

# Dent County

County Seat: Salem

County  
Composite  
Rank

77

2018

100

2022

Population: 15,518

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	976	748	28.8%	22.2%	↑	15.5%	71
Food insecurity for children <sup>b</sup>	870	780	24.1%	22.1%	↑	15.1%	97
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>a,c</sup>	73	78	8%	9.6%	↓	8.7%	100
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>c</sup>	21	18	5.9	5.2	↑	7.1	39
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	18	24	5	7	↓	6.2	110
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	16	11	37	24.7	↑	18.8	70
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	68	23	19.6	6.7	↑	3.2	100
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	148	134	98%	97.1%	↓	91.3%	16
Achievement proficiency <sup>a,d</sup>							
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

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

<sup>b</sup> Data based on 2015 and 2019.

<sup>c</sup> Data based on five-year time spans, 2011-2015 and 2016-2020.

<sup>d</sup> 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	15,387
	2020	15,518
Child population under 18	2016	3,461
	2020	3,437
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	22.5%
	2020	22.2%
Child population under 6	2016	1,097
	2020	1,096
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	7.1%
	2020	7.1%
Minority child population under 18	2016	236
	2020	274
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	6.8%
	2020	8%
Minority child population under 6	2016	106
	2020	120
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	9.7%
	2020	10.9%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	27.8%
	2016-2020	23.1%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	72.2%
	2016-2020	70.7%

### Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	27.6%
	2020	28.7%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	31%
	2016-2020	22.5%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	27.4%
	2016-2020	24.2%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	45.4%
	2016-2020	49.4%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	45.7%
	2020	36.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$48,355
	2016-2020	\$47,255
Adult unemployment	2016	5.4%
	2020	4.8%
Child homelessness	2016	2.2%
	2020	3.1%

### Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	76.9
	2021	74.5
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	3.8%
	2021	3.9%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	95.6%
	2020	95%

### Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	82.7
	2016-2020	19.8
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	10.08%
	2016-2020	9.05%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	19.2
	2020	6.9
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	0.5%
	2020	—%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	10.7
	2020	10.8

### Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	9.8
	2016-2020	12.3
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	27.8
	2016-2020	30.5
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	13.5
	2016-2020	24.4
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	93.1
	2016-2020	30.7
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2011-2015	25%
	2016-2020	100%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>b</sup>	2010-2014	10.1
	2015-2019	37.3
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	114.6
	2015-2019	91.4
Uninsured children	2015	8.6%
	2019	8%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	95.4%
	2020	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).