

New Hanover County

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Wilmington
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Urban

Educational Attainment

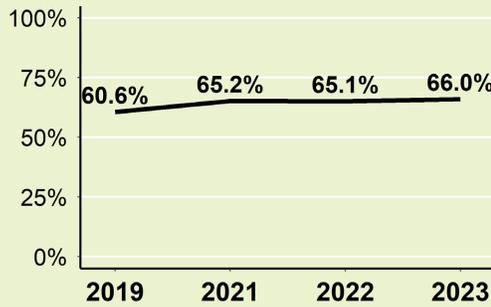
New Hanover County residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
39,158
66.0%

No Degree
20,188
34.0%

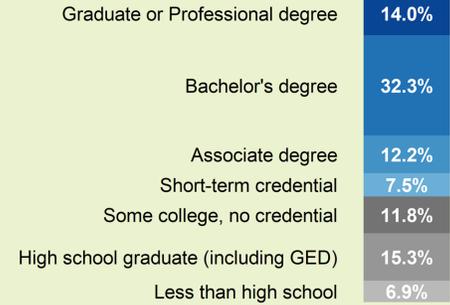
Residents Ages 25-44
59,346

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 New Hanover County Attainment Goal: 52,293 (Stretch Goal: 52,708)

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 225,707
2023 Estimate: 238,852
Change: 13,145

Growth Rate

5.8% County vs. 3.8% State

Race/Ethnicity

Amer. Indian 0.2%
Asian/Pac. Isl. 1.4%
Black 11.1%
Hispanic 7.6%
Multiracial 4%
White 75.1%



\$79,106
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838



60.7%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%



81.1%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%



14.4%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%



12.3%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%



6.1%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

Top Opportunities for Growth



Family Sustaining Wage

58% of New Hanover County adults 25-44 earn a family sustaining wage, below the urban county average of 62%.

In Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

81.9%

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

Top Misalignments

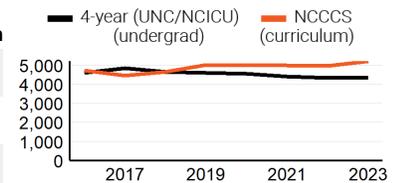
Job Openings vs. Degrees/Credentials

- Health Science Jobs > Creds
- Education & Training Jobs < Creds
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics Jobs > Creds

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

| Job Title | Annual Growth |
|---------------------|---------------|
| Nurse Practitioners | 4.34% |
| Data Scientists | 3.89% |
| Logisticians | 3.52% |

Postsecondary Enrollment for New Hanover County Residents



743 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

5,768 graduates in 2020
65.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
\$44,807 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

58.4% of adults (ages 25-44) in New Hanover County earned a family sustaining wage. Peer: 61.6% | State: 57.6%, 2023

9.1% of youth (ages 16-24) in New Hanover County were Opportunity Youth. Peer: 9.3% | State: 10.3%, 2023

87.5% of adults (ages 25-44) in New Hanover County participated in the labor force. Peer: 86.8% | State: 84.2%, 2023

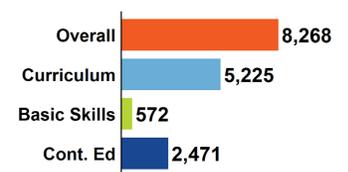
Top 3 Employers in New Hanover County

| Employer | Employment Range |
|--------------------------------------------|------------------|
| Novant Health New Hanover Regional | 1000+ |
| New Hanover County School System | 1000+ |
| University of North Carolina at Wilmington | 1000+ |

Top 3 industries in New Hanover County

| Industry | Jobs Percent |
|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Health Care and Social Assistance | 22,288 17.0% |
| Accommodation and Food Services | 17,739 13.6% |
| Retail Trade | 15,958 12.2% |

New Hanover County residents enrolled in NCCCS, Fall 2023



New Hanover County is served by:

- Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
- Cape Fear Council of Governments

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Top Opportunities for Growth



Adult Learners

12% of New Hanover County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the urban county average of 9%.

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ Sub-Region, 2023

1,138 certificate | 1,723 associate | 3,764 bachelor's

Adult Learners

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

289 Basic Skills
2,139 Continuing Education
1,243 Curriculum

11.8% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. Peer: 8.9% | State: 11.7%, 2023



16.3% of New Hanover County residents have student loan debt. 1.2% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2024

Success of New Hanover County High School Graduates

84.8% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

Peer: 86.9% | State: 83.8%, 2023

95.0% UNC | 72.2% NCCCS | 85.5% NCICU

63.2% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. Peer: 62.7% | State: 60.0%, 2023

42.3% UNC | 12.0% NCCCS | <5% NCICU

Top destinations of all college-goers, 2023

- 7,512 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 1,583 of all college-goers attended UNC Wilmington
- 599 of all college-goers attended NC State

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

Top Opportunities for Growth

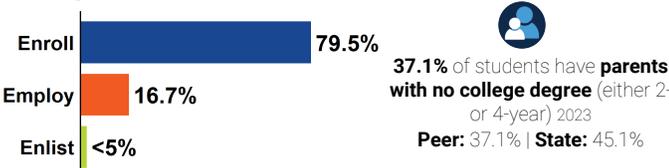


FAFSA Completion

53% of New Hanover County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the urban county average of 57%.

52.7% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 502 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. Peer: 56.9% | State: 55.0%

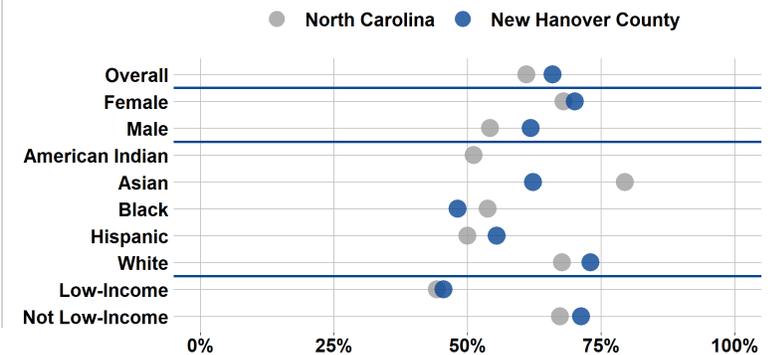
Post High School Graduation Intentions



87.9% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 154 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. Peer: 87.9% | State: 87.3% 2024

64.2% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. Peer: 66.5% | State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in New Hanover County, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

Top Opportunities for Growth



School Counselors

New Hanover County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 328:1, above the urban county average of 281:1.

New Hanover County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment (Goal: 75%). Peer: 45.2% | 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.

New Hanover County Traditional Public Schools students:

36.7% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 3,917 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. Peer: 33.8% | State: 29.8%

47.1% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 4,196 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. Peer: 40.5% | State: 36.5%

24.0% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 3,358 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. Peer: 25.5% | State: 25.7%

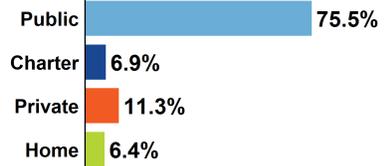
New Hanover County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 328:1 compared to 281:1 in peer counties. 2024

2.2% of students drop out of high school (195 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 1
Traditional Public School(s): 42
Charter School(s): 7
Private School(s): 24
Home School(s): 1,332

32,760 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 1,943 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 1,221 concentrations. 776 (39.9%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Business Management & Administration; Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; and Hospitality & Tourism.

1,556 (19%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

1,025 (52.7%) 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/