

Tennessee TOA Data Dashboard Documentation

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Introduction

This documentation provides detailed information on the Tennessee Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Opportunity Act (TOA) data dashboard. The dashboard includes demographic information, income measures and poverty rates, employment and education data, safety net program caseloads, health information, and more. Data are presented at the state and national level, as well as the grand division and county level when data availability permit.

[Data Documentation](#) describes each variable included in the dashboard measures, the source of the information, how the measure was obtained, and any other relevant notes.

[Data Sources](#) provides additional information on the major data sources used in the dashboard.

[Version History](#) indicates updates to the dashboard over time.

Download Data

You can download the current data and codebook used in the dashboard as CSV files. You can also download previous versions of these files from the [Version History](#) page.

Part I

Data Documentation

Demographics

Age group

Definition: Share of the total population by age group.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: B01001)

Disability status

Definition: Share of the total population with a disability.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: C18108)

Notes: People are identified as having a disability if they reported at least one of the following types of disabilities: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory, self-care, and independent living.

Grandparent status

Definition: Share of the population 30 years old and older who are living with grandchildren and share that are responsible for grandchildren.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S0201)

Notes: Grandparents are considered responsible for their grandchildren if they live with any grandchildren under the age of 18 and are currently responsible for most of their basic needs.

Household marital status among families with children

Definition: Share of children (under 18 years old) by household marital status.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S0901)

Notes: The householder refers to the person under whose name the housing unit is owned or rented. If no individual matches this description, any adult member (excluding roomers, boarders, or paid employees) is considered the householder. The householder may be the parent or another single adult in the household. In households with multiple adults, the householder may not be the adult who provides care for the children in the unit.

Race and ethnicity

Definition: Share of the total population by race and ethnicity.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001I)

Notes: Non-Hispanic individuals are classified as white, Black, or Asian if they report that race and no other race. All Hispanic individuals are classified as Hispanic regardless of the race(s) they report. The “Other, non-Hispanic” group includes non-Hispanic people who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or some other race, or who report two or more races.

Race and ethnicity among young children

Definition: Share of young children (under 5 years old) by race and ethnicity.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: B01001A, B01001B, B01001C, B01001D, B01001E, B01001F, B01001I)

Notes: Individuals are classified as white alone, Black alone, or Asian alone if they report that race and no other race. All Hispanic individuals are classified as Hispanic regardless of the race(s) they report. The “Additional” group includes people who are American Indian/Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander, or some other race, or who report two or more races.

Rural and urban distribution

Definition: Share of the total population living in urban or rural areas.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Decennial Census](#) (Table ID: P2)

Notes: The 2020 Census defines urban areas based on population density at the Census block level. An area must include a minimum of 2,500 people within its boundaries to be considered urban. All areas that do not meet this criterion are considered rural.

Vehicle availability

Definition: Share of workers (16 years old or older) by vehicle availability.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S0801)

Notes: Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data.

Veteran status

Definition: Share of the total population who are veterans.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: B21001)

Education

College going rate

Definition: Share of public high school graduates who seamlessly enroll (i.e., immediately after high school) in postsecondary education.

Source: [Tennessee Higher Education Commission \(THEC\) College-Going Reports](#)

Notes: Counts public high school students in the Tennessee Department of Education's (TDOE) ninth grade cohort who earn a regular high school diploma and enroll at a postsecondary institution the following summer or fall term after graduating high school. Public high school graduates are included according to the academic year they earned a regular diploma (e.g., for the high school class of 2022, this represents all graduates between August 1, 2021 and July 31, 2022). The THEC cohort of graduates is thus slightly smaller than the graduate cohort counts provided by TDOE. The THEC cohort measure excludes students who do not earn a regular diploma, meaning that students who earn alternate academic diplomas are not included. Grand Division rates are reported as a weighted average of county rates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data.

Educational attainment

Definition: Educational attainment for adults 25 years old or older.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S1501)

High school graduation rate

Definition: Share of adults (18 years old or older) that are high school graduates (or equivalency) by race and ethnicity.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S1501)

K-12 enrollment

Definition: Share of children (5-17 years old or older) enrolled in school.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S1401)

Notes: This measure captures the share of school-age children (5-17 years old) enrolled in school.

Preschool enrollment

Definition: Share of children 3-4 years old enrolled in school, by type (public or private).

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S1401)

Notes: This measure captures the share of preschool-age children (3-4 years old) enrolled in school.

Portion of students participating in special education

Definition: Share of public school students in kindergarten through 12th grade who receive special educational services.

Source: [The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center](#)

Notes: Children with giftedness and functional delay are excluded. Rate is percentage of net enrollment (1st. Month Membership). Data on the number of students (counts) are provided by the Tennessee Department of Education, Special Education Services. Enrollment data are from Department's Annual Report. The KIDS COUNT division of the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth converted district-level data to county level and computed rate. State special schools are not included.

Employment

Labor force participation

Definition: Average labor force participation rate based on ACS estimates.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S2301)

Notes: The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population 16 years and over that is in the labor force. People are in the labor force if they are either working or actively looking for work. Many who are not in the labor force are attending school or are retired. ACS 5-Year Estimates are the primary source of labor force participation estimates for counties in this tool. Labor force participation rates from the ACS are [not directly comparable](#) to rates from other sources.

Labor force participation by age group

Definition: Annual average civilian labor force participation rate by age group.

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data](#), table titled “Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age”

Notes: The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population in a particular age group that is in the labor force. People are in the labor force if they are either working or actively looking for work. Many who are not in the labor force are attending school or are retired. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Labor force participation by race and ethnicity

Definition: Annual average civilian labor force participation rate by race and ethnicity.

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data](#), table titled “Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age”

Notes: The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population aged 16 and older that is in the labor force. People are in the labor force if they are either working or actively looking for work. Many who are not in the labor force are attending school or are retired. Persons classified as Hispanic may be of any race. Persons classified as white or Black are those who selected that race group only. Persons in the additional race groups, including Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, and persons who selected more than one race category, are included in the estimates of overall labor force participation rate but are not shown separately due to sample size. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Labor force participation by sex

Definition: Annual average civilian labor force participation rate by sex.

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data](#), table titled “Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age”

Notes: The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population aged 16 and older that is in the labor force. People are in the labor force if they are either working or actively looking for work. Many who are not in the labor force are attending school or are retired. The survey used to calculate the national employment figures (the CPS) requires respondents to select either male or female as their sex. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Monthly labor force participation

Definition: Monthly civilian labor force participation rate (not seasonally adjusted).

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Labor Force Statistics from the [Current Population Survey](#) (Series ID: LNU01300000); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) (Series ID: LAUST4700000000000008)

Notes: The labor force participation rate represents the proportion of the population aged 16 and older that is in the labor force. People are in the labor force if they are either working or actively looking for work. Many who are not in the labor force are attending school or are retired.

Monthly unemployment

Definition: Monthly unemployment rate (not seasonally adjusted).

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Current Population Survey](#) (Series ID: LNU04000000); State: [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) (Series ID: LAUST4700000000000003); County: [Local Area Unemployment Statistics](#) (Series IDs: LAUCN47[cty]0000000003)

Notes: People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The unemployment rate is calculated as the unemployed percentage of the civilian labor force, which includes all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older classified as either employed or unemployed. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Unemployment by age group

Definition: Annual average unemployment rate by age group.

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data](#), table titled “Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age”

Notes: People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The unemployment rate is calculated as the unemployed percentage of the civilian labor force, which includes all persons

in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older classified as either employed or unemployed. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Unemployment by race and ethnicity

Definition: Annual average unemployment rate by race and ethnicity.

