

Dent County

County Seat: Salem

County
Composite
Rank

2016
78

2020
60

Population: 15,504

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2014	2018	2014	2018		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,108	1,070	31.8%	31.6%	↑	18.3%	100
Food insecurity for children ^b	910	740	25.3%	20.7%	↑	17.5%	84
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	65	83	7.2%	9.1%	↓	8.5%	94
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^{b,c}	24	12	6.7	3.5	↑	7.1	9
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	23	19	6.4	5.5	↑	7.5	87
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	18	13	40.4	29	↑	21.6	69
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	15	29	4.1	8.4	↓	4.0	91
Education							
High school graduation	129	140	95.6%	97.9%	↑	91.3%	12
Achievement proficiency ^{a,d}							
3rd grade English/Language Arts (MAP)		61		35.5%		48.6%	
8th grade English/Language Arts (MAP)		71		42.3%		49.0%	
4th grade Math (MAP)		74		43.0%		45.8%	
Algebra I (End of Course exam)		60		41.4%		47.0%	

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

^a Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

^b Data based on 2013 and 2017.

^c Data based on 5-year time spans, 2009-2013 and 2014-2018.

^d Achievement proficiency measures those that scored proficient or above on the MAP tests and Algebra I End of Course exam. Achievement data from 2014 are not shown due to differences in testing standards and assessments used in 2018; accordingly, no trend arrows or county ranks are shown.

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2014	15,655
	2018	15,504
Child population under 18	2014	3,616
	2018	3,461
Children under 18 as % of total population	2014	22.8%
	2018	22.8%
Child population under 6	2014	1,113
	2018	1,111
Children under 6 as % of total population	2014	7.1%
	2018	7.2%
Minority child population under 18	2014	206
	2018	273
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2014	5.8%
	2018	7.9%
Minority child population under 6	2014	86
	2018	136
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2014	7.7%
	2018	12.2%
Children in single-parent families	2009-2013	34.5%
	2014-2018	26.6%
Children in married-parent families	2009-2013	64.4%
	2014-2018	73.2%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2014	29.7%
	2018	27.8%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2009-2013	29.3%
	2014-2018	30.9%
Housing cost-burdened households	2009-2013	30.2%
	2014-2018	25.8%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2009-2013	48.2%
	2014-2018	42.7%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2014	45.5%
	2018	40.0%
Median income family household with children under 18	2009-2013	\$40,189
	2014-2018	\$51,563
Adult unemployment	2014	6.6%
	2018	3.3%
Child homelessness	2014	2.7%
	2018	1.8%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2014	44.8
	2019	79.7
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2014	—
	2019	3.6%
School attendance, grades K-12	2014	95.0%
	2018	95.4%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2009-2013	61.5
	2014-2018	59.1
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2009-2013	8.4%
	2014-2018	7.5%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2014	4.8
	2018	25.3
Annual high school dropout rate	2014	0.2%
	2018	0.2%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2014	7.8
	2018	7.5

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2009-2013	11.1
	2014-2018	10.9
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2009-2013	33.6
	2014-2018	28.3
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2009-2013	33.3
	2014-2018	12.0
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2009-2013	32.4
	2014-2018	89.4
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^a	2009-2013	0.0%
	2014-2018	66.7%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^b	2008-2012	4.6**
	2013-2017	27.4*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2008-2012	94.3
	2013-2017	103.2
Uninsured children	2013	9.6%
	2017	8.0%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2014	94.7%
	2018	95.3%

^a If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities happened in the county during that period.

^b *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases)