

The Health Status of Hispanic Youth in Tennessee, 1995/1997¹²

- Two percent of high school students in Tennessee were of Hispanic origin in 1995/1997.
- Counties with the highest proportions of Hispanic high school students included Hancock (4.6%), Crockett (3.8%), Van Buren (3.7%), Bedford (3.5%), and Giles (3.3%). Counties with the lowest prevalence of Hispanic high school students were Moore (0.4%), Smith (0.5%), Marion (0.8%), and Benton (0.9%) Counties.
- Two metropolitan regions, Davidson and Shelby, had the highest regional prevalence of Hispanic students (2.8% and 2.6%, respectively), while the Northwest Region had the lowest prevalence (1.5%).
- Of these youth, 56% were white; 21% were black; 7% were Asian, and 22% were of other races. This contrasts with non-Hispanic students, 83% of whom were white, 15% black, 1% Asian, and 1% of other races.
- Hispanic and other students did not differ by age, but a somewhat higher percentage of Hispanic students were male (59%), compared to non-Hispanic students (48%).
- Hispanic students were more likely to be poor (i.e. come from families receiving public assistance or welfare including WIC, food stamps, AFDC, or TennCare) than other students (18% compared to 11%, respectively).
- Hispanic students were less likely to come from two-parent families - 54% versus 70% of non-Hispanic students.
- Compared to their non-Hispanic counterparts, Hispanic youth were also more likely to have unemployed fathers (12% versus 6%); employed mothers (39% versus 33%); fathers with less than a high school education (30% versus 20%); and mothers with less than a high school diploma (28% versus 17%).
- Hispanic youth were more likely to report being homeless (2.6%) compared to non-Hispanic youth (0.1%).
- Religiosity differed by Hispanic origin. A higher percentage of Hispanic students were not very or not at all religious than other students (6.9% versus 3.6%).

¹²Due to differences in sampling design and study protocol, data will differ despite similar questions in the YRBSS for 1995 and 1997 and the TN ATOD High School Survey 1995/1997.