Harnett County

2030 NC Degree Attainment Goal: 2 million (67%)
2030 Proposed Harnett County Attainment Goal: 24,501 (59%)

Population Spotlight
2010 Census: 114,678
2020 Census: 133,568
Change: 18,890

Growth Rate
16.5% vs. 9.5% State

$55,586 Median Household Income (2020)
21.7% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
85% Households with Broadband (2020)
66% Home Owners (2020)
70% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
5.3% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Raleigh-Durham
Prosperity Zone Sub-Region
Peer County Type: Rural Metro
Local Education Agencies: 1
Charter Schools: 2

Educational Attainment
Harnett County residents ages 25-44, 2020

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

NC Pre-K Enrollment
38% of Harnett County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural metro county average of 59%.

Math Performance
21% of Harnett County 3-8 graders earn college-and-career-ready scores in Math, below the rural metro county average of 28%.

First-Year Persistence
67% of Harnett County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the rural metro county average of 73%.

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

K-12 Enrollment (district schools)
-3.7% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20

Postsecondary Enrollment
-16.6% 2021 vs. 2020

FAFSA Completion
-11.3% 2021-22 vs. 2018-19

Postsecondary Intentions
-9.1% 2020-21 vs. 2018-19

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

ncdemography.org

How students in Harnett County traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Harnett County needs:

• 353 more eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program (goal: 75% vs. 38%), 2022
• 4,736 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading (goal: 73% vs. 21%), 2022
• 5,877 more 3-8 graders earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math (goal: 86% vs. 21%), 2022
• 147 more 9th graders to graduate within four years (goal: 95% vs. 86%). 2021
• 1,894 more students to attend school regularly (goal: 11% chronic absenteeism vs. 21%). 2021

Harnett County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 341:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2021

School Choice
24,059 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Harnett County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation
783 high school students took at least one AP course (14%) versus 9% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Harnett County completed 902 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Harnett County, 2021

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.

52% of Harnett County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 58% in peer counties.
Success of Harnett County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 34% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 16% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 49% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 90% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 67% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties. 2021
- 54% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 57% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Harnett County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

295 Basic Skills
1,277 Continuing Education
2,760 Curriculum

16% of Harnett 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

14.4% of young adults ages 16-24 in Harnett County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties. 2019

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Curriculum

First-time Curriculum Enrollments

4-year public
2-year public
4-year private
2-year or less private

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

8,066 certificate
5,938 associate
16,203 bachelor’s

For more information about each indicator, including data sources and methodology, visit:

dashboard.myfuturenc.org/county-data-and-resources/