



ANNUAL REPORT

2025

Tennessee Chapter

INCORPORATED IN TENNESSEE

American Academy
of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once famously reminded us, "We cannot walk alone. And as we walk we must make the pledge that we shall always march ahead. We cannot turn back." As I reflect on 2025, those words resonate more deeply than ever. This past year brought us its fair share of twists and turns, yet despite the unpredictability, we never stopped marching. We kept moving forward.

Amidst these tides of change, we marked incredible milestones both as a Chapter and alongside the National AAP. The American Academy of Pediatrics celebrated 95 years of championing children and families, while our own chapter celebrated 70 years of service in Tennessee. I recently delved into the history of how the AAP began, and the story of its evolution is nothing short of amazing. It is a story rooted in protest—a narrative that feels strikingly relevant to the times we are living in now. It has been the honor of my career to be part of a team so fiercely devoted to the children of this state and the physicians who care for them.



CARLENDY SMITH, MD
PRESIDENT 2024-2025

Even in uncertain times, our foundation remains strong. We have maintained financial soundness and successfully increased our endowment. When specific grants ended abruptly, we didn't stall; we pivoted. We proved our resilience by continuing to invest in the future of our profession, sending early-career physicians to the Advocacy Conference and the National AAP meeting in Colorado. We are further increasing our commitment this upcoming year by sponsoring a young physician to attend our state conference. The financial landscape may shift, but our dedication to mentoring the next generation remains constant.

This past advocacy season was certainly dynamic, but our collective voice led to significant wins. We successfully passed legislation allowing school nurses to administer albuterol inhalers in emergencies—a critical step for student safety. We stood with the grassroots movement "Say Yes to Recess" to increase physical education in elementary schools. Perhaps most importantly, we held the line against a gag bill that sought to prohibit physicians from discussing firearm safety with patients. We suspect that the battle isn't over, but rest assured: when it returns, we will be poised and ready to fight for our patients' safety again.

We continue to evolve to meet the moment. Recognizing the need for a rapid, authoritative voice in the public square, we launched a Media Task Force. This group of dedicated physicians is ready to speak up at a moment's notice, amplifying the needs of children and the doctors who serve them. This is no small feat, and I am deeply grateful to those willing to be the face and voice of our mission.

The year ahead will undoubtedly present new hurdles. But we will face them exactly as we faced the last: together. I remind myself often that the dream of a better world for our children is still very much alive. I will not stop dreaming it, and I invite you to keep dreaming it with me.

Let's keep marching.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carlye" above "Smith".

OUR MISSION



The Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is committed to being a leading voice, advocate, and authority for the physical, mental, and social welfare of infants, children and adolescents, as well as the pediatricians who care for them.

OUR LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS



In 2025, the 114th General Assembly adjourned on April 22. We had some wins, we had some losses, and we saw some good old-fashioned political kicking of the proverbial can down the road. But alas, we were able to fight for pediatricians and Tennessee's children throughout the state—and that's always worth fighting for. TNAAP tracked over 200 bills this legislative session, and through collaboration with our members and lobbyists, we testified before the Senate Health Committee, educated legislators on issues affecting pediatricians and children, and advocated both for and against a number of issues that directly impact child health and the practice of medicine.

First the good bills:

TNAAP introduced a bill (HB760/SB817 by Rep. Tandy Darby and Sen. Adam Lowe) allowing schools to keep emergency stock albuterol inhalers. This potentially lifesaving legislation allows schools to have albuterol on hand for emergency situations when a child may not have a prior asthma diagnosis, does not have an inhaler at school, or does not have a school medication form on file. The bill passed unanimously with bipartisan support and was signed by the Governor on May 2.

TNAAP also supported a grassroots movement called Say Yes to Recess in getting a bill (HB85/SB158 by Rep. Scott Cepicky and Sen. Joey Hensley) passed to increase physical activity among children. Elementary schools are now required to provide students with 60 minutes of daily physical activity. The bill was signed into law by Governor Lee and went into effect on July 1, 2025.

Bad bills:

TNAAP fought hard against a physician gag order bill (HB387/SB474 by Rep. Ed Butler and Sen. Janice Bowling) that would have prohibited physicians from discussing firearm safety with patients. Through grassroots advocacy, discussions during Day on the Hill, testimony in committee hearings, and direct lobbying, the bill was ultimately delayed until next year's legislative session.

