

myFutureNC County Attainment Profile – Data Guidance

About

This page outlines the data elements and sources of the variables in the myFutureNC County Attainment Profiles. These profiles, available as PDFs via the <https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org> website, were produced by Carolina Demography for myFutureNC.

The profiles include many data elements, including county demographics; educational performance indicators; and labor market outcomes. In addition to the indicators on the published profile, this data file contains select county indicators that align with data reported in the state attainment dashboard (where available), as well as contextual information that has been included based on conversations with county leaders. This data file also contains data for multiple years for many indicators and provides details by demographic subgroups where available.

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:

- File Layout
- Detailed information for each indicator

Suggested Citation

Carolina Demography. *myFutureNC Attainment Dashboard: County Database: Version 2.0 [dataset]*. 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.

File Layout

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

Variable Name	Definition	Variable Type
GEOTYPE	Geographic Type	String
SCHLTYPE	School Agency Type (LEA/Charter)	String
NAME	Geography Name	String
YEAR	Reporting Year	Numeric
INDTYPE	Indicator Type	String
SUBGROUP	Demographic Group	String
INDDEN	Indicator Denominator	Numeric
INDNUM	Indicator Numerator	Numeric
INDVALUE	Indicator Value	Numeric
FIPS	County FIPS Code	String
PZONE	Prosperity Zone	String
PZSUB	Prosperity Zone Sub-Region	String
RURURB	Rural/Urban Classification	String
WDB	Workforce Development Board	String
COHORT	School Cohort Years	String
CTE_1	Top CTE Credential #1	String
CTE_2	Top CTE Credential #2	String
CTE_3	Top CTE Credential #3	String

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. Indicator denominators, numerators, and values may be suppressed due to non-reporting or small sample sizes.

CTE_1, CTE_2, and CTE_3 are only available for the CTE indicator.

The key for GEOTYPE is as follows:

County	North Carolina County
State	North Carolina
SubPZ	Sub-Prosperity Zone

The key for INDTYPE is as follows:

ABSENT	Chronic Absenteeism
ACGR4	High School Graduation Rate (4-Year)
ACT	ACT Performance
ACT4B	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmarks on all subtests (excludes Writing)
ACTEN	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on English subtest
ACTMA	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on Math subtest
ACTRD	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on Reading subtest
ACTSC	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on Science subtest
AP	Advanced Placement
BRDBND_HHPOP_5	Population in Households with Broadband (5-Year ACS)
CCP	College & Career Promise Participation
CHILDDPOV_5	Child Poverty Rate (5-Year ACS)
CTE	Career & Technical Education Concentrations Completed
EDUC_ANYPST_5	Educational Attainment: Any Postsecondary Degree or Credential (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_AA_5	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_BA_5	Educational Attainment: Bachelor's (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_HS_5	Educational Attainment: High School (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_LTHS_5	Educational Attainment: Less than High School (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_MAPL_5	Educational Attainment: Master's or more (5-Year ACS)

EDUC_SCND_5	Educational Attainment: Some College, No Degree (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_STC_5	Educational Attainment: Short-Term Credential (estimate – Georgetown/Lumina)
EMP5	UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years
ENRL18_5	Postsecondary Enrollment (5-Year ACS)
ENROLL12	Enroll in Postsecondary within 12 months (recent HS Graduate)
FAFSA_AUG	August FAFSA Completion Rate
FAM300_5	Family Sustaining Wage (5-Year ACS)
FIRSTGEN_U18_5	First-Generation in College
GRAD6	Postsecondary 6-Year Completion Rate
GUIDANCE	Student-to-School Counselor Ratio
K13_CHARTER	K-13 Students: Charter Schools
K13_HOME	K-13 Students: Home Schools
K13_LEA	K-13 Students: District (LEA) Schools
K13_PRIVATE	K-13 Students: Private Schools
LF2544_5	Labor Force Participation Rate (25-44) (5-Year ACS)
LOAN	Student Debt
LOAN_COLLECT	Student Debt in Collections
MAGS	College-and-Career-Ready in Math
MEDHHINC	Median Household Income
NCCC_BS	NC Community College: Basic Skills Enrollments
NCCC_CE	NC Community College: Continuing Education Enrollments
NCCC_CE_NEW	First-Time NC Community College: Continuing Education Enrollments
NCCC_CU	NC Community College: Curriculum Enrollments
OPPYOUTH_1624_5	Opportunity Youth (16-24) (5-Year ACS)
OWN_5	Home Ownership Rate (5-Year ACS)
PER1	First-Year Persistence
PREK	NC Pre-K Enrollment
PS_INTENT	Postsecondary Intentions
PUBGRAD	Total UNC and NCCC graduates
RDGS	College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
SPHH_5	Single-Parent Household (5-Year ACS)
UNEMP	Unemployment Rate (Annual Average)
VREG	Voter Registration Rate
WAGE5	UNC and NC Graduates: Average wage after 5 years
WK	ACT WorkKeys: Earning Silver or Higher

