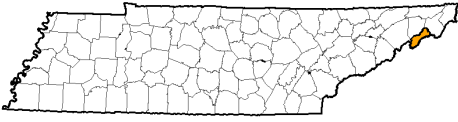
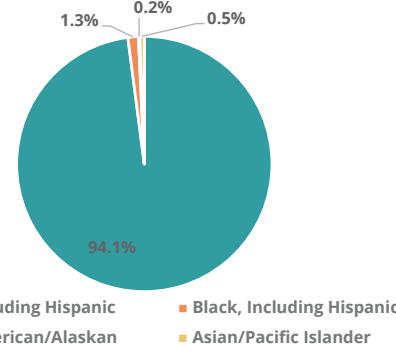


# 67th UNICOI

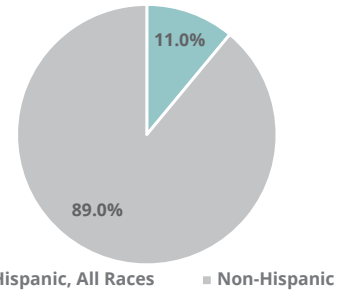
Population Under 18: 17.8%



Child Population by Race



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



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## ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 51ST

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	22.0%	51st	22.0%	57th
Severe housing cost burden	8.5%	19th	10.7%	66th
Child care cost burden	26.1%	69th	23.2%	60th

## EDUCATION 54TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	30.9%	58th	24.4%	61st
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	30.9%	53rd	27.5%	52nd
Youth graduating high school on time	92.6%	53rd	91.3%	56th

## HEALTH 80TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure	14.0%	56th	18.9%	67th
Children who lack health insurance	5.9%	40th	4.7%	26th
Babies born at a low birthweight	11.5%	92nd	9.9%	75th

## FAMILY & COMMUNITY 52ND

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families	29.3%	31st	24.8%	47th
Children who are chronically absent	25.2%	77th	18.5%	80th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	12.7	46th	18.1	76th

# Unicoi 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)	17,676	NA	6,975,170	0.3%	73
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	3,153	17.8%	22.0%	81.1%	86

## Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	18	6.3%	12.9%	48.8%	19
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$43,044	NA	\$56,560	76.1%	54
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$165,000	NA	\$283,410	58.2%	68
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	71	2.3%	1.5%	151.2%	73
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	786	24.9%	24.0%	103.8%	39
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$997	26.6%	21.1%	126.3%	81

## Education

School age special education services	382	18.3%	12.2%	150.4%	90
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	12	2.6%	3.8%	68.0%	44
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	6	3.3%	6.7%	48.7%	37
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	4	0.5%	4.0%	13.3%	10
Economically disadvantaged students	688	33.0%	30.0%	110.0%	52
School suspensions	65	3.1%	5.1%	61.6%	39
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	55	31.4%	35.3%	88.9%	45
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	654	62.5%	52.8%	118.4%	8

## Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	27	19.6%	9.1%	215.0%	76
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,349	63.1%	55.3%	114.1%	52
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,667	26.4%	24.9%	106.1%	42
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	99	69.2%	55.1%	125.7%	68
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	135	6.9%	7.6%	90.8%	41
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	*
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	3.2	0.0%	1
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	*	*	20.7	*	*
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	0	0.0	69.7	0.0%	1
Adequate prenatal care	109	84.5%	73.9%	114.3%	7
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	1	31.7	76.5	41.5%	38
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	42.7%	42.8%	99.9%	36
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	8	13.8	16.6	83.4%	50
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	565	71.3%	31.7%	225.0%	91
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	4	22.6	41.4	54.6%	50

## Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	187	5.9%	4.6%	129.2%	67
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	15	4.2	2.8	151.3%	58
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	28	7.9	5.3	149.7%	60
Juvenile court referrals	0	0.0%	1.8%	0.0%	1
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	81	4.6	6.6	69.1%	88
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	54	3.0	3.2	95.1%	39
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	89	6.1%	12.3%	49.2%	15
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	380	17.3%	28.9%	59.8%	64
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	15	6.8	24.9	27.4%	29

# Unicoi

## Overall

At 67th, Unicoi County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Economic Well-Being.

## Strengths

Unicoi's strongest indicator is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where the county ranks 19th. The county also performs well in the percent of children in the county who live in a single parent household at 29.3%.

## Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where it ranks 92nd. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students 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.

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.

Evidence-based strategies to address chronic absenteeism begin with early warning prevention and intervention systems, identifying students before their absences hit chronic levels and looking for underlying causes. Implementing positive and supportive engagement strategies to improve students' attendance at, connection to and success in school can help, while counselors who address individual students' challenges with regular attendance improve outcomes. Disciplinary measures that take students out of the classroom are a contributor to chronic absenteeism and not a solution.

## 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.