

# Children's Champion

February 11, 2019 • Vol. 27 • Tennessee Justice Center

TJC and our partners built enough energy in opposition to the new TennCare work reporting requirement proposal to generate **13,778 federal public comments -- a new national record!**

Thank you to everyone who helped to generate comments or submitted one yourself. Comments are important to build a public record against the proposal.

## QUICK LINKS

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## INSURE OUR KIDS UPDATES

Please join us this Wednesday, February 13 in Knoxville for an Insure Our Kids training!

[RSVP HERE](#)

# INSURE OUR KIDS! KNOXVILLE TRAINING

Randall E. Nichols Family Justice Center

400 Harriet Tubman St.

Knoxville, TN, 37915

Wednesday, February 13

2 PM-3 PM ET

CONVENED BY:  TENNESSEE  
JUSTICE  
CENTER

INSUREOURKIDS.ORG



Please continue to share our updated Insure Our Kids videos!



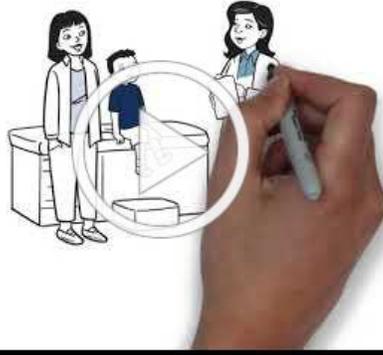
- Hospital visits



Your children may be eligible for free or  
low-cost health insurance.



[Insure Our Kids video for parents](#)



[Insure Our Kids video for providers](#)

If you need help applying for  
TennCare and CoverKids, call  
**1-844-478-KIDS (5437).**

If you have already applied and  
been denied, call the Tennessee  
Justice Center at  
**1-877-608-1009**  
to get free help to file an appeal.



**ICYMI**



TJC hosted a public forum, **Caretakers in Crisis: How our state officials plan to spend more to cover fewer families** on Tuesday, February 5 at the First Amendment Center on Vanderbilt's campus.

The expert panelists were Joan Alker, Executive Director of Georgetown Center for Children and Families; Sharon Roberson, President and CEO of YWCA Nashville and Middle Tennessee; Matt Harris, Economics Professor at the Boyd Center for Business and Economic Research at the University of Tennessee; and Loretta Alexander, Health Policy Director of Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families.

We extend our gratitude to the panelists, the moderator Pat Nolan, the *Tennessean* for sponsoring the event, and everyone who attended or shared the event with others. It was a great turnout (especially on the same night as the State of the Union!), and created great momentum for comments before the February 7th deadline.

You can watch the entire forum [here](#).

**Op-ed in the *Tennessean* written by Heather Brown, a mother who would be impacted by work reporting requirements:**

- [Are TennCare work requirements helpful or just red tape? For my family, we now risk losing coverage.](#)

**New story about the coverage gap in Tennessee:**

- [Thousands still stuck in Tennessee's coverage gap](#) - News Channel 5

**Tennessee is an outlier in loss of Medicaid, increase of uninsured:**

TennCare enrollment, including for kids, has dropped significantly. At the same time, Tennessee's uninsured rate has increased dramatically. **Please share [this flyer](#) to help us assist families who been dis-enrolled.**

- [Medicaid rolls fall in Missouri, Tennessee, worrying advocates for poor: Social workers worry that the states' efforts to weed out improperly enrolled residents has led to wrongful terminations](#) - NBC News

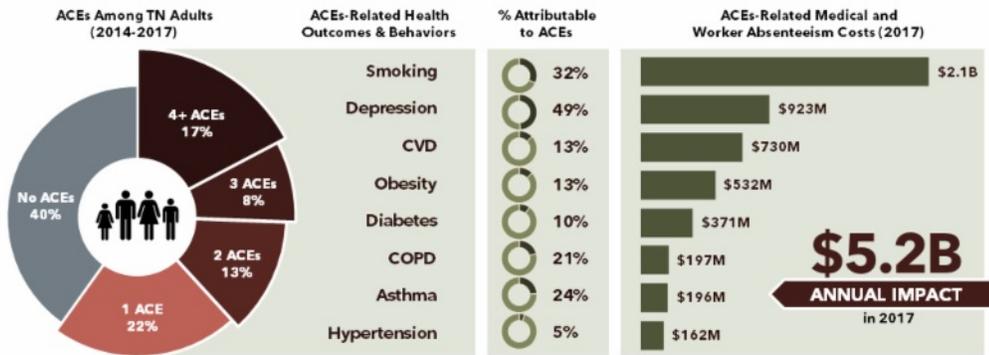
The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) released the **November 2018 monthly report on state Medicaid and Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) eligibility and enrollment data** last week. These data reflect a range of indicators related to key application, eligibility, and enrollment processes within the state Medicaid and CHIP agency.