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data](#), table titled “Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age”

Notes: People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The unemployment rate is calculated as the unemployed percentage of the civilian labor force, which includes all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older classified as either employed or unemployed. Persons classified as Hispanic may be of any race. Persons classified as white or Black are those who selected that race group only. Persons in the additional race groups, including Asian, American Indian or Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islanders, and persons who selected more than one race category, are included in the estimates of overall unemployment rate but are not shown separately due to sample size. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Unemployment by sex

Definition: Annual average unemployment rate by sex.

Source: National: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Labor Force Statistics from the Current Population Survey](#); State: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, [Local Area Unemployment Statistics, Expanded State Employment Status Demographic Data](#), table titled “Employment status of the civilian noninstitutional population in states by sex, race, Hispanic or Latino ethnicity, and detailed age”

Notes: People are classified as unemployed if they do not have a job, have actively looked for work in the prior four weeks, and are currently available for work. The unemployment rate is calculated as the unemployed percentage of the civilian labor force, which includes all persons in the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older classified as either employed or unemployed. The survey used to calculate the national employment figures (the CPS) requires

respondents to select either male or female as their sex. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Food Insecurity

Food insecurity rate

Definition: Share of people living in households that experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months.

Source: [Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap](#)

Notes: The food insecurity rate is the proportion of people living in households that experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months. Food insecurity rates among children represent the proportion of children (under 18 years old) living in households that experienced food insecurity in the past 12 months. Food insecurity is defined as lacking access to enough food for an active, healthy life or experiencing limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods for all household members in the past 12 months. In the source analysis, a household is determined to be food insecure if it reported three or more food-insecure conditions in the CPS Core Food Security Module. Statewide food insecurity estimates for 2020 are not available due to differences in how these estimates were computed relative to other years. More information about the methodology used to produce food insecurity estimates can be found in the [technical brief](#).

Health

Adult obesity

Definition: Share of adults reporting a BMI greater than or equal to 30 kg/m² (age-adjusted).

Source: [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings](#)

Notes: This measure is based on responses to Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) surveys and is the percentage of the adult population (ages 18 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m². The BRFSS is a state-based random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that is conducted annually in all states, the District of Columbia, and United States territories. Data obtained from the BRFSS are representative of each state's total non-institutionalized population over 18 years of age and have included more than 400,000 annual respondents with landline telephones or cellphones since 2011. Data are weighted using iterative proportional fitting (also called "raking") methods to reflect population distributions. Data from the BRFSS are used to measure various health behaviors and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) indicators in the Health Snapshots and downloadable datasets. HRQoL measures are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Participants are asked to self-report their height and weight; BMIs are calculated from these reported values. Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data.

Age-adjusted mortality rate

Definition: Number of deaths per 1,000 population (age-adjusted) by race.

Source: [Tennessee Department of Health, General Health Data: Death Statistics](#)

Notes: The number of deaths occurring during the year per 1,000 residents in the indicated geographic area with respect to the age distribution in the area's population. The mortality rate is adjusted by calculating death rates for specific age groups and weighing the reported rate in proportion to the size of each age group. Race and ethnicity are recorded on the Tennessee death certificate from information collected from the informant. Race and ethnicity

are asked separately and an informant may describe the deceased as having identified with any of up to 15 race categories and one of five (5) Hispanic or non-Hispanic origins. For statistical presentation, Tennessee reports a single, predominant race that is estimated from the race or races that describe the deceased and from the demographic characteristics of their county of residence. Predominant race is based on the bridged race methodology created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Grand Division rates are reported as a weighted average of county rates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See “State Population Totals” tables for national and state population data. See “County Population Totals” tables for county population data.

Frequent mental distress

Definition: Share of adults reporting 14 or more days of poor mental health per month (age-adjusted).

