

# Mountain Area

## Workforce Development Board (WDB)

myFutureNC 2025 Attainment Profiles



**Counties in Workforce Development Board:**  
Buncombe, Henderson, Madison, and Transylvania Counties

### Educational Attainment

Mountain Area WDB residents ages 25-44, 2023

**Have Degree or Credential**  
63,292  
56.4%

**No Degree**  
48,943  
43.6%

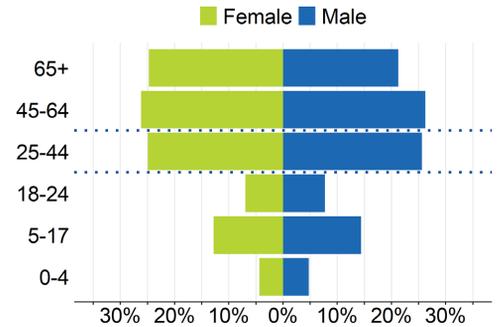
**Residents Ages 25-44**  
112,235

### Educational Level Breakdown, 2023

Graduate or Professional degree	12.0%
Bachelor's degree	28.5%
Associate degree	8.4%
Short-term credential	7.5%
Some college, no credential	12.0%
High school graduate (including GED)	23.1%
Less than high school	8.5%

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

### Age Structure, 2023



2030 Proposed Mountain Area Attainment Goal: 82,632

2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

### Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 439,917  
2023 Estimate: 450,751  
Change: 10,834

### Growth Rate

2.5% vs. 3.8%  
County State

### Race/Ethnicity, 2023

Amer. Indian	0.1%
Asian/Pac. Isl.	1.2%
Black	4.4%
Hispanic	9%
Multiracial	3%
White	81.9%

**\$65,113**  
Median Household Income (2023)  
State: \$70,838

**68.8%**  
Home Owners (2023)  
State: 66.3%

**72.5%**  
Households with Broadband (2023)  
State: 77.1%

**16.7%**  
Child Poverty Rate (2023)  
State: 17.6%

**13.5%**  
Single Parent Households (2023)  
State: 17.0%

**6.7%**  
Foreign Born (2023)  
State: 9.2%

### In Mountain Area:

**658** Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2023

### UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

**2,374** graduates in 2020  
**68.1%** of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021  
**\$36,586** annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs), 2021

**48.9%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Mountain Area earned a **family sustaining wage**. State: 57.6%, 2023

**10.6%** of youth (ages 16-24) in Mountain Area were **Opportunity Youth**. State: 10.3%, 2023

**83.7%** of adults (ages 25-44) in Mountain Area **participated in the labor force**. State: 84.2%, 2023

### Mountain Area Labor Force Snapshot, 2024 Q2

Total Jobs	198,303	Business Establishments	19,147
Employed	218,144	Unemployed	7,509
Avg. Weekly Wage	\$1,049		

### Top Industries in Mountain Area, 2024 Q2

Industry Name	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Health Care and Social Assistance	36,741	\$1,251
Retail Trade	25,287	\$694
Accommodation and Food Services	25,032	\$565
Manufacturing	19,951	\$1,276
Construction	10,650	\$1,224

### Top Job Sectors in Mountain Area, 2024 Q2

Job Sector	Average Employment	Average Weekly Wages
Private	173,803	\$1,022
Local Government	15,716	\$1,139
Federal Government	4,423	\$1,765
State Government	4,361	\$1,066

LABOR MARKET ALIGNMENT

POSTSECONDARY COMPLETION

### Degree Credentials Awarded in Mountain Area, 2023

1,167 certificate | 1,095 associate | 1,319 bachelor's

### Adult Learners

Mountain Area Residents Aged 25+ enrolled in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2023

910 Basic Skills  
5,873 Continuing Education  
2,463 Curriculum

12.0% of residents (aged 25-44) have some college but no degree. State: 11.7%, 2023

### Success of Mountain Area High School Graduates

80.9% of students who enroll persist to their second year.

State: 83.8%, 2023

92.4% UNC | 66.8% NCCCS | 82.6% NCICU

59.0% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years. State: 60.0%, 2023

31.3% UNC | 13.5% NCCCS | 5.3% NCICU

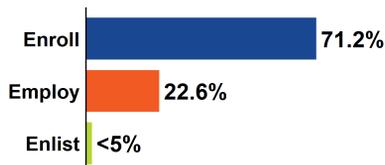
### Top destinations of all college-goers, 2024

- 10,248 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 5,331 of all college-goers attended Blue Ridge CC
- 1,043 of all college-goers attended Western Carolina University

COLLEGE & CAREER ACCESS

52.2% of 2024 high school class completed the FAFSA as of Sept. 27, 2024. 891 more need to complete in 2024 to meet state goal of 80%. State: 55.0%

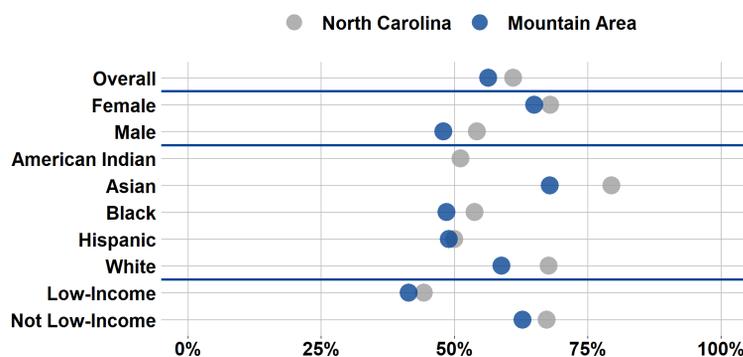
### Post High School Graduation Intentions, 2023



91.8% of 9th graders graduated within four years. 118 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. State: 87.3% 2024

54.6% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months. State: 59.3% 2023

### Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in WDB, 2023



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

ACADEMIC READINESS

41.8% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program in 2024. 533 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. State: 57.2%

### Mountain Area Traditional Public Schools students:

32.6% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in reading in 2024. 10,339 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. State: 29.8%

38.9% of 3-8 graders earned college-and-career-ready scores in math in 2024. 6,607 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. State: 36.5%

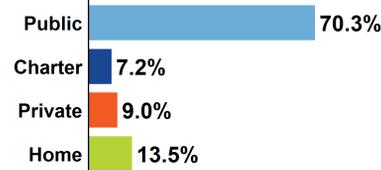
21.5% of students were chronically absent from school in 2024. 4,797 fewer needed to meet state goal of 11%. State: 25.7%

1.6% of students drop out of high school (231 total students), compared to 2.1% statewide. 2023

### School & Student Overview (2024 school year)

Traditional Public School District(s): 5  
Traditional Public School(s): 93  
Charter School(s): 10  
Private School(s): 59  
Home School(s): 5,290

61,932 total K-12 students enrolled in schools.



### Pathways to College and Career

Students in traditional public schools completed 6,109 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials and 2,457 concentrations. 1,650 (27.0%) of credentials were industry-valued in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations: Human Services; Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Hospitality & Tourism.

2,035 (14.5%) high school students took at least one AP, IB, or CIE exam. State: 16.8% (2023).

1,801 (51.8%) 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/](https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/)