

# Wilkes County

Wilkes County has a population of 69,663, an increase of 0.8% over the past decade.

## Our communities thrive when we ...



### Provide Jobs and Opportunities

There were 1,274 people looking for work compared to 815 job openings.

In the past year, the county's unemployment rate has gone from 3.9% to 3.7%.



### Ensure Access to Affordable Housing and Health Services

Rent was unaffordable for 49.7% of renters.

12.3% did not have health insurance.

There are 562 residents for every mental health provider.



### Address Structural Barriers to Equality

45.7% of residents are low-income (\$49,200 or less for a family of four).

The richest 5% of households have an average income 24 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	18.5%	14.7%	2013-2017
Black	22.3%	24.9%	
White	18.8%	11.1%	
Latinx	45.7%	30.1%	
Asian	***	12.7%	
American Indian	34.4%	26.2%	
Child poverty rate	24.7%	21%	2017

Healthy Lives and Communities			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of residents without health insurance	12.3%	12.1%	2013-2017
Life expectancy	76.4 years	77.6 years	2015-2017
Black	74.9 years	75.3 years	
White	76.5 years	78.4 years	
Mental health provider : residents	1 : 562	1 : 439	2019
Percentage of residents receiving SNAP	16.2%	13%	2018

Jobs and Ability to Afford the Basics			
	County	State	Year
Jobless worker : Job openings	1,274 : 815	202,412 : 302,886	March 2019
Unemployment rate	3.7%	3.7%	Dec. 2018
Change in number of people employed since December 2007	635 fewer	489,823 more	2018
Living Income Standard* wage (1 adult, 2 kids)	\$20.52	\$22.94	2019
Hourly median wage	\$14.18	\$17.19	2019
Change in median wage since the recovery began	grew 58 cents	grew 38 cents	2009, 2019
Median Household Income	\$42,453	\$52,797	2017

Educational Attainment			
	County	State	Year
Graduation rate	87.9%	86.3%	2017-2018
Black	92.6%	83.2%	
White	89.5%	89.6%	
Latinx	82.4%	79.9%	
Asian	***	93.4%	
American Indian	***	84.4%	
Percentage of adults with Bachelor's degrees	15.4%	29.9%	2013-2017
Bachelor's degree, men	13.3%	28.9%	
Bachelor's degree, women	17.4%	30.7%	
Median salary, men with at least a Bachelor's	\$52,482	\$60,022	
Median salary, women with at least a Bachelor's	\$36,578	\$40,260	

Access to Affordable Housing			
	County	State	Year
Percentage of people paying more than 30% of income toward rent	49.7%	48.7%	2013-2017
Fair market rent for a two-bedroom unit	\$683	\$850	2018
Two-bedroom housing wage (Number of hours/week a minimum wage worker would need for a two-bedroom unit)	\$13.13	\$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](http://NCJustice.org/snapshots)**