County Facts: Jefferson County, IA
Population 18,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Jefferson County 3.1%, IA 3.1%, United States 4.4%
- Poverty rate: Jefferson County 13.6%, IA 12.4%, United States 15.1%
- Median family income (000s): Jefferson County $56, IA $50, United States $57
- Population growth 2000-2017: Jefferson County 7%, IA 14%, United States 16%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Jefferson County 15%, IA 10%, United States 19%
- Farming share of workforce: Jefferson County 4.6%, IA 4.3%, United States 2.8%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Jefferson County 1.7%, IA 4.1%, United States 10%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Jefferson County 56%, IA 55%, United States 46%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Jefferson County 26%, IA 21%, United States 20%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Jefferson County 14%, IA 14%, United States 10%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Jefferson County 20%, IA 14%, United States 12%
- Percent landing in jail: Jefferson County 0.1%, IA 0.7%, United States 1.5%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Jefferson County $6.4, IA $5.9, United States $6.1
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- William Penn Univ.†
- Iowa 4-year-college average
- U.S. 4-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 9.7%
- Low-income student success rate: 46.2%

2-Year Colleges

- Indian Hills CC (public)†
- Iowa 2-year-college average
- U.S. 2-year-college average

- Low-income share of students: 13.7%
- Low-income student success rate: 30.6%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Jefferson County 3%, IA 4%, United States 4%
- Percent Hispanic: Jefferson County 5%, IA 6%, United States 6%
- Percent over age 65: Jefferson County 19%, IA 19%, United States 19%
- Percent college grad: Jefferson County 13%, IA 15%, United States 15%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Jefferson County 58, IA 66, United States 76

Jefferson 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
• BLS: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
• 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