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# Advocate

July 2016

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## Staying on the Right Path: Addressing Trauma's Impact on Youth Behavior

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- National Girls Initiative;
- Juvenile Justice Legislation;
- KIDS COUNT Data Book;
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- Update.



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## Justice



The first separate juvenile court was created in 1899, driven by a belief youth were more malleable to change. Attitudes about young people and crime have changed over time, with response to youth crime taking a turn to harsh measures beginning in the 1960s that peaked in 1995. Recently, a focus on trauma-informed care is moving the efforts toward treatment. More knowledge about the long term impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences is leading courts to ask not "What did you do?" but "What happened to you?" of youth who come into contact with them.

American Bar Association, *Part 1: The History of Juvenile Justice*, <http://bit.ly/29cMCUw>.

## New National Guard Alternative Residential Program Planning Move into Old Woodland Hills Campus



The National Guard Volunteer Youth ChalleNGe Academy serves youth ages 16-18 who have dropped out of school and have no criminal record. The goal is for participants to develop self-discipline, leadership and responsibility while earning a high school equivalency diploma. A two-week orientation/acclimation period is followed by a 20-week residential program. Mentors work with youth for a year after they return to their homes.

The Tennessee program was approved by the U.S. Department of Defense and is funded by federal and state monies. Similar programs operate in 29 states, Washington, D.C., and Puerto Rico.

DCS will be replacing Woodland Hills Youth Development Center with a new program, Gateway to Independence, which will be moving to the New Visions building next door.

Promising Practices Network, *Programs That Work*, “National Guard Youth Challenge Program,” <http://bit.ly/28TqxKn>.

MDC, *Staying on Course: Three-Year Results of the National Guard Challenge Evaluation*, <http://bit.ly/292toRp>.

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## Trauma: A Recurring Theme in Girls' Lives

Adolescence is a time of tremendous discovery, struggle and growth. This process can be difficult for girls as they face unique challenges along the road to healthy development. One dominant and recurring theme in the lives of girls is the connection between all forms of interpersonal violence and the resulting trauma. This often manifests as substance abuse and mental health issues.

Historically, services have been designed for boys based on a model of compliance and control with the expectations that girls would just “fit in.” Today we have increased knowledge of both the impact of trauma on the developing brain, as well as the high incidence of abuse in girls’ lives. In the past people talked about the “school to prison pipeline,” but the latest research indicates that it is a “sexual abuse to prison pipeline” for girls. A deeper understanding of the need for effective gender-responsive services and trauma-informed care can increase the resilience of girls.

*By Vicki Taylor, TCCY Juvenile Justice Specialist*

Georgetown Law Center, *Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story*, <http://bit.ly/1HRX29wy>.

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## National Girls Initiative (NGI)

The National Crittenton Foundation, in cooperation with the American Institutes for Research, coordinates the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) National Girls Initiative (NGI) that focuses on catalyzing change for girls in, and at risk of entering, the juvenile justice system.



The goal of NGI is to drive new resources to state, local and tribal efforts to address girls' needs, and to share information on evidence-based practices that are trauma informed and gender and culturally responsive. NGI also works to elevate the voices of girls and their families as partners in reforming the juvenile justice system.

*By Vicki Taylor, TCCY Juvenile Justice Specialist*

National Crittenton Foundation, **National Girls Initiative: Using a Collaborative Approach Working across systems and jurisdictions**, <http://bit.ly/1sJC3zE>.

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## Changes Anticipated in Juvenile Justice Legislation

Several important legislative proposals affecting youth in the juvenile justice system are anticipated in the Tennessee General Assembly next year. Recent Supreme Court rulings and upcoming civil cases have prompted bills regarding life without parole for crimes committed as juveniles and solitary confinement for juvenile offenders. Another proposal stems from 2016 legislation to study juvenile justice in Tennessee.

*Miller v. Alabama*, making **life without parole** unconstitutional, and *Montgomery v. Louisiana*, mandating the review of cases of those sentenced to life without parole for crimes committed as a juvenile, require changes in Tennessee code. A proposal filed in 2016 to allow review of cases of those sentenced to life without parole or other lengthy sentences was derailed by disagreement over details. The bills were deferred to a future session.

Earlier in 2016, President Obama issued an executive order prohibiting the use of solitary confinement for juveniles held in the federal prison system. Legislation about **solitary confinement** for juveniles was also proposed in Tennessee this year. The bill limited the number of days a juvenile could be held in solitary confinement before review by the juvenile court judge, who could extend it further. Juvenile Court judges objected to the bill because the definition of solitary confinement conflicted with detention center policies requiring juvenile offenders be held in single capacity cells. Consideration of the bill was stopped at the request of the Administrative Office of the Courts, because detention center rules are being rewritten.

Since that time, two suits have been filed in Tennessee regarding the use of solitary confinement of juveniles, and legislation is expected to be introduced again in the coming session.

The passage in 2016 of the Tennessee **Juvenile Justice Realignment Act** may trigger 2017 legislation. The bill created a task force to study juvenile justice in Tennessee, including possibly creating a department of juvenile justice. TCCY has a representative on the task force, with other stakeholders.

Another proposal being considered would extend jurisdiction of juvenile court beyond the age of 19, or create blended sentencing. In 2015, legislation was filed to create a blended sentencing structure in Tennessee. It was deemed too costly to be considered. Nearly half of all states have some form of blended sentencing, giving juvenile courts the opportunity to impose a criminal sentence that can be deferred, subject to meeting the conditions and requirements of the juvenile disposition. Some juvenile court judges see this as an alternative to transferring juveniles charged with serious offenses to be tried as adults. Data on the effectiveness of blended sentencing is limited and complicated by lack of consistency in blended sentencing programs in other states.

**By Steve Petty, TCCY Youth Policy Advocate**

National Conference of State Legislatures, ***Miller v. Alabama -- Mandatory Life Without Parole Sentences are Unconstitutional for Juveniles***, <http://bit.ly/28WvWDq>.

Colb, Sherry F., *Verdict*, “**What Montgomery v. Louisiana Portends for Future Juvenile Sentencing**,” <http://bit.ly/28YLjN>.

Ford, Matt, *The Atlantic*, “**A Retroactive Break for Juvenile Offenders**,” <http://theatl.in.tc/28SFEGb>.

**Campaign for Fair Sentencing for Youth**, <http://bit.ly/29f5DWu>.

National Public Radio, ***Solitary Confinement Is What Destroyed My Son, Grieving Mom Says***, <http://n.pr/1Ys1xgN>.

Dimon, Laura, *The Atlantic*, “**How Solitary Confinement Hurts the Teenage Brain**,” <http://theatl.in.tc/28SdtCF>.

White House Briefing, ***Fact Sheet: Department of Justice Review of Solitary Confinement***, <http://1.usa.gov/28YNuxu>.

**The Sentencing Project, Juvenile Justice**, <http://bit.ly/29f6yqa>.

National Center for State Courts, ***A Decade of NCSC Research on Blended Sentencing of Juvenile Offenders***, <http://bit.ly/292HdwT>.

National Center for Juvenile Justice, 2008, ***Different from Adults: An Updated Analysis of Juvenile Transfer and Blended Sentencing Laws, With Recommendations for Reform***, <http://bit.ly/297Wsln>.

**Juvenile Justice Realignment Act**, <http://bit.ly/290wxiA>.

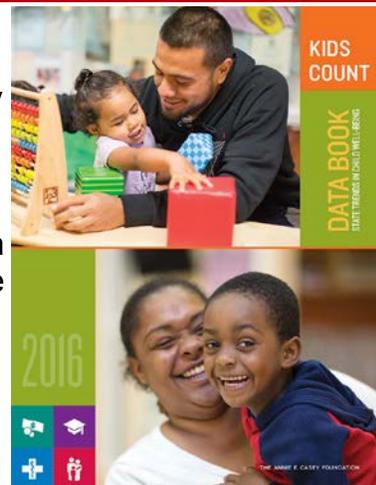
TCCY Legislative Information: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-legislat>.

