

2025 State of Health in Tennessee

A Healthy Environment

Housing and Access to Parks



Severe Housing Problems

Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.

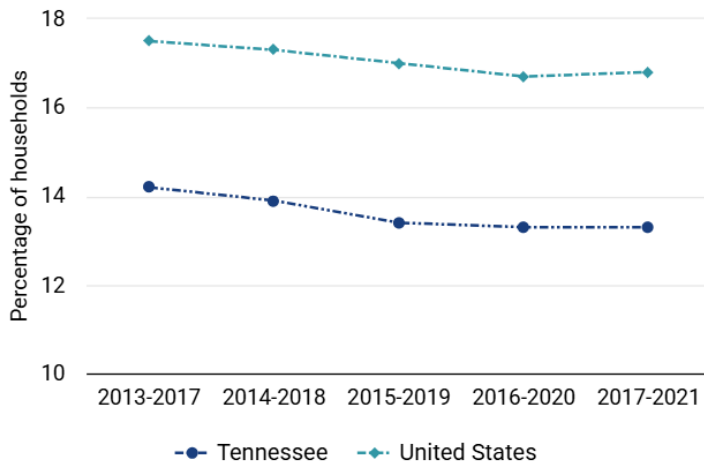


Chart description: From 2014 to 2021, Tennessee's rate of severe housing problems stayed below the U.S. rate, with both declining over time. From 2017-2021, **13.3%** of Tennessee households had severe housing problems compared to **16.8%** nationally.

Severe Housing Cost Burden

Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing.

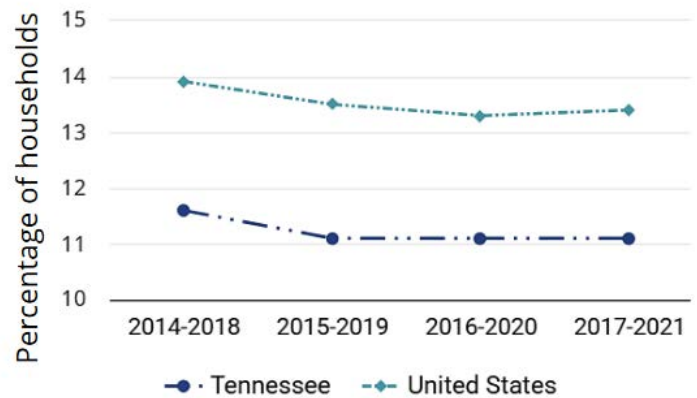


Chart description: From 2014-2014, Tennessee's severe housing cost burden stayed below the U.S. Both declined through 2019, then leveled off. From 2017 to 2021, Tennessee averaged **11.1%** compared with **13.1%** nationally.

68%



In 2024, 68% of Tennessee's population had adequate **access to parks and greenways**.



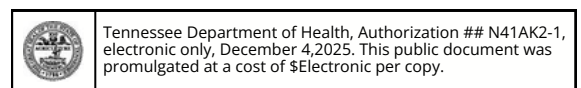
More than
8,280

Tennesseans were experiencing **homelessness** in 2024.

**Data from Housing and Urban Development Exchange CoC Homeless Populations and Subpopulations Reports. As a point-in-time count, this number severely undercounts the number of persons experiencing homelessness.*

Data Sources:

- Census ACS Data accessed via US Department of Housing and Urban Development Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy
- Business Analyst, Delorme map data, ESRI, & US Census Tigerline Files



Tennessee Department of Health, Authorization ## N41AK2-1, electronic only, December 4, 2025. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$Electronic per copy.

For more information visit State Health Plan website: <http://health.tn.gov/shp>

2025 State of Health in Tennessee

A Healthy Environment

Broadband



Broadband access is necessary for accessing everything from educational classes, job opportunities, and telehealth appointments to staying connected with family and friends. Broadband access in Tennessee has been increasing in recent years.

Broadband

Percentage of households with broadband internet connection.

