

# 2020 COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT ENHANCEMENT REPORT



June  
2020

Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council  
Head Start/Early Head Start Program

# 2020 Community Assessment Enhancement Report

## NORTHWEST TENNESSEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL HEAD START/EARLY HEAD START PROGRAM

### PURPOSE OF REPORT

The 2020 Community Assessment Enhancement Report serves as a supplement to the Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council Head Start/Early Head Start Community Assessment 2019 (“2019 Community Assessment”). The purpose of the report is to synthesize essential information from the 2019 Community Assessment report and to provide new and updated data that will help to ensure Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council has the most current, accurate, and comprehensive information for program planning and Designation Renewal System (DRS) grant writing.

Per Head Start Program Performance Standards (HSPPS), Section 1302.11<sup>1</sup>, community assessment requirements include:

- 1) The number of eligible infants, toddlers, preschool age children, and expectant mothers, including their geographic location, race, ethnicity, and languages they speak, including:
  - a) Children experiencing homelessness in collaboration with, to the extent possible, McKinney-Vento Local Education Agency Liaisons (42 U.S.C. 11432 (6)(A));
  - b) Children in foster care;
  - c) Children with disabilities, including types of disabilities and relevant services and resources provided to these children by community agencies;
- 2) The education, health, nutrition and social service needs of eligible children and their families, including prevalent social or economic factors that impact their well-being;
- 3) Typical work, school, and training schedules of parents with eligible children;
- 4) Other child development, child care centers, and family child care programs that serve eligible children, including home visiting, publicly funded state and local preschools, and the approximate number of eligible children served;
- 5) Resources that are available in the community to address the needs of eligible children and their families; and,
- 6) Strengths of the community.

Information in this report is organized according to the community assessment requirements noted above. This report should be used side-by-side with the 2019 Community Assessment report for the fullest picture of data and information regarding Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area.

The 2020 Community Assessment Enhancement Report also provides an essential snapshot into the immediate impacts of COVID-19, a worldwide pandemic. COVID-19 data is highlighted throughout the report.

## CONTENTS

<b>PURPOSE OF REPORT .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREA .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Geographic Boundaries .....	3
Family Composition .....	3
<b>ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN .....</b>	<b>3</b>
Child Poverty and Geographic Location .....	4
Children Experiencing Homelessness .....	6
Children in Foster Care .....	7
Children with Disabilities .....	7
Children Receiving Public Assistance .....	8
<b>NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES .....</b>	<b>9</b>
Education .....	9
Health .....	12
Nutrition .....	16
Social and Economic Factors Impacting Well-being .....	18
<b>AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Programs .....	22
Home Visiting .....	25
Publicly Funded Preschool .....	25
<b>RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES .....</b>	<b>25</b>

## OVERVIEW OF SERVICE AREA



### Geographic Boundaries

As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council's ("Northwest Tennessee") Head Start/Early Head Start service area covers 6,414 square miles and spans from the Kentucky border to the Mississippi border. The service area includes thirteen counties in northwest Tennessee: Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, Obion, Tipton, and Weakley.

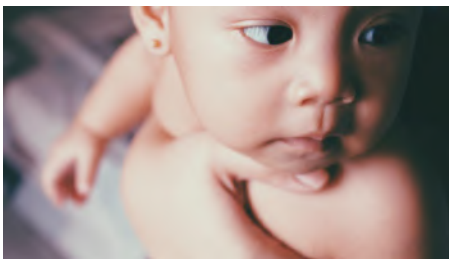
Also described in the 2019 Community Assessment, Madison County and Tipton County are the most densely populated, with population densities of 175.3 and 134.0 people per square mile, respectively. The rest of the counties in the service area are less densely populated, with populations per square mile ranging from 40.6 to 81.4. The estimated total population in the service area is 472,994.

### Family Composition

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start serves a large number of single-parent families (75.6%), as reported in the 2019 Community Assessment. This is substantially higher than the rate of single-parent families (among children birth to age 18) in the service area, which ranges from 27.4% in Fayette County to 53.3% in Lake County.<sup>ii</sup>

The agency also serves a growing number of children in the care of grandparents. During the 2018-2019 program year, there were 36 families served in which a grandparent(s) is the caregiver. This is 2.4% of total families served.<sup>iii</sup> Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start program administrators report that family health (e.g., substance abuse, incarceration, child abuse and neglect) is often a factor in kin having custody of enrolled children.

## ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND PREGNANT WOMEN



Children must meet an age requirement to participate in Early Head Start or Head Start. The age requirement is 0 to 2 years old (up to age 3) for Early Head Start and 3 to 5 years old for Head Start. Children are eligible to receive services if they meet one or more of the eligibility requirements: their family has an income at or below the federal poverty level, the family is eligible for public assistance (e.g., TANF), the child is homeless, or the child is in foster care. Table 1

provides estimated numbers of eligible children in the service area by primary eligibility type as compared to the current number of children served by Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start. Primary eligibility captures only one factor by which a child is eligible for services, and many children have needs that fall into multiple categories.

**Table 1. Estimated Number of Children in Service Area Eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start Services Compared to the Number of Head Start/Early Head Start Children Served by Northwest Tennessee (2018-2019) (based on primary eligibility)<sup>1</sup>**

Eligibility Criteria	Total Number of Eligible Children (Ages 0-5)	Number of Eligible Children (Ages 0-5) Currently Served by Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start <sup>iv</sup>
Income-eligible children	8,521	857
Pregnant women (income-eligible)	1,654	21
Children experiencing homelessness	>347	347
Children in foster care	113	18
Children receiving public assistance	983	171
Over income and exceeding over income	n/a	189 (96 over income and 93 exceeding over income)

## Child Poverty and Geographic Location

In Tennessee, the poverty rate has been fluctuating in recent years. It has also been fluctuating across most of Northwest Tennessee's Head Start/Early Head Start service area. Poverty rate has been declining in several counties (Benton, Fayette, Gibson, and Lauderdale Counties) and increasing in only one (Henry County) (Table 2). As illustrated by the highlights in Table 2, the poverty rate in nearly every county in the service area has exceeded the statewide rate from 2016-2018.

**Table 2. Poverty Rate by Geographic Area and Year<sup>v,2</sup>**

Geographic Area	2016	2017	2018	Three-Year Trend
Benton County	22.6%	22.3%	21.4%	Declining
Carroll County	19.8%	19.8%	19.8%	Steady
Crockett County	18.3%	17.7%	19.3%	Fluctuating
Dyer County	18.6%	18.1%	18.5%	Fluctuating
Fayette County	15.0%	14.4%	13.9%	Declining
Gibson County	18.7%	17.1%	17.1%	Declining
Henry County	19.4%	19.7%	19.8%	Increasing
Lake County	29.2%	29.9%	26.9%	Fluctuating
Lauderdale County	24.7%	23.1%	22.3%	Declining
Madison County	19.4%	20.3%	19.4%	Fluctuating
Obion County	21.1%	23.0%	22.7%	Fluctuating
Tipton County	13.8%	14.6%	13.9%	Fluctuating
Weakley County	19.1%	20.5%	20.2%	Fluctuating
Tennessee	15.0%	16.1%	15.3%	Fluctuating

With the exception of Tipton County, the child poverty rate also exceeds the statewide rate across the service area (Table 3). In nearly every county in the service area, the poverty rate for children under age 5 years old exceeds the poverty rate of children birth to age 18.

<sup>1</sup> The source for each of the data points in this table is described throughout the report.

<sup>2</sup> Geographic areas with a poverty rate above the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 3. Child Poverty Rate (Ages 0-18) and Poverty Rate for Children Birth to Age 5 by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>vi</sup>**

Geographic Area	Child Poverty Rate (0-18)	Poverty Rate for Children <5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Years Old	Number of Children <5 Years Old Living in Poverty <sup>3</sup>
Benton County	25.3%	37.3%	741	262
Carroll County	25.2%	17.5%	1,734	299
Crockett County	28.7%	30.6%	884	264
Dyer County	24.3%	32.3%	2,247	702
Fayette County	23.2%	24.9%	2,042	504
Gibson County	24.8%	36.1%	3,161	1,127
Henry County	30.9%	31.7%	1,699	534
Lake County	40.1%	45.7%	307	123
Lauderdale County	31.3%	38.2%	1,483	562
Madison County	30.8%	36.7%	6,289	2,243
Obion County	33.2%	43.4%	1,736	738
Tipton County	18.6%	16.6%	3,791	622
Weakley County	25.6%	33.1%	1,724	541
<b>Service Area Total</b>			<b>27,838</b>	<b>8,257</b>
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>22.3%</b>	<b>26.7%</b>	<b>105,352</b>	<b>105,352</b>

As described in Table 4, the number of young children living in poverty has been increasing in recent years in Northwest Tennessee's Head Start/Early Head Start service area. Increases in the number of young children living in poverty are seen in Carroll, Fayette, Madison, and Obion Counties (highlighted in Table 4).

