



A Profile of Population, Poverty and other Social/Economic Factors in the Northwest Tennessee counties of Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion and Weakley to assess needs in the communities served and develop a plan to meet those needs.

**NORTHWEST TENNESSEE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL**

**Community Needs Assessment
FY 2025**

Completed July 2024

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Executive Summary

Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council has obtained both qualitative and quantitative data to develop the FY2024-2025 Community Needs Assessment. Data Sources include United States Census Bureau, American Community Survey, Kids Count Data, TN Commission on Children and Youth, customers, community partners and board members. Data Sources can be found under each table of this document.

This Community Needs Assessment begins with our Agency's Mission and Vision Statements and a description of the geographic area served. Qualitative data, with summaries and tables, follows to compare the service area data to that of Tennessee's and the USA. Results of Needs Assessment Surveys conducted throughout the previous fiscal year and a portion of the current will be revealed and available resources and gaps in resources will be summarized, as well as and noted trends and characteristics of those served throughout the previous FY 2023. A brief summary and conclusion will close the Community Needs Assessment completed in July, 2024 and prepared by Cindy Stephens, Community Services Program Director for Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council.

Our Mission:

**Helping people, changing lives in our community
through education, partnerships,
and delivery of quality services
in Northwest Tennessee.**

Our Vision:

**Hand in hand, working together
we are dedicated to
helping people help themselves and each other
to make a difference in our communities.**

Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council

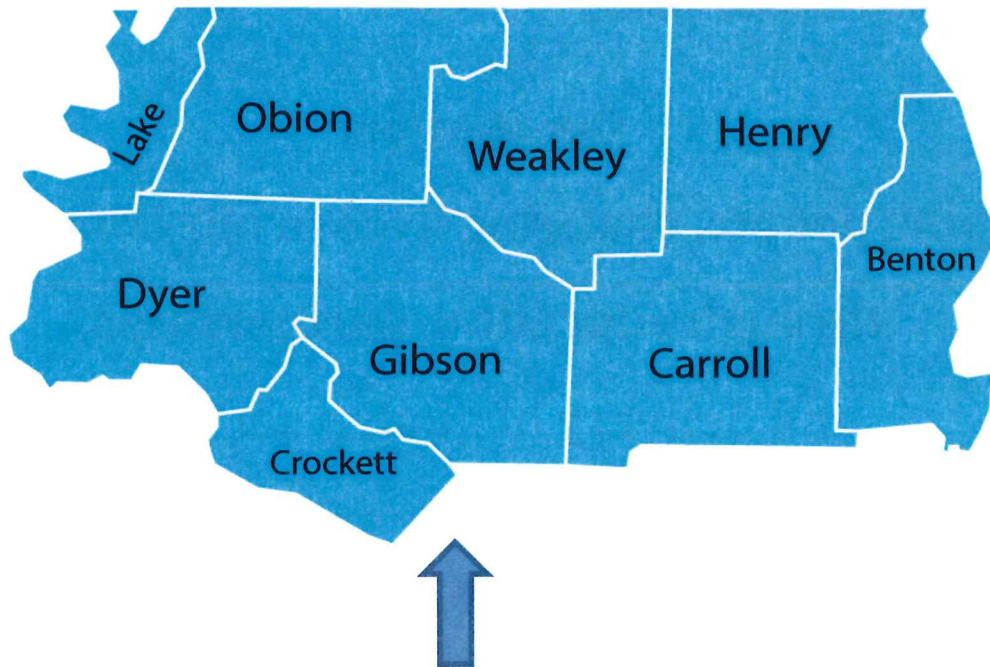
Geography of Service Area

CSBG, TEFAP & LIHEAP Programs serve:

Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley (9 counties)

Head Start/Early Head Start Program serves:

Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, Weakley and Madison County (8 counties)



Madison County

DEMOGRAPHICS

POPULATION PROFILE:

Total Population, Land Area Per Square Mile and % Population Per Square Mile

A total of 248,361 people live in our 4,225.48 square mile nine-county service area according to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 2018-22 five-year estimate. The rural area served has an overall population density per square mile of 59, compared to 168 for Tennessee.

Report Area	Total Population	Total Land Area (Square Miles)	Population Density (Per Square Mile)
Report Location	248,361	4,225.48	59
Benton County	15,933	394.31	40
Carroll County	28,381	597.66	47
Crockett County	13,955	265.53	53
Dyer County	36,818	512.35	72
Gibson County	50,455	602.75	84
Henry County	32,305	561.90	57
Lake County	6,898	165.79	42
Obion County	30,670	544.85	56
Weakley County	32,946	580.35	57
Tennessee	6,923,772	41,232.77	168
United States	331,097,593	3,533,269.34	94

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Urban and Rural Population

Urban areas are identified using population density, count, and size thresholds. Urban areas also include territory with a high degree of impervious surface (development). Rural areas are all areas not considered urban. Of the area's total population, 70,237 or 28.8% are classified urban while 178,101, or 71.72% is rural. Data from three years ago showed the rural percentage being at 68.33%. This aligns with the trend we are continuing to see with population decline in this largely rural area.

Report Area	Urban Population, Percent	Rural Population, Percent
Report Location	28.28%	71.72%
Benton County	0	100%
Carroll County	17.9%	82.10%
Crockett County	0	100%
Dyer County	45.62%	54.38%
Gibson County	29.23%	70.77%
Henry County	32.23%	67.77%
Lake County	0	100%
Obion County	40.69%	59.31%
Weakley County	32.56%	67.44%
Tennessee	66.23%	33.77%
United States	80%	20%

Data Source: US Census Bureau. Decennial Census. 2020

Total Population by Gender

According to the most recent US Census Bureau available, our service area male population has increased from 43.5% in 2021 to 49.14% currently. In turn, percentage of females has decreased from 56.5% to 50.86%. Note that the percentage in Lake County's male population Of 63.53% is much larger than the other counties and is likely attributed to the Lake County State Correctional Facility population located in Tiptonville.

Report Area	Male	Female
Report Location	49.14%	50.86%
Benton County	49.19%	50.81%
Carroll County	49.52%	50.48%
Crockett County	49.11%	50.89%
Dyer County	48.02%	51.96%
Gibson County	48.29%	51.71%
Henry County	48.36%	51.64%
Lake County	63.53%	36.47%
Obion County	48.76%	51.24%
Weakley County	49.44%	50.56%
Tennessee	49.12%	50.88%
United States	49.59%	50.41%

Data Source: US Census Bureau. American Community Survey. 2018-22

Total Population by Age Groups, Percent

Northwest Tennessee percentages are very close to that of the State and Nation for ages 0 - 4, 5 - 17, 18 - 24 and 55 - 64. For ages 25 - 34, the service area has 11.47% compared to 13.71% in Tennessee and the country. Age group 35 - 44 has a smaller population average as well compared to the State, with at 11.7% overall compared to Tennessee's 12.58%. Lake County is the only one that has a larger percentage of these age groups ranging from 18 to 54, potentially due to the Correctional Facility in Tiptonville.

For age groups 45 - 54 we begin to see a very close average compared to state and national percentages. There is an increase in the population of 65 plus, 19.48% compared to 16.69 across Tennessee and 16.53% nationwide.

The population ages 25 - 44 is declining while the age group 65 plus is increasing, compared to state and national data. These numbers support the trending decline in total population in that the age group that is leaving our area is younger, employable adults.

Report Area	Population 0 - 4	Population 5 - 17	Population 18 - 24	Population 25 - 34	Population 35 - 44	Population 45 - 54	Population 55 - 64	Population 65+
Report Location	5.38%	16.31%	9.32%	11.47%	11.70%	12.56%	13.79%	19.48%
Benton	4.62%	14.91%	7.72%	9.31%	10.27%	13.60%	16.0%	23.56%
Carroll	5.25%	16.50%	9.82%	11.83%	10.38%	12.59%	13.51%	20.12%
Crockett	5.87%	17.74%	8.46%	12.30%	11.21%	11.93%	13.54%	18.95%
Dyer	6.02%	17.64%	8.39%	11.82%	11.82%	13.05%	13.67%	17.59%
Gibson	5.92%	18.24%	7.58%	12.06%	13.0%	12.37%	13.33%	17.50%
Henry	4.98%	15.25%	7.41%	10.24%	10.96%	12.43%	15.36%	23.37%
Lake	3.61%	10.70%	9.38%	14.18%	16.85%	16.22%	13.63%	15.44%
Obion	5.52%	16.33%	7.59%	11.48%	12.41%	12.45%	13.78%	20.45%
Weakley	4.73%	14%	17.16%	11.18%	10.58%	11.51%	12.41%	18.43%
Tennessee	5.81%	16.23%	9.22%	13.71%	12.58%	12.68%	13.07%	16.69%
United States	5.74%	16.37%	9.45%	13.71%	12.93%	12.41%	12.86%	16.53%

Data Source: US Census Bureau American Community Survey. 2018-22

Total Population by Race Alone, (Includes Hispanic or Latino Population, Percent)

The population's race is broken down in the table below, as well as the percentage of those who are of Hispanic or Latino ethnicity. The area's white population, 82.24% is higher than the state's 74.85%, while the black population is 11%, less than the state's 16.27% yet closer to the national average of 12.4%. Compared to three years ago, data indicates the population is becoming more diversified as the percentages show decline in each race and increases in "some other race" or "multiple races". Although our Hispanic/Latino population is lower than that of the state (3.77% vs 5.96% respectively), the highest percentage is located in Crockett County, at 11.54%.

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic or Latino
Report Location	82.24%	11.00%	.49%	.28%	.09%	1.10%	4.79%	3.77%
Benton	93.11%	1.91%	1.07%	.11%	.77%	0	3.03%	1.81%
Carroll	85.9%	8.88%	.31%	.11%	0	.61%	4.20%	3.10%
Crockett	74.66%	11.06%	.47%	.63%	.06%	3.83%	9.29%	11.54%
Dyer	79.09%	13.28%	.45%	.10%	.03%	1.15%	5.90%	3.75%
Gibson	76.81%	15.98%	.27%	.25%	.02%	1.44%	5.24%	3.02%
Henry	87.61%	7.41%	.35%	.54%	.04%	.56%	3.48%	2.84%
Lake	66.12%	25.67%	.29%	.75%	.19%	1.35%	5.62%	2.9%
Obion	81.78%	10.55%	.22%	.14%	.09%	1.37%	5.86%	5.09%
Weakley	87.44%	7.87%	1.18%	.39%	.05%	.59%	2.46%	3.0%
Tennessee	74.85%	16.27%	1.86%	.20%	.07%	2.02%	4.72%	5.96%
United States	65.88%	12.4%	5.9%	.84%	.19%	6.05%	8.80%	18.65%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS. 2018-22

Change in Total Population

During the ten-year period of 2010 to 2020, total population estimates declined by – 2.46 percent. Only one county – Gibson – has a positive rate change of +1.5. The remaining 8 counties have negative rates.

Three years ago, there were three counties – Dyer, Gibson, and Henry – having positive rates, and the overall percentage of change was 1.49. A significant positive or negative shift in total population over time impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources. In our rural area, the trending decline in population continues and is growing. We currently have a hospital in Henry County that has closed its maternity ward and may close down altogether in the near future.

Report Area	Total Population, 2010 Census	Total Population, 2020 Census	Population Change, 2010-2020	Percent Population Change, 2010-2020
Report Location	254,605	248,338	- 6,267	- 2.46%
Benton	16,489	15,864	- 626	- 3.79%
Carroll	28,522	28,440	- 82	- 0.29%
Crockett	14,586	13,911	- 675	- 4.63%
Dyer	38,335	36,801	-1,534	- 4.00%
Gibson	49,683	50,429	746	1.50%
Henry	32,330	32,199	-131	-0.41%
Lake	7,832	7,005	-827	- 10.56%
Obion	31,807	30,787	- 1,020	- 3.21%
Weakley	35,021	32,902	- 2,119	- 6.05%
Tennessee	6,346,105	6,910,840	564,735	17.93%
United States	312,471,161	334,735,155	22,263,994	15.38%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Decennial Census. 2020

Veterans Age and Gender

Veterans make up 7.83% of our total population. 14.91% are male veterans ages 18 and older while 1.14% are female. Henry County has the largest percentage of veterans, that of 9.94%.

