

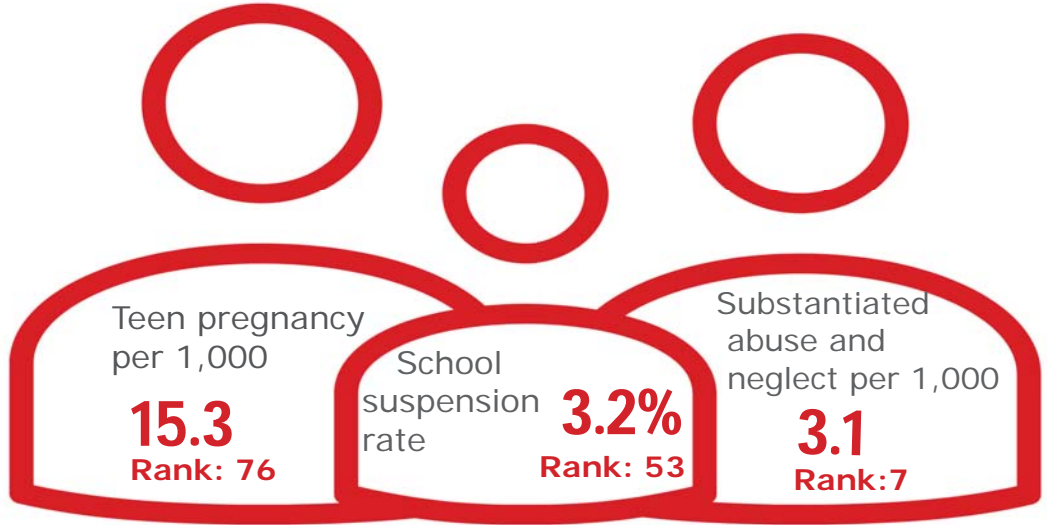


# Family & Community

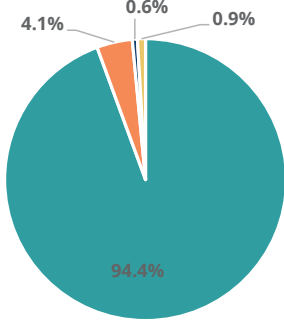
Rank: 30

# Rhea

Rank: 19



Child Population by Race

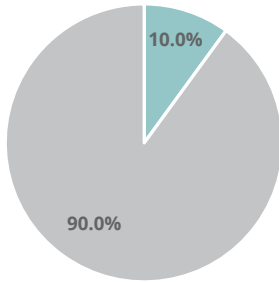


- White, Including Hispanic
- Black, Including Hispanic
- Native American/Alaskan
- Asian/Pacific Islander

# Economic Well-Being

Rank: 56

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity

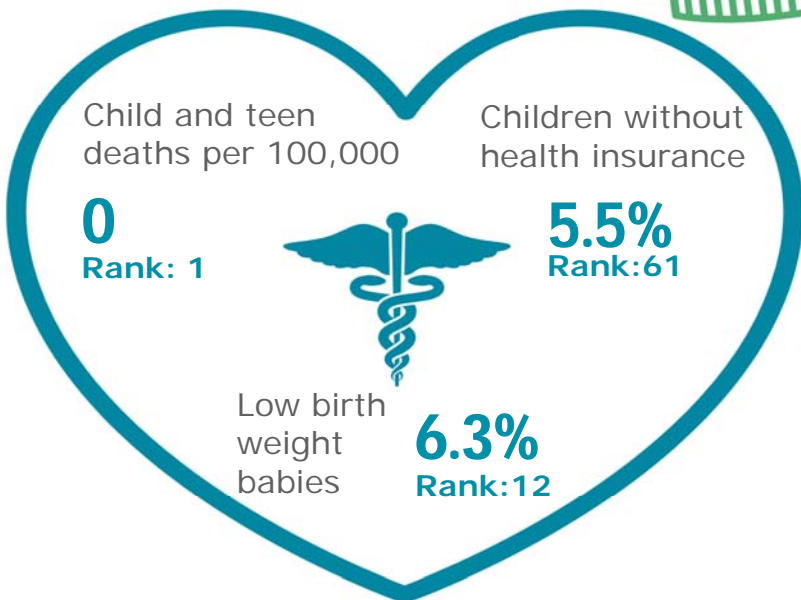


- Hispanic, All Races
- Non-Hispanic



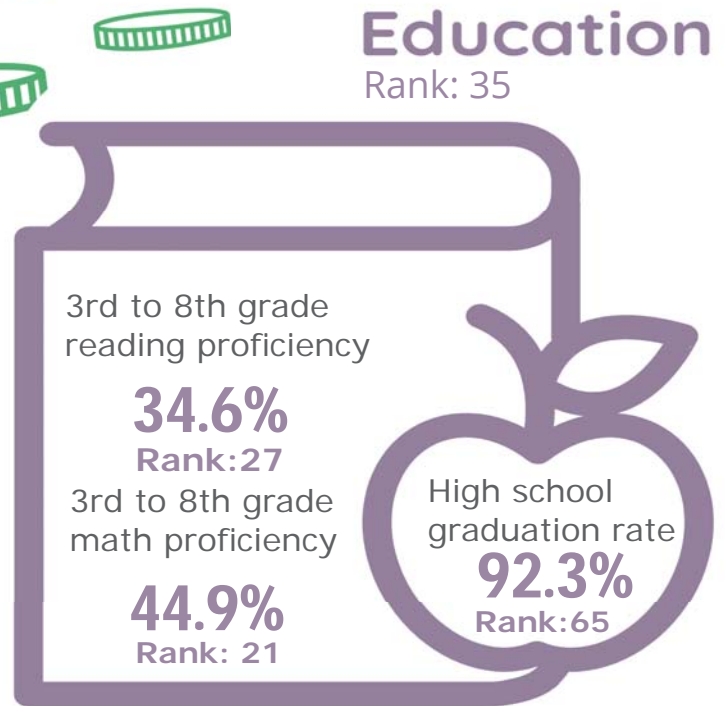
# Health

Rank: 14








# Education

Rank: 35



# Rhea County

Published 1/2021

Demographics 	Rhea County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Total population (state comparison is number not rate)	33,040	NA	6,769,975	0.5%	46
Population under 18 years of age	7,489	22.7%	22.2%	102.1%	24
Economic Well-Being 	Rhea County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Youth unemployment	123	21.8%	11.2%	194.6%	84
Per capita personal income (state is dollars not rate)	\$34,147	NA	\$46,900	72.8%	63
Median home sales price (state is dollars not rate)	\$150,000	NA	\$146,000	102.7%	33
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	295	3.9%	2.7%	145.4%	79
Children receiving SNAP	2,698	36.0%	28.2%	127.9%	79
Children under five receiving WIC	744	38.1%	30.6%	124.5%	47
Education 	Rhea County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
School age special education services	599	11.8%	12.3%	95.9%	20
TEIS participation (per 1,000 in age group)	29	24.43	27.9	87.6%	28
Cohort high school dropouts	31	8.1%	8.3%	97.6%	82
Event high school dropouts	22	1.4%	2.2%	63.6%	74
Economically disadvantaged students	4,633	92.6%	65.1%	142.2%	87
School expulsions (per 1,000 students)	0	0.0	2.0	0.0%	1
Chronic absenteeism	464	9.3%	13.3%	69.9%	18
Young adult college enrollment/completion rate	NA	55.8%	62.5%	89.3%	72
Health 	Rhea County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	11.5	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	78	20.4%	12.1%	168.6%	48
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	4,873	55.4%	44.7%	123.9%	71
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	8,565	25.9%	19.9%	130.3%	80
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	305	79.6%	65.5%	121.7%	49
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	289	5.9%	6.5%	90.8%	37
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	2	5.20	6.9	75.4%	41
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	1	2.60	4.4	59.1%	48
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	0	0.00	20.5	0.0%	1
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 children age 15 to 19)	0	0.00	55.7	0.0%	1
Adequate prenatal care	183	47.8%	58.8%	81.3%	88
Children under age six screened for lead poisoning	574	24.6%	17.1%	143.6%	12
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	44.3%	39.3%	112.7%	62
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 children age 15 to 17)	13	9.7	19.0	51.0%	25
Medical doctors by county (per 100,000 residents)	13	39.3	229.1	17.2%	59
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	8	24.2	50.1	48.4%	50
Family & Community 	Rhea County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Reported child abuse cases	353	4.7%	4.7%	101.0%	30
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	42	5.0	4.1	123.5%	50
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	72	8.6	5.2	165.7%	69
Juvenile court referrals	0	0.0%	3.5%	0.0%	1
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	189	5.7	8.0	71.3%	68
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	133	4.0	3.5	114.3%	62

## Rhea County

At 19<sup>th</sup>, Rhea County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's best rankings include no child and teen deaths and a below-average rate of substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. The county's biggest opportunities for improvement are a high rate of pregnancy among girls age 15-17 and over one in four children are living in poverty.

Additional strengths include a low percentage of babies born at a low birth weight and an above-average percentage of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students rated proficient on TNReady reading and math tests.

Additional challenges include a high percentage of children without health insurance and a relatively low high school graduation rate.

*Policy/Practice/Program Options to Improve Outcomes.* Many of these policies have multiple models for delivery, including public-private partnership and non-profit leadership.

- Comprehensive sex education classes that include both encouragement of abstinence and information on birth control have been shown to reduce the number of teen pregnancies.
- With a high rate of child poverty, improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP and WIC benefits to be sure they are aware of these services can help ensure basic needs are met. Additionally, nutrition programs that provide food for school-age children to take home can contribute to food security. Expanding services through Family Resource Centers can also help reach these vulnerable populations.
- Most uninsured children in Tennessee qualify for either TennCare or CoverKids, so high rates of uninsured children can be improved with outreach to make sure that families are aware of these insurance opportunities. According to Census Bureau estimates, Rhea County has 289 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance.
- Making high school students aware of the community college and technical school benefits available to them through Tennessee Promise can encourage on-time high school graduation.