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January 2020

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# Advocate



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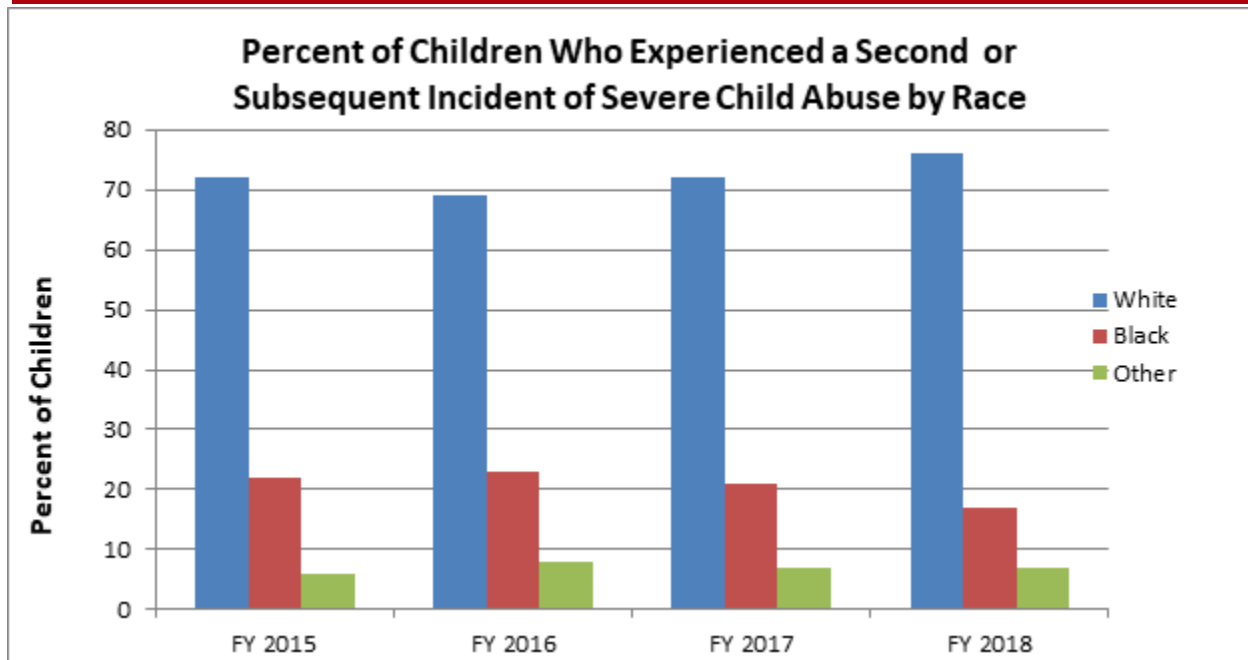
TCCY plans to bring new focus for a new decade of advocating for improved child well-being beginning in 2020. The agency will begin sharing information in January on proposed legislation affecting children and youth. We are looking forward to an electrifying Children's Advocacy Days 2020 on March 10-11. KIDS COUNT, Resource Mapping and kidcentral tn will help the state and its leaders identify and understand children's issues with 20/20 vision. Our work helping support Court-Appointed Special Advocate programs and services for children at risk of contact with the Juvenile Court and juvenile justice monitoring continues. We look forward to continued collaboration with other advocates through Building Strong Brains Tennessee, the Council on Children's Mental Health, the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance, the Youth Transitions Advisory Council and the Young Child Wellness Council. TCCY remains focused on improving child welfare services system wide through the Second Look Commission and for individual children through the Ombudsman for Children and Families.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, <https://www.tn.gov/tccy>.

Kid President, Soul Pancake, *A Letter to the Future from Kid President*, Jan. 22, 2015, <http://bit.ly/2rVCb4t>.

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## Second Look Commission Releases Annual Findings/Recommendations



The Second Look Commission has submitted its eighth annual report to the legislature with findings from its evaluation of cases of recurring severe child abuse as identified by Department of Children's Services. The report makes recommendations to improve the way these cases are handled. Since the analysis and reporting began, SLC recommendations have contributed to improved practices, which are documented in the report.

### Second Look Commission Annual Report,

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/slc/slc-areport19.pdf>.

