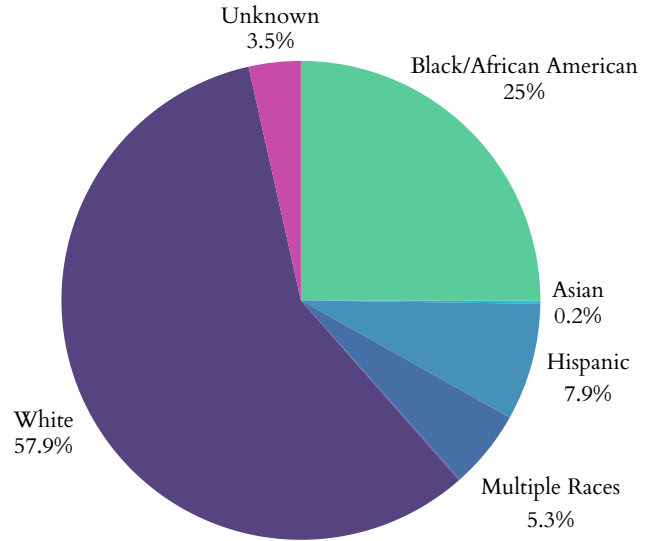


Tennessee's Children

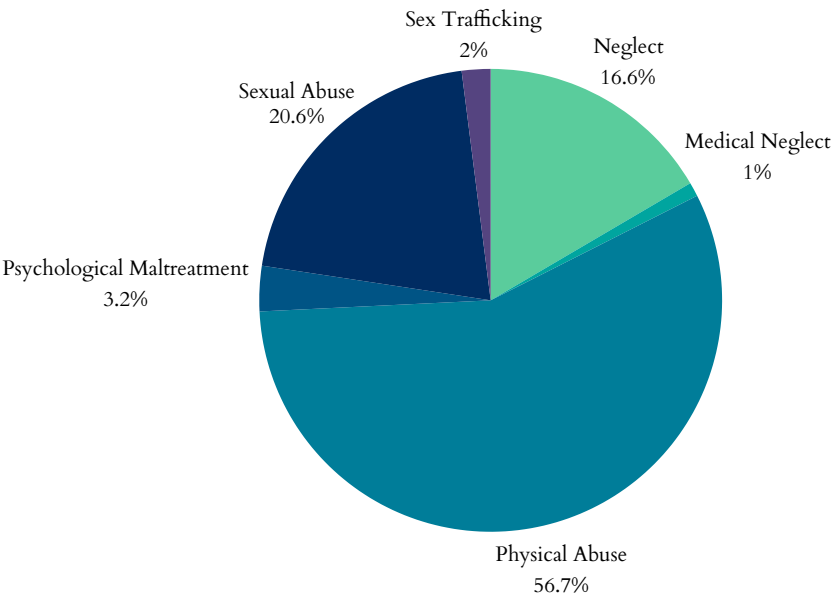
Child Maltreatment

- In 2024, Tennessee had **146,585** total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, **62,499** were screened in for response by CPS.
- **9,634** child victims of abuse or neglect, at a rate of **5.9** children per 1,000 (**7.8%** increase since 2020).
- Of the **9,634** children, **5,505** were first-time victims.
- Largest age group of victims = **<1 years**, representing **3,320** of the **9,634** cases.

Child Victims by Race or Ethnicity, 2024



Types of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



Perpetrators of child maltreatment (2024):

- **63.9%** = parents of the child.
- **36.1%** = non-parents or unknown relationship.

Child victims (2024):

- **56.43%** = female; **42.96%** = male.

- Child fatalities increased from **34** in 2023 to **47** in 2024.
- Tennessee reported **219** total child victims of sex trafficking.
- Post-response services given to **9,529** victims and **75,358** non-victims.