Report Area	Veterans – Total	% Population over 18 Total	% Pop over 18 Males	% Pop over 18 Females
Report Location	15,205	7.83%	14.91%	1.14%
Benton	795	6.2%	12.01%	.74%
Carroll	2,031	9.15%	17.31%	1.35%
Crockett	780	7.33%	13.29%	1.79%
Dyer	1,766	6.29%	12.14%	1.04%
Gibson	3,200	8.38%	15.64%	1.8%
Henry	2,555	9.94%	19.42%	1.16%
Lake	352	5.96%	9.03%	.29%
Obion	1,630	6.81%	13.34%	.68%
Weakley	2,096	7.84%	15.57%	.56%
Tennessee	414,746	7.71%	14.37%	1.46%
United States	17,038,807	6.64%	12.25%	1.26%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Population with Any Disability

This indicator reports the percentage of the total civilian non-institutionalized population with a disability. The total population falling in this category for the service area is 50,789 out of 242,372, or 20.95%. Compared to Tennessee's 15.29% and the USA's 12.86%, this number is relevant in that these individuals may require more targeted services and outreach by providers, even though provider availability is more limited in the rural areas.

Report Area	Percent of Population with a Disability
Report Location	20.95%
Benton County	25.01%
Carroll County	20.15%
Crockett County	16.44%
Dyer County	18.35%
Gibson County	21.06%
Henry County	22.86%
Lake County	27.87%
Obion County	22.68%
Weakley County	19.88%
Tennessee	15.29%
United States	12.86%

US Census Bureau. American Community Survey. 2018-22

POVERTY PROFILE:

Poverty – Population Below 185% FPL and Below 125% FPL (ACS)

The following chart shows two separate percentages of the Federal Poverty Level and how they are reflected in our population of northwest Tennessee. 35.97%, almost 36 percent of the total population is below 185% if the Federal Poverty Level, and 23.02 % is below 125% of poverty. All counties exceed the state's 29.62% (below 185% FPL) and 18.45% (below 125% FPL). This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food and other necessities that contribute to poor health status. It is noteworthy to compare percentages below 125% from the previous Community Needs Assessment was at 25.37% for the service area. There is a decrease of 2.35% from the same PFL data three years ago in the 125% category.

Only 1 county – Gibson – is lower than the Tennessee rate of 13.96% by .04% at 100% FPL. The service area is at 16.67% compared to 13.96% at the State level.

Report Area	Population Below 185% FPL	Population Below 125% FPL	Population Below 100% FPL
Report Location	35.97%	23.02%	16.67%
Benton County	37.11%	25.08%	17.96%
Carroll County	34.12%	23.09%	16.45%
Crockett County	32.66%	20.62%	15.63%
Dyer County	34.3%	23.02%	16.33%
Gibson County	35.54%	20.62%	13.92%
Henry County	37.61%	23.98%	18.07%
Lake County	47.25%	34.52%	27.93%
Obion County	36.28%	21.16%	16.15%
Weakley County	37.48%	25.94%	18.91%
Tennessee	29.62%	18.45%	13.96%
United States	26.24%	16.43%	12.53%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Persons in Poverty and Poverty Rate Change

The poverty rate for Northwest Tennessee is 16.8%, compared to 13.3% statewide and 12.6% nationally. Our estimated poverty rate change from 2012 to 2022 is at – 3.61%; Tennessee's is -4.7%, and the nation's is at -3.3%. All nine counties exceed the state's poverty rate. Gibson County has the lowest rate 14.9%, while Lake County's is the highest, at 34.2% (a rate change of -10.6%).

Report Area	Persons in Poverty 2012	Poverty Rate 2012	Persons in Poverty 2022	Poverty Rate 2022	Poverty Rate Change (2012-2022)
Report Location	49,598	20.30%	40,020	16.68%	- 3.61%
Benton County	3,715	23%	2,649	16.7%	-6.3%
Carroll County	5,258	19.2%	4,353	16%	-3.2%
Crockett County	3,030	21.1%	2,264	16.6%	-4.5%
Dyer County	6,643	17.7%	6,131	17.1%	-.6%
Gibson County	9,693	19.8%	7,424	14.9%	-4.9%
Henry County	6,097	19.2%	4,941	15.5%	-3.7%
Lake County	2,312	44.8%	1,622	34.2%	-10.6%
Obion County	6,092	19.7%	5,068	16.9%	-2.8%
Weakley County	6,812	21%	5,568	18%	-3%
Tennessee	1,135,205	18%	920,748	13.3%	-4.7%
United States	48,760,123	15.9%	40,951,625	12.6%	-3.3%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Income & Poverty Estimates. 2022.

Population in Poverty by Gender

The percentage of population in poverty by gender exceeds the state and national percentage of males and females in poverty. These percentages have decreased since 2021, when females in poverty were 20.94% (now 17.89) and males were at 16.85% (a 4.09% difference between males and females). Based on the current data below, there are still more females than males in poverty, although the difference has decreased to 2.5%

Report Area	% Males in Poverty	% Females in Poverty
Report Location	15.39%	17.89%
Benton County	16.65%	19.22%
Carroll County	15.39%	17.50%
Crockett County	15.25%	16.00%
Dyer County	14.84%	17.70%
Gibson County	13.52%	14.28%
Henry County	16.70%	19.36%
Lake County	26.82%	28.93%
Obion County	14.36%	17.84%
Weakley County	16.40%	21.33%
Tennessee	12.58%	15.29%
United States	11.34%	13.70%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Population in Poverty by Race Alone, and by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, Percent

Data from the FY2021-22 Community Needs Assessment told us that 16.49% of the area's white population was in poverty compared to 32.92% of the black population, a 16.3% difference. Current data indicates 14.6% poverty for white population compared to 27.3% poverty for black population. Even though the percentages are lower, and the difference is now 12.8%, this indicates there continues to be a disparity between race and poverty, as does the state and national data.

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Race	Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity
Report Location	14.60%	27.30%	14.94%	48.64%	4.76%	16.57%	28.00%	19.94%
Benton	18.17%	19.18%	0	0	0	No Data	22.75%	9.51%
Carroll	15.79%	21.54%	12.64%	52.0%	No Data	13.53%	19.95%	26.66%
Crockett	12.07%	27.17%	0	92.05%	0	22.43%	23.54%	17.27%
Dyer	13.36%	30.65%	71.08%	52.63%	0	3.11%	22.20%	5.39%
Gibson	10.94%	21.78%	0	69.42%	12.5%	8.10%	33.44%	19.7%
Henry	16.25%	35.94%	1.77%	23.30%	0	74.50%	19.36%	30.39%
Lake	26.33%	35.74%	100%	0	No data	0	28.75%	6.45%
Obion	12.44%	28.419%	0	45.24%	33.33%	15.44%	45.31%	27.07%
Weakley	17.78%	33.40%	10.8%	40.35%	0	23.98%	20.48%	23.88%
Tennessee	11.54%	22.82%	8.95%	24.27%	17.82%	23.85%	19.46%	22.08%
United States	10.09%	21.46%	10.12%	22.60%	16.97%	18.57%	14.76%	17.24%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Households and Families in Poverty

16.82% of the service area total households are in poverty, compared to 13.9% in Tennessee and 12.4% nationwide. All counties exceed the state percentage, with the highest being Lake County at 35.2% and the lowest being Henry County at 14.9%.

Of the total family households in our area, 16.51% are at or below 125% of the Federal Poverty Level. 28.73% of family households have children under the age of eighteen.

Report Area	Total Households	% Households in Poverty	Total Family Households	% Families Income at or Below 125% of FPL	% Families with Children (Ages 0 – 17)
Report Location	98,588	16.82%	63,516	16.51%	28.73%
Benton County	6,736	16.6%	4,103	17.99%	25.06%
Carroll County	11,038	15.5%	7,422	16.77%	31.59%
Crockett County	5,409	15.2%	3,878	17.04%	35%
Dyer County	14,640	17.1%	9,257	16.21%	31.07%
Gibson County	19,948	16.8%	13,286	14.20%	30.27%
Henry County	13,133	14.9%	8,284	17.59%	23.25%
Lake County	2,013	35.2%	1,022	30.92%	23.3%
Obion County	12,542	15.8%	7,845	14.99%	29.48%
Weakley County	13,129	18.5%	8,419	17.86%	26.3%
Tennessee	2,713,635	13.9%	1,759,011	13.62%	29.48%
United States	125,736,353	12.4%	81,432,908	11.97%	29.92%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Poverty Rate by Family Type

40.5% of married couples in the area are in poverty, compared to data from three years prior of 35.7%. The state percentage for married couples in poverty is 35.6%.

10.9% male householders are in poverty (an increase of .8% since last comprehensive Community Needs Assessment), while 48.6% of female householders are considered to be in poverty. The percentage of female householders in poverty has decreased by 5.6%, from 54.2% previously.

All counties, other than Gibson, fall below the State percentage of female householders in poverty, a positive indicator to see over the time period.

Report Area	Poverty Rates, All Types	% Poverty Married Couples	% Poverty Male Householders	% Poverty Female Householders
Report Location	12.0%	40.5%	10.9%	48.6%
Benton County	13.0%	37.6%	16.6%	45.8%
Carroll County	12.5%	46.7%	15.1%	38.2%
Crockett County	12.7%	25.6%	26.8%	47.7%
Dyer County	10.3%	42.9%	6.0%	51.2%
Gibson County	10.1%	35.5%	7.7%	56.8%
Henry County	13.3%	56.3%	1.7%	42.0%
Lake County	26.7%	47.6%	7.05%	45.4%
Obion County	11.7%	33.3%	14.3%	52.3%
Weakley County	12.7%	35.7%	12.9%	51.4%
Tennessee	10.0%	35.6%	10.7%	53.7%
United States	8.8%	37.3%	11.0%	51.8%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Poverty Rates for Children Ages 0 – 17

Compared to Tennessee’s 21.4% child poverty rate for children ages 0-4, our service area is at 22.1%. Children ages 5-17 are at 20.8% compared to the state 18.4% average. Overall, 21.1% of all children ages 0 to 17 are in poverty while statewide poverty is at 19.2%.

For children ages 5 through 17, the percentage of children in poverty is 20.8, higher than both the state and national percentages.

For children ages 0 to 17, only two of our counties, Dyer and Gibson, have a poverty rate less than Tennessee and the United States. The poverty rate is 21.1% in this category, compared to 19.2 statewide and 16.7% nationally.

Report Area	Child Poverty Rate Ages 0-4	Child Poverty Rate Ages 5-17	Child Poverty Rate Ages 0-17
Report Location	22.1%	20.8%	21.1%
Benton	29.1%	19.3%	21.6%
Carroll	19.1%	23.9%	22.7%
Crockett	30.8%	24.9%	26.4%
Dyer	13.9%	15.9%	15.4%
Gibson	24.4%	13.6%	16.3%
Henry	22.3%	29.9%	28.0%
Lake	42.1%	35.5%	37.8%
Obion	16.4%	20.7%	19.6%
Weakley	26.8%	25.2%	25.6%
Tennessee	21.4%	18.4%	19.2%
United States	18.1%	16.2%	16.7%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Child Poverty Below 200% FPL and 100% FPL

In the report area, 47.04%, or 24,939 children are living in households with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). 21.10%, or 11,187 children aged 0 to 17 are living in households with incomes below 100% of the FPL. This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status

Report Area	Total Population Under Age 18	% Population Under Age 18 Below 200% FPL	% Population Under Age 18 Below 100% FPL	Child Poverty Rate Change 2000 - 2019 Ages 0-17
Report Location	53,014	47.04%	21.10%	3.2%
Benton	3,112	42.77%	21.59%	2.2%
Carroll	6,132	44.68%	22.75%	3.9%
Crockett	3,292	51.25%	26.40%	2.8%
Dyer	8,597	43.95%	15.4%	1.9%
Gibson	12,011	47.03%	16.31%	-0.1%
Henry	6,345	56.67%	28.04%	7%
Lake	960	56.98%	37.81%	9.8%
Obion	6,514	43.63%	19.59%	4.7%
Weakley	6,051	45.76%	25.62%	5.4%
Tennessee	1,496,642	42.14%	19.20%	1.6%
United States	72,035,358	37.17%	16.66%	.6%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Households Receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)

Although the percentage for our area and Tennessee are the same – 2.06% for households receiving TANF (also known as Families First) – only four of the nine counties actually fell below 2.06%, with Obion County being the lowest at 1.07%. The five other counties served were above the state average, with Lake County being the highest percentage of 3.03%.

Report Area	Total Households	Households with Public Assistance (TANF) Income	% Households with Public Assistance (TANF) Income
Report Location	98,588	2,027	2.06%
Benton	6,736	171	2.54%
Carroll	11,038	290	2.63%
Crockett	5,409	144	2.66%
Dyer	14,640	231	1.58%
Gibson	19,948	520	2.61%
Henry	13,133	258	1.96%
Lake	2,013	61	3.03%
Obion	12,542	134	1.07%
Weakley	13,129	218	1.66%
Tennessee	2,713,635	55,950	2.06%
United States	125,736,353	3,339,152	2.66

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Seniors 65+ in Poverty

According to the American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year data, an average of 10.8% of people aged 65 and older lived in a state of poverty during the survey calendar year. This rate is slightly higher than both the state and national levels. Three counties – Carroll, Crockett and Henry – have lower percentages than the state and national levels of 10.1% and 10% respectively; however five counties exceed those levels, with Weakley County showing the highest level of poverty rates for 65 and older, at 13.2%.

