

Family values in Kentucky



ARE MORE THAN JUST TALK

ALL CHILDREN DESERVE A SAFE AND NURTURING PLACE TO CALL HOME.

Sometimes children are unable to stay in their home with their parents for a variety of reasons:



PARENTAL DEATH



PARENTAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE



MILITARY DEPLOYMENT



ABUSE AND NEGLECT



PARENTAL PHYSICAL OR MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES



PARENTAL DISABILITY

During these difficult times grandparents and other relatives often step up to provide care for these children, known as **KINSHIP CARE**.

KINSHIP CARE IS GOOD FOR CHILDREN¹

Research shows that children raised in kinship care:

- Keep **TIES TO FAMILY**
- Experience **LESS TRAUMA** at parental separation
- Have **FEWER EDUCATIONAL DISRUPTIONS**
- Have **FEWER BEHAVIORAL PROBLEMS**



HOW MANY KENTUCKY CHILDREN ARE BEING RAISED BY KIN?

6% OF KENTUCKY CHILDREN ARE RAISED IN KINSHIP CARE; NO STATE HAS A HIGHER RATE.²

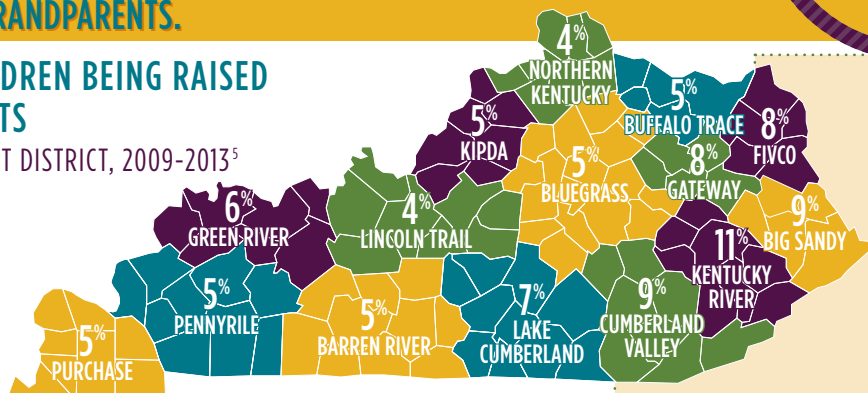
59,000 CHILDREN RAISED BY KINSHIP CAREGIVERS.³

56,000 CHILDREN RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS⁴

THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CHILDREN IN KINSHIP CARE ARE BEING RAISED BY THEIR GRANDPARENTS.

PERCENT OF CHILDREN BEING RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS

BY AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT, 2009-2013⁵



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT KENTUCKY CHILDREN WHO ARE BEING RAISED BY THEIR GRANDPARENTS?⁶

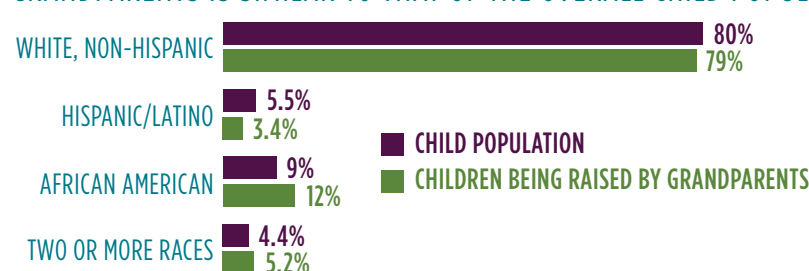


MORE THAN **1 IN 3** (37%) IS UNDER AGE **6** AND POTENTIALLY NEEDS CHILD CARE

LOWER MEDIAN FAMILY INCOME

\$40,600 COMPARED TO \$52,000

THE RACIAL AND ETHNIC COMPOSITION OF CHILDREN BEING RAISED BY GRANDPARENTS IS SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE OVERALL CHILD POPULATION.



