



TENNESSEE  
**SAFE  
BABY**  
COURTS

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**STATE OF TENNESSEE SAFE BABY COURT  
ANNUAL REPORT—2024**

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Report submitted February 1, 2025, pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-903

## VISION STATEMENT

*To achieve lasting safety, permanency, and well-being for Tennessee's infants, toddlers, and families through a collaborative team approach.*

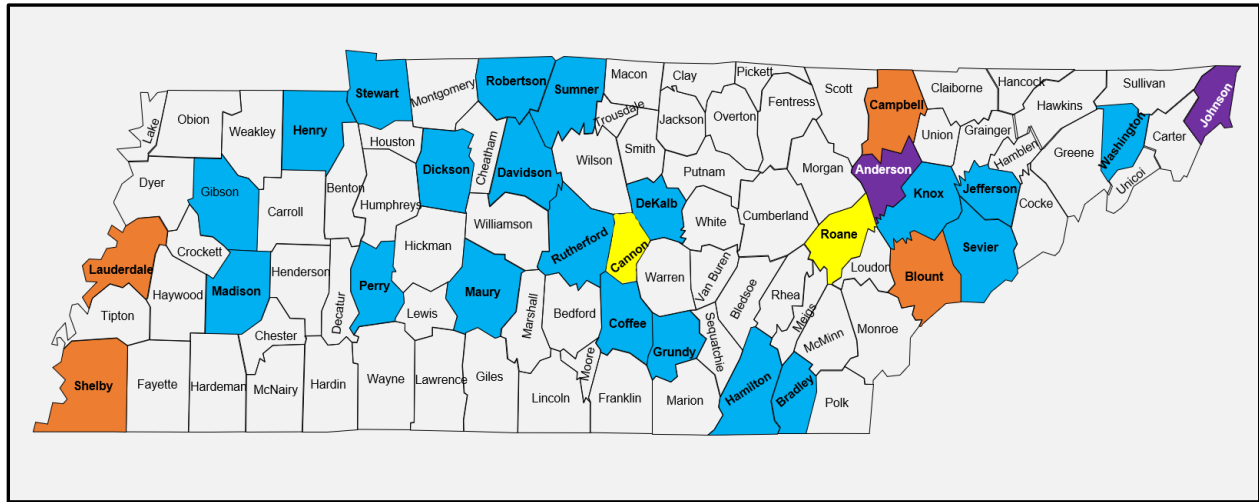
## HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF SAFE BABY COURTS IN TENNESSEE

Tennessee's Safe Baby Court (SBC) program began in 2017 pursuant to legislation passed by the Tennessee General Assembly in 2016. *See* Tenn. Code Ann. § 37-1-901 *et seq.* The legislation's intent was to address critical needs for Tennessee's youngest and most vulnerable children and their families. The result was an innovative, problem-solving response to Tennessee's critical needs for child and family programs. Tennessee SBCs seek to reduce the incidence of child abuse, neglect, and endangerment; to minimize the effects of childhood trauma on our youngest children; and to provide stability and a pathway to permanency to parents and families.

Tennessee SBCs use a collaborative, multi-disciplinary approach to dependency and neglect cases with the needs of the youngest children (ages zero through three and their siblings) as the touchstone for decisions in the case. Anchored by the juvenile court judge or magistrate, each jurisdiction has a coordinator whose responsibility is to integrate and coordinate system responses to each participating family. The team addresses barriers to permanency, along with any other needs a child and a caregiver might have. Special focus is placed on the mental health of a child who has either been placed in DCS custody or is at risk of being placed into DCS custody.

The Tennessee SBC program is administered by three partner agencies, namely, the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC), the Department of Children's Services (DCS), and the Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services (DMHSAS). The legislature has empowered these agencies to work together toward the common goal of serving Tennessee's youngest citizens by providing centralized administrative support and leadership to the 22 established Tennessee SBC sites. DCS is statutorily charged with administering the program and reporting to the Tennessee General Assembly; the AOC is charged with SBC site selection; and DMHSAS is charged with working collaboratively with the other agencies to provide expertise in addressing mental health and substance use disorder issues.

## SAFE BABY COURT SITES IN TENNESSEE



As of December 31, 2024, there are twenty-two (22) SBC sites statewide. Johnson County ended operation in 2024, but Cannon County was identified as a replacement site and will complete implementation in early 2025. Four (4) new sites have been identified for implementation and will be operationalized in 2025. In the map above, legacy counties are identified in purple; established sites are blue; sites recently implemented/implementing are yellow; and sites identified for implementation by the end of FY25 are orange.

