

Mercer County

County Seat: Princeton

County
Composite
Rank

8 2020

16 2024

Population: 3,437

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	168	156	19.6%	19.3%	↑	16.8%	51
Food insecurity for children ^b	170	80	18.1%	9.3%	↑	12.8%	14
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	19	13	8.2%	5.5%	↑	8.9%	5
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	4	4	4.6	4.9	↓	6.3	45
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	3	2	3.4	2.4	↑	5.1	44
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	3	4	27.3	36.7	↓	16.8	109
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	-	-	0.0	0.0	→	2.7	1
Education							
High school graduation	40	24	95.2%	96.0%	↑	91.2%	30
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	25	25	53.2	65.8		41.0%	2
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	18	11	50.0	31.4		41.9%	98
4th grade math (MAP)	14	13	37.8	48.1		43.0%	35
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	32	14	74.4	36.8		41.2%	63

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	3,664	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	11.5
	2021	3,437		2023	12.2
Child population under 18	2018	867	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	0.0%
	2022	822		2023	0.0%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	25.5%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.4
	2022	23.9%		2022	94.1
Child population under 6	2018	278	Family & Community		
	2022	269	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	0.0
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.6%		2018-2022	0.0
	2022	7.8%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	4.7%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	62		2018-2022	9.2%
	2022	71	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	14.5
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	7.2%		2022	15.7
	2022	8.6%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	0.0%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	22		2022	0.0%
	2022	23	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	1.2
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	7.9%		2022	1.2
	2022	8.6%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	19.2%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	12.9
	2018-2022	8.8%		2018-2022	0.0
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	80.8%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	0.0
	2018-2022	76.5%		2018-2022	0.0
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	0.0
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	27.0%		2018-2022	0.0
	2022	22.7%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	0.0
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	19.2%		2018-2022	0.0
	2022	18.6%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	—%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	17.9%		2018-2022	—%
	2018-2022	21.7%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	0.0
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	44.4%		2017-2021	0.0**
	2018-2022	29.0%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	46.9
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	18.0%		2017-2021	92.0
	2022	17.3%	Uninsured children	2017	10.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$49,583		2021	9.4%
	2018-2022	\$\$76,250	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	93.6%
Adult unemployment	2018	3.1%		2022	94.3%
	2022	2.4%	^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	0.0%			
	2022	0.9%			