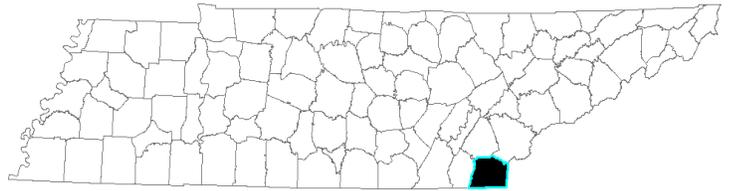
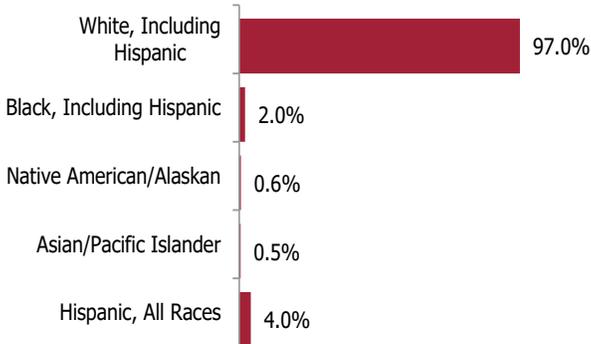


# Polk

## TCCY Index Rank 76



### Child Population by Race/Ethnicity



### HEALTH



Low birth-weight babies

8.7%

Rank: 92

Rank: 43

Children without health insurance

5.0%

Rank: 75

Child and teen deaths

116.1 per 100,000

Rank: 91

### ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Rank: 62



Child Poverty

22.9%

Rank: 37

Median Household Income

\$41,191

Rank: 59

Fair Market Rent

\$950

Rank: 68



### FAMILY and COMMUNITY

Rank: 36

School suspension rate

1.0%

Rank: 20

Teen pregnancy

14.1 per 1,000

Rank: 62

Substantiated Abuse and Neglect

6.2 per 1,000

Rank: 52

### EDUCATION

Rank: 58



28.0%

Third to eighth grade reading proficiency

Rank: 72

31.5%

Third to eighth grade math proficiency

Rank: 66

94.8%

High school graduation rate

Rank: 29

# Polk County

Published 10/2019

Demographics 	Polk County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Total population (state comparison is number not rate)	16,754	NA	6,715,862	0.2%	74
Population under 18 years of age	3,241	19.3%	22.4%	86.5%	77
Economic Well-Being 	Polk County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Youth unemployment	0	0.0%	12.0%	0.0%	1
Per capita personal income (state is dollars not rate)	\$33,290	NA	\$45,517	73.1%	66
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	84	2.6%	3.2%	81.4%	27
Children receiving SNAP	1,168	36.0%	31.8%	113.4%	46
Children under five receiving WIC	466	55.2%	29.6%	186.5%	89
Education 	Polk County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
School age special education services	300	13.1%	11.9%	110.1%	53
TEIS participation (per 1,000 in age group)	3	5.87	23.4	25.1%	1
Cohort high school dropouts	5	2.8%	5.5%	50.9%	37
Event high school dropouts	7	0.8%	2.6%	30.8%	24
Economically disadvantaged students	730	31.6%	34.7%	91.1%	24
School expulsions (per 1,000 students)	0	0.0	2.0	0.0%	1
Chronic absenteeism	338	14.7%	13.6%	108.1%	61
Health 	Polk County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	3	17.34	13.5	128.3%	56
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	33	19.1%	12.7%	150.4%	40
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	2,193	57.7%	48.4%	119.3%	60
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	4,147	24.8%	21.8%	113.6%	53
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	112	64.7%	52.3%	123.8%	46
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	119	5.6%	5.5%	101.8%	73
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	1	5.80	7.4	78.4%	41
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	1	5.80	4.6	126.1%	67
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	3	121.20	22.4	541.1%	94
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 children age 15 to 19)	1	103.10	52.5	196.4%	81
Adequate prenatal care	100	57.8%	57.4%	100.7%	60
Children under age six screened for lead poisoning	246	24.3%	17.7%	137.8%	13
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	39.8%	39.2%	101.5%	32
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 children age 15 to 17)	6	10.2	17.3	58.7%	41
Medical doctors by county (per 100,000 residents)	7	41.8	239.2	17.5%	59
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	5	29.8	49.0	60.9%	39
Family & Community 	Polk County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Reported child abuse cases	259	8.0%	4.9%	164.7%	92
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	17	4.7	3.9	120.5%	45
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	11	3.0	5.1	59.7%	13
Juvenile court referrals	135	4.2%	4.3%	97.7%	41
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	183	10.9	8.2	132.9%	4
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	55	3.3	3.6	91.7%	26
Births to unmarried females	63	36.4%	43.6%	83.5%	13
Regulated child care spaces (state is number not rate)	260	NA	307,218	0.1%	84

## Polk County

At 76<sup>th</sup>, Polk County is in the bottom fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's best rankings include a low rate of school suspensions and a strong high school graduation rate. The county's biggest opportunities for improvement are a high child and teen death rate and a relatively high rate of children without health insurance.

An additional strength is a below average rate of babies born at a low birthweight.

Additional challenges include below average percentages of 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade students demonstrating proficiency on TNReady reading and math tests and above average housing costs.

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

- 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, Polk County has over 100 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance.
- Increased access to pre-K can help both math and reading proficiency in later grades. Early assessment of reading skills coupled with appropriate interventions where needed can improve reading proficiency, while increasing STEM opportunities in elementary and middle schools can help improve 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade math proficiency.
- 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.