2018 Child Care Supply Demand Report

The Landscape of Child Care in Kansas

ChildCare Aware® OF KANSAS

Kansas' most trusted child care resource.

AD ASTRA PER ASPERA

Kansas

Department for Children and Families

Strong Families Make a Strong Kansas

Definitions

Kansas communities vary greatly. There are counties with populations as low as 1,200 or as large as 591,000. Some areas are experiencing growth in business and industry. Others are facing declining populations *(www.kansaseconomy.org/local-forecasts)*. The *2017 Child Care Supply Demand* report, focused on the availability of child care in Kansas. In many Kansas communities, families searching for child care find that the number of available openings for their children can be few and far between.

For 2018, we are continuing the review and using population density as a conversation starter - which takes into account the population per square mile of land. The classifications include:

Urban: A population density of greater than 150 residents per square mile.

Semi-Urban: A population density of 40.0 to 149.9 residents per square mile.

Densely Settled Rural: A population density of 20.0 to 39.9 residents per square mile.

Rural: A population density of 6.0 to 19.9 residents per square mile.

Frontier: A population density of 6 or fewer people per square mile.

Source: www.kac.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017KansasData.pdf

"The purpose of the regulation of child care is to reduce the predictable risk of harm to children while in out of home care settings. Access to healthy, safe and nurturing child care supports working families and contributes to the economic well-being of Kansas communities."

— Rachel Sisson, Director,
Bureau of Family Health, Kansas
Department of Health and Environment

Since 1919 Kansas laws have provided health and safety protections for children in out-of-home care settings. The Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE) is responsible for the regulation of child care. Kansas child care regulations are intended to reduce the predictable risk of harm to children and provide the foundation for quality across child care settings. The current licensing standards define the most widely used child care facilities in this way:

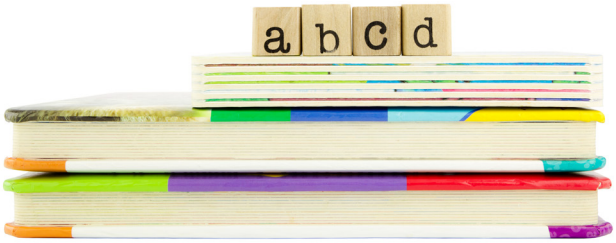
Licensed Day Care Home: A child care facility in which care is provided for a maximum of 10 children under 16 years of age. (Children under 11 years of age who are related to the provider must be included in the total.) The total number of children in care at any one time is based on the ages of the children.

Group Day Care Home: A child care facility in which care is provided for a maximum of 12 children under 16 years of age. (Children under 11 years of age who are related to the provider must be included in the total.) The total number of children in care at any one time is based on the ages of the children.

Child Care Centers: A child care facility in which care and educational activities are provided for 13 or more children, 2-weeks to 16 years of age, for more than three hours and less than 24 hours per day, including daytime, evening, and nighttime care, or which provides before-and after-school care for school-age children.

Preschools: A child care facility that provides learning experiences for children who have not attained the age of eligibility to enter kindergarten and that conducts sessions not exceeding three hours per session; that does not enroll any child more than one session per day; and that does not serve a meal.

Source: http://www.kdheks.gov/bcclr/lic_and_req.html

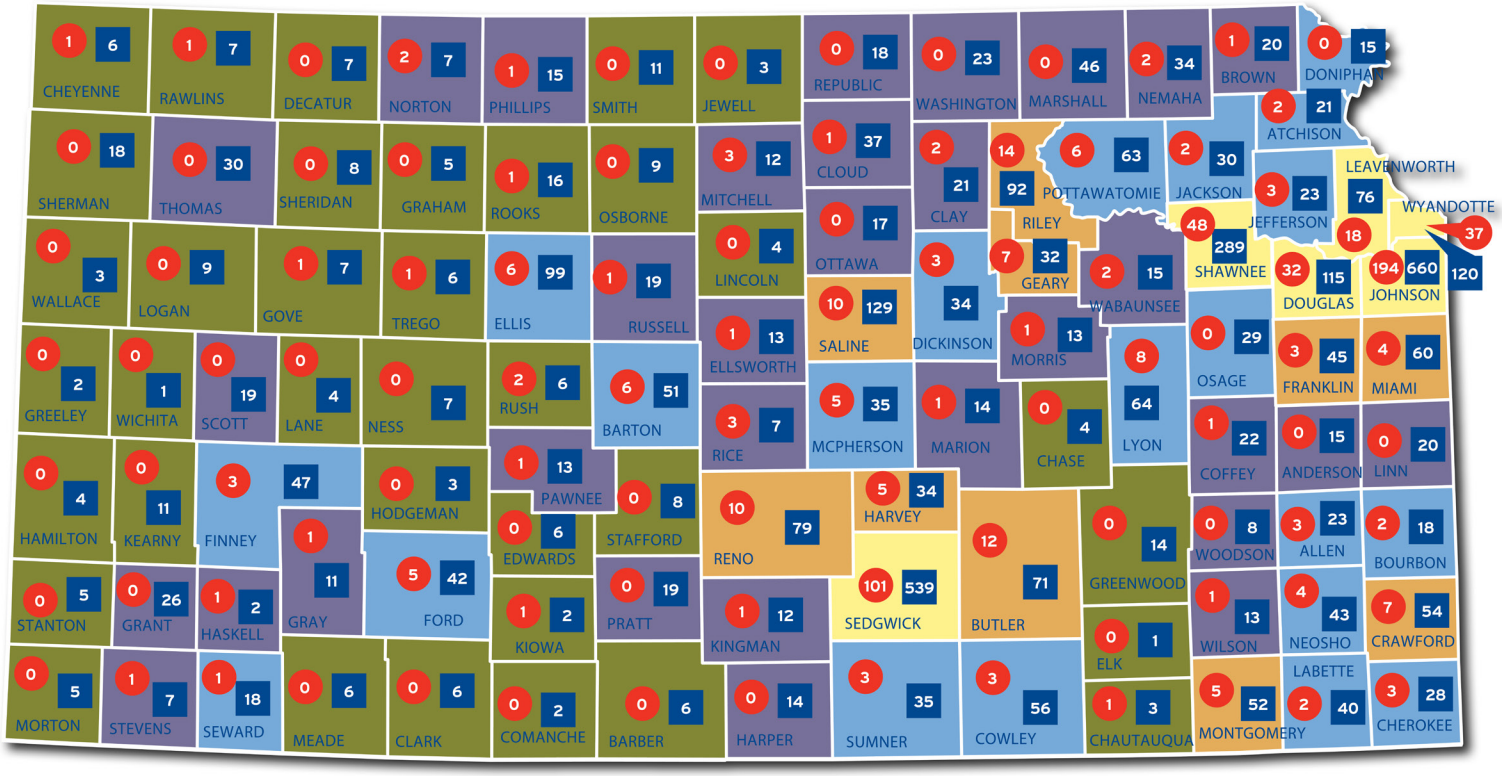


Kansas Data

The supply and demand for child care within the state of Kansas is influenced by a number of different factors. The **demand**, or the number of children who need child care, can be impacted by changes in the birth rate, fluctuations in the unemployment rate, and shifts in business and industry.

The employment rate within the field of child care also impacts **supply**, or the availability of child care in a community. The number of child care programs can fluctuate greatly. Many Child Care Centers report they struggle to retain employees over the long term. Child care staffing levels must be adequate to meet state child care regulations, based on the ages of children in care. Low wages earned by child care providers could also contribute to high turnover in the field. Positions such as those in retail and hospitality typically pay equivalent or better wages. For more information about the early childhood field, check out the *Who Cares for Kansas Kids: An Early Childhood Workforce Study* (the report can be found on our website, *www.ks.childcareaware.org).*

Population Density and Licensed Child Care Facilities in Kansas



Frontier
< 6 (rpsm)

Rural
6.0 - 19.9 (rpsm)

Densely Settled Rural
20.0 - 39.9 (rpsm)

Semi-Urban
40.0 - 149.9 (rpsm)

Urban
> 150 (rpsm)

