

TENNESSEE

- According to the 2000 U.S. Census, 9,940 people self-identified as social workers in Tennessee; Tennessee is ranked 20th in social workers per capita.
- There are 1,857 NASW members in Tennessee.
- In 2006, 5,865,106 people lived in Tennessee.
- 15% of the population live at or below the federal poverty level, compared to 12.6% nationally.
- 24.6% of the population is under the age of 18, compared to 25.7% nationally.
- 12.5% of the population is over the age of 65, compared to 12.4% nationally.
- The total population of Tennessee is projected to grow 14% between 2000 and 2020, while the population 65 and over is projected to grow 65% between 2000 and 2020.
- 537,000 veterans live in Tennessee; Tennessee is ranked 17th in the nation.
- In 2006, 825,438 people were enrolled in Medicaid; this is 16% of the non-elderly population, compared to 13% nationally.
- According to the Rural Policy Research Institute, several areas of the state are medically underserved.
- In 1999, Tennessee had high death rates due to heart disease, cancer, and firearms. The incidence of TB was above the national rate in 2000.
- In 2006, the unemployment rate was 5.2% compared to 4.6% nationally.
- Social Work Education Programs in Tennessee are: Austin Peay State University, Belmont University, East Tennessee State University, Freed-Hardeman University, Lincoln Memorial University, Middle Tennessee State University, Southern Adventist University, Tennessee State University, Union University, University of Memphis, University of Tennessee (Knoxville, Memphis, and Martin).

THERE ARE 3,556 LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS IN TENNESSEE

License	Education Required	Experience Required
Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Independent Practitioner	Doctorate or Master's Degree in Social Work	2 years post
Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Reciprocity	Doctorate or Master's Degree in Social Work	2 years post
Certified Master Social Worker	Doctorate or Master's Degree in Social Work	N/A

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Social Work Survey Data*

- Nearly 60 percent of Tennessee's respondents were between 35 and 54 years old.
- The majority of Tennessee respondents were white (89%); seven percent were black.
- The majority of respondents in Tennessee held a master's degree as their highest social work degree (95%). Five percent held a doctorate.
- Respondents were asked to identify their primary practice setting for employment. The three most frequently cited categories were private solo practice (19%), behavioral health clinic/outpatient facility (18%) and hospital/medical center (14%).
- The majority of Tennessee's respondents (47%) earned between \$40,000 and \$59,000 annually for full-time social work. One-third earned less than \$40,000 annually.
- The majority of respondents in Tennessee (51%) had five to 19 years of experience. Only ten percent were new to the field, with less than five years of experience.
- The majority of Tennessee respondents were employed in the private, non-profit sector (44%). Less than twenty percent were employed in the government sector (federal, state, or local).
- The majority of Tennessee's respondents were employed in a metropolitan area (94%).
- Nearly half (46%) of respondents identified Mental Health as their primary practice area, followed by Health (14%), Aging (7%), and School Social Work (7%).

**This information is based on the results of the 2004 NASW National Survey of Licensed Social Workers. <http://workforce.socialworkers.org>*