



Advocate

April 2015

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April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month



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Thanks to **Kristen Rector**, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, for her assistance on this newsletter.

Preventing Child Abuse in Tennessee

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee is kicking off Child Abuse Prevention Month with a free family event at Nashville Farmer's Market 10 a.m. to noon April 4.

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee's Pinwheels for Prevention® campaign promotes great childhoods. PCAT and its community partners are stepping up campaign activities during April in recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. In support of local campaign efforts, PCAT is partnering with businesses and communities around the state to plant 175 pinwheel gardens, providing educational materials for parents and advocates,



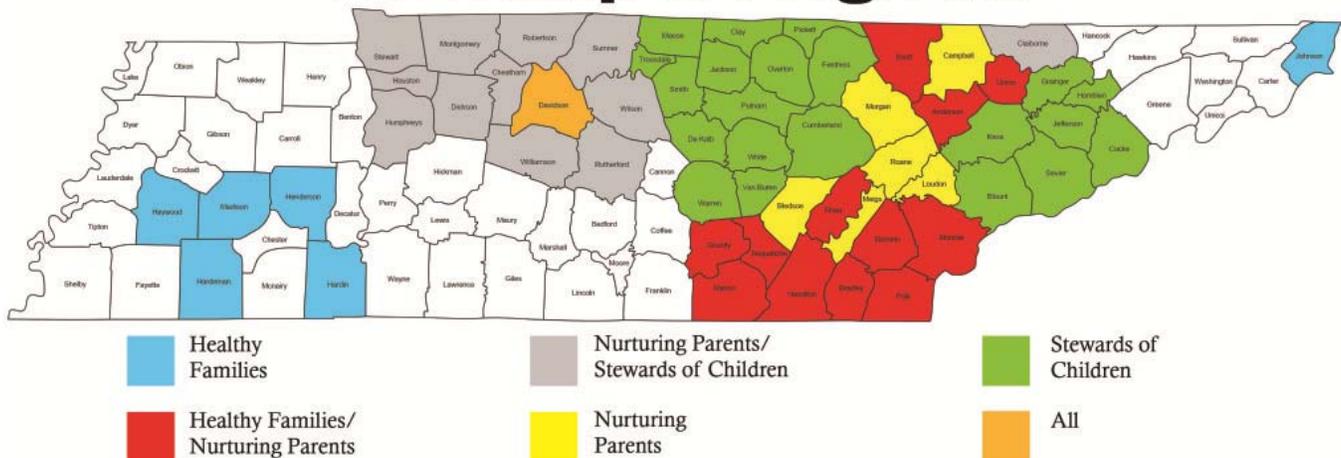
and broadcasting public service announcements that highlight the fact that investing in effective prevention is less costly to society, and to individuals, than trying to fix things later.

“Ensuring children have the opportunity to grow up in a safe, healthy environment is everyone’s responsibility,” says Kristen Rector, executive director of Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee. “The pinwheel is a reminder that we all play a role in the future of our children. Children deserve to grow up feeling safe, nurtured, and loved, and the pinwheel gardens planted across the state of Tennessee this April show our commitment to families in the communities where we work and live every day.

“Why pinwheels? Pinwheels represent the healthy and happy childhoods that all children deserve. The kickoff event will help raise awareness around the safety and protection of our children and will provide a safe place for children to dance, laugh, create and play.”

Organizations around the state will be planting pinwheel gardens to call attention to the number of children affected by child abuse. PCAT is very invested in protecting children and strengthening communities. You can learn more about

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee 2014 Map of Programs



child abuse prevention and become a messenger for this cause by visiting www.pcat.org.

- Find Child Abuse Prevention Month and PCAT trainings in your areas: <http://www.pcat.org/events/>.

Nashville Child Protection Coalition

A year ago, the Nashville Child Protection Coalition was born out of Middle Tennessee’s need to decrease the rates of child sexual abuse. The Coalition was founded with partners from PCAT, Family and Children’s Services, Magdalene, Nashville Children’s Alliance, Our Kids Sexual Assault Center, and the Tennessee Children’s Advocacy Centers. The coalition’s goal is to diminish the incidence and impact of child sexual abuse by teaching 5 percent of the adult population in Nashville how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse using the Stewards of Children curriculum. Through a grant from the HCA Foundation, PCAT hired a coordinator for the coalition in February. Cary Rayson joined the PCAT staff to further the vision of the NCPC. To date, the coalition has trained 5,000 adults, 20 percent of its goal.

- More information on the Nashville Child Protection Coalition is available at <http://bit.ly/1bofzLZ>.

