

Pulaski County

County Seat: Waynesville

County
Composite
Rank

16 ²⁰²⁰

56 ²⁰²⁴

Population: 53,941

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2018	2022	2018	2022		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,842	1,599	16.6%	14.0%	↑	16.8%	19
Food insecurity for children ^b	2,100	1,900	17.7%	16.1%	↑	12.8%	84
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^{a, c}	274	275	7.0%	7.7%	↓	8.9%	44
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^c	50	53	4.4	4.5	↓	6.3	32
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^b	33	15	2.9	1.3	↑	5.1	19
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	32	37	18.3	20.6	↓	16.8	59
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) ^a	87	72	7.7	6.1	↑	2.7	88
Education							
High school graduation	581	479	93.0%	87.9%	↓	91.2%	106
Achievement proficiency ^{a, d}							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	303	284	43.8	47.4		41.0%	21
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	296	300	50.3	44.9		41.9%	27
4th grade math (MAP)	326	297	45.2	47.2		43.0%	37
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	191	193	34.6	28.8		41.2%	92

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.

Pulaski County

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2020
16

2020

2024
56

2024

Population: 53,941

Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2018	52,591	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2018	39.2
	2021	53,941		2023	38.7
Child population under 18	2018	11,371	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2018	14.3%
	2022	11,768		2023	4.4%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2018	22.1%	School attendance, grades K-12	2018	94.8
	2022	21.8%		2022	92.9
Child population under 6	2018	4,110	Family & Community		
	2022	4,210	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2017	21.2
Children under 6 as % of total population	2018	7.9%		2018-2022	34.7
	2022	7.8%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2017	8.1%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2018	3,623		2018-2022	14.1%
	2022	4,085	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2018	28.4
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2018	31.9%		2022	15.3
	2022	34.7%	Annual high school dropout rate	2018	1.3%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2018	1,349		2022	1.9%
	2022	1,570	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2018	6.9
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2018	32.8%		2022	5.0
	2022	37.3%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2017	28.5%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2017	6.9
	2018-2022	21.3%		2018-2022	5.0
Children in married-parent families	2013-2017	70.7%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	16.9
	2018-2022	71.7%		2018-2022	23.5
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	13.8
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2018	28.7%		2018-2022	12.9
	2022	21.3%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2017	34.8
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2018	16.6%		2018-2022	78.1
	2022	13.6%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2017	0.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2017	26.2%		2018-2022	66.7%
	2018-2022	28.6%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2016	15.4*
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2017	37.3%		2017-2021	18.1*
	2018-2022	40.9%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2016	85.2
Children in families receiving SNAP	2018	29.3%		2017-2021	104.4
	2022	25.2%	Uninsured children	2017	4.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2017	\$\$54,709		2021	6.6%
	2018-2022	\$\$68,315	School attendance, grades 9-12	2018	93.7%
Adult unemployment	2018	3.6%		2022	91.9%
	2022	2.9%	^a Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.		
Child homelessness	2018	2.4%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2022	0.9%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		