County Facts: Mercer County, MO
Population 4,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 3.8% (Mercer County), 3.8% (MO), 3.8% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 5.3% (Mercer County), 15.1% (MO), 15.1% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $47 (Mercer County), $52 (MO), $57 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 17.5% (Mercer County), 14% (MO), 14% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 16% (Mercer County), 14% (MO), 14% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 8.2% (Mercer County), 1.9% (MO), 1.9% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 4.7% (Mercer County), 4.0% (MO), 4.0% (United States)

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 33% (Mercer County), 45% (MO), 46% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 18% (Mercer County), 19% (MO), 19% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 7% (Mercer County), 8% (MO), 8% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 19% (Mercer County), 20% (MO), 20% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 0.4% (Mercer County), 1.5% (MO), 1.5% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $5.8 (Mercer County), $5.9 (MO), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 7.0% (Missouri), 9.3% (U.S.)
- Low-income student success rate: 48.7% (Missouri), 51.3% (U.S.)

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 14.7% (Missouri), 13.0% (U.S.)
- Low-income student success rate: 15.6% (Missouri), 16.6% (U.S.)

N. Central Missouri College (public)†

Missouri 2-year-college average
- Low-income share of students: 15.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 16.6%

U.S. 2-year-college average
- Low-income share of students: 27.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 2% (Mercer County), 12% (MO), 14% (United States)
- Percent Hispanic: 3% (Mercer County), 4% (MO), 4% (United States)
- Percent over age 65: 20.2% (Mercer County), 13.0% (MO), 14% (United States)
- Percent college grad: 19% (Mercer County), 14% (MO), 14% (United States)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 56 (Mercer County), 88 (MO), 76 (United States)
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