The key for SUBGROUP is as follows:	
ALL	All Groups/Overall
Sex	
FEM	Female
MALE	Male
UNK_SEX	Unknown Sex
Race/Ethnicity	
AMIN	American Indian/Alaska Native (non-Hispanic)
API	Asian or Pacific Islander (non-Hispanic)
BLACK	Black or African-American (non-Hispanic)
HISP	Hispanic or Latino (any race)
MULT	Multiracial (non-Hispanic)
OTHER	All other races (non-Hispanic)
WHITE	White (non-Hispanic)
UNK_RE	Unknown Race/Ethnicity
Economic Disadvantage	
EDS	Economically Disadvantaged (receives Free or Reduced Price lunch)
NEDS	Not Economically Disadvantaged
UNK_EDS	Unknown Economic Disadvantage
Disability Status	
SWD	Students with Disability
NSWD	Not Students with Disability

English Proficiency	
ELS	Limited English Proficient or English Learner
Other subgroups (NC DPI data only)	
AIG	Academically or Intellectually Gifted
FCS	Foster Care
HMS	Homeless
MIG	Migrant
MIL	Military Connected

Creating County-Level Data

Much of the data used in this file is provided for Local Education Agencies (LEAs) based on reports from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Many of the indicators—such as College-and-Career-Ready in Math—are reported as a percentage of students achieving a certain outcome (INDVALUE) with a denominator (INDDEN). We converted these data to numerators (INDNUM) by multiplying the denominator by the reported rate and rounding the result.

NC DPI applies bottom codes for values less than 5% and top codes values of 95% or higher; we used proportions of 0.05 and 0.95 in these cases. We also suppressed counts of lower than 10. These suppression rules have been applied to all outcomes (INDTYPES) that come from or are derived from NC DPI School Report Cards, or the National Student Clearinghouse:

INDTYPES with the suppression rule applied:	
INDTYPE	SOURCE
ABSENT	NC DPI School Report Card
ACGR4	NC DPI School Report Card
ACT	NC DPI School Report Card
ACT4B	NC DPI School Report Card
ACTEN	NC DPI School Report Card
ACTMA	NC DPI School Report Card
ACTRD	NC DPI School Report Card
ACTSC	NC DPI School Report Card
AP	NC DPI School Report Card
CCP	NC DPI School Report Card
CTE	NC DPI School Report Card
RDGS	NC DPI School Report Card
MAGS	NC DPI School Report Card
ENROLL12	National Student Clearinghouse
GRAD6	National Student Clearinghouse
PER1	National Student Clearinghouse

There are 115 LEAs in North Carolina; each LEA was assigned to a county based on its geographic location. County indicators were calculated by aggregating the numerators and denominators for each indicator for all LEAs within the county and recalculating the rate (INDVALUE).

Note: All LEAs except Kannapolis City Schools fall entirely within one county. Kannapolis City School data was proportionally allocated to Cabarrus and Rowan counties based on the share of Kannapolis City population in each county.

AP Participation Rate

Percent of North Carolina public high school schoolers who took at least one [Advanced Placement \(AP\)](#) examination.

