x	x
FAFSA Completion Rate	Annual	x	x	x	x
Postsecondary Enrollment Rate	Annual	x	x	x	x
First-Year Persistence Rate	Annual	x	x	x	x
Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Public	Annual	x	x		x
Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Private	Annual	x	x		x
Postsecondary Completion Rate: 2yr Public	Annual	x	x		x
Labor Market Alignment	Annual		x	x	
Disconnected Youth	Annual	x	x	x	x
Labor Force Participation Rate	Annual	x	x	x	x
Family-Sustaining Wage	Annual	x	x	x	x

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File Layout

The database contains the following fields (in order of appearance)

Variable Name	Definition	Variable Type
GEOTYPE	Geographic Type	String
NAME	Geography Name	String
FIPS	State FIPS Code	Numeric
YEAR	Reporting Year	Numeric
INDTYPE	Indicator Type	String
SUBGROUP	Demographic Group	String
INDDEN	Indicator Denominator	Numeric
INDNUM	Indicator Numerator	Numeric
INDVALUE	Indicator Value	Numeric
SOUTH	Is Southeast (or TX)	Numeric

NOTES: For data referring to the school year, YEAR refers to the end year of that school year. For example, YEAR = 2019 for school year 2018-19. Subgroup information available differs depending on the indicator. Indicator denominators and indicator numerators are not available for all indicators.

The key for GEOTYPE is as follows:

Nation	United States
State	State
NC_Rural_Urban	One of four rural/urban classifications in NC

The key for INDTYPE is as follows:

ABSENT	Chronic Absenteeism
ACGR	High School Graduation Rate (NCES)
ACGR4	High School Graduation Rate (NC DPI)
ACT	ACT Performance
ALIGN	Labor Market Alignment
DISY	Disconnected Youth
DISY_5	Disconnected Youth (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_AA	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree
EDUC_AAPL	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree or Higher
EDUC_AAPL_5	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree or Higher (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_BA	Educational Attainment: Bachelor's
EDUC_HS	Educational Attainment: High School
EDUC_LTHS	Educational Attainment: Less than High School
EDUC_MAPL	Educational Attainment: Master's or more
EDUC_SCND	Educational Attainment: Some College, No Degree
ENRL18	Postsecondary Enrollment
ENRL18_5	Postsecondary Enrollment (5-Year ACS)
FAFSA	FAFSA Completion Rate
FAM300	Family Sustaining Wage
FAM300_5	Family Sustaining Wage (5-Year ACS)
GRAD6_Priv4	Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Private
GRAD6_Pub2	Postsecondary Completion Rate: 2yr Public
GRAD6_Pub4	Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Public
LF2544	Labor Force Participation Rate (25-44)
LF2544_5	Labor Force Participation Rate (25-44) (5-Year ACS)
MAGS	College-and-Career-Ready in Math
NAEPMA8	NAEP Eighth Grade Math
NAEPRD4	NAEP Fourth Grade Reading
PER1	First-Year Persistence
PREK	NC Pre-K Enrollment
RDGS	College-and-Career-Ready in Reading

The key for SUBGROUP is as follows:

ALL	All Groups/Overall

Sex	
FEM	Female
MALE	Male

Race/Ethnicity	
AMIN	American Indian/Alaska Native
API	Asian or Pacific Islander
BLACK	Black or African-American
HISP	Hispanic or Latino
MULT	Multiracial
OTHER	Other race
WHITE	White

Sex by Race/Ethnicity	
AMIN_FEM	American Indian/Alaska Native Female
AMIN_MALE	American Indian/Alaska Native Male
API_FEM	Asian/Pacific Islander Female
API_MALE	Asian/Pacific Islander Male
BLACK_FEM	Black or African-American Female
BLACK_MALE	Black or African-American Male
HISP_FEM	Hispanic or Latino Female
HISP_MALE	Hispanic or Latino Male
MULT_FEM	Multiracial Female
MULT_MALE	Multiracial Male
OTHER_FEM	Other Race Female
OTHER_MALE	Other Race Male
WHITE_FEM	White Female
WHITE_MALE	White Male

Economic Disadvantage	
EDS	Economically Disadvantaged (receives Free or Reduced Price lunch)
NEDS	Not Economically Disadvantaged

Disability Status	
SWD	Students with Disability
NSWD	Not Students with Disability

English Proficiency	
LEP	Limited English Proficient or English Learner

Age (Postsecondary Completion Only)	
20U	<20
21_24	21-24
25P	25+

Enrollment Intensity (Postsecondary Completion Only)	
FULL	Full time
MIXED	Mixed full and part time
PART	Part time

Rural/Urban (NAEP Only)	
CITY	District inside a principal city in a Census-defined urban area
RURAL	District inside a Census-defined rural area
SUBURB	District inside Census-defined urban area but outside of a principal city
TOWN	District inside a Census-defined urban cluster

Other subgroups (NC DPI data only)	
AIG	Academically or Intellectually Gifted
FCS	Foster Care
HMS	Homeless
MIG	Migrant
MIL	Military Connected

Educational Attainment

Percent of North Carolina 25-44-year-olds with a specific level of education, such as an associate degree or higher.

