



Advocate

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April Is Child Abuse Prevention Month

Every month we should strive to prevent child abuse, so in April we call extra attention to the problem and its solutions. Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee, Tennessee Child Advocacy Centers, Court Appointed Special Advocate programs and other groups are holding events across the state. Advocates have raised awareness of child maltreatment for more than 30 years. For more than 20 years, blue ribbons on lapels or pinwheels have reminded people of the need to protect children. Each year since 1983, the U.S. President has proclaimed April Child Abuse Prevention Month. The Child Abuse Prevention Month [website](#) has more information.



Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children



To be competitive and create a prosperous future for all Tennesseans, we must break down the barriers that prevent children across the state from achieving their full potential. *Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children*, a policy report released by the Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT® project, identifies opportunity disparities among racial and ethnic groups and recommends ways to address them. *Race for Results* includes a new index score for each state for all children and by race/ethnicity. The score is based on 12 indicators that measure a child's success for each stage of life, from birth to adulthood. The Annie E. Casey Foundation provided data to KIDS COUNT grantees on each of the measures analyzed in *Race for Results*.

- [Race for Results: Building a Path to Opportunity for All Children;](#)
- [Race for Results Indicators;](#)
- [Race for Results national launch event video with Soledad O'Brien;](#)
- [Detailed Tennessee data underlying Race for Results index.](#)

Nashville Child Protection Coalition Call to Action

On April 15, hundreds of community leaders and representatives of city- and statewide organizations gathered to kick off a citywide effort to inform and train people about how to prevent, identify and respond to child sexual abuse. The coalition shared research suggesting one in 10 children will be sexually abused before age 18 and 90 percent of them will never tell anyone.

Organizers, including Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee (PCAT), the Tennessee Child Advocacy Centers (CAC), the Sexual Assault Center, Family and Children's Service, Nashville Children's Alliance, Our Kids Center and Thistle Farms, urged participants to commit two hours to learning how to protect children. Specifically, the groups unified to call upon individuals, and their churches, clubs and neighborhood groups, to participate in the **Stewards of Children: Darkness to Light** training.

The call to action's goal is to train 5 percent of the adult population in Nashville – 24,514 adults. For more information on how to start this effort in your community or to schedule a Stewards of Children training, contact Nashville Child

Protection Coalition steering committee contacts Kristen Rector of PCAT (615) 383-0994 or kristen.rector@pcat.org or Lauren Looser of Tennessee CAC (615) 327-9958, ext. 2004 or llooser@tncac.org.

Major support for the initiative is provided by The HCA Foundation and The Children's Hospital at TriStar Centennial Hospital.

It's Everybody's Job to Report Child Abuse!

In Tennessee, which is frequently a leader in good public policy, it has long been the law that anyone who suspects child abuse is required to report it. Subsequent legislation clarified that, even though child-serving agencies can establish procedures for reporting abuse, the responsibility for reporting belongs to the individual who suspects it. The University of Tennessee Office of Research and Public Service, in conjunction with DCS, the Joint Task Force on Children's Justice and the Shelby County Citizens' Review Panel, has created [an online training module on child abuse reporting in Tennessee](#).

Facts About Child Abuse

Learn more about child abuse from the U.S. Office of Justice Programs [National Criminal Justice Reference Service](#). Topics include prevalence, prevention and responses.

In February, the Children's Bureau issued a brief report (one of the resources listed by the reference service) on [Protective Factors Approaches in Child Welfare](#). These approaches identify conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities or the larger society that mitigate risk. Protective factors treatment approaches focus on families' strengths. One program, Strengthening Families, identifies parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development as family strengths, and provides concrete support in times of need. The reference service includes information on other ways to prevent and treat child abuse.

DOJ's Defending Childhood Initiative

The U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) kicked off an initiative called "Defending Childhood" in 2010 seeking strategies to protect children from exposure to violence and its aftereffects. Eight municipalities, including Shelby County, received grants. Shelby County targeted prevention activities, community awareness and engagement campaigns, coordinated service delivery systems and policy reforms.

The initiative built on a 2009 [study](#) finding 60 percent of children are exposed to violence during their lifetimes. One in 10 children was found to be a polyvictim, having been exposed to multiple types of violence.

