

COUNTY GRADE:

**B-**

STATE RANK: 8

# Opportunity in Van Buren County, IA

**Opportunity Index 2015.** The Opportunity Index is an annual composite measure at the state and county levels of economic, educational and civic factors that expand or constrict opportunity. The Index focuses on the conditions present in communities and is designed to identify concrete solutions to lagging conditions for opportunity and economic mobility. The Index measures 16 indicators and scores all 50 states plus Washington, DC on a scale of 0-100 each year. More than 2,600 counties are graded A-F, giving policymakers and leaders a useful tool to identify areas for improvement and to gauge progress over time.

## ECONOMY

		COUNTY AVG.	STATE AVG.	NATIONAL AVG.
Jobs	Unemployment rate	5.2%	3.6%	5.1%
Wages	Median household income	\$40,418	\$48,886	\$48,906
Poverty	Poverty (% of population below poverty line)	16.5%	12.7%	15.8%
Inequality	Ratio of household income at the 80th percentile to that at the 20th percentile	3.9	4.3	5
Assets	Banking Institutions (commercial banks, savings institutions, and credit unions per 10,000 residents)	6.4	5.9	3.9
Affordable Housing	Households spending less than 30% of household income on housing	63.8%	75.7%	65.4%
Internet Access	High-speed Internet (5-level categories for counties, % of households for states)	3	68	72.7

## EDUCATION

Pre-School Enrollment	Preschool (% ages 3 and 4 in school)	—	47.7%	47.1%
On-time High School Graduation	On-time high school graduation (% of freshmen who graduate in four years)	80%	89.7%	81.4%
Postsecondary Completion	Associate degree or higher (% of adults 25 and older)	40.1%	37.5%	37.7%

## COMMUNITY

Community Safety	Violent Crime (per 100,000 population)	244.7	260.9	387.8
Disconnected Youth	Young people not in school nor working (% ages 16-24)	—	8.8%	13.8%
Access to Health Care	Medical Doctors (per 100,000 population)	159.6	265	286.5
Access to Healthy Food	Grocery stores and produce vendors (per 10,000 population)	2.6	2	2.2



Opportunity Nation is a bipartisan, cross-sector national campaign to expand economic mobility and close the opportunity gap in America. The Opportunity Index was jointly developed by Opportunity Nation and Measure of America, a project of the Social Science Research Council.