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

### Best Practice Standards/SBC Implementation Training

As noted in prior reports, the SBC Statewide Leadership Team, with support from ZERO TO THREE<sup>1</sup>, drafted the Tennessee Safe Baby Courts Best Practice Standards (BPS) in 2020. Since then, training on the BPS and incorporation of the BPS into each jurisdiction's work has been an ongoing focus of the SBC Statewide Leadership Team. The BPS is an integral part of the two-day implementation training each new SBC receives from the Statewide Leadership Team.

<sup>1</sup> ZERO TO THREE. The name of the organization, trademark, and any copyrighted material listed herein are the exclusive rights of ZERO TO THREE and used with permission. [www.zerotothree.org](http://www.zerotothree.org)

In 2024, the Statewide Leadership Team coordinated and delivered nine (9) implementation trainings with new SBC sites. These trainings focused on key concepts related to SBC, such as infant mental health, relationship-based practice, drug trends in Tennessee, the science of addiction, adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and positive childhood experiences (PCES), recovery services and supports, secondary trauma, and the SBC BPS. During the implementations, each jurisdiction spent time mapping out its individual SBC process, as well as current resources available in the community. Participants included judges/magistrates, SBC Coordinators, attorneys, DCS staff, CASA, service providers, and other key community partners.

There were 432 attendees across the nine implementation trainings, representing a total of 5,184 hours of specialized SBC training in 2024.

### **Vanderbilt Center of Excellence (VCOE)**

VCOE continued to provide Tennessee SBCs support in 2024 through training, expert consultation, and assessment-informed planning for SBC families.

VCOE conducted ongoing live webinars on the application of infant mental health concepts to common issues encountered by SBC teams. Topics included best practices for supporting young children transitioning between homes, parental substance use, intimate partner violence, quality family time (visitation), and other pertinent topics related to infant mental health in child welfare. A total of 384 professionals, including court staff, DCS staff, mental health professionals, foster parents, and community partners attended the trainings. Participant surveys indicated that 98% of participants reported increased knowledge upon which to base their decisions and work within child welfare. 99% of participants rated the trainings as excellent or good. Additionally, VCOE was a key presenter of core components of infant mental health and relationship-based practice at every SBC implementation training in 2024.

VCOE has launched an online learning platform allowing Tennessee SBC partners access to all VCOE infant mental health trainings and resources. This flexible learning platform supports ongoing development of new staff and SBC teams through on-demand access to introduction to infant mental health and application of infant mental health theory to child welfare practice. Over 100 individuals have accessed these resources to support their work in SBC and child welfare since the platform

went live. Additionally, to support the workforce in best practices for infant mental health, VCOE provided reflective consultation to child welfare staff involved with SBC cases.

In addition to these training and consultation supports, VCOE continued to provide ongoing support to the use of the Toddler Infant Needs and Strengths (TINS) assessment in SBC cases. The TINS is a specialized assessment that identifies the needs and strengths of young children and their caregivers to help guide service planning and provide a family-centered approach to case planning. VCOE provided 6 Master level clinicians with training in infant mental health, who in turn provided ongoing training, technical assistance for TINS completion, case consultation, and support for both DCS staff and SBC teams statewide. VCOE provided 16 certification trainings for DCS staff responsible for completing the TINS assessment in SBC cases and certified a total of 149 staff in 2024. VCOE consultants also completed 208 consultations and attended 35 child and family team meetings to help teams create plans that produce the best outcomes for families. Lastly, VCOE consultants attended SBC community team meetings and implementation trainings and produced a bi-monthly newsletter for statewide distribution to SBC teams.

### **StrongWell/Mindoula**

DCS continued its partnership with StrongWell/Mindoula to provide clinical services to families with substance use disorders and mental health needs. While this service is not exclusively for SBC families, it was targeted for the counties that had established SBC sites. Involved families received highly individualized interventions, with an average of 22.8 outreaches and 7.5 successful engagements per family per month. 165 families were served in 2024, representing 489 individuals. The graduation rate of families participating in these services was 77%, which was substantially higher than the national average. 124 adult participants submitted to a substance use disorder follow-up assessment, with 98% of the members reporting a stabilization or reduction in substance use. Families received over 1100 referrals from the program to support their recovery journey. Of the 77 members that responded to a satisfaction survey, 100% reported that if they were to seek help again, they would return to the program.

## AIMHiTN

DCS partnered with AIMHiTN (Association of Infant Mental Health in Tennessee) for several projects that support SBCs through delivery of training and consultation on infant mental health issues.

AIMHiTN is the designated provider of Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health (IECMH) Endorsement in Tennessee. IECMH Endorsement provides access to a network of information and resources while also recognizing commitment to professional development. 7 SBC professionals have received IECMH endorsement.

