

Swain County

Swain County has a population of 15,295, an increase of 9.2% over the past decade.

Our communities thrive when we ...



Provide Jobs and Opportunities

There were 474 people looking for work compared to 179 job openings.

In the past year, the county's unemployment rate has gone from 5.5% to 4.9%.



Ensure Access to Affordable Housing and Health Services

Rent was unaffordable for 40.9% of renters.

21.9% did not have health insurance.

There are 410 residents for every mental health provider.



Address Structural Barriers to Equality

49.8% of residents are low-income (\$48,600 or less for a family of four).

The richest 5% of households have an average income 25 times greater than the poorest fifth and 6 times the typical household.

... make the investments needed to power prosperity for more people and places in our state.

Poverty and Economic Hardship			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people living in poverty	16.7%	15.4%	2012-2016
Black	95.8%	26.1%	
White	17.5%	11.5%	
Latinx	42%	31.5%	
Asian	26.9%	12.9%	
American Indian	31.2%	28.1%	
Child poverty rate	25.4%	21.7%	2016

Healthy Lives and Communities			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents without health insurance	21.9%	13.2%	2012-2016
Life expectancy	75.2 years	78 years	2014-2016
Black	***	75.6 years	
White	77.5 years	78.8 years	
Mental health provider : residents	1 : 410	1 : 464	2017

Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics			
	County	State	Year
Jobless worker : Job openings	474 : 179	150,919 : 141,253	Jan. 2018
Unemployment rate	4.9%	4.3%	Dec. 2017
Change in number of people employed since December 2007	75 fewer	422,055 more	2016
Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$21.81	\$21.95	2016
Hourly median wage	\$12.51	\$16.31	2016
Change in median wage since the recovery began	fell 99 cents	fell 15 cents	2009, 2016
Median Household Income	\$38,996	\$50,595	2016

Educational Attainment			
	County	State	Year
Graduation rate	83.1%	86.5%	2016-2017
Black	***	83.9%	
White	84.5%	89.3%	
Latinx	***	80.5%	
Asian	***	93.8%	
American Indian	82.9%	84.3%	
Percentage of adults with Bachelor's degrees	15.3%	29%	2012-2016
Bachelor's degree, men	16.1%	28.2%	
Bachelor's degree, women	14.5%	29.8%	
Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor's	\$47,125	\$57,765	
Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor's	\$33,625	\$38,851	

Access to Affordable Housing			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent	40.9%	50.6%	2012-2016
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	\$642	\$821	2017
Two-bedroom housing wage (Number of hours/week a minimum wage worker would need for a two-bedroom unit)	\$12.35	\$15.79	2017

Work and Income Supports to Avoid Poverty			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	13.3%	13.5%	Dec. 2017
Number of people eligible for state Earned Income Tax Credit**	1,880	1,204,039	2013

* The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover the basic expenses. ** Lawmakers allowed the state EITC to expire in 2013. *** Insufficient data