**County Facts: Perry County, MS**
Population 12,000

**The Local Economy**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Perry County</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unemployment rate</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
<td>5.1%</td>
<td>4.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Poverty rate</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>15.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Median family income (000s)</td>
<td>$57</td>
<td>$45</td>
<td>$42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population growth 2000-2017</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Manufacturing share of workforce</td>
<td>22.2%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farming share of workforce</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
<td>3.6%</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>4.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Metric</th>
<th>Perry County</th>
<th>MS</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent graduating any college</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent reaching upper-middle class</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent achieving American Dream</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent giving birth as a teen</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent landing in jail</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
<td>1.5%</td>
<td>0.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local school expenditure per student (000s)</td>
<td>$6.4</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
<td>$4.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students
  - U of Southern Mississippi (public)†: 12.7%
  - Mississippi 4-year-college average: 12.9%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%

- Low-income student success rate
  - U of Southern Mississippi (public)†: 47.5%
  - Mississippi 4-year-college average: 46.1%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 47.5%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students
  - Mississippi 2-year-college average: 61.0%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 51.3%

- Low-income student success rate
  - Mississippi 2-year-college average: 15.6%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 24.4%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Perry County: 38%, MS: 30%, United States: 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Perry County: 17%, MS: 14%, United States: 2%
- Percent over age 65: Perry County: 14.1%, MS: 12.8%, United States: 13.0%
- Percent college grad: Perry County: 21%, MS: 17%, United States: 14%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Perry County: 89, MS: 42, United States: 76
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