



DATA DEFINITIONS AND SOURCES

Welcome to the Tennessee Justice Center’s guide to the Data Dashboard. Each section of the County Health Equity Dashboard combines data from various sources to paint a clear picture of health and nutrition access in Tennessee. Use this guide to understand where the data comes from and how to interpret the data represented for each county. Please forward any questions to communicationstjc@tnjustice.org.

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County Health Equity Dashboard

Health Disparities

Demographics

- **Total Population;** population by county.
- **Population by Race/Ethnicity:** White, Black, AIAN, Asian, Hispanic/Latino, Some Other Race, Two or More Races.

Source: Georgetown University Center for Children and Families analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics data, Table P9: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race.

Geography

- **Rural;** Percentage of population living in a census-defined rural area; Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File, 2020
- **# of Rural Residents;** number of residents residing in a Census-defined rural area.

Economic Stability

- **Median Household Income;** Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates 2022 & 2018-2022
- **Income Inequality;** American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
 - **80th Percentile Income;** 80th percentile of median household income
 - **20th Percentile Income;** 20th percentile of median household income
- **Children in Poverty;** Percentage of children (under age 18) living in poverty; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2022 & 2018-2022

Education Access and Quality

- **High School Completion;** Adults age 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
 - **Percentage Completed;** adults 25+ that completed High School
- **Some College;** Adults 25-44 with some post-secondary education, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
 - **Percentage;** adults 25-44 with some post-secondary education

Health Care Access and Quality

- **Uninsured Adults;** Percentage of adults under age 65 without health insurance; Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021
- **Uninsured Children;** Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance; Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021
- **Primary Care Physicians;** Ratio of population to primary care physicians; Area Health Resource File/American Medical Association, 2021

- **Primary Care Physicians Rate**, Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 population
- **Dentists**, Ratio of population to dentists; Area Health Resource File/National Provider Identifier Downloadable File, 2022
 - **Dentist Rate**, dentists per 100,000 population
- **Mental Health Providers**, Ratio of population to mental health providers; CMS, National Provider Identification, 2023
 - **Mental Health Provider Rate**, Mental Health Providers per 100,000 population

Environment

- **Severe Housing Problems**; % Severe Housing Problems; Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities; Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016-2020
- **Food Insecurity**; Amount of population who lack adequate access to food, Map the Meal Gap, 2021
 - **Number of the Population**
 - **Percentage of the Population**

Community

- **Residential Segregation** - Black/White (Segregation Index); Index of dissimilarity where higher values indicate greater residential segregation between Black and white county residents; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
- **Child Care Cost Burden**; Childcare costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income; The Living Wage Institute; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2023 & 2022
- **% Fair or Poor Health**; Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021

Mortality

- **Life Expectancy**; Average number of years people are expected to live. National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2019-2021
- **Drug Overdose Deaths**; Number of overdose deaths and Mortality Rate of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population. , National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program , 2019-2021
- **Infant Mortality**; Infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births. National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files, 2015-2021
 - **Infant Mortality Rate**: number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births
- **Child Mortality**; Deaths among residents under age 20 per 100,000 population. National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2018-2021
 - **Child Mortality Rate**: number of resident deaths under age 20 per 100,000 population

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Economic Stability

Demographics

- **Total Population**; population by county.

County Health Rankings - Economic Stability

- **Median Household Income**; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates 2022 & 2018-2022
 - **Household Income by Race**: AIAN; Asian; Black; Hispanic; White
- **Children in Poverty**; Percentage of children (under age 18) living in poverty; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2022 & 2018-2022
 - **Children in Poverty by Race**: AIAN; Asian; Black; Hispanic; White

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Poverty Status by Race

- **Population Poverty Status**; Population Below/At or Above Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months by Race
 - White, Black, AIAN, Asian, NHPI, Other, Two or More, Hispanic, White Non-Hispanic

Sources:

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer.

https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001I.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (Black or African American Alone), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer.

https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001B.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (Hispanic or Latino), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer.

https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001H.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (Asian Alone), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer.

https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001D.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (American Indian and Alaska Native Alone), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer.

https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001C.

