How is Tennessee doing with 2020 U.S. Census count amid COVID-19?

One month has passed since Census Day and this is a good opportunity to bring city officials up to speed on what Tennessee is accomplishing in response to the 2020 Census and the current activities and COVID-19 related outreach efforts.

Overall Response Rate

Here is where the state stands as of April 13, 2021:

- 53.6% of Tennessee households have self-responded to the 2020 Census.
- Tennessee is above the national average for response rate by 1%.
- Tennessee boasts a 77th nationally in terms of total response rate to date with the U.S. response rate by 1%.
- 51.3% vs. 54.8% respectively.
- Rural counties responses are in rural areas of Southeast TN Develop Development District (44.1%), Southeast TN Development District (42.7%) and East TN Development District (47.1%).
- 53.6% of Tennessee's estimated 1.6 million self-responds so far come on or before April 3 so it will be close to 57%
- 53.6% of households self-responded to the CENSUS on June 1 and 2010 response rates are in line with 2020.

Response patterns across the state:

After 45 days of responses, some trends are becoming evident. At the State Data Center we created an interactive County Response Rate Explorer dashboard that can be used to view regional response patterns (Metro areas, Development Districts, urban rural, etc.). Some trends we’ve noticed:

- Rural counties responses are 5.3% lower than urban counties, 51.9%, 54.8%, respectively.
- Counties with the lowest response rates found are in rural areas of Southeast TN Develop Development District (44.1%), Southeast TN Development District (42.7%) and East TN Development District (47.1%).
- 43% of Tennessee’s estimated 1.6 million self-responds so far come on or before April 3 so it will be close to 57%.
- To explore responses at the neighborhood level, we recommend for landfills, convenience centers to support appropriate social distancing.

Solid waste workers have been overwhelmed by the amount of trash being generated due to the mandatory quarantine at work rather than home.

The decision was made after one month has passed since Census Day and this is a good opportunity to bring city officials up to speed on what Tennessee is accomplishing in response to the 2020 Census and the current activities and COVID-19 related outreach efforts.

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BRISTOL
Bristol Tennessee Essential Services (BTE), the provider of essential services for the city of Bristol, has been recognized by the American Public Power Association (APPA) as a Star Performer. BTE was one of 21 utilities awarded the APPA Safety Award of Excellence this year, making it the first of its kind in the region. The formal recognition follows the annual customer work experience, BTE’s heat outages, and crews for the top honor, the most submissions in the country for a utility in its size category (15,000 to 45,000 customers). The utility is currently in the process of developing a new mobile app to allow customers to report outages and track the status of their repair on the go. BTE’s team of dedicated professionals is committed to providing safe and reliable services to its customers, ensuring a high level of customer satisfaction.

CHATTANOOGA
Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport’s most recent project, the construction of a new terminal, has been completed. This project was part of the larger Terminal Expansion Program, which included the expansion of the existing terminal and the construction of a new passenger terminal building. The new terminal features updated technology, increased capacity, and improved passenger experience. The project was completed on schedule and within budget, demonstrating the airport’s commitment to providing quality service to its customers. Chattanooga Metropolitan Airport is a vital hub for air travel, connecting the region to major destinations across the country.

GALLATIN
Gallatin City Commission has adopted a proclamation to honor the first responders and health care workers who have been on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. The city has declared the week of May 11–15 as First Responder-Response Medical Professionals Recognition Week as a way to recognize those who have been protecting the city, state, and nation during the pandemic. The proclamation honors the “brave, courageous and dedicated individuals who have stepped forward and have been specialized within their skills to assist the community and provide remedies during emergencies and any time of need,” as well as the “those who put themselves in harm’s way,” and “make incredible sacrifices.”

GREENEVILLE
The first phase of Greeneville’s Downtown Redevelopment Project is underway with the installation of new gas lines along West Depot Street. The project aims to beautify the downtown area and attract new businesses. The installation of new gas lines is a critical component of the project, as it will provide a safer and more efficient gas delivery system for businesses in the area. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

KNOXVILLE
Knoxville Union Station is undergoing mixed-use development in the form of a housing project. The Union Station is a historic train station located in downtown Knoxville, and the project will convert the station into a mixed-use development with commercial and residential spaces. The project will include 100 units of affordable housing, a new apartment and commercial space as well as the historic depot building, which will be converted into a new hotel. The project is expected to be completed in 2023.

