County Facts: Webster County, IA
Population 37,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 3.8% (Webster County), 3.1% (IA), 4.7% (United States)
- Poverty rate: 11.0% (Webster County), 12.4% (IA), 15.1% (United States)
- Median family income (000s): $56 (Webster County), $50 (IA), $57 (United States)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 16% (Webster County), 11% (IA), 16% (United States)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 9.1% (Webster County), 10% (IA), 15% (United States)
- Farming share of workforce: 12.4% (Webster County), 11.7% (IA), 2.8% (United States)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 4.3% (Webster County), 3.3% (IA), 4.7% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 53% (Webster County), 55% (IA), 55% (United States)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 46% (Webster County), 24% (IA), 26% (United States)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 20% (Webster County), 12% (IA), 14% (United States)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 10% (Webster County), 10% (IA), 17% (United States)
- Percent landing in jail: 1.4% (Webster County), 1.5% (IA), 1.5% (United States)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $6.4 (Webster County), $6.1 (IA), $5.8 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Webster County (4.6%), Iowa 4-year-college average (9.3%), U.S. 4-year-college average (58.1%)
- Low-income student success rate: Webster County (51.3%), Iowa 4-year-college average (11.2%), U.S. 4-year-college average (32.8%)

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Webster County (15.6%), Iowa 2-year-college average (36.2%)
- Low-income student success rate: Webster County (32.9%)

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Webster County (2%), IA (4%), United States (14%)
- Percent Hispanic: Webster County (5%), IA (6%), United States (17%)
- Percent over age 65: Webster County (14.9%), IA (13.0%), United States (16.7%)
- Percent college grad: Webster County (19%), IA (15%), United States (21%)
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): Webster County (66), IA (76), United States (81.8)
- Life expectancy (years): Webster County (83.3), IA (83.2), United States (83.2)
Webster County, IA  

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