Source: [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings](#)

Notes: This measure reflects the percentage of adults who reported 14 or more days in response to the question, “Now, thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, and problems with emotions, for how many days during the past 30 days was your mental health not good?”. Estimates are based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a state-based random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that is conducted annually in all states, the District of Columbia, and United States territories. Data obtained from the BRFSS are representative of each state’s total non-institutionalized population over 18 years of age and have included more than 400,000 annual respondents with landline telephones or cellphones since 2011. Data are weighted using iterative proportional fitting (also called “raking”) methods to reflect population distributions. Data from the BRFSS are used to measure various health behaviors and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) indicators in the Health Snapshots and downloadable datasets. HRQoL measures are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See “State Population Totals” tables for national and state population data. See “County Population Totals” tables for county population data.

Low birthweight

Definition: Share of live births born with low birthweight (less than 2,500 grams).

Source: National/State: [KFF State Health Facts](#), County: [Tennessee Department of Health, General Health Data: Birth Statistics](#)

Mental health providers

Definition: Ratio of population to mental health providers.

Source: [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings](#)

Notes: This ratio represents the number of people in the population divided by the number of mental health providers. For example, if a county has a population of 50,000 and has 20 mental health providers, the county ratio would be: 2,500:1, and 2500 would appear in the data. A value of zero indicates there are no registered mental health providers in the county. Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data.

Poor mental health days

Definition: Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).

Source: [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings](#)

Notes: Estimates are based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a state-based random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that is conducted annually in all states, the District of Columbia, and United States territories. Data obtained from the BRFSS are representative of each state's total non-institutionalized population over 18 years of age and have included more than 400,000 annual respondents with landline telephones or cellphones since 2011. Data are weighted using iterative proportional fitting (also called "raking") methods to reflect population distributions. Data from the BRFSS are used to measure various health behaviors and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) indicators in the Health Snapshots and downloadable datasets. HRQoL measures are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data.

Poor or fair health

Definition: Share of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted).

Source: [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings](#)

Notes: Estimates are based on the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), a state-based random digit dial (RDD) telephone survey that is conducted annually in all states, the District of Columbia, and United States territories. Data obtained from the BRFSS are representative of each state’s total non-institutionalized population over 18 years of age and have included more than 400,000 annual respondents with landline telephones or cellphones since 2011. Data are weighted using iterative proportional fitting (also called “raking”) methods to reflect population distributions. Data from the BRFSS are used to measure various health behaviors and health-related quality of life (HRQoL) indicators in the Health Snapshots and downloadable datasets. HRQoL measures are age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population. Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See “State Population Totals” tables for national and state population data. See “County Population Totals” tables for county population data.

Primary care physicians

Definition: Ratio of population to primary care physicians.

Source: [University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings](#)

Notes: This ratio represents the number of people in the population divided by the number of primary care physicians. For example, if a county has a population of 50,000 and has 20 primary care physicians, the county ratio would be: 2,500:1, and 2500 would appear in the data. A value of zero indicates there are no registered mental health providers in the county. Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See “State Population Totals” tables for national and state population data. See “County Population Totals” tables for county population data.

Uninsurance rate

Definition: Share of the population without any health insurance coverage by age group.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: S2701)

Income and Poverty

Median household income

Definition: Median household income.

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates](#) (Table ID: B19013)

Notes: Grand Division estimates are reported as a weighted average of county estimates weighted by population using the [U.S. Census Bureau’s Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See “State Population Totals” tables for national and state population data. See “County Population Totals” tables for county population data.

Official poverty rate

Definition: Share of people in poverty based on the official poverty measure (OPM).

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates \(SAIPE\)](#)

Notes: The official poverty rate compares cash income to a threshold that varies by family size, composition, and age of the household. The poverty threshold is based on three times the costs of a minimum food diet in 1963. The official poverty rate is the percentage of people in poverty, and the official child poverty rate is the percentage of children under age 18 in poverty. The official poverty rates here are estimates based on the ACS. The estimates from the CPS differ. We show poverty estimates from the ACS—rather than the CPS, which supports the most commonly cited official poverty estimates—in order to allow data from the same source and year to be used in estimating both national and Tennessee poverty rates under both the OPM and Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).

