Adoption Statistics

Awaiting Adoption
As of June 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.

Special Needs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abuse/Neglect</th>
<th>Non Abuse/Neglect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Physical Abuse</td>
<td>Parental Drug Abuse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Neglect</td>
<td>Parental Meth Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lack of Supervision</td>
<td>Child’s Behavior Problem</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional Abuse</td>
<td>Caretakers Inability to Cope</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sexual Abuse</td>
<td>Incarceration of Parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandonment</td>
<td>Inadequate Housing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Neglect</td>
<td>Runaway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Not Attending School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Adult Alcohol Abuse</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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.

**June 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLACE</th>
<th>FAMILY FOSTER HOME</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Relative</td>
<td>3,701</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group Residential</td>
<td>2,157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-adoptive</td>
<td>330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Living</td>
<td>212</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Runaway</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Foster Care Statistics
As of June 2015, there were 6,517 children in foster care in Kansas. Of all the counties, Sedgwick has the most children in out of home placement, 919 (14.1 percent).

Length of Stay in Foster Care
As of June 2015, the average length of stay in foster care for those adopted is 33 months, 38 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 2,872 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.
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 reunification 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

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 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