

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth's

THE STATE OF THE CHILD IN TENNESSEE

2023



TN Tennessee State Government

TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

[TN.GOV/TCCY/STATEOFTHECHILD](https://www.tn.gov/tccy/stateofthechild)



TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

Advocating for data-driven decisions to improve the lives of children and youth in Tennessee.

ABOUT THE TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH (TCCY):

The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) is an independent, nonpartisan agency created to ensure the state's policies and programs effectively promote and protect the health, well-being and development of children and youth.

Established by the Tennessee General Assembly as a permanent commission, TCCY is the state's centralized informational resource and advocacy agency for timely, fact-based information to aid policymaking and coordination of resources.

WHAT TCCY DOES:

Data and Insights: Monitors various child and youth indicators to identify trends and areas of concern; keeps up with best practices for addressing issues affecting children and youth.

Collaboration: Convenes various agencies and organizations in leading efforts to improve services for children and youth.

Policy Advocacy: Reviews data and outcomes of various policies related to children and youth to provide evidence-based suggestions for improvement.

Public Awareness: Promotes public awareness about children's issues and advocates for community engagement in addressing these concerns.



Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth authorization number 316689
December 2023. 200 copies. This public document was promulgated at a cost of \$11.08 each.

ABOUT THE STATE OF THE CHILD REPORT

TCA 37-3-103(a)(1)(E) requires the commission to (E) Publish annually, on or before December 31, a comprehensive report on the status of children and youth in Tennessee; and distribute the report to the governor, to each member of the general assembly and to each of the state's depository libraries.

The purpose of the State of the Child is to provide an annual overview of the well-being of children, youth and families in Tennessee through the available data. The report seeks to cover as many topics affecting children as possible, spanning from maternal and prenatal health to youth aging out of foster care.

The data contained in this report comes from publicly available reports or data sets. The commission relies heavily on reporting from state and federal departments as well as non-governmental organizations. Without their continual work and dedication to the children in Tennessee, this report would not be possible.

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 <h3>Education</h3> <p>Education Outcomes Support Services Discipline School Infrastructure</p>	 <h3>Health</h3> <p>Overall Health Insurance & Access to Care Maternal & Infant Care Vaccinations & Immunizations Dental Care Infant & Maternal Mortality Child & Teen Death</p>	 <h3>Mental Health</h3> <p>Prevalence of Mental Health Challenges Access to Treatment Substance Use Trauma, Adversity & Discrimination</p>
 <h3>Child Opportunity Index</h3> <p>Measures COI by Zip Code Opportunity Gap</p>	 <h3>Child Welfare</h3> <p>Abuse & Neglect Transition Age Youth Domestic Violence Human Trafficking</p>	 <h3>Youth Justice</h3> <p>Youth Justice Placements Youth Crime Youth Detention</p>

DEMOGRAPHICS



Race & Ethnicity

Demographics



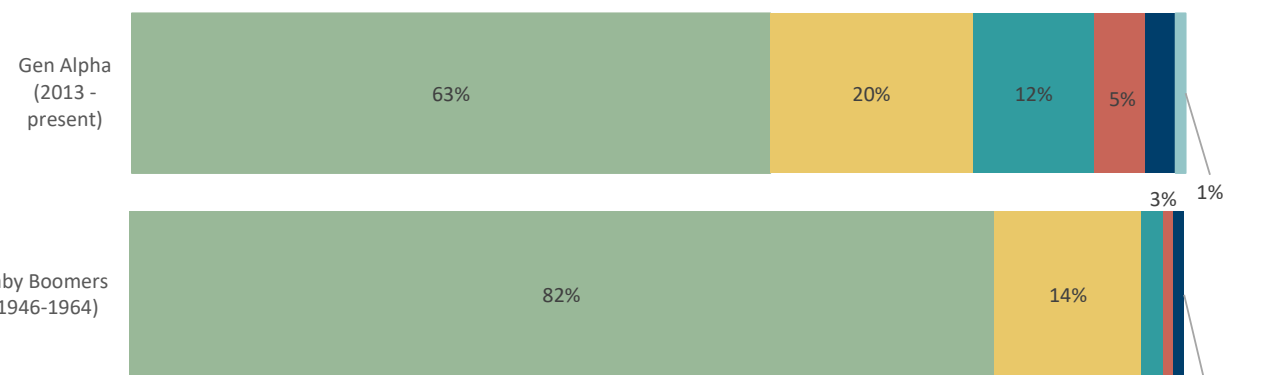
- Among those under 18 in Tennessee in 2022:¹
- 64 percent were Non-Hispanic White Alone
 - 19 percent were Non-Hispanic Black Alone
 - 11 percent were Hispanic or Latino
 - 4 percent were Two or More Races
 - 2 percent were Non-Hispanic Asian Alone
 - .02 percent were American Indian and Alaskan Native
 - <0.5 percent were Non-Hispanic Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander
 - <0.5 Non-Hispanic American Indian And Alaskan Native Alone

Over the last decade, Tennessee's children have become more diverse. In 2012, the largest racial group (Non-Hispanic White) comprised 67 percent of the child population; now it is 64 percent.

Comparing the demographics of Gen Alpha to Baby Boomers shows the changes Tennessee has seen over just a few generations.³



■ Non-Hispanic White ■ Black Or African American ■ Hispanic Or Latino ■ Two Or More Races ■ Asian And Pacific Islander ■ American Indian



Age

Demographics

The services and investment needed from the state to support healthy and thriving children changes as they grow. Ensuring services are available to meet the needs of Tennessee children, from prenatal care through career development, is critical to a more successful future.

More than one in five Tennesseans are under 18⁴

31 percent of Tennessee children are under 6⁵

33 percent of Tennessee children are age 6 to 11⁵

35 percent of Tennessee children are age 12 to 17⁵

Compared to 2012, Tennessee has seen a slight decline in the percent of children under 6 but an increase in the percent of Tennesseans under 18.⁵

In 2012:

Children under 18 were 17 percent Tennessee's population⁴

33 percent were under 6⁵

33 percent were age 6 to 12⁵

34 percent were age 11 to 18⁵

Estimated total spending on children under five years of age accounted for 12.5 percent of all expenditures for children in Tennessee in FY 2021-22, while children under age five are 26.2 percent of all children in the state.⁶

Children under five experience the highest rates of poverty of any age group in the state.⁷ Additionally, due to the rapid brain development occurring during the earliest years, which lays the foundation for learning and development throughout the lifespan, investing more of our state funds into our youngest Tennesseans would provide a greater return on investment.



State of the Child 2023

Experiences

Demographics

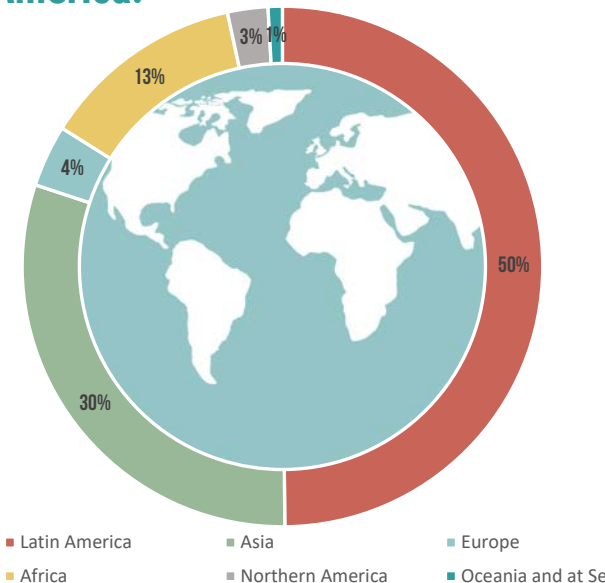
In addition to a child's age, life experiences can drastically shape services and supports needed to thrive.



1 in 10 Tennessee children age 5-17 speak a language other than English at home. Of those, two-thirds speak Spanish.⁸

One in seven Tennessee children are part of an immigrant family.⁹

Of Tennessee children born in another country, half were born in Latin America.¹⁴



State of the Child 2023

- More than 8 in 10 Tennessee children are enrolled in a public school.¹⁰
- Approximately 1 in 4 children in Tennessee live in a household that received public assistance in the last 12 months.¹⁰
- 36 percent of Tennessee children live in renter-occupied housing units.¹⁰
- Nearly 1 in 10 Tennessee children live with their grandparent as the householder.¹⁰
- 45 percent of teens 15 to 19 are in the labor force.¹¹
- 8 of 10 children live with their biological parent as the householder.¹²
- 5 percent of Tennessee children are reported to have a disability.¹⁰
- Nearly 2 in 5 Tennessee children 12 through 17 were bullied, picked on or excluded in the last year.¹³

ECONOMICS



Measures of Poverty

Economics

There are two major measures of poverty, each considering different factors and expenses. Understanding which measure is being referenced and what is included is critical to properly assessing the challenges our children are facing and how we can improve resources and protections for them. Below is a brief explanation of the two commonly used measures, the Official Poverty Measure and Supplemental Poverty Measure.¹

Official Poverty Measure²

U.S. Census Bureau

The Official Poverty Measure (OPM) was developed in the mid-1960's. It was calculated based upon the cost of a minimum food diet in 1963 multiplied by three. Each year it is updated to reflect current prices. The OPM only includes pre-tax cash income and does not include any government assistance or subsidies. The OPM is the same across the continental United States.

Supplemental Poverty Measure³

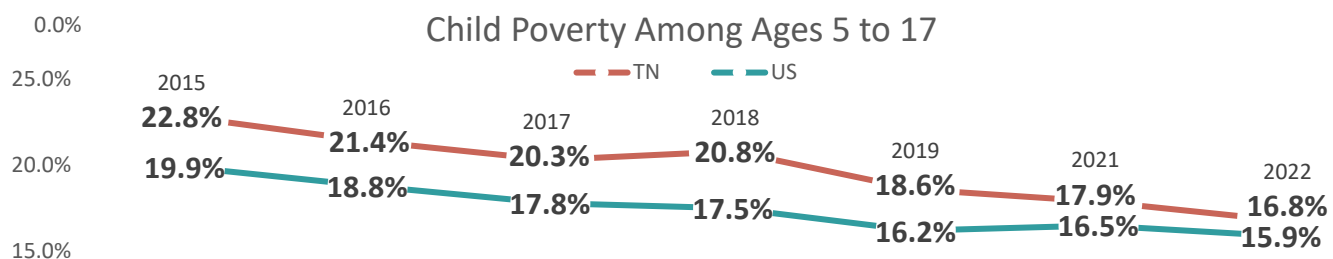
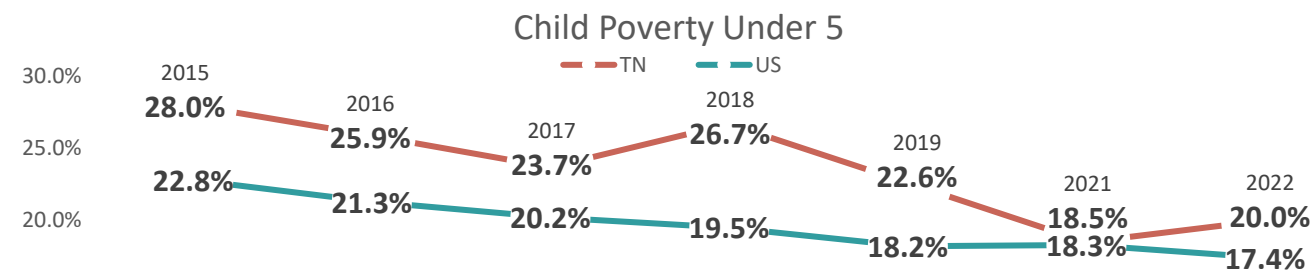
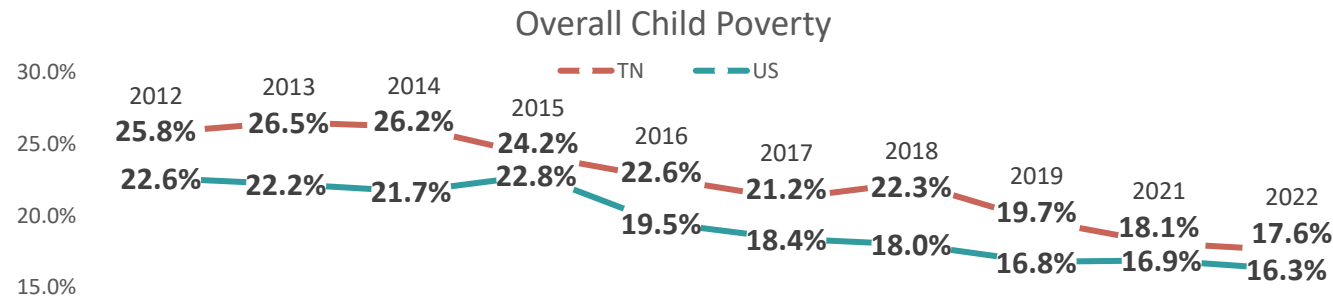
Bureau of Labor Statistics & U.S. Census Bureau

"In November 2011, the Census Bureau released its first report on the new SPM. The SPM addresses numerous concerns of official-measure critics, and its intent is to provide an improved statistical picture of poverty. The SPM income or resource measure is cash income plus in-kind government benefits (such as food stamps and housing subsidies) minus nondiscretionary expenses (taxes, medical out-of-pocket expenses, and work expenses). The SPM thresholds are based on a broad measure of necessary expenditures—food, clothing, shelter, and utilities (FCSU)—and are based on recent, annually updated expenditure data. The SPM thresholds are adjusted for geographic differences in the cost of living. The SPM uses a broader unit of analysis that treats cohabiters and their relatives in a more satisfactory way." - Social Security Administration.

Official Poverty Measure

Economics

After a significant decline in child poverty among those under 5 between 2019 and 2021, Tennessee saw an uptick in under 5 poverty in 2022.⁴ One in five of our youngest children are living in poverty.⁴ At the same time poverty rates for those ages 5 to 17 are at their lowest on record and less than one percent above the comparable national group. Due to the rapid development occurring in the earlier years, children 0 to 5 are particularly susceptible to the potentially negative impacts of living below the poverty line.



While Median Household Income in Tennessee has increased more than the Consumer Price index, the Federal Poverty Line has failed to keep up with rising costs.^{5,6}

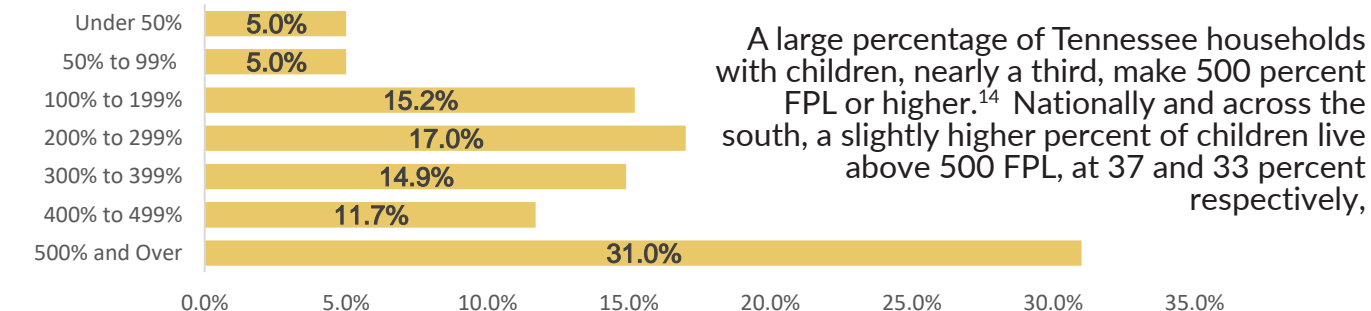
Year	Tennessee Family of Three Median Income	Family of Three Federal Poverty Line	Consumer Price Index Annual Average
Percent Change from 2017-2022	+28.4%	+12.8%	+19.4%
2022	\$85,423	\$23,030	292.66
2021	\$78,715	\$21,960	270.97
2020	Unavailable	\$21,720	258.81
2019	\$71,133	\$21,220	255.66
2018	\$68,493	\$20,780	251.11
2017	\$66,525	\$20,420	245.12

Due to the low poverty threshold established by the Federal Poverty Line, many programs establish their benefits cap as a percentage of the FPL.⁷⁻¹²

Percent FPL in 2022	50% FPL	75% FPL	84% FPL	100% FPL	130% FPL	133% FPL	138% FPL	142% FPL
Income for a family of three	\$9,155	\$17,273	\$19,332	\$23,030	\$30,630	\$30,629	\$31,781	\$32,702
Benefits Eligibility Cap			TennCare (Parents) ⁷	Head Start	Free School Lunch	TennCare (6 - 19)	Medicaid Expansion	TennCare (1 - 6)

Sometimes referred to as benefits cliffs, these limits can create challenges as workers earn higher wages that might make them ineligible for still needed resources.

Percent FPL in 2022	180% FPL	185% FPL	195% FPL	225% FPL	250% FPL	300% FPL	350% FPL	400% FPL
Income for a family of three	\$41,454	\$42,606	\$44,908	\$51,818	\$57,757	\$69,090	\$80,605	\$92,120
Benefits Eligibility Cap	Reduced Price Lunch	WIC/ Voluntary Pre-K	TennCare (0 -1, Pregnant Women)		CHIP & Smart Steps			



A large percentage of Tennessee households with children, nearly a third, make 500 percent FPL or higher.¹⁴ Nationally and across the south, a slightly higher percent of children live above 500 FPL, at 37 and 33 percent respectively,

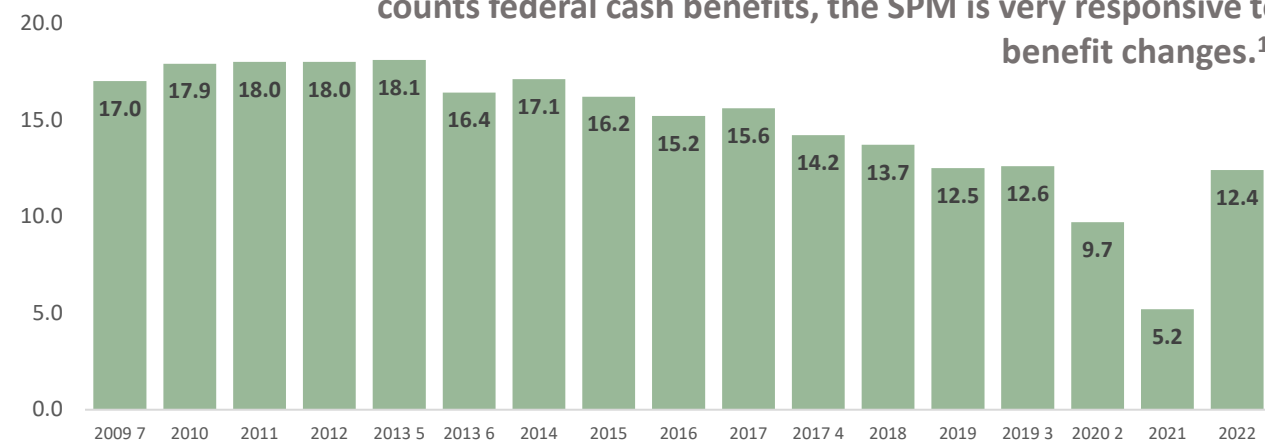
Supplemental Poverty Measure

Economics

The Supplemental Poverty Measure provides a more comprehensive look at the experience of families across the country, taking government assistance, expenses and location into account in a way the Official Poverty Measure does not.

National Supplemental Poverty Measure

The supplemental poverty rate experienced an historical drop in 2021 largely due to the Child Tax Credit. Because it directly counts federal cash benefits, the SPM is very responsive to benefit changes.¹⁵



Tennessee Supplemental Poverty Measure

At a state-level, the Supplemental Poverty Measure is available in 3-year averages for all ages. Listed below are the three-year averages spanning the last seven years for Tennessee's Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM) and the Official Poverty Measure (OPM).

2020 - 2022¹⁶
SPM: 8.3 percent
OPM: 11.4 percent

2019 - 2021¹⁷
SPM: 9.1 percent
OPM: 12.2 percent

2018 - 2020¹⁸
SPM: 10.8 percent
OPM: 12.7 percent

2017 - 2019¹⁹
SPM: 11.0 percent
OPM: 12.1 percent

2016 - 2018²⁰
SPM: 11.5 percent
OPM: 12.7 percent



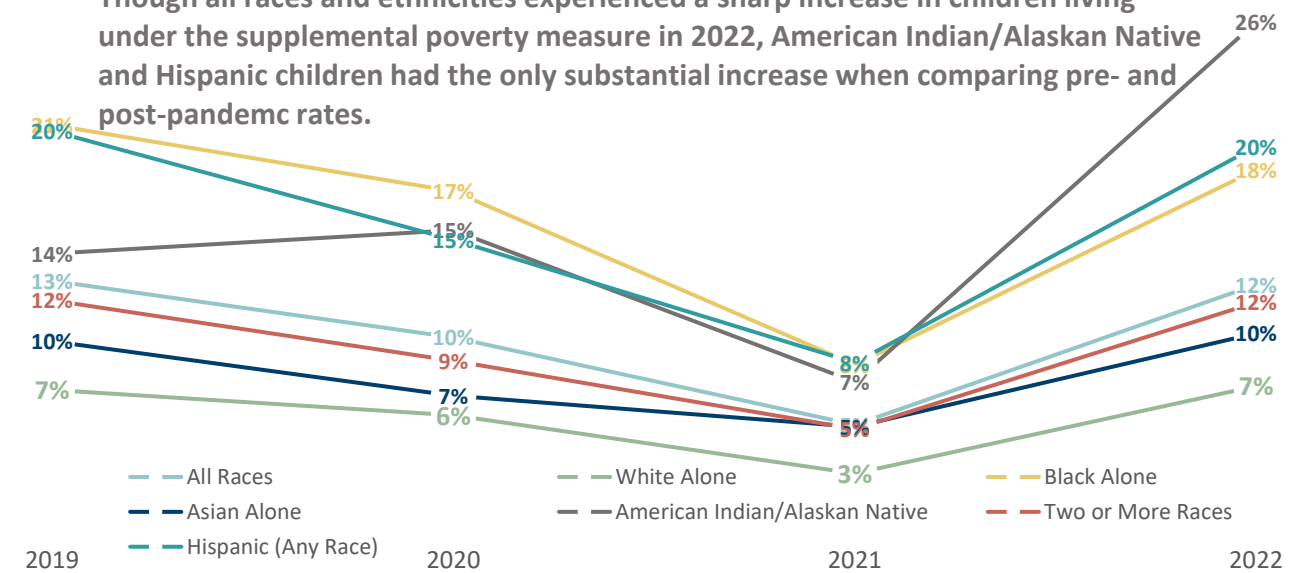
Supplemental Poverty Measure

Economics

The United States saw an historic decline in children living below the supplemental poverty measure in 2021 due to policies such as the child tax credit, stimulus, and pandemic EBT. After those programs expired the percent of children living under the supplemental poverty measure returned to previous levels.

National Supplemental Poverty Measure²¹

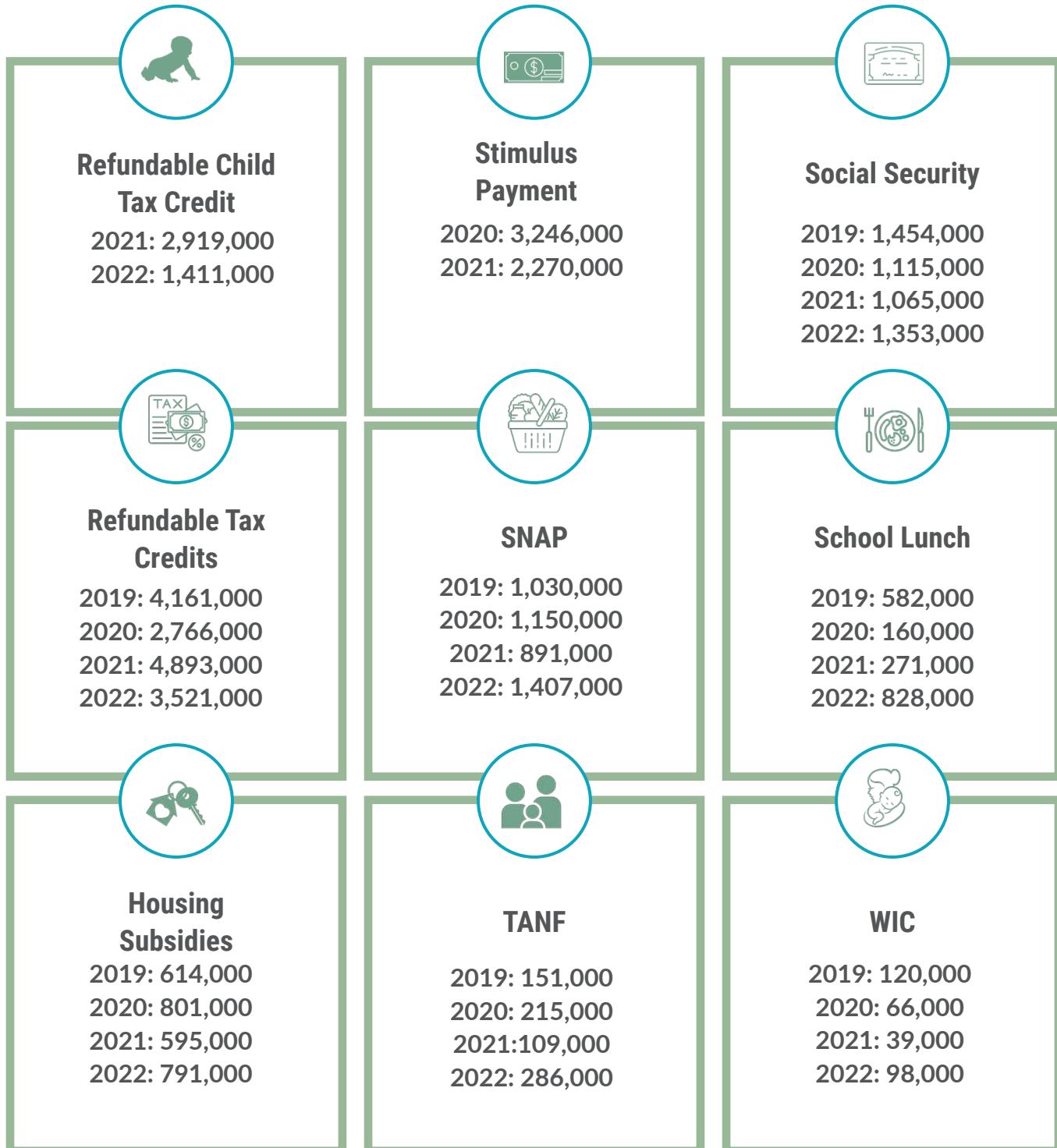
Though all races and ethnicities experienced a sharp increase in children living under the supplemental poverty measure in 2022, American Indian/Alaskan Native and Hispanic children had the only substantial increase when comparing pre- and post-pandemic rates.



Supplemental Poverty Measure

Economics

Since the Supplemental Poverty Measure includes non-cash benefits such as tax credits or programs such as SNAP, WIC or TANF, we are able to measure the number of children those programs lift out of poverty.²²⁻²⁴ Though these numbers are only available on a national level, they still provide significant insight into how children, youth and families can be further supported. While children may receive many of these programs, these numbers evaluate the individual impact of each program on its own.



Child Tax Credit

Economics

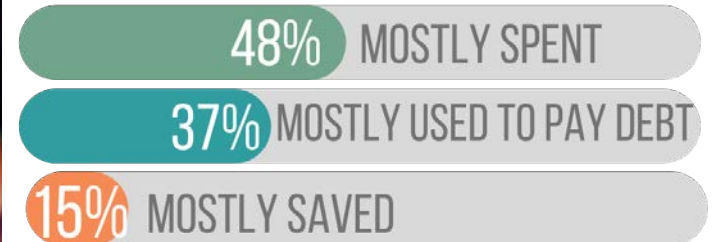
After the success of the fully-refundable federal child tax credit, many states have moved to implement a similar state-level credit. Since Tennessee does not have a state income tax there are implementation challenges, however a new child tax credit in Washington, a state without an income tax, may provide a model to follow.²⁵



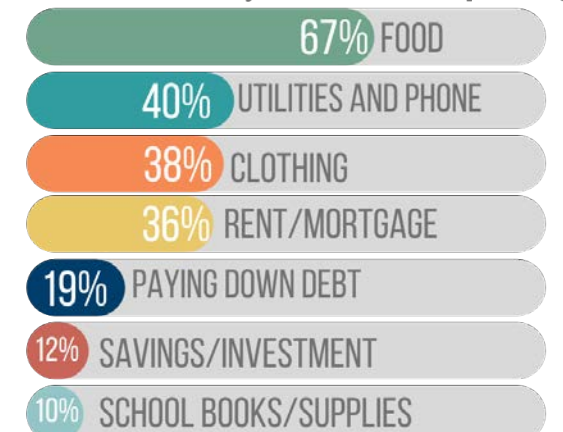
At the end of 2021, three out of five Tennessee families reported receiving a Child Tax Credit within the last month.²⁷

It is estimated by the Institute on Taxation and Economic Policy that a state-level fully refundable child tax credit of \$1,300 for those under 18 and \$1,560 for children under 6 would cut Tennessee's child poverty rate by 25 percent.²⁹ A \$3,100 credit could cut state child poverty in half.²⁹

How Tennessee families used the Child Tax Credit²⁶



More families used Child Tax Credit funds for food than any other area of spending.²⁸



Household Finances

Economics

In Tennessee between September 20th - October 2nd, 2023:

In Tennessee and nationally, approximately 40 percent of households reported it was somewhat or very difficult to pay for usual household expenses in the last week.³⁰

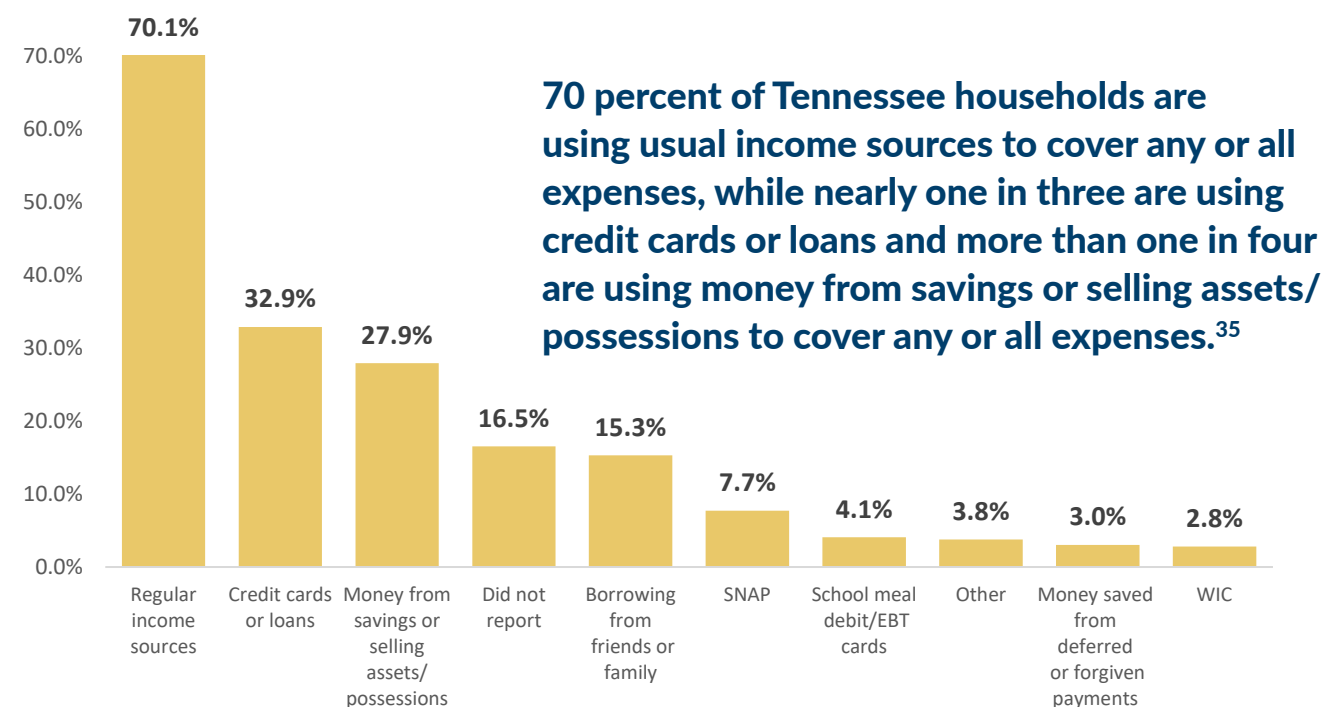
55 percent of households with children reported that the increase in prices over the last two months has been very stressful.³¹

80 percent of households with children reported they think prices have increased over the last two months.³²

58 percent of households with children reported being very concerned that prices will increase in the next six months.³³

1 in 3 households reported that they chose not to take a trip in the last seven days due to the cost of gas.³³

Approximately 2 percent of households reported applying for unemployment insurance between June 1, 2023 and October 2023. Of those, 58 percent did not receive benefits.³⁴



* Respondents could select multiple means of payment.

