



Child Welfare

Recognize TEN-4 Day statewide and support regional awareness through state-funded educational events aimed at preventing child abuse.

WHY

The TEN-4 rule is a critical tool for identifying signs of potential physical abuse in young children—specifically, bruising on the torso, ears, or neck in children under four. Pediatricians, emergency room staff, and other frontline healthcare providers are often the first to encounter these warning signs.

By officially recognizing October 4th as TEN-4 Day and funding educational events across Tennessee's regions, the state can raise awareness not only among caregivers, educators, and community members, but also among medical professionals who play a vital role in early detection and intervention.

Educating healthcare providers is essential to ensuring that no warning sign goes unnoticed. When medical professionals are trained to recognize patterns of abuse and understand reporting protocols, they become powerful allies in protecting children. Hosting community events and regional trainings that highlight the TEN-4 rule can help raise awareness among healthcare providers, giving them the tools and confidence to recognize early signs of abuse and respond appropriately.

By hosting regional events that bring together medical professionals, educators, local leaders, and families, the state is investing in a proactive, prevention-first approach. These efforts strengthen public safety, reduce long-term harm, and protect our most vulnerable citizens through early, informed action.

What is TEN-4-FACESp?

TEN-4-FACESp is an acronym and validated clinical decision rule to help screen children under 4 years of age with bruising to identify when a bruise is more likely to be caused by abuse than accidental injury. ³

TEN-4-FACESp stands for bruising to the: ⁴

Torso

Ears

Neck

"4" represents infants 4 months and younger with any bruise, anywhere

Frenulum

Angle of the jaw

Cheeks

Eyelids or

Subconjunctivae

"p" represents the presence of patterned bruising

"Bruising is the most common injury from physical child abuse and the most common injury to be overlooked or misdiagnosed as nonabusive before an abuse-related fatality or near-fatality in a young child. Several studies identified bruises as the preceding injury to abusive head trauma." -

Validation of a Clinical Decision Rule to Predict Abuse in Young Children Based on Bruising Characteristics ³