County Facts: Rhea County, TN
Population 33,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 6.4% (Rhea County), 3.7% (TN), 1.0% (United States)

Poverty rate: 22.1% (Rhea County), 17.3% (TN), 14.3% (United States)

Median family income (000s): $57 (Rhea County), $48 (TN), $36 (United States)

Population growth 2000-2017: 18% (Rhea County), 16% (TN), 15% (United States)

Manufacturing share of workforce: 21% (Rhea County), 13% (TN), 10% (United States)

Farming share of workforce: 2.7% (Rhea County), 1.7% (TN), 1.0% (United States)

Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 6.8% (Rhea County), 5.7% (TN), 4.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 39% (Rhea County), 40% (TN), 46% (United States)

Percent reaching upper-middle class: 12% (Rhea County), 15% (TN), 20% (United States)

Percent achieving American Dream: 5% (Rhea County), 6% (TN), 10% (United States)

Percent giving birth as a teen: 20% (Rhea County), 19% (TN), 15% (United States)

Percent landing in jail: 1.1% (Rhea County), 1.5% (TN), 1.0% (United States)

Local school expenditure per student (000s): $4.0 (Rhea County), $4.9 (TN), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**
  - Bryan College: 6.4%
  - Tennessee 4-year-college average: 8.4%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%

- **Low-income student success rate**
  - Bryan College: 51.3%
  - Tennessee 4-year-college average: 44.8%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 51.3%

2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students**
  - Bryan College: 15.3%
  - Tennessee 2-year-college average: 15.6%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 27.2%

- **Low-income student success rate**
  - Bryan College: 32.9%
  - Tennessee 2-year-college average: 32.9%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 44.8%

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

Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**
  - Rhea County: 2%
  - TN: 14%
  - United States: 17%

- **Percent Hispanic**
  - Rhea County: 2%
  - TN: 5%
  - United States: 17%

- **Percent over age 65**
  - Rhea County: 13.0%
  - TN: 13.4%
  - United States: 18%

- **Percent college grad**
  - Rhea County: 9%
  - TN: 67
  - United States: 81.3

- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)**
  - Rhea County: 60
  - TN: 81.9
  - United States: 83.2

- **Life expectancy (years)**
  - Rhea County: 81.3
  - TN: 81.9
  - United States: 83.2

**Rhea County, TN** Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan
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