

# Polk County

County Seat: Bolivar

County  
Composite  
Rank

38

2019

21

2023

Population: 32,043

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,540	1,419	22.0%	19.9%	↑	16.5%	47
Food insecurity for children <sup>b</sup>	1,400	1,210	19.0%	16.5%	↑	15.4%	48
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>a, c</sup>	112	140	6.0%	7.0%	↓	8.8%	27
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>c</sup>	37	37	5.1	5.0	↑	5.0	76
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	10	4	1.4	0.5	↑	3.6	10
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	35	17	26.8	14.2	↑	17.0	29
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	29	29	4.0	3.9	↑	3.0	51
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	375	324	91.7%	87.6%	↓	90.8%	107
Achievement proficiency <sup>a, d</sup>							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	126	—	38.0		41.4%	75
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	159	—	41.3		44.9%	65
4th grade math (MAP)	—	114	—	34.3		36.8%	72
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	103	—	28.0		26.8%	68

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	31,794
	2020	32,043
Child population under 18	2017	7,288
	2021	7,445
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.9%
	2021	23.2%
Child population under 6	2017	2,271
	2021	2,432
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	7.1%
	2021	7.6%
Minority child population under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2017	535
	2021	702
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population <sup>a</sup>	2017	7.3%
	2021	9.4%
Minority child population under 6 <sup>a</sup>	2017	169
	2021	191
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population <sup>a</sup>	2017	7.4%
	2021	7.9%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	29.8%
	2017-2021	21.4%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	69.1%
	2017-2021	63.9%

### Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	14.7%
	2021	27.8%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	20.7%
	2017-2021	19.5%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	26.1%
	2017-2021	25.3%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	43.1%
	2017-2021	41.5%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	35.8%
	2021	29.5%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$48,819
	2017-2021	\$59,159
Adult unemployment	2017	4.0%
	2021	3.5%
Child homelessness	2017	3.4%
	2021	1.5%

### Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	69.8
	2022	43.3
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	17.3%
	2022	8.7%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	95.1
	2021	94.9

### Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	22.7
	2017-2021	48.1
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	12.2%
	2017-2021	14.4%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	62.2
	2021	34.8
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	1.6%
	2021	0.9%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	3.8
	2021	3.5

### Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	8.0
	2017-2021	2.0
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	24.4
	2017-2021	34.1
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	26.9
	2017-2021	20.9
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	14.1
	2017-2021	91.8
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>b</sup>	2012-2016	100.0%
	2017-2021	75.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>c</sup>	2011-2015	20.7*
	2016-2020	34*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	86.5
	2016-2020	128.2
Uninsured children	2016	6.3%
	2020	8.3%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	94.8%
	2021	95.6%

<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).