Another bill (HB638/SB1389 by Rep. Michele Carringer and Sen. Bo Watson), which required a tremendous amount of effort to oppose, would have prohibited physicians who accept TennCare from turning away patients based on vaccination status. TNAAP and its partners were able to amend the bill in the House to include exceptions for physicians who care for immunocompromised patients. The bill advanced to both the House and Senate floors; however, the two chambers could not agree on the amendment protecting physicians who treat immunocompromised patients, delaying further consideration until this 2026 legislative session.

Thank you to everyone who responded to our calls to action regarding these two bills. Your calls and emails made a real impact and helped stop them.

Other efforts and notes:

Although the above-mentioned bills took up an enormous amount of our time and effort this legislative session, TNAAP's Legislative Committee, members, and lobbyists also worked to defeat a number of bills that would have directly affected pediatricians and child health. These included a potential ban on fluoride in our water supply, unsupervised prescribing authority for psychologists, and numerous anti-vaccine-related bills. We also advocated for legislation ranging from increasing the number of counselors in schools to providing free school breakfast and lunch for all Tennessee children.

Another major focus was Medicaid payment parity. Increasing TennCare reimbursement rates has long been a priority for TNAAP and is gaining traction among both specialists and primary care physicians across the state. TNAAP met with executive committees from various Tennessee medical organizations, compiled data on member experiences and future plans for TennCare patients, and met with TennCare Director Stephen Smith to share member concerns. Although the political climate in Washington raised concerns about potential Medicaid cuts, we continued working with the Tennessee Medical Association and other specialty and primary care organizations to advocate for Medicaid payment parity.

As always, each legislative session brings new challenges and threats—both to physicians and to our patients. The 2025 session was no different, and we expect 2026 to bring similar issues. While it is too early to know all that lies ahead as this report is prepared, we anticipate renewed efforts to prohibit physicians from discussing firearm safety, attempts to require physicians to see unvaccinated patients even when it may put others at risk, continued pushes for independent practice for advanced practice providers, and additional anti-vaccine legislation.

Please take a moment to thank members of the Legislative Committee and those who met with legislators or testified in committee hearings for their hard work throughout 2025. TNAAP is you, and you are TNAAP—and we need your continued involvement. Join us at a board meeting or a committee meeting.

Reach out to your legislators. Let your voices be heard. And as always, if you have questions, would like more information, or are interested in getting involved, please do not hesitate to contact us.



Day on the Hill: February 26, 2025

Our Day on the Hill came early in 2025, allowing us to get a jumpstart on advocating for many important pediatric issues. We gathered at the State Capitol on February 26 and broke into regional groups to meet with more than two dozen lawmakers.

ADVOCACY FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES, AND PEDIATRICIANS

- Represented pediatricians on the Collaborative Care Coalition (bringing together the House of Medicine) to oppose scope-of-practice legislation, successfully defeating nursing independent practice for the third year in a row.
- Submitted a detailed letter to the Governor's office regarding the Rural Health Transformation Fund and key investments needed to support children's health and pediatricians, followed by two meetings with the Governor's staff to discuss rural health investment opportunities.
- Held an Advocacy 101 training session for pediatric residency programs.
- Participated in monthly (and at times more frequent) chapter chats with the national AAP.
- Sponsored one early-career physician to attend the AAP Advocacy Conference.
- Sponsored a resident and an early-career physician to attend the AAP National Conference & Exhibition (NCE).
- Met quarterly with TennCare and other key state departments serving children, including DCS, the Department of Mental Health, and the Department of Health.
- Appointed a TNAAP representative to serve on the Committee on Pediatric Emergency Care (COPEC) Board of Directors.
- Met with the TennCare Director, Chief Medical Officer, and Associate Medical Director to advocate for Medicaid/Medicare payment parity.
- Sent topic-specific communications on important issues such as TennCare policy changes and vaccine updates.
- Offered topic-specific webinars on issues including measles and trauma-informed care.
- Provided CME and networking dinners on topics such as Long-Term Benefits of Early Diagnosis and Treatment for Homozygous Familial Hypercholesterolemia and Atopic Dermatitis.
- Hosted regional membership mixers.
- Signed on to national advocacy letters, including those endorsing the Family and Medical Insurance Leave (FAMILY) Act and supporting gun violence research funding.
- Signed on to the Tennessee Families for Vaccines petition urging state lawmakers to preserve vaccine requirements.

Tennessee Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics 
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

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John T. Bader, MD, MPH (1997-98)

Anna Maria M. Bader, MD (2000-01)

David B. Bader, MD (2001-02)

Millie B. Bader, MD (2014-15)

By A. Michael Bader, MD (2014-15)

Eduardo D. Hamer, MD (2010-11)

John C. King, MD (2006-07)

Quinton A. Hume, MD (2006-07)

John C. King, MD (2010-11)

David C. Korn, MD (2006-07)

Iris G. Lester, MD (1998-99)

Robert L. Lester, MD (1998-99)

Harold F. Vane, MD (1992-94)

Hoppe C. Higgs, MD (1986-88)

John C. King, MD (1986-87)

George A. Zink, Jr., MD (1986-87)

William C. Czaja, MD (1987-88)

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Ruth E. Allen

December 3, 2025

Michael Hendrix
Policy Director, Office of Governor Bill Lee
600 Dr. Martin L. King, Jr. Blvd.
Nashville, TN 37243 (615) 741-2001.

Dear Mr. Hendrix,

On behalf of the Executive Board of the Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (TNAAP), thank you for your commitment to improving healthcare delivery in rural Tennessee.

As Tennessee moves forward with implementation plans for the Rural Health Transformation Program Fund, we urge you to prioritize children in the funding allocations. Evidence shows that for every dollar governments invest in child health, they see a \$1.78 return through better short term health, better education metrics, and a higher workforce participation in adulthood. We would like to suggest the following solutions which focus on addressing critical pediatric healthcare gaps in our state's rural communities.

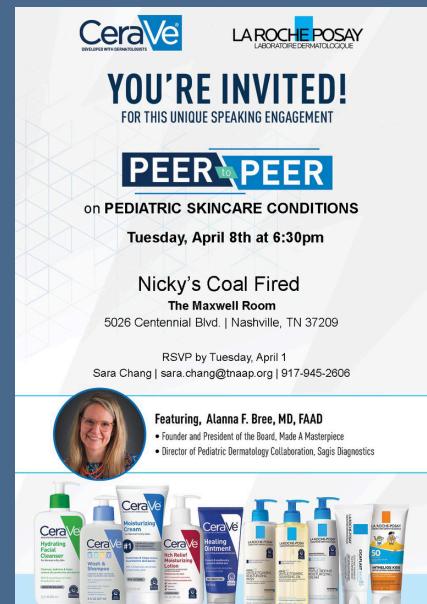
1. Support Rural Pediatric Workforce Development

- Expand loan forgiveness programs for physicians committing to rural practice.
- Create pediatric residency rotations and rural fellowships in underserved communities.
- Support continuing medical education for rural family physicians treating children.
- Offer incentives for medical students to complete rural primary care rotations during training. (e.g., summer internships, 3rd-4th year electives)

2. Expand Rural Health Telehealth Infrastructure

- Invest in providing the infrastructure and resources needed for rural telehealth care.
- Expand rural pediatric and family medicine hubs that expand preventive for children including immunization, and developmental screening.
- Expand broadband access and remove policy barriers to telehealth training and care.
- Ensure sustainable telehealth pay policies to support provision of services.
- Build connections between specialty expertise and clinicians in rural communities.
- Create an infrastructure for 24/7 pediatric telehealth consultation line for rural health emergency departments.

The Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics is incorporated in the state of Tennessee



TNAAP HIGHLIGHTED IN THE MEDIA

 **TNAAP** @TNAAPChapter

TNAAP Members in the News: Dr. Sandi Arnold at [@LeBonheurChild](#) talks about the cases of flu and norovirus 😢 going around in kids.

wreg.com

Flu and norovirus are going around: Here's what you can do MEMPHIS, Tenn. — It's that time of the year where a lot of people are getting sick. Some are falling ill with the flu, but ...

 **TNAAP** @TNAAPChapter · Apr 3

TNAAP Members in the News   Read this column from Drs. Jason Yau and Nick Hysmith.

 **The Daily Memphian** @DailyMemphian · Apr 3

The reality is stark — when vaccine rates fall, measles comes back, putting our most vulnerable, including infants and immunocompromised children (such as those undergoing chemotherapy), in danger.