Of those in poverty who are sixty five and older, 8.9% are male and 12.31% are female. Both genders exceed the state and national percentages.

Report Area	Ages 65 and Up Poverty Rates	% Male	% Female
Report Location	10.8%	8.9%	12.31
Benton County	11.6%	10.63%	12.53
Carroll County	6.7%	5.58%	7.61
Crockett County	7.1%	2.96%	10.92
Dyer County	11.7%	13.65%	10.26
Gibson County	12.2%	9.11%	14.47
Henry County	8.9%	7.07%	10.42
Lake County	11.3%	13.88%	9.70
Obion County	12.6%	9.17%	15.42
Weakley County	13.2%	10.10%	15.91
Tennessee	10.1%	8.36%	11.60
USA	10.0%	8.27%	11.32

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Seniors (65+) in Poverty by Race Alone, and by Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity, Percent

Here is yet another disparity when it comes to those aged 65 and older in comparing the white and black populations who are in poverty. 9.31 percent of the white population are in poverty compared to 24.93% of our black elderly population.

Report Area	White	Black	Asian	Native American/ Alaska Native	Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	Some Other Race	Multiple Races	Hispanic or Latino Ethnicity
Report Location	9.31%	24.93%	22.92%	74.26%	No data	0	13.04%	6.34%
Benton	10.25%	100%	0	No data	No data	No data	34.15%	0
Carroll	6.67%	6.40%	100%	83.33%	No data	0	0	0
Crockett	5.60%	11.18%	0	No data	No data	No data	20.98%	0
Dyer	9.78%	33.50%	No data	0	No data	0	0	0
Gibson	8.80%	32.76%	0	95.71%	No data	0	3.95%	42.31%
Henry	7.81%	21.92%	0	60.00%	No data	No data	0%	0
Lake	12.03%	7.59%	No data	No data	No data	No data	No data	0
Obion	10.13%	42.393%	No data	57.14%	No data	0	35.29%	39.33%
Weakley	13.29%	8.75%	26.51%	No data	No data	No data	40%	10.53%
Tennessee	8.96%	17.86%	12.31%	29.07%	59.366%	10.93%	15.8%	12.62%
United States	7.82%	17.74%	12.87%	18.45%	13.61%	18.79%	12.9%	15.00%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

EMPLOYMENT PROFILE:

Income – Median and Per Capita Household Income (2015-2019 Estimates - ACS)

Two common measures of income are Median Household Income and Per Capita Income based on American Community Survey five-year estimates in the table below. The average per capita income is \$23,646 for Northwest Tennessee. The state per capita income is \$29,859.

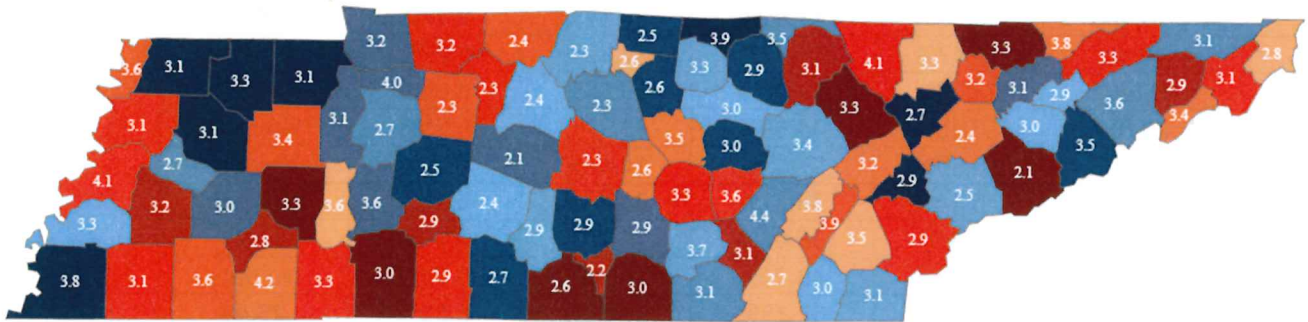
Report Area	Median Household Income	Per Capita Income
Report Location	No data	\$29,011
Benton	\$47,737	\$27,184.94
Carroll	\$49,700	\$26,818.31
Crockett	\$59,136	\$30,362.29
Dyer	\$53,150	\$37,414.85
Gibson	\$55,455	\$27,742.03
Henry	\$48,025	\$28,097.88
Lake	\$32,064	\$19,695.32
Obion	\$50,638	\$28,782.25
Weakley	\$47,769	\$26,820.22
Tennessee	\$64,035	\$36,040.25
United States	\$75,149	\$41,261.47

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

Unemployment Rates for May 2024

Compared to data from the previous Community Needs Assessment completed during 2021, unemployment rates have decreased. These rates are fairly close throughout the service area, with Crockett County having the lowest rate of 2.7%, and Lake County having the highest, at 3.6%. May rates were a record low across the state of Tennessee, according to a news release on the TN.gov website.

County Based Unemployment Rate for May 2024



Report Area	Unemployment Rate April 2021	Unemployment Rate May 2024
Report Location	4.4%	3.16%
Benton	4.9%	3.1%
Carroll	4.6%	3.4%
Crockett	3.9%	2.7%
Dyer	4.7%	3.1%
Gibson	4.5%	3.1%
Henry	4.3%	3.1%
Lake	6.6%	3.6%
Obion	4.7%	3.1%
Weakley	3.7%	3.3%
Tennessee	4.7%	3.0%
United States	5.8%	4.0%

Data Source: TN Department of Labor Website

Travel Time to Work

The average commute time to work for workers ages 16 and older is 9.85 minutes; however, there is no data for five of the nine counties we serve.

Report Area	Workers that Commute 16 and up	% Workers Traveling less than 10 mins.	% Workers Traveling between 10 and 30 mins	% Workers Traveling between 30 and 60 mins	% Workers Traveling over 60 mins.	Average Commute Time (mins)
Report Location	97,693	20.56%	49.55%	23.76%	6.14%	9.85
Benton	5,592	18.92%	48.03%	23.52%	9.53%	25.71
Carroll	10,965	20.71%	41.81%	28.11%	9.37%	28.03
Crockett	6,181	15.47%	46.37%	32.89%	5.27%	No data
Dyer	15,201	23.27%	52.98%	19.08%	4.68%	20.41
Gibson	20,057	16.45%	44.69%	33.37%	5.49%	No data
Henry	12,076	20.59%	57.45%	14.89%	7.07%	No data
Lake	1,687	26.44%	36.87%	33.55%	3.14%	No data
Obion	12,626	22.31%	56.02%	16.70%	4.97%	19.85
Weakley	13,308	24.15%	49.71%	24.40%	5.73%	No data
Tennessee	2,901,815	11.83%	52.15%	29.20%	6.82%	25.49
United States	138,386,938	12.50%	49.64%	28.99%	8.87%	26.66

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

According to the Tennessee Department of Labor & Workforce Development WIRED Data – Economic Analysis – WIOA Strategic Workforce Development Plan – Local Plan Template for 2024 – 2027 found on the TN.Gov website for Northwest, the following is projected regarding projected growth in employment and industries:

“Average employment in Northwest Tennessee increased from 78,715 to 81,165 over the year from 2021 to 2022, with average weekly wages increasing from \$818 to \$859 per week. The Northwest LWDA is projected to grow in employment from 2020 to 2030 by 6%. The largest industries in the LWDA through 2030 are expected to be manufacturing, health care and social assistance services, and educational services. Besides health care and education, the largest number of new jobs are expected to come from accommodation and food services, expected to create about 1,000 new jobs through 2030. Among the fastest growing jobs will be professional, scientific, and technical services, as well as administrative and support, and arts, entertainment, and recreation. Although manufacturing is one of the largest sectors, job growth will not be as rapid as in the top ten industries.”

Source: Website for TN Department of Labor & Workforce Development – Local Strategic Plan for Northwest Tennessee

EDUCATION PROFILE:

Educational Attainment Ages 25+

Educational attainment shows the distribution of the highest level of education achieved in the report area and helps schools and business to understand the needs of adults, whether it be workforce training or the ability to develop science, technology, engineering and mathematics opportunities.

The chart below shows educational attainment calculated for persons over 25 years old and is an estimated average for the period from 2018 to 2022.

For our service area, 13.32 have no diploma, 42.84% have a high school diploma only, 19.47% have some college, 6.06% have an Associate's Degree, 11.39% have a Bachelor's Degree, and 6.93% have a Graduate or Professional Degree.

Report Area	No High School Diploma	High School Only	Some College	Associates Degree	Bachelor's Degree	Graduate or Professional Degree
Report Location	13.32%	42.84%	19.47%	6.06%	11.39%	6.93%
Benton	15.3%	46.2%	20.1%	7.2%	6.3%	4.8%
Carroll	11.3%	42.8%	19.0%	7.2%	11.9%	8%
Crockett	11.3%	41.4%	21.4%	7.5%	10.5%	5.1%
Dyer	11.8%	39%	19.9%	7.7%	13.1%	8.6%
Gibson	12.4%	40.8%	22.3%	6.0%	11.5%	7.0%
Henry	12.9%	44.5%	18.5%	5.1%	12.4%	6.6%
Lake	25.7%	42.2%	17.3%	4.0%	6.4%	4.4%
Obion	15.2%	45.2%	17.7%	4.8%	10.9%	6.4%
Weakley	12.5%	45.4%	17.1%	4.9%	12.6%	7.5%
Tennessee	10.7%	31.5%	20.4%	7.7%	18.7%	11.0%
United States	10.9%	26.4%	19.7%	8.7%	20.9%	13.4%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS. 2018-22

Adult Literacy

Literacy data published by the Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies (PIACC) breaks adult literacy into three different levels. Those at Level 1 are at risk for being unable to understand printed materials. Those at the upper end of Level 1 can read and understand the text well enough to be able to perform small tasks but might have difficulty understanding or drawing inferences from multiple forms of text, while those at the lower end may struggle with basic vocabulary or even be functionally illiterate.

The percentage at or below Level 1 for literacy in the service area is estimated at 25.4%

Those reported at Level 2 still struggle to perform text based informational tasks but are considered to be nearing reading proficiency. People in this literacy level can usually be able to read printed words and digital print, as well as being able to relate and make inferences from multiple pieces of information that can be pulled from more than one document. Complex evaluation and inferencing may still be too difficult. 43.9% in the area are at or below Level 2.

Report Area		Population Ages 16 - 74	% at or Below Level 1	% at or Below Level 2	% at or Below Level 3
Report Location		181,725	25.4%	43.9%	30.6%
Benton		11,880	25.4%	48.2%	26.4%
Carroll		20,521	26.5%	43.7%	29.8%
Crockett		10,253	28.9%	44.3%	26.8%
Dyer		27,256	24.6%	42.2%	33.2%
Gibson		34,704	24.1%	41.7%	34.2%
Henry		23,411	23.6%	47.3%	29.1%
Lake		6,056	38.9%	48.1%	13%
Obion		22,299	25.9%	44.6%	29.5%
Weakley		25,345	23.8%	42.2%	33.9%
Tennessee		4,862,355	21.7%	37.9%	40.4%
United States		235,567,157	21.8%	32.3%	45.8%

Data Source: National Center for Education Statistics NCES – Program for the International Assessment of Adult Competencies. 2017.

Veterans – Educational Attainment

Veterans' educational attainment contrasts the distribution of educational attainment levels between military veterans and non-veterans in the region for persons 25 and older. 8.79% of our veterans have no high school diploma, compared to 5.61% statewide. 42.03% have a high school diploma, higher than both state and national percentages; however, our area veterans with some college (32.86) or with a Bachelor's degree or higher (16.32%) are lower than the state's percentages of 36.8 and 27.37 respectively.

Report Area	Veterans % No High School Diploma	Veterans % High School Diploma	Veterans % Some College Diploma	Veterans % Bachelors or Higher Diploma
Report Location	8.79%	42.03%	32.86%	16.32%
Benton	8.55%	54.09%	19.12%	18.24%
Carroll	8.96%	45.28%	27.41%	18.34%
Crockett	5.03%	45.17%	34.83%	14.97%
Dyer	4.42%	34.03%	39.52%	22.03%
Gibson	8.01%	37.12%	42.75%	12.11%
Henry	9.47%	43.05%	32.49%	14.99%
Lake	12.29%	30.29%	30.57%	26.86%
Obion	4.91%	48.71%	27.03%	19.33%
Weakley	16.81%	43.15%	26.79%	13.25%
Tennessee	5.61%	30.22%	36.80%	27.37%
United States	5.0%	27.27%	37.22%	30.51%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS. 2018-22. Source geography: County

Youth Not Working and Not in School

Out of 12,516 youth ages 16 to 19, 938 or 7.49% are not in school and not employed, compared to 7.31% at the state level and 6.94% at the national level. Four counties in the service area – Crockett, Dyer, Henry and Lake – have higher percentages than the state, with Henry County being the highest at 13.86%. Benton County has the lowest percentages, closely followed by Obion.