Source

State and national data is from the U.S. Census Bureau's 1-Year American Community Survey (ACS) microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA. Data for all counties is available in the 5-Year ACS in Table B15001: Sex by Age by Educational Attainment for the Population 18 Years and Over.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

EDUC_AA	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree
EDUC_AAPL	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree or Higher
EDUC_AAPL_5	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree or Higher (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_BA	Educational Attainment: Bachelor's
EDUC_HS	Educational Attainment: High School
EDUC_LTHS	Educational Attainment: Less than High School
EDUC_MAPL	Educational Attainment: Master's or more
EDUC_SCND	Educational Attainment: Some College, No Degree

Note: This data does not include an estimate of the share of adults with a high-quality nondegree credential. Statewide, the Lumina Foundation estimates roughly 5% of NC adults hold a high-quality nondegree credential. These individuals would appear in this dataset in the variable EDUC_SCND as having "some college, no degree."

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/Ethnicity
- Sex by Race/Ethnicity

Calculations

Individuals were classified based on their self-reported highest level of education:

- High school diploma or less includes the following responses:
  - "Less than 9th grade"
  - "9th to 12th grade, no diploma"
  - "High school graduate (includes equivalency)"

- "Some college, no degree." Individuals who have a postsecondary credential or certificate may be included in this classification.
- Associate degree or higher includes the following responses:
  - "Associate degree"
  - "Bachelor's degree"
  - "Graduate or professional degree"

The share of 25-44-year-olds with a specific level of education was calculated by dividing the estimated number of adults ages 25-44 with that level of education by the total number of adults 25-44.

$$\text{Educational Attainment Rate} = \frac{\text{\# of 25 to 44 with specific level of education}}{\text{Total \# of adults 25 to 44}}$$

NC Pre-K Enrollment

The percentage of eligible North Carolina four-year-olds enrolled in North Carolina's public pre-kindergarten program (the NC Pre-K Program).

Source

NC Pre-K enrollments were provided by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education (NC DCDEE) at the Department of Health and Human Services. Carolina Demography estimated the number of eligible four-year-olds using population estimates from the North Carolina Office of State Budget and Management and poverty status for the child population was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's 5-Year American Community Survey (Table B17024: Age by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

PREK	NC Pre-K Enrollment

Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The NC Pre-K enrollment rate reflects the total number of NC Pre-K enrollments divided by the estimated number of eligible 4-year-olds. This estimate was developed for each North Carolina county through the following steps:

- Used adjustment factors to allocate regionally reported NC Pre-K enrollments to their constituent counties.
- Used the 5-Year American Community Survey data to determine the county percentage of children under 6 in families earning less than 200% of the federal poverty line, following guidance that this is a good proxy for the income-eligibility threshold for NC Pre-K.
- Estimated eligible 4-year-old population by multiplying the number of 4-year-olds in each county by the estimated proportion of young children in families with incomes <200% of the poverty line.
- Calculated NC Pre-K enrollment rate by dividing county NC Pre-K enrollments by county eligible 4-year-olds.

$$\text{NC PreK Enrollment Rate} = \frac{\text{\# of NC PreK enrollments}}{\text{Total \# of eligible 4 year olds}}$$

State values reflect the sum of all counties.

College-and-Career-Ready in Reading

Percent of North Carolina students in grades 3-8 who earned a college-and-career-ready score on the End-of-Grade Reading exam.

Source

Data for [student performance](#) in the 2018-19 school year is reported by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI). Students are classified as "college-and-career-ready" if they score at a Level 4 or higher on the End-of-Grade Reading exam.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

RDGS	College-and-Career-Ready in Reading

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/Ethnicity
- Economic disadvantage
- Disability status
- Limited English proficiency
- Other, including academically and intellectually gifted, homeless, and military connected

Calculations

This is a direct download from NC DPI.

NAEP Fourth Grade Reading

The share of North Carolina 4th graders scoring "at or above proficient" on the National [Assessment](#) of Educational Progress (NAEP).

Source

Fourth grade reading assessment scores for all states were obtained from the [NAEP Data Explorer](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

NAEPRD4	NAEP Fourth Grade Reading

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by Race/ethnicity
- Economic Disadvantage
- Rural/Urban

Calculations

This number is a direct download from NAEP. It is the number of 4th grade students scoring at or above [NAEP proficient](#) in Reading divided by the total number of 4th grade students assessed.

