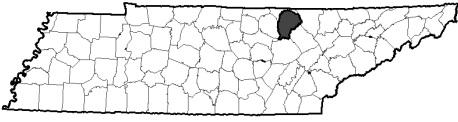
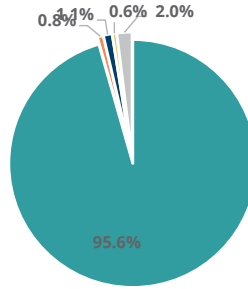


54th FENTRESS

Population Under 18: 20.7%

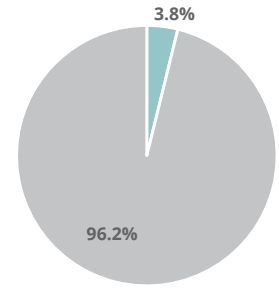


Child Population by Race



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

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races
■ Non-Hispanic

Published July 2024

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 93RD

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 33.8% <small>2022</small>	93rd	26.5%	81st
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Severe housing cost burden 7.8% <small>2018-2022</small>	18th	7.8%	13th
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Child care cost burden 72.8% <small>FY2022-23</small>	94th	27.4%	68th
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EDUCATION 58TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 35.2% <small>2023-24</small>	42nd	33.9%	51st
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3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 34.4% <small>2023-24</small>	57th	32.1%	62nd
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Youth graduating high school on time 92.3% <small>2022-23</small>	59th	95.9%	27th
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HEALTH 2ND

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Kindergarten full immunization series 82.2% <small>2022-23</small>	94th	74.4%	95th
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Children who lack health insurance 5.0% <small>2021</small>	54th	5.4%	18th
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Babies born at a low birth weight 7.6% <small>2020-2022</small>	19th	6.6%	5th
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FAMILY & COMMUNITY 41ST

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 10.1 <small>2022</small>	18th	10.2	17th
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Children who are chronically absent 24.3% <small>2022-23</small>	81st	21.1%	68th
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Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 10.8 <small>FY2022-23</small>	37th	8	19th
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Fentress County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	19,696	NA	7,126,489	68	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	4,076	20.7%	22.0%	52	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$41,147	NA	\$65,231.00	92	2022
Youth unemployment	173	30.2%	9.8%	94	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$41,694	NA	\$58,292	63	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$249,387	NA	\$325,000	50	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	68	1.7%	1.5%	48	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,219	29.9%	22.4%	77	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$920	26.8%	21.4%	73	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	411	40.6%	29.0%	70	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	343	8.4%	8.0%	29	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	70	6.9%	4.4%	88	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	846	40.0%	30.2%	77	2022-23
School suspensions	*	*	4.6%	*	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	16	31.4%	35.4%	48	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	47.0%	54.3%	72	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	47	22.7%	9.1%	85	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	3,309	73.8%	53.1%	91	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	6,534	33.2%	23.0%	89	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	143	76.9%	54.5%	86	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	139	5.2%	6.1%	28	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)	0	0.00	20.7	1	2021
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	0	0.0	69.7	1	2021
Adequate prenatal care	164	80.0%	73.9%	35	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	840	21.9%	17.9%	30	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	*	*	16.1	*	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	8	7.5%	4.7%	81	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	129	70.1%	83.3%	82	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	26	41.1	44.8	58	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	22	34.8	43.6	52	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	15	23.7	22.1	57	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	22	34.8	27.7	76	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	220	5.4%	4.2%	64	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	18	4.1	2.5	57	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	36	8.1	5.1	59	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	23	0.6%	1.8%	18	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	98.2%	NA	24	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	422	15.0%	29.8%	77	FY23

Fentress

Overall

At 54th, Fentress County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Fentress's strongest indicator is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where the county ranks 18th. The county also performs well in the rate of youth crime per 1,000 at 18th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is child care cost burden, where it ranks 94th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of public school kindergarteners with the full immunization series 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.

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.

Schools and counties with an under vaccinated kindergarten community are at risk for highly infectious and sometimes fatal outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases. For a community to remain low-risk for vaccine-preventable outbreaks, the percent of fully immunized kindergarten students should be above 95 percent. Maintaining an above 95 percent immunization rate provides protection to the 0.1 percent of Tennessee's public-school kindergarteners with a medical exception making them unable to receive the immunization themselves. The Department of Health recommends for Tennessee to reduce the risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks, awareness and action are needed to increase childhood immunization. These efforts are critical to ensuring safe environments in schools. Medical providers who deliver health care to children are encouraged to review immunization records and provide catch-up immunizations at every opportunity.

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).