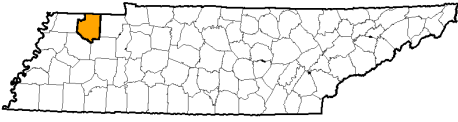
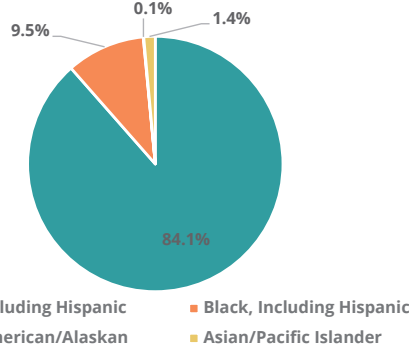


7th WEAKLEY

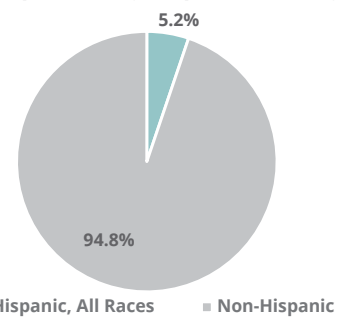
Population Under 18: 19.8%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 46TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	21.4%	46th	20.7%	47th
Severe housing cost burden	7.7%	11th	9.2%	32nd
Child care cost burden	26.2%	72nd	22.5%	51st

EDUCATION 18TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	42.4%	8th	36.4%	6th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	39.0%	23rd	37.0%	14th
Youth graduating high school on time	93.8%	44th	93.1%	41st

HEALTH 4TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure	14.8%	68th	18.4%	62nd
Children who lack health insurance	5.4%	19th	4.5%	18th
Babies born at a low birthweight	6.2%	2nd	6.0%	8th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 18TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families	31.0%	37th	26.7%	61st
Children who are chronically absent	15.1%	31st	11.3%	33rd
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	8	15th	8.5	27th

Weakley 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)	33,042	NA	6,975,170	0.5%	46
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	6,529	19.8%	22.0%	89.8%	69

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	131	15.8%	12.9%	122.5%	70
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$45,366	NA	\$56,560	80.2%	42
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$128,000	NA	\$283,410	45.2%	85
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	124	1.9%	1.5%	127.8%	60
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	1,669	25.6%	24.0%	106.4%	46
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$836	22.4%	21.1%	106.3%	31

Education

School age special education services	508	13.2%	12.2%	108.4%	44
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	20	2.1%	3.8%	54.9%	29
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	5	1.9%	6.7%	28.7%	17
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	5	0.4%	4.0%	10.7%	6
Economically disadvantaged students	1,347	35.0%	30.0%	116.7%	60
School suspensions	112	2.9%	5.1%	57.1%	37
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	93	38.1%	35.3%	107.8%	19
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	1,009	57.3%	52.8%	108.5%	16

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	44	13.2%	9.1%	145.2%	32
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	4,743	56.7%	55.3%	102.6%	28
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	8,654	26.2%	24.9%	105.2%	39
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	208	62.5%	55.1%	113.4%	41
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	232	6.1%	7.6%	80.3%	25
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)	*	*	69.7	*	*
Adequate prenatal care	268	80.7%	73.9%	109.2%	30
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	2	30.6	76.5	40.1%	42
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	44.1%	42.8%	103.1%	49
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	14	10.3	16.6	62.1%	32
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	647	39.9%	31.7%	125.8%	42
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	7	21.2	41.4	51.1%	54

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	416	6.4%	4.6%	138.8%	77
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	16	2.1	2.8	74.6%	27
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	18	2.4	5.3	44.4%	5
Juvenile court referrals	109	1.7%	1.8%	93.2%	44
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	189	5.7	6.6	85.9%	72
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	101	3.0	3.2	94.7%	37
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	229	7.6%	12.3%	62.2%	43
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	1,228	28.0%	28.9%	97.0%	29
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	120	27.4	24.9	110.0%	88

Weakley

Overall

At 7th, Weakley County is in the top ten Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Weakley's strongest indicator is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 2nd. The county also performs well in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Reading at 42.4%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is child care cost burden, where it ranks 72nd. 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.

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.

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.