County Facts: Bedford County, VA
Population 78,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 3.9% (Bedford County), 3.7% (VA), 4.4% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 12.0% (Bedford County), 14.2% (VA), 14.4% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $54 (Bedford County), $57 (VA), $67 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 20% (Bedford County), 16% (VA), 14% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 17% (Bedford County), 10% (VA), 9% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 4.7% (Bedford County), 4.7% (VA), 4.7% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 1.3% (Bedford County), 0.9% (VA), 1.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 47% (Bedford County), 46% (VA), 46% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 21% (Bedford County), 23% (VA), 24% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 8% (Bedford County), 10% (VA), 10% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 15% (Bedford County), 17% (VA), 17% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 1% (Bedford County), 1.1% (VA), 1.5% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $5.0 (Bedford County), $6.4 (VA), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

**4-Year Colleges**

- Low-income share of students: Randolph College† - 6.3%, Virginia 4-year-college average - 6.4%, U.S. 4-year-college average - 9.3%
- Low-income student success rate: Randolph College† - 34.6%, Virginia 4-year-college average - 59.2%, U.S. 4-year-college average - 51.3%

**2-Year Colleges**

- Low-income share of students: Central Virginia CC (public)† - 11.0%, Virginia 2-year-college average - 13.0%, U.S. 2-year-college average - 15.6%
- Low-income student success rate: Central Virginia CC (public)† - 25.5%, Virginia 2-year-college average - 35.3%, U.S. 2-year-college average - 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Bedford County - 13%, VA - 14%, United States - 2%
- Percent Hispanic: Bedford County - 17%, VA - 16.2%, United States - 16.2%
- Percent over age 65: Bedford County - 9%, VA - 8%, United States - 2%
- Percent college grad: Bedford County - 26%, VA - 18%, United States - 9%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Bedford County - 76, VA - 48, United States - 17
- Life expectancy (years): Bedford County - 84.3, VA - 83.3, United States - 83.2
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents): Bedford County - 15, VA - 15, United States - 15

Bedford County, VA Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan
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