Kansas’s Children at a Glance

State Population 2,904,021  
Population, Children Under 18 722,487  
State Poverty Rate 13.6%  
Poverty Rate, Children Under 18 17.7%  
Poverty Rate, Children Ages 5–17 16.6%  
Poverty Rate, Children Under 5 19.3%

CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- In 2014, Kansas had 38,996 total referrals for child abuse and neglect. Of those, 23,598 reports were referred for investigation.  
- In 2014, there were 1,998 victims of abuse or neglect in Kansas, a rate of 2.8 per 1,000 children, decreasing 3.2% from 2013. Of these children, 21% were neglected, 21.2% were physically abused, and 28.8% were sexually abused.  
- The number of child victims has increased 32.8% in comparison to the number of victims in 2010.  
- In 2014, there were 13 child deaths resulting from abuse or neglect reported in Kansas.  
- 6,762 children in Kansas lived apart from their families in out-of-home care in 2014, compared with 5,979 children in 2010. Of the children living apart from their families in 2013, there were 2,518 aged 5 or younger, and 897 were 16 or older.  
- The number of children living apart from their families in out-of-home care has increased 13.1% in comparison to the number of children in out-of-home care in 2010.  
- In 2013, of children in out-of-home care in Kansas, 66% were white, 14% were black, 12% were Hispanic, 1% were American Indian/Alaskan Native, less than 1% were Asian or Pacific Islander and between 7-8% were of more than one race or ethnicity/undetermined race or ethnicity.

ADOPTION, KINSHIP CARE, AND PERMANENT FAMILIES FOR CHILDREN

- Of the 3,404 children exiting out-of-home care in 2013 in Kansas, 57% were reunited with their parents or primary caretakers.  
- 695 children were legally adopted through a public child welfare agency in Kansas in 2014, increasing 3.1% from 674 in 2013.  
- Of the 6,762 children in out-of-home care in 2014, there were 2,116 or 31.3% waiting to be adopted.  
- In 2014, approximately 23,095 grandparents in Kansas had the primary responsibility of caring for their grandchildren.  
- 1,738 of the children in out-of-home care in 2013 were living with relatives while in care.
CHILD POVERTY AND INCOME SUPPORT

- The total number of individuals receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) in Kansas decreased from 16,990 in 2014 to 14,683 in 2015, a 13.6% change. 6,217 families received TANF in 2015, decreasing 12.3% from 2014.20
- From 2013 to 2014, for every 100 of families living in poverty in Kansas, 13 received TANF benefits.21
- $134,610,746 was spent in 2014 on TANF assistance in Kansas, including 17% on basic assistance, 4% on child care, 3% on transportation, and 63% on nonassistance.22
- $31,209,574 was spent in 2014 on WIC (the Special Supplement Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children) in Kansas, serving 65,699 participants.23
- In 2014, Kansas distributed $182,077,612 in child support funds, decreasing 3.5% from 2013.24
- 191,000 children in Kansas lived in households with a high housing burden in 2013, where more than 30% of monthly income is spent on housing costs.25
- In 2014, the unemployment rate in Kansas was 4.5%.26
- 15.9% of households in Kansas were food insecure on average from 2012 to 2014, meaning that the family experienced difficulty providing enough food due to lack of resources at some point during the year.27

CHILD CARE AND HEAD START

- In 2014, Kansas had a monthly average of 15,700 children served by subsidized child care. An average of 17,600 children received subsidized child care per month in 2013 and 19,200 were recipients in 2012.28
- In 2014, to be eligible for subsidized child care in Kansas, a family of three could make no more than $36,612 at application, which is equivalent to 58% of the state’s median income.29
- As of early 2015, Kansas had no children on its waiting list for child care assistance.30
- In 2014, Head Start served 8,556 children in Kansas, increasing 5.24% from 2013.31

HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

- 232,761 children in Kansas were enrolled in Medicaid in 2014, decreasing 1.8% from 2013.32
- In 2014, Kansas had 73,574 children enrolled in its State Children’s Health Insurance Program, decreasing 3.4% from 2013, when 76,164 children were enrolled.33
- In 2014, Kansas had 39,411 uninsured children.34
- 2,759 babies were born weighing less than 2,500 grams in Kansas in 2014.35
• 250 infants under age 1 died in Kansas in 2013.36