Source

Data on AP participation was obtained from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction [School Report Cards](#). Final average daily membership data was obtained from [NC DPI](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

AP	Advanced Placement
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The data was calculated by dividing the total number of AP participants by final ADM.

The AP participation rate was calculated by the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{Total number of AP participants}}{\text{Final ADM (grades 9 – 13)}}$$

Broadband Access

Percentage of households with broadband access.

Source

Data for all counties is available from the U.S. Census Bureau's 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) in Table 28008: Presence and Types of Internet Subscriptions in Household and Table 28009 (by race/ethnicity).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

BRDBND_HH POP_5	Household Population with Broadband Access (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

- Race/ethnicity
 - Note: all race groups *except* for WHITE include Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals for this data

Calculations

The broadband access rate was calculated by dividing the number of households with broadband of any type by the total number of households.

$$\% \text{ Broadband Access} = \frac{\# \text{ of people in HH with broadband of any type}}{\text{Total \# of people in HH}}$$

CCP Participation Rate

Percent of North Carolina public high school graduates who took at least one college course at a community college or university.

Source

Data on CCP participation for high school graduates was obtained from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction [Report to the North Carolina General Assembly](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

CCP	College & Career Promise Participation
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The data was calculated by dividing the total number of high school graduates who participated in CCP by the total number of graduates.

The CCP participation rate was calculated by the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{Total number of graduates who participate in CCP}}{\text{Total number of graduates}}$$

Child Poverty Rate

The percentage of children under 18 living in poverty.

Source

Data for all counties is available from the U.S. Census Bureau's 5-Year American Community Survey (ACS) in Table B17001: Poverty Status by Sex by Age. Tables B17001A-B17001I provide details by race and ethnicity.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

CHILDPOV_5	Child Poverty Rate (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
 - Note: all race groups *except* for WHITE include Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals for this data
- Sex by Race/Ethnicity

Calculations

The child poverty rate was calculated by dividing the number of children ages 0-17 living in poverty by the total number of children ages 0-17 for whom the poverty rate was calculated.

$$\% \text{ Poverty Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ children } 0 - 17 \text{ in poverty}}{\text{Total \# of children } 0 - 17 \text{ for whom poverty is calculated}}$$

Chronic Absenteeism

The percent of public K-13 students who missed more than 10% of school days in a school year.

Source

The data on chronic absenteeism comes from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction [School Report Cards](#).

Note: attendance data for 2019-2020 was no longer required starting in March 2020, which may make data for this year inconsistent with prior years.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ABSENT	Chronic Absenteeism
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic information available.

Calculations

This was a direct download from NC DPI.

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
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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.

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
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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.

CTE Concentrators

Number of Career & Technical Education (CTE) concentrations completed by North Carolina public high school schoolers.

Source

Data on CTE concentrators was obtained from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction [School Report Cards](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

CTE	CTE Concentrators
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Educational Attainment

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

Source

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

Note: The sum of county values will differ from the state-level values in the state database and the state one pager. This is because they come from different data sources. State values are drawn from the 1-Year ACS microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA, whereas the county and sub-PZ one pagers are drawn from 5-Year ACS microdata. To understand the difference between single year and multi-year estimates, click [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

EDUC_ANYPSD_5	Educational Attainment: Any Postsecondary Degree or Credential (includes nondegree credential estimate) (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_AA_5	Educational Attainment: Associate Degree (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_BA_5	Educational Attainment: Bachelor's Degree (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_HS_5	Educational Attainment: High School or Equivalent (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_LTHS_5	Educational Attainment: Less than High School (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_MAPL_5	Educational Attainment: Master's Degree or more (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_SCND_5	Educational Attainment: Some College, No Degree (5-Year ACS)
EDUC_STC_5	Educational Attainment: Nondegree credential

Note: This data includes an estimate of the share of adults with a high-quality nondegree credential. Statewide, the [Lumina Foundation](#) estimates roughly 7.5% of NC adults hold a high-quality nondegree credential. These individuals were removed from the "some college, no degree" population in EDUC_SCND_5.

Demographic Information Available

- Sex

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.” The estimated 7.5% of individuals who have a postsecondary nondegree credential or certificate were removed from 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.

