

Pulaski County

County Seat: Waynesville

County
Composite
Rank

16

2019

7

2023

Population: 53,816

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,690	1,649	15.1%	14.2%	↑	16.5%	21
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,240	2,070	18.4%	18.0%	↑	15.4%	66
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	282	272	6.9%	7.6%	↓	8.8%	46
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	49	24	4.2	2.0	↑	5.0	11
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	35	12	3.0	1.0	↑	3.6	22
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	37	33	21.3	18.9	↑	17.0	49
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	57	51	5.0	4.3	↑	3.0	62
Education							
High school graduation	556	487	93.3%	88.6%	↓	90.8%	101
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	282	—	47.0		41.4%	34
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	298	—	48.0		44.9%	35
4th grade math (MAP)	—	270	—	44.9		36.8%	25
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	171	—	30.4		26.8%	60

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	52,059
	2020	53,816
Child population under 18	2017	11,463
	2021	11,934
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	22.0%
	2021	22.2%
Child population under 6	2017	4,149
	2021	4,304
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	8.0%
	2021	8.0%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	3,717
	2021	4,252
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	32.4%
	2021	35.6%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	1,358
	2021	1,671
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	32.7%
	2021	38.8%
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	28.5%
	2017-2021	19.0%
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	70.7%
	2017-2021	70.7%

Economic Well-being

Children in poverty under 6	2017	12.9%
	2021	23.7%
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	15.2%
	2017-2021	13.2%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	26.2%
	2017-2021	27.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	37.3%
	2017-2021	41.0%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	29.0%
	2021	24.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$54,709
	2017-2021	\$64,442
Adult unemployment	2017	4.4%
	2021	4.4%
Child homelessness	2017	2.1%
	2021	0.9%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	39.8
	2022	31.5
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	14.3%
	2022	%
School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.5
	2021	94.2

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	18.3
	2017-2021	20.0
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	13.8%
	2017-2021	13.5%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	24.9
	2021	7.9
Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.7%
	2021	1.9%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	7.3
	2021	7.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	7.9
	2017-2021	5.6
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	18.1
	2017-2021	19.5
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	15.4
	2017-2021	10.5
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	33.5
	2017-2021	70.0
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	0.0%
	2017-2021	100.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	13.2*
	2016-2020	20.6*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	61.7
	2016-2020	99.7
Uninsured children	2016	5.4%
	2020	7.4%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	94.0%
	2021	93.1%

^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).