

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Presenters:

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Grandfamilies, Grandparents as Parents, Relative Caregivers, Intergenerational Families

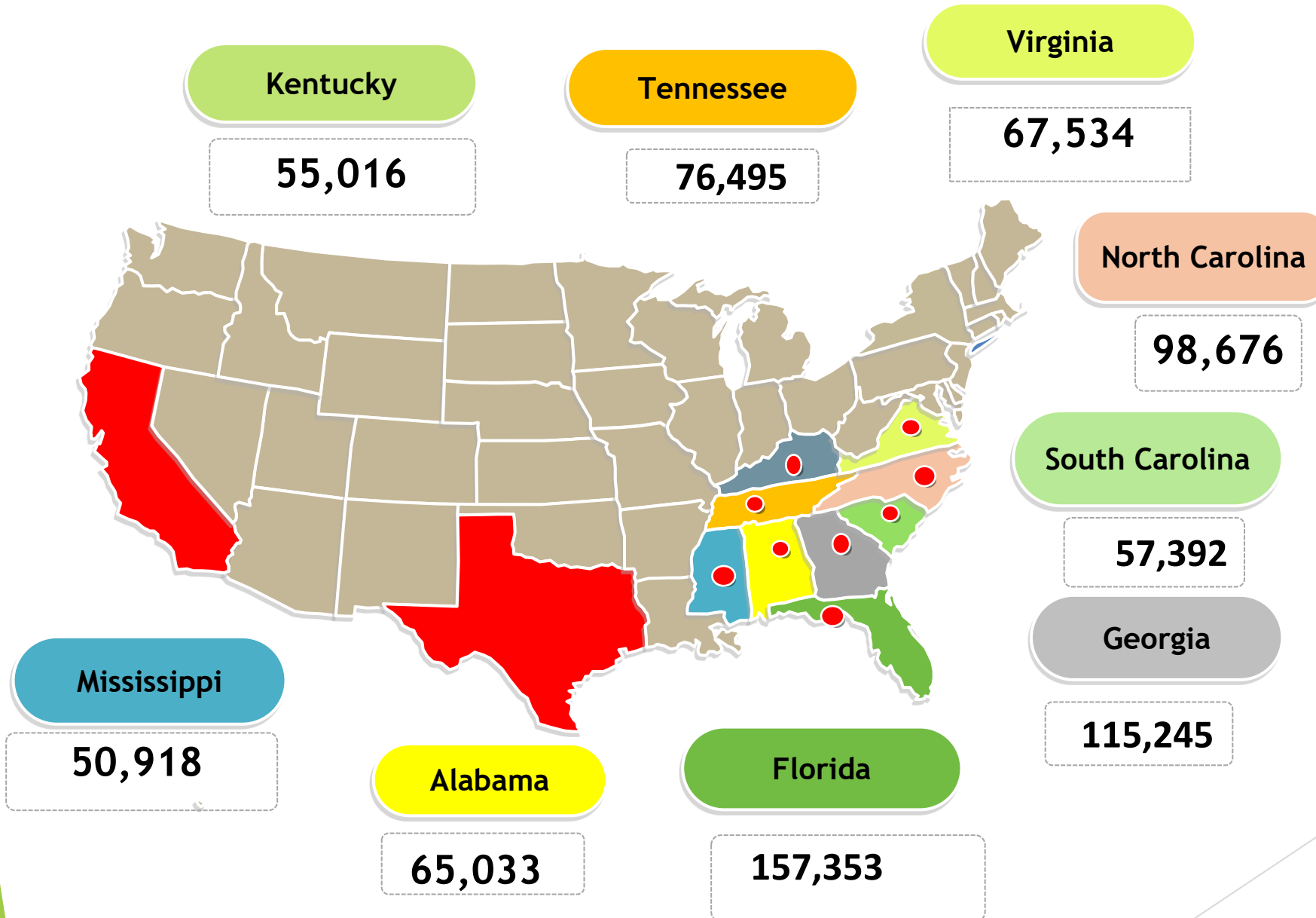


Nationally

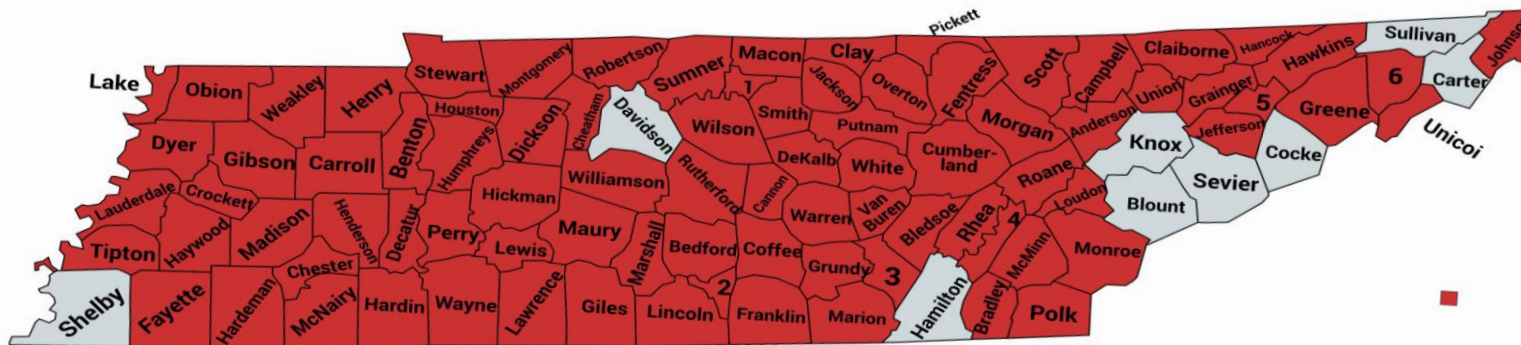
2.7 million grandparents

- 63% are under the age of 60
- 21% are living in poverty
- 24.9% have a disability
- 58.7% are still in the workforce

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren



Addition data can be found at grandfamilies.org



- 1 Trousdale
- 2 Moore
- 3 Sequatchie
- 4 Meigs
- 5 Hamblen
- 6 Washington

Blount Co. 1,425
 Carter Co 1,071
 Crockett 265

Davidson 5,310
 Hamilton 2,748
 Knox 4,857

Sevier 955
 Shelby 9,134
 Sullivan 2,181

TN Counties

Why are there so many grandfamilies?

- ▶ Substance Abuse
- ▶ Incarceration
- ▶ Death
- ▶ Health
- ▶ Abuse/ Neglect
- ▶ Abandonment
- ▶ Deployment
- ▶ Employment/Education opportunities
- ▶ Unemployment
- ▶ Lack of Parenting skills
- ▶ Deportation

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Programs

- ▶ Offered by First Tennessee Area Agency on Aging & Disability
- ▶ FTAAAD covers eight counties of Northeast Tennessee
- ▶ Family Caregiver Support Program through OAA funding since 2006 can provide services to these families
- ▶ Programs focus on the grandparent or relative caregiver
- ▶ Community partners include UT Extension, United Way and senior centers