**Table 4. Population Under Age 5 Years Old Living in Poverty (for whom poverty status is determined) by Geographic Area and Year (2016-2018)<sup>vii</sup>**

Geographic Area	2016	2017	2018	Three-Year Trend for Number of Children <5 in Poverty
Benton County	288	382	262	Fluctuating
Carroll County	343	287	299	Increasing
Crockett County	223	203	264	Fluctuating
Dyer County	717	733	702	Fluctuating
Fayette County	460	472	504	Increasing
Gibson County	1,293	1,176	1,127	Declining
Henry County	524	514	534	Steady
Lake County	156	159	123	Steady/Declining
Lauderdale County	590	573	562	Declining
Madison County	2,032	2,195	2,243	Increasing
Obion County	584	689	738	Increasing
Tipton County	670	718	622	Fluctuating
Weakley County	424	584	541	Fluctuating
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>8,081</b>	<b>8,482</b>	<b>8,521</b>	<b>Increasing</b>

As described above, there are 8,521 children under age 5 years old who are income-eligible for Head Start or Early Head Start services. Counties with the greatest number of income-eligible children are Madison County (2,243 children), Gibson County (1,127 children), Obion County (738 children), Dyer County (702 children), and Tipton County (622 children).

In Northwest Tennessee Head's Start/Early Head Start's service area, the birth rate is lower than the statewide rate in most counties (Table 5). There are racial disparities with regard to birth rate; the birth rate of Black mothers is higher than the birth rate of White mothers in most counties. Applying the poverty rate for

<sup>3</sup> Calculated based on the population for whom poverty status is determined.

children under age 5 in each of the counties (described in Table 4) to the number of live births per year (Table 5), it can be estimated there are 1,654 income-eligible pregnant women in the service area (Table 6).

**Table 5. Total Births and Birth Rate by Race and Geographic Area (2018)<sup>viii,4</sup>**

Geographic Area	Total Births	Birth Rate (Total)	Birth Rate (White)	Birth Rate (Black)
Benton County	164	10.1	10.2	15.2
Carroll County	275	9.8	10.3	8.4
Crockett County	161	11.2	11.8	10.7
Dyer County	447	12.0	10.9	20.0
Fayette County	393	9.7	9.1	11.7
Gibson County	574	11.7	11.0	15.7
Henry County	304	9.4	9.3	11.7
Lake County	63	8.5	9.2	7.5
Lauderdale County	282	10.9	10.8	11.7
Madison County	1,196	12.3	10.7	15.2
Obion County	345	11.4	10.9	16.5
Tipton County	656	10.7	10.5	12.4
Weakley County	315	9.4	9.9	6.6
Service Area Total	5,014			
Tennessee	80,737	11.9	11.5	14.5

**Table 6. Estimated Number of Income Eligible Pregnant Women**

Geographic Area	Total Births <sup>ix</sup>	Poverty Rate for Children <5 Years Old <sup>x</sup>	Estimated Number of Income-eligible Pregnant Women
Benton County	164	37.3%	61
Carroll County	275	17.5%	48
Crockett County	161	37.3%	60
Dyer County	447	32.3%	144
Fayette County	393	24.9%	98
Gibson County	574	36.1%	207
Henry County	304	31.7%	96
Lake County	63	45.7%	29
Lauderdale County	282	38.2%	108
Madison County	1,196	36.7%	439
Obion County	345	43.4%	150
Tipton County	656	16.6%	109
Weakley County	315	33.1%	104
Service Area Total	5,014		1,654

## Children Experiencing Homelessness

As of January 2019, there were an estimated 7,467 individuals experiencing homelessness in Tennessee, a number that includes 558 family households.<sup>xi</sup> This is a decrease from 8,265 homeless persons in 2017, as reported in the Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start 2019 Community Assessment.

Data from 2017-2018 show that more than 17,000 K-12 students experienced homelessness during the school year. A majority of students experiencing homelessness were living in shared housing (“doubled up”).<sup>xii</sup>

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report observing similar trends among Head Start/Early Head Start families living doubled up. Administrators also note transient populations in the service area, particularly in Lake County, Gibson County, and Dyer County.

<sup>4</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

During the 2018-2019 program year, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start served 347 children who experienced homelessness (based on primary eligibility for enrollment).<sup>xiii</sup> Data on the number of young children experiencing homelessness in Tennessee is not publicly available. It can therefore be estimated that there are greater than 347 children under age 5 years old who are experiencing homelessness in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start's service area.

## Children in Foster Care

In 2017, there were 8,558 children in foster care in Tennessee. A small portion of children in foster care (6%) was less than 1 year old. Twenty-six percent of children in foster care in Tennessee were between the ages of 1 and 5 years old. The most common reasons for a child's entry into foster care were parental substance abuse (present in 32% of cases) and neglect (31%).<sup>xiv</sup>

As reported in the 2019 Community Assessment, there were 354 children in foster care in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start's 13-county service area (2016-2017). Applying the percentage of young children in foster care in Tennessee to the number of children in foster care in the service area (ages 0-18), it is estimated that there are approximately 113 children in foster care (21 children less than 1 year old and 92 children ages 1 to 5 years old) eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services.

During the 2018-2019 program year, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start served 18 children in foster care, based on primary eligibility. This is 1.1% of total enrollment for the program year.<sup>xv</sup>

Shortly after stay-at-home orders were implemented in Tennessee due to COVID-19, a decline in calls to report child abuse was seen in the state. In the absence of children being in schools and other settings with mandated reporters, reports of child abuse have fallen. The Tennessee Child Abuse Hotline saw a 19% decrease in calls from March 2019 to March 2020. In April 2020, Governor Lee issued a message to Tennesseans to pay extra attention to children in their communities to help detect and prevent child abuse.<sup>xvi</sup>

## Children with Disabilities

Tennessee's Early Intervention System (TEIS) is administered by the Tennessee Department of Education through Point of Entry Offices located throughout the state. There are two Point of Entry Offices that provide services within Northwest Tennessee's Head Start/Early Head Start service area: Southwest Point of Entry Office (serving Fayette, Madison, and Tipton counties in addition to seven others outside the service area) and Northwest Point of Entry Office (serving Benton, Carroll, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Obion, and Weakley Counties in addition to three others).<sup>xvii</sup>

Tennessee Department of Education reports that, during the 2018-2019 program year, there were 1,309 infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services in the Northwest Point of Entry Office catchment area and 421 children in the Southwest Point of Entry Office catchment area. Combined, this is 1,730 infants and toddlers receiving early intervention services.<sup>xviii</sup> County-level data show 589 children birth to age 2 years old receiving TEIS services (Table 7). Counties with a rate higher than the statewide rate (31.4%) are highlighted.



**Table 7. Number and Rate of Children Ages Birth to Age 2 Receiving TEIS Services by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xix</sup>**

Geographic Area	Number of Children	Rate per 1,000
Benton County	16	34.3
Carroll County	24	26.2
Crockett County	19	38.8
Dyer County	58	41.6
Fayette County	32	26.3
Gibson County	94	50.6
Henry County	30	29.6
Lake County	12	70.6
Lauderdale County	32	25.6
Madison County	137	37.8
Obion County	34	33.7
Tipton County	71	32.6
Weakley County	30	30.1
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>589</b>	

Data on the number of children receiving preschool special education services (ages 3 to 5 years old) by county is not publicly available. During the 2018-2019 program year, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start served 152 Head Start children with a disability.<sup>xx</sup> Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report an increasing number of children with disabilities in the service area, particularly in Fayette County, Madison County, and Benton County.

Combining the number of children served in TEIS as well as the number of children receiving special education services in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start program (used as a proxy, since public data is not available), it is estimated that more than 741 children with disabilities are eligible for Head Start/Early Head in the service area.

### Children Receiving Public Assistance

In Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area, there are nearly 3,000 children birth to age 18 who are receiving Families First grants (known as TANF, federally) (Table 8). As described in Table 8, the percent of children who receive Families First grants ranges from 1.5% of children in Fayette County to 5.4% in Lake County. Half of the counties in the service area have participation rates in Families First that are higher than the statewide rate.

