

Pender County Population and Age Overview

- Pender County, North Carolina has a total population of 70,077 residents
- The gender distribution is relatively balanced with 35,771 males (51%) and 34,306 females (49%)
- The county has a median age of 42.1 years, with males slightly younger at 39.7 years compared to females at 44.3 years
- Adults aged 18 and over comprise 77.6% of the population (54,402 residents)
- Seniors aged 65 and over represent 18.1% (12,651 residents)
- Notable population concentrations appear in the 55 to 59 age range at 7.9% and the 50 to 54 age range at 7.4%, reflecting a moderately aging population

Race and Multiracial Population Demographics

- Of 60,203 residents reporting race data, 56,485 people identify as one race while 3,718 people identify as two or more races
- Among single-race populations, 45,305 residents identify as White alone, 7,619 as Black or African American alone, and 2,834 as Some Other Race alone
- Smaller single-race populations include 354 American Indian and Alaska Native residents, 342 Asian residents, and 31 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander residents
- Among multiracial residents, 23 people identify as four races, 1 resident identifies as five races, and 2 residents identify as six races

School Enrollment

- 17,970 residents aged 3 years and over are enrolled in school
- Kindergarten through 12th grade enrollment includes 11,652 students (64.8%), of whom 83.7% attend public schools
- College and graduate school enrollment totals 4,345 students (24.2% of all enrolled), with 87.0% attending public institutions
- High school enrollment (grades 9-12) represents 4,178 students (23.2% of total enrollment), with 86.7% in public schools

Educational Attainment

- In this community, 44,931 residents aged 25 and over (91.2%) have attained a high school diploma or higher
- 31.9% of this population (15,729 residents) hold a bachelor's degree or higher, with females attaining this level at 36.8% compared to 26.8% for males
- The highest educational attainment rate is among residents aged 25 to 34, where 96.3% (7,869 people) have a high school diploma or higher
- In the 18 to 24 age group, 40.0% have completed some college or an associate's degree, while 16.2% hold a bachelor's degree or higher

Educational Attainment by Race

- Among White residents aged 25 and over reporting educational attainment, 94.4% have a high school diploma or higher and 35.0% hold a bachelor's degree or higher
- Among Black residents aged 25 and over reporting educational attainment, 87.8% have a high school diploma or higher and 13.9% hold a bachelor's degree or higher
- Among residents identifying as two or more races aged 25 and over, 85.6% have a high school diploma or higher and 26.8% hold a bachelor's degree or higher

Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment

- Among residents aged 25 and over without a high school diploma, the poverty rate is 25.0%, compared to 13.2% for high school graduates
- Those with some college or an associate's degree have a poverty rate of 8.0%, while bachelor's degree holders or higher have a poverty rate of 3.0%
- Females without a high school diploma experience a higher poverty rate at 29.4% compared to 20.5% for males at the same education level

Median Earnings by Educational Attainment

- Median earnings for the population aged 25 and over with earnings is \$51,870, with males earning \$59,191 compared to \$50,255 for females
- Residents with less than a high school diploma earn a median of \$30,614, while high school graduates earn \$29,477
- Those with some college or an associate's degree earn a median of \$59,665, and bachelor's degree holders earn \$58,596
- The highest median earnings are among those with a graduate or professional degree at \$80,721, with a significant gap between males (\$119,241) and females (\$64,079)

Veteran Population

- In this community, 5,382 residents are veterans (10.2%) and 47,526 are nonveterans (89.8%)
- The veteran population is predominantly male, with 5,171 male veterans (96.1%) compared to 211 female veterans (3.9%)
- The largest concentration of veterans is in the 35 to 54 age group, representing 50.7% of the veteran population (2,727 veterans)
- Veterans aged 75 and over account for 12.8% of the veteran population (689 veterans), compared to 8.8% of nonveterans in the same age group

Food Stamps/SNAP Benefits

- In Pender County, 1,936 households (7.2%) receive food stamps/SNAP benefits, while 24,982 households (92.8%) do not
- Among households receiving SNAP, 66.7% (1,292 households) include one or more people aged 60 and over
- 44.3% of SNAP-receiving households (858 households) have children under 18 years

SNAP Benefits and Poverty Status

- Among SNAP-receiving households, 22.4% (434 households) are below the poverty level, compared to 6.9% (1,734 households) of non-SNAP households
- 51.2% of SNAP-receiving households (992 households) include one or more people with a disability, compared to 30.2% of non-SNAP households

SNAP Benefits by Race and Ethnicity of Householder

- White householders represent 73.2% (1,417 households) of SNAP-receiving households
- Householders identifying as two or more races account for 9.1% (176 households) of SNAP recipients

- Householders of Hispanic or Latino origin represent 7.0% (136 households) of SNAP recipients, as do Black or African American householders (136 households) and Some Other Race householders (136 households)

Labor Force Participation and Employment

- Among residents aged 16 and over, the labor force participation rate is 61.3%, with an employment/population ratio of 57.8% and an unemployment rate of 1.5%
- The highest labor force participation rate is among residents aged 30 to 34 at 92.5%, followed by those aged 35 to 44 at 85.1%
- Among residents aged 20 to 64, males have a labor force participation rate of 81.9% compared to 67.0% for females, with unemployment rates of 0.2% and 3.4% respectively

Labor Force Participation by Education, Economic Status, and Disability

- Among residents aged 25 to 64, those with a bachelor's degree or higher have a labor force participation rate of 84.3% and an unemployment rate of 1.3%
- Residents with less than a high school diploma have a labor force participation rate of 59.7% and the highest unemployment rate at 9.8%
- High school graduates have a labor force participation rate of 68.3% with an unemployment rate of 0.5%, while those with some college or an associate's degree have a participation rate of 76.6% and an unemployment rate of 0.4%
- Among residents below the poverty level aged 20 to 64, the labor force participation rate is 39.1% with an unemployment rate of 2.7%, compared to 80.2% and 1.7% for those at or above poverty level
- Residents with any disability have a labor force participation rate of 49.0% and an unemployment rate of 1.3%

Source: <https://data.census.gov/> data pulled 12/9/2025