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# Advocate

February 2016

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## Home Visiting Alliance Begins

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## Research Bolsters Calls for Investing in Home Visiting Programs

Research shows the early years of life matter because the basic architecture of the human brain is constructed through an ongoing process that begins before birth and continues into adulthood. Like the construction of a home, the building process begins with laying the foundation, framing the rooms and wiring the electrical system in a predictable sequence. Early experiences literally shape how the brain gets built, establishing either a sturdy or a fragile foundation for all of the development and behavior that follows. A strong foundation in the early years increases the probability of positive outcomes. Healthy brain development requires caring and nurturing relationships with adults. Investments in early childhood programs like home visiting provide families with the support they need for the development of healthy and successful children. In the first years of a child's life, caregivers play an essential and active role in their baby's healthy brain development, which can be difficult without support. Many parents and caregivers encounter challenges like stress, geographic and social isolation, and poverty that can adversely impact their ability to support their child's development in the early years. Home visiting programs can provide families with much needed support, including education, health and mental health guidance, as part of a comprehensive and coordinated system of care.

Evidence-Based Home Visiting Programs are voluntary programs that pair new and expectant families with trained professionals who provide parenting information, resources and support during pregnancy and throughout the child's first years of life. Home visiting programs provide families with early and intensive support and are a proven strategy to improve outcomes for Tennessee's children and families. Home visiting programs have the potential to reduce child abuse, improve educational success, improve parent and child health and coping skills, all of which contribute to reduced governmental costs.

**Research into how the brain develops is shaping early childhood policies and programs:**

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/brain-matters.aspx>

**Home Visiting: Improving Outcomes for Children:**

<http://www.ncsl.org/research/human-services/home-visiting-improving-outcomes-for-children635399078.aspx>

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## Home Visiting in Tennessee

In Tennessee, there are currently three evidence-based home visiting program models receiving state and/or federal funding. They include Healthy Families America (Healthy Start), Nurse Family Partnership and Parents as Teachers. Two promising approaches, Maternal Infant Home Outreach Worker (MIHOW) and Nurses for Newborns, also currently receive funding in Tennessee. MIHOW focuses on families who are economically disadvantaged and geographically and/or socially isolated with children birth to age 2. Parents from the local community serve as outreach workers and role models. They educate families about nutrition, child health and development, and positive parenting practices. Nurses for Newborns sends specially trained pediatric nurses to the homes of families facing medical, social or environmental risks for the baby.

## Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting Program Models

PROGRAM MODEL	ELIGIBILITY	PROVEN OUTCOMES
Early Head Start	Low-income pregnant women and families with a child under age three.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved child development and school readiness</li> <li>• Increased positive parenting practices</li> <li>• Reduced child maltreatment</li> <li>• Improved family economic self-sufficiency</li> </ul>
Healthy Families America	Vulnerable pregnant women and families with infants. The program continues until the child turns age four.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved maternal and child health</li> <li>• Improved child development and school readiness</li> <li>• Reduced child maltreatment</li> <li>• Reduced juvenile delinquency, family violence, and crime</li> <li>• Increased positive parenting practices</li> <li>• Improved family economic self-sufficiency</li> </ul>
Nurse-Family Partnership	Vulnerable pregnant women expecting their first child. The program continues until the child turns age two.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved maternal and child health</li> <li>• Improved child development and school readiness</li> <li>• Reduced child maltreatment</li> <li>• Reduced juvenile delinquency, family violence, and crime</li> <li>• Increased positive parenting practices</li> <li>• Improved family economic self-sufficiency</li> </ul>
Parents as Teachers	Vulnerable pregnant women and families with infants. The program continues until the child turns age four.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved child development and school readiness</li> <li>• Increased positive parenting practices</li> <li>• Reduced child maltreatment</li> <li>• Improved family economic self-sufficiency</li> </ul>

Rhode Island KIDS COUNT, *Early Learning Fact Sheet: Focus on Evidence-Based Family Home Visiting*, <http://bit.ly/1nNcr2O>.

## Creation of the Home Visiting Leadership Alliance

The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) includes leadership from home visiting programs, state departments and other stakeholders from across the state. The Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth (TCCY) has administrative responsibility for the HVLA through a grant agreement with the Tennessee Department of Health (TDH). HVLA is co-chaired by TDH and TCCY and meets quarterly. The first meeting was on January 13, 2016.



The Home Visiting Leadership Alliance (HVLA) is staffed by Sumita Keller  
[Sumita.Keller@tn.gov](mailto:Sumita.Keller@tn.gov).

Information on the HVLA and its progress will be available on TCCY's website at  
<http://www.tn.gov/tccy/topic/tccy-hvla-home-visiting-leadership-alliance>.

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## Pay for Success

As quality prevention programs experience shrinking funding opportunities and find government often lacks the long-term commitment to invest in prevention programs that improve outcomes for children and families, communities are exploring alternative ways to fund effective, evidence-based programs. Pay for Success (PFS), or Social Impact Bonds (SIBs) offer governments a new way of pursuing proven programs and bringing them to scale.

Two years after establishing a PFS transaction for Pre-K, Utah saw success with the quality early education program and the PFS model, resulting in the first payment to investors for PFS in the U.S. By investing in quality early education, Utah experienced a reduction in the number of children requiring special education services. The resulting cost savings for the school districts and government were then submitted as payment to the investor. Salt Lake County, Utah has also selected Parents as Teachers home visiting program for a new PFS project to improve maternal and child health outcomes.

The state of South Carolina worked with the Institute for Child Success to conduct a feasibility study and has begun a Pay for Success partnership with grant funders and private investors to provide initial funding to increase access to Nurse Family Partnership home visiting programs in the state.

Through a grant with the Tennessee Department of Health, TCCY is excited to explore this new and innovative financing structure for evidence-based home visiting programs in the state.

**Initial Results Released for First Social Impact Bond for Early Childhood Education Show Success:** <http://bit.ly/1om9dTL>

DeRuy, Emily, *The National Journal*, "How Goldman Sachs Made Money Investing in Preschool in Utah." <http://bit.ly/1PhfB5m>.

Human Capital and Economic Opportunity Global Working Group, *Pay for Success Social Impact Finance: South Carolina Home Visiting to Improve Health and Early Childhood Outcomes*, <http://bit.ly/1X3o2q2>.

## Updates

**Kristi Paling** has joined TCCY as the Upper Cumberland regional coordinator. Prior to joining TCCY, Paling worked at the Department of Children's Services for 15 years, most recently as a supervisor-program manager in the Training Division. A long-time supporter of the Upper Cumberland Council on Children and Youth, she operates out of the Upper Cumberland Regional Health Facility Office. Her email is [Kristi.Paling@tn.gov](mailto:Kristi.Paling@tn.gov).



Paling

TCCY Juvenile Justice Division Director **Craig Hargrow** and the Tennessee state delegation to the 2014-15 Policy Academy-Action Network Initiative contributed to ***Strengthening Our Future: Key Elements to Developing a Trauma-Informed Juvenile Justice Diversion Program for Youth with Behavioral Health Conditions***, released by the National Center for Mental Health and Juvenile Justice. The report is available at <http://bit.ly/1NN4uiJ>.

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## Sad News

TCCY staff mourns with co-workers who suffered losses recently. **Noble Cody**, father of **Lindsey Cody**, East Tennessee regional coordinator, died January 4 in Cookeville. **William "Bill" Wise**, father of Northeast regional coordinator **Diane Wise**, died January 23. Both men were 93 years old and were veterans. Please contact TCCY Director of Field Operations John Rust ([John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov)) for more information.

