



# KIDS COUNT 2017

# Barry County



Kids Count in Michigan is part of a broad national effort to measure the well-being of children at the state and local levels and use that information to shape efforts to improve the lives of children. The project is housed at the Michigan League for Public Policy, a research and advocacy organization that promotes policies to improve the economic security of all Michigan residents. **Overall, Barry County ranked 8** out of 82 Michigan counties for the indicators of child well-being measured by the report. For more information, visit <http://www.mlpp.org/kids-count/michigan-2/2017-kids-count-in-michigan-data-book>.

## Where we (Barry County) are getting **better**:

- Less children, ages 0-5, were in the Food Assistance Program in 2015 than in 2008, both in number and percent
- The infant mortality rate decreased from 2006-2008 to 2012-2014
- There was a lower rate of low-birth weight babies during 2012-2014 than in 2006-2008
- There were fewer child/teen deaths (ages 1-19) during 2012-2014 than in 2006-2008
- There were fewer births to teens, ages 15-19, during 2012-2014 than in 2006-2008
- The rate and number of confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect decreased in 2015 compared to 2009
- The rate and number of children in out-of-home care decreased in 2015 compared to 2009
- 3- and 4-year olds in preschool increased in 2011-2015 compared to 2005-2009

## Where we (Barry County) **need improvement**:

- More children (ages 0-17) were living in poverty in 2015 than in 2008, both in number and percent
- More students received free/reduced price school lunches in 2014-2015 than in 2006-2007, both in number and percent
- More mothers received less than adequate prenatal care in 2012-2014 than during 2006-2008
- The rate of children in families investigated of abuse/neglect increased in 2015 compared to 2009
- More students did **NOT** graduate on time among the Class of 2015 compared to Class of 2008
- The percent of 3rd graders **not proficient** in English Language Arts increased in 2015-2016 compared to 2014-2015
- The percent of 8th grade students **not proficient** in math increased in 2015-2016 compared to 2014-2015

There are 13,564 children aged 0-17 years living in Barry County. From 2008 to 2014, the number of children has decreased by 2.1%.

## Barry County is **WORSE** than Michigan in these areas:

- Children in investigated families of child abuse/neglect
- 3- and 4-year olds in preschool
- 8th graders not proficient in math



### **RANKING** among the **best** counties (the top 25% of counties)

- 3rd graders not proficient in English Language Arts (5 of 82)
- Infant Mortality (6 of 47)
- Children, ages 0-5, in the Food Assistance Program (7 of 82)
- Children in Poverty (8 of 82)
- Child/Teen Deaths, ages 1-19 (7 of 51)
- Confirmed victims of abuse/neglect (13 of 82)
- Low-birth weight babies (14 of 81)
- Students with Free/Reduced lunch (14 of 82)



### **RANKING** among the **middle** counties (the middle 25% to 75% of counties)

- Children in out-of-home care (23 of 81)
- Births to teens, ages 15-19 (24 of 82)
- Children in investigated families of abuse/neglect (24 of 82)
- Students not graduating on time (26 of 79)
- Confirmed victims of child abuse/neglect (33 of 82)
- Less than adequate prenatal care (34 of 82)
- 8th graders not proficient in math (35 of 82)
- 3- and 4-year olds in preschool (54 of 82)



### **RANKING** among the **worst** counties (the bottom 25% of counties)

- None of the included measures placed Barry County in the bottom 25% of counties!



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