

KANSAS' S CHILDREN 2006

Kansas's Children At a Glance

State Population (2004) ¹	2,735,502
Population, Children Under 18 (2004) ²	683,491
State Poverty Rate (2004) ³	11.4
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 (2004) ⁴	15.6
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5-17 (2004) ⁵	13.5

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2003, there were 27,304 total referrals of child abuse and neglect. Of these, 15,840 reports were referred for investigation.⁶
- In 2003, 5,682 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kansas, a rate of 8.2 per 1,000 children, representing an 11.6% decrease from 2002. Of these children, 26.5% were neglected, 25.7% were physically abused, and 15.2% were sexually abused.⁷
- In 2003, 5 children died as a result of abuse or neglect in Kansas.⁸
- On September 30, 2003, 5,781 children in Kansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 6,190 children on September 30, 2002. In 2003, 27.4% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 21.3% were 16 or older.⁹
- Of all Kansas children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2005, 65.5% were white, 21.3% were black, 4.9% were Hispanic, 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 7.3% were of other races and ethnicities.¹⁰

PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,285 children exiting out-of-home care in 2003, 56.8% were reunited with their parents or other family members.¹¹
- In 2003, 546 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kansas, a 15.9% increase from 471 in 2002.¹²
- Of the 5,781 children in out-of-home care in 2003, 2,014 or 34.8% were waiting to be adopted.¹³

KINSHIP SUPPORT

- In 2004, approximately 18,481 Kansas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.¹⁴
- Of the 5,781 children in out-of-home care on September 30, 2003, 16.1% were living with relatives while in care.¹⁵
- Of all Kansas children in kinship care on September 30, 2003, 67.9% were white, 18.1% were black, 4.6% were Hispanic, 0.8% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 8.6% were other races.¹⁶

CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kansas increased from 43,518 in March 2004 to 45,269 in March 2005, an increase of 4%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2005 was 17,399, a 3.9% increase from March 2004.¹⁷
- In 2002, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kansas was at 35.9% of the federal poverty guideline.¹⁸
- In 2004, Kansas spent \$156,063,340 in TANF funds, including 39.1% on basic assistance, 4.3% on child care, 6.8% on transportation, and 35.6% on nonassistance.¹⁹

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- In 2004, Kansas collected and distributed \$142,711,660 in child support funds, an increase of 2.5% from 2003.²⁰
- In 2004, the fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kansas was \$583 per month, or 137.5% of the average monthly income for a worker earning the state minimum wage of \$2.65 per hour.²¹

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

- In 2004, an estimated monthly average of 17,700 of Kansas's children received subsidized child care; 16,000 children received subsidized child care in 2003, and 15,500 in 2002.²²
- In 2005, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kansas, a family of three could make no more than \$28,992, which is equivalent to 56% of the state's median income.²³
- In 2005, Kansas had no children on a waiting list for child care assistance.²⁴
- In 2004, Head Start served 7,949 Kansas children, a 0.3% increase from 2003.²⁵

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, 158,200 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 56.3% of the total number of enrollees in Kansas.²⁶
- In 2001, 12,016 children in foster care were enrolled in Medicaid, representing 7.6% of all children enrolled in Medicaid in Kansas.²⁷
- Kansas spent \$4,003 per enrollee in 2001 on Medicaid services for children in foster care.²⁸
- In 2004, Kansas had 44,350 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 2.9% decrease from 2003, when 45,662 children were enrolled.²⁹
- In 2003, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Kansas was 20.2 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 71.3 births. This reflects a total rate of 41.2 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.³⁰
- As of December 2003, 2,647 adults and adolescents, as well as 12 children younger than 13, had been diagnosed with HIV/AIDS in Kansas.³¹
- In 2003, an estimated 18,000 children ages 12–17, and 166,000 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 2004, 7% of Kansas teens ages 16–19 were high school dropouts, a 30% decrease from 2000.³³
- In 2004, 6% of teens ages 16–19 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.³⁴
- In 2003, an estimated 9,000 children ages 12–17 in Kansas needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.³⁵
- In 2003, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.³⁶
- In 2002, 21 children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.68 per 100,000 children in the population.³⁷

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 2002, 2 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kansas, a 71% decrease from 7 in 2001.³⁸

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- In 2004, 12,426 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kansas, a 49.5% increase from 8,309 arrests in 2003. Of the arrests in 2004, 346 were for a violent crime and 141 were for possession of a weapon.³⁹
- A 2001 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,116 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kansas.⁴⁰

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KANSAS'S CHILDREN

- 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. Of this number, 62.1% was from federal funds, and 37.9% was from state funds.⁴¹
- In 2002, of the \$114,299,519 in federal funds received for child welfare, 33.5% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 4.1% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 20.1% was from Medicaid, 5% came from the Social Services Block Grant, 26.2% was from TANF, and 11.1% came from other federal sources.⁴²
- Out of 5,781 children in out-of-home care in Kansas on September 30, 2003, only 1,952 children, or 33.8%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.⁴³

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.⁴⁴
- 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.⁴⁵
- 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 provided to children and families. CWLA recommends that foster care caseworkers have caseloads of 12–15 children.⁴⁶
- 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 \$61,926.⁴⁷

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