County Facts: Dawson County, NE
Population 24,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Dawson County 2.9%, NE 2.9%, United States 2.3%
- Poverty rate: Dawson County 12.7%, NE 12.3%, United States 10%
- Median family income (000s): Dawson County $54, NE $56, United States $57
- Population growth 2000-2017: Dawson County -3%, NE 12%, United States 16%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Dawson County 10%, NE 10%, United States 10%
- Farming share of workforce: Dawson County 11%, NE 11%, United States 10%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Dawson County 12%, NE 16%, United States 10%

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Dawson County 42%, NE 54%, United States 46%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Dawson County 19%, NE 25%, United States 20%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Dawson County 10%, NE 13%, United States 10%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Dawson County 19%, NE 20%, United States 15%
- Percent landing in jail: Dawson County 1.0%, NE 0.9%, United States 1.5%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Dawson County $6.5, NE $6.6, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 5.2%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%
- Nebraska 4-year-college average
- U.S. 4-year-college average

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 11.0%
- Low-income student success rate: 32.8%
- Nebraska 2-year-college average
- U.S. 2-year-college average

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 2%
- Percent Hispanic: 12%
- Percent over age 65: 13.
- Percent college grad: 20%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 76

Dawson County, NE

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan
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