



Department of

Children's Services

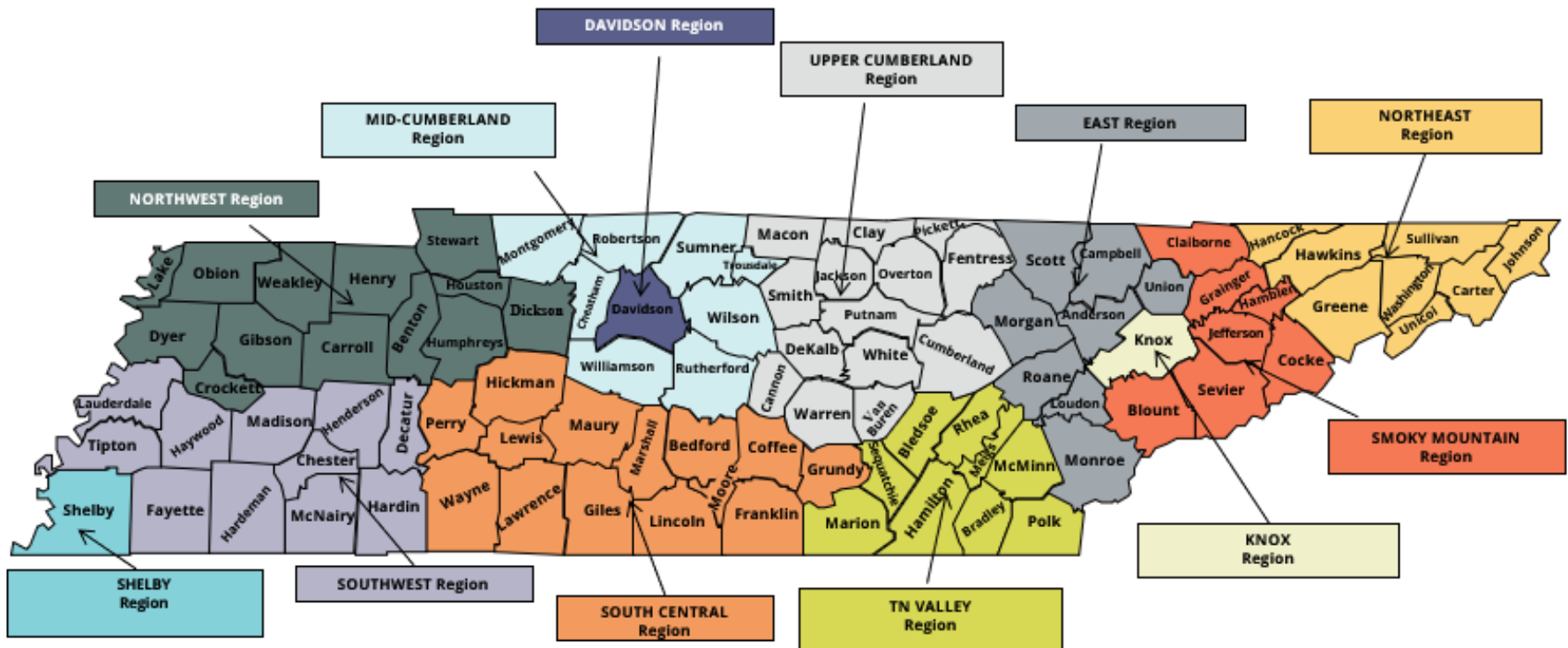
- Mission

- Provide high quality prevention and support services to children and families that promote safety, permanency, and well-being.

- Vision

- To create safe and healthy environments for children where they can live with supportive families and engaged communities.

- 3,560 filled positions
- 2,803 budgeted case manager positions
- Offices in all 95 counties



February 5, 2021

Total Children in DCS Custody

Total Children in
Foster Care

Total Juvenile
Justice Youth

February 1, 2020

Total Children in DCS Custody

Total Children in
Foster Care



Total Juvenile
Justice Youth

- DCS continues to aggressively recruit new foster homes, increasing the number of approved foster homes each year.

FOSTER HOMES	
Fiscal Year 2018	4,948
Fiscal Year 2019	5,033
Fiscal Year 2020	5,193
December 31, 2020	5,219



- All potential foster, kinship, and adoptive parents required to attend 23 hours of pre-approval training.
- Includes 2-hour information session on training and approval process.
- Training classes include:
 - Navigating child welfare system;
 - Exploring the impact of trauma and rerouting traumatic behaviors;
 - Roadmap to resiliency;
 - Current DCS policies on caring for children in custody;
 - The unique challenges and rewards of becoming a foster parent.

- Permanency has remained a priority throughout pandemic
 - Adoption and subsidized permanent guardianship hearings have continued.
 - More adoptions, SPG in FY2020
 - Adoptions
 - FY2020 1,186
 - FY2019 1,166
 - Subsidized permanent guardianship
 - FY2020 431
 - FY2019 387

CALLS HANDLED	
March 1, 2020 - January 31, 2021	91,880
March 1, 2019 - January 31, 2020	108,263



15% Decrease since start of COVID-19 pandemic

To report child abuse or neglect: 1-877-237-0004

- Overall operations

- No disruption in services provided to children and families.
- All DCS offices in all 95 counties remained open and operational; PPE and other supplies provided by TEMA and Unified Command Group distributed to regional staff.
- Face-to-face visits with children and families moved to videoconference in most cases, except for initial CPS referrals or where child safety was a concern.
- Guidance documents created for staff, providers, foster parent in March and continuously updated.
- Foster parent training went virtual, including foster parent conference; positive feedback from foster parents and providers.
- New employee training moved to virtual format; no disruption to pre-service training for new employees.
- Child Abuse Hotline staff working from home since April 2020; productivity and morale have increased; call-outs and turnover have decreased.

- Residential treatment facilities

- Contingency plan developed for Wilder Youth Development Center and submitted to Unified Command Group.
- Mass testing at Wilder and other private provider facilities when cases emerge:
 - Youth tested since March 2020: 2,310
 - Youth positive since March 2020: 624
 - Youth recovered since March 2020: 603
 - As of February 1, 2021
- Suspension of visitors to facilities; now reinstated under strict conditions and CDC guidelines.
- PPE distributed to provider facilities and Wilder. DCS received a specific grant for PPE through the CARES Act and we have used \$124,226 thus far.
- Constant communications with providers and with regional staff.

- Volunteers statewide

- Isaiah House in Northeast Region: 193
- Immanuel House in East Region: 37
- Williamson County Safe Room: 35
 - Each of the above volunteer opportunities provides supervision for children waiting placement
- Office volunteers or interns statewide: 130
 - Most social work students interning for school requirements, shadowing case managers, attending meetings, attending court, etc.
 - This opportunity helps DCS recruit potential new case managers.



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