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# Advocate

October 2016

Calendar

In the News

KIDS COUNT Facts

Research

TCCY Home

Upcoming Events

TCCY Newsroom

TCCY Regional  
Councils

## Data Is an Advocacy Tool

Tennessee Improves on Census Measures of Income, Health Insurance Coverage

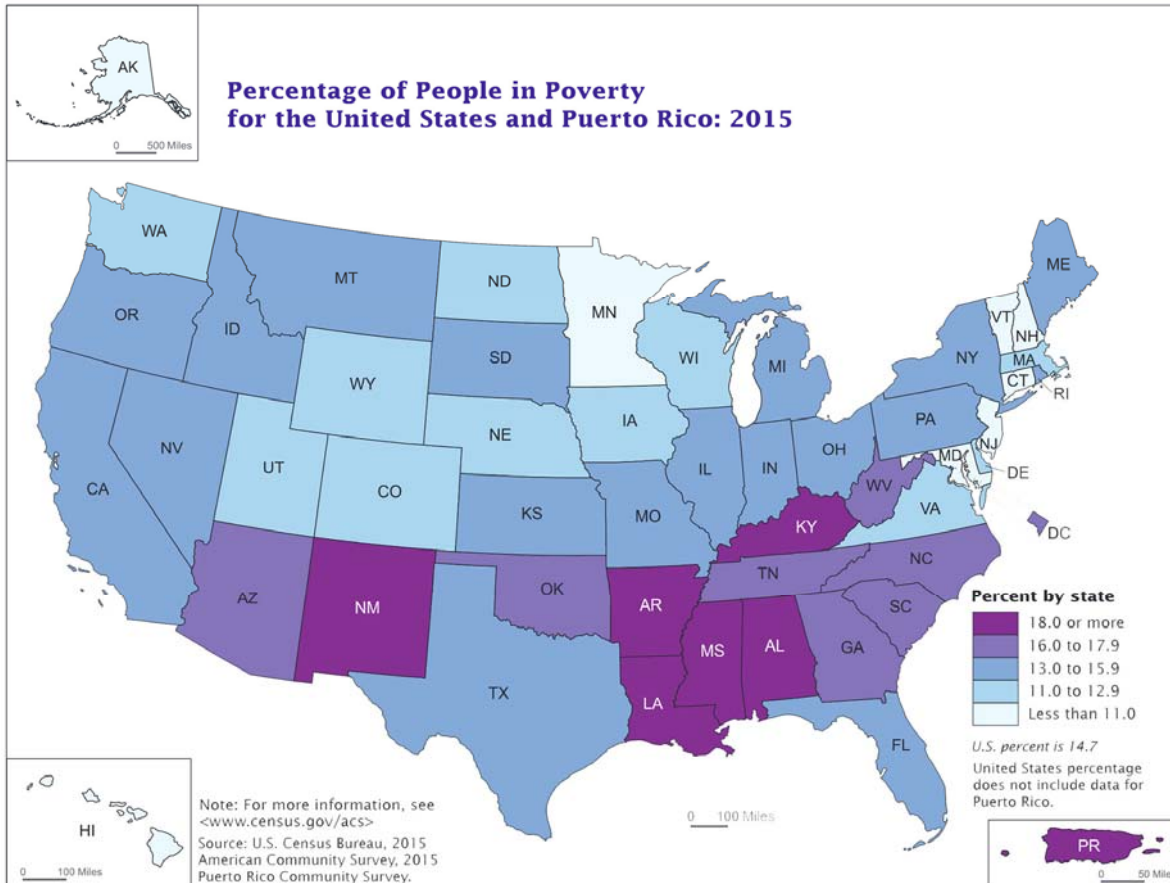
### In This Issue

[Poverty Rate Improves;](#)  
[More People Have Health Care Coverage;](#)  
[October 20 is Lights On Afterschool Day;](#)  
[KIDS COUNT Data Center;](#)  
[Census, Other Data Help Advocates;](#)  
[October is Youth Justice Action Month;](#)  
[National Bullying Prevention Month;](#)  
[Update.](#)



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## Poverty Rate Improves



Tennessee saw a significant decline in its poverty rates between 2014 and 2015, according to a September release from the Census Bureau American Community Survey. As of 2015, the percent of Tennesseans in poverty had fallen to 16.7, a significant reduction and an improvement in the lives of 93,407 people. The Nashville metropolitan statistical area was 12.7 percent, and the Clarksville and Chattanooga areas also had lower rates of poverty.

