



KIDS COUNT: Numbers Still Matter

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Calendar of Events

Events relating to helping children are available at: www.tn.gov/tccy/webcalen.pdf.

TCCY

For more information on the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth and its programs, check out the website at www.tn.gov/tccy.

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth

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June has been KIDS COUNT Month for the Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth. On June 7, TCCY released *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, a report with information on child well-being in all of Tennessee 95 counties.

On June 24, the Annie E. Casey Foundation released its 24th national *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, ranking states on child well-being.

These reports both include areas of celebration and challenges for Tennessee. "Tennesseans have a responsibility to prepare for the future by providing the infrastructure of proven services and supports so children have opportunities to be safe, healthy, educated, nurtured and supported, and engaged in activities that lead to success in school and in life," O'Neal added.

Tennessee Ranks 39th in KIDS COUNT Child Well-Being Report

Tennessee is 39th in the Annie E. Casey Foundation's 2013 National *KIDS COUNT Data Book* ranking of child well-being released today.

Rankings on 16 indicators are clustered in four domains — Economic Well-Being, Education, Health, and Family and Community. Tennessee improved slightly on two domains, held steady on one and dropped on another. Each of the four domains is compiled from four indicators.

Tennessee has shown improvement on nine of 16 indicators included in the 2013 National *KIDS COUNT Data Book*, stayed the same in one and saw worsening conditions for children on six, mostly related to poverty and single-parent families which often go hand in hand.

The state ranked 37th on both Economic Well-Being and Family and Community, better than its 2012 rankings. More than one in four children in Tennessee lives in poverty, and more than one in three lives in a family where no parent has full-



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

DOMAIN RANK

37

Children in poverty

2011

26%

386,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 21%

Children whose parents lack secure employment

2011

34%

513,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2008 30%

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

2011

35%

529,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 31%

Teens not in school and not working

2011

9%

32,000 TEENS

UNCHANGED

2008 9%

EDUCATION

DOMAIN RANK

42

Children not attending preschool

2009-11

60%

98,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005-07 64%

Fourth graders not proficient in reading

2011

74%

N.A.

WORSENERD

2005 73%

Eighth graders not proficient in math

2011

76%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 79%

High school students not graduating on time

2009/10

20%

15,202 STUDENTS

IMPROVED

2005/06 29%

N.A. Not Available.

HEALTH

DOMAIN RANK

33

Low-birthweight babies

2010

9.0%

7,179 BABIES

IMPROVED

2005 9.5%

Children without health insurance

2011

6%

85,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2008 7%

Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2010

31

490 DEATHS

IMPROVED

2005 39

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

2010-11

7%

34,000 TEENS

IMPROVED

2005-06 8%

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

DOMAIN RANK

37

Children in single-parent families

2011

37%

516,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 35%

Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

2011

13%

188,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005 15%

Children living in high-poverty areas

2007-11

14%

204,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2000 7%

Teen births per 1,000

2010

43

9,254 BIRTHS

IMPROVED

2005 55

UNITED STATES



ECONOMIC WELL-BEING

Children in poverty

2011

23%

16,387,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 **19%**

Children whose parents lack secure employment

2011

32%

23,777,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2008 **27%**

Children living in households with a high housing cost burden

2011

40%

29,486,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 **37%**

Teens not in school and not working

2011

8%

1,497,000 TEENS

UNCHANGED

2008 **8%**



EDUCATION

Children not attending preschool

2009-II

54%

4,325,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005-07 **56%**

Fourth graders not proficient in reading

2011

68%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 **70%**

Eighth graders not proficient in math

2011

66%

N.A.

IMPROVED

2005 **72%**

High school students not graduating on time

2009/10

22%

870,542 STUDENTS

IMPROVED

2005/06 **27%**

N.A. Not Available.



HEALTH

Low-birthweight babies

2010

8.1%

325,563 BABIES

IMPROVED

2005 **8.2%**

Children without health insurance

2011

7%

5,528,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2008 **10%**

Child and teen deaths per 100,000

2010

26

20,482 DEATHS

IMPROVED

2005 **32**

Teens who abuse alcohol or drugs

2010-II

7%

1,752,000 TEENS

IMPROVED

2005-06 **8%**



FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

Children in single-parent families

2011

35%

24,718,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2005 **32%**

Children in families where the household head lacks a high school diploma

2011

15%

11,131,000 CHILDREN

IMPROVED

2005 **16%**

Children living in high-poverty areas

2007-II

12%

8,591,000 CHILDREN

WORSENERD

2000 **9%**

Teen births per 1,000

2010

34

367,678 BIRTHS

IMPROVED

2005 **40**

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time, year-round employment; a household spending more than 30 percent of its income on housing; and/or a single parent family.

Tennessee's ranking on the Health domain, 33rd, was its best, even though the ranking reflected a drop from 16th last year. Although the state improved on all four Health indicators compared to the baseline year (low-birth weight babies, child and teen deaths, children without health insurance, and youth who reported abusing alcohol or drugs), Tennessee slipped a little on the last two indicators compared to the 2012 report.

Although the state ranked 21st in the rate of students graduating from high school on time, Tennessee's worst ranking was in the Education domain at 42nd. Some of the state's lowest rankings were in educational performance, as three out of four fourth graders scored below proficient reading level and three out of four eighth graders scored below proficient math level.

KIDS COUNT rankings track very closely with the number of children in low-income families in a state. Over the years, the data has shown that Southern states consistently have a relatively large share of children living in low-income families.

