Buchanan County

County Seat: St. Joseph

Population: 82,956

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2019	2023	2019	2023		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	3,819	3,392	20.2%	19.0%	↑	14.7%	61
Food insecurity for children [a]	3,500	3,910	17.2%	20.6%	↓	18.7%	80
Health							
Low birthweight infants [b]	392	496	8.7%	9.7%	↓	8.9%	100
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) [b]	211	175	10.8	9.5	↑	7.1	105
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) [a]	108	109	5.5	5.9	↓	5.5	104
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	77	71	29.3	26.1	↑	15.9	82
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	116	125	5.9	6.8	↓	2.9	90
Education							
High school graduation	754	688	85.0%	88.3%	↑	91.3%	102
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	441	322	43.8%	35.6%	↓	42.2%	90
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	366	315	38.5%	33.7%	↓	42.3%	88
4th grade math (MAP)	395	338	38.9%	38.4%	↓	43.7%	79
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	316	256	34.5%	23.9%	↓	40.1%	109

[a] Data based on 2018 and 2022.
[b] Data based on five-year time spans, 2013-2018 and 2019-2023.

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

Missouri KIDS COUNT 2025

Buchanan County

County Seat: St. Joseph   Population: 82,956

Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2019	87,364
	2022	82,956
Child population under 18	2019	19,547
	2023	18,451
Children under 18 as % of total population	2019	22.4%
	2023	22.2%
Child population under 6	2019	6,486
	2023	5,963
Children under 6 as % of total population	2019	7.4%
	2023	7.2%
Minority child population under 18 [a]	2019	4,247
	2023	4,942
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population [a]	2019	21.7%
	2023	26.8%
Minority child population under 6 [a]	2019	1,481
	2023	1,745
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population [a]	2019	22.8%
	2023	29.3%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2018	39.7%
	2019-2023	28.4%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2018	59.2%
	2019-2023	57.5%

Economic Well-being

Children under 6 in families in poverty	2019	27.5%
	2023	25.4%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2019	17.6%
	2023	17.3%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2018	24.7%
	2019-2023	28.4%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2018	40.3%
	2019-2023	40.3%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2019	39.6%
	2023	40.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2018	$54,017
	2019-2023	$63,593
Adult unemployment	2019	3.1%
	2023	2.9%
Child homelessness	2019	4.0%
	2023	2.7%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2019	74.2
	2024	76.3
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2019	22.5%
	2024	24.4%
School attendance, grades K-12	2019	94.7
	2023	92.0

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2018	65.2
	2019-2023	50.1
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2018	10.4%
	2019-2023	18.3%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2019	48.9
	2023	31.7
Annual high school dropout rate	2019	4.5%
	2023	2.8%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2019	3.8
	2023	2.9

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2018	7.4
	2019-2023	8.1
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	21.6
	2019-2023	40.1
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	10.0
	2019-2023	34.0
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	72.8
	2019-2023	65.3
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 [b]	2013-2018	100.0%
	2019-2023	16.7%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) [c]	2012-2017	17.1
	2018-2022	35.5
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2017	109.8
	2018-2022	17.9
Uninsured children	2018	5.5%
	2022	5.6%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2019	94.7%
	2023	90.8%

[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).