# **Nash County**

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# Introduction

Nash County has an estimated population of 94,030. This is only a slight decrease from 94,402 in 2010. At the census tract level, population decreased in the town of Rocky Mount and in the southwest corner of the county. The census tracts exhibiting net population decrease also have higher poverty rates and lower median incomes compared to the rest of the county. The central region is the wealthiest in the county and has a higher percentage of white households. Nash County is majority African American or Black. Black households have the lowest median income in the county, and have higher rates of poverty compared to white households.

While the overall family and child poverty rates are similar to the state and national averages, Nash County has a higher rate of poverty among adults age 65 and older. This is partly a result of the county having an older population. The largest age groups in Nash County are 45-54 and 55-64. Nash County also has a larger single mother population, and a higher rate of poverty in single mother households compared to the rest of the state and nation.

The population over age 25 in Nash County has a lower rate of bachelor's degree attainment and a higher high school dropout rate than the rest of the state. Nearly half of the public schools in Nash County were designated as 'low performing' in 2020. A significant percent of households in Nash County lack access to a computer or the internet. Students without internet access face more obstacles in their education, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Overview of Barriers Nash County, NC	Black Households	Hispanic/LatinX Households	White Households
2019 Median Household Income	\$39,538	\$46,900	\$60,821
2019 Poverty Rate	`20.3%	25.4%	10.3%
% of Population with Bachelor's Degree	14%	11%	26%

# **Summary of Barriers**

#### **Income & Poverty**

	Nash County	North Carolina	United States
Median Household Income (2019)	\$49,537	\$54,602	\$62,843
Senior Poverty Rate (65+) (2019)	12.2%	9.1%	9.3%
Poverty Rate: Single Mother Households (2019)	5.8%	5.0%	4.3%

Nash County has a lower median household income compared to the rest of the state and nation. The senior poverty rate is slightly (~3%) higher than the state and national average.

40.2% of children live in single-parent households. 10.3% of households are single mother households. the demographic with the highest poverty rate in Nash County is women ages 25 to 34, who make up 9.3% of the population living in poverty

#### **Internet Access**

% of Households w/o Computer	14.6%
% of Households w/o Internet	21.03%

Internet and computer access is a major barrier in Nash County and has become more essential during the COVID-19 pandemic. Nash County residents without a computer or internet access cannot work from home. Students with limited internet and computer access face increased difficulty keeping up with their online education.

#### Education

Nash County is slightly less educated

Out of the 28 public schools in Nash County, 26 received an NCDPI report card ranking of 'C' or lower. 13 schools in the county were classified as 'low-performing' following the 2019-2020 school year.

# **Barriers by Race & Ethnicity**

# Overview

Figure 1: Median Income by Race

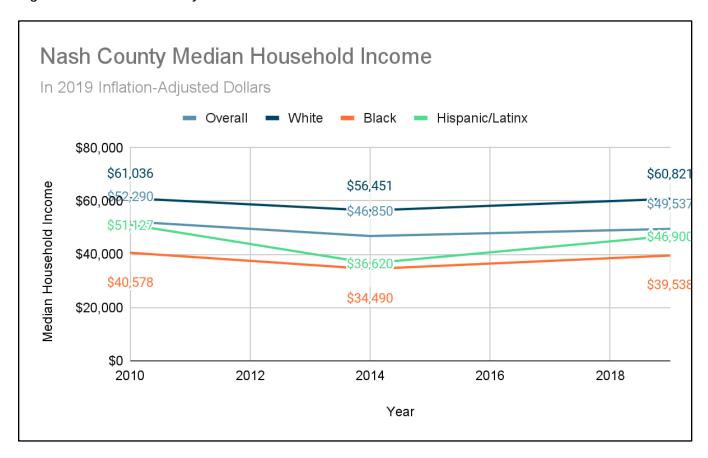
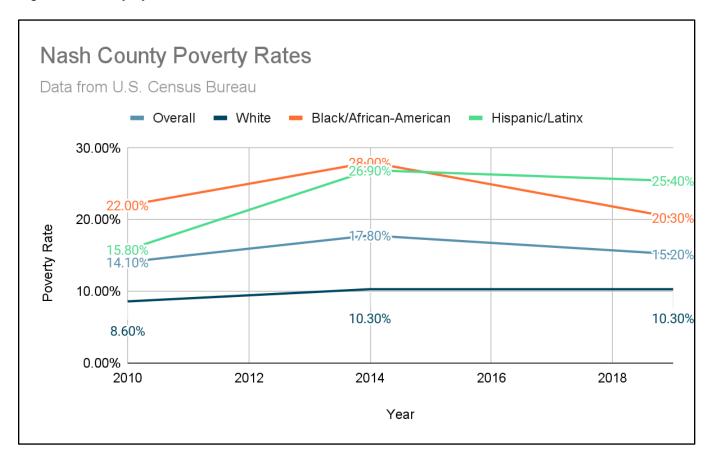


