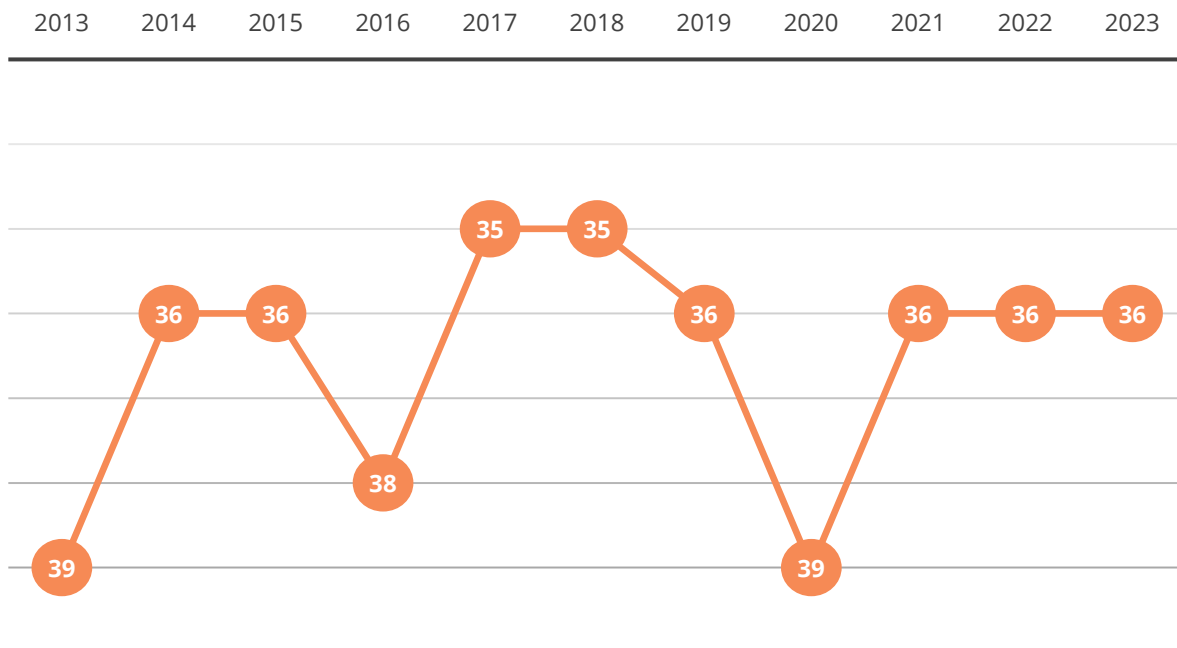


2023 KIDS COUNT National Data Book

This year's Data Book contains data from the midst of the pandemic in 2021. Despite its low rankings nationally, over the last decade Tennessee has seen an improvement in child well-being and has seen ranking improvements in some areas. As the pandemic ebbs, it is critical that Tennessee strengthens support for children to ensure positive trends continue.

Tennessee Overall Rank by Year



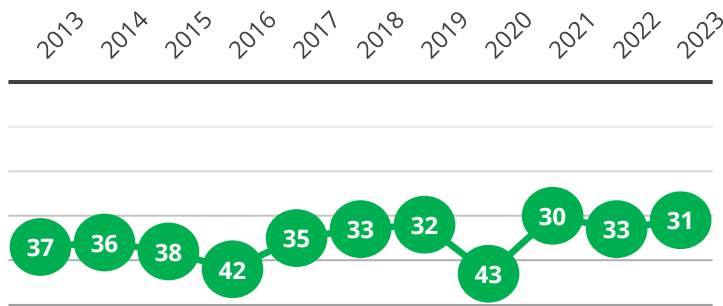
“This is a pivotal time for Tennessee and we need to invest in our children in a strong, equitable and sustainable way,” said Richard Kennedy, executive director of Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Tennessee’s member of the KIDS COUNT network.