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

Enroll in Postsecondary Within 12 Months

Percent of North Carolina public high school graduates who enroll in any postsecondary institution within 12 months of graduation.

Source

The data for postsecondary enrollment is calculated using individual student-record data for high school graduates from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction matched with postsecondary enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ENROLL12	Enroll in Postsecondary within 12 months (recent HS Graduate)
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Demographic Information Available

- Sex
- Race/ethnicity
- Economic Disadvantage

Calculations

The number of high school graduates who enrolled in any postsecondary institution within 12 months of high school graduation divided by the total number of high school graduates. Within 12 months of high school graduation was defined as any enrollment between July 1 of the student’s graduating year and June 30th of the following year.

$$\text{Enroll within 12 months rate} = \frac{\# \text{ HS graduates who enroll in postsecondary within 12 months}}{\# \text{ HS graduates}}$$

Data is suppressed for groups where fewer than 10 students were in the denominator.

First-Year Persistence Rate

Percent of North Carolina public high school graduates who enroll in any postsecondary institutions within 12 months of graduation who continue to a second year of enrollment.

Source

The data for the first-year-persistence rate is calculated using individual student-record data for high school graduates from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction matched with postsecondary enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

PER1	First-Year Persistence
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The number of high school graduates who continue to a second year of postsecondary enrollment divided by the total number of high school graduates who enrolled in any postsecondary institution within 12 months of graduation.

Within 12 months of high school graduation was defined as any enrollment between July 1 of the student’s graduating year and June 30th of the following year. Enrollments in the second year were defined as an enrollment term that occurred within 1-2 years of the data of first enrollment.

All students who enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months of their high school graduation and the enrollment was not classified as withdrawn, leave of absence, or deceased. Enrollments shorter than 21 days were excluded from the analysis. While the National Student Clearinghouse data covers nearly all public and non-profit private institutions nationally (about 98% of all enrollments nationwide), the NSC data has less coverage of for-profit institutions.

$$\text{First Year Persistence Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ of HS graduates who continue to 2nd year of postsecondary}}{\# \text{ HS graduates who enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation}}$$

Data is suppressed for counties where fewer than 10 students were in the denominator.

FAFSA Completion Rate

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

Source

Detailed North Carolina data on FAFSA completion was obtained from [Federal Student Aid](#); school enrollment data was obtained from the [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction](#).

Note: Overall, FAFSA completion rates are underestimated and may impact certain areas or schools more than others. High schools with fewer than five FAFSA completers are not reported by Federal Student Aid. The state total will differ from the sum of all counties because this is drawn from the [National College Access Network](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

FAFSA_AUG	FAFSA Completion Rate (August)
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The data was calculated by dividing the total number of completed FAFSA applications (as of August of the current FAFSA cycle) in all schools with five or more completed applications by the total grade 12 enrollment, measured by final Average Daily Membership.

The FAFSA completion rate was calculated by the following equation:

$$\frac{\text{Total number of completed FAFSA applications by Local Education Agency (LEA) in all high schools with 5 or more completed applications}}{\text{Grade 12 Average Daily Membership for the LEA}}$$

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). 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.

Note: The sum of county values and state data profile will differ from the state-level values in the state dashboard. This is because they come from different data sources. State values are drawn from the 1-Year ACS microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA, whereas the county and state one pagers are drawn from 5-Year ACS data. To understand the difference between single year and multi-year estimates, click [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

FAM300_5	Family Sustaining Wage (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

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.

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

First-Generation in College

The share of children ages 0-17 who would be first-generation in college, i.e., no parent or guardian has a 2 year or 4 year degree.

Source

Data on first-generation in college children are from custom estimates developed using the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey data (ACS) and population estimates. Full details are available [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

FIRSTGEN_U18_5	Percent of children who would be first-generation in college
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

See detailed methodology linked above.

High School Graduation Rate

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

Source

Detailed North Carolina data was downloaded from the [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction \(NC DPI\)](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ACGR4	High School Graduation Rate (NC DPI)
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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

This is a direct download from the NC Department of Public Instruction ([methodology](#)).

