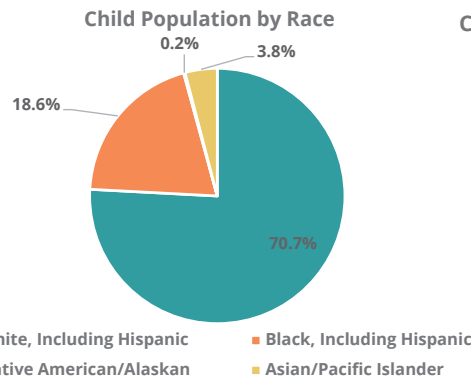
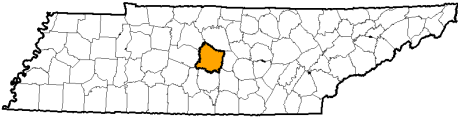
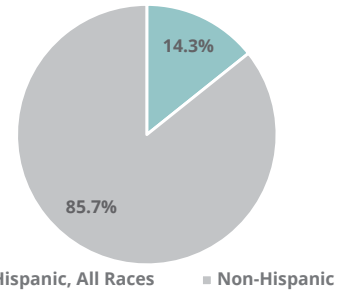


4th RUTHERFORD

Population Under 18: 24.5%



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published May 2023

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 5TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	10.6%	4th	9.7%	3rd
Severe housing cost burden	10.9%	73rd	10.7%	64th
Child care cost burden	18.8%	5th	17.8%	7th

EDUCATION 12TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	40.7%	10th	34.6%	10th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	43.4%	12th	38.6%	10th
Youth graduating high school on time	95.4%	29th	95.1%	22nd

HEALTH 5TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure	7.8%	6th	12.3%	8th
Children who lack health insurance	5.5%	23rd	4.8%	30th
Babies born at a low birthweight	8.5%	45th	8.0%	31st

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 4TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families	28.3%	25th	23.3%	33rd
Children who are chronically absent	10.4%	7th	5.7%	6th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	5.6	8th	5.1	6th

Rutherford 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)	352,190	NA	6,975,170	5.0%	5
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	86,233	24.5%	22.0%	111.3%	6

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	1,039	11.9%	12.9%	92.2%	48
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$49,411	NA	\$56,560	87.4%	23
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$335,720	NA	\$283,410	118.5%	6
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	576	0.7%	1.5%	44.8%	7
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	12,609	14.6%	24.0%	60.9%	5
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,587	24.4%	21.1%	116.0%	62

Education

School age special education services	4,928	8.6%	12.2%	70.3%	1
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	783	6.1%	3.8%	163.3%	94
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	79	2.0%	6.7%	29.9%	18
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	292	1.7%	4.0%	42.9%	42
Economically disadvantaged students	10,458	18.2%	30.0%	60.5%	5
School suspensions	2,594	4.5%	5.1%	88.5%	55
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	1,473	38.1%	35.3%	107.8%	19
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	13,242	55.0%	52.8%	104.2%	20

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	189	4.4%	9.1%	48.6%	4
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	46,055	44.8%	55.3%	81.0%	7
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	73,515	20.9%	24.9%	83.8%	11
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	2,156	50.4%	55.1%	91.5%	13
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	3,013	8.4%	7.6%	110.5%	75
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	32	7.48	6.2	120.7%	26
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	14	3.27	3.2	102.3%	42
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	*	*	20.7	*	*
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	14	54.4	69.7	78.0%	31
Adequate prenatal care	3,245	76.3%	73.9%	103.2%	56
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	32	37.1	76.5	48.5%	32
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	42.7%	42.8%	99.9%	39
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	179	11.9	16.6	71.5%	43
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	5,417	24.9%	31.7%	78.7%	10
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	155	44.0	41.4	106.2%	13

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	3,010	3.5%	4.6%	76.1%	6
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	112	1.2	2.8	41.2%	7
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	233	2.4	5.3	45.4%	6
Juvenile court referrals	1,088	1.3%	1.8%	70.4%	34
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	2,017	5.9	6.6	90.1%	66
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	1,111	3.3	3.2	102.3%	47
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	4,973	14.3%	12.3%	116.3%	91
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	17,658	29.0%	28.9%	100.4%	24
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	1,258	20.7	24.9	83.0%	78

Rutherford

Overall

At 4th, Rutherford County is in the top ten Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.

Strengths

Rutherford's strongest indicator is the percent of children living below the federal poverty line, where the county ranks 4th. The county also performs well in child care cost burden at 18.8%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where it ranks 73rd. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight 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.

Pro-active housing policy that helps ensure affordable housing is available for people to live where they work can improve negative outcomes related to high housing costs. These policies might include approving more apartment construction and allowing rental of accessory dwelling units, creating a standard zoning approval process and applying for affordable housing trust fund competitive grants. Improving ease of usage and communication with landlords and renters using Housing Choice Vouchers can increase the number of landlords willing to accept vouchers.

Babies are born at a low birthweight either because they are born too early or they did not grow as much as they should. Ensuring women of childbearing age have access to treatment for chronic physical and mental health and substance abuse conditions creates an environment for healthy pregnancies. While the state has not expanded TennCare to close some of these access gaps, improving outreach to ensure those who do qualify are aware of those benefits, as well as others such as SNAP, WIC and TANF, contributes to general good health prior to pregnancy. Once a woman is pregnant, access to regular prenatal care is key. Preexisting risks are properly managed and unexpected complications are found and treated early when pregnant women receive regular care. Community-based doulas have been shown to improve health outcomes for babies, including reducing the number of babies born at a low birthweight.

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.