University of Tennessee, **ACS: Tennessee Poverty Rates Decline, Median Income Rises**, <http://bit.ly/2d4H9AK>.

U.S. Census, **New American Community Survey Statistics For Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Available For States and Local Areas**, <http://bit.ly/2cJ4NDJ>.

U.S. Census, **Poverty: 2014 and 2015: American Community Survey Briefs**, <http://bit.ly/2di3JHT>.

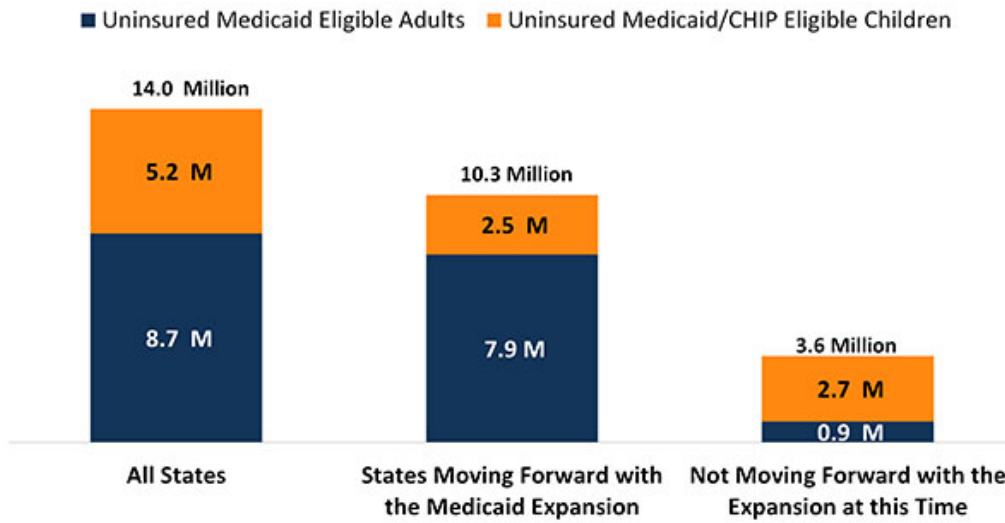
[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## More People Have Health Care

The number and rate of Tennesseans with health care coverage increased between 2013 and 2015, according to data released in September by the Census Bureau. In 2015, the percentage of Tennesseans uninsured reached 10.3 percent, ranking the state 34th in the nation. Nationally, the rate of coverage improved for every age group and for 47 states. Tennessee's percentage of increase ranked it 11th of the 23 states that have not expanded coverage to those in the gap between

traditional Medicaid eligibility and 138 percent of poverty, the level at which people become eligible for Affordable Care Act health coverage tax credits.

## Uninsured Adults and Children Eligible for Medicaid / CHIP, 2014

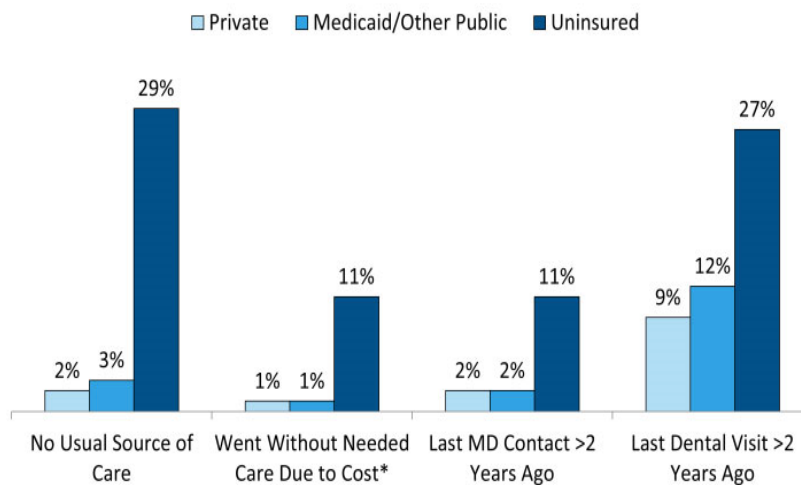


SOURCE: Kaiser Family Foundation analysis based on 2014 Medicaid eligibility levels and 2012-2013 Current Population Survey.



Nationally, the uninsured rate for youth people ages 19 to 25 and 26 to 34 fell 7 percentage points between 2013 and 2015, the most improvement among any group, primarily because they can remain on their parents' coverage until age 26. Research finds children of all ages living with parents who have health care coverage themselves are more likely to get coverage, confirming the role improved coverage for parents in the primary child-bearing years plays in improving coverage for children.

## Children's Access to Care by Health Insurance Status, 2012



\* In past 12 months

NOTES: Question about dental care was analyzed for children age 2-17. All other questions were analyzed for all children under age 18. MD contact includes other health professionals. Respondents who said usual source of care was the emergency room were included among those not having a usual source of care. All differences between the uninsured and the two insurance groups are statistically significant (p<0.05).

SOURCE: KCMU analysis of 2013 NHIS data.



Rudowitz, Robin et al., Kaiser Family Foundation, Children's Health Coverage: Medicaid, CHIP and the ACA, <http://kaiserf.am/2d4L5Qe>.

U.S. Census, Income, Poverty and Health Insurance Coverage in the United States: 2015, <http://bit.ly/2dpJTrr>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### **Gov. Haslam Proclaims "Lights On Afterschool Day"**

As its collaboration with the Tennessee Afterschool Network TCCY requested Gov. Haslam proclaim October 20, "Lights On Afterschool Day" in Tennessee. This is the seventeenth annual celebration of the role of afterschool programs in the lives of students. Contact the Tennessee Afterschool Network for assistance in planning a local event and to find information on afterschool programs in your area.

Contact: <http://bit.ly/2cZF7QV> or [mary.graham@uwtn.org](mailto:mary.graham@uwtn.org).

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### **Celebrating the KIDS COUNT Data Center**

By providing high-quality data and trend analysis, the Annie E. Casey Foundation seeks to enrich local, state and national discussions concerning ways to secure better futures for all children — and to raise the visibility of children's issues through a nonpartisan, evidence-based lens. It achieves this through its KIDS COUNT Data Center, as well as through its other KIDS COUNT products and the work of its state affiliates, like TCCY. The Data Center has more than 4 million individual bits of data on hundreds of indicators available on the national, state, congressional district, etc. Trend lines, bar charts and comparisons of selected indicators and geographic areas are available.

A.E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, <http://bit.ly/15alkVu>.

A.E. Casey Foundation, KIDS COUNT Data Center, Tennessee Data <http://bit.ly/RrrMVP>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

### **Census Led the Way to Making Information Available**

October 20 is World Statistics Day. Two TCCY projects make intensive use of statistics, the Resource Mapping Program, which totals budget information from state agencies to report the funding spent on children, and the KIDS COUNT Program, which compiles and distributes information on child well-being.

One of the wisest choices of our country's founders was to build data collection into the Constitution. The Census Bureau stated the original aim well: "The Founders of our fledgling nation had a bold and ambitious plan to empower the people over their new government. The plan was to count every person living in the newly created United States of America, and to use that count to determine representation in the Congress."

The first census of the population was held in 1790 and included Tennessee, then known as the Southwest Territory. Counts have been conducted every 10 years since. As far back as 1870, courts approved the collection of other information, including more detailed data on America's changing population, housing and workforce now gathered by the American Community Survey.

The Census was just the beginning of federal data collection programs. Thirteen principal agencies participate in FedStats, an information clearinghouse for data. Among the best known measures are the unemployment and other economic statistics, vital health statistics and education statistics

U.S. Census, **Quick Facts-Tennessee**, <http://bit.ly/2d7B6eo>.

U.S. Census, **American FactFinder**, <http://bit.ly/2d1r939>.

U.S. Census, **Census in the Constitution, 2010 Census**, <http://bit.ly/2dhOS0i>.

**FedStats**, Your Window into U.S. Federal Statistics: <http://bit.ly/2dhKvSU>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## October is Youth Justice Action Month

October is Campaign for Youth Justice "Youth Justice Action Month." Since 2009, the Campaign for Youth Justice has raised awareness to the issues of the juvenile justice system, including over use of detention and transferring youth to adult courts.



More information: <http://bit.ly/2d6rO2L>.

**Youth Justice Action Month** resources: <http://bit.ly/2cJxf5l>.

“**Childhood Interrupted**,” film about youth incarceration: <http://bit.ly/2cJxaPE>.

“**Stickup Kid**,” a film on transfers of youth to the adult system: <http://to.pbs.org/2dgYFoP>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## October is National Bullying Prevention Month



A national organization, STOMP Out Bullying, has named October National Bullying Prevention Awareness Month and October 4 World Day of Bullying Prevention 2016.

StopBullying.gov, **Tennessee Anti-Bullying Laws & Policies**, <http://bit.ly/2cQLaqR>.

**STOMP Out Bullying**, <http://bit.ly/2cyUB1Z>.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)



## Updates

Gov. Bill Haslam has reappointed Phil Acord of Chattanooga, Rev. Audrey Taylor Gonzalez Of Memphis, Genesis Hardin of Maryville, Steven Neely of Franklin and Glenda Terry of Cookeville to the Commission for three-year terms. TCCY is pleased to have their continued guidance and support.



Acord



Gonzalez



Hardin



Neely



Terry

Congratulations to two TCCY staff members who are improving their skills. **Shaun Noblit**, TCCY South Central regional coordinator, has begun classes after having been accepted by the Nashville School of Law.

**Russette Sloan**, TCCY's administrative services assistant, is working toward a master's degree at the U.T. School of Social Work.

[Return to Table of Contents.](#)

## Mark Your Calendar

October 6, 2016, 12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. CDT, **Youth Transitions Advisory Council (YTAC) Meeting**, Goodwill Industries of Middle Tennessee, 937 Herman Street, Nashville. Contact [Steve.Petty@tn.gov](mailto:Steve.Petty@tn.gov).

October 10, 1 p.m., **Juvenile Justice Realignment Act Task Force**, Legislative Plaza Hearing Room 16. Agenda, information and streaming video: <http://bit.ly/2bPJ5ql>.

October 12-13, **2016 Governor's Housing Conference**, Music City Center, 201 5th Ave., S., Nashville. Fee. Register: <http://bit.ly/2bcdXl0>.

October 19-21, **U.S. Ombudsman Association 37th Annual Conference, "The Ombudsman: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Fairness,"** Westin Arlington Gateway, 801 N. Glebe Rd., Arlington, VA. Information: <http://bit.ly/2a1t0FM>. Register at <http://bit.ly/2dwla6p>.

October 20, **Lights on Afterschool Day**, events across the state. Contact: <http://bit.ly/2cZF7QV> or [mary.graham@uwn.org](mailto:mary.graham@uwn.org).

October 20-21, **Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth Meeting**, Montgomery Bell State Park, 1020 Jackson Hill Rd, Burns (off Highway 70 W). Contact [Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov](mailto:Natasha.M.Smith@tn.gov).

October 26, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Union University 4th Annual **"Hope for Freedom": Human Trafficking Awareness Summit**, Calvary Church, 1851 N Houston Levee Rd., Cordova. Preregistration required; \$25 registration fee. Register: <http://bit.ly/1Q1VFt9>.

October 28, 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., "**Legal & Lethal: The Prescription Drug Epidemic is Here,**" Cumberland Medical Center, 421 S. Main St., Crossville. Contact [rvalerio@bradfordhealth.net](mailto:rvalerio@bradfordhealth.net) or [director@cumberlandcountyrising.org](mailto:director@cumberlandcountyrising.org). Fee: \$25, \$75 if including continuing medical education credits. Register: <http://bit.ly/2cNww3g>.

Nov. 3, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., **Council on Children's Mental Health Meeting**, Midtown Hills Police Precinct, 1443 Twelfth Ave., S., Nashville. Contact: [Melissa.Mcgee@tn.gov](mailto:Melissa.Mcgee@tn.gov).