• In 2014, the birth rate for teens ages 15 to 17 in Kansas was 11.9 births per 1,000 girls. The rate was 50.7 for teens ages 18 to 19. This reflects a total rate of 27.6 births for girls ages 15 to 19.37

• Cumulative through 2014, there were 3,550 adults and adolescents and 17 children younger than 13 reported as having HIV/AIDS in Kansas.38

• In 2014, an estimated 12,000 children ages 12 to 17 and 194,000 adults age 18 and older were dependent on or abusing illicit drugs or alcohol in Kansas.39

• In 2014, approximately 6,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for alcohol use in the past year.40

• In 2014, approximately 7,000 children ages 12 to 17 needed but had not received treatment for illicit drug use in the past year.41

VULNERABLE YOUTH

• 408 children in Kansas aged out of out-of-home care—exited foster care to emancipation—in 2013.42

• 86% of high school students in Kansas graduated on time at the end of the 2012-13 year.43

• 11,000 teens ages 16 to 19 in Kansas were not enrolled in school and not working in 2014.44

• 33,000 young adults ages 18 to 24 were not enrolled in school, were not working, and had no degree beyond high school in 2013.45

• 42.9% of young adults in Kansas ages 25 to 34 had an associate’s degree or higher from 2011 to 2013.46

• In 2014, there were less than 10 reports of children in Kansas aged 10 to 14 committing suicide, and 21 reports of suicide among children aged 15 to 19.47

JUVENILE JUSTICE AND DELINQUENCY PREVENTION

• 24 children under age 19 were killed by a firearm in Kansas in 2014, compared to 21 in 2013.48

• 5,106 children younger than 18 were arrested in Kansas in 2014. Violent crimes were the reason for 226 of the arrests in 2014.49

• 885 children lived in juvenile correction facilities in Kansas in 2013.50
CHILD WELFARE WORKFORCE

- 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.

- According to a 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.

- Average turnover rates for child welfare agencies range from 20% to 40%. Turnover rates at around 10% are considered to be optimal in any agency.

- Caseworker turnover has negative outcomes for children in the child welfare system, including placement disruptions and increased time in out-of-home care.

- According to the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II baseline report, 75% of caseworkers earned a salary between $30,000 and $49,999.

- The majority of caseworkers hold a bachelor’s degree (52.3%) or a bachelor of social work degree (21.9%). Only 25% of caseworkers hold a master’s degree.

- A workload model in Colorado found that approximately 574 additional caseworkers were needed in their state to adequately provide child welfare services, due to estimated time requirements for meaningful services. This number represents a 49% increase that is needed on top of hours already spent on case related tasks.

FUNDING CHILD WELFARE SERVICES FOR KANSAS’S CHILDREN

- In 2012, Kansas spent $238,231,498 for child welfare services. Child welfare services are all direct and administrative services the state agency provides to children and families. Of this amount, $87,013,080 was from federal funds, $151,218,418 from state funds, and $0 from local funds.

- In 2012, of the $87,013,080 in federal funds received for child welfare, 44.1% was from Title IV-E Foster Care and Adoption Assistance, 5.9% came from Title IV-B Child Welfare Services and Promoting Safe and Stable Families, 0.2% was from Medicaid, 24.9% came from Social Services Block Grant, 23.8% was from TANF, and 1.2% came from other federal sources.

- Kansas received $21,541,347 in federal funds for IV-E foster care expenditures in 2012, including $10,178,634 for maintenance payments and $11,362,713 for administration, child placement, the statewide automated child welfare information system, and training.

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1 “At A Glance” statistics are from 2014.
3 Ibid.
Note: The percent difference is a CWLA calculation.


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49 Note: The death in current state-by-state workforce data makes clear the need for critical data on compensation, working conditions including safety
issues, academic degrees held, education and training received, and factors contributing to turnover. To address this, CWLA is calling for Congress to authorize the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) to conduct an updated study on the child welfare workforce. It would make recommendations regarding caseloads and workloads, education levels, and training requirements. In addition, the study would examine data reporting and collection and make recommendations on how states might improve these efforts.


53 Ibid.


58 Ibid.


Note: Examples of direct services include child abuse/neglect investigations, foster care, community-based programs, case management, and all such services required for the safety, permanency, and well-being of children. Examples of administrative services include management information systems, training programs, eligibility determination processes, and all services that provide the infrastructure supports for the public agency. The component funding streams may not equal the total, depending on additional child support and demonstration funds for this state.

61 Ibid.

62 Ibid.