

Clay County

County Seat: Liberty

County
Composite
Rank

2019
10

2023
24

Population: 255,518

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	5,537	6,108	9.6%	10.2%	↓	16.5%	6
Food insecurity for children ^b	8,320	6,790	14.3%	11.5%	↑	15.4%	7
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	1,010	1,106	6.6%	7.3%	↓	8.8%	34
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	440	264	7.5	4.3	↑	5.0	55
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	308	184	5.3	3.0	↑	3.6	81
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	135	93	18.3	11.8	↑	17.0	15
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	93	88	1.6	1.5	↑	3.0	8
Education							
High school graduation	2,858	3,149	95.4%	95.5%	↑	90.8%	34
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	1,401	—	48.5		41.4%	29
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	1,455	—	44.5		44.9%	51
4th grade math (MAP)	—	1,333	—	46.1		36.8%	18
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	518	—	21.1		26.8%	91

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	242,874
	2020	255,518
Child population under 18	2017	58,948
	2021	60,831
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	24.3%
	2021	23.8%
Child population under 6	2017	18,943
	2021	18,728
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.8%
	2021	7.3%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	13,719
	2021	17,099
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	23.3%
	2021	28.1%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	4,323
	2021	5,386
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	22.8%
	2021	28.8%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	26.9%
	2017-2021	21.0%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	72.1%
	2017-2021	69.7%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	13.0%
	2021	10.9%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	8.8%
	2017-2021	9.4%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	24.0%
	2017-2021	25.4%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	24.1%
	2017-2021	22.0%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	19.5%
	2021	17.5%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$80,500
	2017-2021	\$92,359
Adult unemployment	2017	3.6%
	2021	4.9%
Child homelessness	2017	2.2%
	2021	1.1%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	91.4
	2022	88.3
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	20.3%
	2022	23.1%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.8
	2021	95.6

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	36.5
	2017-2021	20.6
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	13.6%
	2017-2021	14.8%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	19.2
	2021	10.6
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.7%
	2021	0.4%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	1.7
	2021	1.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	4.8
	2017-2021	5.1
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	21.3
	2017-2021	16.6
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	16.8
	2017-2021	13.2
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	44.3
	2017-2021	31.4
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	50.0%
	2017-2021	33.3%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	14.9
	2016-2020	21.4
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	101.4
	2016-2020	115.2
Uninsured children	2016	3.5%
	2020	5.6%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	93.8%
	2021	95.3%

^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).