Changes in Weekly Wages by County

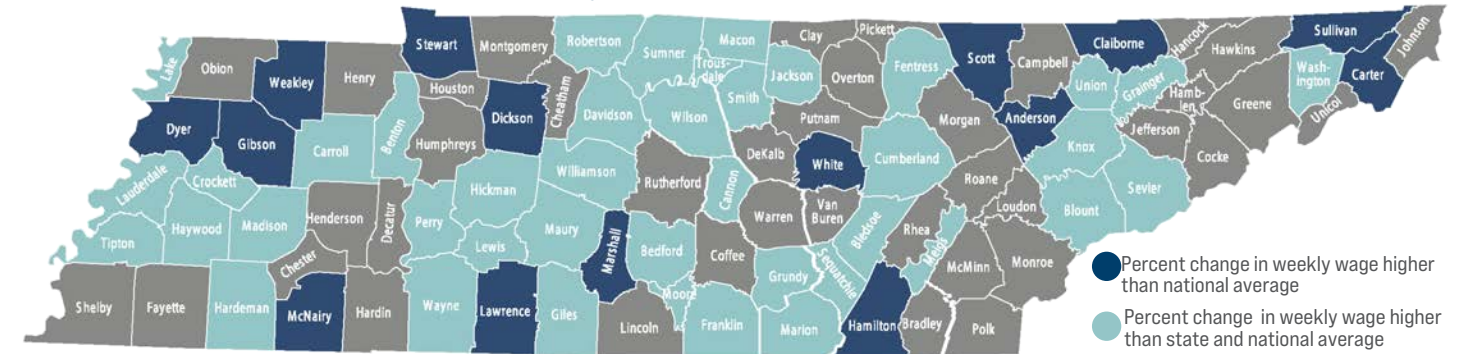
Economics

United States change in weekly wages between Q1 2019 and Q1 2023: \$281^{36,37}

United States percent change in weekly wages Q1 2019 and Q1 2023: +24%^{36,37}

Tennessee change in weekly wages between Q1 2019 and Q1 2023: \$268^{36,37}

Tennessee percent change in weekly wages between Q1 2019 and Q1 2023: +27%^{36,37}



County	Q1 2019 Weekly Wages	Q1 2023 Weekly Wages	Change in Weekly Wages	Percent Change	County	Q1 2019 Weekly Wages	Q1 2023 Weekly Wages	Change in Weekly Wages	Percent Change	County	Q1 2019 Weekly Wages	Q1 2023 Weekly Wages	Change in Weekly Wages	Percent Change
United States	\$1,184	\$1,465	\$281	24%	Hamblen	\$783	\$916	\$133	17%	Morgan	\$691	\$854	\$163	24%
Tennessee	\$996	\$1,264	\$268	27%	Hamilton	\$996	\$1,252	\$256	26%	Obion	\$700	\$865	\$165	24%
Anderson	\$1,168	\$1,465	\$297	25%	Hancock	\$504	\$600	\$96	19%	Overton	\$705	\$817	\$112	16%
Bedford	\$736	\$945	\$209	28%	Hardeman	\$743	\$962	\$219	29%	Perry	\$594	\$754	\$160	27%
Benton	\$652	\$828	\$176	27%	Hardin	\$865	\$988	\$123	14%	Pickett	\$712	\$647	-\$65	-9%
Bledsoe	\$674	\$874	\$200	30%	Hawkins	\$796	\$947	\$151	19%	Polk	\$638	\$746	\$108	17%
Blount	\$895	\$1,164	\$269	30%	Haywood	\$773	\$1,002	\$229	30%	Putnam	\$746	\$902	\$156	21%
Bradley	\$813	\$1,003	\$190	23%	Henderson	\$795	\$867	\$72	9%	Rhea	\$829	\$977	\$148	18%
Campbell	\$679	\$792	\$113	17%	Henry	\$737	\$868	\$131	18%	Roane	\$1,342	\$1,498	\$156	12%
Cannon	\$653	\$853	\$200	31%	Hickman	\$705	\$916	\$211	30%	Robertson	\$742	\$958	\$216	29%
Carroll	\$651	\$881	\$230	35%	Houston	\$607	\$737	\$130	21%	Rutherford	\$948	\$1,148	\$200	21%
Carter	\$675	\$845	\$170	25%	Humphreys	\$978	\$1,185	\$207	21%	Scott	\$595	\$740	\$145	24%
Cheatham	\$890	\$1,061	\$171	19%	Jackson	\$611	\$790	\$179	29%	Sequatchie	\$606	\$789	\$183	30%
Chester	\$651	\$753	\$102	16%	Jefferson	\$790	\$959	\$169	21%	Sevier	\$585	\$803	\$218	37%
Claiborne	\$662	\$825	\$163	25%	Johnson	\$766	\$914	\$148	19%	Shelby	\$1,104	\$1,341	\$237	21%
Clay	\$600	\$700	\$100	17%	Knox	\$952	\$1,235	\$283	30%	Smith	\$819	\$1,043	\$224	27%
Cocke	\$664	\$789	\$125	19%	Lake	\$659	\$879	\$220	33%	Stewart	\$945	\$1,190	\$245	26%
Coffee	\$900	\$1,066	\$166	18%	Lauderdale	\$732	\$940	\$208	28%	Sullivan	\$962	\$1,207	\$245	25%
Crockett	\$777	\$1,041	\$264	34%	Lawrence	\$673	\$844	\$171	25%	Sumner	\$840	\$1,094	\$254	30%
Cumberland	\$648	\$842	\$194	30%	Lewis	\$592	\$766	\$174	29%	Tipton	\$694	\$911	\$217	31%
Davidson	\$1,222	\$1,574	\$352	29%	Lincoln	\$708	\$874	\$166	23%	Trousdale	\$749	\$975	\$226	30%
Decatur	\$718	\$813	\$95	13%	Loudon	\$837	\$1,021	\$184	22%	Unicoi	\$874	\$1,072	\$198	23%
De Kalb	\$742	\$882	\$140	19%	McMinn	\$859	\$911	\$52	6%	Union	\$651	\$892	\$241	37%
Dickson	\$740	\$925	\$185	25%	McNairy	\$636	\$793	\$157	25%	Van Buren	\$620	\$718	\$98	16%
Dyer	\$773	\$974	\$201	26%	Macon	\$637	\$812	\$175	27%	Warren	\$795	\$904	\$109	14%
Fayette	\$863	\$1,051	\$188	22%	Madison	\$835	\$1,066	\$231	28%	Washington	\$782	\$1,025	\$243	31%
Fentress	\$594	\$757	\$163	27%	Marion	\$725	\$945	\$220	30%	Wayne	\$627	\$849	\$222	35%
Franklin	\$728	\$949	\$221	30%	Marshall	\$795	\$1,007	\$212	27%	Weakley	\$654	\$819	\$165	25%
Gibson	\$700	\$870	\$170	24%	Mauzy	\$954	\$1,231	\$277	29%	White	\$663	\$836	\$173	26%
Giles	\$743	\$944	\$201	27%	Meigs	\$743	\$966	\$223	30%	Williamson	\$1,389	\$1,767	\$378	27%
Grainger	\$714	\$964	\$250	35%	Monroe	\$755	\$921	\$166	22%	Wilson	\$808	\$1,064	\$256	32%
Greene	\$743	\$903	\$160	22%	Montgomery	\$754	\$923	\$169	22%					
Grundy	\$524	\$693	\$169	32%	Moore	\$838	\$1,092	\$254	30%					



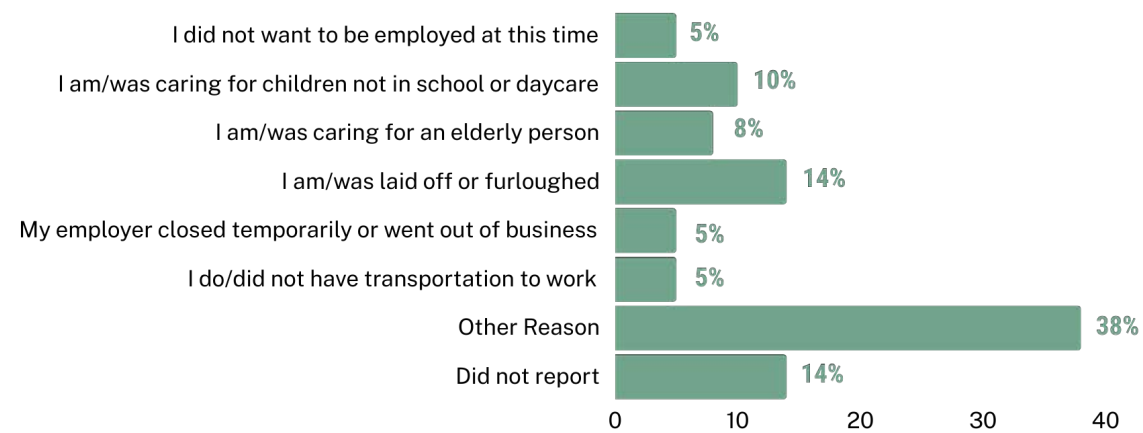
Employment

Economics

In 2022, Tennessee's 3.4 percent unemployment rate was the second-lowest in 50 years, just behind 3.3 percent in 2019.³⁸ The trend was similar nationally, with 2022 having the lowest average annual unemployment rate since 1969 at 3.6 percent.³⁹ In August of 2023, Tennessee's unemployment rate was 3.1 percent.³⁸

1 in 10 households with children in Tennessee reported their household had experienced a **loss of income within the last month**.⁴⁰

Among all Tennessee workers who are not currently employed, 18 percent cite caregiving as a reason they are not currently working.⁴¹

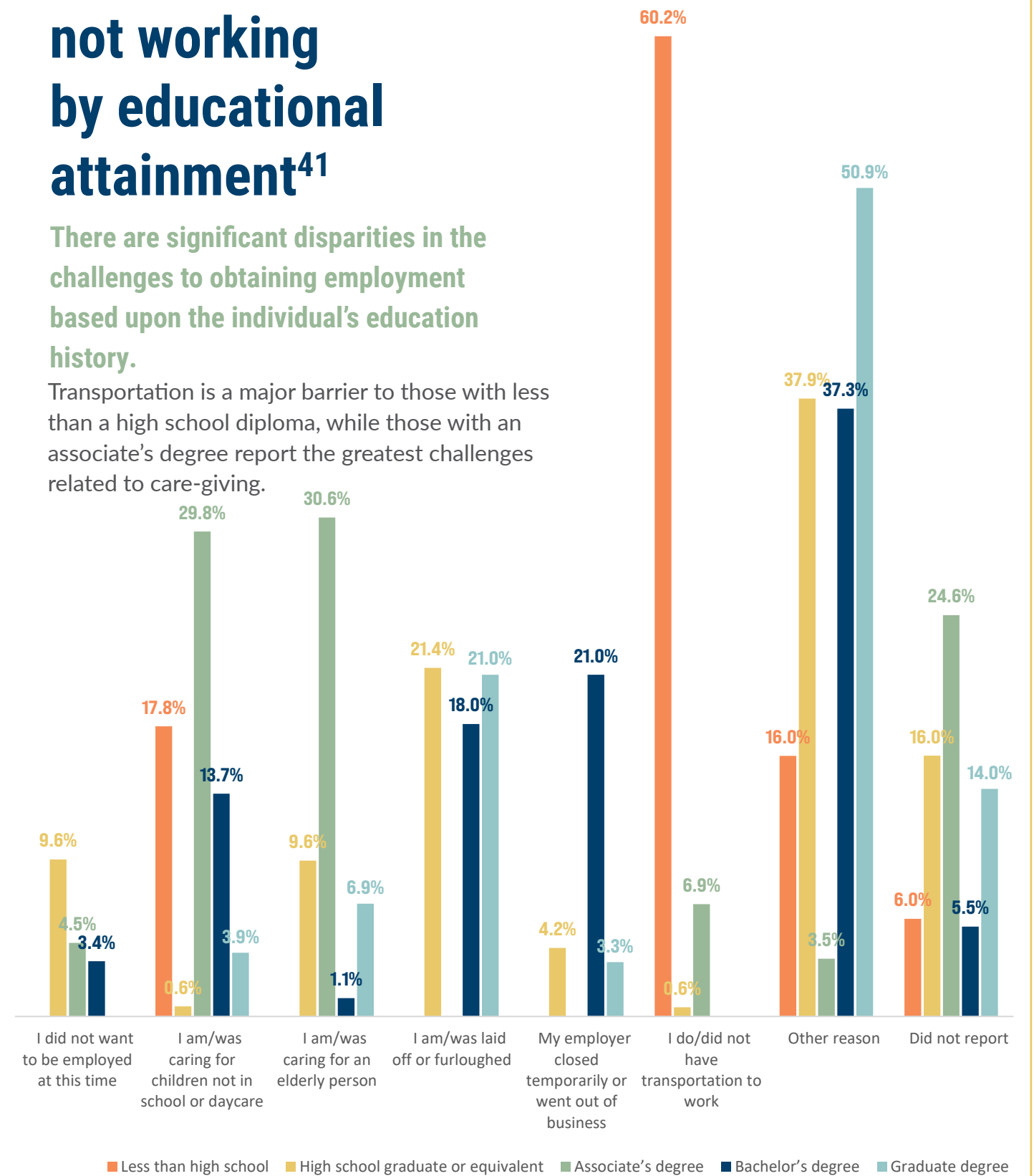


*total excludes those who are not working due to being retired or sick/disabled.

Reasons for not working by educational attainment⁴¹

There are significant disparities in the challenges to obtaining employment based upon the individual's education history.

Transportation is a major barrier to those with less than a high school diploma, while those with an associate's degree report the greatest challenges related to care-giving.



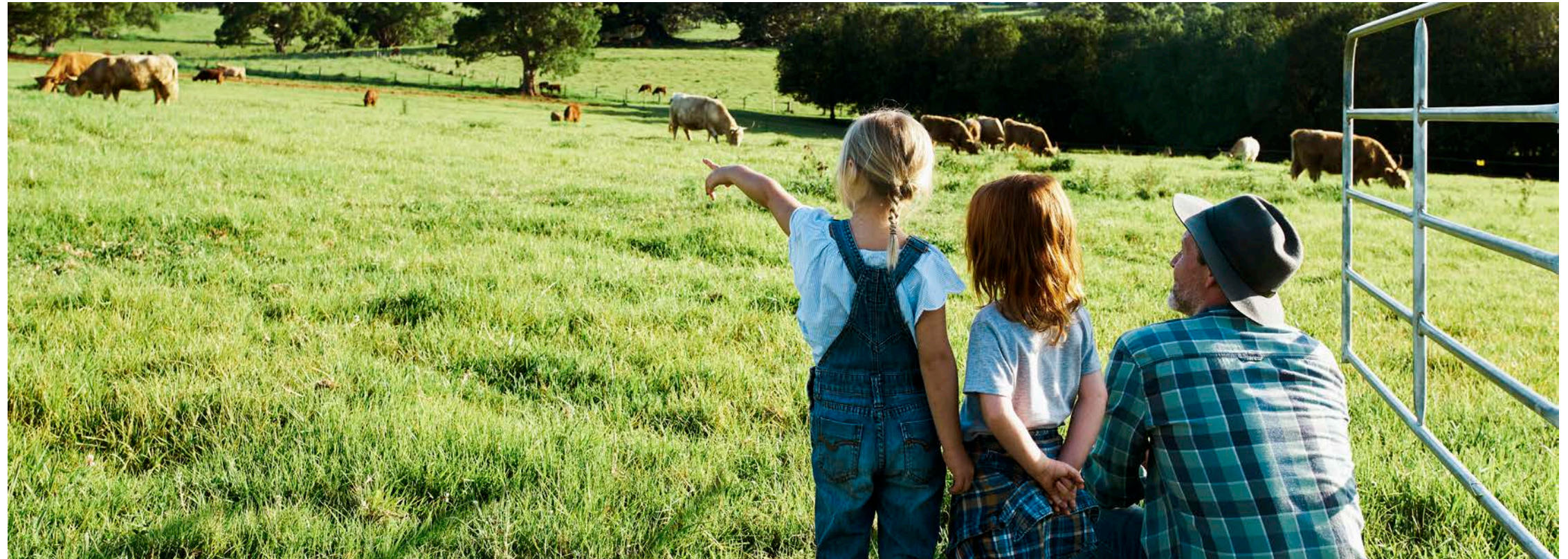
*total excludes those who are not working due to being retired or sick/disabled.

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)

Economics

What is TANF?

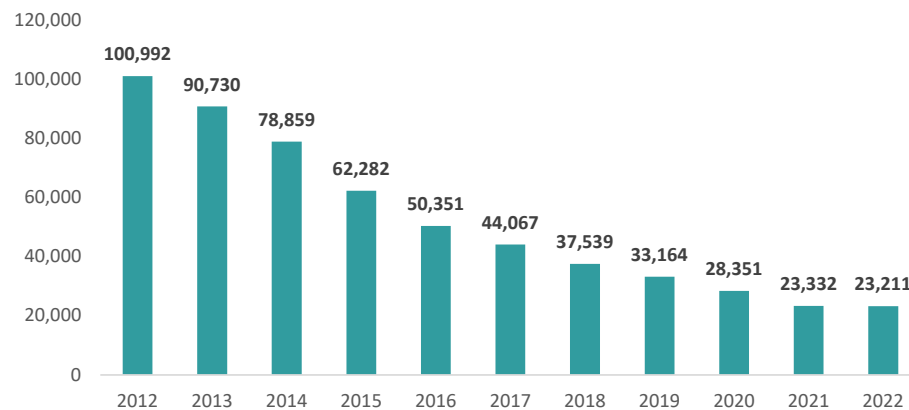
“The Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program provides states and territories with flexibility in operating programs designed to help low-income families with children achieve economic self-sufficiency. States use TANF to fund monthly cash assistance payments to low-income families with children, as well as a wide range of services.” - Office of Family Assistance⁴²



A Decade of TANF

Reviewing state-level TANF numbers over the last decade gives us insight into trends in economic assistance for families across the state.⁴³

The average number of children served monthly by TANF in Tennessee has declined 77 percent in the last 10 years, from 100,992 in 2012 to 23,211 in 2022, while the number of children has gone from 1.49 million to 1.53 million.⁴³

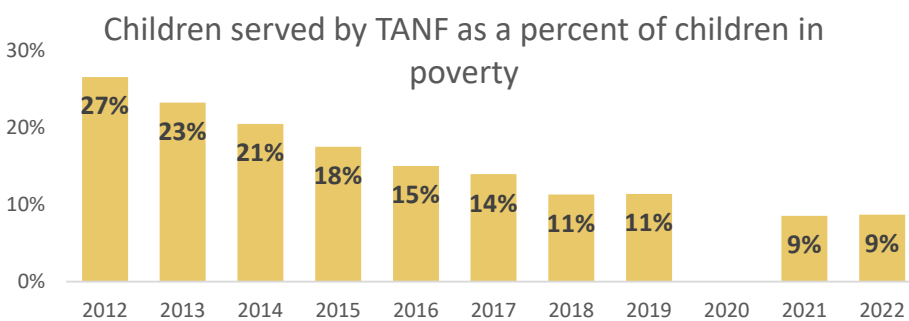


OVER THE DECADE

The monthly average of **individuals** served by TANF has decreased **80 percent.**⁴³

The monthly average of **children** served by TANF has decreased **77 percent.**⁴³

Using 2022 dollars, the monthly wage of recipients has remained fairly stable. The average monthly benefit has increased between **\$170 - \$200.**⁴³



*Single year child poverty number unavailable for 2020

Year	Average Monthly Wage of Recipients ⁴³	Average Monthly Wage of Recipients (2022 dollars) ⁴⁴	Average Monthly Cash Benefit ⁴³	Average Monthly Cash Benefit (2022 dollars) ⁴⁴
2012	\$925.95	\$1,196.94	\$164.64	\$212.82
2013	\$918.26	\$1,169.44	\$164.78	\$209.85
2014	\$907.85	\$1,147.50	\$164.83	\$208.34
2015	\$921.86	\$1,156.77	\$164.72	\$206.69
2016	\$928.24	\$1,141.10	\$165.41	\$203.34
2017	\$928.33	\$1,117.64	\$166.72	\$200.72
2018	\$909.78	\$1,074.78	\$173.35	\$204.79
2019	\$929.84	\$1,073.94	\$242.44	\$280.01
2020	\$932.66	\$1,062.72	\$244.51	\$278.61
2021	\$986.94	\$1,050.64	\$337.45	\$359.23
2022	\$1,061.72	\$1,120.82*	\$383.69	\$405.05 ⁴⁴

Temporary Assistance for Needy Families

Economics

At the end of FY2021, Tennessee had \$798 million in unobligated TANF funds, more than any state other than New York.⁴⁵ Tennessee was also second highest in per-child unobligated funds with \$522, falling behind only Hawaii's \$1,255.

The TANF Opportunity Act passed in 2021 required the Department of Human Services to allocate a portion of the TANF surplus into opportunity pilot program grants.⁴⁶



In FY2021, Tennessee received \$191 million in federal funding for TANF.⁴⁵ The federal TANF block grant amount has remained the same since 1997 and lost nearly half of its value due to inflation.⁴⁷

In FY2021, 40 percent of TANF expenditures in Tennessee were for basic assistance.⁵⁵

Tennessee Federal and State TANF Spending by Activity (in millions)

	FY2014 ⁴⁸	FY2015 ⁴⁹	FY2016 ⁵⁰	FY2017 ⁵¹	FY2018 ⁵²	FY2019 ⁵³	FY2020 ⁵⁴	FY2021 ⁵⁵
Basic Assistance	\$81.3	\$80.6	\$71.4	\$61.6	\$18.4	\$57.6	\$23.5	\$110.0
Child Care	\$44.2	\$31.9	\$19.1	\$19.1			\$57.0	\$7.6
Pre-K/Head Start		\$62.0	\$48.2	\$61.7	\$85.9	\$82.1	\$83.1	\$83.4
Work, Education & Training/ Work Supports/Work-Related Activities	\$38.4	\$35.1	\$22.3	\$18.8	\$7.8	\$20.7	\$24.2	\$20.0
Program Management	\$32.5	\$36.0	\$26.6	\$22.4	\$26.3	\$26.7	\$31.9	\$30.5
Other		\$9.4				\$1.12	\$1.1	\$2.4*
Child Welfare Services								\$14.6

*In FY2021, "Other" also includes expenditures classified as "Out-of-Wedlock Pregnancy Prevention" and "Services for Children and Youth"

Housing

Economics

1 IN 6 Tennessee rental households with children report being behind on their rent.⁵⁶

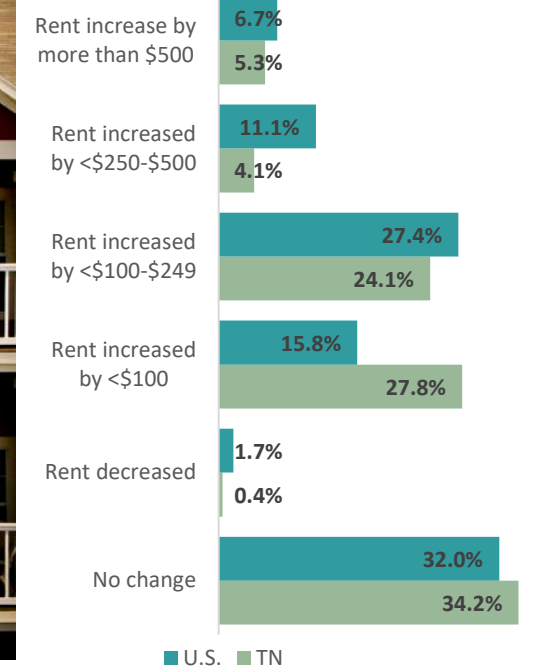
AMONG THOSE 1 IN 6 WHO ARE BEHIND IN RENT, 50 PERCENT ARE VERY LIKELY TO FACE EVICTION IN THE NEXT TWO MONTHS.⁵⁷

Nationally, those behind on payments feel much less likely to face eviction, with only 15 percent reporting eviction as very likely.⁵⁷

Nearly one in three Tennessee households with children reported their household reduced or forwent expenses for basic household necessities, such as medicine or food, in order to pay an energy bill.⁵⁷ For approximately one in 10, this happened almost every month.⁵⁷

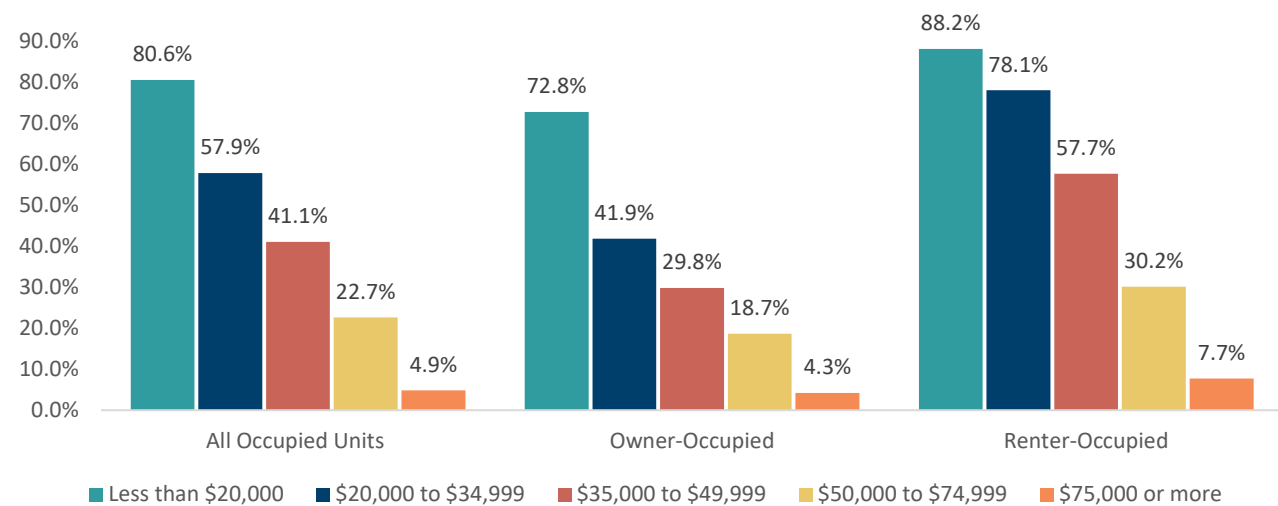


Over half of renting households with children in Tennessee had a rent increase between \$1-\$249 over the last 12 months.⁵⁹ Nationally, this figure was slightly lower. Overall rent increases were slightly less common in Tennessee.⁵⁹





Though many lower-income households are housing cost burdened (spending 30 percent or more of their income on housing) it is more common among renter-occupied units.⁶⁰



In nearly 40 percent of rental units, rent is more than 35 percent of household income. Among those with a mortgage, housing cost burden is much less likely at 19 percent.⁶¹

- 3 out of 4 Tennessee children live in a one-family detached house.⁶²
- 1 in 3 Tennessee households with children live in a structure built before 1979.⁶³
- 1 in 10 Tennessee households with children have a non-relative living in the household.⁶⁴
- 1 in 20 Tennessee households with children have a grandparent living in the household.⁶⁵
- More than half of Tennessee households with children have lived in their current home or apartment for 2 to 9 years. One in seven moved in less than 12 months ago.⁶⁶
- 24 percent of Tennessee renter households are extremely low income, making \$26,500 or less as a 4-person household.⁶⁷
- Tennessee has a shortage of 129,343 rental homes that are affordable and available for extremely low-income renters.⁶⁷

Homelessness

Economics

The numbers below are from Point-in-Time (PIT) information provided to HUD by Continuum of Care Homeless Assistance Programs. The PIT Count provides a count of sheltered and unsheltered homeless persons on a single night during the last ten days of January 2022 and are specific to Tennessee.⁶⁸



In 2022, there were 1,145 children experiencing homelessness across the state of Tennessee and 629 young adults age 18 to 24.

Sheltered:

There were 721 children living in an emergency shelter and 121 in transitional housing

Among young adults 145 lived in an emergency shelter and 31 were in transitional housing

Chronically Homeless:

56 families with at least one child were chronically homeless. Among those chronically homeless, 71 percent were unsheltered and the remaining 29 percent were in an emergency shelter.

Youth under 25 on their own:

There were 11 youth under 18 who were unaccompanied by an adult and experiencing homelessness. One child was in an emergency shelter, six were in transitional housing and four were unsheltered. Among those 18-24, 507 were on their own. Of those, 143 were in an emergency shelter, 30 were in transitional housing and 334 were unsheltered.

Unsheltered definition: In general, for purposes of the Point-in-Time (PIT) count, HUD considers individuals and families sleeping in a place not designed for or ordinarily used as a regular sleeping accommodation (e.g., abandoned buildings, train stations, or camping grounds) as “unsheltered” homeless. Additionally, HUD would generally consider individuals and families sleeping in a garage, shed, or other location outside of a housing structure, but on the property of a housing structure as “unsheltered” homeless for purposes of the PIT count.

Unsheltered:

618 children were living unsheltered.

341 young adults were living unsheltered.

Parenting Youth:

There were 55 young adults parenting children while experiencing homeless. The majority of those young adults lived in an emergency shelter, while 10 were unsheltered and 5 lived in a transitional home.

There were 77 children of parenting young adults who were experiencing homelessness.

CHILD CARE & EARLY EDUCATION



Accessibility Child Care & Early Education

In Tennessee, between 2010-2022 there were 9 child care centers per 1,000 children.¹

The map below breaks this out by county. Counties in shades of blue have 10 or more child care centers per 1,000 children while counties in shades of green have fewer than 10 centers per 1,000 children.

Across all licensed child care facilities in the state, including those licensed by the Departments of Human Services and Education, the average capacity is 76 children.² The median is 68, though this does not take into consideration challenges with capacity that arise with a fluctuating workforce.



- 18 per 1,000 - Grundy
- 15 per 1,000 - Bledsoe, Johnson, Obion, Pickett, and Weakley
- 13 per 1,000 - Crockett, Decatur, Henry, and Putnam
- 12 per 1,000 - Anderson, Carter, Claiborne, Cocke, Greene, Jackson, Roane, and Van Buren
- 11 per 1,000 - Blount, Campbell, Cannon, Cheatham, Hamblen, Lincoln, Moore, Sullivan and Washington
- 10 per 1,000 - Bedford, Carroll, Coffee, Franklin, Gibson, Hamilton, Hawkins, Houston, Humphreys, Loudon, Overton, Scott, Unicoi, Union, Williamson, and Wilson
- 9 per 1,000 - Bradley, Clay, Dickson, Dyer, Fentress, Grainger, Hardin, Henderson, Jefferson, Knox, Lawrence, McMinn, Robertson, Sevier, Shelby, Sumner, and Warren
- 8 per 1,000 - Davidson, Hardeman, Madison, Marion, Meigs, Perry, Sequatchie, Trousdale and Wayne
- 7 per 1,000 - Benton, Cumberland, Fayette, Giles, Haywood, Monroe, Morgan, Polk, Rutherford, and Tipton
- 6 per 1,000 - DeKalb, Hancock, Lake, Lauderdale, Lewis, Marshall, Maury, McNairy, Smith, Stewart, and White
- 5 per 1,000 - Hickman, Macon, Montgomery, and Rhea
- 2 per 1,000 - Chester



Affordability

Child Care & Early Education

Cost of child care in Tennessee by type³

	Infant center-based	Infant home-based	Toddler center-based	Toddler home-based
2023	\$10,301	\$7,602	\$8,372	\$7,068
2018	\$8,751	\$6,458	\$7,113	\$6,005
Increase in Market Rate Price	\$1,549	\$1,143	\$1,259	\$1,063

Child care costs continue to be out of reach for many families, particularly single-income households. For many families, child care is the largest household expense, totaling more than their rent or mortgage.

Infant center-based care is more than 2023 in-state tuition in all but two of Tennessee’s four-year public universities.⁴

Child care numbers:

On average in FFY2020, 38,100 Tennessee children were served by Child Care Development Funds each month.⁵

92 percent of children receiving care at a licensed provider were at center-based care.⁶

14,260 children participated in Head Start.⁷

16,634 children four or under were enrolled in pre-k.⁷

In calendar year 2020, there were 98,800 federal child care tax credit claims in Tennessee, totaling \$52,007.⁷

High Quality

Child Care & Early Education

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)

In Tennessee, there are 53 child care centers with NAEYC accreditation.⁸

However, those 53 centers are in just 16 of Tennessee’s 95 counties. Additionally, 7 out of 10 accredited programs are in Davidson, Knox, Shelby or Williamson.⁸

Tennessee Licensing²

Of the 4,142 licensed child care providers in Tennessee: 56 percent are regulated by the Department of Human Services

43 percent are regulated by the Department of Education

Of DHS licensed facilities 80 percent have a 3 star rating indicating the child care provider has achieved the highest quality standards and provides child care at the highest standard.



State of the Child 2023

State of the Child 2023

Workforce

Child Care & Early Education

Ensuring a strong child care workforce is a critical component of a healthy and functioning society. Creating a workforce that is highly-skilled and well compensated allows for more opportunities for children's brains to develop and parents to engage in the workforce.



10 percent of the child care and early education workforce in Tennessee does not have health insurance. This was more common among the child care workforce with one in eight being uninsured.⁹

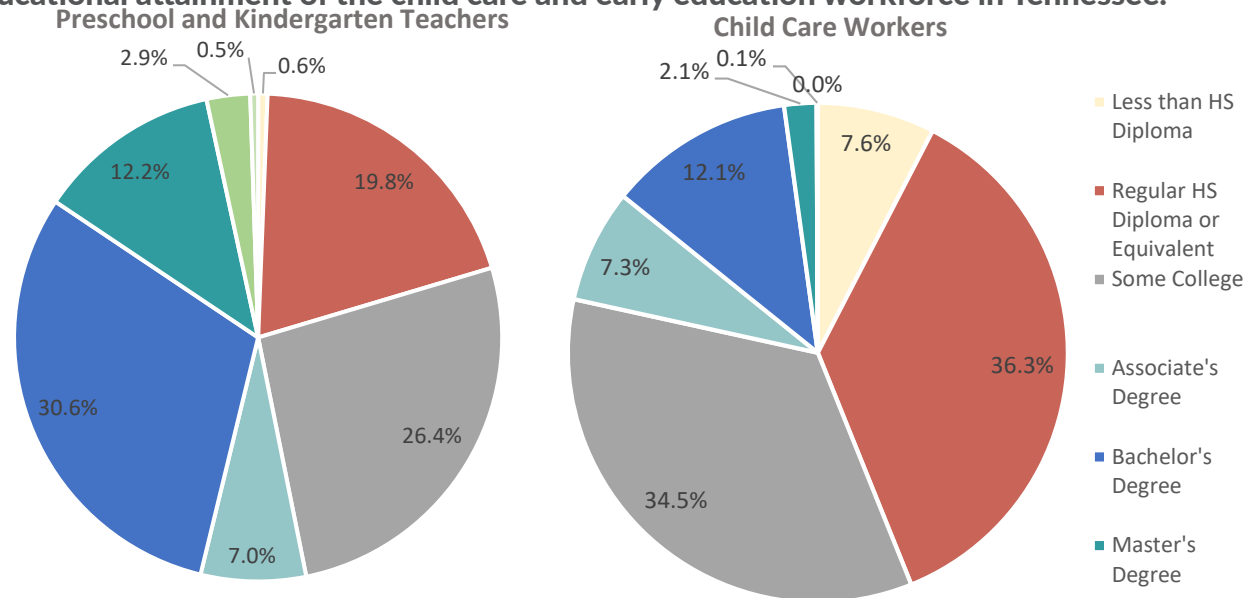
1 in 10 child care workers make an income below the poverty line.¹⁰

Half of the child care/early education workforce lives in a home with children. More than one in four live with a child under 6.¹¹

In 2021, the average earnings of a Preschool or Kindergarten teacher in Tennessee was \$21,249. The average earnings of a child care worker was \$12,973.¹²

Preschool and Kindergarten teachers worked an average of 29 hours per week while child care workers averaged 21 hours.¹³

Educational attainment of the child care and early education workforce in Tennessee.¹⁴



EDUCATION

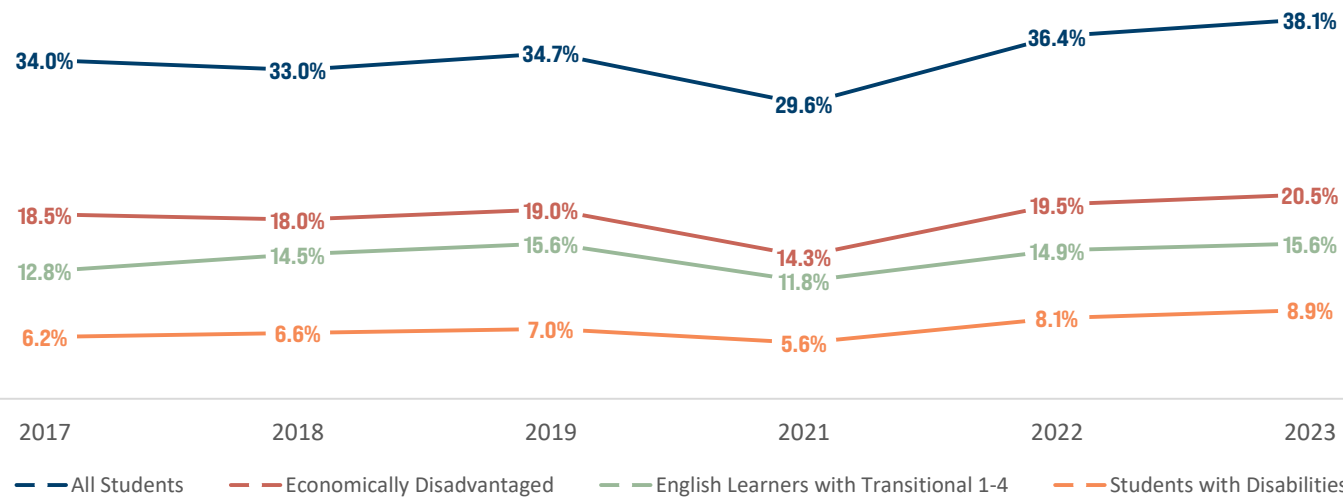


Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) Results

Education

Results by demographics (all grades) ¹

2023 TCAP ELA Proficiency by Student Demographics



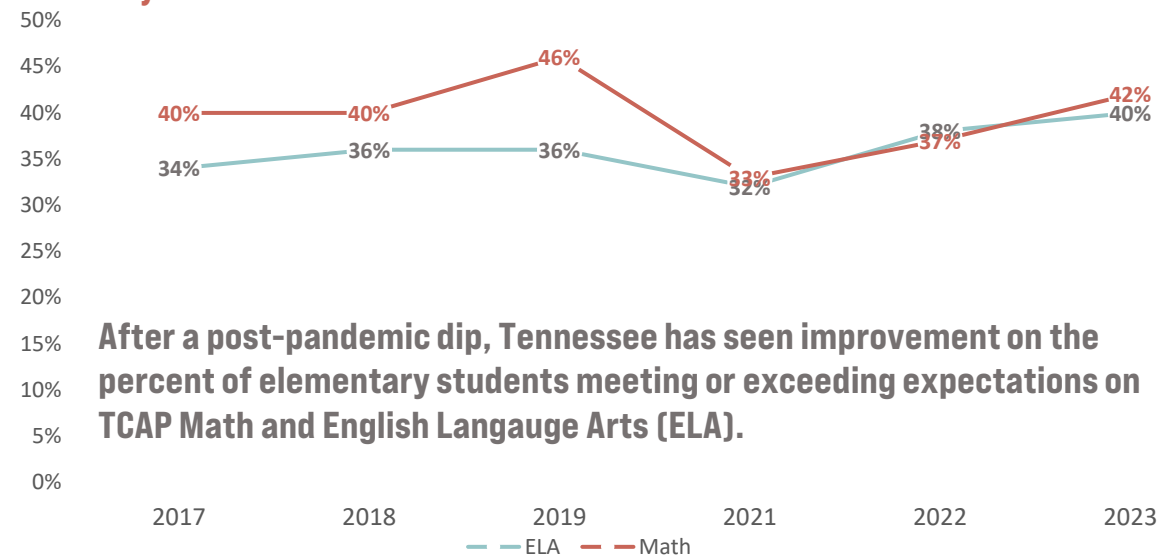
Economically Disadvantaged students and English Learners were hit the hardest by pandemic learning loss while students with disabilities have shown the strongest pandemic recovery.¹

	Pandemic Impact (Percent change from 2019-2021)	Pandemic Recovery (Percent change from 2021-2023)	Pre- to Post-Pandemic (Percent change from 2019-2023)
All Students	-14.7%	+28.7%	+9.8%
Economically Disadvantaged	-24.7%	+43.4%	+7.9%
English Learners with Transitional 1-4	-24.5%	+32.2%	0.0%
Students with Disabilities	-20.0%	+58.9%	27.1%

TCAP Results

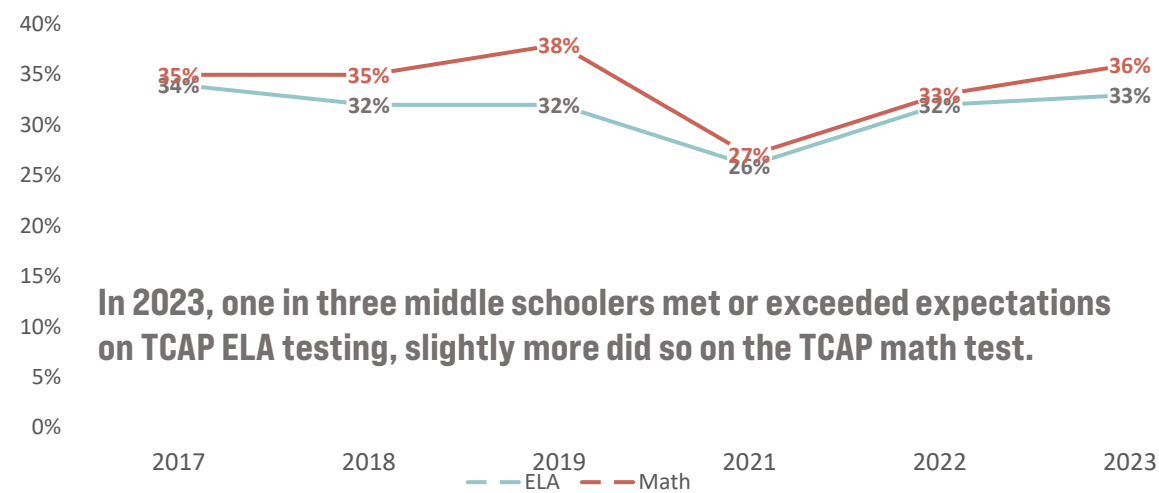
Education

Elementary School¹



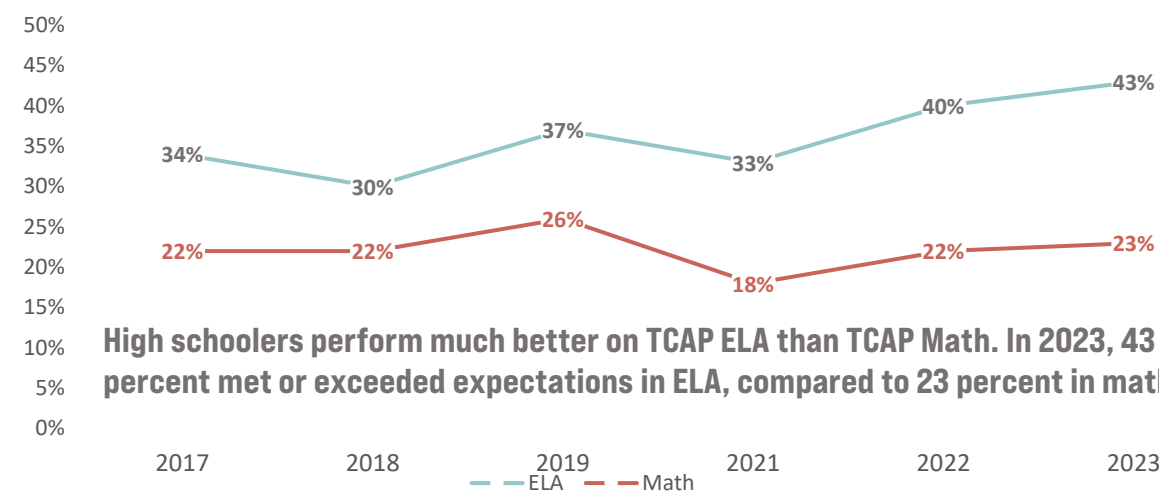
After a post-pandemic dip, Tennessee has seen improvement on the percent of elementary students meeting or exceeding expectations on TCAP Math and English Language Arts (ELA).

Middle School¹



In 2023, one in three middle schoolers met or exceeded expectations on TCAP ELA testing, slightly more did so on the TCAP math test.

High School (End of Course Assessment)¹



High schoolers perform much better on TCAP ELA than TCAP Math. In 2023, 43 percent met or exceeded expectations in ELA, compared to 23 percent in math.

Universal Screener

Education

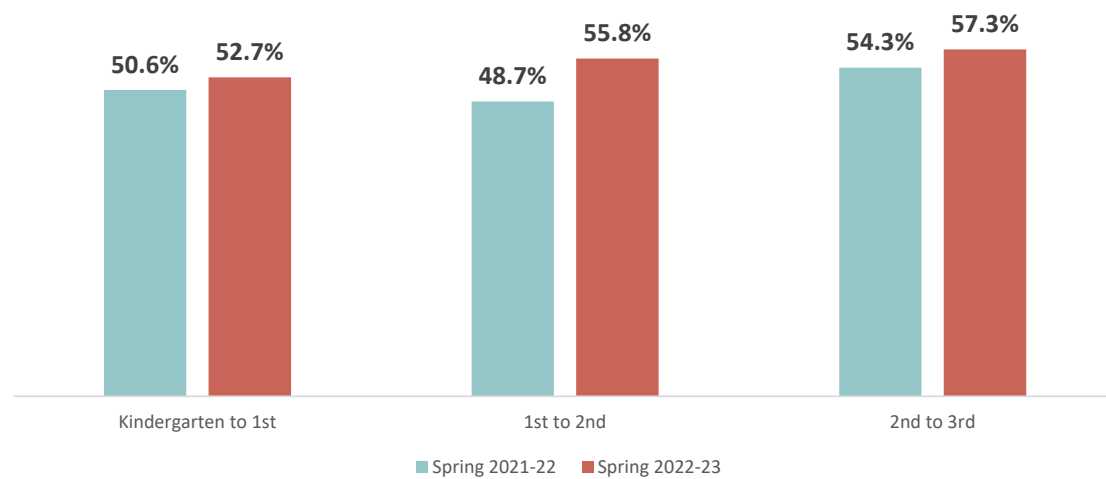
In addition to TCAP, the Tennessee Literacy Success Act requires districts and charter schools to adopt a state-approved universal reading screener and administer it to their K-3 students three times per year.²

What is a universal reading screener?²

A universal reading screener is a short, standardized assessment to check that students are on track in developing their early reading skills. "Universal" refers to their administration to all students in a grade level. Screeners are nationally normed, with results based on comparisons to other students in the same grade and school year season. A single screener is a combination of very short subtests, each focused on a key skill. Different combinations of subtests are given to students based on their grade and school season (fall, winter, spring).

Students scoring at the 41st percentile or above nationally are considered to be meeting grade-level expectations for the reading skills tested.²

Between the 2021-22 and 2022-23 school year, each class improved on the percent of students meeting grade-level expectations compared to their universal screener performance from the year prior.²



Between 2021-2022 and 2022-23 Tennessee saw a:²

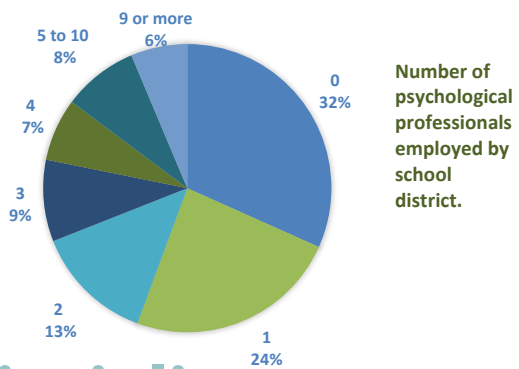
- 4.1 percent increase in students meeting grade-level expectations between Kindergarten and 1st grade;
- 14.6 percent increase in students meeting grade-level expectations between 1st and 2nd grade; and
- 5.2 percent increase in students meeting grade-level expectations between 2nd and 3rd grade;

Support Services

Education

IN THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR APPROXIMATELY:

56% OF SCHOOL DISTRICTS HAD ZERO OR ONE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFESSIONALS ON STAFF.⁸



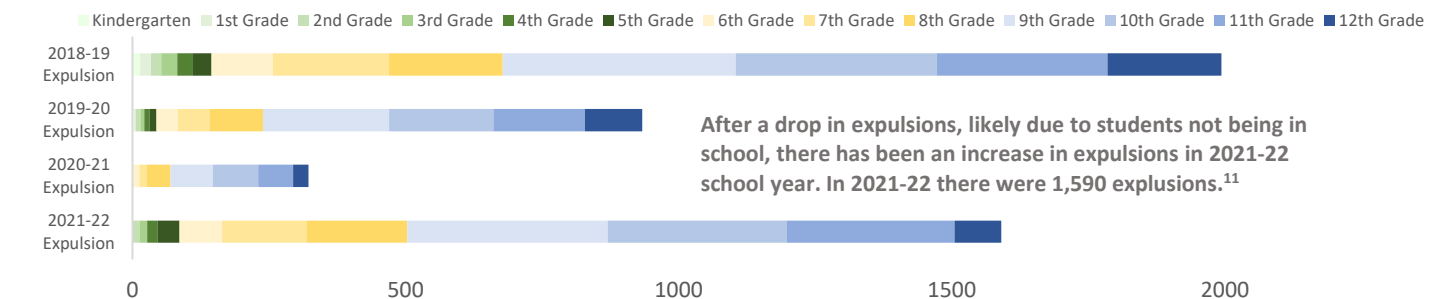
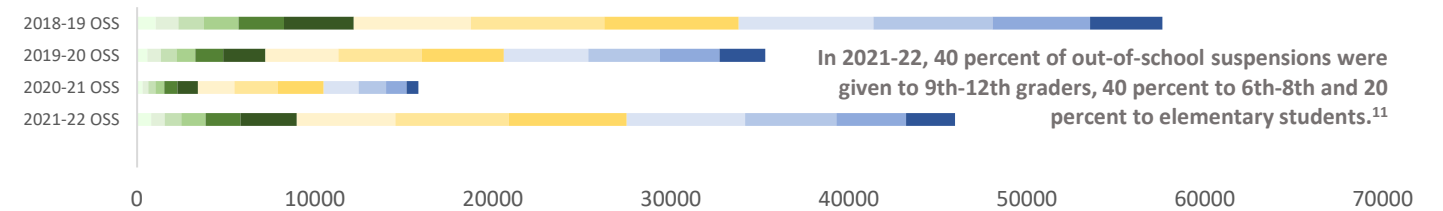
In 2022-2023, there were 511 social workers serving 975,545 students, a ratio of 1:1,909.⁹

The National Association of Social Work standards call for a ratio of **at least one for every 250 students.¹⁰**

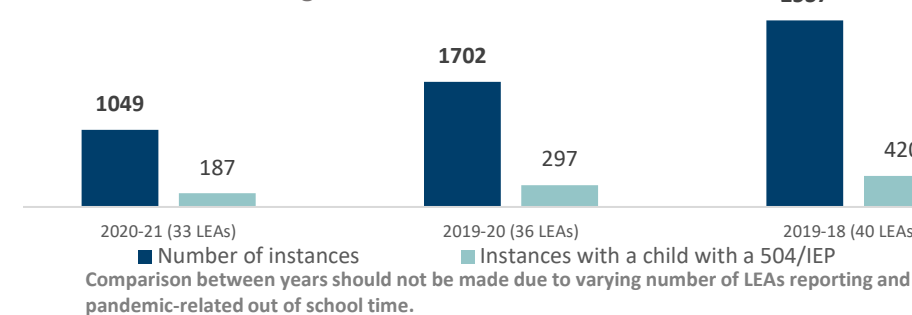
In 2022-23, there were 660 school psychologists employed by Tennessee districts.⁹ Data on how those professionals were broken out across districts is not available yet.

Discipline

Education



In the 2020-21 school year there were 1,049 instances of corporal punishment across 33 LEAs. Among those, 187 had a 504/IEP.¹²



Among schools that used corporal punishment in 2021-22 the rate varied from 0.24 instances per 1,000 children to 142 instances per 1,000.¹²

Across all schools using corporal punishment the rate was 7.6 per 1,000.¹²

School Infrastructure

Education

Building Tennessee's Tomorrow: Anticipating the State's Infrastructure Needs is the 21st in a series of legislatively required reports produced by the Tennessee Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. The report maintains an inventory of infrastructure needs across the state. Each year the report reviews needs over a five-year period. The 2023 report reviewed state-wide needs from July 2021-June 2026. All of the figures reflected below represent the that time period. The 2023 report found school renovations to be the third highest need across the state.

One in 10 Tennessee schools have infrastructure rated in fair or poor condition.³

School districts where more than one in three schools have infrastructure rated in fair or poor condition:³

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Athens - 80.0 percent | Lauderdale County - 42.9 percent |
| Lake County - 66.7 percent | Marion County - 40.0 percent |
| Germantown - 66.7 percent | Milan SSD - 33.3 percent |
| Bledsoe County - 60.0 percent | Humphreys County - 33.3 percent |
| Davidson County - 43.4 percent | |

Tennessee's public schools need 97.4 million dollars in infrastructure improvements to be in compliance with state and federal laws.⁴

Funds needed for compliance by state and federal law:⁴

- \$19 million for asbestos compliance
- \$51 million for Americans with Disabilities Act compliance
- \$17 million for Education Improvement Act compliance
- \$10 million for fire codes compliance.

School districts with the greatest need for compliance funding:⁴

- \$4.34 million - Shelby County
- \$4.73 million - Bristol
- \$4.25 million - Collierville
- \$3.67 million - Madison County
- \$3.50 million - Germantown
- \$2.02 million - Lauderdale County
- \$1.69 million - Montgomery County
- \$1.85 million - Wilson County
- \$1.75 million - Robertson County
- \$1.70 million - Oak Ridge

School Infrastructure

Education

“Public school facilities that are well-planned, designed, built, operated and maintained have an outsized positive impact on education, health, the natural environment and our communities”

- Mary Filardo, 21st Century School Fund, 2021 State of Our Schools: America's PK-12 Public School Facilities 2021. May 2021.

Across all existing Tennessee public schools, there are \$5.8 billion dollars needed to bring schools up to good or better condition.⁶

School districts with greatest need for renovation funding:⁶

- \$3.28 billion - Davidson County
- \$3.63 million - Shelby County
- \$1.41 million - Wilson County
- \$1.40 million - Williamson County
- \$1.31 million - Rutherford County
- \$1.01 million - Montgomery County
- \$89.4 million - Bristol
- \$82.1 million - Robertson County
- \$64.9 million - Hamilton County
- \$60.0 million - Sevier County

Tennessee public schools need \$2.95 billion in infrastructure funds for new schools. Approximately 15 percent of this need is fully funded.^{6,7}

Tennessee schools in fair or poor condition need 2.23 billion dollars in infrastructure improvement.⁵



HEALTH



Overall Health

Health

In 2022, Tennessee parents reported...

1 in 30 children were unable to obtain needed health care in the last year.¹

1 in 4 Tennessee children age 12-17 did not have a preventive medical visit in the last year.²

Nationally, the rate was higher at 2 in 7.³

More than 1 in 4 Tennessee children have insurance that is not adequate for the child's health needs.⁴

89 percent of Tennessee children are in excellent or very good health.⁶

61 percent of Tennessee children 9 - 35 months did not receive a developmental screening in the last year.⁵

Of children living under the FPL, 81 percent are in excellent or very good health compared to 94 percent of children living at 200% FPL or greater.⁷

Chronic Health & Disability Diagnosis

Health



- 1 in 5 Tennessee children have special health care needs.⁸
- 1 in 25 Tennessee children have been diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder.⁹
- 1 in 7 Tennessee children have been diagnosed with ADD/ADHD.¹⁰

In the 2022-23 school year, 1 in 6 public school students had a chronic illness or disability diagnosis.¹¹

4.9 percent of Tennessee children under 18 are reported to have a disability.¹²

- 4.6 percent have a cognitive difficulty
- 1.1 percent have a self-care difficulty
- 1.0 percent have a vision difficulty
- 0.6 percent have an ambulatory difficulty
- 0.5 percent have a hearing difficulty

Disability Rights Laws in Public Primary and Secondary Education from the ADA National Network¹³

There are three main laws that address the rights of students with disabilities in public schools: The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

These laws each address different parts of the educational picture for students with disabilities.

The ADA is a broad law that provides civil rights protections to all individuals with disabilities in the US in many different aspects of life. Title II of the ADA prohibits discrimination by state and local governments, which includes public schools.

Section 504 is more limited, it provides civil rights protections to all individuals with disabilities in programs that receive federal funding, which includes most public schools. Both the ADA and Section 504 are nondiscrimination laws that do not provide any funding to the covered entity.

Finally, IDEA is a statute that mandates free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) for students with disabilities eligible under IDEA. It is not an antidiscrimination law. Note that Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) and least restrictive environment (LRE) are legal terms defined in IDEA. IDEA provides federal funding to schools to support IDEA eligible students.

Chronic Health & Disability Diagnosis

Health

Many of Tennessee's public school students work to manage chronic health conditions and disabilities while at school. School nurses, social workers, counselors and other support staff are crucial in maintaining a healthy and safe learning environment for all children.



Most common chronic health and disability diagnoses among Tennessee students¹⁴

- 44,706 are diagnosed with ADHD
- 36,773 are diagnosed with asthma
- 24,429 have an "other" diagnosis
- 20,940 are diagnosed with a mental health disorder
- 16,956 are diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder
- 15,272 have a severe life-threatening allergy
- 6,655 are diagnosed with a seizure disorder
- 3,880 are diagnosed with diabetes
- 277 are diagnosed with adrenal insufficiency



In the 2022-23 school year:¹⁴

- ⊕ Albuterol was administered at a school or school-sponsored function 24,194 times.
- ⊕ There were 124 school nurses assigned to a school full-time due to a student with diabetes in the school.
- ⊕ The most common life-threatening allergies were food allergies. Epinephrine was administered 1,255 times in public schools.
- ⊕ School nurses had 5.1 million encounters with students.
- ⊕ Emergency treatment was administered to students 31,174 times.

In the 2022-23 school year, school nurses conducted more than 1.3 million health screenings in schools including:¹⁴

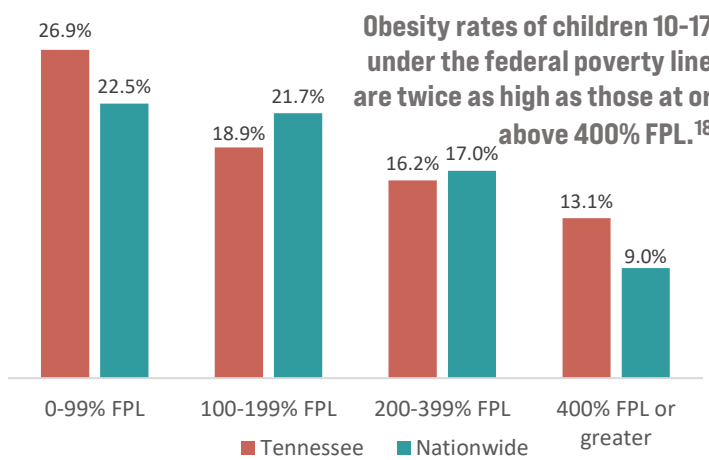
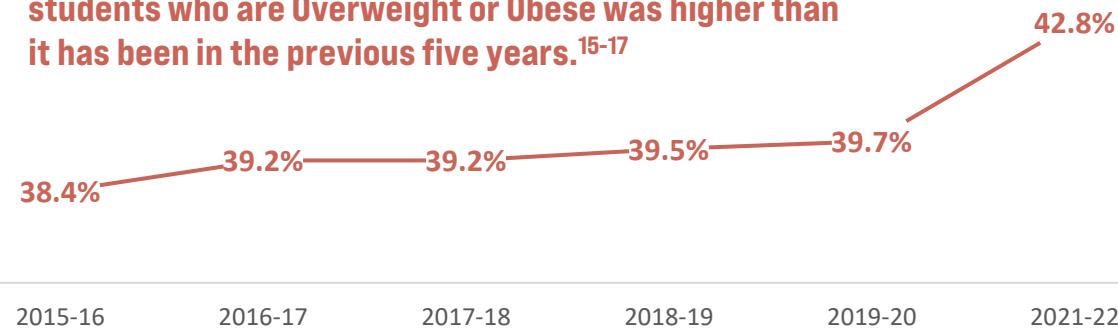
- 340,519 vision screenings
- 325,178 hearing screenings
- 301,573 blood pressure screenings
- 295,646 BMI screenings
- 63,445 oral health screenings
- 11,754 scoliosis screenings

Obesity

Health

Obesity in childhood can be a risk factor for diabetes, high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Addressing and reducing childhood obesity requires a systemic approach that evaluates a child's access to affordable healthy and nutritious foods, safe green space and parks to play, and other contributing health factors. In addition to the listed physical health contributors, mental health can play a large role in childhood obesity.

In the 2021-22 school year, the percent of Tennessee students who are Overweight or Obese was higher than it has been in the previous five years.¹⁵⁻¹⁷



Obesity rates of children 10-17 under the federal poverty line are twice as high as those at or above 400% FPL.¹⁸

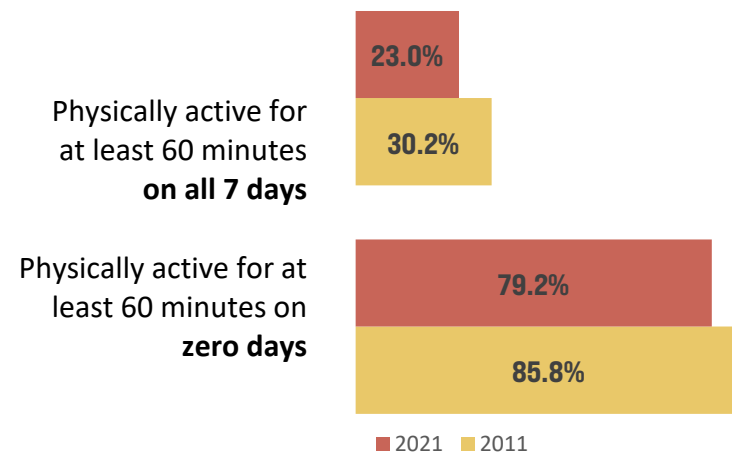
Over the last decade, the percentage of students who were physically active for at least 60 minutes on five of the last seven days decreased 15 percent.²¹

In the 2022-23 school year 270 schools had a school produce garden.¹¹

66 percent of districts report zero schools allow the denial of physical activity as a punishment.¹¹

Over the last decade, the number of high school students reporting they drank two or more sodas a day has been cut in half, dropping from 30 percent to 14 percent.²²

Over the decade, the frequency of physical activity among high school students has declined.¹⁹⁻²⁰



Food & Nutrition

Health

Community Eligibility Provision

“The Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) is a non-pricing meal service option for schools and school districts in low-income areas. CEP allows the nation's highest poverty schools and districts to serve breakfast and lunch at no cost to all enrolled students without collecting household applications. Instead, schools that adopt CEP are reimbursed using a formula based on the percentage of students categorically eligible for free meals based on their participation in other specific means-tested programs, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).”

- U.S. Department of Agriculture²³

A recent rules change has expanded eligibility for schools to ensure more children have access to meals at school every day. Previously, schools had to have an Identified Student Percentage (ISP) of 40 percent; now schools are eligible for the CEP with an ISP of 25 percent.²⁴

In the 2022-23 school year, 59 percent Tennessee schools were eligible for the Community Eligibility Provision. Of those, 91 percent participated.²⁵

With the updated rules, now nearly 70 percent of schools are eligible.²⁶

Benefits of the Community Eligibility Provision²³

- eliminates unpaid meal charges
- minimizes stigma
- reduces paperwork for school nutrition staff and families, and
- streamlines meal service operations.

Food Insecurity

In 2021, child food insecurity varied in Tennessee counties from 0.0 percent to 26.3 percent.²⁷

1st Quintile	2nd Quintile	3rd Quintile	4th Quintile	5th Quintile
Williamson 0.0%	Chester 10.7%	Cannon 12.5%	Davidson 14.1%	Hawkins 15.9%
Moore 4.0%	Washington 10.7%	Montgomery 12.7%	Sullivan 14.1%	Benton 16.3%
Wilson 5.7%	Smith 10.9%	Coffee 12.8%	Carroll 14.2%	Bledsoe 16.5%
Cheatham 6.9%	Henderson 11.0%	Tipton 12.8%	Lewis 14.2%	Sequatchie 16.7%
Blount 7.3%	Marshall 11.4%	Cumberland 13.1%	Crockett 14.3%	Obion 16.9%
Rutherford 7.8%	Bedford 11.5%	Decatur 13.1%	Gibson 14.3%	Henry 17.1%
Sumner 8.1%	Giles 11.5%	Wayne 13.2%	Greene 14.3%	Johnson 17.7%
Knox 8.3%	Lawrence 11.6%	Van Buren 13.3%	Grundy 14.5%	Perry 17.7%
Dickson 8.6%	McNairy 11.7%	Marion 13.4%	DeKalb 14.6%	Campbell 17.8%
Mauy 8.9%	Putnam 11.7%	Meigs 13.4%	Monroe 14.6%	Pickett 18.3%
Humphreys 9.0%	Jefferson 11.8%	Dyer 13.5%	Weakley 14.8%	Scott 18.8%
Robertson 9.2%	Overton 11.8%	Grainger 13.5%	Clay 15.2%	Cocke 19.6%
Houston 9.6%	Stewart 11.8%	Franklin 13.6%	Fentress 15.2%	Madison 19.9%
Loudon 9.8%	Bradley 11.9%	Jackson 13.6%	Fayette 15.3%	Hancock 21.3%
Lincoln 10.1%	Roane 11.9%	Hardin 13.7%	Claiborne 15.5%	Shelby 21.7%
Trousdale 10.1%	Sevier 12.2%	McMinn 13.8%	Morgan 15.5%	Hardeman 22.1%
Hickman 10.2%	Hamilton 12.3%	Hamblen 13.9%	Rhea 15.5%	Lauderdale 22.7%
Polk 10.4%	Macon 12.3%	Unicoi 14.0%	Carter 15.6%	Lake 25.9%
White 10.6%	Anderson 12.5%	Union 14.0%	Warren 15.8%	Haywood 26.3%

Health Insurance

Health

In 2022, more than half of Tennessee’s children were covered by TennCare, at 55 percent. 2022 represents the highest percentage in recorded data since before 1999. More than 50 percent of children have been covered since 2020. This increase may be due to children not losing coverage during the pandemic.

The percent of children covered by TennCare has increased 31 percent over the last decade, going from 42 percent in 2012 to 55 percent in 2022.²⁸

Since it began being recorded in 2014, TennCare has covered more than half of Tennessee’s live births each year.²⁹

Nearly 1 in 10 adults living with children in Tennessee are uninsured.³⁰

While financial eligibility for TennCare and CoverKids for children and certain adults is based upon the federal poverty line and adjusts accordingly, the eligibility guidelines for parents and caretakers are not. In November 2023, the monthly income limit for a family of three is \$1,611 or \$19,332 annually.³¹

This eligibility limit has not changed since it decreased in early 2019 from \$1,749.³² When initially established, the income limit reflected 90 percent FPL; it is now 77 percent.

Over the same period of time, the eligibility determination for children’s coverage has increased by \$8,825 annually for a family of 3.³³

Children are more likely to maintain insurance, attend well-child visits, receive on-time vaccinations and remain engaged with the health care system when their parents are insured.

In 2022, 5.3 percent of Tennessee children were uninsured.³⁴ Among those uninsured, two thirds were financially eligible for TennCare or CoverKids insurance.



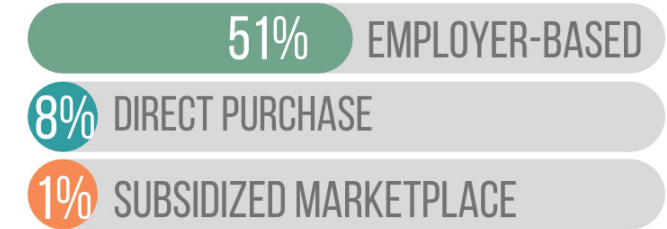
State of the Child 2023

Health Insurance

Health

Private Coverage

Over half of Tennessee children have **employer-based health coverage alone or in combination with other coverage.**³⁵



Characteristics of uninsured Tennesseans:³⁶

- 62 percent of Tennesseans over 16 who are uninsured are employed.
- 41 percent of these age 16 to 64 worked full-time year round over the last 12 months.
- The most common industries for uninsured workers were construction (17.9 percent) and arts, entertainment/recreation, accommodation and food services (16.6 percent)
- Nearly one in four Tennesseans with a household income between \$25,000-\$49,990 were uninsured.
- In September 2023, 40 percent of Tennessee adults who reported being uninsured had someone in their household lose employment income within the last month.

State of the Child 2023

Health Insurance

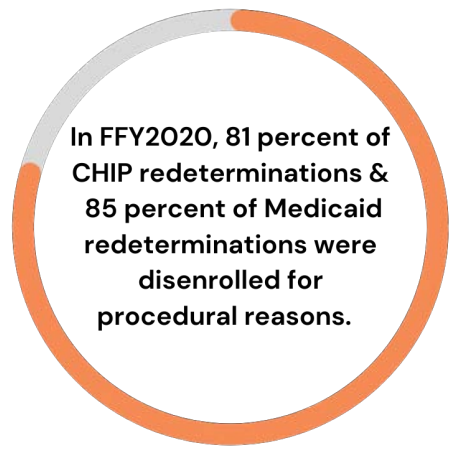
Health

A significant component to ensuring children have access to health care is to protect those who are already insured or are eligible for insurance from losing coverage due to procedural mistakes on an application.



Prior to the Pandemic (FFY2019), **70 percent of CHIP application denials were procedural denials** (i.e., incomplete application, missing documentation, missing enrollment fee, etc.)³⁷

In FFY2020, 91 percent of denials for CHIP coverage were due to procedural reasons for a total of 31,196 applications.³⁸ That equates to **one-third of Tennessee uninsured children** in calendar year 2020.³⁹



- In FFY2020:³⁸
- 29,154 Tennessee children were disenrolled from Medicaid after redetermination due to procedural reasons.
 - 6,838 Tennessee children were disenrolled from CHIP after redetermination due to procedural reasons.

Medicaid and CHIP Unwinding - National Data from July 2023⁴⁰

- Nearly one in four beneficiaries due for renewal had their coverage terminated
 - 29 percent of those terminated were determined as ineligible based upon return of a renewal form
 - 71 percent were terminated for a procedural/administrative reason

Medicaid and CHIP Unwinding - Tennessee Data from July 2023⁴⁰

- 33 percent, or 27,037 beneficiaries due for renewal had their coverage terminated.
 - Approximately 7 out of 10 terminated applications were for a procedural reason.

Infant & Maternal Care

Health

In 2022, 1 in 12 Tennessee births resulted in NICU admission.⁵¹

9.3 percent of Tennessee babies were born at a low birthweight.⁵¹

Tennessee had a preterm birth rate of 11.29 in 2021, the highest rate since 2016. Nationally, the preterm rate also saw an increase to 10.8 percent.⁵¹

In 2022, 47.4 percent of women in Tennessee between the ages of 24-34 reported never having a cervical cancer screening.⁵² Among those making less than \$15,000 half never had a cervical cancer screening, compared to 1 in 7 among those making \$200,000 or more.⁵²

In 2021, Tennessee had the 7th highest teen birth rate in the country, 21.5 per 1,000 females age (15-19). Nationally it was 13.9 per 1,000.⁵³

After a decline during the pandemic, Tennessee has seen an increase in the number of births to children under 15 in 2021 and 2022.⁵¹

78 percent of Tennessee babies were most often laid on their back to sleep.⁶⁰

About Maternity Practices in Infant Nutrition and Care (mPINC): CDC's national survey mPINC assesses maternity care practices and provides feedback to encourage hospitals to make improvements that better support breastfeeding. About every 2 years, CDC invites all eligible hospitals across the country to complete the mPINC survey. Hospitals are scored from 0-100 on their performance. The questions focus on specific parts of maternity care that affect how babies are fed. In 2022, 45 of Tennessee's 59 eligible hospitals participated.

mPINC Scores by Category

mPINC Category	National Score	Tennessee Score
Immediate Post Partum Care	84	64
Rooming In	76	87
Feeding Practices	81	74
Feeding Education & Support	94	94
Discharge Support	78	68
Institutional Support	76	67
Overall	81	72

Maternal Depression

Among Tennessee women who were pregnant or gave birth:⁶⁰

17%

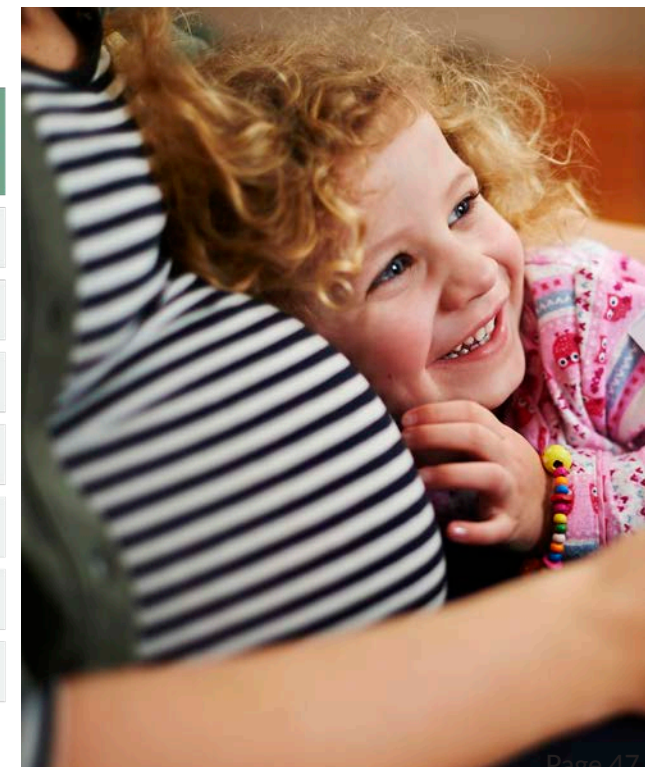
had depression in the three months before pregnancy

16%

had depression during pregnancy

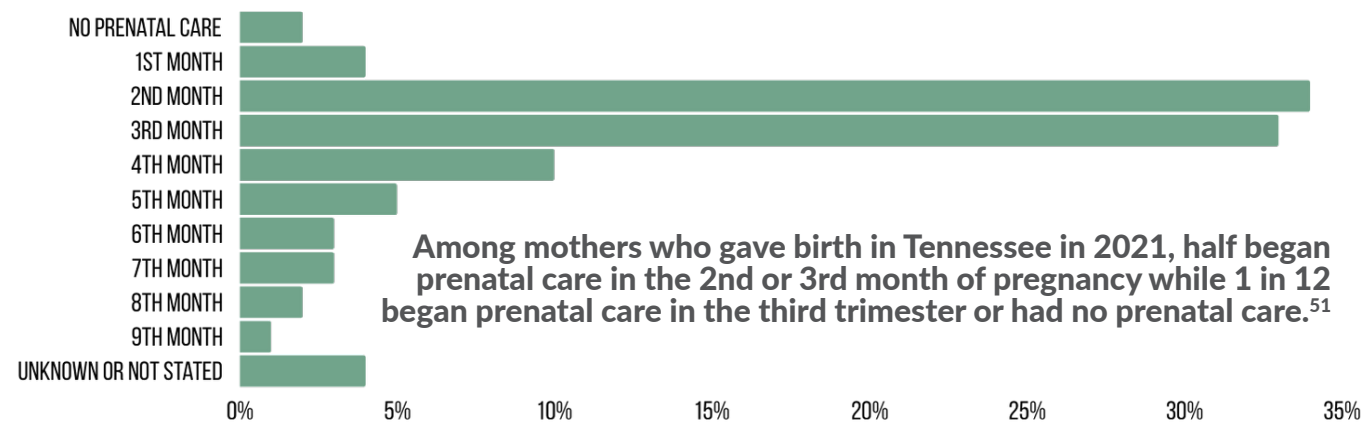
15%

had postpartum depressive symptoms

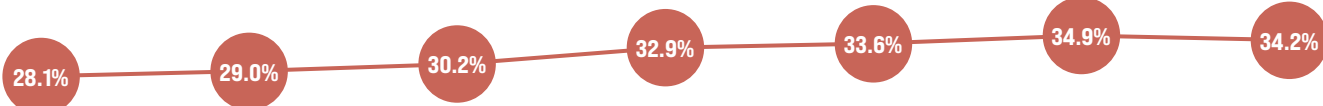


Infant & Maternal Care

Health

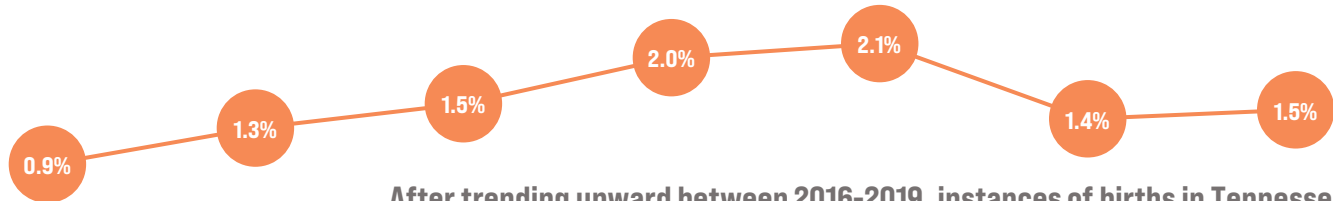


Among mothers who gave birth in Tennessee in 2021, half began prenatal care in the 2nd or 3rd month of pregnancy while 1 in 12 began prenatal care in the third trimester or had no prenatal care.⁵¹



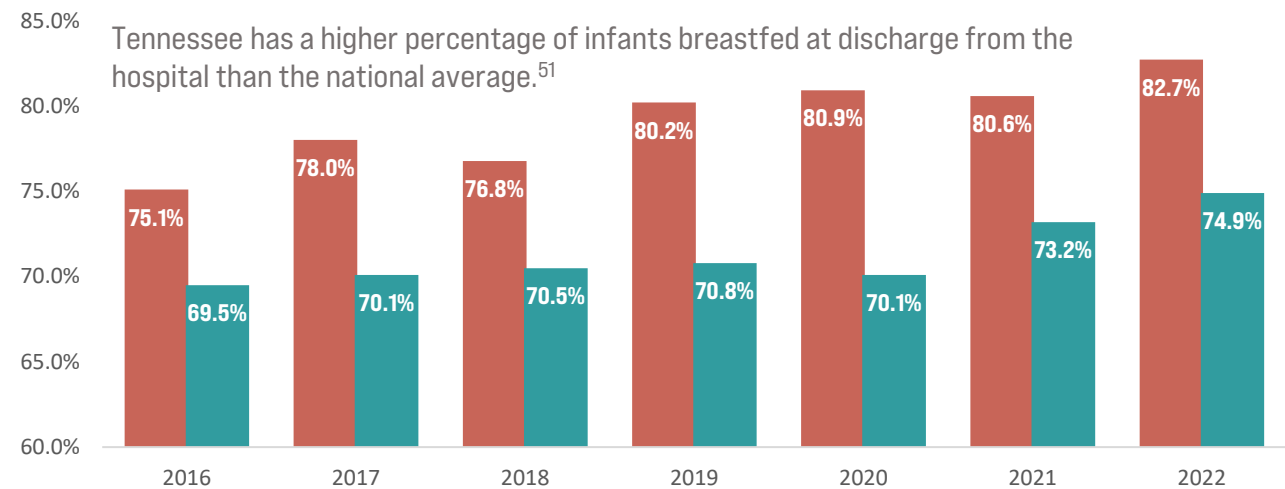
Over the last several years, the percent of pregnancies with at least one risk factor has been increasing. In 2021, more than one out of every three births in Tennessee had a risk factor during pregnancy.⁵¹

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021
Pregnancy risk factors include Pre-Pregnancy Diabetes, Gestational Diabetes, Pre-Pregnancy Hypertension, Gestational Hypertension, Eclampsia, Previous Preterm Birth, Infertility Treatment Used, Fertility Enhancing Drugs, Assistive Reproductive Technology, and Previous Cesarean Delivery.



After trending upward between 2016-2019, instances of births in Tennessee with maternal morbidity have begun to decline.⁵¹

2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021
Maternal Morbidity includes a maternal transfusion, admission to the Intensive Care Unit, Perineal Laceration, Ruptured Uterus and an unplanned hysterectomy.



Tennessee has a higher percentage of infants breastfed at discharge from the hospital than the national average.⁵¹

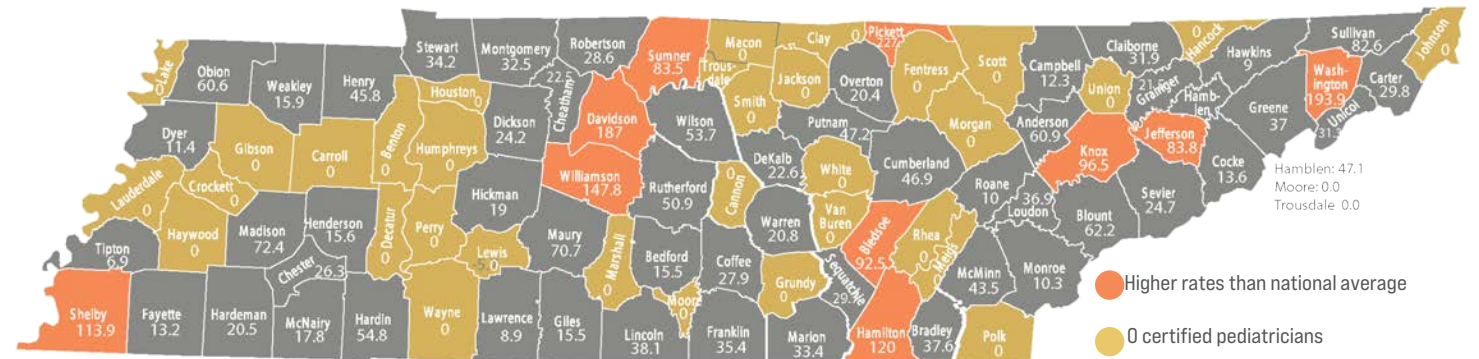
■ TN ■ U.S.

Access to Care

Health

Pediatrician

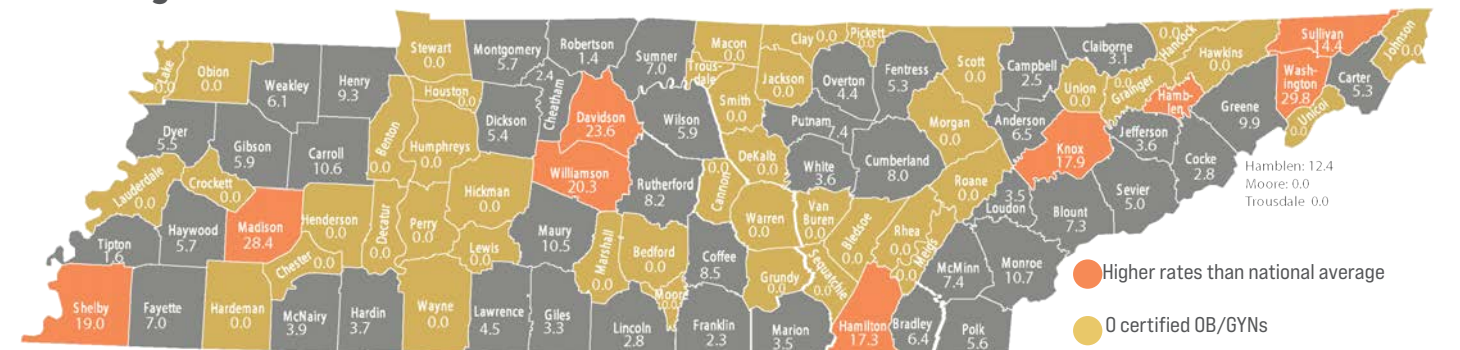
Tennessee has a ratio of **77.8 pediatricians per 100,000 children** compared to a national rate of 74.9.⁴¹ Of Tennessee's 95 counties, 10 have rates higher than the national average and 33 have 0 currently certified pediatricians.



Pediatrician includes those currently certified by the American Board of Pediatrics in General Pediatrics (alone) and those certified in both General Pediatrics and another ABMS specialty.

Obstetrics and Gynecology

Tennessee has a ratio of **12.3 OB/GYNs per 100,000 people** compared to a national rate of 12.16.⁴² Of Tennessee's 95 counties, 9 have rates higher than the national average and 43 have 0 OB/GYNS.



Physicians include active Obstetrics and Gynecology M.D.s employed by the federal government or non-federal industries. Active M.D.s include those who are not retired, semiretired, working part-time, temporarily not in practice, or not active for other reasons, and indicated they worked more than 20 hours per week.

Immunizations and Vaccinations

Health

24-Month Vaccine Status

In 2022, Tennessee met four out of 12 individual childhood vaccines objectives identified in Healthy People 2020.⁴³

Overall, Tennessee's percent of children under 24 months up to date on vaccinations increased from 74.8 percent in 2021 to 77.1 in 2022.⁴³

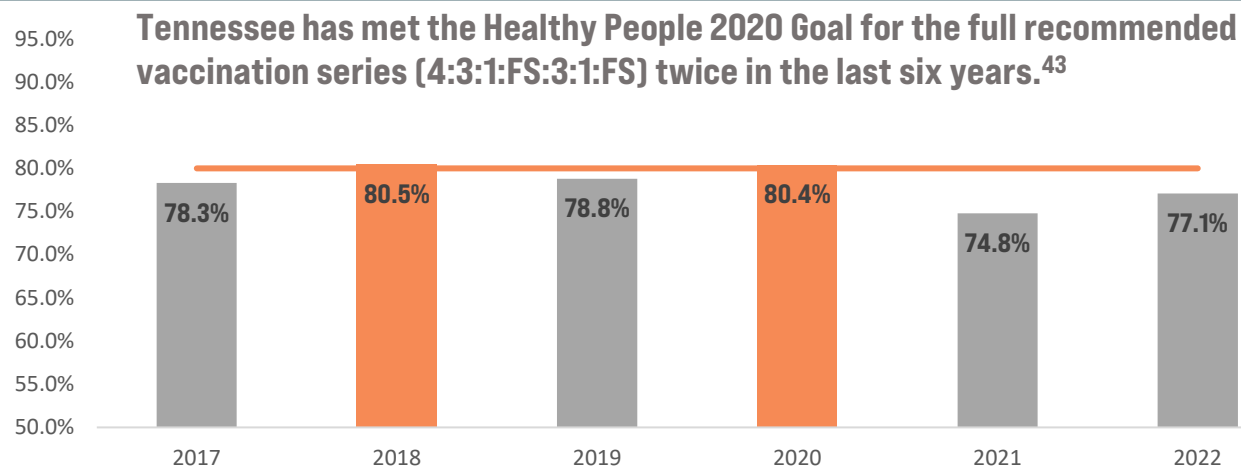
Tennessee children have not met the Healthy People 2020 objective of five of the 12 immunizations in any of the last six years.⁴³

In 2022, Tennessee fell furthest below the Healthy People 2020 flu vaccine goal. Tennessee was at just 48.3 percent, a drop from 54.6 percent in 2021. The Healthy People 2020 goal is 70 percent.⁴³

Vaccine refusals declined from 3.0 percent in 2021 to 2.1 percent in 2022. However, refusal rates fluctuate by region from 0.9 in the Jackson-Madison County Region to 6.5 percent in East Tennessee Region.⁴³

Tennessee saw the largest increase in immunization rates for the Haemophilus influenzae type B vaccine (HIB). Between 2021 and 2022 rates for HIB vaccine increased 5.6 percentage points. Since the introduction of this vaccine in 1987, annual incidence of HIB has decreased 99 percent in those under 5.⁴³

A Healthy People 2030 goal is to have fewer than 1.3 percent of children receive 0 recommended vaccinations. Tennessee is currently falling behind this goal with 1.6 percent of children with 0 recommended vaccines.⁴³



Dental Care

Health

In 2021, Tennessee had 1 dentist for every 1,790 people. This rate varied by county from 1:1,240 to 1:18,850.⁵⁵

In 2022, 60 percent of public water systems, serving nearly 90 percent of Tennessean served by public water systems, had fluoridated water.⁵⁶



In 2021, 2.6 percent of Tennessee high school students reported they had never seen a dentist. This is the first increase in this indicator since 2015.⁵⁷

In 2021, the percent of high school students who saw a dentist in the last year increased to 73.2 percent.⁵⁸

Among children age 1-17 more than three out of four had a preventative dental visit within the last year.⁵⁹

In 2020, only one in three Tennessee pregnant women had their teeth cleaned during pregnancy. Though an increase from 2019, it is still six percentage points below the national average.⁶⁰

Preventative dental visits among age 1-17 by household income:⁶⁰

- 0-99 percent FPL - 68.4 percent
- 100-199 percent FPL - 70.6 percent
- 200-399 percent FPL - 74.9 percent
- 400 percent FPL or more - 87.8 percent

Preventative dental visits among age 1-17 by insurance type:⁶¹

- Public health insurance only - 72.2 percent
- Private health insurance only - 80.8 percent
- Public & private health insurance - 85.9 percent

Infant Mortality

Health After a slight decline between 2019-2022, the infant mortality rate nationally and in Tennessee increased in 2022.^{44,45}



Rate per 1,000 live births
*2022 figures are provisional

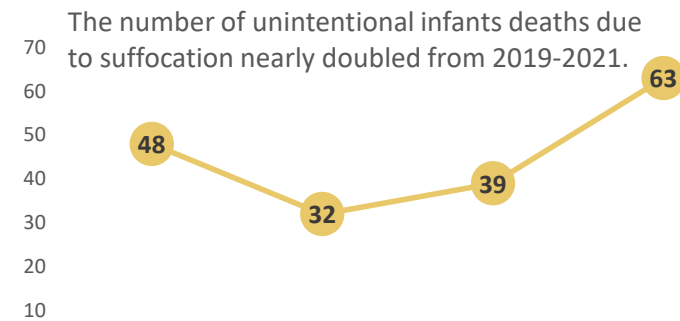
Of the 38 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) countries, the United States has the 6th highest infant mortality rate.⁴⁶

Leading Causes of Infant Deaths 2018-2021⁴⁷

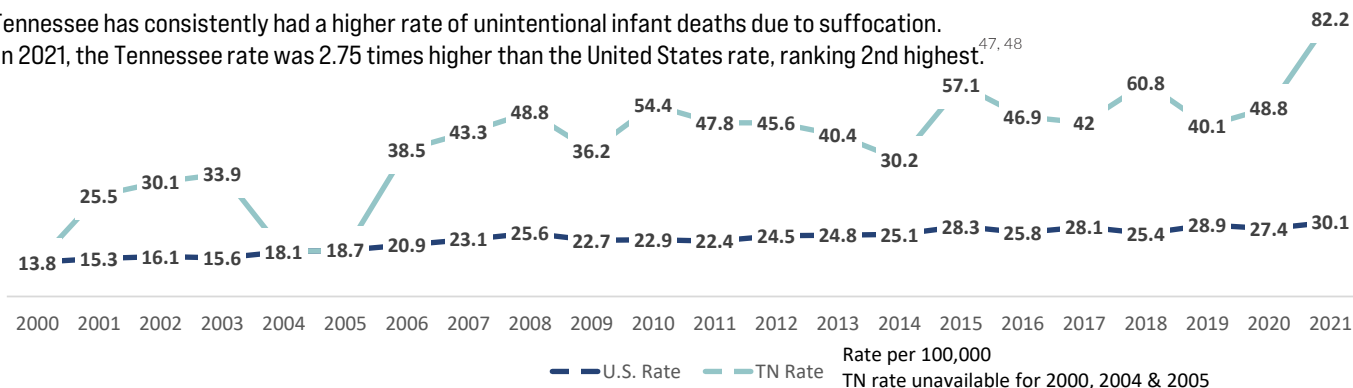
Tennessee
295.3 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period
140.2 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities
98.6 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified
59.9 per 100,000
 Suffocation
13.6 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: All other diseases (Residual)

United States
266.9 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period
112.4 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities
69.1 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: Symptoms, signs and abnormal clinical and laboratory findings, not elsewhere classified
29.1 per 100,000
 Suffocation
16.0 per 100,000
 Non-Injury: All other diseases (Residual)

In 2021, Tennessee saw the highest number and rate of unintentional infant deaths due to suffocation since before 1999.^{47,48}



Tennessee has consistently had a higher rate of unintentional infant deaths due to suffocation. In 2021, the Tennessee rate was 2.75 times higher than the United States rate, ranking 2nd highest.^{47,48}



Maternal Mortality

Health

Tennessee's Maternal Mortality Review Commission⁶¹ found in 2021 **134 women across the state died during or within a year after their pregnancy ended.** This was a significant increase from 2020, largely driven by deaths from COVID-19, the leading cause of pregnancy-associated deaths.

Maternal Mortality Terms:

Pregnancy-Associated: The death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from any cause. Pregnancy-associated deaths can further be classified into pregnancy-related deaths or pregnancy-associated, but not related deaths

Pregnancy-Related (40% of 2021 deaths): The death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a pregnancy complication, a chain of events initiated by pregnancy, or the aggravation of an unrelated condition by the physiologic effects of pregnancy.

Pregnancy-associated, but not related (47% of 2021 deaths): The death of a woman during pregnancy or within one year of the end of pregnancy from a cause that is not related to pregnancy.

Pregnancy-Related deaths in 2021: 53 total

Two-thirds of deaths occurred during pregnancy through 42 days postpartum.

Four out of five were determined to be preventable, with two in five having a good chance of being prevented.

Mental health contributed to nearly a third of deaths.

COVID-19

In 2021, the large increase in Tennessee's Maternal Mortality Ratio was driven by COVID-19 deaths.

- 22 women died from COVID-19 during pregnancy or within a year after, comprising one out of every 6 pregnancy-associated deaths.
- Nearly 4 out of 5 women who died from COVID-19 were unvaccinated, and obesity contributed to two-thirds of pregnancy-associated deaths.
- 80 percent of COVID-19 deaths among pregnant or post-partum women were deemed pregnancy-related.
- More than five out of six COVID-19 deaths were preventable.

Pregnancy-Associated

57 percent of pregnancy-associated deaths occurred between 43-365 days postpartum.

Nearly 3 out of 4 could have been prevented with appropriate resources and interventions.

Between 2017-2021: Women over 40 had a Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Ratio 2.75 times higher than those under 30.

Women covered by TennCare had a Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Ratio of 129.3 compared to 40.1 among those with private insurance.

Women without insurance had a Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Ratio of 184.8, nearly 4.75 times the rate among privately insured.

Pregnancy-Associated, Not Related Deaths in 2021: 63 deaths

Between 2017-2021:

The leading cause of death was acute overdose followed by motor vehicle crashes and homicide/suicide.

Substance use disorder was prevalent in 94 percent of overdose deaths. Mental health conditions were a contributing factor in 59 percent.

The average age of women who died from an acute overdose was 29.

Child & Teen Deaths

Health

**In 2021, 1 in 4 deaths among those 1-17 were due to a firearm.⁴⁷
1 in 6 were due to Motor Vehicle Traffic; 1 in 17 were due to cancer.⁴⁷**

Tennessee
Leading Causes of Death in 2021 (1-17)⁴⁷
5.8 per 100,000
Firearm
4.8 per 100,000
Motor Vehicle Traffic
2.3 per 100,000
Non-Injury: All other diseases (Residual)
1.7 per 100,000
Non-Injury: Malignant Neoplasms (Cancers)
1.5 per 100,000
Non-Injury: Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities

United States
Leading Causes of Death in 2021 (1-17)⁴⁷
3.7 per 100,000
Firearm
3.4 per 100,000
Motor Vehicle Traffic
2.1 per 100,000
Non-Injury: All other diseases (Residual)
2.0 per 100,000
Non-Injury: Malignant Neoplasms (Cancers)
1.5 per 100,000
Suffocation

Death by intent

Unintentional

FROM 2018 - 2021

There were 502 unintentional deaths among children 1-17.⁴⁷

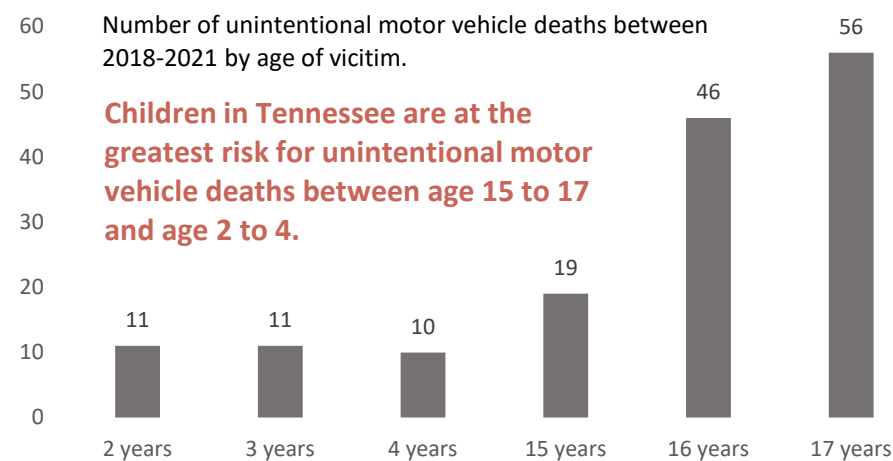
47 percent were from Motor Vehicle Traffic⁴⁷
Representing 237 deaths

15 percent were from Drowning⁴⁷
Representing 75 deaths

8 percent were from Poisoning⁴⁷
Representing 41 deaths

6 percent were from Fire/Flame⁴⁷
Representing 28 deaths

4 percent were from Suffocation⁴⁷
Representing 19 deaths



In 2021, Tennessee had the 13th highest rate of in unintentional deaths. Tennessee had the 11th highest rate of Unintentional Motor Vehicle Deaths.⁴⁷

The unintentional death rate per 100,000 among children age 1 to 17 increased by 1.0 from



Death by intent

Homicide

FROM 2018 - 2021⁴⁷

There were 222 homicide deaths among children under 18⁴⁷

73 percent were from firearms⁴⁷
Representing 162 deaths

15 percent were from an unspecified injury⁴⁷
Representing 34 deaths

6 percent were from an other specified, classifiable injury⁴⁷
Representing 13 deaths

The cause of death for the remaining 16 deaths are not listed due to data suppression standards

Weapons Used 2021⁴⁷
All Homicides Under 18:
1. Firearms (71.4%)
2. Knife (4.8%)

Weapons used by age of victim⁴⁷

Under 10:
1. Firearms (33.3%)
2. Personal Weapons (hands, etc) (16.7%)

10 to 17:
1. Firearms (80.4%)
2. Knife & Poison/Drugs (3.9%)

2012

In 2012 Tennessee had 45 homicide victims under 18, representing a rate of 3 per 100,000.⁴⁸

17 were due to an Unspecified Injury⁴⁸
13 were due to a Firearm.⁴⁸

2021

In 2021 Tennessee had 66 homicide victims under 18, representing a rate of 5.5 per 100,000.⁴⁷

57 were due to a Firearm.⁴⁷

In 2021, Tennessee had among the highest rates of all states on both under-18 homicides and under-18 homicides using a firearm.⁴⁷

2021 UNDER 18 HOMICIDE RATES

10 Highest	10 Lowest Available Rates*
Louisiana 12.4	Washington 1.9
Mississippi 10.0	New York 2.1
Alabama 7.1	Minnesota 2.2
South Carolina 6.8	California 2.3
Arkansas 6.3	New Jersey 2.4
Missouri 6.1	Connecticut 2.9
Illinois 6.0	Michigan 3.5
Georgia 5.5	Arizona 3.6
Tennessee 5.5	Colorado 3.6

*Rate for DE, D.C., IA, MA, NE, NV, OR, UT & WV were unreliable but all had fewer than 20 total deaths. Deaths for AK, HI, ID, ME, MT, NH, ND, RI, SD, VT, & WY were suppressed due to being fewer than 10.

2018-2021 UNDER 18 HOMICIDE BY FIREARM RATES

10 Highest	10 Lowest Available Rates*
Washington D.C. 9.8	Massachusetts 0.6
Louisiana 6.9	Utah 0.9
Mississippi 5.7	New York 0.9
Missouri 4.3	Oregon 1.0
South Carolina 4.3	Minnesota 1.0
Alabama 4.1	Connecticut 1.0
Tennessee 4.0	New Jersey 1.0
Illinois 3.8	Nebraska 1.0
Arkansas 3.7	Washington 1.2

*Rate for AK & WV were unreliable but each had fewer than 20 total deaths. Deaths for HI, ID, ME, MT, NH, ND, RI, SD, VT, & WY were suppressed due to being fewer than 10.

Death by intent

Suicide

FROM 2018 - 2021⁴⁷

There were 164 suicide deaths among children age 9 -17.

54 percent were from Firearms⁴⁷

Representing 80 deaths

37 percent were from Suffocation⁴⁷

Representing 55 deaths

17 percent were from Poisoning⁴⁷

Representing 10 deaths

The majority of people with a Medically Serious Suicide Attempt (MSSA) do not later die by suicide.⁴⁹

In a long-term study of individuals with a MSSA, 6.7 percent had died by suicide or suspected suicide within 5 years. **Three out of four were still alive 20 years later.⁴⁹**

In 2021, 27.8 percent of high school students who had attempted suicide in the previous 12 months reported that they had asked someone for help such as a doctor, counselor or hotline prior to their attempt.⁵⁰

TENNESSEE RATES

Suicide rates among age 9 to 17 by year:⁴⁷

- 2018: 5.1 per 100,000
- 2019: 4.1 per 100,000
- 2020: 4.7 per 100,000
- 2021: 4.9 per 100,000
- 2018-2020 suicide rate: 4.7 per 100,000

Suicide rate between 2018-2021 among age 9 to 17 by mechanism:

- Firearm: 2.6 per 100,000
- Suffocation: 1.8 per 100,000

Suicide rate between 2018-2021 among young adults(18-24 by mechanism:⁴⁷

- Firearm: 11.9 per 100,000
- Suffocation: 4.0 per 100,000
- Poisoning 1.3 per 100,000

NATIONAL RATES

Suicide rates among age 9 to 17 by year:⁴⁷

- 2018: 4.9 per 100,000
- 2019: 4.4 per 100,000
- 2020: 4.5 per 100,000
- 2021: 4.6 per 100,000
- 2018-2020 suicide rate: 4.7 per 100,000

Suicide rate between 2018-2021 among age 9 to 17 by mechanism:

- Suffocation: 2.1 per 100,000
- Firearm: 1.9 per 100,000
- Poisoning: 0.3 per 100,000

Suicide rate between 2018-2021 among young adults(18-24) by mechanism:⁴⁷

- Firearm: 8.7 per 100,000
- Suffocation: 5.2 per 100,000
- Poisoning 1.4 per 100,000
- Fall: 0.6 per 100,000

In 2021, Tennessee ranked among the top twenty states in rate of suicides among ages 9-17 and in the top 10 in rate of firearm suicides among the same ages.⁴⁷ Since 2018 the firearm suicide rate among young adults has increased from 10.3 per 100,000 to 14.1 per 100,000.⁴⁷

MENTAL HEALTH



Mental Health of Tennessee High Schoolers

Mental Health

Nearly 3 in 10 students reported within the last month their mental health was most of the time or always not good.¹ Poor mental health was much more prevalent among high school girls.



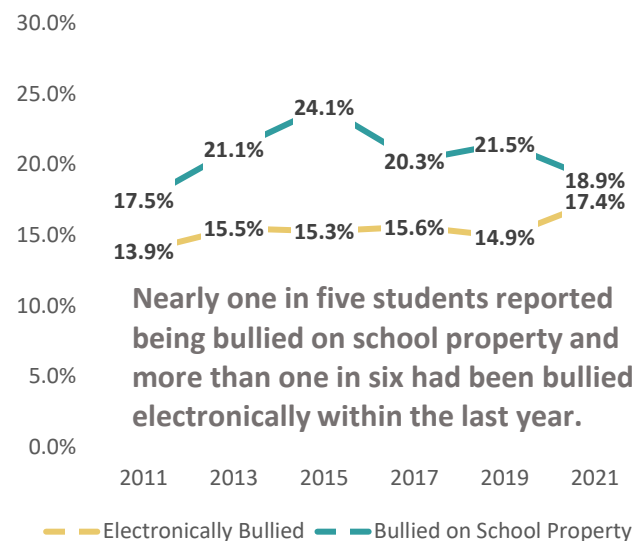
Within the last year, 53 percent of high school girls and 30 percent of high school boys felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks, representing a 63 percent increase since 2011.¹

One in three students reported that their mental health was most of the time or always not good during the pandemic.¹

37 percent of high school students have lived with someone who was depressed, mentally ill or suicidal.¹

Bullying

Between 2019-2021 there was a decrease in the percent of students bullied on school property but an increase in those who were electronically bullied.¹



Mental Health of Tennessee High Schoolers

Mental Health

Restrictive Eating

43 percent of students reported eating less food, fewer calories or foods low in fat to lose weight or keep from gaining weight. Among girls, this jumped to 54 percent.¹

More than one in three high school girls and one in seven high school boys had taken one of the following actions within the last 30 days to try to lose weight or keep from gaining weight:¹

- going without eating for 24 hours or more
- taking diet pills, powders or liquids
- vomiting or taking laxatives
- smoking cigarettes; or
- skipping meals

Non-Suicidal Self-Harm

One in four high school students reported that within the last 12 months they had done something to purposely hurt themselves, such as cutting or burning themselves, without wanting to die.¹

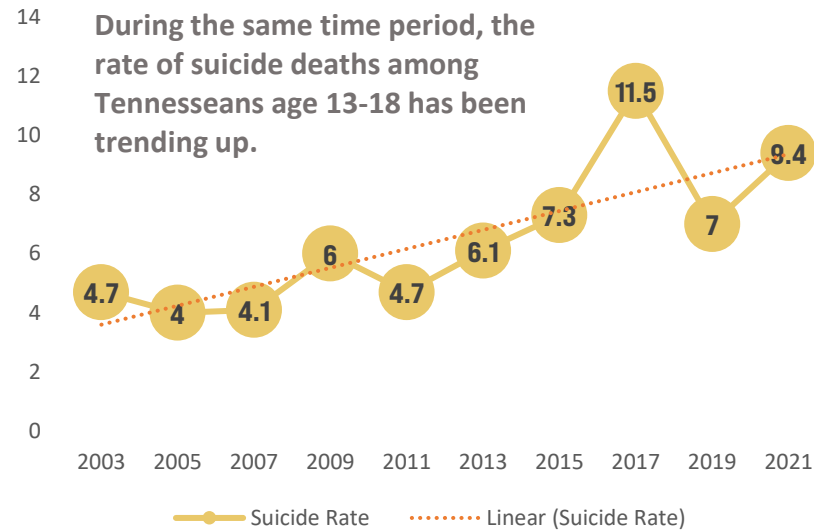
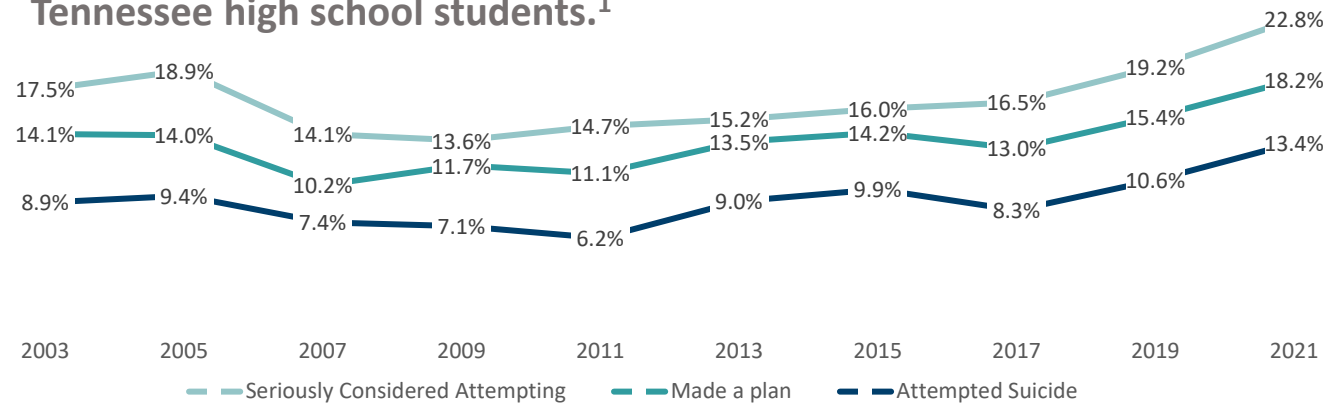
This was more commonly reported among high school girls at 34.5 percent, compared to boys at 15.8 percent.¹

It was also more frequently reported among white students at 27.2 percent, compared to Black students at 11.8 percent.¹

Suicide

Mental Health

Since 2017, all measures of suicidal ideation have increased among Tennessee high school students.¹



Comparing Tennessee to the United States:

Between 2019 and 2021, the suicide rate in Tennessee among youth age 13-18 increased from 7 per 100,000 to 9.4 per 100,000.² The U.S. only saw a small rate increase from 7.9 to 8.1.²

In 2021, Tennessee had a similar rate of high schoolers considering attempting suicide as the rest of the nation.¹⁴

However, Tennessee students were more likely to report having attempted suicide and, of those attempts, were more likely to have needed medical attention.⁴



Across all measures, 11th graders had the highest rate of suicidal behaviors.¹

They were also the most likely to have asked for help before their attempt.¹

More than one in three had asked a doctor, counselor or hotline for help.¹

Treatment

Mental Health

Of surveyed substance use and mental health treatment facilities:⁵

52 percent served young children (0-5).
 72 percent served children (6 -12)
 78 percent served adolescents (13-17); and
 86 percent served young adults (18-25).
 35 percent had dedicated or exclusively designed programs for children/adolescents with a serious emotional disturbance.
 54 percent did not have a crisis intervention team.
 5.9 percent of facilities were a residential treatment center for children.

In Tennessee, the utilization rate of beds in residential facilities was 68 and in hospital inpatient facilities it was 72.4.⁵ Nationally the bed utilization rates are much higher at 82.4 in residential and 151.9 in hospital inpatient facilities.⁵

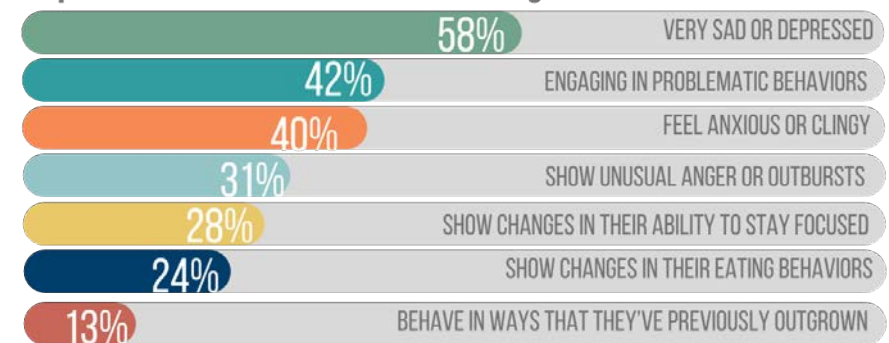
The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS) is a survey of substance use and mental health treatment facilities in the United States. In the 2022 N-SUMHSS, Tennessee included 220 mental health treatment facilities and reported 73,599 clients in mental health treatment on March 31, 2022. The survey response rate in Tennessee was 78.3 percent.



At the end of September 2023, among all households with children in Tennessee, 1 in 10 reported a child in the home needs mental health treatment.⁶

This was most commonly reported among the highest and lowest income earners, 22 percent of those making less than \$25,000 and 29 percent of those making \$200,000 or more.⁶

Reported behaviors of the child needing mental health treatment⁶



Of households reporting a child needing mental health treatment, 63 percent reported all children needing treatment had received it.⁷

Of all who needed treatment, more than half found it somewhat or very difficult to get treatment. Those making \$25,000-36,000 reported the most difficulty obtaining treatment, with 72 percent reporting it was somewhat difficult.⁷

53 percent were satisfied with all of the treatment the child received.⁷

Substance Use

Mental Health



Tobacco¹

18 percent of high school students currently vape. 1 in 18 students vape daily.¹ 5 percent of high school students currently smoke cigarettes, down from 28 percent in 2003.⁸ Even fewer, 1 in 250 smoke cigarettes daily.¹

Alcohol

Both nationally and in Tennessee, alcohol use among high school students has been trending down over the decade.⁹

In 2011, 33 percent of Tennessee high schoolers currently drank alcohol.⁹ In 2021, it was 22 percent.⁹ Nationally, these figures were 39 and 23 percent respectively.⁹

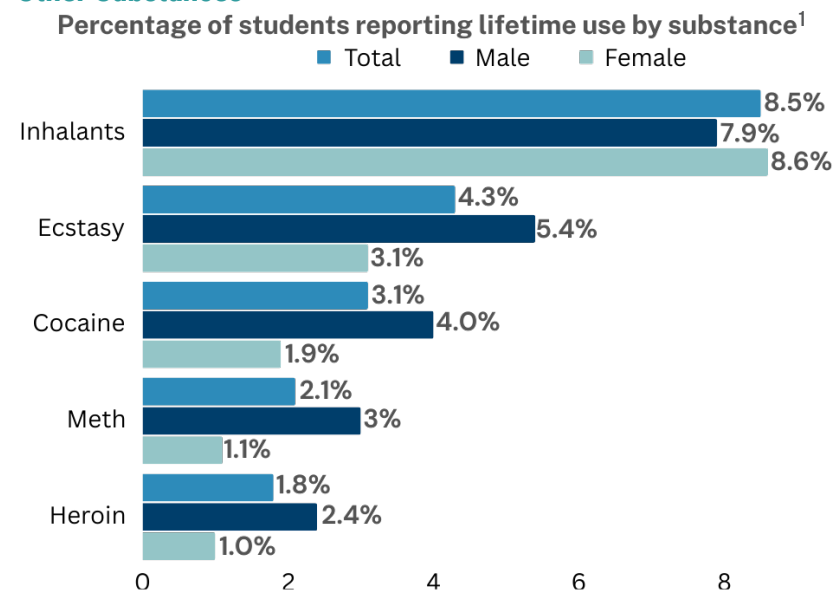
However, the percent of Tennessee students reporting binge drinking within the last 30 days increased from 8.8 percent in 2019 to 13.4 in 2021.¹⁰ Nationally, that figure dropped from 13.7 to 10.5 percent.¹⁰

Prescription pain medication

Nearly **one in seven** students reported they had ever taken prescription pain medicine without a prescription or differently than prescribed.¹

Nearly **one in four** students reported they had been offered, sold or given an illegal drug on school property.¹

Other Substances



1.8 percent of students reported having injected an illegal drug.¹

Marijuana

More than one in four students reported ever using marijuana, representing a decline from one in three reporting lifetime use in 2017 and 2019.¹¹ This decline was also seen nationally.¹¹

One in seven report currently using marijuana.¹

1 in 14 report ever using synthetic marijuana.¹

While historically, Tennessee students were more likely than their national counterparts to try marijuana before the age of 13, a decline from 7.4 in 2019 to 4.9 percent in 2021 brought the state in line with the national rate.¹²

Trauma, Adversity & Discrimination

Mental Health

Among Tennessee high school students in 2021:¹

Nearly one in five high school students report they have ever been separated from a parent or guardian because the parent/guardian went to jail, prison, or a detention center.

Almost 1 in 10 students did not want to go to school on at least one day within the last month because they felt unsafe at school or on their way to/from school.

1 in 14 students had been threatened or injured with a weapon on school property within the last year.

One in four students reported they saw someone get physically attacked, beaten, stabbed, or shot in their neighborhood. The highest rates were reported among Black and Hispanic/Latino students.

Nearly 1 in 11 students reported in the last month they had slept away from their parents or guardians because they were kicked out, ran away, or were abandoned.

Almost one out of three students reported they had lived with someone who had a problem with drugs or alcohol.

Across all students, 1 in 32 reported they most of the time or always felt that they were treated badly or unfairly in school because of their race or ethnicity

- Nearly 1 in 10 Black students reported feeling this way.
- 1 in 16 Hispanic/Latino students reported feeling this way.
- 1 in 50 white students reported feeling this way.



One in eight Black students reported feeling like most of the time or always people assumed that they were less intelligent because of their race or ethnicity. Among white students only 1 in 33 felt this way.¹

Among Metro Nashville Students:¹³

56 percent reported a parent or adult in their home has sworn at, insulted or put them down. One in eight said it happens always or most of the time.

Nearly 1 in 4 12th-grade girls reported an adult or someone at least 5 years older than them had made them do sexual things they did not want to do, compared to 3 percent among senior boys.

Nealy 1 in 3 reported a parent or other adult in their home had ever hit, beat, kicked, or physically hurt them. For more than one in eight, this physical abuse happened within the last 12 months.

CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDEX



Child Opportunity Index 2.0

What is the Child Opportunity Index?¹

“An index of neighborhood resources and conditions that help children develop in a healthy way. It combines data from 29 neighborhood-level indicators into a single composite measure.”

Why?²

“Neighborhoods matter. Children who live in neighborhoods with quality early childhood education and schools, safe housing, access to healthy food, parks and playgrounds and clean air are more likely to grow into healthy, productive adults than children who don’t. The Child Opportunity Index (COI) measures and maps the quality of resources and conditions that matter for children to develop in a healthy way in the neighborhoods where they live.”

Indicators By Domain³

Calculated in 2020, the Child Opportunity Index uses data from 2015. Some indicators are reversed when combining them into the index, e.g., the poverty rate, so a higher rate on the indicator always means more opportunity.

Education

- **Early Childhood Education**
 - Number of ECE centers within a 5-mile radius
 - Number of NAEYC accredited centers within a 5-mile radius
 - Percentage 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in nursery school, preschool or kindergarten
- **Elementary Education**
 - Percentage third graders scoring proficient on standardized reading tests, converted to NAEP scale score points
 - Percentage third graders scoring proficient on standardized math tests, converted to NAEP scale score points
- **Secondary and Postsecondary Education**
 - Percentage ninth graders graduating from high school on time
 - Ratio of students enrolled in at least one AP course to the number of 11th and 12th graders
 - Percentage 18-24 year-olds enrolled in college within a 25-mile radius
- **Educational and Social Resources**
 - Percentage students in elementary schools eligible for free or reduced-price lunches, reversed
 - Percentage teachers in their first and second year, reversed
 - Percentage adults ages 25 and over with a college degree or higher

Health & Environment

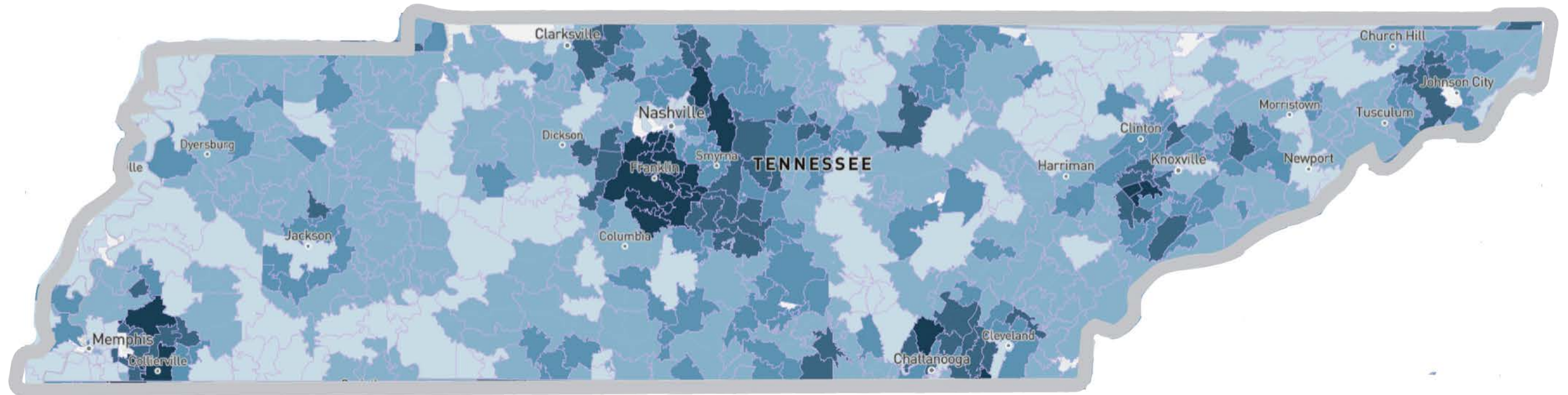
- **Healthy Environments**
 - Percentage households without a car located further than a half-mile from the nearest supermarket, reversed
 - Percentage impenetrable surface areas such as rooftops, roads or parking lots, reversed
 - EPA Walkability Index
 - Percentage housing units that are vacant, reversed
- **Toxic Exposures**
 - Average number of Superfund sites within a 2-mile radius, reversed
 - Index of toxic chemicals released by industrial facilities, reversed
 - Mean estimated microparticle concentration (PM2.5; micrograms per cubic meter), reversed
 - Mean estimated 8-hour average ozone concentration (parts per billion), reversed
 - Number of summer days with maximum temperature above 90F, reversed
- **Health Resources**
 - Percentage individuals ages 0-64 with health insurance coverage

Social & Economic

- **Economic Opportunities**
 - Percentage adults ages 25-54 who are employed
 - Percentage workers commuting more than one hour one way, reversed
- **Economic & Social Resources**
 - Percentage individuals living in households with incomes below 100% of the federal poverty threshold, reversed
 - Percentage households receiving cash public assistance or Food Stamps/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, reversed
 - Percentage owner-occupied housing units
 - Percentage individuals ages 16 and over employed in management, business, financial, computer, engineering, science, education, legal, community service, health care practitioner, health technology, arts and media occupations



Child Opportunity Index 2.0⁴



Tennessee's 150 Lowest Opportunity Zip Codes

ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI
37044	1	37228	4	38301	6	37766	10	38460	12	38122	15
37213	1	37404	4	38341	6	37847	10	38473	12	38221	15
37407	1	37406	4	37365	7	38041	10	37753	13	38320	15
37410	1	37605	4	37727	7	38049	10	37887	13	38454	15
37915	1	37816	4	37869	7	38130	10	37892	13	37175	16
37997	1	38118	4	38042	7	38181	10	37914	13	38012	16
38079	1	38131	4	38063	7	38186	10	38080	13	38361	16
38106	1	38132	4	38067	7	38452	10	38310	13	38372	16
38108	1	37041	5	38128	7	37137	11	38359	13	38425	16
38114	1	37140	5	37710	8	37621	11	38375	13	38551	16
38126	1	38075	5	38039	8	37730	11	37050	14	37098	17
38136	1	38116	5	38112	8	37765	11	37731	14	37115	17
38167	1	38303	5	38115	8	37851	11	37879	14	37202	17
38238	1	38503	5	38471	8	38019	11	38380	14	37234	17
38302	1	38557	5	37088	9	38077	11	38555	14	37238	17
37116	2	37301	6	37208	9	38315	11	38578	14	37242	17
37402	2	37305	6	37401	9	37097	12	38588	14	37246	17
37662	2	37313	6	37450	9	37178	12	37210	15	37726	17
37669	2	37339	6	37658	9	37769	12	37243	15	37811	17
38105	2	37387	6	37756	9	37819	12	37367	15	37815	17
38107	2	37501	6	37762	9	37917	12	37733	15	37870	17
38127	2	37729	6	38008	9	38083	12	37829	15	37881	17
38182	2	38175	6	37207	10	38111	12	37841	15	38061	17
38109	3	38190	6	37715	10	38281	12	37872	15	38327	17
37224	4	38193	6	37755	10	38456	12	38052	15	38370	17

Tennessee's 150 Highest Opportunity Zip Codes

ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI	ZIP CODE	COI
37024	100	38183	92	37363	78	37090	70	37803	65	37250	60		
37068	100	37350	91	37932	77	37656	70	37820	65	37312	60		
37069	100	38161	91	38004	77	37737	70	38016	65	37345	60		
37220	100	38166	91	37153	76	38018	70	38125	65	37360	60		
37933	100	38188	91	37063	75	38028	70	38567	65	37073	59		
37027	99	38017	90	37127	75	37010	69	37043	64	37686	59		
37067	99	38014	89	37029	74	37129	69	37379	64	37777	59		
37135	99	37174	88	37341	74	37772	69	38060	64	37801	59		
37215	99	37221	88	37375	74	37085	68	38101	64	37860	59		
38139	99	37122	86	37931	74	37138	68	38331	63	38066	59		
38197	99	37377	86	38135	74	37343	68	38476	63	38253	59		
37922	97	38002	86	38173	74	37663	68	37353	62	38338	59		
37934	97	38137	86	38187	74	37919	68	37421	62	38563	59		
37046	96	38157	86	38308	74	37152	67	37424	62	37032	58		
37205	96	37121	84	38117	73	37659	67	37802	62	37076	58		
37602	96	37302	84	38133	73	37938	67	37928	62	37141	58		
38124	96	37071	83	37062	72	37048	66	38547	62	37143	58		
38177	96	37371	82	37082	72	37060	66	37049	61	37352	58		
37014	94	37075	81	37188	72	37065	66	37118	61	37359	58		
37064	94	37204	81	37615	72	37146	66	38029	61	37725	58		
37131	94	38071	81	37831	72	37382	66	38184	61	38048	58		
37179	93	37376	79	37923	72	38119	66	38506	61	38459	58		
37315	93	37383	79	37037	71	37020	66	37077	60	38482	58		
38120	93	37128	78	37405	71	37089	66	37080	60	38569	58		
38138	93	37212	78	38355	71	37310	66	37214	60	37034	57		



Opportunity Gap

Researchers have found that the difference in children’s experiences and access to resources, reflected in the Child Opportunity Index score, can vary widely even within metro areas. The opportunity gap, calculated for the 100 largest metro areas across the United States allows us to see the wide disparities children experience in Tennessee’s four largest metropolitan areas. The Child Opportunity Gap is the difference in median scores between very low- and very high-opportunity neighborhoods in a given metro.⁵

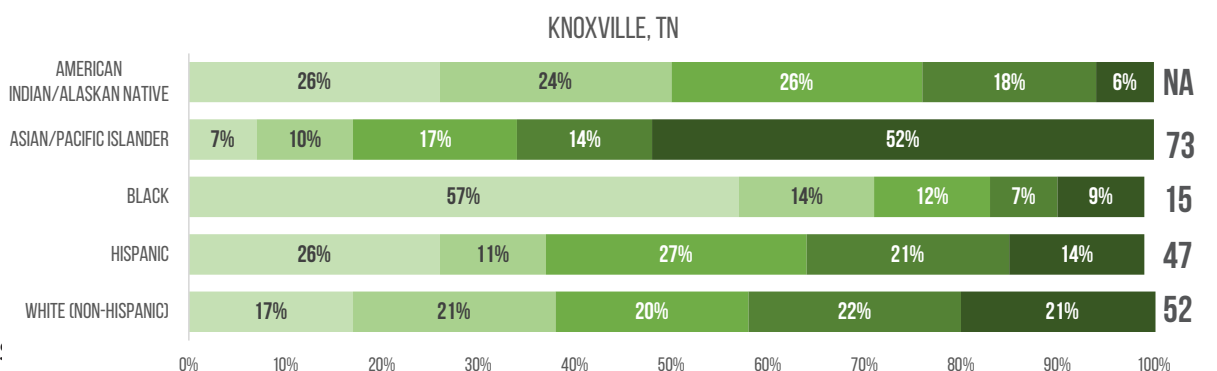
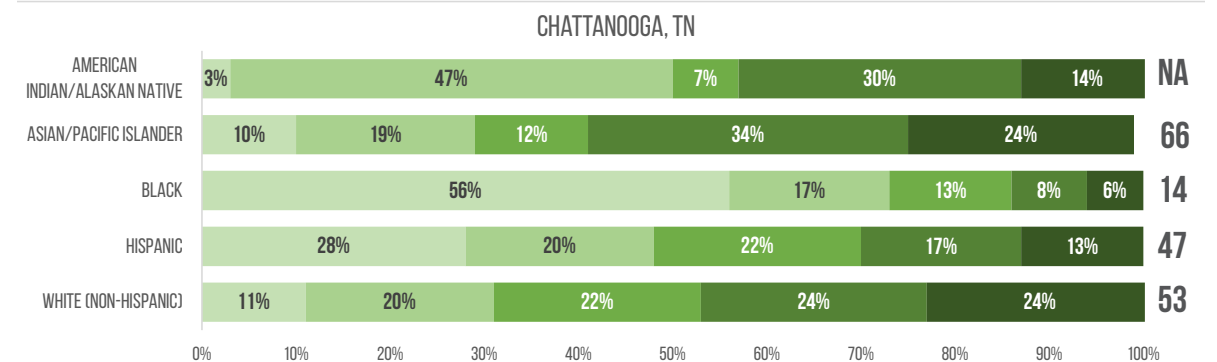
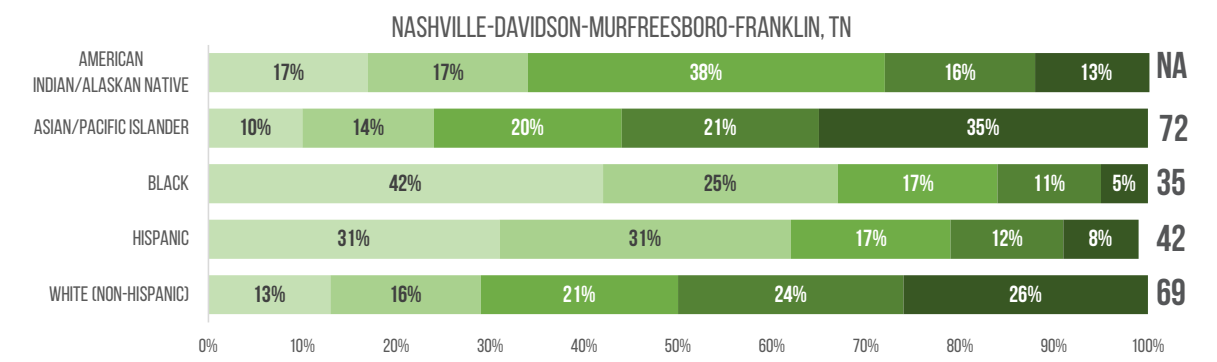
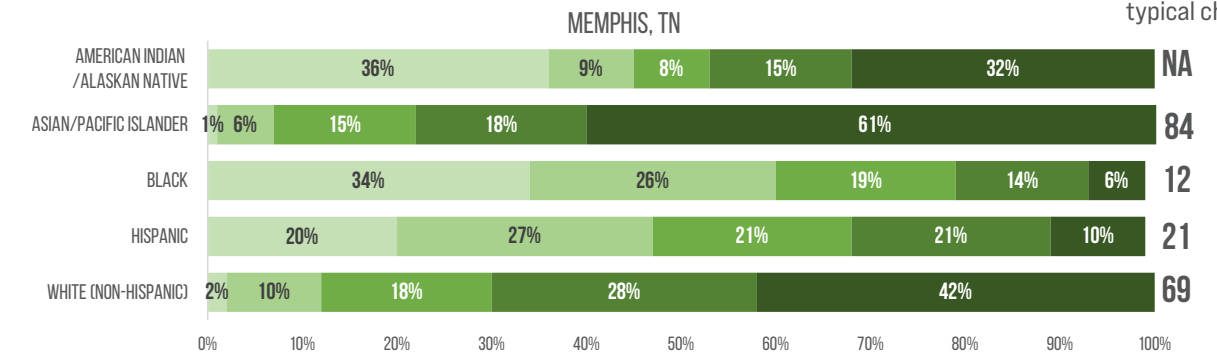
A higher opportunity score indicates more opportunity in a neighborhood, while a higher opportunity gap indicates more disparity within that metro area.

	Opportunity Gap	Rank Among 100 Largest Metro Areas	Typical Low-Opportunity Neighborhood Score	Typical High-Opportunity Neighborhood Score
Memphis	86	16th	3	89
Nashville-Davidson-Murfreesboro-Franklin	77	46th	18	95
Chattanooga	75	55th	11	86
Knoxville	70	73rd	15	85

Opportunity Gap By Race/Ethnicity

Percentages represent the share of children of that race or ethnicity living in very-low, low, moderate, high or very-high opportunity neighborhoods.⁶

■ VERY LOW
 ■ LOW
 ■ MODERATE
 ■ HIGH
 ■ VERY HIGH
 Opportunity Score of neighborhood where a typical child lives



CHILD WELFARE



Child Maltreatment

Child Welfare

In 2021, Tennessee had 3,962 first-time victims of abuse, representing the fourth lowest rate in the country.¹ Across all victimization, both first-time and recurring, Tennessee ranks 15th, indicating the state experiences higher instances of recurring abuse than others.¹

In 2021, there were approximately 86 child abuse hotline referrals made per 1,000 Tennessee children. Of those, 48 percent were screened out.¹

55.5 out of every 1,000 Tennessee children received an investigation or alternative response.¹

After investigation, 7,178 children had an abuse substantiation and 25,633 were unsubstantiated.¹

17 percent of victims had received family preservation services within the last 5 years.¹

3.2 percent of victims had been reunited with their families within the last five years.¹

The rate of child victimization has decreased from 6.2 per 1,000 in 2017 to 5.0 in 2021.¹ This recent decline could be due to the pandemic.

One in four victims were under one year old.

Of infants with prenatal substance exposure, 98.7 percent had a plan of safe care, much higher than the national average of 70.4 percent.¹

The most common perpetrator was one of the child's parents, 62 percent.¹

There were 58 instances where the perpetrator was a foster parent or group home/residential facility staff. Though a very small percent (0.76), it is concerning considering the previous abuse already endured by these children and the fact that these are meant to be safer placements than the child's home.¹



Investigations

Child Welfare

	Average time to investigation
2017	90.4 Hours
2018	95.2 Hours
2019	105.2 Hours
2020	100.7 Hours
2021	108.7 Hours

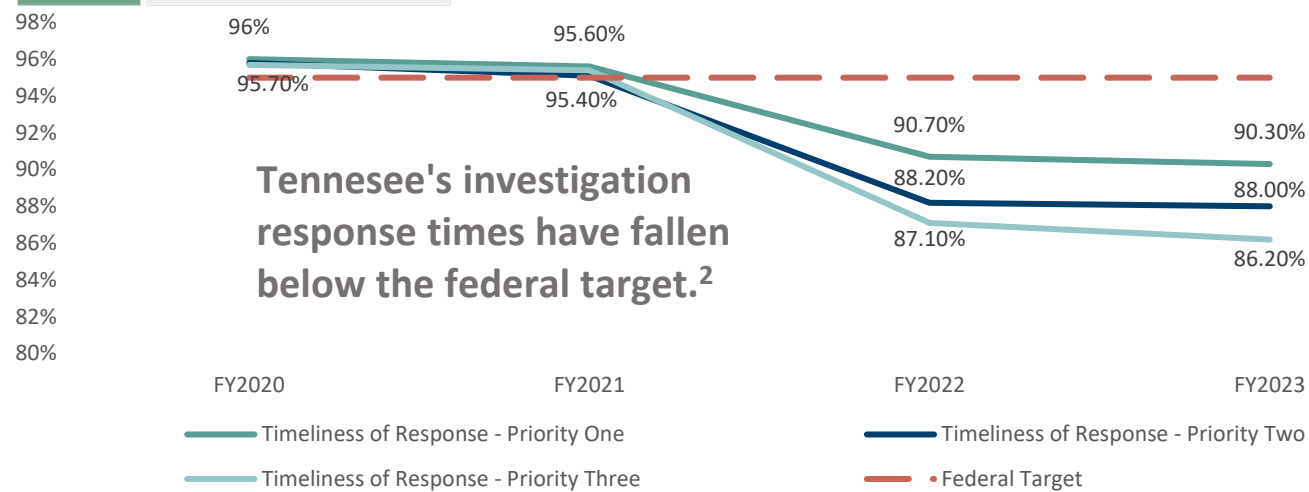
In 2021, the average time between the report of suspected maltreatment and the first face-to-face contact with the alleged victim or with another person who can provide information on the allegation was **4.5 days**.²

DCS response time policy:

Priority-1 (P-1): Cases assigned this priority are initiated by a face-to-face contact with the ACV no later than twenty-four (24) hours, but immediately if the CPS supervisor deems it necessary. Priority 1 reports allege that children may be in imminent danger

Priority-2 (P-2): Cases assigned this priority are initiated by face-to-face contact with the ACV within two (2) business days. Priority-2 reports allege injuries or risk of injuries that are not imminent, life threatening or do not require immediate medical care where a two (2) business day delay will not compromise the investigative effort or reduce the chances for identifying the level of risk to the child.

Priority-3 (P-3): Cases assigned this priority are initiated by face-to-face contact with the ACV within three (3) business days. Priority-3 reports allege situations/incidents considered to pose low risk of harm to the child where three (3) business days will not compromise the investigative effort or reduce the chances for identifying the level of risk to the child.



Tennessee's investigation response times have fallen below the federal target.²

	Percent Maltreatment in Foster Care	Number Maltreated in Foster Care
2017	0.14%	185
2018	0.19%	269
2019	0.17%	244
2020	0.29%	425
2021	0.30%	436

Though still an extremely small percent of the children in foster care, **the number and percent of children maltreated in care has doubled between 2017-2021**.²

Between 2020-2022 there were 1,528 foster home SIU investigations:⁴

- Among those 1,397 were unsubstantiated
- 47 were substantiated
- 67 were unsubstantiated with concerns noted.

Foster Care

Child Welfare

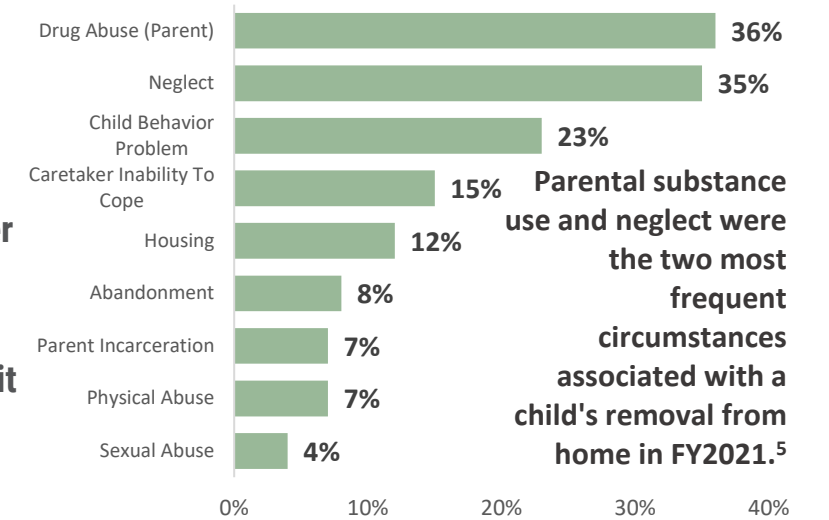
One in four children entering foster care was re-entering after a prior episode. Of those, half were re-entering care after less than 12 months.²

Among children who were under 12 and entered foster care within the 2021 fiscal year, 2.4 percent had their most recent placement in an institution. This was the highest prevalence of this in five years.²

During FY2021, 14,558 children in Tennessee were served by the foster system.⁵

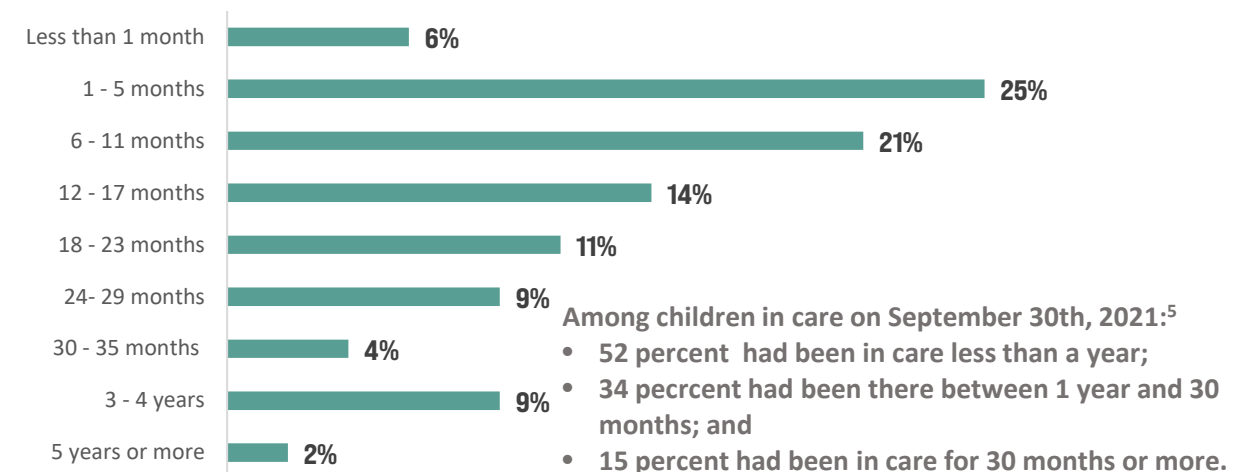
On September 30th 2021, there were 9,227 children in foster care. Among those children:

- 57 percent were in a non-relative foster home
- 12 percent were in a relative foster home
- 9 percent were in a group home
- 7 percent were in an institution
- 7 percent were on a trial home visit
- 4 percent were in supervised independent living
- 3 percent were in a pre-adoptive home
- 1 percent had run away



Parental substance use and neglect were the two most frequent circumstances associated with a child's removal from home in FY2021.⁵

*Categories are not mutually exclusive. Indicators at 1% or less were not included in the graph but include: Drug Abuse (Child), Alcohol Abuse (Parent), Relinquishment, Parent Death, Child Disability, Alcohol Abuse (Child).



Among children in care on September 30th, 2021:⁵

- 52 percent had been in care less than a year;
- 34 percent had been there between 1 year and 30 months; and
- 15 percent had been in care for 30 months or more.

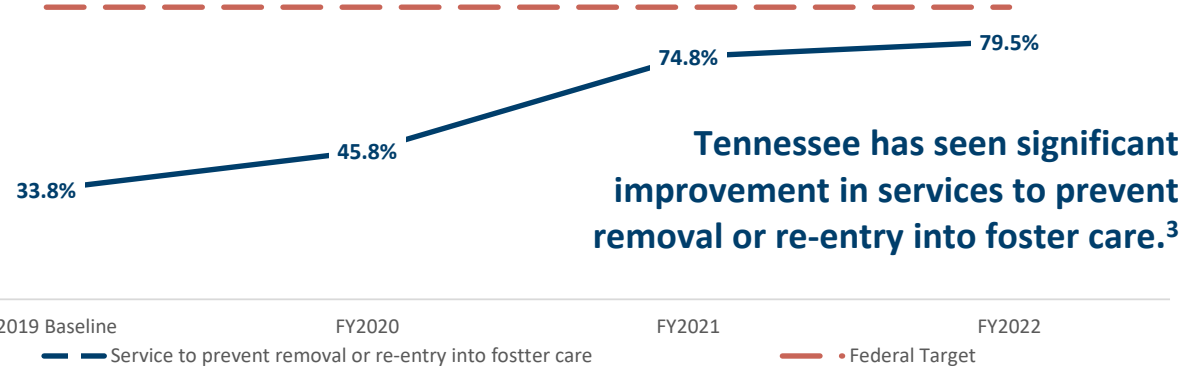
In November 2023, DCS noted that between FY2022 and FY2023 the average number of days a child spent in custody increased by two months.⁶

In FY2021, 97 percent of children in care had a monthly caseworker visit.²

89 percent of case worker monthly visits occurred in the child's home.²

Foster Care

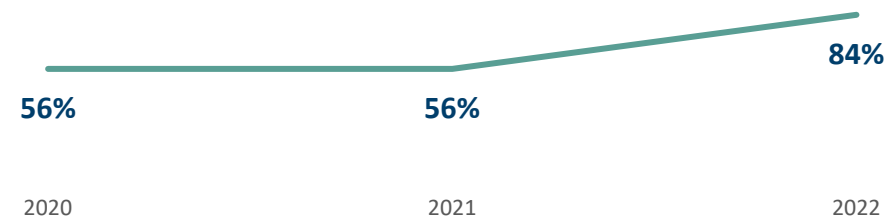
Child Welfare



Tennessee has seen significant improvement in services to prevent removal or re-entry into foster care.³

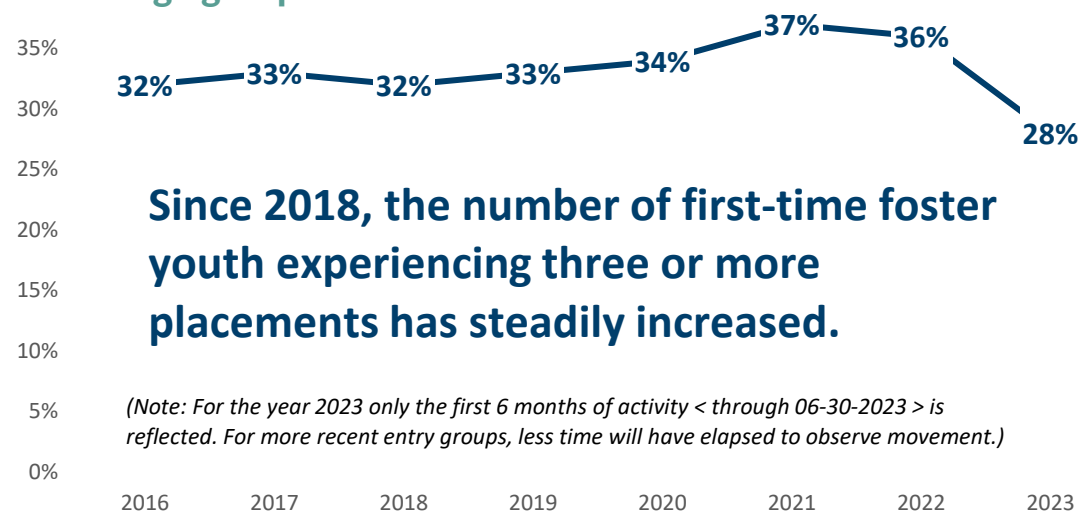
"Although results do not meet the target federal threshold of 90%, results trended up with significant improvement. This item was included in the Round 3 PIP and strategies developed for improvement were successful in better practice to ensure families received effective safety services to prevent removal/re-entry or DCS made concerted efforts when families chose not to engage in safety services." - Administration on Children Youth and Families, Child and Family Service Reviews³

Tennessee has seen improvement in ensuring that all siblings are interviewed or observed during an investigation or assessment.³



Between 2020-2022, in 56 percent of cases where safety concerns were present, DCS developed an appropriate safety plan with the family and continually monitored the safety plan as needed, including monitoring family engagement in safety related services.⁵

A review of TFACTs administrative data found that during the last three years the three most common reasons for custody have been parental substance abuse, neglect for younger age groups and unavailable parent and neglect for older age groups.⁵



Since 2018, the number of first-time foster youth experiencing three or more placements has steadily increased.

(Note: For the year 2023 only the first 6 months of activity < through 06-30-2023 > is reflected. For more recent entry groups, less time will have elapsed to observe movement.)

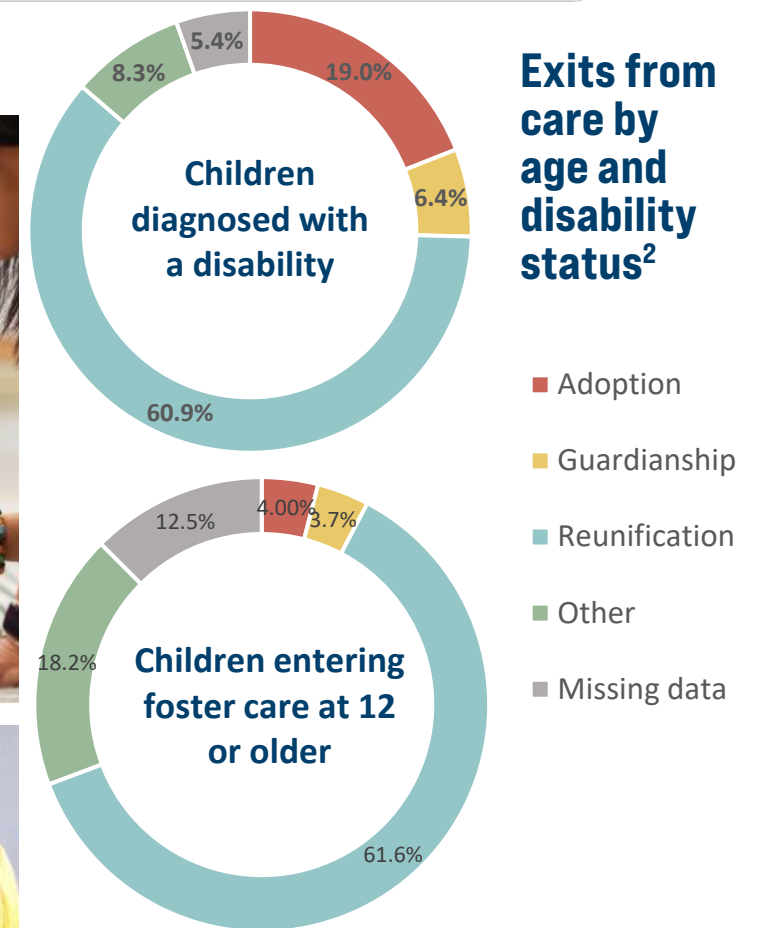
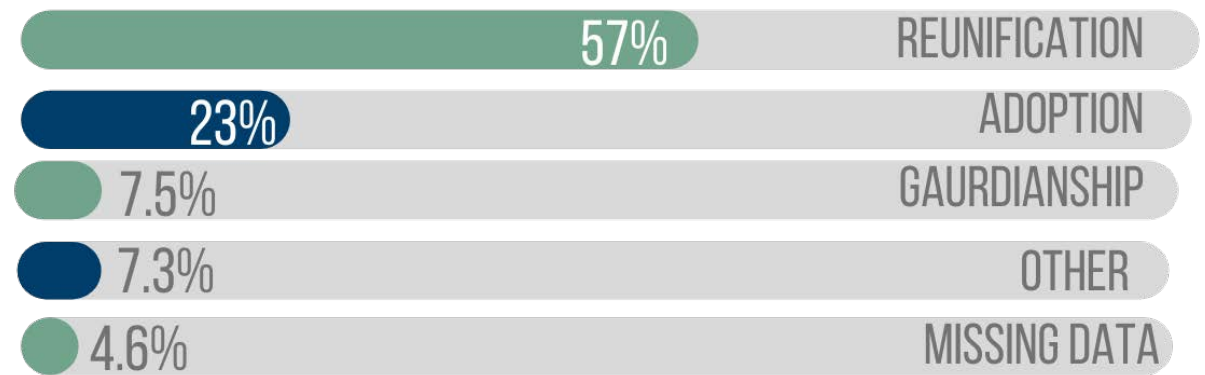
Of first-time foster children entering the system in 2022, more than one in three had been in three or more placements by June 30, 2023.⁷

Among children entering in 2023, more than one in four had been in three placements by June 30th.⁷

Exits from care

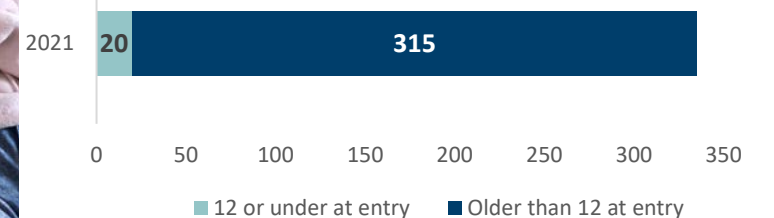
Child Welfare

More than half of exits from care in 2021 were to reunification²



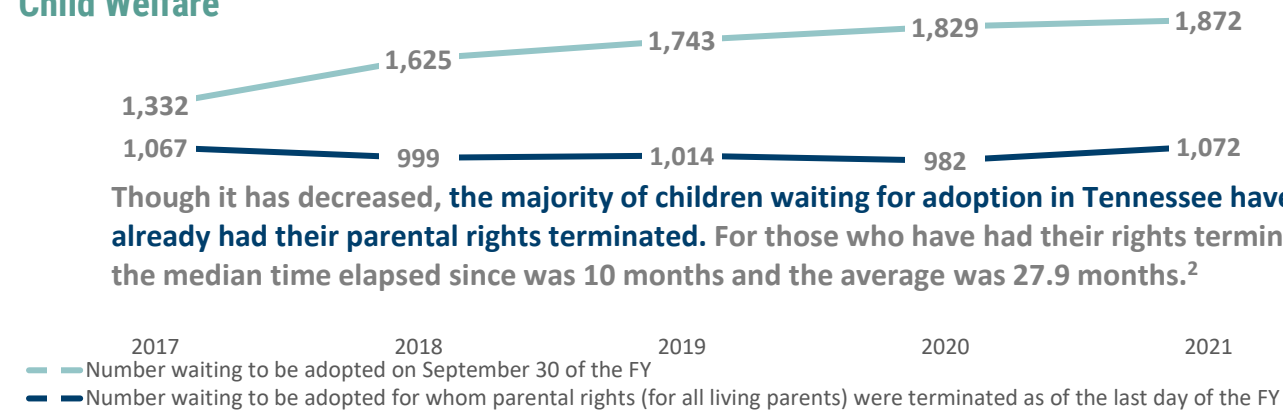
Exits from care by age and disability status²

In 2021, approximately 20 of 335 children exiting foster care to emancipation entered care when they were 12 or under.⁵



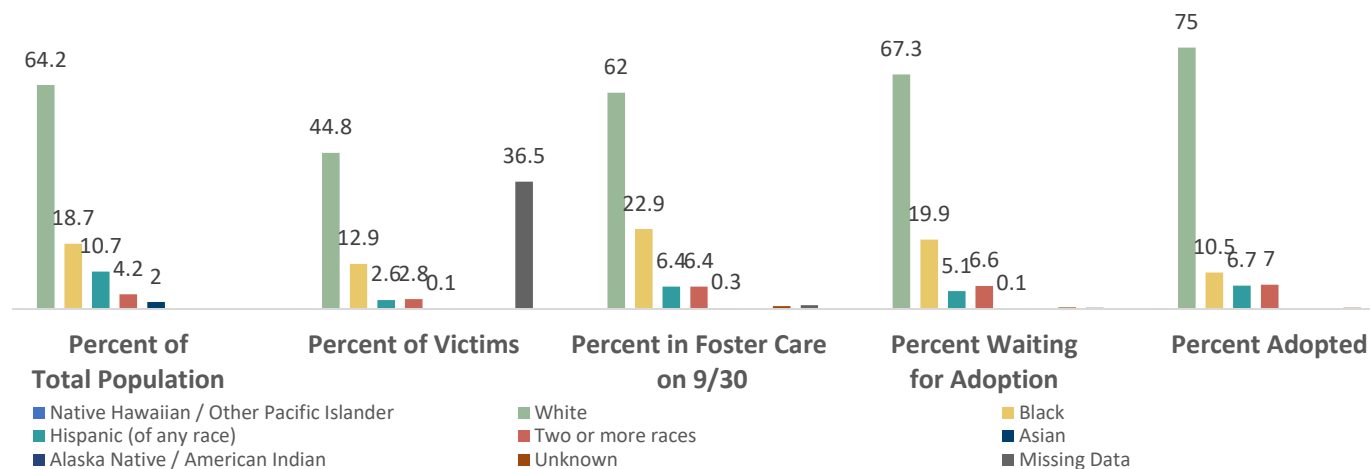
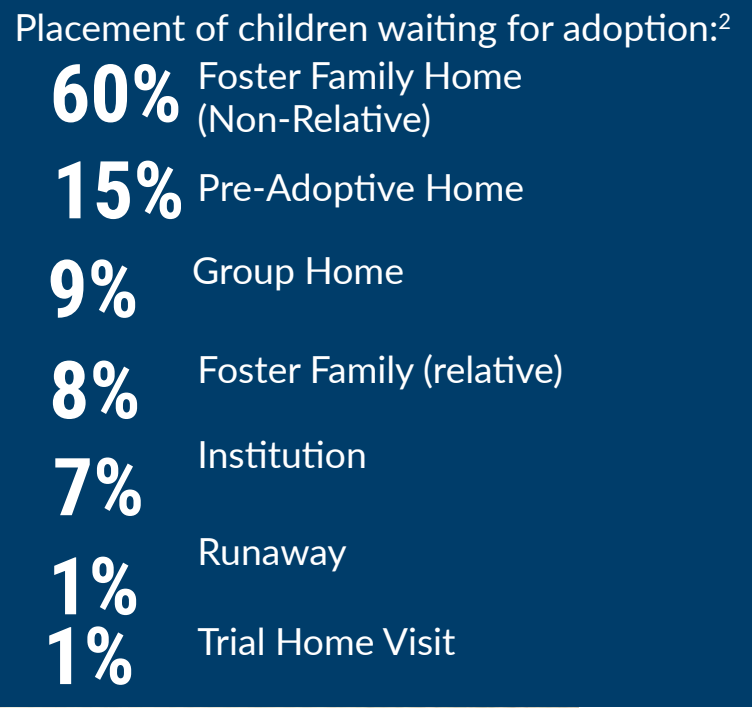
Adoption

Child Welfare



Though it has decreased, the majority of children waiting for adoption in Tennessee have already had their parental rights terminated. For those who have had their rights terminated, the median time elapsed since was 10 months and the average was 27.9 months.²

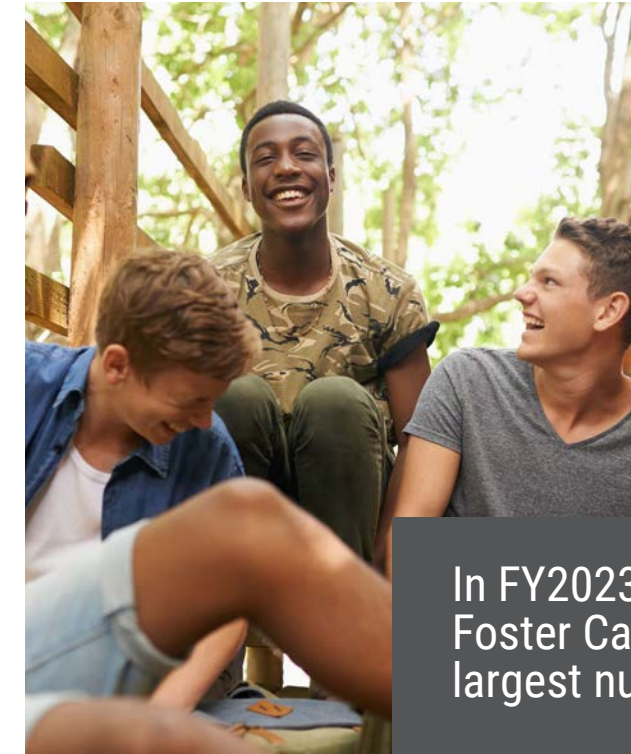
Among children waiting to be adopted the median age is 10.²



Transition Age Youth

Child Welfare

Many former foster youth can face significant challenges in the transition to adulthood, placing them at greater risk of victimization or negative social outcomes. Extension of foster care services allows these youth the opportunity to complete or continue their education with access to health care, housing assistance and other supports to help them succeed in life, while at the same time playing an important role in achieving the goals Tennessee has set for improving graduation rates, increasing educational attainment, building stronger families and creating safer communities



In FY2023, 861 youth aged out of foster care. While the number of youth aging out has historically been declining each year, this represents an increase from 801 in FY2022.⁸

Of those aging out, 86 percent were eligible for Extension of Foster Care Services. (EFCS) Among those eligible half accepted EFCS.⁸

In FY2023, 369 youth accepted Extension of Foster Care Services, representing the second largest number of youth ever served.⁸

There was a decline in the average length participants stayed in EFCS. The average length of stay as 266 days, 82 days shorter than the previous year.⁸

More than half of youth exited after less than 6 months.