Workforce

There are **7,150** children, family, and school social workers in Tennessee with a mean wage of **\$27.28** (compared to Tennessee's 2024 minimum wage: **\$7.25**)

Age Distribution of Maltreatment Victims, 2024



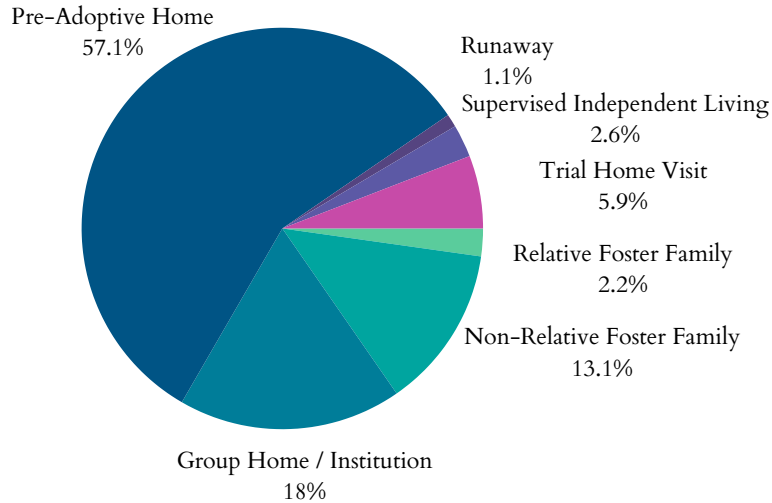
Published March 2026

Tennessee's Children

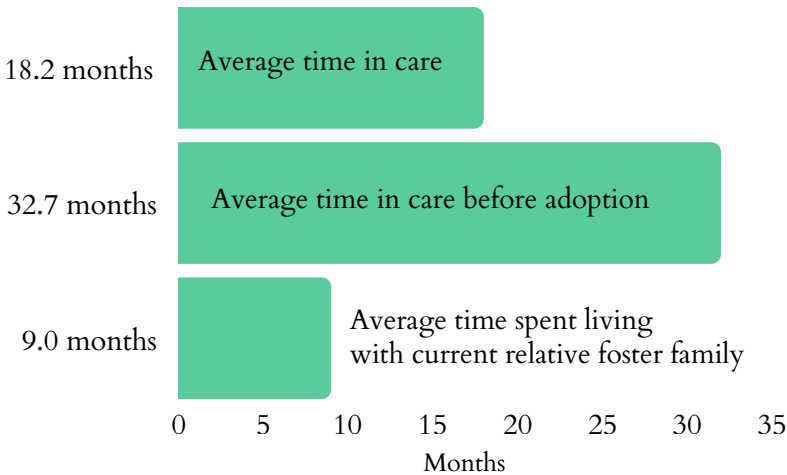
Foster Care and Adoptions

- **14,038** total children were served by the foster care system in FY 2024.
- **9,104** children in care as of 09/30/2024.
- During FY 2024, **5,471** children entered care and **4,934** exited.
- **1,165** children were adopted; **610** were waiting to be adopted.
- **0.6%** increase in the number of children in care and a **2.46%** increase in the number of children adopted from care from FY 2023-2024.

