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March 2020



Advocate



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Sign up to receive *The Advocate* at <https://www.tn.gov/content/tn/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>

TCCY along with most Tennesseans are living through what is uncharted territory, as the world tries to deal with a pandemic. TCCY is working with other state agencies to make information available on its social media and through [kidcentral tn](#). You can sign up for useful emails, learn about issues facing families and get information about how to access state-funded resources.

[kidcentral tn](#)

Parenting Support Line - Prevent Child Abuse - 1-800-CHILDREN

Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, **Information for Providers, Consumers, and Families**, <https://bit.ly/3drpykv>

Tennessee Health Sciences Center, **Coronavirus Disease Information and Resources**, <https://bit.ly/2WGdxBG>

National Federation for Families, **Home Resource for Parents and Caregivers Facebook Page**, <https://bit.ly/33Hr8uj>.

Tennessee Department of Human Services, **News**, <https://bit.ly/3blzDO6>.

Census 2020: Everybody Counts

One thing you can do at home now is fill out your Census form, which you should have received in the mail last week. The uncertainty in the wake of the current pandemic will continue long after the contagion passes. Solid data about where funding for services from highways to health care will be even more needed.



April 1 is officially Census Day. Every household in America can spend a simple, easy 10 minutes to help their community. In mid-March, every home in America was sent an invitation to complete the 2020 Census. Residents can respond online, by phone or by mail. A census is required by the U.S. Constitution every 10 years. The result is a tally of how many people live in the United States, in each state, each county, etc. This information is used to plan for everything from what roads or schools need to be built to how much needs to be budgeted for education or health care. Nonprofits, community planners and policymakers rely on this information, also. The law forbids the release of identifying information from the Census.



Source: Conejo Valley Unified School District

You can reply online, on the telephone or by mail. Follow up with people who have not filled out a form will begin with phone calls and continue with home visits when the Census Bureau considers it safe to do so.



Welsch, G. *The (Nashville) Tennessean*, "Why Census participation is more important for Nashville than ever before," <https://bit.ly/33DA7fY>.

Tennessee Office of the Governor, **Gov. Bill Lee Announces Appointments to the Tennessee Complete Count Committee for Census 2020**, Oct. 16, 2019, <http://bit.ly/2Pn7j5k>.

Annie E. Casey Foundation, **Five Reasons to Complete the 2020 Census (and Encourage Others to Do the Same)**, Feb. 19, 2020, <http://bit.ly/38YE5Bv>.

Tuggle, B., Sycamore Institute, **4 Reasons an Accurate Census Matters for Tennessee**, Feb. 12, 2020, <http://bit.ly/2TeQZVh>.

U.S. Census 2020, <http://bit.ly/37ZaS8v>.

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Legislative News

The 111th Tennessee General Assembly passed a barebones budget before recessing until Monday June 1, 2020. The escalating spread of the coronavirus prompted House and Senate leadership to quickly pass a budget that did away with most, if not all of the Governor's proposed budget.

The Legislature approved sunset legislation extending TCCY for four years, although TCCY is required to appear before the Senate Operations Committee when it returns. The budget and other actions included the following.

Recognizing the sudden change to economic circumstances by:

- Lowering our Growth Rate for the current year from 3.75 percent to 2.5 percent
- Revising our FY21 growth rate from 3.1 percent to basically zero
- Adding to our reserves: Rainy day: \$1.2 billion balance at June 30, 2020 and \$1.45 billion balance at 6/30/21
- Making an additional \$57M in base reductions

New spending items that include:

- Fully Funding the BEP Formula
- Fully Funding Higher Education outcomes-based funding formula
- Fully funding our Pension contribution
- Fully funding our OPEB Liability contribution
- Fully funding the inflationary growth in TennCare
- Fully funding the growth in DCS children in state services

Adding resources to critical services:

- DL Services
- State Road Troopers (10 Troopers)
- TBI Field Agents (25 agents)

Continuing to address, not defer, the long list of deferred Capital Maintenance items in both state government and higher education

Expanding services for our most vulnerable population

Providing salary funding for state employees, higher education and K12

Responding to the Tornado Disaster and COVID-19 by:

- Adding \$30 million to our Disaster Relief Fund for TEMA
- Adding significantly to our fund for emergencies to repair state buildings
- Establishing a new \$150M fund to help us be responsive to Health and Safety Issues resulting from

COVID-19

- Doubling our Local Government Grants from \$100M to \$200M (no county will receive less than \$500,000 and no municipality will receive less than \$30,000)
- Strengthening our Safety Net for Mental Health and Health

[Governor's Proposed Budget Documents: FY 2020-2021 Budget Vol. I](#) [FY20-2021 Vol. II](#)

[Current Budget Overviews and Presentations: Overview](#) [Commissioners Presentation](#)

The **Sycamore Institute** analysis of the preliminary budget, [Summary of the FY 2121 Preliminary Budget](#).

