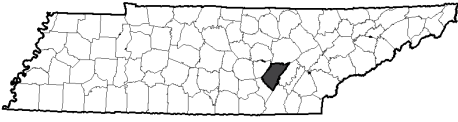
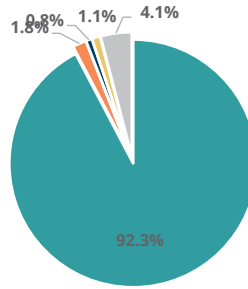


74th BLEDSOE

Population Under 18: 15.4%

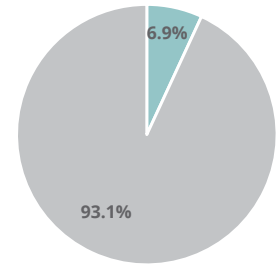


Child Population by Race



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

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races
■ Non-Hispanic

Published July 2024

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 86TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 32.1% <small>2022</small>	91st	28.9%	86th
Severe housing cost burden 10.0% <small>2018-2022</small>	64th	7.6%	8th
Child care cost burden 34.6% <small>FY2022-23</small>	75th	29.0%	73rd

EDUCATION 46TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 33.9% <small>2023-24</small>	48th	33.5%	53rd
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 34.6% <small>2023-24</small>	56th	31.3%	64th
Youth graduating high school on time 95.8% <small>2022-23</small>	27th	91.8%	63rd

HEALTH 60TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 92.5% <small>2022-23</small>	76th	94.9%	42nd
Children who lack health insurance 6.1% <small>2021</small>	86th	7.1%	74th
Babies born at a low birth weight 8.1% <small>2020-2022</small>	29th	9.9%	81st

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 66TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 8.3 <small>2022</small>	12th	5.2	5th
Children who are chronically absent 18.4% <small>2022-23</small>	49th	31.0%	88th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 25 <small>FY2022-23</small>	92nd	18.9	80th

Bledsoe County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	15,060	NA	7,126,489	79	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	2,319	15.4%	22.0%	95	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$46,207	NA	\$65,231.00	82	2022
Youth unemployment	7	5.0%	9.8%	22	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$34,832	NA	\$58,292	92	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$267,174	NA	\$325,000	43	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	65	2.8%	1.5%	83	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	828	35.7%	22.4%	90	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,062	27.6%	21.4%	79	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	236	40.2%	29.0%	69	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	380	16.6%	8.0%	92	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	30	5.1%	4.4%	68	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	626	40.0%	30.2%	77	2022-23
School suspensions	76	4.9%	4.6%	65	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	28	25.7%	35.4%	70	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	38.4%	54.3%	94	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	26	19.5%	9.1%	75	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	1,924	76.8%	53.1%	94	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	3,554	23.6%	23.0%	33	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	81	72.3%	54.5%	76	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	80	5.7%	6.1%	42	2021
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	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)	0	0.00	20.7	1	2021
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	2021
Adequate prenatal care	94	72.9%	73.9%	72	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	640	26.5%	17.9%	20	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	0	0.0	16.1	1	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	0	0.0%	4.7%	1	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	78	69.6%	83.3%	83	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	22	37.1	44.8	40	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	21	35.5	43.6	53	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	14	23.6	22.1	55	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	20	33.8	27.7	72	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	199	8.6%	4.2%	95	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	14	5.5	2.5	76	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	19	7.5	5.1	53	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	0	0.0%	1.8%	1	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	33.3%	NA	95	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	469	30.8%	29.8%	22	FY23

Bledsoe

Overall

At 74th, Bledsoe County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.

Strengths

Bledsoe's strongest indicator is the rate of youth crime per 1,000, where the county ranks 12th. The county also performs well in the percent of high school students graduating on time at 27th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the number of children who were victims of abuse or neglect, where it ranks 92nd. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of children living below the federal poverty line 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.

Two-generation programs such as evidence-based home visiting have been shown to reduce instances of child abuse and neglect. Ensuring quality child care and offering preschool programs with family enrichment continues this support. Helping families access services for addiction and mental health challenges may also reduce stresses that can cause family dysfunction, as will strengthening economic supports through family-friendly work policies. Changing social norms to promote positive parenting through public engagement and education campaigns can help parents find alternatives to physical discipline that can go too far. Taking corporal punishment out of schools may contribute to a changing mindset. When abuse and neglect do occur, intervention to lessen harms and prevent future risk through enhanced primary care, behavioral parent training programs and treatment is important. Programs in schools and communities aimed at creating positive childhood experiences and improving resiliency also help mitigate effects.

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.

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).