Figure 2: Poverty by Race



Nash County Highest Educational Attainment For Population Over Age 25 Less than high school High school Some college Bachelor's degree 48% 46% 50% 40% 40% 34% 33% 30% 29% 26% 30% 21%<sub>20%</sub> 18% 20% 14% 13% 11% 10% 10% 8% 0% White Black Asian Hispanic

Figure 3: Educational Attainment by Race1

### Black & African American

- > Black households have the lowest median income in Nash County.
  - The median income for Black households was \$39,538 in 2019, while the overall median income for Nash County was \$49,537.
  - Median income for Black households is consistently \$20-25,000 lower than the median household income for white households (see Figure 1).
- 20.3% of Black households lived in poverty in 2019, compared to 15.2% of all Nash County residents.
  - The poverty rate for Black households is consistently 15-20% higher than the poverty rate for white households (see Figure 2).
- > Black households have lower rates of higher educational attainment.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>TownCharts. (2021). Nash County, North Carolina Education Data. <a href="https://www.towncharts.com/North-Carolina/Education/Nash-County-NC-Education-data.html">https://www.towncharts.com/North-Carolina/Education/Nash-County-NC-Education-data.html</a>

- 18% of Black residents over age 25 did not graduate high school.
- 14% of Black residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree, which is lower than the rate of bachelor's degree attainment for white and Asian residents.

## Hispanic & Latinx

- ➤ The median income for Hispanic households was \$46,900 in 2019. The overall median income in Nash County was \$49,537.
  - The median income for Hispanic households is consistently \$20-25,000 lower than the median income for white households (see Figure 1)
- Hispanic and Latinx households have the highest poverty rates in Nash County.
  - o In 2019, 25.4% of Hispanic households lived in poverty.
  - The poverty rate for Hispanic and Latinx households is consistently 10-15% higher than the poverty rate for white households (see Figure 2).
- ➤ Hispanic and Latinx households have the lowest rates of higher educational attainment in Nash County.
  - o 48% of Hispanic or Latinx residents above age 25 did not complete high school.
  - 11% of Hispanic or Latinx residents over age 25 have a bachelor's degree.

# **Social & Community Context**

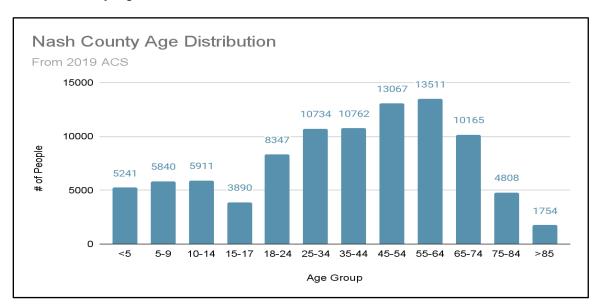
## **Demographics**

#### **Population**

- > 94,030 people live in Nash County. The county covers an area of 540 sq. miles with a population density of 147 people per sq. mile.²
- ➤ The population is 52.4% urban and 47.6% rural.<sup>3</sup>
- ➤ There are 6,250 veterans living in Nash County. 45% of veterans (2,825) are 65 or older.
  - 32.7% of veterans (2,044) served in the Vietnam War Era only, and make up the largest subgroup of veterans by period of service.<sup>4</sup>
- > 12.1% of the population under age 65 has a disability.

