

Buchanan County

County Seat: St. Joseph

County
Composite
Rank

97

2018

74

2022

Population: 87,904

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	4,614	3,246	23.5%	17.3%	↑	15.5%	38
Food insecurity for children ^b	4,240	3,480	20.5%	17.3%	↑	15.1%	65
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	468	491	8%	8.9%	↓	8.7%	85
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	255	258	12.6	13.4	↓	7.1	113
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	121	97	6	5	↑	6.2	92
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	108	73	40.4	28.2	↑	18.8	79
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	109	101	5.4	5.2	↑	3.2	75
Education							
High school graduation	814	736	94.8%	82.4%	↓	91.3%	114
Achievement proficiency ^{a,d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)							
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)							
4th grade math (MAP)							
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)							

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

^a Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

^b Data based on 2015 and 2019.

^c Data based on five-year time spans, 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.

^d Due to the COVID pandemic, MAP tests were suspended in 2020, and proficiency reports were not issued for the 2019-2020 school year.

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2016	88,938
	2020	87,904
Child population under 18	2016	20,219
	2020	19,314
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	22.7%
	2020	22.3%
Child population under 6	2016	6,743
	2020	6,416
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	7.6%
	2020	7.4%
Minority child population under 18	2016	4,119
	2020	4,274
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	20.4%
	2020	22.1%
Minority child population under 6	2016	1,443
	2020	1,524
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	21.4%
	2020	23.8%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	37.3%
	2016-2020	26.9%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	62.2%
	2016-2020	59.4%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	24.2%
	2020	23.5%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	23.7%
	2016-2020	16.7%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	29.8%
	2016-2020	25.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	41.2%
	2016-2020	38.6%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	44.9%
	2020	39.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$51,179
	2016-2020	\$56,819
Adult unemployment	2016	4.1%
	2020	4.9%
Child homelessness	2016	3.6%
	2020	4.1%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	80.9
	2021	64.6
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	34.7%
	2021	37.7%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	94.3%
	2020	94.3%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	35.1
	2016-2020	58.6
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	10.69%
	2016-2020	10.31%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	40.4
	2020	44.9
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	2.8%
	2020	2.5%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	3.4
	2020	2.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	9.2
	2016-2020	6.6
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	16.7
	2016-2020	25.2
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	15.2
	2016-2020	12.3
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	24.2
	2016-2020	68.7
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^a	2011-2015	50%
	2016-2020	100%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^b	2010-2014	34.4
	2015-2019	26.4
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	111.5
	2015-2019	127
Uninsured children	2015	5.8%
	2019	6.2%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	92.3%
	2020	94.1%

^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).