

To view this newsletter online, go to <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/advocate>.



Advocate

January 2017

Calendar

In the News

KIDS COUNT Facts

Research

TCCY Home

Upcoming Events

TCCY Newsroom

TCCY Regional
Councils

Advocating in 2017

In This Issue

[KIDS COUNT State of the Child Released;](#)
[County Child Welfare Rankings Available Online;](#)
[Children's Advocacy Days Registration Opens;](#)
[Governor Releases Budget;](#)
[New Tool for Advocates;](#)
[TNFosters Program Begun;](#)
[February Is Teen Dating Violence Prevention](#)
[Month;](#)
[Update.](#)



Sign up to receive *The Advocate* at <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/leg-listserv>

TCCY Begins New Year of Advocacy for Children

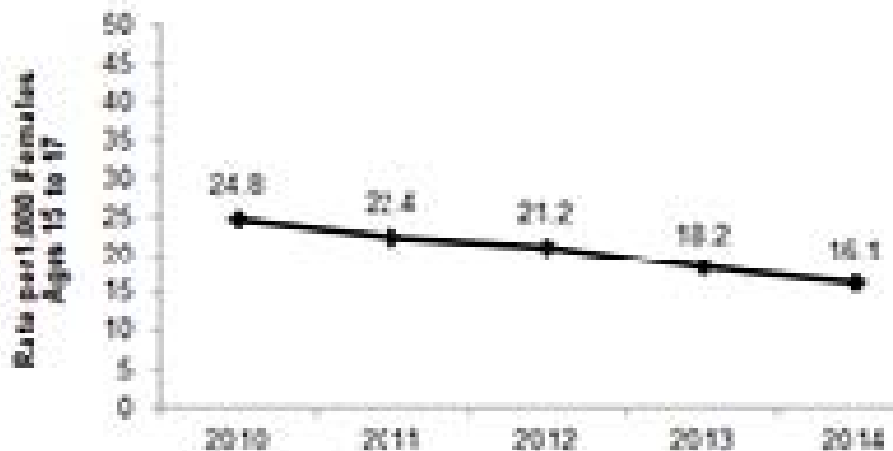
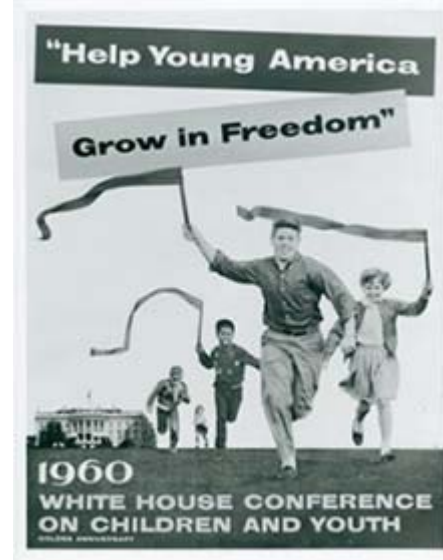
This newsletter contains information about the new *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, with useful information for advocates; plans for the 2017 Children's Advocacy Days and a new tool for raising your voice on behalf of Tennessee Children.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

KIDS COUNT Report Celebrates TCCY's 60 Year History

Beginning in 1955 with a permanent role in state government as the Commission on Youth Guidance, TCCY has gone through several changes in name and role but has continued to serve as a voice for Tennessee's children.

The recently released *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee* includes a short history of the agency and a timeline of critical events in child well-being, in addition to indicators of child well-being, with trend-line graphics.

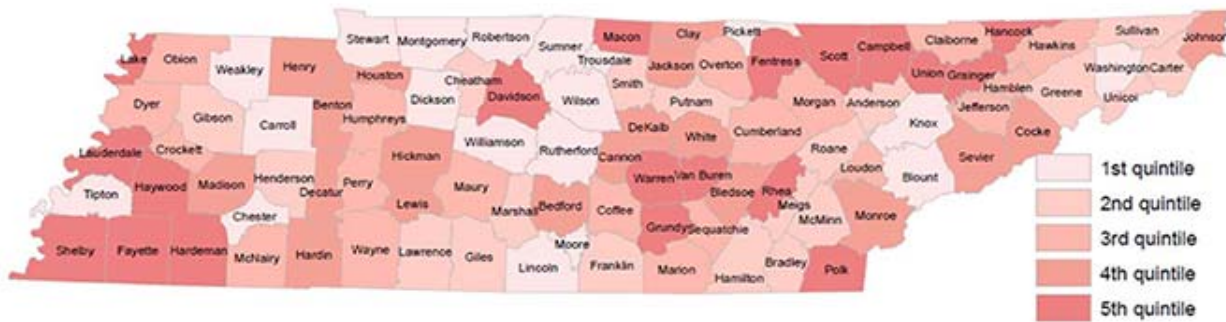


Teen Pregnancy Rates, 2010-2014, KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child

KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee, <http://tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-kcsoc15>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

County Child Well-Being Rankings Available Online



TCCY has calculated child well-being rankings for counties in Tennessee for the second time. County rankings on child well-being presented in the county profiles are drawn from the 11 most outcome-oriented indicators.

