

Carter County

County
Composite
Rank

2018
107

2018

2022
75

2022

County Seat: Van Buren

Population: 6,085

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	488	404	34%	29.8%	↑	15.5%	105
Food insecurity for children ^b	360	240	23.5%	16.5%	↑	15.1%	57
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	34	28	8.8%	7.3%	↑	8.7%	36
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	28	7	18.5	5.1	↑	7.1	35
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	—	4	2.6	2.9	↓	6.2	43
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	9	3	45	16.5	↑	18.8	33
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	15	15	10.3	10.9	↓	3.2	111
Education							
High school graduation	103	98	100%	97%	↓	91.3%	18
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	6,168
	2020	6,085
Child population under 18	2016	1,450
	2020	1,377
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	23.5%
	2020	23%
Child population under 6	2016	417
	2020	428
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	6.8%
	2020	7.1%
Minority child population under 18	2016	94
	2020	97
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	6.5%
	2020	7%
Minority child population under 6	2016	31
	2020	21
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	7.4%
	2020	4.9%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	26.7%
	2016-2020	21.7%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	72.6%
	2016-2020	55.3%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	36.5%
	2020	33.3%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	36.3%
	2016-2020	29%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	33.8%
	2016-2020	24.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	53%
	2016-2020	31.2%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	46.1%
	2020	44.1%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$37,500
	2016-2020	\$69,875
Adult unemployment	2016	7%
	2020	6.5%
Child homelessness	2016	7.2%
	2020	9.7%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	75.2
	2021	76.3
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	39.4%
	2021	46.7%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	94.7%
	2020	95%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	50
	2016-2020	35.6
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	7.17%
	2016-2020	9.47%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	37.7
	2020	30.3
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	0%
	2020	—%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	0.7
	2020	5.1

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	5.2
	2016-2020	5.2
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	68.9
	2016-2020	30.6
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	83.4
	2016-2020	32.3
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	0
	2016-2020	0
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^a	2011-2015	100%
	2016-2020	0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^b	2010-2014	12.1
	2015-2019	22.2
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	107.3
	2015-2019	54.4
Uninsured children	2015	9.5%
	2019	7.9%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	93.6%
	2020	95.1%

^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).