



# Community Research Council

*Turning Data Into Information*

A United Way of Greater Chittanooga Member Agency

Services

Statistics

Local Reports

Newsletter

Coming Soon!

About Us

Links

# Life in Hamilton County

Introduction  
General Economics  
Education  
Family  
Health  
Notes  
Housing  
Mobility  
Public Safety  
Civic Involvement  
Environment

[View a detailed index of the report here!](#)

# General Introduction

[Life in Hamilton County - Table of Contents](#) | [Home](#)

## **PURPOSE**

Life in Hamilton County: Indicators of Community Well-Being is an information resource and a tool for monitoring our efforts to address social and economic issues. Its focus is the quality of life in the greater Chattanooga community. Developed by the Community Research Council, Inc., Life in Hamilton County is a guide to help shape prevention and problem-solving strategies, to accentuate the possibilities of the spirit and talent of our citizens, to expand awareness of health and human service issues, and to encourage involvement in building a stronger, healthier, and more sustainable community.

By many standards, Hamilton County can be regarded as a prosperous and thriving community. However, there are areas in which we can clearly do better. Like other communities, we face continual challenges in education, health, public safety, family life, and economic viability. But what we can begin to define, we can also begin to manage. Key directions can be identified and interpreted as indicators of strengths and weaknesses of community life. Life in Hamilton County is updated annually so that we can keep track of how well we are doing in addressing areas that need improvement.

## **ORGANIZATION AND FORMAT**

**Presentation of Data.** Data generally reflects conditions for Hamilton County as a whole. This is not the case with the education indicators. In that section, data prior to 1997-1998 school years are provided for both the county system and the city system. After the merger of the two systems in 1998, these data reflect the combined system. In rare cases, headings indicate other methods of organizing data (for example, the quality of water in Chickamauga Lake versus that of Nickajack Lake). The data is usually based on annual averages though, in some cases, point-in-time (snapshot) data is used that is available on an annual basis.

**Categories, Topics, and Indicators:** Each indicator is presented in terms of a topic defined issue around which community problem solving activities take place. The topics are listed alphabetically in the index.

Each topic has one or more indicators, which measure, or give an indication of, how well the county is progressing on that issue. Each topic is organized under one of ten categories. For example, the topic "Infant Health" is under the general category "Health." To gauge the issue of infant health, four data items (indicators) are presented.

**Topic and Indicator Format:** For each indicator the most recent data is presented, followed by trend, comparisons, and discussion. Beneath the

narrative on are a data table and a graph. Underneath the data table is the source of the data. Due to time lags in data collection, analysis, and publication, often 2002 data is the most recent available.

The focus of each indicator is the data trend. This consists of a brief analysis of the data displayed in the table and graph. The analysis does not address the slope of the graph; that is, it does not speak to the severity of the rise or fall of the trend line. (The graphs have been adjusted to bring the trend lines into the middle for easier viewing.) The analysis does address general increases and decreases. Therefore, an indicator can be said to be increasing if the trend line is up for four years but down in the last. Four years of data in one direction often outweigh one year of data in another.

The other two sections in the narrative are comparisons and discussions. Comparisons (where possible) are made with state, regional, or national data to place local data in perspective. Discussions are given to clarify issues related to the collection and interpretation of the data. Census data, as well as some sub-county or special group information, may also be provided in this section.

Bear in mind that this document represents only thirteen or fourteen years of data. Often anomalies in data trends cover several years. In other words, an indicator that increases over eight years may indeed show a downward trend over the last twenty years. Accordingly, the trend for each indicator should be taken for what it is: a thirteen or fourteen-year segment.

## Notes

### Population Numbers Used in Calculating Percentages and Rates:

The source for all population numbers was the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census. For percentages and rates based on total population, the figures used are those in the data table in the General section under "Total Population."

For percentages and rates based on the total number of children under age 18, the figures used are those listed below. The figures were determined by taking the percentage of children to the total population in the 1990 census and projecting this percentage on the total population estimates provided by the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Year	# Children Under Age 18
1990	68,529
1991	68,933
1992	69,181
1993	69,815
1994	70,265
1995	70,505
1996	72,488
1997	70,490
1998	69,736
1999	69,790
2000	71,316
2001	71,196
2002	71,624
2003	71,690

### The Implicit Price Deflator

All dollar amounts presented in this publication have been stated in constant dollars to eliminate the effect of inflation. These values have been stated in terms of constant dollars for the most recent year for which data are available (the base year). For example, if the most recent data are for 2001, dollar figures for all years are expressed in terms of 2001 dollars.

Implicit price deflators from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA), were used to compute constant dollar figures. The BEA calculates a series of implicit price deflators. The two used in this publication are those for total personal consumption expenditures and those for state and local government purchases. The values for these deflators are given below. (<http://www.bea.gov/bea/dn/nipaweb/TableViewFixed.asp#Mid>)

Year	Personal Consumption Expenditures
1990	80.497
1991	83.413
1992	85.824
1993	87.805
1994	89.654
1995	91.576
1996	93.547
1997	95.124
1998	95.979
1999	97.575
2000	100.00
2001	102.038
2002	103.429
2003	105.302

Year	Government Purchases / State and Local
1990	77.135
1991	79.784
1992	81.716
1993	83.785
1994	85.999
1995	88.354
1996	90.487
1997	92.140
1998	93.470
1999	96.079
2000	100.000
2001	102.587
2002	105.206
2003	108.221

# Life In Hamilton County - Detailed Index

## General Introduction

### Community Indicators

#### General

Total Population

Total Primary and Secondary Enrollment

Medicare Enrollment (Persons 65 Years and Over)

#### Civic Involvement

##### Giving

Per Capita of MSA Giving to United Way

Percent of MSA Population Giving to United Way

Referrals Made by the Volunteer Center

##### Voting

Percentage of Voting Age Population

Registered to Vote

Percentage of Registered Voters Who

Voted in General Elections

#### Economics

Income and Poverty

Per Capita Personal Income

Average Monthly Over-the-Counter Food Stamp Issuances

Percentage of Public School Students Receiving Free/Reduced Lunches

Average Monthly Count of WIC Recipients

Occupied Public Housing Units in Chattanooga

Unduplicated Annual Count of the Homeless Population

##### Employment

Percentage Net Employment Growth

Percentage Unemployment

##### Economic Vitality

Percentage Net Job Growth

Per Capita Retail Sales

New Privately-Owned Housing Units

#### Education

##### Enrollment

Total Primary Enrollment in Public Schools

Total Secondary Enrollment in Public Schools

Total Private School Enrollment in Hamilton County

##### Performance

Fourth Grade Math Median National Percentiles on the TCAP

Fourth Grade Reading Median National Percentiles on the TCAP  
Eighth Grader Math Median National Percentiles on the TCAP  
Eighth Grader Reading Median National Percentiles on the TCAP  
Percentage of First Time Takers to Pass Both Language and Math  
Sections of the Competency Test  
Percentage of Students Meeting the Algebra I Competency Requirement  
While in Grades 9-12  
Percentage of Students Meeting the Biology I Competency Requirement  
Percentage of Students Meeting the English II Competency Requirement  
Average ACT Composite Scores  
Dropout Rates in the Public Schools, Ninth through Twelfth Grades  
Adult Education  
Number of GED Tests Administered Annually at Chattanooga State  
Number of GEDs Awarded Annually by Chattanooga State  
Public School Expenditures  
Operating Expenditures Per Student in the Hamilton  
County School District  
Average Instructional Personnel Salary in the Hamilton County School  
District

## **Environment**

### Air Quality

Ozone Levels – 4<sup>th</sup> Highest Hourly Daily Value in a 3-Year Period  
Annual Average Fine Particulate Matter Levels Measured in Micrograms  
Per Cubic Meter

### Water Quality

Lake Quality Based on a Scale From 0 to 100

### Solid Waste

Average Monthly Tonnage From Curbside Recycling in Chattanooga  
Annual Tonnage of Solid Waste at Summit Landfill by Chattanooga

## **Family**

### Births to Disadvantaged Families

Percentage of All Live Births to Mothers Under 18 Years of Age  
Percentage of All Live Births to Mothers Without 12 Years of School  
Completed

Percentage of All Live Births to Unmarried Mothers

### Family Disruption and Violence

Average Monthly Number Children in Foster Care in Hamilton County Per  
1,000 Children Under Age 18

Marriages and Divorces Per 1,000 Population

Reported and Indicated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect in Hamilton  
County Per 1,000 Children Under Age 18

### Adolescent Risk Behaviors

Teen Pregnancy Rate Per 1,000 Females Age 10-17  
Delinquency Referral Rate to Juvenile Court Per 1,000 Children Under Age 18

## Health

### Infant Health

Percentage of Births to Women with Adequate Prenatal Care

Percentage of Low Weight Live Births

Infant Mortality Rate Per 1,000 Live Births

Percentage of Children Immunized by Age Two

### Infectious Disease

Reported HIV+ and AIDS Diagnoses Per 100,000 Population for Hamilton County Residents

Reported Tuberculosis Cases Per 100,000 Population

Reported Primary and Secondary Syphilis Cases Per 100,000 Population

### Chronic Disease

Age-Adjusted Deaths From Heart Disease Per 100,000 Population

Age-Adjusted Deaths From All Cancers Per 100,000 Population

Age-Adjusted Deaths From Stroke Per 100,000 Population

Age-Adjusted Deaths From Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases Per 1,000 Population

### Accidents and Suicides

Age-Adjusted Deaths From All Accidents Per 100,000 Population

Age-Adjusted Deaths From Motor Vehicle Accidents Per 100,000 Population

Age-Adjusted Suicides Per 100,000 Population

## Housing

### Ownership

Total Dollar Amount of Loans Made By Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise

Total Home Purchase Loans Made By Chattanooga Neighborhood Enterprise

Number of Households Receiving Home Owner Education/Budget Counseling at CNE

## Mobility

### Public Transportation

Average Weekday Fixed-Route Ridership on CARTA Annual

Annual Fixed-Route Miles Traveled by CARTA

Annual Para-transit Requests for CARTA Care-A-Van

Annual Passenger Trips on CARTA Downtown Shuttle

### Other Transportation

Registered Personal Vehicles in Hamilton County

## Airline Traffic at the Metropolitan Airport

### **Public Safety**

#### Crime

Crime Index Per 100,000 Population

Murders Per 100,000 Population

Rapes Per 100,000 Population

Aggravated Assaults Per 100,000 Population

Motor Vehicle Thefts Per 100,000 Population

#### Vehicular Safety

Total Motor Vehicle Traffic Accidents Per 100,000 Population

DUI Convictions Per 100,000 Population

You will need Acrobat Reader in order to view these reports. Click below to download a free version.

