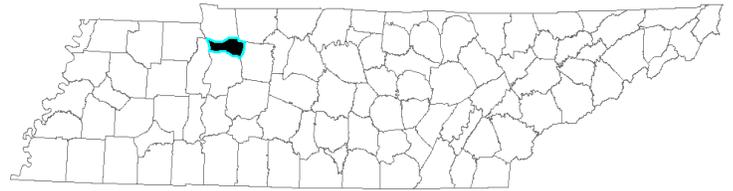
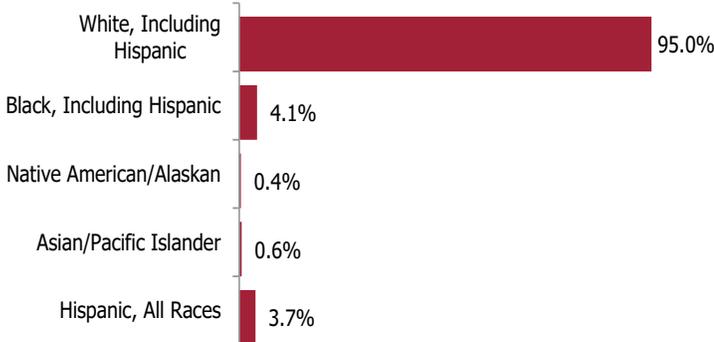


Houston



TCCY Index Rank 47

Child Population by Race/Ethnicity



HEALTH



Low birth-weight babies

10.8%

Rank: 85 Rank: 81

Children without health insurance

4.9%

Rank: 72

Child and teen deaths

53 per 100,000

Rank: 79

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Rank: 32

Child Poverty

24.9%

Rank: 54

Median Household Income

\$42,018

Rank: 53

Fair Market Rent

\$776

Rank: 14

FAMILY and COMMUNITY

Rank: 4

School suspension rate

0.3%

Rank: 10

Teen pregnancy

6.7 per 1,000

Rank: 12

Substantiated Abuse and Neglect

4.5 per 1,000

Rank: 22

EDUCATION

Rank: 57



28.3%

Third to eighth grade reading proficiency

Rank: 70

31.7%

Third to eighth grade math proficiency

Rank: 64

94.6%

High school graduation rate

Rank: 31

Houston County

Published 10/2019

Demographics 	Houston County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Total population (state comparison is number not rate)	8,219	NA	6,715,862	0.1%	88
Population under 18 years of age	1,763	21.5%	22.4%	95.9%	42
Economic Well-Being 	Houston County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Youth unemployment	40	44.4%	12.0%	370.0%	94
Per capita personal income (state is dollars not rate)	\$32,297	NA	\$45,517	71.0%	73
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	56	3.2%	3.2%	100.2%	50
Children receiving SNAP	581	33.0%	31.8%	103.8%	32
Children under five receiving WIC	221	51.8%	29.6%	174.8%	78
Education 	Houston County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
School age special education services	188	14.2%	11.9%	119.3%	71
TEIS participation (per 1,000 in age group)	10	40.16	23.4	171.4%	85
Cohort high school dropouts	2	2.0%	5.5%	36.4%	25
Event high school dropouts	3	0.6%	2.6%	23.1%	17
Economically disadvantaged students	380	28.5%	34.7%	82.1%	14
School expulsions (per 1,000 students)	0	0.0	2.0	0.0%	1
Chronic absenteeism	523	39.4%	13.6%	289.7%	95
Health 	Houston County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	13.5	0.0%	1
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	16	21.6%	12.7%	170.1%	54
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	1,030	50.0%	48.4%	103.4%	29
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	2,023	24.6%	21.8%	113.0%	51
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	49	66.2%	52.3%	126.7%	54
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	59	5.1%	5.5%	92.7%	48
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	7.4	0.0%	1
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	4.6	0.0%	1
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	1	73.70	22.4	329.0%	89
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 children age 15 to 19)	0	0.00	52.5	0.0%	1
Adequate prenatal care	44	59.5%	57.4%	103.7%	52
Children under age six screened for lead poisoning	79	15.2%	17.7%	86.2%	63
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	37.4%	39.2%	95.4%	13
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 children age 15 to 17)	<5	0.0	17.3	0.0%	1
Medical doctors by county (per 100,000 residents)	5	60.8	239.2	25.4%	38
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	1	12.2	49.0	24.8%	84
Family & Community 	Houston County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Reported child abuse cases	91	5.2%	4.9%	106.4%	34
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	5	2.5	3.9	65.2%	13
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	5	2.5	5.1	49.9%	12
Juvenile court referrals	67	3.8%	4.3%	89.2%	36
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	70	8.5	8.2	103.7%	15
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	33	4.0	3.6	111.1%	62
Births to unmarried females	31	41.9%	43.6%	96.1%	36
Regulated child care spaces (state is number not rate)	166	NA	307,218	0.1%	91

Houston County

At 47th, Houston County is just in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. Some of the county's strongest rankings are a low rate of school suspensions and of pregnancies among girls age 15 to 17. The county's biggest challenges are a high rate of babies born at a low birthweight and of child and teen deaths.

Additional strengths include a low housing costs and a strong high school graduation rate.

Additional opportunities for improvement include a comparatively high percentage of children who lack health insurance and a low percentage of students rated proficient on TNReady reading tests.

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

- Low birthweight is a persistent and difficult problem, but improvements can occur when care is made available for chronic physical and mental health and substance abuse conditions for women of childbearing age as well as improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP, WIC and/or TennCare benefits to be sure they are aware of these services. Expanding services through Family Resource Centers can help reach these vulnerable populations.
- 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, Houston County has over 50 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance.
- Increased access to pre-K can help reading proficiency in later grades. Early assessment of reading skills coupled with appropriate interventions where needed can improve reading proficiency in 3rd to 8th grade.