Supplemental poverty rate

Definition: Share of people in poverty based on the Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM).

Source: [U.S. Census Bureau, Supplemental Poverty Measure State Tables](#)

Notes: The SPM considers cash income plus the value of noncash benefits (like food assistance) and tax credits, minus tax payments and work, medical, and child support expenses. The SPM thresholds are based on average expenditures for food, clothing, shelter, and utilities. The thresholds consider not only family size and composition but also whether a family owns or rents their home, and the geographic location. Additional information on how the Census Bureau estimates SPM poverty rates is available [here](#).

Safety Net Programs

CCDF participation

Definition: Average monthly number of families and children served through the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF).

Source: [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Care, Child Care and Development Fund Statistics](#)

Notes: Data are based on the reported fiscal year. Estimates from FY 2021 reflect preliminary estimates, as final estimates were not published when this data was integrated. This measure is pulled from Table 1: Average Monthly Adjusted Number of Families and Children Served.

CHIP participation

Definition: Number of individuals enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Source: [U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, State Medicaid and CHIP Applications, Eligibility Determinations, and Enrollment Data](#)

Notes: A point-in-time count of the number of individuals enrolled in CHIP (including separate CHIP and Medicaid expansion CHIP) as of the last day of each month within the selected time frame. Note that since some states use CHIP to extend coverage to adults, this measure is not strictly limited to children in all states. Includes only those individuals who are eligible for comprehensive benefits. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Portion of population participating in CHIP

Definition: Share of the overall population enrolled in the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP).

Source: [U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, State Medicaid and CHIP Applications, Eligibility Determinations, and Enrollment Data](#)

Notes: A point-in-time estimate of the share of individuals enrolled in CHIP (including separate CHIP and Medicaid expansion CHIP) as of the last day of each month within the selected time frame. Note that since some states use CHIP to extend coverage to adults, this measure is not strictly limited to children in all states. Includes only those individuals who are eligible for comprehensive benefits. The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available. Population estimates are based on the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See “State Population Totals” tables for national and state population data.

Head Start participation

Definition: Number of children enrolled for any period of the year in any of the Head Start programs.

Source: [The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center](#)

Notes: Total enrollment includes children in all three programs: Head Start, Early Head Start, and Migrant/Seasonal Head Start. Pregnant women are included in the “0 to 2” age category. The Early Head Start program serves children from birth to 3 years of age. The Head Start program includes children ages 3 to 5 years. Migrant/Seasonal Head Start includes those children from birth to 5 years old whose families earn their income primarily from agricultural work. Migrant families must have changed residence within the last two years; Seasonal families have not changed their residence in the last two years, but temporarily move for work.

LIHEAP average benefit

Definition: Average annual (FY) benefit amount, by type of assistance, provided to households through the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Source: [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, LIHEAP Data Warehouse](#)

Notes: The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

LIHEAP households served

Definition: Number of households served by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

Source: [U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, LIHEAP Data Warehouse](#)

Notes: The data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Medicaid participation

Definition: Number of people receiving Medicaid (TennCare) coverage in each month.

Source: [Tennessee Division of TennCare Enrollment Data](#)

Portion of population participating in Medicaid

Definition: Share of the overall population receiving Medicaid (TennCare) coverage in each month.

Source: [Tennessee Division of TennCare Enrollment Data](#)

Notes: Population estimates are based on the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data.

Public housing and voucher enrollment

Definition: Annual number of households receiving public housing and Housing Choice vouchers.

Source: [U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Policy Development and Research, Picture of Subsidized Households](#)

Notes: Reflects the annual number of households for which reports (Form-50058, Form 50059) were received confirming receipt of public housing or housing voucher enrollment. Includes data for summary of all HUD programs along with public housing, housing choice vouchers, and project based section 8 vouchers. Households that are included in the total for all HUD programs but not in the other subgroups could be receiving assistance through the moderate

rehabilitation, rent supplement, rental assistance payment, Section 202, Section 236, or Section 811 program.

