KIDS COUNT in Missouri

Welcome to the KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2013 Data Book. The Data Book is a collaborative project of the Children’s Trust Fund and the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis at the University of Missouri, and more than 20 public and private organizations across the state.

The mission of the KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book is to improve the well-being of Missouri’s children and families. The KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book and website, http://oseda.missouri.edu/kidscount/, are easily accessible tools to assist local and state public policymakers and child advocates in identifying both needs and solutions. KIDS COUNT in Missouri data are used to brief legislators, inform policy, and are integral to informing child advocates.

The annual KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book documents the status of children in Missouri’s 114 counties and the City of St. Louis. First produced in 1993, the KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book remains an invaluable repository of comprehensive, longitudinal information on the status of children.

PARTNERS

Thanks to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for their continued support of the KIDS COUNT in Missouri initiative. Primary funding for the KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2013 Data Book comes from the Children’s Trust Fund.

The Children’s Trust Fund (CTF) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the prevention of child abuse and neglect through grant distribution, education/awareness, and partnerships. CTF was created by the Missouri General Assembly in 1983 and is governed by a 21-member Board of Directors appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Missouri Senate. For more information, visit www.ctf4kids.org.

Established in 1980, the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA) conducts public policy support research for communities, agencies and other partners in Missouri. OSEDA strives to transform data into useful information. We believe the construction of meaningful information is an inherently collaborative enterprise.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation is the nation’s largest philanthropic source for disadvantaged children. The Casey Foundation supports a network of state-level KIDS COUNT projects that shapes a new direction for American’s children.

The KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2013 Data Book was produced by Children’s Trust Fund and the University of Missouri Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis. Permission to copy, disseminate, or otherwise use information from this report is granted as long as appropriate acknowledgement is given. This report, the full data set, and corresponding interactive data tools are available at www.oseda.missouri.edu/kidscount.
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# Table of Contents

**Introduction and Partners** .......................... i
**Acknowledgments** .......................... ii
**Executive Summary** .......................... 1

**MISSOURI OVERVIEW**
*Understanding the Data* .......................... 3
*Missouri State Profile* .......................... 4
*Missouri Minority Profile* .......................... 5
*Composite County Ranks* .......................... 6
*Composite County Ranks by Population Category* .......................... 7

**OUTCOMES AND INDICATORS**
*Interpreting the Outcome and Indicator Pages* .......................... 9

**Economic Well-being: Perspective** .......................... 11
- Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch .......................... 12
- Births to Mothers without a High School Diploma .......................... 14
- Children Under 18 in Poverty .......................... 16
- Children Under 6 in Poverty .......................... 18
- Children in Single-Parent Families .......................... 20
- Children Receiving Child Care Assistance .......................... 22
- Children Receiving Cash Assistance .......................... 24
- Children Receiving SNAP .......................... 26
- Average Annual Wage/Salary .......................... 28
- Adult Unemployment .......................... 30

**Health: Perspective** .......................... 33
- Low Birthweight Infants .......................... 34
- Infant Mortality .......................... 36
- Children Enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids .......................... 38
- Children Receiving Public Mental Health Services .......................... 40

**Child Protection and Safety: Perspective** .......................... 43
- Child Deaths .......................... 44
- Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments .......................... 46
- Out-of-Home Placement Entries .......................... 48
- Violent Deaths, ages 15-19 .......................... 50

**Education: Perspective** .......................... 53
- Annual High School Dropouts .......................... 54
- Births to Teens, Ages 15-19 .......................... 56
- English Language Learners .......................... 58
- Licensed Child Care Capacity .......................... 60
- Accredited Child Care Facilities .......................... 62
- Juvenile Law Violation Referrals .......................... 64

**Demographic: Perspective** .......................... 65
- Child Population .......................... 66
- Children as Percent of Total Population .......................... 68
- Minority Children .......................... 70

**COUNTY PROFILES**
*County Pages* .......................... 72

**Data Notes and Sources** .......................... 187
Executive Summary

The *KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2013 Data Book* provides information on measures of child well-being for the state, its 114 counties, and St. Louis City. By showing data trends across time and geographic areas, this book gives local and state policymakers, as well as other child advocates, the crucial information they need to make informed decisions regarding how best to support the well-being of children across the state.

To track changes over time, *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* provides the most currently available data (2012) as well as data from 2008 (the base year). (Please note that the exact years for which data are provided differ slightly between indicators and outcomes based on the nature of the data.) Between the base and current years, three *KIDS COUNT in Missouri* outcome measures worsened and seven improved.

Measures that improved were
- births to mothers without a high school diploma,
- low birthweight infants,
- infant mortality, child deaths,
- teen violent deaths,
- percent of annual high school dropouts, and
- births to teens.

The three measures that worsened were
- the number of students enrolled in free/reduced lunch,
- child abuse/neglect and family assessments, and
- out-of-home placements.

(The Missouri State Profile on p. 4 contains more specific information on these outcomes.)

It is essential to keep in mind the larger national context and how it has potentially affected the outcomes tracked in *KIDS COUNT in Missouri*. Starting in 2008, Missouri, like the rest of the United States, experienced an economic downturn on a scale unprecedented since the Great Depression of the 1930s. Although the national and state economies are recovering, the “Great Recession” resulted in greater numbers of children and families facing deep economic insecurity, especially higher unemployment, as evidenced by increases in measures of poverty. Although the long-term effects of the “Great Recession” are not completely clear, we do know that more families and children are in poverty than before it occurred—and that poverty has been shown to have significant negative impact on children’s development, including potential for success in school and later in life.

Because the *KIDS COUNT* project, both in Missouri and nationwide, strives to provide both the most current and most local data available to describe the status of children, some indicators are based on administrative data collected through state agencies in delivery of existing services and programs. In the past several years, state programs providing services to Missouri citizens have changed over time, often decreasing, based on declining state revenue. It is incumbent upon users of the *KIDS COUNT in Missouri Data Book* to distinguish between changes in rates or numbers of this year’s *KIDS COUNT* data that indicate an authentic improvement in the quality of children’s lives versus changes that reflect scaled-back services and resources.

**ECONOMIC WELL-BEING**

*Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch*, a proxy measure of child poverty, increased notably throughout the last decade. In 2002, 38% of Missouri’s students lived in families whose incomes were low enough to qualify for this program, and by 2012 the proportion of children rose to nearly half (49%). This increase is likely due to a combination of more children living in poverty and increased efficiency due to streamlined enrollment based on eligibility for other low-income programs. Children living in or close to poverty are at higher risk than other children for health, educational, and social problems.

In 2012, 15% of Missouri births were to mothers without a high school diploma. During the decade between 2002 and 2012, this rate trended downward from nearly 19% in the early years of the decade to the current rate. Children who are born to undereducated parents face the highest odds of living in chronic poverty.

Consistent with administrative record indicators such as the SNAP (food stamps) and free/reduced lunch, the U.S. Census Bureau’s American
Community Survey estimates that the percent of Missouri children under 18 living in poverty increased from 15% in 2000 to 22% in 2011, more than 1 in 5 children statewide. More than 1 in 4 (26.3%) Missouri children under 6 were living in poverty in 2011. Although adult unemployment in Missouri peaked in 2010 at 9.3%, the 2012 figure of 6.9% is higher than the 2008 rate of 6.1%.

MEASURES OF HEALTH
The percent of low birthweight infants has decreased from the 2003-2007 rate of 8.1% to the current period’s 2008-2012 rate of 8.0%. However, the rate was lower nearly 20 years ago; the 1993-1997 rate was 7.6%.

In contrast, the infant mortality rate has declined since 1993-1997, when the rate was 7.8 infants per 1,000 births, to the current 2008-2012 rate of 6.8. This is due to a combination of improved medical technology and public health outreach efforts. Despite these improvements, during the years 2008 through 2012, over 2,600 Missouri babies died before their first birthday.

The number of children enrolled in Medicaid increased between 2008 and 2012 from 33.3% to 37.4%, which reflects the more turbulent economic conditions facing Missouri families today.

MEASURES OF CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFETY
The child death rate has improved steadily over the past decade. The rate for 2008-2012 was 17.9 deaths per 100,000 children ages 1-14, a 16% decrease from the 2003-2007 figure of 21.2. Despite these positive gains, on average, over 200 children between the ages of 1 and 14 died in Missouri every year between 2007 and 2011. Violent deaths of teens decreased between the periods 2003-2007 and 2008-2012 from 64.5 to 58.5 per 100,000 teens ages 15-19. Motor vehicle accidents were responsible for 30% of deaths in this age group for the 2008-2012 period.

The child abuse/neglect and family assessments indicator measures the number of child abuse victims documented in reports that cited a "preponderance of evidence" that child abuse or neglect occurred, as well as the number of family assessments conducted by the Missouri Department of Social Services. The indicator is expressed as a rate per 1,000 children. The rate has increased over time, from 31.9 in 2008 to 35.9 in 2012.

Out-of-home placement entries are used to measure the status of children who are confirmed victims of abuse/neglect, and who are living in environments posing immediate risk or environments not responding immediately to intervention to prevent further physical or emotional threat or injury to children. This indicator is expressed as a rate per 1,000 children. Similar to the rate of child abuse/neglect and family assessments, out-of-home placement entries increased from 3.8 in 2008 to 4.6 in 2012.

MEASURES OF EDUCATION
The two outcomes for education have shown improvements over time. The 2012 high school dropout rate of 3.0% was the lowest in a decade, and a decrease from the 2008 rate of 3.5%. Although this percentage may seem low, nearly 8,000 students dropped out of public high schools in the 2011-2012 school year, increasing their risks of economic insecurity and other negative outcomes.

Missouri’s teen birth rate declined 26% between 2008 and 2012, to 32.2 births per 1,000 teens—the lowest rate since 2000. In 2000, about 9,800 Missouri teens, ages 15-19, gave birth. In 2012, approximately 6,300 teens gave birth. Although the number of teens giving birth annually has fallen, thousands of teen mothers and their children remain at risk for poverty, unemployment/underemployment, and health problems.

COMPOSITE COUNTY RANK
A composite county rank is calculated for each county based on six outcome measures: students enrolled in free/reduced lunch, births to mothers without a high school diploma, infant mortality, out-of-home placement entries, annual high school dropouts, and births to teens. Counties are assigned a rank between 1 (best) and 115 (worst) to describe the relative well-being of children compared to other Missouri counties. The ranks assist those interested in enhancing well-being by providing information on which counties have the greatest and least needs. As shown on pp. 7-8, more populous suburban counties of metropolitan areas and micropolitan counties tend to have better rankings than rural counties. In general, two regions stand out as falling behind the state overall: the north-central and southern parts of Missouri, especially the southeast.
Understanding the Data

UNDERSTANDING THE 2013 STATE AND COUNTY PROFILE PAGES

KIDS COUNT in Missouri provides a comprehensive view of the status of children in Missouri through outcome measures and contextual indicators that are compared across time. The outcomes are organized by four domains: economic well-being, health, child protection and safety, and education. The indicators are organized by four domains: economic well-being, health, education, and demographic.

The KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2013 Data Book state and county pages include six outcome measures reported by base year, 2008, and current year, 2012. For four measures (low birthweight infants, infant mortality, child deaths, and violent teen deaths), five-year periods of data are aggregated to provide more stable rates. In addition, data from 17 supplementary indicators are provided to give additional context for the outcome measures. As with the outcome measures, base year and current year data at five-year increments are provided for the indicators.

On the county pages, both counts (number) and rates are given for the outcome measures. The count represents the number of cases (e.g., children, incidents, events) that meet the outcome measure definition over a given number of years (one or five years, depending on the measure). A count is presented for both the base and current years. The rate represents the ratio of cases measured by the indicator to the total possible population of cases that could be affected over the one- or five-year period. The ratio is expressed as either a percent or a rate per a specific increment of the population, such as “per 1,000” or “per 100,000.” The state rate is also provided for each outcome measure.

A symbol is provided for each outcome measure to describe the direction of the trend between the base year and current year. An upward arrow indicates outcomes for children are improving, while a downward arrow indicates a decline in the well-being of children. The sideways arrow means the figure was unchanged. Detailed definitions of the KIDS COUNT in Missouri outcome measures are provided in the “Data Notes & Sources” section.

UNDERSTANDING THE 2013 COMPOSITE COUNTY RANK

Counties are assigned a rank between 1 (best) and 115 to describe the relative well-being of their children compared to Missouri as well as other counties and St. Louis City. A composite county rank is calculated for each county based on six of ten outcome measures. Four measures (low birth weight infants, child deaths, child abuse and neglect, and violent deaths) are not used to calculate this rate due to potential instability in the data.

USING COUNTY DATA

The KIDS COUNT in Missouri 2013 Data Book is available online on the Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis website: www.oseda.missouri.edu/kidscount. The data from past KIDS COUNT data books are also available on the website.

The Annie E. Casey Foundation’s KIDS COUNT Data Center (http://datacenter.kidscount.org/) also provides easy online access to KIDS COUNT in Missouri data, as well as child well-being data for all U.S. states and many cities, counties, and school districts. Data indicators can be found for such topics as education, employment and income, health, poverty, and youth risk factors.
### Missouri State Profile

**Capital: Jefferson City**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outcome Measures</th>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>Trend</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Economic Well-being</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch 2008/2012</td>
<td>366,243</td>
<td>427,246</td>
<td>42.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to mothers without HS diploma 2008/2012</td>
<td>14,467</td>
<td>11,459</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births) 2003–2007/2008–2012</td>
<td>2,982</td>
<td>2,621</td>
<td>7.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Child Protection &amp; Safety</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child deaths, ages 1–14* (per 100,000) 2003–2007/2008–2012</td>
<td>1,225</td>
<td>1,050</td>
<td>21.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child abuse/neglect &amp; family assessments* (per 1,000) 2008/2012</td>
<td>45,628</td>
<td>50,392</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Out-of-home placement entries (per 1,000) 2008/2012</td>
<td>5,418</td>
<td>6,422</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Violent deaths, ages 15–19* (per 100,000) 2003-2007/2008-2012</td>
<td>1,348</td>
<td>1,229</td>
<td>64.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual high school dropouts 2008/2012</td>
<td>9,852</td>
<td>7,946</td>
<td>3.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Births to teens, ages 15–19 (per 1,000) 2008/2012</td>
<td>9,154</td>
<td>6,314</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Demographic</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child population 2008</td>
<td>1,428,945</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>1,403,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children as % of total population 2008</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Minority children 2008</td>
<td>2012</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**LEGEND:** ↑ Better  ↓ Worse  ↔ No Change

*Outcome not included in Composite County Rank*
Missouri Minority Profile

According to American Community Survey 2012 data, there are more than 1.4 million children under 18 living in Missouri. Almost one in four (24%) of these children are of a racial minority, including African American, Asian, Native American, and children of one or more races. Although still a relatively small part of the overall child population, Hispanic children now make up 6%, a proportion almost double what it was in 2000.

The table above shows outcomes by minority status for the base and current years. Minority refers to individuals who are African American, Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander, a combination of races, and/or who identify as Hispanic; Nonminority refers to non-Hispanic White individuals. In general, both groups have experienced more positive trends than negative ones. For both minority and nonminority children in Missouri, seven outcomes improved and two worsened. For both groups, the rate of out-of-home placements increased. For minority children, the violent teen death rate increased. For nonminority children, the rate of child abuse/neglect cases and family assessments increased. For the other seven tracked outcomes, the trend is positive for both minority and nonminority children in Missouri.

Despite the mostly positive trends for both groups, minority teens are far more likely to give birth and to have low birthweight infants compared to their nonminority peers. Nonminority mothers are more likely to have at least a high school diploma, compared to minority mothers. Minority teens have a higher high school dropout rate and violent teen death rate compared to nonminority teens. On the other hand, minority children have lower rates of out-of-home placement and child abuse/neglect and family assessments in comparison with nonminority children.
Composite County Ranks

Source: Kids Count in Missouri 2013 Data Book
Map Created by University of Missouri, Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
These population categories are based on the federal government’s Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and are used by the Census Bureau. A metropolitan area contains a core urban area of at least 50,000 in population, whereas a micropolitan area has an urban area of 10,000-49,999. Both metropolitan and micropolitan areas consist of the county that contains the core urban area, as well as any adjacent counties that have a high degree of economic and social integration with the core urban area, as measured by commuting-to-work patterns. In some cases, relatively smaller counties are classified as part of a metropolitan area, even though their own population is not especially large.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rank in Metropolitan</th>
<th>Rank Whole State</th>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rank in Metropolitan</th>
<th>Rank Whole State</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Bates*</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Platte</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Franklin</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>43</td>
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<tr>
<td>Osage*</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Cape Girardeau</td>
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<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Clinton*</td>
<td>22</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
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<td>Callaway</td>
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<td>Boone</td>
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<td>Cole</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Bollinger*</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>53</td>
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<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>26</td>
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<td>Warren</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>Moniteau*</td>
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<td>Lincoln</td>
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<td>McDonald*</td>
<td>33</td>
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<td>Caldwell*</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>St. Louis*</td>
<td>34</td>
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<td>Greene</td>
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<td>Polk</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

*Counties with less than 30,000 that are still part of a metropolitan area
## RURAL COUNTIES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rank in Metropolitan</th>
<th>Rank Whole State</th>
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<tr>
<td>Ste. Genevieve</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Maries</td>
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<tr>
<td>Perry</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monroe</td>
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<td>14</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gentry</td>
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<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shelby</td>
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<td>Atchison</td>
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<td>Howard</td>
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<td>Carroll</td>
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<td>Gasconade</td>
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<td>27</td>
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<tr>
<td>Chariton</td>
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<td>Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dade</td>
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<td>Worth</td>
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Source: KIDS COUNT Data Book 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Feb 17, 2014
Interpreting the Data

UNDERSTANDING THE 2013 INDICATOR AND OUTCOME PAGES

The sample below shows how each data element section is organized. At the top of the first page for each data element, you will find a label showing the domain and whether the data element is an outcome or indicator. The name of the data element is followed by brief text explaining the importance of the outcome and how it should be interpreted. The first page shows a map of the Missouri counties and their performance on the outcome or indicator, as well as a list of county ranks. Instructions on how to interpret the county ranks are provided. The best county ranks are shown such that improvement on an outcome or indicator results in better ranks, even though they are smaller numbers! When applicable, county ranks are shown such that improvement on an outcome or indicator will result in better rankings.

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING: OUTCOME

Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch

Participation in the free/reduced-price lunch program is a widely used proxy for measuring the extent of child poverty. Economic hardship can have profound negative effects on children’s health and development. Children from families with low incomes have a greater risk for delays in cognitive development and learning problems.1, 2

DEFINITION AND DATA NOTES

Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch 2012

Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch by County: 2012

Missouri = 49.4%

Counts with Highest Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch

Counts with Lowest Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch

On the second page, you will find a variety of graphs about the specific data element. The status of Missouri for the current and base years is shown, with the percent change between the years highlighted. This percent change indicates the extent to which the outcome/indicator increased (plus sign, +) or decreased (negative sign, -) between the base and current years. For indicators and outcomes that are percentages, it should be noted that the percent change is not simply the difference between the two percentage figures but represents the extent to which the figure changed relative to the base percent. When applicable, comparable data for the U.S. are shown, including percent change over time. A graph showing number and percent/rates over time for Missouri is provided to show trends in the data over time. The final two graphs show which counties had the highest and lowest values on the particular data element.

Definition and Data Notes provide explicit information about the source of the outcome or indicator and how it is calculated. If applicable, the final part of the section will contain footnotes from the introductory text.

References:

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.
**DOMAIN ORGANIZATION**

The following pages provide more specific data for Kids Count in Missouri outcomes and indicators, which are organized into the domains shown below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DOMAINS</th>
<th>OUTCOMES</th>
<th>INDICATORS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic Well-Being</td>
<td>Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch</td>
<td>Children under 18 in poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Births to mothers without high school diploma</td>
<td>Children under 6 in poverty</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children in single-parent families</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children receiving child care assistance (per 1,000 in poverty)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children receiving cash assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Children receiving SNAP (food stamps)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Average annual wage/salary</td>
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<td>Adult unemployment</td>
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<td>Health</td>
<td>Low birthweight infants*</td>
<td>Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids</td>
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<td>Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)</td>
<td>Children receiving public mental health services</td>
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<td>Child Protection &amp; Safety</td>
<td>Child deaths, ages 1-14 (per 100,000)*</td>
<td>English language learners</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Child abuse/neglect cases and family assessments (per 1,000)*</td>
<td>Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)</td>
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<td>Out-of-home placements (per 1,000)</td>
<td>Accredited child care facilities</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Violent teen deaths, ages 15-19 (per 100,000)*</td>
<td>Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10–17 (per 1,000)</td>
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<td>Education</td>
<td>Annual high school dropouts</td>
<td>Child population</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)</td>
<td>Children as % of total population</td>
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<tr>
<td>Demographic</td>
<td></td>
<td>Minority children</td>
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</table>

*Not included in County Composite Rank
ECONOMIC WELL-BEING: PERSPECTIVE

A family's economic well-being has a great impact on a child's ability to develop into a healthy, productive adult. KIDS COUNT in Missouri tracks many indicators related to economic conditions for Missouri's children and families, including parental education and employment, enrollment in federal assistance programs, and child poverty, in order to provide a full picture of how our children are faring. Because no single outcome or indicator represents how well children and families are faring economically, all of the indicators included in this section should be examined closely.

