

Carteret County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Jacksonville-New Bern
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Non-Metro

Educational Attainment

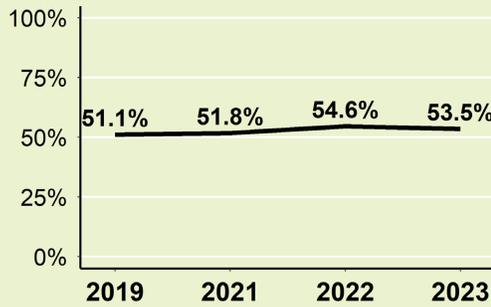
Carteret County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
7,678
53.5%

No Degree
6,676
46.5%

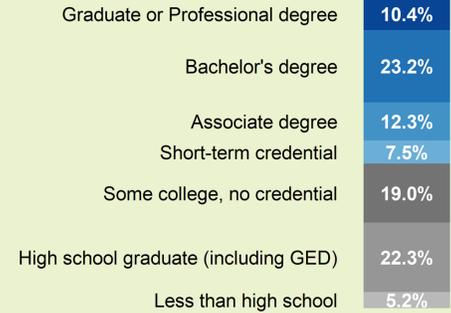
Residents Ages 25-44
14,354

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023



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

2030 Proposed Carteret County Attainment Goal: 11,750 (Stretch Goal: 11,849)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 67,685
2023 Estimate: 69,615
Change: 1,930

Growth Rate

2.9% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 0.9%
Black 4.2%
Hispanic 4.7%
Multiracial 4.1%
White 85.5%

\$76,397
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

73.5%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

79.6%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

12.5%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

11.0%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

3.2%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

53% of Carteret County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the state average of 58%.

In Jacksonville-New Bern Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

53.2%

of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top Misalignments

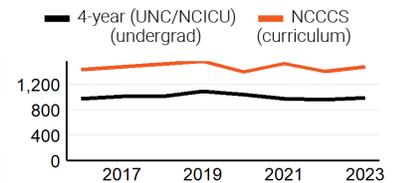
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds
- **Health Science** Jobs > Creds
- **Manufacturing** Jobs < Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Jacksonville-New Bern Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Information Security Analysts	4.14%
Nurse Practitioners	3.85%
Web and Digital Interface Designers	3.32%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Carteret County Residents



11 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

1,967 graduates in 2020
55.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$36,955 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

53.2% of adults (ages 25-44) in Carteret County earned a **family sustaining wage**. Peer: 40.5% | State: 57.6%, 2023

10.7% of youth (ages 16-24) in Carteret County were **Opportunity Youth**. Peer: 13.8% | State: 10.3%, 2023

84.0% of adults (ages 25-44) in Carteret County **participated in the labor force**. Peer: 78.3% | State: 84.2%, 2023

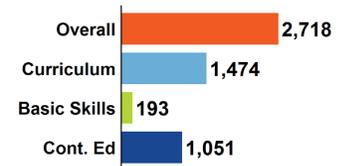
Top 3 Employers in Carteret County

Employer	Employment Range
Carteret County General Hospital	1000+
County of Carteret	500-999
Carteret County Board of Education	500-999

Top 3 industries in Carteret County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Accommodation and Food Services	4,879 19.2%
Retail Trade	4,473 17.6%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,540 13.9%

Carteret County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



Carteret County is served by:

- Eastern Carolina Workforce Development Board
- Eastern Carolina Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

19% of Carteret County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,467 certificate | 1,580 associate | 37 bachelor's

Adult Learners

Carteret County Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

- 66 Basic Skills
- 965 Continuing Education
- 342 Curriculum

19.0% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 15.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



10.5% of Carteret County residents have student loan debt 0.8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of Carteret County High School Graduates

88.0% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 79.6% | State: 83.8%, 2023

95.0% UNC | 81.8% NCCCS | 84.6% NCICU

61.5% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 55.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

38.2% UNC | 14.1% NCCCS | 5.2% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 2,166 of all college-goers attended Carteret CC
- 276 of all college-goers attended East Carolina University
- 215 of all college-goers attended Craven CC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

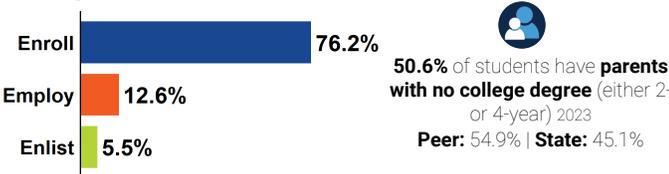


High School Graduation

82% of Carteret County 9th graders complete high school in 4 years or less, below the rural - non-metro county average of 86%.

54.8% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 140 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 54.0% | State: 55.0%

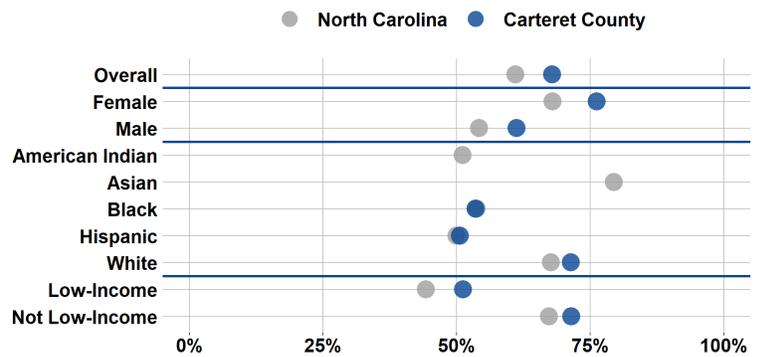
Post High School Graduation Intentions



82.1% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 90 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

66.2% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.6% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Carteret County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



Math Performance

49% of Carteret County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Carteret County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (Goal: 75%). Peer: 71.0% | State: 57.2% 2024

Note: Enrollment numbers only include students served by the NC Pre-K Program and may not represent all Pre-K offerings available.

Carteret County Traditional Public Schools students:

38.4% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 1,286 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 24.5% | State: 29.8%

49.2% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 1,368 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 30.3% | State: 36.5%

20.4% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 766 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.7% | State: 25.7%

Carteret County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 276:1 compared to 332:1 in peer counties. 2024

2.3% of students drop out of high school (65 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
 Traditional Public School(s): 17
 Charter School(s): 1
 Private School(s): 8
 Home School(s): 639

9,741 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 1,789 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 481 concentrations. 313 (17.5%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Hospitality & Tourism; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Human Services.

336 (13.1%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

275 (46.8%) 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/