Howard County, NE

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

County Facts: Howard County, NE
Population 6,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Howard County 3.1%, NE 2.9%, United States 2.3%
- Poverty rate: Howard County 13.5%, NE 12.3%, United States 11%
- Median family income (000s): Howard County $57, NE $56, United States $55
- Population growth 2000-2017: Howard County 4.4%, NE 3.1%, United States 2%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Howard County 15%, NE 11%, United States 10%
- Farming share of workforce: Howard County 8.5%, NE 5.1%, United States 1.7%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Howard County 13.5%, NE 12%, United States 10%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Howard County 42%, NE 46%, United States 54%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Howard County 25%, NE 25%, United States 25%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Howard County 17%, NE 13%, United States 13%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Howard County 20%, NE 10%, United States 10%
- Percent landing in jail: Howard County 14%, NE 14%, United States 0.9%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Howard County $6.0, NE $6.4, United States $6.6
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Nebraska 4-year-college average = 5.2%, U.S. 4-year-college average = 9.3%
- Low-income student success rate: Nebraska 4-year-college average = 57.5%, U.S. 4-year-college average = 51.3%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Nebraska 2-year-college average = 13.2%, U.S. 2-year-college average = 11.0%
- Low-income student success rate: Nebraska 2-year-college average = 15.6%, U.S. 2-year-college average = 29.8%

Central CC (public)†

- Low-income share of students: Nebraska 2-year-college average = 15.6%, U.S. 2-year-college average = 32.8%
- Low-income student success rate: Nebraska 2-year-college average = 21%, U.S. 2-year-college average = 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Howard County = 2%, NE = 5%, United States = 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Howard County = 10%, NE = 16%, United States = 17%
- Percent over age 65: Howard County = 13.0%, NE = 13.5%, United States = 18.7%
- Percent college grad: Howard County = 14%, NE = 20%, United States = 21%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Howard County = 76, NE = 76, United States = 21

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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