The Defending Childhood initiative released a [report](#) in 2012 offering recommendations focused on improving trauma-informed care.

Updates



About Us. DCS Commissioner Jim Henry presented Commission member **Audrey Taylor-Gonzalez** (at left) a certificate of appreciation from the Governor at the first-ever state meeting/training for foster care review board chairs. Commission member **Phil Acord** and a client of the **Chambliss Children's Center** in Chattanooga were featured in the Shriver Report video "Paycheck to Paycheck: The Life and Times of Katrina Gilbert" on HBO last month.

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee has promoted **Kristen Rector**, formerly its director of programs, to executive director. Rector replaces **Carla Snodgrass**, who has joined Healthy Families America (HFA) as operations director. HFA is an evidence-based home-visiting model designed to work with overburdened families and is a project of Prevent Child Abuse America.

Tennessee Court Appointed Special Advocates has hired **Lynn Farrar**, (at right) as executive director, replacing Cheryl Hultman, who retired. Farrar was formerly executive director of CASA Works, Inc, a local CASA serving Bedford, Coffee and Franklin counties and is a rural advisor for the National CASA Association and a Building Strong Families council member.



Tennessee Voices for Children has a new executive director, **Rikki Harris**. Harris previously served as TVC's development director. Best wishes to Charlotte Bryson, long-time TVC executive director, who retired recently.

Mark Your Calendar

April 22, 9-11 a.m., **Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children**, Baptist Healing Trust. Contact (615) 383-0994 or nakisha.lewis@pcat.org.

April 22, 1 p.m.-4 p.m., **"Girls Matter! Girls and Substance Use,"** Jackson-Madison County Regional Health Department, 804 N. Parkway, Jackson. Free. Register at <https://girlssubstanceuse.eventbrite.com>.

April 22, 9-11 a.m., **"Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children,"** Baptist Healing Trust. Contact (615) 383-0994 or nakisha.lewis@pcat.org.

April 23, 9:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Southwest Council on Children and Youth co-sponsoring **"What's on Your Plate: Food Insecurity in the US,"** Grant Event Center, Union University, Jackson. Registration fees. Register at www.uu.edu/events/socialwork/.

April 24, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., **Council on Children's Mental Health meeting**, TennCare Building, 310 Great Circle Road, Nashville. Contact Dustin Keller at Dustin.Keller@tn.gov.

April 25, **Northwest Council on Children and Youth: "Stressed Out of Shape: Helping Yourself and Others Cope with Life's Stress and Demands,"** Boling University Center Ballroom, University of Tennessee Martin. Speaker: Gwen Joyner, Carroll County Extension agent. Contact Dana.Cobb@tn.gov.

April 25, Child Welfare League of America **National Children's Memorial Flag Day** to raise awareness of violent child deaths. Check for local events. People are asked to display children's memorial flags (at right).



April 27-29, **2014 Lifesavers Conference**, Opryland Hotel, Nashville. Information at <http://www.lifesaversconference.org/#whatislifesavers>.

April 29-30, **Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training**, Non-Profit Conference Center, 293 Plus Park Boulevard, Suite 201, Nashville. Registration is limited; cost is \$40. Register at <http://bit.ly/1g7w6Q2>.

May 2, 10 a.m., **Northeast Council on Children and Youth Quarterly Council Meeting, "Overview of the 108th Tennessee General Assembly,"** Johnson City Public Library, 100 W. Millard Street. Contact diane.wise@tn.gov.

May 6-8, **CWLA 2014 National Advocacy Summit**, Washington, DC. Details/Registration: www.cwla.org/2014Advocacy. Contact 2014Advocacy@cwla.org with questions or for assistance.

May 8-9, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth meeting**, Andrew Jackson Building, 9th Floor, Nashville.

May 10, 9-11 a.m., **Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children**, Baptist Healing Trust. Contact (615) 383-0994 or nakisha.lewis@pcat.org.

May 15-16, **Eighth Annual Northeast (US) Youth Firesetting Conference**, Hampton Inn, Boston-Natick, MA. Volume fee discount. Youth led. More information: <http://bit.ly/1t6bgcH>.