AIMHiTN launched its first Child Welfare Certificate Program in 2024. This program consists of a 6-month long course designed to support child welfare professionals in applying infant and early childhood mental health best practices to their daily work, including meaningful discussions about child welfare topics such as transition planning, emergency response, self-awareness, belonging, and participation in reflective spaces to reduce burnout and provide connection around work challenges. Of the fifteen child welfare professionals who received their certificate, five worked specifically with SBCs.

The AIMHiTN Warmline is a prevention-based, capacity-building virtual support that provides consultation with an infant and early childhood mental health professional. In 2024, the Warmline expanded access to include foster families and safety placements, in addition to child welfare professionals. In September, AIMHiTN met with SBC Coordinators to provide training on the Warmline.

AIMHiTN's Child Welfare Emergency Response Tool, an emergency toolkit specific to child welfare professionals, including SBCs, provides a framework for safety in emergencies and guides a trauma-informed response to working with infants and toddlers. In 2024, the tool was viewed 657 times. AIMHiTN has planned a three-part emergency response training series to begin in 2025.

AIMHiTN provided 20 SBC and child welfare professionals training from Embracing Little Stars, a course consisting of foundational infant and early childhood mental health lessons, with an emphasis on awareness, recognition, and early relational response to the needs of young children in the child welfare sector. AIMHiTN has also attended SBC implementation trainings and connected with each new SBC Coordinator regarding available AIMHiTN resources; attended numerous community events to promote its programs and resources; and participated in calls with DCS staff and SBC professionals to inform about available local supports.

## Cross Sites

In August 2024, Tennessee was the second-highest represented state at the national ZERO TO THREE Cross Sites Conference, with multiple judges and magistrates, SBC coordinators, court staff, attorneys, and the SBC Statewide Leadership Team in attendance. Cross Sites is the primary national conference designed for judges, attorneys, child welfare professionals, safe baby court coordinators, statewide coordinators, mental health clinicians, and other leaders associated with infant-toddler courts and courts implementing the Safe Babies approach. Participants were provided the opportunity to learn innovative practices from, create connections with other states with infant-toddler/Safe Baby Court sites, and have state-specific breakout time with ZERO TO THREE staff.

## JUDICIAL PERSPECTIVES

“The past year has seen its share of challenges, but with many successes as well. Cases took unexpected turns that brought obstacles, but we were able to persevere and find solutions and new, positive developments ensued. I cannot say enough about the work of the dedicated DCS, CASA, Family and Children’s Services and other partner agency employees...their commitment makes my job on the bench much easier, and I know I am getting honest input no matter what the situation. I look forward to the new year and continuing to make progress together.”

***-Magistrate Olen Winningham,  
Davidson County Juvenile Court***

“Reflecting back on the past year, I can say that Safe Baby Court saw another year of success in Grundy County. While there are disappointments at times, the overall goal of permanency for children is something to be celebrated. One case in particular that ended with reunification to both the mother and father was a joyous occasion for Safe Baby Court. This was a case that, had Safe Baby Court not been involved from the very beginning, could have very well have started with terminations being filed on the parents very early in the case with an outcome very different from what we experienced. Instead, Safe Baby Court, DCS, and the foster parents worked alongside parents towards the same goal of reunification. The result was a 15-month-old being reunified with both parents, with foster parents committing to being a support after the case was closed. As of this writing, this family is thriving, have added another little

one to their family, are encouraging others in the recovery process, and still maintain a bond with the child's foster parents."

***-Judge Trey Anderson,  
Grundy County Juvenile Court***

"Since its inception in 2024, the Safe Baby Court of Hamilton County has already shown remarkable success in supporting the long-term well-being of children and families. This problem-solving court has brought our community together in remarkable ways to ensure children and parents get the timely assistance they need. In the first six months of Safe Baby Court, we made significant strides in supporting families in meaningful ways. With high-frequency hearings, we're able to quickly address issues. One example is helping parents enter rehab almost immediately following a positive drug screen and ensuring that progress isn't delayed.

One of the unique aspects of the program is providing practical tools to help individuals succeed by reducing barriers. We've also created a warm, welcoming visitation room at the courthouse, designed to mimic a living room where parents can visit with their children in a comfortable, relaxed environment. The community's involvement is critical, and so many people have rallied around these families by offering a broad-spectrum of resources, unwavering encouragement, and ensuring they have a team of advocates every step of the way.

Safe Baby Court has already shown its impact in its first year, and it's clear that the community is eager for a new, more effective approach to handling dependency and neglect cases. The ultimate goal is once a child achieves permanency, that the family is equipped with the necessary tools and support to thrive, reducing the likelihood of future involvement with juvenile court and breaking the cycle of dependency. Through holistic wrap-around services, the program goes beyond simply meeting the requirements of the plan- **it sets up parents for long-term success."**

***-Judge Rob Philyaw and Magistrate Jacquelyn Griffith,  
Hamilton County Juvenile Court***

"It has been a blessing to serve the children and families of Henry County with the assistance of the Safe Baby Court grant from our Tennessee Legislature and Senator Haile.