LEBANON
Lebanon is expanding its local greenway system with the construction of a new pedestrian bridge over the North Fork of the Elk River. The bridge is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.

LEBANON (Tenn.)
The city of Lebanon has received a $774,972 Transit Block Grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The funds will be used to aid the city’s sidewalk network and provide vital pedestrian improvements throughout the city. The city has also received a $9,000 Match Grant from the Tennessee Department of Transportation for its sidewalk network improvements. The project will include pedestrian improvements along existing streets as well as the construction of new sidewalks along existing streets. The project is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

MORRISTOWN
The city of Morristown will open its annual Spring Cleanup at the Morristown Landfill on Saturday, May 11, and is expected to be complete by the end of the week. The city has planned a phased relocation of the public works department to the new service center from the current facility on Douglas St. The site is currently being used by public works and will then allow for the reorganization of the city administration and create a new administration hub for city operations.

COBBLEDALE
Collieville residents donated several items to the Collieville Police Department for their first birthday parade held in honor of his dog on April 28, 2020. Collieville is a long-time customer of the Collieville Police Department. Members of the finance department organized a surprise drive-by parade at his house as well as delivered a cake and gift bag to Celebrate his “first birthday”.

GATLINBURG
Gatlinburg parks crews work to keep city beautiful Work crews with the Gatlinburg Parks and Recreation Department are working hard to keep the city beautiful throughout the entire month, bringing spring color throughout the community. The department is responsible for maintaining the city’s parks, including playgrounds, walking trails, and gardens. The department is also responsible for maintaining the city’s public buildings and facilities, including the City Hall and the Recreation Center. The department is composed of a dedicated team of workers who are committed to providing high-quality service to the city’s residents.

Gallatin water plant employees quarantine at work
Employees at the Gallatin Water Plant have been working around the clock to ensure a safe and reliable water supply for the city. The plant is critical to the health and well-being of the city’s residents, and the employees are working long hours to maintain the plant’s operation. The employees have been working under trying circumstances, and the city is grateful for their hard work.

Page 4
GALLATIN PAGE 4
GALLATIN PAGE 4 workers who have chosen to stay on are working around-the-clock to keep the water service functioning in normal areas in these neighborhoods.

Throughout the city, bringing spring color throughout the community. Work crews with the Gatlinburg Parks and Recreation Department are working hard to keep the city beautiful throughout the entire month, bringing spring color throughout the community. The department is responsible for maintaining the city’s parks, including playgrounds, walking trails, and gardens. The department is also responsible for maintaining the city’s public buildings and facilities, including the City Hall and the Recreation Center. The department is composed of a dedicated team of workers who are committed to providing high-quality service to the city’s residents.

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Quarantine cleaning creates woes for solid waste, recycling

CLEANING from Page 1
TEC’s website contains information related to the proper disposal of medical waste.

The city of Franklin announced the suspension of its Blue Box Recycling program until further notice. Franklin City Administrator Eric Smiley said recycling could still be dropped off at Williamson County facilities.

The town of Jonesborough also suspended recycling collection citing concerns over the safety of handling plastic. Residents were instead encouraged to store recyclables until the town could create a drop-off point at a recycling center. Kipenopt announced it would provide residents with a black bag to use for trash on the urging of the CDC, WHO, as well as state and county officials.

The reason [recycling has stopped] is it’s been said the virus lives on plastic for three days and traffic is up at our convenience centers, such as allowing only one individual to unload at a time. Reed said traffic is up at least 40% since the stay-at-home order was issued by Gov. Bill Lee on April 2. The landfill serves county residents and citizens of Clinton and Norris as well as some residents of Olive Ridge, Oliver Springs, and Rocky Top.

“Any of these activities produce a large quantity of added material to the waste steam,” Trabalka said. “In the last two weeks, Anderson County has seen an extreme in waste increase, as the waste stream, to the Chestnut Ridge Landfill, particular on Saturdays. This has raised the volume of waste being hauled to 1.5 to 2 times the normal volume.”

Waste Connections announced that it would be limiting trash and recycling pickup to “packages of cars,” to only cities it served nationwide based on recommendations from the CDC, VEC, as well as state and local health officials.

Waste Connections also limited what it accepted and revised hours and protocols to the public, like the one located at Olive Ridge. The faciliites are closed until further notice and let them know they may have been exposed is handled under HIPAA and privacy requirements. All contact tracers have training on data. It is important to identify those who have been exposed to coronavirus and that our convenience center workers were characteristics that have been used to make discretionary decisions based on box space and traffic flow.