Information about the [NAEP Reading Scale](#) and [Reading Achievement Levels for Fourth Grade](#) are available online.

College-and-Career-Ready in Math

Percent of North Carolina students in grades 3-8 who earned a college-and-career-ready score on the End-of-Grade Math exam.

Source

Data for [student performance](#) in the 2018-19 school year is reported by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI). Students are classified as "college-and-career-ready" if they score at a Level 4 or higher on the End-of-Grade Math exam.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

MAGS	College-and-Career-Ready in Math

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/Ethnicity
- Economic disadvantage
- Disability status
- Limited English proficiency
- Other, including academically and intellectually gifted, homeless, and military connected

Calculations

This is a direct download from NC DPI.

NAEP Eighth Grade Math

The share of North Carolina 8th graders scoring "at or above proficient" on the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) Mathematics Assessment.

Source

Eighth grade math assessment scores for all states were obtained from the NAEP Data Explorer.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

NAEPMA8	NAEP Eighth Grade Math

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by Race/ethnicity
- Economic Disadvantage
- Rural/Urban

Calculations

This number is a direct download from NAEP. It is the number of 8th grade students scoring at or above NAEP proficient in Mathematics divided by the total number of 8th grade students assessed.

Information about the NAEP Mathematics Scale Scores and Math Achievement Levels for Eighth Grade are available online.

Chronic Absenteeism

The percent of public K-12 students who missed 15 or more days of school in a school year.

Source

The data on chronic absenteeism comes from the 2015-16 Civil Rights Data Collection by the Office of Civil Rights at the U.S. Department of Education.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ABSENT	Chronic Absenteeism

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by Race/ethnicity

Calculations

The rate of chronic absenteeism is calculated by dividing the number of students reported chronically absent by the total number of students enrolled.

$$\text{Chronic Absenteeism Rate} = \frac{\#\text{ of students chronically absent}}{\text{Total }\#\text{ of students enrolled}}$$

High School Graduation Rate

The percent of public high school students who graduated in 4 years or less.

Source

High school graduation rates for all states were obtained from the [Common Core of Data](#) maintained by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Detailed North Carolina data was downloaded from the [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NC DPI)](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ACGR	High School Graduation Rate (NCES)
ACGR4	High School Graduation Rate (NC DPI)

Demographic Information Available

- Race/ethnicity
- Economic disadvantage
- Disability status
- Limited English proficiency
- Other, including academically and intellectually gifted, homeless, and military connected (NC DPI data only)

Calculations

North Carolina data is a direct download from the NC Department of Public Instruction ([methodology](#)). State-level data is a direct download from the National Center for Education Statistics.

ACT Performance

Percent of North Carolina 11th grade students earning an [ACT Composite score](#) of 17 or above (the UNC minimum admission requirement).

Source

Data for [student performance](#) is reported by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ACT	ACT Performance

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Economic disadvantage
- Disability status
- Limited English proficiency
- Other, including academically and intellectually gifted, homeless, and military connected

Calculations

This is a direct download from NC DPI.

FAFSA Completion Rate

Percent of North Carolina high school seniors completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Source

FAFSA completion rates for all states were obtained from the National College Access Network.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

FAFSA	FAFSA Completion Rate

Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

Statewide data was a direct download from the National College Action Network.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rate

Percent of 18-24-year-olds enrolled in a postsecondary institution (college or graduate school).

Source

The data on postsecondary enrollment comes from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA. Data for all counties is available in the 5-Year ACS in Table B14004: Sex by College or Graduate School Enrollment by Type of School by Age for the Population 15 Years and Over.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ENRL18	Postsecondary Enrollment
ENRL18_5	Postsecondary Enrollment (5-Year ACS)

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by Race/ethnicity

Calculations

Individuals were identified as being enrolled in college or graduate school if they reported being enrolled in school and specified one of the following enrollments during the last three months:

- "College undergraduate years (freshman to senior)"
- "Graduate or professional school beyond a bachelor's degree (for example: MA or PhD program, or medical or law school)"

The postsecondary enrollment rate was calculated by dividing the estimated number of adults ages 18-24 enrolled in college or graduate school by the total number of adults 18-24.

$$\text{Postsecondary Enrollment Rate} = \frac{\#\ 18-24\ \text{adults enrolled in college or graduate school}}{\text{Total}\ \#\ 18-24\ \text{adults}}$$

First-Year Persistence Rate

Percent of first-year students beginning postsecondary at a North Carolina institution who are still enrolled in *any* postsecondary program one year later.

Source

The data for first-year persistence by state was downloaded from the [National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

PER1	First-Year Persistence

Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This was a direct download from NSC.

Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4-Year Public Institutions

Percent of students beginning postsecondary at a University of North Carolina system school (4-year public institution) who complete a degree or credential from any institution within 6 years.

Source

The data for completion rates by state was downloaded from the [National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

GRAD6_Pub4	Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Public

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Age
- Enrollment status

Calculations

This was a direct download from NSC.

Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4-Year Private Institutions

Percent of students beginning postsecondary at a North Carolina 4-year non-profit, private institution who complete a degree or credential from any institution within 6 years.

Source

The data for completion rates by state was downloaded from the [National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

GRAD6_Priv4	Postsecondary Completion Rate: 4yr Private

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Age
- Enrollment status

Calculations

This was a direct download from NSC.

Postsecondary Completion Rate: 2-Year Public Institutions

Percent of students beginning postsecondary at a North Carolina community college (2-year public institution) who complete a degree or credential from any institution within 6 years.

Source

The data for completion rates by state was downloaded from the [National Student Clearinghouse (NSC) Research Center](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

GRAD6_Pub2	Postsecondary Completion Rate: 2yr Public

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Age
- Enrollment status

Calculations

This was a direct download from NSC.

Labor Market Alignment

Alignment between the skills of graduates and the needs of employers.

Source

Data on labor market alignment is provided by the Labor and Economic Analysis Division at North Carolina's Department of Commerce (LEAD).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ALIGN	Labor Market Alignment

Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The supply of graduates was calculated using credential counts from the National Center for Education Statistics' Integrated [Postsecondary Education](#) Data System (IPEDS). IPEDS provides survey-based counts of the number of credentials awarded by campus, program, and degree level. Data are published comprehensively (without suppression) for both public and private institutions. LEAD uses the location of each campus to identify where graduates are being "supplied".

Workforce demand was determined by the number of job openings. LEAD uses online job postings from the [Conference Board](#) and adjusts these counts using data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics' [Job Openings and Labor Turnover Survey](#) to account for job openings that are underrepresented on online job boards.

LEAD used the New York Fed's mismatch index methodology to measure the alignment between supply and demand. Full details on this methodology are available [here](#).

Disconnected Youth

Percent of North Carolina 16-19-year-olds not in school or working (full or part time). This figure includes incarcerated youth who are not enrolled in school.

Source

Data on disconnected youth are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA. Data for all counties is available in the 5-Year ACS in Table B14005: Sex by School Enrollment by Educational Attainment by Employment Status for the Population 16 to 19 Years.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

DISY	Disconnected Youth
DISY_5	Disconnected Youth (5-Year ACS)

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by race/ethnicity

Calculations

Individuals were identified as being disconnected if they were not enrolled in school and were either unemployed or not in the labor force. The disconnected youth rate was calculated by dividing the estimated number of disconnected youth ages 16-19 by the total number of youth ages 16-19.

$$\text{Disconnected Youth Rate} = \frac{\#\ 16-19\ \text{not working, not in school}}{\text{Total} \#\ 16-19}$$

Labor Force Participation Rate

Percent of North Carolina 25-44 year-olds in the labor force.

Source

Data on labor force participation are from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA. Data for all counties is available in the 5-Year ACS in Table B23001: Sex by Age by Employment Status for the Population 16 Years and Over.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

| LF2544 | Labor Force Participation Rate (25-44) |
| LF2544_5 | Labor Force Participation Rate (25-44) (5-Year ACS) |

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by race/ethnicity

Calculations

Individuals were identified as being in the labor force if they reported being employed or unemployed.

The labor force participation rate was calculated by dividing the estimated number of adults ages 25-44 who are in the labor force by the total number of adults ages 25-44.

$$\text{Labor Force Participation Rate} = \frac{\#\ 25-44\ \text{adults unemployed or working}}{\text{Total}\ \#\ 25-44\ \text{adults}}$$

Family-Sustaining Wage

Percent of North Carolina 35-44-year-olds earning a living wage. A living wage is defined here as earning a family income equivalent to 300% or more of the federal poverty line.

Source

Detailed data on family income is from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS) microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA. Data for all counties is available in the 5-Year ACS in Table B17024: Age by Ratio of Income to Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

FAM300	Family Sustaining Wage
FAM300_5	Family Sustaining Wage (5-Year ACS)

Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Sex by race/ethnicity

Calculations

The family-sustaining wage rate was calculated by dividing the estimated number of adults ages 35-44 with family incomes above 300% of the federal poverty line by the total number of adults ages 35-44 for whom the poverty status was determined.

$$\text{Family} - \text{Sustaining Wage Rate} = \frac{\#\ 35 - 44\ \text{with family incomes} > 300\%\ \text{FPL}}{\#\ 35 - 44\ \text{for whom poverty status is determined}}$$