

References

A full list of References & Definitions of variables is available on the CFM website at: tinyurl.com/FactSheetRefs or by scanning the QR code.



STATE OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI'S CHILDREN & YOUTH 2025 County Level Factsheets

Lee County

Notes

*Child care includes Head Start and centers and home-based options that are available in a community. These options do not include public Pre-K which falls under the purview of the Department of Education. While the number of child care seats exceed the number of children 0-5, this does not mean that coverage is available for every child, given that many fewer seats are available for infants and toddlers.

**Assistance includes SSI, Cash Public Assistance, or Food Stamps/SNAP received in the past 12 months.

^Indicates that these statistics rely on 5-year estimates (2019-2023)

‡Indicates that this variable is a 10-year average due to low population (2013-2022)

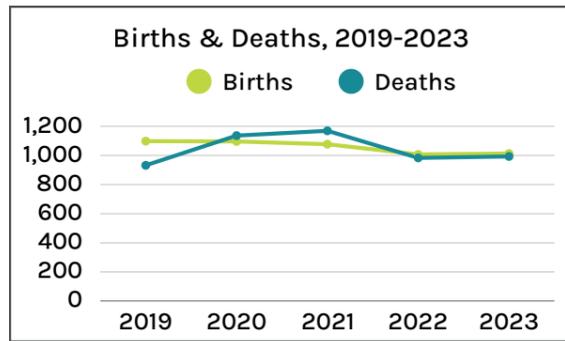
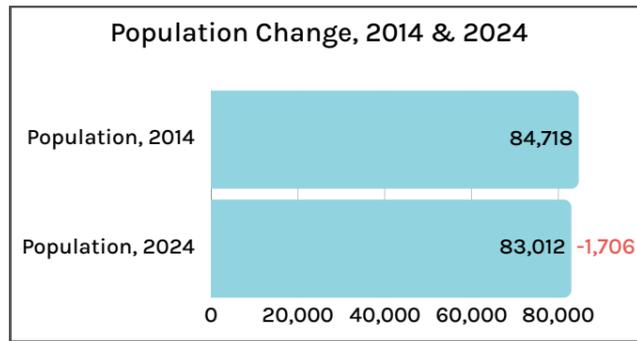
#Average number of children in MDCPS custody was calculated using the number of children in care on the first of each month for the past 12 months (December 2024-November 2025).

§Child and teen death rates were calculated based on the number of deaths of children and teens 0-19 between 2018 and October 2025.

This project was made possible by the Mississippi State Legislature via the Mississippi Department of Education (MDE).

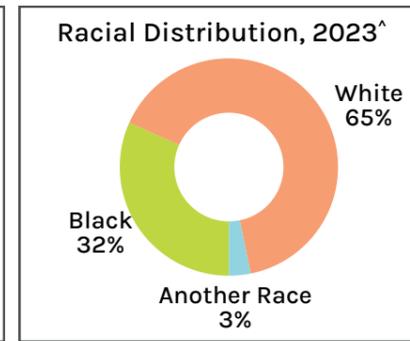
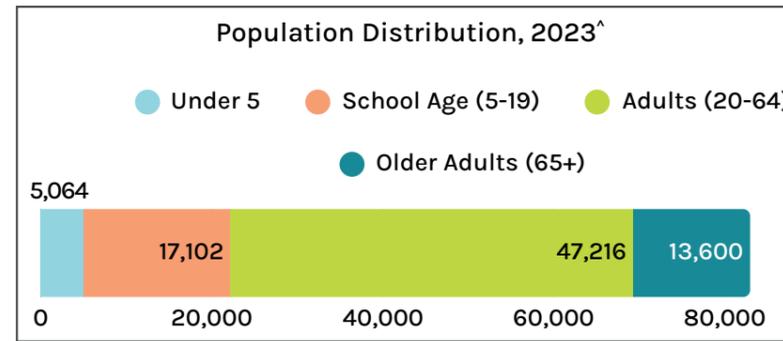
The Children's Foundation of Mississippi is grateful for this support.

