

Roane County Anti-Drug Coalition
(RCADC)

July 11, 2018

- **Members Present:** Patti Luttrell, Betty Mowerer, Marilyn Calfee, Eric Fannin, Nathan Wray, Sarah Harrison, Teresa Hall Bestwick, Demerius Bunch, Nancy Steele, Jeanna Steele-Mack, Bob Schrock, Donna Forstrom, Jill Brown-Silvey, Sherry Samples, Maretta McNichol, Laura Conner, Dina Jackson and Jill Murphy.
- Eric Fannin, with the East Region TN Department of Children's Services gave the following presentation on children in the foster care system and the opioid epidemic.

TENNESSEE FOSTER CARE



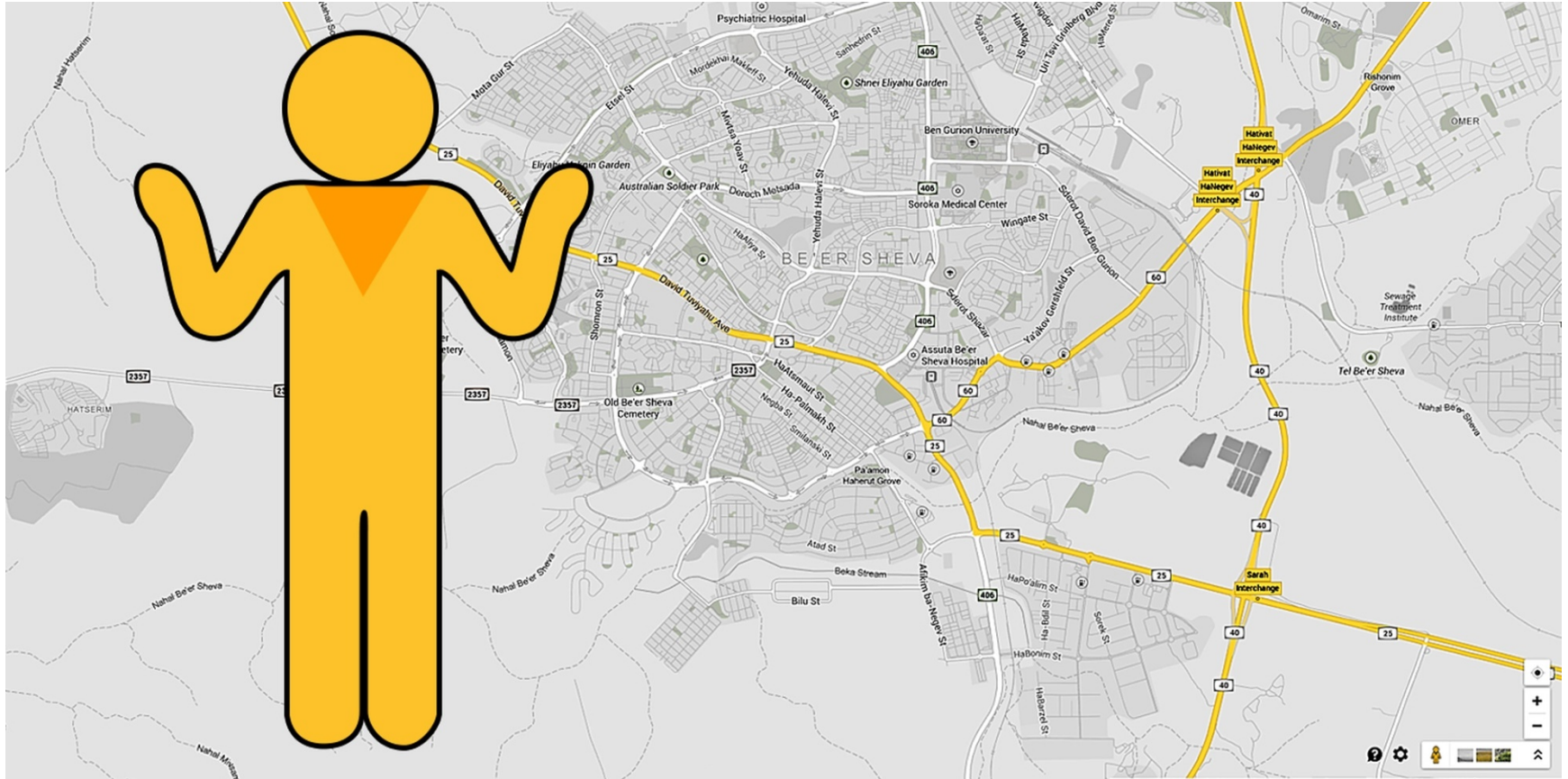
How many kids are in foster care in Tennessee?