#### Age<sup>5</sup>

Figure 4: Nash County Age Distribution



<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>SE:A00002. Population Density (Per Sq. Mile). (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>AccessNC. (2020). *County Profile Nash County (NC)* [Fact sheet]. North Carolina Department of Commerce, Labor & Economic Analysis Division. <a href="https://www.researchtriangle.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Nash-County.pdf">https://www.researchtriangle.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Nash-County.pdf</a>

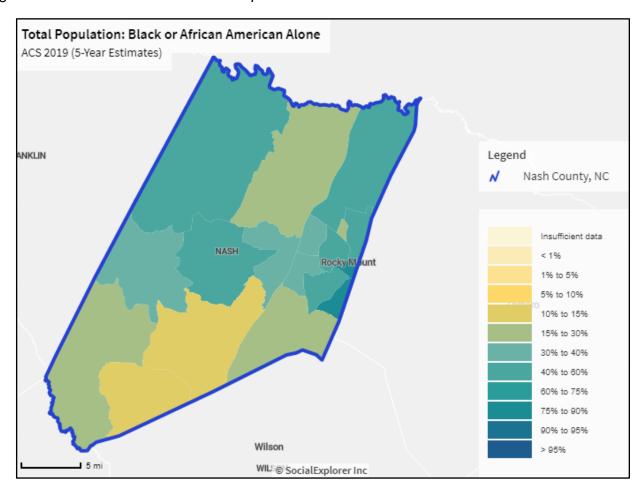
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup>SE:A16002. Veteran Status for the Civilian Population. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 21, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12850290.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup>SE:A01001. Age. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463.

### **Race & Ethnicity**

➤ Nash County is 52.1% white, 39.3% Black or African American, and 7.0% Hispanic or Latinx.<sup>6 7</sup>

Figure 5: African American and Black Population



 $<sup>^6</sup> SE:A0300.$  Race. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup>SE:A04001. Hispanic or Latino by Race. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463.

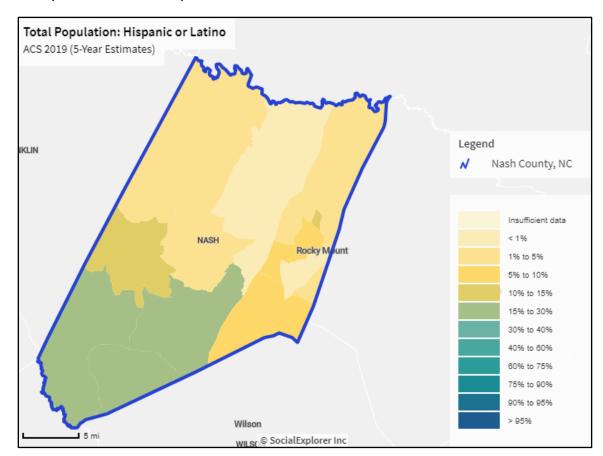


Figure 6: Hispanic and Latinx Population

### Immigration<sup>8</sup>

- ➤ As of 2018, 4.24% of Nash County residents (3.98k people) were born outside of the United States, which is lower than the national average of 13.7%.
  - In 2017, the percentage of foreign-born citizens in Nash County, NC was 4.26%, meaning that the rate has been decreasing.

#### **Single-Parent Households**

- ➤ 40.2% of children live in a single-parent household.<sup>9</sup>
- ➤ 13.4% of households are single-parent households, and 10.3% of households are single-mother households.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup>DataUSA. (2021). Nash County, NC. Datawheel. <a href="https://datausa.io/profile/geo/nash-county-nc">https://datausa.io/profile/geo/nash-county-nc</a>

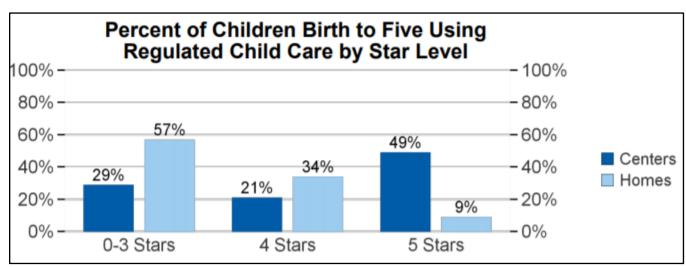
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup>SE:A10065. Children Living with Single Parents. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup>SE:A10008. Households by Household Type. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463.

