

Mercer County

County Seat: Princeton

Population: 3,452

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	146	178	17.6%	20.3%	↓	15.3%	77
Food insecurity for children ^a	90	140	9.9%	17.1%	↓	18.1%	35
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	14	13	5.9%	5.3%	↑	8.9%	7
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	4	1	4.7	1.1	↑	5.4	18
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	1	1	10.2	8.8	↑	15.9	14
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	2	1	2.4	1.1	↑	2.9	9
Education							
High school graduation	44	43	97.8%	100.0%	↑	92.1%	1
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	32	21	64.0%	58.3%	↓	41.6%	2
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	28	14	57.1%	43.8%	↓	42.1%	35
4th grade math (MAP)	23	13	46.9%	54.2%	↑	44.5%	15
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	21	12	42.9%	21.8%	↓	41.5%	111

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	3,623	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	—
	2023	3,452		2025	11.2
Child population under 18	2020	845	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	—%
	2024	890		2025	—%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	23.7%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.8
	2024	25.8%		2024	94.7
Child population under 6	2020	279	Family & Community		
	2024	309	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	0.0
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	7.8%		2020-2024	0.0
	2024	9.0%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	4.5%
Minority child population under 18	2020	58		2020-2024	14.9%
	2024	100	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	20.6
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	6.9%		2024	10.4
	2024	11.2%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	—%
Minority child population under 6	2020	17		2024	—%
	2024	33	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	1.2
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	6.1%		2024	1.1
	2024	10.7%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	13.8%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	12.6
	2020-2024	14.4%		2020-2024	0.0
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	82.7%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	0.0
	2020-2024	82.7%		2020-2024	24.2
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	0.0
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	1.4%		2020-2024	30.0
	2024	14.5%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	0.0
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	17.2%		2020-2024	0.0
	2024	21.8%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	0.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	22.1%		2020-2024	0.0%
	2020-2024	19.8%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	0.0
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	23.7%		2019-2023	0**
	2020-2024	36.7%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	55.7
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	14.7%		2019-2023	99.1
	2024	14.9%	Uninsured children	2019	12.2%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$73,600		2023	8.2%
	2020-2024	\$68,542	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	94.0%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	3.6%		2024	94.2%
	2023	2.8%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	2.8%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	—%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		