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Advocate

August 2017

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Juvenile Justice in 2017

Issues related to juvenile justice have been central to TCCY's mission since its beginning more than 60 years ago. This continues with the participation of Linda O'Neal on the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Juvenile Justice seeking ways to reform Tennessee's juvenile justice system and TCCY's continued service as the State Advisory Group for administration of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act in the state.

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Joint Ad Hoc Blue Ribbon Task Force on Juvenile Justice

Pew Charitable Trusts' Public Safety Performance Project has entered into an agreement with Tennessee to provide intensive technical assistance as the state looks to improve its juvenile justice system. Tennessee's **Joint Ad Hoc Blue Ribbon Task Force on Juvenile Justice**, created at the

request of leaders of the three branches of government, legislative, executive and judicial, will review the state's juvenile justice system and develop data-driven, evidence-based policy recommendations to improve outcomes for youth, families and communities in partnership with Pew. TCCY Executive Director Linda O'Neal was appointed to the committee, which is chaired by House Speaker Beth Harwell and Senate Majority Leader Mark Norris.

Pew brings its experience working with other states and multiple staff to help the state analyze data and identify issues and craft solutions.

In addition to other legislators, the Task Force is comprised of juvenile justice stakeholders, commissioners, or their designees, of Children's Services, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, and Education. It will develop legislative policy recommendations to improve outcomes for youth and families while protecting public safety.

On behalf of the Task Force, Pew researchers will seek input from others, including faith leaders, youth advocates, victims and survivors, law enforcement and justice system representatives, business leaders and local governments, and aims to complete its final report in November.

Norris is awaiting confirmation for a judgeship in the Western U.S. District Court of Tennessee.

Bundgaard, C., June 28, WKRN-2, **Kids, crime are focus of Tennessee juvenile justice task force**, <http://bit.ly/2vJCmMB>.

Pew Charitable Trusts Public Safety Performance Project, <http://bit.ly/2wjee3F>.

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Victim-Offender Mediation Successful in Building Empathy

The use of restorative justice in the juvenile justice system is rapidly increasing. One of the most effective forms of restorative justice is victim-offender mediation (VOM). During VOM, the offenders meet the victims of their crimes and listen to the victims' stories. A 2011 research study on VOM showed that this method of restorative justice successfully helped the youthful offenders understand the effects of their crimes and gain empathy for their victims. By holding youth accountable for their actions, restorative justice can be effective in instilling empathy and awareness.

Choi, J. J., Green, D. L., & Gilbert, M. J. (2011). **Putting a human face on crimes: A qualitative study on restorative justice processes for youths.** *Child & Adolescent Social Work Journal*, 28(5), 335-355, Abstract: <http://bit.ly/2uyVHT2>.

(Thanks to Sarah Kirschbaum for this report.)

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KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee Released

The *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee 2016* report released today by the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) focuses on the importance of preventing and responding appropriately to Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), current ACEs data for Tennessee, and also ranks counties on child well-being.

This report includes the most recent data on ACEs in Tennessee from the Department of Health Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The child well-being rankings for the Tennessee counties in *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee* report the range of outcomes from Williamson County, which ranked the best, to Shelby County, where children face the most obstacles.

KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee, <http://tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-kcsoc16>.

Profiles for individual counties, <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/article/tccy-kc-soc16-counties>.

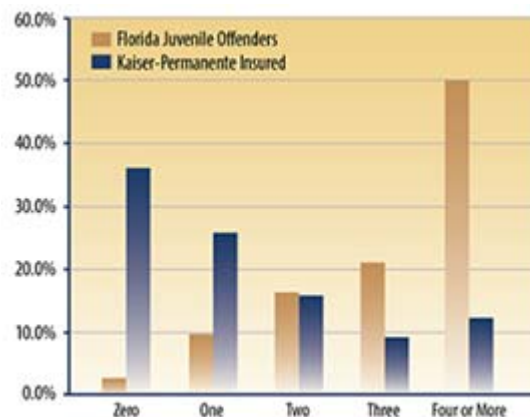
Additional statewide and county data, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

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ACEs Associated with Juvenile Justice System Involvement

Adverse Childhood Experiences are associated with many different negative outcomes. In particular, childhood abuse and neglect are associated with later involvement in the juvenile justice system. Using a sample of youth from out-of-home care, a 2011 study examined the specific relationship between childhood abuse and neglect and future involvement in the justice system. Results showed the children who experienced sexual abuse and children who experienced chronic abuse or neglect were more likely to be involved in the juvenile justice system. These findings highlight the need for prevention of child maltreatment in order to stop this negative trajectory. In addition, these findings show the necessity of therapeutic, restorative services for young offenders.

Another study looked at the prevalence of ACEs in the youth identified as juvenile offenders. Half the youth had four or more ACEs, the level at which negative results become more likely. Of the nearly 65,000 Florida youth surveyed, only 2.8 percent reported no ACEs. Youth scoring as high risk for re-offending on the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice's tool has at least three ACEs.



Source: Journal for Juvenile Justice

The second study identified domestic violence and parental separation as contributing to the highest risk and found females reported higher ACEs exposure. The researchers recommended trauma screening for youth entering the justice system and provision of trauma-informed treatment for these youth.

Yampolskaya, S., Armstrong, M. I., & McNeish, R. (2011). *Violence and Victims, Children placed in out-of-home care: Risk factors for involvement with the juvenile justice system*, 26(2), 231-245, <http://bit.ly/2h3T1rH>.

Finkel, E., *ACES Too High News, Florida study confirms link between juvenile offenders, ACEs; rates much higher than CDC's ACE Study*, <http://bit.ly/2v7IVfW>.

Baglivio, M.T., et al., *Journal of Juvenile Justice*, **The Prevalence of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) in the Lives of Juvenile Offenders**, <http://bit.ly/2v7Crwm>.

(Thanks to Sarah Kirschbaum for this information.)

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Reauthorization of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act Still Needed

Although the U.S. House of Representatives passed legislation reauthorizing the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act (JJDPDA) this year, the bill, which hasn't been updated since 2002, has stalled in the Senate. TCCY works to keep the state in compliance with the JJDPDA's core requirements: deinstitutionalizing status offenders (DSO), removing children from adult jails, separating children from adult offenders, and addressing disproportionate contact of minority children with the juvenile justice system.

Proposed changes in the law include:

- 1) Encouraging states to ensure programs and practices are trauma-informed;
- 2) Ending shackling pregnant girls;
- 3) Ensuring youth get credit earned for classes while incarcerated;
- 4) Eliminating truancy as a reason for states to incarcerate youth;
- 5) Protecting youth victims of human trafficking;
- 6) Emphasis on funding evidence-based programs;
- 7) Screening of youth who come into contact with the juvenile justice system for mental health issues, and system staff receive training on appropriate services;
- 8) Expanding youth access to legal counsel and information on expunging juvenile records and other efforts to reduce minority over-representation;
- 9) Keeping youth awaiting trial in criminal court out of adult lock-ups;
- 10) Procedures to reduce or eliminate use of isolation and restraints.

Coalition for Juvenile Justice, **Reauthorization of the JJDPDA**, <http://bit.ly/2v7ntqe>.

Spark Action, Act 4 Juvenile Justice, **10 Ways a Reauthorized JJDPDA Would Improve Young Lives, Communities**, <http://bit.ly/2w7qLLK>.

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Juvenile Detention Has Long Effects

Twelve years after youth were initially interviewed in detention, follow-up interviews found only a little more one in five of males (21.9 percent) and more than half of females (54.7 percent) had achieved four of eight positive outcomes identified by researchers. The outcomes measured were educational attainment, residential independence, gainful activity, desistance from criminal activity, mental health, abstaining from substance abuse, interpersonal functioning and parenting responsibility. The study found little increase in positive attainment between when youth were interviewed as adolescents and as young adults.

Abram, K.M., et al., *JAMA Pediatrics*, **Sex and Racial/Ethnic Differences in Positive Outcomes in Delinquent Youth After Detention: A 12-Year Longitudinal Study**, <http://bit.ly/2tHguAV>.

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Children's Programs in the Proposed Federal Budget

TCCY has published a report on the potential effects of the proposed federal budget on Tennessee public-private and state-local partnerships to provide basic public supports in the child welfare, education, health, human services, juvenile justice, mental health, disability and substance abuse systems.

The report identifies the potential loss of or reduction of funding for programs serving Tennessee including:

- 21st Century Community Learning Centers, Preschool Development Grants and services for special education programs in schools;
- Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), Preventive Health Block Grants and health research activities;
- Healthy Transitions and Project AWARE mental health grants;
- Federal funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, requiring states to pay 25 percent of cost of benefits;
- Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF):
- Community Development and Community Services block grants;
- Social Security disability programs;
- Other federal programs designed to improve economic and social welfare.

2018 Proposed Federal Budget Impact on Children in Tennessee,
<http://www.tn.gov/assets/entities/tccy/attachments/2018FedBudget.pdf>.

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Update



Congratulations to Craig Hargrow, TCCY Second Look Commission and Juvenile Justice director/DMC (Disproportionate Minority Contact) coordinator, who was elected Coalition for Juvenile Justice national DMC coordinator representative by his fellow DMC coordinators.

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Mark Your Calendar

Aug. 9, 12 noon CDT, **Memphis/Shelby County Children and Youth Council Lunch and Learn, Threat Assessment and Youth Mental Health First Aid**, Benjamin Hooks Public Library, 3030 Poplar Avenue, Memphis. Beverages provided; lunch is BYOL. Register at <http://bit.ly/2tJTQdi>.

Aug. 10, 12:30 to 3:30 p.m., **Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) Meeting**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman Street, Nashville. Contact Steve.Petty@tn.gov or (615) 532-1685.

