

Needs of Kinship Care Families and Pediatric Practice

[Visit Article](#)

ABSTRACT: As many as 3% of children in the United States live in kinship care arrangements with caregivers who are relatives but not the biological parents of the child. A growing body of evidence suggests that children who cannot live with their biological parents fare better, overall, when living with extended family than with nonrelated foster parents. Acknowledging this, federal laws and public policies increasingly favor kinship care over nonrelative foster care when children are unable to live with their biological parents. Despite overall better outcomes, families providing kinship care experience many hardships, and the children experience many of the same adversities of children in traditional foster care. This policy statement reviews both the strengths and vulnerabilities of kinship families and suggests strategies for pediatricians to use to address the needs of individual patients and families. Strategies are also outlined for community, state, and federal advocacy on behalf of these children and their families.

Journal:

[Pediatrics](#)

Authors:

Rubin D, Springer SH, Zlotnik S, Kang-Yi CD, Council on Foster Care, Adoption, and Kinship Care

Related Content

[The Influence of Caregiver Depression on Children in Non-relative Foster Care Versus Kinship Care Placements](#)

[Health Care Issues for Children and Adolescents in Foster Care and Kinship Care](#)