Tennessee CASA

Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) Programs across the state advocate in the courts for children who have been abused or neglected. CASA has set a goal of providing a CASA volunteer for every child who needs one by 2020. TCCY administers funding to help provide CASA programs in 45 counties. In 2013, more than 1,245 CASA-trained volunteers worked 116,377 hours to serve 5,200 children. Funding comes from state dollars and interdepartmental monies from DCS. This funding provides a stable core for programs. CASA volunteers are appointed by juvenile court judges, who must be willing to work with the program. The following map indicates counties with no CASA programs, counties with currently operating programs that receive funding through TCCY, counties with programs for whom state funding has not been allocated and counties with residents interested in starting a program.



Source: Tennessee CASA, Map by TCCY

- More information on Tennessee CASA is available at <http://bit.ly/1sqd3pP>.

Stewards of Children

Nobody wants to think about child sexual abuse. But, it happens, and denial doesn't prevent or rectify it. In 2013, the Department of Children's Services found 2,616 Tennessee children were victims of child sexual abuse. When perpetrators are identified, communities and organizations often respond with disbelief and are forced to think the unthinkable. The Stewards of Children training offered by groups and agencies across the state trains members of the community, especially those working with children, on the prevalence, consequences and prevention of child sexual abuse. Trainers and training materials address the issue in a common sense manner, while videos of survivors of abuse tell of the damages it causes. Most importantly, the training equips coaches, teachers, volunteers and others on techniques to reduce opportunities for child sexual abuse.

Stewards of Children trainings scheduled in Tennessee are listed at: <http://bit.ly/18MjKiY>

Preventing Child Abuse Nationally

National Child Abuse Prevention Month is an annual project of Prevent Child Abuse America. The organization is an excellent source of information on child abuse and prevention. To underscore the relationship between parental stress and child abuse, the group has information fact sheets with tips for parents, including "Managing Stress," "Feeding Your Family," "Support after an Adoption" and "Managing Finances."

The U.S. Department of Human Services' Children's Bureau collects national statistics. These data find about one-fifth of children reported as having been abused were found to be victims of abuse, which represented 9.1 victims per 1,000 child population. Children under age one made up nearly one in every four victims. However, nearly 80 percent of victims of child maltreatment were neglected. Children's Bureau has established performance standards for

state child welfare agencies, including rate of first-time victims, response rates and children with substantiated maltreatment repeated within six months.

- Prevent Child Abuse America: <http://bit.ly/1xWOILN>;
- Child Welfare Information Gateway: <http://1.usa.gov/1G7tJgf>;
- *Child Maltreatment 2013*: <http://1.usa.gov/1BnW6QF>.

April is Alcohol Awareness Month

The National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence selected “For the Health of It: Early Education on Alcoholism and Addiction” as the theme of its 2015 Alcohol Awareness Month. Young people are the focus of the month. Research finds early alcohol and drug use, especially use before the teen years, is associated with long-term alcohol use problems. Some researchers explain the relationship by blaming family and environmental factors that cause, or allow, children to begin drinking rather than the time of first use.

The ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) study included parental alcohol and drug use as one of the adverse childhood experiences related to lifelong physical and mental health issues. Research links stress from childhood abuse with later alcohol misuse.

The World Health Organization and some U.S. studies have identified alcohol abuse as predictor or contributor to child abuse. One study found 35 percent of parental child abuse offenders has consumed alcohol or drugs at the time of the incident. TCCY’s Children’s Program Outcome Review Team surveys of the cases of children in state custody, conducted from 1994 to 2012, found a high level of alcohol abuse by parents/caregivers and children in custody.

- NCADD Alcohol Awareness Month: <http://bit.ly/1AXhnRT>
- [WHO Facts on Child Maltreatment and Alcohol: http://bit.ly/19GUqfl](http://bit.ly/19GUqfl)

TCCY Works to Improve Child Welfare

TCCY has two programs focused on improving services for children within the child welfare system.

The **Second Look Commission** reviews an appropriate sampling of Department of Children’s Services cases involving a second or subsequent incident of severe child abuse in order to provide recommendations to improve practice and prevent future problems. The **Ombudsman for Children and Families** takes referrals from children, families, state workers and private agency staff that involve a concern about a state custody child's or the family's treatment. The program helps to resolve problems mediating the concerns of each person involved in the child's or family's case to assure the best interests of the child are considered.

- Second Look Commission: Contact Craig Hargrow@tn.gov or <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/slc.shtml>.
- Ombudsman for Children and Families: Contact Gerald.Papica@tn.gov or <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/ombuds.shtml>.



Specialty License Plates Help Prevent Child Abuse

Since the mid-1990s, advocates have been able purchase Children First license plates. Funds for the additional cost of these plates go to fund Child Abuse Prevention grants. You can purchase the specialty plates online or from the local offices across the state where you buy vehicle tags.

- Purchase license plates at <https://dl.safety.tn.gov/> / .

Legislative Session Continues

TCCY continues to provide weekly updates on state legislation related to children.

