



Early Childhood

2008 STATE OF CHATTANOOGA REGION REPORT

Dr. Eileen Robertson-Rehberg
August 2008

the **Ochs Center**
for metropolitan studies

August 2008

Dear Reader:

Over the next three and a half months, the Ochs Center for Metropolitan Studies (formerly the Community Research Council) will issue a series of reports leading up to the publication of the 2008 State of Chattanooga Region Report. I am happy to introduce this first report on Early Childhood in the Chattanooga region

In this report – and upcoming reports on the Environment, Education, Housing, Public Safety, Health and the Economy – Ochs Center staff rely on a combination of administrative data (usually collected by government agencies) and survey data (from an April 2008 telephone survey of one thousand Hamilton County residents) to describe current conditions in the Chattanooga region. As we did two years ago, we will provide information at the neighborhood level and also provide comparisons between our region and other midsize regions across the county.

For those of you who have read or used the State of Chattanooga Region Report, I wanted to highlight a series of changes this year – which were the result of feedback on the 2006 report.

By releasing a series of reports instead of a single, 360 page volume, we hope to better highlight key findings in each of the different topic areas that we cover. Because – in most cases – we have data from prior years, we will be able to provide trend analysis: in other words, we will be able to speak to changes in conditions, as well as current conditions. We will do a better job discussing the region, not just Hamilton County and Chattanooga. Each of the reports will begin with a description of conditions in the six county metropolitan statistical area (Hamilton, Marion and Sequatchie counties in Tennessee and Catoosa, Dade and Walker counties in Georgia). Finally, we will make access to information about specific neighborhoods or subregions much more accessible.

While we have made some changes, the goal of the State of Chattanooga Region Report remains the same – to provide information to the community that helps elected officials, policymakers, civic leaders and the public make better decisions about our community's future.

Please let us know what you think. If you have comments or questions, feel free to email me at deichenthal@ochscenter.org.

Sincerely,

David Eichenthal
President and CEO

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

More than 35,000 children under six years old live in the Metro Area. Two thirds are residents of Hamilton County and one-third live in the City of Chattanooga.

In the Metro Area, 18.3% of young children live in poverty. Marion County – a county with approximately 2000 children in the under six age group – has the highest poverty rate for this age group (20.7%). Single parenthood increased the risk for children in poverty in the 6-county region. Those children in Metro Area single parent families are five times more likely to live in families below the poverty threshold.

In Hamilton County the poverty rate for children under six is 19.1%. In the City of Chattanooga, nearly 30% are below the poverty threshold. According to Families First enrollment data, nearly one in every five individuals in the Alton Park zip code area is enrolled in Families First – a statistic that is nearly five times the county-wide rate.

Hamilton County is the most diverse county in the Metro Area. One third of the under six age group was non-White, compared to less than 10% in each of the five remaining Metro counties. Diverse populations are concentrated in the City of Chattanooga – a place where more than half of the children are non-White.

In 2000, 2.9% of Hamilton County's children under six years were Latino. From 2001 to 2006, 8% of all county births and 11% of births in Chattanooga were Latino children.

Between 2001 and 2006, one in four births in Hamilton County was to mothers without a high school education. In one subcounty region more than 60 % of birth mothers did not have a high school education.

From 2002 to 2006 percentages of low birth weight babies declined in four out of six Metro Area counties. The average rate for Hamilton County (2004-2006) was 11%. In 2006, more than one-third of pregnant women in Hamilton County did not receive pre-natal care until the fourth month of their pregnancy.

In Metro Area counties and based on a three year average, teen pregnancy rates were highest in Hamilton and Walker counties. In these two counties, rates for teens ages 15 to 17 years old were 40 per 1000. From 2001 to 2006, 14.4% of all Hamilton County births were to teenage mothers. In one region (Signal Mountain) less than 1% of births were to teens, compared to the Downtown region where nearly three in ten births were to mothers in their teen years.

Among 14 benchmark counties, Hamilton County had the third highest rate of low birth weight babies, the highest percentage of births to teenage mothers and the second highest percent of mothers without first trimester prenatal care.

EARLY CHILDHOOD IN THE CHATTANOOGA REGION

In some ways, understanding the state of a community's youngest members—its children—is the best way to assess its future. So much of a child's future is based upon what happens before it's born and in the first years. A child's development and preparation for formal education begins even before birth. In the earliest years of a child's life, the foundations for future learning, behavior and health are established. Factors that contribute to a child's health and future academic success are dependent upon the family environment as well as the availability of quality child care and safe, family-friendly neighborhoods.¹ Children born into poverty, to a single mother, to a mother without a high school degree, or to teenage parents frequently face daunting obstacles. Inadequate prenatal care and low birth weight can also affect a child's early development.

In the first three years, a child's brain begins to be wired for functions such as math, language, music and physical activity. Ninety percent of a child's brain develops by age five. If the brain does not receive age-appropriate stimulation, it is very difficult to "re-wire itself" at a later time.² Every child benefits from a nurturing home environment in the years of early learning, and every child can benefit from early quality child care and education programs as well. But for those children at risk, quality child care and programs can make a critical difference.

THE CHATTANOOGA METRO AREA³

The Chattanooga Metro Area spans six contiguous counties across Tennessee and Georgia, an area with more than 35,000 children under the age of six years old. Two-thirds of young children in the metro area live in Hamilton County.



Eighty-three percent of all African American children in the Metro Area live in the City of Chattanooga. In Chattanooga, 46% of the children under age six are African American compared to 25% county-wide and 18% in the entire Metro Area.

In the six-county Metro Area, 18% of children under six years old live in poverty. In the Metro Area, children living with one parent were five times more likely to live in poverty compared to those children in married couple families. Of those children in single parent families, nearly half of their families (47%) were below the poverty line. Within the region, children under six and below the poverty threshold are concentrated in Chattanooga and in Catoosa County, Georgia. In some census tracts in Chattanooga and rural parts of the metro region, more than half of children under the age of six live below the poverty line.

¹**From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development Committee on Integrating the Science of Early Childhood Development.**

Jack P. Shonkoff and Deborah A. Phillips, Editors. Board on Children, Youth, and Families National Research Council and Institute of Medicine (National Academy Press: Washington, D.C., 2000)

²**Gail Lindsay. "Brain Research and Implications for Early Childhood Education." *Childhood Education, Vol. 75, (December 1998)***

³This section uses Census 2000 statistics with limited reference to the **American Community Survey (2005 and 2006)**. Total ACS population numbers for children under six were, for the most part, too small for reliable percentages. Where ACS data is also provided in tables, confidence intervals are also included for accurate representation

CHILDREN UNDER 6: Characteristics of Population

	POPULATION TOTAL	% OF METRO AREA POPULATION
Metro Area (6-County total)	35613	100%
Hamilton County TN	22479	63.1%
Marion County TN	1962	5.5%
Sequatchie County TN	1032	2.9%
Catoosa County GA	4354	12.2%
Dade County GA	1063	3.0%
Walker County GA	4723	13.3%
City of Chattanooga	11333	31.8%

TOTAL POPULATION

	MARRIED FAMILIES	SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES
Metro Area (6-County total)	72.7%	27.3%
Hamilton County TN	70.4%	29.6%
Marion County TN	73.4%	26.6%
Sequatchie County TN	72.2%	27.8%
Catoosa County GA	79.5%	20.5%
Dade County GA	85.6%	14.4%
Walker County GA	74.4%	25.6%
City of Chattanooga	55.6%	44.4%

BELOW POVERTY

	TOTAL	MARRIED FAMILIES	SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES
Metro Area (6-County total)	18.3%	8.4%	44.8%
Hamilton County TN	19.1%	7.6%	46.4%
Marion County TN	20.7%	10.0%	50.1%
Sequatchie County TN	14.8%	7.4%	34.0%
Catoosa County GA	15.9%	10.8%	35.8%
Dade County GA	6.7%	3.2%	27.5%
Walker County GA	19.5%	10.5%	45.6%
City of Chattanooga	29.6%	12.3%	51.1%

RACE / ETHNICITY

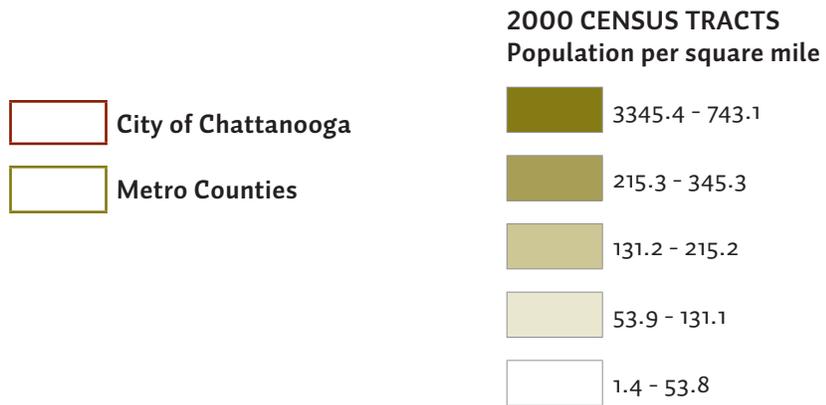
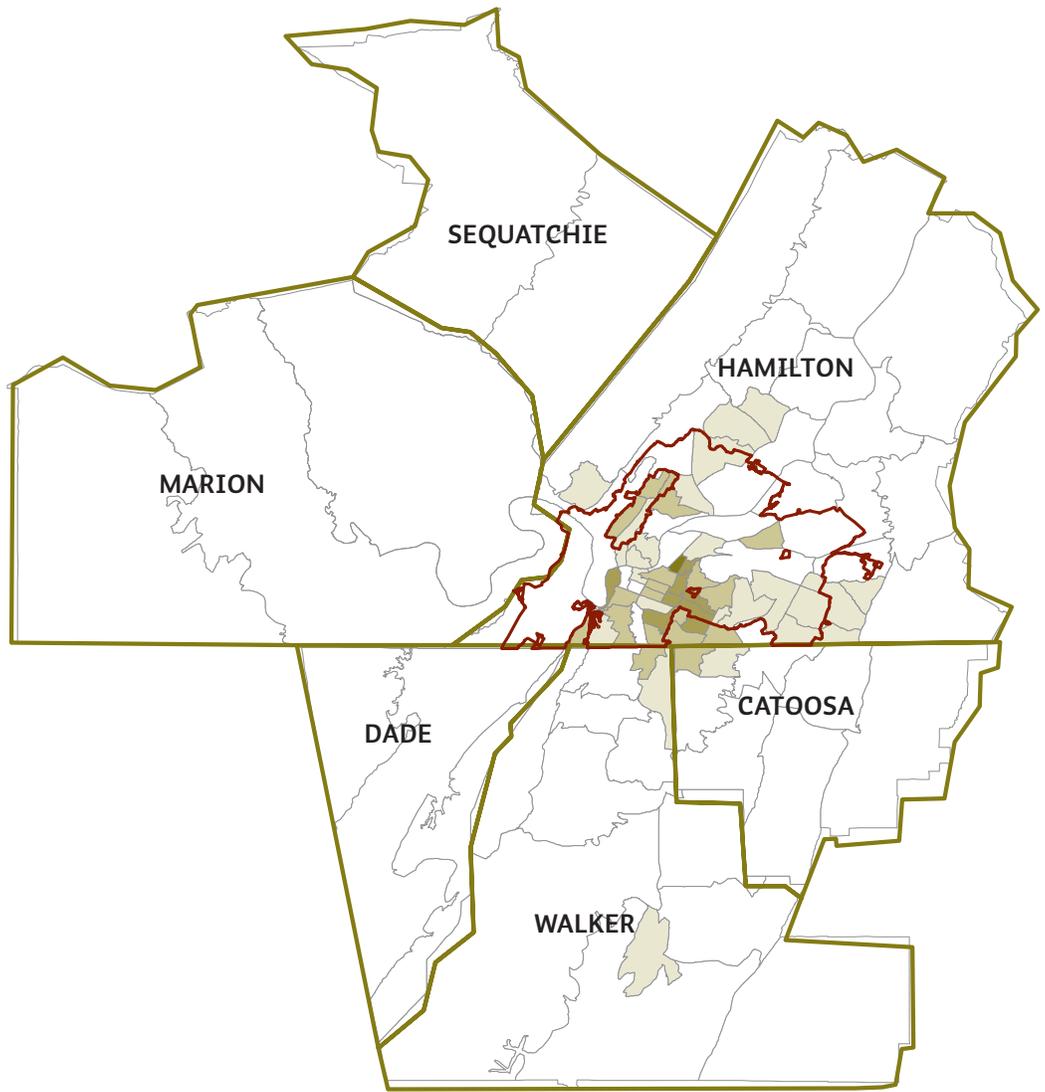
	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	LATINO	TWO OR MORE RACES	ASIAN	OTHER
Metro Area (6-County total)	76.5%	17.4%	2.5%	2.2%	1.0%	0.4%
Hamilton County TN	66.7%	25.9%	2.9%	2.5%	1.4%	0.5%
Marion County TN	92.3%	4.6%	1.2%	1.6%	0.2%	0.2%
Sequatchie County TN	97.6%	0.0%	1.2%	0.4%	0.2%	0.6%
Catoosa County GA	93.5%	1.7%	2.2%	1.6%	0.5%	0.4%
Dade County GA	95.9%	0.4%	1.9%	0.8%	0.1%	0.9%
Walker County GA	91.2%	4.6%	1.6%	1.8%	0.4%	0.4%
City of Chattanooga	45.7%	45.3%	3.5%	3.2%	1.7%	0.6%

