

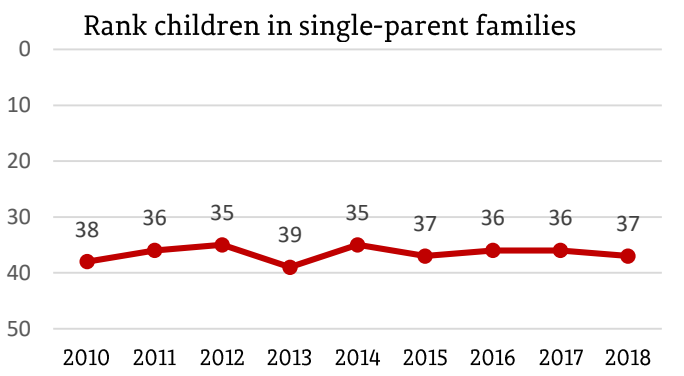
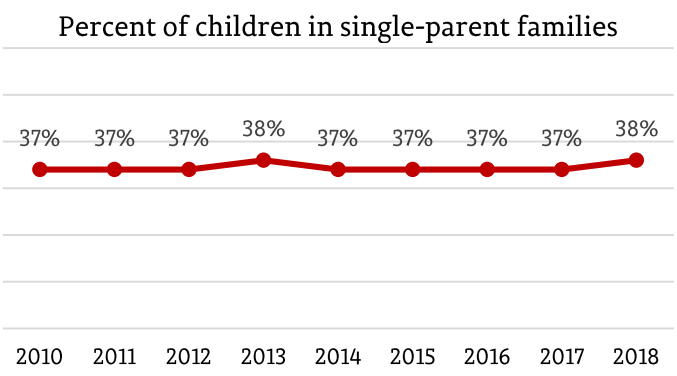
Family and Community Context

Tennessee Rank: 42

Children who live in nurturing families and supportive communities have stronger personal connections and higher academic achievement. These findings underscore the importance of two-generation approaches to ending poverty, which address the needs of parents and children at the same time so that both can succeed together. The Family and Community Context domain has always been a challenging one for Tennessee. None of the indicators in this domain are an area of strength that could help pull up those where Tennessee lags.

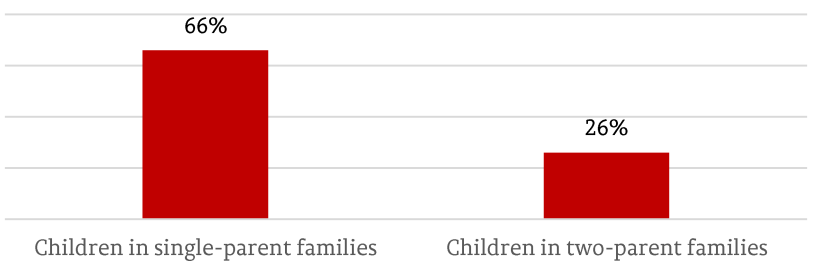
Percent of children in single-parent families

Tennessee's performance on this measure has been remarkably consistent over the past several years, in both actual value and rank. Single-parent families face increased risk of financial struggle and child care challenges, as well as the stress of managing a family alone.



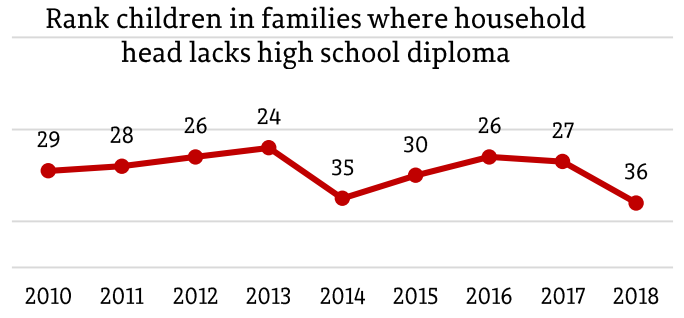
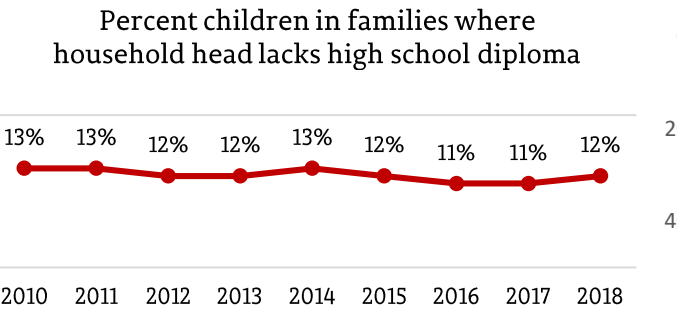
The National Center for Children in Poverty reports that two-thirds of Tennessee children living in poverty live in single-parent families, while just 1 in 4 children who do not live in poverty live in single-parent families. The burden eases as children get older and child care becomes less of an issue, but the challenge of running a household on one's own is a stressor on parents and children.

Living in a single-parent family creates a high risk of poverty

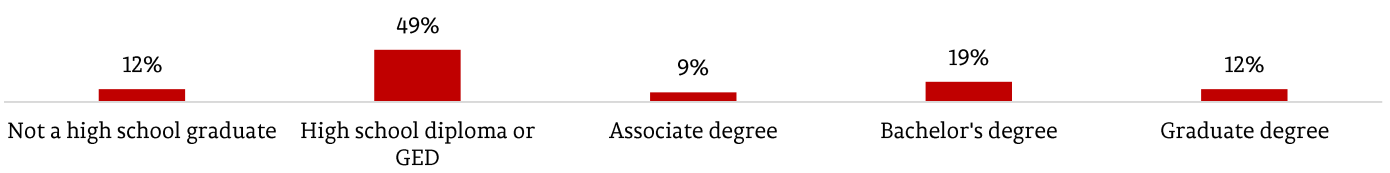


Percent of children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

Tennessee has one of the best high school graduation rates in the country, but that has not translated into a good ranking on parental educational attainment. Higher levels of parental education are strongly associated with better outcomes for children, including kids' own higher educational attainment and achievement. Kids who grow up with parents who have not graduated from high school not only have fewer socioeconomic advantages but also are more likely to be born with a low birth weight, have other health problems, enter school unprepared and have limited educational and employment opportunities as adults.



