

Dent County

County Seat: Salem

County
Composite
Rank

84 2020

83 2024

Population: 14,467

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,070	756	31.6%	24.2%	↑	16.8%	88
Food insecurity for children ^b	740	610	20.7%	18.2%	↑	12.8%	102
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	79	73	8.7%	9.4%	↓	8.9%	94
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	12	16	3.5	5.0	↓	6.3	48
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	19	14	5.5	4.4	↑	5.1	86
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	13	11	29.0	29.4	↓	16.8	89
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	29	26	8.4	8.1	↑	2.7	103
Education							
High school graduation	140	139	97.9%	96.5%	↓	91.2%	23
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	61	60	35.5	35.5		41.0%	79
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	71	87	42.3	48.9		41.9%	12
4th grade math (MAP)	74	66	43.0	42.9		43.0%	55
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	60	52	41.4	40.0		41.2%	42

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	15,504	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	79.7
	2021	14,467		2023	82.5
Child population under 18	2018	3,461	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	3.6%
	2022	3,200		2023	0.0%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	22.8%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	95.4
	2022	22.1%		2022	92.0
Child population under 6	2018	1,111	Family & Community		
	2022	967	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	59.7
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.2%		2018-2022	24.1
	2022	6.7%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	8.5%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	273		2018-2022	13.2%
	2022	304	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	25.3
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	7.9%		2022	10.0
	2022	9.5%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	0.2%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	136		2022	0.9%
	2022	102	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	7.5
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	12.2%		2022	11.9
	2022	10.6%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	29.9%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	13.2
	2018-2022	22.4%		2018-2022	11.6
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	70.0%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	27.9
	2018-2022	65.2%		2018-2022	26.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	13.7
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	27.8%		2018-2022	32.0
	2022	34.7%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	89.8
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	30.9%		2018-2022	0.0
	2022	23.9%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	66.7%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	25.9%		2018-2022	—%
	2018-2022	22.6%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	20.4**
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	43.9%		2017-2021	36.1*
	2018-2022	45.3%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	115.2
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	40.0%		2017-2021	92.0
	2022	39.3%	Uninsured children	2017	8.0%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$52,969		2021	7.3%
	2018-2022	\$\$56,637	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	95.3%
Adult unemployment	2018	3.3%		2022	88.8%
	2022	3.1%	^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	1.8%			
	2022	0.9%			