Roanoke County, VA
Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

County Facts: Roanoke County, VA
Population 94,000

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate 3.4% 3.7% 4.4%
Poverty rate 11.7% 14% 15.1%
Median family income (000s) $55 $57 $67
Population growth 2000-2017 9% 16% 20%
Manufacturing share of workforce 12% 10% 17%
Farming share of workforce 1.3% 0.9% 1.7%
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp) 4.2% 4.1% 4.7%

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college 58% 50% 56%
Percent reaching upper-middle class 25% 23% 20%
Percent achieving American Dream 11% 10% 10%
Percent giving birth as a teen 20% 17% 12%
Percent landing in jail 1.8% 1.5% 1.1%
Local school expenditure per student (000s) $6.4 $6.4 $6.4

Roanoke County VA United States
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Hollins Univ. 4.7%, Virginia 4-year-college average 6.4%, U.S. 4-year-college average 9.3%
- Low-income student success rate: Hollins Univ. 49.9%, Virginia 4-year-college average 51.3%, U.S. 4-year-college average 59.2%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Virginia Western CC (public)† 11.6%, Virginia 2-year-college average 13.0%, U.S. 2-year-college average 15.6%
- Low-income student success rate: Hollins Univ. 26.2%, Virginia 2-year-college average 35.3%, 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: Roanoke County 8%, VA 14%, United States 17%
- Percent Hispanic: Roanoke County 3%, VA 9%, United States 17.2%
- Percent over age 65: Roanoke County 20%, VA 21%, United States 26%
- Percent college grad: Roanoke County 13.0%, VA 21%, United States 21%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Roanoke County 32, VA 48, United States 48
- Life expectancy (years): Roanoke County 83.3, VA 83.2, United States 83.8
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents): Roanoke County 15, VA 15, United States 15

Roanoke County, VA

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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