Poverty, Hunger, Health, and the Federal Nutrition Programs: A Profile of Tennessee

**HUNGER**
- **Over 112,000 Tennessee children** participated in WIC in 2019, representing 8.5% of all eligible children (51.5% is the United States benchmark).
- **6.4% of households** statewide experienced hunger in 2017, above the national average of 5.5%.
- **11.7% of children** in Tennessee experienced food insecurity in 2017.
- **22% of all households** in Tennessee experienced low food security in 2017.

**POVERTY**
- **15.3% of all Tennessee households** were living in poverty in 2018.
- **9.3% of children** in Tennessee were living in poverty in 2018.
- **11% of households** in Tennessee experienced food insecurity in 2017.

**FEDERAL NUTRITION PROGRAMS**
- **SNAP/WIC:** While less than half (42.9%) of eligible Tennesseans are enrolled in SNAP (2017), less than the U.S. average of 51.5%. Food insecurity rates vary from 11-13% by county.
- **Child Nutrition Programs:** Over 112,000 Tennessee children participated in Child Nutrition Programs in 2018-2019.

**Health and nutrition programs benefit millions of people and are a vital source of support in Tennessee.** However, too few eligible people are enrolled.

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