

Carter County

County
Composite
Rank

112²⁰²⁰

102²⁰²⁴

County Seat: Van Buren

Population: 5,268

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	495	389	35.3%	31.5%	↑	16.8%	106
Food insecurity for children ^b	270	250	17.3%	21.7%	↓	12.8%	112
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	29	39	7.3%	9.6%	↓	8.9%	100
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	21	10	14.4	7.9	↑	6.3	102
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	2	-	1.4	0.0	↑	5.1	1
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	10	2	54.3	12.8	↑	16.8	24
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	15	6	10.6	4.8	↑	2.7	76
Education							
High school graduation	80	71	94.1%	95.9%	↑	91.2%	33
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	41	35	55.4	33.7		41.0%	90
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	41	38	53.9	45.8		41.9%	21
4th grade math (MAP)	49	34	50.5	44.7		43.0%	43
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	17	18	15.3	22.0		41.2%	106

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.

Carter County

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2020
112

2020

2024
102

2024

Population: 5,268

Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2018	6,197	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	73.9
	2021	5,268		2023	33.4
Child population under 18	2018	1,420	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	46.7%
	2022	1,258		2023	0.0%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	24.9%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	95.4
	2022	23.9%		2022	93.0
Child population under 6	2018	477	Family & Community		
	2022	415	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	0.0
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.9%		2018-2022	175.8
	2022	7.9%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	9.4%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	111		2018-2022	16.1%
	2022	139	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	28.7
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	7.8%		2022	52.3
	2022	11.1%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	0.0%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	33		2022	0.8%
	2022	46	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	7.7
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	6.9%		2022	1.6
	2022	11.1%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	29.5%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	0.0
	2018-2022	20.4%		2018-2022	12.3
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	68.0%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	65.1
	2018-2022	46.2%		2018-2022	68.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	82.3
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	34.8%		2018-2022	20.9
	2022	34.8%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	0.0
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	35.2%		2018-2022	280.4
	2022	31.1%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	—%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	25.1%		2018-2022	50.0%
	2018-2022	32.5%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	24.2**
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	36.5%		2017-2021	31.2**
	2018-2022	46.5%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	103.0
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	46.2%		2017-2021	71.8
	2022	51.0%	Uninsured children	2017	6.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$57,500		2021	8.3%
	2018-2022	\$\$85,536	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	95.4%
Adult unemployment	2018	5.1%		2022	92.0%
	2022	3.6%	^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	10.0%			
	2022	1.4%			