#### **Child Care**

- ➤ As of April 2021, 4,363 children under age 6 live in a household where the sole parent or both parents work. This number represents 67% of all children under age 6.<sup>11</sup>
  - 7% of children participated in the state subsidized child care program in March 2021 to help offset the high cost of child care
- ➤ 454 children from 0-3 years of age and 1,018 children from 3-5 years of age are currently enrolled in a licensed early care and education center in Nash County.<sup>12</sup>
  - o Of these children under three years of age, 46% are in 4- and 5-star centers.
  - Of these children three to five years of age, 81% are in 4 or 5-star centers.
- ➤ In February 2021, 388 infants and toddlers in Nash County were enrolled in child care centers. This number compares to 474 enrolled in child care centers prior to the pandemic.<sup>13</sup>

Figure 7: Nash County Child Care



© 2021 Child Care Services Association. Figures derived using the most recent available data from Child Care Services Association, NC Division of Child Development and Early Education, NC Child Resource and Referral Council, NC Head Start State Collaboration Office, National Association for the Education of Young Children.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup>Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Young Children and their Families in Nash County* [Fact sheet]. <a href="https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-">https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-</a>

repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\_id%5B%5D=4&rep\_month=&rep\_year=2021&rep\_month\_end=&rep\_year\_end=&county\_id%5B%5D=64

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup>Child Care Services Association. (2021). *Early Care & Education Use in Nash County* [Fact sheet]. https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-

repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\_id%5B%5D=3&rep\_month=&rep\_year=2021&rep\_month\_end=&rep\_year\_end=&county\_id%5B%5D=64

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup>Child Care Services Association. (2021). Infant and Toddler Care in Nash County [Fact sheet]. https://www.childcareservices.org/research/nc-ece-data-

repo/search/?repoSearch=&section\_id%5B%5D=7&rep\_month=&rep\_year=&rep\_month\_end=&rep\_year\_end=&county\_id%5B%5D=64

#### Education<sup>14</sup>

Figure 8: Highest Educational Attainment as % of Population Over Age 25

	Nash County	North Carolina	United States
Bachelor's Degree	14.3%	20.0%	19.8%
High School (Includes Equivalency)	33.7%	25.7%	27.0%
Less than High School	14.4%	12.2%	12.0%

# **Neighborhood & Built Environment**

# Housing

### **Cost of Housing**

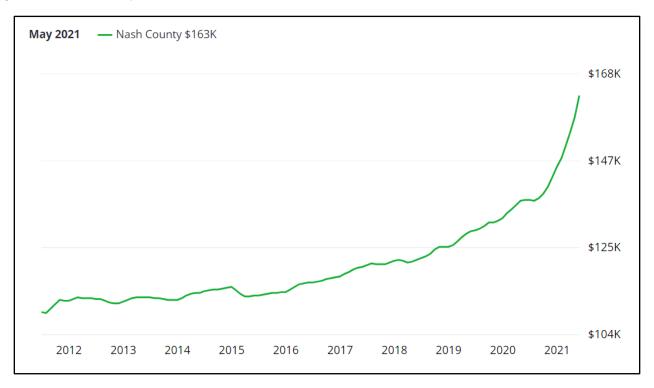
- ➤ Median gross rent was \$799 in 2019. This is a 0.65% decrease from \$804 in 2014.
- ➤ 24.2% of residents spend 30-49% of their income on rent. 19.5% of residents spend more than 50% of their income on rent. 15
- ➤ 22.5% of homeowners spend 30-49% of their income on homeownership expenses. 8.6% of homeowners spend more than 50% of their income on homeownership expenses. <sup>16</sup>
- ➤ In 2018, 65.7% of the housing units in Nash County were owner-occupied. This is higher than the national average of 63.9% (Data USA, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup>SE:A12001. Educational Attainment for Population 25 Years and Over. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved June 18, 2021 from https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019\_5yr/R12849463

