

Dallas County

County Seat: Buffalo

County
Composite
Rank

31

2019

67

2023

Population: 17,341

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,088	1,014	27.8%	24.7%	↑	16.5%	87
Food insecurity for children ^b	820	670	21.0%	17.0%	↑	15.4%	54
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	75	90	7.3%	8.2%	↓	8.8%	68
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	11	15	2.9	3.6	↓	5.0	31
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	3	4	0.8	1.0	↓	3.6	19
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	11	13	22.8	24.3	↓	17.0	68
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	13	12	3.3	2.9	↑	3.0	31
Education							
High school graduation	110	108	94.8%	99.1%	↑	90.8%	5
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	27	—	27.6		41.4%	112
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	41	—	33.3		44.9%	100
4th grade math (MAP)	—	19	—	19.4		36.8%	113
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	21	—	16.9		26.8%	100

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	16,673
	2020	17,341
Child population under 18	2017	3,984
	2021	4,193
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	23.9%
	2021	24.2%
Child population under 6	2017	1,279
	2021	1,344
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.7%
	2021	7.8%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	226
	2021	334
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	5.7%
	2021	8.0%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	93
	2021	112
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	7.3%
	2021	8.3%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	27.9%
	2017-2021	21.5%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	72.0%
	2017-2021	72.7%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	14.7%
	2021	27.8%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	26.6%
	2017-2021	21.8%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	18.0%
	2017-2021	24.6%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	55.8%
	2017-2021	49.5%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	35.6%
	2021	27.2%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$43,141
	2017-2021	\$53,145
Adult unemployment	2017	4.7%
	2021	4.3%
Child homelessness	2017	2.8%
	2021	2.3%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	62.2
	2022	56.5
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	0.0%
	2022	%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.6
	2021	93.4

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	75.9
	2017-2021	36.7
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	11.2%
	2017-2021	8.0%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	29.3
	2021	11.2
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.6%
	2021	0.0%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	3.8
	2021	7.4

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	2.9
	2017-2021	17.3
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	51.1
	2017-2021	40.1
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	30.6
	2017-2021	36.9
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	154.6
	2017-2021	54.3
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	0.0%
	2017-2021	—%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	9.3**
	2016-2020	13.8**
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	90.0
	2016-2020	123.4
Uninsured children	2016	8.1%
	2020	9.3%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	94.5%
	2021	94.2%

^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).