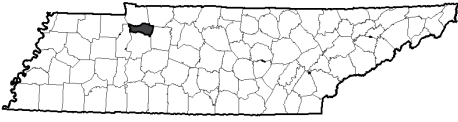
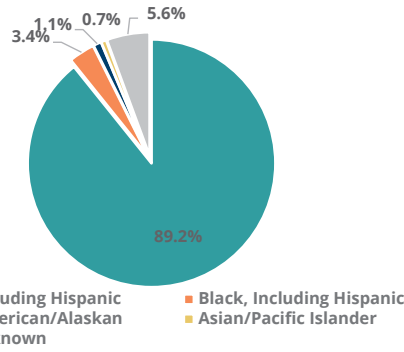


90th HOUSTON

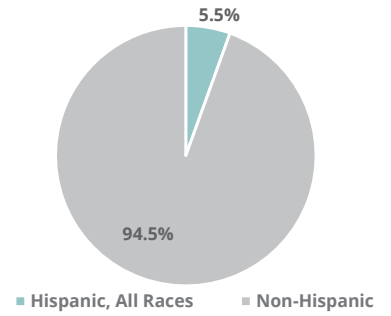
Population Under 18: 20.9%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 60TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 23.9% <small>2022</small>	73rd	23.3%	64th
Severe housing cost burden 9.7% <small>2018-2022</small>	60th	9.8%	53rd
Child care cost burden 24.9% <small>FY2022-23</small>	21st	35.2%	90th

EDUCATION 79TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 22.5% <small>2023-24</small>	91st	20.2%	91st
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 23.6% <small>2023-24</small>	87th	18.4%	90th
Youth graduating high school on time 95.6% <small>2022-23</small>	28th	87.3%	85th

HEALTH 95TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 99.4% <small>2022-23</small>	1st	95.5%	36th
Children who lack health insurance 7.5% <small>2021</small>	94th	8.9%	93rd
Babies born at a low birth weight 9.3% <small>2020-2022</small>	71th	10.2%	83rd

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 72ND

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 3.1 <small>2022</small>	3rd	3.1	4th
Children who are chronically absent 28.0% <small>2022-23</small>	89th	21.7%	70th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 17.2 <small>FY2022-23</small>	73rd	18.4	76th

Houston County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	8,393	NA	7,126,489	89	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	1,751	20.9%	22.0%	48	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$60,581	NA	\$65,231.00	31	2022
Youth unemployment	10	4.5%	9.8%	18	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$39,189	NA	\$58,292	80	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$204,410	NA	\$325,000	72	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	32	1.8%	1.5%	57	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	434	24.8%	22.4%	57	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$937	18.6%	21.4%	3	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	196	48.5%	29.0%	85	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	196	10.8%	8.0%	77	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	25	6.2%	4.4%	83	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	355	29.0%	30.2%	32	2022-23
School suspensions	*	*	4.6%	*	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	29	33.7%	35.4%	37	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	50.0%	54.3%	53	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	17	22.4%	9.1%	84	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	1,231	62.5%	53.1%	61	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	2,329	27.7%	23.0%	64	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	44	62.0%	54.5%	37	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	89	8.2%	6.1%	90	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)	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	57	75.0%	73.9%	66	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	290	16.0%	17.9%	4	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)	3	7.0%	4.7%	72	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	56	78.9%	83.3%	51	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	11	34.3	44.8	29	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	9	28.1	43.6	16	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	8	24.9	22.1	62	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	19	59.2	27.7	91	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	95	5.4%	4.2%	66	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	6	3.2	2.5	46	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	15	7.9	5.1	57	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	56	3.2%	1.8%	79	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	100.0%	NA	1	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	155	13.3%	29.8%	84	FY23

Houston

Overall

At 90th, Houston County is in the near the bottom of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Economic Well-Being.

Strengths

Houston's strongest indicator is the percent of public school kindergartenders with the full immunization series, where the county ranks 1st. The county also performs well in the rate of youth crime per 1,000 at 3rd.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of children without health insurance, where it ranks 94th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP English Language Arts 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.

Most uninsured children in Tennessee qualify for either TennCare or CoverKids, so high rates of uninsured children can be improved with outreach to make sure families are aware of these insurance opportunities. According to Census Bureau estimates, Houston County has 89 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance. Communities can utilize free outreach resources from the Connecting Kids to Coverage National Campaign at <https://www.insurekidsnow.gov/outreach-tool-library/index.html>. Those insured by TennCare or CoverKids must keep current contact information with TennCare to prevent unnecessary breaks in coverage. Members can update information at tenncareconnect.tn.gov or by calling 855-259-0701.

Expanding pre-K access, allowing early assessment of reading skills coupled with appropriate interventions where needed, can improve reading proficiency in later grades. Many local public libraries offer creative programming and contests to encourage children and youth to read more. The Tennessee State Library and Archives supports local libraries with training and materials for summer reading programs. In addition, the Tennessee Department of Education supports summer learning camps for all students but especially to support those who have fallen behind.

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).