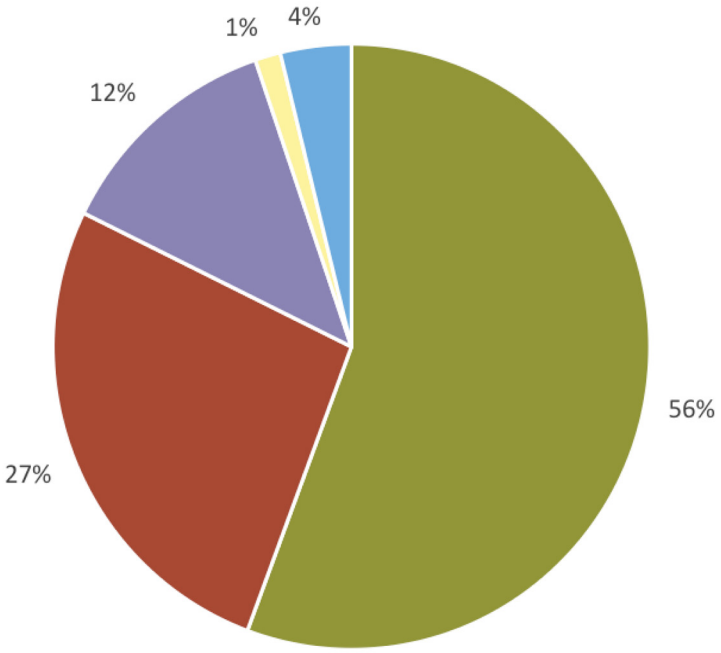
rpsm = residents per square mile

Number of Licensed and Group Day Care Homes

Number of Child Care Centers (excludes Preschools and Head Start programs)

Source: Child Care Aware® of Kansas, WorkLife Systems; Kansas Action for Children: www.kac.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017KansasData.pdf

Licensed Child Care Facilities



- Licensed Day Care Homes (facility in which care is provided to a maximum of either 10 or 12 children respectively for children under 16 years of age)
- Group Day Care Homes (facility in which care is provided to a maximum of either 10 or 12 children respectively for children under 16 years of age)
- Child Care Centers (facility in which care and education activities are provided for 13 or more children, 2 weeks to 16 years of age for more than 3 hours and less than 24 hours per day)
- Preschools (facility that provides learning experiences for children who have not attained the age of eligibility to enter kindergarten and that conduct sessions not exceeding 3 hours per session)
- Head Start/Early Head Start (facility that provides comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition and parent involvement services to low-income children and their families)

Some Head Start Programs & Preschools (typically those associated with a Unified School District (USD)) are not licensed by KDHE; only Head Start Programs & Preschools that are licensed are represented in the chart.

