Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 62,097
2022 Estimate: 62,609
Change: 512

Growth Rate
0.8% vs. 2.5%
County vs. State

Education Attainment
Haywood County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
6,896
49.8%

Have Degree or Credential
6,953
50.2%

School Counselors
Haywood County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 375:1, above the rural-metro county average of 362:1.

First-Year Persistence
77% of Haywood 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 Haywood County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Haywood

In Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
80.1% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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

15 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
3,111 graduates in 2020
69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$41,526 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

52% of adults (ages 25-44) in Haywood County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Top 3 Employers in Haywood County
Blue Ridge Paper Products Inc: 1000+
Haywood County Consolidated Schools: 1000+
County Of Haywood: 500-999

Labor Market Alignment
Carolina Demography
Haywood County 2024 Attainment Profile

Updated: Feb 12 2024

Adult Learners

Haywood County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 2,548 Continuing Education
- 1,208 Curriculum

9% of Haywood County residents have student loan debt. 6% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2022

Success of Haywood County High School Graduates

- 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 79% in peer counties. 2022
- 59% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 56% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 1,704 of all college-goers attended Haywood CC
- 374 of all college-goers attended Asheville-Buncombe TCC
- 178 of all college-goers attended Southwestern CC

- 62% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 74 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 69% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 68% in peer counties. 2022
- 57% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 51% in peer counties. 2022

53% of Haywood County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 57% in peer counties.

How students in Haywood County traditional schools are doing:

- 53% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 62 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 1,475 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 46% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 1,144 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 91% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 24 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 30% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 1,295 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2022

Haywood County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 375:1 versus 362:1 in peer counties. 2022

2% of students drop out of high school (51 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

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

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022

- 711 certificate
- 823 associate
- 2,570 bachelor's

Postsecondary assets in Waynesville-Franklin Prosperity Zone sub-region

- Public, 4-year or above
  - Western Carolina University
- Public, 2-year
  - Haywood Community College
  - Southwestern Community College
  - Tri-County Community College
- Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
- Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Haywood County, 2022

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

How students in Haywood County traditional schools are doing:

- 76% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 24 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 7% of students took at least one AP course versus 7% in peer counties (2022).
- 15% of students took at least one AP course versus 15% in peer counties (2022).
- 142 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (38%) versus 31% in peer counties (2022).

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Haywood County completed 587 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 431 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Manufacturing, Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; and Health Science.

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