Every trauma a child experiences significantly changes them. This includes the brain, personality, behavior; just to name a few. I have the privilege to work with a wonderful team of people who focus on the needs of children from ages zero to three and their special needs with a goal that they never return to state custody because that is a traumatic experience in and of itself. In addition, this year we've seen parents learn how to prioritize their children and begin to make lifelong changes, which will allow reunification of the family unit.

Child safety is the #1 priority for this court. It's the goal to help a sad, abused, neglected, and traumatized child be able to have a loving, safe and happy environment in which to live and bloom. Every child deserves to be somebody's someone. I have seen this happen during this past year; whether this means reunification with parents, or a kinship placement, or termination of parental rights and adoption.... the result is a sad little life is transformed into a happy and hopeful child, just as God intended."

***-Judge Vicki Snyder,  
Henry County Juvenile Court***

"Our first year as being a part of the Safe Baby Court program has been an exciting year for Johnson City Juvenile Court and we are on the brink of celebrating our first Safe Baby Court graduate! Having more frequent hearings for parents of babies in the SBC program has given us the opportunity to celebrate each parent's small steps and watch those small steps turn into big steps toward reunification with their baby. Our SBC Coordinator's office is a happy, child-friendly office where we allow DCS to supervise babies as they visit with their parents in a more child-friendly atmosphere than might otherwise be available. The Safe Baby Court program has also allowed us to assist those SBC families who are willing to do the extra work to be in this amazing program with diapers, formula, children's books, clothing, safe cribs, bedding, as well as to help remove many financial barriers to reunification. I would love for every family to be a Safe Baby Court family!"

***-Judge Sharon Green,  
Johnson City Juvenile Court***

"Every morning after court is opened, I look at my bench and read these words... "Children should be seen and not HURT!" Without the existence of Safe Baby Court

there would be hurt children with broken families and obstacles for reunification. SBC has served Madison County by allowing the court system to work one on one with broken families, broken homes and even broken bones. The need continues every day for children in West Tennessee to be seen and heard. Thank God for the funding for SBC. We must never forget that we owe everything to our children. No services for SBC should be diminished because of lack of funding. Please continue the financial support so we can hear happy, healthy children's voices as God intended."

***-Judge Christy Little,  
Madison County Juvenile Court***

"2024 was our (Robertson County) inaugural year for Safe Baby Court. The feeling in the courtroom changes as soon as the SBC docket begins. The strength-based viewpoint helps open ideas of collaboration and ways to overcome challenges. Parents feel more supported, and attorneys have expressed feeling more hopeful about future outcomes. Seasoned CASAs have seen progress in our participants that they hadn't seen before in such a short amount of time. The frequent, consistent contact of the team is proving to be empowering instead of adversarial for everyone involved. Our SBC journey has just begun but we are hopeful that the positive energy will change lives not just for now, but for generations to come."

***-Magistrate Melanie Stark,  
Robertson County Juvenile Court***

"Rutherford County continues to celebrate the ongoing successes of our Safe Baby Court program. Thanks to the invaluable support this initiative provides, many children and families have been able to avoid entering foster care, as well as develop healthy relationships that improve their safety and well-being. The program empowers parents and relative caregivers by offering them crucial tools and resources, giving them a real opportunity for successful reunification.

The dedication and efforts of our team go above and beyond to ensure that every family involved receives the best possible chance for a brighter future. As we enter the fifth year of Safe Baby Court, we are excited about the continued growth and impact of this program. We look forward to expanding our reach and assisting even more children and families in the years to come."

***-Judge Travis Lampley,  
Rutherford County Juvenile Court***

"We are just getting started on our Safe Baby Court here in Sevier County. Our SBC Coordinator has done an exceptional job in creating excitement and interest in this court by speaking to our local bar association and many stakeholders in our county. I have talked to many of my fellow juvenile judges across the state and understand what a tremendous responsibility and opportunity comes with the creation of this program in Sevier County. I really appreciate the help and assistance we have received from our [statewide team] as we begin this important journey in helping young children and families in Sevier County."

***-Judge Dwight E. Stokes,  
Sevier County Juvenile Court***

"It's been another good year for our Safe Baby Court. The SBC model continues to hasten the final judicial result, and, as judge, allows me to have a good 'handle' on the cases as we see them in court every month. More work, obviously, but a much better outcome for all concerned, especially the kids. I've watched as our coordinator has marshalled significant community resources to assist the families and has become an important liaison between the family and DCS. It's been interesting to see this develop. I am still a huge fan of SBC."

***-Judge Andy Brigham,  
Stewart County Juvenile Court***

## DATA REPORTING AND ANALYSIS

The following section contains data reporting and analysis of the Tennessee Safe Baby Courts.

The first report is a summary of the annual Safe Baby Court program data collected by the AOC through the Quest case management system. The report, titled *SBC Outcome Measures Report 2024*, shows data from each Safe Baby Court jurisdiction, as well as the Safe Baby Court outcome measures. It is based upon information entered by the individual jurisdictions in the Quest case management system as of December 31, 2024, for any SBC case open for at least one day in 2024.

The second report, titled *2024 Legislative Safe Baby Court 0-4 TINS Descriptive Statistics*, shows the top ten actionable items identified for caregivers and for infants on TINS assessments completed in 2024.

# SBC Outcome Measures Report 2024

January 31, 2025

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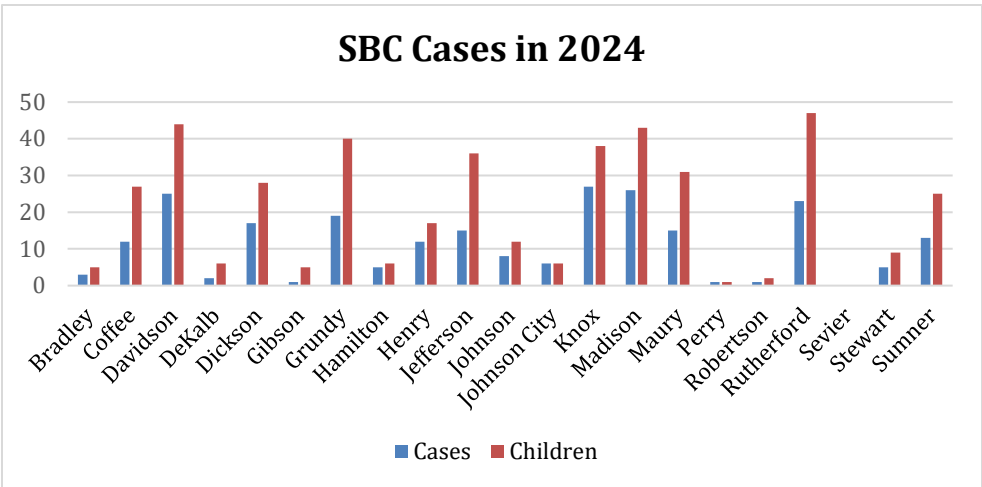
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# 1 Safe Baby Court Sites

21 Safe Baby Court (SBC) sites were fully operational in 2024, and able to take referrals. These sites are Bradley, Coffee, Davidson, DeKalb, Dickson, Gibson, Grundy, Hamilton, Henry, Jefferson, Johnson, Johnson City, Knox, Madison, Maury, Perry, Robertson, Rutherford, Sevier, Stewart, and Sumner Counties. Johnson County ended operation June 30, 2024, and Cannon County was identified as the replacement site. Cannon County and Roane County began implementation in 2024, but did not start receiving referrals in 2024.

The SBCs served a total of **236 cases and 428 children** in 2024. The table and chart below show the number of cases and children each SBC served.

County	Cases	Children
Bradley	3	5
Coffee	12	27
Davidson	25	44
DeKalb	2	6
Dickson	17	28
Gibson	1	5
Grundy	19	40
Hamilton	5	6
Henry	12	17
Jefferson	15	36
Johnson	8	12
Johnson City	6	6
Knox	27	38
Madison	26	43
Maury	15	31
Perry	1	1
Robertson	1	2
Rutherford	23	47
Sevier	0	0
Stewart	5	9
Sumner	13	25



## 2 Length of Stay in SBC Intervention

### 2.1 Frequency Breakdown of Custodial vs. Non-Custodial Children

Custodial children, for the purpose of this report, are defined as children who spent at least one day in foster care.

SBC Status is defined at a case level; if any children in the case have an ongoing SBC, then each child attached to that case will have an SBC Status of “In Progress” in this section.

Case Percentage Breakdown by SBC Status and Custodial Status

	Custodial	Non-Custodial
In Progress	125 (60%)	107 (49%)
Successfully Completed	80 (38%)	94 (43%)
Other	3 (1%)	19 (9%)

Note that the “Other” category can consist of instances such as a transfer of jurisdiction, a parent requesting to no longer be a part of SBC, a conflict of interest closing the case, or cases that were unsuccessfully discharged from the program by the judge or magistrate hearing the case.

### 2.2 Permanency Outcome Breakdown

The breakdown below illustrates the number of completed permanency goals during 2024.

Permanency Goal	Count (%)
Reunification	82 (58%)
Relative/Kinship Placement	26 (18%)
Adoption	19 (13%)
Permanent Guardianship	11 (8%)
Planned Permanent Living Arrangement	3 (2%)

### 2.3 Average Length of Stay in SBC Intervention for Cases Open in 2024

Average Length of Stay (Days) by SBC Status and Custodial Status

	Custodial	Non-Custodial
In Progress	460.88	219.24
Successfully Completed	597.91	343.48

**The average length of stay for custodial cases that successfully completed SBC is 598 days.** The average length of stay for custodial cases in progress through December 31, 2024, is 461 days.

**The average length of stay for non-custodial cases that successfully completed SBC is 343 days.** The average length of stay for non-custodial cases in progress through December 31, 2024, is 219 days.

### 3 Families and Children Participating in SBC

#### 3.1 Breakdowns of Children Served by Race and Ethnicity

The tables below illustrate the breakdown of children served by race and ethnicity, and also by county, of the total of 428 children.

##### 3.1.1 Children served by race and ethnicity

Race and Ethnicity

	Count (%) of SBC Children
White	280 (65%)
Black/African American	69 (16%)
Two or More Races	52 (12%)
Hispanic	15 (4%)
American Indian or Alaska Native	1 (0%)
Asian	1 (0%)
Unknown	10 (2%)

##### 3.1.2 Children served by race, ethnicity, and county

Race and Ethnicity by County

	White	Black/African American	Two or More Races	Hispanic	Unknown	American Indian or Alaska Native	Asian
Bradley	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Coffee	18	3	4	1	1	0	0
Davidson	13	24	5	2	0	0	0
DeKalb	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Dickson	23	0	0	4	1	0	0
Gibson	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grundy	40	0	0	0	0	0	0



Hamilton	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Henry	13	0	2	1	0	1	0
Jefferson	32	0	4	0	0	0	0
Johnson	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Johnson City	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Knox	18	8	12	0	0	0	0
Madison	12	22	5	3	1	0	0
Maury	20	5	3	0	3	0	0
Perry	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robertson	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
Rutherford	24	4	15	1	2	0	1
Stewart	9	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sumner	17	1	2	3	2	0	0

### 3.2 Type of Living Arrangement

#### 3.2.1 Number and percentage of children currently in foster care and non-custodial placements

The following table shows the number and percentage for each type of living arrangement for the 428 children. This represents the *current placement* or the placement when the SBC case was closed. There were a total of **147 children in foster care placements and 275 children in non-custodial placements**. Of the children in foster care, 22 children resided with a relative.

Living Arrangement

	Count (%)
Relative (Non-Custodial)	137 (32%)
Non-Relative (Foster Care)	122 (29%)
Birth Parent	117 (28%)
Relative (Foster Care)	22 (5%)
Non-Relative (Non-Custodial)	16 (4%)
Birth Parent with Supervised by Relative	4 (1%)
Foster Care (Residential Treatment Facility)	3 (1%)
Birth Parent/Drug Treatment Facility	1 (0%)

#### 3.2.2 Number of placements by race and ethnicity

Of the 422 children with identified foster care or non-custodial placements, **300 were placed once**, 82 had two placements, 25 had three placements, 3 had four placements, 3 had five placements, and 7 had six placements, and 1 had seven placements during SBC.

### Placements by Race and Ethnicity

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
White	204	45	20	2	1	5	0
Black/African American	40	16	4	1	2	2	1
Two or More Races	34	17	0	0	0	0	0
Hispanic	12	2	1	0	0	0	0
Unknown	8	2	0	0	0	0	0
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Asian	1	0	0	0	0	0	0

### 3.3 Length of Time in Foster Care

This section reflects the total amount of time that SBC children spent in foster care, rather than the amount of time that the children were in the SBC intervention.

#### 3.3.1 Number of children in foster care less than 6 months, 7-12 months, 13-18 months, and 19 months or longer

Of the 207 children who were in foster care *at some point* during SBC, 57 children were in foster care 0 - 6 months, 49 were in foster care 7 - 12 months, 34 were in foster care 13 - 18 months, and 67 were in foster care 19 months or longer. The following table shows the length of time in foster care by race and ethnicity.

##### 3.3.1.1 Breakdown of Foster Care Time by Race and Ethnicity

#### Race by Length of Time in Foster Care

	0 - 6 months	7 - 12 months	13 - 18 months	19 months or longer
White	42 (74%)	30 (61%)	25 (74%)	45 (67%)
Black/African American	5 (9%)	5 (10%)	4 (12%)	18 (27%)
Two or More Races	2 (4%)	10 (20%)	5 (15%)	4 (6%)
Hispanic	2 (4%)	3 (6%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Unknown	5 (9%)	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
American Indian or Alaska Native	1 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)

### 3.4 Family Participation in Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)

#### 3.4.1 Number and percentage of CFTMs with a birth parent present

2,001 Total CFTMs for Cases Open in 2024

Present	Both Parents	Mother Present	Father Present
Yes	634 (32%)	1,455 (73%)	713 (36%)
No	1,367 (68%)	546 (27%)	1,288 (64%)

In the table above, 2,001 total CFTMs were broken down by whether or not parents participated in the meetings. All columns sum to 2,001. For example, in 713 (36%) CFTMs the father was present. In 1,288 (64%) CFTMs, the father was not present.

