

Hickory County

County Seat: Hermitage

Population: 8,766

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	444	393	28.9%	25.7%	↑	15.3%	102
Food insecurity for children ^a	310	310	19.5%	20.9%	↓	18.1%	78
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	33	28	8.4%	6.7%	↑	8.9%	20
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	0	1	0.0	0.6	↓	5.4	11
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	8	6	36.5	28.3	↑	15.9	92
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	6	8	3.8	5.1	↓	2.9	87
Education							
High school graduation	112	103	98.2%	92.8%	↓	92.1%	77
Achievement proficiency							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	87	65	65.4%	49.6%	↓	41.6%	14
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	94	55	75.2%	46.2%	↓	42.1%	22
4th grade math (MAP)	63	59	55.8%	59.0%	↑	44.5%	8
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	92	53	86.0%	41.4%	↓	41.5%	38

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	9,452	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	48.7
	2023	8,766		2025	36.3
Child population under 18	2020	1,580	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	—%
	2024	1,570		2025	—%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	16.5%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	95.0
	2024	17.9%		2024	94.8
Child population under 6	2020	482	Family & Community		
	2024	511	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	34.8
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	5.0%		2020-2024	94.3
	2024	5.8%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	2.3%
Minority child population under 18	2020	145		2020-2024	6.0%
	2024	171	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	50.9
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	9.2%		2024	20.9
	2024	10.9%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	—%
Minority child population under 6	2020	63		2024	1.6%
	2024	61	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	1.3
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	13.1%		2024	0.0
	2024	11.9%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	18.7%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	2.5
	2020-2024	15.5%		2020-2024	9.6
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	78.1%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	26.7
	2020-2024	78.1%		2020-2024	54.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	13.9
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	16.0%		2020-2024	33.8
	2024	30.9%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	64.3
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	30.1%		2020-2024	137.0
	2024	26.7%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	100.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	33.2%		2020-2024	50.0%
	2020-2024	33.3%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	19.9
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	46.5%		2019-2023	12.4**
	2020-2024	54.1%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	96.4
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	34.9%		2019-2023	203.9
	2024	31.9%	Uninsured children	2019	10.0%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$50,313		2023	6.4%
	2020-2024	\$58,500	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	95.0%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	5.1%		2024	94.0%
	2023	3.6%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	2.4%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	1.0%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		