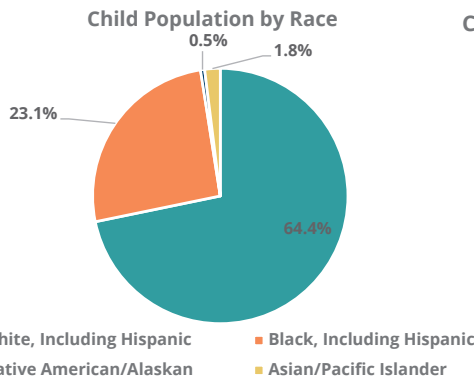
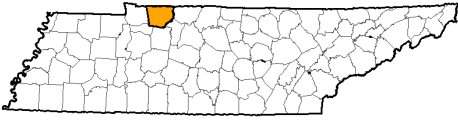
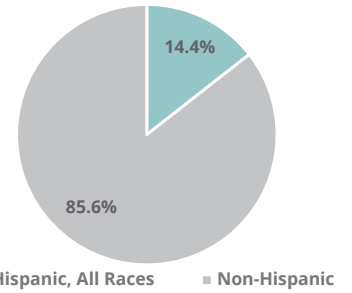


19th MONTGOMERY

Population Under 18: 26.8%



Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



Published May 2023

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 36TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in poverty	14.5%	9th	15.4%	12th
Severe housing cost burden	11.8%	84th	11.7%	83rd
Child care cost burden	23.0%	33rd	21.7%	38th

EDUCATION 35TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency	36.7%	25th	29.7%	27th
3rd to 8th grade math proficiency	36.0%	36th	27.7%	51st
Youth graduating high school on time	92.5%	54th	93.0%	44th

HEALTH 15TH

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children who are food insecure	12.7%	40th	16.7%	40th
Children who lack health insurance	4.7%	4th	4.1%	8th
Babies born at a low birthweight	8.7%	51st	8.1%	32nd

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 23RD

Metric	Value	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
Children living in single parent families	32.7%	48th	26.1%	54th
Children who are chronically absent	15.3%	32nd	13.0%	50th
Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000	9	20th	8.3	24th

Montgomery County

	Number	Rate	Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
--	--------	------	----------------	---	-------------

Demographics

Total population (state value is number not rate)	227,899	NA	6,975,170	3.3%	7
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	60,973	26.8%	22.0%	121.6%	1

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	464	11.8%	12.9%	91.5%	46
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$48,104	NA	\$56,560	85.0%	31
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$270,000	NA	\$283,410	95.3%	15
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	570	0.9%	1.5%	62.7%	12
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	11,206	18.4%	24.0%	76.5%	12
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$1,293	24.4%	21.1%	115.8%	61

Education

School age special education services	4,957	13.4%	12.2%	109.9%	48
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	207	1.9%	3.8%	50.6%	24
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	74	3.1%	6.7%	46.7%	32
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	182	1.8%	4.0%	44.0%	46
Economically disadvantaged students	9,261	25.0%	30.0%	83.3%	16
School suspensions	2,708	7.3%	5.1%	143.5%	73
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	766	35.7%	35.3%	101.0%	31
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	7,927	45.4%	52.8%	86.0%	72

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.6	*	*
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	244	6.7%	9.1%	73.7%	8
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	31,194	44.4%	55.3%	80.2%	6
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	52,092	22.9%	24.9%	91.8%	18
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	1,459	40.0%	55.1%	72.7%	3
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	1,922	6.2%	7.6%	81.6%	29
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	14	3.84	6.2	62.0%	23
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	3.2	*	*
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	*	*	20.7	*	*
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	*
Adequate prenatal care	2,179	60.6%	73.9%	82.0%	90
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	26	42.6	76.5	55.8%	26
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	37.4%	42.8%	87.5%	10
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	192	22.5	16.6	135.6%	69
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	4,633	25.7%	31.7%	81.1%	11
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	70	30.7	41.4	74.1%	27

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	2,559	4.2%	4.6%	91.4%	16
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	161	2.4	2.8	85.8%	34
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	265	4.0	5.3	74.8%	28
Juvenile court referrals	2,123	3.5%	1.8%	194.4%	83
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	2,560	11.9	6.6	181.0%	2
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	1,471	6.9	3.2	214.6%	93
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	3,004	12.7%	12.3%	103.1%	86
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	10,672	23.3%	28.9%	80.4%	44
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	979	21.3	24.9	85.6%	79

Montgomery

Overall

At 19th, Montgomery County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Health.