TCCY's Budget Recommendations for the Tennessee Fiscal Year 2021.

Tennessee General Assembly tool: [Find Your Legislator](#).

The **TCCY Legislative Summary of Bills Enacted** during the first year of the 111th General Assembly is available.

[Sign up to receive TCCY federal policy information](#) by following the instructions online. Sign up to receive TCCY Tennessee **legislative updates** and the **Advocate** at <https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-listserv.html>.

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Funding and Support Information

School districts and community organizations may submit an inquiry to apply for grants to support nutrition programs in their communities through [No Kid Hungry](#).

The Grantsmanship Center, **Top Giving Foundations: TN**, <http://bit.ly/2w3FDM3>.

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Update



Johnston

Governor Lee has appointed **Mackenzie Johnston** to the Commission as a Mid-Cumberland youth member. A full-time student at Volunteer State, she is pursuing a mass communications degree, with plans to transfer to Middle Tennessee State University and to study abroad.

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Mark Your Calendar

Responding to public health directives, TCCY has canceled meetings and trainings through early April. Information about other canceled [events](#) is on TCCY's website.

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In the News

TCCY news releases are available on TCCY's [website](#).

Newland, J., TCCY, **Roots and Wings podcast**. New issues spotlights the impact of social, emotional and environmental learning and childhood trauma, abuse and family support.

Paulson, M., *New York Times*, "Their School Musicals Were Canceled. Then They Found a Bigger Stage." <https://nyti.ms/33KpZ4X>.

Gadd, C., *The Tennessean*, Dickson's "Safe Baby Court" Joins Growing List of Counties Helping Endangered Youth, Feb. 24, 2020, <http://bit.ly/2vd0egW>.

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Research Information

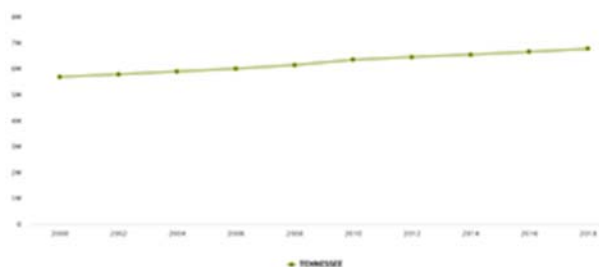
Pellegrin, M., Sycamore Institute, **A Deep Dive into Health Insurance Coverage in Tennessee: Trends in Coverage, Choice and Costs Since 2010**, <http://bit.ly/2vd0egW>.

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Tennessee KIDS COUNT Facts

URLs below graphics link to larger versions of each. More data on Tennessee child well-being is available at <http://bit.ly/15alkVU>.

Total Tennessee Population

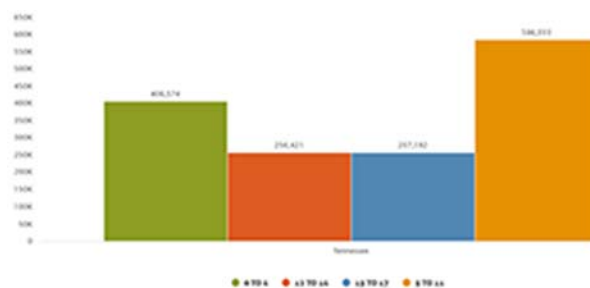


Total Population (Number)

Tennessee Commission on Children and Youth
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Also available: <http://bit.ly/32tMGJX>.

US Child Population by Age



Child Population By Age Group (Number) - 2018

National KIDS COUNT
KIDS COUNT Data Center, datacenter.kidscount.org
A project of the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Note: Orange bar is ages 5 to 11

Also available: <http://bit.ly/2TgpZF1>.

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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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listserv.html](https://www.tn.gov/tccy/advocate-collaborate/tccy-ac-advlegis/tccy-ac-advocacy/leg-
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