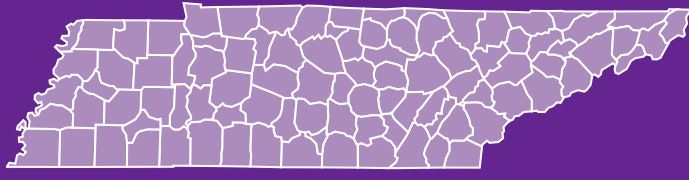


Poverty, Hunger, Health, and the Federal Nutrition Programs:

A Profile of Tennessee



HUNGER

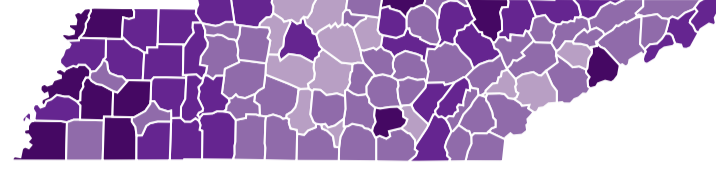


336,000 households experienced food insecurity in Tennessee (2016-2018)

Food insecurity is increasing dramatically during COVID-19, disproportionately affecting Black and Hispanic households that already experienced higher rates of food insecurity in Tennessee

Food Insecurity by County, 2017

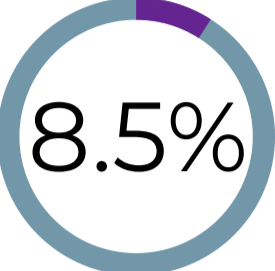
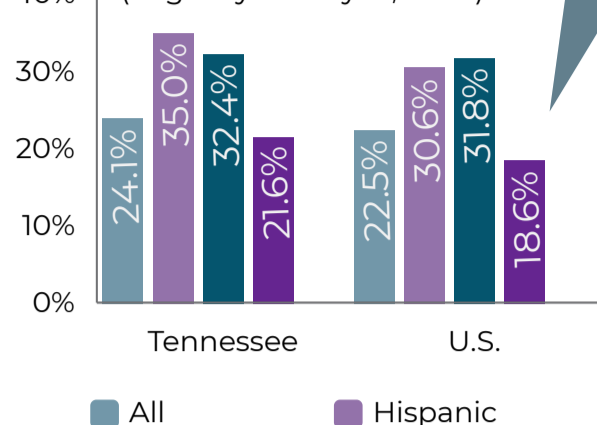
Legend: ≤11% (lightest purple), 11-13% (medium purple), 13-15% (darker purple), >15% (darkest purple)



12.4% of households experienced food insecurity in Tennessee (2016-2018), a larger proportion than the U.S. average of 11.7%. Food insecurity rates vary from 6-21% by county (2017).¹

Tennessee Food Insecurity Rates²

(Avg May 5 - July 21, 2020)



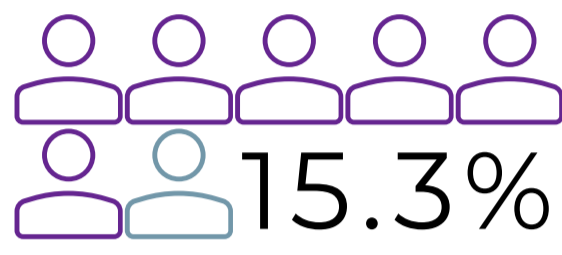
8.5% of people in Tennessee have low access to a grocery store, compared to 5.9% in the U.S. (2015)

Food insecurity has increased to 31% for individuals with children in Tennessee during COVID-19. The burden is higher for Hispanic and Black individuals with children.²



POVERTY

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

Low median and minimum wages contribute to high poverty in Tennessee

\$0

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

Overall Poverty

Child Poverty

8th

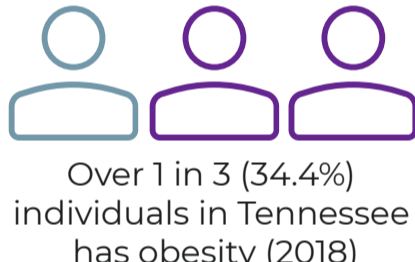
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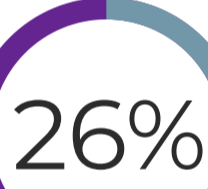
HEALTH



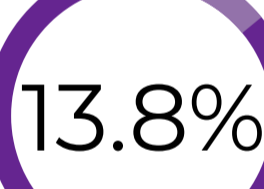
Hunger and poverty contribute to poor health and disparities in Tennessee



