Pettis County

County Seat: Sedalia

Population: 43,530

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2019	2023	2019	2023		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,801	1,708	17.9%	16.2%	↑	14.7%	42
Food insecurity for children [a]	1,830	1,890	17.4%	17.7%	↓	18.7%	50
Health							
Low birthweight infants [b]	156	220	6.7%	7.6%	↓	8.9%	43
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) [b]	61	62	5.8	5.7	↑	7.1	48
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) [a]	53	52	5.1	4.8	↑	5.5	93
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	49	31	37.1	22.6	↑	15.9	73
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	36	48	3.4	4.4	↓	2.9	72
Education							
High school graduation	462	419	95.5%	96.0%	↑	91.3%	38
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	275	237	51.8%	46.9%	↓	42.2%	27
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	225	186	45.5%	38.0%	↓	42.3%	69
4th grade math (MAP)	292	240	55.9%	51.4%	↓	43.7%	18
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	190	209	39.6%	39.1%	↓	40.1%	51

[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

Pettis County

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Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2019	42,339
	2022	43,530
Child population under 18	2019	10,441
	2023	10,917
Children under 18 as % of total population	2019	24.7%
	2023	25.1%
Child population under 6	2019	3,482
	2023	3,595
Children under 6 as % of total population	2019	8.2%
	2023	8.3%
Minority child population under 18 [a]	2019	2,252
	2023	2,846
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population [a]	2019	21.6%
	2023	26.1%
Minority child population under 6 [a]	2019	728
	2023	1,025
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population [a]	2019	20.9%
	2023	28.5%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2018	32.9%
	2019-2023	19.3%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2018	64.9%
	2019-2023	70.3%

Economic Well-being

Children under 6 in families in poverty	2019	16.5%
	2023	15.8%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2019	16.4%
	2023	16.1%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2018	25.2%
	2019-2023	22.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2018	43.8%
	2019-2023	33.9%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2019	37.1%
	2023	34.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2018	$50,348
	2019-2023	$75,490
Adult unemployment	2019	3.5%
	2023	3.1%
Child homelessness	2019	13.9%
	2023	9.2%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2019	140.9
	2024	142.7
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2019	3.2%
	2024	5.1%
School attendance, grades K-12	2019	95.2
	2023	93.2

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2018	64.2
	2019-2023	68.0
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2018	10.5%
	2019-2023	13.2%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2019	41.6
	2023	31.6
Annual high school dropout rate	2019	0.6%
	2023	0.4%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2019	3.4
	2023	3.3

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2018	4.5
	2019-2023	3.4
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	24.6
	2019-2023	34.8
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	9.7
	2019-2023	28.7
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	89.6
	2019-2023	61.3
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 [b]	2013-2018	100.0%
	2019-2023	50.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) [c]	2012-2017	15.3*
	2018-2022	24.7*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2017	121.9
	2018-2022	14.1
Uninsured children	2018	7.9%
	2022	6.7%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2019	94.9%
	2023	93.0%

[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).