

# Dent County

County Seat: Salem

County  
Composite  
Rank

84

2019

87

2023

Population: 14,432

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,066	774	31.4%	24.6%	↑	16.5%	86
Food insecurity for children <sup>b</sup>	750	810	21.0%	22.8%	↓	15.4%	97
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>a, c</sup>	78	71	8.6%	9.0%	↓	8.8%	88
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>c</sup>	21	12	6.1	3.7	↑	5.0	35
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	26	7	7.5	2.2	↑	3.6	54
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	10	15	22.4	38.2	↓	17.0	100
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	31	12	8.9	3.7	↑	3.0	47
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	125	127	93.3%	94.8%	↑	90.8%	45
Achievement proficiency <sup>a, d</sup>							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	51	—	36.7		41.4%	84
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	73	—	48.7		44.9%	29
4th grade math (MAP)	—	44	—	33.1		36.8%	83
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	20	—	17.5		26.8%	98

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

<sup>a</sup> Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

<sup>b</sup> Data based on 2016 and 2020.

<sup>c</sup> Data based on five-year time spans, 2012-2016 and 2017-2021.

<sup>d</sup> 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	15,480
	2020	14,432
Child population under 18	2017	3,476
	2021	3,212
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.5%
	2021	22.3%
Child population under 6	2017	1,127
	2021	981
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.3%
	2021	6.8%
Minority child population under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2017	252
	2021	309
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population <sup>a</sup>	2017	7.2%
	2021	9.6%
Minority child population under 6 <sup>a</sup>	2017	125
	2021	116
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population <sup>a</sup>	2017	11.1%
	2021	11.8%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	29.9%
	2017-2021	26.1%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	70.0%
	2017-2021	66.9%

### Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	21.6%
	2021	22.6%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	29.7%
	2017-2021	23.9%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	25.9%
	2017-2021	22.3%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	43.9%
	2017-2021	50.3%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	43.4%
	2021	39.4%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$52,969
	2017-2021	\$48,194
Adult unemployment	2017	4.3%
	2021	4.3%
Child homelessness	2017	1.9%
	2021	1.1%

### Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	76.5
	2022	72.2
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	3.6%
	2022	4.3%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	95.3
	2021	94.4

### Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	62.1
	2017-2021	24.3
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	11.0%
	2017-2021	14.2%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	37.2
	2021	16.8
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.2%
	2021	0.0%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	7.2
	2021	8.1

### Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	11.0
	2017-2021	12.7
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	22.3
	2017-2021	26.0
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	13.5
	2017-2021	23.6
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	63.1
	2017-2021	37.2
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>b</sup>	2012-2016	50.0%
	2017-2021	100.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>c</sup>	2011-2015	10.2**
	2016-2020	41.6*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	91.4
	2016-2020	108.8
Uninsured children	2016	6.8%
	2020	9.3%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	95.2%
	2021	92.4%

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

<sup>b</sup> If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities happened in the county during that period.

<sup>c</sup> \*Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); \*\* indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).