## County Facts: Bell County, KY

**Population 27,000**

### The Local Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bell County</th>
<th>KY</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>4.9%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate</td>
<td>31.2%</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income (000s)</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$46</td>
<td>$27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth 2000-2017</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing share of workforce</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming share of workforce</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Bell County</th>
<th>KY</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent graduating any college</td>
<td>45%</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent reaching upper-middle class</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent achieving American Dream</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent giving birth as a teen</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent landing in jail</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local school expenditure per student (000s)</td>
<td>$6.5</td>
<td>$6.1</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Lincoln Memorial Univ.† 14.5%, Kentucky 4-year-college average 9.8%, U.S. 4-year-college average 9.3%
- Low-income student success rate: Lincoln Memorial Univ.† 39.3%, Kentucky 4-year-college average 38.4%, U.S. 4-year-college average 39.3%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Lincoln Memorial Univ.† 11.3%, Kentucky 2-year-college average 15.6%, U.S. 2-year-college average 28.2%
- Low-income student success rate: Lincoln Memorial Univ.† 21%, Kentucky 2-year-college average 72, U.S. 2-year-college average 76

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Bell County 2%, KY 9%, United States 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Bell County 1%, KY 3%, United States 17%
- Percent over age 65: Bell County 13.3%, KY 13.0%, United States 16%
- Percent college grad: Bell County 9%, KY 59, United States 72
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Bell County 82.0, KY 81.9, United States 83.2
- Life expectancy (years): Bell County 82.0, KY 81.9, United States 83.2
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