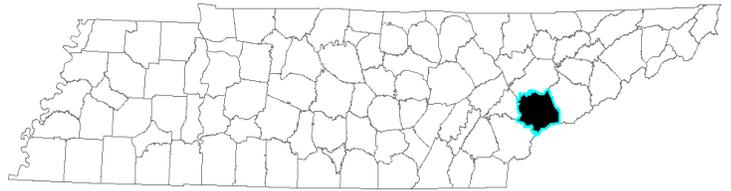
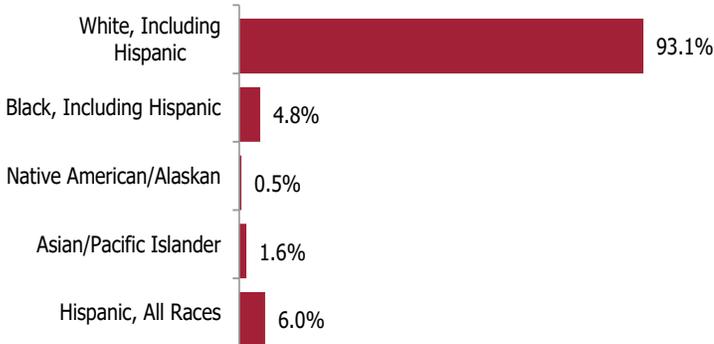


Blount

TCCY Index Rank 7



Child Population by Race/Ethnicity



HEALTH



Low birth-weight babies

7.5%

Rank: 16

Rank: 20

Children without health insurance

3.9%

Rank: 16

Child and teen deaths

35.5 per 100,000

Rank: 53

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Rank: 19



Child Poverty

17.1%

Rank: 11

Median Household Income

\$51,391

Rank: 18

Fair Market Rent

\$1,057

Rank: 74



FAMILY and COMMUNITY

Rank: 56

School suspension rate

3.6%

Rank: 63

Teen pregnancy

12.8 per 1,000

Rank: 51

Substantiated Abuse and Neglect

5.4 per 1,000

Rank: 40

EDUCATION

Rank: 5



42.6%

Third to eighth grade reading proficiency

Rank: 4

46.6%

Third to eighth grade math proficiency

Rank: 10

95.5%

High school graduation rate

Rank: 22

Blount County

Published 10/2019

Demographics 	Blount County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Total population (state comparison is number not rate)	129,933	NA	6,715,862	1.9%	11
Population under 18 years of age	26,283	20.2%	22.4%	90.5%	67
Economic Well-Being 	Blount County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Youth unemployment	230	8.5%	12.0%	70.8%	21
Per capita personal income (state is dollars not rate)	\$41,224	NA	\$45,517	90.6%	16
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	624	2.4%	3.2%	74.4%	19
Children receiving SNAP	6,781	25.8%	31.8%	81.2%	11
Children under five receiving WIC	1,842	28.1%	29.6%	94.8%	19
Education 	Blount County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
School age special education services	1,976	11.2%	11.9%	94.1%	14
TEIS participation (per 1,000 in age group)	110	28.37	23.4	121.1%	61
Cohort high school dropouts	45	3.4%	5.5%	61.2%	50
Event high school dropouts	61	1.0%	2.6%	37.2%	33
Economically disadvantaged students	4,537	26.5%	34.7%	76.4%	9
School expulsions (per 1,000 students)	0	0.0	2.0	0.0%	1
Chronic absenteeism	1,338	8.2%	13.6%	60.3%	6
Health 	Blount County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	23	18.85	13.5	139.5%	59
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	169	13.9%	12.7%	109.4%	13
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	13,043	42.2%	48.4%	87.3%	9
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	22,686	17.5%	21.8%	80.1%	7
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	630	51.6%	52.3%	98.8%	13
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	715	5.1%	5.5%	92.7%	48
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	5	4.10	7.4	55.4%	26
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	3	2.50	4.6	54.3%	38
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	5	24.70	22.4	110.3%	62
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 children age 15 to 19)	4	50.50	52.5	96.2%	60
Adequate prenatal care	804	65.9%	57.4%	114.8%	27
Children under age six screened for lead poisoning	1,404	17.7%	17.7%	100.1%	46
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	37.8%	39.2%	96.4%	18
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 children age 15 to 17)	37	7.7	17.3	44.6%	28
Medical doctors by county (per 100,000 residents)	158	121.6	239.2	50.8%	13
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	62	47.7	49.0	97.4%	11
Family & Community 	Blount County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Reported child abuse cases	1,218	4.6%	4.9%	95.5%	19
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	151	5.1	3.9	131.8%	55
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	222	7.5	5.1	148.3%	66
Juvenile court referrals	2,504	9.5%	4.3%	223.5%	83
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	1,109	8.5	8.2	103.7%	15
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	551	4.2	3.6	116.7%	72
Births to unmarried females	431	35.3%	43.6%	81.0%	8
Regulated child care spaces (state is number not rate)	5,572	NA	307,218	1.8%	11

Blount County

At 7th, Blount County is among the top Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's highest ranking is in the percent of 3rd to 8th grade children demonstrating proficiency in reading and math on TNReady tests. With 42.6 percent proficient in reading and 46.6 percent proficient in math, Blount County is one of the few showing more than 40 percent on these measures. Its next highest ranking is based on a relatively low percentage of children living in poverty. Though it is still a higher number than one would hope, Blount County's 17.1 percent child poverty rate is among the lowest in the state. The county's biggest challenges are a high cost of housing and a high rate of school suspension.

Additional strengths include a low percent of children without health insurance and a relatively low percent of babies born at low birth weight. The county also has a high median household income.

Additional opportunities for improvement include above average rates of child and teen deaths and of pregnancy among girls age 15 to 17.

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

- 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.
- Suspension rates can be reduced through clear definitions of what constitutes suspendable behavior and a focus on restorative discipline practices that aim to improve behavior while keeping children in school. These practices can also help boost high school graduation rates.
- 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.
- 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.