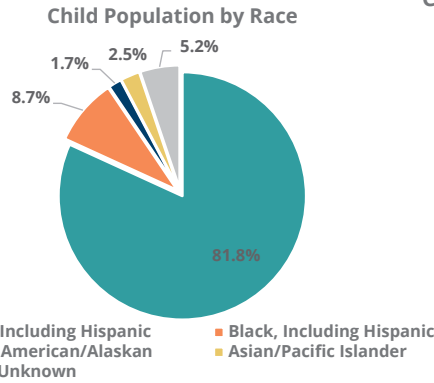
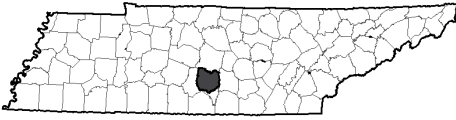
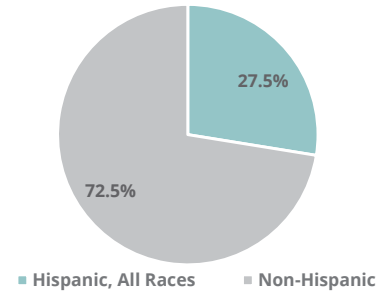


# 72nd BEDFORD

Population Under 18: 25.2%



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published July 2024

## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 50TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 17.9% <small>2022</small>	27th	20.3%	34th
Severe housing cost burden 11.6% <small>2018-2022</small>	85th	11.5%	80th
Child care cost burden 21.6% <small>FY2022-23</small>	8th	25.4%	43rd

## EDUCATION 67TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 30.8% <small>2023-24</small>	66th	28.9%	70th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 35.6% <small>2023-24</small>	54th	31.6%	63rd
Youth graduating high school on time 91.4% <small>2022-23</small>	69th	89.9%	77th

## HEALTH 91ST

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 93.6% <small>2022-23</small>	56th	92.8%	79th
Children who lack health insurance 6.3% <small>2021</small>	90th	8.2%	88th
Babies born at a low birth weight 9.9% <small>2020-2022</small>	79th	9.5%	72nd

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY 51ST

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 47.8 <small>2022</small>	73rd	42.5	72nd
Children who are chronically absent 18.9% <small>2022-23</small>	54th	24.4%	75th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 9.7 <small>FY2022-23</small>	28th	10.9	33rd

# Bedford County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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## Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	53,055	NA	7,126,489	32	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	13,348	25.2%	22.0%	4	2023

## Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$70,185	NA	\$65,231.00	13	2022
Youth unemployment	119	13.2%	9.8%	68	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$47,337	NA	\$58,292	36	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$313,336	NA	\$325,000	23	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	179	1.3%	1.5%	31	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	3,280	24.6%	22.4%	51	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,104	18.9%	21.4%	4	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	946	27.8%	29.0%	23	FY23

## Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	961	7.2%	8.0%	13	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	139	4.1%	4.4%	43	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	2,825	32.0%	30.2%	43	2022-23
School suspensions	344	3.9%	4.6%	50	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	142	24.4%	35.4%	74	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	43.6%	54.3%	84	2022

## Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	98	13.9%	9.1%	36	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	9,048	61.5%	53.1%	56	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	14,238	26.8%	23.0%	62	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	466	64.9%	54.5%	55	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	600	7.6%	6.1%	85	2021
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	2021
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	3.2	*	2021
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	*	*	20.7	*	2021
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	2021
Adequate prenatal care	473	67.8%	73.9%	81	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	4	30.0	76.1	40	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	2,140	16.9%	17.9%	69	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	33	15.4	16.1	39	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	25	8.5%	4.7%	85	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	579	80.8%	83.3%	38	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	68	34.1	44.8	27	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	69	34.6	43.6	49	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	43	21.6	22.1	37	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	54	27.1	27.7	46	2020-23

## Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	673	5.0%	4.2%	50	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	12	0.8	2.5	7	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	40	2.7	5.1	15	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	276	2.2%	1.8%	61	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	98.8%	NA	20	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	2,792	30.9%	29.8%	21	FY23

# Bedford

## Overall

At 72nd, Bedford County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Economic Well-Being.

## Strengths

Bedford's strongest indicator is child care cost burden, where the county ranks 8th. The county also performs well in the percent of children living below the federal poverty line at 27th.

## Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of children without health insurance, where it ranks 90th. 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.

Most uninsured children in Tennessee qualify for either TennCare or CoverKids, so high rates of uninsured children can be improved with outreach to make sure families are aware of these insurance opportunities. According to Census Bureau estimates, Bedford County has 600 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance. Communities can utilize free outreach resources from the Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign at <https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/outreach-tool-library/index.html>. Those insured by TennCare or CoverKids must keep current contact information with TennCare to prevent unnecessary breaks in coverage. Members can update information at [tenncareconnect.tn.gov](http://tenncareconnect.tn.gov) or by calling 855-259-0701.

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. In 2022, the federal poverty level for a family of 3 was \$23,030. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2022).

**Severe housing cost burden** - Percent of households (including rented, owned and mortgaged) spending 50% or more of their income on housing. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2018-2022). Table B25140.

**Child care cost burden** - Child care cost burden reflects the average estimate market-rate price for care for full-time care of an infant and 2+ year old but less than school age child as a percentage of the county's estimated median household income. The market-rate is calculated by taking an average of the median market-rate fee for licensed providers in the county. When available, this includes Child Care Centers, Group Homes, and Family Homes. In instances where the county does not have all three, the providers existing in the county averaged. In instances where there are no licensed providers providing care to that age group in the county, the statewide average of Tier 2 market-rates are used. This average rate for infant care and 2+ care is then combined to get the total cost of care. Source: Determining Child Care Market Rates in the State of Tennessee (FY2022-23).

**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 (2023-24).

**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 (2023-24).

**Youth graduating high school on time** - Percent of ninth-grade cohort that graduates in four years. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2022-23).

**Kindergarten Immunization** - Percent of public-school kindergarten students fully immunized for all required vaccine series at the time of survey completion. Required series includes: Diphtheria-Tetanus-Pertussis vaccine (DTaP), Measles, Mumps, Rubella vaccine (MMR), Hepatitis A Virus vaccine (HAV)2 Hepatitis B Virus vaccine (HBV), Poliomyelitis vaccine (IPV or OPV), and Varicella (chickenpox) vaccine/credible history of disease. Source: Tennessee Department of Health Vaccine-Preventable Diseases and Immunization Program. Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment. (2022-23).

**Children who lack health insurance** - Percent of children who lack health insurance. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (2021).

**Babies born at a low birth weight** - Percent of live births where baby weighs less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds), averaged over three years. Source: Tennessee Department of Health (2020-22).

**Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000** - Rate of reported crimes alleged to have been committed by someone under 18 to county population of youth 12 to 17. Source: Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (2022). Accessed May 28, 2024.

**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 (2022-23).

**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. The rate is per 1,000 children. Source: Tennessee Department of Children's Services (FY2022-23).