[dailymemphian.com/article/50966](#)

 **TNAAP** @TNAAPChapter · Jul 3

TNAAP Members in the News: Dr. Cynthia Cross from [@LeBonheurChild](#) warns: Avoid heat stroke with these tips youtu.be/7a6EHcQw1jA?si... via [@YouTube](#) and [@3onyourside](#)



From youtube.com

 **TNAAP** @TNAAPChapter

TNAAP Members in the News: Past President [@JasonYauMD](#) speaks with [@3onyourside](#) about the continued drop in childhood vaccination rates, and the danger it poses to kids.



Immunization rates continue to decline for school-age children across the Mid-South

From wreg.com

 **TNAAP** @TNAAPChapter

Thank you VUMC News for covering our Excellence in Pediatrics Awards. We will be celebrating Dr. Johns and Dr. Hunter during our state conference next week!



Vanderbilt's Jim Johns, Rosemary Hunter honored by the American Academy of Pediatrics

From news.vumc.org

 **TNAAP** @TNAAPChapter

TNAAP Members in the News: Dr. Blake Bergeron with [@LeBonheurChild](#) talks about signs of hand, foot, and mouth disease in children.



Health department investigating cases of hand, foot and mouth disease at MSCS school

From actionnews5.com

TNAAP REPRESENTATION WITH AAP



2025 AAP Leadership Conference

TNAAP Executive Director Ruth Allen; TNAAP VP Catherine Wiggleton, MD; TNAAP President Carlenda Smith, MD; TNAAP Past President Jason Yaun, MD



Member Reception at the 2025 National AAP Conference & Exhibition in Denver



TNAAP Leadership at NCE

TNAAP Secretary/Treasurer Tatanisha Smith, MD; TNAAP Executive Director Ruth Allen; TNAAP VP Catherine Wiggleton, MD; TNAAP President Carlenda Smith, MD; TNAAP Past President Jason Yaun, MD

2025 AAP ADVOCACY CONFERENCE



Edson Ruiz, MD; TNAAP President Carlenda Smith, MD; Johnathon "Drake" Bishop, MD; TNAAP Executive Director Ruth Allen



Dr. Carlenda Smith and Ruth Allen met with Representative John Rose in his Washington D.C. office to discuss preservation of Medicaid funding



Gathering with Senator Marsha Blackburn's aide outside her Washington D.C. office

TNAAP sponsored residents to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in Denver, CO and the AAP Advocacy Conference in Washington, DC. Read about their experiences on the following page:

TESTIMONIALS



J. Drake Bishop, MD,
Rainbow Kids
Clinic/Southern
Pediatrics
Clarksville, TN

Every physician who specializes in pediatrics does so because they care about children and want to see all children grow up to be their best, healthiest selves. We are undoubtedly able to make substantial positive impacts on our patients and families in the rooms of our offices and hospitals. Through advocacy, however, I believe we are able to make positive changes for pediatric health nationwide. The AAP Advocacy Conference provided me with important information regarding the state of healthcare for children in the US, then equipped me with the necessary tools to discuss children's healthcare with our Congressional representatives. At the conference I was able to share my personal experiences as a pediatrician and the challenges my patients face, while also hearing from other pediatricians and learning from their experiences. We banded together and met with the offices of numerous senators and representatives, urging them to avoid cuts to Medicaid and CHIP. We used our stories and experiences to highlight the importance of Medicaid and CHIP to American children; so many of whom rely on these programs for their care. The last day of the conference was absolutely stressful, but in a positive way. Fighting to protect children's access to healthcare on such a large stage felt intimidating, but between the tools I gathered at the conference and the support of my fellow pediatricians, I felt equal to the task. I sincerely thank TNAAP for its support and am grateful that they were able to give me this opportunity. These are challenging times, and your support and action are needed. Please consider getting involved with your state AAP chapter and adding your voice to ours, as we call on our nation to support children's health.



