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# Advocate

January 2018

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### Work to Be Done in Child Advocacy

As the new year begins, TCCY prepares for another 365 days of child advocacy. Meeting the challenges of speaking for children and families requires having the tools to assess the state of child well-being; identify effective, evidence-based solutions; and explain both issues and solutions to policymakers and citizens.

TCCY celebrates more than 20 years partnering with the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT project. Throughout its more than 60 year life, the agency has also published a number of research reports on issues related to child well-being in Tennessee.

The KIDS COUNT project is fueled by a belief in "data-driven advocacy," or the use of facts, to

support successful programs to help children. However, research now shows facts can be ineffective in changing minds; people react to being confronted by facts challenging their beliefs by clinging more tightly to those beliefs. Other communication tools are necessary for advocacy success.

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## Children's Advocacy Days, Awards

One way Tennessee child advocates can build and use their child advocacy skills is by participating in the 30th Children's Advocacy Days on March 13-14, 2018. We will be making beautiful music at the War Memorial Auditorium as we celebrate "Child Advocacy in Harmony," the way each child advocate's skills harmonize within the group on behalf of Tennessee children.

TCCY is collecting nominations for the **Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award** (<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/cad/aw-pryor18.pdf>) honoring child advocates and the **Youth Excellence Award** (<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/cad/aw-yexcl18.pdf>), honoring young people who successfully overcome behaviors that brought them into contact with the juvenile court. Nominations are due to TCCY by February 2.

Again this year the **2018 Governor's Awards for Excellence in Early Foundations** will be awarded at Children's Advocacy Days by Gov. Bill Haslam. Information on how to [submit nominations](#) for these awards is available.

More information about Children's Advocacy Days will be forthcoming. Contact [John Rust](#) for more information.

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## Second Look Commission

The Second Look Commission has released its 2017 report to the legislature on the state's efforts to prevent recurrent child abuse.

**Second Look Commission,**  
<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/slc/slc-areport17.pdf>.



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## KIDS COUNT Data Center



TCCY produces *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, an annual report on child well-being, one of its core legislative requirements, and participates in the release of the Annie E. Casey

Foundation's KIDS COUNT project reports. However, this is not the only way TCCY and the KIDS COUNT program share information. TCCY's data manager Sujit Das updates information more frequently to the KIDS COUNT Data Center, which also compiles information from other national data sources, including the Census, other federal agencies, Population Reference Bureau, Childtrends, etc. Users of the Data Center can compare geographic areas and create tables and line and bar charts.

**KIDS COUNT Data Center**, <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

**2017 Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children**, <http://bit.ly/2yh7J6F>.

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## Talking So People Can Listen

Facts are important tools to identify issues and successful solutions. Their use does not always result in successful advocacy for ideological or behavior change. In fact, researchers find facts lose the battle for hearts and minds when they conflict with core beliefs. The Frameworks Institute uses research to identify shared values that support child well-being issues. It studies issues and reports successful strategies for talking about those issues.

Frameworks Institute, TCCY, **Talking about Child Mental Health in Tennessee: A communications toolkit for TCCY**, <http://www.frameworksinstitute.org/toolkits/cmhtennessee/>.

**Frameworks Institute**, <http://bit.ly/2BnK5Tj>.

**Opportunity Agenda**, <http://bit.ly/2kgyxv7>.

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## Systems of Care Across TN

Systems of Care Across Tennessee (SOCAT)) has had a successful year one and will be expanding services in year two. Initial partners in SOCAT are listed below. Year two partners will be announced soon. SOCAT uses wraparound services to ensure children, youth and families received care that is family driven and youth guided, culturally and linguistically competent and community based. Find more information at the website ([www.socacrosstn.org](http://www.socacrosstn.org)) and Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/SOCacrossTN>.

<b>Volunteer Behavioral Health Care Services</b> <b>Putnam County</b> Georgianna Giampietro <a href="mailto:ggiampietro@vbhcs.org">ggiampietro@vbhcs.org</a> (931) 510-4362	<b>Cherokee Health System</b> <b>Sevier County</b> Julia Pearce <a href="mailto:Julia.Pearce@cherokeehealth.com">Julia.Pearce@cherokeehealth.com</a> (865) 201-8231
<b>Mental Health Cooperative</b> <b>Coffee County</b> Cheryl Johnson <a href="mailto:cjohnson@mhc-tn.org">cjohnson@mhc-tn.org</a> (615) 687-4703	<b>Pathways Behavioral Health</b> <b>Madison County</b> Yolanda Neal <a href="mailto:Yolanda.Neal@wth.org">Yolanda.Neal@wth.org</a> (731) 541-7381

## TCCY Systems of Care Across Tennessee Staff

<p><b>Melissa McGee</b>, Director Council on Children's Mental Health/SOCAT <a href="mailto:Melissa.McGee@tn.gov">Melissa.McGee@tn.gov</a> 615-532-3073</p>	<p><b>Laritha Fentress</b> SOCAT Divisional Coordinator-Middle <a href="mailto:Laritha.Fentress@tn.gov">Laritha.Fentress@tn.gov</a> 615-913-0115</p>
<p><b>Jerri Moore</b> SOCAT Divisional Coordinator-West <a href="mailto:Jerri.Moore@tn.gov">Jerri.Moore@tn.gov</a> 731-747-5200</p>	<p><b>Jill Murphy</b> SOCAT Divisional Coordinator-East <a href="mailto:Jill.Murphy@tn.gov">Jill.Murphy@tn.gov</a> 865-696-4424</p>

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### Advocacy Information and Partners

Who is speaking for child well-being? Advocates work together in TCCY staffed groups, making recommendations on improvement in issues contributing to child well-being.

**Regional Councils on Children and Youth:** <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/regional-councils-on-children-and-youth.html>;

**Council on Children's Mental Health:** <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/ccmh-home.html>

**Disproportionate Minority Contact Task Force:** <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/jj-dmc.html>;

**Home Visiting Leadership Alliance:** <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-hvla-home-visiting-leadership-alliance.html>

**Second Look Commission:** <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/slc.html>;

**Youth Transitions Advisory Council:** <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/ytac.html>.

State and national groups, including the following, also work on encouraging policies helpful to children.

**Annie E. Casey Foundation** - <http://www.aecf.org>;

**Prevent Child Abuse-Tennessee:** <http://www.pcat.org/>;

**Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education (TACEE, previously TAEYC):** <http://www.taeyc.org> Tennessee Association for Children's Early Education (TACEE, previously TAEYC): <http://www.taeyc.org>;

**Tennessee Conference on Social Welfare:** <http://www.tcsf.org/>;

Tennessee Voices for Children: <http://www.tnvoices.org/>.

Center on Budget and Policy Priorities: <https://www.cbpp.org/>;

Coalition for Juvenile Justice: <http://www.juvjustice.org/>;

Center on the Developing Child at Harvard: <http://bit.ly/1pf8bJ2>;

Inequality, <http://bit.ly/2CAUqVI>.

Partnership for America's Children, <http://bit.ly/2AV8lfv>.

Prosperity Now, <http://bit.ly/2BJ79Qi>.

Zero to Three, <http://bit.ly/2kHDtZ7>.

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## Doing Advocacy Ethically and Right

Many people are apprehensive about speaking up. These apprehensions can be addressed by relying on some helpful tools. The **Grassroots Professional Network** is an organization of public affairs professionals, but its ethics rules are useful guides for citizen advocates.

The **Bolder Advocacy** initiative of the Alliance for Justice has compiled State Law Resources for advocates, including laws on campaign finance, ballot measures, lobbying disclosure and voter registration.

[Grassroots Professional Network Official Statement on Grassroots Ethics](#), <http://bit.ly/2B6xFD5>.

**Bolder Advocacy**, Alliance for Justice, **State Law Resources: Updated - Tennessee**, <http://bit.ly/2AZwu5r>.

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## Keeping Up with Legislative Changes

New beginnings in January each year include a new legislative session. Citizens of Tennessee have selected leaders to make laws and thus have a responsibility as employers to help those leaders understand how changes they make will affect children. TCCY Youth Policy Advocate Steve Petty will begin compiling his report on bills filed in the legislature and will keep advocates informed as the legislative process progresses. **NOTE: Most state website links have been changed to improve maintenance of the site. New links are listed below:**

**2017 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>. (When compiled, the 2018 guidance will be found at

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/leg/leg-guidance2.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](https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html).

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## Update



Kennedy

Congratulations to TCCY Associate Director **Richard Kennedy** who earned a green belt in leadership from the Tennessee Government Leadership Conference. He is working on his black belt, the final stage of achievement.

TCCY Director of Field Operations **John Rust** graduated from the LEAD Tennessee leadership training.



Rust

TCCY **Executive Director Linda O'Neal** and **Kennedy** as representatives from the Coordinating Team for Building Strong Brains Tennessee participated in a Peer Meeting with the leadership of New York City's Administration of Children's Services, Child Well-Being Division, and its public, private and academic partners. Casey Family Programs tapped Tennessee ACEs experts for this task.

**DCS Open Line:** <http://bit.ly/2CMMI7a>.

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## Mark Your Calendar

Jan. 17, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. CST, TN Developmental Disabilities Network presents "**Educate to Advocate**," Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, One Magnolia Circle Building, Room 241, Nashville. This workshop prepares participants for Disability Day on the Hill. [Register at http://bit.ly/2BxFLB9](http://bit.ly/2BxFLB9).

Jan. 23, 8 a.m., **Northwest Council on Children and Youth, Ethics Training, "Promise and Peril: Tech Ethics,"** UT Martin, Boling University Center, 2nd Floor. Speakers include Elizabeth Wilson and Todd Stanfield, Union University Department of Social Work. Ballroom. This training has been approved by NASW-TN for 3 CEUs and 3 hours of continuing education from UT Martin. Contact Dana Cobb at [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov) or 731-571-727.

Jan. 26, 8:15 a.m. to 12 p.m. EST, **East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth presents "Implicit Bias,"** Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Rd., Knoxville. Speaker Mona C. Ivey-Soto, Belmont University. NASW-TN has approved training for 3 CEUs. Contact: [Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov).

Jan. 26, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth (MCCY)** and the Montgomery County Health Department present "**The Opposite of Suicide: What can be done to help our youth?**" and Crisis Referral and Assessment, William O. Beach Civic Hall, 350 Pageant Lane, Clarksville. Speakers include Adam Graham, Kara Merriam and Kimberly Kirk. Seating is limited, and registration at <http://bit.ly/2BnMUHx> is required. Cost is \$20 and includes 2018 MCCY

membership. Contact [Susan.Cope@tn.gov](mailto:Susan.Cope@tn.gov).

Feb. 14, **TN Disability Day on the Hill 2018**, Cordell Hull Building, Nashville. Contact Tennessee Council on Developmental Disabilities Public Policy Director Lauren Pearcy at [lauren.j.pearcy@tn.gov](mailto:lauren.j.pearcy@tn.gov).

Feb. 15-16, **TN Commission on Children and Youth** meeting. Contact [Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov](mailto:Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov) for information.

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

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### In the News

Gaewitz, P., Kaiser Health News, ***Pace Of U.S. Health Spending Slows In 2016***, <http://bit.ly/2nD6EkJ> (Source: Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Health Expenditure Data, <http://go.cms.gov/2k93Wyr>).

Carter, T., Open Minds, ***Judging, Not Judging: Trauma-Informed Courts***, <http://bit.ly/2AUGYmR>.

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### Research Information

Zhou, R.A. et al., *Health Affairs*, **The Uninsured Do Not Use the Emergency Department More - They Use Other Care Less**, <http://bit.ly/2impjvU>.

Gunja, M. Z., et al., The Commonwealth Fund, ***Is the Affordable Care Act Helping Consumers Get Health Care? Findings from the Commonwealth Fund Affordable Care Act Tracking Survey, March–June 2017***, <http://bit.ly/2ATHNMv>.

Hafner, M., et al., Rand Corp., ***Later school start times in the U.S.: An economic analysis***, <http://bit.ly/2fBVwOW>.

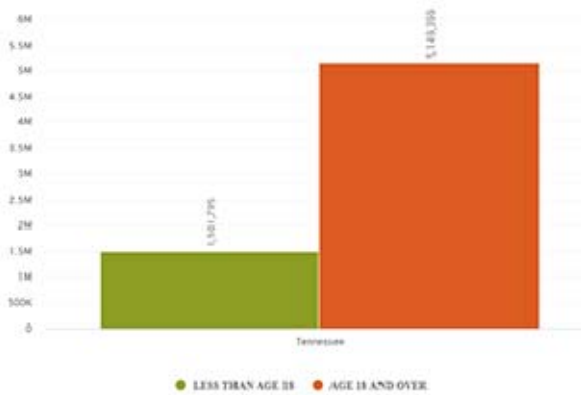
Sharpiro, I., and Danilo, T., Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, ***Child Poverty Falls to Record Low, Comprehensive Measure Shows Stronger Government Policies Account for Long-Term Improvement***, <http://bit.ly/2k7AEQR>.

Child Care Aware of America, ***Parents and the High Cost of Child Care: 2017***, <http://bit.ly/2Anv4kb>.

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**Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts**

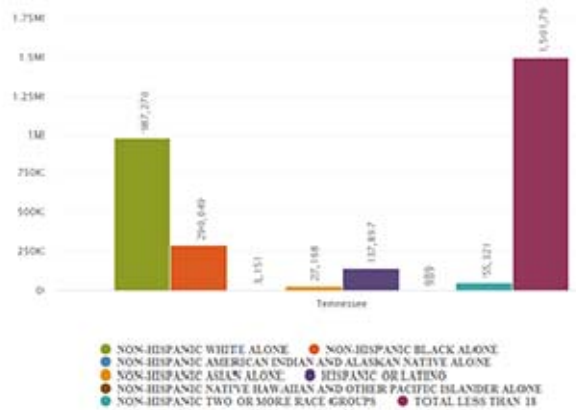
## Population by Age: <18 & >18



TOTAL POPULATION BY CHILD AND ADULT POPULATIONS: 2 SELECTED (NUMBER) - 2016

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

## Child Population by Race



CHILD POPULATION BY RACE: ALL (NUMBER) - 2016

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

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

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

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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