

# Howell County

County Seat: West Plains

Population: 40,735

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2019	2023	2019	2023		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,780	1,943	29.7%	20.3%	↑	14.7%	72
Food insecurity for children <sup>a</sup>	2,050	2,220	21.6%	23.1%	↓	18.7%	101
<b>Health</b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>b</sup>	150	193	7.4%	8.5%	↓	8.9%	72
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) <sup>b</sup>	58	56	6.1	5.7	↑	7.1	49
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	18	26	1.9	2.6	↓	5.5	52
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	41	38	33.4	29.5	↑	15.9	93
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	94	41	9.8	4.2	↑	2.9	67
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	392	404	94.5%	95.4%	↑	91.3%	49
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	206	209	39.9%	41.8%	↑	42.2%	58
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	250	243	50.7%	43.5%	↓	42.3%	34
4th grade math (MAP)	218	204	37.3%	40.0%	↑	43.7%	75
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	206	221	41.5%	35.3%	↓	40.1%	70

<sup>a</sup> Data based on 2018 and 2022.

<sup>b</sup> 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	40,117	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2019	62.9
	2022	40,735		2024	56.2
Child population under 18	2019	9,582	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2019	22.6%
	2023	9,837		2024	0.0%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2019	23.9%	School attendance, grades K-12	2019	94.8
	2023	24.2%		2023	92.6
Child population under 6	2019	3,081	Family & Community		
	2023	2,879	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2018	81.6
Children under 6 as % of total population	2019	7.7%		2019-2023	81.8
	2023	7.1%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2018	8.0%
Minority child population under 18 <sup>a</sup>	2019	659		2019-2023	14.7%
	2023	886	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2019	14.9
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population <sup>a</sup>	2019	6.9%		2023	35.9
	2023	9.0%	Annual high school dropout rate	2019	0.0%
Minority child population under 6 <sup>a</sup>	2019	261		2023	0.2%
	2023	276	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2019	8.3
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population <sup>a</sup>	2019	8.5%		2023	4.2
	2023	9.6%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2018	30.4%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2018	6.3
	2019-2023	22.5%		2019-2023	9.6
Children in married-parent families	2013-2018	68.8%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	42.1
	2019-2023	66.2%		2019-2023	36.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	24.0
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2019	23.2%		2019-2023	29.1
	2023	18.2%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	108.7
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2019	27.9%		2019-2023	65.5
	2023	19.1%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>b</sup>	2013-2018	100.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2018	26.5%		2019-2023	0.0%
	2019-2023	26.1%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>c</sup>	2012-2017	45.4
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2018	52.2%		2018-2022	37.1*
	2019-2023	46.1%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2017	94.8
Children in families receiving SNAP	2019	42.8%		2018-2022	13.2
	2023	40.8%	Uninsured children	2018	6.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2018	\$43,544		2022	6.3%
	2019-2023	\$57,500	School attendance, grades 9-12	2019	94.4%
Adult unemployment	2019	4.1%		2023	92.1%
	2023	3.7%			
Child homelessness	2019	4.1%			
	2023	2.7%			

<sup>a</sup> Due to changes in race categories, 2001 and later minority estimates are not comparable to pre-2001 counts and percentages.

<sup>b</sup> If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.

<sup>c</sup> \*Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); \*\* indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).