County Facts: Benton County, MN
Population 40,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
4.0% | 3.4% | 7.7%
Poverty rate | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
15.1% | 10.9% | 15.1%
Median family income (000s) | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
$67 | $57 | $57
Population growth 2000-2017 | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
17% | 13% | 16%
Manufacturing share of workforce | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
15% | 14% | 10%
Farming share of workforce | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
2.8% | 1.7% | 1.7%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp) | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
3.6% | 3.2% | 4.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
49% | 46% | 20%
Percent reaching upper-middle class | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
29% | 26% | 20%
Percent achieving American Dream | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
15% | 15% | 12%
Percent giving birth as a teen | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
20% | 10% | 10%
Percent landing in jail | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
0.3% | 0.6% | 0.3%
Local school expenditure per student (000s) | Benton County | MN | United States
--- | --- | --- | ---
$6.9 | $6.4 | $7.6
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 7.8%
- Low-income student success rate: 45.9%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 8.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 24.2%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>Low-income Share</th>
<th>Low-income Success Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Cloud State Univ. (public)*†</td>
<td>7.8%</td>
<td>45.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minnesota 4-year-college average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. 4-year-college average</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Benton County 4%, MN 6%, United States 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Benton County 2%, MN 5%, United States 17%
- Percent over age 65: Benton County 11.9%, MN 12.9%, United States 13%
- Percent college grad: Benton County 17%, MN 22%, United States 22%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Benton County 48, MN 71, United States 76
- Life expectancy (years): Benton County 85.7, MN 84.4, United States 83.2

Benton County, MN
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
• BLS: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
• 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