SSDI average benefit

Definition: Average monthly Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI) payment.

Source: [U.S. Social Security Administration Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program](#) (Tables 16-18) and [OASDI Beneficiaries by State and County](#) (Tables 4 and 5)

Portion of population participating in SSDI

Definition: Share of the overall population ages 18 to 64 receiving Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI) payments.

Source: [U.S. Social Security Administration Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program](#) (Table 8)

Notes: Population estimates are based on the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data.

SSDI participation

Definition: Number of people receiving Social Security Disability Insurance Program (SSDI) payments, by subgroup.

Source: [U.S. Social Security Administration Annual Statistical Report on the Social Security Disability Insurance Program](#) (Table 9)

SSI average benefit

Definition: Average monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payment.

Source: [U.S. Social Security Administration SSI Annual Statistical Reports](#) (Table 11)

Portion of population participating in SSI

Definition: Share of the overall population receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

Source: [U.S. Social Security Administration SSI Annual Statistical Reports](#) (Table 10)

Notes: Population estimates are based on the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data.

SSI participation

Definition: Number of people receiving Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

Source: [U.S. Social Security Administration SSI Annual Statistical Reports](#) (Table 10)

TANF households

Definition: Number of households receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits per month.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TANF average benefit

Definition: Average monthly benefit per Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) household.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TANF average earnings

Definition: Average monthly earnings for eligible adults in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) households among adults reporting any amount of earned income.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: Monthly earnings includes both earned gross income and self-employment gross income for individuals eligible to receive TANF benefits. Only individuals with a personal responsibility plan (PRP) and who reported more than zero employed or self-employed hours and/or more than \$0 in countable earned gross income or self-employed gross income are included in the average. These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TANF average hours worked

Definition: Average monthly hours worked for eligible adults in Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) households among adults reporting any amount of income.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: Only individuals eligible to receive TANF benefits with a personal responsibility plan (PRP) and who reported more than zero employed or self-employed hours and/or more than \$0 in earned gross income or self-employed gross income applied to Families First are included in the average. These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TANF employment status

Definition: Number of adults eligible for Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits who are employed.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. This metric excludes child-only TANF units. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

Portion of population participating in TANF

Definition: Share of the overall population receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: Children are defined as people younger than 18 years old, and adults are defined as people 18 years old or older. These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Population estimates are based on the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. See "State Population Totals" tables for national and state population data. See "County Population Totals" tables for county population data. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TANF participation

Definition: Number of people receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) benefits per month.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: Children are defined as people younger than 18 years old, and adults are defined as people 18 years old and older. These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TANF unit size

Definition: Average number of people per Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) household per month.

Source: P20 Connect TN

Notes: Children are defined as people younger than 18 years old, and adults are defined as people 18 years old and older. These values are a snapshot of the caseload as of the last day of the month. Please note that this data has different reporting metrics than other similar data reported by TDHS.

TEIS participation

Definition: Number of children ages 0 to 2 that participated in Tennessee’s Early Intervention System (TEIS) each year.

Source: [The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center](#)

Notes: Tennessee’s Early Intervention System (TEIS) is Tennessee’s Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C of IDEA). Part C of IDEA is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, ages birth through two (2) years and their families. Data reflect the number of children ages 0 to 2 participating in TEIS.

Portion of children participating in TEIS

Definition: Rate of children ages 0 to 2 that participated in Tennessee’s Early Intervention System (TEIS) per 1,000.

Source: [The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center](#)

Notes: Tennessee’s Early Intervention System (TEIS) is Tennessee’s Program for Infants and Toddlers with Disabilities (Part C of IDEA). Part C of IDEA is a federal grant program that assists states in operating a comprehensive statewide program of early intervention services for infants and toddlers with disabilities, ages birth through two (2) years and their families. Data reflect the number of children ages 0 to 2 participating in TEIS. Rate is per 1,000 population of same age group.

