

WAYNE COUNTY

Wayne County has a population of 115,400, a decrease of 6% over the past decade. North Carolina's population increased by 9% over the past decade.

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Data sources, dashboard, and other counties at NCBudget.org/Snapshots

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Wayne County communities thrive when ...



... people can meet their basic needs

- Rent is unaffordable for 48% of renters
- 13% of people don't have health insurance
- There is one mental health provider for every 450 residents



... good jobs are accessible to everyone

- There are 4 candidates for every job opening*
- There are 1% fewer people working in April 2022 than before the COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020) and 2% fewer than before the Great Recession (December 2007)



... the economy works for everyone

- 39% of residents are considered low-income (less than \$55,500 for a family of four)**
- The richest 5% of households make an average of 26 times more than the poorest 20% of households

* Candidates include all people willing to work in the county, regardless of county of residence

** A family of four is considered low-income if they make below 200% of the federal poverty line, or \$55,500 in 2022

Note: Some data points in this County Snapshot reflect pre-COVID-19 conditions; refer to the dates for individual measures.

Table 1: Poverty and Economic Hardship

	County	State
Living in poverty, 2016-2020		
Percentage of people living in poverty	19%	14%
Black	26	21
White	11	10
Latinx	33	24
Asian & Pacific Islander	5	10
American Indian	NA	24
Percentage of children living in poverty	30	20

Table 2: Employment

	County	State
Employment, April 2022		
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.4%
Number of unemployed people actively seeking work	1,910	175,280
Number of employed people	49,470	4,927,270
Percent change in employment since before COVID-19 pandemic (February 2020 to April 2022)		
Change in unemployed people actively seeking work	-3%	-5%
Change in people employed	-1%	2%

Table 3: Educational Attainment

	County	State
High school graduation, 2021		
High school graduation rate	82%	87%
Black	77	84
White	85	90
Latinx	81	82
Asian & Pacific Islander	>95	>95
American Indian	NA	83
College degrees, 2016-2020		
Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher	20%	32%
Men	17	31
Women	22	33
Median earnings for men with a bachelor's degree [†]	\$56,200	\$64,900
Median earnings for women with a bachelor's degree [†]	\$41,000	\$43,600

Table 4: Income and Ability to Afford the Basics

	County	State
Living Income Standard, 2022		
Living Income Standard annual income (1 adult, 2 kids) ^{††}	\$54,200	\$60,700
Median earnings and income, 2016-2020		
Median worker earnings	\$33,100	\$38,500
Median worker earnings as a percentage of Living Income Standard ^{††}	61%	63%
Median household income	\$47,200	\$56,600

Table 5: Access to Affordable Housing

	County	State
Rent burden, 2016-2020		
Percentage of renter households paying more than 30% of income on rent	48%	47%
Percentage of renter households paying more than 50% of income on rent	23%	22%
Fair market rent, 2021		
Fair market monthly rent for a two-bedroom home	\$830	\$960
Number of work hours at minimum wage it takes to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent	88 hours per week	102 hours per week

Table 6: Healthy Lives and Communities

	County	State
Health insurance, 2016-2020		
Percentage of residents without health insurance	13%	11%
Life expectancy, 2018-2020		
Life expectancy in years	75	77
Black	73	73
White	76	78
Mental health providers, 2021		
Residents per mental health provider	450	360
Food assistance, May 2022		
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	21%	15%

[†] Does not include people who also have a graduate degree.

^{††} The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover basic expenses. See more at NCbudget.org/LIS.

NA values indicate insufficient data for this county.

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