The denominator for the percentages displayed above was the total number of CFTMs, 2,001.

Out of 534 parents who participated in SBC in 2024, 2 parents were identified in the system as deceased, and the whereabouts of 17 parents were identified as “unknown.”

Out of the CFTMs where the mother or father were not present (546 and 1,288 respectively), the parent being in treatment or incarcerated accounted for the following number of CFTMs missed:

Number and Percentage of CFTMs Missed in Which a Birth Parent Was in Treatment or Incarcerated

Father in Treatment	Mother in Treatment	Father Incarcerated	Mother Incarcerated
31 ( 2%)	49 ( 9%)	85 ( 7%)	33 ( 6%)

### 3.5 Family Participation in Court Hearings

#### 3.5.1 Number and percentage of court hearings with a birth parent present

2,298 Total Disposed Court Hearings for Cases Open in 2024

Present	Both Parents	Mother Present	Father Present
Yes	827 (36%)	1,602 (70%)	909 (40%)
No	1,471 (64%)	696 (30%)	1,389 (60%)

These numbers and percentages were calculated in a similar manner to the CFTM table above. The denominator for the percentages is the total number of court hearings, 2,298.

Out of 534 parents who participated in SBC in 2024, 2 parents were identified in the system as deceased, and the whereabouts of 17 parents were identified as “unknown.”

Out of the hearings where the mother or father were not present (696 and 1,389 respectively), the parent being in treatment or incarcerated accounted for the following number of court hearings missed:

Number and Percentage of Court Hearings Missed in Which a Birth Parent Was in Treatment or Incarcerated

Father in Treatment	Mother in Treatment	Father Incarcerated	Mother Incarcerated
32 ( 2%)	60 ( 9%)	141 (10%)	50 ( 7%)

### 3.6 Family Participation in Treatment Services

#### 3.6.1 Number and percentage of families who participated in one or more services

A total of 236 families participated in SBC. Of these families, **195 (83%) participated in 2,446 services.** Of these services that were provided, 1,469 (60%) were successfully completed, 348 (14%) were not completed, 32 (1%) have a status listed as “Other”, and 597 (24%) are in progress.

Top 5 Services Provided to Families

A&D Assessment	399
Mental Health Assessment	266
A&D Outpatient Treatment	234
Parenting Classes	197
A&D Inpatient Treatment	171

### 3.7 Visitation Plan Completion

#### 3.7.1 Number of visits per case, averaged monthly

On average, SBC families had **12.9 visits per month.**

## 4 Supportive Processes for Families

### 4.1 Occurrence of Court Hearings

#### 4.1.1 Number of completed court hearings per case

Out of 236 cases in Safe Baby Court, 233 had completed court hearings. These cases had 2,298 hearings for an average of **0.83 hearings per month**.

### 4.2 Occurrence of Child and Family Team Meetings (CFTMs)

#### 4.2.1 Number of completed CFTMs per case

Out of 236 cases in Safe Baby Court, 218 had CFTMs. These cases had 2,001 CFTMs for an average of **0.76 CFTMs per month**.

### 4.3 TEIS Referrals and Evaluations

#### 4.3.1 Number of children with *TEIS referrals*

Out of the 274 children in SBC who were under the age of three when their SBC case began, **187 children received TEIS referrals**. Of the TEIS referrals that occurred, 142 (76%) followed timeliness guidelines.

#### 4.3.2 Number of children with *TEIS evaluations*

Of the 274 children in SBC who were under the age of three when their SBC case began, **147 children received TEIS evaluations**. 7 children were referred to TEIS, but did not require screenings. Of the TEIS evaluations that occurred, 126 (86%) followed timeliness guidelines.

### 4.4 Early Intervention Services for Children

#### 4.4.1 Children with early intervention services

A total of 428 children participated in SBC. Of these children, **340 (79%) children participated in 966 services**. Of these services that were provided, 632 (65%) were successfully completed, 91 (9%) were not completed, 8 (0.8%) services ended for other reasons, and 235 (24%) are in progress.

## 5 Supports to the System

### 5.1 Occurrence of SBC Active Community Team Meetings

Out of the 22 SBC counties, 12 counties conducted a total of **29 SBC Active Community Team Meetings** in 2024.

