

 Tennessee

Diaper Need and Its Impact

What is Diaper Need? Diaper need is the inability to provide a sufficient supply of diapers to keep a baby clean, dry, and healthy.

A study of families who received diapers from July 2021 through April 2022 from Tennessee diaper banks examined the impact of diaper need. The study found that when families receive diapers, **more families are able to work or attend school, healthcare spending is reduced, and children are healthier.**

Tennessee: Who's at Risk of Diaper Need *

Total Population Under Age 3	237,539	WIC Recipients that are Infants	28%
Infants and Toddlers living at <100% FPL	18%	SNAP Recipients Under Age 5	13%
Infants and Toddlers living at <200% FPL	42%	Families on TANF with a Child Under Age 3	25%
TANF Monthly Benefit Family of 3	\$387	Births Cover by Medicaid	49%
Monthly Diaper Cost as % of TANF	21%	Minimum Hourly Wage in Tennessee	None Required

* Sources: US Census, USDA, HHS, DOL, Kaiser Family Foundation

Households Using Diaper Banks

- **260** Tennessee diaper bank recipients surveyed.
- **94%** of families receiving diapers have received diapers for one year or less.
- **41%** of families anticipated they would need future support for one year or less.
- **51%** reported income less than \$25,000.
- **88%** reported income less than \$50,000.
- Of families surveyed, **63%** of children were insured by Medicaid and **16%** of children were uninsured.

Impact on Employment

- **92%** of families receiving diapers in Tennessee are working and still are unable to afford an adequate supply of diapers.
- **10%** of adults are working two or more jobs and still struggling to afford diapers.
- **46%** of households had an adult enrolled in a school or job training program. As educational attainment rises, wages increase and unemployment rates fall.

Impact on Healthcare & Illness

Families reported that after receiving diapers from a Tennessee diaper bank, their children experienced:

- **fewer** cases of diaper rash and severe diaper rash.
- **fewer** cases of urinary tract infections.
- **fewer** visits to their pediatrician, urgent care, emergency room, and hospital admissions for diaper-related illnesses.

Impact on Childcare

- **100%** of childcare providers required families to provide diapers.
- **92%** of families using childcare rely on childcare so an adult in their household can go to work.
- **95%** of children enrolled attend 3+ days per week.
- **4 in 10** families use childcare to allow an adult to attend school or a job training program.

Source: National Diaper Bank Network-funded research conducted in partnership with 65 U.S. diaper banks. For more information visit nationaldiaperbanknetwork.org/EIS.