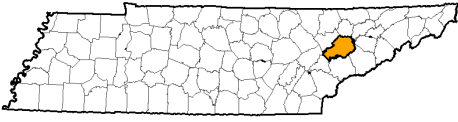
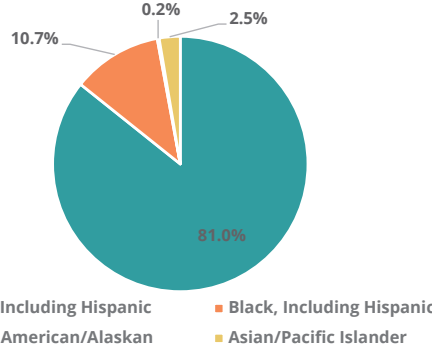


20th KNOX

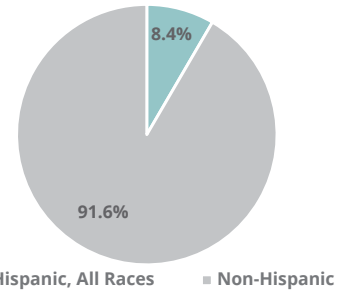
Population Under 18: 21.0%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published May 2023

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 20TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	12.6%	5th	15.2%	8th
Severe housing cost burden	11.4%	79th	11.8%	85th
Child care cost burden	22.6%	26th	22.8%	55th

EDUCATION 49TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	38.6%	14th	38.7%	11th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	33.6%	45th	40.8%	40th
Youth graduating high school on time	89.7%	79th	91.0%	74th

HEALTH 2ND

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure	8.3%	8th	11.9%	6th
Children who lack health insurance	4.3%	3rd	4.3%	8th
Babies born at a low birthweight	8.3%	37th	8.3%	44th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 63RD

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families	30.2%	33rd	24.1%	40th
Children who are chronically absent	27.0%	80th	16.6%	70th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	13.1	48th	12.8	49th

Knox County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
--	--------	------	----------------	---	-------------

Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	486,685	NA	6,975,170	7.0%	3
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	102,183	21.0%	22.0%	95.4%	47

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	993	10.1%	12.9%	78.3%	39
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$59,934	NA	\$56,560	106.0%	6
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$275,000	NA	\$283,410	97.0%	14
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	1,494	1.5%	1.5%	98.1%	38
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	18,232	17.8%	24.0%	74.3%	9
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,287	23.8%	21.1%	113.1%	54

Education

School age special education services	7,553	12.8%	12.2%	105.4%	32
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	753	4.8%	3.8%	128.8%	85
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	241	5.4%	6.7%	81.0%	63
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	518	2.8%	4.0%	70.2%	71
Economically disadvantaged students	12,363	21.0%	30.0%	70.0%	7
School suspensions	4,189	7.1%	5.1%	139.9%	72
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	1,752	44.3%	35.3%	125.4%	6
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	15,121	59.5%	52.8%	112.7%	11

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	77	14.29	6.6	216.6%	31
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	441	8.2%	9.1%	90.4%	11
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	53,484	43.2%	55.3%	78.0%	5
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	94,335	19.4%	24.9%	77.9%	9
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	2,543	47.2%	55.1%	85.7%	8
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	2,663	6.3%	7.6%	82.9%	32
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	24	4.45	6.2	71.8%	24
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	17	3.16	3.2	98.6%	41
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	13	16.57	20.7	80.1%	29
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	22	67.8	69.7	97.2%	32
Adequate prenatal care	4,491	83.7%	73.9%	113.3%	12
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	108	105.7	76.5	138.2%	6
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	*	42.8%	*	*
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	321	17.2	16.6	103.7%	60
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	7,441	28.3%	31.7%	89.4%	15
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	254	52.2	41.4	125.9%	9

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	4,976	4.9%	4.6%	106.1%	36
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	338	2.9	2.8	103.9%	44
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	661	5.7	5.3	107.6%	42
Juvenile court referrals	0	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	3,255	6.8	6.6	103.7%	39
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	1,642	3.5	3.2	107.9%	57
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	5,458	13.0%	12.3%	105.5%	87
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	23,276	32.5%	28.9%	112.6%	17
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	1,713	24.0	24.9	96.1%	85

Knox

Overall

At 20th, Knox County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Knox's strongest indicator is the percent of children without health insurance, where the county ranks 2nd. The county also performs well in the number of children living below the federal poverty line compared to other counties at 12.6%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students, where it ranks 80th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden as well.