Erin Von Klein, MD,
MPH
Neonatal-Perinatal
Medicine Fellow,
VUMC

Thanks to the generous support of the Tennessee Chapter of the AAP Endowment Fund, I had the opportunity to attend the 2025 AAP National Conference & Exhibition (NCE) in Denver, Colorado. It was an inspiring and energizing weekend filled with cutting-edge science, practical clinical updates, and opportunities to connect with colleagues and leaders in pediatrics from across the country. The conference opened on Friday with excellent clinical sessions. I also had the opportunity to present my research during the poster session and attend the Section on Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine opening session, where experts discussed emerging evidence and priorities for the field of Neonatology. The day concluded with networking opportunities and welcome events, including our District IV networking event, providing a wonderful chance to meet peers and mentors from across the country.

Saturday offered a rich array of sessions highlighting both advances in neonatal care and the broader challenges facing children and families. Highlights included sessions on neonatal neurocritical care (which announced changes to guidelines for cooling in the setting of HIE) and complex care navigation (which included an interesting talk on the potential impacts of Medicaid cuts). I also attended the TN Chapter's Happy Hour, which provided a great opportunity for connecting with colleagues from across our state.

It was especially exciting to see so many Tennessee pediatricians represented among the national speakers. Presentations from colleagues such as Dr. Trent Rosenbloom (AI and informatics in pediatrics), Dr. Buddy Creech (vaccine innovation), Dr. Toni Whitaker (special education advocacy), Dr. Regan Williams (firearm injury prevent forum) and many others highlighted the tremendous leadership and expertise coming from our state.

Attending NCE not only strengthened my clinical knowledge but also was an excellent opportunity to expand my professional network and meet with passionate pediatricians from across the country. I'm already looking forward to next year's AAP National Conference, which will be held in San Diego in October 2026, and I hope to see many of you there.

TNAAP ANNUAL CONFERENCES



TNAAP welcomed 28 in-person attendees and 35 virtual participants to our annual **Pediatric Practice Management Conference** on May 9, which was held as a hybrid live event for the second year. Our slate of speakers covered topics critical to office operations, including strategies to increase vaccination rates, the role of social media in healthcare, and how to turn care management coding into revenue for pediatric practices.



The 2025 **Tennessee State Pediatric Conference** covered a wide range of topics, including youth social media use, artificial intelligence in clinical decision-making, common outpatient infections, and the use of GLP-1 agonists in pediatric patients. As 2025 marked the 95th anniversary of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), AAP President Susan Kressly, MD, FAAP, shared her greetings with TNAAP via a video message (pictured above).

We welcomed around 100 pediatric medical providers, including 27 medical students and residents, who showcased their work during our poster session reception. **Alexander Venero** of UTHSC was selected for Best Case Report for Successful Treatment of Membranous Nephropathy in a Pediatric Patient with Rituximab, and **Mallika Rao** of Meharry won the Research/Quality Improvement category for From Barriers to Bridges: A Student-Powered Spanish Interpretation Initiative Advancing Equity in Pediatric Care.

The conference also featured the 2025 Excellence in Pediatrics Awards, honoring:

- **AAP Special Achievement Award:** Rosemary Hunter, MD, FAAP
- **Pediatrician of the Year:** Hunter Butler, MD, FAAP
- **Friend of Children: Say Yes to Recess, accepted by Rachel Bush**
- **Senior Pediatrician of the Year:** Jim Johns, MD, FAAP
- **Early Career Physician of the Year:** Edson Ruiz, MD, FAAP (not pictured)

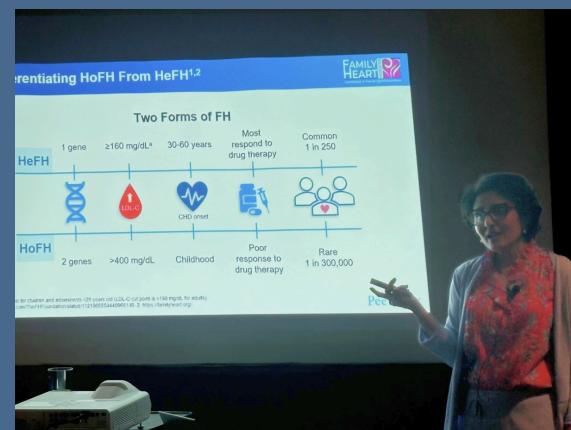
TNAAP MEMBER MIXERS



Our first Member Dinner Presentation of 2025 was held on April 8 and offered an engaging evening of learning and connection. Dr. Alanna Bree, MD, FAAD, pediatric dermatologist, delivered an insightful presentation on atopic dermatitis, acne, and infant skincare. Members participated actively, asking thoughtful questions that contributed to a dynamic and informative discussion. The evening was complemented by delicious food, inspiring conversations, and generous product giveaways from CeraVe and La Roche-Posay—thank you to our sponsor!

