County Facts: Pierce County, WA
Population 877,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Pierce County 5.4%, WA 4.8%, United States 4.4%
- Poverty rate: Pierce County 12.9%, WA 12.8%, United States 12.8%
- Median family income (000s): Pierce County $62, WA $57, United States $56
- Population growth 2000-2017: Pierce County 16%, WA 10%, United States 9%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Pierce County 10%, WA 10%, United States 10%
- Farming share of workforce: Pierce County 0.9%, WA 1.7%, United States 4.7%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Pierce County 4.7%, WA 4.7%, United States 4.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Pierce County 43%, WA 46%, United States 47%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Pierce County 20%, WA 10%, United States 21%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Pierce County 10%, WA 10%, United States 10%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Pierce County 16%, WA 14%, United States 12%
- Percent landing in jail: Pierce County 1.2%, WA 1.0%, United States 1.5%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Pierce County $6.2, WA $6.4, United States $6.7
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**: 3.3%
- **Low-income student success rate**: 51.0%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**: 9.9%
- **Low-income student success rate**: 10.6%

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Low-income share of students</th>
<th>Low-income student success rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Lutheran Univ.</td>
<td>3.3%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington 4-year-college average</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>51.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. 4-year-college average</td>
<td>9.3%</td>
<td>51.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Low-income share of students</th>
<th>Low-income student success rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pierce College (public)</td>
<td>9.9%</td>
<td>10.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Washington 2-year-college average</td>
<td>15.6%</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. 2-year-college average</td>
<td>45.6%</td>
<td>36.2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Pierce County</th>
<th>WA</th>
<th>United States</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Percent Black</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Hispanic</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent over age 65</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>11.0%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent college grad</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>18%</td>
<td>23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Life expectancy (years)</td>
<td>84.0</td>
<td>83.1</td>
<td>83.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents)</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pierce County, WA

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan
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