Population Spotlight

**Growth Rate:**

<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>Chatham County</td>
<td>76,270</td>
<td>79,864</td>
<td>3,594</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Johnston County</td>
<td>215,991</td>
<td>234,778</td>
<td>18,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee County</td>
<td>63,281</td>
<td>65,476</td>
<td>2,195</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange County</td>
<td>148,707</td>
<td>150,477</td>
<td>1,770</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wake County</td>
<td>1,129,393</td>
<td>1,175,021</td>
<td>45,628</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Growth Rate:**

- **WDB:** 4.4% vs. **State:** 2.5%

**2030 Proposed Capital Area Attainment Goal:** 399,049

**Counties in WDB:** Chatham, Johnston, Lee, Orange, Wake

**Age Structure, 2022**

- 0-4: 40%
- 5-17: 20%
- 18-24: 8%
- 25-44: 20%
- 45-64: 14%
- 65+: 7%

**Race/Ethnicity, 2022**

- White: 61%
- Black: 18%
- Hispanic: 11%
- Asian/Pac. Isl.: 6%
- Multiracial: 3%
- Amer. Indian: 0%

**Educational Attainment**

- No Degree: 133,774 (29.2%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 325,115 (70.8%)

**In Capital Area WDB:**

- 5,095 Individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020
- **UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:**
  - 16,560 graduates in 2020
  - 63% of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
  - $52,022 annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC

- **Top Sectors in Capital Area WDB:**
  - Private: $684,012
  - State Government: $72,986
  - Local Government: $55,087
  - Federal Government: $6,875

**Top Job Sectors in Capital Area WDB:**

- **Average Employment:**
  - Private: 684,012
  - State Government: 72,986
  - Local Government: 55,087
  - Federal Government: 6,875

**Top Industries in Capital Area WDB:**

- **Average Weekly Wages:**
  - Health Care and Social Assistance: $1,244
  - Professional Scientific and Technical Services: $2,042
  - Retail Trade: $750
  - Educational Services: $1,202
  - Accommodation and Food Services: $492

**Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2**

- Total Jobs: 818,961
- Business Establishments: 64,011
- Employed: 856,860
- Unemployed: 27,622
- Avg. Weekly Wage: $1,315
- Median Household Income: $90,358

**Note:** Numbers may not add up to 100% due to rounding.
Success of Capital Area High School Graduates

- 88% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
- 68% 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

- 26,888 of all college-goers attended Wake TCC
- 5,948 of all college-goers attended Johnston CC
- 5,098 of all college-goers attended Central Carolina CC

Adult Learners

Capital Area resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022

- 2,466 Basic Skills
- 21,562 Continuing Education
- 6,822 Curriculum

- 65% of seniors completed the FAFSA in 2023, compared to 62% statewide; 2,573 more need to complete in 2023 to meet state goal of 80%. 2023
- 90% of graduates reported intentions to enroll in a postsecondary institution versus 74% in the state. 2022
- 67% of graduates enrolled in a postsecondary institution within 12 months versus 58% in the state. 2022

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in Capital Area WDB, 2022

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

How students in Capital Area traditional schools are currently doing:

To meet state goals, each year Capital Area needs:

- 44% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 1,627 more needed to meet state goal of 75% 2023
- 39% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 35,142 more needed to meet state goal of 73% 2023
- 44% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 44,268 more needed to meet state goal of 86% 2023
- 90% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 947 more needed to meet state goal of 95% 2023
- 22% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 27% statewide; 27,994 less needed to meet state goal of 11% 2023
- 1% of students drop out of high school (1,168 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2023

School Choice

300,175 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Capital Area in the 2022-23 school year.

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

Access to Postsecondary Credits

Students in Capital Area completed 42,870 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (12,990 (30%) were industry-valued credentials) and 11,667 concentrations in 2023. The top three CTE concentrations completed include Arts, Audio/Video Technology, & Communications; Human Services; and Health Science.

- 20,453 high school students took at least one AP test (27%) versus 16% in the state (2023).
- 4,255 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (23%) versus 36% in the state (2023).

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