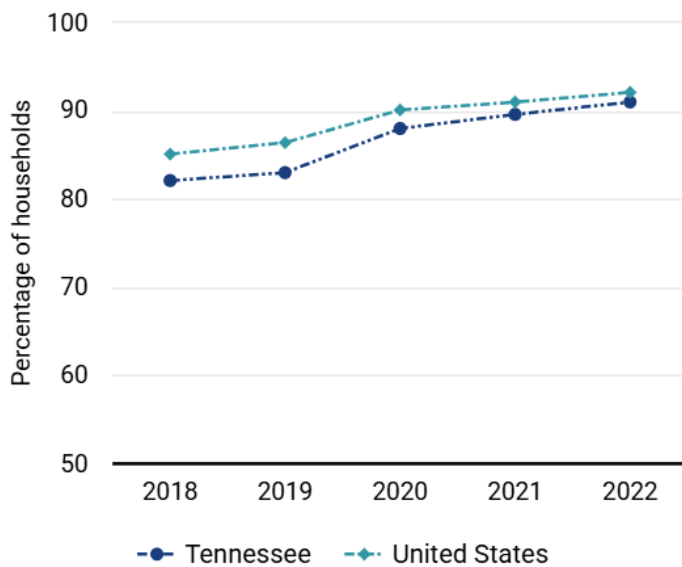


Chart description: From 2018 to 2023, broadband access in Tennessee has remained lower than the national average, but the gap has reduced from 2021. In 2023, **91%** Tennessee households had broadband connection compared to **96.1%** nationally.



Broadband by Income Level

Percentage of households with broadband internet connection in 2023 by household income level.

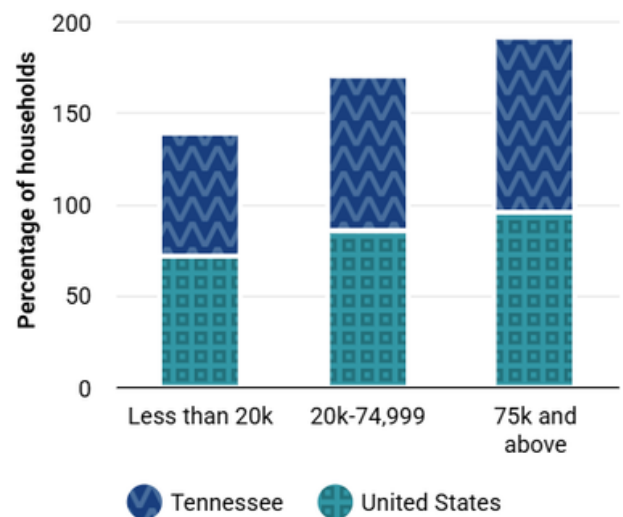


Chart description: As income increases, the percent of Tennesseans with broadband increases. Broadband access in Tennessee was lower than national average across all income levels, but the gap narrows as income increases.

Data Sources:

- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey



Tennessee Department of Health, Authorization ## N41AK2-1, electronic only, December 4, 2025. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$Electronic per copy.

For more information visit State Health Plan website: <http://health.tn.gov/shp>

2025 State of Health in Tennessee

A Healthy Environment

Transportation



While in Tennessee access to a vehicle is largely needed to get from one place to another, relying on a personal vehicle can have negative impacts on the environment by increasing carbon emissions as well as negative effects on individual health.

Driving alone to work and having a long commute can impact health by decreasing physical activity and increasing the risk of health conditions such as depression, obesity, and hypertension.

How safe are TN roads?

Total number of persons fatally or seriously injured in vehicle crashes in Tennessee.

In 2024, there were

7,041 fatal or serious crash injuries. 
Down from 7,405 in 2023.

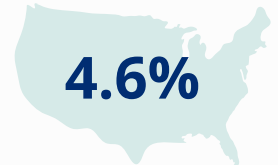


Vehicle Access: % of workers 16+ had no access to a vehicle.

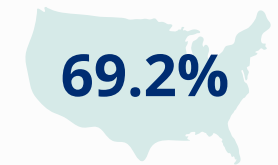
Driving alone to work: % of workers 16+ had no access to a vehicle.

Long Commute: % of workers 16+ had no access to a vehicle.

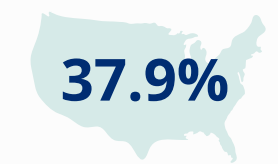
2.1%



75.8%




37.6%



Data Sources:

- Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security
- United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey



 Tennessee Department of Health, Authorization ## N41AK2-1, electronic only, December 4, 2025. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$Electronic per copy.

