Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 3.4% Western Washington Univ. (public), 6.7% Washington 4-year-college average, 9.3% U.S. 4-year-college average
- Low-income student success rate: 51.0% Western Washington Univ. (public), 51.3% Washington 4-year-college average, 59.2% U.S. 4-year-college average

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: 9.2% Whatcom CC (public), 10.6% Washington 2-year-college average, 15.6% U.S. 2-year-college average
- Low-income student success rate: 10.6% Whatcom CC (public), 32.9% Washington 2-year-college average, 36.2% U.S. 2-year-college average

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: 2% Whatcom County, 5% WA, 14% United States
- Percent Hispanic: 9% Whatcom County, 12% WA, 17% United States
- Percent over age 65: 2.3% Whatcom County, 13.0% WA, 23% United States
- Percent college grad: 21% Whatcom County, 22% WA, 23% United States
- Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents): 108 Whatcom County, 101 WA, 101 United States
- Life expectancy (years): 85.1 Whatcom County, 84.0 WA, 83.2 United States
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10K residents): 6 Whatcom County, 10 WA, 15 United States

* Whatcom 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)

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• 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
• BLS: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
• 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