Beginning with last month's October 2018 report, CMS adopted an updated, modernized, more interactive report format that includes newly added data points, an interactive map view displaying states' data, and the ability to download the data from [data.medicaid.gov](http://data.medicaid.gov). Please note, unlike prior monthly reports, which represent point-in-time content, the data available on [data.Medicaid.gov](http://data.Medicaid.gov) is updated monthly.

The full report is available on [Medicaid.gov](http://Medicaid.gov).

# THE MORE YOU KNOW

## The \$5 Billion Annual Economic Impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences in Tennessee



Note: Obesity-related costs include only direct medical costs.

Source: The Sycamore Institute's analysis of data from the 2014-2017 CDC BRFSS provided by the TN Department of Health, the CDC Chronic Disease Calculator, Trogdon et al. 2012, CDC SAMMEC, and Ford et al. 2014

SycamoreInstituteTN.org

## Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

The Sycamore Institute published a new report titled [The Economic Cost of ACEs in Tennessee: Medical Costs and Worker Absenteeism from Health Issues Attributed to Adverse Childhood Experiences](#) this month.

### Key Takeaways

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) can increase a person's risk of health, social, and economic problems throughout life.
- In 2017, ACEs among Tennessee adults led to an estimated \$5.2 billion in direct medical costs and lost productivity from employees missing work.
- ACEs are associated with risky health behaviors and poorer health outcomes even after accounting for other factors.
- Over half of adult Tennesseans reported at least one ACE between 2014 and 2017, and about 17% had experienced 4 or more.

## LOOKING FORWARD

### Federal level:

- Federal law already requires that states limit SNAP eligibility to just three months out of every three years for unemployed and underemployed adults without dependent children unless they can document 20 hours of work a week.
- Now the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has proposed to make those time limits even harsher. USDA's proposed rule would undercut states' ability to waive these harsh time limits in many areas where there are too few jobs. By USDA's own estimates its proposal would eliminate SNAP benefits for an additional 755,000 adults and cut SNAP benefits on a ten year basis by \$15 billion.
- Tell the Administration: It's unacceptable to take food away from struggling

workers and families.

- Submit comments by Monday April 2nd!
  - You can find a basic comment template [here](#).
  - You can upload or cut and paste your comments into the online submission tool [here](#).
  - Please use any of the options below that work best for your organization to help generate comments from your networks.
    - Food Research & Action Center (FRAC): comment platform at <http://www.frac.org/timelimitcomments>.
    - Feeding America: comment platform at <http://bit.ly/FASNAPComments>.
    - The Center for American Progress: comment platform at <handsoffsnap.org>.

Comments are counted individually. So, please don't do a sign-on. And please ask everyone in your networks to submit individual comments.

### **State level:**

Although we don't have many details yet, state legislators are proposing federal block grants to help provide health insurance to low-income Tennesseans. Read more about the proposal [here](#).

Michele Johnson, executive director of the Tennessee Justice Center, issued the following statement about the block grant bill filed by GOP lawmakers:

If, by "block grant", the sponsors mean that the state will get a blank check and no accountability for how it spends billions of federal taxpayer dollars, that is illegal under federal law and a dead end. But if the sponsors mean they want flexibility to design a program to reflect Tennessee values and priorities, the Trump Administration is giving states that flexibility. A majority of Republican-led states have opted to accept the federal funds and expand coverage. We ought to be smart enough to negotiate a similar deal. The bill in its present form does nothing to cover working families, protect rural hospitals or support people with pre-existing medical conditions. But we take hope from the comments of legislators who say they want to do those things, and we hope they will amend it.

**JOIN US**

**Insure Our Kids Knoxville Training**

**[RSVP HERE](#)**

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TENNESSEE COMMISSION ON CHILDREN & YOUTH

## CAD Tennessee

2019 Children's Advocacy Days | Ideas worth sharing

ADVOCATE

COLLABORATE

EDUCATE



**TCCY's 2019 Children's Advocacy Days**  
March 12 9:00 AM CT - March 13 12:00 PM CT  
War Memorial Auditorium  
Nashville, TN

[RSVP & MORE DETAILS HERE](#)

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As a reminder, the Tennessee Justice Center also helps with:

1. Enrollment onto TennCare and CoverKids
2. Service Issues
3. Redetermination Issues

If you ever encounter anyone who is having trouble getting health insurance or getting health services, please call TJC: (615) 255-0331.

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If there is any information you would like us to share on your behalf, including events and resources, please reply to this email.

**Sincerely,**

Kinika Young  
Director of Children's Health  
[kyoung@tnjustice.org](mailto:kyoung@tnjustice.org)



**STAY CONNECTED:**



[kyoung@tnjustice.org](mailto:kyoung@tnjustice.org) | 615-255-0331 | <https://www.tnjustice.org/>