TNAAP was honored to partner with PeerView and Dr. Ambika Ashraf, MD, FAAP, FNLN—Professor of Pediatrics and Division Director of Pediatric Endocrinology and Diabetes at

UAB—for an insightful dinner presentation with our members on May 29. Dr. Ashraf shared invaluable expertise on the importance of lipid screening and the early diagnosis and treatment of homozygous familial hypercholesterolemia.



TNAAP was pleased to participate in the 40th Annual ETSU Pediatric Conference by hosting a networking mixer in Johnson City in July at BURG'r & Barrel, providing an opportunity for food, refreshments, and professional fellowship.

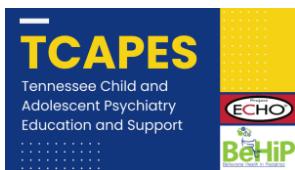
At the Practice Management Power Hour Lunch, held on December 3 in Franklin, Tennessee, attendees engaged in discussions on TEIS referral updates, a preview of 2026 coding changes, payer policy updates, strategies to improve well-child visit rates, and access to mental health consult lines.



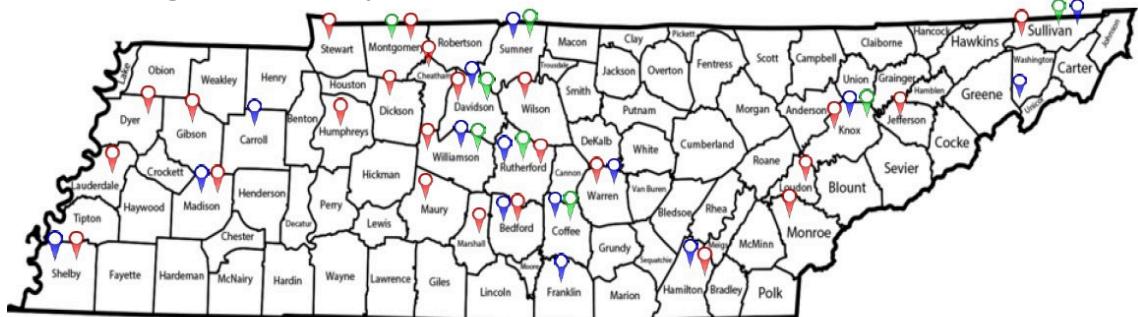
TNAAP PROGRAMS/TRAININGS



**Foster Care
Medical Home**



BeHiP Program Activity



BeHiP 101: 23 trainings hitting 15 counties (224 participants trained)

- 3 Counties had 3 Trainings: Davidson, Shelby, and Warren
- 2 Counties had 2 Trainings: Coffee and Hamilton
- 10 Counties had 1 Training: Madison, Carroll, Sumner, Williamson, Rutherford, Bedford, Franklin, Knox, Sullivan, Washington

FCMH: 4 trainings hitting 8 counties (60 participants trained)

- Coffee, Davidson, Knox, Montgomery, Rutherford, Sumner, Warren and Wilson

TCAPES: 8 trainings hitting 24 counties (91 participants trained)

- Bedford, Cheatham, Davidson, Dickson, Dyer, Gibson, Hamilton, Humphreys, Jefferson, Knox, Lauderdale, Loudon, Madison, Marshall, Maury, Monroe, Montgomery, Rutherford, Shelby, Stewart, Sullivan, Warren, Williamson, and Wilson

726 Total Participants Trained in 2025

150 CME credits claimed through Online Learning Modules

BeHiP FCMH ECHO Series (6 Sessions - 102 Participants)

Topics included Keystones of Development V: Ages 4-5, Trauma Informed Care, DCS Overview, Family Voices of TN, Tennessee Voices, and Suicide Prevention.

TCAPES ECHO Series (6 Sessions - 99 Participants)

Topics included Infant Mental Health, Therapeutic Modalities for Adolescent Behavioral Health, Parent-Focused Therapeutic Modalities for School-Aged Children, CHANT Overview, Provider Well-Being, HOPE Framework.