CHILDREN UNDER 6 YEARS OLD:

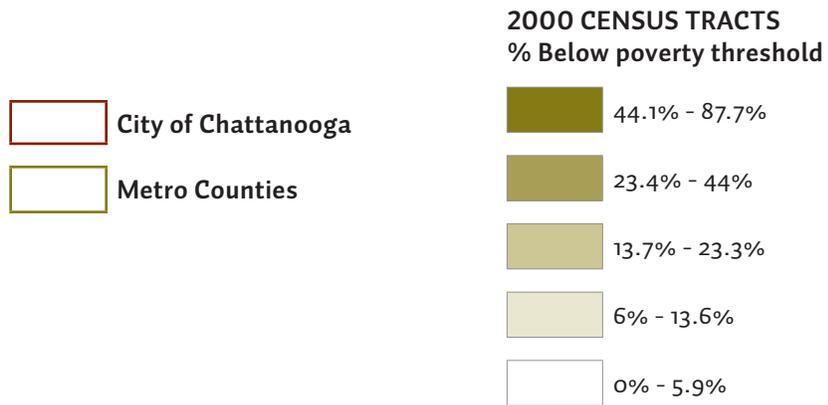
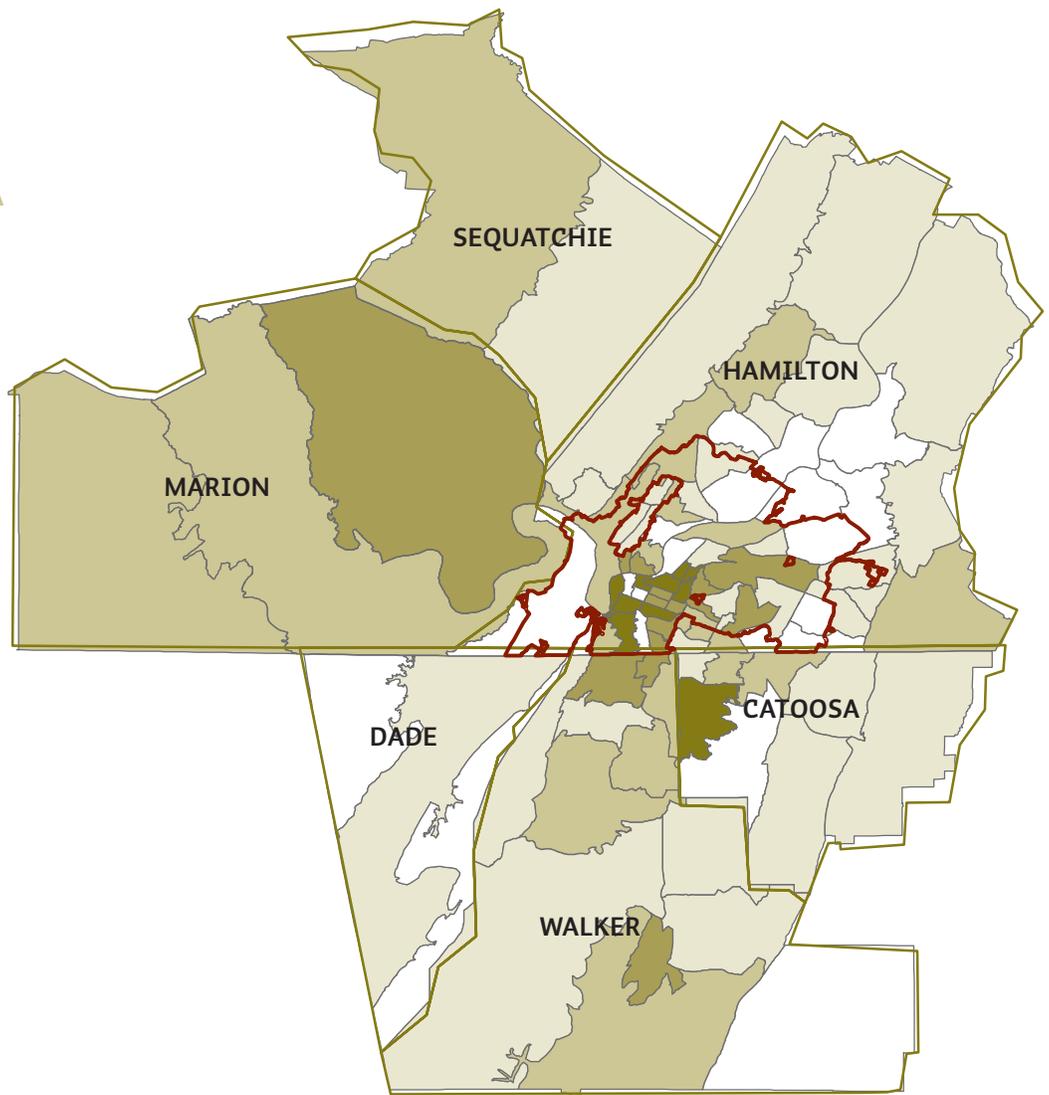
American Community Survey
population percentage
estimates by race

	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	OTHER
MSA	73%	18%	9%
Hamilton County	67%	25%	8%
City of Chattanooga	47%	46%	7%

Metro Area: Population Density of Children Under 6 Years Old



Metro Area: Poverty Rates of Children Under 6 Years Old



Poverty guidelines are issued each year by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The guidelines are a simplification of the poverty thresholds for use for administrative purposes — for instance, determining financial eligibility for certain federal programs.⁴

2008 Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines

PERSONS IN FAMILY UNIT	48 CONTIGUOUS STATES AND D.C.	ALASKA	HAWAII
1	\$10,400	\$13,000	\$11,960
2	\$14,000	\$17,500	\$16,100
3	\$17,600	\$22,000	\$20,240
4	\$21,200	\$26,500	\$24,380
5	\$24,800	\$31,000	\$28,520
6	\$28,400	\$35,500	\$32,660
7	\$32,000	\$40,000	\$36,800
8	\$35,600	\$44,500	\$40,940
FOR EACH ADDITIONAL PERSON, ADD	\$3,600	\$4,500	\$4,140

SOURCE: Federal Register, Vol. 73, No. 15, January 23, 2008, pp. 3971-3972.

⁴United States Department of Health and Human Services. URL: <http://aspe.hhs.gov/poverty/08poverty.shtml> accessed May 13 2008

⁵Teenagers who give birth are more likely to have additional risk factors. Therefore, the teen pregnancy itself may not give rise to poor outcomes such as low birth weight, but factors that are more highly associated with the teen birth such as a poor social and economic conditions do. Carolyn Makinson, “The Health Consequences of Teenage Fertility,” *Family Planning Perspectives*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (May - June, 1985), pp. 132-139.

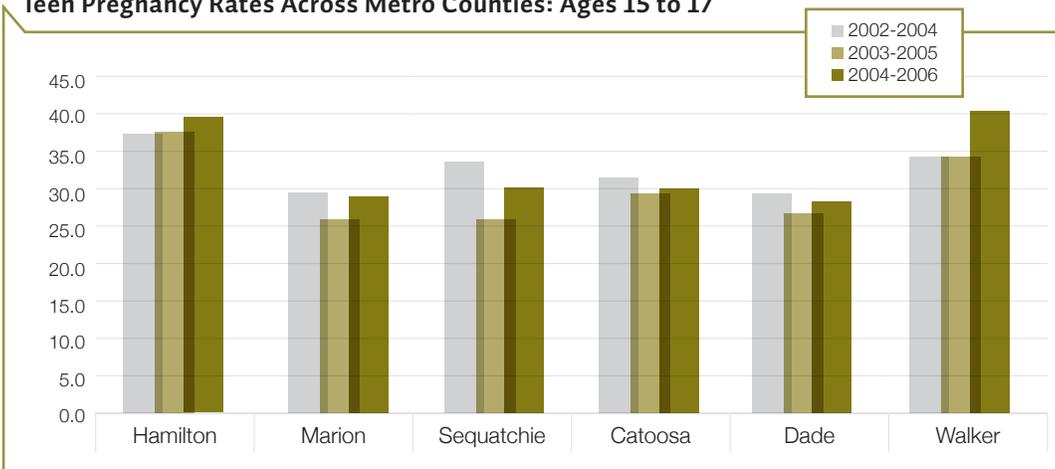
⁶Low birth weight babies weigh less than 5.5 pounds (2500 grams) at birth.

