

Upper Coastal Plain

Council of Governments (COG)

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Counties in Council of Governments:
 Edgecombe, Halifax, Nash, Northampton, and Wilson Counties

Educational Attainment

Upper Coastal Plain COG residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
25,934
 38.5%

No Degree
41,412
 61.5%

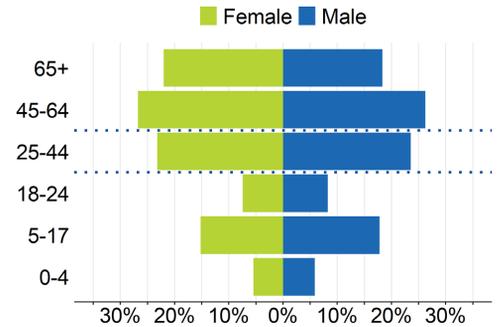
Residents Ages 25-44
67,346

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	6.5%
Bachelor's degree	13.7%
Associate degree	10.8%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	15.8%
High school graduate (including GED)	32.3%
Less than high school	13.4%

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

Age Structure, 2023



2030 Proposed Upper Coastal Plain Attainment Goal: 38,996

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 288,748
 2023 Estimate: 288,366
 Change: -382

Growth Rate
-0.1% vs. **3.8%**
County vs. **State**

Race/Ethnicity, 2023

Amer. Indian	0.8%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	0.8%
Black	45.4%
Hispanic	7.5%
Multiracial	3%
White	42.2%

\$51,030
 Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

62.3%
 Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

62.5%
 Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

30.3%
 Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

23.1%
 Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

4.0%
 Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In Upper Coastal Plain :

236 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

1,486 graduates in 2020
75.4% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$40,144 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

37.9% of adults (ages 25-44) in Upper Coastal Plain earned a **family sustaining wage**. **State:** 57.6%, 2023

19.1% of youth (ages 16-24) in Upper Coastal Plain were **Opportunity Youth**. **State:** 10.3%, 2023

78.5% of adults (ages 25-44) in Upper Coastal Plain **participated in the labor force**. **State:** 84.2%, 2023

Upper Coastal Plain Labor Force Snapshot, 2024 Q2

Total Jobs	110,061	Business Establishments	7,125
Employed	115,964	Unemployed	6,974
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$975		

Top Industries in Upper Coastal Plain , 2024 Q2

Industry Name	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Manufacturing	20,560	\$1,300
Health Care and Social Assistance	14,764	\$997
Retail Trade	13,667	\$643
Accommodation and Food Services	10,257	\$393
Public Administration	8,761	\$994

Top Job Sectors in Upper Coastal Plain , 2024 Q2

Job Sector	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Private	90,455	\$961
Local Government	15,234	\$1,041
State Government	3,706	\$1,001
Federal Government	665	\$1,248

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Degree Credentials Awarded in Upper Coastal Plain , 2023

907 certificate | 996 associate | 591 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Upper Coastal Plain Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

624 Basic Skills
4,751 Continuing Education
1,727 Curriculum

15.8% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. State: 11.7%, 2023

Success of Upper Coastal Plain High School Graduates

76.3% of students who enroll persist to their second year. State: 83.8%, 2023

87.1% UNC | 66.9% NCCCS | 74.8% NCICU

51.4% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. State: 60.0%, 2023

29.4% UNC | 12.1% NCCCS | 6.4% NCICU

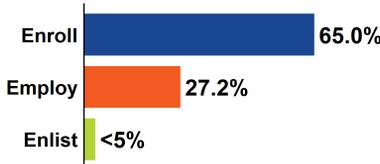
Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- 4,296 of all college-goers attended Nash CC
- 2,549 of all college-goers attended Wilson CC
- 2,468 of all college-goers attended Edgecombe CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

56.3% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 550 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. State: 55.0%

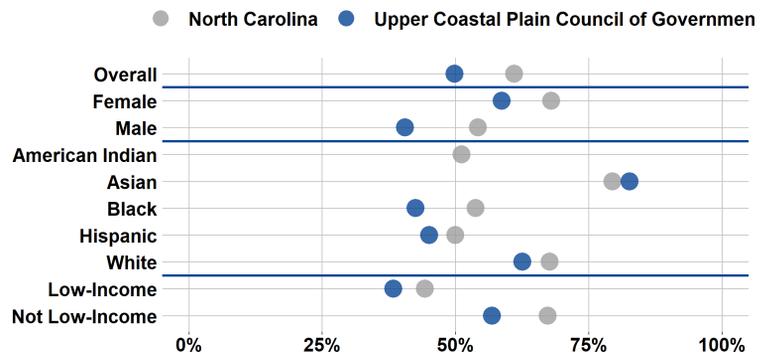
Post High School Graduation Intentions, 2023



81.5% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 422 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. State: 87.3% 2024

48.1% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in COG, 2023



Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

ACADEMIC READINESS

54.3% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 390 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. State: 57.2%

Upper Coastal Plain Traditional Public Schools students:

20.2% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 10,432 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. State: 29.8%

23.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 7,822 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. State: 36.5%

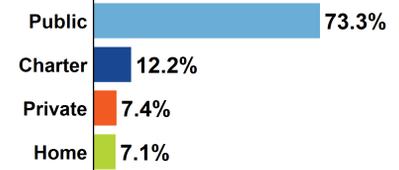
31.3% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 7,777 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. State: 25.7%

2.6% of students drop out of high school (294 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 7
Traditional Public School(s): 94
Charter School(s): 7
Private School(s): 23
Home School(s): 2,196

49,042 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 9,516 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 2,048 concentrations. 1,315 (13.8%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Business Management & Administration; and Health Science.

862 (7.5%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

1,143 (43.4%) high school graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs. State: 36.0% (2024).

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/