County Facts: Mercer County, WV
Population 60,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Mercer County 5.8%, WV 5.2%, United States 4.4%
- Poverty rate: Mercer County 18.1%, WV 17.8%, United States 15.1%
- Median family income (000s): Mercer County $43, WV $40, United States $57
- Population growth 2000-2017: Mercer County 16%, WV 5%, United States 10%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Mercer County 18.1%, WV 17.8%, United States 15.1%
- Farming share of workforce: Mercer County 15.1%, WV 10%, United States 1.7%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Mercer County 4.7%, WV 4.1%, United States 3.8%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Mercer County 49%, WV 45%, United States 46%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Mercer County 20%, WV 19%, United States 17%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Mercer County 10%, WV 8%, United States 9%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Mercer County 17%, WV 17%, United States 17%
- Percent landing in jail: Mercer County 1.5%, WV 1.0%, United States 1.5%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Mercer County $6.4, WV $6.2, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Concord Univ. (public)</th>
<th>West Virginia 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>13.0%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student success rate</td>
<td>35.3%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
<td>38.4%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Wytheville CC (public)†</th>
<th>West Virginia 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>18.6%</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student success rate</td>
<td>32.0%</td>
<td>32.9%</td>
<td>32.9%</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>Mercer County</th>
<th>WV</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>6.0%</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>89</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>81.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>89.4</td>
<td>81.2</td>
<td>81.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>45</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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