March 14-15, 2017, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact: [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov).

[Return to Top.](#)

## In the News

Simonton, S., *Youth Today*, **Afterschool Alliance Report: Add After-school Programs to High-Poverty Areas to Close Achievement Gap**, <http://bit.ly/2cPma4E>.

Stewart, Lucas, *U.T. Daily Beacon*, **Addicted: Opioid abuse impact on mothers and infants**, <http://bit.ly/2cl9Rb4>.

Wadhvani, Anita, *Tennessean*, **Task force weighs new approaches to juvenile justice**, <http://tnne.ws/2bPluvK>.

Gervin, C.W., *Nashville Post*, **Chamber, ACLU, Beacon Center roll out new initiative Tennessee Coalition for Sensible Justice will work toward criminal justice reform**, <http://bit.ly/2cpfSXc>.

[Return to Top.](#)

## Research Information

Segal, Laura, et al., Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, **The State of Obesity: Better Policies for a Healthier America, 2016**, <http://bit.ly/2cDU378>.

Edelstein, Sara, et al., Urban Institute, **Kids' Share 2016: Report on Federal Expenditures on Children Through 2015 and Future Projections**, <http://bit.ly/2ddOgu7>.

Commonwealth Fund, **How the ACA's Health Insurance Expansions Have Affected Out-of-Pocket Cost-Sharing and Spending on Premiums**, <http://bit.ly/2dmxKXo>.

Stevens, J.E., *Chronicle of Social Change*, **Violence is Just One Part of Childhood Trauma**, <http://bit.ly/2cPhb7W>.

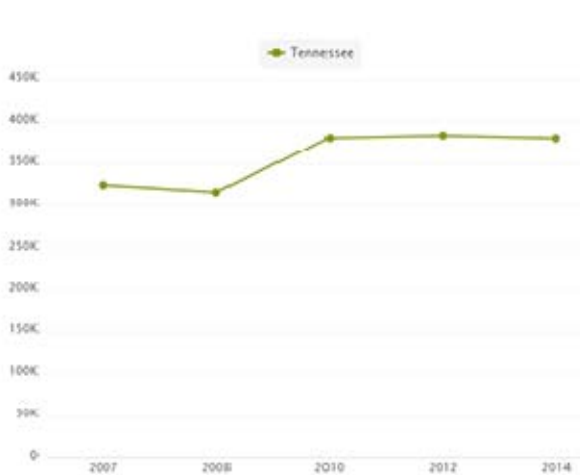
Hostetter, Martha, and Sarah Klein, **In Focus: Hospitals Invest in Building Stronger, Healthier Communities**, <http://bit.ly/2doFiue>.

*Journalists' Resource*, **"Campus carry" and the concealed carry of guns on college campuses: A collection of research**, <http://bit.ly/2d6ZJb3>.

[Return to Top.](#)

# Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

## Children in Poverty (Number)

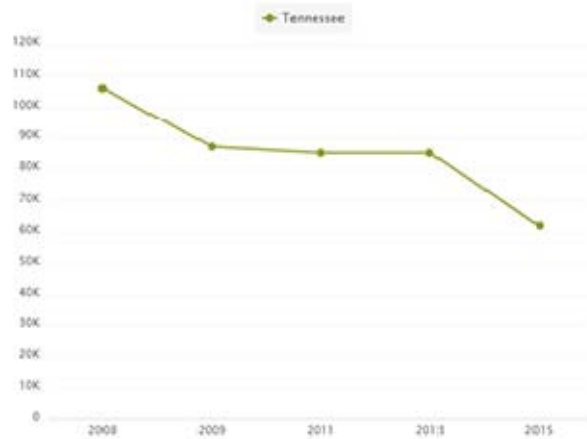


Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

## CHILDREN IN POVERTY (NUMBER)

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

## Children Without Health Insurance (Number)



Note: Non-consecutive years appear adjacent in the trend line because one or more years have been deselected.

## CHILDREN WITHOUT HEALTH INSURANCE (NUMBER)

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

<http://bit.ly/2dA0FDw>

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

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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