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# Advocate

April 2018

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## Child Abuse Prevention

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### April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. Child abuse prevention organizations “plant” pinwheel gardens as annual observances of the month. In April, across Tennessee, there are opportunities focused on how to support families and reduce child maltreatment.



Individuals can write letters or op-eds to newspapers and display blue child abuse prevention pinwheels to call attention to prevention.

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, **Pinwheels for Prevention**, [bit.ly/2pyTCCY](http://bit.ly/2pyTCCY).

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, **Events**, [bit.ly/2G3TCCY](http://bit.ly/2G3TCCY).

Centers for Disease Control, **Child Abuse Prevention** Fact Sheet, [bit.ly/2G0Tccy](http://bit.ly/2G0Tccy).

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## Things Your Community Can Do to Prevent Child Abuse

Communities, cities and states can help prevent child abuse. It is important for individuals, communities and governments to reach out to families to prevent child abuse.

### The Five R's

Prevent Child Abuse America has developed the following "Five R's," which list what can be done to prevent child abuse.

**Raise the issue.** Expect policymakers and local institutions to act. Call or write your candidates and elected officials to educate them. Contact your local school district and faith community to encourage them to support new parents.

**Reach out** in your community. Be good neighbors. Offer to baby-sit. Donate your children's used clothing, furniture and toys for use by another family. Be kind and supportive, particularly to new parents and children.

**Remember the risk factors** and let others know. Be aware child abuse and neglect occur in all segments of our society but are more likely when the following exist:

- Abuse of alcohol or drugs;
- Family or community isolation;
- Lack of understanding and control of anger and stress;
- Caregivers appearing uninterested in the care of children;
- Serious economic, housing or personal problems.

### **Recognize the warning signs in children.**

- Nervousness around adults;
- Aggression toward adults or other children;
- Inability to stay awake or to concentrate for extended periods;
- Sudden, dramatic changes in personality or activities;
- Acting out sexually or showing interest in sex that is not age-appropriate;
- Frequent or unexplained bruises or injuries;
- Low self-esteem;
- Poor hygiene.

**Report suspected abuse or neglect.** Tennessee law requires anyone who suspects child abuse or neglect to report it.

- In life-threatening situations, call 9-1-1;
- Call the Child Abuse Hotline to report to the Department of Children's Services-877-237-0004;
- Report online at <https://apps.tn.gov/caratl/>.

US Department of Health and Human Services, **What Everyone Can Do to Prevent Child Abuse**, <http://bit.ly/2pZNW4R>.

## Darkness to Light: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse

One tool Tennessee agencies are using is the Darkness to Light program to prevent child sexual abuse. Darkness to Light provides information resources, and organizations are offering Stewards of Children trainings across the state. The group lists steps to protect our children:

Step 1: **Learn the Facts;**

Step 2: **Minimize Opportunity** by limiting times when children are isolated with one adult or youth;

Step 3: **Talk About It;**

Step 4: **Recognize the signs;**

Step 5: **React Responsibly.**

Darkness to Light, **5 Steps to Protecting our Children**, <http://bit.ly/2q0uuF0>.

Darkness to Light, **Tennessee Upcoming Events-Stewards of Children**, <http://bit.ly/2q0qvbt>.

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## Family First Prevention Services Act

Legislation enacted in the February continuing budget resolution has been called the biggest change in federal child welfare funding structure since 1980. Changes in the Family First Prevention Services Act are designed to keep children out of the disruption and trauma of foster care and keep families together, and place children in the least restrictive, most appropriate family-like setting.

The program funds mental health, substance abuse and parenting education services to keep children out of care.

Kelly, J., *Chronicles of Social Change*, **A Complete Guide to the Family First Prevention Services Act**, <http://bit.ly/2pzTCCy>.

Heimpel, D., *Washington Monthly*, **The Dramatic Overhaul of Foster Care Buried in Last Month's Spending Bill**, <http://bit.ly/2G4TCCY>.

Children's Defense Fund, CHAMPS, **Summaries of the Family First Prevention Services Act by the Children's Defense Fund**, <http://bit.ly/2ppTCCy>.

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## Children's Advocacy Days



The 30th Children's Advocacy Days is now a memory, a memory of stress and then success for TCCY staff and, we hope, a memory of fun and learning for others.

Dr. Vincent Felitti, whose appearance was sponsored by the ACE Awareness Foundation of Memphis, helped listeners get a deeper understanding of the original adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) study.

Dr. Roy Wade of Philadelphia reported on how he has expanded ACEs work to a more diverse population.

Participation by the Governor and First Lady, Governor's Children's Cabinet and commissioners, and Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee added to the program. Nearly 40 other organizations co-sponsored the event.

Youth voices included Southern Word spoken word poets, a Borderless Arts singer and students from the Glenclyff High School Culinary Arts program



**2018 Children's Advocacy Days Presentations** are available online at <http://bit.ly/2pxTCCY>.

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## Children's Advocacy Days Awards

TCCY created a new award and presented its annual media and advocacy awards at Children's Advocacy Days. The Governor's Excellence in Early Foundations Awards and Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee Unsung Heroes were also announced.

The inaugural **Linda O'Neal Lifetime Achievement Award** was given to the TCCY executive director for whom it was named for her work on behalf of children. Linda has served as TCCY executive director for 30 years and plans to retire from the agency later this year.



U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and former state senator, **Doug Overbey**, received the **Senator Douglas Henry Public Official Award** for his leadership and support for children's issues when he was in the General Assembly, including sponsoring legislation to improve juvenile justice and support services for children.

**Matt Timm, Ph.D.**, whose work spanned the years from the creation of the RIP or Regional Intervention Program to the Association for Infant Mental Health in Tennessee (AIMHiTN), was recognized with the **Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award**.

**John Seigenthaler MAKING KIDS COUNT Media Awards** were given to **Joan Garrett McClane**, staff writer for the Chattanooga Times Free Press; WKRN/Nexstar Media reporter **Chris Bundgaard**; **WTCE-22**, Cookeville public television staff Becky Magura, Brent Clark and Cindy Putman; **Pretzel Pictures** writer Yoshie Lewis; and singer **Dolly Parton**.

Governor Bill and First Lady Crissy Haslam presented the biennial **Governor's Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations to Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee** and **WCTE-22**

**Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee** named **Carolyn Remeder**, West Tennessee; **Cindy Fry**, Middle Tennessee; and **Jessica Reinhold**, East Tennessee, as **Unsung Heroes**.

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## 2018 Legislative Guidance Available

TCCY's weekly Legislative Update is now available online. If you are receiving this newsletter because you are signed up for TCCY's ListServ, you should also be receiving the **Update** newsletter with more information on legislative activities. A link on how to be added to the ListServ is at the bottom of this article.

**2018 Legislative Guidance**, <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance2.pdf>.

**2018 State of the State Address**, <http://bit.ly/2npTcCy>.

**2018 Budget Recommendations**: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-budget.pdf>.

**Legislative Report**: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/legislat.pdf>.

**2017 Legislative Guidance**: <https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance1.pdf>.

Sign up to receive TCCY updates, Sign up to receive **The Advocate** at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

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## Update



Natasha Smith, TCCY director of operations and special projects, completed Global Legacy Initiative Success Training Institute Certifications to become a top scholar, which included 100 scholarships to the non-profit organization Dream Centers of Tennessee in Nashville.

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## Mark Your Calendar

April 5, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Council on Children's Mental Health** meeting, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1441 12th Ave S, Nashville. Contact [Melissa.McGee@tn.gov](mailto:Melissa.McGee@tn.gov).

April 7, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., 2018 **Tri-Cities Autism Educational Conference**, Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church, 201 E. Market St., Johnson City. Cost \$20-\$40.  
Register: <http://bit.ly/2pQC5WR>.

April 10, 9 a.m., CDT/10 a.m. EDT, TRIAD's **Families First Program: Developing Successful Sleep Habits** is a free workshop intended for parents of young children (ages 2-5) newly diagnosed with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD) to equip parents and caregivers with hands on, practical tools to support their child at home and in the community. The event will be offered in [Chattanooga](#) beginning at 10 a.m., EDT, and in [Nashville](#) and [Jackson](#) at 9 a.m., CDT.

April 10-11, **Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network 2018 Spring Symposium**, Trevecca Nazarene University, 335 Murfreesboro Pike, Nashville. Highlights include a screening of "The S-Word" documentary on April 10 and presentation by suicidologist Dr. Thomas Joiner. Register online at <http://bit.ly/2Awpf8c>.

April 11, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., **Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth** presents "**The Care of the Infant with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)**," April 11, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Colleside Church of Christ, 252 E. Ninth St., Cookeville. Free. Register at <http://bit.ly/2pQ3SXe>. Contact [Kristi.Paling@tn.gov](mailto:Kristi.Paling@tn.gov) or 931-646-0955.

April 13, 9 a.m. to 12 p.m., **Northeast Tennessee Council on Children and Youth** presents "**Human Trafficking 101**," Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union Community Room, 5034 Bobby Hicks Highway, Gray. Speakers from the TBI and Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking. Coffee and refreshments will be served. Register at <http://bit.ly/2IHTCCy>.

April 18th, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, **East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth** presents "**Project iGuardian: Dangers of Online Activity**," Bridgewater Place, Knoxville. Project iGuardian is a Homeland Security initiative "designed to inform youth, parents and educators about the risks that children face in the online environment." Register at <http://bit.ly/2FETCCY>.

April 19, 10 a.m., **Second Look Commission** meeting, Administrative Office of the Court Conference Room, 511 Union Street, Ste. 600, Nashville. Contact [Craig.Hargrow@tn.gov](mailto:Craig.Hargrow@tn.gov).

April 20, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., 9th Annual **Chattanooga Autism Conference**, Chattanooga Conference Center, 1150 Carter St., Chattanooga. Information: <http://bit.ly/2pSR4PM>.

April 25, 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., Southwest Council on Children and Youth co-sponsors Union University's "**All Aboard: Getting on Track to Fight Opioid Addiction**," Union University Grant Center. \$20 cost includes breakfast, lunch and door prizes. Free for students, but lunch is \$10. CEUs available for social workers, LADACs and nurses. Register at <http://bit.ly/2FZJaLC> (Scroll down on the page for information on this event.)

April 26-29, **Child Welfare League of America 2018 National Conference**: "Advancing Excellence in Practice and Policy: Building Resilience in Changing Times," Hyatt Regency Capitol Hill, Washington, DC. Information [www.cwla.org/Resilience2018](http://www.cwla.org/Resilience2018).

May 3, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., **Youth Transitions Advisory Council**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman Street, Nashville. Contact 615-532-1685 or [steve.petty@tn.gov](mailto:steve.petty@tn.gov).

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## In the News

WIHG-1057 News, **Regional Child Advocates to Attend Nashville Symposium**, <http://bit.ly/2pvTCcy>.

Sparks, S.D., *Education Week*, **In Washington, Trauma Feeds the School-To-Prison Pipeline, Particularly for Girls**, <http://bit.ly/2pzTCCY>.

Pizzigati, S., **A Social 'Trigger Lock' for the Ages: More Equal Societies Turn Out to Be Safer Societies**, Inequality.org, <http://bit.ly/2pPpTW6>.

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## Research Information

Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network, **Status of Suicide in Tennessee 2018**, <http://bit.ly/2IHTCCY>.

Stuckler, D, and Basu, S., Basic Books, May 21, 2013, **The Body Economic: Why Austerity Kills**. Available for purchase online and from your local book store or through library interagency loan. Detailed review: <http://bit.ly/2IEfGVc>.

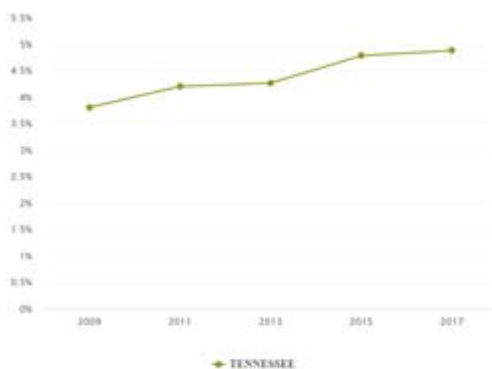
Hall, M.A., and McCue, M.J, Commonwealth Fund, **Health Insurance Markets Perform Better in States That Run Their Own Marketplaces**, <http://bit.ly/2IGTCCY>.

Allensworth, E.M., et al., UChicago Consortium on School Research, **How Do Principals Influence Student Achievement?**, <http://bit.ly/2G0TCcy>.

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## Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

**Reported Child Abuse  
Percent**



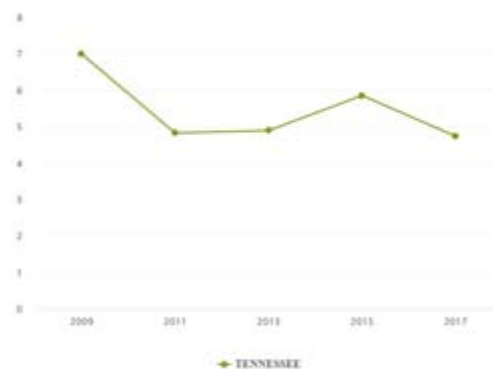
Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

**REPORTED CHILD ABUSE CASES (PERCENT)**

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

<http://bit.ly/2G1TCcy>

**Substantiated Child Abuse/Neglect Cases -  
Rate per 1,000**



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

**SUBSTANTIATED CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT CASES (RATE)**

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

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

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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