DARE COUNTY

ABOUT

Established in 1870 and named after Virginia Dare, America’s first English-born child in the colonies, Dare County was established out of Tyrrell, Hyde, and Currituck counties. Manteo serves as the county seat, receiving its name from a Croatoan Indian who helped establish the Roanoke Island Colony. Other communities located in Dare County include Kitty Hawk, Nags Head, Wanchese, Kill Devil Hills, and Southern Shores.

Dare County, part of North Carolina’s Outer Banks, has 85 miles of uninterrupted coastline. The county is also home to the infamous Lost Colony, established in 1585 by Sir Walter Raleigh.

The first successful flight by Wilbur and Orville Wright occurred at Kill Devil Hills in 1903. The brother’s accomplishment is memorialized at the Wright Brothers National Memorial.

Historical and cultural attractions in Dare County include the Cape Hatteras National Seashore, the Fort Raleigh National Historic Site, the North Carolina Aquarium, and the Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- **POPULATION:** 34,530
- **NC RANKING:** 66th
- **BLACK:** 3%
- **WHITE:** 91%
- **HISPANIC:** 7%
- **MEDIAN AGE:** 44
- **RENT ≥ 30% INCOME:** 43%
- **FAMILIES HEADED BY A FEMALE:** 10%
- **PROJECTED 2025 POPULATION:** 31,985

EDUCATION

- **HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION RATE:** 91%
- **THIRD GRADERS READING AT GRADE LEVEL:** 66%

HEALTH

- **DENTISTS PER 10,000:** 6
- **GROCERY STORES PER 10,000:** 5
- **CANCER INCIDENCE PER 10,000:** 45
- **HEART DISEASE DEATHS PER 10,000:** 17
- **UNINSURED ADULTS:** 17%
- **OBESITY:** 14%

ECONOMY

- **MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME:** $55,520
- **UNEMPLOYED:** 7%
- **LARGEST EMPLOYER:** Dare County Schools

**SOURCES:**
1. NC Health Data Explorer
2. NCIOM
3. NC School Report Cards
4. NC Office of State Budget and Management
5. NC DPI Statistical Profile

State Per Pupil Expenditure 2016-17 | “About” information provided by the North Carolina History Project