Home Ownership Rate

Percent of households that are owner-occupied.

Source

Data on home ownership is from the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey (ACS). Data for all counties is available in the [5-Year ACS](#) in Table B25003: Tenure.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

OWN_5	Home Ownership Rate (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

- Race/ethnicity
 - Note: all race groups *except* for WHITE include Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals for this data

Calculations

$$\text{Home Ownership Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ owner occupied HH}}{\text{Total \# occupied HH}}$$

K-13 Students: Charter Schools

Total number of K-13 students enrolled in a charter school.

Source

Information on K-13 enrollments in charter schools was downloaded from NC DPI's [Statistical Profile Online](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

K13_CHARTER	K-13 Students: Charter Schools
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

Each charter school was assigned to a county based on its geographic location. The county total represents the sum of all charter schools within the county.

The denominator (INDDEN) represents the total number of students enrolled in LEA, Charter, Home, and Private schools.

K-13 Students: Home Schools

Total number of K-13 students enrolled in home schools.

Source

The number of K-13 students enrolled in [Home Schools](#) is an estimated provided by the Division of Non-Public Education at the Department of Administration.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

K13_HOME	K-13 Students: Home Schools
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This is a direct download from the Department of Administration.

The denominator (INDDEN) represents the total number of students enrolled in LEA, Charter, Home, and Private schools.

K-13 Students: Local Education Agencies

Total number of K-13 students enrolled at North Carolina district (LEA) public schools (NC DPI).

Sources

This data is from NC DPI's [Statistical Profile Online](#): Table 10. Pupils in Membership by Race and Sex.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

K13_LEA	NC DPI Total Enrollments (K-13)
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The total number of DPI students in grades K-13 represents the sum of students in all grades, from Kindergarten through Grade12 (including a small amount of students classified as Grade 13).

The denominator (INDDEN) represents the total number of students enrolled in LEA, Charter, Home, and Private schools.

K-13 Students: Private Schools

Total number of K-13 students enrolled in private schools.

Source

Data on the number K-13 students enrolled in [Private Schools](#) comes from the Division of Non-Public Education at the Department of Administration.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

K13_PRIV	K-13 Students: Private Schools
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This is a direct download from the Department of Administration.

The denominator (INDDEN) represents the total number of students enrolled in LEA, Charter, Home, and Private schools.

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). 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.

Note: The sum of county values and state data profile will differ from the state-level values in the state dashboard. This is because they come from different data sources. State values are drawn from the 1-Year ACS microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA, whereas the county and state one pagers are drawn from 5-Year ACS data. To understand the difference between single year and multi-year estimates, click [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

LF2544_5	Labor Force Participation Rate (25-44) (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

- Sex

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.

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

Median Household Income

The median household income by county.

Source

The median household income by county can be obtained from the Census Bureau's Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) Program [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

MEDHHINC	Median Household Income
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This is a direct download from the Census Bureau's SAIPE program.

NC Community College Enrollments

Unduplicated 12-month enrollments, by program type, in NC Community Colleges.

Source

NC Community Colleges [dashboards](#) on student, program, and course enrollment.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

NCCC_BS	NC Community College Basic Skills Enrollments
NCCC_CE	NC Community College Continuing Education Enrollments
NCCC_CE_NEW	First-Time NC Community College Continuing Education Enrollments
NCCC_CU	NC Community College Curriculum Enrollments

Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This was a direct download from the NC Community College System.

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
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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. We use the 5-Year American Community Survey from 2019.
- 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.

Opportunity Youth

Percent of North Carolina 16-24-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 opportunity youth are from custom estimates developed using the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey data (ACS) and population estimates. Full details are available [here](#).

