

Howell County

County Seat: West Plains

County
Composite
Rank

99

2020

97

2024

Population: 40,631

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,859	2,388	30.6%	25.1%	↑	16.8%	91
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,170	1,720	22.3%	17.9%	↑	12.8%	99
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	193	192	7.6%	8.2%	↓	8.9%	65
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	70	59	7.3	6.0	↑	6.3	75
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	20	29	2.1	3.0	↓	5.1	55
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	42	43	34.2	34.7	↓	16.8	103
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	122	65	12.8	6.7	↑	2.7	93
Education							
High school graduation	401	435	93.9%	93.8%	↓	91.2%	58
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	219	184	38.2	36.7		41.0%	73
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	268	226	52.7	42.6		41.9%	43
4th grade math (MAP)	228	236	41.6	48.9		43.0%	32
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	242	211	49.3	46.6		41.2%	16

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

Total population	2018	40,102
	2021	40,631
Child population under 18	2018	9,540
	2022	9,753
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	23.7%
	2022	24.0%
Child population under 6	2018	3,043
	2022	2,932
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.6%
	2022	7.2%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	673
	2022	834
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	7.1%
	2022	8.6%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	292
	2022	242
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	9.6%
	2022	8.3%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	29.8%
	2018-2022	23.5%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	69.7%
	2018-2022	65.9%
Economic Well-being		
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	40.6%
	2022	22.9%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	28.6%
	2022	24.1%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	24.8%
	2018-2022	26.2%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	52.7%
	2018-2022	49.7%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	45.4%
	2022	40.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$39,646
	2018-2022	\$\$52,853
Adult unemployment	2018	3.6%
	2022	2.9%
Child homelessness	2018	3.5%
	2022	2.4%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	62.9
	2023	58.3
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	20.0%
	2023	17.4%
School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.6
	2022	92.5

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	72.8
	2018-2022	102.3
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	8.0%
	2018-2022	14.7%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	14.6
	2022	21.0
Annual high school dropout rate	2018	0.8%
	2022	0.8%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	7.9
	2022	4.9

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	5.9
	2018-2022	9.3
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	47.3
	2018-2022	34.4
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	32.3
	2018-2022	23.7
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	118.6
	2018-2022	81.8
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	100.0%
	2018-2022	0.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	52.8
	2017-2021	37.4*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	105.4
	2017-2021	133.2
Uninsured children	2017	5.5%
	2021	7.1%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	94.5%
	2022	91.7%

^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).