**Table 8. Number (Monthly Average) and Percent of Children Receiving Families First by Geographic Area (2019)<sup>xxi</sup>**

Geographic Area	Number of Children (0-18)	Percent of Children (0-18)
Benton County	82	2.4%
Carroll County	178	2.7%
Crockett County	67	1.9%
Dyer County	306	3.3%
Fayette County	116	1.4%
Gibson County	304	2.5%
Henry County	148	2.1%
Lake County	60	5.4%
Lauderdale County	231	3.8%
Madison County	909	3.8%
Obion County	167	2.4%
Tipton County	287	1.8%
Weakley County	197	2.7%
<b>Service Area</b>	<b>3,052</b>	
<b>Tennessee</b>	<b>34,683</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

To estimate the number of children birth to age 5 who are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start based on receipt of public assistance, the percent of the 0-18 population that is birth to age 5 (32.2%)<sup>xxii</sup> can be applied to the number of children 0-18 receiving Families First grants (3,052). Based on this estimate, there are approximately 983 children in Northwest Tennessee's Head Start/Early Head Start service area who are eligible for Head Start/Early Head Start services based on their family's receipt of public assistance.

During the 2018-2019 program year, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start served 171 children whose primary eligibility was receipt of public assistance.<sup>xxiii</sup>

## NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



The needs of children and families in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start's service area are multi-faceted and interconnected. In an area where there is great diversity of need, families experience many of the factors that contribute to the cycle of poverty within their communities. Together with other agencies, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start strives to meet the needs as a community partner, serving the area's neediest families.

### Growing Community Need Due to COVID-19

In December 2019, COVID-19 emerged as a new infectious disease in Wuhan, China. COVID-19 quickly spread throughout the world, and on March 11, 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 a pandemic.<sup>xxiv</sup> Across the service area and across the U.S., COVID-19 is impacting the health and well-being of communities.

As of June 14, 2020, there were 7,848,888 confirmed cases of COVID-19 worldwide and 431,418 deaths from the disease. The United States is the country with the largest share of confirmed COVID-19 cases, 2,090,358, and deaths, 115,645.<sup>xxv</sup>

The first case of COVID-19 in Tennessee was reported on March 4, 2020. On April 2, 2020 Tennessee Governor Lee signed a Safer at Home order, with restrictions on non-essential business and travel to "flatten the curve."<sup>xxvi</sup> In Tennessee, as of June 14, 2020, there were 30,432 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 475 deaths.<sup>xxvii</sup>

Short-term impacts of COVID-19 are described throughout this report. While the long-term impacts of COVID-19 are unknown, it will continue to be a factor in the overall health of communities and will influence the needs of children and families in the service area.

## Education

As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, educational attainment varies within the counties in the service area. The 2019 Community Assessment report also highlights the correlation between educational attainment and median income, as part of a larger narrative on educational opportunities throughout a person's lifespan.

In school districts within the service area, the graduation rate ranges from 84.9% in Jackson-Madison County Schools in Madison County to 98.3% in West Carroll County Special School District in Carroll County (Table 9). The dropout rate is similarly varied and, as described in Table 10, most school districts in the service area have a dropout rate below the statewide rate. As highlighted, Humboldt City Schools (Gibson County), Jackson-Madison County Schools (Madison County), and Obion County Schools (Obion County) have the most challenging graduation and dropout rates.

**Table 9. Graduation Rate and Dropout Rates by School District (2018-2019)<sup>xxviii</sup>**

School District	Graduation Rate	Dropout Rate <sup>5</sup>
Benton School System ( <i>Benton County</i> )	89.1%	8.3%
Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	97.6%	2.4%
Huntingdon Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	97.3%	0.0%
McKenzie Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	95.5%	3.6%
South Carroll County Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	96.2%	0.0%
West Carroll County Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	98.3%	1.7%
Crockett County Schools ( <i>Crockett County</i> )	97.7%	0.9%
Alamo City School District ( <i>Crockett County</i> )	n/a	n/a
Bells City School District ( <i>Crockett County</i> )	n/a	n/a
Dyer County Schools ( <i>Dyer County</i> )	94.9%	4.0%
Dyersburg City Schools ( <i>Dyer County</i> )	89.1%	6.7%
Fayette County Schools ( <i>Fayette County</i> )	93.0%	5.0%
Humboldt City Schools ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	87.5%	12.5%
Milan Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	95.3%	2.4%
Trenton Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	92.6%	4.3%
Bradford Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	96.7%	3.3%
Gibson County Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	93.7%	3.3%
Henry County Schools ( <i>Henry County</i> )	93.6%	4.3%
Paris Special School District, K-8 ( <i>Henry County</i> )	n/a	n/a
Lake County School System ( <i>Lake County</i> )	91.4%	5.2%
Lauderdale County Schools ( <i>Lauderdale County</i> )	97.9%	0.7%
Jackson-Madison County Schools ( <i>Madison County</i> )	84.9%	8.7%
West Tennessee School for the Deaf ( <i>Madison County</i> )	n/a	n/a
Obion County Schools ( <i>Obion County</i> )	86.6%	12.4%
Union City Schools ( <i>Obion County</i> )	94.1%	5.0%
Tipton County Schools ( <i>Tipton County</i> )	96.9%	1.4%
Weakley County Schools ( <i>Weakley County</i> )	93.1%	5.7%
Tennessee	89.1%	8.3%

In Tennessee, there is disparity by race and ethnicity among high school student graduation rates. During the 2018-2019 school year, the overall graduation rate was 89.1%. The rate for Black, Hispanic, and Native American students was 82.6%.<sup>xxix</sup>

School district performance data show further disparities between all students; Black, Hispanic, and Native American students; economically disadvantaged students; and English learner students (Table 10). Highlights in Table 10 indicate achievement rates that are lower than the statewide rate. Counties in the service area with the lowest percentage of students performing at or above grade level include Gibson County, Fayette County, Madison County, and Lake County.

<sup>5</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 10. Percent of Students Performing At or Above Grade Level (on Mathematics and English Language Arts Exams) by Student Group (2018-2019) <sup>xxx,6</sup>**

School District	All Students	Black, Hispanic, and Native American Students	Economically Disadvantaged Students	English Learner Students
Benton School System ( <i>Benton County</i> )	36.4%	22.4%	21.0%	20.1%
Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	32.2%	*	26.7%	*
Huntingdon Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	34.3%	16.5%	18.1%	*
McKenzie Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	39.8%	24.4%	25.7%	*
South Carroll County Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	36.2%	*	*	*
West Carroll County Special School District ( <i>Carroll County</i> )	28.6%	27.2%	22.9%	*
Crockett County Schools ( <i>Crockett County</i> )	30.6%	20.4%	19.5%	10.2%
Alamo City School District ( <i>Crockett County</i> )	54.2%	36.7%	40.1%	31.4%
Bells City School District ( <i>Crockett County</i> )	48.7%	37.9%	46.5%	*
Dyer County Schools ( <i>Dyer County</i> )	45.1%	20.0%	32.9%	*
Dyersburg City Schools ( <i>Dyer County</i> )	42.5%	25.8%	26.8%	*
Fayette County Schools ( <i>Fayette County</i> )	18.7%	13.6%	11.6%	25.0%
Humboldt City Schools ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	14.1%	12.6%	12.0%	*
Milan Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	42.1%	27.7%	29.9%	*
Trenton Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	28.9%	17.4%	21.5%	*
Bradford Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	42.8%	*	44.6%	*
Gibson County Special School District ( <i>Gibson County</i> )	51.2%	29.9%	33.0%	*
Henry County Schools ( <i>Henry County</i> )	34.8%	22.2%	23.0%	*
Paris Special School District, K-8 ( <i>Henry County</i> )	36.4%	21.2%	27.0%	*
Lake County School System ( <i>Lake County</i> )	21.8%	10.8%	16.2%	*
Lauderdale County Schools ( <i>Lauderdale County</i> )	27.5%	17.2%	19.9%	*
Jackson-Madison County Schools ( <i>Madison County</i> )	20.7%	14.6%	12.2%	16.3%
West Tennessee School for the Deaf ( <i>Madison County</i> )	*	*	*	*
Obion County Schools ( <i>Obion County</i> )	36.8%	25.7%	26.8%	*
Union City Schools ( <i>Obion County</i> )	36.2%	21.4%	19.8%	19.4%
Tipton County Schools ( <i>Tipton County</i> )	41.8%	27.2%	27.2%	*
Weakley County Schools ( <i>Weakley County</i> )	40.7%	27.4%	31.1%	*
Tennessee	36.4%	24.4%	21.0%	20.1%

\*Results unavailable due to low student count.

