

HAMILTON COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Photo by Kelly on Pixels

Demographics



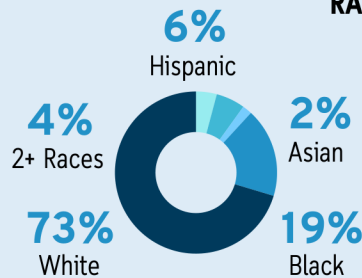
MEDIAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME

\$61,050

PERSONS *BELOW* POVERTY LEVEL

13%

RACE & ETHNICITY



The percentage of Hamilton County's population who report **2 OR MORE RACES** doubled between 2019 and 2021.

Population

2023 Estimate

379,864



LIFE EXPECTANCY

77 YEARS
in 2023



14% of Hamilton County residents reported being in **POOR OR FAIR HEALTH** in 2023.

County Well-Being

LEADING CAUSE OF DEATH
HEART DISEASE

17
OF HEALTHIEST TN COUNTIES



Healthcare Providers

In 2023, Hamilton County had *better* **RESIDENT TO PROVIDER RATIOS** than Tennessee.

1,270:1
PERSONS TO DENTISTS

PERSONS TO PRIMARY CARE PHYSICIANS
920:1

390:1
PERSONS TO MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

Hamilton County has **14 HOSPITALS** with a total of **1,973 BEDS**.

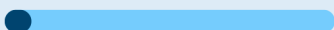
7 GENERAL MEDICAL & SURGICAL
3 offer **LABOR & DELIVERY** services.



92% INSURED



8% UNINSURED



17%
In poverty

30%
Unemployed

26%
Less than high school education

OF THOSE UNINSURED

Access to Healthcare

Of 2023 HCHD Public Health Survey Respondents:

13% DID NOT RECEIVE NEEDED MEDICAL CARE OVER THE PAST 12 MONTHS

due to cost or lack of insurance

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

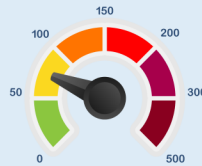
Photo by Kelly on Pexels

Air & Weather



Chattanooga-Hamilton County is **in attainment** with the 2015 EPA ozone standard of 70 ppb.

Chattanooga-Hamilton County is **in attainment** with the 2012 particulate pollution standard of 12 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. In January 2023, EPA revised PM2.5 standard to 9.0-10.0 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.



In 2023, Hamilton County experienced **3** days where the Air Quality Index was Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (AQI 100-150).



52 extreme heat days in Chattanooga in 2022. 36 more than the 1970s average.



EPA Southside Chattanooga Lead Site

As of January 2024, 3,035 properties have been tested, with **813** cleaned up and restored.



Drinking Water



0 water violations in any community drinking water systems in 2021.

All water systems serving Hamilton County residents provide fluoridation

Environmental Diseases



WATER-BORNE

A common swimming-related disease in Hamilton County, **cryptosporidiosis** is also a leading cause of water-borne disease among people in the U.S.

FOODBORNE

Campylobacteriosis cases increased by **52%** between 2019 and 2022.

Over the past 4 years HCHD Environmental Health has responded to **154** foodborne illness complaints.

Zoonotic Diseases



Rabies vaccinations have declined by **26%** from 2017 to 2023.

In Hamilton County, the most common vector-borne diseases are **ehrlichiosis & spotted fever rickettsiosis** both caused by the bite of a tick.




CHRONIC DISEASE

CHRONIC DISEASES are conditions that last 1 or more years, require ongoing medical attention, and limit quality of life.

Overweight & Obesity

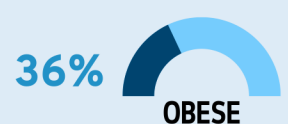
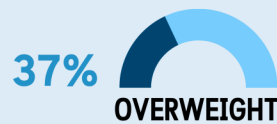
Obesity is the **# 1 CHRONIC DISEASE** in Hamilton County.

Obesity is both a **CHRONIC DISEASE** and a **RISK FACTOR** for other chronic diseases.

 **2%**
Between 2016 and 2021, prevalence of obesity *increased*.

Vulnerable populations, like persons who are food insecure and persons with disabilities, are more at **RISK** of developing obesity.

In 2021, 37% of Hamilton County residents met the classification for **OVERWEIGHT**, and 36% met the classification for **OBESE**.

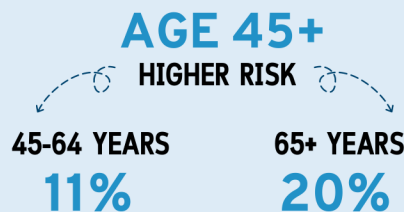


Diabetes increases the **RISK** of heart disease, stroke, and other chronic diseases.

Diabetes

In 2022, the estimated **PREVALENCE RATE** of diabetes in Hamilton County was **11%**

Persons above age 45 in Hamilton County have a **HIGHER RISK** of developing diabetes than those aged 20 to 44.



Between 2018 and 2019, adult diabetes **PREVALENCE** in the U.S. was *highest* among American Indians and Alaska Natives, followed by non-Hispanic Black persons.

Risk Factors

Certain **HEALTH BEHAVIORS** increase the **RISK** for developing chronic diseases.

23% of Hamilton County residents reported receiving **NO PHYSICAL ACTIVITY** outside of work in 2021.



An estimated **38,000** Hamilton County residents were **FOOD INSECURE** in 2021.



In 2021, Hamilton County had a **4%** *higher* **PREVALENCE** of **HYPERTENSION** than the U.S.

In 2021, Hamilton County had a **2%** *lower* **PREVALENCE** of **HIGH CHOLESTEROL** than Tennessee, but *slightly higher* than the U.S.

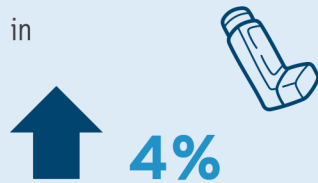
CHRONIC DISEASE

CHRONIC DISEASES are conditions that last 1 or more years, require ongoing medical attention, and limit quality of life.

Asthma

Asthma causes **INFLAMED AIRWAYS** and can be triggered by environment and allergens.

Among Hamilton County residents in 2021, there were an estimated **30,348 ADULT CASES** and **7,466 PEDIATRIC CASES** of asthma.



Between 2019 and 2021, prevalence of asthma **INCREASED** in Hamilton County.

In 2021, the estimated **PREVALENCE RATE** of asthma in Hamilton County was **13%**

Hamilton County had a **3% HIGHER PREVALENCE** rate of asthma than Tennessee and the U.S. in 2021.

Cancer is a group of related diseases of the **GENES** in our body's cells.

Cancer

Between 2016 and 2020, incidence of **PROSTATE CANCER** in Hamilton County was **15% higher** than the U.S.



Between 2016 and 2020, incidence of **MELANOMA OF THE SKIN** in Hamilton County was **5% higher** than the U.S.

Of Hamilton County residents, incidence of **LUNG & BRONCHUS CANCER** was **17% higher among Black persons** between 2016 and 2020.

Risk Factors

Certain **HEALTH BEHAVIORS** increase the **RISK** for developing chronic diseases.

Between 2019 and 2021, the percentage of **CURRENT SMOKERS** in Hamilton County *decreased*.



AGING

is the *most important* risk factor for developing **CANCER**.

18% of Hamilton County's population are age **65+**.

PREVENTATIVE CARE like **CHECKUPS** and **CANCER SCREENINGS** *decrease* the likelihood of death from chronic diseases.

79% of Hamilton County residents had a **ROUTINE CHECKUP** within the last year in 2021.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

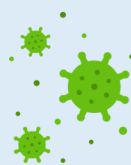
INFECTIOUS DISEASES are caused by microbes and can be spread from person to person, animal or insect to person, or through contaminated water, food, air, or soil.

ILI

INFLUENZA-LIKE ILLNESS (ILI) is defined as having a fever of at least 100°F and a cough or sore throat.

ILI is tracked as an **INDICATOR** of **FLU SEASON**.

Cases were *low* in Hamilton County during the pandemic but *increased* in 2022.



At the peak of the 2022/2023 flu season, there were **1640** **CASES** of **ILI** on one day in Hamilton County.

TB

TUBERCULOSIS (TB) is characterized by cough, chest pain, and coughing up blood or sputum.

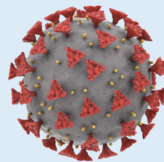
Between 2019 and 2022, the **CASE RATE** of TB in Hamilton County *decreased* **77%** and remains *lower* than both Tennessee and the U.S.

CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease caused by the SARS-Co-V virus.

COVID-19

The **FIRST CASE** of COVID-19 in Hamilton County was detected on **March 13, 2020**

As of March 9, 2024, Hamilton County accounts for **4.8%** of COVID-19 **CASES** in Tennessee.



In Hamilton County there have been:

CASES	DEATHS	HOSPITALIZATIONS
130,564	1,324	3,237

since the start of the pandemic, as of March 9, 2024.

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

Vaccines are **SAFE** and effective at **PREVENTING SERIOUS ILLNESS** and providing **LONG-TERM PROTECTION** from illness for yourself and others.

The CDC recommends **CHILDREN** under 18 follow a **VACCINATION SCHEDULE** for diseases such as Measles, Mumps, Rubella, Whooping Cough, and Diphtheria.

When **IMMUNIZATION RATES** fall below **95%**, the entire community is at a **HIGHER RISK** of a vaccine-preventable disease **OUTBREAK**.



93% of Hamilton County kindergarten students were **FULLY IMMUNIZED** at enrollment for the 2022-2023 school year, making the county **9th** lowest in the state.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE

Photo by Kevin McBride on Pexels

INFECTIOUS DISEASES are caused by microbes and can be spread from person to person, animal or insect to person, or through contaminated water, food, air, or soil.

STI

SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS (STI)

CHLAMYDIA

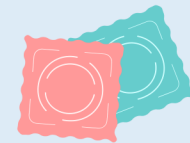


Between 2017 and 2021, the **INCIDENCE RATE** of chlamydia per 100,000 *increased* in Hamilton County.

GONORRHEA



Between 2017 and 2021, the **INCIDENCE RATE** of gonorrhea per 100,000 *increased* in Hamilton County.



SYPHILIS

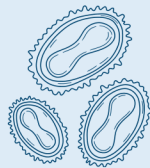


Between 2017 and 2021, the **INCIDENCE RATE** of syphilis per 100,000 *increased* in Hamilton County.

MPOX

The **2022** mpox outbreak, which is still ongoing, is the **LARGEST MPOX OUTBREAK** ever recorded.

In Hamilton County there have been **16 CASES** of mpox and **399 VACCINES** administered since the start of the outbreak, as of March 2024.



As of February 2024, Hamilton County accounts for **3.6%** of mpox **CASES** in Tennessee.

HUMAN IMMUNODEFICIENCY VIRUS (HIV)

HIV

Between 2017 and 2021, the **INCIDENCE RATE** of persons newly diagnosed with HIV per 100,000 *increased* **12%** in Hamilton County.



In 2021, there were **1,185 TOTAL CASES** and **605 STAGE 3 (AIDS)** cases in Hamilton County.

HEPATITIS A

Hamilton County experienced an **OUTBREAK** of hepatitis A between 2018 and 2019.

Over **10,000** at-risk individuals in Hamilton County were **VACCINATED** against hepatitis A during the 2018 outbreak.

There were **276 CASES** in Hamilton County during the outbreak, mostly among vulnerable populations.

MENTAL HEALTH

Mental illness includes conditions such as depression, anxiety disorders, and bipolar disorder. Addressing mental health involves not only improving access to mental healthcare services but also reducing the stigma associated with mental illness and promoting early intervention and prevention efforts.



Approximately **1 in 5** adults in the U.S. experience mental illness each year



Hamilton County adults reported

average days of

POOR MENTAL HEALTH

within a 30-day span

17% of Hamilton County adults reported 14 or more days of poor mental health per month.

Of 2023 Hamilton County Public Health Survey respondents:

43% unable to control **WORRY**

43% had feelings of **DEPRESSION**

within a 7-day span

The 2023 Hamilton County Public Health Survey highlighted mental health care access as a significant community concern.

persons to **390:1**
MENTAL HEALTH PROVIDERS

2,248 uninsured adults in Hamilton County received Behavioral Health Safety Net Services in 2022.



SUICIDE

rates declined **25%**
from 2019 to 2021

Suicide rates have increased most in **younger persons**, ages 12-17, **people who live in rural areas**, and **people of color**.

In 2023, there were **4,324** face-to-face assessments for mental health emergencies among Hamilton County residents through Tennessee's Mental Health Crisis Services Continuum.

INJURIES

INJURIES, whether intentional or unintentional, pose major public health challenges. Non-intentional incidents like falls, motor vehicle accidents, and poisonings are *leading causes of disability and death*, especially among children and the elderly. Unintentional injuries affect 3.4 million Americans annually, surpassing the impact of cancer, heart disease, and suicide combined.

388 deaths from injuries in Hamilton County in 2021.

Motor Vehicle Accidents & Seat Belt Use

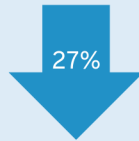


54 FATAL CRASHES
in 2023

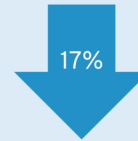
UNRESTRAINED DRIVERS
34x more likely to die in
a crash



distracted driving
crashes



alcohol impaired
crashes



total crashes

fatal crashes

From 2021 to 2023:

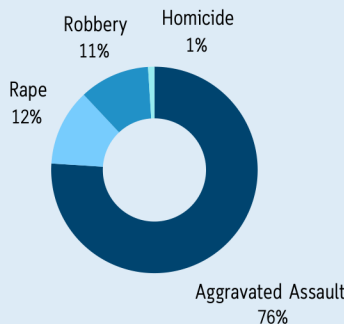
Violent Crime

VIOLENT CRIME RATE
 decreased by **18%** from
2016 to 2022.