START Training Impact

- **22 START trainings** completed
- **624 total attendees** including:

Pediatricians, Family Practitioners, Support Staff, Medical Students (PA, PNP, ENP, FNP, DNP)

Practice Support

13 practices received complimentary screening kits: Ages & Stages Questionnaire (3rd edition), or Ages & Stages Social Emotional Questionnaire (2nd edition).

Community Outreach

- **36 site visits** conducted by TNAAP and TEIS coordinators
- **6 counties** targeted: Hancock, Shelby, Hickman, Giles, Lewis, Perry
- Focus: Increasing TEIS referrals in underserved counties

Professional Development

MD Eligibility Consultant attended genetics conference to update TEIS eligibility criteria with latest guidance.

National Recognition

Tennessee ranks 3rd nationally in early intervention - the highest position in 21 years, slightly above the national average.

(2023 data, updated October 2025)

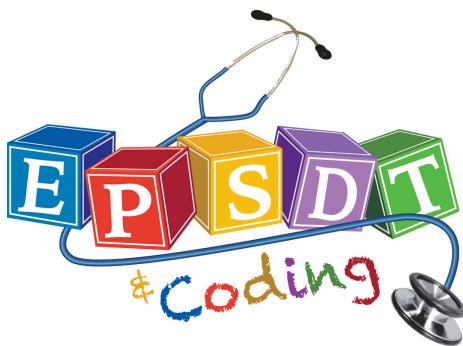
Parent Survey High and Low Rates 2023

Highest-performing states are in the range of 50-60%

- The only state with a screening rate at 60% is Maine

Lowest-performing states are in the range of 19-27 %





EPSDT and Coding Program

Direct Practice Support

- 105 practices received office support and visits.
- Services included coding audits, modifier usage guidance, MCO problem resolution, telehealth support, and EPSDT assistance.

Training & Education Reach

- 320 practices participated in office trainings, regional events, and virtual sessions.
- 547 total attendees across all training events
- 195 webinar views for EPSDT and Coding content
- 6 cities hosted Regional EPSDT and Coding Update Trainings.

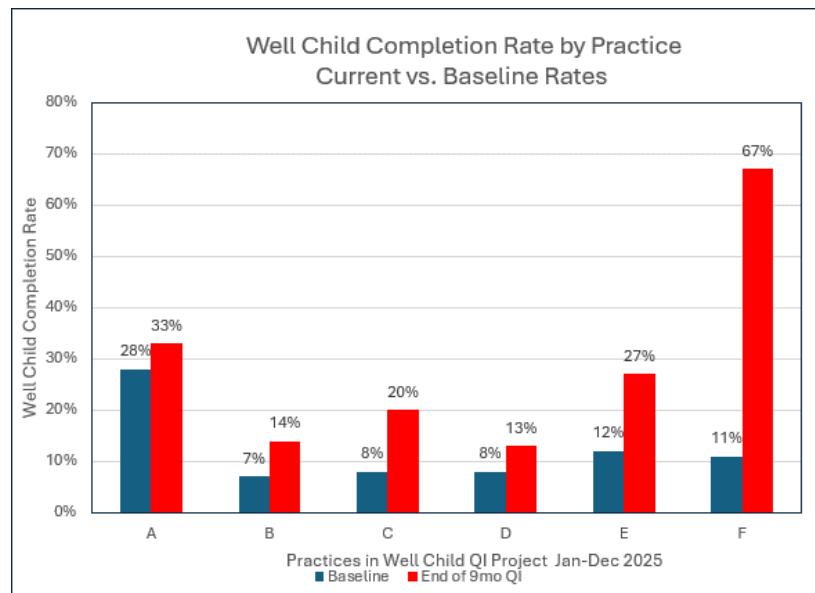


Practice Management Quality Coaching Program

This 0-21 QI program is targeted to specific practices through one of our grants.

- **Average increase:** 17% in well child completion rates
- **Some practices nearly doubled** their rates since program inception.
- **120 PI credits through the ABFM** issued to physicians completing the program
- **A total of 486 participants** participated in Practice Management Coaching Sessions, Quality Improvement and EPSDT training.

6 recruited practices completed the 2025 Well Child QI Program, bringing together a diverse team of healthcare professionals including MDs, NPs/PAs, Practice Managers, Quality Improvement Teams, and Administrative and Clinical Staff from Family Care, Urgent Care, and Pediatric Practices.