Aug. 10, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., **TCCY**, in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Health and Project LAUNCH, presents "**Building Strong Brains: The Role of Life Experiences in Shaping Brain Development**", Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, 331 Great Circle Road,

Nashville. Training will include how Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) harm the developing brains and bodies of children and a FrameWorks presentation on effective communication of social problems. Light breakfast and lunch will be provided. Register at <http://bit.ly/2vZ9AZ4>. Contact Sumita.Keller@tn.gov or 615-532-1588 for more information.

Aug. 15-16, **34th Joint Conference on Juvenile Justice**, Nashville Airport Marriott, 600 Marriott Drive, Nashville. Information and registration: <http://bit.ly/2tNvwb3>.

Aug. 17, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., **Sturdy Foundations for a Thriving Tennessee** Featuring First Lady Crissy Haslam, University of Memphis, Fogelman Executive Center, 330 Innovation Drive, Memphis. Register at <http://bit.ly/2vbV2Z9>.

Aug. 21-22, **Building Blocks for Infant Mental Health Conference**, Franklin Marriott Cool Springs, 700 Cool Springs Blvd., Franklin. Information: <http://bit.ly/2srIbQ5>.

Aug. 26, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Our Daily Bread of TN, Inc.'s **21st Annual Child Care & Development Conference: "Planting the Seeds and Making a Difference,"** Hilton Knoxville, 501 W. Church Ave., Knoxville. Register: <http://bit.ly/2twtoAZ>.

Aug. 31, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, **SCCCY Presents "Domestic Assault Simulation Training,"** Mount Pleasant Community Center, 501 Gray Lane, Mount Pleasant. The event will be an in-depth look into domestic violence, showing how victims navigate the complex justice and social services system. Registration is limited to 40 slots and is available at <https://goo.gl/zVNJcM>.

March 13-14, 2018, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: John.Rust@tn.gov.

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In the News

Vines, G., July 3, *Knoxville News Sentinel*, **How do we help kids who commit crimes but also keep Tennessee communities safe?** <http://bit.ly/2vJsum7>.

Johnson City Press, July 21, **Lawmakers need to show how much kids count,** <http://bit.ly/2gRdAr6>.

Bundgaard, C., WJHL-11, Johnson City, **'Past time' in dealing with juvenile justice,' says Tennessee lawmaker,** <http://bit.ly/2tN06mu>.

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Research Information

Donisch, K., et al., *Child Maltreatment, Child Welfare, Juvenile Justice, Mental Health, and Education Providers' Conceptualizations of Trauma-Informed Practice*, <http://bit.ly/2tMlrV2>.

Lacey, C., National Child Traumatic Stress Network, ***Racial Disparities and the Juvenile Justice System: A Legacy of Trauma***, <http://bit.ly/2w3gDzt>.

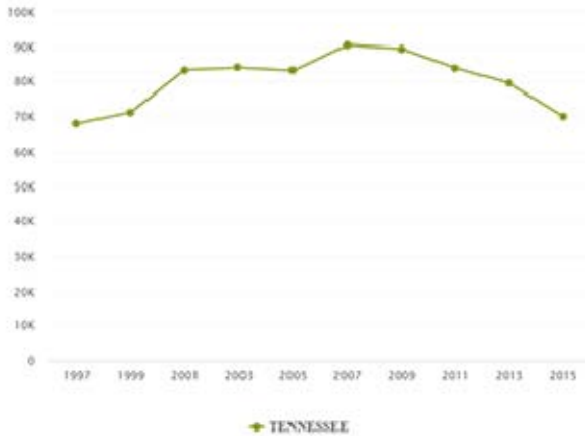
Ford, J.D. & Blaustein, M.E., *Journal of Family Violence*, **Systemic Self-Regulation: A Framework for Trauma-Informed Services in Residential Juvenile Justice Programs**, <http://bit.ly/2tMAW7u>.

Stevens, J.E., *ACES Too High News*, Pediatrician develops whole-child assessment tool that includes ACEs questions, <http://bit.ly/2eRNjse>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

Juvenile Justice Referrals

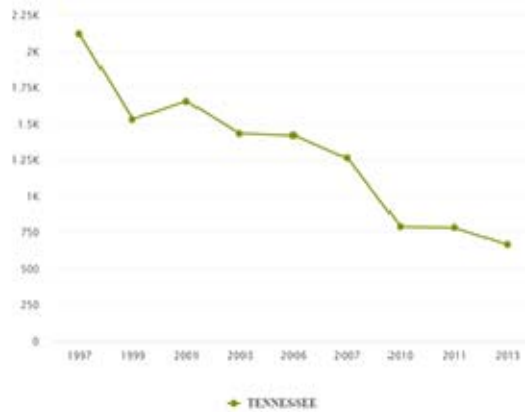


Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

JUVENILE COURT REFERRALS (NUMBER)

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

Juvenile Detention, Correction or Residential Facilities



YOUTH RESIDING IN JUVENILE DETENTION, CORRECTIONAL AND/OR RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES (NUMBER)

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

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

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

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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