

Jackson County

County
Composite
Rank

103

2019

74

2023

County Seat: Independence

Population: 716,862

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	33,528	28,284	20.7%	17.3%	↑	16.5%	34
Food insecurity for children ^b	30,760	29,680	18.7%	18.0%	↑	15.4%	66
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	4,179	4,264	8.8%	9.6%	↓	8.8%	100
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	1,483	1,071	8.9	6.4	↑	5.0	99
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	2,098	1,060	12.7	6.3	↑	3.6	113
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	614	418	29.5	19.1	↑	17.0	52
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	321	225	1.9	1.3	↑	3.0	6
Education							
High school graduation	6,350	6,548	88.3%	88.3%	↑	90.8%	102
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	2,640	—	34.4		41.4%	98
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	3,264	—	40.2		44.9%	73
4th grade math (MAP)	—	2,356	—	30.7		36.8%	94
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	855	—	13.2		26.8%	106

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			Education		
Total population	2017	698,895	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	149.7
	2020	716,862		2022	138.1
Child population under 18	2017	165,940	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	14.6%
	2021	167,396		2022	18.5%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	23.7%	School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.1
	2021	23.4%		2021	92.7
Child population under 6	2017	55,961	Family & Community		
	2021	53,706	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	63.6
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	8.0%		2017-2021	49.1
	2021	7.5%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	18.8%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	78,130		2017-2021	16.8%
	2021	84,353	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	13.8
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	47.1%		2021	10.3
	2021	50.4%	Annual high school dropout rate	2017	2.5%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	26,196		2021	1.6%
	2021	27,357	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	5.8
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	46.8%		2021	4.1
	2021	50.9%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	42.4%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	6.0
	2017-2021	32.1%		2017-2021	6.8
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	56.9%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	25.8
	2017-2021	59.0%		2017-2021	28.8
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	19.5
Children in poverty under 6	2017	19.2%		2017-2021	18.6
	2021	21.3%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	58.4
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	20.5%		2017-2021	75.8
	2017-2021	16.2%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	66.7%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	30.6%		2017-2021	76.0%
	2017-2021	30.8%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	17.1
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	38.8%		2016-2020	26.4
	2017-2021	32.4%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	134.0
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	39.3%		2016-2020	153.5
	2021	35.4%	Uninsured children	2016	5.0%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$57,164		2020	6.7%
	2017-2021	\$75,583	School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	92.7%
Adult unemployment	2017	4.4%		2021	91.1%
	2021	5.5%			
Child homelessness	2017	4.2%			
	2021	1.8%			

^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).