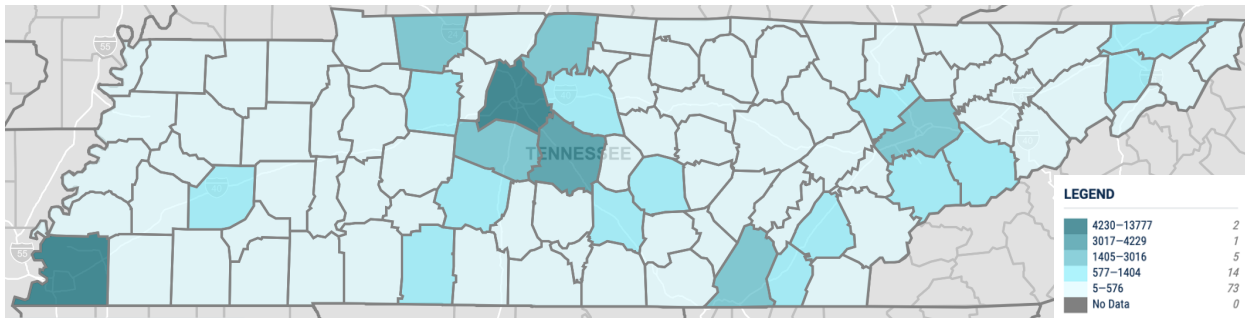


# Why TN children don't have health insurance and how you can fix it

**Medicaid, also known as TennCare,** is a source of health insurance for over 830,000 TN children. Each state receives federal matching funds and has the flexibility to design its program within federal guidelines. For children, Medicaid provides guaranteed coverage, pediatrician-recommended services, and cost-sharing protections.

**Children's Health Insurance Program, also known as CoverKids in Tennessee,** builds on the foundation of Medicaid to cover about 34,000 children in working families who are not eligible for Medicaid and lack affordable private coverage

- Almost **56,000 (5%)** children in Tennessee are uninsured, yet they are eligible for Medicaid (TennCare) or CHIP (CoverKids).
- The counties with the highest numbers of uninsured children as of 2019
  1. Shelby County – 13,777 (5.6%)
  2. Davidson County – 10,407 (6.8%)
  3. Rutherford County – 4,229 (5.1%)



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2015-2019 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

## Uninsured Children by Poverty Level

Poverty Level	Number
Below 100%	23,000
100%-149%	11,000
150%-199%	11,000
200%-299%	16,000
300% or above	16,000

Some families are above the income limit to qualify for TennCare or CoverKids. But, many families don't know that they may still qualify under special categories.

## What can you do?

- Spread the word that almost every uninsured child is eligible for something.
- Support programs that are fundamental to children's coverage in Tennessee.
- Ask candidates for public office and elected officials questions like "What is your plan to ensure every child in Tennessee has access to healthcare?"

