

Demographics and Social Determinants of Health

Population characteristics can help describe communities and provide a context for trends in health outcomes. The 2009-2013 U.S. American Community Survey (United States Census Bureau) estimated Hamilton County's population at approximately 340,973 an increase of 10.7% since 2000 (Table 3).

Social determinants of health, such as educational attainment and poverty, have a substantial impact on a broad range of behavioral risks and health outcomes. The percentage of all Hamilton County residents living below the poverty level increased from 12.1% in 2000 to 16.6% in 2013. Among county residents under the age of 18, poverty levels increased from 17% to 25.3%.

Table 3. Demographic Quick Facts

	Hamilton County 2000	Hamilton County 2009-2013	Tennessee 2009-2013	United States 2009-2013
Population	307,896	340,973	6,402,387	311,536,594
<i>Population under 5 years</i>	6.0%	6.0%	6.3%	6.4%
<i>Population under 18 years</i>	23.2%	21.4%	23.3%	23.7%
<i>Population 65 years and older</i>	13.8%	15.0%	13.9%	13.4%
<i>Median Age</i>	37.4	39.3	38.2	37.3
<i>Persons under age 65 living with a disability</i>	n/a*	10.3%	11.1%	8.4%
<i>Language other than English spoken at home</i>	5.1%	6.7%	6.6%	20.7%
Race				
<i>White</i>	76.3%	74.9%	78.2%	74.0%
<i>African American/Black</i>	20.1%	20.1%	16.8%	12.6%
<i>Asian</i>	1.3%	2.0%	1.5%	4.9%
<i>American Indian/Alaska Native</i>	0.3%	0.2%	0.3%	0.8%
<i>Some other race</i>	0.9%	1.4%	1.5%	4.9%
<i>Two or more races</i>	1.1%	1.4%	1.7%	2.8%
Ethnicity				
<i>Hispanic/Latino</i>	1.8%	4.6%	4.7%	16.6%
Education, persons 25+				
<i>Less than high school</i>	19.3%	13.7%	15.7%	13.9%
<i>High School graduate or higher</i>	80.7%	86.2%	84.4%	86.3%
<i>Bachelor's degree or higher</i>	23.9%	27.2%	23.8%	28.8%
Economic Indicators				
<i>Unemployed (% of civilian labor force)</i>	3.5%	9.5%	10.1%	9.7%
<i>Median household income</i>	\$38,930**	\$46,702	\$44,298	\$53,046
<i>Persons living below poverty</i>	12.1%	16.6%	17.6%	15.4%
<i>Children (18 or under) living below poverty</i>	17.0%	25.3%	25.3%	21.6%
<i>Home ownership rate</i>	64.5%	64.9%	67.8%	64.9%

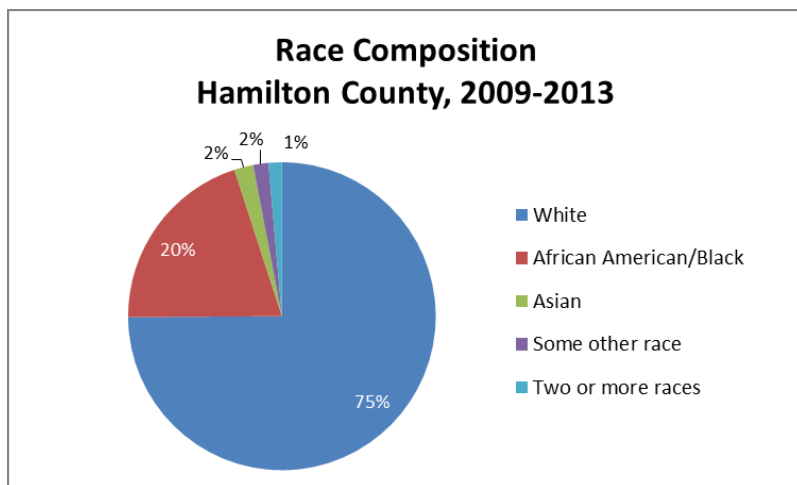
Sources: U.S. Census Bureau: 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey

* The U.S. Census Bureau used a different measure for reported disability the 2000 Census.