Note: The sum of county values will differ from the state-level values on the state dashboard. This is because they come from different data sources. State values on the state dashboard are drawn from the 1-Year ACS microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA, whereas the county one pagers are drawn from estimates built with 5-Year ACS microdata. To understand the difference between single year and multi-year estimates, click [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

OPPYOUTH_1624_5	Opportunity Youth (16-24) (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

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 16-24 by the total number of youth ages 16-24.

$$\text{Disconnected Youth Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ 16 – 24 not working, not in school}}{\text{Total \# 16 – 24}}$$

ACT Performance

Percent of North Carolina 11th grade students meeting certain standards on the ACT, such as 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
ACT4B	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmarks on all subtests (excludes Writing)
ACTEN	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on English subtest
ACTMA	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on Math subtest
ACTRD	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on Reading subtest
ACTSC	ACT: Met college-readiness benchmark on Science subtest
AWA	ACT WorkKeys: Silver or better ("career-ready")

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.

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). 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.

Note: The sum of county values and state data profile will differ from the state-level values in the state dashboard. This is because they come from different data sources. State values are drawn from the 1-Year ACS microdata accessed at IPUMS-USA, whereas the county and state one pagers are drawn from 5-Year ACS data. To understand the difference between single year and multi-year estimates, click [here](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

ENRL18_5	Postsecondary Enrollment (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

- Sex

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.

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

Postsecondary 6-Year Completion Rate

Percent of North Carolina public high school graduates who enroll in any postsecondary institution within 12 months of graduation who earned a degree or credential within 6 years.

Source

The postsecondary completion rate is calculated using individual student-record data for high school graduates from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction matched with postsecondary enrollment records from the National Student Clearinghouse.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

GRAD6	Postsecondary 6-Year Completion Rate
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The number of high school graduates who earned a postsecondary degree or credential within 6 years divided by the total number of high school graduates who enrolled in any postsecondary institution within 12 months of graduation.

Within 12 months of high school graduation was defined as any enrollment between July 1 of the student's graduating year and June 30th of the following year. Degree or credential receipt was defined as the first degree or credential awarded to the student (from any institution) that occurred within 6 years of the date of first enrollment.

$$\text{Postsecondary Completion Rate} = \frac{\text{\# HS graduates who earn postsecondary award within 6 years}}{\text{Total \# HS graduates who enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation}}$$

Data is suppressed for counties where fewer than 10 students were in the denominator.

Postsecondary Intentions

The share of high school graduates reporting intentions to enroll in postsecondary education.

Source

Information on K-13 enrollments in charter schools was downloaded from NC DPI's [Statistical Profile Online](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

PS_INTENT	Postsecondary Intentions
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

Students were identified as having postsecondary intentions if they did *not* report intentions to work, join the military, or do some other non-academic pursuit.

$$\text{Postsecondary Intention Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ of graduates with postsecondary intentions}}{\text{Total \# of HS graduates}}$$

Single-Parent Households

Percent of households headed by an unmarried parent (“single parent”).

Source

Data on labor force participation are from the U.S. Census Bureau’s American Community Survey (ACS). Data for all counties is available in the [5-Year ACS](#) in Table B11001: Household Type (Including Living Alone).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

SPHH_5	Single-Parent Household Rate (5-Year ACS)
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Demographic Information Available

- Race/ethnicity
 - Note: all race groups *except* for WHITE include Hispanic and non-Hispanic individuals for this data

Calculations

Note: Unmarried parents living with a cohabiting partner are classified as single parents in the American Community Survey tables.

$$\text{Single Parent Household Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ single parent HH}}{\text{Total \# occupied HH}}$$

Student Debt

Share of households with student debt and, among those with student debt, the share with debt in default.

Source

Urban Institute [Debt in America](#) (December 2020 data download).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

LOAN	Percent with student debt
LOAN_COLLECT	Percent of student debt holders with student loan debt in default

Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This is a direct download.

Student-to-School Counselor Ratio

The number of K-13 students per school counselor.

Source

Information on the number of school counselors was downloaded from the [North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Statistical Profile](#) (Table A6. Public Personnel Summary). The total number of students was also obtained from NC DPI (variable K13_LEA).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

GUIDANCE	Student-to-School Counselor Ratio
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The total number of students was divided by the total number of school counselors.

$$\text{Student to School Counselor Ratio} = \frac{\text{Total \# of K – 13 students}}{\text{Total \# of school counselors}}$$

Total Number of UNC and NCCC Graduates

The total number of UNC and NCCC graduates (combined) in 2018 provided at the sub-prosperity zone level.

