

Adoption Statistics

Awaiting Adoption

As of September 2015, **350** children in Kansas were awaiting adoption with no adoptive resource identified.

Adoption Finalizations

In FY2015, **765** children were adopted, compared to 666 in the previous fiscal year. Of the 765, **54** percent were adopted by a foster parent; **45** 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 between 0-4 years old.

Family Preservation Statistics

In FY2015, **2,597** families received in-home family preservation services. Of this number, the presenting situations in the family included:

Non abuse/neglect	40.6%
Physical abuse	20.6%
Physical neglect	10.1%
Other maltreatment	28.7%

As of June 2015, nearly **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.

As of June 2015, more than **99** percent of families did not experience substantiated abuse or neglect during the first 90 days of family preservation participation.

As of June 2015, more than **96** percent of families did not experience substantiated abuse or neglect between the time of referral and one year.

PRIMARY REASON FOR REMOVAL (FY2015)

Abuse/Neglect		Non Abuse/Neglect	
Physical Abuse	16%	Parental Drug Abuse	11%
Physical Neglect	15%	Parental Meth Use	5%
Lack of Supervision	10%	Child's Behavior Problem	6%
Emotional Abuse	7%	Caretakers Inability to Cope	7%
Sexual Abuse	4%	Incarceration of Parents	4%
Abandonment	4%	Inadequate Housing	2%
Medical Neglect	2%	Runaway	2%
		Not Attending School	2%
		Adult Alcohol Abuse	1%

June 2015

Family Foster Home	3,701
Relative	2,157
Group Residential	330
Pre-adoptive	212
Independent Living	36
Runaway	59

PLACEMENT SETTINGS (of the 6,517)

Foster Care Statistics

As of September 2015, there were **6,591** children in foster care in Kansas. Of all the counties, Sedgwick has the most children in out of home placement, **939**.

Length of Stay in Foster Care

As of September 2015, the average length of stay in foster care for those adopted is **33** months, **39** months for those who age out, and **nine** months for those who are reunited with their families.

Foster Parents

Foster parents play a vital role in the child welfare process. Kansas currently has **2,826** licensed foster homes.

In 2015, the Kansas Department for Children and Families (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@dcf.ks.gov.



As of July 1, 2015, foster homes are licensed through the Kansas Department for Children and Families.

	PERCENT	TOTAL
Adoption	33.23%	2,080
Custodianship/ Guardianship	2.26%	142
OPPLA	6.79%	425
Maintain in Family	0.55%	34
Pending Goal	0.03%	2
Reunification	57.14%	3,576

Child Protective Services Process

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

If the report meets the criteria for agency involvement, the case is assigned to DCF staff for investigation and assessment. DCF may also investigate jointly with law enforcement.

If it is determined that a child is unsafe, then a recommendation is made by DCF or law enforcement to the court regarding what action should be taken.

The court determines whether a child should be removed from a home.

The child may be placed in foster care or in the care of a relative. DCF 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. Unsubstantiated

After DCF's investigation is completed, the agency makes a finding regarding the allegations. The purpose of the finding is to determine if the report of abuse and or neglect is valid. An unsubstantiated finding may still result in removal.

- An "unsubstantiated" finding means the facts and circumstances do not provide clear and convincing evidence to meet the K.S.A. or K.A.R. definition of abuse or neglect.
- A "substantiated" finding means the facts or circumstances provide clear and convincing evidence to conclude the alleged perpetrator's actions or inactions meet the K.S.A. or K.A.R. definition of abuse or neglect and, therefore, the perpetrator should not be permitted to work, reside or regularly volunteer in a child care facility regulated by DCF licensing division.

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

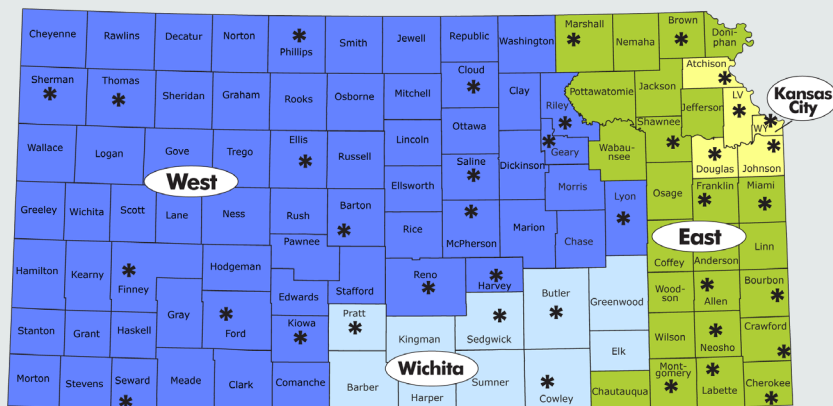
Report Child Abuse or Neglect by calling 1-800-922-5330

Privatization

Since 1996, Kansas has been one of only a few states to privatize the majority of their child welfare services. This has proven to be an effective, successful way to serve children and families, while demonstrating a model of collaboration between private business and state government.

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

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



* DCF Service Center

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 placement
- Provide permanency for children in a shorter time period, whether through reintegration back into their home or, if needed, adoption