

# Polk County

County Seat: Bolivar

County  
Composite  
Rank

2016  
**59**

2020  
**48**

Population: 31,549

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2014	2018	2014	2018		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,933	1,673	27.6%	23.8%	↑	18.3%	70
Food insecurity for children <sup>b</sup>	2,040	1,230	27.1%	16.7%	↑	17.5%	22
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>a,c</sup>	122	124	6.4%	6.4%	→	8.5%	13
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>b,c</sup>	40	52	5.3	7.1	↓	7.1	74
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	22	19	2.9	2.6	↑	7.5	34
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	28	35	21.3	26.9	↓	21.6	58
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	50	32	6.7	4.4	↑	4.0	46
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	349	347	90.6%	92.0%	↑	91.3%	82
Achievement proficiency <sup>a,d</sup>							
3rd grade English/Language Arts (MAP)		186		49.9%		48.6%	
8th grade English/Language Arts (MAP)		135		36.4%		49.0%	
4th grade Math (MAP)		176		48.0%		45.8%	
Algebra I (End of Course exam)		77		31.8%		47.0%	

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

<sup>a</sup> Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

<sup>b</sup> Data based on 2013 and 2017.

<sup>c</sup> Data based on 5-year time spans, 2009-2013 and 2014-2018.

<sup>d</sup> 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	31,054
	2018	31,549
Child population under 18	2014	7,494
	2018	7,343
Children under 18 as % of total population	2014	23.6%
	2018	23.0%
Child population under 6	2014	2,260
	2018	2,338
Children under 6 as % of total population	2014	7.3%
	2018	7.3%
Minority child population under 18	2014	499
	2018	560
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2014	6.8%
	2018	7.6%
Minority child population under 6	2014	166
	2018	162
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2014	7.3%
	2018	6.9%
Children in single-parent families	2009-2013	23.0%
	2014-2018	32.7%
Children in married-parent families	2009-2013	73.0%
	2014-2018	65.1%

### Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2014	30.3%
	2018	22.8%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2009-2013	25.8%
	2014-2018	22.7%
Housing cost-burdened households	2009-2013	32.5%
	2014-2018	26.8%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2009-2013	50.0%
	2014-2018	43.5%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2014	38.6%
	2018	34.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2009-2013	\$42,601
	2014-2018	\$47,181
Adult unemployment	2014	6.2%
	2018	3.6%
Child homelessness	2014	1.3%
	2018	3.7%

### Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2014	68.8
	2019	61.4
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2014	—
	2019	17.3%
School attendance, grades K-12	2014	95.4%
	2018	94.9%

### Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2009-2013	60.0
	2014-2018	22.2
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2009-2013	7.8%
	2014-2018	9.9%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2014	46.3
	2018	36.8
Annual high school dropout rate	2014	0.9%
	2018	1.0%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2014	4.9
	2018	3.0

### Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2009-2013	6.3
	2014-2018	6.2
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2009-2013	45.2
	2014-2018	22.0
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2009-2013	32.5
	2014-2018	17.6
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2009-2013	99.2
	2014-2018	28.6
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2009-2013	33.3%
	2014-2018	75%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>b</sup>	2008-2012	4.1**
	2013-2017	25.0*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2008-2012	69.8
	2013-2017	90.4
Uninsured children	2013	8.5%
	2017	6.3%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2014	95.4%
	2018	94.8%

<sup>a</sup> If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities happened in the county during that period.

<sup>b</sup> \*Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); \*\* indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases)