



Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's

THE STATE OF THE CHILD IN TENNESSEE

2024

DATA HIGHLIGHTS



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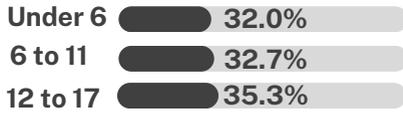
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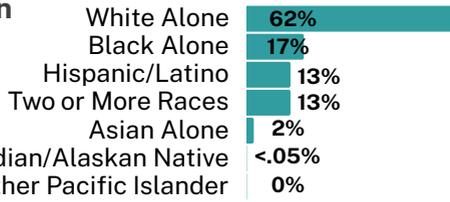


DEMOGRAPHICS

One in five Tennesseans are under 18



Tennessee children are becoming increasingly more diverse



One in seven Tennessee children are part of an immigrant family

Of Tennessee children born in another country, nearly two-thirds were born in Latin America.



1 in 9 Tennessee children age 5 to 17 speak a language other than English at home



Of those, more than two-thirds speak Spanish.



ECONOMICS

19.7 percent of Tennessee children under 18 live below the poverty line.



One in five Tennessee children under age 5 live in poverty



Among all Tennessee workers who are not currently employed, 15 percent cite caregiving as the reason they are not working.

More than one in five Tennessee households with children reported in the last year their home was kept at a temperature that felt unsafe or unhealthy in order to pay an energy bill.

42% of Tennessee rental households with children report being behind on their rent.



Tennessee's Median Household Income for a Family of 3 has increased 26.7% between 2019 and 2023 going from \$71,133 to \$90,131.

CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION

FY2024 Tennessee Market Rate Child Care Costs

Infant Center-Based
\$13,126

Infant Group Homes
\$8,946

Toddler Center-Based
\$12,063

Toddler Group Homes
\$8,927

Infant center-based care is more than 2024 in-state tuition in all but one of Tennessee's four-year public universities.

EDUCATION

Tennessee continues to see improvement on TCAP scores. On both tests, the largest percentage of students scored in the "Approaching" category

	TCAP MATH	TCAP ELA
Below	28%	20%
Approaching	32%	41%
Met	28%	29%
Exceeds	12%	10%

In the 2023-24 school year there were 577 social workers. Using previous year daily attendance numbers, Tennessee public schools had a ratio of 1 social worker to every 1,613 students. The NASW Standards call for a ratio of at least 1:250.

One in 10 Tennessee schools have infrastructure rated in fair or poor condition.



Tennessee's public schools need \$87 million in infrastructure improvements to be in compliance with state and federal laws.

Across all existing Tennessee public schools, there is \$5.47 billion dollars needed to bring all existing public schools up to good or excellent condition.

In 2022-23, 41 percent of out-of-school suspensions were given to 6th-8th graders, 32 percent were elementary students and 27 percent were in 9th - 12th grade.

HEALTH

89 percent of Tennessee children are in excellent or very good health.

More than half of Tennessee's children are covered by TennCare.

In 2023, 5.6 percent of Tennessee children were uninsured.

Over the last decade 78 to 63 percent of uninsured Tennessee children have been financially eligible for coverage.

Almost half of Tennessee children (48%) have employer-based health coverage alone or in combination with other coverage while 8 percent have direct purchase coverage and 1 percent have subsidized marketplace coverage.

HEALTH

In 2024, Tennessee had a ratio of 77.5 pediatricians per 100,000 children compared to a national rate of 77.8.

In 2022, Tennessee's child food insecurity rate was 17.9 percent representing 274,320 children. By county, child food insecurity varied from 3.5 percent to 35.3 percent.

In 2021, Tennessee saw the highest number and rate of unintentional infant deaths due to suffocation since before 1999. Though the rate dropped slightly in 2022, the number of deaths remained the same.

In 2022, 1 in 5 deaths among those 1-17 were due to a firearm. 1 in 7 were due to Motor Vehicle Traffic, 1 in 17 were due to cancer and 1 in 17 were due to poisoning.

MENTAL HEALTH

More than 1 in 4 Tennessee high school students reported within the last month their mental health was most of the time or always not good.

Within the last year, 55 percent of high school girls and 30 percent of high school boys felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks, **representing a 50 percent increase since 2013.**

Since 2017, all measures of suicidal ideation have increased among Tennessee high school students.