Report Area	Population Age 16-19	% Population Age 16-19 Not in School and Not Employed
Report Location	12,516	7.49%
Benton	735	4.35%
Carroll	1,597	5.45%
Crockett	709	12.27%
Dyer	1,602	8.74%
Gibson	2,407	6.48%
Henry	1,277	13.86%
Lake	186	12.90%
Obion	1,389	4.90%
Weakley	2,614	6.39%
Tennessee	356,700	7.31%
United States	17,571,402	6.94%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS. 2018-22

HOUSING Profile:

Households - Overview

This indicator reports the total number and percentage of households by composition (married couple family, nonfamily, etc.). According to the American Community Survey subject definitions, a family household is any housing unit in which the householder is living with one or more individuals related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption*. A non-family household is any household occupied by the householder alone, or by the householder and one or more unrelated individuals.

**Family households and married-couple families do not include same-sex married couples even if the marriage was performed in a state issuing marriage certificates for same-sex couples. Same sex couple households are included in the family households category if there is at least one additional person related to the householder by birth or adoption.*

Report Area	Total Households	Family Households	% Family Households	Non-Family Households	% Non-Family Households
Report Location	98,588	63,516	64.43%	35,072	35.57%
Benton County	6,736	4,103	60.91%	2,633	39.09%
Carroll County	11,038	7,422	67.24%	3,616	32.76%
Crockett County	5,409	3,878	71.70%	1,531	28.30%
Dyer County	14,640	9,257	63.23%	5,383	36.77%
Gibson County	19,948	13,286	66.60%	6,662	33.40%
Henry County	13,133	8,284	63.08%	4,849	36.92%
Lake County	2,013	1,022	50.77%	991	49.23%
Obion County	12,542	7,845	62.55%	4,697	37.45%
Weakley County	13,129	8,419	64.13%	4,710	35.87%
Tennessee	2,713,635	1,759,011	64.82%	954,624	35.18%
United States	125,736,353	81,432,908	64.76%	44,303,445	35.24%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS. 2018-22

Housing Units - Overview

The number of housing units within the report area in July of each year from 2013-2022 is shown below. According to the U.S. Census, there were a total of 115,805 housing units in the report area in 2022, a decrease of -1,866 (or -1.59%) since 2013 compared to a 340.35% increase statewide.

Report Area	July 2013	July 2014	July 2015	July 2016	July 2017	July 2018	July 2019	July 2020	July 2021	July 2022
Report Location	117,671	117,861	117,955	118,121	118,305	118,497	118,696	114,942	115,319	115,805
Benton	9,049	9,061	9,069	9,083	9,108	9,147	9,172	8,495	8,536	8,578
Carroll	13,240	13,242	13,243	13,249	13,259	13,271	13,273	13,086	13,101	13,132
Crockett	6,418	6,407	6,397	6,385	6,408	6,418	6,430	6,078	6,109	6,141
Dyer	16,770	16,792	16,817	16,849	16,893	16,927	16,972	16,229	16,275	16,317
Gibson	22,292	22,418	22,480	22,535	22,587	22,640	22,702	22,341	22,481	22,651
Henry	17,121	17,146	17,168	17,196	17,232	17,273	17,305	16,948	17,001	17,088
Lake	2,605	2,605	2,605	2,606	2,601	2,600	2,596	2,500	2,497	2,498
Obion	14,624	14,611	14,591	14,634	14,620	14,604	14,601	14,311	14,312	14,333
Weakley	15,552	15,579	15,585	15,584	15,597	15,617	15,645	14,954	15,007	15,067
Tennessee	2,856,478	2,877,456	11,604,868	11,717,100	11,843,524	11,983,712	12,112,852	12,164,116	12,351,852	12,578,472
USA	133,538,615	134,388,318	135,285,123	136,286,436	137,366,902	138,516,439	139,684,244	140,805,345	142,153,010	143,786,655

Data Source: US Census Bureau, US Census Population Estimates.



Household Structure – Single Parent Households and Older Adults Living Alone

This indicator reports the number of children ages 0 to 17 living in a single-parent home, as well as the number of older adults, age 65 plus, living alone.

Lake County has the highest percentage of children in single-parent homes, at 47.96% or almost half of the households in the area. Four Counties – Benton, Carroll, Henry and Weakley – fall below the state percentage of 27.92% while the remaining five counties are higher.

All counties except for Crockett have higher percentages of seniors (age 65+) living alone. Dyer County has the highest percentage, at 46.06, followed by Benton County, at 44.06%. Note that this is an important indicator for older adults living alone because they are a vulnerable population and may have challenges accessing basic needs, including health needs.

Report Area	% Children Ages 0 – 17 in Single-Parent Households	% of Seniors Age 65+ Living Alone in Households
Report Location	28.49%	41.21%
Benton County	23.04%	44.06%
Carroll County	21.63%	40.26%
Crockett County	33.06%	30.81%
Dyer County	33.59%	46.06%
Gibson County	28.67%	39.77%
Henry County	27.42%	41.16%
Lake County	47.96%	39.81%
Obion County	28.45%	42.85%
Weakley County	26.18%	40.15%
Tennessee	27.92%	38.04%
United States	24.93%	37.22%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, ACS. 2018-22

Housing Cost Burden at 30% and 50%

This indicator reports the percentage of the households where housing costs are at 30% or more of total household income and at 50%. This provides information on the cost of monthly housing expenses for both owners and renters, and also offers a measure of housing affordability and excessive shelter costs. This information can aid in development of housing programs to meet the needs of people at different economic levels.

Of the 98,588 total households in the service area, 21,536, or 21.84% of the population live in cost-burdened households (30%); all counties fall below the state and national percentages.

For cost-burdened households at 50% or more housing costs than total household income, this percentage is considered severe. The service area as a whole shows a lower percentage than state and national levels, with Dyer County having the highest percentage of 11.11 and Obion County the lowest, at 7.67%.

Report Area	% Cost-Burdened Households (30%)	% Cost-Burdened Households Severe (50%)
Report Location	21.84%	9.08%
Benton County	17.52%	7.76%
Carroll County	20.03%	8.45%
Crockett County	21.58%	10.70%
Dyer County	25.73%	11.11%
Gibson County	23.56%	9.24%
Henry County	21.00%	9.14%
Lake County	21.26%	10.23%
Obion County	20.38%	7.67%
Weakley County	21.10%	8.25%
Tennessee	26.29%	11.59%
United States	30.51%	14.06%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-22

Housing Quality – Substandard Housing

In this area, there are 22.12% occupied housing units with one or more substandard conditions. This percentage is lower than the statewide percentage of 26.76. The following table shows the percentages of substandard conditions by categories (lack of plumbing facilities, kitchen facilities, and telephone service).

Report Area	% Occupied Housing Units with One or More Substandard Conditions	% Housing Units Lacking Complete Plumbing Facilities	% Housing Units Lacking Complete Kitchen Facilities	% Housing Units Lacking Telephone Service	% Overcrowded Housing Units 2019
Report Location	22.12%	0.49%	6.05%	2.49%	1.76%
Benton	18.22%	0.21%	6.97%	3.08%	.72%
Carroll	20.39%	0.30%	10.21%	.75%	1.73%
Crockett	23.55%	0.13%	5.96%	.42%	1.26%
Dyer	25.86%	0.44%	3.30%	2.01%	1.14%
Gibson	23.09%	0.68%	7.90%	3.07%	4.25%
Henry	21.11%	0.53%	6.86%	5.56%	2.93%
Lake	25.24%	3.63%	8.01%	3.25%	1.87%
Obion	21.04%	0.14%	4.91%	.58%	1.25%
Weakley	20.89%	0.50%	6.49%	3.26%	1.39%
Tennessee	26.76%	0.32%	3.25%	2.00%	2.4%
United States	31.70%	0.39%	2.44%	1.62%	4.38%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22

NUTRITION PROFILE:

Households Receiving SNAP by Poverty Status

15,287 households (or 15.5%) received SNAP payments during 2018 – 2022. During this same period, there were 8,244 households with income levels below the poverty level that were not receiving SNAP payments.

Report Area	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (Total)	Households Receiving SNAP Benefits (Percent)	Households Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty	Households NOT Receiving SNAP Benefits (Total)	Households NOT Receiving SNAP Benefits (Percent)	Households NOT Receiving SNAP Income Below Poverty	Households NOT Receiving SNAP Income Above Poverty
Report Location	15,287	15.5%	8,334	6,953	83,301	84.5%	8,244	75,057
Benton	1,030	15.29%	593	437	5,706	84.71%	528	5,178
Carroll	1,518	13.75%	790	728	9,520	86.25%	923	8,597
Crockett	713	13.18%	329	384	4,696	86.82%	494	4,202
Dyer	2,377	16.24%	1,538	839	12,263	83.76%	964	11,299
Gibson	3,316	16.62%	1,898	1,418	16,632	83.38%	1,454	15,178
Henry	1,804	13.74%	719	1,085	11,329	86.26%	1,236	10,093
Lake	624	31.00%	408	216	1,389	69.00%	300	1,089
Obion	1,972	15.72%	1,018	954	10,570	84.28%	961	9,609
Weakley	1,933	14.72%	1,041	892	11,196	85.28%	1,384	9,812
Tennessee	317,058	11.68%	158,786	158,272	2,396,577	88.32%	217,725	2,178,852
USA	14,486,880	11.52%	6,332,769	8,154,111	111,249,473	88.48%	9,283,496	101,965,977

Data Source: US Census Bureau, American Community Survey. 2018-22.

Low Income and Low Food Access Including Food Desert Census Tracts

This indicator reports the percentage of the low income population with low food access. Low food access is defined as living more than 1 mile (urban) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. Data are from the April 2021 Food Access Research Atlas dataset. This indicator is relevant because it highlights populations and geographies facing food insecurity. 18.73% of the low income population in the service area have low food access. This is actually lower than both the state and national average.

Our service area has a population of 67,393 living in food deserts and a total of 17 census tracts classified as food deserts by the USDA.

Report Area	Low Income Population	Low Income Pop. With Low Food Access	% Low Income Population with Low Food Access	Food Desert Census Tracts
Report Location	112,103	21,001	18.73%	17
Benton	7,396	951	12.86%	2
Carroll	11,379	977	8.59%	0
Crockett	6,214	954	15.35%	1
Dyer	16,087	5,715	35.53%	2
Gibson	21,441	5,272	24.59%	4
Henry	14,411	3,363	23.34%	4
Lake	3,832	6	.16%	0
Obion	14,655	934	6.37%	1
Weakley	16,688	2,829	16.95%	3
Tennessee	2,275,324	563,080	24.75%	266
USA	97,055,825	18,834,033	19.41%	9,293

Data Source: US Dept. of Agriculture, Economic Research Service. USDA – Food Access Research Atlas. 2019

Food Environment – SNAP-Authorized Food Stores

This indicator reports the number of SNAP-authorized food stores at a rate per 10,000 population. Snap-authorized stores include grocery stores as well as supercenters, specialty food stores, and convenience stores that are authorized to accept SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefits. Our service area contains a total of 281 SNAP-Authorized retailers with a rate of 11.4%, higher than both state (9.22) and national (7.47) rates.

Report Area	Total SNAP Authorized Food Stores	% SNAP-Authorized Food Stores
Report Location	281	11.40
Benton	18	11.16
Carroll	37	13.32
Crockett	15	10.58
Dyer	49	13.35
Gibson	57	11.60
Henry	31	9.67
Lake	7	10.02
Obion	32	10.62
Weakley	35	10.50
Tennessee	6,348	9.22
United States	332,898,996	7.47

Data Source: US Dept. of Agriculture, Food & Nutrition Service, USDA – SNAP Retailer Locator, Additional Data analysis by CARES. 2023.

Children Receiving Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits (SNAP) and Children Receiving Women, Infants and Children (WIC)

Report Area	% Children under age 18 Receiving SNAP -2023	% Children under age 5 Receiving WIC - 2023
Report Location	31.5%	37.8%
Benton	30.6%	39.0%
Carroll	24.0%	29.3%
Crockett	24.1%	45.9%
Dyer	32.9%	34.4%
Gibson	25.0%	29.3%
Henry	31.0%	35.1%
Lake	61.5%	55.8%
Obion	29.9%	39.3%
Weakley	24.2%	32.8%
Tennessee	23.1%	29%

Data Source: Kids Count: 2024

Other Social & Economic Factors:

Social Vulnerability Index

The degree to which a community exhibits certain social conditions, including high poverty, low percentage of vehicle access, or crowded households, may affect that community's ability to prevent human suffering and financial loss in the event of disaster. These factors describe a community's social vulnerability.