Law enforcement agencies responded to **2,023 VIOLENT CRIMES** in 2022, with Chattanooga Police Department as primary response agency.

The proportion of violent crimes that are **RAPE** increased **5%** from 2016 to 2022, while the proportion of **ROBBERIES** decreased **7%** over the same time period.



Firearms

FIREARM FATALITY RATE
18 per 100,000 persons
 from 2016 to 2020

Hamilton County's firearm fatality rate is *higher* than the U.S. rate (12 per 100,000 persons), but *slightly lower* than Tennessee's rate (19 per 100,000 persons).

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

The **MISUSE OF SUBSTANCES** such as alcohol, tobacco, prescription drugs, and illicit drugs can lead to a range of negative consequences, including addiction, health problems, and social issues.

Alcohol Use

Alcohol is one of the **MOST COMMONLY ABUSED** substances in the United States.

17%



of adults in Hamilton County report **BINGE OR HEAVY DRINKING**, a **4%** decrease from 2016..

In 2021, the percentage of Hamilton County residents who report **HEAVY DRINKING** was **9%**, slightly *lower* than in 2019.

The percentage of residents who report **BINGE DRINKING** in Hamilton County *decreased* by **4%** between 2019 and 2021.

E-Cigarettes

13% of Hamilton County adults reported using **E-CIGARETTES** in 2021, **6%** *higher* than the U.S.

Nationally, **VAPING** among 12th graders *increased* by **14%** between 2017 and 2021.

OVERDOSE is a type of poisoning and can result from illegal drugs, prescription medications, or over-the-counter medications.

Drug Use

Drug overdoses can be **FATAL** or **NONFATAL**.

In 2023, there were **205** suspected **DRUG-RELATED DEATHS** in Hamilton County, **95%** of which were ruled accidents.

Between 2017 and 2021, the **OVERDOSE DEATH RATE** in Hamilton County *increased* by **96%**, from **24** to **47** per 100,000 persons.

For every **OVERDOSE DEATH** in Hamilton County in 2023 there were **10** overdose-related **EMERGENCY ROOM VISITS**.



70%



of drug-related deaths in Hamilton County in 2023 involved **FENTANYL**.

Between 2018 and 2023, the percent of drug-related deaths in Hamilton County that involved **METHAMPHETAMINE** *increased* by **19%**.

In 2023, **73%** of drug-related deaths in Hamilton County were among the **31-64 AGE RANGE**, **66%** were **MALE**, and **77%** were **WHITE**.

NALOXONE saves lives.

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS

VULNERABLE POPULATIONS are groups of people who experience a higher-than-average risk for certain health problems due to factors such as age, life stage, race/ethnicity, abilities, and socioeconomic status.

Older Adults

OLDER ADULTS aged 65+ accounted for **18%** of Hamilton County residents in 2022.

Older adults have an *increased* **RISK** of health issues like dementia, respiratory illness, and falls.

In Hamilton County, **ALZHEIMER'S** disease had a prevalence of **13%** in 2017.

Since 2019, **CFD CONNECT** helps Hamilton County non-emergency "lift assist" callers connect with needed social services.



Maternal, Child, & Infant Health

The **INFANT MORTALITY RATE** in Hamilton County in 2021 was **4.6** per 1,000 live births, *lower* than both Tennessee and the U.S.



Between 2016 and 2021, **INFANT MORTALITY** decreased by **40%** in Hamilton County.

Low birthweight and preterm births *increase* the **RISK** of infant death and health complications.

9% of babies born in Hamilton County in 2021 were **LOW BIRTHWEIGHT**. **11%** of live births in Hamilton County in 2021 were **PRETERM BIRTHS**.

In Hamilton County, **11** of its 27 zip codes have *low* or *very low* **CHILD OPPORTUNITY INDICES**.

Unhoused Persons



On a single night in 2023 during the Point-In-Time count, **1,735** individuals in Hamilton County were **UNHOUSED**.

The **HAMILTON COUNTY HOMELESS HEALTH CARE CENTER** offers medical and social services to Hamilton County's unhoused population.

In 2023, the **HAMILTON COUNTY HOMELESS HEALTH CARE CENTER** saw **4,192** patients.

CHRONIC DISEASES and **MENTAL HEALTH DISORDERS** were the *most prevalent* diagnoses treated at the clinic in 2023.

Persons with Disabilities

In 2021, an estimated **31%** of adult residents in Hamilton County were living with any **DISABILITY**, **5%** higher than the U.S.

An estimated **14%** of adult residents in Hamilton County were living with a **MOBILITY DISABILITY** in 2021.



An estimated **15%** of adult residents in Hamilton County were living with a **COGNITIVE DISABILITY** in 2021.