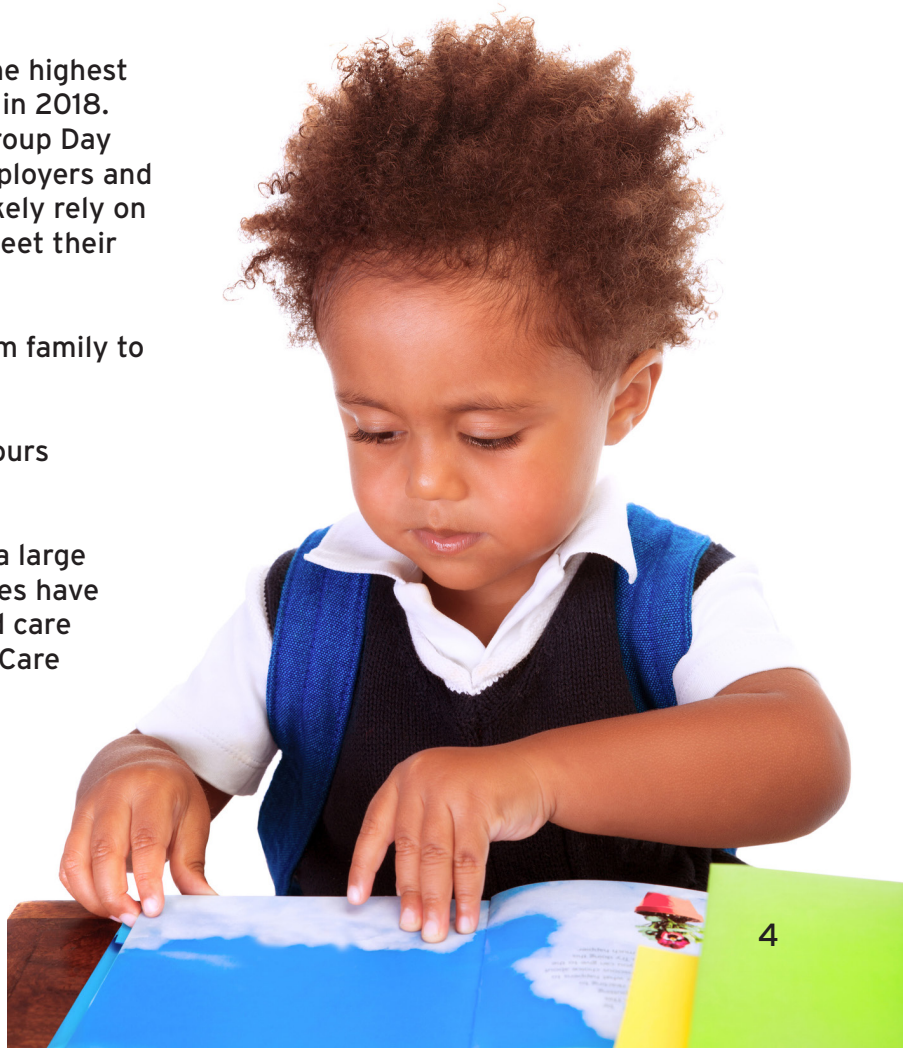
Source: Child Care Aware® of Kansas, WorkLife Systems

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes remain the highest percentage of licensed child care facility types in 2018. However, over the last 8 years Licensed and Group Day Care Homes have experienced a decrease. Employers and families living or working in rural areas most likely rely on Licensed and Group Day Care Homes to help meet their child care needs.

Although child care needs can vary greatly from family to family, some common gaps include:

- child care for infants and toddlers
- child care provided during nontraditional hours (evenings, weekends, overnight)

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes can play a large role in meeting these specific needs; 57 counties have Licensed and Group Day Homes that offer child care during nontraditional hours. In contrast, Child Care Centers that offer care during nontraditional hours are clustered in only 6 counties. A list of these counties can be found on our website, *www.ks.childcareaware.org*.



8%

of child care facilities offer child care during nontraditional hours

"Child care needs are pretty high and providers are hard to find around here. We see a need for infant/toddler care during the workday. The lack of child care makes a big impact on attendance."

