

North Central

Prosperity Zone (PZ)

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



Counties in North Central PZ:
Chatham, Durham, Edgecombe, Franklin, Granville, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Nash, Orange, Person, Vance, Wake, and Wilson Counties

North Central PZ Served By:
Kerr-Tar, Mid-Carolina, Central Pines, and Coastal Plain Councils of Governments and Capital Area, Durham, Kerr-Tar, Mid-Carolina, and Turning Point Workforce Development Boards

Educational Attainment

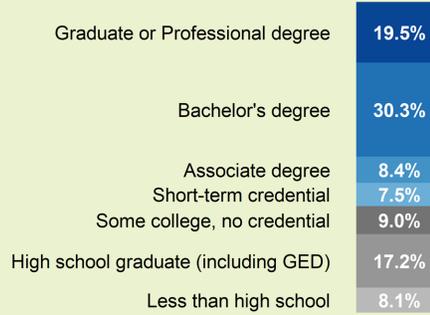
North Central residents ages 25-44, 2023

Have Degree or Credential
475,603
65.7%

No Degree
247,828
34.3%

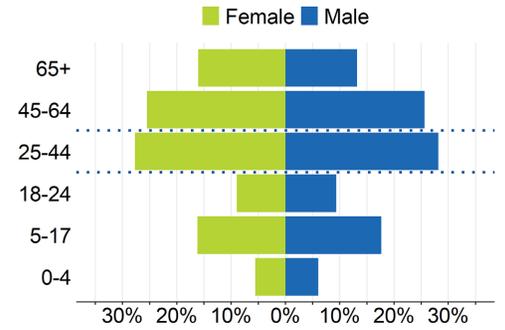
Residents Ages 25-44
723,431

Educational Level Breakdown, 2023



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

Age Structure, 2023



2030 Proposed North Central Attainment Goal: 565,898

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

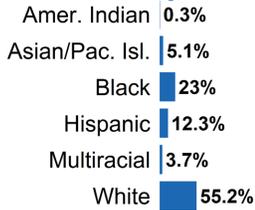
Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 2,544,594
2023 Estimate: 2,674,328
Change: 129,734

Growth Rate

5.1% vs. **3.8%**
County State

Race/Ethnicity, 2023



\$84,751
Median Household Income (2023)
State: \$70,838

65.4%
Home Owners (2023)
State: 66.3%

78.3%
Households with Broadband (2023)
State: 77.1%

14.6%
Child Poverty Rate (2023)
State: 17.6%

16.1%
Single Parent Households (2023)
State: 17.0%

11.6%
Foreign Born (2023)
State: 9.2%

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

In North Central Prosperity Zone:

76.6%

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
- **Education & Training** Jobs < Creds

2,875 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

20,276 graduates in 2020

65.9% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021

\$49,287 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

60.8% of adults (ages 25-44) in North Central earned a **family sustaining wage**. State: 57.6%, 2023

10.1% of youth (ages 16-24) in North Central were **Opportunity Youth**. State: 10.3%, 2023

84.8% of adults (ages 25-44) in North Central **participated in the labor force**. State: 84.2%, 2023

Top Industries in North Central PZ, 2024 Q2

Industry Name	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Health Care and Social Assistance	176,956	\$1,298
Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services	124,421	\$2,273
Retail Trade	121,031	\$749
Accommodation and Food Services	107,699	\$485
Manufacturing	97,516	\$1,880

Top Job Sectors in North Central PZ, 2024 Q2

Job Sector	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Private	1,057,601	\$1,413
Local Government	92,626	\$1,078
State Government	89,699	\$1,391
Federal Government	15,777	\$1,957

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

Degree Credentials Awarded in PZ, 2023

5,747 certificate | 6,453 associate | 17,114 bachelor's

Adult Learners

North Central Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

4,875 Basic Skills
20,612 Continuing Education
12,810 Curriculum

9.0% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. State: 11.7%, 2023

Success of North Central High School Graduates

86.9% of students who enroll persist to their second year. State: 83.8%, 2023

94.4% UNC | 75.3% NCCCS | 85.3% NCICU

63.3% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. State: 60.0%, 2023

39.3% UNC | 10.0% NCCCS | 6.0% NCICU

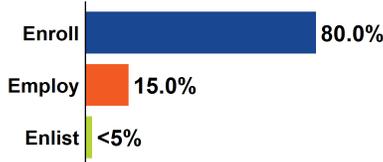
Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- 32,402 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 10,298 of all college-goers attended NC_State
- 8,670 of all college-goers attended Durham TCC

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

56.4% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 5,904 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. State: 55.0%

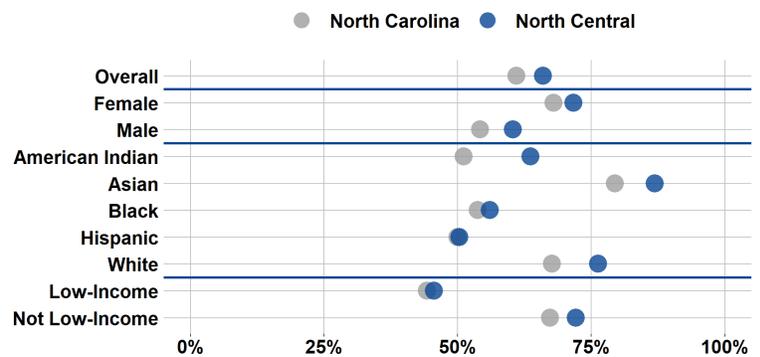
Post High School Graduation Intentions, 2023



88.3% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 1,963 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. State: 87.3% 2024

64.3% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. State: 59.3% 2023

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in North Central, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

46.1% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 3,144 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. State: 57.2%

North Central Traditional Public Schools students:

34.8% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 77,738 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. State: 29.8%

40.0% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 50,082 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. State: 36.5%

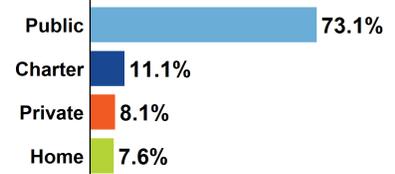
24.7% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 49,004 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. State: 25.7%

1.9% of students drop out of high school (2,233 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 16
Traditional Public School(s): 532
Charter School(s): 69
Private School(s): 195
Home School(s): 21,424

461,192 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 68,104 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 16,150 concentrations. 16,654 (24.5%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Health Science; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

25,122 (23.2%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

7,222 (27.2%) 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/