One of the most significant impacts of COVID-19 on families with school-age children in the service area has been the closure of K-12 schools. On April 15, 2020 Governor Lee recommended public schools statewide close through the remainder of the school year. Public school districts in Northwest Tennessee's Head Start/Early Head Start service area remain closed through the end of the school year and are providing remote and home-based learning. School districts are actively planning for the 2020-2021 school year, in compliance with health and safety measures.

<sup>6</sup> Rates lower than the statewide rate are highlighted.

## Health

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, a national program of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, ranks communities across many health and wellness factors. The overall rankings in health outcomes represent how healthy counties are within the state. The healthiest county in the state is ranked #1. The rankings are based on two types of measures: how long people live and how healthy people feel while alive. The overall rankings in health factors represent what influences the health of a county. They are an estimate of the future health of counties as compared to other counties within a state. The ranks are based on four types of measures: health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic, and physical environment factors.

According to the most recent rankings, some residents in communities in Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area do not have sufficient optimal health outcomes and experience negative health factors (Table 11). Highlighted counties are in the lowest quartile of rankings.

**Table 11. Health Outcomes and Health Factors Ranking by County, Out of 95 Counties in Tennessee (2020)<sup>xxxi</sup>**

Geographic Area	Health Outcomes	Health Factors
Benton County	91	80
Carroll County	30	52
Crockett County	58	68
Dyer County	78	71
Fayette County	12	24
Gibson County	46	57
Henry County	47	46
Lake County	86	95
Lauderdale County	89	94
Madison County	52	40
Obion County	35	82
Tipton County	26	29
Weakley County	29	32

As seen in Table 12, factors related to poor health, as well as the number of physically and mentally unhealthy days, are high across the service area. Most rates are worse than the statewide rate and are substantially worse than top U.S. performers (top 10% of best/healthiest scores nationwide). Data suggests that Tennessee residents are more likely to experience poor health outcomes.

**Table 12. Health Outcomes Data by Geographic Area<sup>xxxii,7</sup>**

Geographic Area	Years of Potential Life Lost (2016-2018)	% Poor or Fair Health (2017)	Average Number of Physically Unhealthy Days per Month (2017)	Average Number of Mentally Unhealthy Days per Month (2017)
Benton County	14,500	23%	5.0	5.1
Carroll County	10,200	21%	4.5	4.8
Crockett County	10,600	25%	4.8	4.9
Dyer County	11,300	21%	4.6	4.8
Fayette County	8,100	21%	4.1	4.4
Gibson County	10,800	20%	4.3	4.8
Henry County	10,400	22%	4.7	5.0
Lake County	11,200	27%	5.2	5.0
Lauderdale County	11,300	29%	5.1	5.1
Madison County	9,900	24%	4.5	4.7
Obion County	8,800	23%	4.8	5.0
Tipton County	9,900	19%	4.1	4.4
Weakley County	9,600	22%	4.6	4.9
Tennessee	9,300	20%	4.2	4.4
Top U.S. Performers	5,500	12%	3.1	3.4

<sup>7</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

For other health-related factors, rates are consistent with the statewide rate (e.g., percent of smokers) or higher than the rates for the state of Tennessee (e.g., percent obese, percent diabetic) (Table 13).

**Table 13. Adult Health Factors by Geographic Area<sup>xxxiii,8</sup>**

Geographic Area	% Smokers (2017)	% Obese (2016)	% Diabetic (2016)	HIV Prevalence Rate per 100,000 (2016)
Benton County	24%	35%	14%	101
Carroll County	23%	30%	12%	97
Crockett County	23%	40%	12%	100
Dyer County	23%	40%	17%	109
Fayette County	20%	35%	9%	191
Gibson County	22%	40%	16%	163
Henry County	23%	34%	18%	91
Lake County	28%	37%	10%	342
Lauderdale County	25%	45%	20%	265
Madison County	22%	39%	14%	298
Obion County	24%	38%	16%	132
Tipton County	21%	32%	17%	164
Weakley County	22%	39%	11%	66
Tennessee	23%	33%	13%	290
Top U.S. Performers	14%	26%	Data unavailable	Data unavailable

Access to clinical care is very limited in the service area. All ratios for individuals to care providers are higher than the statewide ratio, with the exception of ratios in Henry County and Madison County (Table 14). Ratios higher than the statewide rate are highlighted in the table that follows.

**Table 14. Ratio of Individuals to Health Care Providers by County<sup>xxxiv,9</sup>**

Geographic Area	Primary Care Provider Ratio (2017)*	Dentist Ratio (2018)	Mental Health Provider Ratio (2019)
Benton County	5,330:1	5,390:1	2,310:1
Carroll County	1,990:1	4,000:1	2,000:1
Crockett County	Data unavailable	2,050:1	14,330:1
Dyer County	2,340:1	1,870:1	1,870:1
Fayette County	2,860:1	3,680:1	13,500:1
Gibson County	2,340:1	2,450:1	4,090:1
Henry County	1,480:1	1,800:1	570:1
Lake County	No providers	7,410:1	7,410:1
Lauderdale County	12,640:1	5,170:1	6,460:1
Madison County	760:1	1,500:1	400:1
Obion County	2,170:1	1,890:1	2,160:1
Tipton County	3,410:1	2,930:1	1,540:1
Weakley County	1,750:1	3,710:1	2,780:1
Tennessee	1,400:1	1,860:1	660:1
Top U.S. Performers	1,030:1	1,240:1	290:1

\* Includes nurse practitioners, physicians' assistants, and clinical nurse specialists.

Table 14 presents data from 2017-2019. Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report that there is currently a primary care provider in Lake County, located in Tiptonville. Residents in counties without sufficient access to health care services often travel to neighboring counties to access care.

<sup>8</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>9</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

COVID-19 is having an immediate impact on Tennessee residents' well-being. A U.S. Census Bureau Pulse Survey – conducted during the week of May 21 to May 26, 2020 – found significant health and mental health impacts on Tennessee residents during the time period data was collected. 39% of adults reported pandemic-related problems with access to medical care in the last four weeks.<sup>xxxv</sup>

Many surveyed Tennessee residents also report feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge during the last seven days. There are disparities with how groups of Tennessee residents report anxiousness and related feelings. 38% of individuals with a household income less than \$25,000, and 45% of individuals with a household income between \$25,000 and \$34,999, reported feeling nervous, anxious, or on edge more than half of the last seven days or nearly every day. By comparison, the rate was 16-19% among individuals with a household income above \$100,000.<sup>xxxvi</sup>

Community-level data on the impact of COVID-19 on populations with substance use disorders is not yet available, however the National Institute on Drug Abuse reports that this should be an area of surveillance for researchers. Individuals with opioid and methamphetamine use disorders may be vulnerable to COVID-19 due to the drugs' impacts on health as well as the increased likelihood to experience homelessness or incarceration.<sup>xxxvii</sup>

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start has observed an increase in families' needs for basic supplies such as toiletries and food during the pandemic. Limited access to technology has also been a barrier for families to identify and access resources in the service area.

Infant and Child Health and Well-being. As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, the rate of pregnant women's access to prenatal care in the service area is low, approximately 63%. There is disparity by race for pregnant women's access to prenatal care; in every county in the service area, the rate of access is lower among Black women than it is White women.

Similar trends are present for the rate of infant mortality (Table 15). Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 15. Infant Mortality Rate (per 1,000 Live Births) by Race and by Geographic Area (2018)**<sup>xxxviii,10</sup>

Geographic Area	White	Black
Benton County	0.0	0.0
Carroll County	4.0	*
Crockett County	14.4	0.0
Dyer County	8.9	9.3
Fayette County	3.9	22.9
Gibson County	2.3	0.0
Henry County	0.0	0.0
Lake County	0.0	0.0
Lauderdale County	11.5	28.6
Madison County	8.7	8.9
Obion County	7.0	*
Tipton County	5.9	14.2
Weakley County	3.4	0.0
Tennessee	5.6	12.3

\*Data is suppressed when the number of births is less than 10.

