

T E N N E S S E E ' S  
**BUSINESS**

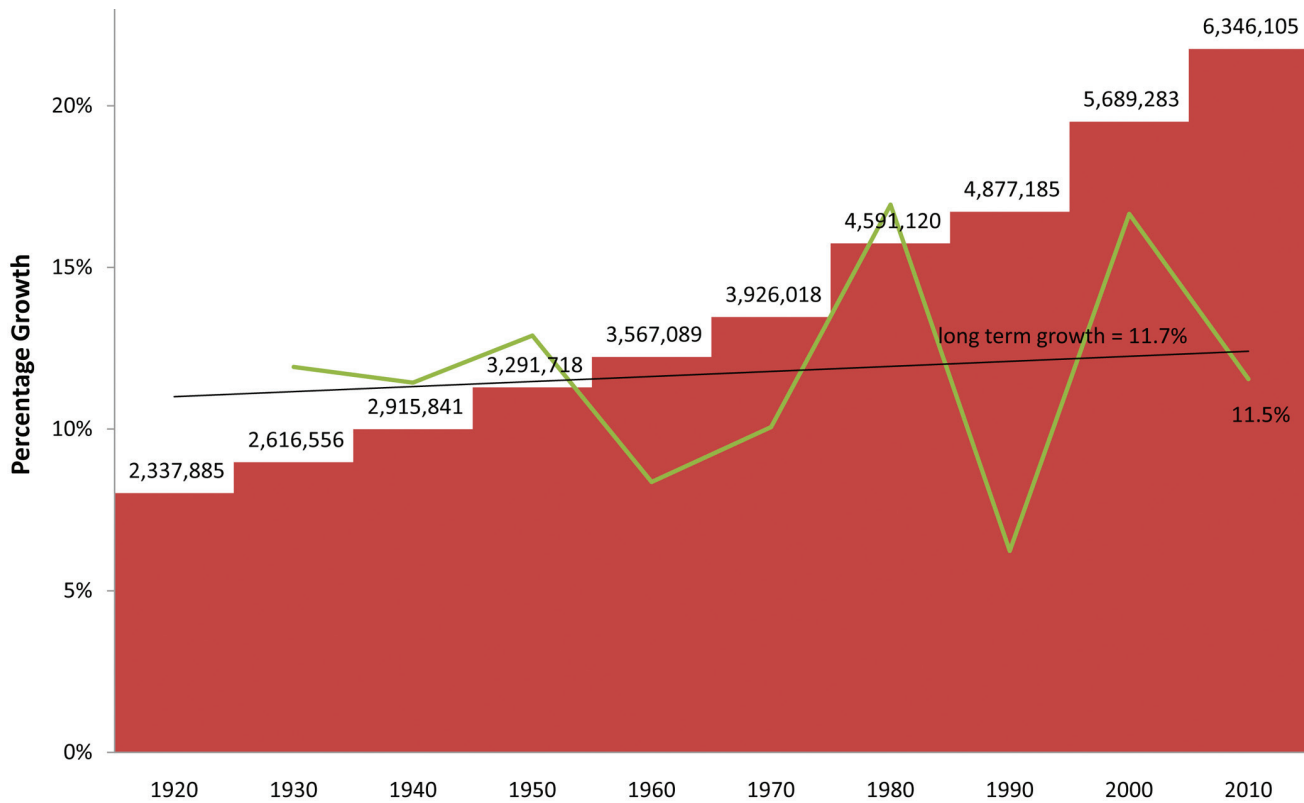
**CENSUS  
2010**

Middle Tennessee State University  
**Business and Economic Research Center**

in partnership with

Tennessee State Data Center





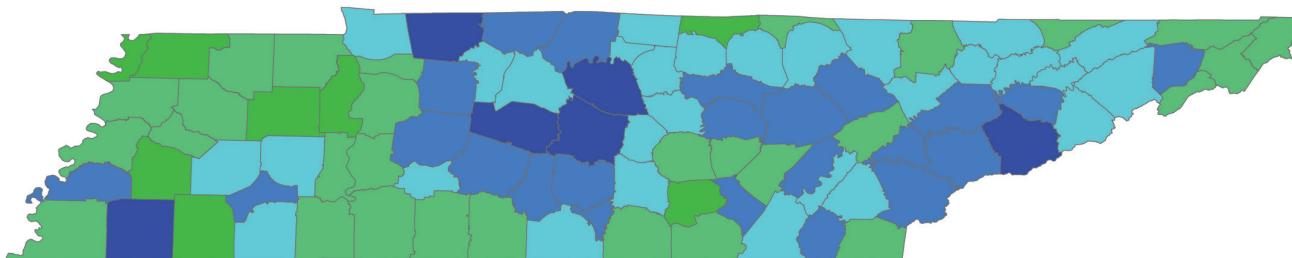
## 100 Years of Population Change in Tennessee