Self-termination represented the largest group who lost services in FY2023 followed by loss of services for academic eligibility.⁸

Youth Villages' YVLifeSet program is designed to assist young adults between the ages of 17 and 22 who are transitioning from child welfare and juvenile justice services to adulthood to learn the skills needed to live successfully.

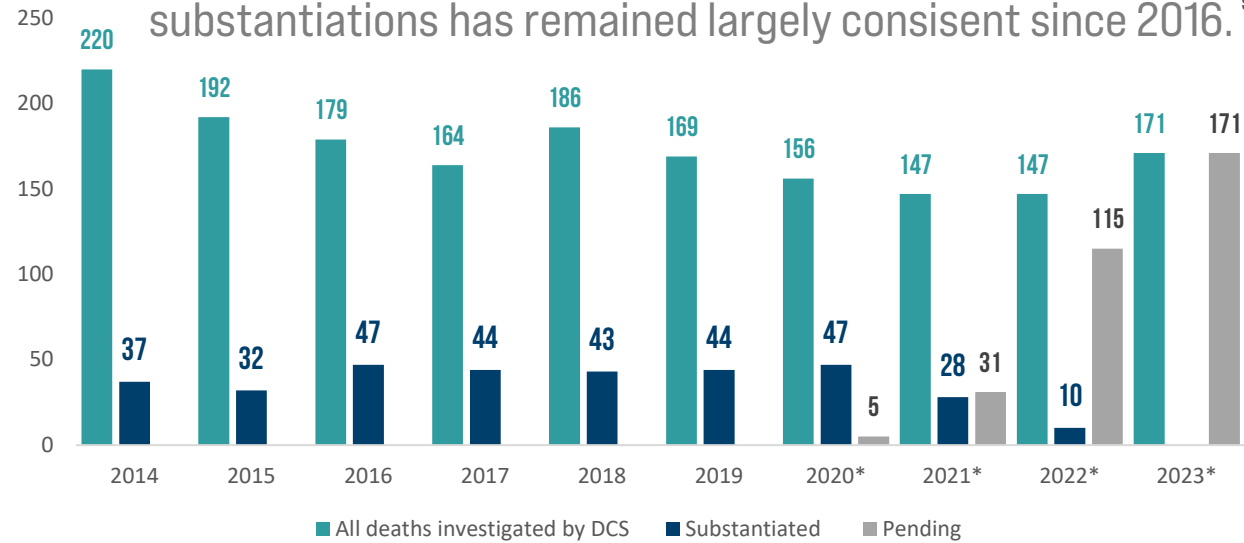
A total of 1,220 youth participated in the program. At 12-month follow-up:⁸

- 92 percent were in school, had graduated or were working;
- 95 percent were living with family or independently; and
- 95 percent experienced no trouble with the law.

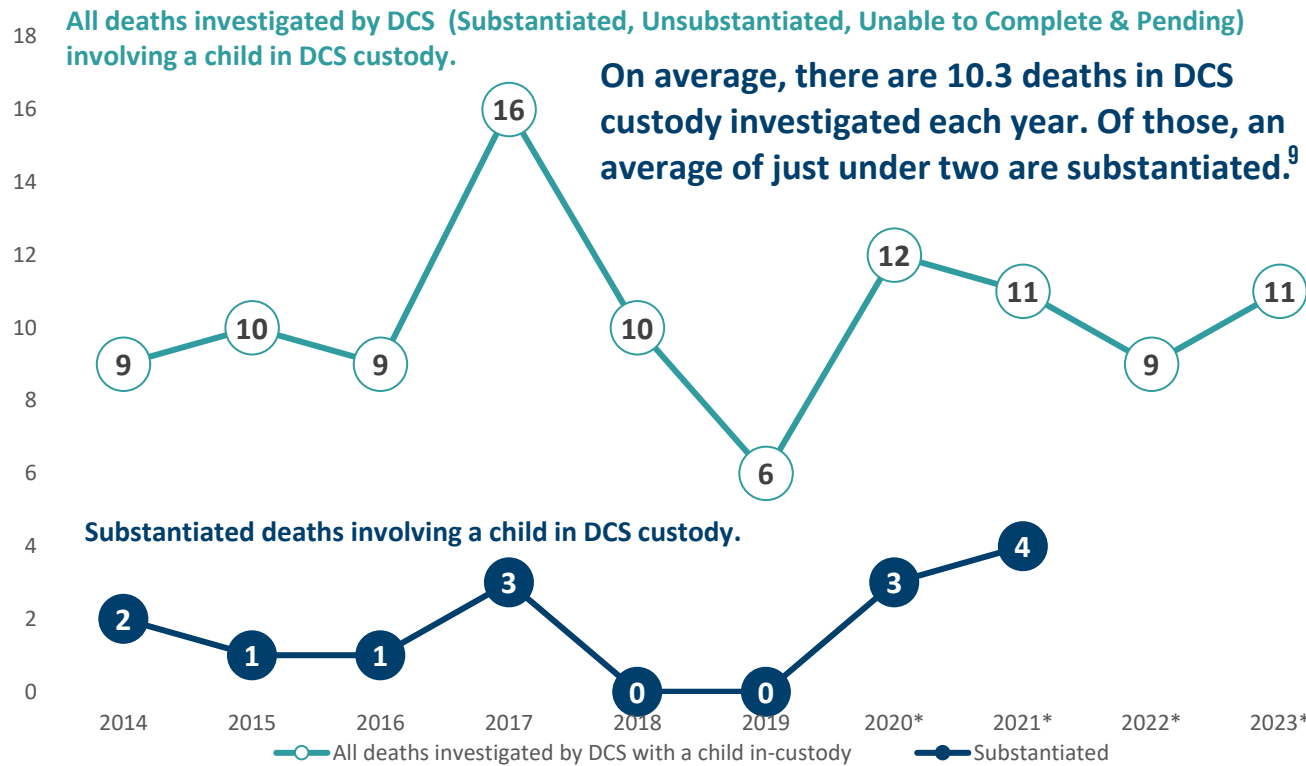
Abuse Deaths

Child Welfare

The number of abuse death investigations and resulting substantiations has remained largely consistent since 2016.⁹



Of the 47 substantiated abuse deaths in 2020, 70 percent of the victims had contact with Department of Children’s Services within the three years prior to their death.* Between 2014-2020, 62 percent of victims had prior contact with DCS.⁹

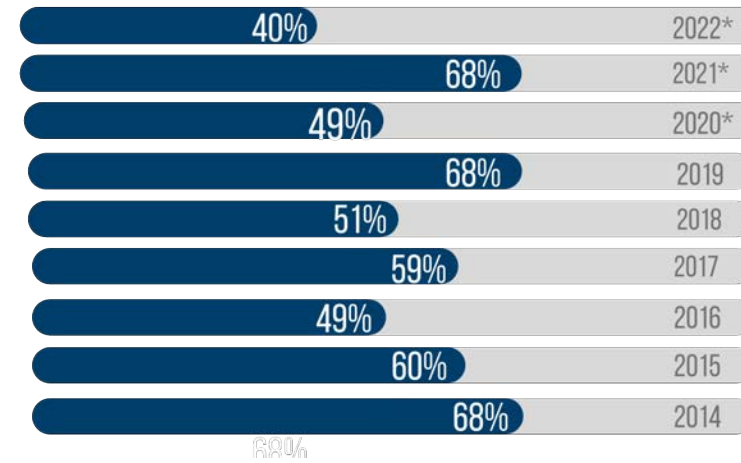


*Indicates a portion of death investigations still pending. This includes 3% of 2020 abuse death investigations. | 19% of 2021 abuse death investigations | 78% of 2022 abuse death investigations | 100% of 2023 Abuse Death investigations.

Abuse Deaths

Child Welfare

Every year the majority of substantiated abuse death victims are one or younger.⁹



While children one and under comprise the majority of abuse deaths in Tennessee, they also comprise a majority of the under-18 deaths of any cause.^{9,10}

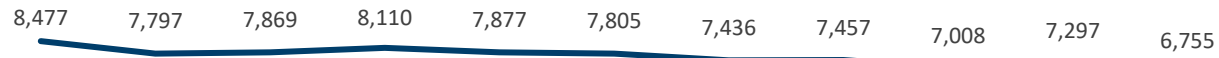
Between 2018-2021, 57 percent of child and infant deaths were one or under.¹⁰

On average about one in six under-18 deaths in Tennessee results in a Department of Children’s Services investigation.^{9,10}

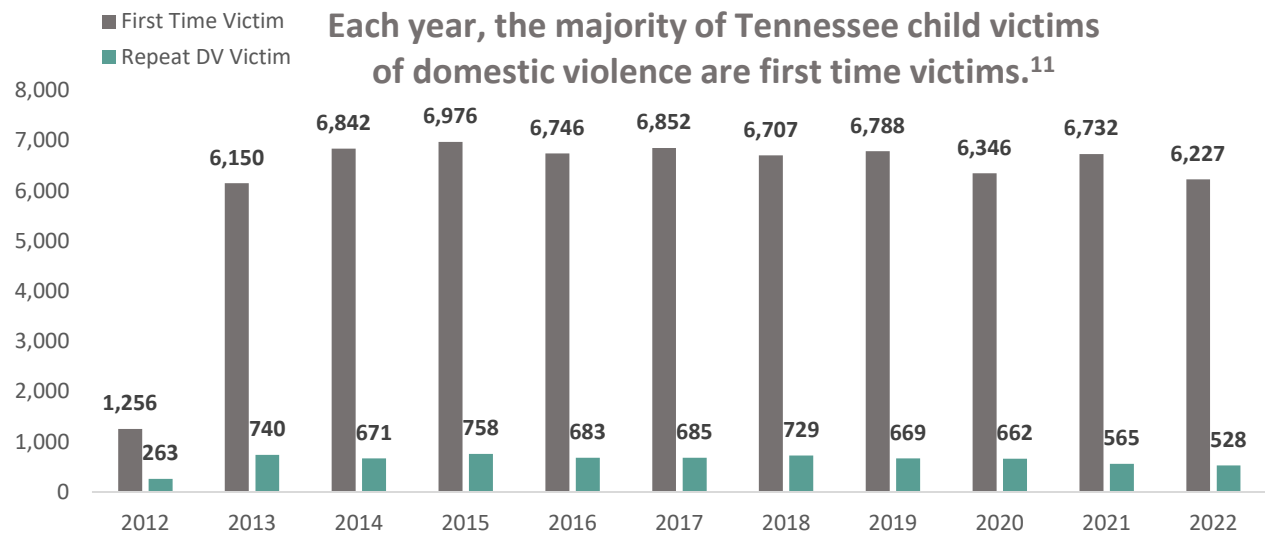
	DCS Abuse Death Investigations	Under 18 Deaths in Tennessee	Percent of Deaths Investigated
2014	220	884	24.9%
2015	192	894	21.5%
2016	179	965	18.5%
2017	164	980	16.7%
2018	186	930	20.0%
2019	169	912	18.5%
2020	156	861	18.1%
2021	147	926	15.8%

Domestic Violence

Child Welfare



Over the last decade, on average 7,626 Tennessee children have been victims of domestic violence each year. The number has steadily trended down over the decade.¹¹



Each year, the majority of Tennessee child victims of domestic violence are first time victims.¹¹

Of the 6,539 repeat victims of domestic violence since 2012, more than one in six had an order of protection that was violated.¹¹

The most common domestic violence offenses against children in 2022 were:¹¹
 55.0 percent - Simple Assault
 16.9 percent - Aggravated Assault
 8.6 percent - Kidnapping/Abduction
 8.1 percent - Forcible Fondling

2.6 percent of Tennessee women experienced intimate partner violence while pregnant in 2020, representing a significant increase from 0.6 percent in 2019.¹²

A domestic violence allegation was added to DCS' assessment tool for families in October 2021. From then until April 2022 there were 11,381 allegations.⁴

Among those who dated someone in the last year, one in eight Tennessee high school girls were in a physically violent relationship within the last year.

This represents an improvement since 2019's rate of one in six, though it is still the fifth highest rate in the country.¹³

Among high school girls:^{14,15}
 One in eight Shelby County students and one in nine Metro Nashville students reported they had been physically forced to have sexual intercourse.

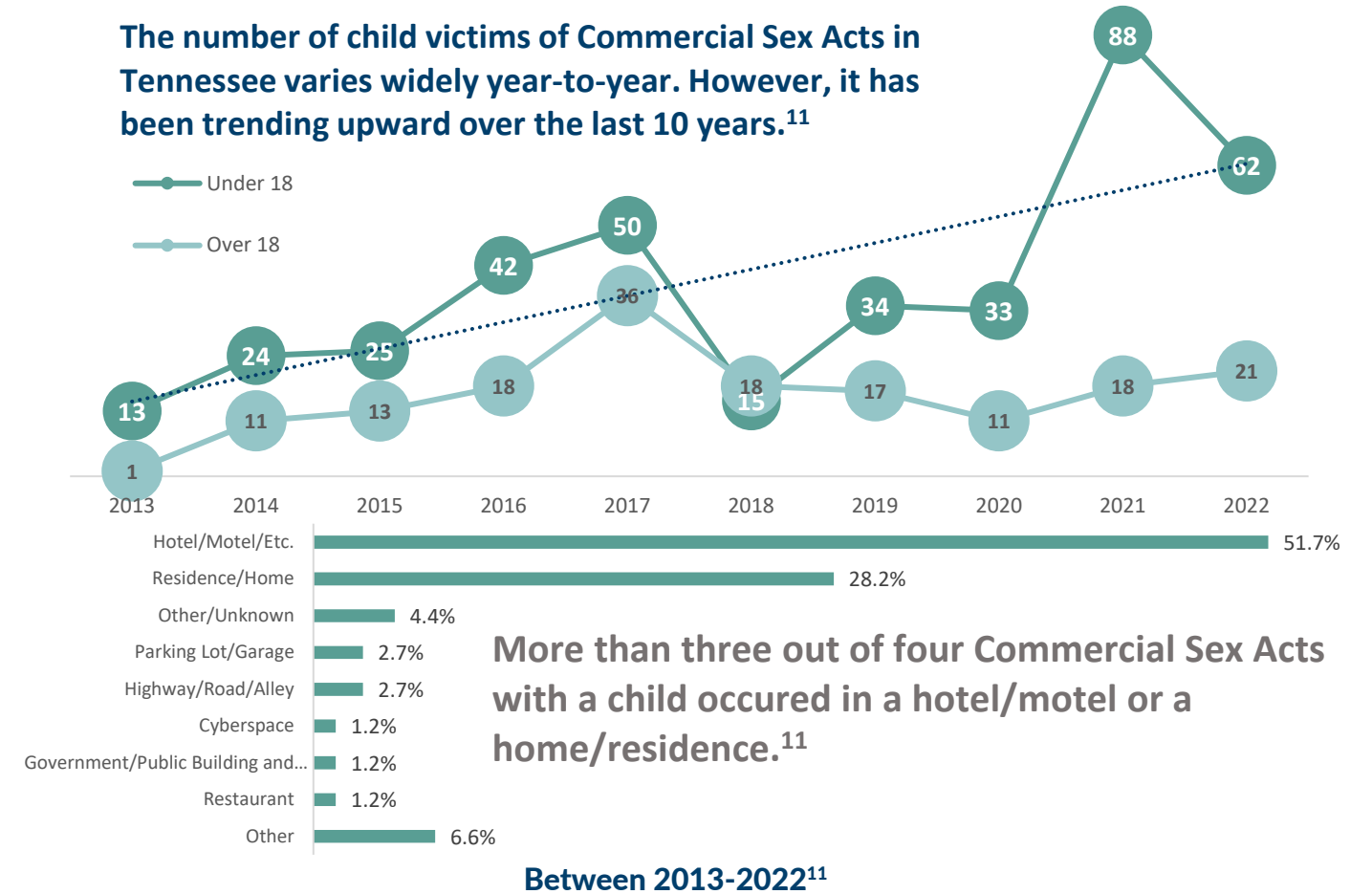
Human Trafficking

Child Welfare

2013-2022

According to The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System, there were 111 victims of Child Sex Trafficking in Tennessee in 2021.¹

The number of child victims of Commercial Sex Acts in Tennessee varies widely year-to-year. However, it has been trending upward over the last 10 years.¹¹



More than three out of four Commercial Sex Acts with a child occurred in a hotel/motel or a home/residence.¹¹

Between 2013-2022¹¹

There have been 10 reported child victims of involuntary servitude in Tennessee and 21 adult victims.

There have been 386 child victims of Commercial Sex Acts over the last 10 years

In 2.3 percent of cases the victim was under 10.

Black children were over represented as victims, comprising 36 percent of victims.

94 percent of victims were girls.

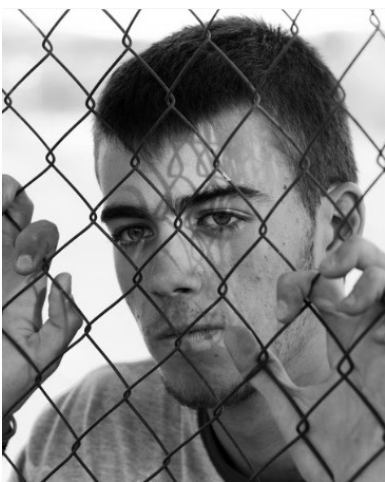
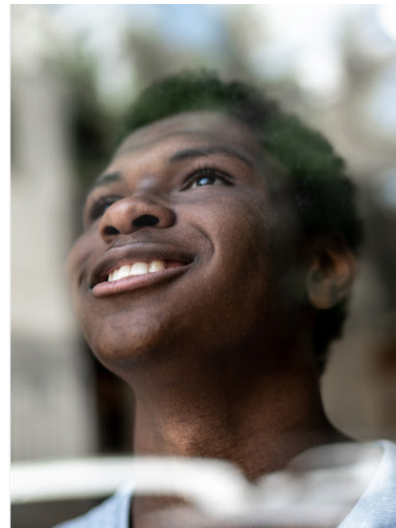
86 percent of known offenders were men.

In 2022, more than one in three victims of Commercial Sex Acts in Tennessee were 16 years old.

Commercial Sex Acts - Inducing a person by force, fraud or coercion to participate in commercial sex acts, or in which the person induced to perform such act(s) has not yet attained 18 years of age.

Involuntary Servitude - The obtaining of a person(s) through recruitment, harboring, transportation, or provision, and subjecting such person(s) by force, fraud or coercion into involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery (not to include commercial sex acts)

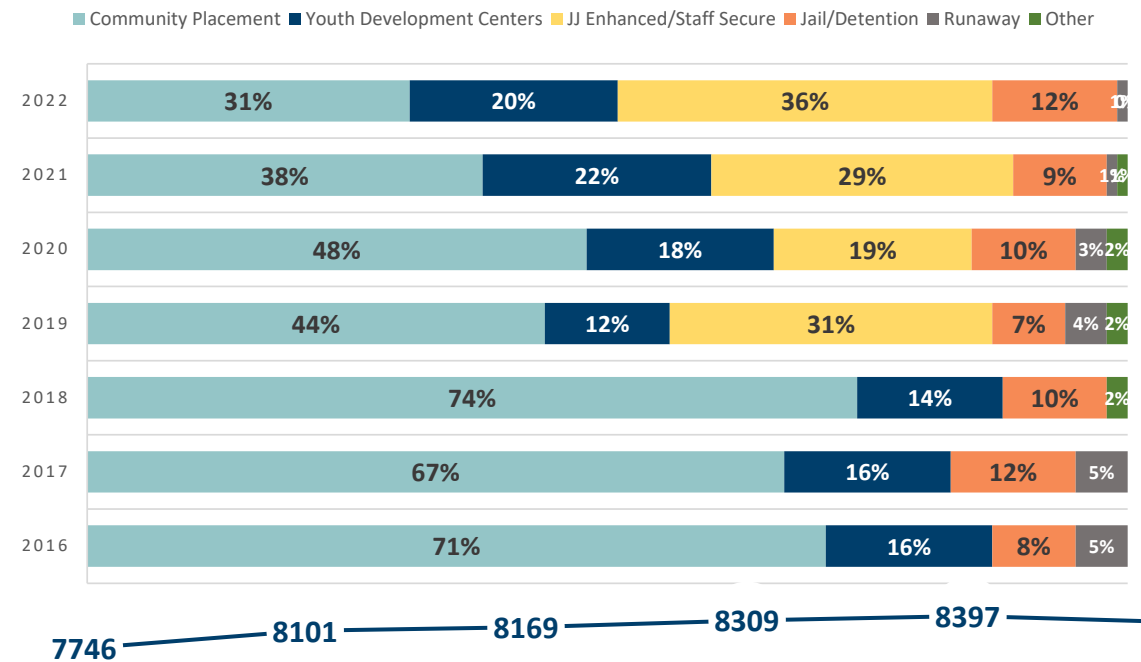
YOUTH JUSTICE



Youth Justice Placements

Youth Justice

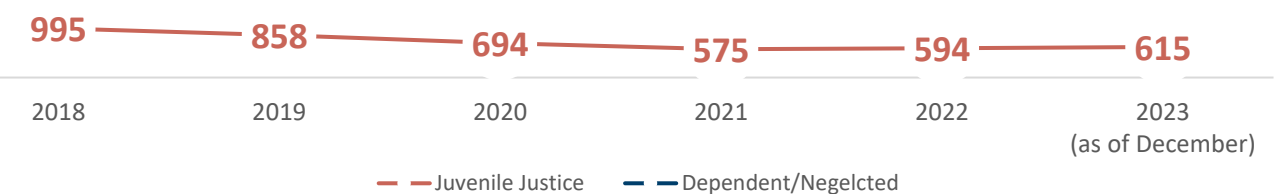
Point in time count on March 1st of each year



There continues to be a smaller share of youth in DCS juvenile justice custody that are in community based placements.¹



In 2022, youth in juvenile justice custody make up about 7 percent of the total population in DCS custody, down from 11 percent in 2018 when the Juvenile Justice Reform Act was passed.²



As of December 5th, 2023 there were 615 youth in DCS Juvenile Justice custody. Of those youth, 61 were in a detention center awaiting placement while 554 had been placed.²

- 135 were in a hardware secure/youth development center facility
- 190 were in a staff secure facility
- 161 were in a community placement
- 68 were in another placement such as a foster home, trial home visit or they had run away.

UNDERSTANDING TRENDS IN YOUTH CRIME

The Tennessee Bureau of Investigation publishes annual crime data through their Tennessee Incident Based Reporting System (TIBRS) that provides insight into trends in youth crime.³

With the exception of population numbers used to calculate rate, all of the data contained in this section is from TIBRS and can be accessed at crimeinsight.tbi.tn.gov³

Throughout this section the measure used is “Number of Crimes”, the broadest available measure, meaning an arrest is not necessary and there is always the chance that the alleged perpetrator is mistakenly attributed as being under 18.

Crimes Against Persons - Murder and Non-negligent Manslaughter, Negligent Manslaughter, Justifiable Homicide, Kidnapping / Abduction, Rape, Sodomy, Sexual Assault with an Object, Fondling, Incest, Statutory Rape, Aggravated Assault, Simple Assault, Intimidation, Human Trafficking - Commercial Sex Acts, Human Trafficking - Involuntary Servitude

Crimes Against Property- Arson, Bribery, Burglary / Breaking & Entering, Counterfeiting / Forgery, Destruction, Damage, Vandalism of Property, Embezzlement, Extortion / Blackmail, False Pretenses / Swindle / Confidence Game, Credit Card / Automatic Teller Machine Fraud, Impersonation, Welfare Fraud, Wire Fraud, Identity Theft, Hacking / Computer Invasion, Robbery, Pocket-picking, Purse-snatching, Shoplifting, Theft from a Building, Theft from Coin-Operated Machine or Device, Theft from a Motor Vehicle, Theft of Motor Vehicle Parts or Accessories, All Other Larceny, Motor Vehicle Theft, and Stolen Property Offenses.

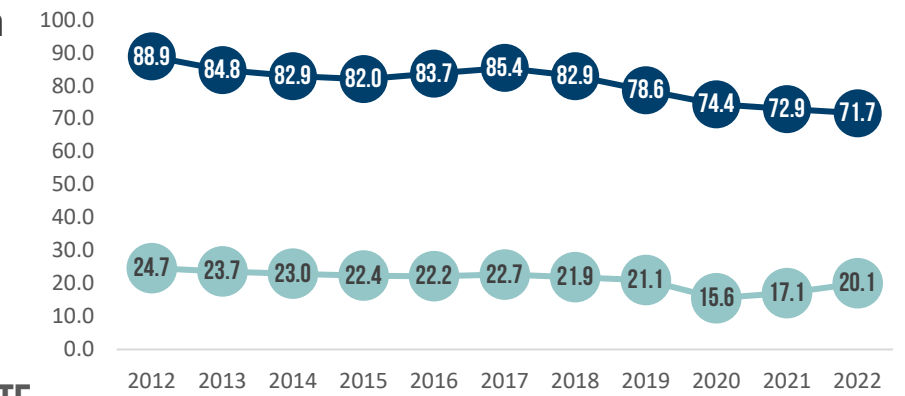
Crimes Against Society - Animal Cruelty, Drug/Narcotic Violations, Drug/Narcotic Equipment Violations, Gambling, Pornography, Prostitution, Promoting/Assisting or Purchasing Prostitution, and Weapons Law Violations.

Crime Rate Over the Decade

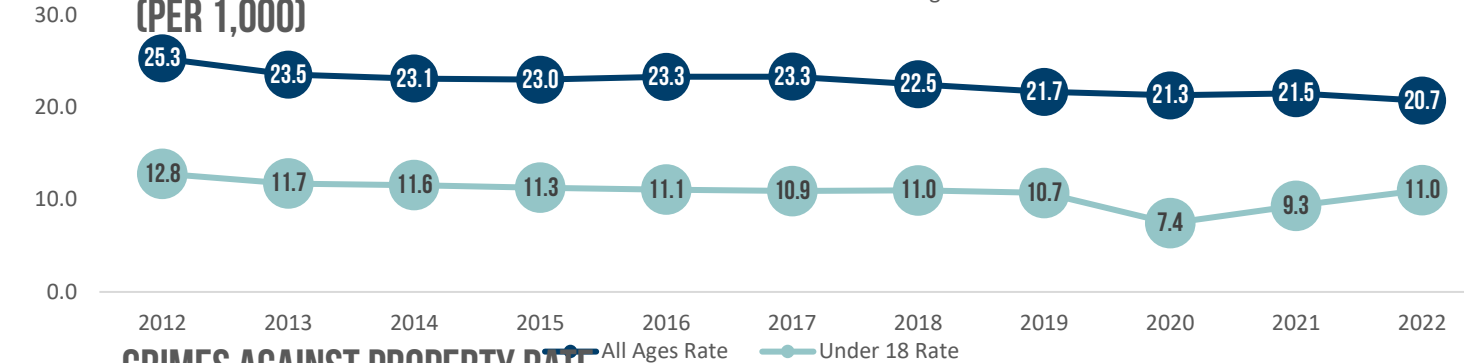
Youth Justice

Overall, the crime rate, including youth crime, has steadily trended down over the decade. In youth crime, there was a larger than usual drop in 2020 and subsequent increase back near previous levels in 2021 and 2022.

