

Buchanan County

County
Composite
Rank

101

2020

111

2024

County Seat: St. Joseph

Population: 82,911

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	4,325	3,845	22.4%	21.4%	↑	16.8%	69
Food insecurity for children ^b	3,920	2,820	19.1%	14.6%	↑	12.8%	69
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	480	494	8.4%	9.5%	↓	8.9%	96
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	180	172	8.9	9.3	↓	6.3	112
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	111	105	5.5	5.7	↓	5.1	99
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	77	66	28.5	24.7	↑	16.8	76
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	113	94	5.7	5.1	↑	2.7	80
Education							
High school graduation	773	743	83.7%	79.9%	↓	91.2%	114
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	495	340	47.9	39.2		41.0%	60
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	433	371	45.0	38.3		41.9%	62
4th grade math (MAP)	489	368	44.6	39.7		43.0%	74
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	387	243	45.9	28.9		41.2%	91

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

^a Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

^b Data based on 2017 and 2021.

^c Data based on five-year time spans, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022.

^d Achievement proficiency measures those that scored proficient or above on the MAP tests and algebra I end-of-course exam. Achievement data from 2018 are not shown due to differences in testing standards and assessments used in 2022; accordingly, no trend arrows are shown.

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2018	89,076	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	74.2
	2021	82,911		2023	72.2
Child population under 18	2018	19,933	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	23.5%
	2022	18,520		2023	28.8%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	22.8%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.9
	2022	22.3%		2022	91.4
Child population under 6	2018	6,629	Family & Community		
	2022	6,022	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	53.5
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.5%		2018-2022	48.0
	2022	7.3%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	10.8%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	4,270		2018-2022	17.3%
	2022	4,856	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	39.5
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	21.4%		2022	29.9
	2022	26.2%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	4.1%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	1,470		2022	5.4%
	2022	1,719	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	3.4
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	22.2%		2022	3.5
	2022	28.6%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	37.0%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	8.6
	2018-2022	27.8%		2018-2022	7.3
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	61.9%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	21.5
	2018-2022	58.5%		2018-2022	35.4
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	12.8
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	26.6%		2018-2022	31.1
	2022	29.8%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	66.4
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	20.5%		2018-2022	53.5
	2022	20.0%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	83.3%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	25.0%		2018-2022	28.6%
	2018-2022	27.9%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	27.9
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	41.3%		2017-2021	33.6
	2018-2022	38.7%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	115.1
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	41.2%		2017-2021	166.6
	2022	41.1%	Uninsured children	2017	4.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$53,501		2021	6.5%
	2018-2022	\$\$64,262	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	94.3%
Adult unemployment	2018	3.0%		2022	90.6%
	2022	2.4%	^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 occurred during the period. ^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		
Child homelessness	2018	4.2%			
	2022	2.2%			