Our service area has a social vulnerability index score of .68, which is greater than the state average of .56% and the national average of .58%

Report Area	Total Population	Socioeconomic Theme Score	Household Composition Theme Score	Minority Status Theme Score	Housing & Transportation Theme Score	Social Vulnerability Index Score
Report Location	247,922	0.71	0.74	0.49	0.48	0.68
Benton County	16,133	0.70	0.53	0.07	0.20	0.44
Carroll County	27,841	0.5	0.56	0.47	0.60	0.55
Crockett County	14,310	0.72	0.97	0.64	0.32	0.76
Dyer County	37,201	0.80	0.89	0.56	0.22	0.70
Gibson County	49,193	0.74	0.92	0.61	0.53	0.78
Henry County	32,251	0.59	0.73	0.41	0.53	0.61
Lake County	7,273	0.98	0.35	0.72	1.00	0.95
Obion County	30,343	0.79	0.91	0.53	0.41	0.76
Weakley County	33,377	0.70	0.38	0.42	0.71	0.64
Tennessee	6,772,268	0.59	0.53	0.56	0.48	0.56
United States	326,569,308	0.54	0.48	0.71	0.62	0.58

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics, [CDC - GRASP](#). 2020.

Households with No Motor Vehicle

This indicator reports the number and percentage of households with no motor vehicle based on the latest 5-year American Community Survey estimates. Of the 98,588 total households in the service area, 7,014, or 7.11% are without a motor vehicle. Two counties, Benton and Crockett, fall below the state average of 5.32 while the remaining counties are above. Lake County has the largest percentage of households with no vehicles, at 16.74%.

Report Area	Total Occupied Households	Households with No Motor Vehicle	Households with No Motor Vehicle, Percent
Report Location	98,588	7,014	7.11%
Benton County	6,736	284	4.22%
Carroll County	11,038	734	6.65%
Crockett County	5,409	279	5.16%
Dyer County	14,640	939	6.41%
Gibson County	19,948	1,831	9.18%
Henry County	13,133	820	6.24%
Lake County	2,013	337	16.74%
Obion County	12,542	911	7.26%
Weakley County	13,129	879	6.70%
Tennessee	2,713,635	144,321	5.32%
United States	125,736,353	10,474,870	8.33%

Built Environment – Broadband Access & Households with No Computer

This indicator reports the percentage of population with access to high-speed internet. Data are based on the reported service area of providers offering download speeds of 25 MBPS or more and upload speeds of 3 MBPS or more. This data represents both wireline and fixed/terrestrial wireless internet providers. Cellular internet providers are not included.

In the report area, there are several rural “dead spots” where broadband access is rare or non-existent at times. There continues to be a positive trend over time. Since the previous Community Needs Assessment, our access to broadband has increased overall from 85.21% to 91.25%; however, this is still below the state and national averages of 94.44% and 93.82% respectively. Three counties have averages that exceed the state. Crockett and Lake counties have 100% access, and Obion has 99.97%. The remaining six counties fall below the state and federal averages, with Benton at 73.19% and Carroll at 76.94%.

Of the 98,588 total households in our service area, 11,368, or 11.53%, are without a computer compared to the state and national averages. Henry County has the lowest percentage, at 9.71, while Lake has the highest percentage of 19.18%.

Built Environment – Broadband Access & Households with No Computer continued:

Report Area	Access to DL Speeds > 25MBPS	% Households with No Computer
Report Location	91.25%	11.53%
Benton	73.19%	12.57%
Carroll	76.94%	12.33%
Crockett	100%	11.15%
Dyer	99.81%	10.12%
Gibson	93.36%	10.77%
Henry	88.99%	9.71%
Lake	100%	19.18%
Obion	99.97%	13.08%
Weakley	91.43%	12.38%
Tennessee	94.44%	7.70%
United States	93.82%	6.05%

Data Source: (for Broadband Access – FCC FABRIC Data. Additional data analysis by CARES, June 2023) and (for HHs with no Computer – US Census Bureau, ACS, 2018-22)

HEALTH PROFILE:**Tobacco Usage – Current Smokers**

This indicator reports the percentage of adults ages 18 and older who report having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every day or some days. Within the service area, there are 22.8% adults age 18+ who have smoked and currently smoke of the total population age 18+, compared to the state (19.39%) and national (13.50%) averages.

Report Area	Adults Age 18+ as Current Smokers
Report Location	22.8%
Benton	24.90%
Carroll	21.60%
Crockett	22.80%
Dyer	21.80%
Gibson	22.60%
Henry	23.20%
Lake	29.30%
Obion	23.90%
Weakley	21.30%
Tennessee	19.39%
USA	13.50%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via the PLACEDS Data Portal. 2021

Physical Inactivity

Within the report area, 39,753, or 19.7% of adults aged 20 and older self-report no active leisure time, based on the question: “During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening, or walking for exercise?” This indicator is relevant because current behaviors are determinants of future health and this indicator may illustrate a cause of significant health issues, such as obesity and poor cardiovascular health.

Compared to the state average of 21.1%, we are lower overall; however, one county – Gibson – is above the state average at 21.2%.

Obesity

This indicator reports the number and percentage of adults aged 20 and older self-reporting having a Body Mass Index (BMI) greater than 30.0 (obese). Responders were considered obese if their BMI was 30 or greater and derived from self-report of height and weight. Excess weight may indicate an unhealthy lifestyle and puts individuals at risk for further health issues.

Within the report area, there were a total of 49,893 adults aged 20 and older who self-reported having a BMI greater than 30.0. This represents 26.5% of the surveyed population and is lower than the state and national averages of 30.6% and 30.1% respectively.

Only one county, Gibson, is above the state and federal average, at 33.6%.

Report Area	% Adults with BMI greater than 20 (Obese)
Report Location	26.5%
Benton	21.7%
Carroll	28.6%
Crockett	21.2%
Dyer	23.6%
Gibson	33.6%
Henry	28.9%
Lake	16.9%
Obion	23.9%
Weakley	24.2%
Tennessee	30.6%
USA	30.1%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. 2021

Insurance – Uninsured Population

The lack of health insurance is considered a key driver of health status. This indicator reports the percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance coverage, as well as adults ages 18 to 64.

In both age groups, the service area averages above that of the state and federal levels. 4.67% of our children are uninsured, compared to 4.67 % statewide. Both the service area and the state averages are lower than the national one of 5.32%.

Six counties fall below the state average, while three counties – Benton, Crockett, Obion – are above the state average. Crockett County has the highest uninsured children's average.

For adults, the uninsured percentage for the area is 15.42%. Only one county, Carroll, has a rate lower than that of the state's 14.59%. Lake County has the highest average adult population who are uninsured, that of 17.87%.

Insurance – Uninsured Population continued:

Report Area	% Population Age 0 – 18 with No Insurance	% Population Age 18 – 64 with No Insurance
Report Location	4.67%	15.42%
Benton	5.38%	16.91%
Carroll	3.78%	13.95%
Crockett	6.02%	17.29%
Dyer	4.35%	14.71%
Gibson	4.61%	15.02%
Henry	4.60%	16.05%
Lake	3.55%	17.87%
Obion	5.84%	16.37%
Weakley	4.05%	14.68%
Tennessee	4.64%	14.59%
USA	5.32%	12.11%

Data Source: US Census Bureau, Small Area Health Insurance Estimates. 2021

Access to Health Care – Primary Care Providers

This indicator reports the number of providers with a CMS National Provider Identifier (NPI) that specialize in primary care. Primary health providers include practicing physicians specializing in general practice medicine, family medicine, internal medicine, and pediatrics. The number of facilities that specialize in primary health care are also listed (but are not included in the calculated rate). Data are from the latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Provider Identifier (NPI).

Primary Care Providers are fewer in our service area, with 53.96% per 100,000 population compared to the state average of 89.35% and national average of 111.65%.

A lack of access to care presents barriers to good health. The supply and accessibility of facilities and physicians, the rate of (un)insurance, financial hardship, transportation barriers, cultural competency and coverage limitations affect access.

Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Facilities	Number of Providers	Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population
Report Location	248,338	70	134	53.96
Lake County, TN	7,005	0	3	42.83
Gibson County, TN	50,429	13	23	45.61
Crockett County, TN	13,911	2	2	14.38
Carroll County, TN	28,440	11	15	52.74
Dyer County, TN	36,801	13	27	73.37
Benton County, TN	15,864	3	6	37.82
Henry County, TN	32,199	8	24	74.54
Obion County, TN	30,787	11	21	68.21
Weakley County, TN	32,902	9	13	39.51
Tennessee	6,910,840	2,447	6,175	89.35
United States	334,735,155	125,326	373,727	111.65

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS – National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). February 2024

Access to Health Care – Dental Providers

This indicator reports the number of oral health care providers with a CMS National Provider Identifier (NPI). Providers included in this summary are those who list “dentist”, “general practice dentist”, or “pediatric dentistry” as their primary practice classification, regardless of sub-specialty. The data are from the latest Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Provider Identifier (NPI) downloadable file.

Dental provider availability is less in our service area than statewide and national averages.

22.95% of Dental Providers are located in the service area, compared to 33.14% statewide and 38.69% nationwide. A notable indicator to add here is dental care utilization. For adults aged 18 and older, 53.2% report having been to the dentist or dental clinic in the previous year, compared to 57.8% for Tennessee.

Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Facilities	Number of Providers	Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population
Report Location	248,338	12	57	22.95
Benton County	15,864	0	3	18.91
Carroll County	28,440	0	5	17.58
Crockett County	13,911	0	4	28.75
Dyer County	36,801	1	14	38.04
Gibson County	50,429	3	84	15.86
Henry County	32,199	1	8	24.85
Lake County	7,005	0	0	0
Obion County	30,787	3	10	32.48
Weakley County	32,902	4	5	15.20
Tennessee	6,910,840	880	2,290	33.14
United States	334,735,155	56,850	129,503	38.69

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS – National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). February 2024

Access to Health Care – Mental Health Providers

This indicator reports the number of providers with a CMS National Provider Identifier (NPI) that specialize in mental health. Mental health providers include licensed clinical social workers and other credentialed professionals specializing in psychiatry, psychology, counseling, or child, adolescent, or adult mental health.

In the service area, the percentage of mental health providers is at 32.21%, much lower than the state (129.17%) and national (172.29%) averages.

Notable to add is the rate of diagnoses for mental health and substance use conditions among the Medicare population. For the service area location, 38% have mental health/substance abuse conditions compared to 36% statewide and 32% nationwide.

Access to Health Care – Mental Health Providers continued:

Report Area	Total Population (2020)	Number of Facilities	Number of Providers	Providers, Rate per 100,000 Population
Report Location	248,338	14	80	32.21
Benton County	15,864	1	4	25.21
Carroll County	28,440	1	8	28.13
Crockett County	13,911	1	0	0.00
Dyer County	36,801	2	13	35.33
Gibson County	50,429	1	12	23.80
Henry County	32,199	4	20	62.11
Lake County	7,005	0	3	42.83
Obion County	30,787	2	4	12.99
Weakley County	32,902	2	16	48.63
Tennessee	6,910,840	903	8,927	129.17
United States	334,735,155	74,802	576,715	172.29

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS – National Plan and Provider Enumeration System (NPPES). February 2024

Total Persons Receiving Medicare

The total number of persons receiving Medicare is shown broken down by number over 65 and number of disabled persons receiving Medicare for the service area. The US Department of Health and Human Services reported that 10,811 disabled persons and 50,481 persons over age 65 - a total of 61,292 persons - were receiving Medicare benefits in the report area in 2022. A large number of people in our society are aware that persons over 65 years of age receive Medicare; however, many of them are unaware that disabled persons also receive Medicare benefits. 10,811 disabled persons and 50,481 persons over age 65 receive Medicare in the area.

Report Area	Total Persons Receiving Medicare	# Persons Over 65 Receiving Medicare	# Disabled Persons Receiving Medicare
Report Location	61,292	50,481	10,811
Benton	4,754	3,955	799
Carroll	7,354	6,055	1,299
Crockett	3,237	2,644	593
Dyer	8,264	6,615	1,649
Gibson	11,671	9,448	2,223
Henry	9,211	7,865	1,346
Lake	1,345	1,059	286
Obion	8,053	6,669	1,384
Weakley	7,403	6,171	1,232
Tennessee	1,426,014	1,210,943	215,070
United States	65,007,351	57,284,076	7,723,275

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS Geographic Variation Public Use File. 2022

Hospitalizations – Emergency Room Visits

This indicator reports the number & rate of emergency room (ER) visits among Medicare Beneficiaries age 65+. This indicator is relevant because ER visits are “high intensity” services that can place a burden on health care systems & patients. High rates of ER visits “may indicate poor care management, inadequate access to care or poor patient choices, resulting in visits that could be prevented”.