Over 1 in 3 (34.4%) individuals in Tennessee has obesity (2018)



26% The disparity in health status based on high school education in Tennessee (2018)

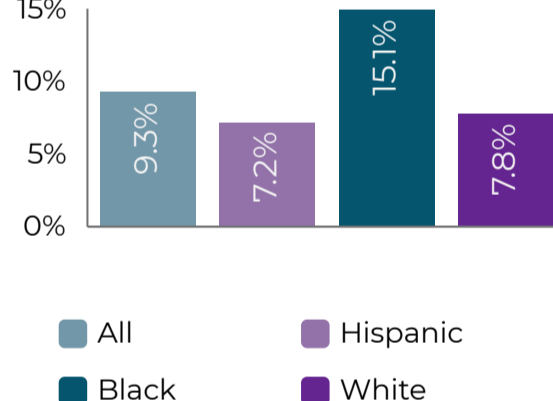


13.8% of adults have diabetes in Tennessee (2018)



10.9% of adults have diabetes in the U.S. (2018)

Percentage of Low-Birthweight Births by Race and Ethnicity in Tennessee (2018)



FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

The federal nutrition programs benefit millions of people and are a vital source of support in Tennessee. However, too few eligible people are reached.

SNAP



13% or about 832 thousand people in Tennessee received SNAP benefits in 2018

93% of eligible persons participated in 2016, bringing in over \$1.3 billion in federal funding to Tennessee (2018)

\$1.3 B

WIC

Over 112,000 women, infants, and children in Tennessee participated in WIC in 2019

Less than half (42.9%) of eligible people are enrolled (2017), less than the U.S. average (51.5%)



Federal Nutrition Programs:

- Reduce Food Insecurity
- Improve Dietary Intake and Health
- Protect Against Obesity
- Boost Learning and Development
- Support Economic Security
- Lift Families out of Poverty
- Act as Stimulus for Local Economies

Child Nutrition Programs

Thousands of children are served each year

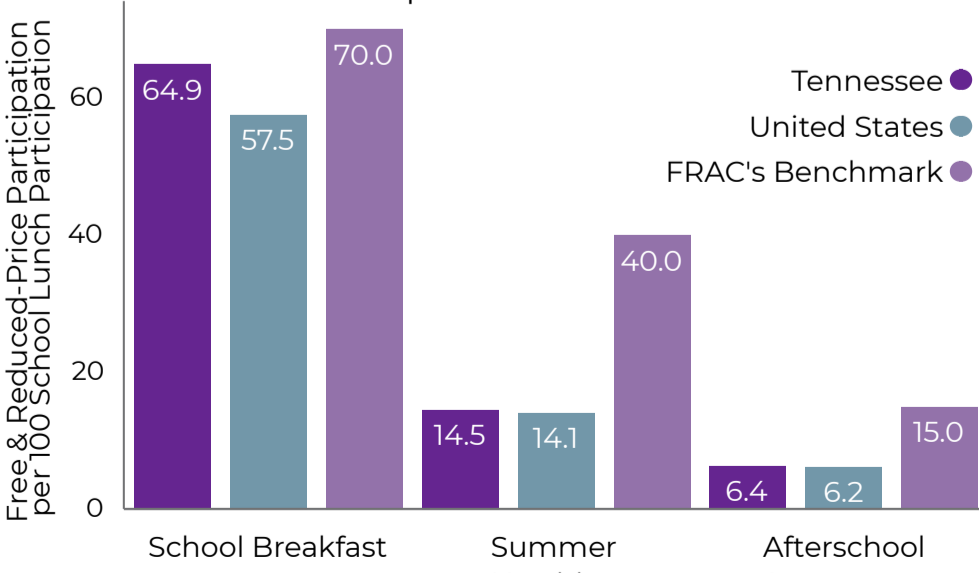
641 Thousand National School Lunch Program (School Year 2018-2019)

381 Thousand School Breakfast Program (School Year 2018-2019)

75 Thousand Child Care Centers and Homes (Fiscal Year 2019)

70 Thousand Summer Meals (July 2018)

Although participation was increasing in Tennessee before the COVID-19 pandemic, participation in 2018 is low compared to FRAC's benchmarks



1. Gundersen, C., A. Dewey, M. Kato, A. Crumbaugh & M. Strayer. (2019). Map the Meal Gap 2019: A Report on County and Congressional District Food Insecurity and County Food Cost in the United States in 2017.
2. Schanzenbach, D., Tomeh, N. (2020). Northwestern Institute for Policy Research Visualizing Food Insecurity: Census Pulse Data.

