Avery County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 17,812
2022 Estimate: 17,571
Change: -241

Growth Rate
-1.4% vs. 2.5%

2030 Proposed Avery County Attainment Goal: 1,782 (Stretch Goal: 1,827)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Growth Rate
-1.4% vs. 2.5%

Median Household Income (2022)
State: $67,516

County: $53,894

Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

County: 79%

Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

County: 11.8%

Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.9%

County: 5.5%

Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

County: 62%

Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

County: 3.3%

Educational Attainment
Avery County residents ages 25-44, 2022

Top Opportunities for Growth
These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Avery County to improve future attainment outcomes.

FAFSA Completion
58% of Avery County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

Adult Learners
17% of Avery County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the rural - non-metro county average of 16%.

First-Year Persistence
77% of Avery County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the state average of 83%.

In Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
83.4%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
Health Science below bachelor’s
Transportation, Distribution & Logistics below bachelor’s
Business Management & Administration bachelor’s

17 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC System College Enrollment
Curriculum

NC Community College Enrollment
Curriculum

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Nurse Practitioners 4%
Logisticians 3%
Occupational Therapy Assistants 3%

Top 3 Employers in Avery County
Avery County Schools 250-499
Dept Of Public Safety 250-499
County Of Avery 250-499

Avery County is served by:
High Country Workforce Development Board
High Country Council of Governments

Promising Attainment Practices
The new Promising Attainment Practices Database is a curated, searchable, and filterable collection of about 250 county, region, and state-level initiatives and programs that directly address various components of the state’s attainment challenge. The Database allows local and regional initiative leaders and other stakeholders to identify groups across the state who are developing or operating initiatives designed to boost attainment.

Follow link to discover how Avery County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Avery

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UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
5,202 graduates in 2020
69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$44,421 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

37% of adults (ages 25-44) in Avery County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

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Adult Learners
Boone-Wilkesboro Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 249 Basic Skills
- 2,980 Continuing Education
- 407 Curriculum
9% of Avery County residents have student loan debt. 0% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Avery County High School Graduates
- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 64% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 556 of all college-goers attended Mayland CC
- 109 of all college-goers attended Caldwell CC and TI
- 40 of all college-goers attended McDowell TCC

How students in Avery County traditional schools are doing:
- Avery County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 32% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 429 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 41% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 363 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 87% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 21% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 189 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

Avery County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 223:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023
- 2% of students drop out of high school (12 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
- 763 certificate
- 499 associate
- 4,461 bachelor’s

Postsecondary assets in Boone-Wilkesboro Prosperity Zone sub-region
- Public, 4-year or above
  - Appalachian State University
- Public, 2-year
  - Mayland Community College, Wilkes Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
  - Lees-McRae College
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

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Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Avery County, 2022
Note: Outcomes for groups with less than 10 students, <5% or >95% are not displayed.

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For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:
dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/

Avery County Demography