**Legislative Summary:** <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/legislat.pdf>.

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## Tennessee Ranked 38th in KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Ranking

Tennessee's ranking on overall child well-being slipped from 36 to 38, according to the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2016 KIDS COUNT® Data Book released recently. The change was largely driven by worsening economic indicators. The *KIDS COUNT Data Book* ranks child well-being in states across four domains. Tennessee's overall ranking at 38 was compiled from its rankings of 42 on Economic Well-Being, 36 on Education, 28 on Health and 39 on Family and Community. Each domain is made up of four indicators



KIDS COUNT, *2016 KIDS COUNT® National Data Book*, <http://bit.ly/11HOOCR>.

**2016 KIDS COUNT Tennessee Profile:** <http://bit.ly/28Tk2se>.

2016 KIDS COUNT Data Book: *What Do the Data Mean for Tennessee?*  
<http://1.usa.gov/298Cprz>.

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## Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Still Awaiting Reauthorization

Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act, first passed in 1974, needs to be reauthorized. It was last reauthorized in 2002. However, reauthorization has stalled. A reauthorization bill that has been voted out of the Senate Judiciary Committee improves on current law. The current bill strengthens the act's core provisions by:

- Strengthening Deinstitutionalization of Status Offenders protections by eliminating the use of Valid Court Orders;
- Providing direction to promote data-driven approaches to ensure fairness and reduce disparities, set measurable objectives and report on efforts;
- Extending jail removal and sight and sound core protections.

The bill is being held from further consideration in the Senate by one senator from Arkansas. The Senate committee has proposed increasing funding for JJDP Act programs for FY 2017. The House Appropriations Committee, however, recommended a budget cutting OJJDP programs. Updated information on the act is available from national advocacy groups.

Spark Action, **JJDPA Matters Action Center**, <http://bit.ly/292U1oA>.

**ACT4JJ, A Nationwide Initiative for the Reauthorization of the JJDPA**,  
<http://bit.ly/292DeTe>.

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## Updates

Jill Grayson Stott has joined TCCY staff as the Northeast regional coordinator, taking over from Diane Wise, who has retired. Stott previously served on the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. She lives in Johnson City. She is the mother of two children, Hank and Molly. Prior to taking her new role, Stott worked in government relations for Mountain States Alliance.



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## Mark Your Calendar

**July 11-12, Tennessee System of Care Conference**, Embassy Suites by Hilton, Nashville-South/Cool Springs. Contact [tfuqua@tamho.org](mailto:tfuqua@tamho.org).

**July 11**, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. CDT, **Teaching Academic Content and Literacy to English Learners**, Music City Center, 201 5th Avenue S., Nashville. Sponsored by the Regional Education Laboratory Appalachia. Register at <http://bit.ly/1X8cvYa>.

**July 19-21**, Early Connections Network presents **Kimochis® Early Childhood Curriculum Training**, Signal Centers, 109 N. Germantown Road, Chattanooga. Contact [noelle.cannon@advantagebehavioral.org](mailto:noelle.cannon@advantagebehavioral.org).

**Aug. 1-3, Child Welfare League of America Conference**, Hyatt Regency, Orange County, CA. Information: <http://bit.ly/1TeVbOu>. Register: <http://www.cwla.org/substanceuseconference/>.

**Aug. 2-3, 2016 CJJ Youth Summit**, "Agents of Change: Rethinking, Reshaping and Reforming the Juvenile Justice System," Georgetown University Hotel and Conference Center, Washington, DC, for emerging leaders under age 25. Information: <http://bit.ly/1ZyPo8z>. Register at <http://bit.ly/1UoORIs>. Fees range from \$90 to \$120.

**Aug. 4**, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m., **Youth Transitions Advisory Council**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman St., Nashville. Contact [Steve.Petty@tn.gov](mailto:Steve.Petty@tn.gov).

**Aug. 5**, 8:30 a.m.-4:15 p.m. CDT, **Centerstone Presents: Innovations in Substance Use Disorder Treatment**, Patterson Park Community Center, Murfreesboro. Free. Intended for adult audiences only. Register at <http://bit.ly/29p2nqo>.

**March 14-15, 2017, Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov).

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## In the News

O'Neal, Linda, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, "Guest column: We must do better for Tennessee Children," <http://bit.ly/28KUfk5>

Hughes, Kinley, *Tallahoma News*, "**State's ranking drops on annual KIDS COUNT report,**" <http://bit.ly/295rAs3>.

