County Facts: Palo Alto County, IA
Population 9,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 2.7% for Palo Alto County, 3.1% for IA, and 4.7% for the United States.
Poverty rate: 12.4% for Palo Alto County, 9.2% for IA, and 9.2% for the United States.
Median family income (000s): $57 for Palo Alto County, $56 for IA, and $56 for the United States.
Population growth 2000-2017: 15.1% for Palo Alto County, 16% for IA, and 17% for the United States.
Manufacturing share of workforce: 15% for Palo Alto County, 17% for IA, and 17% for the United States.
Farming share of workforce: 9.5% for Palo Alto County, 4.3% for IA, and 2.8% for the United States.
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 2.8% for Palo Alto County, 3.2% for IA, and 4.7% for the United States.

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 66% for Palo Alto County, 55% for IA, and 46% for the United States.
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 30% for Palo Alto County, 26% for IA, and 20% for the United States.
- Percent achieving American Dream: 18% for Palo Alto County, 14% for IA, and 10% for the United States.
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 1.5% for Palo Alto County, 1.7% for IA, and 1.5% for the United States.
- Percent landing in jail: 1.5% for Palo Alto County, 0.7% for IA, and 0.6% for the United States.
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $6.5 for Palo Alto County, $6.1 for IA, and $6.4 for the United States.
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**: 4.6%
- **Low-income student success rate**: 51.3%

**Comparative Data**

- **Iowa 4-year-college average**: 9.3%
- **U.S. 4-year-college average**: 58.1%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**: 9.7%
- **Low-income student success rate**: 32.8%

**Comparative Data**

- **Iowa 2-year-college average**: 15.6%
- **U.S. 2-year-college average**: 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**: 1%
- **Percent Hispanic**: 6%
- **Percent over age 65**: 17%
- **Percent college grad**: 21%
- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)**: 66

**Comparative Data**

- **Palo Alto County**: 4%
- **IA**: 6%
- **United States**: 14%
- **IA**: 13.0%
- **United States**: 19%
- **IA**: 21%
- **United States**: 42

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