County Facts: Burke County, NC
Population 89,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Burke County 4.3%, NC 4.4%, United States 4.5%
- Poverty rate: Burke County 19.3%, NC 16.9%, United States 15.1%
- Median family income (000s): Burke County $57, NC $50, United States $42
- Population growth 2000-2017: Burke County 23%, NC 16%, United States 10%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Burke County 12%, NC 10%, United States 8.1%
- Farming share of workforce: Burke County 1.7%, NC 1.5%, United States 1.5%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Burke County 4.7%, NC 3.0%, United States 1.5%

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Burke County 46%, NC 46%, United States 46%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Burke County 24%, NC 22%, United States 20%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Burke County 10%, NC 5%, United States 6%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Burke County 1.5%, NC 1.2%, United States 1.4%
- Percent landing in jail: Burke County 1.2%, NC 1.3%, United States 1.3%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Burke County $4.8, NC $5.4, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Burke County, NC (7.8%) vs. North Carolina 4-year-college average (9.3%) vs. U.S. 4-year-college average (9.3%)
- Low-income student success rate: Burke County, NC (48.6%) vs. North Carolina 4-year-college average (51.3%) vs. U.S. 4-year-college average (51.3%)

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Burke County, NC (14.0%) vs. North Carolina 2-year-college average (17.0%) vs. U.S. 2-year-college average (19.9%)
- Low-income student success rate: Burke County, NC (15.6%) vs. North Carolina 2-year-college average (19.9%) vs. U.S. 2-year-college average (22.7%)

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Burke County, NC (6%) vs. NC (9%) vs. United States (9%)
- Percent Hispanic: Burke County, NC (23%) vs. NC (17%) vs. United States (16.1%)
- Percent over age 65: Burke County, NC (14%) vs. NC (12%) vs. United States (20%)
- Percent college grad: Burke County, NC (21%) vs. NC (20%) vs. United States (21%)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Burke County, NC (69) vs. NC (76) vs. United States (82.5)
- Life expectancy (years): Burke County, NC (81.4) vs. NC (82.5) vs. United States (83.2)
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents): Burke County, NC (24) vs. NC (19) vs. United States (15)

* Burke County, NC  
* NC  
* United States
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau