

WHO ARE THE CHILDREN IN KINSHIP CARE?

Data from PSS/UNBC State of Kinship Care in BC

WHAT IS KINSHIP CARE?

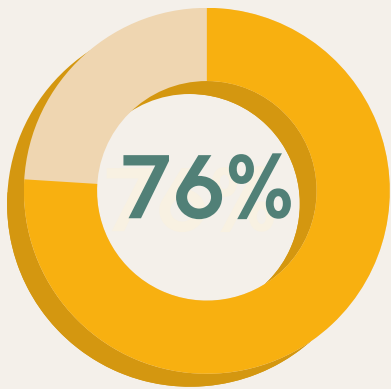
Kinship care occurs when extended family is caring for children on a full-time basis.

A kinship caregiver is someone with a familial, cultural or otherwise strong relationship with a child and who cares for that child full-time on either a temporary or a permanent basis.

HOW DO CHILDREN COME INTO KINSHIP CARE?

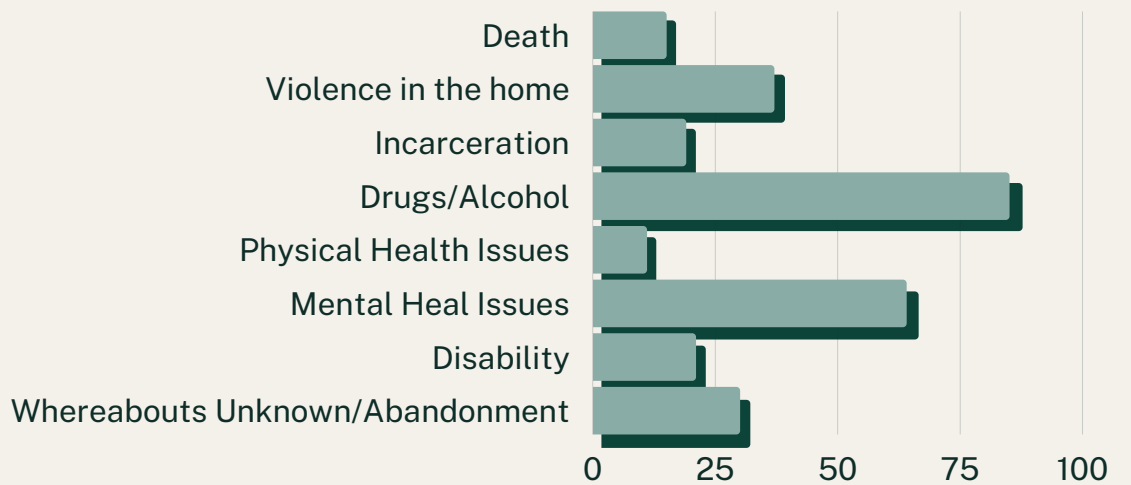
Outside of Indigenous cultural arrangements, children come into kinship care when their parents are unable to raise them.

And so a relative or close family friend takes in the children (kinship care).



76% of kinship children have experienced 4 or more **adverse childhood experiences**

PARENTS UNABLE TO PARENT DUE TO:



13,000 children in BC are estimated to be raised by their grandparents, relatives, or close family friends when their parents are unable or unwilling.

77% of kinship caregivers had at least one kinship child with physical, emotional, or behavioural challenges

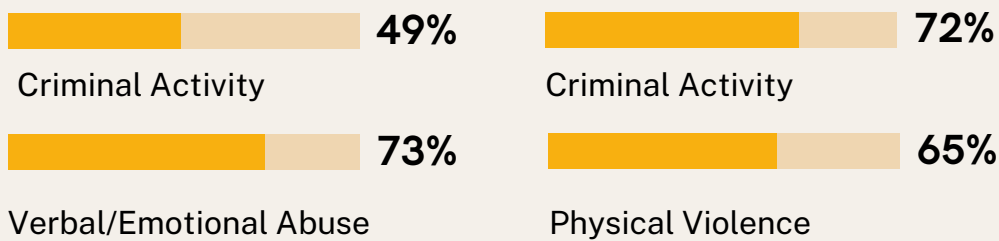
61% of kinship caregivers are caring for children with two or more special needs.



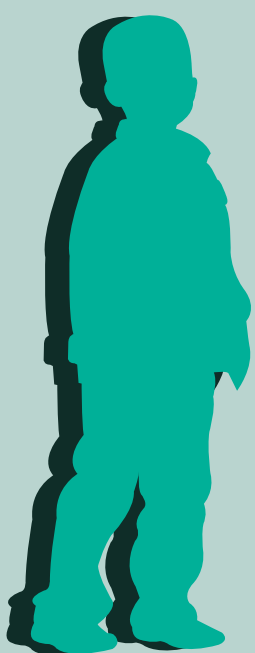
TRAUMA

The following statistics reflect the depth of trauma experienced by the children cared for by the grandparents and other kinship caregivers who completed our questionnaire.

WITNESSED PRIOR TO KINSHIP CARE



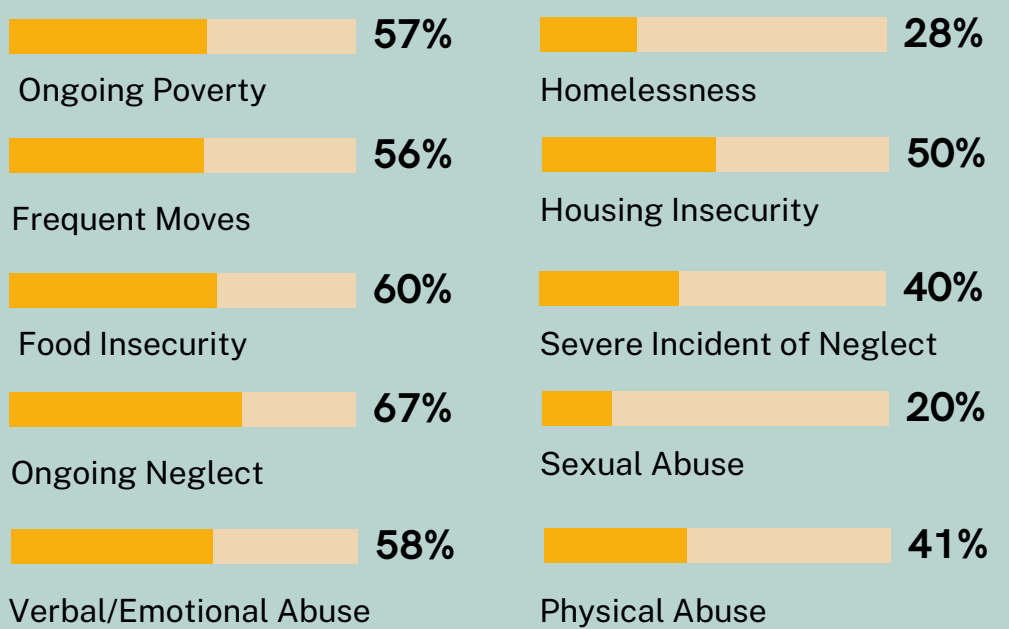
Whether it is the initial trauma of being removed from a home, or abandoned by a parent almost every child in kinship care has experienced trauma.



These childhood experiences are very traumatic. Research is clear that children who have experienced traumas such as these, could have a very difficult time even into **adulthood**.

Children who have experienced at least four adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) are **12 times** more likely to have negative health outcomes, such as chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance misuse in adulthood, than the general child population

ADVERSITY DIRECTLY EXPERIENCED PRIOR TO KINSHIP CARE



FAMILY CONNECTIONS FIRST



All children in kinship care deserve **stable & loving** homes for **healthy child development** and a **sense of belonging**. When children are raised in kinship care, they maintain important family and cultural connections and have a reduced risk of negative outcomes as adults.

Children in kinship care often have complex needs and require extra support. Our service systems must consider and address these needs to help ensure the well-being of all children.

RECOMMENDATIONS BY KINSHIP CAREGIVERS

- 01** MCFD should provide children with special needs, raised in kinship care, the services and financial support for those needs, similar to those received by levelled foster homes.
- 02** Every kinship child should automatically be offered access to counselling and mental health support, and steps taken to ensure access is possible.