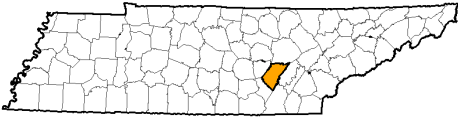
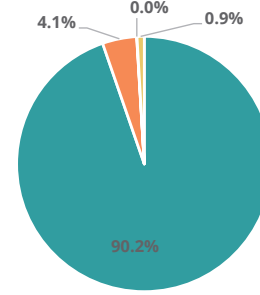


79th BLEDSOE

Population Under 18: 14.0%

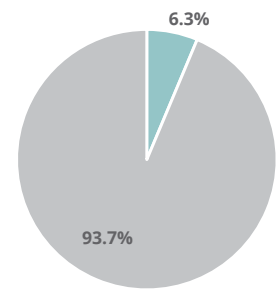


Child Population by Race



■ White, Including Hispanic ■ Black, Including Hispanic
■ Native American/Alaskan ■ Asian/Pacific Islander

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races ■ Non-Hispanic

Published May 2023

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 66TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty 28.9%	86th	25.8%	81st
Severe housing cost burden 7.6%	8th	8.8%	19th
Child care cost burden 26.2%	71st	23.1%	57th

EDUCATION 79TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 27.9%	68th	25.3%	57th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 21.4%	81st	21.5%	70th
Youth graduating high school on time 91.8%	63rd	92.3%	49th

HEALTH 81ST

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure 16.5%	79th	20.8%	78th
Children who lack health insurance 7.1%	74th	6.7%	93rd
Babies born at a low birthweight 9.9%	81st	10.5%	82nd

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 57TH

Metric	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families 15.1%	2nd	20.2%	18th
Children who are chronically absent 31.0%	88th	17.8%	77th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 20.6	82nd	16.4	70th

Bledsoe County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
--	--------	------	----------------	---	-------------

Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	15,245	NA	6,975,170	0.2%	78
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	2,140	14.0%	22.0%	63.8%	94

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	14	12.7%	12.9%	98.4%	54
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$33,675	NA	\$56,560	59.5%	94
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$171,250	NA	\$283,410	60.4%	63
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	69	3.2%	1.5%	216.5%	89
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	820	38.3%	24.0%	159.6%	91
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$960	25.7%	21.1%	121.9%	73

Education

School age special education services	339	22.0%	12.2%	180.6%	94
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	4	1.2%	3.8%	32.0%	10
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	5	4.3%	6.7%	63.8%	50
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	4	0.8%	4.0%	20.6%	17
Economically disadvantaged students	586	38.0%	30.0%	126.7%	76
School suspensions	35	2.3%	5.1%	44.6%	29
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	19	19.2%	35.3%	54.3%	86
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	355	35.2%	52.8%	66.7%	93

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	26	19.5%	9.1%	214.8%	75
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	1,944	75.8%	55.3%	137.0%	91
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	3,751	24.6%	24.9%	98.8%	23
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	102	76.1%	55.1%	138.2%	87
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	94	6.8%	7.6%	89.5%	38
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	*
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	3.2	0.0%	1
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	0	0.00	20.7	0.0%	1
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	*
Adequate prenatal care	94	72.9%	73.9%	98.6%	72
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.5	0.0%	57
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	40.6%	42.8%	94.9%	18
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	<5	*	16.6	*	*
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	295	53.2%	31.7%	167.7%	78
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	4	26.2	41.4	63.3%	42

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	156	7.3%	4.6%	158.8%	93
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	7	2.9	2.8	103.0%	42
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	22	9.1	5.3	171.5%	65
Juvenile court referrals	0	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	69	4.5	6.6	68.7%	89
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	47	3.1	3.2	96.5%	40
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	26	2.5%	12.3%	20.4%	3
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	469	31.5%	28.9%	109.1%	18
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	3	2.0	24.9	8.1%	10

Bledsoe

Overall

At 79th, Bledsoe County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.

Strengths

Bledsoe's strongest indicator is the percent of children who are living in single parent families, where the county ranks 2nd. The county also performs well in the percent of households experiencing a severe housing cost burden at 7.6%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students, where it ranks 88th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of children living below the federal poverty line 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.

Evidence-based strategies to address chronic absenteeism begin with early warning prevention and intervention systems, identifying students before their absences hit chronic levels and looking for underlying causes. Implementing positive and supportive engagement strategies to improve students' attendance at, connection to and success in school can help, while counselors who address individual students' challenges with regular attendance improve outcomes. Disciplinary measures that take students out of the classroom are a contributor to chronic absenteeism and not a solution.

With a high rate of child poverty, improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP and WIC benefits to be sure they are aware of these services can help ensure basic needs are met. Additionally, nutrition programs that provide food for school-age children to take home can contribute to food security. Expanding services through Family Resource Centers can also help reach these vulnerable populations. Making parents aware of opportunities to receive education and training through Tennessee Reconnect can also boost household incomes over the longer term. Many neighborhoods with a high concentration of poverty are also food deserts, lacking access to affordable healthy options. Community gardens can provide fresh produce and help mitigate some of the negative health implications of child poverty.

Indicator Definitions and History

Children living in poverty - Percent of children living in a household below the federal poverty line. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2021).

Severe housing cost burden - Percent of households spending 50% or more of their income on housing. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2017-2021). New to the county profiles, it replaces Fair Market Rent. It is more closely aligned to a KIDS COUNT national indicator, does not apply only to rental housing, and is a rate rather than a dollar value.

Child care cost burden - Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income. Source: Produced by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute using The Living Wage Calculator (2022) and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2021). This is new to the rankings and replaces Median Household Income (MHI). We wanted an indicator expressed as a percentage rather than a dollar amount as well as one that related to a common family expense. Income is already somewhat measured in poverty estimates. In addition, this indicator uses MHI in its calculation.

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 (2021-22).

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 (2021-22).

Youth graduating high school on time - Percent of ninth-grade cohort that graduates in four years. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

Children who are food insecure - Percent of children who sometimes lack access to adequate food. Source: Map the Meal Gap (2021). This is new to the rankings and replaces child and teen death rates, which, because the Department of Health has tightened its data suppression rules, is no longer available for all counties. We did not have an indicator for all counties to line up with overweight/obesity data in the national ranking, so we searched for an one related to nutrition and healthy eating.

Children who lack health insurance - Percent of children who lack health insurance. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (2020).

Babies born at a low birthweight - Percent of live births where baby weighs less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds), averaged over three years. Source: Tennessee Department of Health (2019-21), with three counties estimated using American Community Survey 5-year data (2015-19, 2016-20, 2017-21). It has been in our county profiles from the beginning, though it was previously just one-year data. The Department of Health has tightened its data suppression rules, and dozens of counties' data were unavailable with one-year numbers. Three-year numbers still left three counties suppressed. Those were estimated from 5-year American Community Survey data.

Children living in single parent families - Single-parent households as a percent of all households with children. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2017-2021). New to the county profiles, it replaces births to unmarried females, which in turn replaced teen births. As the Tennessee Department of Health tightened its data suppression rules, teen birth data was no longer available for all counties. Children born to unmarried females was always an attempt to roughly estimate teen births using different data. In moving from actual counts to ACS 5-year estimates, we decided to use this indicator over teen births as it affects families with parents of all ages.

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 (2021-22). New to the county profiles, it replaces school suspensions, which have suppressed data for many counties.

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. Children with multiple cases during the year are counted only once. The rate is per 1,000 children. Source: Tennessee Department of Children's Services (2021). This has been in our county rankings from the beginning, but we have moved to counting children rather than cases.