KIDS COUNT in Missouri tracks two economic well-being outcomes:
- Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch
- Births to mothers without high school diplomas

In addition, seven other economic well-being indicators are reported:
- Children under 18 in poverty
- Children under 6 in poverty
- Children in single-parent families
- Children receiving child care assistance
- Children receiving cash assistance
- Children receiving SNAP (food stamps)
- Average annual wage/salary
- Adult unemployment

For the most part, the economic outlook for the children and families in Missouri has been declining. Since 2008, the percentage of students enrolled in the free/reduced-price lunch program increased by 18%; in 2012, nearly half of Missouri's children qualified for the program. The percentage of children receiving SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly known as food stamps) increased over 20% over the same time period. Since 2000, the percentage of children in poverty increased 39%, the percentage of children under 6 in poverty has burgeoned by 43%, and the percentage of children in single-parent families has gone up over 37%. However, not all trends related to economic security are in decline. Since 2008 progress has been made on the percentage of births to mothers without a high school diploma (a decrease of 15%).
Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch

Participation in the free/reduced-price lunch program is a widely used proxy for measuring the extent of child poverty. Economic hardship can have profound negative effects on children’s health and development. Children from families with low incomes have a greater risk for delays in cognitive development and learning problems.1, 2

Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch by County: 2012

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
**Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch for Missouri and the U.S.**

- **Current Year MO 2012:** 49.4%
- **Base Year MO 2008:** 42.0%
- **MO Change:** +17.6%
- **Current Year U.S. 2012:** 49.6%
- **Base Year U.S. 2008:** 41.0%
- **U.S. Change:** +21.0%

**Counties with Highest Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch**

- St. Louis City: 86.9%
- Shannon: 77.4%
- Mississippi: 73.1%
- Dunklin: 72.3%
- Ripley: 72.0%
- Pemiscot: 72.0%
- Douglas: 71.6%
- McDonald: 70.5%
- Carter: 70.5%
- Wright: 69.9%

**Counties with Lowest Percent of Students Enrolled in Free/Reduced Lunch**

- St. Charles: 22.9%
- Platte: 26.5%
- Andrew: 34.6%
- Clay: 35.1%
- Osage: 36.0%
- Boone: 38.2%
- Cass: 38.5%
- Ray: 39.3%
- Jefferson: 39.5%
- Nodaway: 40.1%

**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of students who are enrolled in the free or reduced-price National School Lunch Program. Children from households with incomes less than 130% of poverty are eligible for free lunches; those from households below 185% of poverty are eligible for reduced price lunches. Rate is expressed as percent of total school enrollment. *Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas

Children born to mothers with fewer than 12 years of education face increased odds of living in chronic and/or severe poverty. Parents with low education levels typically have lower incomes than those with more education. Higher levels of parental education are strongly associated with positive outcomes for children, including better school readiness and academic achievement, lower rates of smoking and drinking, and higher rates of volunteering.

**Percent of Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas by County: 2012**

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013

Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)

Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014

**County Ranks** (higher rank = lower rate)

1. Nodaway
2. St. Charles
3. Platte
4. Andrew
5. Pulaski
6. Holt
7. Christian
8. St. Louis
9. Boone
10. Osage
11. St. Louis
12. Clinton
13. Clay
14. Johnson
15. Cass
16. Monroe
17. Ste. Genevieve
18. Worth
19. Jefferson
20. Marion
21. Cole
22. Chariton
23. Ralls
24. Adair
25. Howard
26. Shelby
27. Cape Girardeau
28. Perry
29. Callaway
30. Caldwell
31. Greene
32. Phelps
33. Livingston
34. Lincoln
35. Oregon
36. Ozark
37. Bates
38. Lafayette
39. Gasconade
40. Warren
41. Franklin
42. Reynolds
43. Reynolds
44. Carroll
45. Stoddard
46. Stone
47. DeKalb
48. Camden
49. Miller
50. Ray
51. St. Louis City
52. St. Louis City
53. Cooper
54. Montgomery
55. Howell
56. Randolph
57. Saline
58. Ray
59. Dade
60. Jackson
61. Douglas
62. Newton
63. Vernon
64. St. Francois
65. Wayne
66. Harrison
67. Macon
68. Henry
69. Crawford
70. New Madrid
71. Clark
72. Shannon
73. Buchanan
74. Taney
75. Iron
76. St. Louis City
77. Gentry
78. Audrain
79. Bollinger
80. Scott
81. Barton
82. Jasper
83. Cedar
84. Pettis
85. Texas
86. Lewis
87. Benton
88. Hickory
89. Wright
90. Butler
91. Laclede
92. Washington
93. Dent
94. Putnam
95. Ripley
96. Montello
97. Pike
98. Barry
99. Lawrence
100. St. Clair
101. Sullivan
102. Pemiscot
103. Schuyler
104. Dallas
105. Mississippi
106. Carter
107. Webster
108. Grundy
109. McDonold
110. Knox
111. Mercer
112. Morgan
113. Dunklin
114. Daviess
115. Scotland
**Percent of Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas for Missouri and the U.S.**

- **Current Year MO 2012**: 15.2%
- **Base Year MO 2008**: 17.9%
- **Current Year U.S. 2010**: 16.8%
- **Base Year U.S. 2008**: 17.8%

**MO Change -15.1%**

**Counts with High Percent of Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas**

- **Scotland**: 50.0%
- **Daviess**: 42.5%
- **Dunklin**: 38.7%
- **Morgan**: 38.6%
- **Mercer**: 37.8%
- **Knox**: 37.3%
- **McDonald**: 36.9%
- **Grundy**: 35.3%
- **Webster**: 34.3%
- **Carter**: 30.9%

**Counts with Low Percent of Births to Mothers without High School Diplomas**

- **Nodaway**: 5.3%
- **St. Charles**: 5.7%
- **Platte**: 6.3%
- **Andrew**: 8.1%
- **Pulaski**: 8.2%
- **Holt**: 8.5%
- **Christian**: 8.7%
- **St. Louis**: 8.8%
- **Boone**: 9.0%
- **Osage**: 9.0%

**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of live births that occur to women who have less than 12 years of education as indicated on a child’s birth certificate. Rate is expressed as percent of all live births. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

Children Under 18 in Poverty

Poverty has a significant negative effect on child development. It interferes with children’s cognitive development as well as ability to succeed in school. In addition, children exposed to poverty are at a higher risk for mental disorders and antisocial behaviors. A recent brain imaging study showed that poverty affects the physical structure of children’s brains; children in poverty had smaller volumes of white matter and cortical gray matter, as well as smaller hippocampuses and amygdalas, which are critical to stress regulation and emotion processing.

Percent of Children Under 18 in Poverty by County: 2011

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Definition and Data Notes

Percentage of related children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The federal poverty threshold depends on the number of adults and children in a family. In 2011, the current year used for this indicator in this data book, the federal poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $22,811. For 2013, the federal poverty threshold for the same family was $23,624. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA (Public Use Microdata Area) ratio is reported. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Very young children are more likely to live in poverty than older children. Thus, the percentage of children under 6 in poverty is higher than that of all children in poverty. Many factors contribute to an increased likelihood of children experiencing poverty at a young age, including the relative youth of parents (which limits earning potential), as well as the need for child care (parents either pay for it or stay at home to take care of young children). Poverty interferes with children’s development at all ages, but its developmental effects are more pervasive and persistent for children who experience economic hardship when very young.¹

Percent of Children under 6 in Poverty by County: 2011

Missouri = 26.3%
Definition and Data Notes
Percentage of related children under age six who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The 2011 poverty threshold was $22,811 for a family of four. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA ratio is reported. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Note: The last two data points are only one year apart.

Children in Single-Parent Families

In 2011, more than one-third of Missouri's children lived in single-parent families. The relationship between poverty and family structure is shown by the fact that more children living in single-parent families nationally were in poverty (37%) compared to children living in married-couple families (9%).

Two-parent families tend to have higher household incomes and more assets than single-parent families; as a result, single parents may find it more challenging to maintain a high quality of home and out-of-home experiences for their children. In addition, economic hardship may increase single parents' psychological distress and decrease sensitive caregiving. These factors can lead to negative effects on children's cognitive and social development and impact their long-term academic achievement.

Percent of Children in Single-Parent Families by County: 2011

County Ranks (higher rank = lower %)
2. Daviess 40. Sullivan 80. Lewis
4. Chariton 43. Howard 82. Greene
5. Cedar 44. Harrison 83. Warren
7. Osage 45. Ripley 85. Butler
8. rural 47. Morgan 86. Wright
11. Barton 50. Monroe 89. St. Clair
12. Polk 50. Webster 90. Jasper
15. Putnam 54. Andrew 93. Laclede
17. Shelby 56. Franklin 95. Wayne
18. Christian 57. Linn 96. McDonald
20. Pulaski 58. Livingston 98. Randolph
22. Atchison 61. Dent 100. Cole
25. Clark 64. Jefferson 103. Dunklin
27. Reynolds 66. Boone 105. Saline
31. Johnson 70. Monticello 108. Jackson
32. Holt 71. Clinton 110. Marion
33. Mercer 71. St. Francois 111. New Madrid
34. Nodaway 71. Grundy 112. Scott
35. Hickory 74. Benton 113. Mississippi
36. Dade 75. Clay 114. Pershing
37. Pettis 76. Cape Girardeau 115. St. Louis City
38. Lawrence 77. Gasconade
39. Henry 78. Audrain

Source: US Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Definition and Data Notes

Percentage of related children under age 18 who live in families headed by a person without a spouse present in the home. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

Children Receiving Child Care Assistance

State child care assistance is essential in providing reliable child care for children of low-income parents who would otherwise not be able to afford such care and who wish to participate in the workforce. Higher rates on this indicator suggest better support for poor families with respect to child care access. For center-based care in 2012, the average cost of full-time child care for an infant in Missouri was $8,580; for a four-year-old in full-time center-based care, the average cost was $5,928. For home-based care, the average cost of full-time child care for an infant in Missouri was $5,564; for a four-year-old, the average cost was $4,836. These figures are nearly equal to tuition at state universities. The prohibitive cost of child care often forces families to make difficult decisions such as leaving a job to take care of children or enrolling their child in low-quality care that is not regulated by the state.

In 2012, eligibility for child care assistance was at 123% of the federal poverty threshold, one of the lowest levels in the nation. In fact, Missouri ranks 48th in terms of supporting poor families with child care.