Nelson, Kristi L., *Knoxville News Sentinel*, "**Poverty drops state ranking on children's well-being,**" <http://bit.ly/292SH9v>.

Newland, Jonquil, WTVF-5, "**Study: TN Children's Well Being Dropped; Shows Room for Improvement,**" <http://bit.ly/28QIR9U>.

*Memphis Commercial Appeal*, **Editorial: Herenton's plan for juveniles is admirable, but runs counter to national trend,** <http://bit.ly/1S2OUS6>.

Hargrow, Craig, *Memphis Commercial Appeal*, **Guest column: Big residential juvenile detention facilities ineffective,** <http://bit.ly/1Ura3XV>.

*Memphis Commercial Appeal*, **Editorial: Long-term pro-active community involvement will hit crime problem at its roots,** <http://bit.ly/1Ura3XV>.

Torres, Matthew, WTVF-5, **Bed Slats Discovery Tells Heartbreaking Story,** <http://bit.ly/1UDBWPg>.

Anderson, Melinda D., *The Atlantic Monthly*, "**Learning Behind Bars: Why doesn't education in juvenile detention facilities get any attention or support,**" <http://theatl.n.tc/25KrH49>.

Daigon, Glenn, *The Chronicle of Social Change*, "**Need for Better Collaboration on Crossover Youth Voiced in Senate Judiciary Hearing,**" <http://bit.ly/290N4r5>.

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## Research Information

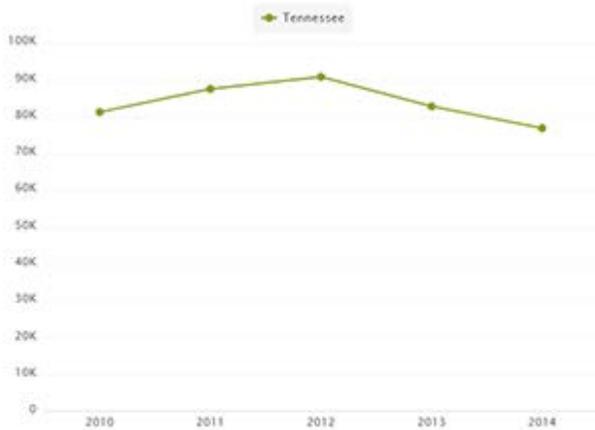
Shearing, Adam, et al, Georgetown Center for Children and Families, A Children's Health Policy Blog, **Medicaid Expansion is Having Positive Ripple Effects,** <http://bit.ly/1PYcoh2>.

Hostetter, Martha, and Sarah Klein, Commonwealth Fund, **In Focus: Recognizing Trauma As a Means of Engaging Patients,** <http://bit.ly/295WilD>.

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# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

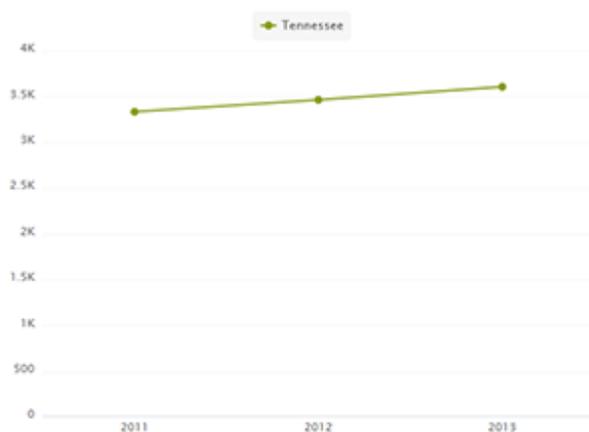
## Juvenile Court Referrals



### JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS (NUMBER)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

## Drug-Related Arrests for Youth



### DRUG RELATED ARRESTS FOR YOUTH UNDER AGE 18 (NUMBER)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth  
KIDS COUNT Data Center, [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

No person shall, on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion, disability or ability to pay, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity operated, funded or overseen by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY). It is the intent of TCCY to bind all agencies, organizations or governmental units operating under its jurisdiction and control to fully comply with and abide by the spirit and intent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

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