Yancey County

Population Spotlight

2020 Census: 18,470
2010 Census: 17,818
Population Spotlight

2030 Proposed Yancey County Attainment Goal: 3,090 (58%)

Growth Rate

County: 3.7% vs. State: 9.5%

Economic Indicators

$48,662 Median Household Income (2020)
21.9% Child Poverty Rate (2020)
83% Households with Broadband (2020)
77% Home Owners (2020)
81% Voter Registration Rate (2021)
4.3% Unemployment Rate (2021)

Impact of Covid-19 on Education Pipeline

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

1,285 No Degree
39.3% Have Degree or Credential

Educational Attainment

Yancey County residents ages 25-44, 2021

Top Opportunities for Growth

These three areas represent the biggest opportunities for Yancey County to improve future attainment outcomes.

NC Pre-K Enrollment

45% of Yancey County eligible 4-year-olds are enrolled in NC Pre-K, below the rural non-metro county average of 68%.

Transition to Postsecondary

44% of Yancey County seniors enroll in postsecondary within 12 months of graduation, below the rural non-metro county average of 50%.

First-Year Persistence

72% of Yancey County high school graduates who enroll in postsecondary persist to their second year, below the rural non-metro county average of 73%.

How students in Yancey County traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Yancey County needs:

• 45% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program; 30 more needed to meet state goal of 75%. 2022
• 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading; 330 more needed to meet state goal of 73%. 2022
• 41% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math; 397 more needed to meet state goal of 86%. 2022
• 88% of 9th graders graduate within four years; 11 more needed to meet state goal of 95%. 2021
• 15% of students are chronically absent from school; 75 less needed to meet state goal of 11%. 2021

Yancey County has a student-to-school counselor ratio of 236:1 versus 318:1 in peer counties. 2021

• 55% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2022; 38 more need to complete in 2022 to meet state goal of 80%. 2022

https://www.myfuturenc.org/ourwork/first-in-fafsa/
• 59% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 69% in peer counties. 2021
• 44% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 50% in peer counties. 2021

50% of Yancey County students have parents with no college degree (either 2- or 4-year) versus 59% in peer counties.

School Choice

2,491 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Yancey County in the 2021-22 school year.

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

Career and College Preparation

45 high school students took at least one AP course (8%) versus 7% in peer counties (2021).

94 graduates participated in Career & College Promise programs (69%) versus 49% in peer counties (2021).

Students in Yancey County completed 113 Career & Technical Education concentrations in 2021. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Human Services; Architecture and Construction; and Health Science.

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates for Select Groups in Yancey County, 2021

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

Updated: Jun 16 2023
Yancey County 2022 Attainment Profile

Success of Yancey County High School Graduates

Top destinations of graduates, 2016-2020
- 33% of college-goers attended a public 4-year college
- 14% of college-goers attended a private 4-year college
- 52% of college-goers attended a public 2-year college
- <5% of college-goers attended a private 2-year college
- 83% of college-goers attended an in-state college

- 72% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 73% in peer counties, 2021
- 65% of students who enroll earn a degree or credential within 6 years versus 55% in peer counties, 2021

Adult Learners

Yancey County resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, 2021
- 47 Basic Skills
- 265 Continuing Education
- 393 Curriculum

9% of Yancey County residents have student loan debt; 8% of debt holders had student loans in default, 2020

In your Prosperity Zone Sub-Region:

84.0% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

Top areas of misalignment:
- Health Science (below and above bachelor’s)
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics (below bachelor’s)
- Business Management & Administration (bachelor’s)

17 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:
- 5,202 graduates in 2020
- 69% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $44,421 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

In 2021 your Workforce Development Board served:
- 3,616 in Basic Services
- 1,617 in Career Services
- 245 in Education Services

5.5% of young adults ages 16-24 in Yancey County were not working and not in school versus 15.2% in peer counties, 2019

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

Follow link to discover how Yancey County has been meeting local needs:
https://dashboard.myfuturenc.org/promising-attainment-practices/?wdt_search=Yancey

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.

Impact of Covid-19 on NC Community College Enrollment

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2021
- 1,077 certificate
- 547 associate
- 4,433 bachelor’s

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