### Second Look Commission Annual Report Highlights,

<https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/tccy/documents/slc/slc-arreport-highlights19.pdf>.

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## Mentoring

## Young Adults Who Were At-Risk for Falling Off Track But Had a Mentor Are:

55% more likely to enroll in college

78% more likely to volunteer regularly

90% are interested in becoming a mentor

130% more likely to hold leadership positions.

**Source: Mentor**

Mentors share knowledge, experience and wisdom through a caring relationship with a child or another person who is beginning a personal or professional life journey. Youth with mentors, research has found, are more likely to be productive and to contribute to their community.

The primary goal of Building Strong Brains Tennessee is to prevent adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and their potential impacts. One caring adult can help mitigate the trauma associated with ACEs. January has been selected as a time to focus attention on mentoring.

Belhumeur, L.L., Western Youth Services, ***How to Empower Children by Building Their Resiliency Muscle***, January 2019, <http://bit.ly/2EbyVnT>.

Preston, J., *Chronicle of Evidence-Based Mentoring, It Takes a Community to Heal Traumatized Youth, and Formal and Natural Mentors Have a Part to Play*, April 4, 2016, <http://bit.ly/38zWOna>.

MENTOR: The National Mentoring Partnership, ***National Mentoring Month***, <http://bit.ly/34u2zsz>. ***Become a Mentor***, <http://bit.ly/36z60GK>.

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## TCCY Seeks Nominations for Children's Advocacy Days Awards

The 2020 Children's Advocacy Days are scheduled for March 10-11. Among the awards to be given out are the [Jim Pryor Youth Advocacy Award](#) and the [Youth Excellence Award](#), for youth who have been in contact with the juvenile court system and are now giving back to their communities. A link to the nomination forms is also online at the [Children's Advocacy Days page](#).

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## Legislative News

The 111th Tennessee General Assembly reconvenes for its second Regular Session at 12:00 p.m. Tuesday January 14, 2020 at the State Capitol. [The Senate schedule for the week is available on the website](#), with the Senate Finance Committee meeting immediately following opening session. The House schedule should be available in the coming weeks.

Additionally, with the changes that occurred in the House leadership back in the summer, several members committee assignments and offices have changed. Committee and office changes should be available on the General Assembly website.

The **Sycamore Institute** has created an information tool to help Tennesseans understand the state budget process. The analysis, **Tennessee State Budget Primer**, is available online, <http://bit.ly/2PGZRS2>.

**TCCY's Budget Recommendations** for the Tennessee Fiscal Year 2021.

Tennessee General Assembly tool: **Find Your Legislator**.

The **TCCY Legislative Summary of Bills Enacted** during the first year of the 111th General Assembly is available.

[Sign up to receive TCCY federal policy information](#) by following the instructions online. Sign up to receive TCCY Tennessee **legislative updates** and the **Advocate** at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

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## Funding and Support Information

**Stating the Case for Nonprofits:** Beyond their effectiveness in serving individuals and communities, non-profit organizations have an economic impact. They employ, nationally, 12.3 million people on their payrolls. Their work enables others, family care givers, people with disabilities or limited work experience, etc., to work. The work of nonprofits enhances a community's quality of life, which lures businesses and people to it.

National Council of Nonprofits, ***America's Nonprofits: Economic Impact***, <http://bit.ly/2Mg9mXo>.

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## Update



**Bentley**

TCCY Commission member **Ella Bentley** has more than 30 years experience in the field of behavioral health, working with children and youth, and over 25 years of experience in educating/training and supervising professionals who provide services to the adolescent population. She was appointed by the Governor to the Health Related Boards and is the secretary of the Tennessee Licensing Board for Alcohol and Drug Abuse Counselors.

**Dr. Altha Stewart**, a member of the TCCY Commission on Children and Youth, has been named senior associate dean of Community Health Engagement at the College of Medicine at the University of Tennessee Health Science Center. In addition to continuing to serve as associate professor of psychiatry, direct the Center for Health in Justice-Involved Youth and chief of Social and Community Psychiatry at the university, she founded and leads the Youth Advocacy Coalition.



