

Children in the State's Care* **9,177**



Foster Homes Serving TN Children **5,300**



Child Abuse Hotline Calls **133,248**



Extension of Foster Care Youth Served **746**



Children Served by Relative Caregiver Program **3,700**



Adoptions & Subsidized Permanent Guardianships **1,506**



*Current data, as of 12/9/19

In May, Commissioner Nichols set a goal for all DCS staff to be trained in the Stewards of Children™ sex abuse prevention training. 100% of existing staff were trained by the identified time. DCS has since been named a Darkness to Light Partner in Prevention™ for 2020-2021.



The Office of Juvenile Justice provides funding to prevent youth from entering DCS custody. In FY 2019, 30 grants totaling \$4.8 million were awarded to juvenile courts and community service agencies serving 4,977 youth at risk of entering state custody for delinquency, truancy and other offenses.

Juvenile Justice Custody



On July 1, 2019, new legislation went into effect that is aimed at reducing youth incarceration by instituting the following:

- Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services is setting up evidence-based services that aim to prevent youth from entering custody.
- Requiring the juvenile courts to use standardized risk and needs assessments.

Child custody increased 15% from June 30, 2016 to June 30, 2019. In response to the upward trend, the Department has implemented "Project ChildStat," an intensive, deep-dive into custodial root causes, coupled with cross program problem solving to remove challenges and barriers to permanency.

Foster Care Custody



In 2019, DCS collaborated with the Dept. of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services and the Administrative Office of the Courts to establish five new Safe Baby Courts (bringing the total to 12) to provide specialized treatment and wrap around services to families with children age zero to three.



Specialized Drug Teams were created in East TN to address the increased caseloads of drug exposed infants, working closely with local hospitals and substance abuse treatment agencies to ensure infants are safe when parents or caregivers are impacted by addiction. Expansion of these Drug Teams to other regions is underway.