KIDS COUNT: State of the Child Report

TCCY released its annual *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee* on June 7. The report, which provides county-by-county data on indicators of child well-being, focuses on the impact of child abuse and neglect and the importance of a supportive infrastructure to help vulnerable children develop successfully.

Some stress is inevitable in life, but a chronic stressful condition such as neglect or abuse is called "toxic stress" and can disrupt developing brain architecture, leading to lifelong difficulties in learning, memory and self-regulation. Abuse, neglect and separation from a parent present traumatic, toxic stress that can lead to a variety of social, emotional and behavioral problems.

The report draws on research on toxic stress and its lifelong effects on individuals whose emotional and physical health is compromised by their exposure to adverse childhood events and their communities who must deal with those effects. Much of the report delineates the public and private partnerships and groups working to mediate the effects of child abuse, one of the toxic stress inducing events of childhood.

Linda O'Neal, executive director of TCCY, said, "Tennessee is engaged in a variety of efforts to improve outcomes for vulnerable children. Many are built on collaborative efforts to bring together partners to provide the services and supports needed to help children and families, ensure safety for children, and nurture opportunities for healing, stability and permanence."

The programs focused on include services provided by the Tennessee Department of Children's Services (DCS), the primary agency in Tennessee with responsibility for responding to child maltreatment.

O’Neal added, “Important private partners in the state’s child protection infrastructure include Child Advocacy Centers, CASA programs, Prevent Child Abuse-Tennessee, Exchange Club and other social services, health and mental health programs across the state.” *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee* summarizes many of the conditions children face and highlights recommendations to improve outcomes.

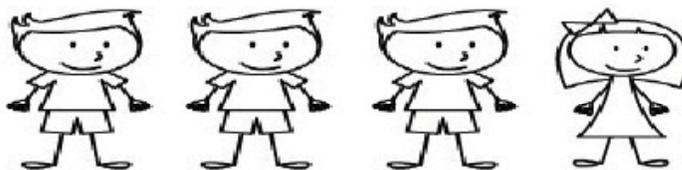
TCCY programs, the Second Look Commission, the Council on Children’s Mental Health, the Youth Transitions Advisory Council and the Ombudsman Program for children and families involved with DCS services, are also credited by the report for their services in preventing and addressing child abuse.

The book also includes data compiled during the final year of Children’s Program Outcome Review Team (CPOR) reviews of randomly selected DCS child custody cases.

KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee is available on the TCCY website at www.tn.gov/tccy/kc-soc12.pdf. Earlier Tennessee KIDS COUNT publications are available at www.tn.gov/kc.shtml. Printed copies of the latest reports may be obtained from the TCCY regional coordinators listed on page 4.

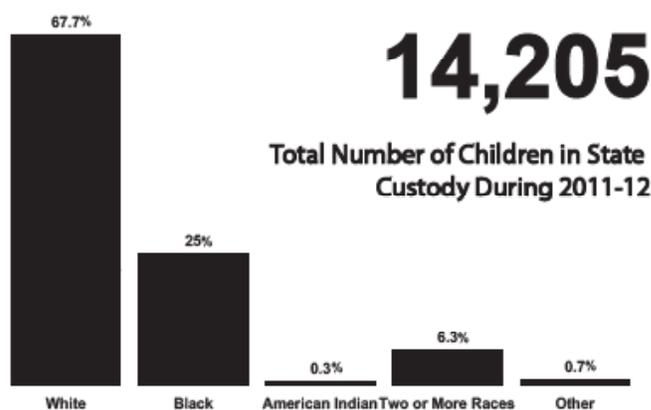
Children in State Custody

Gender of Children in State Custody



Race of Children in State Custody

2011-12



Source: Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth, Children’s Program Outcome Review Team.

The KIDS COUNT Project

For nearly 25 years, the Annie E. Casey Foundation began the KIDS COUNT program. The Annie E. Casey Foundation is a private philanthropy that creates a brighter future for the nation’s children by developing solutions to strengthen families, build paths to economic opportunity and transform struggling communities into safer and healthier places to live, work and grow.

TCCY has been a KIDS COUNT grantee for more than 20 years, receiving funding and technical assistance to help it comply with its legislative mandate to produce an annual report of the state of Tennessee’s children.

The program is a national and state-by-state effort to track the status of children in the United States. The data collected in this process is used by advocates and policy makers to identify successful policies and identify areas for improvement.

Throughout the year, the Annie E. Casey Foundation releases targeted data and policy reports in addition to its annual KIDS COUNT National Data Book ranking states on child well-being. In February, the *KIDS COUNT Data Snapshot: Youth Confinement in the United States* reported Tennessee had reduced youth incarceration between 1997 and 2010 more than 48 states. The latest policy report, *Youth and Work, Restoring Teen and Young Adult Connections to Opportunity*, which was released in October 2013, reported on the Employment of youth ages 16 to 24 is at its lowest point in 50 years.

Annie E. Casey KIDS COUNT publications are available at www.aecf.org.

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KIDS COUNT Data Center Updated

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>

Information from the national Data Book and *KIDS COUNT: The State of the Child in Tennessee*, along with additional data, is available on the KIDS COUNT Data Center. Users may select the topics and locations they wish to analyze and create tables and charts for use in their publications, etc.

When you access the pages at <http://datacenter.kidscount.org/>, you will find information similar to this illustration, with new, easier to use navigation options.

If you would like assistance in using the Data Center or information to share with others, please contact TCCY.



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