**Adjusted for inflation, the 2000 median household income for Hamilton County equals \$54,436 in 2013 dollars.

Race and Ethnicity

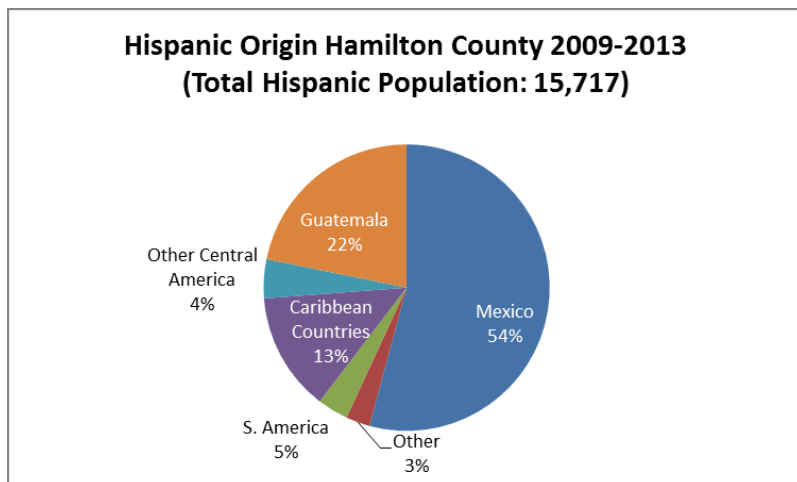
Socioeconomic and cultural differences among racial and ethnic groups across the United States will likely also influence future patterns of disease, disability, and health care use.ⁱⁱⁱ



The majority of Hamilton County residents are white (74.9%), followed by African American or black (20.1%), Asian (2.0%), two or more races (1.4%), (0.6%), or some other race (1.6%), according to 2009-2013 American Community Survey (Figure 1).¹

Figure 1 Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey

The Hispanic/Latino (an ethnic category and not reported as race) population has grown significantly over the past twelve years. The 2009-2013 American Community Survey estimates and Census 2000 suggest an increase in the number of Hispanics in the county from 5,481 (1.8% of total population) to 15,717 (4.6% of the total population).



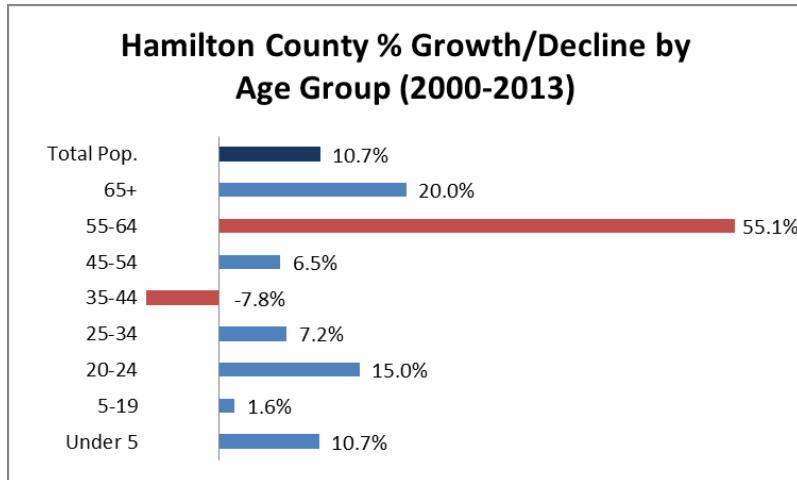
Over half (54.2%) of Latinos in Hamilton County self-identify as being of Mexican origin. Guatemalans, the second largest Hispanic origin group, make-up 21.8% of the County's Hispanic population (Figure 2). Nationwide, almost two-thirds (64.5%) of the Hispanic population identify as being of Mexican origin, while only 2.3% self-identify as Guatemalan.

Figure 2 Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey

¹ The American Indian/Alaska Native population (0.2%) was combined with "some other race" for this chart.

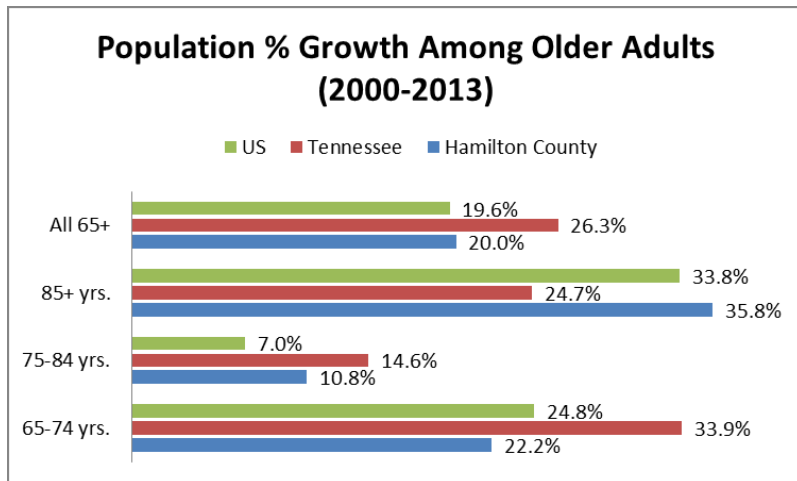
An Aging Population

The first Baby Boomers turned 65 in 2011 and the over-65 population is expected to double by 2050.^{iv} The rapidly increasing number of older adults will place new demands on the provision of health care and aging-related services. Figure 3 illustrates the percentage change in the Hamilton County population by age group from 2000 to 2013.



While the overall Hamilton County population increased by 11%, the 55 to 64 population grew by 55.1% and the 65 and over population grew by 20%, in contrast to a 7.8% decrease in 35 to 44 year old residents.

Figure 3 Source: U.S. Census Bureau 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey



Overall, local growth in residents 65 and older (20%) mirrors the national rate (19.6%) and lags the Tennessee rate (26.3%). Among the oldest residents, 85 and older, local and national growth (35.8% and 33.8%, respectively) far outpaces the state (24.7%) (Figure 4).

Figure 4 Source: U.S. Census Bureau- 2000 Census and 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment is considered one of the best socioeconomic indicators for good health.^v Higher educational attainment is associated with being employed with a livable-wage job, having access to high quality health care, and living a healthy lifestyle.

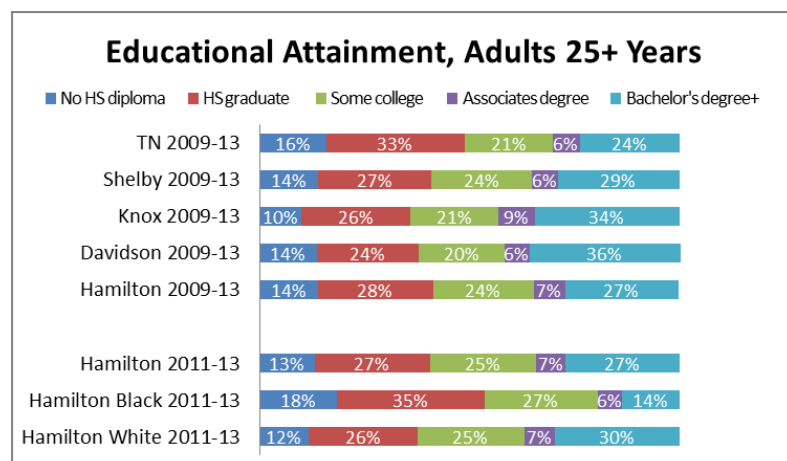


Figure 5 Source: 2009-2013 American Community Survey

Overall in Hamilton County, educational attainment of a high school diploma or greater has increased from 81% in 2000 to 86% in 2009-13. In the 2009-2013 American Community Survey, 14% of Hamilton County adults ages 25 and older did not have a high school diploma or GED, compared to 16% in Tennessee. Among black adults, 18% did not have a high school diploma, compared to 12% of white adults.