<sup>10</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

In 2018, in the Head Start/Early Head Start service area, there were 439 births to mothers ages 15-19. Teenage birth rate is described in Table 16. While the number of births to teenage parents is highest in Madison County, the counties with the highest teen birth rates are Lake County and Crockett County.

**Table 16. Total Births and Birth Rate (per 1,000) for Females Ages 15-19 by Race and Geographic Area (2018)<sup>xxxix,11</sup>**

Geographic Area	Total Births	Birth Rate (Total)	Birth Rate (White)	Birth Rate (Black)
Benton County	15	34.9	*	*
Carroll County	25	28.3	32.2	15.6
Crockett County	24	52.9	58.0	*
Dyer County	42	34.9	30.5	60.9
Fayette County	29	28.3	13.6	61.9
Gibson County	46	29.6	23.5	56.4
Henry County	24	27.8	26.2	*
Lake County	9	82.6	*	*
Lauderdale County	33	42.6	37.0	55.0
Madison County	104	28.4	21.0	36.7
Obion County	24	26.9	18.9	87.7
Tipton County	39	19.0	13.7	41.5
Weakley County	25	18.7	19.6	6.5
Service Area Total	439			
Tennessee	6,189	29.8	26.8	45.5

\*Data is suppressed or unavailable.

Other factors impacting children’s health and well-being are preventative and primary care, including immunizations. In the Head Start/Early Head Start program, approximately 75% of children are up-to-date on age-appropriate preventative and primary health care at enrollment (Table 17).

**Table 17. Percent of Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start Children Up-to-Date on Age-Appropriate Preventative and Primary Health Care (EPSDT) (2018-2019)<sup>xi</sup>**

Program Option	At Enrollment	End of Enrollment Year
Head Start/Early Head Start	75.8% (1,212 out of 1,600)	82.1% (1,313 out of 1,600)

In all counties in the service area, the rate of kindergarten immunization compliance is higher than the statewide rate (Table 18).

**Table 18. Rate of Kindergarten Immunization Compliance by Geographic Area (2017-2018)<sup>xli</sup>**

Geographic Area	Rate
Benton County	97.9%
Carroll County	98.2%
Crockett County	98.6%
Dyer County	98.8%
Fayette County	98.3%
Gibson County	95.7%
Henry County	96.9%
Lake County	100%
Lauderdale County	99.2%
Madison County	96.6%
Obion County	98.4%
Tipton County	98.0%
Weakley County	96.3%
Tennessee	95.3%

<sup>11</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.



Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report that mental health is one of the most significant health concerns for children in the service area. Specialty services can also be difficult to access, and families may have to travel to metropolitan areas, often outside of their county, for care. Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start leverages its partnerships with community providers to meet the comprehensive health needs of enrolled children and families.

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start reports a substantial number of expired health events (e.g., well visits, dental exams, and screenings) due to COVID-19 shutdowns. In March 2020, 25 Early Head Start children and 77 Head Start children had expired health events that are now overdue. In April 2020, the number remained steady in Early Head Start (25 children impacted) and rose to 125 children in Head Start.

This data correlates with an April 2020 report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that highlighted a concerning decline in routine, non-influenza child vaccinations. This decline, possibly due to parents not seeking routine and preventative care for their children due to fears of COVID-19, may increase communities' risk for outbreaks of vaccine preventable diseases.<sup>xlii</sup>

## Nutrition

As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, access to healthy foods and food insecurity is a challenge across the service area, with food insecurity rates ranging from 19.9% in Fayette County to 51.7% in Lake County.

There are 23 low-income and low-access census tracts (food deserts) in the service area, with Gibson County and Madison County with the most food deserts (Table 19).<sup>xliii</sup>

**Table 19. Low-income and Low-Access Census Tracts (Food Deserts)<sup>xliv</sup>**

Geographic Area	Food Deserts
Benton County	- Tract 47005963300 (Camden, in central Benton County) - Tract 47005963200 (southern Benton County)
Carroll County	None
Crockett County	- Tract 47033961100 (eastern Crockett County, including Alamo)
Dyer County	- Tract 47045964300 (Dyersburg, in central Dyer County) - Tract 47045964400 (south/southwest of Dyersburg)
Fayette County	None
Gibson County	- Tract 47053966200 (Dyer) - Tract 47053966700 (Trenton) - Tract 47053966500 (west of Milan) - Tract 47053966900 (Humboldt) - Tract 47053967000 (Humboldt)
Henry County	- Tract 47079969400 (Paris) - Tract 47079969300 (west of Paris)
Lake County	None
Lauderdale County	- Tract 47097050505 (Ripley)
Madison County	- Tract 47113001605 (northwest of Jackson) - Tract 47113000100 (north of Jackson) - Tract 47113000300 (Jackson) - Tract 47113000400 (Jackson) - Tract 47113000500 (Jackson) - Tract 47113000600 (Jackson) - Tract 47113000800 (Jackson)
Obion County	None
Tipton County	- Tract 47167041000 (southeast Tipton County)
Weakley County	- Tract 47183968700 (Palmersville) - Tract 47183968101 (Martin)

Further illustrating nutrition needs, there are high rates of students participating in free or reduced-price lunch in the service area (Table 20). With the exception of Tipton County and Weakley County, all counties in the service area have a participation rate higher than the statewide rate in Tennessee.

**Table 20. Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch Participation Rate by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>xlv,12</sup>**

Geographic Area	Participation Rate
Benton County	47.4%
Carroll County	50.5%
Crockett County	56.3%
Dyer County	51.8%
Fayette County	69.3%
Gibson County	47.2%
Henry County	47.5%
Lake County	79.0%
Lauderdale County	67.9%
Madison County	67.7%
Obion County	48.5%
Tipton County	38.8%
Weakley County	46.5%
Tennessee	46.5%

The rates of young children (birth to age 5) receiving WIC benefits in the service area show a similar trend (Table 21). Nearly all counties in the service area have a higher rate of children birth to age 5 years old who receive WIC benefits than the statewide rate. Lake County has an exceptionally high rate, nearly 75%.

**Table 21. Children Birth to Age 5 Years Old Receiving WIC Benefits by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>xlvi,13</sup>**

Geographic Area	Number of Children (0-5)	Percent of Children (0-5)
Benton County	491	60.2%
Carroll County	547	38.4%
Crockett County	444	53.3%
Dyer County	927	39.8%
Fayette County	683	33.7%
Gibson County	1,114	35.7%
Henry County	719	42.8%
Lake County	218	75.7%
Lauderdale County	670	44.8%
Madison County	2,401	39.8%
Obion County	760	44.4%
Tipton County	731	19.8%
Weakley County	634	37.4%
Tennessee		30.6%

<sup>12</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>13</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

## Social and Economic Factors Impacting Well-being

### Income Inequalities

Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start 2019 Community Assessment report found that median income is well below the living wage for families in the service area. Counties with the highest median household income are Tipton and Fayette Counties, while the median household income is lowest in Weakley and Lake Counties.

There is income inequality across Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area. Income inequalities show a higher division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum than the state in six counties in the service area. The greatest income inequality is in Lake County (Table 22).

**Table 22. Income Inequality by Geographic Area (2014-2018)**<sup>xlvii,14</sup>

Geographic Area	80 <sup>th</sup> percentile income	20 <sup>th</sup> percentile income	Income Ratio <sup>15</sup>
Benton County	70,582	14,542	4.9
Carroll County	79,836	16,981	4.7
Dyer County	84,944	18,881	4.5
Fayette County	115,577	22,172	5.2
Gibson County	86,933	17,459	5.0
Henry County	77,292	17,041	4.5
Lake County	77,482	13,052	5.9
Lauderdale County	75,033	15,889	4.7
Madison County	93,499	18,848	5.0
Obion County	80,068	16,188	4.9
Tipton County	109,173	24,676	4.4
Weakley County	77,615	32,495	4.0
Tennessee			4.8
Top U.S. Performers			3.7

Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area includes federally designated Opportunity Zones (designed to increase economic development by providing investors with tax benefits).<sup>xlviii</sup> Table 23 describes the 22 Opportunity Zone census tracts within the service area.

**Table 23. Opportunity Zone Census Tracts by County**<sup>xlix</sup>

Geographic Area	Opportunity Zones
Benton County	- Tract 47005963200
Carroll County	- Tract 47017962100
Crockett County	- Tract 47033961100
Dyer County	- Tract 47045964300
Fayette County	- Tract 47047060300
Gibson County	- Tract 47053966900 - Tract 47053967000
Henry County	- Tract 47079969000
Lake County	- Tract 47095960100
Lauderdale County	- Tract 47097050504 - Tract 47097050505
Madison County	- Tract 47113000200 - Tract 47113000500 - Tract 47113000600

<sup>14</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>15</sup> A higher inequality ratio indicates greater division between the top and bottom ends of the income spectrum.

Geographic Area	Opportunity Zones
Madison County (continued)	- Tract 47113000700 - Tract 47113000800 - Tract 47113000900
Obion County	- Tract 47131965400 - Tract 47131965500
Tipton County	- Tract 47167040700 - Tract 47167041000
Weakley County	- Tract 47183968101

### Housing Availability and Affordability

Home value and affordability vary widely across the service area, with median home value ranging from \$74,500 in Lake County to \$191,200 in Fayette County (Table 24). Median monthly owner and renter costs vary as well. Lake County and Obion County have the lowest monthly renter costs.

**Table 24. Housing Costs and Availability by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>1</sup>**

Geographic Area	Median Home Value <sup>16</sup>	Median Owner Costs <sup>17</sup>	Median Rent <sup>18</sup>
Benton County	\$85,800	\$883	\$633
Carroll County	\$87,100	\$889	\$608
Crockett County	\$98,900	\$978	\$699
Dyer County	\$99,100	\$1,070	\$670
Fayette County	\$191,200	\$1,248	\$711
Gibson County	\$94,900	\$1,056	\$681
Henry County	\$101,200	\$938	\$629
Lake County	\$74,500	\$893	\$550
Lauderdale County	\$84,100	\$965	\$646
Madison County	\$133,700	\$1,125	\$785
Obion County	\$89,200	\$950	\$590
Tipton County	\$145,800	\$1,256	\$747
Weakley County	\$96,000	\$909	\$601
Tennessee	\$177,500	\$1,228	\$681

The vacant housing rate varies significantly across the service area (Table 25). The rental vacancy rate is below the statewide rate in much of the service area. The rental vacancy rate is lowest in Fayette County (2.8%) and Dyer County (4.3%). A low rental vacancy rate means there are fewer homes available to renters in these areas.

<sup>16</sup> Median home values lower than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>17</sup> Median owner costs higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>18</sup> Rental costs higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 25. Rental Vacancy Rate by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>li,19</sup>**

Geographic Area	Rental Vacancy Rate
Benton County	6.1%
Carroll County	10.1%
Crockett County	3.9%
Dyer County	4.3%
Fayette County	2.8%
Gibson County	6.7%
Henry County	7.4%
Lake County	6.7%
Lauderdale County	7.0%
Madison County	12.2%
Obion County	8.2%
Tipton County	9.9%
Weakley County	7.0%
Tennessee	7.6%

As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, rental cost burden is also high across the service area. A high rental cost burden can strain a family's finances and make it difficult to sustain stable housing and have enough income available to support other expenses (food, medical care, etc.).

### Employment and Industry

According to data on unemployment, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start offers services in a geographic area where the unemployment rate is typically higher than the statewide rate, as highlighted in Table 26.

**Table 26. Unemployment Rate by Geographic Area and Year (2019-2020)<sup>lii,20</sup>**

Geographic Area	February 2019	February 2020	March 2020	April 2020
Benton County	4.3%	4.6%	5.9%	14.8%
Carroll County	5.0%	5.8%	5.3%	13.9%
Crockett County	3.6%	4.5%	4.0%	10.7%
Dyer County	4.7%	5.2%	5.4%	14.5%
Fayette County	3.4%	3.9%	3.3%	9.4%
Gibson County	4.3%	4.7%	3.8%	12.1%
Henry County	4.6%	5.4%	4.3%	14.7%
Lake County	6.3%	6.4%	5.5%	13.5%
Lauderdale County	5.7%	5.7%	5.0%	13.9%
Madison County	3.6%	3.8%	3.2%	14.5%
Obion County	4.7%	5.1%	4.3%	10.3%
Tipton County	3.9%	4.4%	3.8%	10.7%
Weakley County	3.7%	3.9%	3.2%	9.6%
Tennessee	3.4%	3.8%	3.2%	15.0%

<sup>19</sup> Median home values lower than the statewide rate are highlighted.

<sup>20</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

Across the service area, unemployment rates are rising with the extended impact of COVID-19. Unemployment data show a gradual rise in unemployment rates in early 2020 and a sharp increase from March 2020 to April 2020.<sup>liii</sup>

Further, Tennessee's economy has experience significant job loss across industry sectors. The greatest net sales lost by retailers in March 2020 were in restaurant sales, hotel and accommodation sales, motor vehicle sales, and entertainment and recreation. The number of licensed professionals and businesses fell 13% during the same time period. A \$5 million decline is expected in Tennessee Gross Domestic Product (GDP) during 2020, due to COVID-19 closures.<sup>liv</sup>

## Transportation

The 2019 Community Assessment reports that the county average, within the service area, for the percent of households with no vehicle available is 7.4%. Many counties in the service area have a percent of households with no vehicle available that is higher than the statewide rate (Table 27). In Lake County, the rate is nearly three times the statewide rate. Households without a vehicle and households with one vehicle for two working parents have to rely more heavily on alternative transportation, such as sharing vehicles.

**Table 27. Percent of Households with No Vehicle Available by Geographic Area (2018)<sup>lv</sup>**

Geographic Area	Households with No Vehicle Available
Benton County	8.5%
Carroll County	7.2%
Crockett County	5.2%
Dyer County	4.7%
Fayette County	4.5%
Gibson County	6.5%
Henry County	5.1%
Lake County	15.8%
Lauderdale County	11.7%
Madison County	7.4%
Obion County	7.0%
Tipton County	4.2%
Weakley County	7.0%
Tennessee	5.7%

Many individuals in the workforce in Tennessee, and across the service area, drive to work alone. Many workers also commute more than 30 minutes to their job (Table 28). The longest commutes are among Fayette County residents, 61% of whom commute more than 30 minutes.

**Table 28. Commuting Characteristics by Geographic Area (2014-2018)<sup>vi,21</sup>**

Geographic Area	Percent of the Workforce That Drives Alone to Work	Percent of Commuters that Commute by Car and More than 30 Minutes
Benton County	87%	28%
Carroll County	87%	32%
Crockett County	90%	32%
Dyer County	88%	21%
Fayette County	88%	61%
Gibson County	87%	34%
Henry County	84%	21%
Lake County	86%	27%
Lauderdale County	88%	31%
Madison County	85%	16%
Obion County	86%	24%
Tipton County	88%	54%
Weakley County	84%	23%
Tennessee	83%	35%
Top U.S. Performers	72%	16%

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report that transportation is a challenge for enrolled families. In Fayette County, for example, transportation services are provided to enrolled children. However, due to a shortage of bus drivers, the number of children served was reduced. The bus driver shortage is widespread and extends to public schools as well. In Weakley County, where transportation is also offered, enrollment is robust. In some counties in the service area (e.g., Tipton County) the increase in availability of public pre-kindergarten, and accompanying transportation services, may be affecting enrollment in the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators also report that access to a vehicle is a challenge for families. Some families do not have transportation options or, if they have a car, it may be unreliable or too expensive to use on a regular basis. Limited ride scheduling services are available, and there is no public transportation system in the service area.

## AGENCIES SERVING ELIGIBLE CHILDREN



### Child Care Centers and Family Child Care Programs

According to the Tennessee Department of Human Services, there are 258 licensed child care programs in the service area, with the licensed capacity to serve 13,920 children (Table 29).

Many child care centers, family homes, and group homes are licensed to provide school-age care, which may skew the actual capacity to serve infants, toddlers, and preschool age children. Particularly when considering that school-age slots are included in the totals, the availability of child care slots in the highest need communities is more limited.

<sup>21</sup> Rates higher than the statewide rate are highlighted.