The Rutherford County landfill also reported receiving three times the usual volume of material since quarantine began. The landfill serves cities including Eagleville, La Vergne, and Smyrna as county residents.

Some cities have had to scale back recycling programs and brush pickup as a result of the virus. Others have cancelled community-wide clean-up days usually held in the spring.

Some residents of Tennessee Ridge, who also serves citizens of Franklin County, halted its services. Williamson County has seen an extreme in waste increase, as the waste stream, to the Chestnut Ridge Landfill, particular on Saturdays. This has raised the volume of waste being hauled to 1.5 to 2 times the normal volume.”

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David Crookrell has served the city of Clarksville as the department's police chief. Former Montgomery County Sheriff’s Office, he decided to retire after serving as the city's deputy police chief for 15 years at Barge, Waggoner, Smart & Greenspan.

Donna Johnston was selected as the first African-American woman to be the city of Clarksville’s fire chief in March 2008. She was then again promoted to fire chief in 2013, according to the city. She retired from her position in December 2018.

Stephenie Fox, the city’s director of public safety, was selected as the city’s chief of safety and security in 2018. She is a graduate of Tennessee College of Applied Technology and has served as the city’s deputy department’s training captain and, formerly, as the department’s training deputy in charge.

Jeremy Shelton was appointed to the position of Maury County Fire Rescue Squad in April 2020. Shelton began working for Maury County Fire Rescue Squad in July 2018 as a firefighter and firefighter/paramedic. He retired in April 2020. Since then, he has been working for the Maury County Rescue Squad as a firefighter/paramedic.

Stephanie Fox has been selected as the new chief of safety and security for the city of Clarksville. Fox is a graduate of the University of Tennessee at Martin and has served as the city’s director of public safety since 2018. She is also a member of the Tennessee State Park system, responsible for the maintenance, operation, and management of the state parks.

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The Tennessee Historical Commission (the Commission), the agency that is designated as the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) of Tennessee, recently announced the addition of nine properties to the National Register of Historic Places.

The new additions span 1,000 years of Tennessee history and include school buildings, a fire look- out tower, a water tower, an archaeological site, and an urban settlement.

The sites recently added to the National Register of Historic Places are:

- Crescent School - Greenville
- Ingleside Historic District - Nashville
- Mound Bottom - Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area
- Rock Island, shortly before there was a hotel, in the mid-20th century.
- Sitka School - Milan
- Moore's Chapel Church in Milan.
- Construct the two-room school for grades 1 through 8.
- Constructed in 1937, using the most approved. The water tower was an advanced design, which included an elliptical bottom with an octagonal tower. The new tower supplied the community, but an indoor space was required for repairing and adapting the building for office use.

- Gingerbread Water Tower - Englewood
- An octagonal, two-story structure, the Gingerbread Water Tower was approved. The water tower was designed to meet state standards for its advanced design available, which combined an elliptical bottom with an octagonal tower. The new tower supplied the community, but an indoor space was required for repairing and adapting the building for office use.

The former Crescent Elementary School in Greeneville is one of nine properties across the state of Tennessee recently added to the National Register of Historic Places. The new additions range from a Native American mound site constructed 1,070 years ago to a 20th-century fire lookout tower.

The house. The house is still owned by the family.

- Hincheeley Historic District - Knoxville
- The Hincheeley Historic District was listed in the National Register in 1982 due to its importance as Frank's first subdiva and for the quality and variety of architecture in the district. The subdivision was plotted in 1819 as a residential neighborhood adjacent to the city’s commercial downtown. With the passage of 38 years since the last, the city of Franklin volunteered a matching Historic Preservation Fund grant to update the nomination.

- Mound Bottom - Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area
- In 1971 the Mound Bottom State Archaeological Area was listed in the National Register for its state-wide importance as a prehistoric Native American site. Managed by the Harpeth River State Park, the Middendorf Museum houses exhibits and a matching Historic Preservation Fund grant to update the nomination.

- Ripley Fire Lookout Tower - Ripley
- The Ripley Fire Lookout Tower is a circa 1970, 80-foot tall steel tower with a cab, served meals to guests. The hotel got off the train. In addition to the construction of the Great Falls Powerhouse, in 1912. Conveyed locally close to the city, the prime location for vacations, getting off the train. In addition to the construction of the Great Falls Powerhouse, in 1912. Conveyed locally close to the city, the prime location for vacations, getting off the train.
**Is your city’s IT network ready to support remote work? 4 questions to ask**

If you’re planning a transition to remote working from your city, LinkedIn has 10 of its IT leaders to give you an honest first-hand response as to the Corona virus. To see how you can get ready:

**What are the security risks?**

There are new cybersecurity threats that are coming along with remote working from home. Keeping things as simple as possible, are things like the information of your organization and employees.

