Adoption Statistics*

**Awaiting Adoption**
Currently, 458 children in Kansas are registered on the Adoption Exchange with no identified adoptive resource. For more information, visit: www.adoptkskids.org

**Adoption Finalizations**
In FY 2017, 758 children were adopted. Of the 758, 47.5% percent were adopted by a foster parent; 49.7% 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 35 percent of children adopted.

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Permency Goals for Children in DCF Custody*  

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**Foster Care Statistics**
7,192 children in foster care in Kansas. Of all the counties, Sedgwick has the most children in out-of-home placement, 1,043 (14.5 percent).

**Length of Stay in Foster Care**
The average length of stay in foster care for children reunited with their families is nine months; for children adopted is 36 months; and 37 months for children who age out, as of June 30, 2017.

**Foster Care Licensing**
Foster parents play a vital role in the child welfare process. Kansas currently has 2,755 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.
Since 1996, Kansas has been one of only a few states to privatize the majority of its 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

### 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 it’s 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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Placement Settings of the 7,192</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family Foster Home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group Residential</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pre-adoptive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
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<tr>
<td>Runaway</td>
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<td>Maternity</td>
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