

Polk County

County Seat: Bolivar

County
Composite
Rank

38

2020

50

2024

Population: 32,693

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,673	1,624	23.8%	22.3%	↑	16.8%	73
Food insecurity for children ^b	1,230	850	16.7%	11.6%	↑	12.8%	39
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	112	130	5.8%	6.5%	↓	8.9%	18
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	52	32	7.1	4.3	↑	6.3	29
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	19	11	2.6	1.5	↑	5.1	27
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	35	17	26.9	15.1	↑	16.8	33
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	32	18	4.4	2.4	↑	2.7	32
Education							
High school graduation	347	315	92.0%	89.7%	↓	91.2%	95
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	186	108	49.9	32.6		41.0%	95
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	135	163	36.4	42.2		41.9%	45
4th grade math (MAP)	176	158	48.0	42.7		43.0%	56
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	77	80	31.8	38.6		41.2%	50

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	31,549	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	61.4
	2021	32,693		2023	45.4
Child population under 18	2018	7,343	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	17.3%
	2022	7,527		2023	8.2%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	23.0%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.9
	2022	23.0%		2022	93.5
Child population under 6	2018	2,338	Family & Community		
	2022	2,467	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	14.6
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.3%		2018-2022	79.0
	2022	7.6%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	8.9%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	560		2018-2022	13.8%
	2022	752	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	36.8
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	7.6%		2022	50.7
	2022	10.0%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	1.0%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	162		2022	1.8%
	2022	229	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	3.0
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	6.9%		2022	3.3
	2022	9.3%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	29.8%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	7.3
	2018-2022	15.8%		2018-2022	1.5
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	69.1%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	16.3
	2018-2022	67.8%		2018-2022	36.4
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	16.9
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	22.8%		2018-2022	24.1
	2022	19.1%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	14.1
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	22.7%		2018-2022	89.2
	2022	21.0%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	0.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	26.1%		2018-2022	100.0%
	2018-2022	26.7%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	25.6*
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	43.1%		2017-2021	31.9*
	2018-2022	41.4%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	97.5
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	34.8%		2017-2021	126.3
	2022	28.9%	Uninsured children	2017	6.3%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$48,819		2021	6.4%
	2018-2022	\$\$64,814	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	94.8%
Adult unemployment	2018	3.6%		2022	94.8%
	2022	2.4%	^a Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.		
Child homelessness	2018	3.7%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2022	1.9%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		