County Facts: Fairfield County, CT
Population 950,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: Fairfield County 4.5%, CT 4.7%, United States 4.4%
Poverty rate: Fairfield County 8.9%, CT 10.1%, United States 8.9%
Median family income (000s): Fairfield County $74, CT $57, United States $57
Population growth 2000-2017: Fairfield County 8%, CT 5%, United States 16%
Manufacturing share of workforce: Fairfield County 8%, CT 5%, United States 8%
Farming share of workforce: Fairfield County 10%, CT 10%, United States 10%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Fairfield County 0.4%, CT 0.6%, United States 1.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: Fairfield County 67%, CT 60%, United States 46%
Percent reaching upper-middle class: Fairfield County 35%, CT 31%, United States 20%
Percent achieving American Dream: Fairfield County 15%, CT 13%, United States 10%
Percent giving birth as a teen: Fairfield County 9%, CT 11%, United States 9%
Percent landing in jail: Fairfield County 1.0%, CT 1.1%, United States 1.0%
Local school expenditure per student (000s): Fairfield County $9.0, CT $8.9, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- **Sacred Heart Univ.**
  - Low-income share of students: 4.6%
  - Low-income student success rate: 59.1%

- **Connecticut 4-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 5.6%
  - Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

- **U.S. 4-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 9.3%
  - Low-income student success rate: 70.9%

2-Year Colleges

- **Norwalk CC (public)**
  - Low-income share of students: 13.3%
  - Low-income student success rate: 12.2%

- **Connecticut 2-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 15.6%
  - Low-income student success rate: 43.2%

- **U.S. 2-year-college average**
  - Low-income share of students: 37.1%
  - Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**: Fairfield County 13%, CT 14%, United States 19%
- **Percent Hispanic**: Fairfield County 12%, CT 15%, United States 17%
- **Percent over age 65**: Fairfield County 13%, CT 16%, United States 17%
- **Percent college grad**: Fairfield County 33%, CT 27%, United States 21%
- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)**: Fairfield County 63, CT 73, United States 66
- **Life expectancy (years)**: Fairfield County 83, CT 84, United States 85
- **Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents)**: Fairfield County 16, CT 15, United States 15
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