Birth Risk Factors

Children who are even one week premature are more likely to have delays in one or more developmental milestones in their early years. A nurturing environment can compensate for such delays early on, but low-birth weights are often indicators of other issues that affect a child’s development and further inhibit age-appropriate development.

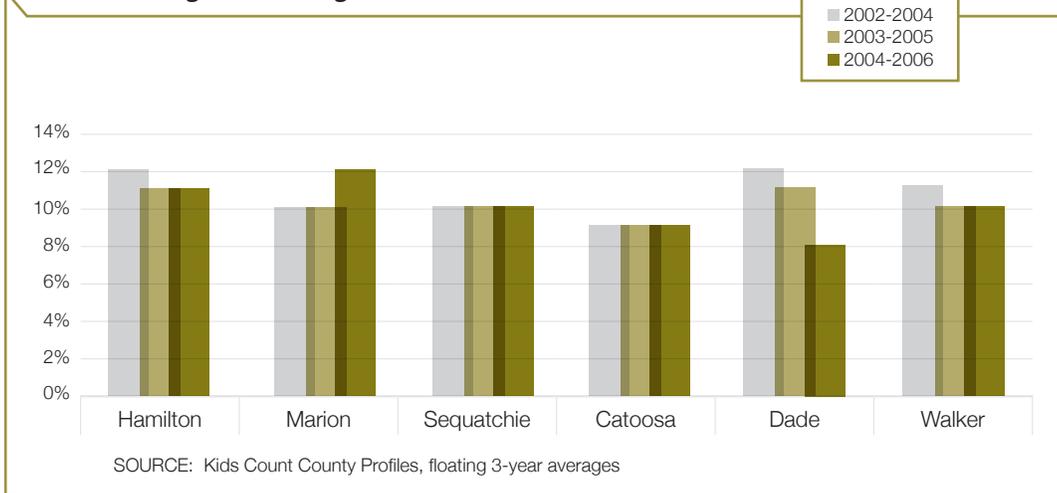
For example, females who give birth in their teen years have a higher risk of giving birth to a baby that is low weight.⁶ Based on a six-county comparison of average rates for 2004-2006, teen pregnancy rates (ages 15 to 17 years old) are highest in two Metro Area counties—Hamilton County and Walker County—where rates are approximately 40 pregnancies per 1000 teens, compared to the remaining four counties in the Metro Area with rates below 30 per 1000 in the 15 to 17 age group.

Teen Pregnancy Rates Across Metro Counties: Ages 15 to 17



Using three-year average rates, low birth weight births in the region are declining. The most recent regional averages indicate that Marion County had the highest rate of low birth weight babies in the Metro Area—12% compared to Dade County with a low birth weight rate of 8%.

Low Birth Weight Percentages Across Metro Counties: All Births



Early Childhood Care and Education in the Metro Area

Most families with young children use some type of child care. More than two-thirds of children under six years old in the Metro Area live in households where one or both parents work outside the home.

Chattanooga TN-GA Metro Statistics: Children under 6 years old with parents in the labor force

In two parent families, both parents in the labor force	11,791
In single parent families, parent in the labor force	7,252
Total children under 6 needing child care, as parents work	19,043

SOURCE: Census 2000

According to the National Association of Child Care Resource & Referral Agencies (NACCRRA), Tennessee’s child care quality for child care centers ranks 7th among 50 states, the District of Columbia and the Department of Defense.⁷ By comparison, Georgia’s quality ranking is 35th.

In cooperation with the Tennessee Commission for Children and Youth (TCCY), Tennessee’s Department of Human Services (TDHS) has implemented the Tennessee Report Card and Star-Quality Child Care Program. State law requires that all child care agencies licensed and approved by TDHS be evaluated annually and post a report card with the results of their evaluations.⁸

⁷ Issue Backgrounder: Child Care Standards & Oversight

published by the National Association of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies
URL: http://www.vhcoaudit.com/events/NACCRRA/Media_Backgrounder.doc accessed May 2008.

⁸ Evaluating Quality in State Child Care Licensing: The Tennessee Report Card and Star-Quality Child Care Program

(March 2005). Prepared for Deborah Neill, Director of Child Care, Adult and Community Programs, Tennessee Department of Human Services. Written by Joanna Cheatham, Ed.D.; Bingham Pope, MS The University of Tennessee College of Social Work, Office of Research and Public Service; Gail Myers, MSW.
URL: https://www.sworps.utk.edu/ann_rep_2005/docs/germanypaper.pdf accessed May 2008.

Georgia was the first state in the nation to offer universal access to pre-K for all 4-year-old children, and currently serves 55% of this age group state-wide. Georgia counties in the MSA enrolled a total of 514 children in pre-K during the 2001-2002 school year and 662 in 2005-2006, an increase of 29% over the 5 year period.

Tennessee is in the process of expanding access to public pre-K. In 2004, the state began a lottery for higher education scholarships, and excess funds were allocated for early education programs.⁹ Tennessee Governor Bredesen has a long term goal of universal pre-K, and percentages of those children enrolled in Tennessee’s pre-K program have increased significantly from 2% of 4-year old children in 2002 to 16% in 2007. But current program offerings remain low when compared to the population and to Georgia’s enrollment percentages.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and local public funding sources support Head Start and Early Head Start programs for families and their preschool children. Participants are those with incomes below the federal poverty line. Head Start serves families with children 3 and 4 years old. Under Early Head Start, pregnant women and those with children ages 0 to 3 are eligible for child and family development services.

⁹State of Preschool 2007, published by the National Institute for Early Education Research. URL: <http://nieer.org/yearbook/pdf/yearbook.pdf> accessed May 2008.

Metro Area county Pre-K and Head Start Enrollment

METRO COUNTY	PRE-K	HEAD START	EARLY HEAD START
Hamilton TN	414	622	146
Marion TN	107	124	No Early Head Start
Sequatchie TN	31	49	No Early Head Start
Catoosa GA	231	96	24
Dade GA	122	51	16
Walker GA	279	224	24

In 2001-2002, a total of 5,350 children were enrolled in public school kindergarten programs in the Metro Area. Between 2001-2002 and 2005-2006, Metro Area kindergarten enrollment increased by 9%. All counties, except Catoosa, had increases in kindergarten enrollment. Hamilton County, with 65% of the total Metro Area population under five years old, had 58% of public kindergarten population in the 2001-2002 school year—percentages that remained unchanged five years later.¹⁰

Non-white children accounted for nearly four out of ten children in Hamilton County’s kindergarten classrooms. All other kindergarten populations in the Metro Area were more than 90% White.

¹⁰Public school systems in the Metro area are determined by county boundaries.

Metro Area and Metro Counties: Kindergarten Enrollment in Public Schools

MSA COUNTIES: KINDERGARTEN POPULATIONS IN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

METRO COUNTY	2001-2002	2005-2006	%MSA TOTAL 2001-2002	%MSA TOTAL 2005-2006
Metro Area	5350	5804	100%	100%
Hamilton County, TN	3102	3375	58%	58%
Marion County, TN	374	416	7%	7%
Catoosa County, GA	208	174	4%	3%
Sequatchie County, TN	120	191	2%	3%
Dade County, GA	790	818	15%	14%
Walker County, GA	756	830	14%	14%

Source: Census 2000 and National Center for Educational Statistics

Metro Area and Metro Counties: Kindergarten Enrollment in Public Schools

KINDERGARTEN COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL POPULATION BY RACE: 2005-2006

	% WHITE
Hamilton County TN	61.0%
Marion County TN	97.1%
Sequatchie county TN	97.9%
Dade County GA	98.2%
Catoosa County GA	93.7%
Walker County, GA	756

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

CHATTANOOGA AND HAMILTON COUNTY

According to the American Community Survey,¹¹ there are approximately 22,840 children under age six in Hamilton County. This estimate is consistent with birth and school enrollment data. Based on birth statistics, there are approximately 3,950 births per year in Hamilton County. For the two years where both public and private school data at the county level are available, the average kindergarten cohort was 3,869 children.

¹¹ American Community Survey statistics for the population under six years was calculated from the weighted 2005 and 2006 sample Public Use Microdata Area for Hamilton County.

Children under 6 – 2000 Census and 2006 ACS

Population under 6	2000	2006
Chattanooga	11434	11477
Hamilton County	22479	22840

Births in Hamilton County – 2000 to 2006

HAMILTON COUNTY: TOTAL LIVE BIRTHS*

Y2000	Y2001	Y2002	Y2003	Y2004	Y2005	2006
4034	3937	3811	3865	3898	3902	4202

Data for 2000 was accessed from the Centers For Disease Control online database titled *Natality Information: Live Births*. The 2001 to 2006 birth data was provided by the Tennessee Department of Health.

Kindergarten Enrollment – Hamilton County (2001-2005)

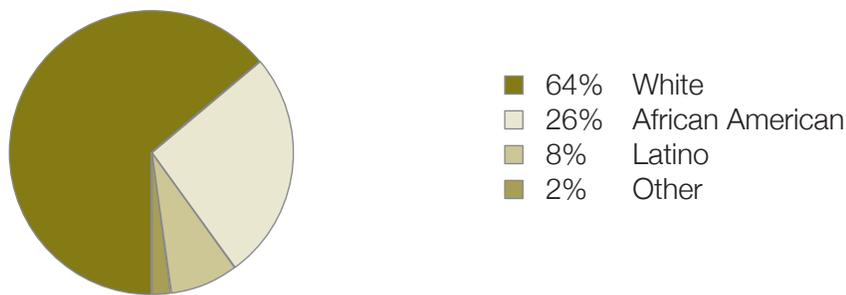
	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005
Public school	3,102	3,163	3,223	3,180	3,375
Private school	NA	841	NA	554	NA
Total		4,004		3,734	

Source: National Center for Education Statistics

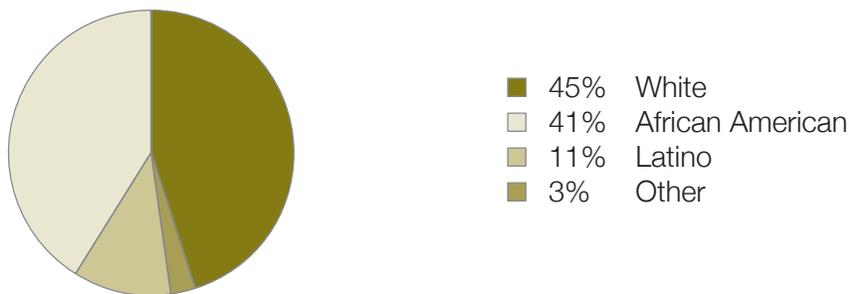
Between 2001 and 2006, nearly two-thirds of all children born in Hamilton County were White, 26% were African American and 8% were Latino. During the same period, children born to mothers living in the City of Chattanooga were less likely to be White (48%), and more likely to be African-American (41%), or Latino (11%).

County-wide, birth data by year and by race reflects the growing population of Latino children under 6 years old: 45% of births to Latinos were to Mexican immigrants; more than one-third of the Latino population of children was born to mothers from Guatemala; and 16% percent of Latino births in Hamilton County were to mothers born in the United States.

