

# KANSAS'S CHILDREN 2009

## Kansas's Children At a Glance\*

State Population <sup>1</sup> .....	2,775,997
Population, Children Under 18 <sup>2</sup> .....	696,082
State Poverty Rate <sup>3</sup> .....	11.7%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 <sup>4</sup> .....	17.4%
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 <sup>5</sup> .....	13.5%
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 <sup>6</sup> .....	13.7%

\*All statistics are for 2007.

## CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2006, Kansas had 30,370 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 15,164 reports were referred for investigation.<sup>7</sup>
- In 2006, 2,630 children were substantiated or indicated as abused or neglected in Kansas, a rate of 3.8 per 1,000 children, representing a 5.2% decrease from 2005. Of these children, 586 were neglected, 524 were physically abused, and 670 were sexually abused.<sup>8</sup>
- In 2006, five children in Kansas died as a result of abuse or neglect.<sup>9</sup>
- In 2006, 6,393 children in Kansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care, compared with 5,835 children in 2005. In 2006, 31.3% of the children living apart from their families were age 5 or younger, and 20.8% were 16 or older.<sup>10</sup>
- Of Kansas children in out-of-home care in 2006, 68.1% were white, 19.6% black, 7.1% Hispanic, 1.3% American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 3.8% children of other races and ethnicities.<sup>11</sup>

## ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 2,652 children exiting out-of-home care in Kansas in 2006, 53% were reunited with their parents or other family members.<sup>12</sup>
- In 2006, 524 children were legally adopted through the public child welfare agency in Kansas, a 19% decrease from 649 in 2005.<sup>13</sup>
- Of the 6,393 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 2,043 or 32.0% were waiting to be adopted.<sup>14</sup>
- In 2007, approximately 18,748 Kansas grandparents had primary responsibility caring for their grandchildren.<sup>15</sup>
- Of the 6,393 children in out-of-home care in 2006, 20.7% were living with relatives while in care.<sup>16</sup>
- Of all Kansas children in kinship care in 2006, 72.3% were white, 18.8% were black, 5.1% were Hispanic, 0.9% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, and 2.9% were other races.<sup>17</sup>

## CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kansas decreased from 37,226 in March 2007 to 31,002 in March 2008, a decrease of 16.7%. The number of families receiving TANF in March 2008 was 12,328, a 15.3% decrease from March 2007.<sup>18</sup>



- In 2003, a family of three receiving only TANF and food stamp benefits in Kansas was at 36.7% of the federal poverty guideline.<sup>19</sup>
- In 2006, Kansas spent \$152,006,758 in TANF funds, including 41.3% on basic assistance, 7.06% on child care, 3.1% on transportation, and 44.1% on nonassistance.<sup>20</sup>
- In 2007, Kansas spent \$28,306,427 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children), serving 69,067 participants.<sup>21</sup>
- In 2007, Kansas collected and distributed \$165,557,836 in child support funds, a 5.0% increase from 2006.<sup>22</sup>
- In 2008, the fair-market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in Kansas was \$628 per month. The wage needed to afford this rent was \$12.08 per hour, working a 40-hour week.<sup>23</sup>

## CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2006, Kansas had a monthly average of 22,400 children served by subsidized child care; 18,800 children received subsidized child care in 2005, and 17,700 in 2004.<sup>24</sup>
- In 2008, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kansas, a family of three could make no more than \$31,764, which is equivalent to 58% of the state's median income.<sup>25</sup>
- As of early 2008, Kansas had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.<sup>26</sup>
- In 2007, Head Start served 8,178 Kansas children, a 3.6% increase from 2001.<sup>27</sup>

## HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- In 2005, 200,100 children younger than 19 were enrolled in Medicaid in Kansas—56.8% of the total number of enrollees.<sup>28</sup>
- In 2005, 13,998 children were enrolled in Medicaid in Kansas on the basis of being in foster care.<sup>29</sup>
- In 2005, of the 13,998 children enrolled in Medicaid on the basis of being in foster care, 5,590 received Targeted Case Management services, and 1,636 received Rehabilitative Services.<sup>30</sup>
- In 2007, Kansas had 35,374 children enrolled in its State Children's Health Insurance Program, a 6.0% increase from 2006, when 37,631 children were enrolled.<sup>31</sup>
- In 2007, Kansas had 54,000 uninsured children, representing 7.7% of its child population.<sup>32</sup>
- In 2005, 2,860 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams, giving Kansas a rank of 18 nationally in percent of low-weight births (1 being the best, and 50 the worst).<sup>33</sup>
- In 2005, 294 infants under age 1 died in Kansas, giving it a rank of 21 nationally in terms of infant mortality rates (a rank of 1 being the best and 50 the worst).<sup>34</sup>
- In 2005, the birth rate for teens 15–17 in Kansas was 20 births per 1,000 girls; for teens 18–19, the rate was 72. This reflects a total rate of 41 births per 1,000 girls ages 15–19.<sup>35</sup>
- Cumulative through 2006, 2,781 adults and adolescents, as well as 14 children younger than 13, were reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kansas.<sup>36</sup>



- In 2006, an estimated 22,000 children ages 12–17, and 201,000 adults age 26 and older, were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Kansas.<sup>37</sup>

## VULNERABLE YOUTH

- In 2006, 421 children aged out of out-of-home care in Kansas.<sup>38</sup>
- In 2007, 7,000 Kansas teens ages 16-19 were high-school dropouts.<sup>39</sup>
- In 2007, 6% of teens ages 16-19 were not enrolled in school and were not working.<sup>40</sup>
- In 2006, 11% of people ages 18–24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school.<sup>41</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 10,000 children ages 12–17 in Kansas needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.<sup>42</sup>
- In 2006, approximately 16,000 children ages 12–17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.<sup>43</sup>
- In 2005, 24 Kansas children younger than 20 committed suicide, a rate of 2.92 per 100,000 children.<sup>44</sup>

## JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

- In 2005, 6 children under age 18 were killed in firearm homicides in Kansas, a 40% decrease from 10 in 2004.<sup>45</sup>
- In 2007, 10,544 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kansas, a 5.1% increase from 10,036 arrests in 2006. Of those arrests, 341 were for violent crimes and 157 were for possession of a weapon.<sup>46</sup>
- A 2006 census of juvenile offenders showed 1,053 children in juvenile correction facilities in Kansas.<sup>47</sup>

## 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, and 73% from state funds.<sup>48</sup>
- In 2006, of the \$76,927,836 in federal funds received for child welfare, 60% came from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 7% from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 9% from the Social Services Block Grant, 16% from TANF, and 7% from other federal sources.<sup>49</sup>
- Out of 6,393 children in out-of-home care in Kansas in 2006, only 2,039, or 31.9%, received Title IV-E federal foster care assistance.<sup>50</sup>



## 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.<sup>51</sup>
- 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.<sup>52</sup>
- 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.<sup>53</sup>
- 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 \$64,215.<sup>54</sup>

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## NOTES AND REFERENCES

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