**Population Spotlight**

2010 Census: 177,772  
2020 Census: 204,576  
Change: 26,804

**Growth Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>15.1%</th>
<th>State</th>
<th>9.5%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

| Median Household Income (2020) | $52,885 |
| Child Poverty Rate (2020)      | 17.4%   |
| Households with Broadband (2020)| 92%    |
| Home Owners (2020)             | 57%     |
| Voter Registration Rate (2021) | 59%     |
| Unemployment Rate (2021)       | 5.1%    |

**2030 Proposed Onslow County Attainment Goal:** 29,424 (59%)

**2030 North Carolina Degree Attainment Goal:** 2 million (67%)

**Onslow County Education Continuum:**

- Transition points along the Education Pipeline
- Impact of Covid-19 on attainment outcomes
- County to improve future opportunities for Onslow residents

**Top Opportunities for Growth**

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Onslow County to improve future attainment outcomes:

- NC Pre-K Enrollment: 35% of Onslow County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the suburban county average of 45%.
- School Counselors: Onslow County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 478:1, above the suburban county average of 336:1.
- Adult Learners: 25% of Onslow County adults 25-44 have some college, no degree, above the suburban county average of 17%.

**Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline**

Covid-19 has affected critical transition points along the education continuum.

- K-12 Enrollment (district schools): 1.2% 2021-22 vs. 2019-20  
- Postsecondary Enrollnent: -5.6% 2021 vs. 2020

**Data Disruptions**

- College-and-Career-Ready in Reading
- College-and-Career-Ready in Math
- Chronic Absenteeism

**How students in Onslow County traditional schools are currently doing:**

To meet state goals, each year Onslow County needs:

- 35% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 890 more need to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
- 27% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 5,884 more need to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
- 28% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 7,485 more need to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
- 89% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 104 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
- 25% of students are chronically absent from school; 3,703 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Onslow County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 478:1 versus 336:1 in peer counties. 2021

- 50% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 471 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022  
- 68% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 75% in peer counties. 2021
- 50% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 55% in peer counties. 2021
- 54% of Onslow County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 49% in peer counties.

**School Choice**

33,665 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Onslow County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

**Career and College Preparation**

1,091 high school students took at least one AP course (16%) versus 15% in peer counties (2021). Students in Onslow County completed 1,064 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Health Science; and Architecture and Construction.

**Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Onslow County, 2021**

Note: Outcomes for demographic groups with fewer than 10 students are not displayed.
Onslow County 2022 Attainment Profile

Success of Onslow County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020

- 34% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 15% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 50% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 87% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 76% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 77% in peer counties. 2021
- 54% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 60% in peer counties. 2021

Adult Learners

Onslow County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Skills</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuing Ed</td>
<td>2,641</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curriculum</td>
<td>4,074</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

15% of Onslow County residents have student loan debt; 11% of debt holders had student loans in default. 2020

Postsecondary assets in Jacksonville-New Bern Prosperity Zone sub-region

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Certificate</td>
<td>1,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Associate</td>
<td>1,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bachelor's</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

54.7% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

- Curriculum
  - 2013: 3,800
  - 2021: 2,200

- Continuing Education
  - 2013: 500
  - 2021: 300

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Service</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Basic Services</td>
<td>11,622</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Services</td>
<td>5,489</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education Services</td>
<td>674</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

10.6% of young adults ages 16-24 in Onslow County were not working and not in school versus 11.2% in peer counties. 2019

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

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