

KANSAS'S CHILDREN 2005

Kansas's Children At a Glance	
State Population (2003) ¹	2,723,507
State Population, Children Under 18 (2003) ²	695,081
State Poverty Rate (2003) ³	10.8%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2003) ⁴	14.0%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2003) ⁵	11.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Birth to Age 4 (2003) ⁶	18.6%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2002, 26,696 children were referred for investigation of child abuse and neglect in Kansas, a rate of 38.2 per 1,000 children.⁷
- In 2002, 6,425 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kansas, a rate of 9.2 per 1,000 children, representing a 12% decrease from 2000. Of these children, 27.4% were neglected, 25.8% were physically abused, and 14.3% were sexually abused.⁸
- In 2002, one child died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kansas.⁹
- On September 30, 2002, 6,190 children in Kansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,409 children on September 30, 2001. In 2002, 27.1% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.9% were 16 or older.¹⁰
- On September 30, 2002, 67.8% white children, 20.4% black children, 5.4% Hispanic children, 0.7% American Indian/Alaskan Native children, and 5.7% children of other races and ethnicities were living in out-of-home care in Kansas.¹¹

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 1,710 children exiting out-of-home care in 2002, 72.9% were reunited with their birthfamilies.¹²
- In 2002, 471 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kansas, a 10.0% increase from 428 in 2001.¹³
- Of the 6,190 children in out-of-home care in 2002, 2,113 or 34.1% were waiting to be adopted.¹⁴

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2003, more than 19,798 Kansas grandparents had primary responsibility for caring for their grandchildren.¹⁵
- Of the 6,190 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2002, 12.6% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁶
- Of all Kansas children in kinship care on September 30, 2002, 68.7% were white, 21.0% were black, 3.7% were Hispanic, 0.3% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 6.4% 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 35,604 in March 2002 to 39,093 in March 2003, an increase of 9.8%. The number of *families* receiving TANF in March 2003 was 15,092, an 8.7% increase from March 2002.¹⁸
- In 2001, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamps in Kansas was 48% below the federal poverty guideline.¹⁹
- In 2003, Kansas spent \$150,061,299 in TANF funds, including 36.8% on cash assistance, 3.9% on child care, 4.3% on transportation and support activities, 10.2% on a range of other services, and 44.8% on nonassistance.²⁰
- In 2002, Kansas collected and distributed \$134,192,271 in child support funds, an increase of 5.5% from 2001.²¹

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- In 2003, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kansas was \$559 per month, or 132% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$2.65 per hour.²²

C H I L D C A R E A N D H E A D S T A R T

- In 2001, Kansas served an estimated monthly average of 14,900 children with subsidized child care, an increase from 2000, when 13,900 children were served, and in 1999, when 13,100 children were served.²³
- In 2003, a family of three could make no more than 59% of Kansas's median income, or \$27,060, to be eligible for subsidized child care.²⁴
- In 2001, Kansas had no children on the waiting list for subsidized child care.²⁵
- In 2003, 7,924 Kansas children were served by Head Start, a 1.1% decrease from 2002.²⁶

H E A L T H A N D S U B S T A N C E A B U S E

- In 2001, 153,472 Kansas children under age 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 56.3% of the total number of enrollees.²⁷
- In 2003, Kansas had 45,662 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 12.0% increase from 2002, when 40,783 children were enrolled.²⁸
- In 2002, 147 babies were born to girls younger than 15 in Kansas. In 2002, the number of babies born to teens ages 15–19 was 4,321, reflecting a rate of 43.0 births per 1,000 girls.²⁹
- As of December 2002, 2,528 adults and adolescents, as well as 12 children under age 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Kansas.³⁰
- In 2001, 30 children under age 20 committed suicide, a rate of 3.81 per 100,000 children in the population.³¹
- In 2002, an estimated 20,000 children ages 12–17, and 183,000 adults 18 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol.³²

V U L N E R A B L E Y O U T H

- In 2003, 5% of teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 4% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2002, 11% of young adults ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴

J U V E N I L E J U S T I C E A N D D E L I N Q U E N C Y P R E V E N T I O N

- In 2001, seven children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kansas, compared with seven in 2000.³⁵
- In 2003, 8,309 children under age 18 were arrested in Kansas, a 13% decrease from 9,500 arrests in 2002. Of the 2003 arrests, 201 were for violent crimes and 38 were for possession of weapons.³⁶
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,116 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kansas.³⁷

F U N D I N G C H I L D W E L F A R E S E R V I C E S F O R K A N S A S ' S C H I L D R E N

- In 2002, Kansas spent \$183,960,499 for child welfare services. Child welfare services refer to all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families.³⁸ Of this amount, 62% was from federal funds and 38% was from state funds.³⁹

C H I L D W E L F A R E L E A G U E O F A M E R I C A

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- In 2002, of the \$183,960,499 spent for child welfare, 21% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 3% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 12% was from Medicaid, 3% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 16% was from TANF, and 7% came from other federal sources.⁴⁰
- Out of 6,190 children in out-of-home care in Kansas on September 30, 2002, only 1,950 or 32% received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴¹

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.⁴²
- 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 those children and families.⁴³
- According to the 2003 GAO report, the average caseload for child welfare/foster care caseworkers is 24–31 children and that 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.⁴⁴
- In 2002, the minimum annual salary for a caseworker responsible for investigating reports of abuse and neglect in Kansas was \$28,413 ; the median income for a family of four in Kansas was \$61,926.⁴⁵

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