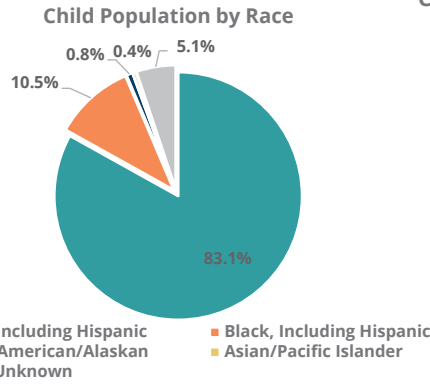
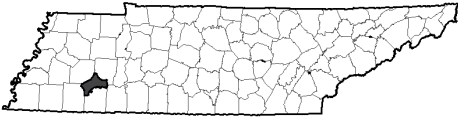
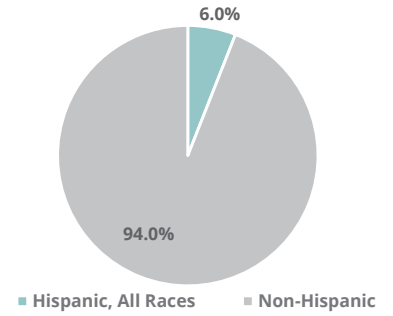


15th CHESTER

Population Under 18: 21.6%



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published July 2024

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 27TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 22.4% 2022	59th	23.3%	65th
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Severe housing cost burden 6.9% 2018-2022	6th	9.1%	32nd
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Child care cost burden 29.3% FY2022-23	53rd	24.0%	26th
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EDUCATION 8TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 42.2% 2023-24	10th	45.4%	7th
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3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 48.5% 2023-24	15th	51.7%	7th
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Youth graduating high school on time 97.6% 2022-23	11th	96.1%	24th
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HEALTH 51ST

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Kindergarten full immunization series 94.3% 2022-23	44th	89.4%	91st
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Children who lack health insurance 4.5% 2021	29th	6.1%	44th
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Babies born at a low birth weight 9.3% 2020-2022	71th	9.0%	61st
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FAMILY & COMMUNITY 57TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Youth Crime Rate Per 1,000 38.4 2022	62nd	23	47th
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Children who are chronically absent 19.0% 2022-23	56th	20.8%	65th
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Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 13.4 FY2022-23	55th	13.4	52nd
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Chester County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rank	Year
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Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	17,606	NA	7,126,489	73	2023
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	3,810	21.6%	22.0%	34	2023

Economic Well-Being

Median Household Income	\$57,732	NA	\$65,231.00	39	2022
Youth unemployment	59	15.4%	9.8%	75	2023
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$40,686	NA	\$58,292	73	2022
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$192,360	NA	\$325,000	77	2022
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	73	1.9%	1.5%	61	FY23
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	937	24.6%	22.4%	52	FY23
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,269	26.4%	21.4%	69	FY23
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	337	37.1%	29.0%	56	FY23

Education

School age special education services (age 3 to 21)	304	6.6%	8.0%	4	2022-23
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 4)	46	5.1%	4.4%	66	2022-23
Economically disadvantaged students	769	28.0%	30.2%	26	2022-23
School suspensions	103	3.7%	4.6%	48	2022-23
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	49	30.6%	35.4%	52	2022-23
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	NA	54.3%	54.3%	31	2022

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	7.1	1	2022
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	25	14.1%	9.1%	39	2021
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,348	48.7%	53.1%	16	Dec-23
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,131	23.5%	23.0%	29	Dec-23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	121	58.7%	54.5%	28	2022
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	117	5.3%	6.1%	32	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	144	82.3%	73.9%	19	2021
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.1	59	2022-23
Children who are food insecure	620	16.4%	17.9%	19	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	7.5%	4.7%	80	2019-23
Breastfeeding initiation at birth	172	83.9%	83.3%	21	2022
Individuals scoring for severe depression (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	28	49.6	44.8	76	2020-23
Individuals reporting frequent suicidal ideation (all ages) PHQ-9 (per 100K)	26	46.1	43.6	77	2020-23
Individuals scoring positive for PTSD (all ages) PTSD Screen (per 100K)	9	16.0	22.1	11	2020-23
Individuals scoring at risk for psychotic-like experiences PQ-B (per 100K)	22	39.0	27.7	83	2020-23

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	200	5.2%	4.2%	57	FY23
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	6	1.3	2.5	12	FY23
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	19	4.2	5.1	31	FY23
Juvenile court referrals	97	2.5%	1.8%	66	2022
Child restraint use in crashes (age 0 -12)	NA	94.4%	NA	54	2023
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	359	13.8%	29.8%	83	FY23

Chester

Overall

At 15th, Chester County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.

Strengths

Chester's strongest indicator is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where the county ranks 6th. The county also performs well in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP English Language Arts at 10th.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where it ranks 71st. There are opportunities for improvement in the rate of youth crime per 1,000 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.

Babies are born at a low birthweight either because they are born too early or they did not grow as much as they should. Ensuring women of childbearing age have access to treatment for chronic physical and mental health and substance abuse conditions creates an environment for healthy pregnancies. While the state has not expanded TennCare to close some of these access gaps, improving outreach to ensure those who do qualify are aware of those benefits, as well as others such as SNAP, WIC and TANF, contributes to general good health prior to pregnancy. Once a woman is pregnant, access to regular prenatal care is key. Preexisting risks are properly managed and unexpected complications are found and treated early when pregnant women receive regular care. Community-based doulas have been shown to improve health outcomes for babies, including reducing the number of babies born at a low birthweight.

Addressing youth crime at a community level requires a comprehensive approach combining prevention, early intervention, targeted intensive services and re-entry planning. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) communities implement prevention programs such as:

- Classroom and behavior management programs
- Multi-component classroom-based programs
- Social competence promotion curriculums
- Conflict resolution and violence prevention curriculums
- Bullying prevention programs
- Afterschool recreation programs
- Mentoring programs
- School organization programs
- Comprehensive community interventions

For more targeted interventions OJJDP provides a Model Programs Guide with research and evaluations for various topics in youth behavior and the justice system. The Model Programs Guide can be found here: <https://ojjdp.ojp.gov/model-programs-guide/literature-reviews>. In counties with a Juvenile Detention Center, working with the LEA to reduce the time between a child coming into custody and receiving education should be a priority. Additionally, these counties can partner with community programs to engage youth while they are in detention, providing additional educational or developmental support.

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).