WIC participation

Definition: Number of people receiving Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits.

Source: [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, WIC Data Tables](#)

Notes: The participation data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

Portion of population participating in WIC

Definition: Share of the population receiving Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) benefits.

Source: [U.S. Department of Agriculture, Food and Nutrition Service, WIC Data Tables](#)

Notes: Population estimates are based on the [U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program](#) as of July 1 for each year. Data on population by age are accessible [here](#). The participation data reported for this measure may be preliminary. The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available. For subgroup estimates for women, the metric reports the portion of the female population participating in WIC.

UI claims

Definition: Number of Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims per week.

Source: [Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Unemployment Insurance \(UI\), Claimant Characteristics](#)

Notes: Total claims includes both initial and continued claims. Initial claims are new unemployment claims filed in a week. Continued claims are claims filed by individuals who have already filed an initial claim and are still able to receive unemployment benefits.

Data Sources

Additional information on the major data sources used in the data dashboard is included below.

American Community Survey

The ACS is a nationally representative survey that captures the social and economic circumstances of US households. The U.S. Census Bureau administers the survey each month and collects key demographic, economic, education, social, and housing characteristics of respondents.

Unlike a census, which captures information on the full population, the ACS is administered to only a portion of the population—about 3.5 million households—each year (2023). The 2018 ACS surveyed about 27,000 households in Tennessee. Because surveys collect information on only a subset of the population, there is some amount of sampling error, or difference between the sample statistic and the true population value, in the estimates. Sampling error can be minimized by surveying a large sample of people, which increases the likelihood that the sample is representative of the entire population.

To produce estimates for the full population, the survey data are weighted to adjust for differences between the sampled households and the actual population. Some demographic characteristics, such as racial group or geographic residence, may be over- or under-sampled or nonresponsive relative to the true proportion of that group in the population. The ACS assigns a sampling weight to each household and person in the dataset to ensure that the makeup of the final estimates is representative of key characteristics of the full population.

Both one-year and five-year ACS estimates are available. ACS one-year estimates are released annually for geographic areas with populations of at least 65,000. The five-year ACS estimates compile survey data on the population over a five-year period and publish data for geographic areas as small as the census tract. Because the five-year estimates include a larger sample of households, these data are generally more reliable (and have less sampling error) for calculating estimates for smaller areas, such as counties, and smaller populations, such as certain racial subgroups. However, any estimates from the five-year data reflect an average over that time period and thus may not capture recent changes or trends. As the five-year estimates compile multiple years of data, a slightly different methodology is used to develop these estimates. In the five-year ACS estimates, any reported dollar values, including income and housing costs,

are adjusted for inflation to the most recent year. For example, the 2017–21 five-year ACS estimates reflect 2021 dollars. The ACS applies an inflation adjustment factor based on the consumer price index to produce the adjusted dollar values.

The Census Bureau strongly recommends against comparing estimates in overlapping five-year periods (2022). As a result, we use the most recent five-year estimates available for all data points in the dashboard.

Current Population Survey

The CPS is a monthly survey administered by the US Census Bureau that collects data on the demographic and economic characteristics of US households (2018a). The CPS has a smaller sample size than the ACS; it surveys about 60,000 households each month. The sample size of the CPS limits estimates to the national and state level. Like the ACS, the CPS is a survey, so there is some amount of sampling error in the estimates.

The survey, which is representative of the civilian noninstitutional population age 16 and older, captures data on numerous measures related to employment, including occupation, earnings, and hours worked. The Bureau of Labor Statistics analyzes the data to estimate the national unemployment rate and other economic measures. In this report, we present estimates of the national unemployment rate and labor force participation across various demographic groups.

