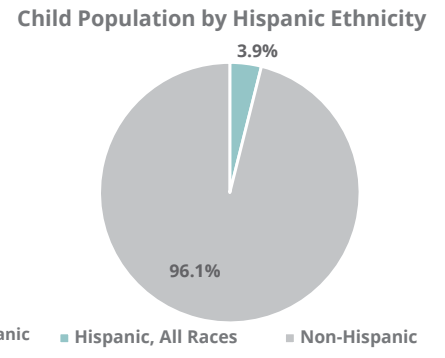
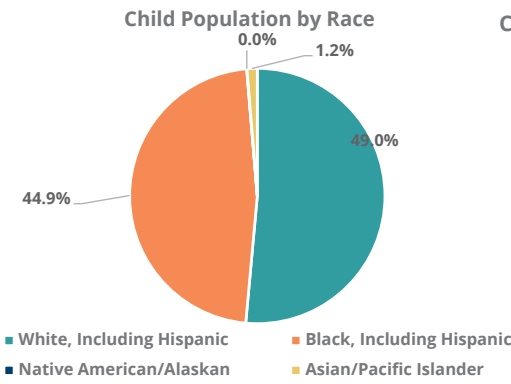
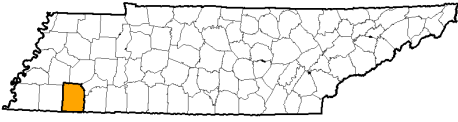


# 91st HARDEMAN

Population Under 18: 18.9%



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## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 89TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 27.3% **84th** 28.0% 89th

Severe housing cost burden 13.1% **89th** 11.8% 87th

Child care cost burden 26.5% **75th** 23.5% 63rd

## EDUCATION 93RD

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 21.1% **89th** 15.3% 90th

3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 18.3% **88th** 11.9% 89th

Youth graduating high school on time 85.7% **92nd** 91.8% 52nd

## HEALTH 92ND

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children who are food insecure 22.1% **92nd** 25.5% 90th

Children who lack health insurance 5.6% **29th** 4.4% 12th

Babies born at a low birthweight 12.1% **94th** 9.2% 63rd

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY 69TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in single parent families 46.8% **91st** 39.2% 92nd

Children who are chronically absent 22.6% **72nd** 7.9% 17th

Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 4.6 **6th** 7.1 15th

# Hardeman 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)	25,434	NA	6,975,170	0.4%	58
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	4,801	18.9%	22.0%	85.8%	81

## Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	92	24.2%	12.9%	187.6%	88
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$35,485	NA	\$56,560	62.7%	92
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$102,500	NA	\$283,410	36.2%	93
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	95	2.0%	1.5%	132.6%	66
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,792	37.3%	24.0%	155.4%	88
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$881	23.9%	21.1%	113.2%	55

## Education

School age special education services	414	13.3%	12.2%	109.0%	45
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	20	2.9%	3.8%	76.7%	55
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	15	6.1%	6.7%	91.8%	71
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	28	2.9%	4.0%	71.6%	72
Economically disadvantaged students	1,373	44.0%	30.0%	146.7%	87
School suspensions	239	7.7%	5.1%	150.3%	76
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	38	18.7%	35.3%	52.9%	88
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	913	43.9%	52.8%	83.1%	79

## Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	6.6	0.0%	1
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	33	11.8%	9.1%	129.5%	25
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	4,057	71.6%	55.3%	129.4%	84
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	7,922	31.1%	24.9%	125.1%	79
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	226	80.4%	55.1%	146.1%	91
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	177	5.5%	7.6%	72.4%	14
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	6.2	0.0%	1
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)	*	*	20.7	*	*
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	0	0.0	69.7	0.0%	1
Adequate prenatal care	215	77.1%	73.9%	104.3%	51
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)	46	57.1	16.6	344.1%	76
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	671	56.3%	31.7%	177.6%	83
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	5	19.7	41.4	47.4%	60

## Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	184	3.8%	4.6%	83.5%	11
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	2	0.4	2.8	13.3%	2
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	12	2.2	5.3	42.3%	4
Juvenile court referrals	37	0.8%	1.8%	43.0%	22
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	248	10.0	6.6	151.2%	3
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	49	2.0	3.2	61.6%	10
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	158	8.6%	12.3%	69.6%	55
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	509	14.9%	28.9%	51.5%	77
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	95	27.8	24.9	111.5%	89

# Hardeman

## Overall

At 91st, Hardeman County is in the near the bottom of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.

## Strengths

Hardeman's strongest indicator is the number of children who were victims of abuse or neglect, where the county ranks 6th. The county also performs well in the percent of children who are uninsured at 5.6%.

## Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is in the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where it ranks 94th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of children in the county who are food insecure 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.

Household food insecurity is driven by both cost and lack of access. It can carry a certain stigma, sometimes preventing individuals from accessing available resources. For those qualified, enrollment in programs such as SNAP, WIC, and TANF is essential. Food pantries play an important role, with some models allowing families to choose just items they need, both reducing waste and improving clients' sense of control over their situation. School breakfast and lunch are important tools as well. Providing free breakfast and lunch for all students reduces administrative burdens associated with finding and serving only those qualified and reduces the stigma students can experience. Community food drives always provide welcome resources, but food banks are often able to make money donations go farther. They work with retailers to pay reduced prices, allowing them to purchase what is most needed with cost efficiency.

## 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.