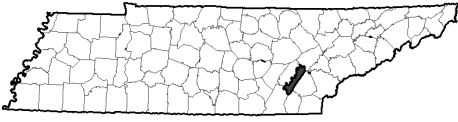
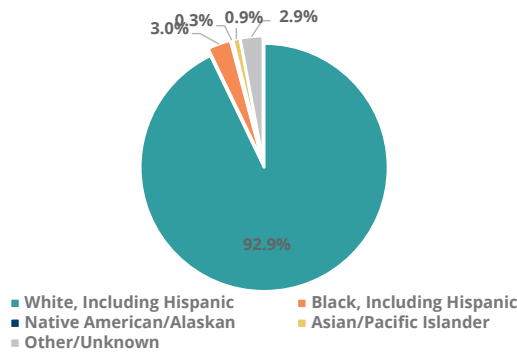


# 27th MEIGS

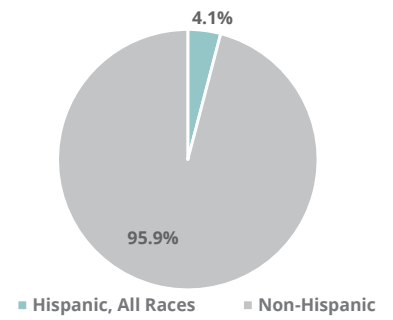
Population Under 18: 20.1%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published July 2024

## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 54TH

|  | Rank | Previous Percent/Rate | Previous Rank |
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|

|   |             |       |      |
|---|-------------|-------|------|
| <b>Children living in poverty</b> 22.0%<br>2022 | <b>55th</b> | 24.6% | 72nd |
|---|-------------|-------|------|

|   |             |       |      |
|---|-------------|-------|------|
| <b>Severe housing cost burden</b> 8.2%<br>2018-2022 | <b>27th</b> | 10.1% | 60th |
|---|-------------|-------|------|

|  |             |       |      |
|--|-------------|-------|------|
| <b>Child care cost burden</b> 34.4%<br>FY2022-23 | <b>74th</b> | 24.1% | 29th |
|--|-------------|-------|------|

## EDUCATION 37TH

|  | Rank | Previous Percent/Rate | Previous Rank |
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|

|  |             |       |      |
|--|-------------|-------|------|
| <b>3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency</b> 32.8%<br>2023-24 | <b>58th</b> | 33.9% | 51st |
|--|-------------|-------|------|

|   |             |       |      |
|---|-------------|-------|------|
| <b>3rd to 8th grade math proficiency</b> 34.1%<br>2023-24 | <b>59th</b> | 35.5% | 52nd |
|---|-------------|-------|------|

|  |            |       |      |
|--|------------|-------|------|
| <b>Youth graduating high school on time</b> 98.2%<br>2022-23 | <b>4th</b> | 96.7% | 17th |
|--|------------|-------|------|

## HEALTH 55TH

|  | Rank | Previous Percent/Rate | Previous Rank |
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|

|   |             |       |      |
|---|-------------|-------|------|
| <b>Kindergarten full immunization series</b> 95.3%<br>2022-23 | <b>23rd</b> | 94.7% | 46th |
|---|-------------|-------|------|

|  |             |      |      |
|--|-------------|------|------|
| <b>Children who lack health insurance</b> 5.6%<br>2021 | <b>71st</b> | 7.4% | 78th |
|--|-------------|------|------|

|  |             |      |     |
|--|-------------|------|-----|
| <b>Babies born at a low birth weight</b> 7.2%<br>2020-2022 | <b>16th</b> | 6.8% | 6th |
|--|-------------|------|-----|

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY 9TH

|  | Rank | Previous Percent/Rate | Previous Rank |
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|
|--|------|-----------------------|---------------|

|   |             |    |      |
|---|-------------|----|------|
| <b>Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000</b> 7.7<br>2022 | <b>10th</b> | 10 | 16th |
|---|-------------|----|------|

|   |            |       |      |
|---|------------|-------|------|
| <b>Children who are chronically absent</b> 10.4%<br>2022-23 | <b>4th</b> | 14.0% | 23rd |
|---|------------|-------|------|

|  |             |      |      |
|--|-------------|------|------|
| <b>Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000</b> 16.9<br>FY2022-23 | <b>72nd</b> | 22.6 | 89th |
|--|-------------|------|------|