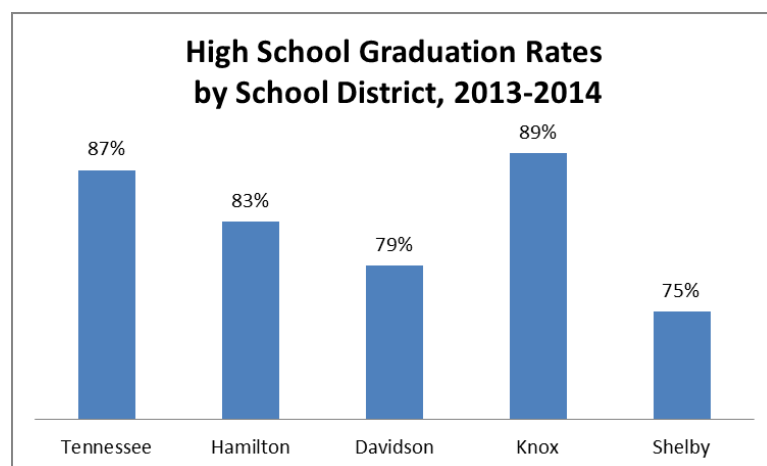


Figure 6 Source: Tennessee Department of Education

The graduation rate measures the percentage of students who graduated from high school within four years and a summer out of those students that entered the ninth grade four years earlier. Graduation rates as reported in the Tennessee Department of Education Report Card for the 2013-2014 school year for public schools in the four largest metropolitan counties in Tennessee are depicted in Figure 6.

The statewide goal is 90 percent graduation by the Class of 2020.^{vi}

Poverty

Poverty data used in the report comes from the U.S. Census Bureau, which measures poverty using the federal poverty thresholds. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services issues poverty thresholds that vary by household size and composition. The same thresholds are used throughout the contiguous United States and are updated annually. Programs using the guidelines (or percentage of the guidelines, such as 185% or 250%) in determining eligibility include: Head Start, TennCare (Medicaid), Community Health Centers, National School Lunch Program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance

Program (LIHEAP), Women Infants and Children (WIC) program, the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Family Planning, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

Table 4. 2015 HHS Poverty Guidelines

Persons in Family or Household	48 U.S. State & D.C. Gross Yearly Income	Gross Monthly Income	Approximate Hourly Income
1	\$11,770	\$981	\$5.61
2	\$15,930	\$1,328	\$7.56
3	\$20,090	\$1,674	\$9.51
4	\$24,250	\$2,021	\$11.47
5	\$28,410	\$2,368	\$13.42
6	\$32,580	\$2,715	\$15.37
7	\$36,730	\$3,061	\$17.32
8	40,090	\$3,341	\$19.27
For each additional person, add:	\$4,160	\$347	\$1.95

Source: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

From 2000 to 2009-2013, the percent of Hamilton County residents living below the federal poverty thresholds increased from 12.1% to 15.3%. Poverty indicators can include the percent of persons enrolled in the Supplementary Food Assistance Program (SNAP); persons enrolled in TennCare, children under age six in the WIC (Women, Infants and Children) program, and free/reduced lunch participation.

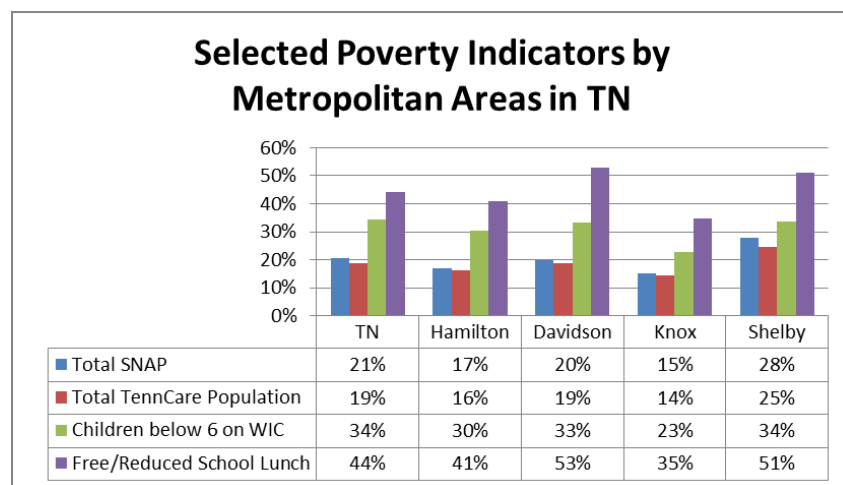


Figure 7 Source: TN Kids Count, 2013

One in four children under the age of 18 live in poverty in Hamilton County, according to the 2009-2013 American Community Survey. The census tracts with the highest percentages of children under the age

of 18 living in poverty were located in the Southside, Westside, East Chattanooga, Highway 58, and Brainerd communities (Map 1).

Map 1

Children Under Age 18 in Poverty by Census Tract, Hamilton County, TN 2009-2013 ACS

