KNOXVILLE-KNOX COUNTY

2020 Community Needs Assessment Overview

Poverty by Race, Ethnicity, Age, and Gender

Knoxville
- Total Population: 26.2%
- Black/African-American: 41.3%
- Children (Under 18): 36.6%
- Hispanic or Latino: 30.8%

Knox County
- Total Population: 15.2%
- Black/African-American: 34.9%
- Children (Under 18): 19.2%
- Hispanic or Latino: 27.5%

Contributors to Poverty

Knoxville
- Median Income (Households): $37,703
- Median Income (Families): $49,473
- In Poverty, No High School Diploma: 41.5%
- Unemployed: 3.2%

Knox County
- Median Income (Households): $54,437
- Median Income (Families): $72,650
- In Poverty, No High School Diploma: 31.7%
- Unemployed: 2.9%

Conditions of Poverty

Knoxville
- Households with No Vehicle: 11.1%
- No Health Insurance: 10.7%
- Poor Physical Health: 14.2%
- Unaccompanied Youth: 815

Knox County
- Households with No Vehicle: 6.2%
- No Health Insurance: 7.7%
- Food Insecure: 11.7%
- Could Not See Doctor: 27.5%
Mission: to promote family self-sufficiency and independent living for low-income and other vulnerable people through caring and efficient delivery of needed services and the development of partnerships at all levels.

Programs administered by CAC include, but are not limited to, AmeriCorps, Beardsley Farm, Community Leadership, Food and Nutrition Programs, Head Start, Housing and Energy Services, Neighborhood Centers, Office on Aging, Tax Assistance, Transit, and Energy & Community Services.

Key Findings from the 2020 CAC Needs Assessment

- Poverty level in Knoxville has risen 3.2 percentage points and 1.6 percentage points in Knox County since 2013.
- Ten census tracts in Knoxville have extremely high levels of poverty. High levels of poverty is defined as over 40% of residents living in poverty.
- Black/African Americans continue to experience the highest levels of poverty. In Knoxville, 41.3% of Black/African Americans live below the poverty level compared to 22.1% of Whites. Similarly, in Knox County, 34.9% of Black/African Americans live below the poverty level compared to 12.7% of Whites.
- The Hispanic/Latino population has grown to 5.7% in Knoxville and 4.1% in Knox County. Hispanic/Latino individuals are more likely than White, not-Hispanic/Latinos to live in poverty – 23.6% compared to 12.3% in Knoxville and 27.5% compared to 12.3% in Knox County.
- Correlation between education and household income continues. Median annual earnings in 2018 among those with graduate or professional degrees in Knox County was $63,065, compared to $18,217 for those who did not graduate from high school. In Knoxville, the 2018 median annual earnings for those with a graduate or professional degree was $51,570 compared to $17,145 for those who did not graduate from high school.
- 30% of households are defined as ALICE—Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed.
- Pre COVID-19 unemployment rate in Knoxville was 2.9% and 3.2% in Knox County. This is lower than the state rate of 3.4% and the national rate of 3.7%.
- Current fair market rent (FMR) for a two-bedroom unit in Knox County and Knoxville is $915 per month. To afford a two-bedroom unit, a household needs to earn $36,600 a year or roughly $17.60 an hour.
- One in ten households (11.1%) in Knoxville and 6.2% in Knox County do not own a vehicle. Those with lower incomes are likely to drive older cars which are less fuel-efficient and more unreliable making commuting to work more expensive and challenging.
- Opioid prescriptions have declined but opioid overdoses continue to rise. Drug-related deaths in Knox County in 2018 were most often the result of synthetic opioids. Other drugs most often involved in drug-related deaths in Knox County in 2018 were methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and alcohol.