

# Pulaski County

County Seat: Waynesville

County  
Composite  
Rank

13

2018

16

2022

Population: 52,359

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2016	2020	2016	2020		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,947	1,600	17%	14.3%	↑	15.5%	25
Food insecurity for children <sup>b</sup>	2,350	2,020	18.9%	17.6%	↑	15.1%	67
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>a,c</sup>	262	289	6.4%	8%	↓	8.7%	56
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>c</sup>	48	40	4	3.5	↑	7.1	10
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	33	21	2.7	1.8	↑	6.2	18
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	41	42	23.2	24.6	↓	18.8	69
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	56	55	4.8	4.8	→	3.2	67
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	602	519	96.5%	90.7%	↓	91.3%	95
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	52,654
	2020	52,359
Child population under 18	2016	11,704
	2020	11,463
Children under 18 as % of total population	2016	22.2%
	2020	21.7%
Child population under 6	2016	4,287
	2020	4,258
Children under 6 as % of total population	2016	8.1%
	2020	8.1%
Minority child population under 18	2016	3,824
	2020	3,767
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2016	32.7%
	2020	32.9%
Minority child population under 6	2016	1,438
	2020	1,502
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2016	33.5%
	2020	35.3%
Children in single-parent families	2011-2015	27%
	2016-2020	22%
Children in married-parent families	2011-2015	72.9%
	2016-2020	68.6%

### Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2016	37.7%
	2020	22.6%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2011-2015	17.5%
	2016-2020	13.8%
Housing cost-burdened households	2011-2015	32.3%
	2016-2020	27.6%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2011-2015	43.2%
	2016-2020	35.3%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2016	27.6%
	2020	26.5%
Median income family household with children under 18	2011-2015	\$49,902
	2016-2020	\$66,418
Adult unemployment	2016	5.4%
	2020	5.6%
Child homelessness	2016	3%
	2020	1.8%

### Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2016	44.8
	2021	32.8
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2016	20.2%
	2021	5.3%
School attendance, grades K-12	2016	95.3%
	2020	94%

### Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2011-2015	22.9
	2016-2020	31.3
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2011-2015	8.82%
	2016-2020	9.32%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2016	33
	2020	12.4
Annual high school dropout rate	2016	1.5%
	2020	1.4%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2016	9.5
	2020	8.6

### Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2011-2015	8.8
	2016-2020	5
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	16.2
	2016-2020	16.7
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	15.2
	2016-2020	5.2
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2011-2015	21.4
	2016-2020	65
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2011-2015	0%
	2016-2020	66.7%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>b</sup>	2010-2014	11.9
	2015-2019	16.2
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2010-2014	87.4
	2015-2019	61.7
Uninsured children	2015	5.7%
	2019	5.7%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2016	94.6%
	2020	91.9%

<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).