Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 63,505
2020 Census: 76,285
Change: 12,780

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2010 Census: 63,505
Population Spotlight
2030 Proposed Chatham County Attainment Goal: 13,830 (71%)

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

Data Disruptions
• College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
• College-and-Career-Ready in Math
• Chronic Absenteeism
ncdemography.org

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline
K-12 Enrollment (district schools) -1.7% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20
Postsecondary Enrollment -11.0% 2021 vs. 2020
FAFSA Completion -17.4% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19
Postsecondary Intentions -10.3% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

School Counselors
Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 371:1, above the rural metro county average of 362:1.

First-Year Persistence
73% of Chatham County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the state average of 77%.

Math Performance
39% of Chatham County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the state goal of 86%.

Chatham County residents ages 25-44, 2021
No Degree 41.8% 6,454
Have Degree or Credential 58.2% 8,984

College Readiness
51% of Chatham County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 58% in peer counties.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Chatham County, 2021

How students in Chatham County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Chatham County needs:
• Chatham County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2022
• 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, 1,510 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
• 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, 1,886 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
• 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, 49 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
• 24% of students are chronically absent from school, 1,099 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Chatham County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 371:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

Notes:
• 58% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 135 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022
https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
• 76% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
• 63% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 49% in peer counties. 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Success of Chatham County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 46% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 11% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 42% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 93% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 73% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 65% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Chatham County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 110 Basic Skills
- 515 Continuing Education
- 1,483 Curriculum

13% of Chatham County residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

78.8% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Health Science (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)
- Information Technology (bachelor’s)

5,347 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 19,047 graduates in 2020
- 65% 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)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 5,511 in Basic Services
- 3,019 in Career Services
- 273 in Education Services

9.6% of young adults ages 16-24 in Chatham County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

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 Chatham County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Chatham

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