Dare County
myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 36,910
2022 Estimate: 37,956
Change: 1,046

Growth Rate
2.8% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

$82,052 Median Household Income (2022)
State: $67,516

78% Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%

8.9% Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%

18.5% Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.9%

84% Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%

4.3% Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

2030 Proposed Dare County Attainment Goal: 5,359 (Stretch Goal: 5,429)
2030 State Attainment Goal: 2 million

Educational Attainment
Dare County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree 3,375
43.8%

Have Degree or Credential 4,330
56.2%

6% Less than high school
21% High school graduate (including GED)
17% Some college, no credential
8% Short-term credential
12% Associate degree
27% Bachelor's degree
10% 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 Dare County to improve future attainment outcomes.

Chronic Absenteeism
31% of Dare County students are chronically absent from school, above the rural - non-metro county average of 29%.

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

First-Year Persistence
82% of Dare County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the state average of 83%.

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

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

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

13 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

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)

46% of adults (ages 25-44) in Dare County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

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

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Elizabeth City Prosperity Zone Sub-Region

Top 3 Employers in Dare County

Employer Employment Range
Dare County Schools 500-999
County Of Dare 500-999
Vidant Medical Center 250-499

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Top 3 Five-Star Jobs in Dare County

Job Title Annual Growth
Nurse Practitioners 4%
Medical and Health Services Managers 3%
Logisticians 2%

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

County Of Dare 500-999
Vidant Medical Center 250-499

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UNC System College Enrollment
Curriculum

NC Community College Enrollment
Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

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First-time Curriculum Enrollments

Basic Skills

Continuing Education

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Albemarle Commission
9% of Dare County residents have student loan debt; 3% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

**Success of Dare County High School Graduates**

- 82% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 78% in peer counties. 2022
- 63% 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**

- 1,022 of all college-goers attended College of The Albemarle
- 41 of all college-goers attended Pitt CC
- 38 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC

**How students in Dare County traditional schools are doing:**

- Dare County has met the goal for Pre-K enrollment. (Goal: 75%). 2023
- 36% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 1,123 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; 1,029 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 93% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 31% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 1,039 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

Dare County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 310:1 versus 325:1 in peer counties. 2023

1% of students drop out of high school (23 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

**Access to Postsecondary Credits**

Students in Dare County completed 2,581 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (537 (21%) were industry-valued credentials) and 218 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Architecture and Construction; and Health Science.

- 329 high school students took at least one AP test (19%) versus 8% in peer counties (2023).
- 205 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (46%) versus 51% in peer counties (2023).

**Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022**

- 274 certificate
- 349 associate
- 331 bachelor's

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Dare County, 2022**

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

**POST-SECONDARY COMPLETION**

**Adult Learners**

**Elizabeth City Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022**

- 90 Basic Skills
- 2,045 Continuing Education
- 388 Curriculum

**9% of Dare County residents have student loan debt; 3% of debt holders had student loans in default.**

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