- TCCY Recommendations on Insure Tennessee: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/leg-IT-15.pdf>;
- TCCY Legislative Impact Statements: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/legimpact1.pdf>;
- TCCY Legislative Updates: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/legislat.shtml>;
- Sign Up for TCCY Updates and Newsletters: <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/listserv.shtml>.

Updates: Children's Advocacy Days 2015

For 27 years, TCCY has gathered child advocates to learn more about policies related to children and advocacy and to meet with policymakers at Children's Advocacy Days. "Everyday Superheroes...Every Day" was the 2015 theme, which included The Advocators, a group of special superheroes, and all the attendees were included as everyday superheroes. Keynote speakers included filmmaker Brett Culp, who made a movie about the people motivated by Batman; Bill Millett, who reinforced the idea of focused advocacy; and Dr. Kenneth Minkoff, a expert on treating mental health patients with complex situations.



Photos from 2015 Children's Advocacy Days are available on TCCY's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/TCCYonfb.

And the Winner Is...

Each year, TCCY has invited Children's Advocacy Days participants to join them in honoring people who have made a difference in the lives of children. This year Memphis Child Advocate and mental health and early childhood pioneer Barbara Holden Nixon received the Jim Pryor Child Advocacy Award. Sevier County General Sessions and Juvenile

Court Judge Dwight Stokes received the Senator Douglas Henry Public Official of the Year Award for his passionate advocacy for equity in the treatment of those involved with the justice system. Quayshaun Crowder, a former participant in and current employee of the K-TOWN Youth Empowerment Network who overcame a life as a drug user and dealer, received the Youth Excellence Award.

Three John Seigenthaler Making KIDS COUNT Media Awards were presented to long-time Knoxville News Sentinel Capitol Bureau chief Tom Humphrey, Knoxville WBIR digital producer Rachel Kinney and The Urban Child Institute director of Communications Scott Wilson.

- More information on these awards and other news about TCCY is available at <http://www.tn.gov/tccy/releases.shtml>.

Mark Your Calendar

April 2, 6-8:30 p.m., Tennessee Suicide Prevention Network Substance Abuse Outreach Training Session, **“Addressing Suicidal Ideation and Behavior in Substance Abuse Treatment,”** University of Tennessee Social Work Building, 193 Polk Ave., Nashville. Register: <https://april2utcsw.eventbrite.com>.

April 4, 10 a.m.-12 noon, **Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee “Pinwheels for Prevention,”** Nashville Farmers Market, 900 Rosa L. Parks Blvd. Free. Crafts, music, activities for children and food.

April 6-9, **National RX Drug Abuse Summit**, Westin Peachtree Plaza Hotel, Atlanta. Info and registration at <http://nationalrxdrugabusesummit.org/>.

April 10, **Northwest Council Ethics Training**, Ballroom, Bowling University Center, UT Martin. Contact Dana.Cobb@tn.gov.

April 22, 8:30 -11:30 a.m., **Cultural Impact of Race, Religion & Language on Disabilities**, Vanderbilt Kennedy Center, 110 Magnolia Circle, Rm. 241, Nashville. Info: megan.hart@Vanderbilt.Edu.

April 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., **Council on Children’s Mental Health**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1443 12th Avenue, South, Nashville. Info: (615) 532-3073 or Melissa.McGee@tn.gov.

April 24, **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Lunch and Learn, “Autism Spectrum: Best Practices for Identification, Diagnosis and Treatment,”** Mental Health Cooperative, 276 Cumberland Bend, Nashville. Contact Susan.Cope@tn.gov.

April 24, **Tennessee Transition Summit – Medical Home Implementation Project**, Scarritt Bennett Center, 1008 19th Ave South, Nashville. Event is offered at NO charge but space is limited; early registration is encouraged. Detailed information with registration and summit agenda will be available at www.tennesseeemicalhome.com.

April 27-29, **Child Welfare League of America National Conference**, “Advancing Excellence Through Innovation and Collaboration, Crystal Gateway Marriott, Arlington, VA. Register at <http://bit.ly/tccyec37>.

April 29-May 1, 2015 Annual Meeting of the **Safe States Alliance**, Embassy Suites at Centennial Park, Atlanta. Info and registration: <http://bit.ly/1D83VeG>.

May 19, **Hands Up, Voices United: Youth, Rights & Justice in a Post-Ferguson World**, Martin Professional Development Center, 2400 Fairfax Ave., Nashville. FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS ONLY. Free but pre-registration required at <http://bit.ly/HUVU2015>.

May 19, **Mid-Cumberland Council on Children and Youth Sumner County Lunch and Learn.** “The Attachment Relationship and Its Impact on Children,” Gallatin Civic Center, 210 Albert Gallatin Ave. Approved for NASW CEUs. Contact susan.cope@tn.gov.

