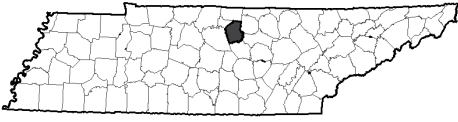
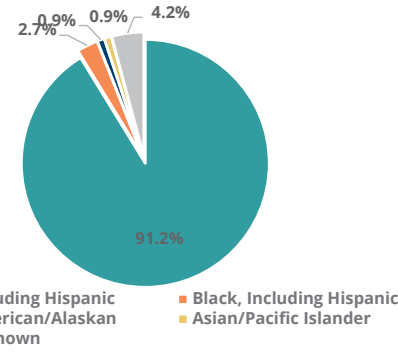


18th SMITH

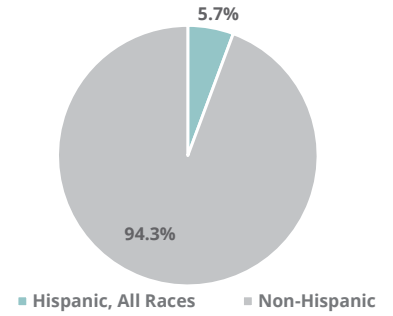
Population Under 18: 22.3%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published July 2024

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 51ST

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 15.8% <small>2022</small>	14th	16.8%	16th
Severe housing cost burden 11.9% <small>2018-2022</small>	87th	12.4%	87th
Child care cost burden 25.1% <small>FY2022-23</small>	24th	23.3%	22nd

EDUCATION 16TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 41.0% <small>2023-24</small>	14th	41.4%	12th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 42.7% <small>2023-24</small>	28th	43.4%	25th
Youth graduating high school on time 95.9% <small>2022-23</small>	26th	97.4%	7th

HEALTH 29TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Kindergarten full immunization series 95.1% <small>2022-23</small>	26th	96.2%	29th
Children who lack health insurance 5.3% <small>2021</small>	63rd	7.6%	82nd
Babies born at a low birth weight 6.2% <small>2020-2022</small>	3th	7.0%	9th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 29TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 27.8 <small>2022</small>	45th	21.8	41st
Children who are chronically absent 10.8% <small>2022-23</small>	5th	7.8%	3rd
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 18.8 <small>FY2022-23</small>	78th	11.1	35th

Smith County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	20,538	NA	7,126,489	67	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	4,576	22.3%	22.0%	26	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$63,960	NA	\$65,231.00	22	2022
Youth unemployment	15	4.4%	9.8%	16	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$48,048	NA	\$58,292	34	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$267,233	NA	\$325,000	42	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	43	0.9%	1.5%	11	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	878	19.2%	22.4%	17	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,051	19.7%	21.4%	6	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	369	32.7%	29.0%	44	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	491	10.2%	8.0%	68	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	63	5.6%	4.4%	79	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	793	27.0%	30.2%	23	2022-23
School suspensions	53	1.8%	4.6%	29	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	59	32.2%	35.4%	45	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	53.0%	54.3%	37	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	39	17.0%	9.1%	55	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,722	51.9%	53.1%	21	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,867	23.7%	23.0%	34	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	127	60.8%	54.5%	34	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	165	6.3%	6.1%	62	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)	*	*	69.7	*	2021
Adequate prenatal care	183	81.0%	73.9%	26	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	760	16.9%	17.9%	26	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%	40	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	176	84.2%	83.3%	18	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	29	40.5	44.8	52	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	23	32.1	43.6	36	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	17	23.8	22.1	58	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	21	29.3	27.7	60	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	243	5.3%	4.2%	60	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	30	6.0	2.5	80	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	48	9.6	5.1	70	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	97	2.1%	1.8%	60	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)	380	11.8%	29.8%	90	FY23

Smith

Overall

At 18th, Smith County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.

Strengths

Smith's strongest indicator is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 3rd. The county also performs well in the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students at 5th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, 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.

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.

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).