Source

The number of UNC and NCCC graduates combined in 2018 can be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Commerce TOWER [dataset](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

PUBGRAD	Total UNC and NCCC graduates
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The total number of UNC and NCCC graduates in 2018 was calculated using information in the NC TOWER datasets for both UNC and NCCC.

Each UNC and NCCC institution is assigned to a county according to the location of its main campus (using IPEDS directory information). Sub-prosperity zones, as defined by the [NC Department of Commerce](#), were used to define regions.

The total number of UNC and NCCC graduates in the sub-prosperity zone was calculated by aggregating the graduates of all institutions in the sub-prosperity zone through the following equation:

$$\text{Total UNC and NCCC Graduates by Sub PZ} = \sum_{k=1}^n \text{Graduates}_k$$

UNC and NCCC Graduates: Employed in NC after 5 Years

The percent of UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years provided at the sub-prosperity zone level.

Source

The percentage of UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years can be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Commerce TOWER [dataset](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

EMP5	UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The percent of UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years was calculated for 2018 using information on 2013 graduates in the NC TOWER datasets for both UNC and NCCC.

Each UNC and NCCC institution is assigned to a county according to the location of its main campus (using IPEDS directory information). Sub-prosperity zones, as defined by the [NC Department of Commerce](#), were used to define regions.

The percent of all UNC and NCCC graduates employed in North Carolina within the sub-prosperity zone was calculated by aggregating outcomes for all institutions in the sub-prosperity zone through the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{Percent of UNC and NCCC Graduates Employed in NC by Sub PZ} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n \text{EmployedGraduates}_k}{\sum_{k=1}^n \text{TotalGraduates}_k} \end{aligned}$$

UNC and NC Graduates: Wages after 5 Years

The mean wages of UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years provided at the sub-prosperity zone level.

Source

The percentage of UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years can be obtained from the North Carolina Department of Commerce TOWER [dataset](#).

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

WAGE5	UNC and NCCC Graduates: Average Wage after 5 Years
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The average wages of UNC and NCCC graduates employed in NC after 5 years was calculated for 2018 using information on 2013 graduates in the NC TOWER datasets for both UNC and NCCC.

Each UNC and NCCC institution is assigned to a county according to the location of its main campus (using IPEDS directory information). Sub-prosperity zones, as defined by the [NC Department of Commerce](#), were used to define regions.

Average wages of all employed UNC and NCCC graduates within the sub-prosperity zone were calculated by aggregating outcomes for all institutions in the sub-prosperity zone through the following equation:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Average Wages of UNC and NCCC Graduates by Sub PZ} \\ &= \frac{\sum_{k=1}^n (\text{MeanWage}_k \times \text{EmployedGraduates}_k)}{\sum_{k=1}^n \text{EmployedGraduates}_k} \end{aligned}$$

Unemployment Rate

The share of individuals who are in the labor force and are not employed but are actively looking for work. This represents annual averages.

Source

Bureau of Labor Statistics Local Area Unemployment Survey.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

UNEMP	Unemployment Rate
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

This is a direct download from the [NC Department of Commerce](#).

Voter Registration Rate

The share of the voting-eligible population that is registered to vote.

Source

Data on the population 18+ was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's population estimates. Data on the citizenship status of the population 18+ was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau's 5-Year American Community Survey (Table B05003: Sex By Age By Nativity And Citizenship Status). Data on voting registrations was obtained from the NC State Board of Elections.

Indicator Variable Name and Definition

VREG	Voter Registration Rate (2021)
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Demographic Information Available

No demographic details available.

Calculations

The total number of voting-eligible residents was estimated by multiplying the citizenship rate for the 18+ population by the total population 18+.

$$\text{Voting Eligible Population} = \% \text{ Citizen}_{18+} \times \text{Population}_{18+}$$

The voting registration rate was calculated by dividing the total number of registered voters by the voting eligible population.

$$\text{Voter Registration Rate} = \frac{\# \text{ of registered voters}}{\text{Voting Eligible Population}}$$