County Facts: Clarke County, IA
Population 9,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: Clarke County 3.1%, IA 3.1%, United States 4.4%
Poverty rate: Clarke County 13.2%, IA 12.4%, United States 16.4%
Median family income (000s): Clarke County $57, IA $56, United States $52
Population growth 2000-2017: Clarke County 15.1%, IA 7%, United States 3%
Manufacturing share of workforce: Clarke County 17%, IA 10%, United States 8.9%
Farming share of workforce: Clarke County 15%, IA 17%, United States 16%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Clarke County 4.3%, IA 4.3%, United States 4.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: Clarke County 51%, IA 55%, United States 61%
Percent reaching upper-middle class: Clarke County 46%, IA 26%, United States 17%
Percent achieving American Dream: Clarke County 22%, IA 11%, United States 9%
Percent giving birth as a teen: Clarke County 14%, IA 19%, United States 20%
Percent landing in jail: Clarke County 10%, IA 0.7%, United States 0.5%
Local school expenditure per student (000s): Clarke County $6.4, IA $6.1, United States $5.5
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Graceland Univ.: 10.8%
- Iowa 4-year-college average: 4.6%
- U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%

2-Year Colleges

- Southwestern CC of Creston, IA (public): 14.5%
- Iowa 2-year-college average: 9.7%
- U.S. 2-year-college average: 15.6%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 1%
- Percent Hispanic: 3%
- Percent over age 65: 14%
- Percent college grad: 17%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 27

Clarke County, IA

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