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Counseling & Older Adult Kinship Caregivers

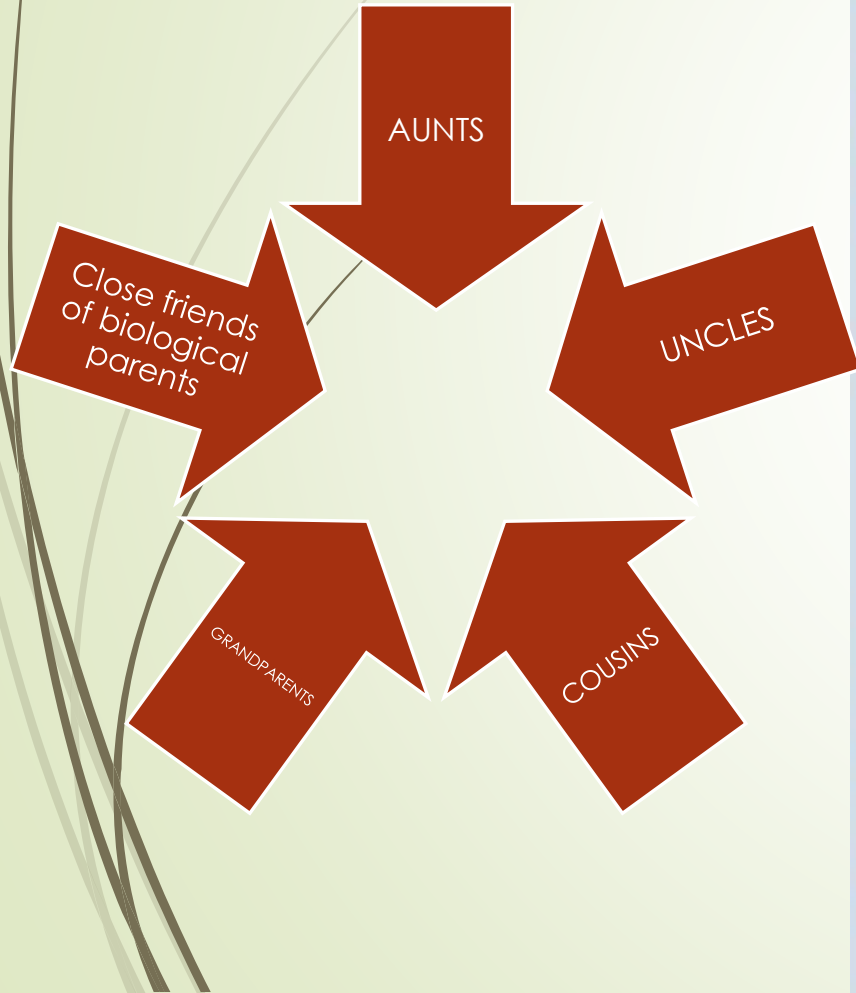
“It takes a village
to raise a child.”
~African Proverb

What is Kinship Care?

Kinship Care is the "full-time care and nurturing of a child by a relative or someone with a significant emotional connection to the child, such as a close family friend, when parents are not able to provide care."

~Children's Bureau,
Bulletin for Professionals
June 2018

Who is Providing Kinship Care?



Fact about Kinship Care*

32% of placements of foster care children are with relatives (kinship care)

North Carolina data shows similar percentage as the national data

*From the report of The Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) which provides preliminary estimates data for FY 2019



Older Adults as Kinship Caregivers

Of the 32% of children living with relatives, 37% of these children are being raised by relatives ages 60 and older without their parents present

*From the GRANDFACTS State Fact sheet for Grandfamilies
www.grandfamilies.org



Older Adults and Mental Health

What is Mental Health?

“Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act. It also helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make healthy choices.”

~From Center for Disease Control,
<https://www.cdc.gov/mentalhealth/index.htm>

Who does
Mental Health
issues affect?

Everyone!



Facts about Older Adults and Mental Health

5.7 million adults aged 65 and older who binge drink in the past month, or the 1.5 million adults aged 65 and older who used an illicit drug in the past month according to SAMHSA's 2017 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Suicide is the eighth leading cause among people 55 to 64 years of age according to the Center for Disease Control's 2020 Fast Fact Sheet

Clinical Implications

- ▶ Need for Updated Data on Older Adults and Mental Health
- ▶ Need for Updated Data on Older Adults as Kinship Caregivers
- ▶ Screening for Mental Health problems at doctor appointments
- ▶ Research on best practices for counseling these kinship care families
- ▶ Survey participants of Medicare coverage Part B for mental health services



References

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- The Adoptions and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (AFCARS) FY 2019 data (Report No. 27). Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb>