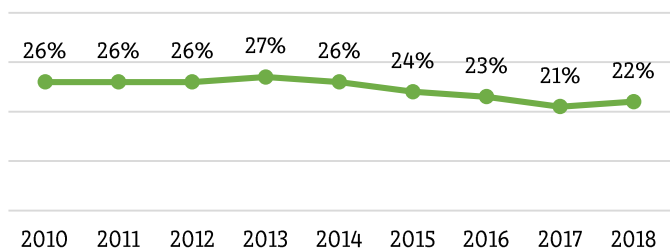


To help children grow into prepared, productive adults, parents need jobs with family-sustaining pay, affordable housing and the ability to invest in their children's future. When parents are unemployed or earn low wages, their access to resources to support their kids' development is more limited, which can undermine their children's health and prospects for success in school and beyond. The negative effects of poverty on kids can extend into their teenage years and young adulthood, as they are more likely to contend with issues such as teen pregnancy and failing to graduate from high school.

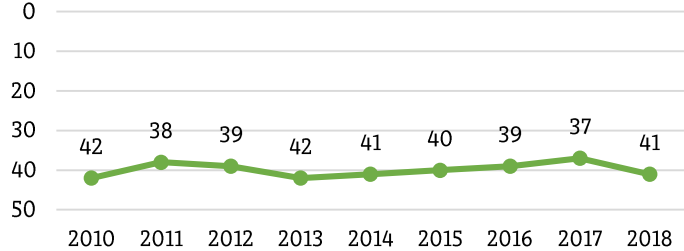
## Percent of children living in poverty

Tennessee has seen improvement over the last decade in the percent of children who live in poverty, though there was a slight uptick last year that has led to a lower rank. Despite progress, Tennessee ranks in the bottom 10 states on the percent of children who live in poverty, and has never ranked higher than 37<sup>th</sup>. Poverty among children is also disproportionate by race. In Tennessee, 15% of white, non-Hispanic children live in poverty. That number is more than twice as high at 31 percent for Hispanic children. A full 40 percent of African American children in Tennessee live in poverty.

Percent of Children Living in Poverty

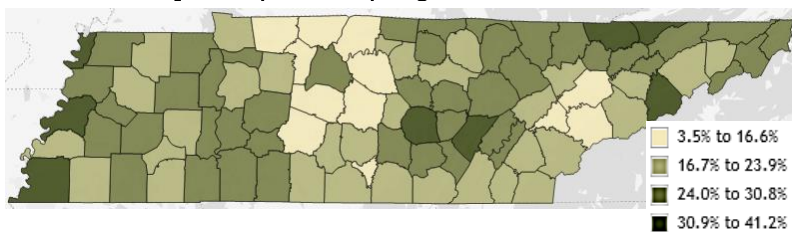


Rank for Children Living in Poverty



Tennessee children and families are dealing with the effects of poverty in every region of the state.

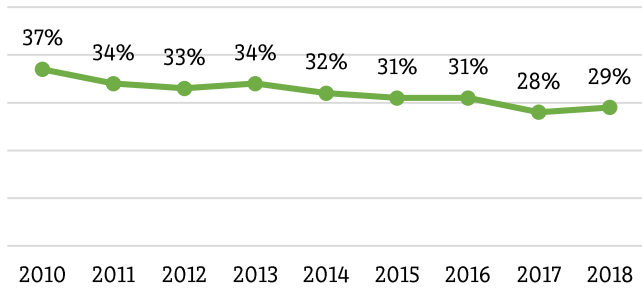
Eighty percent of Tennessee counties have at least 1 in 5 children living in poverty. The lowest rates are in the Nashville collar counties, with Williamson lowest at just 3.5 percent. The highest rates are in rural counties, with Hancock and Lake at over 40 percent. Shelby County has the highest rate among urban counties with about 1 in 3 children living in poverty.



