

Polk County

Polk County has a population of 21,195, an increase of 4.5% over the past decade.

Our communities thrive when we ...



Provide Jobs and Opportunities

There were 364 people looking for work compared to 241 job openings.

In the past year, the county's unemployment rate has gone from 3.8% to 3.7%.



Ensure Access to Affordable Housing and Health Services

Rent was unaffordable for 41.6% of renters.

12% did not have health insurance.

There are 541 residents for every mental health provider.



Address Structural Barriers to Equality

31.7% of residents are low-income (\$49,200 or less for a family of four).

The richest 5% of households have an average income 21 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	12.5%	14.7%	2013-2017
Black	11.4%	24.9%	
White	8.4%	11.1%	
Latinx	33.1%	30.1%	
Asian	***	12.7%	
American Indian	80.5%	26.2%	
Child poverty rate	21.3%	21%	2017

Healthy Lives and Communities			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents without health insurance	12%	12.1%	2013-2017
Life expectancy	79.7 years	77.6 years	2015-2017
Black	79.7 years	75.3 years	
White	79.6 years	78.4 years	
Mental health provider : residents	1 : 541	1 : 439	2019
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	9.2%	13%	2018

Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics			
	County	State	Year
Jobless worker : Job openings	364 : 241	202,412 : 302,886	March 2019
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	Dec. 2018
Change in number of people employed since December 2007	609 fewer	489,823 more	2018
Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$20.69	\$22.94	2019
Hourly median wage	\$14.91	\$17.19	2019
Change in median wage since the recovery began	fell \$1.34	grew 38 cents	2009, 2019
Median Household Income	\$45,587	\$52,797	2017

Educational Attainment			
	County	State	Year
Graduation rate	92%	86.3%	2017-2018
Black	***	83.2%	
White	93%	89.6%	
Latinx	94.4%	79.9%	
Asian	***	93.4%	
American Indian	***	84.4%	
Percentage of adults with Bachelor's degrees	31.9%	29.9%	2013-2017
Bachelor's degree, men	30.4%	28.9%	
Bachelor's degree, women	33.2%	30.7%	
Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor's	\$48,850	\$60,022	
Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor's	\$32,168	\$40,260	

Access to Affordable Housing			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent	41.6%	48.7%	2013-2017
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	\$817	\$850	2018
Two-bedroom housing wage (Number of hours/week a minimum wage worker would need for a two-bedroom unit)	\$15.71	\$15.79	2018

*The Living Income Standard is a measure of what a family needs in order to cover the basic expenses. *** Insufficient data

For data sources, visit NCJustice.org/snapshots