



2024 STATE OF OUR COUNTIES DASHBOARD

Methodology

The 2024 State of Our Counties dashboard is designed to provide data and information for the purposes of public education and to be accessible for the average Tennessean. The dashboard includes 104 individual metrics across 9 categories. Metrics were selected for inclusion due to their known reliability as key performance indicators, their relevance to public discourse and Think*Tennessee*'s policy priorities, and the overall timeliness and reliability of the data source. Metric selection was restrained by data availability and quality, meaning that county level data was not always reliable or consistently accurate across all counties to provide a meaningful metric and was accordingly removed from consideration. Rankings for the 2024 State of Our Counties Dashboard are standardized such that a county ranked 1st will always be performing well relative to other counties, and a county ranked 95th will always be performing poorly relative to other counties. In a handful of metrics, we omit rankings because the metric does not necessarily indicate good or poor performance.

Notes for Consideration

- There is no guarantee of correlation or causation between any two metrics.
- An average of all counties is provided with each metric as a point of reference as to whether an individual county performs above or below average. The average Tennessee county is further used as a point of comparison and analysis to assist counties with understanding their overall performance, but the value of the average of all 95 counties is not inherently valuable as a benchmark for success. If all counties perform poorly on any one particular metric, for example, then the average would be equally poor, and unrepresentative of an ideal policy outcome.
 - Moreover, while the average of all 95 counties on any metric may be similar or close in value to the overall rate of Tennessee when compared with external data sources, they are not interchangeable.
- For metrics that utilize a rate as a unit of measurement, it is not guaranteed that data will be available for all 95 counties. When a number or value used to compute rates is very small it is considered unstable and liable to misinterpretation and is therefore omitted.
- Certain election metrics utilize CVAP, or citizen voting-age population, as a value to compute data and inform analysis. It is an estimate of the number of voting-age citizens provided by the U.S. Census Bureau. This data utilized the 2021 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates at the county level, and some states and/or jurisdictions may report an active CVAP registration rate of 100% or more. This is because the 2021 CVAP was used to calculate the 2022 registration rate and some ineligible voters may take up to two full election cycles to be removed from voter registration rolls. CVAP estimates do not take into account a person's felony status, so the number of eligible citizens used in this dataset also includes citizens who have felony convictions who are not eligible to vote in Tennessee due to state law.
- Map color interpolation has been adjusted on an individual basis for each metric to best communicate the nuance of variation within its range of values.

If you have questions about the data presented in this dashboard, its maps, and/or the methodology used in this resource, please contact info@thinktn.org.