

Taney County

County Seat: Forsyth

Population: 56,744

Outcome Measures	Number		Rate		Trend	Rank	
	2020	2024	2020	2024		State Rate	County Rank
Economic Well-Being							
Children under 18 in poverty	2,769	2,267	24.1%	19.8%	↑	15.3%	72
Food insecurity for children ^a	2,090	2,440	17.9%	20.6%	↓	18.1%	74
Health^b							
Low birthweight infants ^c	289	255	9.2%	8.6%	↑	8.9%	80
Child asthma ER rates (per 1,000) ^a	44	32	3.7	2.7	↑	5.4	56
Family & Community							
Births to teens, ages 15-19 (per 1,000)	42	38	23.7	19.4	↑	15.9	58
Substantiated child abuse/neglect cases (per 1,000)	80	59	6.8	5.0	↑	2.9	86
Education							
High school graduation	566	568	97.1%	94.7%	↓	92.1%	57
Achievement proficiency							
3rd grade English/language arts (MAP)	366	255	62.8%	45.1%	↓	41.6%	32
8th grade English/language arts (MAP)	385	269	62.0%	44.5%	↓	42.1%	33
4th grade math (MAP)	313	227	53.8%	40.2%	↓	44.5%	77
Algebra I (end-of-course exam)	373	236	68.3%	41.8%	↓	41.5%	37

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	55,563	Licensed child care capacity (per 1,000)	2020	33.4
	2023	56,744		2025	44.5
Child population under 18	2020	11,742	Accredited child care capacity as % of licensed capacity	2020	49.5%
	2024	11,706		2025	37.2%
Children under 18 as % of total population	2020	20.9%	School attendance, grades K-12	2020	94.1
	2024	20.6%		2024	92.3
Child population under 6	2020	3,762	Family & Community		
	2024	3,547	Teen unintentional deaths/homicides/suicides (per 100,000)	2013-2019	45.4
Children under 6 as % of total population	2020	6.7%		2020-2024	40.8
	2024	6.3%	Single parent head-of-household with children under 18	2013-2019	7.5%
Minority child population under 18	2020	2,033		2020-2024	9.6%
	2024	2,642	Juvenile law violation referrals, ages 10-17 (per 1,000)	2020	14.8
Minority child population under 18 as % of child population	2020	17.3%		2024	48.0
	2024	22.6%	Annual high school dropout rate	2020	0.3%
Minority child population under 6	2020	745		2024	1.1%
	2024	853	Children entering/re-entering state custody (per 1,000)	2020	11.5
Minority child population under 6 as % of under 6 child population	2020	19.8%		2024	9.3
	2024	24.1%	Health		
Children in single-parent families	2013-2019	24.5%	Infant mortality (per 1,000)	2013-2019	8.6
	2020-2024	21.5%		2020-2024	6.1
Children in married-parent families	2013-2019	66.6%	Child deaths ages 1-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	23.4
	2020-2024	66.6%		2020-2024	23.4
Economic Well-being			Child deaths ages 1-14 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	12.5
Children under 6 in families in poverty	2020	25.3%		2020-2024	15.7
	2024	13.2%	Child deaths ages 15-17 (per 100,000)	2013-2019	58.9
Children ages 5-17 in families in poverty	2020	23.3%		2020-2024	55.2
	2024	19.0%	Unrestrained automobile fatalities for children under 18 ^b	2013-2019	50.0%
Housing cost-burdened households	2013-2019	27.7%		2020-2024	100.0%
	2020-2024	27.4%	Substance abuse hospitalizations ages 1-19 (per 100,000) ^c	2012-2018	42.2
Family households with children under 18 at 185% of poverty level	2013-2019	45.2%		2019-2023	3.1**
	2020-2024	34.9%	Mental/behavioral hospitalizations (not substance abuse) ages 1-19 (per 10,000)	2012-2018	78.9
Children in families receiving SNAP	2020	38.8%		2019-2023	103.9
	2024	34.6%	Uninsured children	2019	8.6%
Median income family household with children under 18	2013-2019	\$51,034		2023	5.2%
	2020-2024	\$74,545	School attendance, grades 9-12	2020	94.1%
Adult unemployment ^a	2020	12.9%		2024	91.7%
	2023	4.9%	^a There will be a delay in the release of 2024 annual unemployment statistics until after April 10, 2026.		
Child homelessness	2020	4.8%	^b If no % listed, no vehicle fatalities occurred during the period.		
	2024	9.2%	^c *Indicates unstable rate due to low count (<20 cases); ** indicates very unstable rate due to very low count (<5 cases).		