**Table 29. Number (and Capacity) of Child Care Programs by Type and By County as of June 2020<sup>lvii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Family Homes	Group Homes	Child Care Centers*	Total
Benton County	1 (7)	3 (36)	4 (266)	8 (309)
Carroll County	0 (0)	6 (72)	14 (713)	20 (785)
Crockett County	0 (0)	0 (0)	9 (486)	9 (486)
Dyer County	1 (7)	6 (72)	19 (1,096)	26 (1,175)
Fayette County	0 (0)	1 (12)	10 (567)	11 (579)
Gibson County	2 (14)	1 (12)	30 (1,588)	33 (1,614)
Henry County	3 (21)	0 (0)	19 (771)	22 (792)
Lake County	0 (0)	0 (0)	3 (141)	3 (141)
Lauderdale County	0 (0)	3 (36)	7 (642)	10 (678)
Madison County	1 (7)	5 (60)	43 (3,838)	49 (3,905)
Obion County	1 (7)	3 (36)	16 (992)	20 (1,035)
Tipton County	2 (14)	1 (12)	18 (1,417)	21 (1,443)
Weakley County	0 (0)	5 (60)	21 (918)	26 (978)
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>11 (77)</b>	<b>34 (408)</b>	<b>211 (13,435)</b>	<b>258 (13,920)</b>

\*Excludes programs providing only school age care.

Only half of the child care programs in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start's service area are licensed to provide services to infants and toddlers (Table 30).

**Table 30. Number of Child Care Programs and Number of Child Care Programs Serving Infants and Toddlers as of June 2020<sup>lviii</sup>**

Geographic Area	Number of Child Care Programs	Number of Child Care Programs Serving Infants and Toddlers	Percent of Child Care Programs Serving Infants and Toddlers
Benton County	8	5	63%
Carroll County	20	10	50%
Crockett County	9	3	33%
Dyer County	26	11	42%
Fayette County	11	4	36%
Gibson County	33	15	45%
Henry County	22	9	41%
Lake County	3	1	33%
Lauderdale County	10	5	50%
Madison County	49	30	61%
Obion County	20	12	60%
Tipton County	21	10	48%
Weakley County	26	14	54%
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>258</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>50%</b>

Tennessee's Star-Quality Child Care Program is a voluntary quality rating and improvement system (QRIS) that evaluates and recognizes programs that meet quality standards. Child Care programs may earn up to 3 Stars.<sup>lix</sup> In Northwest Tennessee's Head Start/Early Head Start service area, 52% of child care programs are participating in the Star-Quality Child Care Program (Table 31). A majority of participating programs are rated 3 Stars. All of Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start centers are rated 3 Stars, among the highest quality programs in the state.



**Table 31. Number of Child Care Programs Participating in the Star Quality Child Care Program by Star Rating and by County as of June 2020<sup>lx</sup>**

Geographic Area	1 Star	2 Stars	3 Stars	Total Star Rated Programs
Benton County	0	0	7	7
Carroll County	0	2	4	6
Crockett County	0	0	3	3
Dyer County	0	2	11	13
Fayette County	0	0	2	2
Gibson County	0	2	17	19
Henry County	0	2	7	9
Lake County	0	0	2	2
Lauderdale County	0	2	3	5
Madison County	0	6	21	27
Obion County	0	2	12	14
Tipton County	0	0	10	10
Weakley County	0	3	14	17
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>113</b>	<b>134</b>

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start shares its service area with other Head Start/Early Head Start grantees. Tennessee State University’s Tennessee CAREs provides Early Head Start in Henry, Gibson, and Weakley Counties. In Crockett County, Telemon Corporation provides Migrant and Seasonal Head Start.<sup>lxi</sup>

When comparing the total number of children birth to age 5 and the number of children birth to age 5 living in poverty to child care capacity (including school age and children of all income levels), it is evident that the number of slots available for low-income families, and particularly families with infants and toddlers, in high-quality programs is limited (Table 32).

**Table 32. Number of Children Birth Age 5 and Number of Children Birth to Age 5 Living in Poverty Compared to Child Care Capacity**

Geographic Area	Number of Children <5 Years Old <sup>lxii</sup>	Number of Children <5 Years Old Living in Poverty	Child Care Capacity (including School Age) <sup>lxiii</sup>
Benton County	741	262	309
Carroll County	1,734	299	785
Crockett County	884	264	486
Dyer County	2,247	702	1,175
Fayette County	2,042	504	579
Gibson County	3,161	1,127	1,614
Henry County	1,699	534	792
Lake County	307	123	141
Lauderdale County	1,483	562	678
Madison County	6,289	2,243	3,905
Obion County	1,736	738	1,035
Tipton County	3,791	622	1,443
Weakley County	1,724	541	978
<b>Service Area Total</b>	<b>27,838</b>	<b>8,257</b>	<b>13,920</b>

## Home Visiting

The Tennessee Department of Health provides funding to eleven agencies to implement evidence-based home visiting services in 51 counties across the state. Home visiting services are not offered in Benton County, Carroll County, Fayette County, Gibson County, Obion County, or Weakley County.<sup>lxiv</sup>

Limited home visiting programs are available in Dyer, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Tipton, and Madison Counties. Table 33 summarizes home visiting services available in Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area. Data on the number of children and families served in the home visiting programs is not publicly available.

**Table 33. Evidence-based Home Visiting Offered in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start’s Service Area as of June 2020<sup>lxv</sup>**

Implementing Agency	Counties Served	Eligibility Criteria
University of Tennessee, Martin	Dyer, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Tipton Counties	- First time mothers - Mothers under the age of 21 with multiple children (enrollment prenatally and until the child is 2 months old)
Jackson-Madison County General Hospital - Madison	Madison	- First time mothers - Mothers under the age of 21 with multiple children (enrollment prenatally and until the child is 2 months old)

## Publicly Funded Preschool

As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, there are over 2,280 publicly funded pre-kindergarten slots available in Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start program’s service area. Tennessee’s public pre-kindergarten program is voluntary and available to all four-year-olds. The program prioritizes at-risk children and high-priority communities.<sup>lxvi</sup>

In 2019, Tennessee’s Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten program served 22% of 4-year-olds and less than 1% of 3-year-olds. Tennessee ranks 29<sup>th</sup> among states for 4-year-olds’ access, and the state ranks 31<sup>st</sup> for 3-year-olds. Tennessee meets 8 out of 10 quality benchmarks, including recently meeting the Continuous Quality Improvement System benchmark.<sup>lxvii</sup>

## RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY TO MEET THE NEEDS OF ELIGIBLE CHILDREN AND FAMILIES



As described in the 2019 Community Assessment, in Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area there are a number of social services resources available to families in addition to those offered by the grantee.

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report strong relationships with community providers across the service area.

As described in this report, there are very few health providers available to children and families in the service area. However, Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start’s relationships with local medical and pediatric providers help to facilitate access to resources for families. Working relationships at the local level are foundational to leveraging limited resources.

Community education resources – early education, K-12, and higher education, in addition to educational opportunities – provide a continuum of education support from birth through college. Having resources available to support child development and student achievement enhances the overall economic welfare of a community. In Northwest Tennessee’s Head Start/Early Head Start service area, there is disparity in the quality of these resources. Access to high quality early learning and K-12 learning environments vary, and some of the poorest performing school districts are in the highest need communities.

The rural nature of the service area creates employment and transportation challenges for families who may not own a vehicle or have a reliable vehicle. Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start administrators report the lack of public transportation as a barrier for families to obtain and maintain employment, access healthcare, meet their families’ daily needs, and participate in the Head Start/Early Head Start program.

Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start has internal expertise as well as partnerships with community agencies that help it to meet the unique needs of Head Start and Early Head Start families in the service area. Coupled with the history and infrastructure in place at Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start, the agency is well equipped to continue to provide the highest quality early learning services in the 13-county service area.

### **Monitoring Community Data in Response to COVID-19**

Due to lag times in the collection and reporting of community data, many data and information helpful for Head Start/Early Head Start program planning will become available in coming weeks, months, and years. Monitoring data on a monthly and quarterly basis will assist the Head Start/Early Head Start program to collect and respond to evolving community needs.

2020 Census data, which will contain key information about children and families in the service area, will be released by March 2021. Census data will include information such as: poverty rate of the general population, poverty rate for children birth to age 5 years old (and thereby the number of Head Start/Early Head Start income-eligible children), and many other population demographics and characteristics of families.

A monthly review of unemployment and public assistance data will provide insight into Head Start/Early Head Start eligible populations. Child care program operating information will also be an important factor for understanding the availability of services and, and how communities can continue to meet families’ needs for high-quality early education.

Information reported by community-based organizations will serve as a critical input into community needs assessments during the pandemic and until formal data collection measures are complete. Governmental agencies, homeless serving agencies, food banks, and child welfare agencies, for example, provide valuable insight into the experiences of children and families in response to COVID-19.

It is likely that Head Start/Early Head Start providers will experience increasing demand for services as families face high rates of unemployment and mounting economic challenges. Regular analysis of community data will help Northwest Tennessee Head Start/Early Head Start to adapt and respond to the most pressing needs of Head Start/Early Head Start eligible children and families in the service area.

