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Advocate

April 2016

[Calendar](#)

[In the News](#)

[KIDS COUNT Facts](#)

[Research](#)

[TCCY Home](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[TCCY Newsroom](#)

[TCCY Regional Councils](#)

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month Adverse Childhood Experiences Key

In This Issue

- [Child Abuse Prevention Month](#);
- [Report on Maltreatment Deaths Released](#);
- [Children's Advocacy Days](#);
- [Children's Advocacy Days Agenda](#);
- [TCCY Awards](#);
- [Update and Farewell](#);
- [Legislature Looks Toward Home](#)



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Child Abuse Prevention Month

The lifelong effects of child abuse, one of the recognized Adverse Childhood Experiences, underscore the importance of preventing it. Each year, events in April focus on child abuse, maltreatment and neglect, and prevention.

In Tennessee child welfare and other child-serving agencies, led by Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, host events across the state, including pinwheel gardens and family fairs.



April is also [National Distracted Driving Awareness Month](#) and [Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month](#) and includes [National Youth Violence Prevention Week](#).

National Child Abuse Prevention Month: <http://1.usa.gov/1V6apqP>.

More information on **Tennessee Child Abuse Prevention Month** events: <http://bit.ly/1pKYyCs>.

National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities Releases Its Report

The National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities completed two years of public meetings, including one in Memphis, with its report, *Within Our Reach: A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities*. The report identified a lack of hard data in some areas; however, it found the overwhelming number of deaths were in children under the age of 3 years.

The report recommends changes to the way child abuse cases are addressed now and improvements in a national prevention strategy.

The report called for timely sharing of information between partners, including law enforcement and child protective services. Tennessee's legislatively mandated Child Protective Investigative Teams (CPIT), operating in each judicial district, are composed of representatives of the district attorney's office, the juvenile court, law enforcement and may include a representative from the child advocacy centers, if one exists, and a mental health agency. They are convened by DCS to provide for cooperation, collaboration and information sharing and should be involved in meeting this recommendation.

Another recommendation was expansion of the function of teams like the Tennessee Child Fatality Review Teams, operated through the Tennessee Department of Health, to include life-threatening injuries caused by child maltreatment, in order to receive federal funding . TCCY's executive director serves on the state team.

Other recommendations included updating screening to assure children under age 3 are responded to appropriately and given priority. Accountability of programs serving children and training of professionals about reporting abuse were also addressed. Tennessee law requires anyone who knows of child maltreatment to report it.

Tennessee has already begun to implement the recommended retrospective review of child abuse and neglect fatalities.

The report highlights Tennessee Department of Children's Services improved procedures and

retrospective review of child abuse and neglect fatalities, including Critical Incident Reviews that are fact rather than blame focused, legislatively protected confidential reporting and an agency-wide safety culture survey.

Since 2010-11, TCCY's Second Look Commission has been reviewing cases of children who came in contact with Tennessee Department of Children's Services. It began reviewing cases involving child fatalities in FY 2013. The report recommends a review going back five years.

National Commission to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities, *Within Our Reach: A National Strategy to Eliminate Child Abuse and Neglect Fatalities*: <http://1.usa.gov/1MAFo7H>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Children's Advocacy Days



TCCY staff members take a deep breath each year as they collect the decorations and clear out War Memorial Auditorium after Children's Advocacy Days. They also take pride in the event's success in connecting advocates with policy makers, sharing updates about state programs and services, and networking opportunities.

Our 2016 theme, "Under Construction: Building the Next Generation," helped create a fun atmosphere in which to consider a serious subject, Adverse Childhood Experiences. Seventeen years of research have bolstered the role of childhood stress in both mental and physical health, verifying its contribution to all aspects of child and youth development, and its influence on services is making a difference for children.

Loraine Lucinski, deputy director of child health, Department of Health, gave an overview of Adverse Childhood Experiences, colored by her personal experiences, and Dr. Megan Smith, assistant professor of psychiatry and child study, Yale School of Medicine, presented on the program she runs, the New Haven MOMS Partnership. Smith is also a collaborator in the Discover Together Grundy County program.

Panels from state agencies serving children, juvenile courts and agencies whose services are informed by an understanding of Adverse Childhood Experiences filled out the agenda, along with awards presentations.

Again this year, young participants in the Southern Word program (shown above) shared their life struggles and achievements through spoken word performances.

Along with its sponsors, many of which have been a part of Children's Advocacy Days for years, TCCY added new partners this year. The Governor's Children's Cabinet chose Children's Advocacy Days to unveil the first Governor's Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations, and the Children's Hospital Alliance of Tennessee, Tennessee Academy of Family Physicians and Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics joined as co-sponsors of the Networking Conference.

New Haven MOMS Partnership: <https://medicine.yale.edu/psychiatry/moms>

Presentations from the Children's Advocacy Days:

[Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences Handouts](#) - TCCY, Various Sources.

