New Hanover County

myFutureNC 2024 Attainment Profiles

Population Spotlight
2020 Census: 225,705
2022 Estimate: 234,921
Change: 9,216

Growth Rate
4.1% vs. 2.5%
County State

60% Home Owners (2022)
State: 67%
Child Poverty Rate (2022)
State: 17.2%
Opportunity Youth Rate (2022)
State: 10.9%
80% Households with Broadband (2022)
State: 77%
3.3% Unemployment Rate (2022)
State: 3.7%

Educational Attainment
New Hanover County residents ages 25-44, 2022

No Degree
20,355
34.9%
Have Degree or Credential
37,989
65.1%

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

FAFSA Completion
54% of New Hanover County high school seniors complete the FAFSA, below the urban county average of 64%.

Adult Learners
13% of New Hanover County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the urban county average of 10%.

School Counselors
New Hanover County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 301:1, above the urban county average of 286:1.

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

In Wilmington Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:
83.8%
of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

273 Individuals served in an Apprenticeship NC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
5,768 graduates in 2020
66% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
$44,807 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

57% of adults (ages 25-44) in New Hanover County earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

New Hanover County is served by:
Cape Fear Workforce Development Board
Cape Fear Council of Governments

LAbor market alignment

Carlolina demography
Adult Learners

Wilmington Sub-Prosperity Zone post-secondary enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 381 Basic Skills
- 6,638 Continuing Education
- 1,928 Curriculum

15% of New Hanover County residents have student loan debt; 9% of debt holders had student loans in default, 2022

Success of New Hanover County High School Graduates

- 85% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 86% in peer counties. 2022
- 61% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 62% in peer counties. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023

- 7,076 of all college-goers attended Cape Fear CC
- 184 of all college-goers attended UNC Wilmington
- 154 of all college-goers attended Brunswick CC

How students in New Hanover County traditional schools are doing:

- 68% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 60 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2023
- 37% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 5,323 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2023
- 45% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 4,503 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2023
- 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 144 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2023
- 27% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 4,110 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2023

New Hanover County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 301:1 versus 286:1 in peer counties. 2023

2% of students drop out of high school (195 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

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