Poverty: A Profile of Tennessee

Overall Poverty

- 15.3%
- or over 1 million people live below the poverty level in Tennessee. This is a worse rate than the U.S. (13.1%) and the Southern Region (14.7%).

Child Poverty

- 22%
- or over 1 in every 5 children live below the poverty level in Tennessee (2018)
- 18%
- of children live below the poverty level nationally

Tennessee has no state minimum wage and does not offer an earned income tax credit

Tennessee is Within the Top 10 States for Worst

- Median Income: 8th
- Overall Poverty: 10th
- Child Poverty: 10th

Low median and minimum wages contribute to high poverty in Tennessee

View the full report for sources and more information