**Stewart**

TCCY staff members' children graduated from college in the fall semester. Juvenile Justice specialist **Vicki Taylor's** daughter, Destinee Taylor, graduated from Middle Tennessee State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a double major in biology and chemistry. Youth policy advocate **Steve Petty's** son, Jeremiah, graduated from the University of Tennessee with a degree in engineering.

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## Mark Your Calendar

TCCY lists relevant state and national events on its [website](#). TCCY sponsored events are listed here.

Jan. 16, **Southeast Council on Martin Luther King Children's Rights Event.**

Contact: [Rosalyn.Leavell-Rice@tn.gov](mailto:Rosalyn.Leavell-Rice@tn.gov).

Jan 31, **East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth** presents "**Changing Organizational Culture from Trauma Informed to Trauma Aware**," Henley Hall, Bridgewater Place, 205 Bridgewater Rd., Knoxville, Speaker: Becky Haas.

Contact: [Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov](mailto:Lindsey.Cody@tn.gov).

Feb. 20-21, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth meeting.**

Contact: [Jennifer.N.Jones@tn.gov](mailto:Jennifer.N.Jones@tn.gov).

March 10-11, 2020, **Children's Advocacy Days.** Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov).

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## In the News

TCCY news releases are available on TCCY's [website](#).

Newland, J., TCCY, **Roots and Wings podcast**. New issues spotlight juvenile justice with Davidson County Juvenile Court Judge Sheila Calloway and restorative justice efforts.

Gonzalez, Tony, WPLN and WKNO-FM, **Shortcomings Remain in How Tennessee Investigates Child Abuse**, Jan. 2, 2020, <http://bit.ly/35dOQxe>.

Hays, Gabrielle, WBIR-10, **Tennessee Report Challenges More Adults to Report Child Abuse**, Jan. 2, 2020, <http://bit.ly/39yA6MO>.

Williams, P., WTVF-News Channel 5, **Broken: TN juvenile justice system**, Nov. 2019, <http://bit.ly/2XRy0SL>.

Yoo, P.Y., et al., Wallace Foundation, **Putting Data to Work for Young People: A Ten-Step Guide for Expanded Learning Intermediaries**, Oct. 17, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2ObXCGD>.

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## Research Information

Colton, K., *The Daily Universe*, **BYU researchers discover trauma victims may negate negative outcomes**, Dec. 10, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2t7UhQU>.

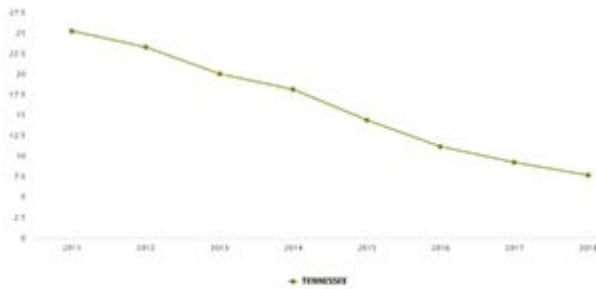
Memphis Research Consortium, **MRC Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) 2019 Progress Report**, <http://bit.ly/2EIAQX3>.

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# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

URLs below graphics link to larger versions of each. More data on Tennessee child well-being is available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

## Temporary Assistance to Needy Families Percent

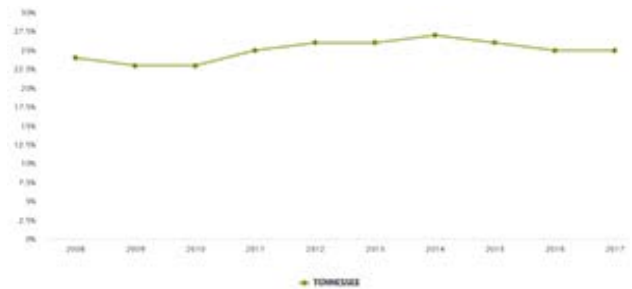


Temporary Assistance To Needy Families (TANF) (Rate) - 2011-2018

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

Also available: <http://bit.ly/2YXXRJ8>.

## Low-Income Working Families with Children - Percent



Low-income Working Families With Children (Percent) - 2008-2017

National KIDS COUNT  
KIDS COUNT Data Center: [datacenter.kidscount.org](http://datacenter.kidscount.org)  
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Also available: <http://bit.ly/2PTTXNw>.

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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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