

Cape Girardeau County

County Seat: Jackson

Population: 83,658

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,299	2,172	13.9%	12.5%	↑	15.3%	21
Food insecurity for children ^a	2,410	3,130	14.3%	17.7%	↓	18.1%	48
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	392	398	8.8%	9.0%	↓	8.9%	84
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	80	40	4.7	2.3	↑	5.4	42
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	51	49	16.4	14.8	↑	15.9	33
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	85	32	5.0	1.8	↑	2.9	22
Education							
High school graduation	657	773	91.4%	93.0%	↑	92.1%	73
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	519	325	65.8%	44.6%	↓	41.6%	34
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	438	317	59.0%	40.3%	↓	42.1%	47
4th grade math (MAP)	469	372	58.1%	48.5%	↓	44.5%	37
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	493	424	78.9%	47.6%	↓	41.5%	15

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	78,834	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	72.6
	2023	83,658		2025	66.4
Child population under 18	2020	16,932	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	13.7%
	2024	17,692		2025	15.5%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	21.3%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	95.3
	2024	21.2%		2024	93.9
Child population under 6	2020	5,566	Family & Community		
	2024	5,577	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	38.5
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.0%		2020-2024	56.4
	2024	6.7%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	6.6%
Minority child population under 18	2020	3,524		2020-2024	9.7%
	2024	4,487	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	18.7
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	20.8%		2024	40.3
	2024	25.4%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	1.0%
Minority child population under 6	2020	1,261		2024	1.5%
	2024	1,556	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	7.7
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	22.7%		2024	4.8
	2024	27.9%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	21.8%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	7.4
	2020-2024	18.4%		2020-2024	6.8
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	68.9%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	28.6
	2020-2024	68.9%		2020-2024	22.7
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	19.7
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	18.4%		2020-2024	14.8
	2024	14.3%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	50.3
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	13.5%		2020-2024	55.8
	2024	11.6%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	100.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	28.4%		2020-2024	100.0%
	2020-2024	26.9%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	19.1
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	30.0%		2019-2023	4**
	2020-2024	29.5%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	57.1
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	31.2%		2019-2023	77.9
	2024	29.0%	Uninsured children	2019	6.3%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$68,904		2023	4.6%
	2020-2024	\$91,297	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	94.3%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	5.2%		2024	92.5%
	2023	2.7%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	3.0%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	1.1%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		