For more information visit State Health Plan website: <http://health.tn.gov/shp>

2025 State of Health in Tennessee

A Healthy Environment

Social Cohesion

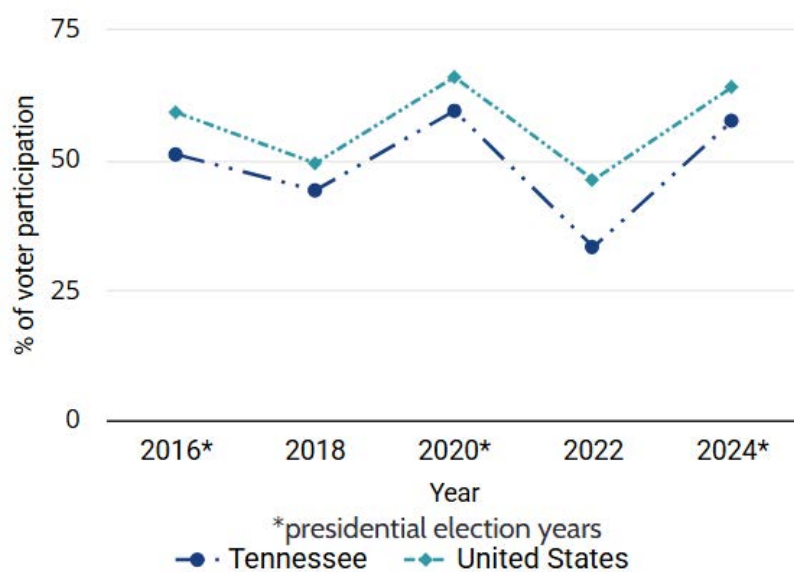


Individuals living in a socially cohesive community experience trust, solidarity, connectedness, and a sense of belonging with one another. As a result, these communities experience more positive health outcomes including everything from lower rates of frailty in older adults to increased physical activity.



Voter Participation

From 2016 to 2024, Tennessee's voter participation consistently trailed the national average, with higher turnout in presidential election years. In 2024, **57.6%** of voting-eligible Tennesseans participated in the highest-office election, compared to **64.1%** nationally.



Community engagement is increased in areas where there is a high presence of civic and social advocacy organizations.

In 2022, **357** Social Advocacy Organizations and **394** Civic Organizations operated in Tennessee.

Social advocacy organizations

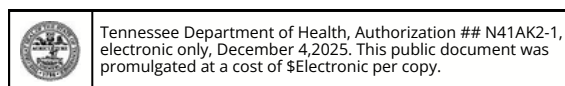
- Community action & advocacy
- Human rights advocacy
- Wildlife preservation

Civic organizations

- Parent-teacher associations
- Alumni associations
- Veterans' organizations
- Ethnic associations

Data Sources:

- United States Census Bureau
- University of Florida Election Lab



For more information visit State Health Plan website: <http://health.tn.gov/shp>

2025 State of Health in Tennessee

A Healthy Environment

Water and Air



1.5%

of Tennesseans were served by a community water system with a **drinking water violation** in 2023, compared to **2.8%** in the United States.

Addition of fluoride into community water systems improves oral health and "is the most effective and economical way to prevent tooth decay for all ages."

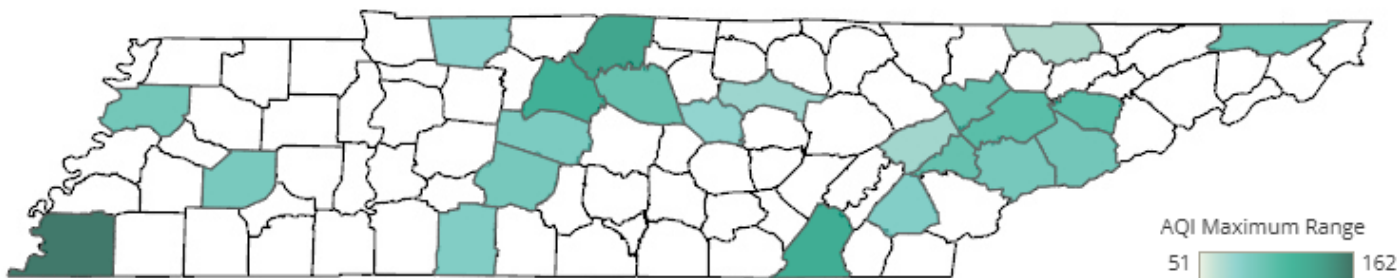


88.3%

of Tennessee's population is served by community water systems receiving **fluoridated water**.