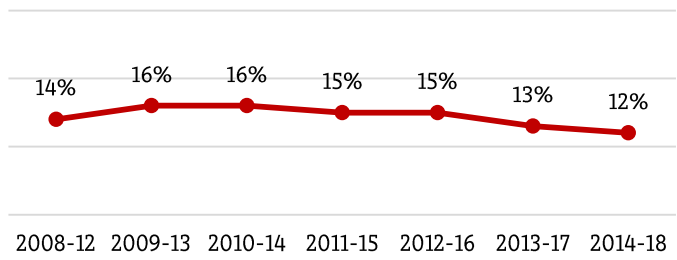
Educational attainment for Tennessee heads of household in 2018



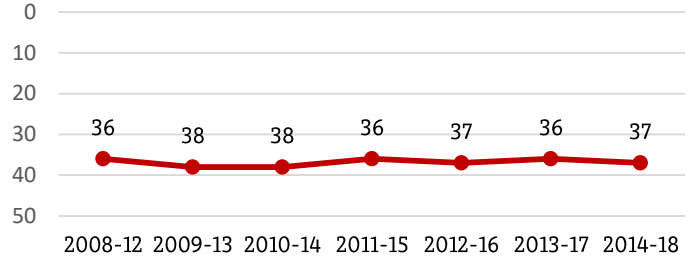
Percent of children living in high-poverty areas (census tract poverty rates ≥ 30%)

High-poverty neighborhoods — where poverty rates for the total population are 30 percent or more — come with a number of challenges that affect the children and families who live there. Residents contend with poorer health, higher rates of crime and violence, poor-performing schools due to inadequate funding and limited access to support networks and job opportunities. Tennessee has improved on this measure over the last several years, but the steady rank suggests that this improvement has happened nationally.

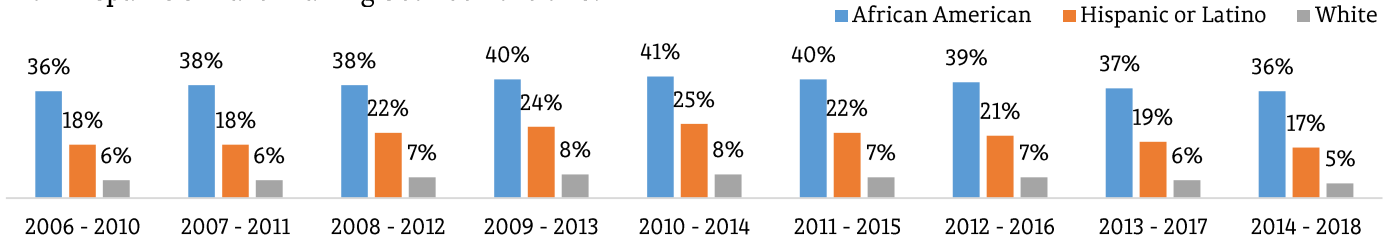
Percent children living in high-poverty areas



Rank children living in high-poverty areas



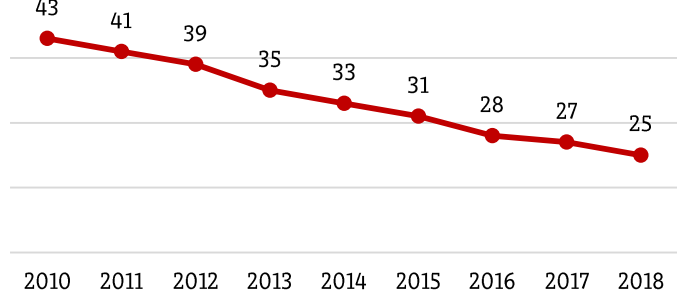
African American children are about six times more likely to live in high poverty areas than white children, with Hispanic children falling between the two.



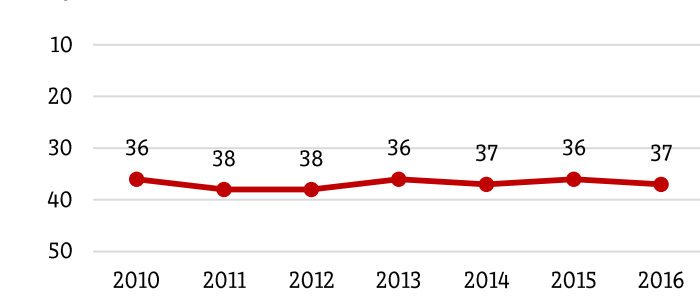
Teen birth rate (births per 1,000 females ages 15 to 19)

Teenage childbearing can have long-term negative effects for mother and child. Babies born to teens are far more likely to be born preterm and at a low birth weight — and into families with limited educational attainment and economic resources, which undermines their future success. Children born to teen mothers tend to have poorer academic and behavioral outcomes and are more likely to engage in sexual activity and become teen parents themselves. Tennessee has seen reductions in teen births over the past several years, but the state's very flat rank shows this has been a national trend.

Teen birth rate (per 1,000 females age 15 to 19)



Rank teen birth rate



Like so many indicators of child well-being, teen birth rates show significant disparity by race and ethnicity