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup>SE:B18002. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Rent. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 14, 2021, from <a href="https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019">https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019</a> 5yr/R12861314

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup>SE:B10040. Residents Paying More Than 30% or at least 50% of Income on Selected Home Ownership Expenses. (ACS 2019). In SocialExplorer.com. Retrieved July 14, 2021, from <a href="https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019">https://www.socialexplorer.com/tables/ACS2019</a> 5yr/R12861314

Figure 9: Nash County Median Home Value



➤ The typical home value of homes in Nash County is \$163,279. Nash County home values have gone up 18.6% over the past year (Zillow, 2021).

Median Gross Rent ACS 2019 (5-Year Estimates) NKLIN Legend Nash County, NC < \$350 NASH Rocky M \$350 to \$500 \$500 to \$550 \$550 to \$600 \$600 to \$700 \$700 to \$800 \$800 to \$900 \$900 to \$1,000 \$1,000 to \$1,200 \$1,200 to \$1,500 > \$1,500 Wilson © SocialExplorer Inc

Figure 10: Median Gross Rent

#### **Homelessness**

➤ During the 2017 to 2018 school year, Nash County Public Schools identified 550 students experiencing homelessness.

# Transportation

> 1.9% of households (796) do not own a car. 17.3% own one car, and 35.6% own two.

# Internet Access<sup>17</sup> 18

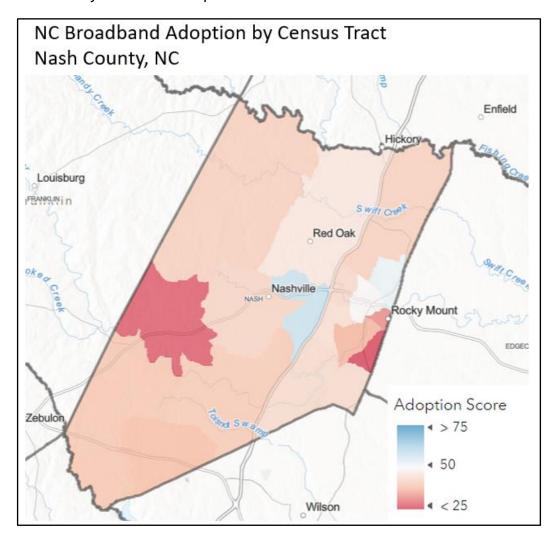
> 85.4% of households have a computer.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup>U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. (2019). American Community Survey. U.S. Census Bureau. https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/nashcountynorthcarolina# (Accessed on July 12, 2021).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup>Federal Communications Commission. (2019). *NC Broadband Availability Index* [Map]. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/1ca29805a2454ffab6b9579702b99e59/page/page\_0

- > 76.6% of households have a broadband internet subscription.
- 21.03% of households do not have internet.

Figure 11: Nash County Broadband Adoption



# Crime<sup>19</sup>

- The rate of crime in Nash County is 41.35 per 1,000 residents during a standard year, which is slightly higher than the national average. Crime is lower in the southern part of the county.
- ➤ Nash County is in the 35th percentile for safety, meaning 65% of counties are safer and 35% of counties are more dangerous.
- ➤ The property crime rate is 29.45 per 1,000 residents and the violent crime rate is 4.209 per 1,000 residents.

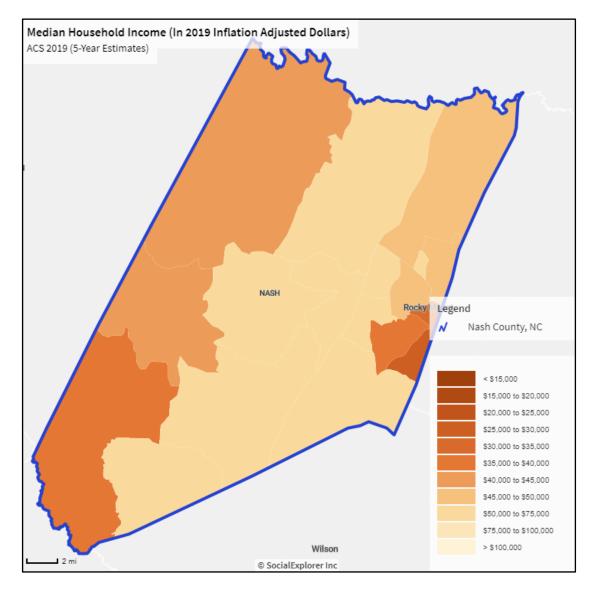
<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup>CrimeGrade. (2021). Crime per Capita in Nash County. https://crimegrade.org/safest-places-in-nash-county-nc/