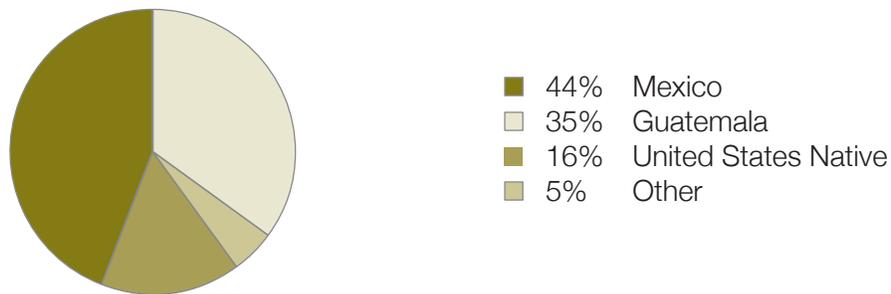
Hamilton County: Total Births 2001 to 2006 by Race/Ethnicity



City of Chattanooga: Total Births 2001 to 2006 by Race/Ethnicity



Mother's Birthplace: Universe of Hispanic Mothers of Children Born 2001-2006 Residents of Hamilton County



Birth Risk Factors

A mother's educational attainment is one of the best predictors of a child's success in school.¹² Based on birth data for 2001 to 2006, African American children born in Hamilton County were more likely to have mothers with less than a high school education than White children. An increase in the percentage of White children born to mothers without high school degrees combined with a decline among African Americans, however, led to a decline in the gap between the two groups from a high of 15.5% in 2002 to 6.1% in 2006.

Hamilton County birth statistics: Percent of births to mothers who did not finish high school

	Y2001	Y2002	Y2003	Y2004	Y2005	Y2006
White	23.1%	20.0%	21.0%	21.4%	22.2%	26.5%
African American	34.4%	35.5%	33.2%	34.3%	36.8%	32.6%
White/African American gap	11.3%	15.5%	12.2%	12.9%	14.6%	6.1%

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

Since 2001, the percentage of total births in the County to single mothers has been rising for both White and African American mothers: more than three out of four births to African American mothers in Hamilton County are to single mothers.

Birth statistics: Percent of total births to single mothers

YEAR	%WHITE	%AFRICAN AMERICAN
2001	26.8%	75.2%
2002	26.5%	73.3%
2003	26.2%	76.1%
2004	29.2%	75.6%
2005	30.3%	78.6%
2006	28.0%	77.6%

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

¹²Downey, D. B., Ainsworth-Darnell, J. W., & Dufur, M. J. "Sex of parent and children's well-being in single-parent households." *Journal of Marriage and the Family*, 60(4) (November 1998), 878-893.

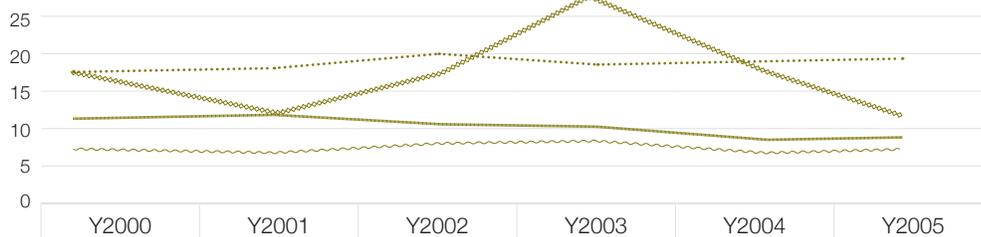
African American babies—both those born to mothers who are married and unmarried—have higher rates of low birth weight than White babies in Hamilton County. The rate of low birth weight babies for unmarried African American mothers is more than double the rate for unmarried whites. Thus, race may have more of an impact on likelihood of low weight births than marital status. Similarly, the rate of low birth weight babies for African-American mothers with a high school degree was higher than for Whites without a high school degree.

Hamilton County birth statistics: Percent low birth weight by race

	Y2001	Y2002	Y2003	Y2004	Y2005	Y2006
White	8.3%	8.6%	8.3%	NA	8.9%	8.7%
African American	16.2%	17.9%	17.5%	NA	18.1%	16.7%
Latino	11.3%	10.2%	9.2%	NA	7.4%	8.8%

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

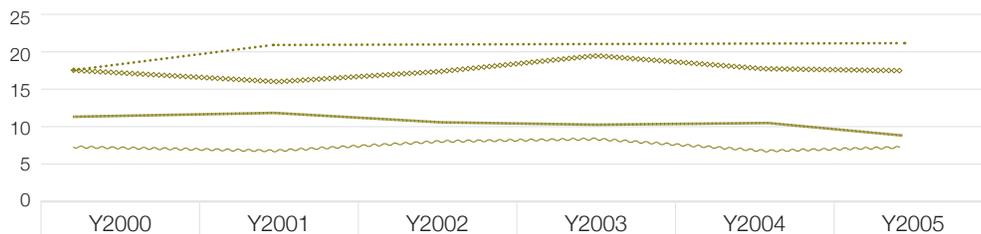
Percent of Low Weight Babies by Marital Status and Race



- White Married
- - White Unmarried
- African American Married
- . . . African American Unmarried

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

Percent of Low Weight Babies by Education and Race



- White Finished High School
- - White Did Not Finish High School
- African American Finished High School
- . . . African Did Not Finish High School

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

COMPARING CHATTANOOGA AND HAMILTON COUNTY TO OTHER MIDSIZE REGIONS¹²

Compared to thirteen benchmark cities—and using Census 2000 statistics—Chattanooga had the third highest poverty rate for children under six years old. At nearly 30%, Chattanooga’s rate was exceeded by only two other cities—Columbia, South Carolina and Lansing, Michigan. In all four cities with poverty rates above 25%, percentages of children in single parent families were also among the highest. In each of the cities, children in single parent families had much higher poverty rates when compared to those children in married parent families. Most cities had a diverse population with more than one-third non-white populations. All but two cities—Boise, Idaho (84% white) and Eugene, Oregon (76% white) —had non-white populations greater than one-third.

¹³As part of the 2006 State of Chattanooga Region Report, CRC identified 13 other mid-size cities and benchmarks based on population size and included only those mid-size cities that were the major urban areas of their respective counties.

Benchmark Cities: Characteristics of children under six years old

	POPULATION TOTAL	IN MARRIED FAMILIES	IN SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES			
Chattanooga TN	11333	55.6%	44.4%	TOTAL POPULATION		
Huntsville AL	11532	64.4%	35.6%			
Boise ID	15382	79.7%	20.3%			
Rockford IL	13718	60.2%	39.8%			
Fort Wayne IN	19559	62.2%	37.8%			
Ann Arbor MI	6788	84.2%	15.8%			
Lansing MI	11327	54.3%	45.7%			
Reno NV	14374	67.8%	32.2%			
Fayetteville NC	10852	64.6%	35.4%			
Winston-Salem NC	14825	61.2%	38.8%			
Eugene OR	8758	71.7%	28.3%			
Salem OR	12286	70.6%	29.4%			
Allentown PA	8993	56.1%	43.9%			
Columbia SC	7453	54.0%	46.0%			
	TOTAL	IN MARRIED FAMILIES	IN SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES		BELOW POVERTY	
Chattanooga TN	29.6%	12.3%	51.1%			
Huntsville AL	23.2%	6.0%	54.2%			
Boise ID	12.2%	5.8%	37.3%			
Rockford IL	22.5%	8.6%	43.7%			
Fort Wayne IN	21.2%	6.2%	45.9%			
Ann Arbor MI	8.4%	6.0%	21.4%			
Lansing MI	25.1%	7.7%	45.9%			
Reno NV	22.0%	12.0%	43.1%			
Fayetteville NC	22.8%	6.8%	52.0%			
Winston-Salem NC	25.2%	10.3%	48.8%			
Eugene OR	20.6%	10.3%	46.8%			
Salem OR	26.4%	16.1%	51.1%			
Allentown PA	31.5%	14.6%	53.0%			
Columbia SC	31.5%	9.5%	57.2%			
	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	LATINO	ASIAN		OTHER
Chattanooga TN	45.7%	45.3%	3.5%	1.7%	3.8%	
Huntsville AL	51.3%	39.2%	3.2%	2.1%	4.2%	
Boise ID	83.7%	1.0%	8.1%	2.1%	5.1%	
Rockford IL	51.2%	22.7%	18.3%	2.4%	5.3%	
Fort Wayne IN	61.1%	21.5%	9.8%	1.6%	6.0%	
Ann Arbor MI	62.4%	10.5%	4.8%	14.1%	8.2%	
Lansing MI	45.8%	25.6%	15.1%	3.2%	10.3%	
Reno NV	51.0%	2.5%	35.4%	4.3%	6.7%	
Fayetteville NC	36.9%	45.2%	9.0%	1.5%	7.4%	
Winston-Salem NC	37.1%	42.3%	16.2%	1.3%	3.1%	
Eugene OR	76.4%	1.8%	10.6%	2.7%	8.5%	
Salem OR	61.2%	1.1%	28.7%	2.5%	6.5%	
Allentown PA	41.6%	9.1%	41.6%	2.5%	5.2%	
Columbia SC	33.9%	57.8%	3.9%	1.6%	2.8%	

Source: United States Census Bureau Census 2000

Birth Risk Factors

Among benchmark counties, Hamilton County was tied for 3rd in percentage of low birth weight babies. In both Hamilton County, Tennessee and Madison County, Alabama, 10.7% of babies were born with low birth weights. Only two counties had higher rates: Richland County, South Carolina (11.1%) and Winston-Salem County, North Carolina (10.8%).

Hamilton County had the highest percentage of overall births to mothers who are teenagers—14.7%. The percentage of births to teenage mothers in Hamilton County is more than three times the percentage in Ingham County, Michigan—4.7%

Pregnant women in Hamilton County had the second lowest rate of access to prenatal care in the first trimester. More than one-third of pregnant women who gave birth in Hamilton County did not receive prenatal care until the fourth month of their pregnancy.

Benchmark Counties: Statistics of birth risk factors

	LOW BIRTH WEIGHT	% BIRTHS TO TEENS (10-19)	ACCESS TO PRENATAL CARE (CARE IN 1ST TRIMESTER)
Hamilton TN	10.7	14.7	63.5
Madison AL	10.7	9.9	86
Ada ID	7.7	6.2	77.7
Winnebago IL	10.3*	13.4*	76.6*
Allen IN	9.5*	10.4	74.3*
Washtenaw MI	8.2	10.3	83.5
Ingham MI	7.9	4.7	87.5
Washoe NV	8.4**	10.4*	73.3**
Cumberland NC	10.1	11.3	86.5
Forsyth NC	10.8	11.7	83.9
Lane OR	6.4	9.3	72.8
Marion OR	5.5	11.8	74.1
Lehigh PA	9.1	10.2	63.2
Richland SC	11.1**	10.7*	65.0**

Sources: Data was gathered from the respective county health departments. Note: Statistics that are not indicated with one or two asterisks represent 2006 data. * 2005 statistics **2004 statistics

HAMILTON COUNTY NEIGHBORHOODS

Families First, the State of Tennessee's program for public assistance, provides temporary benefits to families who have children. The number of families receiving benefits provides a neighborhood-based indicator of families with children below the poverty threshold.

