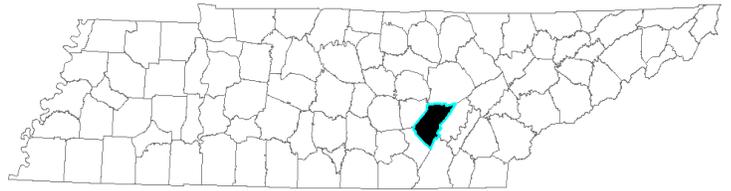
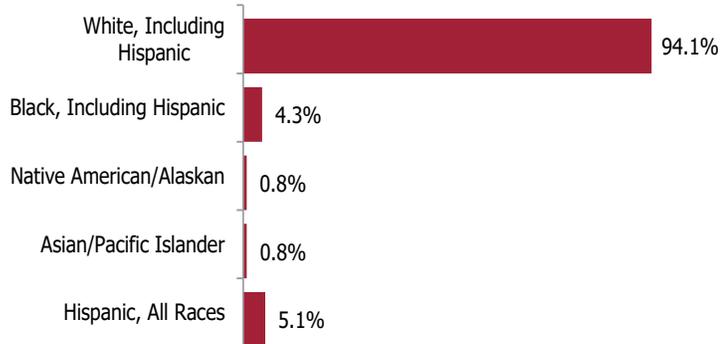


Bledsoe

TCCY Index Rank 82



Child Population by Race/Ethnicity



HEALTH



Low birth-weight babies

9.6%

Rank: 66

Rank: 61

Children without health insurance

5.4%

Rank: 89

Child and teen deaths

0 per 100,000

Rank: 1

ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Rank: 68

Child Poverty

30.1%

Rank: 84

Median Household Income

\$38,261

Rank: 77

Fair Market Rent

\$761

Rank: 1

FAMILY and COMMUNITY

Rank: 84

School suspension rate

3.0%

Rank: 54

Teen pregnancy

20.8 per 1,000

Rank: 87

Substantiated Abuse and Neglect

8.6 per 1,000

Rank: 86

EDUCATION

Rank: 73

26.3%

Third to eighth grade reading proficiency

Rank: 77

27.1%

Third to eighth grade math proficiency

Rank: 76

92.0%

High school graduation rate

Rank: 62



Bledsoe County

Published 10/2019

Demographics 	Bledsoe County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Total population (state comparison is number not rate)	14,722	NA	6,715,862	0.2%	78
Population under 18 years of age	2,320	15.8%	22.4%	70.5%	94
Economic Well-Being 	Bledsoe County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Youth unemployment	20	15.4%	12.0%	128.3%	57
Per capita personal income (state is dollars not rate)	\$25,705	NA	\$45,517	56.5%	94
Children receiving Families First grants (TANF)	120	5.2%	3.2%	162.7%	89
Children receiving SNAP	1,172	50.5%	31.8%	159.0%	88
Children under five receiving WIC	330	52.9%	29.6%	178.6%	81
Education 	Bledsoe County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
School age special education services	310	18.3%	11.9%	153.8%	93
TEIS participation (per 1,000 in age group)	4	10.50	23.4	44.8%	6
Cohort high school dropouts	14	11.3%	5.5%	205.5%	93
Event high school dropouts	15	2.5%	2.6%	96.2%	83
Economically disadvantaged students	844	49.2%	34.7%	141.8%	88
School expulsions (per 1,000 students)	0	0.0	2.0	0.0%	1
Chronic absenteeism	279	16.6%	13.6%	122.1%	76
Health 	Bledsoe County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (per 1,000 live births)	3	26.32	13.5	194.7%	71
Births to mothers who smoked during pregnancy	30	26.3%	12.7%	207.1%	77
Children on TennCare (Medicaid)	1,702	61.3%	48.4%	126.8%	78
Total TennCare (Medicaid) enrollees	3,099	21.1%	21.8%	96.6%	20
Births covered by TennCare (Medicaid)	78	68.4%	52.3%	130.9%	68
Children qualified for Medicaid/CHIP but uninsured	85	5.3%	5.5%	96.4%	61
Infant mortality (per 1,000 live births)	1	8.80	7.4	118.9%	65
Neonatal death (per 1,000 live births)	1	8.80	4.6	191.3%	81
Child deaths (per 100,000 children age 1 to 14)	0	0.00	22.4	0.0%	1
Teen violent deaths (per 100,000 children age 15 to 19)	0	0.00	52.5	0.0%	1
Adequate prenatal care	53	46.5%	57.4%	81.0%	87
Children under age six screened for lead poisoning	98	13.2%	17.7%	74.5%	75
Public school students measured as overweight/obese	NA	43.1%	39.2%	109.9%	50
Teens with STDs (per 1,000 children age 15 to 17)	<5	0.0	17.3	0.0%	1
Medical doctors by county (per 100,000 residents)	5	34.0	239.2	14.2%	71
Dentists by county (per 100,000 residents)	2	13.6	49.0	27.7%	80
Family & Community 	Bledsoe County		Tennessee Rate	County Rate as a percentage of State Rate	County Rank
	Number	Rate			
Reported child abuse cases	184	7.9%	4.9%	163.4%	90
Commitment to state custody (per 1,000 children)	18	6.8	3.9	175.8%	75
Remaining in state custody (per 1,000 children)	19	7.2	5.1	142.1%	60
Juvenile court referrals	113	4.9%	4.3%	114.3%	52
Recorded marriages (per 1,000 residents)	62	4.2	8.2	51.2%	94
Recorded divorces (per 1,000 residents)	60	4.1	3.6	113.9%	66
Births to unmarried females	48	42.1%	43.6%	96.6%	38
Regulated child care spaces (state is number not rate)	577	NA	307,218	0.2%	63

Bledsoe County

At 82nd, Bledsoe County ranks near the bottom of Tennessee counties in child well-being. Some of the county's strongest rankings are for its low housing costs and the fact that it had no child and teen deaths in 2017. The county's biggest challenges are its high rate of pregnancy among girls age 15 to 17 and of substantiated cases of child abuse and neglect, and its relatively high rate of children who lack health insurance.

Among the county's higher rankings are a low rate of school suspensions and an above average high school graduation rate.

Additional opportunities for improvement include a high rate of children living in poverty and comparatively low rates of 3rd to 8th grade students demonstrating math and reading proficiency on TNReady tests.

Policy/Practice/Program Options to Improve Outcomes. Many of these policies have multiple models for delivery, including public-private partnership and non-profit leadership.

- Comprehensive sex education classes that include both encouragement of abstinence and information on birth control have been shown to reduce the number of teen pregnancies.
- Two-generation programs such as evidence-based home visiting have been shown to reduce instances of child abuse and neglect.
- Most uninsured children in Tennessee qualify for either TennCare or CoverKids, so high rates of uninsured children can be improved with outreach to make sure families are aware of these insurance opportunities. According to Census Bureau estimates, Bledsoe County has about 85 children who qualify for these health insurance programs but who nonetheless lack insurance.
- With a high rate of child poverty, improving outreach to those who may qualify to receive SNAP and WIC benefits to be sure they are aware of these services can help ensure basic needs are met. Additionally, nutrition programs that provide food for school-age children to take home can contribute to food security. Expanding services through Family Resource Centers can also help reach these vulnerable populations.
- Increased access to pre-K can help both math and reading proficiency in later grades. Early assessment of reading skills coupled with appropriate interventions where needed can improve reading proficiency, while increasing STEM opportunities in elementary and middle schools can help improve 3rd to 8th grade math proficiency.