Clay County
County Seat: Liberty

County Composite Rank: **10** 2020 | **12** 2024

Population: 257,033

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	5,057	5,186	8.7%	8.8%	↓	16.8%	3
Food insecurity for children [b]	8,480	5,860	14.5%	9.7%	↑	12.8%	17
Health							
Low birthweight infants [a, c]	1,013	1,159	6.7%	7.6%	↓	8.9%	38
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) [c]	418	385	7.1	6.4	↑	6.3	82
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) [b]	302	297	5.1	5.0	↑	5.1	95
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	102	86	13.6	10.8	↑	16.8	18
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) [a]	73	73	1.2	1.2	↑	2.7	9
Education							
High school graduation	2,890	3,109	95.6%	96.7%	↑	91.2%	21
Achievement proficiency [a, d] 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	1,814	1,489	58.2	49.5		41.0%	15
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	1,701	1,614	54.1	47.9		41.9%	14
4th grade math (MAP)	1,926	1,623	58.2	52.6		43.0%	18
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	1,678	1,620	51.7	44.1		41.2%	29

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.

Missouri KIDS COUNT 2024

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2018	239,164
	2021	257,033
Child population under 18	2018	59,326
	2022	60,010
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	24.5%
	2022	23.4%
Child population under 6	2018	18,967
	2022	18,329
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.7%
	2022	7.1%
Minority child population under 18 [a]	2018	14,014
	2022	17,567
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population [a]	2018	23.6%
	2022	29.3%
Minority child population under 6 [a]	2018	4,411
	2022	5,683
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population [a]	2018	23.3%
	2022	31.0%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	26.9%
	2018-2022	20.4%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	72.1%
	2018-2022	70.4%

Economic Well-being

Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	10.0%
	2022	8.7%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	7.9%
	2022	7.8%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	24.0%
	2018-2022	25.4%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	24.1%
	2018-2022	21.1%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	18.7%
	2022	17.4%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	$$80,500
	2018-2022	$$100,102
Adult unemployment	2018	2.9%
	2022	2.5%
Child homelessness	2018	2.5%
	2022	1.5%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	97.3
	2023	93.0
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	20.3%
	2023	19.7%
School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.8
	2022	93.2

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	38.9
	2018-2022	33.1
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	8.7%
	2018-2022	14.7%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	16.0
	2022	12.4
Annual high school dropout rate	2018	0.6%
	2022	0.6%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	1.0
	2022	1.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	4.8
	2018-2022	5.1
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	20.9
	2018-2022	18.2
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	16.8
	2018-2022	15.2
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	41.7
	2018-2022	31.1
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 [b]	2013-2017	50.0%
	2018-2022	25.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) [c]	2012-2016	18.3
	2017-2021	19.5
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	101.0
	2017-2021	109.4
Uninsured children	2017	3.7%
	2021	5.5%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	94.5%
	2022	93.0%

[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 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).