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Programs

Who We Serve

- ▶ Any grandparent or relative caregiver raising a family member's child (grandfamilies)
- ▶ Programs are offered free to these families
- ▶ Our focus is 60 and over, but we serve relative caregivers of any age in our programs
- ▶ We are part of a GrandFamilies Coalition with United Way of Kingsport and work with Sullivan County school personnel on reaching these families in their school system



Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Programs Program Services

- ▶ Support services through Family Caregiver Support Program
- ▶ Caregiver Connection Newsletter
- ▶ Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshops
- ▶ Coffee & Conversation Groups for Grandparents
- ▶ Provide resource information and referrals
- ▶ Presentations for groups and at special events
- ▶ Health Fair and Caregiver Resource Fair



Grandparents as Parent Program (GAP)

- ▶ Program of Knoxville-Knox County CAC Office on Aging
- ▶ Began in August 2000
- ▶ Funding Sources
 - ▶ Grants (Brookdale Foundation)
 - ▶ Local resources
 - ▶ Fundraising

Grandparents as Parents Program (GAP)

Who We Serve

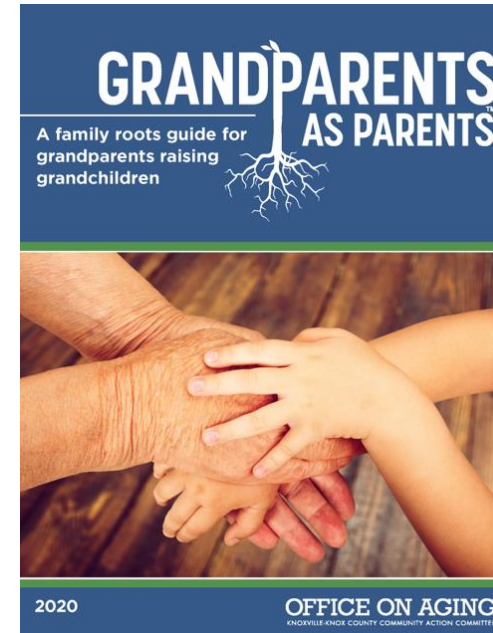
- ▶ **Relative caregivers (grandfamilies) raising a family member's child**
- ▶ **Serve relative caregivers of any age**
- ▶ **Serve families regardless of income**
- ▶ **Free to grandfamilies**
- ▶ **Serve Knox and surrounding counties**