Where are Children in Foster Care Staying? 2023



Duration in Care, 2023



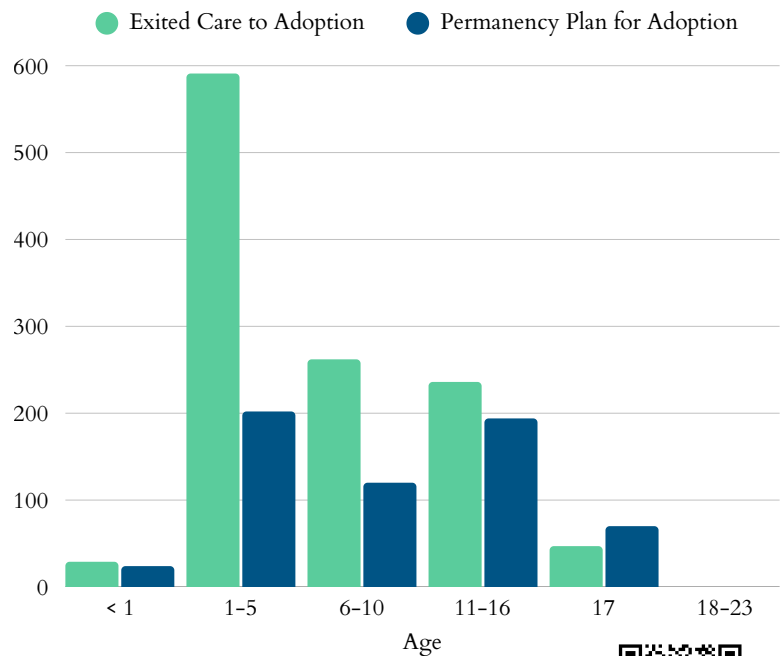
- In 2023, **1,183** children were living with non-relative foster families; **201** lived with a relative.
- **1,621** children were staying in group homes or institutions; **95** children were classified as runaways.
- There are **12,604** grandparents living with their grandchildren under 18. Of these, **46.5%** are responsible for their grandchildren.

In FY 2024, **608** children transitioned from foster care to independence. This is a **7.23%** increase from **567** in FY 2023.

Juvenile Justice

- **14,879** total arrests for youth under 18 in 2023
- A total of **309** youth were in a correctional placement in 2023; a increase of 3% since 2021
 - **16.5%** of the youth are ≤ 14 years old
 - **33.34%** are Black youth
 - **47%** are White youth
 - **85.7%** males and **14.3%** females
- Black youth represent **58.25%** of all correctional placements; **31%** for White youth in 2023

Age Distribution of Adoptions, 2024

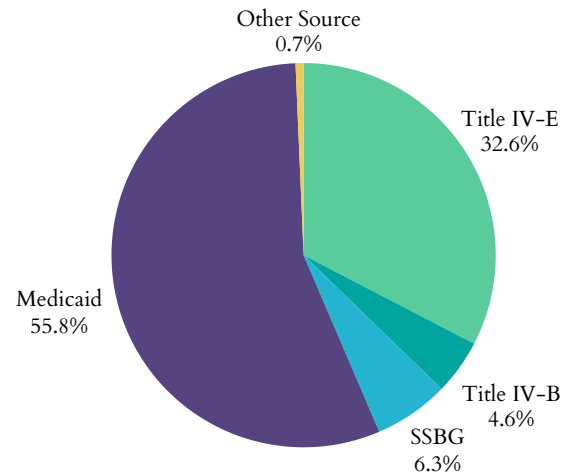


Tennessee's Children

Funding for Child Welfare Services

- Tennessee spent **\$937,086,759.13** on child welfare services in 2022.
 - Child welfare services = direct and administrative services
- **\$458,991,456.98** = from the federal government
- **\$463,005,771.09** = from state and local funds.

