



KANSAS'S CHILDREN 2010

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Kansas's Children At a Glance*

State Population¹.....2,802,134
 Population, Children
 Under 18².....699,509
 State Poverty Rate³.....12.7%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 18⁴.....17.1%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Ages 5–17⁵.....17.2%
 Poverty Rate,
 Children Under 5⁶.....18.8%

**All statistics are for 2008.*

- In 2007, Kansas had 31,402 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 16,912 reports were referred for investigation.⁷
- In 2007, 2,272 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kansas, a rate of 3.3 per 1,000 children, representing a 13.6% decrease from 2006. Of these children, 413 were neglected, 332 were physically abused, and 583 were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2007, 10 children in Kansas died as a result of abuse or neglect.⁹
- In 2007, 6,631 children in Kansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,393 children in 2006. In 2007, 2,213 of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 1,317 were 16 or older.¹⁰
- Of Kansas children in out-of-home care in 2007, 66.7% were white, 19.6% black, 8.0% Hispanic, 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.9% children of other races and ethnicities.¹¹

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,584 children exiting out-of-home care in Kansas in 2007, 55.6% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹²
- In 2007, 798 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kansas, a 52.3% increase from 524 in 2006.¹³
- Of the 6,631 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 1,812 or 27.3% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴
- In 2008, approximately 19,995 Kansas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 6,631 children in out-of-home care in 2007, 22.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Kansas children in kinship care in 2007, 67.6% were white, 20.8% were black, 6.4% were Hispanic, 0.7% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 4.6% were other races.¹⁷

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kansas increased from 31,002 in March 2008 to 32,256 in March 2009, an increase of 4.0%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2009 was 12,777, a 3.6% increase from March 2008.¹⁸
- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kansas was at 36.7% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2007, Kansas spent \$168,934,811 in TANF funds, including 32.2% on basic assistance, 5.3% on child care, 2.9% on transportation, and 56% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2008, Kansas spent \$33,012,799 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 73,238 participants.²¹
- In 2008, Kansas collected and distributed \$181,804,296 in child support funds, an increase of 9.8% from 2007.²²
- In 2009, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kansas was \$653 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.55 per hour, working a 40-hour week.²³

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2007, Kansas had a monthly average of 22,500 children served by subsidized child care; 22,400 children received subsidized child care in 2006, and 18,800 in 2005.²⁴
- In 2009, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kansas, a family of three could make no more than \$32,568, which is equivalent to 57% of the state's median income.²⁵
- As of early 2009, Kansas had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.²⁶
- In 2007, Head Start served 8,178 Kansas children, a 3.6% increase from 2001.²⁷

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2006, 204,900 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Kansas—56.9% of the total number of enrollees.²⁸
- In 2007, 15,734 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Kansas on the basis of being in foster care.²⁹
- In 2007, of the 15,734 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 2,179 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,502 received Rehabilitative Services.³⁰
- In 2008, Kansas had 38,047 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 7.6% increase from 2007, when 35,374 children were enrolled.³¹
- In 2008, Kansas had 78,000 uninsured children, representing 11.0% of its child population.³²
- In 2006, 2,933 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Kansas a rank of 17 nationally in percent of low-weight births (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³³
- In 2006, 292 infants under age 1 died in Kansas, giving it a rank of 29 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best, and 50 the worst).³⁴
- In 2006, the birthrate for teens 15–17 in Kansas was 19 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 76. This reflects a total rate of 42 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁵
- Cumulative through 2007, 2,919 adults and adolescents, as well as 14 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kansas.³⁶
- In 2007, an estimated 21,000 children ages 12–17, and 123,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Kansas.³⁷

VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2007, 416 children aged out of out-of-home care in Kansas.³⁸
- In 2008, 8,000 Kansas teens ages 16–19 were high-school dropouts.³⁹
- In 2008, 8,000 teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.⁴⁰
- In 2007, 32,000 people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.⁴¹
- In 2007, approximately 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Kansas needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.⁴²
- In 2007, approximately 15,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.⁴³
- In 2006, 31 Kansas children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.79 per 100,000 children.⁴⁴

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2006, 5 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kansas, a 16.7% decrease from 6 in 2005.⁴⁵
- In 2008, 11,183 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kansas, a 6.1% increase from 10,544 arrests in 2007. Of the arrests in 2008, 336 were for violent crimes and 122 were for possession of a weapon.⁴⁶
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,053 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kansas.⁴⁷

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KANSAS'S CHILDREN

- In 2006, Kansas spent \$288,966,692 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, 27% was from federal funds, 73% from state funds, and 0.0% from local funds.⁴⁸
- In 2006, of the \$76,927,836 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0% was from Medicaid, 9% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 16% was from TANF, and 7% came from other federal sources.⁴⁹
- Out of 6,631 children in out-of-home care in Kansas in 2007, only 2,061, or 31.1%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁵⁰

KANSAS'S CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- A 2003 General Accounting Office (GAO) report documented that staff shortages, high caseloads, high worker turnover, and low salaries impinge on delivering services to achieve safety, permanence, and well-being for children.⁵¹
- The federal Child and Family Service Reviews have clearly demonstrated that the more time a caseworker spends with a child and family, the better the outcomes for that child and family.⁵²
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children; these high caseloads contribute to high worker turnover and insufficient services being provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁵³
- In 2004, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Kansas was \$27,893; the median income for a family of four in Kansas was \$61,686.⁵⁴

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