County Facts: Lamar County, MS
Population 61,000

The Local Economy

![Bar chart showing various local economy metrics: Unemployment rate 3.8%, Poverty rate 4.4%, Median family income ($45), Population growth 2000-2017 54%, Manufacturing share of workforce 13%, Farming share of workforce 2.1%, Great Recession unemployment spike (pp) 4.7%.]

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

![Bar chart showing various education and life outcomes: Percent graduating any college 50%, Percent reaching upper-middle class 46%, Percent achieving American Dream 22%, Percent giving birth as a teen 13%, Percent landing in jail 6%, Local school expenditure per student ($6.4).]
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>U of Southern Mississippi (public)†</th>
<th>Mississippi 4-year-college average</th>
<th>U.S. 4-year-college average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income share of students</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>12.9%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student success rate</td>
<td>47.5%</td>
<td>46.1%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2-Year Colleges

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Mississippi 2-year-college average</th>
<th>U.S. 2-year-college average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low-income share of students</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>24.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student success rate</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Lamar County</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>81.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>81.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>76</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>89</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Lamar County, MS

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
- 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