Tennessee has moved up and down in a small rank space over the last decade, landing between 35 and 39 every year. Tennessee has seen improvements in child well-being over this decade, but they have largely been national improvements that left Tennessee in roughly the same relative position.

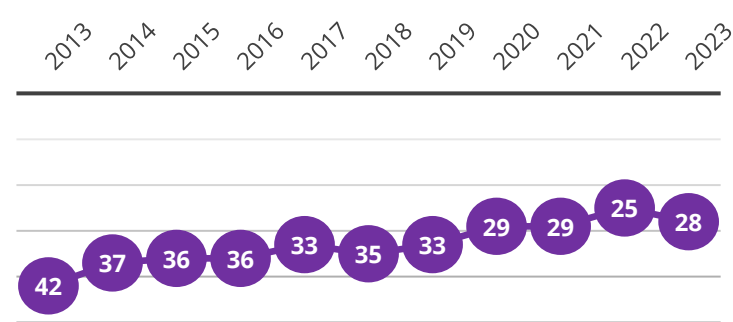
The Data Book shows simply returning to a pre-pandemic level of support for children and families would shortchange millions of kids and fail to address persistent geographic, racial and ethnic disparities.

2023 KIDS COUNT National Data Book

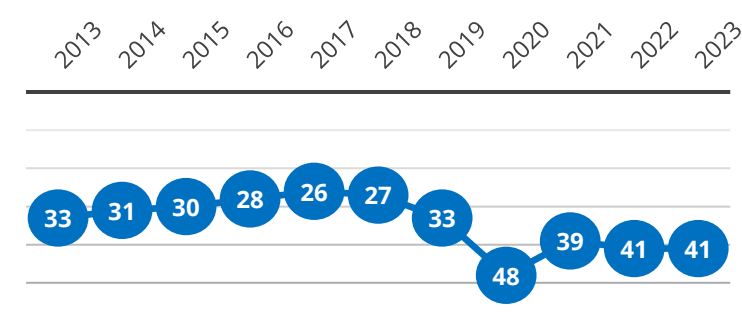
Tennessee Economic Well-Being Rank by Year



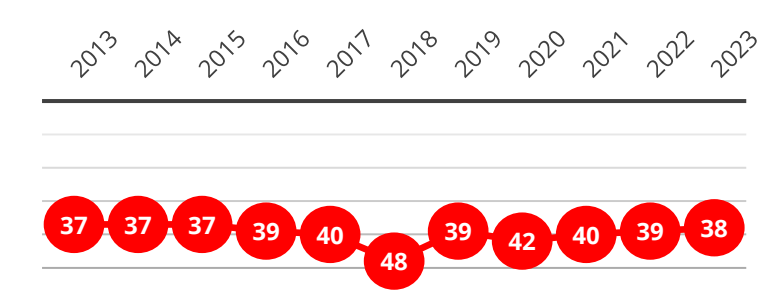
Tennessee Education Rank by Year



Tennessee Health Rank by Year



Tennessee Family & Community Context Rank by Year



Tennessee children’s economic well-being rank hit its highest point of the last decade in 2021 and is near that rank again. The state has improved on all four measures over the decade, but not much more than other states. The one putting the most downward pressure on the state rank is high housing cost burden.

Tennessee children have also improved steadily in education over the last decade, moving from 42 in 2013 to 25 in 2022. This year marks a slight downturn in rank with 2022 reading scores and a persistent reduction in the number of 3- and 4-year-olds attending preschool contributing.

Tennessee children’s health rank has fallen over the last decade. Once a leader in insuring children, the state is now at the median. An indicator change in 2020—from a substance abuse measure to an overweight/obesity one—caused a steep drop. A steadily increasing child/teen death rate is a factor.

Tennessee children’s rank in Family and Community Context has stayed relatively flat over the last decade. This is an area where national improvement has occurred, and Tennessee has largely kept pace with that, but our state rank is low and has not seen any real change.