# **Economic Stability**

### Income

➤ In 2019, the median household income in Nash County was \$49,537 per year (U.S. Census Bureau, 2019). This is less than the national median income of \$61,937.

Figure 12: Median Household Income

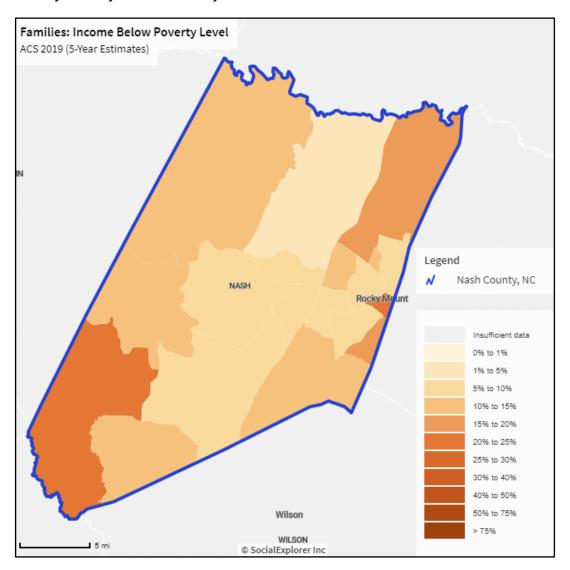


# **Poverty**

- > 11.3% of families lived in poverty in 2019.
- > 20.7% of children lived in poverty in 2019.

> 5.8% of single-mother households lived in poverty in 2019.

Figure 13: Family Poverty in Nash County



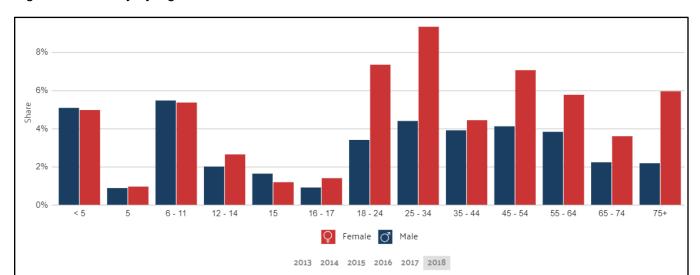
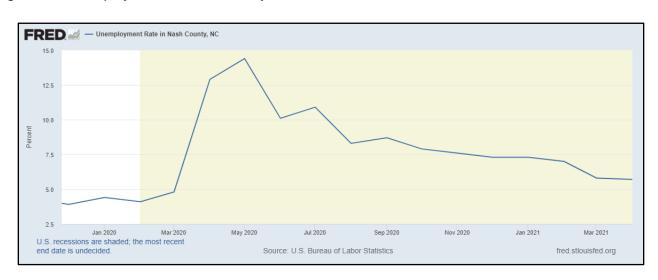


Figure 14: Poverty by Age & Gender

- ➤ Women ages 25 to 34 are the largest demographic living in poverty in Nash County, followed by women ages 18 to 24 and then women ages 45 to 54.
- ➤ Women ages 25 to 34 make up 9.33% of the population living in poverty (Data USA, 2021).

# **Employment**

Figure 15: Unemployment in Nash County<sup>20</sup>



The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that the unemployment rate for Nash County in April 2021 was 5.7%.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup>U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Unemployment Rate in Nash County, NC [NCNASH5URN], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/NCNASH5URN, June 15, 2021.

- ➤ Unemployment in Nash County is trending downwards since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 2020, unemployment peaked in Nash County at 14.4% (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021).
- ➤ Unemployment in Nash County tends to be higher compared to other counties in North Carolina, averaging between 5 and 7% each month since 2017 (Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2021).

