

Clay County

County Seat: Liberty

Population: 263,370

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	5,237	5,676	8.9%	9.6%	↓	15.3%	7
Food insecurity for children ^a	6,050	8,910	10.3%	14.6%	↓	18.1%	12
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	1,105	1,169	7.2%	7.9%	↓	8.9%	58
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	249	319	4.1	5.3	↓	5.4	104
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	97	88	12.6	10.5	↑	15.9	22
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	81	106	1.3	1.8	↓	2.9	21
Education							
High school graduation	2,954	3,310	95.9%	96.6%	↑	92.1%	30
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	2,368	1,442	74.5%	48.6%	↓	41.6%	16
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	1,838	1,464	60.8%	45.8%	↓	42.1%	27
4th grade math (MAP)	2,150	1,593	68.0%	50.6%	↓	44.5%	28
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	1,993	1,581	68.4%	43.0%	↓	41.5%	32

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	246,480	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	88.3
	2023	263,370		2025	83.2
Child population under 18	2020	60,214	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	23.3%
	2024	60,353		2025	19.0%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	23.8%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.7
	2024	22.9%		2024	93.2
Child population under 6	2020	19,162	Family & Community		
	2024	18,358	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	43.9
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.6%		2020-2024	37.1
	2024	7.0%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	9.9%
Minority child population under 18	2020	14,901		2020-2024	13.8%
	2024	18,881	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	9.8
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	24.7%		2024	14.2
	2024	31.3%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	0.7%
Minority child population under 6	2020	4,820		2024	0.5%
	2024	6,089	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	1.1
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	25.2%		2024	1.3
	2024	33.2%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	22.2%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	5.1
	2020-2024	19.8%		2020-2024	4.6
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	68.3%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	17.9
	2020-2024	68.3%		2020-2024	20.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	10.4
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	13.6%		2020-2024	15.6
	2024	14.0%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	41.6
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	8.3%		2020-2024	38.8
	2024	8.5%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	50.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	25.0%		2020-2024	28.6%
	2020-2024	26.1%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	21.1
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	23.1%		2019-2023	13.3
	2020-2024	19.9%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	101.4
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	18.3%		2019-2023	107.5
	2024	17.4%	Uninsured children	2019	4.9%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$86,187		2023	4.4%
	2020-2024	\$108,031	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	94.5%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	6.1%		2024	92.9%
	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	2.3%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	1.9%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		