Quality Improvement Practice Engagement

16 practices (284 physicians) - Immunization Project

7 practices (28 physicians) - BeHiP Project

1 practice (3 physicians) - Well Care Project (ages 3-21)

21 pediatricians received 525 MOC 4 credits from the ABP.

PAYER ADVOCACY TNAAP'S PEDIATRIC COUNCIL



- Advanced strategies to address Medicaid reimbursement rates in Tennessee.
- Worked with payers to secure telehealth coverage policies for 2025.
- Collaborated with payers to obtain reimbursement policies for G2211.
- Partnered with BlueCare to establish a policy ensuring DCS/foster children are assigned to TennCare Select.
- Continued working with BlueCare to clarify and address details related to proposed laboratory rate cuts.
- Met with UnitedHealthcare Community Plan (UHCCP) leadership, including the new Chief Medical Officer and Chief Operating Officer, to address concerns related to downcoding.

Convincing payers to remove inappropriate edits and claims denials

Addressing inappropriate prior authorization requirements

Advocating for coverage of certain services and CPT codes

Halting payer audits and recoupments

CHAPTER FINANCIAL RESULTS

Year Ended June 30, 2025

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

Grants	\$ 1,260,349	84%
Membership Dues	120,509	8%
Sponsorships & Other Income	120,810	8%
Total Revenue		\$ 1,501,668

EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 1,168,106	85%
Management & General	155,477	11%
Fundraising	55,302	4%
Total Expenses		\$ 1,378,885
Change in Net Assets		\$ 122,783

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

Assets	\$ 1,313,644
Liabilities and Net Assets	
Liabilities	\$ 240,628
Net Assets	1,073,016

Total Liabilities and Net Assets **\$1,313,644**

ENDOWMENT FUND

Balance as of June 30, 2025



Calendar Year 2025 General Fund Contributors

Dr. Barbara Dentz*
Dr. Dorothy Sinard*
Dr. Jason Yaun

* indicates a gift of \$1,000 or more

Endowment Fund Contributors

Drs. Hunter & Miranda Butler*
TNAAP
Dr. Amy Evans*
Ruth Allen
Dr. Carlenda Smith

Creating a Legacy for Future Pediatricians: TNAAP's Endowment Fund

This endowment continues to advance TNAAP's mission by supporting the chapter's long-term educational, advocacy, and quality improvement initiatives. Established in 2020 by the late Stuart T. Weinberg, MD, the fund strengthens TNAAP's future by increasing annual distributions that benefit tomorrow's pediatricians. Annual distributions from the TNAAP Endowment Fund are used to support members in a variety of ways. For example, in its first year, the fund supported a media training series; in the second year, it sponsored a resident to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition. In 2025, a distribution of \$6,045.34 was used to sponsor two early-career physicians to attend the AAP National Conference and Exhibition in Denver, Colorado. (Read about their experiences on page 9 of this report!)

Tennessee Chapter

INCORPORATED IN TENNESSEE

American Academy of Pediatrics



DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

TENNESSEE CHAPTER OF THE AMERICAN ACADEMY
OF PEDIATRICS P.O. BOX 159201
NASHVILLE, TN 37215-9201

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Catherine Wiggleton, MD - Vice President

TaTanisha Smith, MD - Secretary-Treasurer

Jason Yaun, MD - Nominating Chair / Immediate Past President

Karen Schetzina, MD - Membership Chair

Fellows-at-Large

Michelle Bowden, MD (West)

Nicholas Hysmith, MD (West)

Maya Neeley, MD (Middle)

Toni-Ann Wright, MD (Middle)

Gayatri Jaishankar, MD (East)

John Heise, MD (East)

TNAAP Staff

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Becky Brumley, Quality Improvement Program Manager

Sara Chang, Communications Manager

Ned Dannenberg, Communications Coordinator

Melissa Koffman, Financial Manager

Grace Mayberry, BeHiP Training Coordinator

Susan Rollyson, START Program Manager

Amber Stroupe, BeHiP Program Manager

Janet Sutton, EPSDT and Coding Program Manager

Trudy Williams, Practice Management Quality Coach



Some board members & staff celebrating the AAP's 95th year of caring & TNAAP's 70th year at the TN State Pediatric Conference.