County Facts: Whitley County, IN
Population 34,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: 2.9% for Whitley County, 3.5% for IN, 4.4% for United States.
- Poverty rate: 13.3% for Whitley County, 10% for IN, 16% for United States.
- Median family income: $51,000 for Whitley County, $52,000 for IN, $57,000 for United States.
- Population growth 2000-2017: 16% for Whitley County, 10% for IN, 10% for United States.
- Manufacturing share of workforce: 19% for Whitley County, 10% for IN, 10% for United States.
- Farming share of workforce: 1.7% for Whitley County, 1.3% for IN, 1.7% for United States.
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): 6.7% for Whitley County, 5.8% for IN, 4.7% for United States.

How Local Kids’ Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: 43% for Whitley County, 45% for IN, 46% for United States.
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: 18% for Whitley County, 20% for IN, 20% for United States.
- Percent achieving American Dream: 8% for Whitley County, 8% for IN, 8% for United States.
- Percent giving birth as a teen: 17% for Whitley County, 20% for IN, 20% for United States.
- Percent landing in jail: 1.2% for Whitley County, 1.5% for IN, 1.5% for United States.
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): $5.8 for Whitley County, $5.8 for IN, $6.4 for United States.
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Whitley County = 10.4%, IN Inst Of Tech† = 14.0%, Indiana 4-year-college average = 15.6%, U.S. 4-year-college average = 17%
- Low-income student success rate: Whitley County = 51.3%, IN Inst Of Tech† = 76, Indiana 4-year-college average = 83.5, U.S. 4-year-college average = 82

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Whitley County = 5.4%, IN Inst Of Tech† = 14%, Indiana 2-year-college average = 17.8, U.S. 2-year-college average = 21.8
- Low-income student success rate: Whitley County = 29.9%, IN Inst Of Tech† = 52, Indiana 2-year-college average = 82.0, U.S. 2-year-college average = 83.2

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Whitley County = 1%, IN = 10%, United States = 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Whitley County = 3%, IN = 6%, United States = 17%
- Percent over age 65: Whitley County = 13%, IN = 13%, United States = 21%
- Percent college grad: Whitley County = 12%, IN = 76, United States = 82.0
- Crime rate (arrests per 10k residents): Whitley County = 52, IN = 76, United States = 83.6
- Life expectancy (years): Whitley County = 83.2, IN = 83.6, United States = 83.6
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents): Whitley County = 14, IN = 18, United States = 15

Whitley County, IN

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

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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
• 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