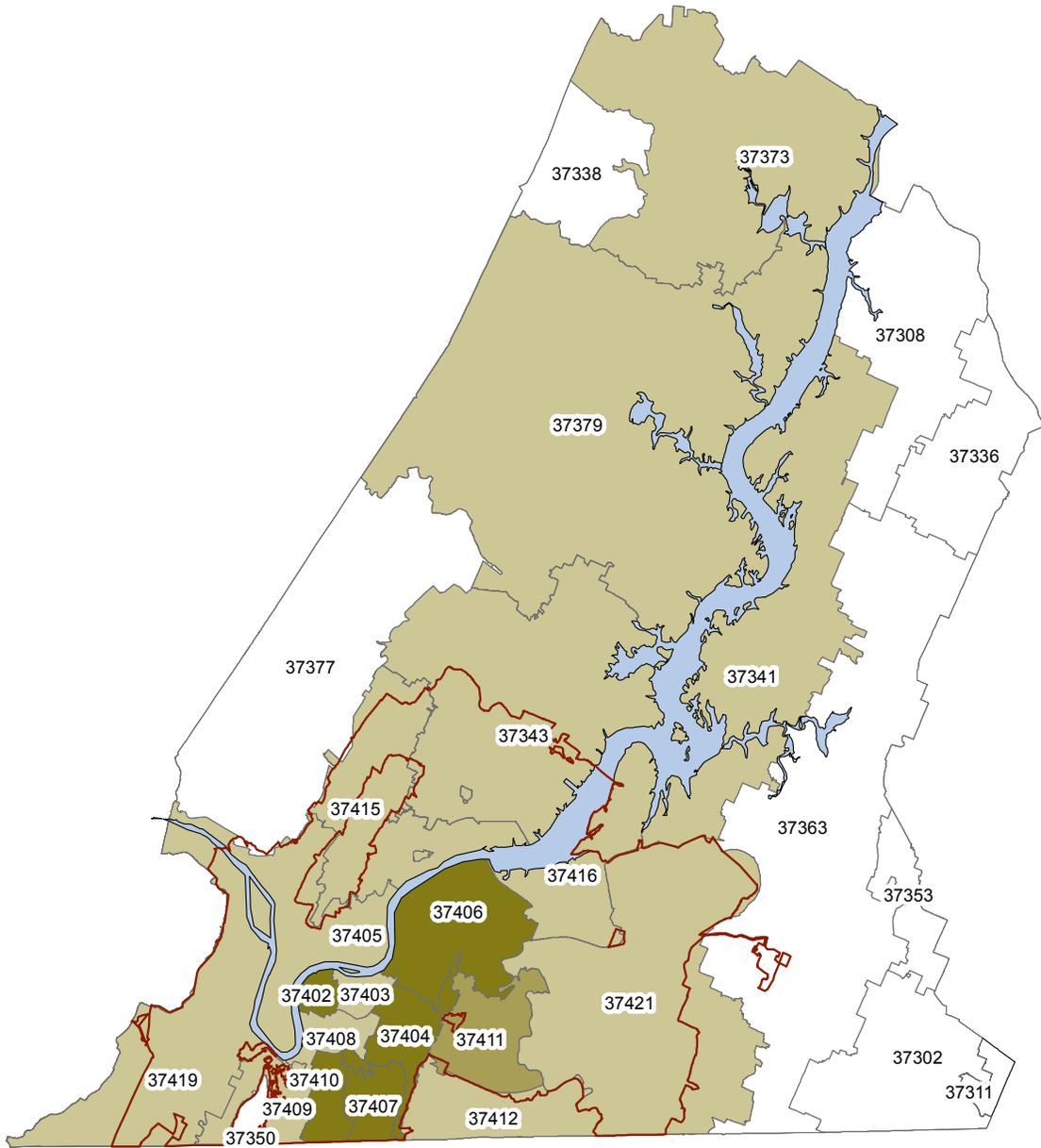
Overall, 44.1 individuals per 1000 residents in Hamilton County were receiving Families First benefits in April 2008. In five zip code areas – Highland Park, Downtown, East Lake, East Chattanooga and Alton Park – participation rates were more than double the county rate.

Families First Enrollment Total Individuals by Zip Code

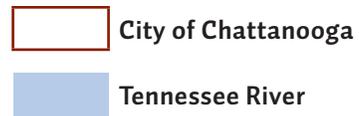
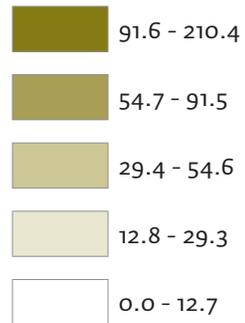
POST OFFICE LOCATION	ZIP CODE	APRIL 2008 RATES PER 1000 FAMILIES*
East Ridge	37412	35.6
Red Bank	37415	28.1
Highway 58	37416	45.5
Tiftonia	37419	27.9
Soddy Daisy	37379	19.4
Hixson	37343	22.1
Alton Park	37410	210.4
Signal Mountain	37377	2.5
East Brainerd	37421	25.8
Lupton City	37351	54.6
East Lake	37407	166.2
Brainerd	37411	73.5
Erlanger UTC	37403	35.4
Ooltewah	37363	12.7
Sale Creek	37373	18.7
East Chattanooga	37406	181.2
Harrison	37341	15.2
Downtown	37402	159.8
Highland Park	37404	93.1
North Chattanooga	37405	29.3
Apison	37302	8
Birchwood	37308	7.2
McDonald	37353	1.6
Lookout Mountain	37350	0
Graysville	37338	0
St. Elmo	37409	34.8
Georgetown	37336	5
South Broad	37408	51.2
TOTAL		44.1

Source: State of Tennessee Department of Health and Human Services *Note: Rate was calculated from the total number of individuals. Shaded cells are those zip code areas with Families First rates nearly or more than four times the county-wide rate.

Families First: Enrollment Rate by Zip Code (April 2008)



Zip Code Areas
Enrollment rate April 2008



Source: Tennessee Department of Human Services

Birth Risk Factors by Neighborhood

At the neighborhood or subregion level, the percentage of low birth weight births ranged from a low of 6.5% in Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mountain to a high of 18.1% in Amnicola/East Chattanooga. Low birth weight rates were more than 50% higher in Amnicola/East Chattanooga than the county-wide rate.

More than 75% of births in five neighborhoods were to single mothers. Births to single mothers ranged from 4.3% in Signal Mountain to 85% in the Downtown area. Births to mothers without a high school education ranged from less than 1% in Signal Mountain to 61.7% in Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills.

Births to teenage mothers ranged from less than 1% on Signal Mountain to 28.8% Downtown—double the county-wide rate. The relationship between poverty and these risk factors are clear in Hamilton County subregion areas. Four areas—Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills, Downtown, Bushtown/Highland Park, and Amnicola/East Chattanooga—are among the areas with highest percentages of low birth weight babies, single mothers, mothers without a high school education and mothers who are teens. These are also areas subregion areas with more than 80% Latino and African American newborn babies and poverty rates that exceed 30%—a rate that is two and one-half times the county rate

Two neighborhoods with the highest percentages of Latino births were also neighborhoods with among the highest percentages of birth mothers without a high school education. In Ridgedale/Oak Grove/ Clifton Hills, 38.6% of births were to Latino mothers and 61.7% of children were born to mothers without a high school education. In Bushtown/Highland Park, 30.2% of newborn children were to Latino mothers and 55% of birth mothers lacked a high school education.

In three neighborhoods with the highest percentages of low birth weight babies—Glenwood/Eastdale, Amnicola/East Chattanooga, and Downtown—more than 80% of new births were African American

County-wide, 1.5% of all births were low birth weight babies born to single parent teens lacking a high school education. In three neighborhoods—Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills, Amnicola/East Chattanooga and Downtown—this percentage was more than two and one half times higher than the county-wide average.

Characteristics of new births and their families 2001 to 2006 totals and Census 2000 poverty rates

SUBREGION	TOTAL	LOW BIRTHWEIGHT	SINGLE MOTHER	NO HIGH SCHOOL	TEEN MOTHERS
East Ridge	1487	11.6%	36.6%	21.3%	12.2%
Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place	707	9.5%	26.6%	14.7%	7.9%
North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC	362	12.2%	45.7%	26.2%	13.8%
Woodmore/Dalewood	923	13.2%	56.7%	26.9%	17.8%
Riverview/Stuart Heights	455	9.0%	26.2%	13.2%	6.8%
Lupton City/Norcross	415	10.1%	33.5%	23.1%	12.3%
Westview/Mountain Shadows	458	7.2%	23.8%	9.8%	6.3%
Bonny Oaks/Highway 58	383	13.8%	61.9%	21.4%	19.1%
Tyner/Greenwood	843	12.5%	49.4%	17.4%	13.9%
Harrison Bay	386	8.8%	16.6%	10.4%	6.0%
Birchwood	352	10.8%	21.6%	16.2%	11.6%
Apison	449	9.1%	20.3%	9.8%	7.6%
East Brainerd	621	9.0%	20.8%	6.6%	6.8%
Dallas Bay/Lakesite	741	6.7%	21.9%	15.9%	10.1%
Hixson	762	8.8%	24.5%	16.9%	9.1%
Northgate/Big Ridge	312	11.2%	16.0%	10.3%	6.7%
Harrison	475	8.4%	33.9%	18.5%	15.8%
Soddy Daisy	579	10.0%	28.7%	21.8%	15.2%
Bakewell	357	7.3%	30.3%	22.4%	13.7%
Falling Water/Browntown	480	7.3%	30.8%	19.4%	12.7%
Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn	431	6.5%	16.7%	12.8%	7.0%
Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend	498	11.2%	36.7%	19.5%	11.2%
Signal Mtn (Town Area)	352	10.2%	4.3%	0.9%	0.9%
Glenwood/Eastdale	600	16.0%	83.3%	40.5%	27.5%
Collegedale	613	10.8%	27.7%	15.3%	10.4%
Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills	1237	15.0%	78.5%	61.7%	25.5%
Downtown	565	16.8%	85.0%	49.2%	28.8%
Dupont/Murray Hills	606	8.7%	38.3%	21.8%	13.2%
South Chattanooga	1230	13.8%	66.1%	51.6%	23.0%
Red Bank	929	9.0%	38.8%	26.3%	12.8%
Brainerd	698	9.7%	39.8%	20.8%	11.9%
Bushtown/Highland Park	689	13.9%	77.6%	55.0%	25.3%
Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn	376	10.6%	23.1%	18.1%	9.8%
Ooltewah/Summit	798	9.0%	13.5%	6.9%	5.8%
Middle Valley	581	10.0%	24.3%	14.5%	12.2%
Amnicola/East Chattanooga	805	18.1%	79.3%	45.8%	27.1%
TOTAL	22555	11.1%	41.5%	25.2%	14.4%

