

Pulaski County

County Seat: Waynesville

Population: 53,941

| Outcome Measures | Number | | Rate | | Trend | Rank | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------------|
| | 2018 | 2022 | 2018 | 2022 | | State Rate | County Rank |
| Economic Well-Being | | | | | | | |
| Children under 18 in poverty | 1,842 | 1,599 | 16.6% | 14.0% | ↑ | 16.8% | 19 |
| Food insecurity for children ^a | 2,100 | 1,900 | 17.7% | 16.1% | ↑ | 12.8% | 84 |
| Health | | | | | | | |
| Low birthweight infants ^b | 274 | 275 | 7.0% | 7.7% | ↓ | 8.9% | 44 |
| Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^b | 50 | 53 | 4.4 | 4.5 | ↓ | 6.3 | 32 |
| Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a | 33 | 15 | 2.9 | 1.3 | ↑ | 5.1 | 19 |
| Family & Community | | | | | | | |
| Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000) | 32 | 37 | 18.3 | 20.6 | ↓ | 16.8 | 59 |
| Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) | 87 | 72 | 7.7 | 6.1 | ↑ | 2.7 | 88 |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| High school graduation | 581 | 479 | 93.0% | 87.9% | ↓ | 91.2% | 106 |
| Achievement proficiency ^c | | | | | | | |
| 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP) | 303 | 284 | 43.8 | 47.4 | | 41.0% | 21 |
| 8th grade English/language arts (MAP) | 296 | 300 | 50.3 | 44.9 | | 41.9% | 27 |
| 4th grade math (MAP) | 326 | 297 | 45.2 | 47.2 | | 43.0% | 37 |
| Algebra I (end-of-course exam) | 191 | 193 | 34.6 | 28.8 | | 41.2% | 92 |

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.

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Contextual Indicators

| Demographics | | | Education | | |
|---|-----------|------------|--|-----------|-------|
| Total population | 2018 | 52,591 | Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000) | 2018 | 39.2 |
| | 2022 | 53,941 | | 2023 | 38.7 |
| Child population under 18 | 2018 | 11,371 | Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity | 2018 | 14.3% |
| | 2022 | 11,768 | | 2023 | 4.4% |
| Children under 18 as % of total population | 2018 | 22.1% | School attendance, grades K-12 | 2018 | 94.8 |
| | 2022 | 21.8% | | 2022 | 92.9 |
| Child population under 6 | 2018 | 4,110 | Family & Community | | |
| | 2022 | 4,210 | Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000) | 2013-2017 | 21.2 |
| Children under 6 as % of total population | 2018 | 7.9% | | 2018-2022 | 34.7 |
| | 2022 | 7.8% | Single parent head-of-household with children under 18 | 2013-2017 | 8.1% |
| Minority child population under 18 ^a | 2018 | 3,623 | | 2018-2022 | 14.1% |
| | 2022 | 4,085 | Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000) | 2018 | 28.4 |
| Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a | 2018 | 31.9% | | 2022 | 15.3 |
| | 2022 | 34.7% | Annual high school dropout rate | 2018 | 1.3% |
| Minority child population under 6 ^a | 2018 | 1,349 | | 2022 | 1.9% |
| | 2022 | 1,570 | Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000) | 2018 | 6.9 |
| Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a | 2018 | 32.8% | | 2022 | 5.0 |
| | 2022 | 37.3% | Health | | |
| Children in single-parent families | 2013-2017 | 28.5% | Infant mortality (per 1,000) | 2013-2017 | 6.9 |
| | 2018-2022 | 21.3% | | 2018-2022 | 5.0 |
| Children in married-parent families | 2013-2017 | 70.7% | Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000) | 2013-2017 | 16.9 |
| | 2018-2022 | 71.7% | | 2018-2022 | 23.5 |
| Economic Well-being | | | Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000) | 2013-2017 | 13.8 |
| Children under 6 in families in poverty | 2018 | 28.7% | | 2018-2022 | 12.9 |
| | 2022 | 21.3% | Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000) | 2013-2017 | 34.8 |
| Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty | 2018 | 16.6% | | 2018-2022 | 78.1 |
| | 2022 | 13.6% | Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b | 2013-2017 | 0.0% |
| Housing cost-burdened households | 2013-2017 | 26.2% | | 2018-2022 | 66.7% |
| | 2018-2022 | 28.6% | Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c | 2012-2016 | 15.4* |
| Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level | 2013-2017 | 37.3% | | 2017-2021 | 18.1* |
| | 2018-2022 | 40.9% | Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000) | 2012-2016 | 85.2 |
| Children in families receiving SNAP | 2018 | 29.3% | | 2017-2021 | 104.4 |
| | 2022 | 25.2% | Uninsured children | 2017 | 4.7% |
| Median income family household with children under 18 | 2013-2017 | \$\$54,709 | | 2021 | 6.6% |
| | 2018-2022 | \$\$68,315 | School attendance, grades 9-12 | 2018 | 93.7% |
| Adult unemployment | 2018 | 3.6% | | 2022 | 91.9% |
| | 2022 | 2.9% | ^a Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages. | | |
| Child homelessness | 2018 | 2.4% | ^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period. | | |
| | 2022 | 0.9% | ^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases). | | |