In the News

The (Nashville) *Tennessean* article, "New Report Shows TN Children of All Races Lag Behind," <http://tnne.ws/1iZYyH9>

Tennessean editorial about the *Race for Results* report: <http://tnne.ws/1i2EvEL>.

Chattanooga Times Free Press article, "Gulf in Child Well-Being: Report Calls for Action to Bridge Racial Gap," <http://bit.ly/Pe5Mo2>.

Research Information

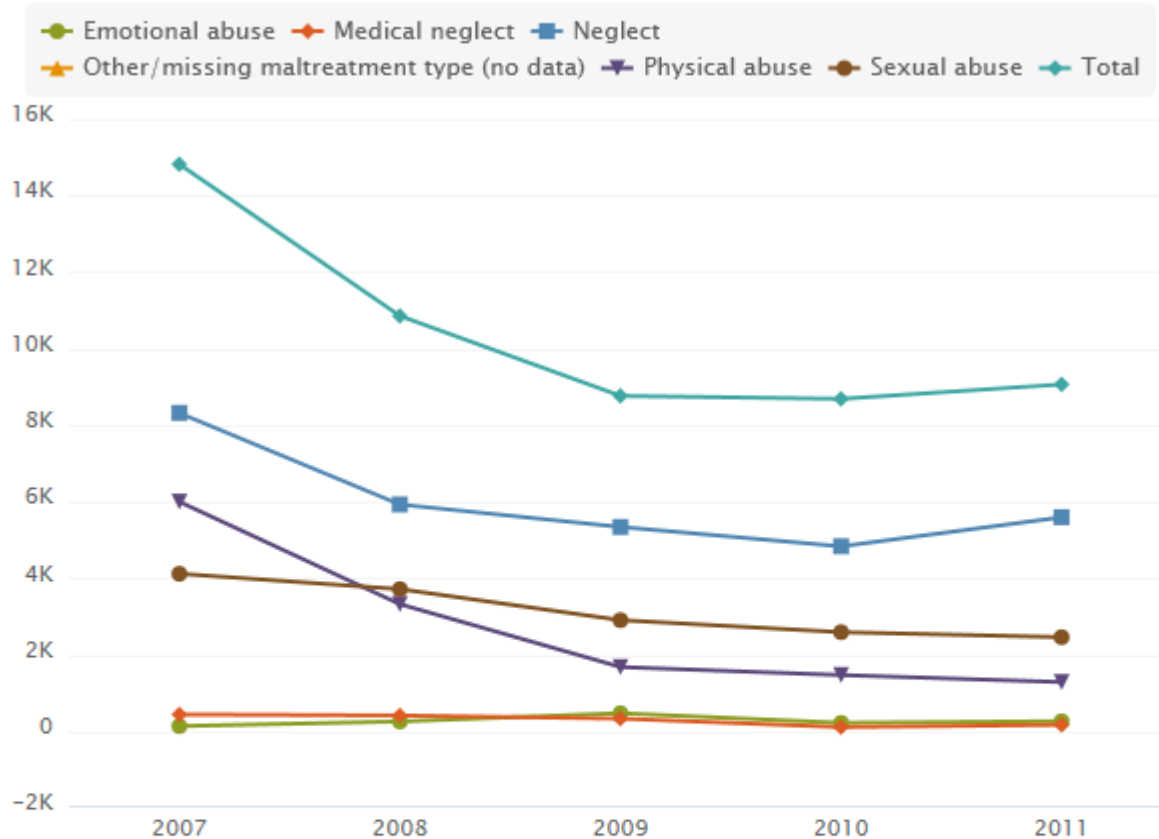
Report by the Texas Policy Institute examines the continued **incarceration of youth status offenders**:

<http://bit.ly/1hst9i4>.

Economic Policy Institute presentation on **"Neighborhoods with Concentrated Poverty,"** <http://bit.ly/PYy1Qv>.

Trends in Child Maltreatment

TENNESSEE



CHILDREN WHO ARE CONFIRMED BY CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES AS VICTIMS OF MALTREATMENT BY MALTREATMENT TYPE: ALL (NUMBER)

National KIDS COUNT

KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org

A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

More data on Tennessee child well-being is available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

To suggest content or manage subscriptions to *The Advocate*, contact fay.delk@tn.gov.

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