Chowan County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 13,705
2022 Estimate: 13,940
Change: 235

Growth Rate
1.7% County
2.5% State

$55,818 Median Household Income (2022)
State: $67,516

64% Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

35.8% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

10.7% Opportunity Youth Rate (2021)
State: 12.1%

57% Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

4.0% Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Education Attainment
Chowan County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
2,044
64.2%

Have Degree or Credential
1,141
35.8%

12% Less than high school
38% High school graduate (including GED)
14% Some college, no credential
8% Short-term credential
10% Associate degree
13% Bachelor’s degree
5% Graduate or professional degree

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

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

Earning College Credit in High School
26% of Chowan County graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs, below the rural - non-metro county average of 39%. Also, <5% of high school students took at least one AP exam, below the peer county average of 7%.

FAFSA Completion
54% of Chowan County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the rural - non-metro county average of 61%.

Math Performance
25% of Chowan County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

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

In Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
72.2%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020
13

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
632 graduates in 2020
62% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$33,554 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

39% of adults (ages 25-44) in Chowan County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Chowan County is served by:
Northeastern Workforce Development Board
Albemarle Commission

UNCSYS and NC Community College Enrollment
Curriculum

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Job Title Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners 4%
Medical and Health Services Managers 3%
Logisticians 2%

Top 3 Employers in Chowan County
Employer Employment Range
Meherrin Agricultural & Chem Co Inc: 250-499
Edenton-Chowan Schools 250-499
Vidant Medical Center 250-499

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education
% of Chowan County residents have student loan debt; 7% of debt holders had student loans in default.

Success of Chowan County High School Graduates

- 79% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties.
- 56% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties.

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 314 of all college-goers attended College of The Albemarle
- 48 of all college-goers attended Pitt CC
- 26 of all college-goers attended Martin CC

• 54% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 30 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%.
• 65% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties.
• 41% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 52% in peer counties.

55% of Chowan County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

How students in Chowan County traditional schools are doing:

- Chowan County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%).
- 22% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 510 more needed to meet state goal of 73%.
- 25% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 485 more needed to meet state goal of 86%.
- 84% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 15 more needed to meet state goal of 95%.
- 27% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 318 less needed to meet state goal of 11%.  
- Chowan County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 252:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties.
- 2% of students drop out of high school (11 total students), compared to 2% statewide.

School Choice

2,013 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Chowan County in the 2022-23 school year.

Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Chowan County completed 140 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 116 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Health Science; Manufacturing; and Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources.

Access to Postsecondary Credits

- 28 high school students took at least one AP course (<5%) versus 7% in peer counties (2022).
- 67 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (26%) versus 39% in peer counties (2022).

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