

Dent County

County Seat: Salem

Population: 14,721

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	748	634	22.2%	19.6%	↑	15.3%	69
Food insecurity for children ^a	780	680	22.1%	20.6%	↑	18.1%	74
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	78	50	9.6%	6.8%	↑	8.9%	24
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	24	15	7.0	4.5	↑	5.4	93
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	11	12	24.7	28.8	↓	15.9	93
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	23	24	6.7	7.3	↓	2.9	103
Education							
High school graduation	134	121	97.1%	89.6%	↓	92.1%	102
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	88	70	50.9%	44.6%	↓	41.6%	35
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	99	86	57.2%	50.9%	↓	42.1%	11
4th grade math (MAP)	77	78	47.5%	45.3%	↓	44.5%	51
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	88	78	59.1%	47.6%	↓	41.5%	16

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	15,518	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	74.5
	2023	14,721		2025	73.3
Child population under 18	2020	3,437	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	3.9%
	2024	3,301		2025	—%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	22.2%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	95.0
	2024	22.4%		2024	93.1
Child population under 6	2020	1,096	Family & Community		
	2024	940	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	19.8
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.1%		2020-2024	67.2
	2024	6.4%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	9.1%
Minority child population under 18	2020	274		2020-2024	12.3%
	2024	346	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	6.9
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	8.0%		2024	27.8
	2024	10.5%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	—%
Minority child population under 6	2020	120		2024	1.7%
	2024	98	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	10.8
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	10.9%		2024	5.5
	2024	10.4%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	23.1%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	12.3
	2020-2024	21.7%		2020-2024	13.6
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	70.7%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	30.5
	2020-2024	70.7%		2020-2024	44.5
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	24.4
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	28.7%		2020-2024	39.3
	2024	20.4%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	30.7
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	22.5%		2020-2024	66.4
	2024	18.9%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	100.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	24.2%		2020-2024	0.0%
	2020-2024	18.8%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	37.3
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	49.4%		2019-2023	11.6**
	2020-2024	39.3%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	91.4
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	36.9%		2019-2023	81.4
	2024	35.3%	Uninsured children	2019	8.0%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$47,255		2023	6.1%
	2020-2024	\$83,010	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	94.8%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	4.8%		2024	92.1%
	2023	3.5%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	3.1%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	1.3%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		