Education

Demographics

- **Total Population**; population by county.

Education

- **High School Completion**; Adults age 25 and over with a high school diploma or equivalent, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
 - **Percentage Completed**; adults 25+ that completed High School
- **Some College**; Adults 25-44 with some post-secondary education, American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
 - **Percentage**; adults 25-44 with some post-secondary education

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Poverty and Education

- **Poverty Status**; Poverty Level in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Educational Attainment
 - **Population For Whom Poverty Status is Determined**
 - **Population With Income Below Poverty Level**
 - Population Less than High School Graduate
 - Population High School Graduate (Includes Equivalency)
 - Population With Some College
 - Population With Associate's Degree
 - Population With Bachelor's Degree or Higher

Source: Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Educational Attainment, 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13006.

Health Care

Demographics

- **Total Population**; population by county.

Health Care Access

- **Primary Care Physicians**; Ratio of population to primary care physicians; Area Health Resource File/American Medical Association, 2021
 - **Primary Care Physicians Rate**, Primary Care Physicians per 100,000 population
 - **Primary Care Physicians Ratio**, Population to Primary Care Physicians ratio
- **Dentists**, Ratio of population to dentists; Area Health Resource File/National Provider Identifier Downloadable File, 2022

- **Dentist Rate**, dentists per 100,000 population
- **Dentist Ratio**, Population to dentists ratio
- **Mental Health Providers**, Ratio of population to mental health providers; CMS, National Provider Identification, 2023
 - **Mental Health Provider Rate**, Mental Health Providers per 100,000 population
 - **Mental Health Provider Ratio**, Population to Mental Health Providers ratio
- **Uninsured Adults**; Percentage of adults under age 65 without health insurance; Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021
- **Uninsured Children**; Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance; Small Area Health Insurance Estimates, 2021

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Health Insurance Coverage by Age

- **Population Health Insurance Coverage by Age**
 - Population Under 18 With and Without Health Insurance Coverage
 - Population 18-24 With and Without Health Insurance Coverage
 - Population 25-34 With and Without Health Insurance Coverage
 - Population 35-64 With and Without Health Insurance Coverage
 - Population 65 and Over With and Without Health Insurance Coverage

Source: Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Health Insurance by Age, 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A20002.

Neighborhood & Environment

Demographics & Geography

- **Total Population**, population by county.
- **Rural**; Percentage of population living in a census-defined rural area; Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File, 2020

Neighborhood and Built Environment

- **Severe Housing Problems**; % Severe Housing Problems; Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, or lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities; Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy (CHAS) data, 2016-2020
- **Severe Housing Cost Burden**; Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
 - **Number of Households**
 - **Percentage of Households**
- **Drinking Water Violations**; Presence of Water Violation, County affected by a water violation: 1-Yes, 0-No. Safe Drinking Water Information System, 2022
- **Air Pollution - Particulate Matter**; Average daily amount of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter (PM2.5); Environmental Public Health Tracking Network, 2019

- **Food Environment Index**; Index of factors that contribute to a healthy food environment, from 0 (worst) to 10 (best). USDA Food Environment Atlas; Map the Meal Gap from Feeding America, 2019 & 2021
- **Food Insecurity**; Amount of population who lack adequate access to food, Map the Meal Gap, 2021
 - **Number of the Population**
 - **Percentage of the Population**
- **Limited Access to Healthy Foods**; Amount of population who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store; USDA Food Environment Atlas; 2019
 - **Number of the Population**
 - **Percentage of the Population**

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Community

Demographics and Geography

- **Total Population**, population by county.
- **Rural**; Percentage of population living in a census-defined rural area; Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File, 2020

Community

- **Residential Segregation** - Black/White (Segregation Index); Index of dissimilarity where higher values indicate greater residential segregation between Black and white county residents; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates, 2018-2022
- **% Fair or Poor Health**; Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021
- **Poor Physical Health Days**; Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2021
- **Poor Mental Health Days**; Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted).
- **Child Care Cost Burden**; Childcare costs for a household with two children as a percent of median household income; The Living Wage Institute; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates, 2023 & 2022

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Mortality

Demographics

- **Total Population**, population by county.

