

Harnett County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural - Metro

Educational Attainment

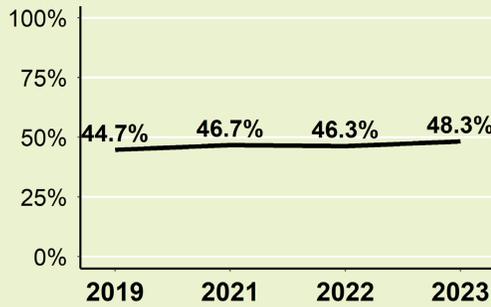
Harnett County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
19,353
48.3%

No Degree
20,708
51.7%

Residents Ages 25-44
40,061

Educational Attainment Trend



Note: 2020 data not shown due to inconsistency

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	8.0%
Bachelor's degree	19.0%
Associate degree	13.7%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	17.3%
High school graduate (including GED)	25.0%
Less than high school	9.4%

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

2030 Proposed Harnett County Attainment Goal: 24,501 (Stretch Goal: 24,805)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 133,571
2023 Estimate: 141,477
Change: 7,906

Growth Rate

5.9% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian	0.6%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	1.1%
Black	20.3%
Hispanic	14.6%
Multiracial	3.9%
White	58.9%



\$70,074
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



69.5%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



69.2%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



20.1%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



16.9%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



6.3%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Labor Force Participation

78% of Harnett County adults 25-44 are in the labor force, below the rural - metro county average of 81%.

In Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

75.8%

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

Top Misalignments

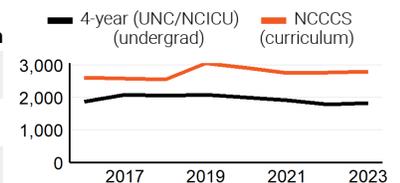
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Business Management & Administration Jobs > Creds
- Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics Jobs < Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Raleigh-Durham Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Job Title	Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners	4.09%
Data Scientists	3.79%
Statisticians	3.71%

Postsecondary Enrollment for Harnett County Residents



13 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

19,047 graduates in 2020
64.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$50,028 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

Top 3 Employers in Harnett County

Employer	Employment Range
Harnett County Schools	1000+
Food Lion	1000+
Campbell University	1000+

Harnett County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023

Overall	4,413
Curriculum	2,798
Basic Skills	323
Cont. Ed	1,292

Top 3 industries in Harnett County

Industry	Jobs Percent
Retail Trade	4,982 17.8%
Health Care and Social Assistance	3,611 12.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	3,060 11.0%

Harnett County is served by:

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

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Postsecondary Completion

52% of Harnett County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary education earn a degree or credential within 6 years, below the rural - metro county average of 57%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

4,998 certificate | 5,648 associate | 16,524 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

197 Basic Skills
1,213 Continuing Education
887 Curriculum

17.3% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 16.0% | State: 11.7%, 2023



14.5% of Harnett County residents have student loan debt, 1.1% of debt holders had student loans in default, 2024

Success of Harnett County High School Graduates

79.5% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 80.1% | State: 83.8%, 2023

92.2% UNC | 72.0% NCCCS | 75.4% NCICU

52.4% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 57.5% | State: 60.0%, 2023

21.8% UNC | 12.9% NCCCS | 10.9% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 2,428 of all college-goers attended Central Carolina CC
- 772 of all college-goers attended Fayetteville TCC
- 625 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

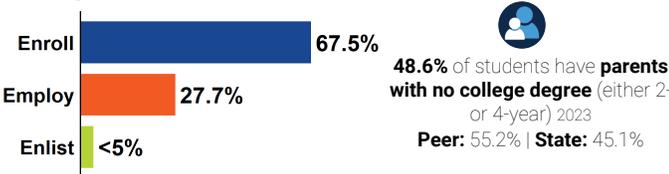


FAFSA Completion

50% of Harnett County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - metro county average of 52%.

49.5% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 387 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 52.0% | State: 55.0%

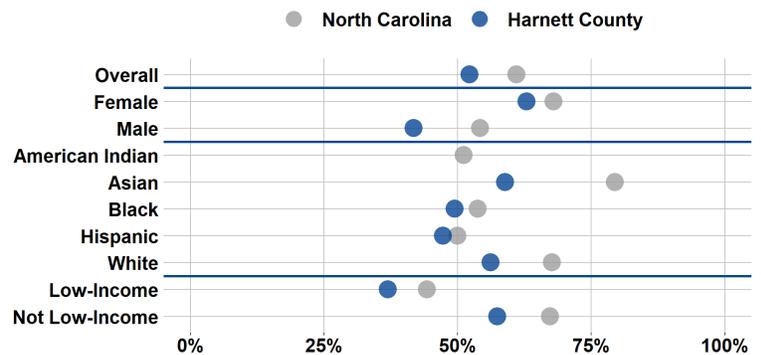
Post High School Graduation Intentions



85.9% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 140 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 85.7% | State: 87.3% 2024

50.5% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 52.0% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Harnett County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



NC Pre-K Enrollment

45% of Harnett County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural - metro county average of 62%.

45.2% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 241 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. Peer: 61.7% | State: 57.2%

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

Harnett County Traditional Public Schools students:

21.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 4,544 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 25.3% | State: 29.8%

25.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 5,395 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 32.3% | State: 36.5%

28.0% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 3,588 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 27.4% | State: 25.7%

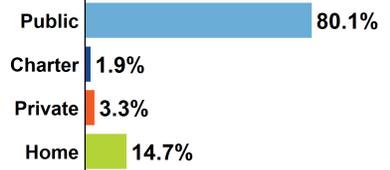
Harnett County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 373:1 compared to 352:1 in peer counties. 2024

1.9% of students drop out of high school (124 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 29
Charter School(s): 2
Private School(s): 6
Home School(s): 2,138

24,343 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 8,769 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 918 concentrations. 1,143 (13.0%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Architecture and Construction; and Health Science.

735 (12.7%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

493 (36.3%) 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/