**County Facts: Catawba County, NC**

**Population 158,000**

**The Local Economy**

- **Unemployment rate:** Catawba County 4.2%, NC 4.5%, United States 4.4%
- **Poverty rate:** Catawba County 15.1%, NC 16.9%, United States 15.1%
- **Median family income (000s):** Catawba County $47, NC $50, United States $57
- **Population growth 2000-2017:** Catawba County 11%, NC 16%, United States 16%
- **Manufacturing share of workforce:** Catawba County 28%, NC 26%, United States 15.1%
- **Farming share of workforce:** Catawba County 12%, NC 10%, United States 0.6%
- **Great Recession unemployment spike (pp):** Catawba County 1.5%, NC 1.7%, United States 3.0%

**How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out**

- **Percent graduating any college:** Catawba County 46%, NC 46%, United States 46%
- **Percent reaching upper-middle class:** Catawba County 16%, NC 18%, United States 16%
- **Percent achieving American Dream:** Catawba County 4%, NC 6%, United States 6%
- **Percent giving birth as a teen:** Catawba County 20%, NC 20%, United States 20%
- **Percent landing in jail:** Catawba County 1.1%, NC 1.5%, United States 1.5%
- **Local school expenditure per student (000s):** Catawba County $5.5, NC $5.4, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lenoir-Rhyne Univ.</th>
<th>North Carolina 4-year-college average</th>
<th>U.S. 4-year-college average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income share of</td>
<td>6.1%</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student</td>
<td>48.6%</td>
<td>51.4%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>success rate</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Catawba Valley CC (public)</th>
<th>North Carolina 2-year-college average</th>
<th>U.S. 2-year-college average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income share of</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>students</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Low-income student</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>22.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>success rate</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

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

Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Catawba County</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>81.8</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>82.5</td>
<td>82.5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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