

# Cole County

County  
Composite  
Rank

64 <sup>2020</sup>

39 <sup>2024</sup>

County Seat: Jefferson City

Population: 76,969

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,019	2,200	12.0%	13.4%	↓	16.8%	17
Food insecurity for children <sup>b</sup>	2,820	1,820	16.1%	10.5%	↑	12.8%	27
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>a, c</sup>	372	372	8.1%	8.9%	↓	8.9%	82
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>c</sup>	116	102	6.7	6.1	↑	6.3	76
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	131	95	7.6	5.7	↑	5.1	99
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	43	40	18.2	16.3	↑	16.8	38
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	28	30	1.6	1.8	↓	2.7	17
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	708	816	87.4%	92.6%	↑	91.2%	68
Achievement proficiency <sup>a, d</sup>							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	417	349	47.8	41.4		41.0%	49
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	420	385	48.6	45.9		41.9%	17
4th grade math (MAP)	382	348	45.0	44.5		43.0%	45
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	497	452	56.3	48.1		41.2%	12

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

<sup>a</sup> Outcome not included in County Composite Rank.

<sup>b</sup> Data based on 2017 and 2021.

<sup>c</sup> Data based on five-year time spans, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022.

<sup>d</sup> 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	76,740	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	195.4
	2021	76,969		2023	182.2
Child population under 18	2018	17,106	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	5.1%
	2022	16,760		2023	5.1%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	22.6%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.4
	2022	21.8%		2022	92.5
Child population under 6	2018	5,544	Family & Community		
	2022	5,125	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	35.8
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.2%		2018-2022	70.6
	2022	6.7%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	9.9%
Minority child population under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2018	4,006		2018-2022	14.5%
	2022	4,325	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	31.0
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population <sup>a</sup>	2018	23.4%		2022	48.2
	2022	25.8%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	3.1%
Minority child population under 6 <sup>a</sup>	2018	1,454		2022	2.1%
	2022	1,415	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	7.6
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population <sup>a</sup>	2018	26.2%		2022	4.5
	2022	27.6%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	33.1%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	4.8
	2018-2022	20.5%		2018-2022	5.5
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	66.4%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	14.9
	2018-2022	70.7%		2018-2022	18.8
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	10.9
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	6.4%		2018-2022	14.0
	2022	8.4%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	35.1
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	11.2%		2018-2022	38.5
	2022	13.0%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>b</sup>	2013-2017	33.3%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	21.3%		2018-2022	50.0%
	2018-2022	20.3%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>c</sup>	2012-2016	33.4
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	33.2%		2017-2021	24.6
	2018-2022	27.5%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	104.2
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	29.0%		2017-2021	135.4
	2022	26.3%	Uninsured children	2017	4.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$59,371		2021	6.1%
	2018-2022	\$\$81,820	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	92.9%
Adult unemployment	2018	2.5%		2022	91.2%
	2022	2.0%	<sup>a</sup> Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.		
Child homelessness	2018	1.4%	<sup>b</sup> If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2022	1.0%	<sup>c</sup> *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		