#### 5.1.1 Number of SBC Active Community Team Meetings in 2024

SBC Active Community Team Meetings by County

County	Number of SBC Active Community Team Meetings in 2024
Bradley	1
Coffee	3
Davidson	3
Dickson	1
Grundy	7
Henry	1
Johnson City	1
Knox	1
Madison	3
Maury	4
Stewart	1
Sumner	3

### 5.2 Community Partners Represented at SBC Active Community Team Meetings

The following community partners were represented at SBC Active Community Team Meetings:

AOC Staff, CASA, Child Care Providers, DCS Legal, DCS Staff (Other than Legal), DHS Staff, Domestic Violence Service Providers, Early Head Start, Early Intervention Specialists, Faith-Based Groups/Churches, Foster Parent Association Members, Health Department, Higher Education Personnel, Home Visiting Providers, Housing Authority, Infant Mental Health Specialists, Judges, Magistrates, Juvenile Court Staff, Law Enforcement, Local Government Agencies, Mental Health Professionals, Other Child and Family Advocates, Parenting Education Providers, School Personnel, State and/or Local Legislators, Substance Use Providers, Certified Peer Recovery Specialists (CPRS), TCCY Staff, GALs, Parent Attorneys, Visitation Providers, and Volunteer Community Leaders.

# 2024 Legislative Safe Baby Court 0-4 TINS Descriptive Statistics

*Prepared for the Department of Children's Services  
by the Vanderbilt University Center of Excellence for Children in State Custody*

02 January, 2025

## 1 Distribution of Ratings of Top Ten Actionable Items For Caregiver and Toddler/Infant Domains

- “Percentage of Assessments” column below refers to the number of assessments with the actionable item in the row over total number of assessments

Top ten actionable items in the caregiver domain:

	Items	Count	Percentage.of.Assessments
1	Substance Use	86	54.78%
2	Mental Health	84	53.5%
3	Knowledge	81	51.59%
4	Involvement in Caregiving Functions	63	40.13%
5	Safety	61	38.85%
6	Supervision	60	38.22%
7	Residential Stability	59	37.58%
8	Organization	52	33.12%
9	Adjustment to Trauma	45	28.66%
10	Social Resources	39	24.84%

Top ten actionable items in the toddler/infant domains:

	Items	Count	Percentage.of.Assessments
1	Neglect	133	77.78%
2	Substance Exposure	116	67.84%
3	Family Functioning	85	49.71%
4	Parental Availability	79	46.2%
5	Medical / Physical	65	38.01%
6	Parent/Sibling Problems	64	37.43%
7	Medical Trauma	58	33.92%
8	Prenatal Care	55	32.16%
9	Witness to Family/Comm/ School Violence	49	28.65%
10	Developmental / Intellectual	48	28.07%

## 2 Computing Environment

To maintain high standards and reproducible research, we provide the computing environment under which all analyses were conducted. These analyses were done using the following version of R, the operating system, and add-on packages and others:

- R version 4.3.1 (2023-06-16), Darwin, 23.4.0, arm64
- Base packages: stats, graphics, grDevices, utils, datasets, methods, base
- Other packages: dplyr 1.1.4, redcapAPI 2.8.0, RColorBrewer 1.1-3, xtable 1.8-4, reshape2 1.4.4, knitr 1.45, Hmisc 5.1-1
- Loaded packages via the namespace but not attached: utf8 1.2.4, generics 0.1.3, stringi 1.8.3, digest 0.6.35, magrittr 2.0.3, evaluate 0.23, grid 4.3.1, fastmap 1.1.1, plyr 1.8.8, nnet 7.3-19, backports 1.4.1, Formula 1.2-5, gridExtra 2.3, httr 1.4.7, fansi 1.0.6, scales 1.3.0, cli 3.6.3, rlang 1.1.4, munsell 0.5.0, base64enc 0.1-3, yaml 2.3.8, tools 4.3.1, checkmate 2.3.2, htmlTable 2.4.1, colorspace 2.1-0, ggplot2 3.5.0, curl 5.2.0, assertthat 0.2.1, vctrs 0.6.5, R6 2.5.1, rpart 4.1.19, lifecycle 1.0.4, stringr 1.5.1, htmlwidgets 1.6.2, foreign 0.8-84, cluster 2.1.4, pkgconfig 2.0.3, pillar 1.9.0, gtable 0.3.4, glue 1.7.0, data.table 1.15.2, Rcpp 1.0.12, xfun 0.41, tibble 3.2.1, tidyselect 1.2.1, keyring 1.3.1, rstudioapi 0.15.0, htmltools 0.5.7, rmarkdown 2.25, compiler 4.3.1, getPass 0.2-2, labelVector 0.1.2, chron 2.3-61