by **Randy Gustafson**, director, Tennessee State Data Center

The 2010 Census in Tennessee was a success on many fronts. The participation rate increased by five percentage points over the 2000 Census to 74%, a rate higher than the national average of 72%. The results of the 2010 Census were likewise impressive, with Tennessee's 10-year growth of 11.5% outpacing the nation's 9.7% average growth rate. Another way to view the 2010 Census is in the context of the past 100 years of population change. The chart shows the results of the past 10 censuses and the growth rate between those censuses. Intercensal growth has ranged from 6.2% in 1990 to 16.9% in 1980. The most recent 11.5% growth rate is on par with the long-term growth rate of 11.7%.

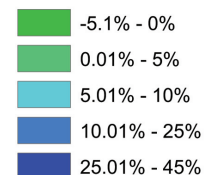
**Tennessee  
growth  
2000-2010:  
11.5%**

## Tennessee 2010 Census Report

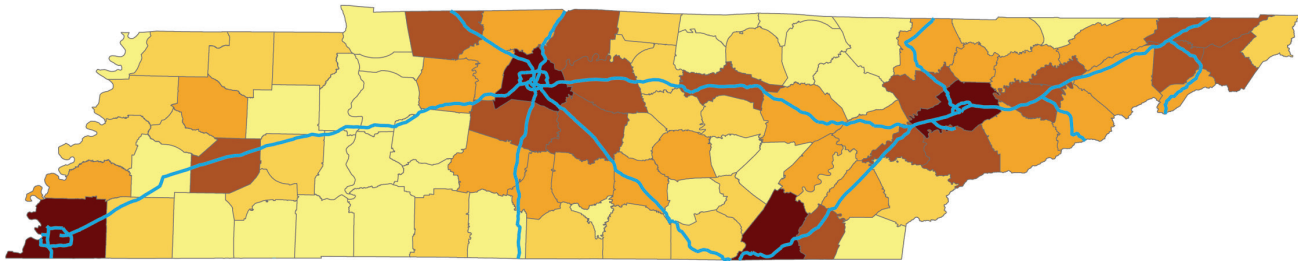


### Population Growth by County, 2000-2010

County-level growth rates varied widely with the two fastest-growing counties, Williamson and Rutherford, growing 44.7% and 44.3%, respectively. Several counties, Haywood, Grundy, Carroll, Hardeman, Obion, Lake, Clay, and Benton, lost population over the decade. The map shows the growth of population in the 95 counties in Tennessee. It is readily apparent that the middle Tennessee area surrounding the capital city of Nashville experienced the greatest growth. In fact, 11 counties in middle Tennessee accounted for more than half the growth of the entire state: Rutherford, Davidson, Williamson, Montgomery, Sumner, Wilson, Robertson, Maury, Bedford, Dickson, and Coffee. Another pocket of growth appears to be centered in Knoxville with Knox, Sevier, Blount, and Loudon counties growing by over 95,000.



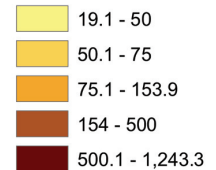
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## Population Density, 2010

A look at population density in Tennessee in 2010 shows the impact of the interstate highway system on land development. All of the counties with a population density higher than the statewide average of 153.9 persons per square mile are adjacent to one of the state's major highways. In fact, the few places that are near an interstate but not highly developed can be explained as direct results of topography. Interstate 40 crosses the Tennessee River in west Tennessee in an area that is characterized as marshy and otherwise inhospitable to settlement. Likewise, the low density area northwest of Chattanooga is very steep terrain that is difficult to develop. The map shows population density by county in Tennessee.

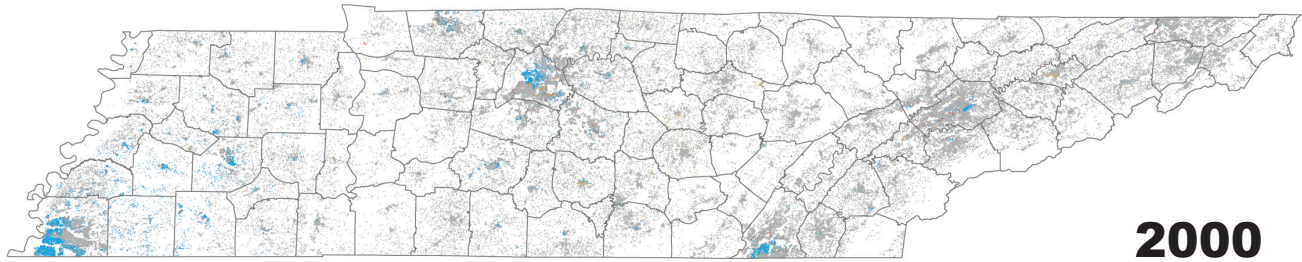
### Persons per Square Mile



**Tennessee:  
153.9**

**All counties with a population density higher than the statewide average of 153.9 persons per square mile are adjacent to one of the state's major highways.**

# Tennessee 2010 Census Report

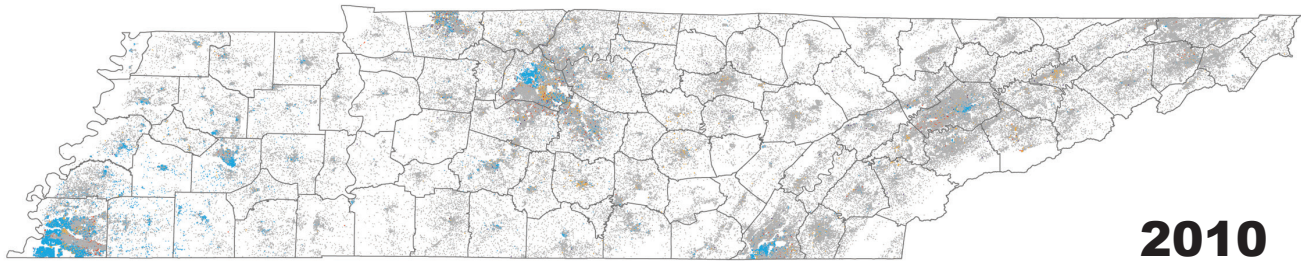


## Population Density by Race

Of the 656,822 more people in the state of Tennessee in 2010 compared to 10 years ago, 166,221 or 25% of those are of Hispanic origin. Race and ethnicity are two separate classification systems according to the Census Bureau; Hispanics can be of any race. For this report, we have separated Hispanics of all races from the rest of the population and report them side by side with the other races. The largest share of the population growth, 45%, was due to respondents indicating their race was White alone, and 19% of the population growth was due to African American alone.

**1 Dot = 25**





**2010**

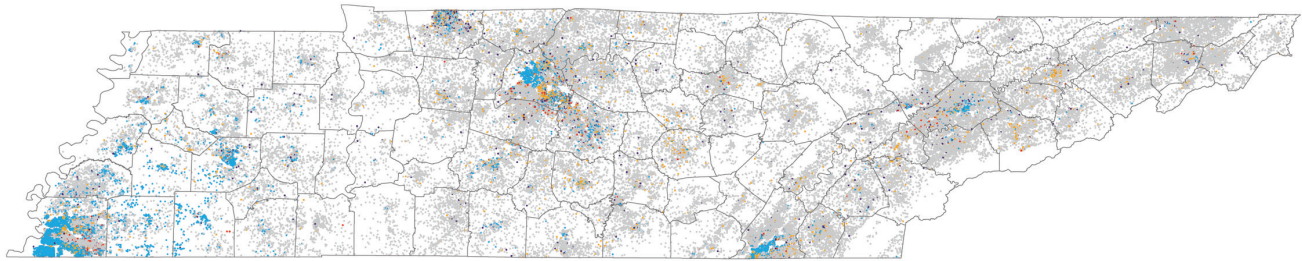
**1 Dot = 25**



Other races or combinations of races accounted for the remaining 11%. With respect to the total 2010 population of Tennessee, Whites made up 76%, African Americans made up 17%, Hispanics made up 5%, and other races or combinations of races made up 3%. In 2000, those same percentages were Whites 80%, African Americans 16%, Hispanics 2%, and other races or combination of races 3%. The figures present the distribution of population by race for 2000 and 2010.

**A quarter of the population increase is of Hispanic origin.**

# Tennessee 2010 Census Report



## Population under 18 by Race, 2010

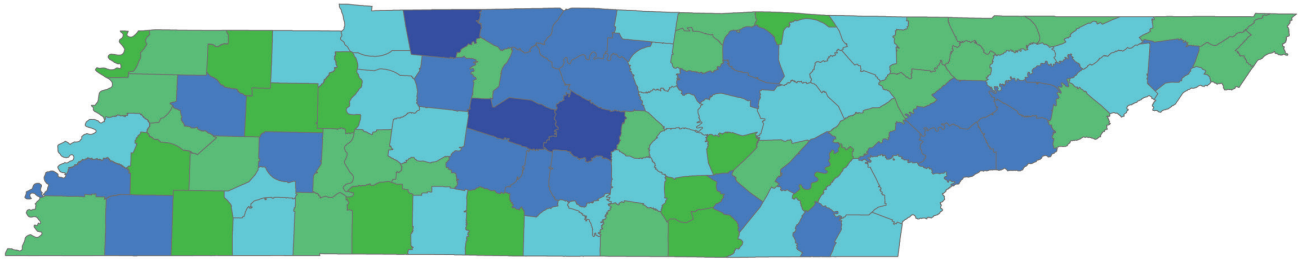
When considering Tennesseans under the age of 18, the racial and ethnic diversity of the population is even more pronounced. In 2010, there were 1,496,001 children under the age of 18 in Tennessee, an increase of 97,480 over the 2000 Census count. A total of 69,154 children, or 71% of the increase in the under-18 population, were Hispanic. In 2010, White children accounted for 68% of the total. African-American and Hispanic children made up 20% and 7%, respectively, with other races or combinations of races accounting for 5%. Figure 4 shows the population of children in Tennessee by race and ethnicity.

**1 Dot = 25**



**A total of 69,154 children, or 71% of the increase in the under-18 population, were Hispanic.**

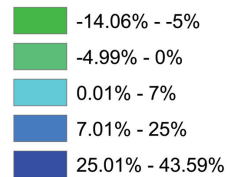




## Population Growth, Children, 2000-2010

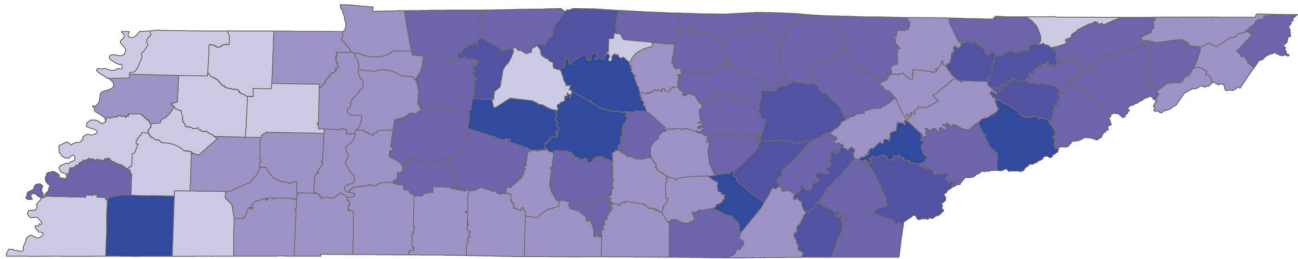
The geographic portrait of the under-18 population is also quite compelling. Overall, the growth rate for children is less than the rate for the population as a whole, coming in at 7.0%. Thirty-eight counties (two shades of green on the map) showed a net loss of children over the decade. Hardeman County showed the greatest loss at 14%. Hardeman is also among the few counties that lost population overall. The two overall fastest-growing counties, Williamson and Rutherford, topped the state’s under-18 population growth as well. The map shows the county-level growth rates of children in Tennessee.

**Under 18  
% Change**



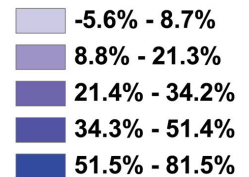
**Tennessee:  
7.0%**

## Tennessee 2010 Census Report



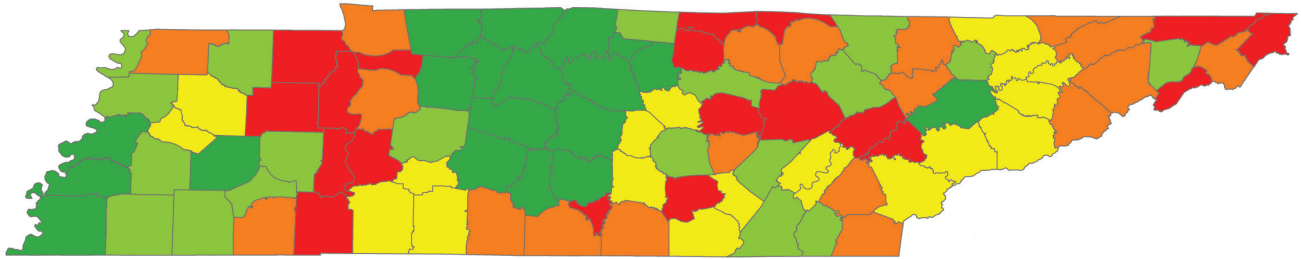
### Percent Growth in the Population 65 Years of Age and Over, 2000-2010

By far, the segment of the population with the highest growth rate is the 65-and-over cohort. In 2000, there were 281,882 males and 421,429 females for a total of 703,311 Tennesseans 65 years of age or older. In 2010, that total had grown to 853,462—366,035 males and 487,427 females. The growth rates were thus 29.9% for males and 15.7% for females. The map above shows the county-level growth rates for people aged 65 and over.



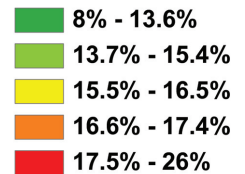
**By far, the segment of the population with the highest growth rate is the 65-and-over cohort.**

**Tennessee:  
21.3%**

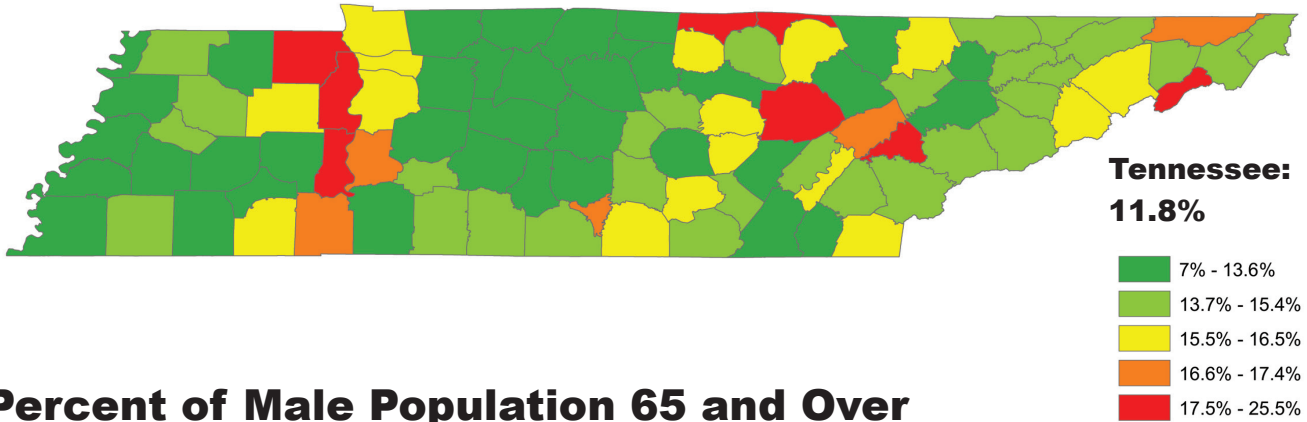


## Percent of Population 65 Years of Age and Over by County

Statewide, 13.4% of the population was 65 or older. In many areas of the state, the percentage was much higher, reaching 26% in Cumberland County. Many of those areas with a high proportion of the elderly are in rural areas of the western Tennessee Valley and northern portion of the Cumberland Plateau. These relatively remote areas are lacking in comprehensive medical care facilities and other social services.

