

Polk County

County Seat: Bolivar

County
Composite
Rank

40

2018

19

2022

Population: 32,031

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,721	1,511	24.8%	21.2%	↑	15.5%	66
Food insecurity for children ^b	1,560	1,180	20.9%	16.1%	↑	15.1%	48
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	109	137	5.7%	6.8%	↓	8.7%	18
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	28	32	3.8	4.3	↓	7.1	21
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	17	13	2.3	1.8	↑	6.2	18
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	30	20	23	16.3	↑	18.8	31
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	36	25	5	3.4	↑	3.2	44
Education							
High school graduation	363	316	92.1%	90.8%	↓	91.3%	93
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	31,285
	2020	32,031
Child population under 18	2016	7,223
	2020	7,427
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	23.1%
	2020	22.9%
Child population under 6	2016	2,218
	2020	2,445
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	7.1%
	2020	7.5%
Minority child population under 18	2016	514
	2020	564
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	7.1%
	2020	7.6%
Minority child population under 6	2016	175
	2020	141
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	7.9%
	2020	5.8%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	28.2%
	2016-2020	21.6%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	71.6%
	2016-2020	63.2%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	19.1%
	2020	18.8%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	26%
	2016-2020	21.2%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	31.6%
	2016-2020	26%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	46.1%
	2016-2020	43.7%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	36.4%
	2020	31.5%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$45,213
	2016-2020	\$54,298
Adult unemployment	2016	4.8%
	2020	4.7%
Child homelessness	2016	1.2%
	2020	8%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	73.2
	2021	40.3
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	54.4%
	2021	9.4%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	95.4%
	2020	94.7%

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	44.6
	2016-2020	45.9
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	7.4%
	2016-2020	10.53%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	62
	2020	37.7
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	2.2%
	2020	1.1%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	2.2
	2020	3.5

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	6.8
	2016-2020	3
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	43.6
	2016-2020	17.1
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	33.9
	2016-2020	8.6
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	84.8
	2016-2020	44.5
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^a	2011-2015	50%
	2016-2020	75%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^b	2010-2014	25.1
	2015-2019	22.9
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	85.2
	2015-2019	86.5
Uninsured children	2015	7.7%
	2019	8.6%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	94.9%
	2020	95%

^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).