# Meigs County

|  | Number | Rate | Tennessee Rate | County Rank | Year |
|--|--------|------|----------------|-------------|------|
|--|--------|------|----------------|-------------|------|

## Demographics

|  |        |       |           |    |      |
|--|--------|-------|-----------|----|------|
| Total population (state value is number not rate)              | 13,691 | NA    | 7,126,489 | 83 | 2023 |
| Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population) | 2,746  | 20.1% | 22.0%     | 66 | 2023 |

## Economic Well-Being

|   |           |       |             |    |      |
|---|-----------|-------|-------------|----|------|
| Median Household Income                                       | \$54,257  | NA    | \$65,231.00 | 54 | 2022 |
| Youth unemployment  | 21        | 12.0% | 9.8%        | 61 | 2023 |
| Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)  | \$39,849  | NA    | \$58,292    | 77 | 2022 |
| Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)     | \$285,525 | NA    | \$325,000   | 34 | 2022 |
| Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)               | 56        | 2.0%  | 1.5%        | 66 | FY23 |
| Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)   | 784       | 28.6% | 22.4%       | 72 | FY23 |
| Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income) | \$1,047   | 23.2% | 21.4%       | 40 | FY23 |
| WIC participation (percent of children under 5)               | 275       | 40.9% | 29.0%       | 71 | FY23 |

## Education

|  |     |       |       |    |         |
|--|-----|-------|-------|----|---------|
| School age special education services (age 3 to 21)              | 289 | 10.2% | 8.0%  | 70 | 2022-23 |
| TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)              | 20  | 3.0%  | 4.4%  | 13 | 2022-23 |
| Economically disadvantaged students                              | 533 | 32.0% | 30.2% | 43 | 2022-23 |
| School suspensions   | 20  | 1.2%  | 4.6%  | 15 | 2022-23 |
| Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once | 20  | 18.3% | 35.4% | 87 | 2022-23 |
| Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)   | NA  | 48.3% | 54.3% | 68 | 2022    |

## Health

|  |       |       |       |    |         |
|--|-------|-------|-------|----|---------|
| Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)                         | 0     | 0.00  | 7.1   | 1  | 2022    |
| Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy                                | 21    | 18.3% | 9.1%  | 64 | 2021    |
| Children on TennCare (Medicaid)  | 2,045 | 66.3% | 53.1% | 79 | Dec-23  |
| Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees  | 3,804 | 27.8% | 23.0% | 65 | Dec-23  |
| Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)  | 101   | 80.2% | 54.5% | 92 | 2022    |
| Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured                           | 110   | 6.7%  | 6.1%  | 70 | 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   | 79    | 69.3% | 73.9% | 78 | 2021    |
| Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)                                  | 2     | 72.8  | 76.1  | 9  | 2022-23 |
| Children who are food insecure   | 480   | 18.4% | 17.9% | 12 | 2022    |
| Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)                               | *     | *     | 16.1  | *  | 2022    |
| Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)                     | 5     | 4.4%  | 4.7%  | 41 | 2019-23 |
| Breastfeeding initiation at birth  | 76    | 63.3% | 83.3% | 90 | 2022    |
| Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)        | 22    | 31.4  | 44.8  | 20 | 2020-23 |
| Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K) | 21    | 30.0  | 43.6  | 26 | 2020-23 |
| Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)      | 7     | 10.0  | 22.1  | 2  | 2020-23 |
| Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)   | 22    | 31.4  | 27.7  | 64 | 2020-23 |

## Family & Community

|   |     |        |       |    |      |
|---|-----|--------|-------|----|------|
| Reported child abuse cases                                    | 146 | 5.3%   | 4.2%  | 61 | FY23 |
| Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)              | 11  | 3.7    | 2.5   | 53 | FY23 |
| Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)               | 31  | 10.3   | 5.1   | 77 | FY23 |
| Juvenile court referrals                                      | 0   | 0.0%   | 1.8%  | 1  | 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) | 293 | 15.4%  | 29.8% | 74 | FY23 |

## Overall

At 27th, Meigs County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.

## Strengths

Meigs's strongest indicator is the percent of high school students graduating on time, where the county ranks 4th. The county also performs well in the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students at 4th.

## Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is child care cost burden, where it ranks 74th. 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.

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.

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).