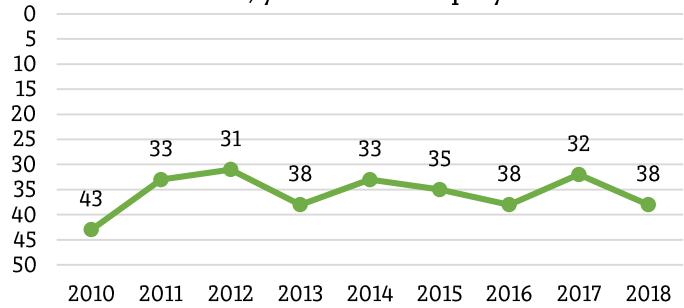
## Percent of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment

Tennessee has been improving steadily in the percent of children in families with stable, secure employment, but the relative flatness of the rank suggests this was part of national improvement.

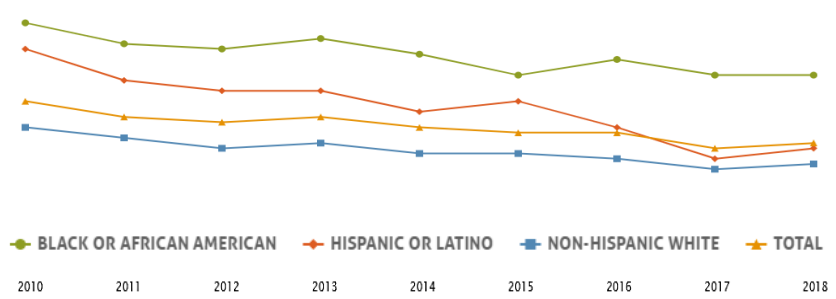
Percent of children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment



Rank for children in families where no parent has full-time, year-round employment

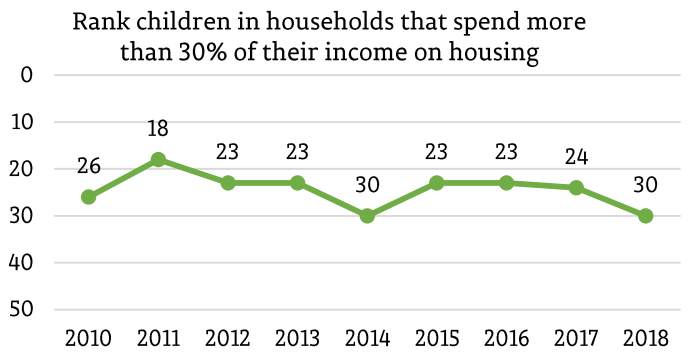
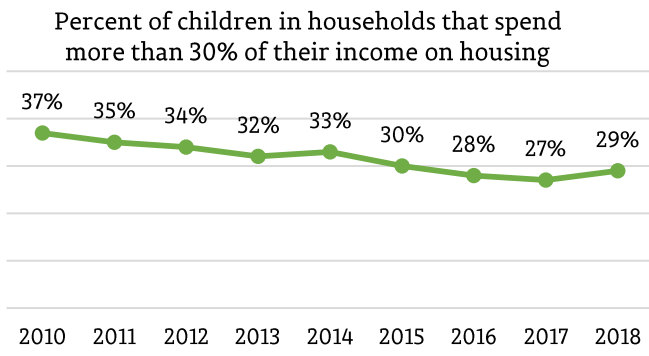


Racial disparities exist on this measure just as on most others that make up the KIDS COUNT index. In recent years, children in Hispanic families have nearly closed the gap with white, non-Hispanic children. African American children remain the most likely to live in families that lack employment security, and their improvement over the last decade has been flatter and less dramatic than that for children of other races and ethnic backgrounds.