### Missouri Children Receiving Child Care Assistance by County: 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Ranks</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 St. Louis City</td>
<td>40 Putnam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 St. Louis</td>
<td>41 Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 St. Charles</td>
<td>42 Pettis</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 Boone</td>
<td>43 Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 Cooper</td>
<td>44 Newton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Scott</td>
<td>45 Adair</td>
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<tr>
<td>7 Cass</td>
<td>46 Monroe</td>
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<td>8 Mississippi</td>
<td>47 Phelps</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Butler</td>
<td>48 Callaway</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 Jackson</td>
<td>49 Saline</td>
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<td>11 Cole</td>
<td>50 Camden</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 St. Francois</td>
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<td>55 Pike</td>
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<td>24 Clay</td>
<td>63 Lewis</td>
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<td>25 Christian</td>
<td>64 Stone</td>
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<td>65 Gentry</td>
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<td>71 Polk</td>
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<td>33 Gasconade</td>
<td>72 Crawford</td>
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<td>73 Webster</td>
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<td>35 Ripley</td>
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<td>37 Jasper</td>
<td>76 Dallas</td>
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<tr>
<td>38 Macon</td>
<td>77 Andrew</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39 Ste. Genevieve</td>
<td>78 Pulaski</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Missouri Department of Social Services U.S. Department of Commerce, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
**Children Receiving Child Care Assistance per 1,000 in poverty for Missouri**

- **Base Year MO 2008**: 157.5 per 1,000
- **Current Year MO 2012**: 150.9 per 1,000

**MO Change** -4.2%

**Children Receiving Child Care Assistance: 2002–2012**

- 2007: 154.7
- 2008: 157.5
- 2009: 155.3
- 2010: 158.1
- 2011: 164
- 2012: 150.9

**Children Receiving Child Care Assistance**

- **2002**: 46,453
- **2003**: 45,628
- **2004**: 42,706
- **2005**: 45,441
- **2006**: 47,540
- **2007**: 50,392

**Counties with Highest Rate of Poor Children Receiving Child Care Assistance**

- St. Louis City: 334.5
- St. Louis: 306.4
- St. Charles: 198.7
- Boone: 196.6
- Cooper: 174.4
- Scott: 165.1
- Cass: 156.8
- Mississippi: 155.5
- Butler: 153.0
- Jackson: 151.5

**Counties with Lowest Rate of Poor Children Receiving Child Care Assistance**

- Holt: 0.0
- Mercer: 0.0
- Worth: 0.0
- Shannon: 3.5
- Schuyler: 4.2
- Reynolds: 8.8
- Iron: 8.8
- Ozark: 10.9
- Caldwell: 11.4
- St. Clair: 11.7

**Definition and Data Notes**

Total number of children participating in one of the following subsidized child care programs: FUTURES, transitional, income maintenance/income eligible, at-risk, and child care and development block grant. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18 in poverty. **Source**: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census.

Children Receiving Cash Assistance

This indicator is another way of examining the economic well-being of children and families. However, changes in this indicator over time must be considered in the context of policy changes at the state and federal levels, which can artificially impact the direction of the trend.

Missouri = 4.7%
Definition and Data Notes
Average monthly percentage of population under age 18 that live in households receiving public assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.
Children Receiving SNAP (Food Stamps)

This indicator is another way of examining the economic well-being of children and families. However, changes in this indicator over time must be considered in the context of policy changes at the state and federal levels, which can artificially impact the direction of the trend.

Percent of Children Receiving SNAP (Food Stamps) by County: 2012

Missouri = 39.1%

Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Definition and Data Notes
Percentage of population under age 18 who live in households receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.
Average Annual Wage/Salary

This indicator is another way of measuring economic conditions for children and families.

Average Annual Wage/Salary by County: 2011

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Average Annual Wage/Salary for Missouri and the U.S.

Counties with Highest Average Annual Wage/Salary

- St. Louis City: $54,252
- St. Louis: $51,729
- Jackson: $49,247
- Pulaski: $46,281
- Clay: $46,041
- Platte: $41,795
- Mercer: $40,129
- St. Charles: $39,671
- Iron: $39,080
- Ste. Genevieve: $38,799

Counties with Lowest Average Annual Wage/Salary

- Shannon: $22,518
- Worth: $23,313
- Ozark: $24,219
- Schuyler: $24,730
- Clark: $24,874
- Ripley: $25,634
- Dallas: $25,727
- Hickory: $26,039
- Scotland: $26,088
- Carter: $26,115

Definition and Data Notes
Average annual wage/salary per job. County data indicate annual wage/salary for all jobs located in that county. Employees may live in a different county from where they work. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.
Adult Unemployment

Unemployment rates provide another picture of the general economic conditions of a state, region, or county. As more adults have problems finding employment, the number of children and families in poverty increases. Higher unemployment rates are also associated with families using more government services, such as Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as the Food Stamps Program) to help make ends meet.

Unemployment Rate by County: 2012

Missouri = 6.9%

Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Percent of Adult Unemployment for Missouri and the U.S.

Counts with Highest Adult Unemployment
- Hickory: 12.4%
- Shannon: 10.6%
- Washington: 10.5%
- Stone: 10.4%
- Taney: 10.3%
- Reynolds: 10.0%
- St. Louis City: 9.3%
- Camden: 9.0%
- Laclede: 9.0%
- Ray: 9.0%

Counts with Lowest Adult Unemployment
- Boone: 4.6%
- Worth: 4.7%
- Scotland: 4.7%
- Perry: 4.7%
- Mercer: 4.8%
- Knox: 4.9%
- Holt: 5.0%
- Andrew: 5.0%
- Gentry: 5.1%
- Osage: 5.2%

Definition and Data Notes
Percentage of civilian labor force that is unemployed and actively looking for work. Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Employment Security.
HEALTH: PERSPECTIVE

A healthy start in life provides children with the necessary foundation for healthy development and the capacity to learn. Indicators of a healthy start include quality prenatal care, consistent access to healthcare services throughout childhood and adolescence, proper immunization, and good nutrition.

The majority of Missouri children access health coverage through private insurance and/or MO HealthNet for Kids, which is Missouri’s public health insurance program for low-income children who do not have access to other health coverage. A portion of Missouri’s children remain without healthcare coverage, including many who are eligible for coverage.

*KIDS COUNT* tracks two outcomes directly related to children’s health and mental health:

- Low birthweight infants
- Infant mortality

In addition, two other health and mental health indicators are reported:

- Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids
- Children receiving public mental health services

In comparison to the baseline years, the status of Missouri children’s health and mental health with respect to these outcomes and indicators is mixed. Infant mortality, which has been declining for some time, decreased 9% between the period 2003-2007 and the period 2008-2012. Concurrently, the rate of low birthweight infants decreased slightly (1%) between these time periods. Changes in the other two indicators are more difficult to interpret. Because they reflect services provided by state government, their ability to act as good proxies for children’s health status may be affected by a number of factors, including budget shortfalls, changes in funding priorities, or administrative changes in how data are tracked. With this in mind, between 2008 and 2012, the percentage of children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids increased 12% and the number of children who received public mental health services increased 34%.
Low Birthweight Infants

Infants born with low birthweights are at high risk for adverse outcomes and developmental problems throughout their lives. In general, the smaller the baby at birth, the higher his or her risk for complications.¹

There are two main reasons why a baby may be born with a low birthweight: premature birth and fetal growth restriction. Growth-restricted babies may be born full-term, but are underweight because they did not grow well during pregnancy due to problems in the uterus, the mother’s health, or birth defects. Premature birth occurs when a baby is born before 37 completed weeks of pregnancy. About 67% of low birthweight babies are premature.¹

Babies born with a low birthweight may have increased risk for certain chronic conditions in adulthood, including high blood pressure, adult-onset diabetes, and heart disease.¹

Percent of Low Birthweight Infants by County: 2008–2012

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of live infants recorded as having a birth weight under 2,500 grams (five pounds, eight ounces). Rate is expressed as a percent of total live births. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

**Infant Mortality**

Infant mortality has long been an indicator of the health of a community, state, and nation because of its association with such factors as maternal health, quality and access to medical care, socioeconomic conditions, and public health practices. Infants are more likely to die before their first birthday if they live in unsafe homes and neighborhoods or have inadequate nutrition, health care, or supervision. The leading causes of infant death are congenital malformations (physical defects present at birth), disorders related to short gestation or low birthweight, and sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS).

The Missouri infant mortality rate was 6.2 in 2012. However, this rate differs greatly between whites and blacks. In 2012, the rate for black infants was 12.3, compared to the 5.6 rate for white infants.

**Infant Deaths per 1,000 Live Births by County: 2012**

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**County Ranks** (higher rank = lower rate)

1. Gentry  39.0  78.0  Caldwell
2. Maries  39.0  80.0  Wayne
3. Monroe  42.0  81.0  Buchanan
4. Perry  43.0  82.0  Vernon
5. Howard  43.0  82.0  Benton
6. Macon  43.0  82.0  Ripley
7. Scotland  43.0  85.0  Grundy
8. Bollinger  47.0  86.0  Wright
9. Ste. Genevieve  47.0  87.0  Madison
10. Atchison  47.0  88.0  Dekalb
11. Cass  50.0  88.0  Marion
12. Dallas  51.0  90.0  Mercer
13. Pettis  51.0  91.0  Moniteau
14. Randolph  53.0  91.0  Cole
15. Boone  53.0  93.0  Henry
16. Knox  53.0  94.0  Callaway
17. Linn  56.0  95.0  Osage
18. Jasper  56.0  95.0  Pemiscot
19. Audrain  56.0  97.0  Hickory
20. Ozark  59.0  98.0  Harrison
21. Clark  59.0  98.0  Holt
22. Chariton  59.0  100.0  Clinton
23. Crawford  59.0  100.0  Cooper
24. Christian  63.0  102.0  Cedar
25. Daviess  64.0  102.0  Dunklin
26. Nodaway  65.0  104.0  St. Louis City
27. Lawrence  65.0  105.0  New Madrid
28. Gasconade  65.0  106.0  Mississippi
29. Platte  68.0  107.0  Reynolds
30. Washington  69.0  108.0  Texas
31. Camden  70.0  109.0  Oregon
32. Polk  71.0  110.0  Andrew
33. St. Charles  71.0  111.0  Schuyler
34. Dade  73.0  112.0  Putnam
35. Benton  73.0  113.0  Ralls
36. Lafayette  75.0  114.0  Worth
37. Lincoln  76.0  115.0  Carter
38. Jefferson  76.0  Scott
39. Warren  78.0  Montgomery

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014

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**Health: Outcome**

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**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of deaths to infants under one year of age. Rate is expressed per 1,000 live births. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates, which can be an issue for counties with low population. *Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.*

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Children Enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids

MO HealthNet for Kids is the Medicaid program for children and also the State Children’s Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) in Missouri for families with higher incomes. Administered by the Department of Social Services, MO HealthNet for Kids provides a full range of medical services such as preventive care, primary care, as well as hospital and pharmacy services. To qualify for benefits, a child must be a resident of Missouri under 19 years old, have a social security number, and be a U.S. citizen or legal resident. Eligible applicants must also meet certain income guidelines according to their family size.

