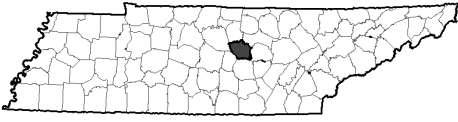
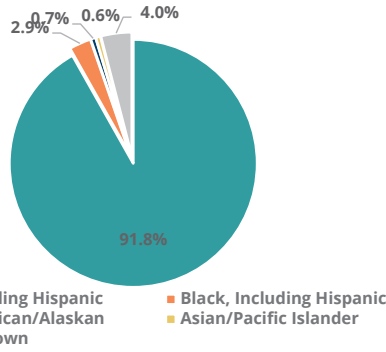


78th DEKALB

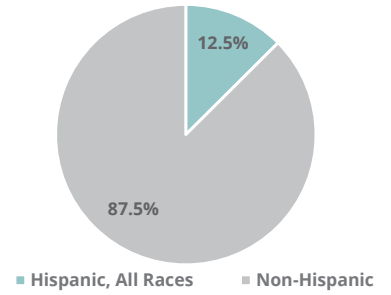
Population Under 18: 21.5%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 66TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 21.8% 2022	51st	21.3%	44th
Severe housing cost burden 12.1% 2018-2022	88th	9.4%	41st
Child care cost burden 21.7% FY2022-23	9th	25.8%	49th

EDUCATION 73RD

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 32.5% 2023-24	61st	30.8%	63rd
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 30.4% 2023-24	72nd	27.9%	74th
Youth graduating high school on time 90.2% 2022-23	78th	93.2%	46th

HEALTH 85TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 92.0% 2022-23	78th	94.7%	46th
Children who lack health insurance 5.9% 2021	78th	8.4%	90th
Babies born at a low birth weight 10.8% 2020-2022	89th	9.8%	76th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 61ST

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 16.2 2022	27th	12.3	22nd
Children who are chronically absent 17.2% 2022-23	38th	35.5%	91st
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 22.8 FY2022-23	86th	20.4	83rd

DeKalb County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	21,225	NA	7,126,489	65	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	4,568	21.5%	22.0%	36	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$55,392	NA	\$65,231.00	49	2022
Youth unemployment	28	6.9%	9.8%	32	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$48,289	NA	\$58,292	31	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$292,208	NA	\$325,000	32	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	59	1.3%	1.5%	26	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,187	26.0%	22.4%	62	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$968	21.0%	21.4%	13	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	412	33.9%	29.0%	49	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	436	9.3%	8.0%	51	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	43	3.5%	4.4%	23	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	1,093	39.0%	30.2%	75	2022-23
School suspensions	72	2.6%	4.6%	36	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	62	37.3%	35.4%	22	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	54.0%	54.3%	32	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	45	18.9%	9.1%	73	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	3,303	64.0%	53.1%	67	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	5,905	27.8%	23.0%	66	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	174	65.2%	54.5%	57	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	198	6.8%	6.1%	74	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)	*	*	20.7	*	2021
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	2021
Adequate prenatal care	184	77.3%	73.9%	50	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	930	21.4%	17.9%	33	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	*	*	16.1	*	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	1	0.9%	4.7%	4	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	216	81.2%	83.3%	37	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	38	47.0	44.8	72	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	29	35.9	43.6	55	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	21	26.0	22.1	71	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	17	21.0	27.7	19	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	290	6.3%	4.2%	85	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	26	5.2	2.5	70	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	48	9.6	5.1	69	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	88	2.0%	1.8%	53	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	90.3%	NA	68	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	630	19.4%	29.8%	61	FY23

Overall

At 78th, DeKalb County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.

Strengths

DeKalb's strongest indicator is child care cost burden, where the county ranks 9th. The county also performs well in the rate of youth crime per 1,000 at 27th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where it ranks 89th. 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.

Babies are born at a low birthweight either because they are born too early or they did not grow as much as they should. Ensuring women of childbearing age have access to treatment for chronic physical and mental health and substance abuse conditions creates an environment for healthy pregnancies. While the state has not expanded TennCare to close some of these access gaps, improving outreach to ensure those who do qualify are aware of those benefits, as well as others such as SNAP, WIC and TANF, contributes to general good health prior to pregnancy. Once a woman is pregnant, access to regular prenatal care is key. Preexisting risks are properly managed and unexpected complications are found and treated early when pregnant women receive regular care. Community-based doulas have been shown to improve health outcomes for babies, including reducing the number of babies born at a low birthweight.

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).