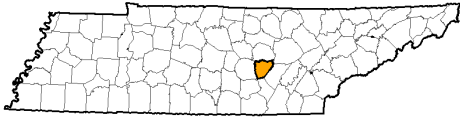
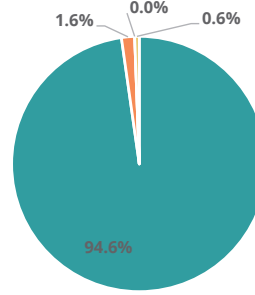


37th VAN BUREN

Population Under 18: 20.5%

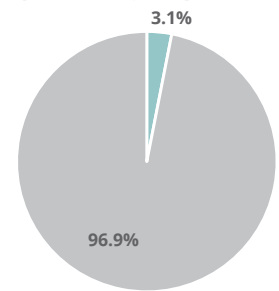


Child Population by Race



■ White, Including Hispanic ■ Black, Including Hispanic
■ Native American/Alaskan ■ Asian/Pacific Islander

Child Population by Hispanic Ethnicity



■ Hispanic, All Races ■ Non-Hispanic

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ECONOMIC WELL-BEING 28TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in poverty 26.7% **82nd** 26.1% 82nd

Severe housing cost burden 5.0% **1st** 6.4% 3rd

Child care cost burden 25.8% **61st** 23.0% 56th

EDUCATION 48TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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3rd to 8th grade reading proficiency 23.9% **86th** 18.8% 83rd

3rd to 8th grade math proficiency 36.3% **32nd** 30.1% 41st

Youth graduating high school on time 96.3% **21st** 96.6% 11th

HEALTH 60TH

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children who are food insecure 13.3% **46th** 18.1% 56th

Children who lack health insurance 7.3% **76th** 5.4% 60th

Babies born at a low birthweight 7.9% **23rd** 11.3% 88th

FAMILY & COMMUNITY 33RD

	Rank	Previous Percent/Rate	Previous Rank
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Children living in single parent families 22.2% **8th** 13.8% 4th

Children who are chronically absent 18.1% **54th** 31.2% 93rd

Victims of abuse or neglect per 1,000 18.6 **74th** 12.7 48th

Van Buren County

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

Total population (state value is number not rate)	6,308	NA	6,975,170	0.1%	94
Population under 18 years of age (percent of total population)	1,293	20.5%	22.0%	93.2%	54

Economic Well-Being

Youth unemployment	34	32.1%	12.9%	248.8%	94
Per capita personal income (state value is dollars not rate)	\$36,669	NA	\$56,560	64.8%	89
Median home sales price (state value is dollars not rate)	\$180,000	NA	\$283,410	63.5%	50
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	6	0.4%	1.5%	29.0%	2
Children receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance (SNAP)	307	23.7%	24.0%	98.7%	30
Fair market rent (percent of monthly median household income)	\$885	23.3%	21.1%	110.6%	48

Education

School age special education services	98	13.9%	12.2%	114.2%	58
TEIS participation (percent of children age 0 to 2)	0	0.0%	3.8%	0.0%	1
Cohort high school dropouts (percent of class cohort)	1	1.7%	6.7%	25.7%	13
Event high school dropouts (percent of students grade 9 to 12)	1	0.4%	4.0%	10.6%	5
Economically disadvantaged students	261	37.0%	30.0%	123.3%	73
School suspensions	*	*	5.1%	*	*
Graduating seniors scoring 21 or better on the ACT at least once	10	19.2%	35.3%	54.3%	86
Young adult college enrollment (percent of graduating seniors)	165	53.6%	52.8%	101.5%	29

Health

Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	6.6	0.0%	1
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	NA	NA	9.1%	*	NA
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	830	55.8%	55.3%	100.9%	25
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	1,608	25.5%	24.9%	102.4%	31
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	33	49.3%	55.1%	89.5%	10
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	56	7.2%	7.6%	94.7%	50
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	*	*	6.2	*	*
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	0	0.00	3.2	0.0%	1
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	0	0.00	20.7	0.0%	1
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 youth age 15 to 19)	*	*	69.7	*	*
Adequate prenatal care	48	72.7%	73.9%	98.4%	73
Pediatric physicians (per 100,000 children)	0	0.0	76.5	0.0%	57
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	42.6%	42.8%	99.6%	34
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 youth age 15 to 17)	0	0.0	16.6	0.0%	1
WIC participation (percent of children under 5)	142	40.3%	31.7%	127.3%	43
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	0	0.0	41.4	0.0%	91

Family & Community

Reported child abuse cases	92	7.1%	4.6%	155.0%	89
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	2	1.4	2.8	50.0%	12
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	5	3.5	5.3	66.2%	21
Juvenile court referrals	11	0.9%	1.8%	47.5%	23
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	50	8.4	6.6	127.6%	6
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	19	3.2	3.2	100.0%	45
Young driver accidents (percent of age 15-24 driver's licenses)	35	7.9%	12.3%	64.3%	47
Regulated child care spaces (percent of children age 0 to 12)	250	26.7%	28.9%	92.4%	33
Child care assistance (per 1,000 children age 0 to 12)	0	0.0	24.9	0.0%	1

Van Buren

Overall

At 37th, Van Buren County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Economic Well-Being.

Strengths

Van Buren's strongest indicator is the percent of households in the county experiencing a severe housing cost burden, where the county ranks 1st. The county also performs well in the percent of children in the county who live in a single parent household at 22.2%.

Opportunities

The county's biggest challenge is the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Reading, where it ranks 86th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of children living below the federal poverty line 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.

Expanding pre-K access, allowing early assessment of reading skills coupled with appropriate interventions where needed, can improve reading proficiency in later grades. Many local public libraries offer creative programming and contests to encourage children and youth to read more. The Tennessee State Library and Archives supports local libraries with training and materials for summer reading programs. In addition, the Tennessee Department of Education supports summer learning camps for all students but especially to support those who have fallen behind.

With a high rate of child poverty, improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP and WIC benefits to be sure they are aware of these services can help ensure basic needs are met. Additionally, nutrition programs that provide food for school-age children to take home can contribute to food security. Expanding services through Family Resource Centers can also help reach these vulnerable populations. Making parents aware of opportunities to receive education and training through Tennessee Reconnect can also boost household incomes over the longer term. Many neighborhoods with a high concentration of poverty are also food deserts, lacking access to affordable healthy options. Community gardens can provide fresh produce and help mitigate some of the negative health implications of child poverty.

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.