In the latest reporting period, there were 60,531 Medicare beneficiaries in the service area who had 23,866 emergency room visits. The rate of visits per 1,000 beneficiaries was 596.2%, higher than the state average of 527 during the same period.

Report Area	Medicare Part A and B Beneficiaries	Emergency Room Visits	Emergency Room Visits, Rate (per 1,000 Beneficiaries)
Report Location	60,531	23,866	596.2
Benton County	4,634	1,846	618.0
Carroll County	7,282	3,059	622.0
Crockett County	3,148	1,011	462.0
Dyer County	8,199	3,553	658.0
Gibson County	11,597	4,387	572.0
Henry County	9,049	3,163	511.0
Lake County	1,360	802	852.0
Obion County	7,975	3,287	679.0
Weakley County	7,287	2,758	563.0
Tennessee	1,330,544	374,610	527.0
United States	58,738,711	17,332,356	535.0

Data Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, CMS – Geographic Variation Public Use File. 2020

Poor Physical and Mental Health

This indicator reports the percentage of adults aged 18 and older who report 14 or more days during the past 30 days during which their mental and physical health were not good. Within the area, there were 15.4% adults 18 and older who reported poor physical health in the past month, and 18.7% who reported their mental health was not good. Both percentages were higher than the state and national average.

Report Area	Adults Age 18+ with Poor Physical Health	Adults Age 18+ with Poor Mental Health
Report Location	15.6%	18.7%
Benton	17.2%	18.7%
Carroll	15.1%	18.2%
Crockett	15.6%	18.6%
Dyer	14.7%	18.6%
Gibson	15.1%	18.4%
Henry	16.4%	18.3%
Lake	17.2%	20.3%
Obion	16.2%	18.9%
Weakley	14.5%	19.7%
Tennessee	13.3%	17.66%
USA	10.9%	14.7%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Accessed via the PLACES Data Portal. 2021

Life Expectancy by Census Tract *(no changes)*

According to CDC and the National Center for Health Statistics, the life expectancy in our area is age 74.69 compared to 76.02% at the state level and 78.69 nationally. Weakley County has the highest age, that of 76.01; Benton County is the lowest – 72.67.

Report Area	Life Expectancy at Birth (2010-15)
Report Location	74.69
Benton	72.67
Carroll	74.37
Crockett	74.45
Dyer	75.29
Gibson	74.53
Henry	73.93
Lake	74.2
Obion	75.24
Weakley	76.01
Tennessee	76.02
United States	78.69

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Center for Health Statistics, US Small-Area Life Expectancy Estimates Project 2010-15.

Asthma Prevalence *(no changes)*

This indicator reports the percentage of adults aged 18 and older who self-report that they have ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or other health professional that they had asthma. This indicator is relevant because asthma is a prevalent problem in the U.S. that is often exacerbated by poor environmental conditions.

Although the area's percent of adults with asthma is 8.8% compared to the statewide average of 10.7%, 4 counties – Carroll, Crockett, Henry, and Weakley – are higher percentages. Henry has the highest rate at 15.5%. There is no data available currently for Lake County in the table below. Dyer County has the lowest percentage, that of 4.6.

Report Area	Percent Adults with Asthma
Report Area	8.8%
Benton	5.8%
Carroll	11%
Crockett	11%
Dyer	4.6%
Gibson	5.5%
Henry	15.5%
Lake	No Data
Obion	8.3%
Weakley	12.3%
Tennessee	10.7%
United States	13.4%

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. Additional data analysis by CARES. 2011-12.

Deaths of Despair (Suicide, Alcohol-Related Disease, Drug Overdoses)

This indicator reports the rate of death due to intentional self-harm (suicide), alcohol-related disease, and drug overdoses (also known as Deaths of Despair) per 100,000 population. Figures are reported as rates age-adjusted to year 2000 standard. Rates are re-summarized for report areas from county level data, only where data is available. This indicator is relevant because suicide is an indicator of poor mental health.

Benton County has a strikingly higher rate of 80.8%, whereas Carroll and Obion Counties have the lowest rates of 36.9 and 38.8 respectively. % (lower than Tennessee's 49.5%).

Report Area	Total Population, 2016-2020 Average	5-year Total Deaths, 2016 - 2020	Age-Adjusted Death Rate (Per 100,000 Population)
Report Location	248,024	666	50.7
Benton	16,095	70	80.8
Carroll	27,904	57	36.9
Crockett	14,324	37	44.2
Dyer	37,269	85	41.9
Gibson	49,170	136	53.1
Henry	32,304	133	73.4
Lake	7,289	10	No data
Obion	30,286	62	38.8
Weakley	33,384	76	46.0
Tennessee	6,770,639	21,484	60.9
United States	326,747,554	806,246	47.0

Data Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Vital Statistics System. Accessed via CDC WONDER. 2011-17. Source geography: County

Medicare and Medicaid Providers

Total institutional Medicare and Medicaid providers, including hospitals, nursing facilities, Federally qualified health centers, and rural health clinics for the report are shown in the table below. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, there were 132 active Medicare and Medicaid institutional service providers in the report area in the fourth quarter of 2023.

Notable is the increase in Rural Health Clinics for our area. In the previous Community Needs Assessment completed in August 2021, there were only 38 rural health clinics in our service area. There are now 58 rural health clinics.

Report Area	Total Institutional Providers	Hospitals	Nursing Facilities	Federally Qualified Health Centers	Rural Health Clinics
Report Location	132	9	29	4	58
Benton	6	1	1	0	3
Carroll	15	1	4	0	9
Crockett	6	0	2	0	4
Dyer	15	1	3	0	7
Gibson	39	1	7	1	9
Henry	13	1	3	0	7
Lake	6	0	2	2	2
Obion	14	1	3	1	7
Weakley	18	3	4	0	10
Tennessee	1,369	153	308	171	276
United States	54,926	7,044	14,907	11,698	5,356

Data Source: US Department of Health & Human Services, Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Provider of Services File. December 2023

Youth on TennCare

The number of youth below age 21 enrolled in TennCare averages 65.8% in the area, compared to 54.1% when the last needs assessment was done. This is above the Tennessee rate of 55.3%, with Lake County having the highest percentage of 89.6. The county with the lowest amount of youth on TennCare is Weakley, at 55.3% and exactly the same as the state percentage.

Report Area	% Children on TennCare (2020)	% Children on TennCare (2022)
Report Location	54.1%	65.8%
Benton	56.2%	67.6%
Carroll	51.1%	57.8%
Crockett	53.6%	63.6%
Dyer	53.5%	68.1%
Gibson	49.4%	59.2%
Henry	52.9%	65.5%
Lake	75.2%	89.6%
Obion	54.9%	65.6%
Weakley	40.5%	55.3%
Tennessee	44.7%	55.3%

Kids Count Data and Research – County Profiles. 2020 and 2022

Cancer Incidence

This indicator reports the age adjusted incidence rate (cases per 100,000 population per year) of cancer adjusted to 2000 US standard population age groups.

Within the service area, there were a total of 1,665 new cases of cancer reported. This means there is a rate of 483.9% for every 100,000 total population.

Only one county – Lake – has a cancer incidence rate lower than the state and national average, that of 441.9%.

Report Area	Cancer Incidence Rate (per 100,000 population)
Report Location	483.9
Benton	516.1
Carroll	517.5
Crockett	479.7
Dyer	482.3
Gibson	474.8
Henry	479.7
Lake	441.9
Obion	476.5
Weakley	472.9
Tennessee	457.7
United States	442.3

Data Source: State Cancer Profiles. 2016 – 20.

Spotlight on ZIP Health at exploretnhealth.org reports states the following information:

“Some experts suggest that a person’s ZIP Code is more predictive of their health than their genetic code. Having detailed, local information on health factors and health outcomes in the places where Tennesseans live can help community health leaders take action to help create and sustain a healthy Tennessee.”

The following table has been updated since the last needs assessment and rankings have changed. Each county is ranked 1 – 95 (with 1 being the best) on physical environment, quality of life, clinical care, socioeconomic factors, health factors, health behaviors, health outcomes and length of life based on their findings:

County	Physical Environment Rank	Quality of Life Rank	Clinical Care Rank	Socio-economic Factors Rank	Health Factors Rank	Health Behaviors Rank	Health Outcomes Rank	Length of Life Rank
Benton	69	73	76	78	80	67	91	94
Carroll	57	18	35	60	52	43	30	41
Crockett	82	61	85	27	68	81	58	56
Dyer	41	84	50	53	71	87	78	73
Gibson	73	36	34	43	57	80	46	60
Henry	23	54	12	66	46	69	47	51
Lake	67	92	91	92	95	95	86	72
Obion	75	71	55	80	82	82	35	15
Weakley	36	30	36	29	32	56	29	28

Data Source: Website Spotlight on ZIP Health at <https://exploretnhealth.org>

Spotlight on Health also lists the following Health and Social Factors for each ZIP Code within the service area:

- **Benton County**
 - Health Factors: opioid use disorder, sexually transmitted infections, stroke, atherosclerosis;
 - Social Factors: median home value, high school education, vacant housing, injury deaths
- **Carroll County**
 - Health Factors: teen pregnancy, years of potential life lost, arthritis/joint disease, cancer, liver disease, obesity, teen pregnancy;
 - Social Factors: unemployment, low birthweight, median home value, multilingual households, ED utilization for dental carriers, unemployment
- **Crockett County**
 - Health Factors: obesity, teen pregnancy, years of potential life lost, kidney disease;
 - Social Factors: injury deaths, median home value, assault diagnosis, multilingual households
- **Dyer County**
 - Health Factors: cancer, atherosclerosis, teen pregnancy, COPD;
 - Social Factors: one-parent households, assault diagnosis, injury deaths, preventable hospitalizations, median home value
- **Gibson County**
 - Health Factors: obesity, teen pregnancy, cancer;
 - Social Factors: after hour ER visits, assault diagnosis, teen pregnancy, obesity, cancer

- **Henry County**
 - Health Factors – opioid use disorder
 - Social Factors: healthcare worker availability, childhood poverty, vacant housing, high school education
- **Lake County**
 - Health Factors: teen pregnancy, COPD;
 - Social Factors: assault diagnosis, preventable hospitalizations
- **Obion County**
 - Health Factors: cancer, teen pregnancy, kidney disease;
 - Social Factors: median home value, high school education, after hour ER visits, low birthweight
- **Weakley County**
 - Health Factors: cancer, years of potential life lost, teen pregnancy, arthritis/joint disease, sexually transmitted infections, atherosclerosis
 - Social Factors: household size, median home value, blue collar workers, low birthweight

Ranking for Violent and Property Crime, Incarceration Rates

Violent Crime includes homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault. Within the report area, the 2015 -2017 three-year total of reported violent crimes was 3,118, which equates to an annual rate of 415.40 crimes per 100,000 people, lower than the statewide rate of 633.70.

The Property Crimes Indicator reports the rate of property crime offenses reported by law enforcement per 100,000 residents. Property crimes include burglary, larceny-theft, motor vehicle theft, and arson. This indicator is relevant because it assesses community safety. In the service area, 6,558 property crimes occurred in 2014 and 2016 (2 years). The property crime rate of 2,612 per 100,000 residents is lower than the statewide rate of 2,967.4 per 100,000 residents.

The opportunity Atlas estimates the percentage of individuals born in each census tract who were incarcerated at the time of the 2010 census. According to this data, 1.6% of our area were incarcerated, lower than the state average of 1.9%. Three counties, Dyer, Gibson and Lake have the highest rates, at 2.2%.

County	Violent Crimes, 3-year Total	Violent Crimes, Annual Rate (Per 100,000 pop.)	Property Crimes, Annual Average	Property Crimes, Annual Rate (Per 100,000 Pop.)	Incarceration 1.6% Rates
Report Location	3,118	415.40%	6,558	2,612.0	1.6%
Benton	88	183.00%	303	1,877.1	1.7%
Carroll	206	242.30%	506	1,796.2	1.1%
Crockett	168	384.30%	232	1,590.4	1.5%
Dyer	867	765.00%	1,644	4,321.0	2.2%
Gibson	787	524.70%	1,189	2,405.6	2.2%
Henry	306	317.50%	1,012	3,145.0	1.3%
Lake	59	260.50%	100	1,311.0	2.2%
Obion	416	458.90%	1,012	3,295.4	1.4%
Weakley	221	219.30%	560	1,643.6	1.3%
Tennessee	126,868	633.70%	195,837	2,967.4	1.9%
United States	4,579,031	416.00%	7,915,583	2,466.1	1.3%

Data Source: Federal Bureau of Investigation, FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Additional analysis by the National Archive of Criminal Justice Data. Accessed via the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (for Violent Crimes: 2015-2017; for Property Crimes: 2014 & 2016) For Incarceration Rates: Opportunity Insights. 2018

COVID-19 – Confirmed Cases and Rates, Mortality

This indicator reports incidence rates and mortality rates of confirmed COVID-19 cases per 100,000 population. Data for this indicator reflects the total confirmed cases since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic until the dataset discontinuation in March, 2023. Data is obtained from the Johns Hopkins University data feed.

