Howard County, TX
Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

County Facts: Howard County, TX
Population 36,000

The Local Economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Howard County</th>
<th>TX</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate</td>
<td>14.7%</td>
<td>16.6%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income (000s)</td>
<td>$44</td>
<td>$56</td>
<td>$57</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth 2000-2017</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing share of workforce</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming share of workforce</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)</td>
<td>3.1%</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Howard County</th>
<th>TX</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent graduating any college</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent reaching upper-middle class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent achieving American Dream</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent giving birth as a teen</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent landing in jail</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>2.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local school expenditure per student (000s)</td>
<td>$5.3</td>
<td>$5.8</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Howard County TX United States
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 13.6% (Howard County) vs. 9.3% (Texas average) vs. 19.0% (U.S. average)
- Low-income student success rate: 56.0% (Howard County) vs. 51.3% (Texas average) vs. 37.0% (U.S. average)

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 19.0% (Howard County) vs. 17.5% (Texas average) vs. 15.6% (U.S. average)
- Low-income student success rate: 17.5% (Howard County) vs. 37.1% (Texas average) vs. 32.9% (U.S. average)

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 4% (Howard County) vs. 13% (Texas) vs. 17% (U.S.)
- Percent Hispanic: 14% (Howard County) vs. 36% (Texas) vs. 38% (U.S.)
- Percent over age 65: 13.2% (Howard County) vs. 10.3% (Texas) vs. 10% (U.S.)
- Percent college grad: 13.0% (Howard County) vs. 18% (Texas) vs. 21% (U.S.)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 70 (Howard County) vs. 71 (Texas) vs. 80 (U.S.)
- Life expectancy (years): 76 (Howard County) vs. 82.9 (Texas) vs. 83.2 (U.S.)

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