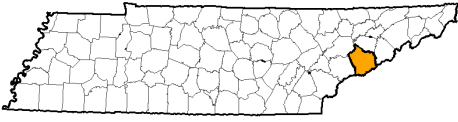
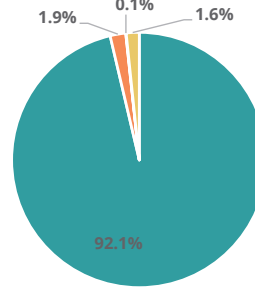


71st SEVIER

Population Under 18: 20.0%

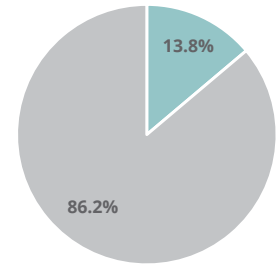


Child Population by Race



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

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races ■ Non-Hispanic

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 77TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 19.2% **26th** 19.9% 36th

Severe housing cost burden 11.5% **82nd** 10.3% 57th

Child care cost burden 28.3% **87th** 24.3% 70th

EDUCATION 59TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 30.7% **61st** 26.4% 49th

3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 30.3% **55th** 32.5% 30th

Youth graduating high school on time 91.6% **67th** 91.7% 53rd

HEALTH 51ST

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children who are food insecure 12.2% **35th** 18.6% 64th

Children who lack health insurance 7.3% **77th** 6.0% 87th

Babies born at a low birthweight 7.7% **19th** 7.5% 25th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 75TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in single parent families 30.4% **36th** 23.4% 34th

Children who are chronically absent 27.0% **81st** 17.0% 73rd

Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 18 **73rd** 16.8 72nd

Sevier 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)	99,512	NA	6,975,170	1.4%	15
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	19,925	20.0%	22.0%	91.0%	65

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	219	7.7%	12.9%	59.7%	25
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$49,012	NA	\$56,560	86.7%	25
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$296,500	NA	\$283,410	104.6%	11
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	224	1.1%	1.5%	75.5%	21
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	3,668	18.4%	24.0%	76.7%	13
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,083	25.1%	21.1%	119.2%	66

Education

School age special education services	1,698	12.1%	12.2%	99.1%	17
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	112	3.6%	3.8%	96.4%	71
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	57	5.3%	6.7%	78.5%	59
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	65	1.5%	4.0%	37.5%	35
Economically disadvantaged students	2,814	20.0%	30.0%	66.7%	6
School suspensions	*	0.9%	5.1%	17.9%	4
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	343	36.7%	35.3%	103.9%	25
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	2,532	48.7%	52.8%	92.2%	57

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	15	14.02	6.6	212.5%	30
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	127	12.2%	9.1%	133.6%	26
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	14,789	63.7%	55.3%	115.2%	56
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	24,867	25.0%	24.9%	100.4%	28
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	672	62.8%	55.1%	114.1%	42
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	982	7.9%	7.6%	103.9%	68
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	*
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	3.2	*	*
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	*	*	20.7	*	*
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	*
Adequate prenatal care	845	79.5%	73.9%	107.6%	39
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	3	15.1	76.5	19.7%	54
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	41.7%	42.8%	97.5%	27
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	37	10.8	16.6	65.3%	38
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	2,128	41.2%	31.7%	130.1%	47
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	30	30.1	41.4	72.7%	28

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	1,118	5.6%	4.6%	122.3%	62
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	122	5.5	2.8	196.5%	72
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	210	9.5	5.3	179.2%	71
Juvenile court referrals	299	1.5%	1.8%	83.8%	41
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	7,077	71.3	6.6	1080.5%	1
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	443	4.5	3.2	139.5%	86
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	1,485	17.1%	12.3%	139.4%	92
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	2,685	19.0%	28.9%	65.8%	57
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	201	14.2	24.9	57.1%	58

Sevier

Overall

At 71st, Sevier County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Sevier's strongest indicator is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 19th. The county also performs well in the number of children living below the federal poverty line compared to other counties at 19.2%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is child care cost burden, where it ranks 87th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden 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.

Reducing the cost of child care is a difficult project for many local governments to launch. The best option may be to encourage unlicensed local child care businesses to pursue licensure by the Tennessee Department of Human Resources, as they have multiple programs supporting child care businesses, educators and client families associated with licensed facilities. Beyond that, providing supervised recreation activities for older children during out-of-school hours and developing parent-led afterschool care programs can provide lower cost alternatives for families. Businesses interested in supporting families with child care cost burden can offer Dependent Flexible Spending Accounts. Businesses that provide on-site child care, partner with a third party to provide care or facilitate employees finding care are eligible for a federal tax credit of up to \$150,000 per year.

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.

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.