### **Food Security**

HungerNet by Feeding America

https://feedingamerica.sharepoint.com/

Identifying Racism in the Drivers of Food Insecurity by Feeding America Research

https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/feeding.america.research/viz/IdentifyingRacismintheDriversofFoodlnsecurity/Introductionv2

# **Education**

#### Public Schools

#### Enrollment<sup>21</sup>

- ➤ During the 2019-2020 school year, there were 14,910 students enrolled across 29 schools in the Nash County Schools district.
- > 52% of students are Black, 30% are white, 13% are Hispanic, and 1% are Asian.
- ➤ Per-pupil funding in 2019 amounted to \$9,334, which is slightly lower than the state average of \$9,938.

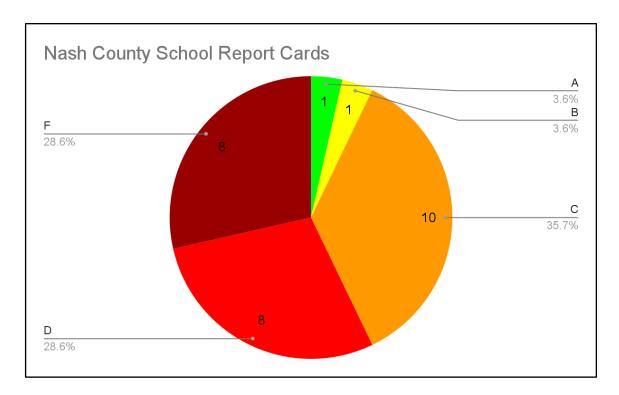
#### School Performance<sup>22</sup>

Each academic year, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) releases school report cards, which assign each public school a letter grade based on school performance and academic growth metrics.

Figure 16: Nash County School Performance

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup>North Carolina School Report Cards. (2020). *Nash County Public Schools*. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/district?district=640LEA&year=2020&Ing=en

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup>North Carolina School Report Cards. (2020). *Nash-Rocky Mount Schools*. North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/district?district?district=640LEA&year=2019&Ing=en

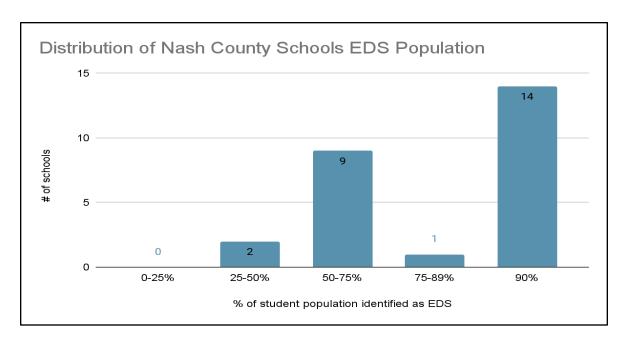


- ➤ During the 2018-2019 school year, one school in Nash County received an 'A' ranking, one school received a 'B', 10 received a 'C', 8 received a 'D', and 8 received an 'F'.
- ➤ 10 schools met and 4 schools exceeded their academic growth targets for the 2019-2020 school year. 10 schools did not meet their growth targets.
- > 13 schools were classified as 'low-performing' following the 2019-2020 school year.

# **Economically Disadvantaged Students**

- ➤ 11,022 students in Nash County relied on free lunch services and 696 relied on reduced lunch services during the 2019-2020 school year.
- > 76.46% of students were identified as economically disadvantaged based on enrollment in free and reduced lunch programs.

Figure 17: Nash County EDS



- > There are 14 schools where more than 90% of students are economically disadvantaged.
  - o There is one school where 75-89% of students are economically disadvantaged.
  - o There are 9 schools where 50-75% of students are economically disadvantaged.
  - There are 2 schools in Nash County where 25-50% of the student population is economically disadvantaged.

# **Community Health**

# **Key Points**

### **Heart Disease & Stroke**

- ➤ Heart disease is the second-leading cause of death in Nash County, with an age-adjusted death rate of 182.2 per 100,000. This is higher than the state rate of 159 per 100,000 and the national rate of 178.8 per 100,000.
- ➤ Cerebrovascular disease (stroke) is the third-leading cause of death in Nash County, with an ageadjusted death rate of 48.4 per 100,000. This is higher than the state rate of 43.6 per 100,000 and nearly identical to the national rate of 48.5.