[Addressing Toxic Stress and Adverse Childhood Experiences in Partnership with Mothers: the MOMS Partnership](#) - Dr. Megan V. Smith, Yale University School of Medicine.

[Adverse Childhood Experiences 101](#) - Loraine Lucinski, Tennessee Department of Child Health.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Governor's Award for Excellence in Early Foundations

Leaders in early learning received awards from the governor at Children's Advocacy Days. The new awards were a project of the Governor's Cabinet. Award winners, who are listed on the link following the picture, are shown with the Governor in the picture below.



2016 Governor's Award for Excellence in Early Foundations Winners :
<http://1.usa.gov/1Olnlqb>.

Governor's Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations - Gov. Bill Haslam.

Pictures of Governor Presenting Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations -
<http://bit.ly/1RpHAo1>.

Public Official, Advocates, Media and Youth Earn TCCY Awards



Each year TCCY honors those who have advanced the cause of Tennessee children in a variety of ways.

The **Youth Excellence Award** celebrates young people who overcome contact with the juvenile court to contribute to their communities. Winner **Roman Comer**'s behavior culminated in a commitment to Wilder Youth Development Center where he graduated from high school. With support from the Department of Children's Services and the Reunion Aftercare Program, he changed his life and obtained a Bright Futures college scholarship. He is on track to graduate from the Jackson State Nursing Program in May 2016 as a registered nurse and works as a first responder and with the hospital emergency room.

Deputy Governor Jim Henry, (shown above) who has served public life in nearly every aspect except the judiciary, received the **Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award**. Now serving as Gov. Bill Haslam's chief of staff, he joined the administration as commissioner of the newly created Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities and then became commissioner of the Department of Children's Services. Henry began his public service with city government and was elected to the state legislature. He is the founder of Omni Visions, which serves people with disabilities.

Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Awards were presented to two licensed clinical social workers who have given their work lives to help children in the child welfare system, **Jan Dick**, program director for Permanency Consulting at Family and Children's Service, and **Bonnie Beneke**, Department of Children's Services Training and Curriculum director in the Office of Learning and Development.

Anchors with Knoxville's WATE television, **Kristin Farley** and **Lori Tucker**, received the **John Seigenthaler MAKING KIDS COUNT Media Awards for broadcast media**. **David Waters**, long-time Memphis *Commercial Appeal* columnist and former *Washington Post* religion editor, received the **John Seigenthaler MAKING KIDS COUNT Media Award for print media**.

More information on 2016 winners: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/news/39250>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Legislature Looks Toward Home

The Legislature is expected to complete its work in April. Some legislation of interest to child advocates has already been decided. The bill improving the quality of Tennessee's Pre-K programs has passed both Houses. The bill, sponsored by Sen. Steve Dickerson and Rep. Mark White, requires quality improvement measures, including professional development for teachers, family engagement and coordination between Pre-K and kindergarten teachers. Early education advocates and business leaders believe the changes will lead to stronger, more consistent statewide performance and schools that build on Pre-K gains..

The bill extending the law allowing women who used drugs while pregnant be criminally charged was not extended beyond its original July 1, 2016, termination date.

Steve Petty, TCCY policy advocate, will continue updating information on the work of the General Assembly until all bills passed are signed by the Governor and officially become law. Information is available on TCCY's website.

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

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

Legislative update: <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/legupdat.pdf>.

Weekly Calendar: <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/leg-wkcal.pdf>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Update and Farewell



At Children's Advocacy Days, TCCY and other child advocates celebrated TCCY Northeast Regional Coordinator Diane Wise, who is retiring in June, for her 43 years serving the state and its children and especially her work for TCCY

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

April 4-6, **Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare, 103rd Leadership & Networking Conference**, Franklin Marriott Cool Springs. Registration: <http://conta.cc/1ULu4fu>.

April 5, 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. CDT, **Pain, Opioids, Problems and Solutions Forum**. Music City Center, Nashville. Sponsored by the Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of American. Contact: membership@cadca.org.

April 7, 8:30-11:30 a.m. EDT, **Disability Pathfinder Access to Healthcare**, Health Resources Center, The Mall at Johnson City. Pre-registration required at <http://vkc.mc.vanderbilt.edu/events>.

April 8-9, Show Hope's **Empowered to Connect Conference** for foster and adoptive parents, Monroe Harding, Glendale Lane, Nashville. Information: amybond@monroeharding.org.

April 13, 8:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT, Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth training, "**The Effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences and Toxic Stress on Development**," William O. Beach Civic Hall, Clarksville. Register <http://bit.ly/1RrbMiu>.

April 20-23, **Coalition for Juvenile Justice Annual Conference**, Washington Hilton Hotel. Register at <http://bit.ly/1WPDB2Z>.