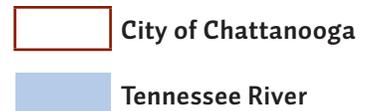
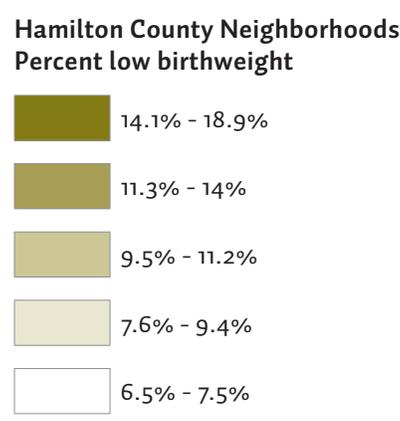
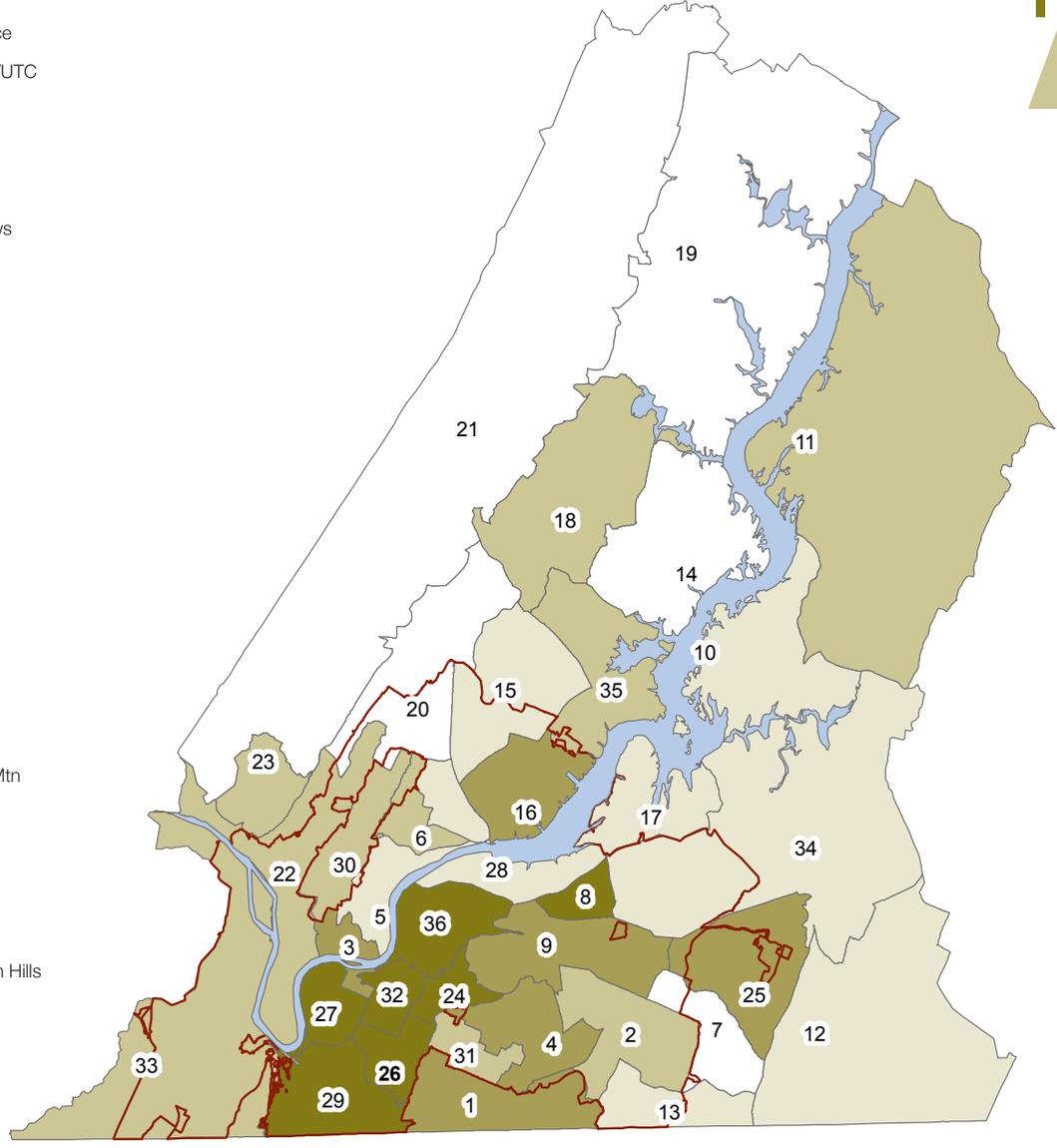
Sources: Tennessee Department of Health and Census 2000. *Poverty rate is calculated for all individuals (Census 2000). **Births with four risk factors describes those births that are 1. low birthweight and 2. born to teen mothers who 3. lacking a high school education and 4. mother is a single parent

SUBREGION	WHITE	AFRICAN AMERICAN	LATINO	POVERTY*	BIRTHS WITH FOUR RISK FACTORS**
East Ridge	79.4%	11.0%	6.2%	8.0%	0.7%
Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place	72.1%	14.1%	7.5%	6.0%	0.7%
North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC	67.4%	26.8%	4.0%	26.5%	1.1%
Woodmore/Dalewood	30.8%	51.4%	14.4%	12.4%	1.7%
Riverview/Stuart Heights	79.6%	10.6%	8.5%	11.0%	0.7%
Lupton City/Norcross	81.1%	5.6%	9.0%	7.1%	1.2%
Westview/Mountain Shadows	70.7%	21.4%	2.6%	2.1%	0.2%
Bonny Oaks/Highway 58	30.2%	66.9%	2.3%	8.4%	1.3%
Tyner/Greenwood	39.7%	49.4%	5.9%	13.9%	0.7%
Harrison Bay	94.7%	2.5%	1.9%	5.6%	0.5%
Birchwood	96.2%	1.7%	1.4%	7.3%	1.1%
Apison	82.7%	5.9%	8.5%	7.2%	0.2%
East Brainerd	77.5%	14.0%	4.0%	2.6%	0.3%
Dallas Bay/Lakesite	97.2%	0.3%	1.8%	6.4%	0.4%
Hixson	85.1%	6.0%	5.8%	4.6%	0.7%
Northgate/Big Ridge	87.9%	4.3%	2.3%	3.1%	1.3%
Harrison	69.8%	24.8%	2.4%	4.1%	0.8%
Soddy Daisy	97.7%	0.4%	0.8%	9.9%	0.0%
Bakewell	94.7%	4.3%	0.7%	8.0%	0.0%
Falling Water/Browntown	93.1%	3.7%	2.0%	11.3%	0.0%
Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn	95.2%	0.3%	2.5%	4.3%	0.7%
Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend	76.2%	13.8%	3.1%	14.8%	0.6%
Signal Mtn (Town Area)	98.3%	0.0%	1.4%	3.8%	0.0%
Glenwood/Eastdale	8.6%	88.0%	3.2%	21.8%	2.5%
Collegedale	75.6%	16.5%	5.8%	8.7%	0.7%
Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills	15.6%	45.1%	38.6%	30.4%	4.2%
Downtown	11.3%	81.0%	6.3%	48.1%	4.2%
Dupont/Murray Hills	63.0%	23.3%	11.8%	7.6%	0.8%
South Chattanooga	37.0%	41.2%	20.9%	32.8%	3.0%
Red Bank	69.2%	13.6%	15.1%	9.2%	0.8%
Brainerd	56.1%	35.5%	7.1%	15.2%	1.9%
Bushtown/Highland Park	11.4%	57.7%	30.2%	31.8%	2.8%
Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn	96.8%	0.3%	1.0%	6.8%	0.3%
Ooltewah/Summit	92.5%	2.9%	3.4%	3.4%	0.3%
Middle Valley	94.2%	0.8%	1.6%	5.6%	0.7%
Amnicola/East Chattanooga	16.2%	82.0%	1.0%	36.4%	3.9%
TOTAL	62.8%	26.0%	8.9%	12.1%	1.5%

Percentages of Low Birth Weight Babies (2001-2006) Universe: All Births

SUBREGION

- 1 East Ridge
- 2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
- 3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
- 4 Woodmore/Dalewood
- 5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
- 6 Lupton City/Norcross
- 7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
- 8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
- 9 Tyner/Greenwood
- 10 Harrison Bay
- 11 Birchwood
- 12 Apison
- 13 East Brainerd
- 14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
- 15 Hixson
- 16 Northgate/Big Ridge
- 17 Harrison
- 18 Soddy Daisy
- 19 Bakewell
- 20 Falling Water/Browntown
- 21 Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
- 22 Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
- 23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
- 24 Glenwood/Eastdale
- 25 Collegedale
- 26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
- 27 Downtown
- 28 Dupont/Murray Hills
- 29 South Chattanooga
- 30 Red Bank
- 31 Brainerd
- 32 Bushtown/Highland Park
- 33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
- 34 Ooltewah/Summit
- 35 Middle Valley
- 36 Annicola/East Chattanooga



Source: Tennessee Department of Health

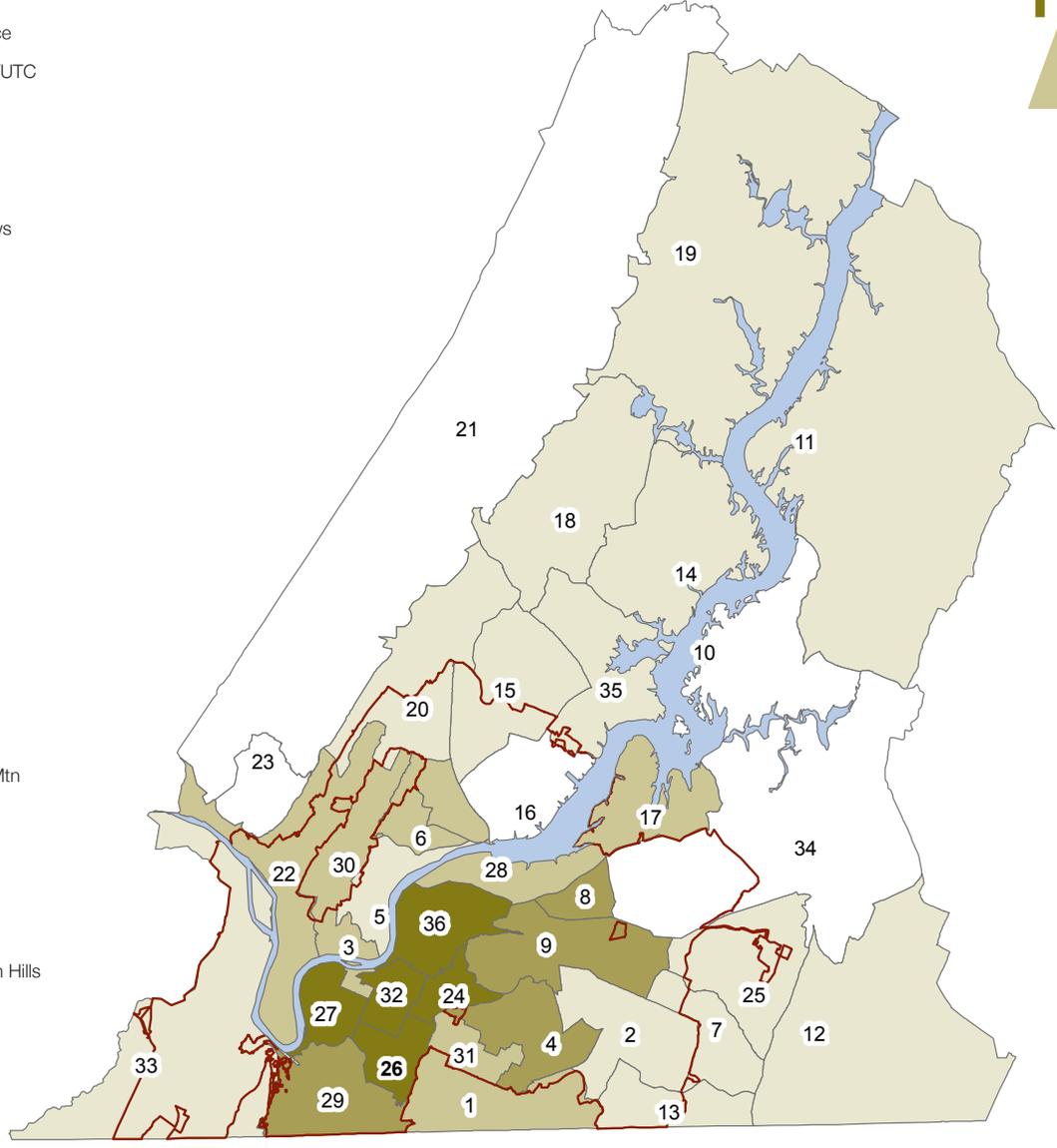
Note: The use of health data requires that more specific locations of individuals are not identified. The percentages in this map are designed to provide a general idea of the location of low birth weight babies over a 6-year period of time. Of the 23,615 births county-wide, 1,060 births (4.5% of the total) were accompanied by inadequate address data and could not be identified by geographic location.

Definition: Babies born weighing less than 5 pounds, 8 ounces (2,500 grams) are considered low birthweight (March of Dimes).

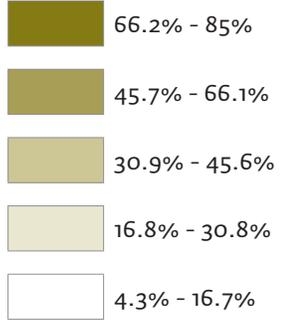
Percentages of Babies Born to Single Mothers (2001-2006) Universe: All Births

SUBREGION

- 1 East Ridge
- 2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
- 3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
- 4 Woodmore/Dalewood
- 5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
- 6 Lupton City/Norcross
- 7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
- 8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
- 9 Tyner/Greenwood
- 10 Harrison Bay
- 11 Birchwood
- 12 Apison
- 13 East Brainerd
- 14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
- 15 Hixson
- 16 Northgate/Big Ridge
- 17 Harrison
- 18 Soddy Daisy
- 19 Bakewell
- 20 Falling Water/Browntown
- 21 Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
- 22 Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
- 23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
- 24 Glenwood/Eastdale
- 25 Collegedale
- 26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
- 27 Downtown
- 28 Dupont/Murray Hills
- 29 South Chattanooga
- 30 Red Bank
- 31 Brainerd
- 32 Bushtown/Highland Park
- 33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
- 34 Ooltewah/Summit
- 35 Middle Valley
- 36 Annicola/East Chattanooga



Hamilton County Neighborhoods Percent babies born to single mothers



City of Chattanooga

Tennessee River

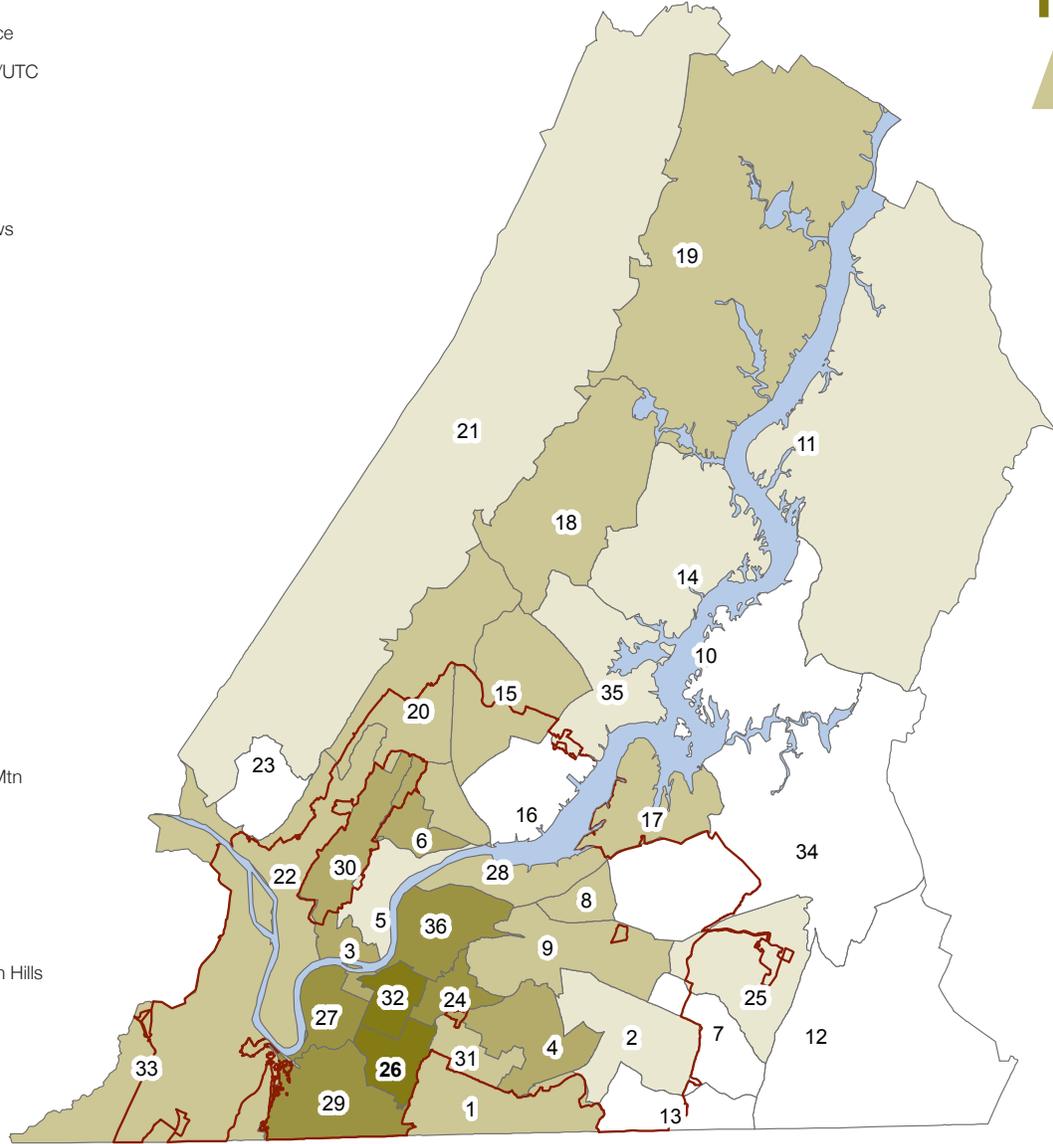
Source: Tennessee Department of Health

Note: The use of health data requires that more specific locations of individuals are not identified. The percentages in this map are designed to provide a general idea of the location of low birth weight babies over a 6-year period of time. Of the 23,615 births county-wide, 1,060 births (4.5% of the total) were accompanied by inadequate address data and could not be identified by geographic location.

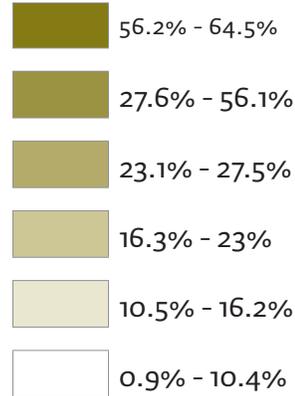
Percentages of Babies Born to Mothers Without a High School Diploma (2001-2006) Universe: All Births

SUBREGION

- 1 East Ridge
- 2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
- 3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
- 4 Woodmore/Dalewood
- 5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
- 6 Lupton City/Norcross
- 7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
- 8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
- 9 Tyner/Greenwood
- 10 Harrison Bay
- 11 Birchwood
- 12 Apison
- 13 East Brainerd
- 14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
- 15 Hixson
- 16 Northgate/Big Ridge
- 17 Harrison
- 18 Soddy Daisy
- 19 Bakewell
- 20 Falling Water/Browntown
- 21 Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
- 22 Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
- 23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
- 24 Glenwood/Eastdale
- 25 Collegedale
- 26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
- 27 Downtown
- 28 Dupont/Murray Hills
- 29 South Chattanooga
- 30 Red Bank
- 31 Brainerd
- 32 Bushtown/Highland Park
- 33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
- 34 Ooltewah/Summit
- 35 Middle Valley
- 36 Amnicola/East Chattanooga



Hamilton County Neighborhoods Percentages born to mothers with no HS diploma



City of Chattanooga

Tennessee River

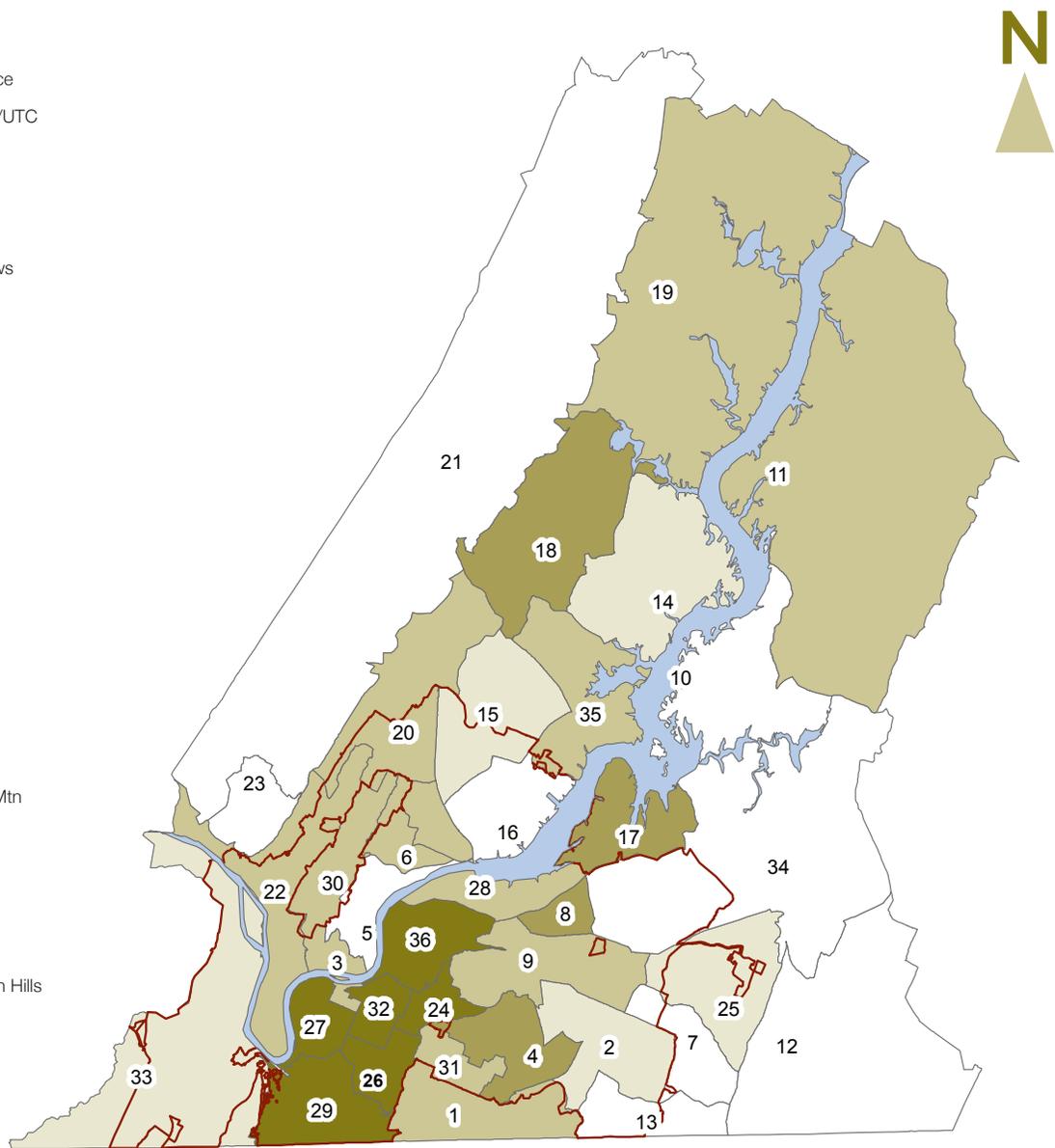
Source: Tennessee Department of Health

Note: The use of health data requires that more specific locations of individuals are not identified. The percentages in this map are designed to provide a general idea of the location of low birth weight babies over a 6-year period of time. Of the 23,615 births county-wide, 1,060 births (4.5% of the total) were accompanied by inadequate address data and could not be identified by geographic location. Those mothers indicating they completed a GED education were classified as receiving a high school diploma.

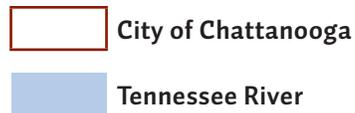
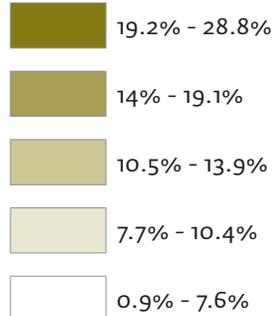
Percentages of Babies Born to Teen Mothers (2001-2006) Universe: All Births

SUBREGION

- 1 East Ridge
- 2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
- 3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
- 4 Woodmore/Dalewood
- 5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
- 6 Lupton City/Norcross
- 7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
- 8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
- 9 Tyner/Greenwood
- 10 Harrison Bay
- 11 Birchwood
- 12 Apison
- 13 East Brainerd
- 14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
- 15 Hixson
- 16 Northgate/Big Ridge
- 17 Harrison
- 18 Soddy Daisy
- 19 Bakewell
- 20 Falling Water/Browntown
- 21 Walden/Mowbray/Flat Top Mtn
- 22 Mtn Creek/Moccasin Bend
- 23 Signal Mtn (Town Area)
- 24 Glenwood/Eastdale
- 25 Collegedale
- 26 Ridgedale/Oak Grove/Clifton Hills
- 27 Downtown
- 28 Dupont/Murray Hills
- 29 South Chattanooga
- 30 Red Bank
- 31 Brainerd
- 32 Bushtown/Highland Park
- 33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
- 34 Ooltewah/Summit
- 35 Middle Valley
- 36 Amnicola/East Chattanooga



Hamilton County Neighborhoods Babies born to mothers 19 years old and younger



Source: Tennessee Department of Health

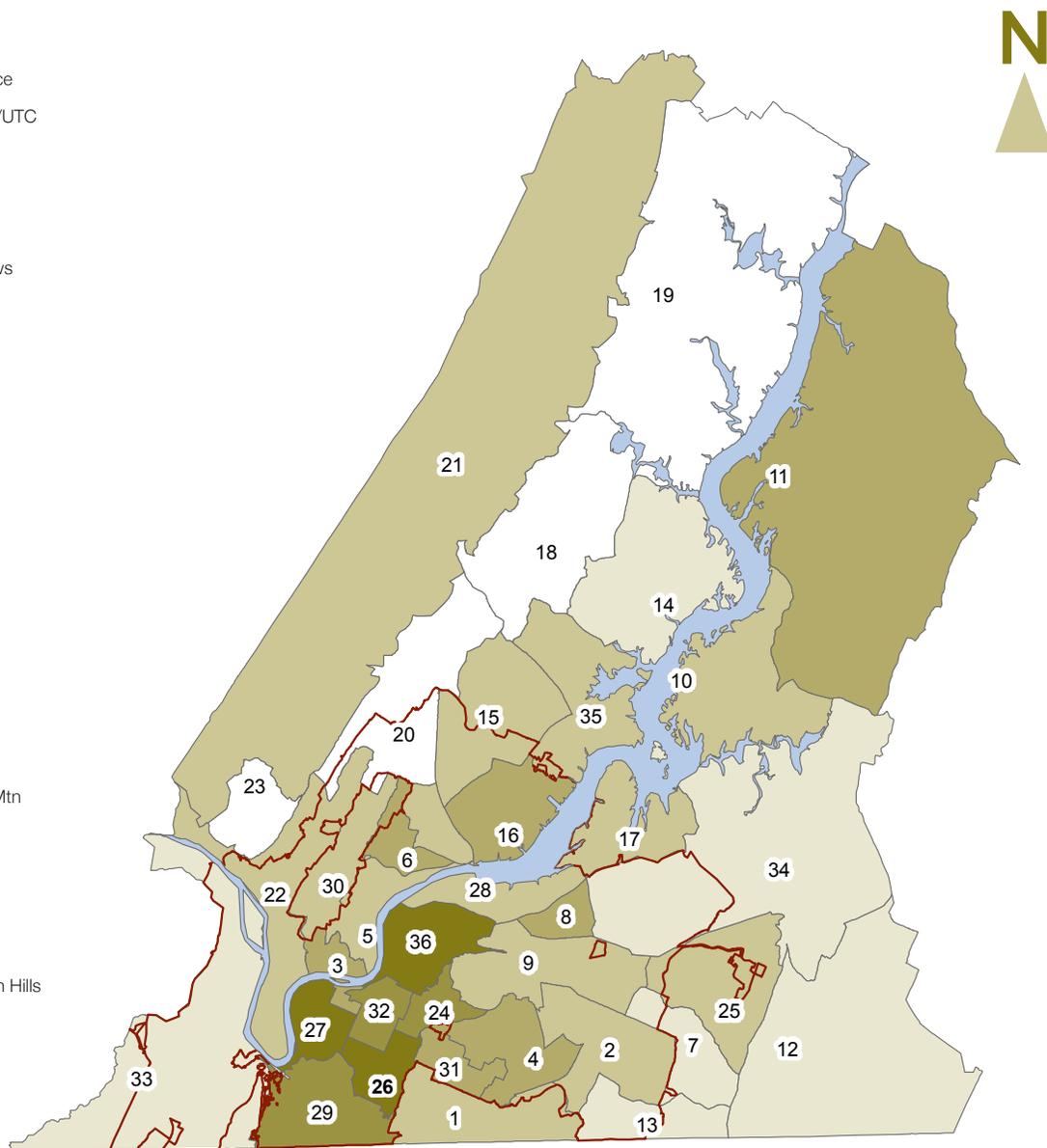
Note: The use of health data requires that more specific locations of individuals are not identified. The percentages in this map are designed to provide a general idea of the location of low birth weight babies over a 6-year period of time. Of the 23,615 births county-wide, 1,060 births (4.5% of the total) were accompanied by inadequate address data and could not be identified by geographic location.

Those mothers indicating they completed a GED education were classified as receiving a high school diploma.

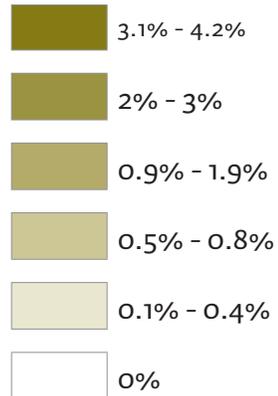
Percentages of Babies Born to Mothers With Four Risk Factors (2001-2006) Universe: All Births

SUBREGION

- 1 East Ridge
- 2 Hickory Valley/Hamilton Place
- 3 North Chattanooga/Hill City/UTC
- 4 Woodmore/Dalewood
- 5 Riverview/Stuart Heights
- 6 Lupton City/Norcross
- 7 Westview/Mountain Shadows
- 8 Bonny Oaks/Highway 58
- 9 Tyner/Greenwood
- 10 Harrison Bay
- 11 Birchwood
- 12 Apison
- 13 East Brainerd
- 14 Dallas Bay/Lakesite
- 15 Hixson
- 16 Northgate/Big Ridge
- 17 Harrison
- 18 Soddy Daisy
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- 30 Red Bank
- 31 Brainerd
- 32 Bushtown/Highland Park
- 33 Lookout Valley/Lookout Mtn
- 34 Ooltewah/Summit
- 35 Middle Valley
- 36 Amnicola/East Chattanooga



Hamilton County Neighborhoods Births to mothers with four risk factors



City of Chattanooga

Tennessee River

Source: Tennessee Department of Health

Note: The use of health data requires that more specific locations of individuals are not identified. The percentages in this map are designed to provide a general idea of the location of low birth weight babies over a 6-year period of time. Of the 23,615 births county-wide, 1,060 births (4.5% of the total) were accompanied by inadequate address data and could not be identified by geographic location. Risk factors are defined as four factors that affect a child's probability for early school success. These include, single parents, mother's low academic achievement (no high school diploma), low birth weight and teen parents. It is noted that these are factors that are also highly correlated with poverty income.

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