Mortality

- **Homicides**; Rate of deaths due to homicide per 100,000 people. National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2015-2021
- **Suicides**; Rate of deaths due to suicide per 100,000 people (age-adjusted). National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2017-2021
- **Drug Overdose Deaths***; Number of overdose deaths and Mortality Rate of drug poisoning deaths per 100,000 population. , National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program , 2019-2021
- **Infant Mortality***; Infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births. National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files, 2015-2021
 - **Infant Mortality Deaths**: total number of infant deaths
 - **Infant Mortality Rate**: number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births
 - **Infant mortality by Race**: Hispanic, Black, White
- **Child Mortality***; Deaths among residents under age 20 per 100,000 population. National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2018-2021
 - **Child Mortality Deaths**: total number of deaths among residents under age 20
 - **Child Mortality Rate**: number of resident deaths under age 20 per 100,000 population
 - **Child Mortality Rate by Race**: Hispanic, Black, White
- **Life Expectancy***; Average number of years people are expected to live. National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2019-2021
 - **Life Expectancy by Race**: Asian, Black, Hispanic, White

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Medical Debt

Demographics

- **Total Population**, population by county.

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Population With Medical Debt

- **Share of population with medical debt in collections** (All)
 - Share with medical debt in collections, Communities of color
 - Share with medical debt in collections, White communities
- **Median amount of medical debt in collections** (All)
 - Median amount of medical debt in collections, Communities of color
 - Median amount of medical debt in collections, White communities
- **Share of the population without health insurance** (All)
 - Share of the population without health insurance, Communities of color
 - Share of the population without health insurance, White communities

- **Average household income** (All)
 - Average household income, Communities of color
 - Average household income, White communities

Source: Cassandra Martinchek, Miranda Santillo, Breno Braga, and Signe-Mary McKernan. 2024. Debt in America 2024. Accessible from <https://datacatalog.urban.org/dataset/debt-america-2024>.

Maternal Health

Demographics

- **Total Population**, population by county.

Maternal & Child Health Outcomes

- **% Low Birthweight***; Percentage of births with low birthweight (<2500g). National Center for Health Statistics - Natality Files, 2016-2022
 - **% Low birthweight by Race**: Hispanic, Black, White, Asian
- **Infant Mortality***; Infant deaths (within 1 year) per 1,000 live births. National Center for Health Statistics - Natality and Mortality Files, 2015-2021
 - **Infant Mortality Deaths**: total number of infant deaths
 - **Infant Mortality Rate**: number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births
 - **Infant mortality by Race**: Hispanic, Black, White
- **Child Mortality***; Deaths among residents under age 20 per 100,000 population. National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files; Census Population Estimates Program, 2018-2021
 - **Child Mortality Deaths**: total number of deaths among residents under age 20
 - **Child Mortality Rate**: number of resident deaths under age 20 per 100,000 population
 - **Child Mortality Rate by Race**: Hispanic, Black, White

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Maternity Care Access

- **Access to Maternity Care**; Classified across Tennessee by the availability of birthing facilities, maternity care providers, and the percent of uninsured women. Levels —Full Access, Low Access, Maternity Care Desert.
- **Distance to Birthing Hospital**; By county—number of miles and distance rating.
 - **Miles**: number of miles to reach the nearest birthing hospital.
 - **Rating**: 1 (furthest distance) to 5 (nearest distance)
- **Chronic Health Burden (CHB) and Preterm Birth (PTB)**
 - **Chronic Health Burden (CHB)**: percentage of individuals having a chronic health condition before pregnancy.
 - **Preterm Birth (PTB)**: percentage of individuals delivering before 37 weeks gestation.

- **Rating:** high or low CHB and PTB in each county.

Source: Fontenot, J, Lucas, R, Stoneburner, A, Brigance, C, Hubbard, K, Jones, E, Mishkin, K. *Where You Live Matters: Maternity Care Deserts and the Crisis of Access and Equity in Tennessee*. March of Dimes. 2023.