For more information about the Children's Foundation of Mississippi and to view the companion State of the State of Mississippi's Children & Youth Report (forthcoming January 2026), please visit childrensfoundationms.org.



MISSISSIPPI kids count DATA INSIGHTS

Lee County



Education

Child Care Availability, October 2025^{*}

Children Under 5	5,094
Child Care Seats	5,290

Kindergarten Readiness, Spring 2024

Kindergarten Students Meeting Benchmark	58.1%
Mississippi Benchmark	68.3%

Per-Pupil Expenditures 2023-2024

2023	\$11,637.91
2024	\$12,176.43

Student : Teacher Ratio, 2024

12 Students per Teacher

MAAP Test Scores, 2025

Grade/Subject	Lee County	Mississippi
3rd Grade ELA	365.4	363.1
3rd Grade Math	366.8	365.9
8th Grade ELA	862.3	860.9
8th Grade Math	867.5	865.4

High School Dropout Rate, 2025

Lee County	13.5%
Mississippi	8.5%

Chronic Absenteeism, 2025

Lee County	34.4%
Mississippi	27.6%

College & Career Readiness, 2023-2024

Lee County	51.9%
Mississippi	51.9%

Postsecondary Enrollment, 2024

Lee County	74.3%
Mississippi	56.8%

Health

Infant Mortality Rates per 1,000 Infants, 2022[†]

Lee County	9.9
Mississippi	9.4

Child & Teen Death Rates per 1,000 Children, 2025[§]

Lee County	6.4
Mississippi	7.3

Children's Health Insurance Enrollment, 2023[^]

Private	49%
Public	34%
Public/Private	8%
Uninsured	9%

Availability of Health Care

- 0.9** miles to the nearest birthing hospital, 2025
- 1,338** residents per dentist, 2025
- 17** residents per mental health provider, 2025
- 13** board-certified pediatricians, 2024

Premature Birth Rate per 1,000 Births, 2020-2022

Lee County	14.1
Mississippi	12.7

Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Teen Girls, 2017-2023

Lee County	31.0
Mississippi	33.4

Economics

Children under 18 Living in Poverty, 2023

Lee County	18.3%
Mississippi	23.5%

Children under 6 with No Parent in the Labor Force, 2023[^]

Lee County	6.4%
Mississippi	12.4%

Median Household Income, 2023[^]

Lee County	\$67,144
Mississippi	\$54,915

Percent of Households with Children Receiving Assistance, 2023^{**}

No Assistance	78.4%
Receiving Assistance	21.6%
Dual Parent HH	8.6%
Single Parent HH	12.9%

Employment Characteristics

- 3.9%** Unemployment Rate (August 2025)
- 1,248** Job Openings (August 2025)

Labor Force Participation by Gender, 2023

Gender	Participation
Total	77.8%
Men	83.1%
Women	72.8%

Percent of Households with a High Housing Cost Burden, 2023[^]

Housing Cost	Lee County	Mississippi
>30% of HH Income	22.3%	25.0%
>50% of HH Income	11.1%	12.0%

Percent of Children Experiencing Food Insecurity, 2023[^]

Lee County	19.2%
Mississippi	19.0%

Families & Communities

Family Composition, 2023[^]

Household Type	Lee County	Mississippi
Single Parent Household	33.0%	40.6%
Dual-Parent Household	63.5%	52.7%

Exercise Opportunities, 2024

Lee County	54%
Mississippi	47%

Average Number of Children in MDCPS Custody, 2025[#]

198

Broadband Access, 2023[^]

Lee County	83%
Mississippi	76%

New Mothers' Educational Attainment, 2022

Attainment	Lee County	Mississippi
Less than HS	11%	12%
HS Diploma+	89%	88%
Bachelor's+	22%	23%

Grandchildren in the Care of Grandparents, 2023[^]

1,208 Children

Youth Interactions with Youth Court, 2024

Interaction	Lee County	Mississippi
Youth	301	97
Cases	408	121
Referrals	501	180