

Watauga County

Highlights from the 2022 NCACC Map Book



Demographics

2022 population	54,355
Projected change over next 20 years	20%
2042 population projection	65,129

2022 Population Facts	County	NC	Rank ¹
Median Age	31.1	39.6	99
Population Under 18	12%	21%	100
Population Age 65+	18%	18%	78
Veterans	5%	6%	84



Health and Wellbeing

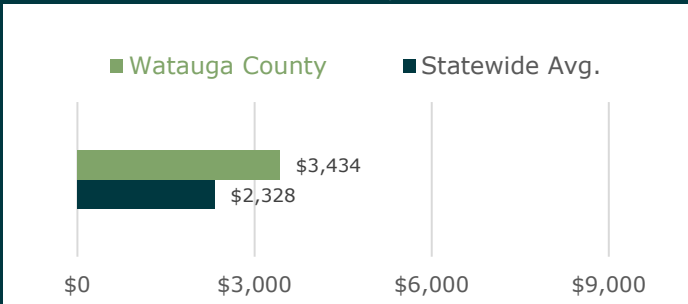
11% of residents are covered by Medicaid.(4)	13% of residents under 65 are uninsured.(2)	14% of households are food insecure.(3)
8 residents died from opioid poisoning in 2020.	5,156 residents were prescribed opioids in 2020.	



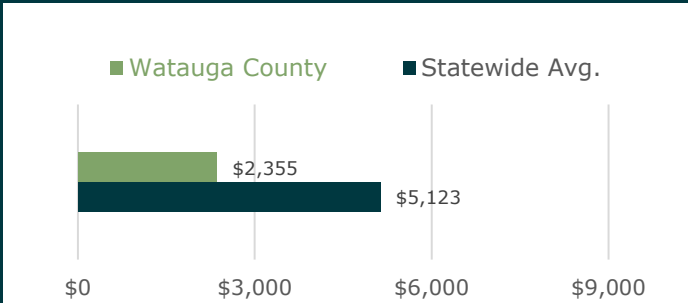
Education

76% of eligible children are enrolled in Pre-K.(4)	62% of adults 25-44 hold a post-secondary degree or credential. (5)	6% of residents age 16-24 are not in school or working.(2)
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Local K-12 \$ Per Student, FY 2020-21



Avg Teacher Salary Supplement, FY 2021-22



Economy and Taxes

	County	NC	Rank ¹
Income			
Per Capita Income (3)	\$40,157	\$50,305	64
Average Weekly Wage (4)	\$809	\$1,146	53
Children in Poverty (3)	13%	18%	94
Employment			
Unemployment Rate (May 2022)	3.3%	3.5%	73
Employed residents whose job is within the county (3)	88%	71%	6
Employed residents who commute by driving alone (3)	75%	71%	97
Access to Technology			
Households with broadband or satellite internet access (3)	79%	76%	15
Households with access to a computing device (3)	91%	91%	21
Local Taxes, FY 2021-22			
Property Tax Rate	0.4030	0.6072	95
Taxable property per capita (in thousands of dollars)	\$181.2	\$131.1	13
Property tax levy per capita	\$730	\$822	57
Sales tax rate (State + local)	6.75%	-	-

Notes: (1) A rank of 1 indicates the highest level or rate Statewide; a rank of 100 represents the lowest. (2) 2019 data; (3) 2020 data; (4) 2021 data; (5) 2018 data. For full notes and sources, or to download the Map Book or this fact sheet, visit www.ncacc.com/mapbook.