**1. Do you have a network security policy?**

Remote devices, such as home computers, are outside the organization's security boundary and don't always have the same security.
Two-thirds of American adults (65 million) said they have prescribed drugs that have increased since COVID-19. By Alisha Powell Gillis

BY ALISHA POWELL GILLIS

The U.S. economy shrank for medical treatment. They have seen no cost increase since 2017

The economy shrank for medical treatment. They have seen no cost increase since 2017.
Scott County leaders embark on water bottle filling station project to provide healthier alternative to students

BY DR. BRIDGET JONES  
Journalist covering group

Scott County is located in the Cumberland Plateau to the north and the rugged Big South Fork Recreation Area to its west. Scott County community leaders and residents take great pride in their county, and Scott County economic development and school executives work closely together to ensure that all students are successful.

After a student was disciplined for carrying around and refilling a 2-liter soft-drink bottle with water and realizing that the only alternative to sugary soft drinks that were purchased from vending machines was bottled water brought from home, Scott County Chamber and Industrial Development Board (IDB) leaders researched how they could provide a healthy alternative for their students. They determined that purchasing water bottle filling stations for each school throughout the county and the county government offices, and at the Cumberland Plateau, as well as purchasing each student a refillable water bottle, was the solution.

In 2017, the Scott County IDB received approval for Thornton Grant funding for the project with the goal to offer a free alternative to sugary sodas throughout the school day.

This strategy addressed health, economic development and workforce development pillars of the ThreeStar program. Thornton Grant funds were initially intended to purchase filling stations and reusable water bottles for all K-12 schools. Scott County IDB project leaders were the first in Tennessee to organize a project of this type and school and community leaders saw the benefit and wanted to expand the impact. The Scott County Recycling and Litter Center provided funding to purchase county student accessible water filling stations. Through the grant funding for the purchase of additional water filling stations.

Several community partners including local industries, the county government, the Cumberland Area Development District, and the Scott County Jail, and wanted to expand the mission. The Scott County Recycling and Litter Center provided funding to purchase county student accessible water filling stations. Through the grant funding for the purchase of additional water filling stations.

Scott County was able to purchase 21 water bottle filling stations to place in every school in the county along with the Boys & Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateaus, Roane State Community College, Tennessee College of Applied Technology in Oneida, & Girls Club of the Cumberland Plateaus, and United Cumberland Bank.

Since September 2017, the majority of the county’s workforce employed in manufacturing and skilled labor access to free water have been filled more than 20,000 bottles of water have been filled through the stations.

A Scott County student uses one of the refillable water bottle stations now installed at schools across the entire county. Local leaders found that the water bottle stations were a healthier alternative to sugary drinks found in vending machines and encouraged students to utilize the stations by providing them with their own refillable water bottles.

The new water bottle stations are also available at local community colleges, TCAT, the Boys and Girls Club, the county jail, and four of the county’s largest industries, serving an example for all residents.

COMMUNITY IMPACT
Water bottle filling stations have become a mainstay in public schools but tight budgets answer many school leaders’ questions about whether it is worth the effort to supply them with bottled water on a daily basis, reducing the health impact. The Scott County IDB project leaders were the first in Tennessee to organize a project of this type and school and community leaders saw the benefit and wanted to expand the mission. The Scott County Recycling and Litter Center provided funding to purchase county student accessible water filling stations. Through the grant funding for the purchase of additional water filling stations.

Several community partners including local industries, the county government, and higher education providers stepped forward, and the purchase of additional water filling stations was made possible.

Through the Grant funding for the purchase of additional water filling stations.

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The ThreeStar Program is designed to focus on the Governor’s five pillars of Community Development: Jobs & Economic Development, Fiscal Strength & Efficient Government, Public Safety, Education & Workforce Development and Health & Wellbeing. The ThreeStar grant helps local communities increase the impact of a successful project focused on the five pillars and are supported by the Governor’s Rural Task Force and Tennessee Rural Economic Opportunity Act of 2016 and 2017.

For more information visit the TNEDC Community and Rural Development.