Strengths

Montgomery's strongest indicator is the percent of children without health insurance, where the county ranks 4th. The county also performs well in the number of children living below the federal poverty line compared to other counties at 14.5%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where it ranks 84th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of high school students graduating on time as well.

Policy/Practice/Program Options to Improve Outcomes

Many of these policies have multiple models for delivery, including public-private partnership, non-profit partners and community engagement.

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. These policies might include approving more apartment construction and allowing rental of accessory dwelling units, creating a standard zoning approval process and applying for affordable housing trust fund competitive grants. Improving ease of usage and communication with landlords and renters using Housing Choice Vouchers can increase the number of landlords willing to accept vouchers.

Making high school students aware of the community college and technical school benefits available to them through Tennessee Promise can encourage on-time high school graduation. Having counselors available to work with students with personal challenges staying in school can also decrease dropout rates. Studies have found that school climate can play a significant role in students' academic success. Communities can conduct school climate surveys addressing topics such as academics, community, safety, and institutional environment to better gauge a student's experience.

Indicator Definitions and History

Children living in poverty - Percent of children living in a household below the federal poverty line. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2021).

Severe housing cost burden - Percent of households spending 50% or more of their income on housing. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2017-2021). New to the county profiles, it replaces Fair Market Rent. It is more closely aligned to a KIDS COUNT national indicator, does not apply only to rental housing, and is a rate rather than a dollar value.

Child care cost burden - Child care costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income. Source: Produced by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute using The Living Wage Calculator (2022) and Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (2021). This is new to the rankings and replaces Median Household Income (MHI). We wanted an indicator expressed as a percentage rather than a dollar amount as well as one that related to a common family expense. Income is already somewhat measured in poverty estimates. In addition, this indicator uses MHI in its calculation.

3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency - Percent of third- to eighth-grade students who scored "on-track" or "mastered" on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) reading and language test. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

3rd to 8th grade math proficiency - Percent of third- to eighth-grade students who scored "on-track" or "mastered" on the Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment program (TCAP) math test. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

Youth graduating high school on time - Percent of ninth-grade cohort that graduates in four years. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22).

Children who are food insecure - Percent of children who sometimes lack access to adequate food. Source: Map the Meal Gap (2021). This is new to the rankings and replaces child and teen death rates, which, because the Department of Health has tightened its data suppression rules, is no longer available for all counties. We did not have an indicator for all counties to line up with overweight/obesity data in the national ranking, so we searched for an one related to nutrition and healthy eating.

Children who lack health insurance - Percent of children who lack health insurance. Source: US Census Bureau Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (2020).

Babies born at a low birthweight - Percent of live births where baby weighs less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds), averaged over three years. Source: Tennessee Department of Health (2019-21), with three counties estimated using American Community Survey 5-year data (2015-19, 2016-20, 2017-21). It has been in our county profiles from the beginning, though it was previously just one-year data. The Department of Health has tightened its data suppression rules, and dozens of counties' data were unavailable with one-year numbers. Three-year numbers still left three counties suppressed. Those were estimated from 5-year American Community Survey data.

Children living in single parent families - Single-parent households as a percent of all households with children. Source: American Community Survey, 5-year estimates (2017-2021). New to the county profiles, it replaces births to unmarried females, which in turn replaced teen births. As the Tennessee Department of Health tightened its data suppression rules, teen birth data was no longer available for all counties. Children born to unmarried females was always an attempt to roughly estimate teen births using different data. In moving from actual counts to ACS 5-year estimates, we decided to use this indicator over teen births as it affects families with parents of all ages.

Children who are chronically absent - Children who are absent 10 percent or more of school days for any reason, including excused/unexcused absences and out-of-school suspensions. Source: Tennessee Department of Education (2021-22). New to the county profiles, it replaces school suspensions, which have suppressed data for many counties.

Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 - Child victims of abuse or neglect. In cases with multiple children each child is counted individually. The total is the number of children associated with substantiated cases of severe abuse and of determinations of "Services Court Ordered" or "Services Needed" in cases of non-severe abuse or neglect. Children with multiple cases during the year are counted only once. The rate is per 1,000 children. Source: Tennessee Department of Children's Services (2021). This has been in our county rankings from the beginning, but we have moved to counting children rather than cases.