#### **Diabetes**

➤ Nash County has a diabetes prevalence rate of 16%, a 1% increase from 14.9% in 2020 (DataUSA, 2021).

➤ Diabetes is the seventh-leading cause of death in Nash County, with an age-adjusted death rate of 28.4 per 100,000 people. This is higher than the state average of 23.6.

#### Obesity

➤ The adult obesity prevalence rate is 38.1% (DataUSA, 2021).

#### **Maternal & Child Health**

- ➤ The infant mortality rate in Nash County was last measured in 2016 at 8.6 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is higher than the state rate of 7.2 deaths per every 1,000 live births.
- ➤ 2.0% of babies in Nash County are born with a very low birth weight (<1500 grams) and 9.2% are born with a low birth weight (<2500 grams).</p>

### **Healthcare Access**

- > 89.9% of the population has health coverage (DataUSA, 2021).
  - 43.7% are on employee plans.
  - o 19% are on Medicaid.
  - o 12.7% are on Medicare.
  - o 12.9% are on non-group plans.
  - 1.57% are on military or VA plans.
- ➤ There are 171 licensed physicians in Nash County, or 18 per every 10,000 people (AccessNC, 2020).
- > Primary care physicians see an average of 1,774 patients per year (DataUSA, 2021).

#### Mental Health

Figure 18: Nash County Mental Health & Mental Disorders

SCORE	MENTAL HEALTH & MENTAL DISORDERS	MEASUREMENT PERIOD	UNITS	NASH COUNTY	NORTH CAROLINA	U.S.
2.05	Mental Health Provider Rate	2017	providers/ 100,000 population	109.6	215.5	214.
	Poor Mental Health: Average Number of					
1.80	Days	2016	days	4.1	3.9	3.8
1.45	Depression: Medicare Population	2015	percent	16.4	17.5	16.7
1.35	Frequent Mental Distress	2016	percent	12.9	12.3	15.0
1.23	Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Alzheimer's Disease	2012-2016	deaths/ 100,000 population	25.6	31.9	26.6
1.20	Alzheimer's Disease or Dementia: Medicare Population	2015	percent	9.0	9.8	9,9
				3.0		
1.13	Age-Adjusted Death Rate due to Suicide	2012-2016	deaths/ 100,000 population	10.7	12.9	13.0

➤ There are 109.6 mental health care providers for every 100,000 people in Nash County. This is much lower than the state average of 215.5 providers for every 100,000 people.

# Impact of COVID-19<sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup>

- > As of August 2021:
  - There have been 11,833 confirmed cases of COVID-19 since the onset of the pandemic.
  - o There have been 202 deaths attributed to COVID-19.
  - 43.9% of the population is fully vaccinated.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup>USA Facts. (2021). *Nash County, North Carolina Coronavirus Cases and Deaths*. <a href="https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/state/north-carolina/county/nash-county">https://usafacts.org/visualizations/coronavirus-covid-19-spread-map/state/north-carolina/county/nash-county</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup>North Carolina Department of Health & Human Safety. (2021). *Cases Demographics*. <a href="https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/cases-demographics">https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/cases-demographics</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup>North Carolina Department of Health & Human Safety. (2021). *Vaccinations*. <a href="https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations">https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard/vaccinations</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup>Citizen Times. (2021). North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Tracker. https://data.citizen-times.com/covid-19-vaccine-tracker/north-carolina/37/

- ➤ Nash County's white population makes up 51% of confirmed cases, 40% of COVID-19 deaths, and 49% of vaccinations while comprising 55% of the total population.
- African Americans make up 40% of confirmed cases, 39% of COVID-19 deaths, and 37% of vaccinations while comprising 42% of the total population.
- ➤ The Hispanic/Latinx population makes up 13% of confirmed cases, 2% of COVID-19 deaths, and 8% of vaccinations while comprising 7% of the total population.

### Resources

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