

Howell County

County Seat: West Plains

Population: 40,762

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,339	2,251	24.7%	23.9%	↑	15.3%	96
Food insecurity for children ^a	2,110	2,210	22.0%	22.6%	↓	18.1%	95
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	196	194	7.9%	8.4%	↓	8.9%	74
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	32	21	3.3	2.2	↑	5.4	41
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	51	41	42.4	31.9	↑	15.9	100
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	88	52	9.1	5.4	↑	2.9	91
Education							
High school graduation	405	409	97.4%	97.6%	↑	92.1%	17
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	304	190	59.5%	38.2%	↓	41.6%	69
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	304	224	62.6%	45.9%	↓	42.1%	26
4th grade math (MAP)	250	208	48.4%	42.3%	↓	44.5%	67
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	325	158	68.6%	33.5%	↓	41.5%	74

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	40,130	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	52.6
	2023	40,762		2025	50.0
Child population under 18	2020	9,684	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	19.4%
	2024	9,659		2025	—%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	24.1%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.3
	2024	23.7%		2024	93.3
Child population under 6	2020	3,083	Family & Community		
	2024	2,780	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	121.5
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.7%		2020-2024	59.1
	2024	6.8%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	7.6%
Minority child population under 18	2020	676		2020-2024	16.4%
	2024	888	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	9.9
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	7.0%		2024	28.3
	2024	9.2%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	0.3%
Minority child population under 6	2020	254		2024	0.2%
	2024	275	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	5.3
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	8.2%		2024	4.0
	2024	9.9%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	20.4%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	8.5
	2020-2024	23.4%		2020-2024	8.7
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	70.1%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	39.2
	2020-2024	70.1%		2020-2024	28.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	15.0
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	32.7%		2020-2024	27.1
	2024	19.5%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	131.1
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	24.1%		2020-2024	32.9
	2024	21.4%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	66.7%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	24.5%		2020-2024	0.0%
	2020-2024	26.3%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	45.9
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	53.8%		2019-2023	11.9*
	2020-2024	48.1%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	88.6
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	42.0%		2019-2023	145.4
	2024	40.8%	Uninsured children	2019	7.6%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$43,289		2023	7.1%
	2020-2024	\$53,889	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	94.3%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	6.7%		2024	91.7%
	2023	3.7%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	1.8%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	3.5%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		