

Pulaski County

County Seat: Waynesville

Population: 53,964

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	1,600	1,827	14.3%	16.1%	↓	15.3%	44
Food insecurity for children ^a	2,020	2,420	17.6%	20.5%	↓	18.1%	73
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	289	266	8.0%	7.7%	↑	8.9%	54
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	21	28	1.8	2.4	↓	5.4	46
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	42	15	24.6	8.4	↑	15.9	11
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	55	84	4.8	7.2	↓	2.9	102
Education							
High school graduation	519	512	90.7%	91.4%	↑	92.1%	90
Achievement proficiency 3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	438	261	64.3%	40.1%	↓	41.6%	55
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	347	230	54.2%	28.8%	↓	42.1%	99
4th grade math (MAP)	395	275	58.2%	41.0%	↓	44.5%	73
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	388	201	60.0%	30.1%	↓	41.5%	87

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	52,359	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	32.8
	2023	53,964		2025	64.2
Child population under 18	2020	11,463	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	5.3%
	2024	11,689		2025	—%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	21.7%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.0
	2024	21.7%		2024	93.2
Child population under 6	2020	4,258	Family & Community		
	2024	4,003	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	31.3
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	8.1%		2020-2024	36.2
	2024	7.4%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	9.3%
Minority child population under 18	2020	3,767		2020-2024	15.2%
	2024	3,932	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	12.4
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	32.9%		2024	42.2
	2024	33.6%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	1.4%
Minority child population under 6	2020	1,502		2024	1.4%
	2024	1,434	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	8.6
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	35.3%		2024	6.9
	2024	35.8%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	22.0%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	5.0
	2020-2024	24.3%		2020-2024	4.1
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	68.6%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	16.7
	2020-2024	68.6%		2020-2024	23.6
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	5.2
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	22.6%		2020-2024	17.5
	2024	13.7%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	65.0
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	13.8%		2020-2024	53.8
	2024	15.0%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	66.7%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	27.6%		2020-2024	66.7%
	2020-2024	26.7%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	16.2
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	35.3%		2019-2023	10.5*
	2020-2024	37.1%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	61.7
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	26.5%		2019-2023	111.0
	2024	25.7%	Uninsured children	2019	5.7%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$66,418		2023	5.8%
	2020-2024	\$71,968	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	91.9%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	5.6%		2024	92.3%
	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	1.8%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	0.6%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		