Income guidelines for MO HealthNet for Kids (non-SCHIP) are between 100 and 185 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. For SCHIP, the guidelines range between 150 and 300 percent of the poverty level. If families meet income criteria, and their child has been uninsured for at least six consecutive months, they may be able to qualify. In addition, the family’s assets must also have a net worth under $250,000. Those who have an income over 150 percent of the poverty level are required to pay a premium each month for their coverage.

Percent of Children Enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids by County: 2012

Missouri = 37.4%

Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Definition and Data Notes
Average monthly percentage of children under age 18 who have applied for and have been certified eligible for participation in MO HealthNet for Kids, Missouri’s health insurance program for children in low-income families, either through managed care or traditional fee-for-service providers. This indicator includes both number and rate. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*
HEALTH: INDICATOR

Children Receiving Public Mental Health Services

Children and adolescents are susceptible to many of the same mental illnesses that afflict adults. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14. Helping children and their parents manage difficulties early in life may prevent the development of many disorders. Once mental illness develops, it becomes a regular part of a child’s behavior and more difficult to treat.

Even though we know how to treat—though not yet cure—many disorders, many children with mental illnesses are not getting treatment. Without treatment, these children will be at risk for falling behind in other domains of development, thereby decreasing the likelihood that they will become happy, stable, productive adults.

Young people are especially at risk of depression, obsessive-compulsive behaviors, phobias, and substance abuse. As many as one in five Missouri children may have a behavior disorder, ranging from barely noticeable to disruptive to their education, development, and family life.

The causes of mental disorders are varied, but most are caused by imbalances in the brain’s chemistry, by injury to the head and brain, or by emotional trauma. Some mental illnesses are more prevalent in some families, suggesting a genetic link.

Children Receiving Public Mental Health Services: 2012

Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)

County Ranks
(higher rank = fewer children)
1 Worth 40 Daviess 78 Laclede
1 Hickory 40 Oregon 80 Christian
3 Holt 42 Nodaway 81 Lawrence
4 Chillicothe 42 Wright 82 Barry
5 Knox 44 Stone 82 Howell
6 Atchison 44 Cedar 84 Lafayette
6 Reynolds 46 Bates 85 Phelps
8 Dade 47 Monroe 86 Adair
8 Putnam 48 Cooper 87 Cole
8 Scotland 49 Saline 88 Johnson
11 Ozark 50 Andrew 89 Stoddard
11 Shannon 51 Texas 90 Warren
13 Barton 52 Macon 91 Dunklin
14 Gentry 53 Polk 92 Butler
15 Mercer 53 Dent 93 Platte
16 Carter 55 Washington 94 Marion
16 Sullivan 56 Benton 95 Callaway
18 Maries 57 Pike 96 Perry
18 Lewis 58 Ray 97 St. Francois
20 Dallas 59 Webster 98 Lincoln
21 Caldwell 60 Linn 99 Cass
21 Howard 61 Pulaski 100 Audrain
23 Osage 62 Pettis 101 Scott
23 Waynesville 62 Montgomery 102 Madison
25 Moniteau 64 Livingston 103 Newton
25 Carroll 65 New Madrid 104 Franklin
27 Ralls 66 Pemiscot 105 Cape Girardeau
28 St. Clair 67 Randolph 106 Buchanan
28 Harrison 68 Miller 107 Clay
28 Douglas 68 Taney 108 Greene
31 Shelby 68 Grundy 109 Jefferson
32 Schuyler 71 Clinton 110 Boone
33 Dekalb 72 Henry 111 Jasper
34 Clark 73 Crawford 112 St. Louis City
35 Iron 74 Camden 113 St. Charles
35 Vernon 75 McDonald 114 St. Louis
37 Ripley 76 Bollinger 115 Jackson
38 Morgan 77 Mississippi
39 Gasconade 78 Ste. Genevieve

Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
The number of children receiving mental health services for serious emotional disorders (SED) through the Missouri Department of Mental Health. The Missouri Department of Mental Health defines SED as any emotional, behavioral, or mental disorder that requires multiple services; severely disrupts daily functioning in the home, school, or community; and has either been present for one year, or is expected to last a year or more.

Due to recent administrative changes in how these services are tracked within the divisions of mental health, it is difficult to compare numbers across years.

Child safety is another aspect of child well-being. Injuries, both intentional and unintentional, are the leading cause of death for children between the ages of 5 and 14.¹ Most injuries and injury-related deaths can be prevented through proven interventions that include education, environmental or product modification (car seats, bicycle helmets, smoke detectors), and better enforcement of legislation or regulations related to child safety.² Intentional injuries occur when there is intent to harm. They include injuries that occur as a result of violence, abuse, or neglect. Strategies for preventing these types of injuries are different from the strategies employed to prevent unintentional injuries, and they are not as well understood.²

Childhood maltreatment can adversely affect development, health, and well-being in the short and long term. Abused and neglected children are at higher risk of mental health disorders and more likely to engage in risk-taking behavior throughout childhood, adolescence, and adulthood.³

KIDS COUNT tracks four outcomes directly related to children’s protection and safety:

- Child death, ages 1-14
- Child abuse and neglect
- Out-of-home placement entries
- Violent teen deaths, ages 15-19

In some important ways, the status of Missouri’s children with respect to child protection and safety has improved. The rates for child death and teen violent death have both decreased from the 2008-2012 period compared to the 2003-2007 period. On the other hand, the rates for two other crucial outcomes have increased from 2008 to 2012; the rate for substantiated child abuse/neglect cases and family assessments increased 13%, and the rate for out-of-home placement entries increased 21%.

As with infant mortality, the child death rate is a significant indicator of child well-being. Although mortality rates drop sharply after the first year of life, children are still at risk from a number of health and environmental factors. This outcome reflects physical health conditions, the amount of adult supervision, and the prevalence of risks that children face every day in their homes and communities. For this age group (1-14), accidents are the leading cause of death, with automobile accidents accounting for 31% of deaths nationally.1

**County Ranks** (higher rank = lower rate)

1. Bollinger
2. Nodaway
3. Shelby
4. Holt
5. Ralls
6. Perry
7. Platte
8. Pike
9. Pulaski
10. Linn
11. Washington
12. Wayne
13. Lafayette
14. Saline
15. St. Charles
16. Lewis
17. Oregon
18. Morgan
19. Stoddard
20. Howard
21. Christian
22. Ste. Genevieve
23. Monroe
24. Boone
25. Clay
26. Cooper
27. St. Clair
28. Jefferson
29. Cass
30. Chariton
31. Johnson
32. Dade
33. Osage
34. Lawrence
35. Benton
36. Cole
37. Hickory

**Missouri = 17.9**

**Source:** Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013

Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)

Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Children Deaths, Ages 1-14, per 100,000 for Missouri and the U.S.

- Current Year MO 2008-2012: 17.9 (MO Change -15.6%)
- Base Year MO 2003-2007: 21.2
- U.S. Current Year 2010: 17.0 (MO Change -15.0%)
- U.S. Base Year 2005: 20.0

Counties with Highest Rate of Child Deaths, Ages 1-14

- Clark: 100.6
- Carter: 65.3
- Gentry: 58.4
- Dent: 53.5
- Reynolds: 49.2
- Knox: 47.8
- Sullivan: 45.3
- Carroll: 45.2
- Schuyler: 44.1
- Caldwell: 41.9

Counties with Lowest Rate of Child Deaths, Ages 1-14

- Bollinger: 0.0
- Nodaway: 0.0
- Shelby: 0.0
- Holt: 0.0
- Ralls: 0.0
- Worth: 0.0
- Henry: 4.9
- Perry: 5.1
- Platte: 5.6
- Pike: 5.9

**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of deaths from all causes of children ages one to 14. Rate is expressed per 100,000 children of that age group. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Child Protection and Safety: Outcome

Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments

This indicator provides information about the scale of neglectful family environments in a given geographic region. Compared to children who do not experience abuse and neglect, children who do are more likely to experience negative outcomes throughout their lives in a number of areas:

- poor mental health;
- increased cognitive difficulties;
- increased social difficulties;
- more likely to abuse drugs and alcohol;
- increased sexual risk-taking;
- higher rates of juvenile delinquency and adult criminal behaviors;
- higher risk for becoming an abuser.

Ultimately, due to related costs to the health-care, human services, and educational systems, abuse and neglect impact not only the child and family, but communities and society as well.

Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments per 1,000 by County: 2012

Missouri = 35.9

Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments per 1,000 for Missouri

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Rate</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base Year MO 2008</td>
<td>31.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Current Year MO 2012</td>
<td>35.9</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

MO Change +12.5%

Counties with Highest Rate of Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Laclede</td>
<td>76.5</td>
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<td>Dallas</td>
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<td>Butler</td>
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<td>Wayne</td>
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<td>Henry</td>
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<td>Marion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wright</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemiscot</td>
<td>60.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>58.8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counties with Lowest Rate of Child Abuse/Neglect and Family Assessments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worth</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>8.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>18.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platte</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles</td>
<td>20.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Osage</td>
<td>21.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrew</td>
<td>23.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>23.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition and Data Notes

Number of child abuse victims from reports classified as “preponderance of evidence” that indicates child abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, this outcome includes the number of family assessments that have occurred based on potential for abuse/negelect. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Out-of-Home Placement Entries

This indicator is as a reflection of the number of children whose lives are significantly disrupted due to a harmful situation in their homes, thus providing information on the severity of neglectful family environments for children. Many of the children who are removed from their homes are experiencing profound abuse, neglect, or disruption. These children are considered to be at risk for adverse outcomes.

If a child is residing in an unsafe home or experiencing abuse or neglect, he or she may need to be removed from the home and placed in a new, stable environment. Once a child is placed in a new setting, the state must continue to monitor his or her safety, health, and overall well-being. Unfortunately, when children are removed from their homes, they often lose contact with other family members and friends, go through multiple placements, and have overlooked physical health, mental health, and educational needs.

Children who are placed in kinship/relative care (non-parental family members raising children to whom they are related) experience more stability than children in other forms of foster care, have greater positive perceptions of their placements, and have fewer behavioral problems.

