Merrick County, NE

County Facts: Merrick County, NE
Population 8,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 2.8% (Merrick County), 2.9% (NE), 2.3% (United States)
Poverty rate: 13.5% (Merrick County), 15.1% (NE), 12.3% (United States)
Median family income (000s): $57 (Merrick County), $56 (NE), $55 (United States)
Population growth 2000-2017: -4% (Merrick County), -12% (NE), -16% (United States)
Manufacturing share of workforce: 16% (Merrick County), 15% (NE), 12.3% (United States)
Farming share of workforce: 8.5% (Merrick County), 5.1% (NE), 1.7% (United States)
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 1.6% (Merrick County), 1.4% (NE), 1.1% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 48% (Merrick County), 54% (NE), 46% (United States)
Percent reaching upper-middle class: 26% (Merrick County), 25% (NE), 20% (United States)
Percent achieving American Dream: 18% (Merrick County), 13% (NE), 10% (United States)
Percent giving birth as a teen: 14% (Merrick County), 14% (NE), 10% (United States)
Percent landing in jail: 1.4% (Merrick County), 0.9% (NE), 0.2% (United States)
Local school expenditure per student (000s): $7.4 (Merrick County), $6.6 (NE), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Nebraska 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>5.2%</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low-income student success rate</td>
<td>57.5%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
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*: Data refers to the full college system, not just this campus. †: In nearby county

Local Demographics

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Merrick County</th>
<th>NE</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td>13.5%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>76</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