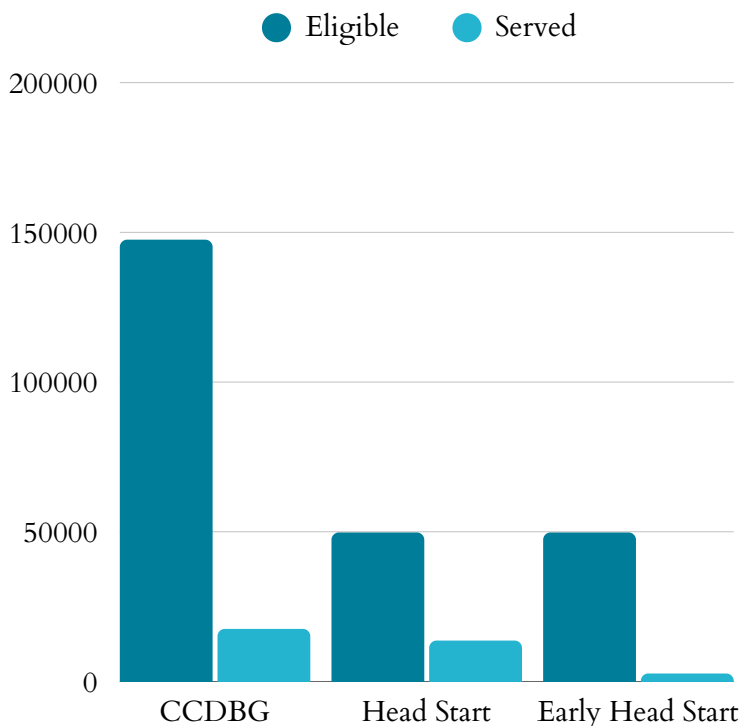
Federal Funding Sources, 2022



The significant funding sectors of the **\$458,991,456.98** in federal funding received in Tennessee in 2022:

- **\$49,339,552** as part of the Title IV-E Total Foster Care Program.
- **\$76,132,49** as part of the Title IV-E Adoption Assistance Program.
- Tennessee's sum of expenditures for Social Service Block Grants in 2022 was **\$33,903,736**

Child Care & Early Learning



- **27%** of Head Start eligible children are served
- **5%** of Early Head Start eligible children are served
- **12%** of Child Care & Development Block Grant eligible children 5 and under are served

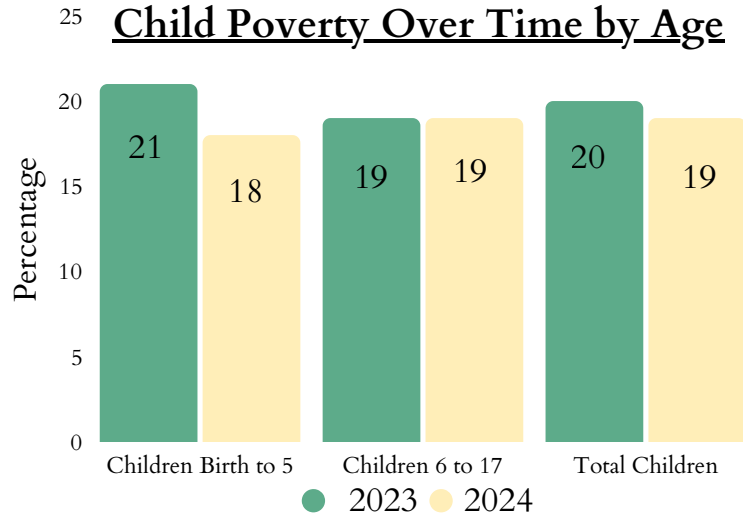
- **\$13,126** annual cost of center-based infant care
- **\$9,415** annual cost of home-based infant care



Tennessee's Children

Child Poverty

- **444,000** children lived with parents who lacked secure employment in 2023 (28% of all children).
- Average number of TANF recipients rose from **26,932** in 2024 to **29,044**, in 2025 (7.2% increase).



Child Poverty by Race or Ethnicity, 2024

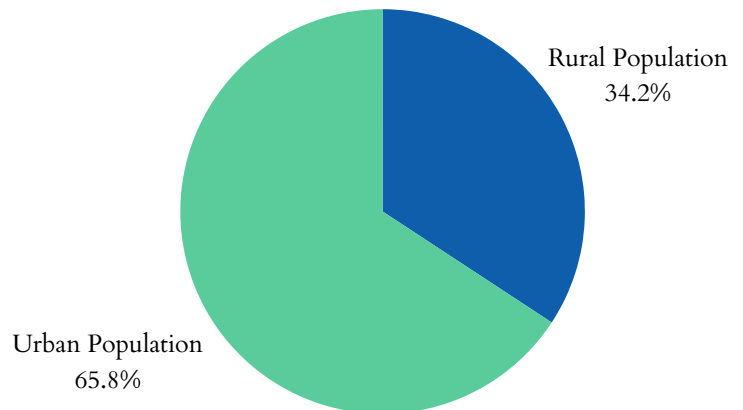


- The state spent **\$119,971,479** on WIC in 2025, serving **156,963** people: a 13.6% increase in total participants and 27.77% increase in spending since 2024.
- **1,111,150** people were food insecure in 2023, including **308,920** children.
- **41.8%** of households receiving SNAP benefits had children.

