Wheeler County, NE

County Facts: Wheeler County, NE
Population 820

The Local Economy

Unemployment rate: 2.3% (Wheeler County), 2.9% (NE), 2.3% (United States)
Poverty rate: 13.5% (Wheeler County), 12.3% (NE), 11% (United States)
Median family income (000s): $55 (Wheeler County), $56 (NE), $57 (United States)
Population growth 2000-2017: 15% (Wheeler County), 16% (NE), 12% (United States)
Manufacturing share of workforce: 11% (Wheeler County), 10% (NE), 7% (United States)
Farming share of workforce: 15% (Wheeler County), 15% (NE), 16% (United States)
Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 10% (Wheeler County), 5.1% (NE), 0% (United States)

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

Percent graduating any college: 56% (Wheeler County), 54% (NE), 46% (United States)
Percent reaching upper-middle class: 25% (Wheeler County), 22% (NE), 20% (United States)
Percent achieving American Dream: 17% (Wheeler County), 13% (NE), 10% (United States)
Percent giving birth as a teen: 20% (Wheeler County), 14% (NE), 10% (United States)
Percent landing in jail: -0.1% (Wheeler County), 0.9% (NE), 0% (United States)
Local school expenditure per student (000s): $8.9 (Wheeler County), $6.6 (NE), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges
- **Low-income share of students**: 5.2%
- **Low-income student success rate**: 51.3%

### 2-Year Colleges
- **Low-income share of students**: 11.0%
- **Low-income student success rate**: 32.8%

**Nebraska 4-year-college average**
- Low-income share of students: 9.3%
- Low-income student success rate: 57.5%

**U.S. 4-year-college average**
- Low-income share of students: 15.6%
- Low-income student success rate: 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- **Percent Black**: Wheeler County 2%; NE 5%; United States 14%
- **Percent Hispanic**: Wheeler County 16%; NE 10%; United States 17%
- **Percent over age 65**: Wheeler County 18.9%; NE 13.5%; United States 13.0%
- **Percent college grad**: Wheeler County 20%; NE 14%; United States 21%
- **Crime rate (arrests per 10K residents)**: Wheeler County 76; NE 76; United States 11

**Wheeler County, NE** 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