

Kansas Child Welfare Factsheet

Adoption Statistics*

Awaiting Adoption

There are currently **1,155** children in Kansas awaiting adoption. A majority of these children will be adopted by a foster parent or relative.

Adoption Finalizations

In FY 2016, **755** children were adopted. Of the 755, **48.6%** percent were adopted by a foster parent; **48.2%** percent were adopted by a relative.

Special Needs

Special Needs include physical disability, sibling group, developmental disabilities, medical condition, guarded prognosis, emotional disabilities and age. The largest represented group is "guarded prognosis," which makes up **36** percent of children adopted.

Age

The average age of children available for adoption is 8.5 years old.

*As of September 30, 2016.

Family Preservation Statistics

In FY2016 **2,598** families received in-home family preservation services. Of this number, the presenting situations in the family included:

Non abuse/neglect	41.6%
Physical abuse	19.6%
Physical neglect	9.5%
Other maltreatment	29.3%

Currently, **82.4** percent of families referred for family preservation services did not have a child placed outside of the home into foster care during a one-year referral period.

Currently, **99** percent of families did not experience substantiated abuse or neglect during the first 90 days of family preservation participation.

Currently, more than **95** percent of families did not experience substantiated abuse or neglect between the time of referral and one year.

PRIMARY REASON FOR REMOVAL (FY2016)

Abuse/Neglect		Non Abuse/Neglect	
Physical Abuse	14%	Parental Drug Abuse	9%
Physical Neglect	17%	Parental Meth Use	6%
Lack of Supervision	13%	Child's Behavior Problem	6%
Emotional Abuse	7%	Caretakers Inability to Cope	6%
Sexual Abuse	5%	Incarceration of Parents	4%
Abandonment	4%	Inadequate Housing	2%
Medical Neglect	2%	Runaway	2%
		Not Attending School	1%
		Adult Alcohol Abuse	1%

September 2016

Family Foster Home	3,700
Relative	2,234
Group Residential	405
Pre-adoptive	300
Independent Living	33
Runaway	58

PLACEMENT SETTINGS (of the 6,735)

Foster Care Statistics

As of September 30, 2016, **6,735** children in foster care in Kansas. Of all the counties, Sedgwick has the most children in out-of-home placement, **920** (14 percent).

Length of Stay in Foster Care

The average length of stay in foster care for those adopted is **37** months, 40 months for those who age out, and nine months for those who are reunited with their families, as of September 30, 2016.

Foster Care Licensing

Foster parents play a vital role in the child welfare process. Kansas currently has **2,733** licensed foster homes. In July 2015, Foster Care licensing was transferred from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) to the Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF).

Foster Parents

In 2014, DCF created the position of Foster Parent and Youth Ombudsman to help foster parents navigate the child welfare process and to ensure their voices are heard when child placement decisions are made. The Foster Parent and Youth Ombudsman can be reached at 1-844-279-2306 or by email at fosterparent@ks.gov.



Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

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SCFCA *11-16-16*

	PERCENT	TOTAL
Adoption	35.25%	2,311
Custodianship/ Guardianship	1.70%	110
OPPLA	5.96%	391
Maintain in Family	0.31%	27
Pending Goal	0.00%	0
Reunification	56.77%	3,896

*As of September 30, 2016.

Child Protective Services Process

When a report of child abuse or neglect is made, DCF makes an initial assessment.

If the report meets the criteria for agency involvement, the case is investigated by a social worker or special investigator. Law enforcement may also investigate.

If it is determined that a child is unsafe, then a recommendation is made by Child Protective Services (CPS) or law enforcement to the court regarding what action should be taken.

The court then makes a decision. It is ultimately responsible for deciding when a child should be removed from a home.

The child may be placed in foster care or in the care of a relative. CPS must weigh the emotional harm to the child of removal against the likelihood of harm that the child could endure if he/she remains in the home.

In cases of non-abuse or neglect, such as lack of proper parental control, runaways or truancy, families may be referred to family preservation services, allowing the child to remain in the home.

DCF will always support keeping a child with his/her family when that is a safe option.

Substantiated vs. Affirmed vs. Unsubstantiated

In 2016, DCF adopted a new findings structure to add clarity to the child welfare system process. After DCF's investigation is completed, the agency makes a finding regarding the allegations. The purpose of the finding is to determine if its a valid report. A substantiated finding results in the alleged perpetrator not being allowed to work, reside or regularly volunteer in a child care facility regulated by KDHE or DCF. An unsubstantiated finding may still result in removal.

- An "unsubstantiated" finding means the facts and circumstances would conclude it is more likely than not (preponderance of the evidence) the alleged perpetrator's actions or inactions do not meet the abuse and/or neglect definitions, per applicable Kansas Statutes Annotated (K.S.A.) and Kansas Administrative Regulations (K.A.R.).
- An "affirmed" finding means that it is more likely than not (preponderance of the evidence) the alleged perpetrator's actions or inactions meet the abuse and/or neglect definition per applicable K.S.A. and K.A.R.
- When abuse and/or neglect of a child meets criteria to affirm, the facts and circumstances of the alleged incidents shall be evaluated to determine whether criteria for a "substantiated" case finding are met. A substantiated finding results in the perpetrator's name being placed on the Kansas Child Abuse/Neglect Central Registry.

Parents Rights:

- To refuse to talk with DCF
- To know what was reported
- To request DCF services
- To know the DCF finding
- To appeal a substantiated finding

Report Child Abuse by calling 1-800-922-5330

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Privatization

Since 1996, Kansas has been one of only a few states to privatize the majority of their child welfare services.

On July 1, 2013, foster care, adoption and reintegration services contracts were awarded to the following:

- DCF East and Kansas City Regions: KVC Kansas
- DCF West and Wichita Regions: St. Francis Community Services



Kansas Child Welfare Goals:

- Help struggling families at the first sign of trouble, while children can safely be kept in the home, in an effort to reduce the number of children placed in out-of-home care
- Provide a more stable environment for children in out-of-home care by avoiding multiple transfers of custody and school placements
- Provide permanency for children in a shorter time period, whether through reintegration back into their home or, if needed, adoption