Air Quality

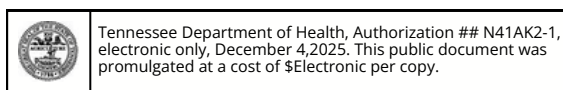
The Air Quality Index (AQI) measures levels of five major pollutants—ozone, particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, and nitrogen dioxide. A higher AQI indicates worse air quality and greater health risks.



Map shows that maximum annual AQI is higher in metropolitan areas. In 2024, Shelby County recorded the highest annual AQI at 159, while Claiborne County had the lowest at 67 among counties with available data. For full data visit the [State Health Plan website](#).

Data Sources:

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Water Fluoridation Reporting System
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



Tennessee Department of Health, Authorization ## N41AK2-1, electronic only, December 4, 2025. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$Electronic per copy.

For more information visit State Health Plan website: <http://health.tn.gov/shp>

2025 State of Health in Tennessee

A Healthy Environment

Heat Related Illness



In the U.S. heat-related weather events cause more fatalities annually than any other weather-related event.



Groups with highest risk of heat related illness include:

- Pregnant women
- Children
- Older adults
- Individuals who work outside

Increased rates of heat-related illness can impact community health care capacity as emergency department visits and hospitalizations increase.



Heat-Related Emergency Department Visits and Hospitalizations

- In 2022, the crude rate of heat-related emergency department Visits was **4.19** visits per 10,000 Tennesseans.
- In 2022, the crude rate of heat-related hospitalizations was **0.50** per 10,000 Tennesseans.

*values from 2020-22 are expected to be impacted by COVID-19 pandemic

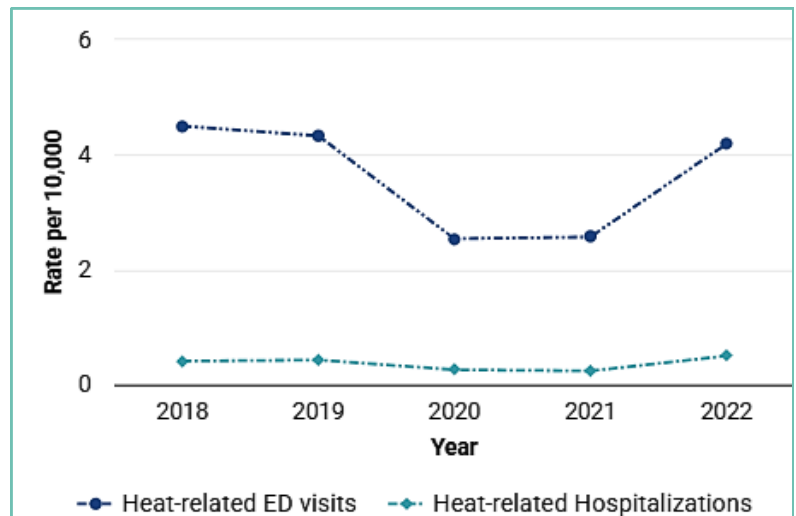
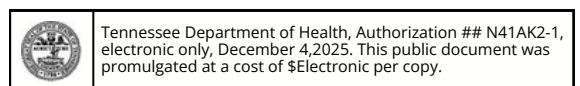


Chart description: A steady decrease in heat-related emergency department visits from 2018 to 2020, followed by a slight increase in 2021 and 2022. Heat-related hospitalizations remained relatively stable throughout the years, with a peak in 2022.

Data Sources:

- Tennessee Department of Health, Division of Population Health Assessment.



For more information visit State Health Plan website: <http://health.tn.gov/shp>