County Facts: Wells County, IN
Population 28,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 2.9% (Wells County), 3.5% (IN), 4.4% (United States), 4.1% (United States average)
- Poverty rate: 13.3% (Wells County), 10% (IN), 16% (United States), 17% (United States average)
- Median family income (000s): $51 (Wells County), $52 (IN), $57 (United States), $55 (United States average)
- Population growth 2000-2017: 1% (Wells County), 10% (IN), 16% (United States), 9% (United States average)
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 16% (Wells County), 19% (IN), 27% (United States), 17% (United States average)
- Farming share of workforce: 2.2% (Wells County), 1.3% (IN), 1.7% (United States), 2.1% (United States average)
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 6.7% (Wells County), 5.8% (IN), 4.7% (United States), 8% (United States average)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 49% (Wells County), 45% (IN), 46% (United States), 41% (United States average)
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 20% (Wells County), 20% (IN), 20% (United States), 21% (United States average)
- Percent achieving American Dream: 10% (Wells County), 8% (IN), 8% (United States), 9% (United States average)
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 21% (Wells County), 20% (IN), 16% (United States), 17% (United States average)
- Percent landing in jail: 1.5% (Wells County), 1.5% (IN), 1.0% (United States), 1.1% (United States average)
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $6.7 (Wells County), $6.7 (IN), $6.4 (United States), $6.9 (United States average)
### Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

**4-Year Colleges**
- Low-income share of students: 10.4%
- Low-income student success rate: 51.3%

**2-Year Colleges**
- Low-income share of students: 14.0%
- Low-income student success rate: 15.6%

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

### Local Demographics

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Percent Black</th>
<th>Percent Hispanic</th>
<th>Percent over age 65</th>
<th>Percent college grad</th>
<th>Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)</th>
<th>Life expectancy (years)</th>
<th>Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wells County</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>82.9</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IN</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>82.0</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>83.2</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*IN: Indiana

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Wells County, IN

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