Enrollment

Demographics & Geography

- **Total Population**, population by county.
- **Rural**; Percentage of population living in a census-defined rural area; Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics File, 2020
- **# of Rural Residents**; number of residents residing in a Census-defined rural area.

Economic Stability

- **Median Household Income**; Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates; American Community Survey, 5-year estimates 2022 & 2018-2022

Source: University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024. www.countyhealthrankings.org.

Public Benefits Program Enrollment

- **TennCare**; Number of individuals enrolled in TennCare
- **CoverKids**; Number of individuals enrolled in CoverKids
- **SNAP**; Number of individuals enrolled in SNAP
- **TANF**; Number of individuals enrolled in TANF
- **WIC**; Number of individuals enrolled in WIC

Tennessee Division of TennCare. Enrollment Data: 2024 Enrollment Data (August 2024). <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/information-statistics/enrollment-data.html>.

Tennessee Division of TennCare, CoverKids. Enrollment Data: 2024 Enrollment Data (August 2024). <https://www.tn.gov/coverkids/enrollment-data.html#:~:text=Enrollment%20Data.%20310%20Great%20Circle%20Road>.

Tennessee Department of Human Services. SNAP – Statistical Information (August 2024). <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/for-families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/snap-statistical-information.html>.

Tennessee Justice Center analysis of Tennessee Department of Human Services 2023 TANF Enrollment data by County.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. Infants and Children Receiving Benefits from Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program in Tennessee (December 2023). <https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/2999-infants-and-children-receiving-benefits-from-women-infant-and-children-wic-program?loc=44&loct=5#detailed/5/6420-6514/false/2545/any/13222,10115>.

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Annie E. Casey Foundation, Kids Count Data Center. Infants and Children Receiving Benefits from Women, Infant, and Children (WIC) Program in Tennessee (December 2023).

<https://datacenter.aecf.org/data/tables/2999-infants-and-children-receiving-benefits-from-women-infant-and-children-wic-program?loc=44&loct=5#detailed/5/6420-6514/false/2545/any/13222,10115>.

Fontenot, J, Lucas, R, Stoneburner, A, Brigance, C, Hubbard, K, Jones, E, Mishkin, K. *Where You Live Matters: Maternity Care Deserts and the Crisis of Access and Equity in Tennessee*. March of Dimes. 2023.

Georgetown University Center for Children and Families analysis of U.S. Census Bureau 2020 Decennial Census Demographic and Housing Characteristics data, Table P9: Hispanic or Latino, and Not Hispanic or Latino by Race.

Kassandra Martinchek, Miranda Santillo, Breno Braga, and Signe-Mary McKernan. 2024. Debt in America 2024. Accessible from <https://datacatalog.urban.org/dataset/debt-america-2024>.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Health Insurance by Age, 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A20002.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months of Individuals by Educational Attainment, 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13006.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (White Alone, Not Hispanic or Latino), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001I.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (Black or African American Alone), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001B.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (Hispanic or Latino), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001H.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (Asian Alone), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001D.

Social Explorer; U.S. Census Bureau. Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months (American Indian and Alaska Native Alone), 2022. Prepared by Social Explorer. https://www.socialexplorer.com/data/ACS2022_5yr/metadata?ds=SE&table=A13001C.

Tennessee Division of TennCare. Enrollment Data: 2024 Enrollment Data (August 2024). <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/information-statistics/enrollment-data.html>.

Tennessee Division of TennCare, CoverKids. Enrollment Data: 2024 Enrollment Data (August 2024).
<https://www.tn.gov/coverkids/enrollment-data.html#:~:text=Enrollment%20Data.%20310%20Great%20Circle%20Road.>

Tennessee Department of Human Services. SNAP – Statistical Information (August 2024).
[https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/for-families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/snap-statistical-information.html.](https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/humanservices/for-families/supplemental-nutrition-assistance-program-snap/snap-statistical-information.html)

Tennessee Justice Center analysis of Tennessee Department of Human Services 2023 TANF Enrollment data by County.

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. County Health Rankings & Roadmaps 2024.
[www.countyhealthrankings.org.](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org)