County Facts: Avery County, NC
Population 18,000

The Local Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Avery County</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
<td>4.5%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate</td>
<td>6.9%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income (000s)</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$50</td>
<td>$57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth 2000-2017</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing share of workforce</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming share of workforce</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Avery County</th>
<th>NC</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent graduating any college</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent reaching upper-middle class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent achieving American Dream</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent giving birth as a teen</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent landing in jail</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local school expenditure per student (000s)</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
<td>$5.8</td>
<td>$5.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Avery County, NC  Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**
  - Lees-Mcrae College: 8.1%
  - North Carolina 4-year-college average: 7.8%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%

- **Low-income student success rate**
  - Lees-Mcrae College: 48.6%
  - North Carolina 4-year-college average: 51.3%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 18.6%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**
  - Mayland CC (public): 19.9%
  - North Carolina 2-year-college average: 17.0%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 15.6%

- **Low-income student success rate**
  - Mayland CC (public): 17.0%
  - North Carolina 2-year-college average: 15.6%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 20.0%

*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

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Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**
  - Avery County: 2%
  - NC: 4%
  - United States: 12.9%

- **Percent Hispanic**
  - Avery County: 14%
  - NC: 9%
  - United States: 13.0%

- **Percent over age 65**
  - Avery County: 17%
  - NC: 17.4%
  - United States: 19%

- **Percent college grad**
  - Avery County: 21%
  - NC: 20%
  - United States: 47%

- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)**
  - Avery County: 103
  - NC: 76
  - United States: 47
Definitions and Sources

The Local Economy
- Unemployment rate (August 2018, BLS)
- Poverty rate (2012-2016 ACS)
- Median family income (2016 ACS)
- Manufacturing share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Farming share of workforce (2012-2016 ACS)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (BLS LAUS)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out
- Percent graduating any college (2-yr or 4-yr, Tax Data 2, N/A for some counties)
- Percent reaching upper middle-class (top 20% of the U.S. income distribution, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent achieving American Dream (share of local low-income kids—i.e. those with 25th-income-percentile parents—who reach the top 20% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent (of local female kids) giving birth as a teen (Tax Data 1, N/A for some counties)
- Percent landing in jail (percent of local kids in jail on 1 April 2010, Tax Data 1 and 2010 Census, N/A for some counties)
- Local school expenditure per student (in public schools, NCES, N/A for some counties)

Local Colleges and Upward Mobility
- Low-income share of students (share of age-18-22 students with bottom-20% parents, Tax Data 2)
- Low-income student success rate (share of low-income age-18-22 students who reach the top 40% of the U.S. income distribution as adults, Tax Data 2)

Local Demographics
- Percent Black (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent Hispanic (2012-2016 ACS)
- Percent over age 65 (2010 Census)
- Percent college grad (4-yr college, 2012-2016 ACS)
- Crime rate (serious violent and property arrests per 10,000 residents, FBI Uniform Crime Reports, N/A for some counties)
- Life expectancy (at age 40, Tax Data 3, N/A for some counties)
- Opioid deaths (per 10,000 residents in 2017, CDC, N/A for some counties and some counties report population weighted commuting zone average)

Sources Legend
- ACS: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Surveys, 2012-2016
- CDC: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2017 on CDC WONDER Online Database.
- Census: U.S. Census Bureau