

Taney County

County
Composite
Rank

42 2019

73 2023

County Seat: Forsyth

Population: 56,387

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2017	2021	2017	2021		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,532	2,596	22.2%	22.4%	↓	16.5%	74
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,510	2,150	21.9%	18.4%	↑	15.4%	74
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	245	269	7.7%	8.8%	↓	8.8%	86
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	45	46	3.8	3.9	↓	5.0	39
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	46	29	3.9	2.4	↑	3.6	65
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	44	48	24.9	26.5	↓	17.0	79
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	67	71	5.7	6.0	↓	3.0	84
Education							
High school graduation	516	531	94.9%	95.9%	↑	90.8%	31
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	271	—	50.6		41.4%	22
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	—	288	—	48.7		44.9%	27
4th grade math (MAP)	—	269	—	50.1		36.8%	11
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	—	159	—	32.1		26.8%	51

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	55,355	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2017	62.0
	2020	56,387		2022	32.1
Child population under 18	2017	11,669	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2017	40.9%
	2021	11,871		2022	50.9%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2017	21.1%	School attendance, grades K-12	2017	94.7
	2021	21.1%		2021	93.4
Child population under 6	2017	3,759	Family & Community		
	2021	3,667	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2012-2016	50.4
Children under 6 as % of total population	2017	6.8%		2017-2021	43.5
	2021	6.5%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2012-2016	14.0%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2017	1,793		2017-2021	10.5%
	2021	2,302	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2017	27.1
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2017	15.4%		2021	17.7
	2021	19.4%	Annual high school dropout rate	2017	0.9%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2017	649		2021	1.7%
	2021	806	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2017	11.2
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2017	17.3%		2021	13.8
	2021	22.0%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2012-2016	33.5%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2012-2016	6.0
	2017-2021	22.9%		2017-2021	7.9
Children in married-parent families	2012-2016	66.0%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	19.2
	2017-2021	69.6%		2017-2021	28.4
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	17.0
Children in poverty under 6	2017	31.2%		2017-2021	17.6
	2021	27.7%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2012-2016	29.8
Children in poverty, ages 5-17	2012-2016	21.2%		2017-2021	73.3
	2017-2021	21.5%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2012-2016	33.3%
Housing cost-burdened households	2012-2016	31.6%		2017-2021	66.7%
	2017-2021	27.4%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2011-2015	27.6*
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2012-2016	52.9%		2016-2020	42.2
	2017-2021	42.2%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2011-2015	78.9
Children in families receiving SNAP	2017	40.2%		2016-2020	108.3
	2021	34.4%	Uninsured children	2016	7.3%
Median income family household with children under 18	2012-2016	\$45,529		2020	7.6%
	2017-2021	\$56,627	School attendance, grades 9-12	2017	94.5%
Adult unemployment	2017	6.1%		2021	92.1%
	2021	7.5%			
Child homelessness	2017	12.4%			
	2021	6.0%			

^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).