In our service area, there have been 100,416 total confirmed cases. The rate of confirmed cases is 40,433.59 per 100,000 population, which is greater than the state average of 35,577.98.

There have been 1,504 total deaths among patients with confirmed cases of the coronavirus disease. The mortality rate in the report area is 605.60 per 100,000 population, which is greater than the state average of 424.14 and national rate of 337.86. This could be linked to the higher than state averages for those ages 65 and older, and for individuals with disabilities.

County	Total Confirmed Cases:	Total Deaths:	Deaths, Rate per 100,000 Population Last update 3/10/2023
Report Location	100,416	1,504	605.6%
Benton	5,711	102	630.25%
Carroll	11,688	172	613.85%
Crockett	6,534	89	621.16%
Dyer	15,767	223	597.53%
Gibson	21,964	295	601.49%
Henry	10,220	179	553.19%
Lake	3,184	47	634.19%
Obion	13,497	217	716.95%
Weakley	11,851	180	538.68%
Tennessee	2,408,633	28,714	424.14%
United States	101,470,604	1,102,319	337.86%

Opioid Overdose Data

This indicator reports the 2016 – 2020 five-year average rate of death due to opioid drug overdose per 100,000 population. This indicator is relevant because opioid drug overdose is the leading cause of injury deaths in the United States, and they have increased dramatically in recent years.

County	All Drug Overdose Deaths 2019	All Drug Overdose Deaths 2022
Benton	5	6
Carroll	2	6
Crockett	3	2
Dyer	7	7
Gibson	13	13
Henry	13	7
Lake	2	4
Obion	3	6
Weakley	4	8
Tennessee	2,089	3,826

Data Source: TN.Gov- Dashboard for Drug Overdose in Tennessee.

An article entitled “Are the kids alright? Report ranks childhood well-being in each Tennessee county” by Anita Wadhwani on tennesseelookout.com/2024/07/11 say this about Lake County:

“How are Tennessee kids doing? It depends to a large extent on which part of the state they grow up in, according to a new report analyzing child well-being in each of the state’s 95 counties. Along the Mississippi River on Tennessee’s western border, Lake County is home to the highest percentage of children living in poverty. There are fewer than 1,000 children living in Lake County. Families struggle with high childcare costs that can eat up to half of each paycheck. More than 15% of all babies are born too small. And children here are taken from their families and placed into state custody at four times the rate as the rest of the state.”

KIDS COUNT Data

County Rankings in Multiple Domains – 2020 VS 2023 (1 is best score; 95 is worst).

County	Family & Community Rank 2020	Family & Community Rank 2023	Economic Well-Being Rank 2020	Economic Well-Being Rank 2023	Health Rank 2020	Health Rank 2023	Education Rank 2020	Education Rank 2023	Overall County Rank 2020	Overall County Rank 2023
Benton	33	10	82	42	70	45	29	48	59	23
Carroll	47	1	51	37	22	21	21	30	20	7
Crockett	15	15	46	64	94	93	7	7	54	35
Dyer	65	37	65	76	29	78	13	18	32	53
Gibson	36	38	32	84	34	37	11	20	13	43
Henry	37	19	67	56	64	84	33	9	46	24
Lake	95	95	94	94	95	94	86	80	95	95
Obion	62	16	53	55	19	81	66	27	49	40
Weakley	43	11	27	32	26	11	46	6	28	6

KidsCount.Com

The most recent Kids Count Data summarizes the strengths and opportunities for improving overall child well-being in each county, summarized as follows:

Weakley – 6th; Carroll County – 7th; Benton – 23rd; Henry 24th; Crockett – 35th; Obion – 40th; Gibson – 43rd; Dyer – 53rd; Lake – 95th

- **Benton County:** At 23rd, Benton County is in the top fourth of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county’s strongest area was Family and Community.
 - Strengths: the percentage of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where the county ranks 2nd. The county also performs well in the percent of public school kindergarteners with the full immunization series at 6th.
 - Biggest challenges: the percentage of children living below the federal poverty line, where it ranks 78th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of students who scored “On Track” or “Mastered” in Math as well
- **Carroll County:** At 7th, Carroll County is in the top ten of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county’s strongest rea was Family and Community.
 - Strengths: the percentage of children living below the federal poverty line, where it ranks 65th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of students who scored “On Track” or “Mastered” in TCAP English Language Arts as well.

- **Crockett County:** At 35th, Crockett County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.
 - Strengths: the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Math, where the county ranks 6th. The county also performs well in the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students at 6th.
 - Biggest challenges: the percent of children without health insurance, where it ranks 80th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight as well.
- **Dyer County:** At 53rd, Dyer County is in the bottom half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.
 - Strengths: the percent of public school kindergarteners with the full immunization series, where the county ranks 3rd. The county also performs well in the percent of chronic absenteeism among public school students at 8th.
 - Biggest Challenges: rate of youth crime per 1,000, where it ranks 84th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percentage of households experiencing a severe housing cost burden.
- **Gibson County:** At 43rd, Gibson County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.
 - Strengths: the percentage of chronic absenteeism among public school students, where the county ranks 9th. The county also performs well in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Math at 21st.
 - Biggest challenges: childcare cost burden, where it ranks 93rd. There are opportunities for improvement in the number of children who were victims of abuse or neglect.
- **Henry County:** At 24th, Henry County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.
 - Strengths: the percentage of high school students graduating on time, where the county ranks 3rd. The county also performs well in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Math at 7th.
 - Biggest challenges: the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight, where it ranks 86th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of children living below the federal poverty line as well.
- **Lake County:** At 95th, Lake County is near the bottom of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.
 - Strengths: the percent of children without health insurance, where the county ranks 3rd. The county also performs well in the percent of high school students graduating on time, at 7th.
 - Biggest challenges: the percent of children living below the federal poverty line, where it ranks 95th. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of babies who were born at a low birthweight as well.
- **Obion County:** At 40th, Obion County is in the top half of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Family & Community.
 - Strengths: the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP English Language Arts, where the county ranks 12th. The county also performs well in the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Math at 13th.
 - Biggest challenges: childcare cost burden, where it ranks 81st. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of high school students graduating on time as well.

- **Weakley County:** At 6th, Weakley County is in the top ten of Tennessee counties in child well-being. The county's strongest area was Education.
 - Strengths: the percent of students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP English Language Arts, where the county ranks 6th. The county also performs well in the students who scored "On Track" or "Mastered" in TCAP Math at 10th.
 - Biggest challenges: the percentage of children living below the federal poverty line, where it ranks 61st. There are opportunities for improvement in the percent of public school kindergarteners with the full immunization series as well.

Survey Results

Customer, Partnerships and Board Member Surveys:

Results of surveys from 2023-2024 to compile quantitative data are as follows:

Top Five Service Needs

1. Lack of affordable housing/Housing Services
2. Lack of affordable utilities/Energy Services
3. Lack of transportation
4. Lack of services for elderly
5. Hunger/lack of adequate food supplies

Top Five Identified Barriers:

1. Drug/Alcohol Abuse
2. Affordable housing, homelessness
3. Hunger
4. Needs of Elderly
5. Lack of adequate paying jobs, lack of education or job skills

In Head Start/Early Head Start Program's Needs Assessment Updates, we learn that parents and community partners surveyed identified the following issues facing families, including:

- affordable housing
- male involvement
- child abuse and neglect issues
- mental health issues.

Other issues identified:

- lack of family or child health coverage
- lack of employment opportunities
- zero income
- lack of child support
- community needs for engagement and better public relations
- lack of GED or HS Diploma, and
- increase in relative kinship and single parent households

Demographics of Individuals & Households Served

(CSBG, LIHEAP and TEFAP Unduplicated Counts)

All Characteristics Report October 1, 2022 – September 30, 2023

Total Individuals: 15,956 Total Households: 9,311

Demographic Information	Totals
Gender:	
Male	5,510
Female	9,459
Other/Unknown	987
Total:	15,956 Individuals
Age:	
0-5	1,145
6-13	1,930
14-17	1,004
18-24	905
25-44	2,523
45-54	1,586
55-59	1,200
60-64	1,488
65-74	2,350
75+	1,753
Unknown/not reported	72
Total:	15,956 Individuals
Race:	
White	9,344
Black	5,159
American Indian/Alaskan Native	14
Asian	10
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	11
Multi-race (2 or more of the above)	332
Other/Unknown or not reported	1,086
Total:	15,956 Individuals
Ethnicity/Race:	
Hispanic, Latino, Spanish Origins	183
Not Hispanic, Latino, Spanish Origins	14,609
Unknown/Not Reported	1,164
Total:	15,956 Individuals
Education (ages 14 – 24):	
0-8	709
9-12 non-Graduate	734
High School Graduate/GED	343
12 + Some Post-Secondary	18
2- or 4-years College Graduate	1
Graduate or other post-secondary school	11
Unknown/Not reported	93
Total:	1,909 individuals
Education (age 25 +):	
0-8	610
9-12 non-Graduate	2,020
High School Graduate/GED	6,164
12 + Some Post-Secondary	631
2- or 4-years College Graduate	407
Graduate or other post-secondary school	34
Unknown/Not reported	1,034
Total:	10,900 Individuals

Number of Disconnected Youth ages 14 – 24 not working or attending school	54
Number of Individuals without Health Insurance	7,241
Number of Individuals with a Disabling Condition	12,653
Household Size:	
Single Person	5,829
Two	1,699
Three	829
Four	525
Five	266
Six or More	163
Unknown/Not Reported	0
Total:	9,311 Households
Household Type:	
Single Person	5,829
Two Adults NO children	1,228
Single Parent Female	1,235
Single Parent Male	82
Two Parent Household	208
Non-related Adults with Children	60
Multigenerational Household	140
Other/Unknown or Not reported	529
Total:	9,311 Households
Sources of Household Income:	
Income from Employment Only	30
Income from Employment & Other Income Source	8
Income from Employment, Other Income Source, and Non-Cash Benefits	307
Income from Employment and Non-Cash Benefits	652
Other Income Source Only	208
Other Income Source and Non-Cash Benefits	5,841
No Income	40
Non-Cash Benefits Only	1,238
Unknown/Not Reported	987
Total:	9,311 Households
Other Income Source:	
TANF	166
SSI	1,867
SSDI	1,415
VA Service-Connected Disability Compensation	0
VA Service- Non-Service-Connected Disability Comp.	75
Private Disability Insurance	0
Workers Compensation	0
Retirement Income from Social Security	3,624
Pension	272
Child Support	419
Alimony or other Spousal Support	6
Unemployment Insurance	27
EITC	0
Other	155

Resources/Partnerships/Collaborations

(Summary)

- NWTEDC – Head Start/Early Head Start
- Northwest Tennessee Human Resources Agency/Office on Aging/Development District
- Nwthra Senior Aides, SCESEP – Employment Programs for Seniors
- NW Community Services Agency Senior Aides, SCESEP (for Dyer, Henry counties)
- RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program in Benton and Dyer)
- Local Health Departments and Medical Providers (Hospitals located in each county served other than Lake and Crockett)
- Local and State Department of Human Services & Department of Children Services
- Local County and City Governments, Police Departments, Sheriff Departments, Highway Departments, Department of Corrections, Probation Offices)
- Federal Department of Health and Human Services
- Tennessee Housing Development Agency
- Housing and Urban Development (Union City Central Office)
- Public Housing Authorities
- Utility Companies (water, electric, gas)
- Local Libraries
- Local Day Cares
- Chambers of Commerce
- Agriculture Extension Offices
- Local Newspapers and Radio Stations
- Adult Education Programs
- Dyersburg State Community College
- Jackson State Community College
- Bethel University - McKenzie
- Lane University – Jackson
- Union University - Jackson
- University of Tennessee at Martin
- Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA) – Career Centers
- Technology Centers (Carroll, Dyer, Henry, Weakley counties)
- Mental Health Providers (Carey Counseling, Pathways)
- WRAP - Wo(men) Rape Assistance Program
- Carl Perkins Abuse Prevention Center
- Legal Aide Services (Jackson)
- Employment Services (Hamilton Ryker, Manpower)
- Workforce Essentials
- Family Resource Centers
- Local clubs and organizations, including but not limited to Salvation Army, American Red Cross, Kiwanis Club, Lion's Club, Elks Lodge
- Helping Hands – Henry County
- Plus One – Trenton Light and Water (Gibson County)

