

Mercer County

County Seat: Princeton

County
Composite
Rank

2018
12

2018

2022
59

2022

Population: 3,623

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	173	146	20%	17.6%	↑	15.5%	42
Food insecurity for children ^b	180	90	19.5%	9.9%	↑	15.1%	4
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	17	14	8%	5.9%	↑	8.7%	7
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	—	8	2.3	9.5	↓	7.1	105
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	—	4	2.3	4.7	↓	6.2	84
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	4	1	30.8	10.2	↑	18.8	12
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	3	2	3.4	2.4	↑	3.2	22
Education							
High school graduation	45	44	100%	97.8%	↓	91.3%	10
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	3,699
	2020	3,623
Child population under 18	2016	873
	2020	845
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	23.6%
	2020	23.7%
Child population under 6	2016	250
	2020	279
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	6.8%
	2020	7.8%
Minority child population under 18	2016	48
	2020	58
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	5.5%
	2020	6.9%
Minority child population under 6	2016	17
	2020	17
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	6.8%
	2020	6.1%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	21.8%
	2016-2020	13.8%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	78.2%
	2016-2020	82.7%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	33.7%
	2020	1.4%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	21.9%
	2016-2020	17.2%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	20%
	2016-2020	22.1%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	43.5%
	2016-2020	23.7%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	22.3%
	2020	14.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$48,952
	2016-2020	\$73,600
Adult unemployment	2016	4.6%
	2020	3.6%
Child homelessness	2016	0%
	2020	2.8%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	64.1
	2021	—
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	96.4%
	2021	—%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	95.2%
	2020	94.8%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	152.4
	2016-2020	0
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	5.99%
	2016-2020	4.5%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	27.9
	2020	20.6
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	0%
	2020	—%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	9.2
	2020	1.2

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	4.7
	2016-2020	12.6
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	43.9
	2016-2020	0
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	0
	2016-2020	0
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	0
	2015-2019	0
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	35.6
	2015-2019	55.7
Uninsured children	2015	12%
	2019	12.2%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	93.9%
	2020	94%

^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).