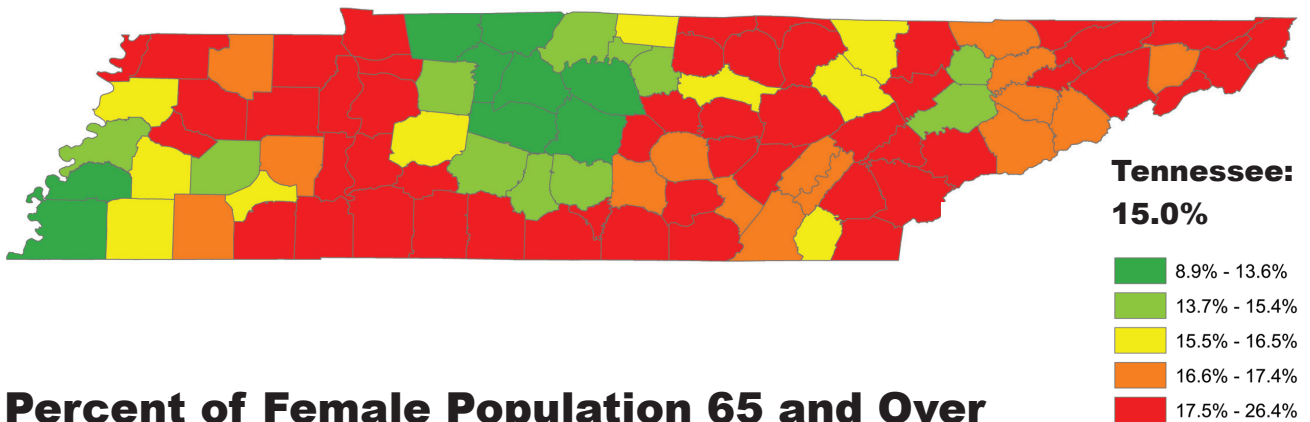


**Tennessee:**  
**13.4%**

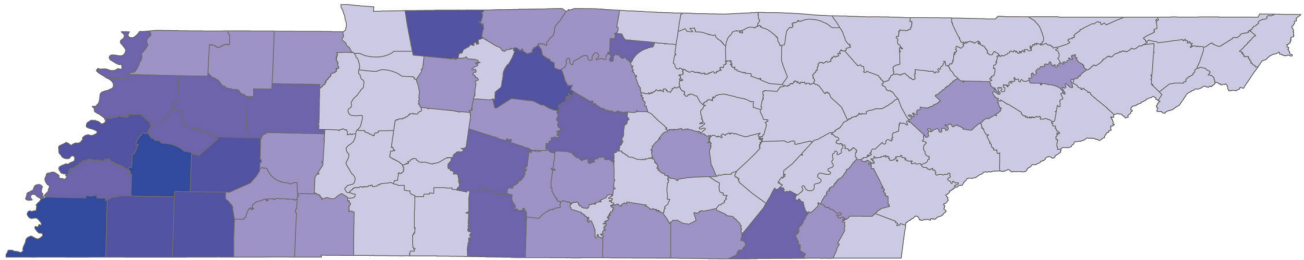


## Percent of Male Population 65 and Over

Separating the male and female populations for analysis, one can see that there are eight counties where the percentage of all males who were 65 or older exceeds 17.5%. However, over half of the counties in the state had a greater than 17.5% share of women who are 65-plus.

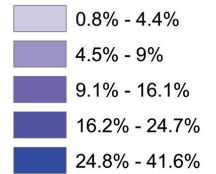


## Percent of Female Population 65 and Over



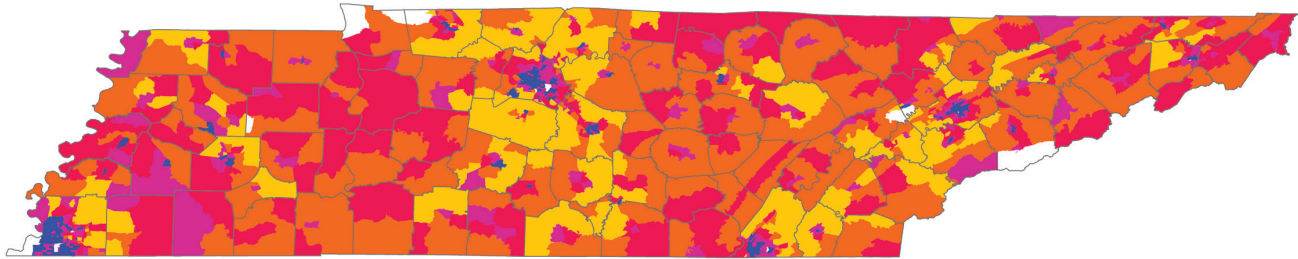
## Percent of Non-White 65 and Over Population

While the statewide percentage of non-White people 65 and over is 12.2%, there are very large swaths of the state where the percentage is less than 5%.



