### County Facts: Worcester County, MA

**Population 826,000**

#### The Local Economy

- **Unemployment rate**: 3.9% (Worcester County), 3.7% (MA), 4.4% (United States)
- **Poverty rate**: 11.3% (Worcester County), 11.2% (MA), 11.5% (United States)
- **Median family income (000s)**: $66,000 (Worcester County), $75,000 (MA), $57,000 (United States)
- **Population growth 2000-2017**: 10% (Worcester County), 8% (MA), 16% (United States)
- **Manufacturing share of workforce**: 12% (Worcester County), 10% (MA), 9% (United States)
- **Farming share of workforce**: 0.7% (Worcester County), 0.6% (MA), 1.7% (United States)
- **Great Recession unemployment spike (pp)**: 3.4% (Worcester County), 3.4% (MA), 4.7% (United States)

#### How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- **Percent graduating any college**: 59% (Worcester County), 60% (MA), 31% (United States)
- **Percent reaching upper-middle class**: 30% (Worcester County), 31% (MA), 20% (United States)
- **Percent achieving American Dream**: 15% (Worcester County), 15% (MA), 10% (United States)
- **Percent giving birth as a teen**: 10% (Worcester County), 10% (MA), 9% (United States)
- **Percent landing in jail**: 0.3% (Worcester County), 0.5% (MA), 0.3% (United States)
- **Local school expenditure per student (000s)**: $7.2 (Worcester County), $7.9 (MA), $6.4 (United States)
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

4-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Worcester State Univ. (public) 9.3%, Massachusetts 4-year-college average 5.3%, U.S. 4-year-college average 6.1%
- Low-income student success rate: Worcester State Univ. (public) 51.3%, Massachusetts 4-year-college average 51.6%, U.S. 4-year-college average 51.6%

2-Year Colleges

- Low-income share of students: Quinsigamond CC (public) 15.6%, Massachusetts 2-year-college average 14.0%, U.S. 2-year-college average 15.6%
- Low-income student success rate: Quinsigamond CC (public) 32.9%, Massachusetts 2-year-college average 35.1%, U.S. 2-year-college average 32.9%

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

Local Demographics

- Percent Black: Worcester County 6%, MA 9%, United States 14%
- Percent Hispanic: Worcester County 10%, MA 11%, United States 17%
- Percent over age 65: Worcester County 12.8%, MA 3.0%, United States 13.8%
- Percent college grad: Worcester County 21%, MA 25%, United States 30%
- Crime rate (arrests per 10k residents): Worcester County 61, MA 57, United States 76
- Life expectancy (years): Worcester County 83.2, MA 84.2, United States 83.8
- Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents): Worcester County 29, MA 28, United States 15

Worcester County, MA

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)

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