

Buchanan County

County Seat: St. Joseph

Population: 83,574

| Outcome Measures | Number | | Rate | | Trend | Rank | |
|--|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------------|-------------|
| | 2020 | 2024 | 2020 | 2024 | | State Rate | County Rank |
| Economic Well-Being | | | | | | | |
| Children under 18 in poverty | 3,246 | 2,860 | 17.3% | 15.9% | ↑ | 15.3% | 42 |
| Food insecurity for children ^a | 3,480 | 4,080 | 17.3% | 21.7% | ↓ | 18.1% | 86 |
| Health^b | | | | | | | |
| Low birthweight infants ^c | 491 | 493 | 8.9% | 9.8% | ↓ | 8.9% | 99 |
| Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a | 97 | 73 | 5.0 | 3.9 | ↑ | 5.4 | 80 |
| Family & Community | | | | | | | |
| Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000) | 73 | 80 | 28.2 | 29.6 | ↓ | 15.9 | 94 |
| Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000) | 101 | 73 | 5.2 | 3.9 | ↑ | 2.9 | 69 |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| High school graduation | 736 | 826 | 82.4% | 92.0% | ↑ | 92.1% | 86 |
| Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP) | 639 | 330 | 62.6% | 37.4% | ↓ | 41.6% | 71 |
| 8th grade English/language arts (MAP) | 515 | 323 | 52.4% | 35.3% | ↓ | 42.1% | 74 |
| 4th grade math (MAP) | 522 | 310 | 50.4% | 34.2% | ↓ | 44.5% | 95 |
| Algebra I (end-of-course exam) | 537 | 298 | 65.5% | 28.1% | ↓ | 41.5% | 98 |

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

Notes:

^aData based on 2019 and 2023.

^b"Preventable Hospitalizations for All Causes for Children Under 18" was discontinued as a MOPHIMS indicator in 2023.

^cData based on five-year time spans, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

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Contextual Indicators

| Demographics | | | Education | | |
|--|-----------|----------|---|-----------|--------|
| Total population | 2020 | 87,904 | Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000) | 2020 | 64.6 |
| | 2023 | 83,574 | | 2025 | 83.1 |
| Child population under 18 | 2020 | 19,314 | Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity | 2020 | 37.7% |
| | 2024 | 18,490 | | 2025 | 23.0% |
| Children under 18 as % of total population | 2020 | 22.3% | School attendance, grades K-12 | 2020 | 94.3 |
| | 2024 | 22.1% | | 2024 | 92.0 |
| Child population under 6 | 2020 | 6,416 | Family & Community | | |
| | 2024 | 5,924 | Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000) | 2013-2019 | 58.6 |
| Children under 6 as % of total population | 2020 | 7.4% | | 2020-2024 | 46.4 |
| | 2024 | 7.1% | Single parent head-of-household with children under 18 | 2013-2019 | 10.3% |
| Minority child population under 18 | 2020 | 4,274 | | 2020-2024 | 17.0% |
| | 2024 | 5,340 | Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000) | 2020 | 44.9 |
| Minority child population under 18 as % of child population | 2020 | 22.1% | | 2024 | 26.7 |
| | 2024 | 28.9% | Annual high school dropout rate | 2020 | 2.5% |
| Minority child population under 6 | 2020 | 1,524 | | 2024 | 1.2% |
| | 2024 | 1,891 | Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000) | 2020 | 2.3 |
| Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population | 2020 | 23.8% | | 2024 | 1.9 |
| | 2024 | 31.9% | Health | | |
| Children in single-parent families | 2013-2019 | 26.9% | Infant mortality (per 1,000) | 2013-2019 | 6.6 |
| | 2020-2024 | 27.6% | | 2020-2024 | 9.9 |
| Children in married-parent families | 2013-2019 | 59.4% | Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000) | 2013-2019 | 25.2 |
| | 2020-2024 | 59.4% | | 2020-2024 | 40.0 |
| Economic Well-being | | | Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000) | 2013-2019 | 12.3 |
| Children under 6 in families in poverty | 2020 | 23.5% | | 2020-2024 | 33.9 |
| | 2024 | 11.5% | Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000) | 2013-2019 | 68.7 |
| Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty | 2020 | 16.7% | | 2020-2024 | 65.7 |
| | 2024 | 15.6% | Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b | 2013-2019 | 100.0% |
| Housing cost-burdened households | 2013-2019 | 25.5% | | 2020-2024 | 16.7% |
| | 2020-2024 | 29.0% | Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c | 2012-2018 | 26.4 |
| Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level | 2013-2019 | 38.6% | | 2019-2023 | 22.3 |
| | 2020-2024 | 39.4% | Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000) | 2012-2018 | 127.0 |
| Children in families receiving SNAP | 2020 | 39.8% | | 2019-2023 | 179.6 |
| | 2024 | 40.5% | Uninsured children | 2019 | 6.2% |
| Median income family household with children under 18 | 2013-2019 | \$56,819 | | 2023 | 5.3% |
| | 2020-2024 | \$67,350 | School attendance, grades 9-12 | 2020 | 94.1% |
| Adult unemployment ^a | 2020 | 4.9% | | 2024 | 90.3% |
| | 2023 | 2.9% | ^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026. | | |
| Child homelessness | 2020 | 4.1% | ^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period. | | |
| | 2024 | 3.5% | ^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases). | | |