

Howell County

County
Composite
Rank

99

2019

88

2023

County Seat: West Plains

Population: 39,975

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,811	2,370	29.9%	25.0%	↑	16.5%	88
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,310	2,230	23.5%	23.2%	↑	15.4%	100
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	178	203	7.1%	8.4%	↓	8.8%	71
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	69	54	7.2	5.6	↑	5.0	86
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	32	14	3.3	1.4	↑	3.6	34
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	55	42	46.0	33.3	↑	17.0	93
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	61	61	6.3	6.3	↑	3.0	88
Education							
High school graduation	382	367	93.4%	94.3%	↑	90.8%	49
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	188	—	40.0		41.4%	61
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	229	—	47.3		44.9%	38
4th grade math (MAP)	—	166	—	35.3		36.8%	64
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	160	—	34.8		26.8%	41

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	40,103
	2020	39,975
Child population under 18	2017	9,610
	2021	9,712
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	24.0%
	2021	24.3%
Child population under 6	2017	3,085
	2021	2,965
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.7%
	2021	7.4%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	629
	2021	797
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	6.5%
	2021	8.2%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	285
	2021	264
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	9.2%
	2021	8.9%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	29.8%
	2017-2021	21.2%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	69.7%
	2017-2021	67.9%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	33.9%
	2021	25.4%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	28.1%
	2017-2021	24.5%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	24.8%
	2017-2021	25.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	52.7%
	2017-2021	50.3%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	47.3%
	2021	40.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$39,646
	2017-2021	\$48,129
Adult unemployment	2017	4.9%
	2021	4.8%
Child homelessness	2017	2.4%
	2021	2.0%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	81.2
	2022	52.4
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	20.0%
	2022	19.5%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	95.1
	2021	93.5

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	57.3
	2017-2021	78.7
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	14.3%
	2017-2021	13.0%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	20.1
	2021	13.4
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.7%
	2021	1.5%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	4.9
	2021	6.6

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	6.3
	2017-2021	8.6
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	44.9
	2017-2021	36.8
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	34.3
	2017-2021	18.6
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	97.5
	2017-2021	117.8
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	100.0%
	2017-2021	66.7%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	48.5
	2016-2020	51.6
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	88.6
	2016-2020	127.3
Uninsured children	2016	6.5%
	2020	7.3%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	95.1%
	2021	92.3%

^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).