- <sup>i</sup> Head Start ECLKC. *Head Start Policy and Regulations, 1302.11 Determining community strengths, needs, and resources*. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/policy/45-cfr-chap-xiii/1302-11-determining-community-strengths-needs-resources>
- <sup>ii</sup> FRED. (2018). Single-parent Households with Children as a Percentage of Households with Children. Retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/release/tables?rid=412&eid=361044>
- <sup>iii</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report (PIR)
- <sup>iv</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report (PIR)
- <sup>v</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>vi</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>vii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>viii</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. (2018). General Health Data: Birth Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/statistics/health-data/birth-statistics.html>
- <sup>ix</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. (2018). General Health Data: Birth Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/statistics/health-data/birth-statistics.html>
- <sup>x</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xi</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2020). Tennessee Homelessness Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/tn/>
- <sup>xii</sup> United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. (2020). Tennessee Homelessness Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.usich.gov/homelessness-statistics/tn/>
- <sup>xiii</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report (PIR)
- <sup>xiv</sup> Child Trends. (2017). Foster Care. Retrieved from [https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/child-welfare/pdf/state\\_profiles/foster/Tennessee.pdf](https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/assets/child-welfare/pdf/state_profiles/foster/Tennessee.pdf)
- <sup>xv</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report (PIR)
- <sup>xvi</sup> Tennessee Department of Children's Services. (2020). Gov. Lee, Commissioner Nichols Urge Citizens to Report Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect During COVID-19 Crisis. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/dcs/newsroom/2020/4/2/gov--lee--commissioner-nichols-urge-citizens-to-report-suspected-child-abuse-and-neglect-during-covid-19-crisis.html>
- <sup>xvii</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2020). Annual Report to the Public. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/teis/TNPublicReport2020.pdf>
- <sup>xviii</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2020). Annual Report to the Public. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/education/teis/TNPublicReport2020.pdf>
- <sup>xix</sup> Kids Count Data Center. (2019). Early Child Intervention in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/8303-early-child-intervention?loc=44&loct=5#detailed/5/6420-6514/true/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867/any/16877,16878>
- <sup>xx</sup> 2018-2019 Program Information Report (PIR)
- <sup>xxi</sup> Kids Count Data Center. (2019). Children Receiving Families First Grants (TANF) in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/2983-children-receiving-families-first-grants-tanf?loc=44&loct=5#detailed/5/6420-6514/true/1729,37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133/any/13220,10111>
- <sup>xxii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>xxiii</sup> Program Information Report (PIR), 2018-2019
- <sup>xxiv</sup> World Health Organization. (2020). Coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. Retrieved from <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- <sup>xxv</sup> Johns Hopkins University. (2020). COVID-19 Dashboard. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- <sup>xxvi</sup> Tennessee Office of the Governor. (2020). Our Health and Economy. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery/our-health-and-economy.html>
- <sup>xxvii</sup> Johns Hopkins University. (2020). COVID-19 Dashboard. Retrieved from <https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>
- <sup>xxviii</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2020). Explore Districts and Schools. Retrieved from <https://reportcard.tnk12.gov>
- <sup>xxix</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2020). Explore Districts and Schools. Retrieved from <https://reportcard.tnk12.gov>
- <sup>xxx</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2020). Explore Districts and Schools. Retrieved from <https://reportcard.tnk12.gov>
- <sup>xxxi</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/tennessee/2020/overview>
- <sup>xxxii</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/tennessee/2020/overview>
- <sup>xxxiii</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/tennessee/2020/overview>
- <sup>xxxiv</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/tennessee/2020/overview>
- <sup>xxxv</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2020). Household Pulse Survey: May 21 - May 26. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp4.html>
- <sup>xxxvi</sup> United States Census Bureau. (2020). Household Pulse Survey: May 21 - May 26. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/data/tables/2020/demo/hhp/hhp4.html>
- <sup>xxxvii</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2020). COVID-19: Potential Implications for Individuals with Substance Use Disorders. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/noras-blog/2020/04/covid-19-potential-implications-individuals-substance-use-disorders>
- <sup>xxxviii</sup> Kids Count Data Center. (2020). Infant Mortality by Race in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/9159-infant-mortality-by-race?loc=44&loct=2#detailed/2/any/false/37,871,870,573,869/107,133/18166,18167>

- <sup>xxxix</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. (2018). Pregnancy Statistics. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/statistics/health-data/pregnancy-statistics.html>
- <sup>xl</sup> Program Information Report, 2018-2019
- <sup>xli</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. (2018). Kindergarten Immunization Compliance Assessment. Retrieved from [https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep-weeklyreports/kindergarten-immunization-compliance/2018\\_Public\\_Report\\_FINAL.PDF](https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/health/documents/cedep-weeklyreports/kindergarten-immunization-compliance/2018_Public_Report_FINAL.PDF)
- <sup>xlii</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2020). Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Routine Pediatric Vaccine Ordering and Administration – United States, 2020. Retrieved from <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/69/wr/mm6919e2.htm>
- <sup>xliii</sup> USDA. (2015). Food Access Atlas. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>
- <sup>xliv</sup> USDA. (2015). Food Access Atlas. Retrieved from <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-access-research-atlas/go-to-the-atlas.aspx>
- <sup>xlv</sup> Kids Count Data Center. (2018). Free/Reduced-Price School Lunch Participation in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/2979-free-reduced-price-school-lunch-participation?loc=44&loct=5#detailed/5/6420-6514/true/37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38/any/13216,10109>
- <sup>xlvi</sup> Kids Count Data Center. (2018). Infants and Children Receiving WIC Benefit in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://datacenter.kidscount.org/data/tables/2999-infants-and-children-receiving-wic-benefit?loc=44&loct=5#detailed/5/6420-6514/false/37,871,870,573,869,36,868,867,133,38/any/13222,10115>
- <sup>xlvii</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/tennessee/2020/overview>
- <sup>xlviii</sup> Internal Revenue Service (IRS). (2018). Opportunity Zones Frequently Asked Questions. Retrieved from <https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/opportunity-zones-frequently-asked-questions>
- <sup>lix</sup> US Department of the Treasury. (2020). Map of Designated Qualified Opportunity Zones. Retrieved from [https://www.cims.cdfifund.gov/preparation/?config=config\\_nmtc.xml](https://www.cims.cdfifund.gov/preparation/?config=config_nmtc.xml)
- <sup>i</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>ii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>iii</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. (2020). Unemployment Rate in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/FLURN>
- <sup>iiii</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis. (2020). Unemployment Rate in Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/FLURN>
- <sup>lv</sup> Tennessee Office of the Governor. (2020). Our Health and Economy. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/governor/covid-19/economic-recovery/our-health-and-economy.html>
- <sup>lv</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>lvi</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. (2020). Tennessee. Retrieved from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/app/tennessee/2020/overview>
- <sup>lvii</sup> Tennessee Department of Human Services. (2020). Child Care Providers Map. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/accweb/>
- <sup>lviii</sup> Tennessee Department of Human Services. (2020). Child Care Providers Map. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/accweb/>
- <sup>lix</sup> Tennessee Department of Human Services. (2020). Child Care Report Card & Star Quality Program. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/humanservices/for-families/child-care-services/child-care-report-card-star-quality-program.html>
- <sup>lx</sup> Tennessee Department of Human Services. (2020). Child Care Providers Map. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/accweb/>
- <sup>lxi</sup> ECLKC. (2020). Head Start Center Locator. Retrieved from <https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/center-locator>
- <sup>lxii</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. 2018 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates. Retrieved from <https://data.census.gov>
- <sup>lxiii</sup> Tennessee Department of Human Services. (2020). Child Care Providers Map. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/accweb/>
- <sup>lxiv</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. (2020). Evidence Based Home Visiting Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/early-childhood-program/evidence-based-home-visiting-programs.html>
- <sup>lxv</sup> Tennessee Department of Health. (2020). Evidence Based Home Visiting Programs. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/health/health-program-areas/fhw/early-childhood-program/evidence-based-home-visiting-programs.html>
- <sup>lxvi</sup> Tennessee Department of Education. (2020). Voluntary Pre-kindergarten. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/voluntary-pre-k.html>
- <sup>lxvii</sup> NIEER. (2020). The State of Preschool 2019. Retrieved from <https://www.tn.gov/education/early-learning/voluntary-pre-k.html>