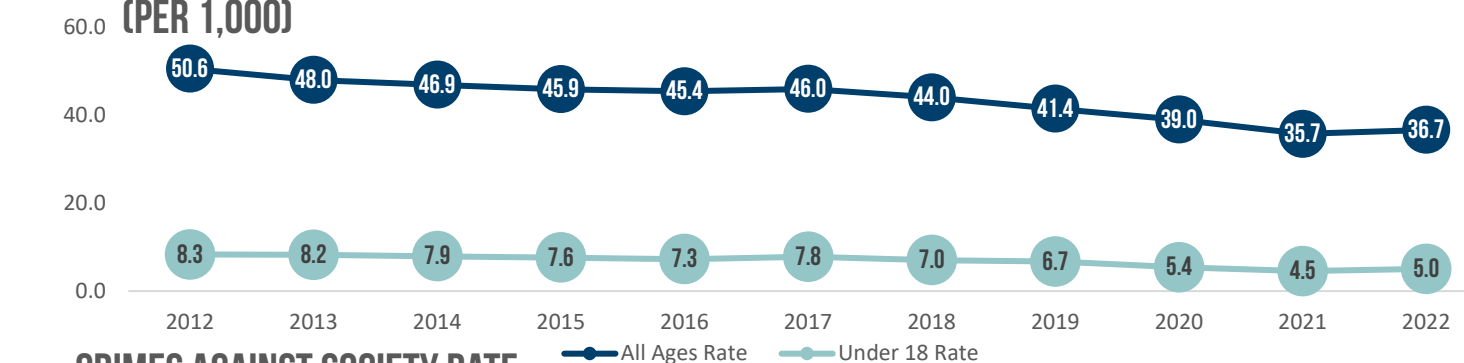
OVERALL CRIME RATE (PER 1,000)



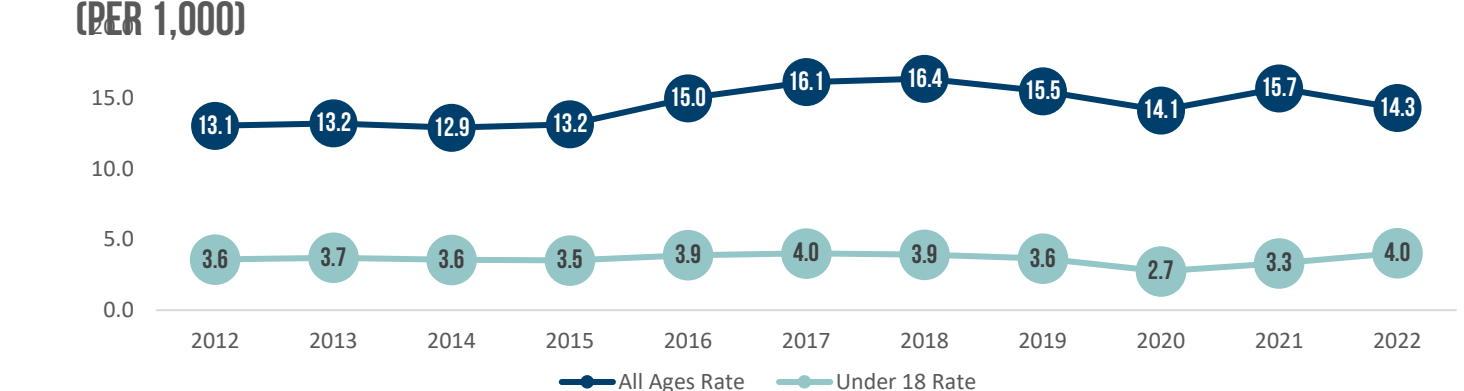
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS RATE (PER 1,000)



CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY RATE (PER 1,000)



CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY RATE (PER 1,000)



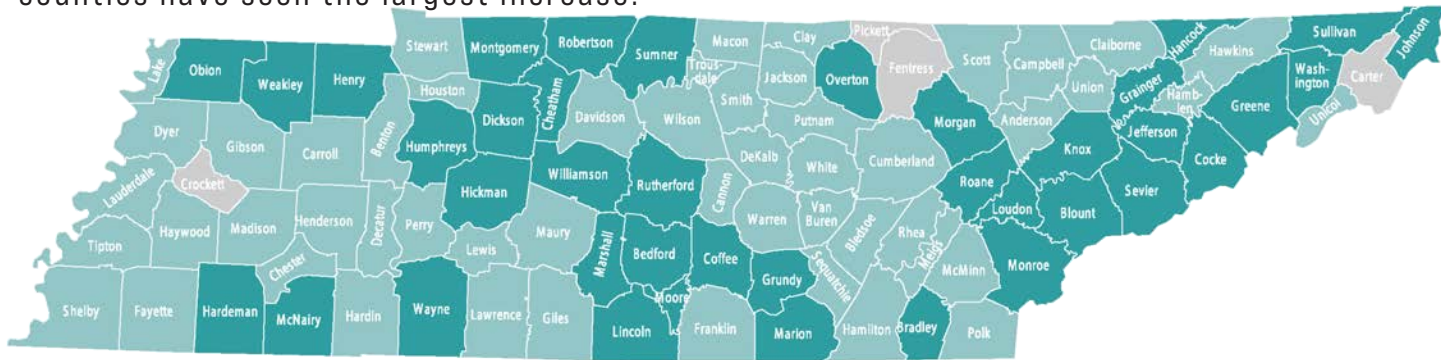
Crime Rate by County

Youth Justice



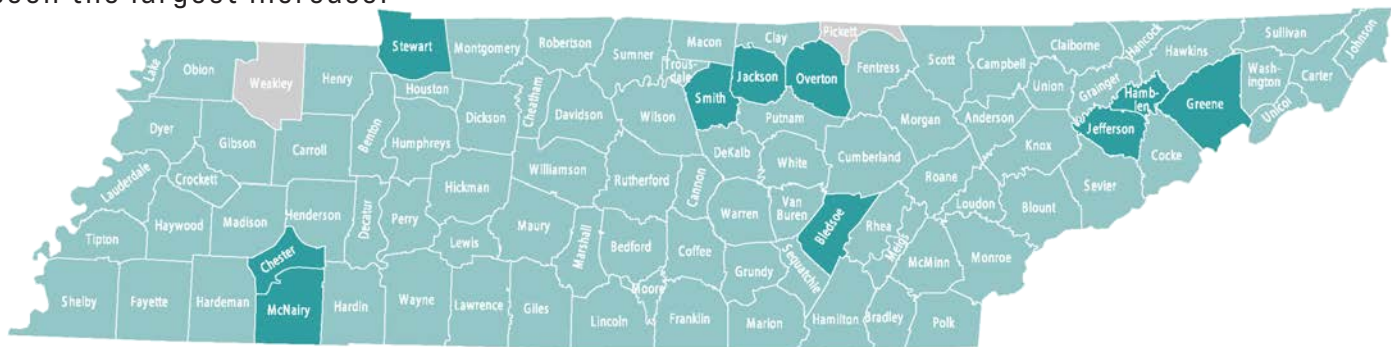
CRIMES AGAINST PERSONS

Over the last decade Dyer, Shelby and Davidson counties have seen the largest decline in the rate of under 18 Crimes Against Persons while Dickson, Marshall and Hardeman counties have seen the largest increase.



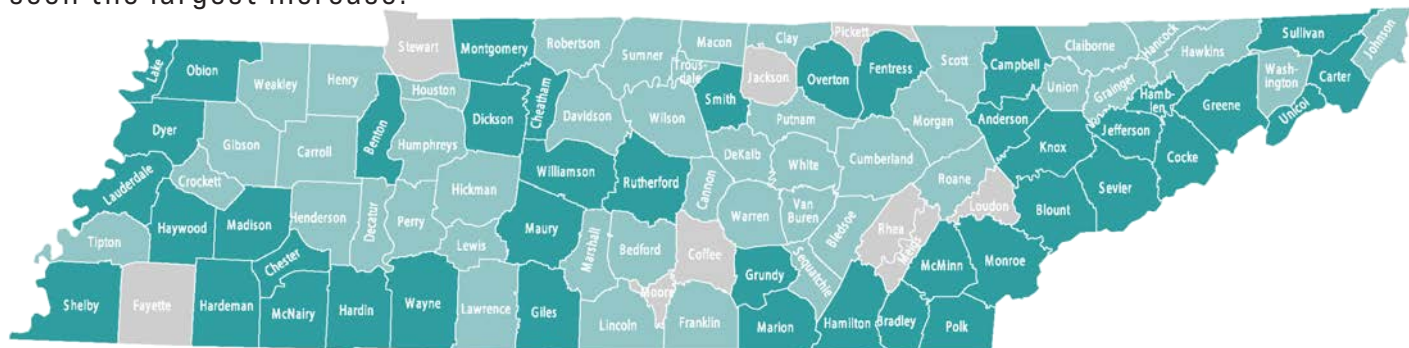
CRIMES AGAINST PROPERTY

Over the last decade Dyer, Van Buren and Lawrence counties have seen the largest decline in the rate of under 18 Crimes Against Property while Wayne, Loudon and Anderson counties have seen the largest increase.



CRIMES AGAINST SOCIETY

Over the last decade Hancock, Lawrence and Lewis Counties have seen the largest decline in the rate of under 18 Crimes Against Society while Hamblen, Chester and Smith Counties have seen the largest increase.



Youth and Firearm Crimes

Youth Justice

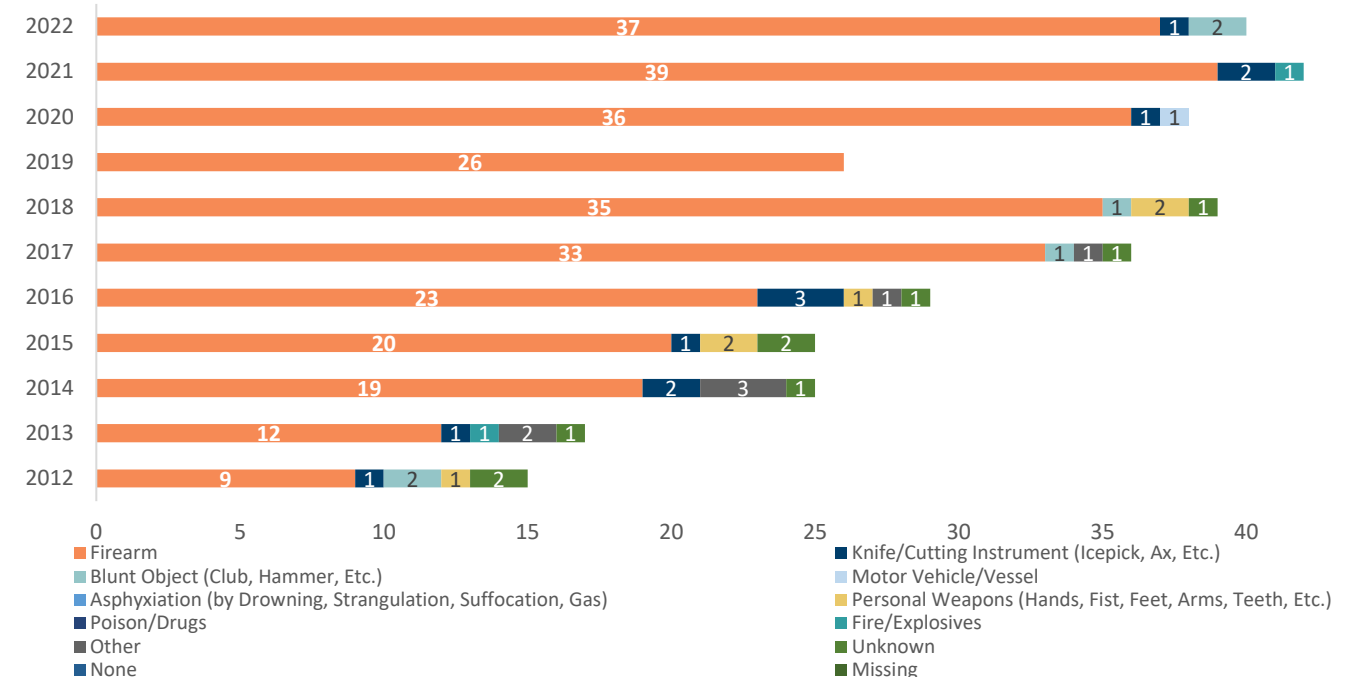
Percent change over the decade in the type of weapon used against a youth victim with any age offender:

- Firearm: ↑133.2%
- Poison/Drugs: ↓-64.8%
- Knife/Cutting Instrument: ↓-23.4%
- Fire/Explosives: ↓-23.8%
- Blunt Object: ↓-33.5%
- Other: ↓-17.0%
- Motor Vehicle: ↑17.3%
- Unknown: ↑126.4%
- Personal Weapons: ↓-24.0%
- None: ↑3456%
- Asphyxiation: ↑60.5%

In 2022 crimes where a youth used a firearm:

- 57.4 percent involved a Handgun
- 1.1 percent involved an Automatic Handgun
- 33.2 percent involved Firearm (Type Not Stated)
- 0.9 percent involved a Shotgun
- 5.3 percent involved an Other Firearm
- 0.2 percent involved a Firearm-Automatic (Type Not Stated)
- 5.1 percent involved a Rifle

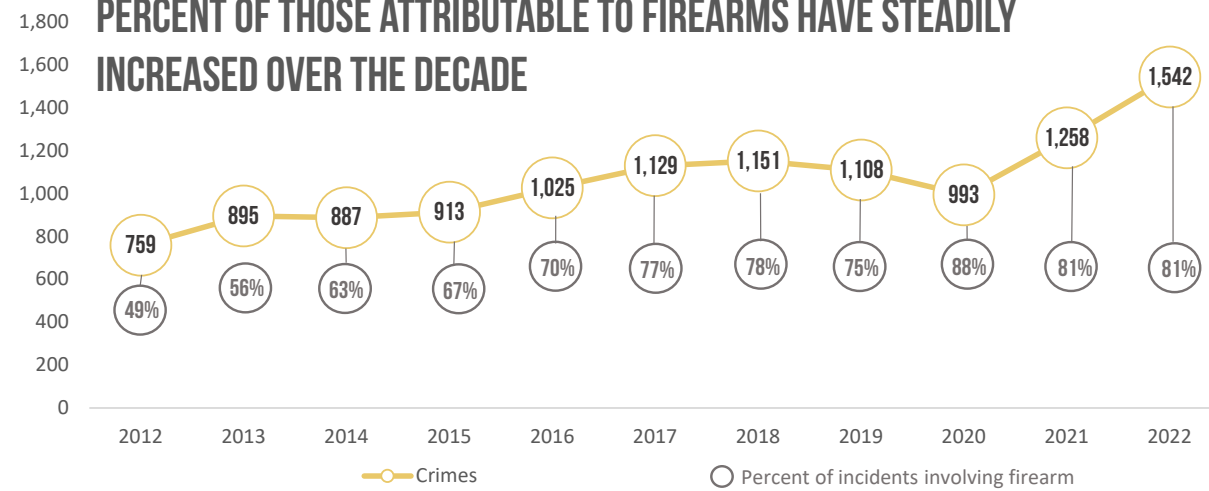
THE MAJORITY OF MURDERS COMMITTED BY YOUTH INVOLVE A FIREARM



Youth and Firearm Crimes

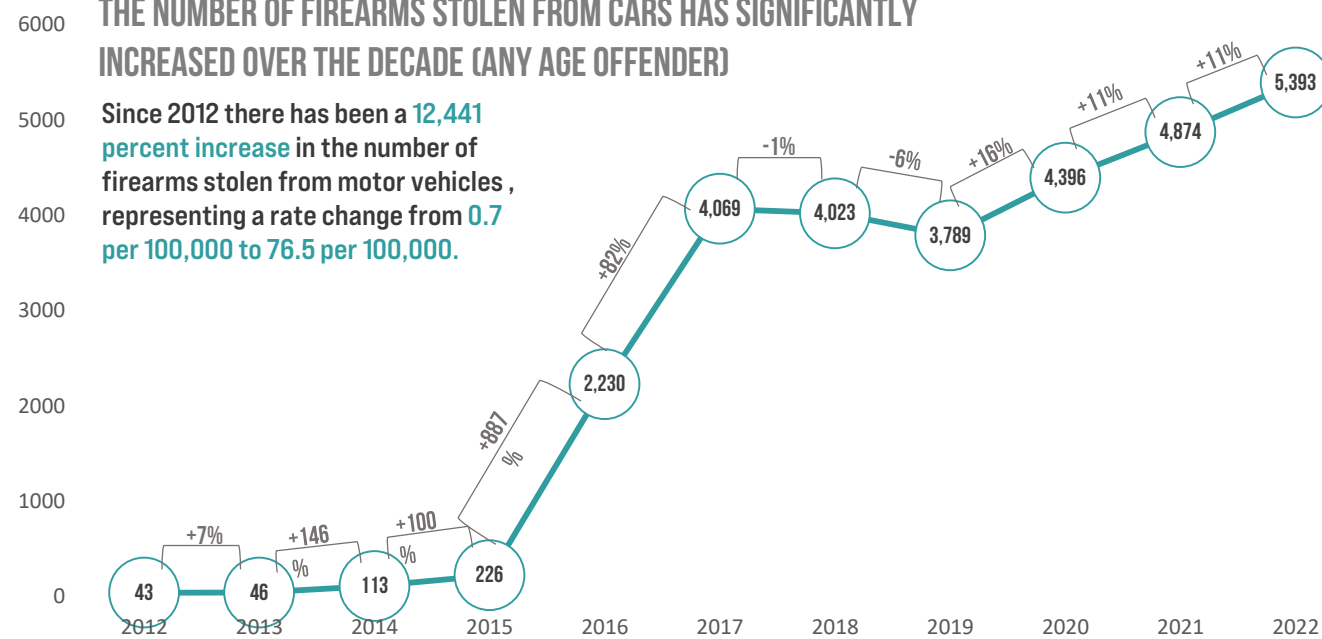
Youth Justice

WEAPONS LAW VIOLATIONS FOR UNDER 18 OFFENDERS AND THE PERCENT OF THOSE ATTRIBUTABLE TO FIREARMS HAVE STEADILY INCREASED OVER THE DECADE

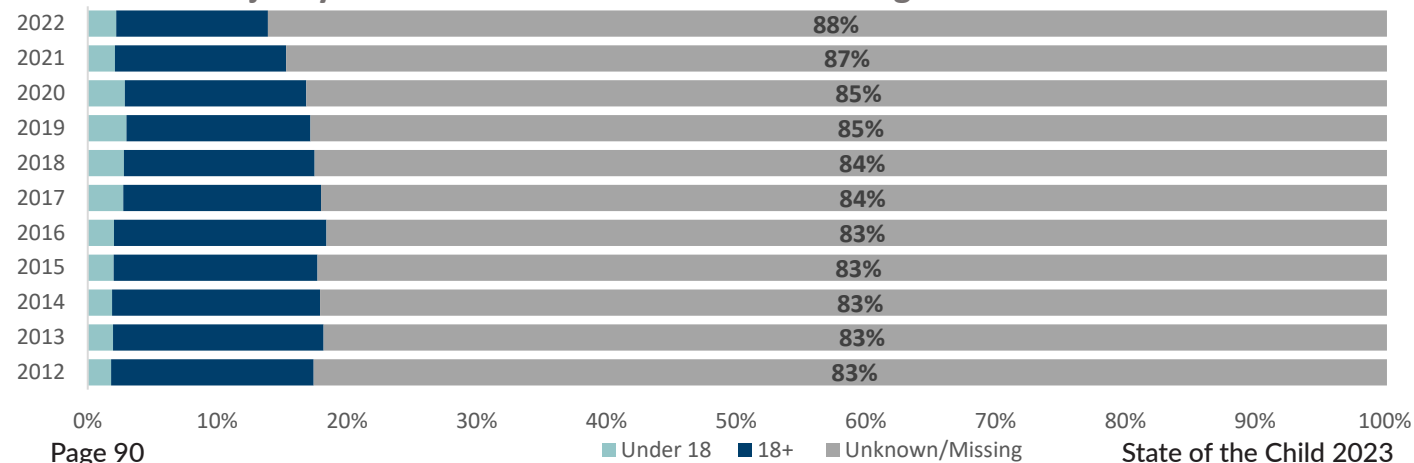


THE NUMBER OF FIREARMS STOLEN FROM CARS HAS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED OVER THE DECADE (ANY AGE OFFENDER)

Since 2012 there has been a **12,441 percent increase** in the number of firearms stolen from motor vehicles, representing a rate change from **0.7 per 100,000 to 76.5 per 100,000.**



In the majority of Thefts from Motor Vehicles the age of the offender is unknown.



Youth and Firearm Crimes

Youth Justice

Youth are much more likely to be the victim of a firearm crime than to perpetrate one.

In 2022, there were 1,561 crimes involving a firearm where the offender was under 18. During that same time period, there were 4,490 under-age -18 victims of crimes involving a firearm.

Victims of crimes involving a firearm have increased by 56 percent between 2012-2022 and victims of firearm crimes with a youth offender have **increased 27 percent.** Crimes involving a firearm against a youth victim have **increased by 133 percent.**

IN 2012,
3.8% of crimes committed by youth involved a firearm, representing 1,414 crimes

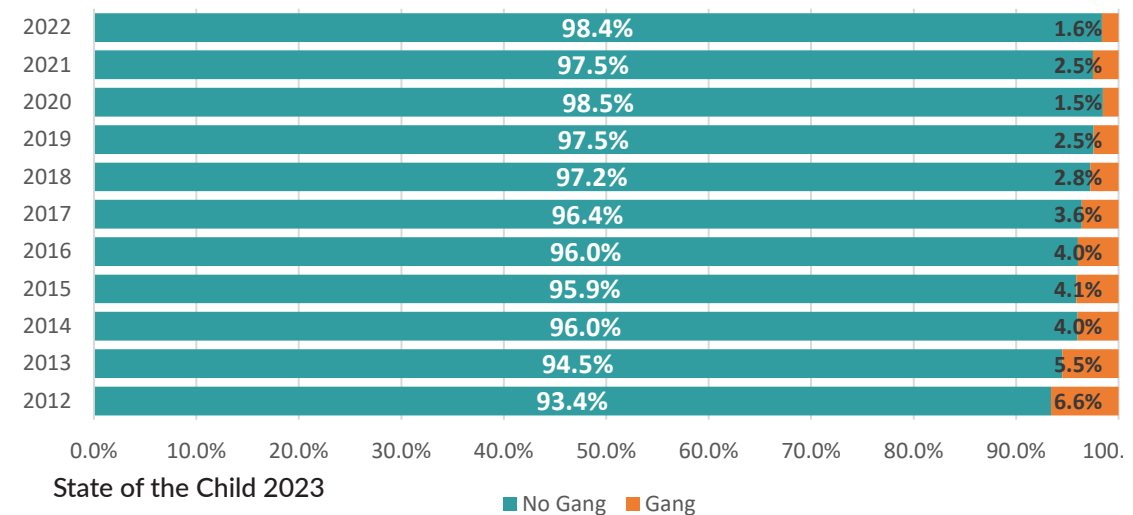
3.8% involved a knife or blunt object representing 1,404 crimes

IN 2022,
8.8% of crimes committed by youth involved a firearm representing 2,700 crimes

3.5% involved a knife or blunt object representing 1,064 Crimes

Though still only 12.3 percent of all crimes committed by youth under 18, this represents a **130 percent increase in firearm use** over the decade and a **9 percent decrease in the use of knives or blunt objects.**

GANG INVOLVEMENT REPRESENTS A SMALL AND DECREASING PORTION OF YOUTH FIREARM CRIMES

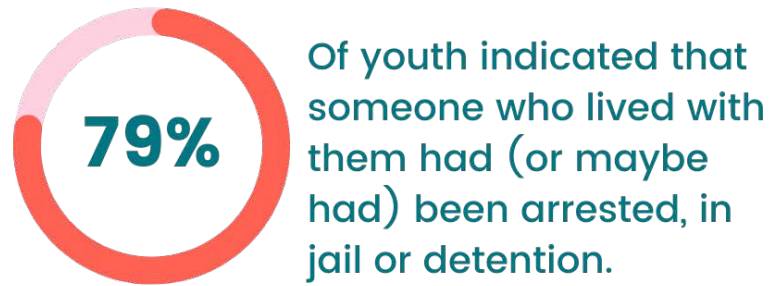


In 2022, gangs were involved in 0.43% of all youth crimes. **Gangs comprised of adults were involved in 0.25% of all youth crime.**

Youth in Detention Survey

Youth Justice

In spring of 2023, In order to fulfill federal OJJDP requirements, Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth distributed its annual survey to youth in Juvenile Detention Centers across the state. Youth are asked about their life experiences and what they want legislators and those who work with teens to know. Youth were also asked about what they need more help with.



43 percent of youth stated that they or someone they have lived with needed or maybe needed help with mental health or drugs/alcohol.



However, when asked about specific challenges, 45 percent of those who had previously said no indicated yes on at least one challenge indicating the real percent might be closer to 68 percent.



Have you or anybody who lived with you needed help with the following



What would you change about school, court, detention, or probation to make it better or more helpful?

"Let them understand that detention doesnt help troubled kids, it makes them worse. Courts need better programs for serious trouble kids like me. We need more help than just being thrown in a cell."
(Quoted as written)

More than half of youth reported needing more help with school or their GED/Hi-Set

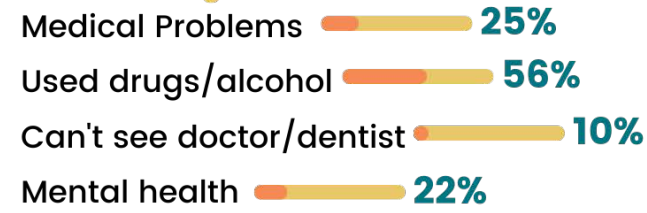
Youth in Detention Survey

Youth Justice

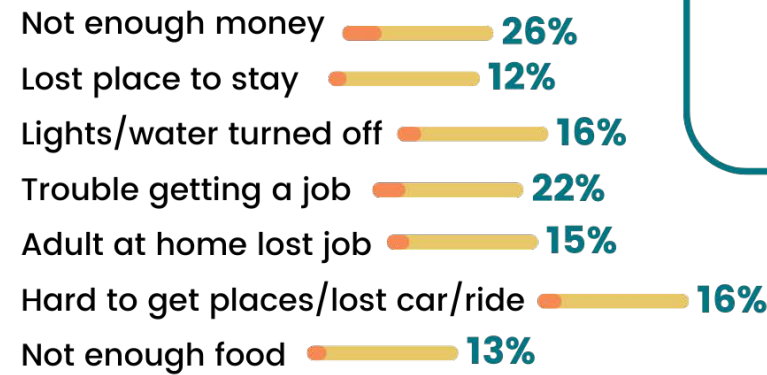
Have any of the following happened in your life?

Health

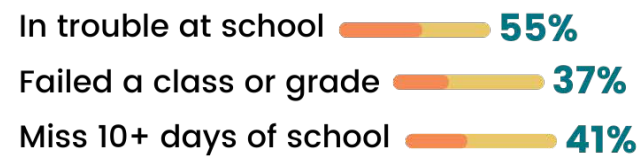
● Yes
● No



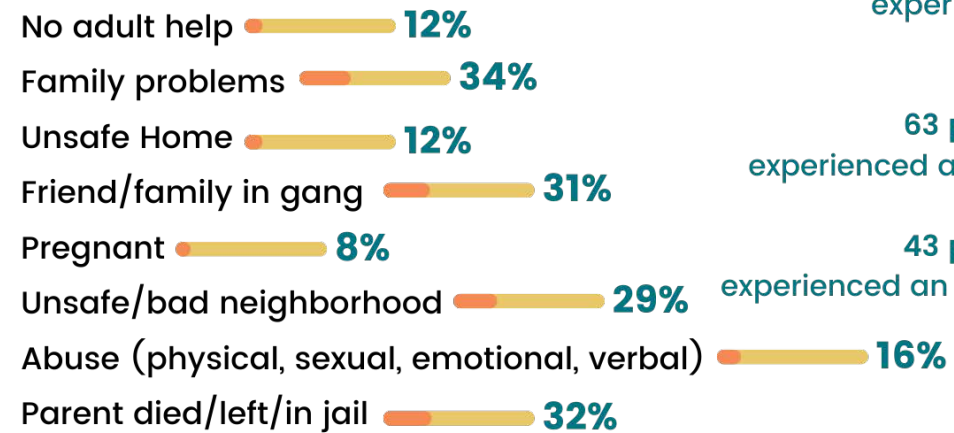
Economics



Education



Adversity



Other (quoted as written)

"Physical Abuse Homeless Addiction Short of Funds Sucidal" "loss of family members"
"Been shot before and deal with depression" "Dad went to prison wen i was about 7" "I was adopted"

Most common experiences among surveyed youth

- Used drugs/alcohol
- In trouble at school
- Missed 10+ days of school
- Failed a class or grade
- Family problems
- Parent died/left/in jail
- Friend/family in gang

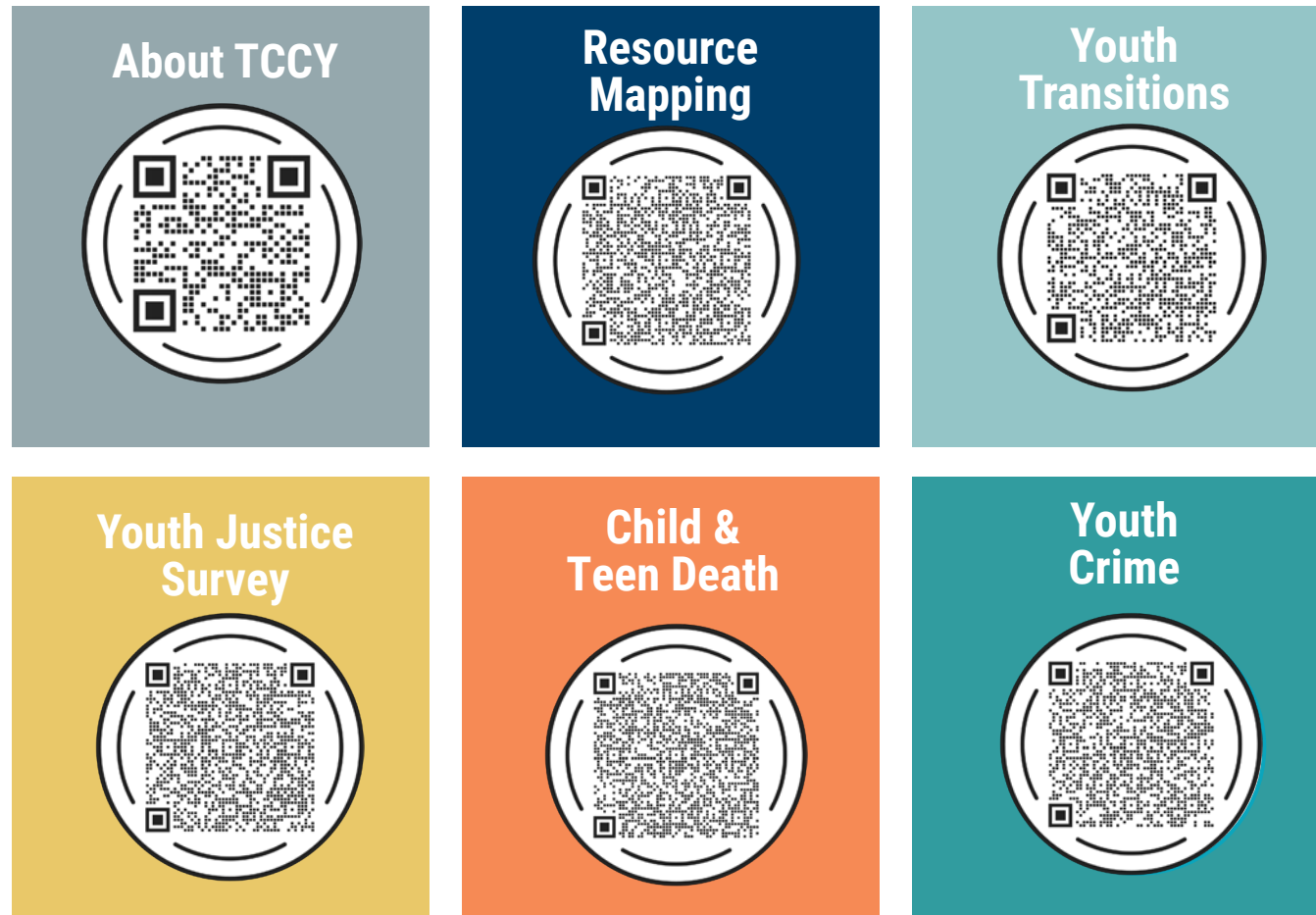
Among youth who indicated they had faced at least one of these challenges the average number of challenging experiences was 6.5
65 percent of youth had experienced a health challenge

69 percent of youth had experienced an education challenge

63 percent of youth had experienced a adversity challenge

43 percent of youth had experienced an economic challenge

Learn More:



Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Commission Members

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 Mayor Allan Sterbinsky
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 Ella Britt
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 Matt Marshall

Michael Rediker
 Randy Butler
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 Tracey Silverman

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