



# 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.<sup>1</sup>**

- Kansas ranked 19<sup>th</sup> in child poverty among states.<sup>2</sup>
- 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 29<sup>th</sup> of 50 states in child food security and 25<sup>th</sup> 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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 21<sup>st</sup> highest rate of uninsured children among states.

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> The state ranked 1<sup>st</sup> is the best for children for that outcome and the state ranked 50<sup>th</sup> 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.childrensdefense.org/cits)