



Children in the States

KANSAS

September 2015

Child Population

722,666 children lived in Kansas in 2014; 33 percent were children of color.

- 67 percent were White
- 18 percent were Hispanic
- 6 percent were Black
- 3 percent were Asian
- 5 percent were two or more races
- 1 percent were American Indian/Alaska Native
- <1 percent were Pacific Islander

Child Poverty

More than 1 in 6 (17.7 percent) of Kansas's children were poor in 2014, a total of 126,063 children.¹

- Kansas ranked 19th in child poverty among states.²
- More than 1 in 13 children lived in extreme poverty at less than half the poverty level.
- The youngest children were the poorest age group. Nearly 1 in 5 children under age 6 were poor; more than 2 in 5 of the poor children were extremely poor.

Children of color in Kansas are disproportionately poor.

- More than 1 in 3 Black children, nearly 1 in 3 Hispanic children, and more than 1 in 5 American Indian/Native Alaskan children were poor in 2014, compared to nearly 1 in 8 White children.

Child Hunger and Homelessness

Child poverty in Kansas leads to unacceptable child homelessness and hunger.

- More than 9,000 Kansas public school students were homeless in the 2012-2013 school year.
- In 2014, 2 full-time minimum-wage jobs were necessary to be able to afford a fair market rent two-bedroom apartment in Kansas and still have enough left over for food, utilities and other necessities.
- More than 22 percent of children lived in households that lacked access to adequate food in 2013. More than 30 percent of children ages 10-17 were overweight or obese in 2011-2012. Kansas ranked 29th of 50 states in child food security and 25th in percent of children overweight and obese.
- Nearly 20 percent of Kansas children relied on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to meet their nutritional needs on an average month in FY2013.
- 93 percent of Kansas children receiving a free and reduced-price lunch during the school year did not participate in Summer Nutrition Programs in 2014 – ranking Kansas 49th of 50 states in ensuring that children have adequate summer nutrition.

Child Health

Although the majority of Kansas's children have access to health coverage, that does not guarantee enrollment in coverage, which can jeopardize their education and their future.

- In 2013, 87.1 percent of eligible children participated in KanCare or HealthWave, Kansas's Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). In FY2013, a total of 237,026 Kansas children ages 0-18 were enrolled in KanCare, and 76,164 in HealthWave.
- More than 44,000 Kansas children ages 0-17 (6.1 percent) were uninsured in 2013. The state had the 21st highest rate of uninsured children among states.

¹ A family of four was poor if it was living on less than \$23,834 a year, \$1,986 a month, \$458 a week and \$65 a day, and extremely poor if living on less than \$11,917 a year, \$993 a month, \$229 a week and \$33 a day.

² The state ranked 1st is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50th is the worst for children.

- In 2012, 37,000 uninsured children ages 0-18 were eligible for KanCare or HealthWave but not enrolled.

Early Childhood and Education

Lack of early childhood investments deprives children of critical supports in the early years and reduces school readiness.

- In 2013, the average annual cost of center-based child care for an infant was \$10,787 – 39.6 percent more than the average annual in-state tuition and fees at a public four-year college.
- Kansas did not have a waiting list for child care assistance in early 2014.
- On average, 44 percent of Kansas's 3- and 4-year-olds were enrolled in public or private preschool from 2011-2013. Only 38 percent of children from families with incomes under 200 percent of poverty were enrolled.
- Kansas's state-funded preschool program only met 6 of the 10 quality benchmarks set by the National Institute for Early Education Research in 2013-2014.

Kansas's schools fail to educate all children, closing off a crucial pathway out of poverty.

- In 2013, 62 percent of Kansas's fourth grade public school students were unable to read at grade level and 52 percent were unable to compute at grade level.
 - 83 percent of Black fourth graders could not read at grade level and 78 percent could not compute.
 - 80 percent of Hispanic fourth graders could not read at grade level and 69 percent could not compute.
- 89 percent of Kansas public high school students graduated on time in 2012, placing Kansas 5th among states. 70 percent of Black students and 87 percent of Hispanic students graduated on time compared to 89 percent of White students.
- Students who are suspended or expelled are more likely to drop out of school. During the 2011-2012 school year, 7 percent of Kansas public secondary school students received at least one out-of-school suspension, placing Kansas 8th among 48 ranked states. For Black and Hispanic students, the percentages were 19 percent and 10 percent, respectively.

Children Facing Special Risks

Many vulnerable children need treatment, services and permanent families.

- In Kansas, 2,063 children were abused or neglected in 2013 – 2.8 out of 1,000 children.
- On the last day of FY2013, there were 6,455 Kansas children in foster care.

Too many Kansas children are involved in the juvenile justice system.

- 813 children and youth were in residential placement in 2011. 32 percent of the children in residential placement were Black, 10 percent were Hispanic, and 54 percent were White.
- No Kansas children were in adult jails in 2013.
- Kansas spent 2.6 times as much per prisoner as per public school student in FY2012.

Kansas ranked 12th out of 41 ranked states in preventing child and teen gun deaths.

- A total of 21 children and teens were killed by guns in Kansas in 2013—a rate of 2.6 out of 100,000 children and teens.

For sources please visit www.childrensdefense.org/cits