Grandparents as Parents (GAP)

Program Services

- ▶ GAP case manager
- ▶ Monthly newsletter
- ▶ Grandfamilies Together Meetings
- ▶ Weekly Conference Calls
- ▶ Weekly e-mailed updates
- ▶ Provide resource information
- ▶ Provide referrals
- ▶ Grand Visions- Discussion Group
- ▶ Workshops and special events
- ▶ Grandparents as Parents Guidebook- available online



Reflection Activity

List two or three thoughts and feelings that you think would be common for a grandparent in each of these different grandparenting scenarios

Scenario One - A grandmother receives a phone call from the hospital. Her first grandchild, a granddaughter, has been born to a son and his wife. She gets ready to travel to visit the grandchild and family. What are her thoughts and feelings?

Scenario Two - A grandmother receives a phone call from a social worker. Her oldest grandchild, 11 years old, is in need of care. The child's parents are divorced, her father is incarcerated in another state, and her mother has been arrested on drug charges. The social worker wants to visit about providing kinship care. The grandmother gets ready to visit with the social worker and get her home ready for the grandchild. What are her thoughts and feelings?

Emotions



- ▶ Grief
- ▶ Anger
- ▶ Anxiety/Overwhelmed
- ▶ Depression/Sadness
- ▶ Embarrassment/Shame
- ▶ Loneliness
- ▶ Stress/Worried
- ▶ Sense of relief
- ▶ Sense of gratitude
- ▶ Sense of purpose

Challenges Grandfamilies Face

- ▶ **Health (COVID-19)**
- ▶ **Economic**
- ▶ **Legal issues**
- ▶ **Health of grandchild**
- ▶ **Energy level**
- ▶ **Life changes**
- ▶ **Loss of the grandparent role**
- ▶ **Loss of lifestyle**
- ▶ **Isolation**
- ▶ **Ageism**

Resource Needs

- ▶ **Housing**
- ▶ **Financial Resources**
- ▶ **Legal Resources**
- ▶ **Food Resources**
- ▶ **Counseling**
- ▶ **Parenting Classes (Adverse Childhood Experiences- ACE's)**

Types of calls?

- ▶ **Crisis or Critical need**
- ▶ **Inquiring about resources or other information**
- ▶ **Need a connection to others**

Most Grandfamilies are created in crisis... “Not in My Life Plan”

Every story is different & unique, BUT we all share certain things:

- ▶ Overwhelmed
- ▶ Exhausted
- ▶ Anger, resentment...I told my kids I wouldn't raise theirs'!
- ▶ Alone, isolated...I don't socialize
- ▶ Loss & grief
- ▶ Scared
- ▶ Out of step... “Do Over” (*Share Danny story*)

Myths of Parenting a Second Time

- ▶ It's only temporary
- ▶ We don't need legal help
- ▶ Better not to involve social services
- ▶ I'm embarrassed - I'm being judged
- ▶ It's all my fault! Where did I go wrong?
- ▶ It's up to me to save my child and teach them to parent
- ▶ I didn't have an option
- ▶ I'm fine, I don't really need time for myself
- ▶ My life is over - and so are my old friendships
- ▶ I can't stand having my adult child angry at me
- ▶ I'm too old for this - I can't keep up
- ▶ It's not fair to my grandchild - I'm not going to live long enough

Program Challenges

- **Funding**
- **Participant Attendance**
 - **Child Care**
 - **“Maybe I will come.”**
 - **Transportation**
 - **“Not my church”**

Resources for Programs

- ▶ Generations United www.gu.org
- ▶ Annie E. Casey Foundation Kids Count Data Center
- ▶ Brookdale Foundation www.brookdalefoundation.org
- ▶ Individual State GrandFacts www.grandfamilies.org
- ▶ US Census www.census.gov

Questions or Awkward Silence?

