Data Is an Advocacy Tool

Tennessee Improves on Census Measures of Income, Health Insurance Coverage

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Tennessee saw a significant decline in its poverty rates between 2014 and 2015, according to a September release from the Census Bureau American Community Survey. As of 2015, the percent of Tennesseans in poverty had fallen to 16.7, a significant reduction and an improvement in the lives of 93,407 people. The Nashville metropolitan statistical area was 12.7 percent, and the Clarksville and Chattanooga areas also had lower rates of poverty.


**More People Have Health Care**

The number and rate of Tennesseans with health care coverage increased between 2013 and 2015, according to data released in September by the Census Bureau. In 2015, the percentage of Tennesseans uninsured reached 10.3 percent, ranking the state 34th in the nation. Nationally, the rate of coverage improved for every age group and for 47 states. Tennessee’s percentage of increase ranked it 11th of the 23 states that have not expanded coverage to those in the gap between
traditional Medicaid eligibility and 138 percent of poverty, the level at which people become eligible for Affordable Care Act health coverage tax credits.

**Uninsured Adults and Children Eligible for Medicaid / CHIP, 2014**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Uninsured Medicaid Eligible Adults</th>
<th>Uninsured Medicaid/CHIP Eligible Children</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>All States</td>
<td>8.7 M</td>
<td>7.9 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>States Moving Forward with the Medicaid Expansion</td>
<td>7.9 M</td>
<td>7.9 M</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Not Moving Forward with the Expansion at this Time</td>
<td>2.7 M</td>
<td>0.9 M</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SOURCE:** Kaiser Family Foundation analysis based on 2014 Medicaid eligibility levels and 2012-2013 Current Population Survey.

Nationally, the uninsured rate for youth people ages 19 to 25 and 26 to 34 fell 7 percentage points between 2013 and 2015, the most improvement among any group, primarily because they can remain on their parents' coverage until age 26. Research finds children of all ages living with parents who have health care coverage themselves are more likely to get coverage, confirming the role improved coverage for parents in the primary child-bearing years plays in improving coverage for children.

**Children’s Access to Care by Health Insurance Status, 2012**

*In past 12 months*

**NOTES:** Question about dental care was analyzed for children age 2-17. All other questions were analyzed for all children under age 18. MD contact includes other health professionals. Respondents who said usual source of care was the emergency room were included among those not having a usual source of care. All differences between the uninsured and the two insurance groups are statistically significant (p<0.05).

**SOURCE:** KCMU analysis of 2013 NHS data.


Gov. Haslam Proclaims "Lights On Afterschool Day"
As its collaboration with the Tennessee Afterschool Network TCCY requested Gov. Haslam proclaim October 20, "Lights On Afterschool Day" in Tennessee. This is the seventeenth annual celebration of the role of afterschool programs in the lives of students. Contact the Tennessee Afterschool Network for assistance in planning a local event and to find information on afterschool programs in your area.

Contact: http://bit.ly/2cZF7QV or mary.graham@uwtn.org.

Celebrating the KIDS COUNT Data Center
By providing high-quality data and trend analysis, the Annie E. Casey Foundation seeks to enrich local, state and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children — and to raise the visibility of children’s issues through a nonpartisan, evidence-based lens. It achieves this through its KIDS COUNT Data Center, as well as through its other KIDS COUNT products and the work of its state affiliates, like TCCY. The Data Center has more than 4 million individual bits of data on hundreds of indicators available on the national, state, congressional district, etc. Trend lines, bar charts and comparisons of selected indicators and geographic areas are available.


Census Led the Way to Making Information Available
October 20 is World Statistics Day. Two TCCY projects make intensive use of statistics, the Resource Mapping Program, which totals budget information from state agencies to report the funding spent on children, and the KIDS COUNT Program, which compiles and distributes information on child well-being.

One of the wisest choices of our country's founders was to build data collection into the Constitution. The Census Bureau stated the original aim well: “The Founders of our fledgling nation had a bold and ambitious plan to empower the people over their new government. The plan was to count every person living in the newly created United States of America, and to use that count to determine representation in the Congress.”

The first census of the population was held in 1790 and included Tennessee, then known as the Southwest Territory. Counts have been conducted every 10 years since. As far back as 1870, courts approved the collection of other information, including more detailed data on America's changing population, housing and workforce now gathered by the American Community Survey.
The Census was just the beginning of federal data collection programs. Thirteen principal agencies participate in FedStats, an information clearinghouse for data. Among the best known measures are the unemployment and other economic statistics, vital health statistics and education statistics


October is Youth Justice Action Month

October is Campaign for Youth Justice "Youth Justice Action Month." Since 2009, the Campaign for Youth Justice has raised awareness to the issues of the juvenile justice system, including over use of detention and transferring youth to adult courts.


“Stickup Kid,” a film on transfers of youth to the adult system: http://to.pbs.org/2dgYFoP.

October is National Bullying Prevention Month

A national organization, STOMP Out Bullying, has named October National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and October 4 World Day of Bullying Prevention 2016.


**Updates**

Gov. Bill Haslam has reappointed Phil Acord of Chattanooga, Rev. Audrey Taylor Gonzalez of Memphis, Genesis Hardin of Maryville, Steven Neely of Franklin and Glenda Terry of Cookeville to the Commission for three-year terms. TCCY is pleased to have their continued guidance and support.

![Acord](image1.png)  ![Gonzalez](image2.png)  ![Hardin](image3.png)  ![Neely](image4.png)  ![Terry](image5.png)

Congratulations to two TCCY staff members who are improving their skills. **Shaun Noblit**, TCCY South Central regional coordinator, has begun classes after having been accepted by the Nashville School of Law.

**Russette Sloan**, TCCY’s administrative services assistant, is working toward a master’s degree at the U.T. School of Social Work.

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**Mark Your Calendar**

October 6, 2016, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. CDT, **Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) Meeting**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman Street, Nashville. Contact [Steve.Petty@tn.gov](mailto:Steve.Petty@tn.gov).


October 20, **Lights on Afterschool Day**, events across the state. Contact: [http://bit.ly/2cZF7QV](http://bit.ly/2cZF7QV) or mary.graham@uwtn.org.

October 20-21, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Meeting**, Montgomery Bell State Park, 1020 Jackson Hill Rd, Burns (off Highway 70 W). Contact [Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov](mailto:Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov).

October 26, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Union University 4th Annual "**Hope for Freedom**: Human Trafficking Awareness Summit", Calvary Church, 1851 N Houston Levee Rd., Cordova. Preregistration required; $25 registration fee. Register: [http://bit.ly/1Q1VFt9](http://bit.ly/1Q1VFt9).
October 28, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., "Legal & Lethal: The Prescription Drug Epidemic is Here," Cumberland Medical Center, 421 S. Main St., Crossville. Contact rvalerio@bradfordhealth.net or director@cumberlandcountyrising.org. Fee: $25, $75 if including continuing medical education credits. Register: http://bit.ly/2cNww3g.

Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Council on Children's Mental Health Meeting, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1443 Twelfth Ave., S., Nashville. Contact: Melissa.Mcgee@tn.gov.


In the News


Wadhwani, Anita, Tennessean, Task force weighs new approaches to juvenile justice, http://tnne.ws/2bPluvK.


Research Information


Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Children in Poverty (Number)

Children Without Health Insurance (Number)


http://bit.ly/2dA0FDw


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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