

Carter County

County
Composite
Rank

112

2019

108

2023

County Seat: Van Buren

Population: 5,320

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	503	405	35.0%	32.3%	↑	16.5%	110
Food insecurity for children ^b	330	240	21.6%	16.5%	↑	15.4%	48
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a,c}	32	34	7.9%	8.5%	↓	8.8%	75
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	31	7	21.4	5.5	↑	5.0	84
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	9	2	6.2	1.6	↑	3.6	37
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	9	8	45.7	47.6	↓	17.0	111
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	5	4	3.4	3.1	↑	3.0	39
Education							
High school graduation	87	80	93.5%	100.0%	↑	90.8%	1
Achievement proficiency ^{a,d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	36	—	50.0		41.4%	23
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	36	—	39.6		44.9%	79
4th grade math (MAP)	—	34	—	47.2		36.8%	16
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	23	—	25.3		26.8%	81

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			Education		
Total population	2017	6,169	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	67.9
	2020	5,320		2022	32.9
Child population under 18	2017	1,457	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	46.7%
	2021	1,277		2022	%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	23.6%	School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.2
	2021	24.0%		2021	93.5
Child population under 6	2017	451	Family & Community		
	2021	409	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	0.0
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.3%		2017-2021	57.1
	2021	7.7%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	15.2%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	103		2017-2021	13.4%
	2021	123	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	12.9
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	7.1%		2021	51.0
	2021	9.6%	Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.8%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	28		2021	0.0%
	2021	37	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	7.5
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	6.2%		2021	7.8
	2021	9.0%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	29.5%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	4.9
	2017-2021	19.6%		2017-2021	7.5
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	68.0%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	52.9
	2017-2021	47.5%		2017-2021	50.0
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	66.1
Children in poverty under 6	2017	27.5%		2017-2021	41.2
	2021	28.2%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	0.0
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	33.8%		2017-2021	87.0
	2017-2021	29.8%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	—%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	25.1%		2017-2021	0.0%
	2017-2021	26.1%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	24.3**
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	36.5%		2016-2020	30.3**
	2017-2021	34.5%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	54.4
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	46.9%		2016-2020	81.8
	2021	47.2%	Uninsured children	2016	6.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$57,500		2020	9.7%
	2017-2021	\$88,139	School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	93.9%
Adult unemployment	2017	6.0%		2021	92.0%
	2021	5.2%	^a Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.		
Child homelessness	2017	10.4%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities happened in the county during that period.		
	2021	5.2%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		