Cole County

County Seat: Jefferson City

Population: 76,969

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,019	2,200	12.0%	13.4%	↓	16.8%	17
Food insecurity for children [a]	2,820	1,820	16.1%	10.5%	↑	12.8%	27
Health							
Low birthweight infants [b]	372	372	8.1%	8.9%	↓	8.9%	82
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) [b]	116	102	6.7	6.1	↑	6.3	76
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) [a]	131	95	7.6	5.7	↑	5.1	99
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	43	40	18.2	16.3	↑	16.8	38
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	28	30	1.6	1.8	↓	2.7	17
Education							
High school graduation	708	816	87.4%	92.6%	↑	91.2%	68
Achievement proficiency [c] 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	417	349	47.8	41.4		41.0%	49
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	420	385	48.6	45.9		41.9%	17
4th grade math (MAP)	382	348	45.0	44.5		43.0%	45
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	497	452	56.3	48.1		41.2%	12

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

[a] Data based on 2017 and 2021.

[b] Data based on five-year time spans, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022.

[c] Achievement proficiency measures those that scored proficient or above on the MAP tests and algebra I end-of-course exam. Achievement data from 2018 are not shown due to differences in testing standards and assessments used in 2022; accordingly, no trend arrows are shown.

Missouri KIDS COUNT 2024

Cole County

County Seat: Jefferson City   Population: 76,969

Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2018	76,740
	2022	76,969
Child population under 18	2018	17,106
	2022	16,760
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	22.6%
	2022	21.8%
Child population under 6	2018	5,544
	2022	5,125
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.2%
	2022	6.7%
Minority child population under 18 [a]	2018	4,006
	2022	4,325
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population [a]	2018	23.4%
	2022	25.8%
Minority child population under 6 [a]	2018	1,454
	2022	1,415
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population [a]	2018	26.2%
	2022	27.6%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	33.1%
	2018-2022	20.5%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	66.4%
	2018-2022	70.7%

Economic Well-being

Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	6.4%
	2022	8.4%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	11.2%
	2022	13.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	21.3%
	2018-2022	20.3%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	33.2%
	2018-2022	27.5%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	29.0%
	2022	26.3%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	$$59,371
	2018-2022	$$81,820
Adult unemployment	2018	2.5%
	2022	2.0%
Child homelessness	2018	1.4%
	2022	1.0%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	195.4
	2023	182.2
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	5.1%
	2023	5.1%
School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.4
	2022	92.5

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/ homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	35.8
	2018-2022	70.6
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	9.9%
	2018-2022	14.5%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	31.0
	2022	48.2
Annual high school dropout rate	2018	3.1%
	2022	2.1%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	7.6
	2022	4.5

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	4.8
	2018-2022	5.5
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	14.9
	2018-2022	18.8
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	10.9
	2018-2022	14.0
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	35.1
	2018-2022	38.5
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 [b]	2013-2017	33.3%
	2018-2022	50.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) [c]	2012-2016	33.4
	2017-2021	24.6
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	104.2
	2017-2021	135.4
Uninsured children	2017	4.8%
	2021	6.1%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	92.9%
	2022	91.2%

[a] Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.
[b] If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.
[c] *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).