

Cole County

County Seat: Jefferson City

Population: 77,278

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2019	2023	2019	2023		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,278	1,873	13.7%	11.3%	↑	14.7%	12
Food insecurity for children ^a	2,060	2,750	11.8%	16.1%	↓	18.7%	28
Health							
Low birthweight infants ^b	327	348	9.1%	8.5%	↑	8.9%	73
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) ^b	146	116	8.6	6.9	↑	7.1	78
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	133	96	7.8	5.7	↑	5.5	102
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	42	42	17.6	16.5	↑	15.9	45
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	37	43	2.2	2.5	↓	2.9	34
Education							
High school graduation	730	831	85.3%	94.6%	↑	91.3%	60
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	361	365	44.6%	49.1%	↑	42.2%	18
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	366	362	42.1%	43.2%	↑	42.3%	37
4th grade math (MAP)	369	348	42.2%	41.0%	↓	43.7%	71
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	476	419	51.7%	49.6%	↓	40.1%	14

^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

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2019	76,745	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2019	195.4
	2022	77,278		2024	165.1
Child population under 18	2019	16,979	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2019	3.8%
	2023	16,872		2024	5.6%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2019	22.1%	School attendance, grades K-12	2019	94.3
	2023	21.8%		2023	92.4
Child population under 6	2019	5,369	Family & Community		
	2023	5,094	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2018	44.2
Children under 6 as % of total population	2019	7.0%		2019-2023	57.3
	2023	6.6%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2018	10.0%
Minority child population under 18 ^a	2019	3,952		2019-2023	14.3%
	2023	4,464	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2019	34.8
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population ^a	2019	23.3%		2023	35.1
	2023	26.5%	Annual high school dropout rate	2019	4.0%
Minority child population under 6 ^a	2019	1,395		2023	1.9%
	2023	1,399	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2019	5.3
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population ^a	2019	26.0%		2023	5.6
	2023	27.5%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2018	32.0%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2018	5.5
	2019-2023	19.7%		2019-2023	5.1
Children in married-parent families	2013-2018	67.4%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	12.7
	2019-2023	70.6%		2019-2023	27.4
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	7.1
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2019	19.7%		2019-2023	21.7
	2023	15.4%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	34.5
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2019	12.2%		2019-2023	50.2
	2023	10.2%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2018	0.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2018	21.4%		2019-2023	50.0%
	2019-2023	19.1%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2017	31.7
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2018	30.5%		2018-2022	24.3
	2019-2023	25.9%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2017	101.7
Children in families receiving SNAP	2019	28.1%		2018-2022	13.3
	2023	25.5%	Uninsured children	2018	5.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2018	\$65,588		2022	5.0%
	2019-2023	\$95,311	School attendance, grades 9-12	2019	93.1%
Adult unemployment	2019	2.6%		2023	91.3%
	2023	2.5%			
Child homelessness	2019	1.7%			
	2023	1.9%			

^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).