Yancey County, NC

Katie Donnelly, Clancy Green, and Danny Yagan

County Facts: Yancey County, NC
Population 18,000

The Local Economy

- Unemployment rate: Yancey County 4.6%, NC 4.5%, United States 4.4%
- Poverty rate: Yancey County 6.9%, NC 5.1%, United States 5.1%
- Median family income (000s): Yancey County $41, NC $50, United States $57
- Population growth 2000-2017: Yancey County -0%, NC 16%, United States 9%
- Manufacturing share of workforce: Yancey County 12%, NC 10%, United States 9%
- Farming share of workforce: Yancey County 2.1%, NC 1.5%, United States 1.7%
- Great Recession unemployment spike (pp): Yancey County 8.1%, NC 3.0%, United States 4.7%

How Local Kids' Lives Turn Out

- Percent graduating any college: Yancey County 45%, NC 46%, United States 46%
- Percent reaching upper-middle class: Yancey County 12%, NC 16%, United States 16%
- Percent achieving American Dream: Yancey County 6%, NC 6%, United States 6%
- Percent giving birth as a teen: Yancey County 22%, NC 20%, United States 20%
- Percent landing in jail: Yancey County 1.5%, NC 1.5%, United States 1.5%
- Local school expenditure per student (000s): Yancey County $5.6, NC $5.4, United States $6.4
Local Colleges and Upward Mobility

### 4-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students:**
  - North Carolina 4-year-college average: 7.8%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 9.3%
- **Low-income student success rate:**
  - North Carolina 4-year-college average: 48.6%
  - U.S. 4-year-college average: 51.3%

### 2-Year Colleges

- **Low-income share of students:**
  - Western Piedmont CC (public): 14.0%
  - North Carolina 2-year-college average: 17.0%
  - U.S. 2-year-college average: 15.6%
- **Low-income student success rate:**
  - Western Piedmont CC (public): 19.9%
  - North Carolina 2-year-college average: 22.7%
  - 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:**
  - Yancey County: 2%
  - NC: 23%
  - United States: 14%
- **Percent Hispanic:**
  - Yancey County: 4%
  - NC: 9%
  - United States: 17%
- **Percent over age 65:**
  - Yancey County: 20.6%
  - NC: 20.6%
  - United States: 17%
- **Percent college grad:**
  - Yancey County: 19%
  - NC: 21%
  - United States: 20%
- **Crime rate (arrests per 10k residents):**
  - Yancey County: 56
  - NC: 76
  - United States: 25
- **Opioid deaths (deaths per 10k residents):**
  - Yancey County: 19
  - NC: 15
  - United States: 15

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 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