April 21, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. CDT, **Council on Children's Mental Health Meeting**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, Nashville. Contact: Melissa.McGee@tn.gov.

April 28, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. CDT, **Youth Transitions Advisory Council Meeting**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, Nashville. Information: Steve.Petty@tn.gov or (615) 532-1685.

April 29, 9:30 a.m.-2 p.m. EDT, East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth Lunch and Learn "**Ethical Considerations in Mental Health Service Provision to Children and Youth**," Kingston Room, Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Road, Knoxville. Register at <http://bit.ly/1RC68H9>.

April 29, 8 a.m.-2:30 p.m. CDT, Northwest Council on Children and Youth Spring Conference and Provider Fair, "**Autism Spectrum Disorders: Building a Better Understanding of Autism**," U.T. Martin. Contact: Dana.Cobb@tn.gov.

March 7-8, 2017, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov.

[Return to Top.](#)

In the News

NPR Four Part Series: **Treating the Tiniest Opioid Patients**, <http://n.pr/1qnmnRU>:

Ben Allen, NPR, **Treating The Tiniest Opioid Patients: A Crisis With Scant Data: States Move To Count Drug-Dependent Babies**, (TDOH's Dr. Michael Warren featured): <http://n.pr/1pL4sn3>.

Sarah Jane Trimble, NPR, **Pregnant and Addicted: The Tough Road to Family Health**, ([Dr. Stephen Patrick](#), a neonatologist at Vanderbilt University's School of Medicine, featured) <http://n.pr/1RRp8DM>.

Lauren Camera, *Education Week*, "**A Tennessee District Perseveres in Wake of Online-Testing Woes**," (registration required): <http://bit.ly/1QnvQC3>.

Sen. Steve Dickerson and Rep. Mark White, *The (Nashville) Tennessean*, "**Better pre-kindergarten programs benefit Tennesseans**," (Subscription): <http://tnne.ws/1RC7iCh>.

Pleasant, Joseph, WKRN-TV 2, **Metro Schools working to help parents, children with adverse experiences**, (ACEs) <http://bit.ly/1RtPexF>.

Christina A. Samuels, *Education Week*, **Early-Ed. Measures Perculate at State, Local Levels**, (registration required) <http://bit.ly/1RCbQIS>.

Grace Tatter, Chalkbeat Tennessee, **Six months after sobering study, bill to up pre-K quality heads to governor's desk**, <http://bit.ly/22utAAq>.

[Return to Top.](#)

Research Information

Preidt, R, P., *Medline Plus*, ***Paid Family Leave Tied to Decline in Child Abuse: California study found hospital admissions for abuse-linked head injuries dropped after policy enacted:*** <http://1.usa.gov/1WYedcH>.

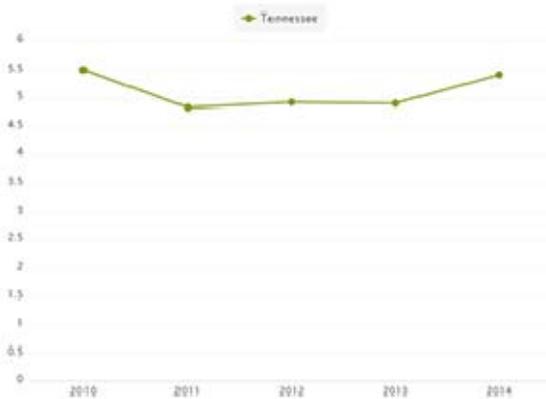
Smith, W., *Chronicle of Social Change*, ***What Children's Brains Tell Us About Trauma: Invest Early,*** <http://bit.ly/1Sxxe4w>.

Smith, J.A., & Wilson, M., *Wyman Center*, ***Implementing the Teen Outreach Program® with Special Populations: Lessons Learned from Seven Youth-Serving Organizations:*** <http://bit.ly/1VTJNK9>.

[Return to Top.](#)

Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

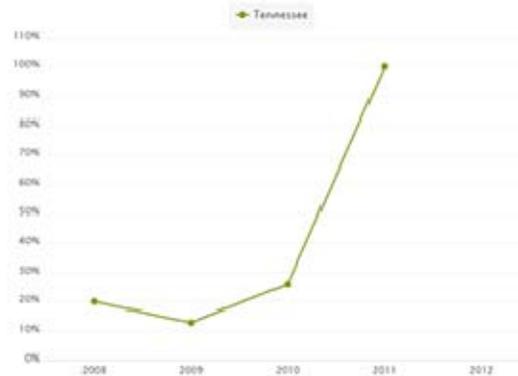
Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Cases



SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT CASES (RATE)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Victims of Child Maltreatment who Received Post Investigation Services



CHILDREN WHO ARE CONFIRMED BY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AS VICTIMS OF MALTREATMENT WHO RECEIVED POST-INVESTIGATION SERVICES (PERCENT)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, 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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