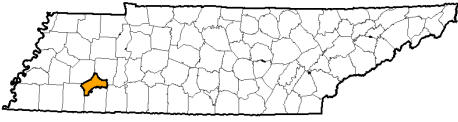
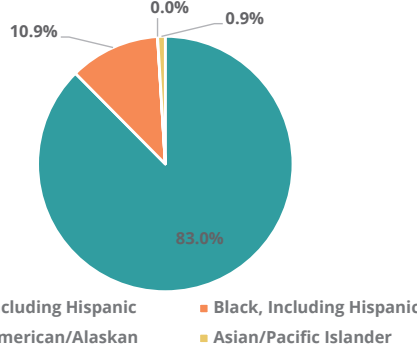


16th CHESTER

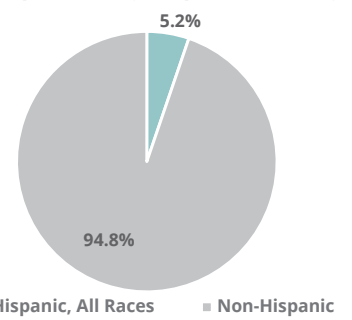
Population Under 18: 22.5%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published May 2023

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 44TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	23.3%	65th	20.6%	46th
Severe housing cost burden	9.1%	32nd	9.2%	29th
Child care cost burden	22.7%	28th	24.7%	76th

EDUCATION 5TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	43.6%	5th	35.4%	7th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	49.4%	4th	44.4%	4th
Youth graduating high school on time	96.1%	24th	93.3%	39th

HEALTH 38TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure	10.7%	20th	12.4%	9th
Children who lack health insurance	6.1%	44th	4.7%	26th
Babies born at a low birthweight	9.0%	61st	10.1%	78th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 58TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families	33.6%	54th	33.1%	84th
Children who are chronically absent	20.8%	65th	14.7%	62nd
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	14.2	54th	7.2	17th

Chester County

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

Total population (state value is number not rate)	17,498	NA	6,975,170	0.3%	74
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	3,933	22.5%	22.0%	102.2%	24

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	82	26.5%	12.9%	205.4%	91
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$41,568	NA	\$56,560	73.5%	62
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$165,000	NA	\$283,410	58.2%	68
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	68	1.7%	1.5%	115.7%	52
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,000	25.4%	24.0%	105.8%	44
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,160	27.0%	21.1%	128.0%	85

Education

School age special education services	282	10.6%	12.2%	87.1%	7
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	18	3.5%	3.8%	92.9%	68
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	9	4.6%	6.7%	69.2%	55
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	7	0.9%	4.0%	22.4%	19
Economically disadvantaged students	665	25.0%	30.0%	83.3%	16
School suspensions	95	3.6%	5.1%	70.1%	47
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	74	42.8%	35.3%	121.1%	7
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	599	51.7%	52.8%	97.9%	37

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	25	14.1%	9.1%	155.2%	39
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,523	52.2%	55.3%	94.4%	19
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,547	26.0%	24.9%	104.4%	37
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	109	61.6%	55.1%	111.8%	35
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	147	6.8%	7.6%	89.5%	38
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	*
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	3.2	*	*
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	144	82.3%	73.9%	111.3%	19
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.5	0.0%	57
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	*	42.8%	*	*
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	8	9.6	16.6	58.0%	28
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	374	41.5%	31.7%	130.9%	49
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	3	17.1	41.4	41.4%	68

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	206	5.2%	4.6%	114.1%	51
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	9	2.0	2.8	70.9%	24
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	15	3.3	5.3	62.6%	19
Juvenile court referrals	97	2.5%	1.8%	137.7%	66
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	27	1.5	3.2	48.4%	6
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	127	7.5%	12.3%	60.6%	40
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	359	13.7%	28.9%	47.3%	80
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	23	8.8	24.9	35.1%	36

Benton

Overall

At 54th, Benton County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Benton's strongest indicator is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 4th. The county also performs well in the percent of high school students who graduated on time at 97.2%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of children who are living in single parent families, where it ranks 89th. 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.

Single-parent families often have fewer resources—both financial and time—to help children achieve success in school and beyond. Connecting families with services to reduce these burdens helps their children thrive. Paid parental leave and other family-friendly work policies can improve single parents' ability to be involved in their children's daily lives without sacrificing financial stability, while supports for single parents to complete education and training help those who lack such stability. Additionally, broadening services times and appointment availability to meet varying working hours can reduce the time-strain and need to take off work for a single parent. The Tennessee Department of Human Resources Child Support Division can help connect single parents to legal supports to ensure they receive any child support or other benefits they are due.

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.