Tennessee high school students reported that within the last 12 months:

Nearly 1 in 4 (24.1%) had seriously considered taking their own life



Nearly 1 in 5 (19.6%) had made a plan of how they would end their life

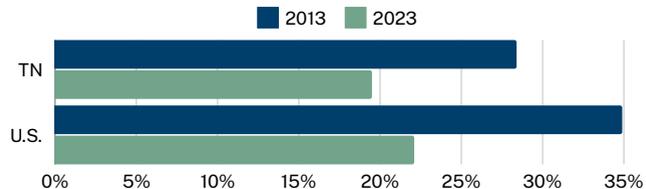


More than 1 in 7 (15.0%) had attempted to die by suicide.

More than one in five high school students currently vape. 1 in 15 students vape daily. Only 5.4 percent of high school students currently smoke cigarettes, down from 28 percent in 2003. This number increased slightly from 4.9 in 2021, representing the first increase since 2011.

Both nationally and in Tennessee, alcohol use among high school students has been trending down over the decade.

Percent of high school students reporting they currently drink alcohol



Within the last 30 days, more than one in three high school girls had gone without eating for 24 hours or more, taken diet pills, powders or liquids, reported vomiting, taking laxatives, smoking cigarettes or skipping meals to lose weight or keep from gaining weight.

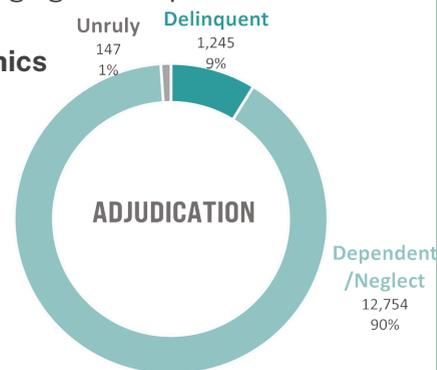
CHILD WELFARE

In April 2023 to March 2024, Tennessee had 5,026 children enter foster care, a rate of 3.20 per 1,000.

Among children entering care, the percentage of those who are reentering care has remained fairly consistent between 2017-2023, ranging from 21 percent to 24 percent.

Custodial Demographics

- Age 0 to 4: 27%
- Age 5 - 12: 30%
- Age 13 and Older: 43%



Of first-time foster children entering the system in 2022, 38 percent had been in three or more placements by December 31st, 2023. Among children entering in 2023, 31 percent had been in three placements by December 31st.

In FY2023 and FY2024, one in four substantiated cases of abuse were for allegations of Drug Exposed Child. The second most common were allegations of Lack of Supervision (19%).

In FY2022, 98.5 percent of infants with prenatal substance exposure had a plan of safe care. This was the third highest percent in the country.

In FY2023, 2,478 children and 1,421 caregivers were served by the Relative Caregiver Program. In calendar year 2023, 0.5% of children who had been in the custody of a Relative Caregiver who received direct assistance entered state custody.

As of December 31, 2023, 64 percent of children who had exited care in FY2024 had exited to reunification.

On September 30, 2024, among children waiting to be adopted whose parental rights had been terminated, the average time elapsed since termination was 16.6 months and the median was 9.

In FY2024, 408 youth accepted Extension of Foster Care Services representing the largest number of youth ever served.

YOUTH JUSTICE

There continues to be a smaller share of youth in DCS juvenile justice custody that are in community-based placements going from 71% in 2016 to 28 percent in 2023.

In FY2023, there were 870 youth placed in a Juvenile Detention Center for more than 30 days.

Since 2013, the age 10 to 17 crime rate has decreased by 8 per 1,000, going from 51.3 to 43.3. Among Crimes Against Persons it decreased by 1.5, Crimes Against Property decreased by 6.5 and Crimes Against Society saw no change.

Introducing TCCY's Data Dashboard

FUTURE

Building Tomorrow: Tracking Progress, Shaping Success

Tennessee Commission on Children & Youth's
Data Dashboard



FUTURE

Building Tomorrow: Tracking Progress, Shaping Success

The State of the Child is one of several reports that TCCY releases annually. Additionally, TCCY publishes County Profiles, Budget Recommendations, the Youth Transitions Advisory Council Report, and Resource Mapping Report. Each report relies heavily on data gathered by state and federal departments as well as non-governmental organizations. Now, many of the indicators used for each of the reports can be found in one location, TCCY's data dashboard, FUTURE.

TCCY's mission to lead systems improvement for all Tennessee children and families through data-driven advocacy, education and collaboration will be significantly supported by this new data dashboard. FUTURE will allow our partners, citizens and communities who rely on the data we gather, a way to find that information and additional data year-round. FUTURE is the next step in our efforts to advocate for data-driven decisions to improve the lives of children and youth in Tennessee.

Visit www.TN.gov/TCCY-FUTURE to learn more.

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