

# Carter County

County Seat: Van Buren

Population: 5,359

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
<b>Economic Well-Being</b>							
Children under 18 in poverty	404	327	29.8%	26.1%	↑	15.3%	104
Food insecurity for children <sup>a</sup>	240	390	16.5%	30.6%	↓	18.1%	112
<b>Health<sup>b</sup></b>							
Low birthweight infants <sup>c</sup>	28	27	7.3%	6.8%	↑	8.9%	25
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) <sup>a</sup>	4	0	2.9	0.0	↑	5.4	1
<b>Family &amp; Community</b>							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	3	7	16.5	42.9	↓	15.9	113
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	15	6	10.9	4.7	↑	2.9	84
<b>Education</b>							
High school graduation	98	65	97.0%	95.6%	↓	92.1%	41
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	56	53	53.3%	58.2%	↑	41.6%	3
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	59	29	56.2%	36.3%	↓	42.1%	68
4th grade math (MAP)	40	48	48.8%	55.2%	↑	44.5%	13
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	44	29	37.3%	37.7%	↑	41.5%	56

Trend: ↑ better ↓ worse → no change

## Notes:

<sup>a</sup>Data based on 2019 and 2023.

<sup>b</sup>"Preventable Hospitalizations for All Causes for Children Under 18" was discontinued as a MOPHIMS indicator in 2023.

<sup>c</sup>Data based on five-year time spans, 2015-2019 and 2020-2024.

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## Contextual Indicators

Demographics			Education		
Total population	2020	6,085	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	76.3
	2023	5,359		2025	33.0
Child population under 18	2020	1,377	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	46.7%
	2024	1,274		2025	—%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	23.0%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	95.0
	2024	23.8%		2024	93.5
Child population under 6	2020	428	Family & Community		
	2024	408	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	35.6
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.1%		2020-2024	250.0
	2024	7.6%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	9.5%
Minority child population under 18	2020	97		2020-2024	24.6%
	2024	130	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	30.3
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	7.0%		2024	35.6
	2024	10.2%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	—%
Minority child population under 6	2020	21		2024	—%
	2024	37	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	5.1
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	4.9%		2024	1.6
	2024	9.1%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	21.7%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	5.2
	2020-2024	34.3%		2020-2024	10.1
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	55.3%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	30.6
	2020-2024	55.3%		2020-2024	66.7
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	32.3
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	33.3%		2020-2024	20.4
	2024	20.5%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	0.0
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	29.0%		2020-2024	270.3
	2024	26.8%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 <sup>b</sup>	2013-2019	0.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	24.5%		2020-2024	50.0%
	2020-2024	29.4%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) <sup>c</sup>	2012-2018	22.2
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	31.2%		2019-2023	0**
	2020-2024	60.2%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	54.4
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	44.1%		2019-2023	89.4
	2024	47.3%	Uninsured children	2019	7.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$69,875		2023	6.7%
	2020-2024	\$49,306	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	95.1%
Adult unemployment <sup>a</sup>	2020	6.5%		2024	92.5%
	2023	4.4%	<sup>a</sup> There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	9.7%	<sup>b</sup> If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	0.6%	<sup>c</sup> *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		