On January 29, Dr. Gerald Stow died. Dr. Stow was president/treasurer of Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes for 15 years and then served 15 more years as Ambassador for Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes. He was the first chair of the Commission after its most recent substantial reorganization in 1988. He served as chair for six years and as a member for nine. More information on his life: <http://bit.ly/20LB6me>.

## Mark Your Calendar

Feb. 19, 8 a.m.-12:15, Northwest Council on Children and Youth, "**The Ethical Development of Human Service Professionals: Managing Rules, Values, and Morality in Ethical Decision-Making**," UT Martin. Contact [Dana.Cobb@tn.gov](mailto:Dana.Cobb@tn.gov)

Feb. 22, 1 p.m.-2:30 p.m. EST, Webinar: American Youth Policy Forum, **How Research Evidence Informs Foster Youth Medication Policies**, Register at <http://bit.ly/1W8jw8C>.

March 8-9, **Children's Advocacy Days**, War Memorial Auditorium. Contact (615) 741-2633 or [John.Rust@tn.gov](mailto:John.Rust@tn.gov). Register at <http://www.cad2016.eventbrite.com/>.

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## In the News

Woodruff, Judy and Cat Wise, PBS Newshour, "**How home visits for vulnerable moms boost kids' brainpower,**" <http://to.pbs.org/1S0wvea>.

Putman, Yolanda, *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, "**Traumatized children need nurturing environments, conference speaker says,**" <http://bit.ly/1PTgT6f>.

Barnes, Robert, *Washington Post*, "**Supreme Court: Life sentences on juveniles open for later reviews,**" <http://wapo.st/1ROaBe9>.

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## Research Information

Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics, **Revenues and Expenditures for Public Elementary and Secondary Education: School Year 2012–13 (Fiscal Year 2013): First Look,** <http://1.usa.gov/2051pa3>.

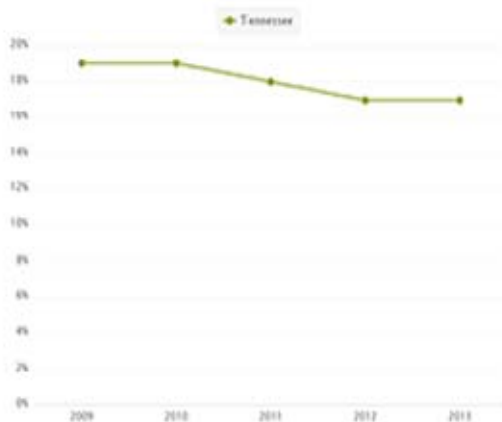
Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury Office of Research and Education Accountability, "**College Readiness of Tennessee Students,**" <http://1.usa.gov/20GMr75>.

The Commonwealth Fund, *The Affordable Care Act and the U.S. Economy: A Five -Year Perspective,* <http://bit.ly/1Pe2txV>.

Corporation for Enterprise Development (CFED), *2016 Assets and Opportunity Scorecard:* <http://bit.ly/1jWRBGA>.

## Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

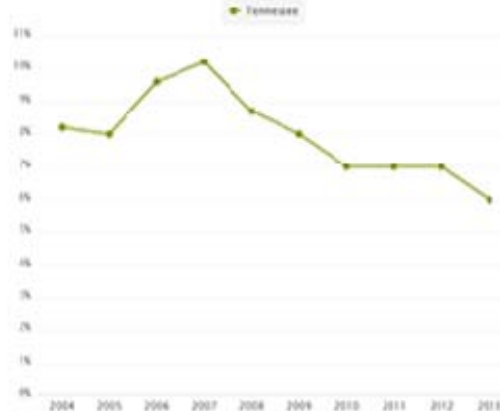
**Teen Births to Females who Are Already Mothers (Percent)**



**TEEN BIRTHS TO WOMEN WHO WERE ALREADY MOTHERS (PERCENT)**

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

**Births to Women with Inadequate Prenatal Care (Percent)**



**BIRTHS TO WOMEN RECEIVING LATE OR NO PRENATAL CARE (PERCENT)**

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

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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