

Buchanan County

County Seat: St. Joseph

County
Composite
Rank

101

2019

65

2023

Population: 83,853

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	4,227	4,183	21.6%	22.8%	↓	16.5%	77
Food insecurity for children ^b	4,020	3,670	19.6%	18.3%	↑	15.4%	71
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	470	489	8.1%	9.2%	↓	8.8%	94
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	214	143	10.6	7.6	↑	5.0	104
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	106	76	5.2	4.0	↑	3.6	99
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	107	70	39.8	26.7	↑	17.0	83
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	79	83	3.9	4.4	↓	3.0	64
Education							
High school graduation	804	746	87.9%	81.5%	↓	90.8%	114
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	337	—	37.7		41.4%	76
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	320	—	35.1		44.9%	97
4th grade math (MAP)	—	281	—	31.5		36.8%	90
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	147	—	17.9		26.8%	97

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

^a Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

^b Data based on 2016 and 2020.

^c Data based on five-year time spans, 2012-2016 and 2017-2021.

^d Achievement proficiency measures those that scored proficient or above on the MAP tests and algebra I end-of-course exam. Achievement data from 2017 are not shown due to differences in testing standards and assessments used in 2021; accordingly, no trend arrows are shown.

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2017	89,065
	2020	83,853
Child population under 18	2017	20,244
	2021	18,858
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.7%
	2021	22.5%
Child population under 6	2017	6,777
	2021	6,139
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.6%
	2021	7.3%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	4,326
	2021	4,782
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	21.4%
	2021	25.4%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	1,507
	2021	1,658
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	22.2%
	2021	27.0%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	37.0%
	2017-2021	26.2%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	61.9%
	2017-2021	59.9%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	28.6%
	2021	25.3%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	19.2%
	2017-2021	22.1%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	25.0%
	2017-2021	27.1%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	41.3%
	2017-2021	38.6%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	43.2%
	2021	40.6%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$53,501
	2017-2021	\$58,468
Adult unemployment	2017	3.5%
	2021	3.8%
Child homelessness	2017	3.7%
	2021	1.4%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	74.0
	2022	66.2
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	23.5%
	2022	37.5%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.2
	2021	92.7

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	48.8
	2017-2021	40.5
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	17.5%
	2017-2021	17.3%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	49.9
	2021	33.6
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	3.0%
	2021	6.5%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	2.9
	2021	3.1

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	8.6
	2017-2021	7.5
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	17.5
	2017-2021	34.8
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	12.8
	2017-2021	27.5
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	42.0
	2017-2021	67.8
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	50.0%
	2017-2021	55.6%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	28.7
	2016-2020	32
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	127.0
	2016-2020	170.9
Uninsured children	2016	4.0%
	2020	6.4%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	92.7%
	2021	91.2%

^a Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.

^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities happened in the county during that period.

^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).