Dent County

County Seat: Salem

Population: 14,647

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2019	2023	2019	2023		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,008	737	29.9%	22.9%	↑	14.7%	91
Food insecurity for children [a]	750	730	21.3%	22.2%	↓	18.7%	96
Health							
Low birthweight infants [b]	70	58	9.5%	8.0%	↑	8.9%	56
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) [b]	23	16	6.7	4.9	↑	7.1	27
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) [a]	14	15	4.1	4.6	↓	5.5	90
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	9	7	20.2	17.9	↑	15.9	51
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	18	15	5.2	4.6	↑	2.9	77
Education							
High school graduation	124	111	96.1%	88.1%	↓	91.3%	104
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	73	74	40.8%	42.0%	↑	42.2%	55
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	55	81	40.7%	50.0%	↑	42.3%	13
4th grade math (MAP)	66	64	39.5%	37.6%	↓	43.7%	83
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	35	80	76.1%	41.9%	↓	40.1%	37

[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

Dent County

County Seat: Salem

Population: 14,647

Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2019	15,573
	2022	14,647
Child population under 18	2019	3,454
	2023	3,296
Children under 18 as % of total population	2019	22.2%
	2023	22.5%
Child population under 6	2019	1,115
	2023	967
Children under 6 as % of total population	2019	7.2%
	2023	6.6%
Minority child population under 18 [a]	2019	306
	2023	318
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population [a]	2019	8.9%
	2023	9.7%
Minority child population under 6 [a]	2019	150
	2023	95
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population [a]	2019	13.5%
	2023	9.8%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2018	26.6%
	2019-2023	21.6%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2018	73.2%
	2019-2023	63.5%

Economic Well-being

Children under 6 in families in poverty	2019	26.5%
	2023	12.3%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2019	29.6%
	2023	21.5%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2018	25.8%
	2019-2023	20.0%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2018	42.7%
	2019-2023	44.2%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2019	38.6%
	2023	36.1%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2018	$51,563
	2019-2023	$64,293
Adult unemployment	2019	3.6%
	2023	3.5%
Child homelessness	2019	1.9%
	2023	0.9%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2019	79.7
	2024	67.4
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2019	3.9%
	2024	0.0%
School attendance, grades K-12	2019	95.4
	2023	92.2

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/ homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2018	59.1
	2019-2023	45.7
Single parent head-of-house-hold with children under 18	2013-2018	7.5%
	2019-2023	13.4%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2019	20.0
	2023	13.1
Annual high school dropout rate	2019	0.0%
	2023	2.4%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2019	6.7
	2023	10.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2018	10.9
	2019-2023	11.0
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	28.3
	2019-2023	31.8
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	12.0
	2019-2023	39.3
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	89.4
	2019-2023	0.0
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 [b]	2013-2018	66.7%
	2019-2023	0.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) [c]	2012-2017	27.4*
	2018-2022	35.1*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2017	103.2
	2018-2022	8.9
Uninsured children	2018	8.5%
	2022	7.1%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2019	95.0%
	2023	90.5%

[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).