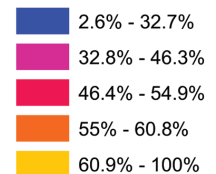
**Tennessee:**  
**12.2%**

## Tennessee 2010 Census Report

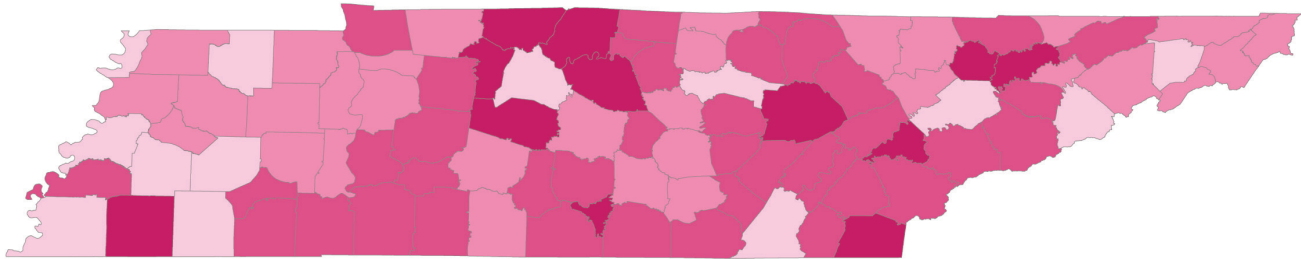


### Married-Couple Households, 2010

The map shows the percentage of married-couple families by census tract in Tennessee. For Tennessee as a whole, 48.7% of households consist of a husband-wife family. Individual counties range from 36.6% in Davidson County to 68.1% in Williamson County. There is a noticeable correlation (47.5%) between the percentage of married-couple households and 2000-to-2010 population growth.

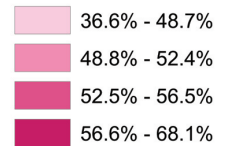


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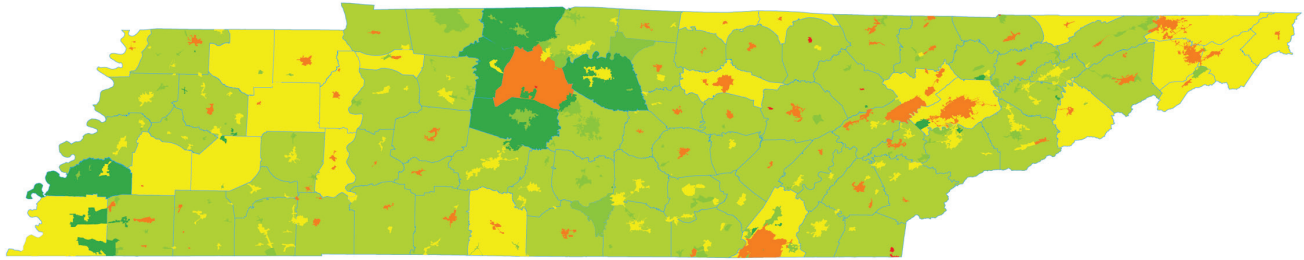


## Married-Couple Households by County

Of the 10 counties with the highest rates of married-couple households, six appear on the list of the 10 fastest-growing counties: Williamson, Fayette, Wilson, Loudon, Sumner, and Robertson. It is somewhat curious that four of those counties surround Davidson—the lowest-ranking county in terms of married-couple households.

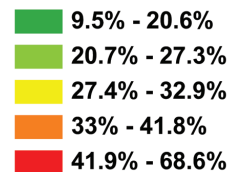


**Tennessee:**  
**48.7%**



## Single-Person Households, 2010

The geographic distribution of single-person households is primarily in urban areas. The county seat of almost every county is noticeable on the map—the areas with a larger concentration of solo households show up. This particular map shows city-level as well as county-level rates. The county rates include the cities within those counties. Memphis appears to have a lower concentration of single-person households than the other major cities, Nashville, Chattanooga, and Knoxville. It is interesting to note that of the seven cities/towns in the top class (shown in red), only Berry Hill is in middle Tennessee. All the others (Cumberland Gap, Copperhill, Wartburg, Jamestown, Pleasant Hill, and Ducktown) are in east Tennessee.



**The geographic distribution of single-person households is primarily in urban areas, and six of the seven cities/towns with the highest concentration are in east Tennessee.**





# MIDDLE TENNESSEE

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