How many kids are in foster care in Tennessee?

- There are currently 7,962 kids in foster care in Tennessee.
- Less than half of removed children are placed with a relative. The rest enter foster care.
- Tennessee only has about 4,000 foster homes.
- **One foster home for every 2 kids.**

Where do the kids go?



Where Do the Kids Go?

- Kids are seldom placed in their home county given the lack of foster homes.
- They end up going to other counties, often far away from their friends, family, schools, and community.
- Where do they go if there are no available foster homes?
 - If no long-term placement is found, kids will often go to temporary care homes, and can even sit in the DCS office for extended periods of time.

Who are the Kids?



East Region County Statistics

- Roane: 60 kids
- Anderson: 137 kids
- Loudon: 39 kids
- Monroe: 45 kids
- Campbell: 96 kids
- Morgan: 26 kids
- Scott: 26 kids
- Union: 39 kids

Total of Kids vs. Total Foster Homes

- Roane: 60 kids 14 Total Foster Homes
- Anderson: 137 kids 29 Total Foster Homes
- Loudon: 39 kids 25 Total Foster Homes
- Monroe: 45 kids 16 Total Foster Homes
- Morgan: 26 kids 4 Total Foster Homes
- Scott: 26 kids 12 Total Foster Homes
- Union: 39 kids 14 Total Foster Homes

Statistics By Age

- 0-1: 436 (6%)
- 1-5: 2060 (26%)
- 6-10: 1594 (20%)
- 11-15: 1923 (25%)
- 16-18: 1766 (23%)

Statistics By Race/Ethnicity

- White: 5189 (67%)
- Black: 1616 (21%)
- Hispanic: 470 (6%)
- Asian: 21 (<.5%)
- Native American: 7 (<.5%)

Who Can Be a Foster Parent?



Who Can Be a Foster Parent?

Foster parents can be:

- Single or married.
- With or without children of your own.
- Able to financially meet your own needs.
- In sufficient good health.
- At least 21 years old.

Requirements

- Must be fingerprinted and pass background checks.
- Must complete a training program called PATH (Parents as Tender Healers)
- Participate in a Home Study.
- Must provide 5 references.
- DCS carefully assesses all applicants and also provides the opportunity for prospective Foster Parents to work with a case manager to assess themselves before they accept the role of Foster Parent.

You Must Be Able To:

- Give without the expectation of immediate returns.
- Have room in your home and in your daily life.
- Learn and use proven behavioral management skills.
- Love and care for children with problems.
- Work towards reunification with families and birth parents.

How Can You Help?

- Create support groups for foster parents.
- Partner new foster families with another foster family to help them with ups and downs.
- Implement ongoing courses for foster families taught by trained social workers.
- Recruit new Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA).
- Create a foster care closet to collect donated items for foster families receiving a new child.

On the Individual & Community Level

- Assist a family with utilities, home repairs, car repairs, etc.
- Sponsor special events such as holiday parties.
- Offer support to Foster Parent Associations.
- Donate necessary items – beds, cribs, clothing, etc.
- Become a volunteer or facilitator at a visitation site.
- Become a mentor, coach, or tutor through a structured, DCS-approved established entity, organization, or congregation.
- Consider volunteering as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA).

For More Information

- For more information for what your congregation, community, or individuals can do for kids in foster care go to the Tennessee Fosters website:
<https://www.tn.gov/tnfosters>
- You can also call 877-327-5437 for more information.
- You can also visit our Facebook at facebook.com/TNdcS