Policy/Practice/Program Options to Improve Outcomes

Many of these policies have multiple models for delivery, including public-private partnership, non-profit partners and community engagement.

Evidence-based strategies to address chronic absenteeism begin with early warning prevention and intervention systems, identifying students before their absences hit chronic levels and looking for underlying causes. Implementing positive and supportive engagement strategies to improve students' attendance at, connection to and success in school can help, while counselors who address individual students' challenges with regular attendance improve outcomes. Disciplinary measures that take students out of the classroom are a contributor to chronic absenteeism and not a solution.

Pro-active housing policy that helps ensure affordable housing is available for people to live where they work can improve negative outcomes related to high housing costs. These policies might include approving more apartment construction and allowing rental of accessory dwelling units, creating a standard zoning approval process and applying for affordable housing trust fund competitive grants. Improving ease of usage and communication with landlords and renters using Housing Choice Vouchers can increase the number of landlords willing to accept vouchers.

Indicator Definitions and History

Children living in poverty - Percent of children living in a household below the federal poverty line. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2021).

Severe housing cost burden - Percent of households spending 50% or more of their income on housing. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2017-2021). New to the county profiles, it replaces Fair Market Rent. It is more closely aligned to a KIDS COUNT national indicator, does not apply only to rental housing, and is a rate rather than a dollar value.

Child care cost burden - Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income. Source: Produced by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute using The Living Wage Calculator (2022) and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2021). This is new to the rankings and replaces Median Household Income (MHI). We wanted an indicator expressed as a percentage rather than a dollar amount as well as one that related to a common family expense. Income is already somewhat measured in poverty estimates. In addition, this indicator uses MHI in its calculation.

3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency - Percent of third- to eighth-grade students who scored "on-track" or "mastered" on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) reading and language test. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

3rd to 8th grade math proficiency - Percent of third- to eighth-grade students who scored "on-track" or "mastered" on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment program (TCAP) math test. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

Youth graduating high school on time - Percent of ninth-grade cohort that graduates in four years. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

Children who are food insecure - Percent of children who sometimes lack access to adequate food. Source: Map the Meal Gap (2021). This is new to the rankings and replaces child and teen death rates, which, because the Department of Health has tightened its data suppression rules, is no longer available for all counties. We did not have an indicator for all counties to line up with overweight/obesity data in the national ranking, so we searched for an one related to nutrition and healthy eating.

Children who lack health insurance - Percent of children who lack health insurance. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (2020).

Babies born at a low birthweight - Percent of live births where baby weighs less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds), averaged over three years. Source: Tennessee Department of Health (2019-21), with three counties estimated using American Community Survey 5-year data (2015-19, 2016-20, 2017-21). It has been in our county profiles from the beginning, though it was previously just one-year data. The Department of Health has tightened its data suppression rules, and dozens of counties' data were unavailable with one-year numbers. Three-year numbers still left three counties suppressed. Those were estimated from 5-year American Community Survey data.

Children living in single parent families - Single-parent households as a percent of all households with children. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2017-2021). New to the county profiles, it replaces births to unmarried females, which in turn replaced teen births. As the Tennessee Department of Health tightened its data suppression rules, teen birth data was no longer available for all counties. Children born to unmarried females was always an attempt to roughly estimate teen births using different data. In moving from actual counts to ACS 5-year estimates, we decided to use this indicator over teen births as it affects families with parents of all ages.

Children who are chronically absent - Children who are absent 10 percent or more of school days for any reason, including excused/unexcused absences and out-of-school suspensions. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22). New to the county profiles, it replaces school suspensions, which have suppressed data for many counties.

Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 - Child victims of abuse or neglect. In cases with multiple children each child is counted individually. The total is the number of children associated with substantiated cases of severe abuse and of determinations of "Services Court Ordered" or "Services Needed" in cases of non-severe abuse or neglect. Children with multiple cases during the year are counted only once. The rate is per 1,000 children. Source: Tennessee Department of Children's Services (2021). This has been in our county rankings from the beginning, but we have moved to counting children rather than cases.