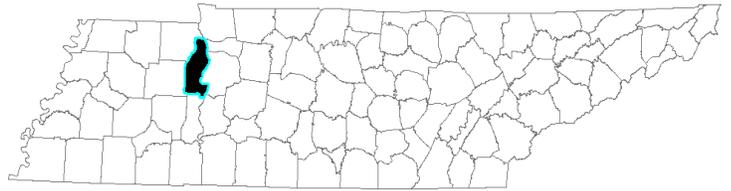
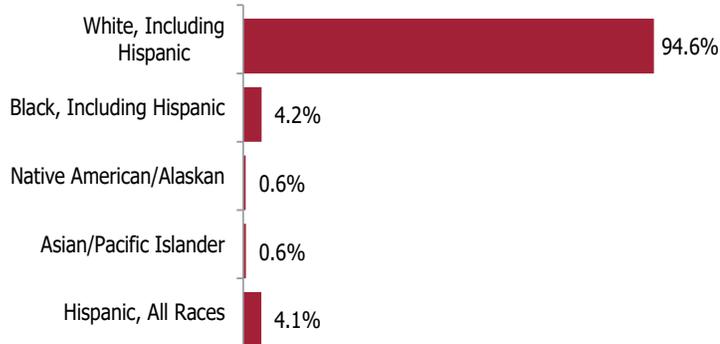


Benton



TCCY Index Rank 52

Child Population by Race/Ethnicity



HEALTH



Low birth-weight babies

8.4%

Rank: 73

Rank: 38

Children without health insurance

4.8%

Rank: 68

Child and teen deaths

61 per 100,000

Rank: 81

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Rank: 84

Child Poverty

29.7%

Rank: 82

Median Household Income

\$36,034

Rank: 87

Fair Market Rent

\$846

Rank: 41

FAMILY and COMMUNITY

Rank: 62

School suspension rate

0.2%

Rank: 7

Teen pregnancy

19.4 per 1,000

Rank: 85

Substantiated Abuse and Neglect

7.1 per 1,000

Rank: 65

EDUCATION

Rank: 14



35.1%

Third to eighth grade reading proficiency

Rank: 26

37.4%

Third to eighth grade math proficiency

Rank: 38

98.8%

High school graduation rate

Rank: 2

Benton County

Published 10/2019

Demographics 	Benton County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Total population (state comparison is number not rate)	15,991	NA	6,715,862	0.2%	76
Population under 18 years of age	3,091	19.3%	22.4%	86.5%	78
Economic Well-Being 	Benton County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Youth unemployment	30	12.0%	12.0%	100.0%	41
Per capita personal income (state is dollars not rate)	\$33,164	NA	\$45,517	72.9%	68
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	101	3.3%	3.2%	102.3%	54
Children receiving SNAP	1,258	40.7%	31.8%	128.1%	69
Children under five receiving WIC	444	53.7%	29.6%	181.3%	84
Education 	Benton County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
School age special education services	351	16.7%	11.9%	140.3%	89
TEIS participation (per 1,000 in age group)	10	20.62	23.4	88.0%	32
Cohort high school dropouts	1	0.6%	5.5%	10.9%	4
Event high school dropouts	5	0.7%	2.6%	26.9%	21
Economically disadvantaged students	865	40.9%	34.7%	117.9%	71
School expulsions (per 1,000 students)	0	0.0	2.0	0.0%	1
Chronic absenteeism	192	9.0%	13.6%	66.2%	14
Health 	Benton County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	3	18.07	13.5	133.7%	57
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	54	32.5%	12.7%	255.9%	93
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,218	61.6%	48.4%	127.5%	80
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,168	26.1%	21.8%	119.6%	65
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	116	69.9%	52.3%	133.7%	73
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	114	5.3%	5.5%	96.4%	61
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	2	12.00	7.4	162.2%	77
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	2	12.00	4.6	260.9%	89
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	0	0.00	22.4	0.0%	1
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 children age 15 to 19)	1	114.30	52.5	217.7%	86
Adequate prenatal care	89	53.6%	57.4%	93.4%	76
Children under age six screened for lead poisoning	195	19.5%	17.7%	110.5%	34
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	43.3%	39.2%	110.5%	51
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 children age 15 to 17)	6	11.3	17.3	65.3%	50
Medical doctors by county (per 100,000 residents)	5	31.3	239.2	13.1%	74
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	2	12.5	49.0	25.5%	82
Family & Community 	Benton County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Reported child abuse cases	204	6.6%	4.9%	136.0%	72
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	7	2.0	3.9	52.3%	8
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	14	4.1	5.1	80.1%	22
Juvenile court referrals	42	1.4%	4.3%	31.9%	7
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	111	6.9	8.2	84.1%	36
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	72	4.5	3.6	125.0%	84
Births to unmarried females	82	49.4%	43.6%	113.3%	76
Regulated child care spaces (state is number not rate)	372	NA	307,218	0.1%	78

Benton County

At 52nd, Benton County is just outside the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest ranking was 2nd in high school graduation rate. Benton County's low school suspension rate is also a strength. The county's biggest challenges are its above average rate of pregnancy among girls age 15 to 17, its low median household income and a high rate of child and teen deaths.

Additional strengths include comparatively high rates of proficiency on both reading and math among 3rd to 8th grade students on the TNReady test and a relatively low rate of babies born at a low birthweight.

Additional opportunities for improvement include the fact that almost a third of its children live in poverty and 4.8 percent of them lack health insurance.

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 relatively low median household income and high rates of child poverty, improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP, WIC and/or TennCare 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 help reach these vulnerable populations as well.
- Child and teen deaths can be reduced with consistent enforcement of safety measures like proper car seat and seat belt use, bicycle helmet use and life preserver use around water. The fastest-growing cause of child and teen deaths in recent years has been homicide and suicide, often involving a firearm. Families who own firearms can reduce the risk to children and teens by following safe storage practices.
- 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, Benton County has over 100 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance.