

Lafayette County

County
Composite
Rank

54 ²⁰¹⁹

44 ²⁰²³

County Seat: Lexington

Population: 32,817

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,338	1,107	18.4%	14.9%	↑	16.5%	27
Food insecurity for children ^b	1,330	1,140	17.4%	15.2%	↑	15.4%	33
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	127	160	6.8%	8.7%	↓	8.8%	82
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	59	37	7.9	4.9	↑	5.0	72
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	43	19	5.7	2.5	↑	3.6	66
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	31	19	31.8	19.0	↑	17.0	50
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	19	30	2.5	3.9	↓	3.0	54
Education							
High school graduation	375	342	94.0%	93.2%	↓	90.8%	58
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	117	—	34.7		41.4%	96
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	149	—	37.4		44.9%	88
4th grade math (MAP)	—	100	—	29.8		36.8%	99
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	87	—	25.8		26.8%	78

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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2019

44

2023

Population: 32,817

Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2017	32,641	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	90.1
	2020	32,817		2022	75.7
Child population under 18	2017	7,483	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	18.6%
	2021	7,618		2022	13.7%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.9%	School attendance, grades K-12	2017	95.2
	2021	23.2%		2021	94.3
Child population under 6	2017	2,276	Family & Community		
	2021	2,363	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	28.2
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.0%		2017-2021	66.4
	2021	7.2%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	15.2%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	725		2017-2021	11.6%
	2021	1,035	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	42.1
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	9.7%		2021	25.9
	2021	13.6%	Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.5%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	246		2021	1.5%
	2021	368	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	2.0
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	10.8%		2021	2.0
	2021	15.6%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	39.1%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	10.2
	2017-2021	19.3%		2017-2021	6.0
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	59.9%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	20.9
	2017-2021	67.4%		2017-2021	24.9
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	22.4
Children in poverty under 6	2017	16.8%		2017-2021	6.9
	2021	14.2%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	14.0
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	18.8%		2017-2021	100.0
	2017-2021	13.9%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	75.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	22.2%		2017-2021	100.0%
	2017-2021	16.5%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	23.4*
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	36.8%		2016-2020	10.1**
	2017-2021	35.3%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	112.1
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	28.9%		2016-2020	138.1
	2021	24.1%	Uninsured children	2016	5.0%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$61,466		2020	7.2%
	2017-2021	\$78,839	School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	94.7%
Adult unemployment	2017	3.7%		2021	93.2%
	2021	4.3%			
Child homelessness	2017	2.2%			
	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).