MORE LIKELY TO RECEIVE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

54%

COMPARED TO

33%



WHAT DO WE KNOW ABOUT KENTUCKY GRANDPARENTS WHO ARE RAISING GRANDCHILDREN?⁷

ALMOST **HALF 49%** ARE IN THE LABOR FORCE



MORE THAN **TWO-THIRDS 73%** ARE MARRIED

MORE THAN A QUARTER **LIVE IN POVERTY**



43% HAVE PROVIDED KINSHIP CARE FOR **MORE THAN FIVE YEARS**



INEQUITY OF SUPPORTS: KINSHIP CARE VS. FOSTER CARE

CHILDREN IN THE KENTUCKY KINSHIP CARE PROGRAM⁸

10,785

CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE⁹

12,725

9% KINSHIP FOSTER CARE

75% FOSTER CARE WITH UNRELATED CAREGIVERS

16% INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENTS

In 2013, the Kentucky Kinship Care Program kept almost 11,000 children out of foster care but due to budget cuts, no new participants have been enrolled since April 2013.

WHAT SUPPORTS ARE CHILDREN AND THEIR CAREGIVERS AUTOMATICALLY ELIGIBLE FOR REGARDLESS OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME?¹⁰

SUPPORTS	FOSTER CARE (ALL TYPES)	KINSHIP CARE	DEPENDENT ON HOW MUCH THEY EARN, KINSHIP FAMILIES MIGHT RECEIVE:
TRAINING FOR CAREGIVERS	• Free Training on things like Trauma, Child Development, and Managing Difficult Behaviors • On-Going Training		• Medicaid/KCHIP
SERVICES FOR CAREGIVERS	• Respite Care • On-Going Parent Support Groups • 24-Hour On-Call Assistance	• Parent Mentors • Services for Biological Parents to Support Reunification	• child care assistance
SERVICES FOR CHILDREN	• Case Management • Medical Transportation • Training on Independent Living Skills • Tuition Waiver For Higher Education	• Services for Biological Parents to Support Reunification** • Case Management** • Support Hotline	• SNAP, WIC (food assistance) • free/reduced school lunch • help with start-up costs
FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE	• \$690/Month, Per Child* • Medicaid • Child Care Assistance • Free/Reduced School Lunch • Clothing Allowance	• WIC • Tax Credits • Reimbursement For Graduation Expenses; Birthday & Holiday Gifts; School Supplies; Lifebook	

*Minimum Monthly Rate For Family-Based Foster Care For Children Without Special Needs

**For cases in which the state removes children from their homes and places them with relatives

***The amount increases on a graduated scale for multiple children

Prior to 2013 budget cuts, children who were removed from their homes and placed with relatives as an alternative to foster care through the Kinship Care Program received \$300 per month, per child.

HOW CAN WE BETTER SUPPORT KINSHIP FAMILIES?

COMMUNITY EFFORTS

- Develop **PEER 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 RECOMMENDATIONS

- **LIFT THE MORATORIUM** on the Kentucky Kinship Care Program so that more kinship caregivers can get the financial support they need to raise children
- Increase supports for children being raised in kinship care to **MATCH THE LEVEL OF SUPPORTS PROVIDED TO CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**
- **ENSURE KINSHIP FAMILIES** receive full, written disclosure of the available services and supports, legal options, and how to access the courts to ensure safety, permanency and well-being for the child

SOURCES

1 Blueprint for Kentucky's Children (2013). *Increase Supports for Kinship Families in Kentucky*. Available at blueprintky.org.

2 Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center, *Children in Kinship Care, 2011-2013*.

3 Ibid.

4 Annie E. Casey Foundation's KIDS COUNT Data Center, *Grandchildren in the Care of Grandparents, 2013*.

5 2009-2013 American Community Survey 5-year Estimates. Rates calculated by dividing grandchildren under 18 years living with a grandparent householder who has responsibility for the grandchild (Table B10002) by children under 18 years in households (Table B09005). Only Kentucky counties are included in the KIPDA percentage.

6 2013 American Community Survey 1-year Estimates.

7 Ibid.

8 Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, *Kentucky Kinship Care: Recipients and Payments*, CY 2013.

9 Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services, *Children in Out-of-Home Care*, CY 2013.

10 Kentucky Administrative Regulations, Title 992, Chapter 1, Numbers 130, 140, and 350; Title 921, Chapter 2, Number 016



Kinship Families
COALITION OF KENTUCKY

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT:

• www.kinshipky.org

• @kinshipky

• 888-825-5592

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