Population Spotlight

Growth Rate | Prosperity Zone: 1.0% vs. State: 2.5%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2022</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>10,439,414</td>
<td>10,698,973</td>
<td>259,559</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bladen County</td>
<td>29,617</td>
<td>29,446</td>
<td>-171</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Columbus County</td>
<td>50,625</td>
<td>49,885</td>
<td>-740</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cumberland County</td>
<td>334,728</td>
<td>336,699</td>
<td>1,971</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hoke County</td>
<td>52,081</td>
<td>53,787</td>
<td>1,706</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery County</td>
<td>25,752</td>
<td>25,894</td>
<td>142</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moore County</td>
<td>99,725</td>
<td>105,531</td>
<td>5,806</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richmond County</td>
<td>42,953</td>
<td>42,778</td>
<td>-175</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robeson County</td>
<td>116,516</td>
<td>116,663</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sampson County</td>
<td>59,040</td>
<td>59,120</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland County</td>
<td>34,180</td>
<td>34,162</td>
<td>-18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022

- 65+: 10%
- 45-64: 20%
- 25-44: 19%
- 18-24: 12%
- 5-17: 12%
- 0-4: 8%

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

- White: 46%
- Black: 29%
- Hispanic: 11%
- American Indian: 7%
- Asian/Pacific Islander: 2%
- Multiracial: 4%

In Sandhills Prosperity Zone:

- 79.1% of postsecondary degrees and credentials conferred by regional institutions are aligned with labor market needs.

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

Educational Attainment

- 10% No Degree
- 27% Have Degree or Credential
- 19% Some college, no degree or credential
- 8% Short-term credential
- 8% Associate degree
- 16% Bachelor’s degree
- 8% Graduate or professional degree

Note: Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding

In Sandhills Prosperity Zone:

- 1,876 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 7,327 graduates in 2020
- 59% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- $37,602 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC (includes both part-time and full-time jobs)

40% of adults (ages 25-44) in Sandhills earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Top Industries in Sandhills PZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>52,189</td>
<td>$1,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>36,921</td>
<td>$1,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>36,499</td>
<td>$603</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>30,807</td>
<td>$390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Administration</td>
<td>25,686</td>
<td>$1,207</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Sandhills PZ

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Sector</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>222,605</td>
<td>$867</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>40,944</td>
<td>$976</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>16,273</td>
<td>$1,546</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>10,539</td>
<td>$1,047</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Success of Sandhills High School Graduates
- 79% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 51% of students who enroll earn a degree or certificate within 6 years versus 59% for the state. 2022

Top destinations of all college-goers, Fall 2023
- 13,663 of all college-goers attended Fayetteville TCC
- 5,612 of all college-goers attended Sandhills CC
- 4,569 of all college-goers attended Robeson CC

Adult Learners
Sandhills resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
- 1,711 Basic Skills
- 19,322 Continuing Education
- 6,582 Curriculum

- 63% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 1,365 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80% 2023
- 75% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state. 2022
- 52% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state. 2022

How students in Sandhills traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Sandhills needs:
- 56% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 1,282 more needed to meet state goal of 75% 2023
- 24% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 28,448 more needed to meet state goal of 73% 2023
- 25% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 35,386 more needed to meet state goal of 86% 2023
- 85% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 975 more needed to meet state goal of 95% 2023
- 39% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 37,695 less needed to meet state goal of 11% 2022
- 2% of students drop out of high school (1,019 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

School Choice
154,204 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Sandhills in the 2022-23 school year.
Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Sandhills completed 26,226 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 5,706 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed included Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Human Services; and Health Science.

- 2,920 high school students took at least one AP course (8%) versus 15% in the state (2022).
- 5,242 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (31%) versus 23% in the state (2022).

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