

CRAVEN COUNTY

- 103,000 people live in Craven County
- The population has increased by 1% over the past decade
- NC's population increased by 11% over the past decade

Released March 2025

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

For media queries and other
questions, contact us at
info@ncbudget.org



* 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 poverty level, or \$62,400 in 2023, the most recent year with available income data.

Craven County communities thrive when ...



... people can meet
their basic needs

- Rent is unaffordable for 47% of renters
- 9% of people don't have health insurance
- There is one mental health provider for every 330 residents



... good jobs are
accessible to everyone

- There are 4 candidates for every job opening*
- The number of unemployed people actively seeking work has increased by 1% from Dec. 2023 to Dec. 2024



... the economy works
for everyone

- 31% of residents are considered low-income (less than \$62,400 for a family of four)**
- The richest 5% of households make an average of 26 times more than the poorest 20% of households

Table 1: Poverty and Economic Hardship

	County	State
Living in poverty, 2019-2023		
Percentage of people living in poverty	14%	13%
Black	22	20
White	10	9
Latine	28	21
Asian & Pacific Islander	9	9
American Indian	42	24
Percentage of children living in poverty	20	18

Table 2: Employment

	County	State
Employment, December 2024		
Unemployment rate	3.2%	3.4%
Number of unemployed people actively seeking work	1,400	178,000
Number of employed people	41,400	5,067,000
Percent change in employment over the past year (December 2023 to December 2024)		
Change in unemployed people actively seeking work	1%	3%
Change in people employed	0%	0%

Table 3: Educational Attainment

	County	State
High school graduation, 2024		
High school graduation rate	81%	87%
Black	77	85
White	82	90
Latine	83	83
Asian & Pacific Islander	81	>95
American Indian	NA	82
College degrees, 2019-2023		
Percentage of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher	26%	35%
Men	26	33
Women	26	36
Median earnings for men with a bachelor's degree [†]	\$70,900	\$77,900
Median earnings for women with a bachelor's degree [†]	\$45,100	\$52,700

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

Table 4: Income and Ability to Afford the Basics

	County	State
Living Income Standard, 2025		
Living Income Standard annual income (1 adult, 2 kids) ^{††}	\$77,400	\$87,700
Median earnings and income, 2019-2023		
Median worker earnings	\$43,100	\$47,200
Median household income	\$64,600	\$69,900

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

Table 5: Access to Affordable Housing

	County	State
Rent burden, 2019-2023		
Percentage of renter households paying more than 30% of income on rent	47%	48%
Percentage of renter households paying more than 50% of income on rent	21%	23%
Fair market rent, 2025		
Fair market monthly rent for a two-bedroom home	\$1,320	\$1,410
Number of work hours at minimum wage it takes to afford a two-bedroom home at fair market rent	140 hours per week	150 hours per week

Table 6: Healthy Lives and Communities

	County	State
Health insurance, 2019-2023		
Percentage of residents without health insurance	9%	10%
Medicaid enrollment, February 2025		
Percentage of residents enrolled in Medicaid	27%	28%
Life expectancy, 2019-2021		
Life expectancy in years	75	77
Black	70	73
White	75	77
Mental health providers, 2023		
Residents per mental health provider	330	320
Food assistance, February 2025		
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	14%	13%

NA values indicate insufficient data for this county.

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