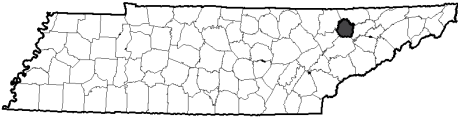
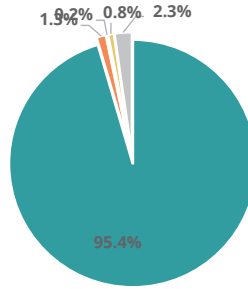


70th UNION

Population Under 18: 21.0%

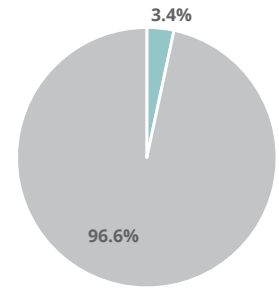


Child Population by Race



■ 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 19TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 20.8% 2022	43rd	23.5%	66th
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Severe housing cost burden 7.7% 2018-2022	17th	7.5%	7th
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Child care cost burden 25.0% FY2022-23	22nd	24.4%	32nd
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EDUCATION 90TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 21.8% 2023-24	92nd	20.2%	91st
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3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 17.8% 2023-24	91st	14.3%	93rd
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Youth graduating high school on time 89.9% 2022-23	80th	89.7%	80th
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HEALTH 28TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Kindergarten full immunization series 84.8% 2022-23	93rd	94.2%	61st
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Children who lack health insurance 6.4% 2021	92nd	7.4%	80th
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Babies born at a low birth weight 9.6% 2020-2022	76th	8.4%	40th
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FAMILY & COMMUNITY 52ND

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 19.7 2022	32nd	7.3	11th
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Children who are chronically absent 17.5% 2022-23	41st	13.2%	17th
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Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 19.1 FY2022-23	79th	17.7	72nd
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Union County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	20,741	NA	7,126,489	66	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	4,350	21.0%	22.0%	46	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$51,169	NA	\$65,231.00	68	2022
Youth unemployment	20	5.7%	9.8%	26	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$40,862	NA	\$58,292	69	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$299,546	NA	\$325,000	29	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	96	2.2%	1.5%	71	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,185	27.2%	22.4%	66	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,507	35.3%	21.4%	94	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	597	55.2%	29.0%	90	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	785	17.5%	8.0%	94	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	51	4.7%	4.4%	57	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	2,267	39.0%	30.2%	75	2022-23
School suspensions	138	2.4%	4.6%	34	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	31	16.6%	35.4%	90	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	50.3%	54.3%	51	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	7.1	*	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	63	27.6%	9.1%	91	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	3,209	65.1%	53.1%	74	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	5,850	28.2%	23.0%	70	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	130	70.7%	54.5%	72	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	179	6.7%	6.1%	70	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)	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	197	86.0%	73.9%	3	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	1	23.0	76.1	48	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	830	19.6%	17.9%	28	2022
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	*	*	16.1	*	2022
Confirmed elevated blood lead level (per 1,000 screened)	6	5.9%	4.7%	60	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	140	76.9%	83.3%	63	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	26	39.5	44.8	47	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	17	25.8	43.6	12	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	10	15.2	22.1	9	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	20	30.3	27.7	61	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	241	5.5%	4.2%	70	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	25	5.2	2.5	71	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	55	11.5	5.1	83	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	173	4.1%	1.8%	88	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	94.7%	NA	49	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	339	11.4%	29.8%	91	FY23

Union

Overall

At 70th, Union County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Economic Well-Being.

Strengths

Union's strongest indicator is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where the county ranks 17th. The county also performs well in child care cost burden at 22nd.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of public school kindergarteners with the full immunization series, where it ranks 93rd. 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.

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.

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).