County Facts: Wake County, NC
Population 1,072,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: Wake County 3.9%, NC 4.5%, United States 4.4%
Poverty rate: Wake County 11.1%, NC 16.9%, United States 15.1%
Median family income (000s): Wake County $75, NC $50, United States $57
Population growth 2000-2017: Wake County 71%, NC 28%, United States 16%
Manufacturing share of workforce: Wake County 12%, NC 10%, United States 9%
Farming share of workforce: Wake County 0.5%, NC 1.5%, United States 1.7%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Wake County 6.0%, NC 4.8%, United States 4.7%

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: Wake County 63%, NC 46%, United States 46%
Percent reaching upper-middle class: Wake County 26%, NC 16%, United States 13%
Percent achieving American Dream: Wake County 9%, NC 6%, United States 3%
Percent giving birth as a teen: Wake County 10%, NC 20%, United States 22%
Percent landing in jail: Wake County 1.5%, NC 0.9%, United States 1.5%
Local school expenditure per student (000s): Wake County $5.8, NC $5.4, United States $6.4

Wake County | NC | United States
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Wake Tech CC (public)
- North Carolina 4-year-college average
- U.S. 4-year-college average

Low-income share of students: 10.4%
Low-income student success rate: 17.0%

2-Year Colleges

- Wake County
- North Carolina 2-year-college average
- U.S. 2-year-college average

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 22%
- Percent Hispanic: 14%
- Percent over age 65: 17%
- Percent college grad: 12.9%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 103
- Life expectancy (years): 84.6
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents): 19

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