– Jennifer Urbaniak, USD #107 Mankato

41

counties fall below 50% of the Extent Desired Capacity Meets Potential Demand

85%

of counties have children receiving DCF Child Care Subsidy

County	County Settlement	Licensed Family and Group Day Care Homes	Child Care Centers	Programs That Provide Care During Nontraditional Hours	Number of Children <6 Receiving DCF Child Care Subsidy	Number of Children a Facility is Willing to Accept (Desired Capacity)	Number of Children <6 Potentially Needing Care	Extent Desired Capacity Meets Potential Demand
Allen	Densely Settled Rural	23	3	1	18	424	651	65%
Anderson	Rural	15	0	0	6	132	475	28%
Atchison	Densely Settled Rural	21	2	4	26	539	680	79%
Barber	Frontier	6	0	0	1	66	254	26%
Barton	Densely Settled Rural	51	6	5	46	846	1,419	60%
Bourbon	Densely Settled Rural	18	2	2	14	365	817	45%
Brown	Rural	20	1	4	10	341	655	52%
Butler	Semi-Urban	71	12	7	66	1,627	3,018	54%
Chase	Frontier	4	0	0	1	28	132	21%
Chautauqua	Frontier	3	1	0	2	41	164	25%
Cherokee	Densely Settled Rural	28	3	2	37	532	695	77%
Cheyenne	Frontier	6	1	0	0	76	128	59%
Clark	Frontier	6	0	2	1	64	76	84%
Clay	Rural	21	2	1	19	297	409	73%
Cloud	Rural	37	1	0	26	393	565	70%
Coffey	Rural	22	1	1	6	249	372	67%
Comanche	Frontier	2	0	0	0	18	74	24%
Cowley	Densely Settled Rural	56	3	7	67	638	1,775	36%
Crawford	Semi-Urban	54	7	2	67	1,253	2,037	62%
Decatur	Frontier	7	0	0	0	76	174	44%
Dickinson	Densely Settled Rural	34	3	1	21	493	861	57%
Doniphan	Densely Settled Rural	15	0	0	2	146	324	45%
Douglas	Urban	115	32	12	201	3,711	4,954	75%
Edwards	Frontier	6	0	0	5	51	98	52%
Elk	Frontier	1	0	0	1	8	108	7%
Ellis	Densely Settled Rural	99	6	3	30	943	1,732	54%
Ellsworth	Rural	13	1	0	1	252	279	90%
Finney	Densely Settled Rural	47	3	3	37	743	2,428	31%
Ford	Densely Settled Rural	42	5	4	29	563	2,141	26%
Franklin	Semi-Urban	45	3	2	30	629	1,224	51%
Geary	Semi-Urban	32	7	7	54	841	2,683	31%
Gove	Frontier	7	1	0	0	100	125	80%
Graham	Frontier	5	0	1	2	55	121	45%
Grant	Rural	26	0	3	2	237	533	44%
Gray	Rural	11	1	1	6	123	239	51%
Greeley	Frontier	2	0	0	0	24	78	31%
Greenwood	Frontier	14	0	0	9	137	301	46%
Hamilton	Frontier	4	0	1	0	35	212	17%
Harper	Rural	14	0	1	7	178	309	58%
Harvey	Semi-Urban	34	5	3	29	571	1,485	38%
Haskell	Rural	2	1	0	0	50	174	29%

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Hodgeman	Frontier	3	0	0	3	55	84	65%
Jackson	Densely Settled Rural	30	2	0	10	411	728	56%
Jefferson	Densely Settled Rural	23	3	1	13	388	833	47%
Jewell	Frontier	3	0	0	0	28	96	29%
Johnson	Urban	660	194	17	598	23,120	31,931	72%
Kearny	Frontier	11	0	0	2	88	240	37%
Kingman	Rural	12	1	0	5	121	258	47%
Kiowa	Frontier	2	1	0	0	37	106	35%
Labette	Densely Settled Rural	40	2	7	44	583	987	59%
Lane	Frontier	4	0	0	1	32	54	59%
Leavenworth	Urban	76	18	9	90	2,160	3,704	58%
Lincoln	Frontier	4	0	0	0	39	134	29%
Linn	Rural	20	0	1	8	191	418	46%
Logan	Frontier	9	0	0	1	120	102	118%
Lyon	Densely Settled Rural	64	8	4	65	1,364	1,703	80%
Marion	Rural	14	1	1	7	191	536	36%
Marshall	Rural	46	0	1	11	427	565	76%
McPherson	Densely Settled Rural	35	5	1	21	832	1,350	62%
Meade	Frontier	6	0	1	0	62	230	27%
Miami	Semi-Urban	60	4	5	48	1,103	1,581	70%
Mitchell	Rural	12	3	0	2	236	211	112%
Montgomery	Semi-Urban	52	5	3	57	919	1,715	54%
Morris	Rural	13	1	0	4	145	267	54%
Morton	Frontier	5	0	0	2	43	181	24%
Nemaha	Rural	34	2	0	6	479	624	77%
Neosho	Densely Settled Rural	43	4	4	25	571	693	82%
Ness	Frontier	7	0	0	1	88	142	62%
Norton	Rural	7	2	0	6	186	275	68%
Osage	Densely Settled Rural	29	0	1	17	301	919	33%
Osborne	Frontier	9	0	1	0	75	177	42%
Ottawa	Rural	17	0	1	0	225	287	78%
Pawnee	Rural	13	1	1	2	186	290	64%
Phillips	Rural	15	1	1	5	151	242	62%
Pottawatomie	Densely Settled Rural	63	6	2	11	953	1,149	83%
Pratt	Rural	19	1	2	8	231	433	53%
Rawlins	Frontier	7	1	0	0	94	111	85%
Reno	Semi-Urban	79	10	6	109	1,299	2,829	46%
Republic	Rural	18	0	0	3	171	215	80%
Rice	Rural	7	3	0	15	224	411	55%
Riley	Semi-Urban	92	14	1	69	1,685	3,269	52%
Rooks	Frontier	16	1	1	5	197	326	60%

