

Howell County

County Seat: West Plains

County
Composite
Rank

2018
99

2022
109

Population: 40,130

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,906	2,339	30.8%	24.7%	↑	15.5%	86
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,390	2,110	24.2%	22%	↑	15.1%	96
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	183	196	7.1%	7.9%	↓	8.7%	51
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	83	83	8.7	8.6	↑	7.1	99
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	24	32	2.5	3.3	↓	6.2	57
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	51	51	42.3	42.4	↓	18.8	109
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	77	88	8	9.1	↓	3.2	108
Education							
High school graduation	423	405	95.5%	97.4%	↑	91.3%	13
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	40,210
	2020	40,130
Child population under 18	2016	9,630
	2020	9,684
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	23.9%
	2020	24.1%
Child population under 6	2016	3,061
	2020	3,083
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	7.6%
	2020	7.7%
Minority child population under 18	2016	595
	2020	676
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	6.2%
	2020	7%
Minority child population under 6	2016	205
	2020	254
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	6.7%
	2020	8.2%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	32.8%
	2016-2020	20.4%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	67.1%
	2016-2020	70.1%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	45.2%
	2020	32.7%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	30%
	2016-2020	24.1%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	29.8%
	2016-2020	24.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	54.2%
	2016-2020	53.8%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	46.9%
	2020	42%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$37,062
	2016-2020	\$43,289
Adult unemployment	2016	6.3%
	2020	6.7%
Child homelessness	2016	3.3%
	2020	1.8%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	77.5
	2021	52.6
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	18.2%
	2021	19.4%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	95%
	2020	94.3%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	70.2
	2016-2020	121.5
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	10%
	2016-2020	7.55%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	21.4
	2020	9.9
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	0.9%
	2020	0.3%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	5.3
	2020	5.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	6.6
	2016-2020	8.5
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	49.2
	2016-2020	39.2
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	42.2
	2016-2020	15
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	83.5
	2016-2020	131.1
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^a	2011-2015	100%
	2016-2020	66.7%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^b	2010-2014	47.9
	2015-2019	45.9
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	96.4
	2015-2019	88.6
Uninsured children	2015	7.7%
	2019	7.6%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	94.9%
	2020	94.3%

^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).