County Facts: Mellette County, SD
Population 2,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 5.0% (Mellette County), 3.3% (SD), 4.7% (United States)
Poverty rate: 28.9% (Mellette County), 13.4% (SD), 15.1% (United States)
Median family income (000s): $57 (Mellette County), $55 (SD), $57 (United States)
Population growth 2000-2017: 0% (Mellette County), 15% (SD), 16% (United States)
Manufacturing share of workforce: 10% (Mellette County), 10% (SD), 12.9% (United States)
Farming share of workforce: 7.3% (Mellette County), 17% (SD), 17% (United States)
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 1.7% (Mellette County), 1.7% (SD), 2.0% (United States)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

Percent reaching upper-middle class: 24% (Mellette County), 24% (SD), 24% (United States)
Percent achieving American Dream: 20% (Mellette County), 19% (SD), 20% (United States)
Percent giving birth as a teen: 19% (Mellette County), 14% (SD), 14% (United States)
Percent landing in jail: 0.8% (Mellette County), 1.0% (SD), 1.5% (United States)
Local school expenditure per student (000s): $5.7 (Mellette County), $5.1 (SD), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges
- Low-income share of students: 7.2% (SD) vs. 9.3% (U.S.)
- Low-income student success rate: 50.1% (SD) vs. 51.3% (U.S.)

2-Year Colleges
- Low-income share of students: 11.0% (SD) vs. 15.6% (U.S.)
- Low-income student success rate: 32.9% (SD) vs. 42.2% (U.S.)

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 1% (Mellette) vs. 2% (SD) vs. 14% (U.S.)
- Percent Hispanic: 3% (Mellette) vs. 3% (SD) vs. 3% (U.S.)
- Percent over age 65: 14% (Mellette) vs. 13.5% (SD) vs. 13.0% (U.S.)
- Percent college grad: 13% (Mellette) vs. 19% (SD) vs. 13% (U.S.)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 14 (Mellette) vs. 61 (SD) vs. 76 (U.S.)

Mellette County, SD
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