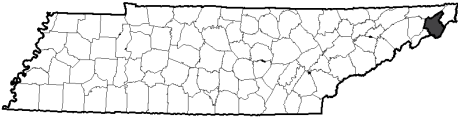
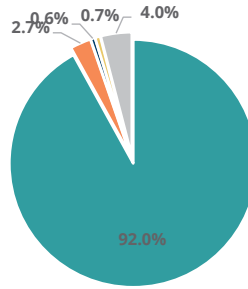


50th CARTER

Population Under 18: 17.3%

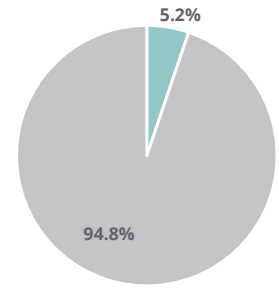


Child Population by Race



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

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races
■ Non-Hispanic

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 57TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	24.3%	76th	25.1%	75th
Severe housing cost burden	8.2%	28th	9.9%	58th
Child care cost burden	31.7%	67th	32.9%	87th

EDUCATION 51ST

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	40.1%	19th	37.7%	30th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	41.8%	33rd	39.2%	40th
Youth graduating high school on time	88.7%	87th	86.5%	89th

HEALTH 14TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series	94.6%	41st	94.3%	59th
Children who lack health insurance	3.7%	7th	5.0%	10th
Babies born at a low birth weight	8.3%	36th	8.3%	38th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 70TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000	26.6	41st	25.5	51st
Children who are chronically absent	20.0%	66th	20.1%	63rd
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	19.3	81st	16.2	63rd

Carter County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	57,022	NA	7,126,489	28	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	9,847	17.3%	22.0%	89	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$48,912	NA	\$65,231.00	76	2022
Youth unemployment	58	5.1%	9.8%	23	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$40,378	NA	\$58,292	75	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$231,183	NA	\$325,000	61	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	192	2.0%	1.5%	62	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	2,603	26.4%	22.4%	63	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,107	27.2%	21.4%	75	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	1041	43.8%	29.0%	77	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	1,262	11.7%	8.0%	85	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	161	6.8%	4.4%	87	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	2,241	31.6%	30.2%	41	2022-23
School suspensions	281	4.0%	4.6%	51	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	138	25.9%	35.4%	69	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	49.5%	54.3%	56	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	28	57.49	7.1	41	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	79	18.3%	9.1%	67	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	7,073	61.2%	53.1%	53	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	13,833	24.3%	23.0%	44	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	353	72.5%	54.5%	78	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	260	4.1%	6.1%	9	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	302	75.9%	73.9%	58	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	4	40.6	76.1	27	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	2,180	21.5%	17.9%	70	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	23	12.9	16.1	35	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	14	4.2%	4.7%	37	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	375	77.6%	83.3%	61	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	169	94.3	44.8	91	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	138	77.0	43.6	91	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	57	31.8	22.1	84	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	49	27.4	27.7	49	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	671	6.8%	4.2%	91	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	61	5.4	2.5	74	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	110	9.8	5.1	71	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	0	0.0%	1.8%	1	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	98.3%	NA	21	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	3,262	48.2%	29.8%	5	FY23

Overall

At 50th, Carter County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Carter's strongest indicator is the percent of children without health insurance, where the county ranks 7th. The county also performs well in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP English Language Arts at 19th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of high school students graduating on time, where it ranks 87th. There are opportunities for improvement in the number of children who were victims of abuse or neglect 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.

Making high school students aware of the community college and technical school benefits available to them through Tennessee Promise can encourage on-time high school graduation. Having counselors available to work with students with personal challenges staying in school can also decrease dropout rates. Studies have found that school climate can play a significant role in students' academic success. Communities can conduct school climate surveys addressing topics such as academics, community, safety, and institutional environment to better gauge a student's experience.

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.

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).