County Facts: Lea County, NM
Population 69,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 6.6% (Lea County), 6.1% (NM), 6.0% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 21.1% (Lea County), 16.2% (NM), 16.0% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $55 (Lea County), $46 (NM), $50 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 24% (Lea County), 15% (NM), 16% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 10% (Lea County), 4% (NM), 4% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 2.2% (Lea County), 2.0% (NM), 1.7% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 4.7% (Lea County), 3.8% (NM), 4.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 32% (Lea County), 40% (NM), 46% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 22% (Lea County), 16% (NM), 20% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 15% (Lea County), 9% (NM), 10% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 10% (Lea County), 20% (NM), 24% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 1.5% (Lea County), 1.5% (NM), 1.5% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $4.2 (Lea County), $5.0 (NM), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

Low-income share of students
- New Mexico 4-year-college average: 16.7%
- U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%

Low-income student success rate
- New Mexico 4-year-college average: 51.3%
- U.S. 4-year-college average: 34.8%

2-Year Colleges

Low-income share of students
- New Mexico Junior College (public): 22.0%
- U.S. 2-year-college average: 15.6%

Low-income student success rate
- New Mexico Junior College (public): 34.2%
- U.S. 2-year-college average: 25.3%

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

Local Demographics

Percent Black
- Lea County: 3%
- NM: 14%
- United States: 52%

Percent Hispanic
- Lea County: 3%
- NM: 17%
- United States: 47%

Percent over age 65
- Lea County: 13.0%
- NM: 10.8%
- United States: 10%

Percent college grad
- Lea County: 21%
- NM: 18%
- United States: 88%

Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)
- Lea County: 78
- NM: 76
- United States: 81.0

Life expectancy (years)
- Lea County: 83.5
- NM: 83.2
- United States: 83.2

Lea County, NM

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