

The Vanderbilt Child Health poll surveyed 1,025 Tennessee parents with children under 18 years old from October 25 — November 22, 2023. All reported percentages have survey weights applied, so their interpretation can be broadened to all parents in Tennessee. For example, “70.5% of Tennessee parents reported changing their food spending habits due to higher food prices in the last 12 months.”

All summaries are listed as weighted proportions of Tennessee Parents ± Standard of Error.

FOOD SECURITY

USDA Index of Food Security in the last 12 months
 (Details at <https://www.ers.usda.gov/media/8282/short2012.pdf>)

	2023			2022			2021		
	High/ Marginal Security	Low Security	Very low Security	High/ Marginal Security	Low Security	Very low Security	High/ Marginal Security	Low Security	Very low Security
Overall	59.4% ± 2.2	18.1% ± 1.6	22.5% ± 1.7	58.8% ± 2.1	16.9% ± 1.6	24.3% ± 1.8	68.7% ± 1.9	15.6% ± 1.4	15.7% ± 1.4
Race/Ethnicity									
White, Non-Hispanic	60.6% ± 2.4	17.1% ± 1.8	22.3% ± 1.9	61.9% ± 2.4	15.5% ± 1.7	22.5% ± 2.0	71.1% ± 2.1	13.3% ± 1.5	15.6% ± 1.6
Black, Non-Hispanic	51.4% ± 5.7	19.3% ± 4.2	29.3% ± 5.0	49.4% ± 5.6	25.1% ± 4.8	25.5% ± 4.8	58.6% ± 5.7	25.1% ± 4.9	16.3% ± 3.8
Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic	61.3% ± 6.8	21.9% ± 6.2	16.7% ± 4.4	51.4% ± 6.8	14.2% ± 4.2	34.4% ± 6.4	68.1% ± 6.1	17.0% ± 5.0	15.0% ± 4.1
TN Region									
West	50.5% ± 5.0	23.7% ± 4.4	25.7% ± 3.9	55.3% ± 4.4	19.9% ± 3.3	24.8% ± 3.6	67.7% ± 4.2	13.6% ± 2.7	18.7% ± 3.3
Middle	65.8% ± 3.2	15.4% ± 2.1	18.9% ± 2.6	62.5% ± 3.3	15.9% ± 2.5	21.6% ± 2.6	68.7% ± 3.3	16.1% ± 2.5	15.2% ± 2.4
East	57.3% ± 3.5	17.8% ± 2.6	24.9% ± 2.7	56.3% ± 3.5	16.5% ± 2.4	27.2% ± 3.2	69.2% ± 2.9	16.2% ± 2.3	14.5% ± 1.9

FOOD SPENDING HABITS

In the last 12 months, has your family changed food spending habits due to higher food prices?

	N*	Yes	No
Overall	1023	70.5% ± 2.1	28.6% ± 2.1
Race/Ethnicity			
White, Non-Hispanic	764	71.4% ± 2.4	27.7% ± 2.4
Black, Non-Hispanic	144	69.0% ± 5.3	29.5% ± 5.2
Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic	115	67.4% ± 6.5	32.4% ± 6.5
TN Region			
West	229	73.4% ± 4.4	24.9% ± 4.4
Middle	391	65.1% ± 3.5	34.4% ± 3.5
East	403	75.2% ± 3.0	23.9% ± 3.0

*N's are unweighted

How did your family food spending habits change due to higher prices?

(Select all that apply; total may be >100%)

	N	Stopped/reduced frequency of eating at restaurants	Changed types of food you eat or cook	Changed where you buy groceries	Parents skipped meals	Children skipped meals
Overall	751	73.6% ± 2.3	65.6% ± 2.6	56.5% ± 2.7	25.3% ± 2.1	2.0% ± 0.7
Race/Ethnicity		*				
White, Non-Hispanic	574	77.5% ± 2.4	65.9% ± 3.0	54.2% ± 3.0	24.1% ± 2.2	2.4% ± 0.9
Black, Non-Hispanic	97	58.9% ± 6.8	57.6% ± 6.8	60.3% ± 6.5	37.5% ± 6.7	1.2% ± 0.8
Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic	80	67.9% ± 8.4	72.1% ± 8.2	65.4% ± 8.5	18.6% ± 6.6	0.9% ± 0.5
TN Region		*	*			*
West	164	65.2% ± 5.7	72.6% ± 5.3	51.5% ± 5.8	32.0% ± 5.3	1.0% ± 0.5
Middle	278	80.8% ± 3.2	69.3% ± 4.0	53.2% ± 4.3	21.7% ± 3.2	1.0% ± 0.5
East	309	71.3% ± 3.7	57.5% ± 4.3	62.9% ± 4.0	25.0% ± 3.0	3.7% ± 1.7

Note: N's are unweighted; row-wise percentages presented (e.g. "58.9% of Black, Non-Hispanic parents stopped or reduced the frequency of eating at restaurants, compared to 77.5% of White, Non-Hispanic parents")

* $p < 0.05$ by Rao-Scott corrected Chi-Square test

FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

In the past 7 days, what support did you or any member of your household receive:

(Select all that apply; total may be >100%)

	N	Free/Reduced-price school meal	Food Stamp/SNAP Program	Food pantries/Churches/Community Centers	WIC	Free food from child's school
Overall	1020	25.2% ± 1.9	18.4% ± 1.5	12.3% ± 1.4	8.8% ± 1.1	5.5% ± 1.0
Race/Ethnicity		*		*		
White, Non-Hispanic	762	22.3% ± 1.9	17.6% ± 1.7	10.5% ± 1.4	7.6% ± 1.3	5.6% ± 1.2
Black, Non-Hispanic	144	26.8% ± 5.0	24.3% ± 3.9	11.6% ± 2.9	12.7% ± 2.9	5.9% ± 3.4
Other/2+ races, Non-Hispanic/Hispanic	114	38.8% ± 7.0	16.5% ± 4.2	22.3% ± 6.3	11.1% ± 3.3	4.3% ± 2.0
TN Region			*		*	
West	229	31.4% ± 4.6	24.5% ± 3.5	13.7% ± 3.3	9.2% ± 2.1	7.5% ± 2.9
Middle	390	21.3% ± 2.6	11.6% ± 1.7	10.4% ± 2.1	5.0% ± 1.0	4.6% ± 1.2
East	401	26.0% ± 2.9	22.7% ± 2.9	13.6% ± 2.4	13.2% ± 2.4	5.2% ± 1.7

Note: N's are unweighted; row-wise percentages presented (e.g. "24.3% of Black, Non-Hispanic parents received support from the Food Stamp/SNAP Program in the past 7 days, compared to 17.6% of White, Non-Hispanic parents")

* $p < 0.05$ by Rao-Scott corrected Chi-Square test