Housing

- **8,593** children, from birth to three-years-old, experienced homelessness in 2023 (2.62%)
- **39.2%** of households receiving the Low Income Housing Tax Credit reported having at least one member under 18 in 2023
- **26%** of children lived in households with a high housing cost burden in 2023
- **34,099** total Tennessee residents living in public housing in 2025

Total Urban vs. Rural Population of Tennessee, 2020



Tennessee's Children

Health

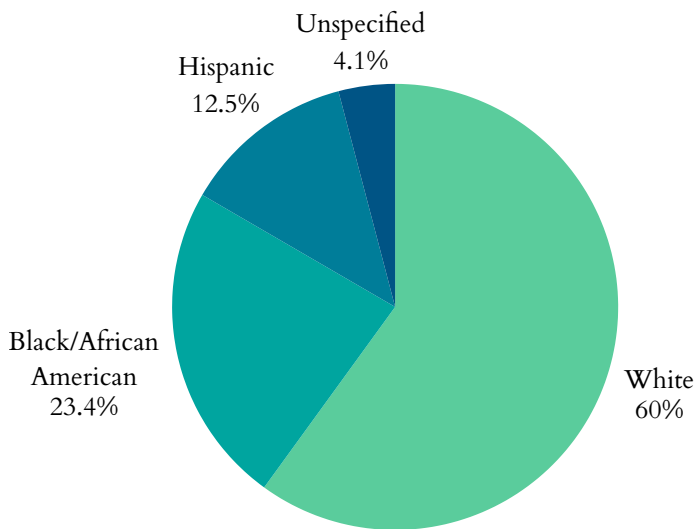
- **7,526** low birth-weight babies (<5.5lbs) born in 2023 (9.1% of births).
- **9,408** preterm births (<37wks) in 2023 (11.34%).
 - 11.34% of all White babies
 - 15.31% of all Black babies
- **4,547** births to mothers aged 15-19 in 2023 – a rate of 20 in every 1,000 teen girls.
- **542** infants aged <1yr died in 2023 – a rate of 7 per 1,000.

Maternal Mortality

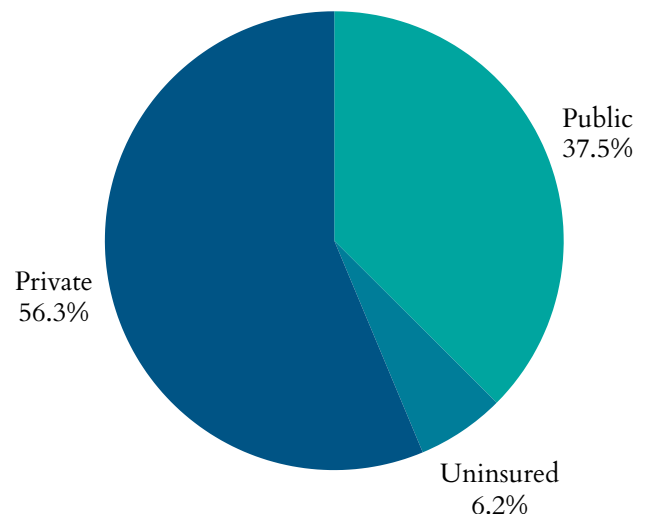
- From 2018 to 2022, **166** Tennessee women died while pregnant, or within 42 days post pregnancy from any cause relating to or aggravated by said pregnancy, excluding accidents and incidents
- For every 100,000 live births in Tennessee, there are **41** maternal deaths

- **109,000** children had no health insurance in 2024 (17.2% increase from 2023).
- **648,000** children were enrolled in Medicaid in 2024 (6.36% increase from 2023).
- **68,238** children in Tennessee were in the state Children Health Insurance Program (CHIP) in 2021 (8% decrease from 2020).

