

Cole County

County Seat: Jefferson City

Population: 77,625

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,793	1,891	10.7%	11.5%	↓	15.3%	17
Food insecurity for children ^a	2,030	2,920	11.8%	17.1%	↓	18.1%	35
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	372	362	8.6%	8.9%	↓	8.9%	83
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	156	72	9.2	4.3	↑	5.4	92
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	36	37	15.0	14.7	↑	15.9	32
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	35	39	2.1	2.3	↓	2.9	33
Education							
High school graduation	705	801	85.7%	92.3%	↑	92.1%	83
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	486	343	52.3%	43.3%	↓	41.6%	39
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	447	349	57.4%	46.2%	↓	42.1%	23
4th grade math (MAP)	446	348	53.9%	45.6%	↓	44.5%	47
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	468	362	56.9%	41.9%	↓	41.5%	36

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	76,630	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	181.3
	2023	77,625		2025	165.6
Child population under 18	2020	17,028	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	5.5%
	2024	16,738		2025	5.6%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	22.3%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.0
	2024	21.6%		2024	93.2
Child population under 6	2020	5,385	Family & Community		
	2024	4,980	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	81.7
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.1%		2020-2024	53.5
	2024	6.4%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	9.3%
Minority child population under 18	2020	3,978		2020-2024	13.5%
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	23.4%	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	23.0
	2024	26.5%		2024	34.2
Minority child population under 6	2020	1,400	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	2.5%
	2024	1,337		2024	1.8%
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	26.0%	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	4.3
	2024	26.9%		2024	5.2
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	22.3%	Health		
	2020-2024	21.0%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	6.0
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	71.2%		2020-2024	6.4
	2020-2024	71.2%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	22.3
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	13.7%		2020-2024	26.3
	2024	2.1%	Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	9.7
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	10.5%		2020-2024	22.0
	2024	11.1%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	67.9
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	20.4%		2020-2024	43.8
	2020-2024	19.4%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	25.0%
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	27.0%		2020-2024	50.0%
	2020-2024	25.0%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	25.0
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	27.1%		2019-2023	14.5*
	2024	24.5%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	105.5
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$69,055		Uninsured children	2019
	2020-2024	\$100,403	2023		4.1%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	4.4%	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	92.9%
	2023	2.5%		2024	91.9%
Child homelessness	2020	2.2%			
	2024	1.0%			

^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.

^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).