- WeCare – Gibson County Utility District
- Project Help – Weakley County Municipal Electric System
- Faith Based Organizations, including but not limited to Ministerial Alliances, United Neighbors, NOAH, Matthew 35:40, Mustard Seed, Reelfoot Rural Ministries, St. John's #3, We Care Ministries, local churches who assist with food, clothing, and other basic needs county to county, etc.
- Hunters Sharing the Harvest
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Santa's Helpers Food Bank/Thrift Store
- Other local thrift stores, clothing closets, food banks not specifically listed
- Midsouth Food Bank
- Boys & Girls Club
- Summer Feeding Programs
- Health Start, Healthy Beginnings
- Local School Systems/Departments of Education
- Local Rescue Squads
- Patterson Center
- Midsouth Health Net
- St. Johns
- United HealthCare
- TennCare Kids
- Farm Bureau Ladies Club
- Local Businesses (including but not limited to Second Impressions, Criswell Trucking, Mitchell Trucking, local restaurants who provide food for commodity volunteers, etc.)
- Local Banks
- Local Landlords and Mortgage Institutions
- Office of Community Services (federal)
- Department of Health & Human Services (federal)
- Drug Prevention Coalition
- National Associations for State Community Services Programs (NASCSP)
- National Peer to Peer Training and Certification Project
- Association of Nationally Certified ROMA Trainers
- Tennessee Association of Community Action Agencies (includes Community Action and Human Resource Agencies throughout the state of Tennessee)
- Southwest and Delta HRA's – NCRT ROMA Consultant
- Southeastern Association of Community Action Agencies
- Community Action Partnership (national level)
- Gibson Electric Membership Corporation – Community CARES
- Wipfli
- Simmons Bank – Dresden
- Vocational Rehabilitation Services – Benton, Carroll
- WCMT
- WBBJ

GAPS in Resources/Services

In order to address gaps in resources, I want to leave information from the previous Community Needs Assessment that is still so relevant today. This was taken from an article “Just How Rural or Urban are Tennessee’s 95 Counties? Finding a Measure for Policy Makers”. Although the article was published in 2016, it adequately describes what a rural community continues to face today. “People in rural areas have unique differences and challenges when it comes to economic and community development and health. Rural areas often have fewer service providers and resources for jobs, health care and community services.”

This article also asserts the following:

“Health is greatly influenced by place because of the environmental and cultural characteristics of the environment and cultural characteristics of neighborhoods and communities. Environmental and cultural factors unique to an area influence behaviors and health. People living in rural areas have different levels of access to nutritious food, spaces for physical activity and recreation, utilities such as water and sewer, health care, dental care, transportation, and even digital telecommunications. Rural communities often have fewer job opportunities and lower wages. Overall, rural residents are at greater risk for poor health outcomes, with higher rates of preventable conditions such as obesity, diabetes and injury and higher rates of unhealthy behaviors such as smoking, physical inactivity and poor nutrition”

Based on both qualitative and quantitative data, noticeable Gaps in Resources/Services for our rural nine-county include, but are not limited to:

- Lack of affordable housing
- Lack of affordable utility services/high energy burdens
- Lack of transportation services other than the Public Transportation Vans for those with no automobile
- Lack of services for Elderly
- Lack of nutrition services
- Lack of employment opportunities and adequate paying jobs contributes to declining population who leave to seek better employment opportunities
- Lack of available, affordable healthcare
- Lack of housing assistance and repair services
- Lack of resources for drug/alcohol recovery programs and mental health needs
- Lack of shelters for homeless and domestic violence victims
- Lack of broadband access in various areas of the geographic area served

TRENDS

- Population change continues to decline. Six years ago, the population percent change was a positive average, at .88%. Three years ago (2021), the rate change became negative, at -1.49%. Currently (2024), during the ten-year period of 2010 to 2020, total population estimates declined by -2.46 percent. Only one county – Gibson – has a positive rate change of +1.5. The remaining 8 counties have negative rates.
 - Over time, continued and increasing population decline impacts healthcare providers and the utilization of community resources.
- 20.95% of the population assessed has a disability. Tennessee average is 15.29%. This number is relevant in that these individuals may require more targeted services and outreach by providers, even though provider availability is more limited in rural areas.
- A higher-than-state average population of those ages 65 and older continues (higher by 2.79% currently; was higher by 3.3% in 2021).
 - 10.8% of those ages 65 and older are in poverty compared to Tennessee's 10.1%
 - 8.9% of males 65 and over are in poverty compared to 8.36% statewide
 - Of those in poverty who are 65 and older, 8.9% are male and 12.31% are female. Both genders exceed the state and national percentages.
 - 41.21% of our 65 + population live alone compared to Tennessee's percentage (38.04%) and the Nation (37.22%).
- All counties exceed state and national percentages of people in poverty with the service area poverty rate at 16.68% in 2022. The rate change is in the negative, at -3.61% while Tennessee's rate change is -4.7%.
 - Almost 36% of the population is below 185% of the Federal Poverty level; for Tennessee, the percentage is 29.62.
 - 16.67% of the population is below 100% of the Federal Poverty Level, compared to 13.96% statewide and 12.53% nationally.
- A higher percentage of females are in poverty than males (Males - 15.39%; Females – 17/89%) although the variance between the two numbers has decreased to 2.5% compared to 4.09 in 2021.
- 16.82% households and families are at or below 125% of poverty, more than the state and nation.
 - Poverty rates for married couples are higher than that in 2021 (40.5% currently versus 35.7% three years ago).
 - Percentages for male householders are very close to the state and national average, whereas female householders in poverty is lower than the state and national average - at 48.6% compared to Tennessee (53.7%) and the United States (51.8%)
- Child poverty rates continue to stay above state and national averages. The child poverty rate change is 3.2% compared to the state average of 1.6%
 - In the report area, 47.04%, or 24,939 children are living in households with incomes below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).
 - 21.10%, or 11,187 children aged 0 to 17 are living in households with incomes below 100% of the FPL. This indicator is relevant because poverty creates barriers to access including health services, healthy food, and other necessities that contribute to poor health status
 - 28.49% of children 0 – 17 live in single parent households compared to 27.92% statewide and 24.93% nationally
- For children ages 3-4, 37.63% are enrolled in preschool compared to 38.56% statewide. The rate of Head Start Programs (per 10,000 children under the age of 5) is 18.6% compared to Tennessee, at 10.32%.

- 18.73% of the low income population have low food access, meaning that they live more than 1 mile (urban) from the nearest supermarket, supercenter, or large grocery store. This is actually lower than both the state and national average, thus a more positive indicator trending.
- 31.5% of our children under 18 receive SNAP benefits compared to 24.2% statewide and 23.1% nationally
- 37.8% of our children receive WIC benefits compared to 32.8% statewide and 29% nationally
- Unemployment rates have continued to decrease. In May 2024, the rate was at 3.16% compared to April 2021 when it was at 4.4%. A new release on the TN.gov website says May unemployment rates were at a record low across the state.
- Regarding TANF, although the percentage for our area and Tennessee are the same – 2.06% for households receiving TANF (also known as Families First), only four of the nine counties actually fell below 2.06%. Obion County is the lowest at 1.07%. The five other counties served were above the state average, with Lake County being the highest percentage of 3.03.
- Median household income continues to be lower than the state amount for all counties, as does per capita income.
- Although those with no high school diploma has decreased in the last three years, when 16% of the population did not have a high school diploma compared to 12.54% statewide and 12% nationally; current data shows this to be at 13.32%, still higher than the state's 10.7% and nation's 10.9%.
 - Veterans with no high school diploma averages 8.79%, compared to 5.61% state-wide.
 - Adult literacy at levels 1 and 2 are higher than state averages
 - Adults with no high school diploma is at 13.32% compared to Tennessee, at 10.7%; High School/GED only in the area is 42.84% while the state average is 31.5%. Adults with a Bachelor Degree averages 11.39% compared to Tennessee's 18.7%
- According to the US Census, there were a total of 115,805 housing units in the report area in 2022, a decrease of -1,866 (or -1.59%) since 2013, compared to a 340.35% increase statewide.
- Housing costs are increasing, with Dyer County being the most vulnerable according to Kids Count data
- Since the previous Community Needs Assessment, access to broadband has increased overall from 85.21 to 91.25; however, this is still below the state and national averages of 94.44% and 93.82% respectively. Three counties have averages that exceed the state - Crockett and Lake counties have 100% access, and Obion has 99.97%. The remaining six counties fall below the state and federal averages, with Benton at 73.19% and Carroll at 76.94%.
 - 11.53% households in the area have no computer compared to Tennessee, at 7.79%
- 7.11% of households are without a motor vehicle; Tennessee is at 5.32%
- Our service area has a Social Vulnerability rate of .68, compared to .56 for the state.
- The average number of the uninsured population age 0 – 18 is 4.67% compared to 4.64% across the state. In 2021, the uninsured percentage was 9.12% for the area, and 9.7% across Tennessee. 15.42% of the population aged 18 – 64 are without insurance compared to Tennessee's 14.59%. Although this shows improvement, there is still work to be done.
- Primary care providers are fewer in the service area, with 53.96% per 100,000 population compared to the state average of 89.35%, and national average of 111.65%. A lack of access to care presents barriers to good health.
 - Dental providers per 100,00 population – 22.95% compared to 33.14 across the state.
 - Mental health providers per 100,000 population – 32.21% compared to 129.17% statewide.
 - Emergency Room visit rates are higher. The rate of visits per 1,000 Medicare beneficiaries is 596.2% compared to the state's rate of 527%

- 65.8% of our children below age 21 are enrolled in TennCare, compared to 55.3% statewide.
- Deaths of despair (suicide, overdose, alcohol-related disease) are increasing (from 36.63% estimates 2001-2007 to 48.39% estimates 2011-2017). Currently, the service area's rate is 50.7% compared to Tennessee's 60.9%; however, it is important to note that the rate in Benton County is much higher than the total average, at 85.57%. This indicator is relevant because suicide is an indicator of poor mental health.
- Opioid/Drug abuse continues to be a serious concern. In the service area, there were 52 drug overdose deaths in 2019, and 59 in 2022.
- Kids Count ranks Lake County at #95 out of all 95 counties in overall child well-being (need for improvement). This is the same rank Lake County had in 2021. Incarcerations rates are at 1.6%, compared to Tennessee's 1.9%. Violent crime rates are lower, and property crime rates are lower than the state's (although higher than Tennessee's rate three years ago – a positive trend).

CONCLUSION

Multiple indicators can impact our families and communities in moving forward towards upward economic mobility in the nine-county region of Northwest Tennessee, as identified in Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council's comprehensive FY 2025 Community Needs Assessment. Top Needs identified by those we serve who participate in completing surveys, as well various sectors in the community include: Lack of Affordable Housing/Housing Services, Lack of Affordable Utilities/Energy Services, Lack of Transportation, Lack of Services for Elderly, and Hunger/Lack of Adequate Food Supplies.

Barriers identified include Drug/Alcohol Abuse, Affordable Housing, Homelessness, Hunger, Needs of Elderly, Lack of Adequate paying Jobs, Lack of Education or Job Skills.

An overall assessment of the population, poverty and other social/economic factors in Northwest Tennessee reveals a lot about the Need for Service. The population, particularly those of "able-bodied" employable status, is relocating out of the area, causing a trending decline in population. We have a higher percentage of disabled and those 65 and older than the State and National levels. All counties exceed state and national percentages of people in poverty. More Households and families are at or below 125% of poverty than the state and nation. Child poverty rates continue to stay above state and national averages. Higher levels of adults and veterans have no high school diploma/GED. Literacy is an indicator where the area has more individuals below Levels 1 and 2. More of our children under 18 receive SNAP benefits compared to Tennessee and the USA. This goes for the WIC program as well. Children on Tenn Care is over 10% higher than the statewide number.

Unemployment rates continue to fall; however, rising costs of housing, food, and other essentials necessary for individuals and families to live and thrive, are putting additional burdens on household budgets. The area continues to fall behind the state and nation when it comes to technology and broadband services. Declining populations in a rural area impact a community's ability to sustain and grow economically. Availability of jobs and health care providers decreases, and the need for community resources increases. Mental health and substance abuse providers are fewer in the area. Vulnerable populations, including children and the elderly, are impacted by the lack of resources in this economic environment.

As a Community Action Agency, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council will implement strategies and services to address identified needs, resources and gaps as described in this Community Needs Assessment. We will utilize Results Oriented Management and Accountability principles to implement and track the outcomes of services provided. Refer to the FY 2025 Community Action Plan for additional information on how we plan to help people and change lives during the new fiscal year 2025.

