County Facts: Chaffee County, CO
Population 20,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: Chaffee County 2.3%, CO 2.8%, United States 11.4%
Poverty rate: Chaffee County 15.1%, CO 12.2%, United States 14.4%
Median family income (000s): Chaffee County $53, CO $57, United States $65
Population growth 2000-2017: Chaffee County 21%, CO 30%, United States 16%
Manufacturing share of workforce: Chaffee County 10%, CO 7%, United States 5%
Farming share of workforce: Chaffee County 2.2%, CO 1.6%, United States 1.7%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Chaffee County 4.7%, CO 3.6%, United States 2.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: Chaffee County 50%, CO 48%, United States 46%
Percent reaching upper-middle class: Chaffee County 22%, CO 21%, United States 20%
Percent achieving American Dream: Chaffee County 14%, CO 11%, United States 10%
Percent giving birth as a teen: Chaffee County 20%, CO 17%, United States 10%
Percent landing in jail: Chaffee County 15%, CO 1.5%, United States 1.2%
Local school expenditure per student (000s): Chaffee County $5.7, CO $6.1, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students:**
  - Chaffee County: 6.8%
  - Colorado 4-year-college average: 48.1%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 12.2%

- **Low-income student success rate:**
  - Chaffee County: 9.3%
  - Colorado 4-year-college average: 48.1%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 29.9%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students:**
  - Chaffee County: 12.2%
  - Colorado 2-year-college average: 29.9%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 32.9%

- **Low-income student success rate:**
  - Chaffee County: 15.6%
  - Colorado 2-year-college average: 32.9%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 32.9%

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

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Local Demographics

- **Percent Black:**
  - Chaffee County: 3%
  - Colorado: 5%
  - United States: 14%

- **Percent Hispanic:**
  - Chaffee County: 14%
  - Colorado: 21%
  - United States: 19.8%

- **Percent over age 65:**
  - Chaffee County: 17%
  - Colorado: 13.0%
  - United States: 13.0%

- **Percent college grad:**
  - Chaffee County: 19%
  - Colorado: 21%
  - United States: 21%

- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents):**
  - Chaffee County: 65
  - Colorado: 76
  - United States: 76
Chaffee County, CO  
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