Out-of-Home Placement Entries, per 1,000 by County: 2012

County Ranks (higher rank = lower rate)

2. Shannon 41. Douglas 80. Mississippi
3. Osage 42. Lafayette 81. Jefferson
4. Barton 43. Maries 82. Chariton
5. Carroll 44. Pulaski 83. Jackson
6. Dade 45. Cass 84. Laclede
8. Andrew 47. Knox 86. New Madrid
13. St. Louis 52. St. Clair 91. Lawrence
17. Oregon 56. Cape Girardeau 95. Daviess
18. Saline 57. Phelps 96. Linn
19. Polk 58. Cooper 97. Harrison
20. Audrain 59. Pettis 98. Howard
22. Worth 61. Washington 100. Marion
25. Benton 64. Greene 103. Reynolds
31. Webster 70. Wayne 109. Putnam
32. Livingston 71. Cole 110. Ripley
33. Texas 72. McDonald 111. Newton
34. Buchanan 73. Gasconade 112. Randolph
36. St. Louis City 75. Camden 114. Clark
37. Hickory 76. Lewis 115. Stoddard
38. Vernon 77. Adair
39. Crawford 78. Pike

Source: Missouri Department of Social Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Out-of-Home Placement Entries per 1,000 for Missouri

Current Year MO 2012

Base Year MO 2008

MO Change +21.1%


Counties with Highest Rate of Out-of-Home Placement Entries

Stoddard
Clark
Iron
Randolph
Newton
Ripley
Putnam
Schuyler
Barry
Pemiscot

Counties with Lowest Rate of Out-of-Home Placement Entries

Carter
Shannon
Osage
Barton
Carroll
Dade
Andrew
Clay
Platte
Holt

Definition and Data Notes

Number of entries into Division of Family Services alternative care, including foster care, group homes, relative care, and residential settings. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Overall rates of injury and death increase dramatically from childhood to late adolescence, due to developmental and social factors such as increasing independence and less time spent without adult supervision. Biology also plays a role. The maturation of brain networks responsible for self-regulation does not typically occur until late adolescence or early adulthood, making teens more likely to engage in risk-taking behaviors. In 2012, the leading cause of violent deaths for Missouri teens was motor vehicle accidents. Nationally, cell phone use was reported as the cause of 21% of fatal accidents involving distracted young drivers ages 15-19.

Violent Deaths, Ages 15-19, per 100,000 by County: 2008–2012

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Definition and Data Notes
Number of deaths from homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crashes, and other accidents to teens ages 15 to 19. Rate is expressed per 100,000 teens of that age group. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; USDC, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

EDUCATION: PERSPECTIVE

Early childhood, elementary, and secondary education provide the foundation for children’s future success in our society. Preparing children for school, maximizing their development and achievement in all arenas, and ensuring that they stay in school are key goals to helping all Missouri children have the chance to be productive adults. For Missouri to be a significant economic competitor in the future, the state will need a highly educated and skilled workforce.

From economists to military generals, the importance of early childhood education has been touted as one of the most logical and cost-effective ways to address problems in the education pipeline. High quality early learning experiences provide the building blocks for children’s school readiness. Approximately two-thirds of Missouri’s children under 6 spend a portion of their day in the care of someone other than their parents Research has demonstrated the positive impact of good preschool programs on children’s future academic success. Compared to peers who did not participate in early education programs, children who attend high quality preschools are:

• more likely to have better grades
• less likely to need special education classes
• more likely to graduate high school and enroll in college
• less likely to engage in criminal behavior throughout life
• more likely to be employed
• less likely to depend on public assistance
• less likely to become teenage parents.¹

Adolescence is another crucial developmental period in a child’s life. There are several key developmental milestones that must be met to ensure a successful transition to productive adulthood, ranging from the most basic—surviving the teen years and avoiding criminal activity—to milestones required for higher level functioning in the adult world, such as succeeding in school and delaying starting a family and childrearing responsibilities. Recent advances in understanding how adolescent brains develop demonstrate that teens do not have many of the neural structures in place for required for appropriate and consistent self-regulation², which often leads them to make decisions not in their best interests.

KIDS COUNT tracks two outcomes related to educational success:

• Annual high school dropouts
• Births to teens, ages 15-19

In addition, four other education-related indicators are reported:

• Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)
• English language learners
• Licensed child care capacity
• Accredited child care facilities

In comparison to the base years, the educational outlook for Missouri children is positive. One of the most important outcomes, annual high school dropouts, decreased from 2008 to 2012, from 3.5% to 3.0%. Another positive trend is the 26% decrease in birth to teens ages 5-19 between 2008 and 2012. Juvenile law referrals also decreased 17% from 2008 to 2012. With respect to indicators related to early childhood education, the findings are mostly positive. The licensed child care capacity rate per 1,000 children increased 2% from 2008 to 2013, and the number of accredited child care facilities increased by 3% during the same time period. Finally, as would be expected in our state as it becomes more demographically and culturally diverse, the number of children who are English language learners increased by a robust 28% from 2008 to 2012.


Annual High School Dropouts

When students drop out of high school, they face many challenges that hinder their abilities to become successful and productive adults. In 2012, the mean annual income for a high school dropout in the U.S. was $21,622, whereas the mean income for a high school graduate was $32,630. Youth who leave high school without receiving a diploma are more likely to be unemployed, receive public assistance, and be incarcerated as adults. In addition, high school dropouts are more likely to be single parents and to have children who also do not complete high school.

Research shows that over their working lives, the average high school dropout will have a negative net fiscal contribution to society of nearly -$5,200, while the average high school graduate generates a positive lifetime contribution of $287,000. Relative to an average person who graduates high school, the average high school dropout will cost taxpayers over $292,000 in lower tax revenues, higher cash and in-kind transfer costs, and more incarceration costs. Addressing the dropout problem can help support long-term economic growth within a state.

Annual High School Dropout Rate by County: 2012

Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 22, 2014
**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of students (grades 9 through 12) enrolled in public schools that left school during the school year without graduating. Rate is expressed as percent of enrolled students. The formula used to calculate the rate accounts for transfers in and out of a district. Years indicated are school years; for example, 2012 indicates the 2011-2012 school year. Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Giving birth as a teen presents social, economic, and health risks for both the mother and baby. Teen mothers are more likely than other young women to drop out of school, remain unmarried and become single parents, and live in poverty and rely on public assistance.1 The children of teen mothers also face adverse consequences since teen mothers are less likely to have the necessary financial resources, social supports, and parenting skills to ensure healthy child development. Research has shown that, compared to children born to older mothers, children born to teen mothers are more likely to:

- be classified as low birthweight;
- be premature;
- suffer abuse and neglect;
- have lower cognitive skills;
- show deficits in social and emotional skills;
- experience more problems in physical well-being and motor development;
- drop out of high school;
- become teen parents as well;
- spend time in prison.1, 2, 3

Teen childbearing also affects society in general. In Missouri, the taxpayer costs associated with children born to teen mothers was over $200 million annually, including costs for public health care, child welfare, increased rates of incarceration, and lost tax revenue due to decreased wages and spending.4

Births to Teens, Ages 15-19, per 1,000 Females by County: 2012

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>0.0 - 21.4</th>
<th>21.5 - 29.6</th>
<th>29.7 - 42.6</th>
<th>42.7 - 58.0</th>
<th>58.1 - 83.2</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>32.2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

County Ranks (higher rank = lower rate)
1. Scotland 40. Andrew 79. Grundy
3. Adair 42. Linn 81. Wayne
5. Shelby 44. Lincoln 83. Taney
6. Osage 45. Clinton 84. Schuyler
7. Monroe 46. Franklin 85. Audrain
8. Boone 47. Knox 86. Lawrence
10. Cooper 49. St. Clair 88. Atchison
11. Carroll 50. Gentry 89. Reynolds
17. Clark 56. Pike 95. Jasper
22. Johnson 61. Douglas 100. Laclede
25. Howard 64. Stoddard 103. Sullivan
29. Lewis 68. Miller 107. Iron
32. Cape Girardeau 71. Lafayette 110. Harrison
33. Polk 72. Saline 111. Butler
34. Perry 73. Vernon 112. Shannon
36. Macon 75. Bates 114. Mississippi
37. Greene 76. Ozark 115. Pemiscot
38. Hickory 77. Jackson
39. Caldwell 78. Livingston

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Births to Teens, Ages 15-19 per 1,000 for Missouri

- Current Year MO: 32.2
- Base Year MO: 43.5
- U.S. Current Year: 29.4
- U.S. Base Year: 40.2

Births to Teens, Ages 15-19: 2002-2012

- Rate per 1,000
- Number

Counties with Highest Rate of Births to Teens, Ages 15-19

- Pemiscot: 83.2
- Mississippi: 82.0
- Montgomery: 78.5
- Shannon: 76.5
- Butler: 76.4
- Harrison: 66.1
- Henry: 64.8
- Dunklin: 63.3
- Iron: 62.7
- McDonald: 62.4

Counties with Lowest Rate of Births to Teens, Ages 15-19

- Scotland: 0.0
- Nodaway: 6.7
- Adair: 10.6
- St. Charles: 12.8
- Shelby: 13.7
- Osage: 14.5
- Monroe: 15.3
- Boone: 15.9
- DeKalb: 17.4
- Cooper: 17.8

Definition and Data Notes

Number of live births that occur to females ages 15 to 19. Rate is expressed per 1,000 females of that age group. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.


When children have difficulty speaking, reading, or otherwise communicating in English because of their home language, it can affect their abilities to succeed academically. However, because the source of these data are individual school districts, and because there are no absolute guidelines for identifying such students, the number of students who are English language learners may be difficult to compare across time and across counties.

**English Language Learners by County: 2012**

*Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, 2013*

*Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)*

*Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014*
**English Language Learners for Missouri**

- **Current Year MO 2012**: 24,402
- **Base Year MO 2008**: 19,053

MO Change: +28.1%

**Counties with Highest Number of English Language Learners**

- **Jackson**: 6,541
- **St. Louis**: 4,035
- **St. Louis City**: 2,243
- **Clay**: 1,347
- **Jasper**: 1,086
- **St. Charles**: 1,031
- **Barry**: 806
- **Boone**: 767
- **Greene**: 727
- **Pettis**: 575

**Counties with Lowest Number of English Language Learners**

26 counties have zero English language learners.

**Definition and Data Notes**

Number of children reported by school districts who speak English as a second language. **Source**: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.
Licensed Child Care Capacity

For child care programs, meeting licensure requirements is a first step toward providing quality care. However, licensure only addresses the basic needs and requirements for facilities that provide child care and is not a guarantee of high quality services. Licensed child care capacity, relative to the number of children needing child care in a community, is an important factor in determining whether families can find and afford care for their children.

