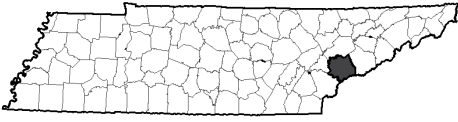
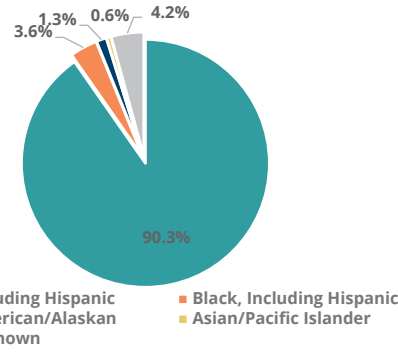


9th BLOUNT

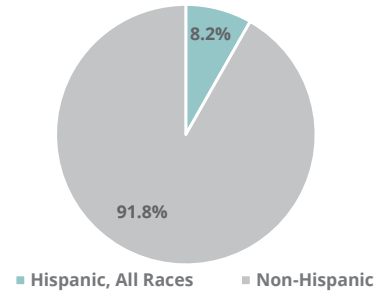
Population Under 18: 19.7%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published July 2024

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 9TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 12.0% <small>2022</small>	6th	13.9%	8th
Severe housing cost burden 8.4% <small>2018-2022</small>	32nd	8.7%	23rd
Child care cost burden 32.4% <small>FY2022-23</small>	71st	30.2%	77th

EDUCATION 11TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 45.9% <small>2023-24</small>	5th	46.3%	5th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 49.1% <small>2023-24</small>	11th	48.7%	10th
Youth graduating high school on time 94.9% <small>2022-23</small>	38th	94.2%	40th

HEALTH 24TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 93.0% <small>2022-23</small>	68th	92.6%	80th
Children who lack health insurance 4.7% <small>2021</small>	39th	6.1%	45th
Babies born at a low birth weight 7.9% <small>2020-2022</small>	24th	8.1%	28th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 59TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 67.2 <small>2022</small>	86th	71.1	90th
Children who are chronically absent 13.6% <small>2022-23</small>	18th	4.8%	1st
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 13 <small>FY2022-23</small>	51st	10.4	28th

Blount County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	141,456	NA	7,126,489	11	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	27,869	19.7%	22.0%	69	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$69,713	NA	\$65,231.00	15	2022
Youth unemployment	188	7.3%	9.8%	34	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$53,332	NA	\$58,292	12	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$377,025	NA	\$325,000	11	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	279	1.0%	1.5%	16	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	3,901	14.0%	22.4%	6	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,507	25.9%	21.4%	68	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	1827	27.0%	29.0%	20	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	2,495	8.5%	8.0%	30	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	410	6.0%	4.4%	81	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	2,705	15.2%	30.2%	3	2022-23
School suspensions	817	4.6%	4.6%	61	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	589	47.0%	35.4%	3	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	56.8%	54.3%	20	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	165	12.8%	9.1%	30	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	14,201	44.6%	53.1%	10	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	24,522	17.3%	23.0%	6	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	675	51.3%	54.5%	15	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	850	6.7%	6.1%	70	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	1,098	84.6%	73.9%	6	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	16	57.4	76.1	18	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	3,290	12.2%	17.9%	82	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	31	6.5	16.1	12	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	26	3.7%	4.7%	28	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	1,139	86.9%	83.3%	10	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	180	35.6	44.8	35	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	165	32.6	43.6	38	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	106	21.0	22.1	32	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	160	31.7	27.7	65	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	1,236	4.4%	4.2%	31	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	62	2.0	2.5	28	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	152	5.0	5.1	36	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	499	1.8%	1.8%	49	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	94.9%	NA	48	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	5,831	30.6%	29.8%	25	FY23

Blount

Overall

At 9th, Blount County is in the top ten of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Economic Well-Being.

Strengths

Blount's strongest indicator is the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP English Language Arts, where the county ranks 5th. The county also performs well in the percent of children living below the federal poverty line at 6th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the rate of youth crime per 1,000, where it ranks 86th. There are opportunities for improvement in child care 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.

Addressing youth crime at a community level requires a comprehensive approach combining prevention, early intervention, targeted intensive services and re-entry planning. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) communities implement prevention programs such as:

- Classroom and behavior management programs
- Multi-component classroom-based programs
- Social competence promotion curriculums
- Conflict resolution and violence prevention curriculums
- Bullying prevention programs
- Afterschool recreation programs
- Mentoring programs
- School organization programs
- Comprehensive community interventions

For more targeted interventions OJJDP provides a Model Programs Guide with research and evaluations for various topics in youth behavior and the justice system. The Model Programs Guide can be found here: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews>. In counties with a Juvenile Detention Center, working with the LEA to reduce the time between a child coming into custody and receiving education should be a priority. Additionally, these counties can partner with community programs to engage youth while they are in detention, providing additional educational or developmental support.

Reducing the cost of child care is a difficult project for many local governments to launch. The best option may be to encourage unlicensed local child care businesses to pursue licensure by the Tennessee Department of Human Resources, as they have multiple programs supporting child care businesses, educators and client families associated with licensed facilities. Additionally, many individuals may be aware they are eligible for Smart Steps. Community events to provide education about the program and assist in enrollment can help reduce some of the cost burden. Beyond that, providing supervised recreation activities for older children during out-of-school hours and developing parent-led afterschool care programs can provide lower cost alternatives for families. Businesses interested in supporting families with child care cost burden can offer Dependent Flexible Spending Accounts. Businesses that provide on-site child care, partner with a third party to provide care or facilitate employees finding care are eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$150,000 per year

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).