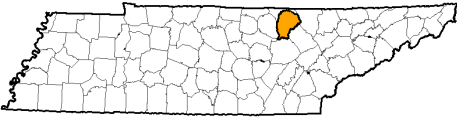
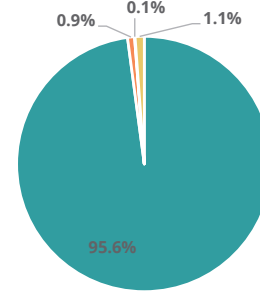


# 39th FENTRESS

Population Under 18: 20.0%

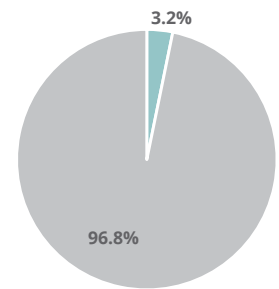


Child Population by Race



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

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races ■ Non-Hispanic

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## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 70TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 26.5% **81st** 24.4% 73rd

Severe housing cost burden 7.8% **13th** 9.3% 33rd

Child care cost burden 28.3% **86th** 24.1% 68th

## EDUCATION 36TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 35.2% **35th** 26.3% 50th

3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 28.8% **58th** 23.7% 63rd

Youth graduating high school on time 95.9% **27th** 97.4% 7th

## HEALTH 8TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children who are food insecure 15.2% **70th** 18.0% 51st

Children who lack health insurance 5.4% **18th** 5.4% 60th

Babies born at a low birthweight 6.6% **5th** 7.1% 13th

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY 53RD

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in single parent families 32.8% **50th** 27.5% 65th

Children who are chronically absent 21.1% **68th** 16.9% 71st

Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 13.5 **50th** 18.9 81st

# Fentress 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)	18,844	NA	6,975,170	0.3%	69
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	3,769	20.0%	22.0%	90.9%	66

## Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	75	16.8%	12.9%	130.2%	76
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$40,402	NA	\$56,560	71.4%	73
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$174,989	NA	\$283,410	61.7%	57
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	60	1.6%	1.5%	106.2%	43
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,226	32.5%	24.0%	135.5%	81
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$836	24.2%	21.1%	114.8%	60

## Education

School age special education services	277	13.4%	12.2%	110.2%	49
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	10	1.8%	3.8%	47.9%	21
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	2	2.6%	6.7%	38.8%	25
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	2	0.7%	4.0%	17.6%	14
Economically disadvantaged students	847	41.0%	30.0%	136.7%	82
School suspensions	*	*	5.1%	*	*
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	19	28.4%	35.3%	80.4%	57
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	604	50.3%	52.8%	95.3%	47

## Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	47	22.7%	9.1%	249.5%	85
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	3,352	76.8%	55.3%	138.9%	92
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	6,820	36.2%	24.9%	145.4%	91
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	163	78.4%	55.1%	142.3%	90
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	140	5.3%	7.6%	69.7%	12
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)	0	0.0	69.7	0.0%	1
Adequate prenatal care	164	80.0%	73.9%	108.3%	35
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.5	0.0%	57
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	43.8%	42.8%	102.4%	47
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	<5	*	16.6	*	*
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	489	50.9%	31.7%	160.5%	74
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	1	5.3	41.4	12.8%	88

## Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	219	5.8%	4.6%	126.6%	65
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	11	2.6	2.8	94.1%	39
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	42	10.1	5.3	190.3%	74
Juvenile court referrals	23	0.6%	1.8%	34.1%	18
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	130	6.9	6.6	104.9%	35
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	80	4.3	3.2	133.1%	81
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	111	6.5%	12.3%	53.1%	25
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	412	15.2%	28.9%	52.5%	74
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	83	30.5	24.9	122.5%	91

# Fentress

## Overall

At 39th, Fentress County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

## Strengths

Fentress's strongest indicator is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 5th. The county also performs well in the percent of households experiencing a severe housing cost burden at 7.8%.

## Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the child care cost burden, where it ranks 86th. 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.

Reducing the cost of child care is a difficult project for many local governments to launch. The best option may be to encourage unlicensed local child care businesses to pursue licensure by the Tennessee Department of Human Resources, as they have multiple programs supporting child care businesses, educators and client families associated with licensed facilities. Beyond that, providing supervised recreation activities for older children during out-of-school hours and developing parent-led afterschool care programs can provide lower cost alternatives for families. Businesses interested in supporting families with child care cost burden can offer Dependent Flexible Spending Accounts. Businesses that provide on-site child care, partner with a third party to provide care or facilitate employees finding care are eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$150,000 per year.

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.