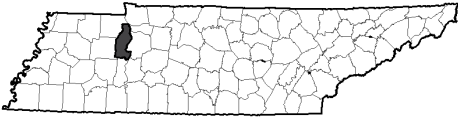
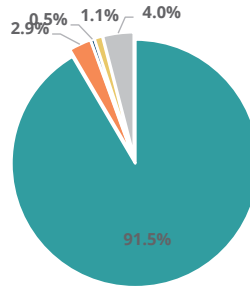


23rd BENTON

Population Under 18: 20.2%

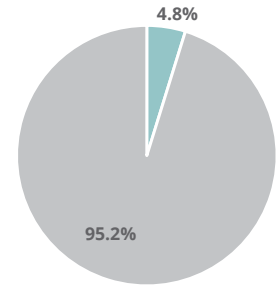


Child Population by Race



■ White, Including Hispanic
■ Black, Including Hispanic
■ Native American/Alaskan
■ Other/Unknown
■ Asian/Pacific Islander

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races
■ Non-Hispanic

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 42ND

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 24.8% <small>2022</small>	78th	29.1%	87th
Severe housing cost burden 7.4% <small>2018-2022</small>	11th	9.2%	35th
Child care cost burden 27.3% <small>FY2022-23</small>	42nd	25.5%	45th

EDUCATION 48TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 31.3% <small>2023-24</small>	64th	32.5%	58th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 32.1% <small>2023-24</small>	66th	34.9%	55th
Youth graduating high school on time 97.5% <small>2022-23</small>	14th	97.2%	10th

HEALTH 45TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 96.6% <small>2022-23</small>	6th	100.0%	1st
Children who lack health insurance 5.4% <small>2021</small>	65th	5.9%	37th
Babies born at a low birth weight 6.0% <small>2020-2022</small>	2th	6.4%	4th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 10TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 9.1 <small>2022</small>	13th	8.4	13th
Children who are chronically absent 16.0% <small>2022-23</small>	31st	18.3%	55th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 10.3 <small>FY2022-23</small>	32nd	9.4	25th

Benton County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	16,103	NA	7,126,489	76	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	3,248	20.2%	22.0%	63	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$50,635	NA	\$65,231.00	69	2022
Youth unemployment	14	3.4%	9.8%	10	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$40,859	NA	\$58,292	70	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$165,082	NA	\$325,000	83	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	70	2.1%	1.5%	68	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	979	30.2%	22.4%	79	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$909	21.5%	21.4%	19	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	319	39.0%	29.0%	64	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	422	12.6%	8.0%	90	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	30	3.7%	4.4%	28	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	746	36.0%	30.2%	63	2022-23
School suspensions	*	*	4.6%	*	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	36	30.5%	35.4%	53	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	59.6%	54.3%	12	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	22	13.8%	9.1%	35	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,535	68.8%	53.1%	83	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,706	29.2%	23.0%	81	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	127	79.4%	54.5%	90	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	113	5.7%	6.1%	42	2021
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	6.2	1	2021
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	3.2	1	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	118	74.2%	73.9%	69	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	650	20.9%	17.9%	22	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	*	*	16.1	*	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	4	7.3%	4.7%	77	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	111	69.4%	83.3%	85	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	29	45.2	44.8	70	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	21	32.7	43.6	39	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	14	21.8	22.1	39	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	23	35.8	27.7	81	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	183	5.6%	4.2%	74	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	7	2.0	2.5	27	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	9	2.6	5.1	14	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	46	1.5%	1.8%	38	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	100.0%	NA	1	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	413	17.9%	29.8%	64	FY23

Benton

Overall

At 23rd, Benton County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.

Strengths

Benton's strongest indicator is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 2nd. The county also performs well in the percent of public school kindergartenders with the full immunization series at 6th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of children living below the federal poverty line, where it ranks 78th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Math 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.

With a high rate of child poverty, improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP and WIC benefits to be sure they are aware of these services can help ensure basic needs are met. Additionally, nutrition programs that provide food for school-age children to take home can contribute to food security. In the last year, the Community Eligibility Provision threshold expanded making more LEAs eligible for providing free school lunch and breakfast for all. Providing free breakfast and lunch at school can assure children are fed, reduce household expense, and streamlines the administrative process ensuring no child falls through the cracks. Expanding services through Family Resource Centers can also help reach families living in poverty. Making parents aware of opportunities to receive education and training through Tennessee Reconnect can also boost household incomes over the longer term. Many neighborhoods with a high concentration of poverty are also food deserts, lacking access to affordable healthy options. Community gardens can provide fresh produce and help mitigate some of the negative health implications of child poverty.

Expanding pre-K access and increasing STEM opportunities in elementary and middle schools can help improve 3rd to 8th grade math proficiency. The Tennessee STEM Innovation Network offers resources and support to help schools implement STEM programs locally. Also, the Tennessee Department of Education supports summer learning camps for all students but especially to support those who have fallen behind.

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).