Population Spotlight

Growth Rate: WDB: 1.1% VS. State: 2.5%

Population Spotlight

<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>Cleveland County</td>
<td>99,521</td>
<td>100,670</td>
<td>1,149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDowell County</td>
<td>44,577</td>
<td>44,753</td>
<td>176</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Polk County</td>
<td>19,330</td>
<td>19,986</td>
<td>656</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rutherford County</td>
<td>64,444</td>
<td>64,963</td>
<td>519</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Age Structure, 2022

- 0-4: 40%
- 5-17: 20%
- 18-24: 16%
- 25-44: 8%
- 45-64: 13%
- 65+: 1%

Race/Ethnicity, 2022

White: 79%
Black: 12%
Hispanic: 5%
Asian/Pac. Isl.: 1%
Multiracial: 3%
Amer. Indian: 0%

Educational Attainment

- No Degree: 30,754 (59.0%)
- Have Degree or Credential: 21,407 (41.0%)

In Foothills WDB:

- 247 individuals served in an ApprenticeshipNC program in 2020

UNC and NC Community College Outcomes:

- 1,316 graduates in 2020 of 2016 graduates were employed in NC in 2021
- Annual average earnings of graduates employed in NC includes both part-time and full-time jobs

41% of adults (ages 25-44) in Foothills earned a family sustaining wage, 2022

Labor Force Snapshot - 2023 Q2

- Total Jobs: 75,936
- Business Establishments: 5,475
- Employed: 99,451
- Unemployed: 4,123
- Avg. Weekly Wage: $886
- Median Household Income: $53,239

Top Industries in Foothills WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Industry Name</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing</td>
<td>15,685</td>
<td>$1,110</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health Care and Social Assistance</td>
<td>10,334</td>
<td>$941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail Trade</td>
<td>9,489</td>
<td>$611</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Services</td>
<td>7,432</td>
<td>$813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accommodation and Food Services</td>
<td>6,905</td>
<td>$388</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Top Job Sectors in Foothills WDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Job Sector</th>
<th>Average Employment</th>
<th>Average Weekly Wages</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Private</td>
<td>62,032</td>
<td>$871</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Government</td>
<td>11,253</td>
<td>$951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>State Government</td>
<td>2,228</td>
<td>$930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Government</td>
<td>423</td>
<td>$1,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Success of Foothills High School Graduates
• 77% of students who enroll persist to their second year versus 83% for the state. 2022
• 58% 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
• 4,161 of all college-goers attended Cleveland CC
• 3,059 of all college-goers attended Isothermal CC
• 1,765 of all college-goers attended McDowell TCC

Adult Learners
Foothills resident enrollments in NC Community Colleges, Fall 2022
  194  Basic Skills
  6,456  Continuing Education
  1,226  Curriculum

How students in Foothills traditional schools are currently doing:
To meet state goals, each year Foothills needs:
• 72% of eligible 4-year-olds enrolled in NC Pre-K program, compared to 53% statewide; 42 more needed to meet state goal of 75% 2023
• 30% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in reading, compared to 30% statewide; 5,663 more needed to meet state goal of 73% 2023
• 35% of 3-8 graders are earning college-and-career-ready scores (level 4 or 5) in math, compared to 35% statewide; 6,718 more needed to meet state goal of 86% 2023
• 85% of 9th graders graduate within four years, compared to 87% statewide; 246 more needed to meet state goal of 95% 2023
• 35% of students are chronically absent from school, compared to 32% statewide; 7,281 less needed to meet state goal of 11% 2022
• 3% of students drop out of high school (313 total students), compared to 2% statewide. 2022

Degree Credentials Awarded, 2022
  1,422  certificate
  1,012  associate
  522  bachelor’s

Postsecondary assets in Foothills Workforce Dev Board:
Public, 4-year or above
Cleveland Community College, Isothermal Community College, McDowell Technical Community College

Private not-for-profit, 4-year or above
Gardner-Webb University

Private not-for-profit, 2-year

Postsecondary Enrollment Rates in Foothills WDB, 2022

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

School Choice
37,035 total students were enrolled in K-12 in Foothills in the 2022-23 school year.
Note: This profile focuses on outcomes of students enrolled in district schools.

Access to Postsecondary Credits
Students in Foothills completed 6,123 Career & Technical Education (CTE) credentials (industry-valued credential data available in Spring 2024) and 1,485 concentrations in 2022. The top three CTE concentrations completed included Agricultural, Food, & Natural Resources; Manufacturing; and Human Services.

785 high school students took at least one AP course (9%) versus 15% in the state (2022).
1,569 high school students participated in Career & College Promise programs (39%) 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/