Polk County

County Seat: Bolivar

Population: 32,780

Outcome Measures	Number 2019	Number 2023	Rate 2019	Rate 2023	Trend	Rank State Rate	Rank County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,701	1,328	24.4%	18.1%	↑	14.7%	54
Food insecurity for children [a]	1,120	1,330	15.5%	18.3%	↓	18.7%	57
Health							
Low birthweight infants [b]	99	134	6.4%	6.8%	↓	8.9%	20
Preventable hospitalizations for all causes for children under 18 (per 1,000) [b]	39	47	5.3	6.2	↓	7.1	63
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) [a]	13	10	1.8	1.3	↑	5.5	17
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	32	18	25.5	15.5	↑	15.9	43
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	17	15	2.3	2.0	↑	2.9	25
Education							
High school graduation	310	341	89.6%	93.0%	↑	91.3%	78
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	138	122	41.8%	32.8%	↓	42.2%	95
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	186	166	47.1%	39.9%	↓	42.3%	56
4th grade math (MAP)	176	159	46.1%	49.4%	↑	43.7%	25
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	64	209	30.5%	42.7%	↑	40.1%	31

[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

Polk County

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Population: 32,780

Contextual Indicators

Demographics

Total population	2019	32,149
	2022	32,780
Child population under 18	2019	7,292
	2023	7,606
Children under 18 as % of total population	2019	22.7%
	2023	23.2%
Child population under 6	2019	2,395
	2023	2,480
Children under 6 as % of total population	2019	7.4%
	2023	7.6%
Minority child population under 18 [a]	2019	542
	2023	774
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population [a]	2019	7.4%
	2023	10.2%
Minority child population under 6 [a]	2019	160
	2023	231
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population [a]	2019	6.7%
	2023	9.3%
Children in single-parent families	2013-2018	32.7%
	2019-2023	17.0%
Children in married-parent families	2013-2018	65.1%
	2019-2023	68.8%

Economic Well-being

Children under 6 in families in poverty	2019	25.7%
	2023	22.5%
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2019	22.9%
	2023	18.2%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2018	26.8%
	2019-2023	26.5%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2018	43.5%
	2019-2023	39.4%
Children in families receiving SNAP	2019	33.7%
	2023	26.8%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2018	$47,181
	2019-2023	$74,907
Adult unemployment	2019	3.4%
	2023	3.1%
Child homelessness	2019	3.3%
	2023	1.7%

Education

Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2019	61.4
	2024	33.1
Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2019	8.7%
	2024	11.1%
School attendance, grades K-12	2019	94.8
	2023	93.1

Family & Community

Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2018	22.2
	2019-2023	67.6
Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2018	9.9%
	2019-2023	13.5%
Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2019	35.5
	2023	55.9
Annual high school dropout rate	2019	2.4%
	2023	1.0%
Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2019	3.4
	2023	3.9

Health

Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2018	6.2
	2019-2023	2.5
Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	22.0
	2019-2023	30.4
Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	17.6
	2019-2023	20.5
Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2018	28.6
	2019-2023	72.9
Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 [b]	2013-2018	75.0%
	2019-2023	100.0%
Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) [c]	2012-2017	25.0*
	2018-2022	31.6*
Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2017	90.4
	2018-2022	12.4
Uninsured children	2018	6.9%
	2022	8.9%
School attendance, grades 9-12	2019	95.1%
	2023	92.8%

[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).