The highest ranking five counties were Williamson, Wilson, Sumner, Rutherford (which surround Davidson County) and Washington, which includes most of Johnson City. The counties where youth faced the most challenges were Warren, Haywood, Shelby, Van Buren and Lake. The state's other larger counties and their ranks were Davidson, 89; Knox, 13; and Hamilton, 32.

Thirty-four indicators are listed in the online county profiles. Details about the ranking process are included on the website.

KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child County Profiles, <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-kc-soc15-counties>.

Counties Ranked Alphabetically: http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/County_Ranks-Alpha_Order.pdf;

Counties Listed in Rank Order: http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/County_Ranks-Rank_Order.pdf.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Children's Advocacy Days - "Launching the Next Generation" Registration Open



Registration is open for Children Advocacy Days 2017, and TCCY is excited about this year's theme, "Launching the Next Generation." Join us on March 14-15 to learn and laugh and get to know your leaders. Register and follow TCCY on Facebook for updates.

Register for Children's Advocacy Days: www.cad2017.eventbrite.com.

Follow TCCY on Facebook at www.facebook.com/tccyonfb.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Governor Releases Proposed 2018 Budget

Gov. Bill Haslam announced his budget priorities for FY 2018 during his annual "State of the State" speech Monday, Jan. 30. The budget calls for increased funding for Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) program grants and an increase in the number of programs funded and for TCCY grant monitoring. Other important items in the budget supported by TCCY include continued non-recurring funding for home visiting and to address Adverse Childhood Experiences.

Links to the State of the State Address and Press Release: <http://bit.ly/2kdtc6g>.

Budget Vol. 1: <http://bit.ly/2knvBhb>.

Budget Vol. 2: <http://bit.ly/2knNAEj>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

New Tool Helps Advocates to Speak Up for Children

TCCY Action Alert

TCCY is making available a new tool to ease contacting state legislators about key issues affecting children and young people. All you need to do is enter your address to see who's elected to represent you.

Once you submit your basic information, you can compose your own personal message to your legislator, identifying yourself and making the connection between yourself, your legislator and the children in their district. A wealth of information is available on the [TCCY website](http://www.tccy.org) and the Kids Count Data Center www.datacenter.kidscount.org addressing issues facing children and families in Tennessee. You can also use some of the fully editable talking points we will make available. Then press the submit button to send the email right to your legislator's inbox!

TCCY is also beginning its reporting on the 110th Tennessee General Assembly legislation regarding children.

Action Alert: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-leg-alerts>.

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

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

TCCY Budget Recommendations: <http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/leg-recommend.pdf>.

TCCY Legislative Listserv: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/leg-listserv>

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

TNFosters Program Hopes to Recruit More Foster Families

A new initiative sponsored by Gov. Bill Haslam, TNFosters, aims to recruit a minimum of 100 adoptive homes and 10 percent more foster families, in part to replace homes of families who leave the program after adopting.

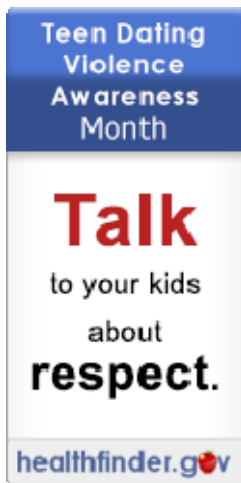
The effort seeks churches, businesses and others to support families who open their homes to children by providing donations, volunteering of skills, mentoring, etc. Contact Tennessee Alliance for Kids at (877) 305-0567 or at the web pages below.

TNFosters: <http://www.tn.gov/tnfosters/>.

TNFosters, How to Become a Foster Parent: <http://www.tn.gov/tnfosters/section/become-a-foster-parent>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month



February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month, a national effort to raise awareness about dating violence, promote programs that support young people and encourage communities to prevent this form of abuse and decrease the prevalence of dating violence among young people.

Experts say one in three teens in the U.S. will experience physical, sexual or emotional abuse within in a relationship before they become adults.

Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month:

loveisrespect: <http://bit.ly/2jvUsLy>

Break the Cycle: <http://bit.ly/2jLKHW1><http://bit.ly/2jLKHW1>;

Healthfinder.gov: <http://bit.ly/2kkhjhg>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Update

TCCY welcomes **Danielle Whitworth Barnes** as the new commissioner of the Department of Human Services (DHS). Barnes most recently served as the deputy commissioner and general counsel for the Department of Human Resources.



