

Mercer County

County
Composite
Rank

8

2019

27

2023

County Seat: Princeton

Population: 3,488

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	169	156	19.6%	19.1%	↑	16.5%	42
Food insecurity for children ^b	170	90	18.0%	9.7%	↑	15.4%	3
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	17	14	7.7%	6.0%	↑	8.8%	13
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	4	4	4.6	4.8	↓	5.0	69
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	1	3	1.1	3.6	↓	3.6	95
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	2	-	16.7	0.0	↑	17.0	1
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	1	8	1.1	9.6	↓	3.0	109
Education							
High school graduation	46	45	97.9%	95.7%	↓	90.8%	33
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	16	—	66.7		41.4%	3
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	23	—	54.8		44.9%	8
4th grade math (MAP)	—	15	—	62.5		36.8%	2
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	14	—	33.3		26.8%	45

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	3,678
	2020	3,488
Child population under 18	2017	873
	2021	833
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	23.7%
	2021	23.9%
Child population under 6	2017	271
	2021	268
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.4%
	2021	7.7%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	59
	2021	74
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	6.8%
	2021	8.9%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	24
	2021	25
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	8.9%
	2021	9.3%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	19.2%
	2017-2021	7.8%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	80.8%
	2017-2021	81.8%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	25.5%
	2021	21.9%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	18.6%
	2017-2021	18.1%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	17.9%
	2017-2021	21.1%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	44.4%
	2017-2021	31.6%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	22.2%
	2021	15.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$49,583
	2017-2021	\$78,155
Adult unemployment	2017	3.8%
	2021	2.9%
Child homelessness	2017	0.0%
	2021	0.0%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	41.2
	2022	12.0
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	0.0%
	2022	%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.8
	2021	94.3

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	0.0
	2017-2021	0.0
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	7.5%
	2017-2021	8.1%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	30.4
	2021	10.6
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.5%
	2021	0.0%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	2.3
	2021	6.0

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	4.5
	2017-2021	12.8
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	0.0
	2017-2021	0.0
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	0.0
	2017-2021	0.0
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	0.0
	2017-2021	0.0
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	—%
	2017-2021	—%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	0**
	2016-2020	0**
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	55.7
	2016-2020	89.2
Uninsured children	2016	8.7%
	2020	11.3%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	93.7%
	2021	93.5%

^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).