Family values in Kentucky

All children deserve a safe and nurturing place to call home.

Children in Foster Care

KINSHIP CARE IS GOOD FOR CHILDREN:
- Keep TIES TO FAMILY
- Experience LESS TRAUMA at parental separation
- Fewer EDUCATIONAL DISRUPTIONS
- Fewer BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS

The racial and ethnic composition of children being raised by kin is similar to that of the overall child population.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR REGARDLESS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME?
- Food Assistance
- Medicaid
- Free/Reduced School Lunch
- Case Management
- Services for Biological Parents
- Tax Credits
- Housing Assistance
- Medical Transportation
- Tuition Waiver for Higher Education
- Training on Independent Living Skills
- Medical Assistance
- Supportive Services
- Tuition Assistance
- Child Care Assistance
- Education of Homeless, Child Care
- Foster Care

KINSHIP CARE IS RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS:

6% of Kentucky children are raised in foster care; no state has a higher rate.

The great majority of children in kinship care are being raised by the grandchild.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT KENTUCKY CHILDREN WHO ARE BEING RAISED BY THEIR GRANDPARENTS?

1. Almost half are in the labor force.
2. More than a quarter live in poverty.
3. Three in four have provided kinship care for more than five years.
4. More than five in ten are married.

WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT KENTUCKY GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE RAISING GRANDCHILDREN?

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The racial and ethnic composition of children being raised by kin is similar to that of the overall child population.

WHAT ARE THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITIONS OF CHILDREN BEING RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS?

- 53% White non-Hispanic
- 36% African American
- 5% Asian American
- 4% Hispanic
- 1% Native American
- 1% Other

A quarter have provided care for more than five years.

WHAT ARE THE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES? 7

- panda
- sleeping problems
- depression

WHAT ARE THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE MILITARY DEPLOYMENT ABUSE AND NEGLECT PARENTAL DISABILITY PARENTAL PHYSICAL OR SEXUAL ABUSE SEDENTARY LIFESTYLE OF THE GRANDPARENT HOUSEHOLDER

- 37% of children in foster care have the following trajectories:
  - About 25% are removed from their homes due to child abuse or neglect.
  - About 10% are placed in foster care due to other reasons, such as parental issues.
  - About 5% are placed in foster care due to a combination of factors.

WHAT ARE THE LEGAL OPTIONS? 6

- Adoption
- Guardianship
- Children in Out-of-Home Care

HOW MANY KENTUCKY CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED BY KIN?

56,000 children raised by grandparent.

The majority of children in kinship care are being raised by their grandparent.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE PROVIDED TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE?

- Medical treatment
- Education of Homeless Children
- Foster Care
- Medical Assistance
- Supportive Services
- Medical Transportation
- Social Services
- Foster Family Support
- Education
- Child Care Assistance
- Special Education Services for Individuals with Disabilities
- Foster Care Services
- Child Care Assistance
- Education of Homeless Children
- Foster Care

WHAT ARE THE RATES OF GRANDPARENTS BY GRANDPARENT HOUSEHOLDER?

- 27% have provided care for more than five years.
- 5% are married.

WHAT ARE THE MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES? 7

- Sleep problems
- Depression

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INEquality of supports, kinship care vs. foster care

HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT KINSHIP FAMILIES?

- Develop more support groups
- Encourage local businesses and organizations to pool resources to help kinship families
- Offer to provide occasional child care for kinship caregivers when they need a break
- Advocate for increased supports for kinship families

POLICY RECOMMENDATION

- Encourage agencies to develop a blueprint for kinship care in Kentucky. A similar blueprint for foster care that emphasizes family preservation and reunification is already in place. The kinship blueprint could help ensure that kinship caregivers have the financial support they need to raise children.

 Corps-supported services are supported by funding from the Kentucky Department of Health and Family Services, the Family Support Administration, and the Kentucky Commission on HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis, STDs and TB.

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