Decennial Census

The decennial census is a constitutionally required count of all people in the United States. The census is administered by the U.S. Census Bureau and captures basic demographic data on every member of the U.S. population. Each U.S. household is asked about the sex, age, and race or ethnicity of every member of the household. While the census aims to collect information on the full population, the estimates are still subject to nonresponse bias (that is, the individuals who did not respond are different than the individuals who did respond in a way that affects the results). In this report, we use the 2020 Census data to describe the rural and urban distribution of the population in Tennessee and nationally.

While the census provides an accurate count of the full population, it is limited in scope and conducted only once every 10 years. To better understand year-to-year changes in the circumstances of the population, the U.S. Census Bureau conducts additional surveys each year to obtain detailed data on a representative subset of the population.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics

The Local Area Unemployment Statistics program is a federal-state program that produces annual-average data on employment, labor force participation, and unemployment across subnational geographies, including states, metropolitan areas, counties, and cities (2018b). The estimates are produced using existing survey data, including the CPS, ACS, and decennial census, as well as state unemployment data.

These data are used to model key economic measures for subnational geographic areas. We use the Local Area Unemployment Statistics estimates to describe unemployment and labor force participation in Tennessee and its counties.

Version History

The dashboard is updated with the most recent data at regular intervals with the most recent available data. Some data presented in the dashboard may be preliminary, and the data will be updated to the final figures after it becomes available.

January 31, 2025 (Current)

- Added [American Community Survey \(ACS\) 1-Year estimates](#) for 2023
- Added [American Community Survey \(ACS\) 5-Year estimates](#) for 2019-2023
- Added [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) monthly data](#) for October 2024-November 2024
- Added [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) data](#) for March 2024-August 2024
- Added [Medicaid data](#) for January 2024-October 2024
- Added [SAIPE estimates](#) for 2023
- Added [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) data](#) for July 2024-October 2024
- Added [Unemployment Insurance \(UI\) data](#) for the weeks ending January 6, 2024 through January 4, 2025

November 1, 2024 (Final Release)

- Added [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) monthly data](#) for July 2024-September 2024
- Added [Children's Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) data](#) for March 2024-June 2024
- Added [College Going data](#) for 2023
- Added [Low Birthweight data](#) for 2022
- Added [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\) data](#) for 2023
- Added [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) data](#) for March 2024-June 2024

July 31, 2024 (Beta Release)

- Added [American Community Survey \(ACS\) 5-Year estimates](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [American Community Survey \(ACS\) 1-Year estimates](#) for 2022

- Added [Decennial Census data](#) for 2020
- Added [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) annual data](#) for 2018-2023
- Added [Bureau of Labor Statistics \(BLS\) monthly data](#) for January 2018-June 2024
- Added [Child Care and Development Fund \(CCDF\) data](#) for 2018-2021
- Added [Children’s Health Insurance Program \(CHIP\) data](#) for January 2018-February 2024
- Added [College Going data](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [County Health Rankings data](#) for 2018-2024
- Added [Feeding America Mapping the Meal Gap estimates](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [Kids Count data](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [Low Birthweight data](#) for 2018-2021
- Added [Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program \(LIHEAP\) data](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [Medicaid data](#) for January 2018-December 2023
- Added [Mortality data](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [P20 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families \(TANF\) data](#) for January 2019-April 2023
- Added [Public Housing and Voucher data](#) for 2018-2023
- Added [SAIPE estimates](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [Social Security Administration data](#) for 2018-2022
- Added [Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children \(WIC\) data](#) for January 2018-February 2024
- Added [Supplementary Poverty Measure data](#) for 2018-2022

References

- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. 2018a. “Current Population Survey (CPS) Overview.” <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/cps/home.htm>.
- . 2018b. “Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) Overview.” <https://www.bls.gov/opub/hom/lau/>.
- U.S. Census Bureau. 2022. “Period Estimates in the American Community Survey.” <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/blogs/random-samplings/2022/03/period-estimates-american-community-survey.html>.
- . 2023. “American Community Survey (ACS) Research & Methodology.” <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/methodology.html>.