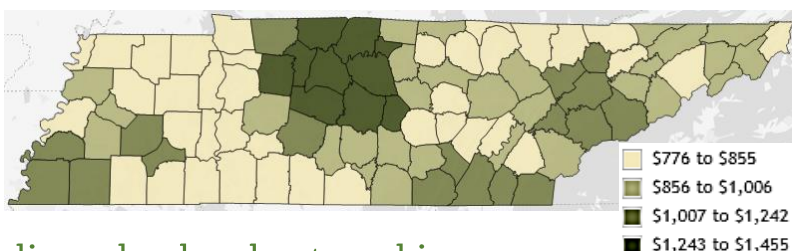
# Percent of children in households spending more than 30% of their income on housing

As in other measures of Economic Well-Being for children, Tennessee has improved in housing cost burden over the last decade, though the most recent year marks a small move backward. This also appears to be a national trend, as Tennessee's rank has remained mostly flat. The differences by race are stark on this measure, with Hispanic and African American children twice as likely to live in household with a high housing cost burden than white children. For white children the rate is 22 percent, while it is 43 percent for Hispanic children and 46 percent for African American children.



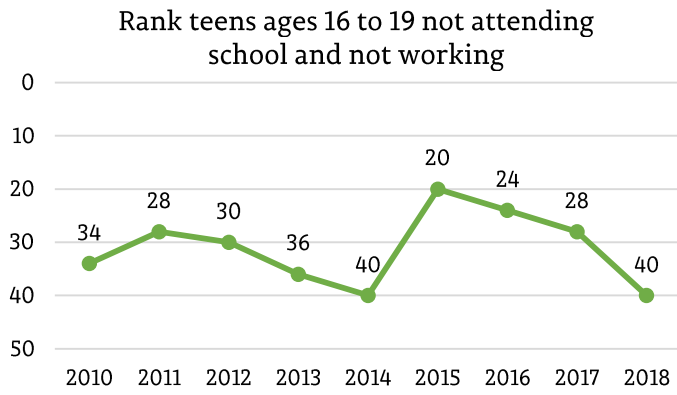
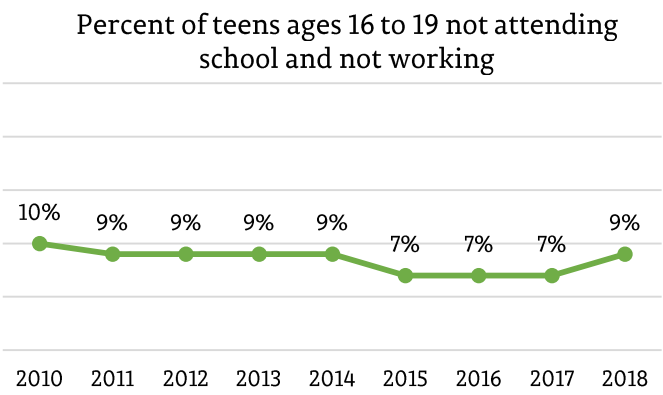
## High housing costs can make it particularly difficult for low-income families in urban areas to live near work

This indicator is not available at the county level, but one part, the cost of housing, provides information on the areas of the state where low income families are most likely to face high housing cost burdens. Fair Market Rent is produced by the US Department of Housing and Urban Development and is used to determine eligibility for federal housing assistance.



# Percent of teens ages 16 to 19 not attending school and not working

Teens ages 16 to 19 who are not in school or working are at high risk of experiencing negative outcomes as they transition to adulthood. Young people who drop out of high school, are involved in the juvenile or criminal justice system, become parents at a young age or age out of foster care are most likely to be out of school and work. Limited skills and work history — combined with few financial resources to invest in developing the necessary skills or qualifications — restrict access to good jobs as well as future higher wages. While students who drop out of school clearly face obstacles, many young people who have graduated from high school but are not working are also at a disadvantage in terms of achieving financial stability in adulthood. Tennessee had seen some improvement on this measure, but this last year went backward somewhat, as did many of the Economic Well-Being indicators.



Tennessee enjoyed a large jump in rank on this measure coinciding with the first cohort of Tennessee Promise students enrolling in college. As other states followed Tennessee's lead on free community college, the state's rank declined somewhat. 2018 marks a move in the data back to levels that match those prior to Tennessee Promise. A look at program data shows initial increases in college attendance have stabilized and even declined somewhat, which may be related to this measure. The number of students taking advantage of Tennessee Promise has remained stable.