Licensed Child Care Capacity per 1,000 by County: 2013

Missouri = 106.0

Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014

COUNTY RANKS (higher rank = higher rate)
1 Pettis 40 Andrew 79 Sullivan
2 St. Louis City 41 Randolph 79 Schuyler
3 Pike 42 Carter 81 Audrain
4 Boone 43 Callaway 82 Laclede
5 Osage 44 Jasper 83 Oregon
6 Cole 45 Christian 84 Montgomery
7 Perry 46 Knox 85 Texas
8 Jackson 47 Newton 86 Iron
9 Madison 48 Monroe 87 Bates
10 Atchison 49 Camden 88 Lewis
11 St. Francois 50 Missouri 89 Clinton
12 Henry 51 Benton 90 St. Clair
13 Nodaway 52 Jefferson 91 Scotland
14 St. Louis 53 Mercer 92 Carroll
15 Cass 54 Miller 93 Barton
16 Greene 55 Harrison 94 Holt
17 Johnson 56 Howard 95 Ozark
18 Marion 57 Stone 95 Shannon
19 Scott 58 Grundy 97 Morgan
20 Adair 59 Putnam 98 Dent
21 Gentry 60 Polk 98 Cedar
22 St. Charles 61 Howell 100 Barry
23 Butler 62 Crawford 101 Maries
24 Cape Girardeau 63 Livingstone 102 Dallas
25 Stoddard 64 Platte 103 Lawrence
26 Ste. Genevieve 65 Saline 104 Ripley
27 Gasconade 66 Macon 105 Lincoln
28 New Madrid 67 Linn 106 Caldwell
29 Pemiscot 68 Wayne 107 Douglas
30 Lafayette 69 Bollinger 108 DeKalb
31 Cooper 70 Wright 109 Shelby
32 Hickory 71 Franklin 110 Ralls
33 Worth 72 Washington 111 McDonald
34 Chautauqua 73 Pulaski 112 Reynolds
35 Clay 74 Taney 113 Dade
36 Buchanan 74 Phelps 114 Ray
37 Clark 76 Warren 115 Daviess
38 Dunklin 77 Webster
39 Moniteau 78 Vernon

EDUCATION: INDICATOR
County Ranks (higher rank = higher rate)
1 Pettis 40 Andrew 79 Sullivan
2 St. Louis City 41 Randolph 79 Schuyler
3 Pike 42 Carter 81 Audrain
4 Boone 43 Callaway 82 Laclede
5 Osage 44 Jasper 83 Oregon
6 Cole 45 Christian 84 Montgomery
7 Perry 46 Knox 85 Texas
8 Jackson 47 Newton 86 Iron
9 Madison 48 Monroe 87 Bates
10 Atchison 49 Camden 88 Lewis
11 St. Francois 50 Missouri 89 Clinton
12 Henry 51 Benton 90 St. Clair
13 Nodaway 52 Jefferson 91 Scotland
14 St. Louis 53 Mercer 92 Carroll
15 Cass 54 Miller 93 Barton
16 Greene 55 Harrison 94 Holt
17 Johnson 56 Howard 95 Ozark
18 Marion 57 Stone 95 Shannon
19 Scott 58 Grundy 97 Morgan
20 Adair 59 Putnam 98 Dent
21 Gentry 60 Polk 98 Cedar
22 St. Charles 61 Howell 100 Barry
23 Butler 62 Crawford 101 Maries
24 Cape Girardeau 63 Livingstone 102 Dallas
25 Stoddard 64 Platte 103 Lawrence
26 Ste. Genevieve 65 Saline 104 Ripley
27 Gasconade 66 Macon 105 Lincoln
28 New Madrid 67 Linn 106 Caldwell
29 Pemiscot 68 Wayne 107 Douglas
30 Lafayette 69 Bollinger 108 DeKalb
31 Cooper 70 Wright 109 Shelby
32 Hickory 71 Franklin 110 Ralls
33 Worth 72 Washington 111 McDonald
34 Chautauqua 73 Pulaski 112 Reynolds
35 Clay 74 Taney 113 Dade
36 Buchanan 74 Phelps 114 Ray
37 Clark 76 Warren 115 Daviess
38 Dunklin 77 Webster
39 Moniteau 78 Vernon
From the diagram, we can see the changes in licensed child care capacity for Missouri over a period from 2002 to 2013. The capacity values are shown for both the current year (2013) and the base year (2008), with a change of 2.2% indicated. The counties with the highest rate of licensed child care capacity include Pettis, St. Louis City, Pike, Boone, Osage, Cole, Perry, Jackson, Madison, and Atchison. Conversely, the counties with the lowest rate include Daviess, Ray, Dade, Reynolds, McDonald, Ralls, Shelby, DeKalb, Douglas, and Caldwell. The definition and data notes clarify that this refers to spaces in licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers, expressed as a rate per 1,000 children under 18. The source is the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and the USDC, Bureau of the Census.
Accreditation is a voluntary process that child care facilities, including afterschool care programs, go through to demonstrate that the program they offer meets the accrediting entity’s standards for quality. Accreditation standards go beyond licensing requirements and address every aspect of a facility’s operations. It should be noted that standards differ among accrediting agencies.

Accredited Child Care Facilities by County: 2013

Accredited Child Care Facilities

Number
- 0 - 1
- 2 - 4
- 5 - 8
- 9 - 36
- 37 - 84

Missouri = 486

County Ranks
(higher rank = more accredited facilities)
1. St. Louis 28  Sullivan  67  Iron
2. Jackson 28  Oregon  67  Lewis
3. St. Louis City 28  Douglas  67  Clinton
4. Boone 43  Atchison  67  St. Clair
5. Greene 43  Adair  67  Barton
6. Buchanan 43  Gentry  67  Shannon
7. St. Charles 43  Stoddard  67  Dent
8. Clay 43  Cooper  67  Cedar
9. Christian 43  Hickory  67  Caldwell
10. Jefferson 43  Newton  67  Ralls
11. Lafayette 43  Monroe  67  Dade
13. Howell 43  Howard  90  Ripley
14. Nodaway 43  Stone  90  Clark
15. Cass 43  Livingston  90  Moniteau
16. Callaway 43  Wayne  90  Andrew
17. Pettis 43  Bollinger  90  Knox
18. Johnson 43  Vernon  90  Missouri
19. Marion 43  Audrain  90  Miller
20. Cape Girardeau 43  Texas  90  Grundy
21. Dunklin 43  Bates  90  Potomac
22. Randolph 43  Ozark  90  Washington
23. Jasper 43  Barry  90  Warren
24. Crawford 43  Lawrence  90  Schuyler
25. Macon 43  Lincoln  90  Laclede
26. Wright 43  Reynolds  90  Montgomery
27. Franklin 43  Ray  90  Scotland
28. Pike 67  Osage  90  Carroll
29. Cole 67  Madison  90  Holt
30. Perry 67  St. Francois  90  Morgan
31. Henry 67  Gasconade  90  Maries
32. Scott 67  New Madrid  90  Dallas
33. Butler 67  Worth  90  Ripley
34. Camden 67  Chariton  90  DeKalb
35. Platte 67  Carter  90  Shelby
36. Saline 67  Benton  90  McDonald
37. Linn 67  Harrison  90  Daviess
38. Taney 67  Pulaski  90  Newton
39. Webster 67  Phelps  90  McDonald

Source: Child Care Aware of Missouri®, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Counties with Highest Rate of Accredited Child Care Facilities

- St. Louis: 84
- Jackson: 53
- Clay: 36
- St. Charles: 31
- Greene: 20
- Buchanan: 18
- St. Louis city: 17
- Boone: 16
- Christian: 8
- Jefferson: 8

Counties with Lowest Rate of Accredited Child Care Facilities

26 counties have zero accredited child care facilities.

Definition and Data Notes
Number of child care centers accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Missouri Accreditation (MO-A), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Afterschool Association (NAA), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), Council on Accreditation (COA), and the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). Source: Child Care Aware of Missouri.*
Antisocial behavior may be a normal part of growing up—or the beginning of a long-term pattern of adult criminal activity. Many young people commit some kind of petty offense at some point during their adolescence and yet do not become adult criminals. However, studies have shown that about half the adolescents who had juvenile justice records went on to become adults with felony records.\(^1\),\(^2\),\(^3\)

Because the brain networks responsible for self-regulation are continuing to develop in adolescence, teenagers are less likely to think about future consequences of their present actions, more likely to take great risks, to make impulsive decisions, and to be vulnerable to coercion by peers.\(^4\) In addition, other familial and societal factors also play direct and indirect roles, including poverty, family instability, family conflict and violence, poor parental supervision, and gang membership.\(^5\)

In Missouri, minority youth comprised 34% of the referrals in 2012, whereas non-minority youth accounted for 66%. Minority youths continue to have a disproportionate involvement with the juvenile justice system.

**Juvenile Law Violation Referrals, per 1,000 Youth, by County: 2012**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rate</th>
<th>County Ranks (higher rank = lower rate)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5.6 - 24.4</td>
<td>Reynolds 39 Holt 79 Henry</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24.5 - 37.0</td>
<td>Harrison 41 Howard 80 McDonald</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37.1 - 54.6</td>
<td>Scotland 42 Madison 81 Cedar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>54.7 - 91.3</td>
<td>Ozark 43 Phelps 82 Callaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>91.4 - 134.4</td>
<td>Chardon 44 Nodaway 83 Pemiscot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Knox 45 Lincoln 84 Gasconade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Iron 46 Webster 85 Jefferson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barry 47 Monroe 85 Lafayette</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lawrence 48 Pulaski 87 Carroll</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Monteau 49 Polk 88 Cole</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Hickory 50 Franklin 89 Lewis</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wayne 51 Caldwell 90 Cooper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jackson 52 Linn 91 Cape Girardeau</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shannon 53 Warren 92 Stoddard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Osage 54 Washington 93 Livingston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Andrew 55 Daviess 94 Jasper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rails 56 Oregen 95 Cass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Johnson 57 Taney 96 Boone</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gentry 58 Camden 97 St. Louis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>St. Clair 58 Washington 98 Steve. Genieve</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Miller 60 Audrain 99 Shelby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Platte 61 St. Charles 100 Ray</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bollinger 61 Worth 101 Butler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bade 61 Grundy 102 Pike</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian 69 Ripley 108 Saline</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Clark 70 DeKalb 109 St. Francois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Maries 71 Texas 110 Randolph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Crawford 72 Douglas 111 Macon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Christian 72 Bates 112 Scott</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dent 74 Sullivan 113 Barton</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Putnam 75 Carter 114 Vernon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Montgomery 76 Greene 115 Mississippi</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lacled 77 Benton</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wright 78 Clinton</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Counties with Highest Rate of Juvenile Law Violation Referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mississippi</td>
<td>134.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vernon</td>
<td>124.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>91.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott</td>
<td>79.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Macon</td>
<td>77.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Randolph</td>
<td>77.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francois</td>
<td>74.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saline</td>
<td>70.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchanan</td>
<td>68.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adair</td>
<td>68.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Counties with Lowest Rate of Juvenile Law Violation Referrals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Rate per 1,000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reynolds</td>
<td>5.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harrison</td>
<td>6.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>11.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozark</td>
<td>12.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chariton</td>
<td>14.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>14.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Iron</td>
<td>16.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry</td>
<td>17.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>18.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moniteau</td>
<td>18.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Definition and Data Notes

Number of referrals to juvenile courts in Missouri for acts that would be violations of the Missouri Criminal Code if committed by an adult. The count represents separately disposed court referrals, not individual youth. Rate is expressed per 1,000 youths ages 10 through 17. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; Missouri Office of Administration.


Both nationally and in Missouri, children under 18 make up almost a quarter of the population. For both the state and nation, the number of children is shrinking slightly. In addition, the percentage of the population that children under 18 represent has been shrinking steadily over time, mostly due to decreased immigration, declining fertility, and the overall aging of the general population. The percentage of minority children, on the other hand, has been increasing over time; the U.S. saw a 3.9% increase in minority children from 2008 to 2012, whereas Missouri saw a 3.4% increase over the same years.

*KIDS COUNT* reports on three demographic indicators:

- Child population
- Children as percent of total population
- Minority children

---

Child Population

The number of children has been decreasing slightly in both the U.S. and Missouri. This is due to a number of factors, including declining fertility rates and decreased immigration.1


Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
**Child Population for Missouri and the U.S.**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>MO</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current</td>
<td>1,403,475</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base</td>
<td>1,428,945</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Change</td>
<td>-1.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Counties with Highest Child Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Child Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>227,216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson</td>
<td>164,364</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles</td>
<td>91,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis City</td>
<td>67,703</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene</td>
<td>58,866</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay</td>
<td>57,326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>53,878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone</td>
<td>34,761</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>29,499</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>25,741</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Counties with Lowest Child Population**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Child Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Worth</td>
<td>435</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mercer</td>
<td>926</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holt</td>
<td>931</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knox</td>
<td>998</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Schuyler</td>
<td>1,080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Putnam</td>
<td>1,084</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atchison</td>
<td>1,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>1,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reynolds</td>
<td>1,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carter</td>
<td>1,510</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Definition and Data Notes**

Total resident population under age 18, including dependents of the Armed Forces personnel stationed in the area. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Children as Percent of Total Population

Just as the overall number of children is decreasing in the U.S. and Missouri, the percentage of the total population that is under 18 is also shrinking. This decrease is due to a number of factors, including declining fertility rates, decreased immigration, and the overall aging of the population.1

Children as a Percent of Total Population by County: 2012

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014

---

1. Includes children under 18 years of age.
Children as Percent of Total Population for Missouri and the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>U.S.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Current Year MO 2012</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Base Year MO 2008</td>
<td>24.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Current Year 2012</td>
<td>23.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>U.S. Base Year 2008</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Change: MO -3.7%  U.S. -3.7%

Counts with Highest Percent of Children as Total Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>MO 2012</th>
<th>U.S. 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scotland</td>
<td>28.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald</td>
<td>27.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pemiscot</td>
<td>27.2%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lincoln</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Webster</td>
<td>27.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>26.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence</td>
<td>25.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dunklin</td>
<td>25.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barton</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper</td>
<td>25.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Counts with Lowest Percent of Children as Total Population

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>MO 2012</th>
<th>U.S. 2012</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hickory</td>
<td>17.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DeKalb</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Benton</td>
<td>17.4%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nodaway</td>
<td>17.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stone</td>
<td>18.0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adair</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camden</td>
<td>18.9%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Clair</td>
<td>19.1%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ozark</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atchison</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Definition and Data Notes
Percentage of total population that is under age 18. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Minority Children

In Missouri, from 2008 to 2012, the population of minority groups grew faster than non-Hispanic Whites, whose overall numbers declined slightly. The fastest growing group was multiracial (two races or more), followed by Asians, and African Americans.

Minority Children by County: 2012

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning, 2013
Map Created by University of Missouri Extension, Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Map Created on Jan. 27, 2014
Minority Children as Percent of Population for Missouri and the U.S.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Current Year MO 2012</th>
<th>Base Year MO 2008</th>
<th>U.S. Current Year 2012</th>
<th>U.S. Base Year 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>24.0%</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>31.9%</td>
<td>30.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

MO Change +3.4%
U.S. Change +3.9%

Counties with Highest Percent of Minority Children

- St. Louis City: 71.2%
- Jackson: 46.1%
- Pemiscot: 41.3%
- St. Louis: 39.5%
- Sullivan: 30.4%
- Mississippi: 30.2%
- Pulaski: 29.6%
- Dunklin: 27.4%
- McDonald: 27.2%
- Boone: 25.5%

Counties with Lowest Percent of Minority Children

- Osage: 1.5%
- Scotland: 2.0%
- Gentry: 2.8%
- Ste. Genevieve: 3.0%
- Putnam: 3.1%
- Bollinger: 3.1%
- Schuyler: 3.2%
- Clark: 3.5%
- Mercer: 3.7%
- Douglas: 3.8%

Definition and Data Notes
Percentage of children under age 18 who are identified as non-white. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

1 Based on American Community Survey data, 2008 and 2012
Data Notes and Sources

OUTCOME MEASURES

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Students enrolled in free/reduced lunch: Number of students who are enrolled in the free or reduced-price National School Lunch Program. Children from households with incomes less than 130% of poverty are eligible for free lunches; those from households below 185% of poverty are eligible for reduced price lunches. Rate is expressed as percent of total school enrollment. Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Births to mothers without high school diplomas: Number of live births that occur to women who have less than 12 years of education as indicated on a child’s birth certificate. Rate is expressed as percent of all live births. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

HEALTH

Low birthweight infants: Number of live infants recorded as having a birth weight under 2,500 grams (five pounds, eight ounces). Rate is expressed as a percent of total live births. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

Infant mortality: Number of deaths to infants under one year of age. Rate is expressed per 1,000 live births. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services.

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFETY

Child deaths, ages 1-14: Number of deaths from all causes of children ages 1 to 14. Rate is expressed per 100,000 children of that age group. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Child abuse/neglect and family assessments: Number of child abuse victims from reports classified as “preponderance of evidence” that indicates child abuse or neglect has occurred. In addition, this outcome includes the number of family assessments that have occurred based on potential for abuse/neglect. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Out-of-home placement entries: Number of entries into Division of Family Services alternative care, including foster care, group homes, relative care, and residential settings. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

EDUCATION

Annual high school dropouts: Number of students (grades 9 through 12) enrolled in public schools that left school during the school year without graduating. Rate is expressed as percent of enrolled students. The formula used to calculate the rate accounts for transfers in and out of a district. Years indicated are school years; for example, 2012 indicates the 2011-2012 school year. Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

Births to teens, ages 15-19: Number of live births that occur to girls ages 15 to 19. Rate is expressed per 1,000 girls of that age group. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

Violent deaths, ages 15-19: Number of deaths from homicides, suicides, motor vehicle crashes, and other accidents to teens ages 15 to 19. Rate is expressed per 100,000 teens of that age group. Data were aggregated over five-year periods in order to provide more stable rates. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.
INDICATORS

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

**Children in poverty:** Percentage of related children under age 18 who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The federal poverty threshold depends on the number of adults and children in a family. In 2011, the current year used for this indicator in this data book, the federal poverty threshold for a family of two adults and two children was $22,811. For 2013, the federal poverty threshold for the same family was $23,624. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA (Public Use Microdata Area) ratio is reported. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

**Children under 6 in poverty:** Percentage of related children under age six who live in families with incomes below the U.S. poverty threshold, as defined by the Bureau of the Census. The 2011 poverty threshold was $22,811 for a family of four. For counties with a population of less than 20,000, an estimate based on county-PUMA ratio is reported. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

**Children in single-parent families:** Percentage of related children under age 18 who live in families headed by a person without a spouse present in the home. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

**Children receiving child care assistance:** Total number of children participating in one of the following subsidized child care programs: FUTURES, transitional, income maintenance/income eligible, at-risk, and child care and development block grant. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18 in poverty. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.

**Children receiving cash assistance:** Average monthly percentage of population under age 18 that live in households receiving public assistance under Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF). Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

**Children receiving SNAP (food stamps):** Percentage of population under age 18 who live in households receiving benefits under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as food stamps. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

**Average annual wage/salary:** Average annual wage/salary per job. County data indicate annual wage/salary for all jobs located in that county. An employee may live in a different county from where they work. Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis.

**Adult unemployment:** Percentage of civilian labor force that is unemployed and actively looking for work. Source: Missouri Department of Economic Development, Division of Employment Security.

HEALTH

**Children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids:** Average monthly percentage of children under age 18 who have applied for and have been certified eligible for participation in MO HealthNet for Kids, Missouri’s health insurance program for children in low-income families, either through managed care or traditional fee-for-service providers. This indicator includes both number and rate. Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.

**Children receiving public mental health services:** An unduplicated count of children receiving treatment through a division of the Missouri Department of Mental Health (DMH) for serious emotional disorders (SED) as of January 1st of the year reported for whom DMH provided a service in that calendar year. Source: Missouri Department of Mental Health.

EDUCATION

**Children with limited English proficiency:** Number of children reported by school districts as having limited English language skills. Source: Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

**Licensed child care capacity:** Number of spaces in licensed family child care homes, group child care homes, and child care centers. Rate is expressed per 1,000 children under 18. Source: Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.
**Accredited child care facilities:** Number of child care centers accredited by National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Missouri Accreditation (MO-A), National Association for Family Child Care (NAFCC), National Afterschool Association (NAA), National Early Childhood Program Accreditation (NECPA), Council on Accreditation (COA), or the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). *Source: Child Care Aware of Missouri.*

**Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17:** Number of referrals to juvenile courts in Missouri for acts that would be violations of the Missouri Criminal Code if committed by an adult. The count represents separately disposed court referrals, not individual youth. Rate is expressed per 1,000 youths ages ten through 17. *Source: Missouri Department of Social Services; Missouri Office of Administration; U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census.*

**DEMOGRAPHIC**

**Child population:** Total resident population under age 18, including dependents of the Armed Forces personnel stationed in the area. *Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

**Children as percent of total population:** Percentage of total population that is under age 18. *Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*

**Minority children:** Percentage of children under age 18 who are identified as nonwhite. *Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census; Missouri Office of Administration, Division of Budget and Planning.*