

Cole County

County
Composite
Rank

64 2019

33 2023

County Seat: Jefferson City

Population: 77,205

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,659	2,468	15.7%	14.7%	↑	16.5%	25
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,820	2,160	16.1%	12.5%	↑	15.4%	10
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	379	359	8.1%	8.5%	↓	8.8%	74
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	126	101	7.3	5.9	↑	5.0	93
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	139	65	8.0	3.8	↑	3.6	96
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	58	33	24.6	13.1	↑	17.0	21
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	31	50	1.8	2.9	↓	3.0	33
Education							
High school graduation	731	719	87.8%	89.8%	↑	90.8%	90
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	363	—	46.8		41.4%	35
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	421	—	47.1		44.9%	40
4th grade math (MAP)	—	311	—	40.1		36.8%	48
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	93	—	15.1		26.8%	105

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	76,708
	2020	77,205
Child population under 18	2017	17,263
	2021	17,147
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.5%
	2021	22.2%
Child population under 6	2017	5,571
	2021	5,190
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.3%
	2021	6.7%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	4,012
	2021	4,387
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	23.2%
	2021	25.6%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	1,474
	2021	1,451
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	26.5%
	2021	28.0%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	33.1%
	2017-2021	21.1%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	66.4%
	2017-2021	71.4%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	30.0%
	2021	30.7%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	13.8%
	2017-2021	12.6%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	21.3%
	2017-2021	20.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	33.2%
	2017-2021	26.2%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	29.1%
	2021	25.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$59,371
	2017-2021	\$74,562
Adult unemployment	2017	2.9%
	2021	3.1%
Child homelessness	2017	1.0%
	2021	0.7%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	182.2
	2022	166.2
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	5.1%
	2022	5.4%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.7
	2021	92.8

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	27.4
	2017-2021	27.2
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	15.4%
	2017-2021	14.9%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	28.8
	2021	28.3
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	3.1%
	2021	4.0%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	5.9
	2021	4.6

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	5.8
	2017-2021	5.9
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	12.5
	2017-2021	19.6
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	9.6
	2017-2021	13.7
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	27.5
	2017-2021	44.4
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	66.7%
	2017-2021	33.3%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	32.4
	2016-2020	24
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	105.5
	2016-2020	133.9
Uninsured children	2016	4.2%
	2020	6.7%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	93.2%
	2021	91.0%

^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).