Percentage of All Preterm Births by Race or Ethnicity, 2023



Health Insurance Coverage for Children, 2024



Medicaid Expansion

Tennessee is not a Medicaid expansion state.

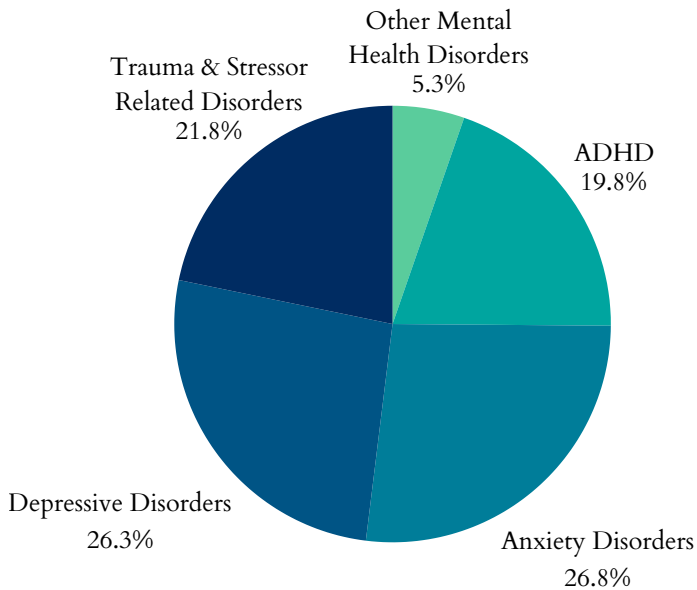


Tennessee's Children

Zero to Three

- **56.4%** of babies live above low-income
- **24.2%** of babies live at low income
- **19.4%** of babies live in poverty
- **10.2%** of babies live in deep poverty
- **75.1%** of new parents have at least one parent working full time

Top 5 Mental Health Diagnoses Among Children, 2023



Prenatal Substance Exposure

- In 2024, Tennessee reported **191** infants screened in with prenatal substance exposure.
- Tennessee reported **190** plans of safe care for screened-in infants.

Family First

- Plan approved on **April 1, 2021**
- In 2023, **182** children were served
- **\$3,046.53** spent per child on direct-services
- **\$3,322,241** pulled down in federal dollars from Title IV-E
 - **\$0** (0% in admin/training costs)
 - **\$3,322,241** (6.82% in direct-service costs)

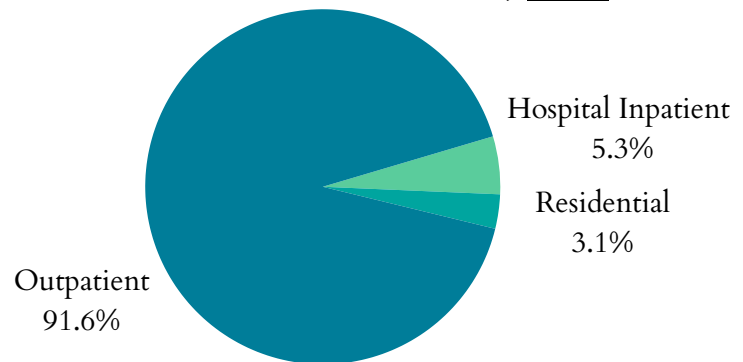
Teens & Youth

- **29,000** youth (16-19yrs) were not in school nor working in 2024 (8%)
- **126** children <19yrs were killed by a firearm in Tennessee in 2024.

Mental Health

- **13,806** children received mental health treatment in Tennessee in 2023 (0.7%)
- From 2021 to 2023, there were **11.4** deaths from suicide per 100,000 adolescents aged 15-19 in Tennessee.

Treatment Type for Youth with Substance Use Disorder, 2024



Substance Use

- From 2015 to 2019, an average of **47,397** children in Tennessee (2.1% of the state's child population) lived with parents having a substance use disorder.
- On March 29th, 2024, **3,135** clients 18 and under were in treatment for SUD.