May 21-22, **Tennessee Disability MegaConference** “It All Starts with One,” Nashville Airport Marriott. Speakers include Ron Suskind. Info: 800-835-7077 or <http://bit.ly/tccyad65>

In the News

LA Times, “L.A. County plans court to help child prostitutes,” <http://lat.ms/19eSQRO>

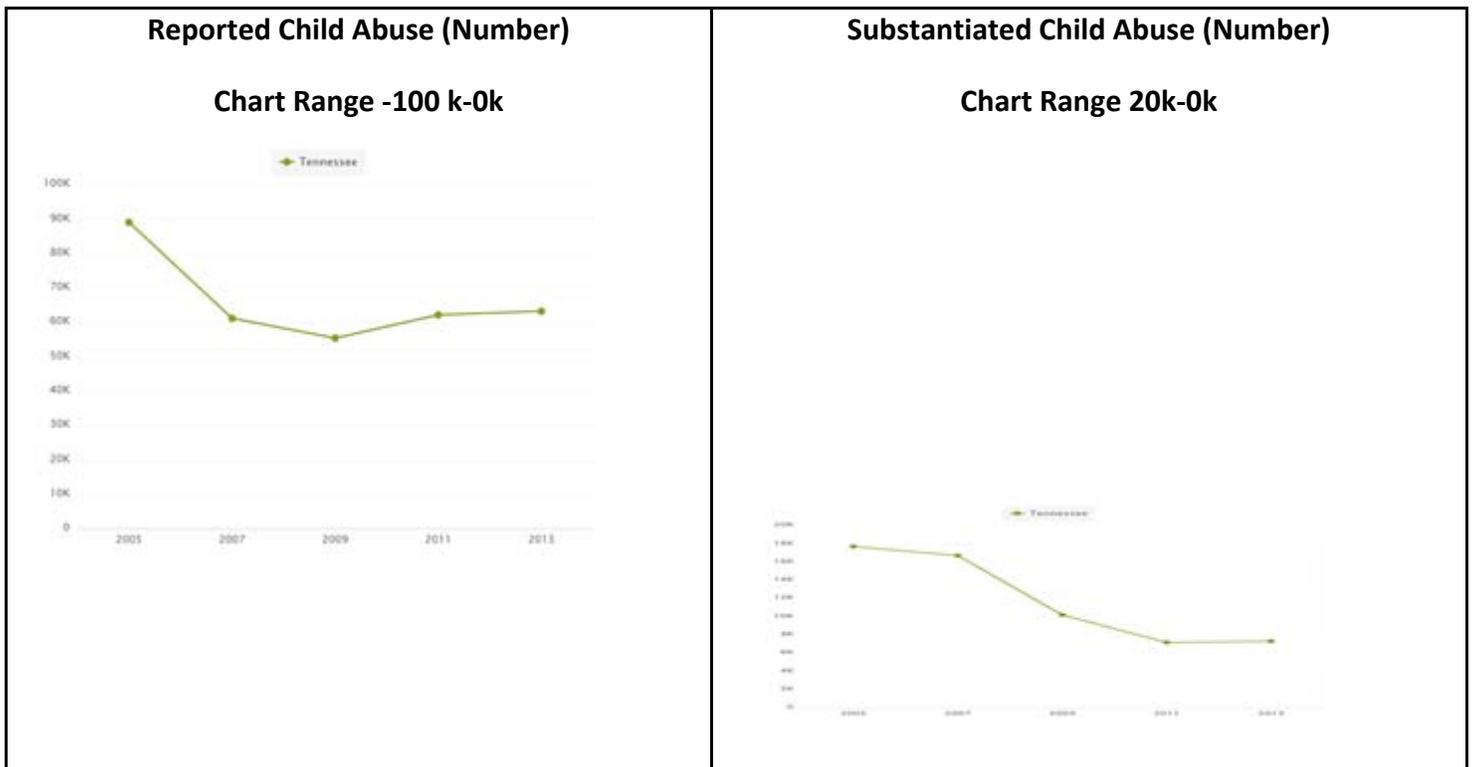
CQ Healthbeat, “Racial, Ethnic Health Coverage Disparities on the Decline, HHHs Says,” <http://bit.ly/1NbgzPI>

Boston.com, “Rural Youth Suicide Incidents Close to Double Urban Rate” <http://bit.ly/1Cmh7jv>.

Research Information

U.S. Health and Human Services, Administration for Children & Families, Office of Planning, Research & Evaluation, “The Mother and Infant Home Visiting Program Evaluation: Early Findings on the Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program – A Report to Congress,” <http://1.usa.gov/1BNMdz8>

Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts



More data on Tennessee child well-being are available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>. Data on racial inequity are at <http://bit.ly/1dNvmnu>.

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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