Newton County, TX

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

**County Facts: Newton County, TX**

Population 14,000

### The Local Economy

- **Unemployment rate**: 7.9% (Newton County), 4.3% (TX), 4.4% (United States)
- **Poverty rate**: 18.4% (Newton County), 6.6% (TX), 5.1% (United States)
- **Median family income (000s)**: $56 (Newton County), $57 (TX), $57 (United States)
- **Population growth 2000-2017**: 36% (Newton County), 16% (TX), 15.1% (United States)
- **Manufacturing share of workforce**: 12% (Newton County), 9% (TX), 10% (United States)
- **Farming share of workforce**: 4.7% (Newton County), 1.1% (TX), 1.7% (United States)
- **Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)**: 4.2% (Newton County), 3.3% (TX), 4.7% (United States)

### How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- **Percent graduating any college**: 31% (Newton County), 41% (TX), 46% (United States)
- **Percent reaching upper-middle class**: 19% (Newton County), 20% (TX), 20% (United States)
- **Percent achieving American Dream**: 10% (Newton County), 10% (TX), 12% (United States)
- **Percent giving birth as a teen**: 2.5% (Newton County), 20% (TX), 25% (United States)
- **Percent landing in jail**: 1.9% (Newton County), 1.5% (TX), 20% (United States)
- **Local school expenditure per student (000s)**: $6.1 (Newton County), $5.8 (TX), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 13.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 56.0%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 24.3%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

Lamar Univ. (public)†
- Low-income share of students: 13.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 56.0%

Lamar Inst Of Tech (public)†
- Low-income share of students: 24.3%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

Texas 4-year-college average
- Low-income share of students: 13.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 56.0%

U.S. 4-year-college average
- Low-income share of students: 13.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 56.0%

Texas 2-year-college average
- Low-income share of students: 24.3%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

U.S. 2-year-college average
- Low-income share of students: 24.3%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Newton County 17%, TX 14%, United States 13%
- Percent Hispanic: Newton County 38%, TX 17%, United States 8%
- Percent over age 65: Newton County 16.2%, TX 10.3%, United States 8%
- Percent college grad: Newton County 21%, TX 13.0%, United States 8%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Newton County 71, TX 36, United States 12
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents): Newton County 15, TX 5, United States 10
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 achieving 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