TCCY also wishes well to two child advocates, **Craig Ann Heflinger** of Vanderbilt's Peabody College Department of Human and Organizational Development and **William P. (Bill) Sinclair** of Catholic Charities, both of whom are retiring from careers making significant contributions to education and social services in Tennessee.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

Mark Your Calendar

Feb 13, 11:30 a.m. CT, **South Central Council on Children and Youth Meeting**, Maury County Health Department. The program covers changes in TennCare administration. RSVP to Shaun.Noblit@tn.gov.

Feb. 14, 8:30 a.m. CT, **United Ways of Tennessee, Tennessee Afterschool Network and TAEYC** sponsor "**Day on the Hill**," Tennessee State Capitol Legislative Lounge. Speakers include TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal. RSVP to Mary.Graham@uwtn.org.

Feb. 23, 3:30 p.m. CT, "**Webinar: Teens Helping Teens: Empowering Young People to Support Each Other.**" Register: <http://bit.ly/2jLRNR6>.

Feb 24, 8 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. CT, **Northwest Council on Children and Youth** presents "**The Perfect Storm: Overworked, Underpaid, and the Ethics of Self Care**," Boling University Center, UT Martin. Contact Dana.Cobb@tn.gov.

March 8, 8:30 a.m. CT, **Behavioral Health Day on the Hill**, War Memorial Auditorium, Nashville. Contact bhannah@namitn.org for more information.

March 14-15, 2017, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov. Register at <http://www.cad2017.eventbrite.com/>.

March 20-22, **104th Annual Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare Spring Conference**, Marriott-Cool Springs. Contact pfoster@tcsw.org.

March 29-31, **Child Welfare League of America 2017 Conference**, "Advancing Excellence in Practice and Policy: Highlighting Successful Strategies to Address the Needs of Children, Youth and Families," Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Register at <http://bit.ly/2erh8QG>.

April 19, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. CT, **Steps Toward a Safer Tennessee: 2017 TSPN Symposium**, Trevecca Community Church, 335 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville. Preregistration available at <http://bit.ly/2gVss2w> for a fee of \$35.

[Return to Top.](#)

In the News

Memphis Commercial Appeal, "Kids Count report grim for Shelby County children," <http://memne.ws/2kHJVSj>.

Vance, Z., *Johnson City Press*, "State report: Washington County ranks 3rd in child well-being," <http://bit.ly/2kHM9RF>.

Vaughn, A., WIHG, *Anderson County Achieves High Ranking in "Kids Count" Report* <http://bit.ly/2klIyPj>.

Buffalo River Review, "Agency Reports on Child Well-Being in Perry County," <http://bit.ly/2klxkdt>.

Hrach, M., *WBBJ*, *State report: West Tennessee ranks low in child well-being*, <http://bit.ly/2jxhByO>.

Wadhvani, A. *Tennessean*, *Tennessee task force seeks juvenile justice overhaul*, <http://tnne.ws/2kgY0oX>.

[Return to Top.](#)

Research Information

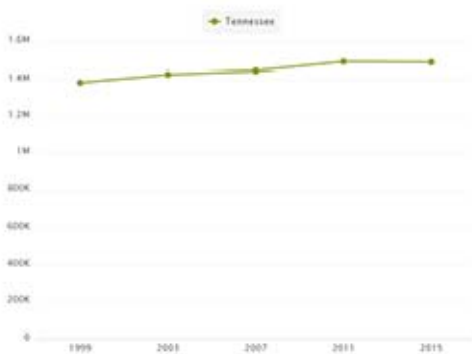
Education Week, "Policing America's Schools," <http://bit.ly/2jGDdKw>.

WalletHub, *2017's Most & Least Educated States*, <http://bit.ly/2k4XnPB>.

[Return to Top.](#)

Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Child Population Under Age 18



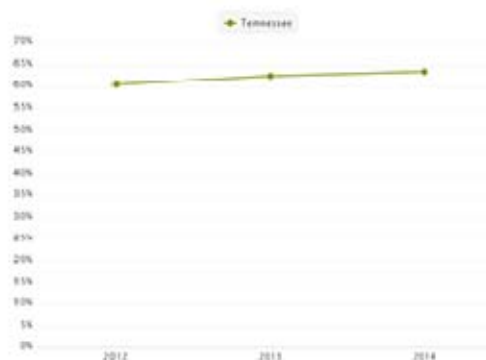
Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

POPULATION UNDER AGE 18 (NUMBER)

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

<http://bit.ly/2jsFLc5>

TCAP Science Scores 3rd to 8th Grade Average



3RD TO 8TH GRADE AVERAGE TCAP SCORE IN SCIENCE (PERCENT)

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

<http://bit.ly/2kh0ofW>

Larger graphics on the above information are available by clicking on the links under the graphic.
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.

To suggest content or manage subscriptions to *The Advocate*, contact fay.delk@tn.gov.

If you would like to receive this email through the TCCY ListServ, email listserv@listserv.tn.gov, leave the subject blank and type **Subscribe TCCY Your First Name Your Last Name**. Information on other address changes is available at <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/leg-listserv>.