County	County Settlement	Licensed Family and Group Day Care Homes	Child Care Centers	Programs That Provide Care During Nontraditional Hours	Number of Children <6 Receiving DCF Child Care Subsidy	Number of Children a Facility is Willing to Accept (Desired Capacity)	Number of Children <6 Potentially Needing Care	Extent Desired Capacity Meets Potential Demand
Rush	Frontier	6	2	0	4	78	127	61%
Russell	Rural	19	1	0	11	196	311	63%
Saline	Semi-Urban	129	10	11	173	1,804	3,111	58%
Scott	Rural	19	0	0	5	198	241	82%
Sedgwick	Urban	539	101	147	1,213	14,147	29,775	48%
Seward	Densely Settled Rural	18	1	0	7	371	1,883	20%
Shawnee	Urban	289	48	33	419	6,153	9,597	64%
Sheridan	Frontier	8	0	0	0	117	101	116%
Sherman	Frontier	18	0	1	5	221	319	69%
Smith	Frontier	11	0	1	3	110	121	91%
Stafford	Frontier	8	0	1	1	54	136	40%
Stanton	Frontier	5	0	0	1	68	107	64%
Stevens	Rural	7	1	0	1	111	217	51%
Sumner	Densely Settled Rural	35	3	4	23	652	1,174	56%
Thomas	Rural	30	0	0	5	351	491	71%
Trego	Frontier	6	1	0	6	122	155	79%
Wabaunsee	Rural	15	2	0	4	212	325	65%
Wallace	Frontier	3	0	0	0	38	90	42%
Washington	Rural	23	0	0	4	248	275	90%
Wichita	Frontier	1	0	0	4	19	146	13%
Wilson	Rural	13	1	1	4	188	438	43%
Woodson	Rural	8	0	0	4	68	162	42%
Wyandotte	Urban	120	37	18	334	3,375	10,234	33%

For Data Sources and Methodology, visit www.ks.childcareaware.org. The Extent Desired Capacity Meets Potential Demand is a calculation of the Desired Capacity divided by the Number of Children Potentially Needing Care. Sources: 2012-2016 Census DP03; Child Care Aware® of Kansas, WorkLife Systems; Kansas Action for Children; Kansas Department for Children and Families.

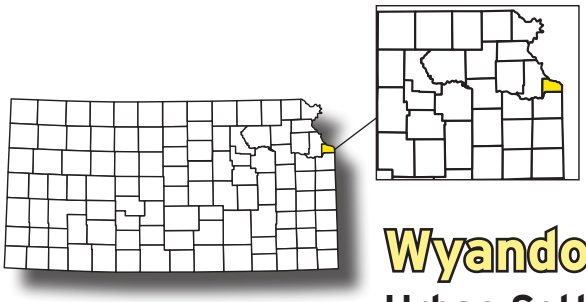
COUNTY SPOTLIGHTS

While previous sections of this report have included quantitative data from Child Care Aware® of Kansas and other reputable and reviewed sources. Qualitative data is reflected by phone interviews conducted in each of the following counties, representing each of the population density settlements using common interview questions.

Anderson County, Ford County, Harvey County, Jewell County, and Wyandotte County

Common interview questions included:

- What services are currently being provided for child care?
- Does there seem to be enough child care?
- Does there seem to be a need for a particular type of child care (such as infant/toddler care, overnight or evening)?



Wyandotte County

Urban Settlement

Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand
33%

During 2017, in Wyandotte County, 8 new Licensed and Group Day Care Homes opened, however 26 existing facilities closed during the same time. Child Care Centers also experienced a reduction, as 2 new Centers opened, however 5 closed.

Interview Summary

A Wyandotte County employer shared that child care is a source of stress for their staff, especially working mothers, and is probably one of the most impactful areas for attendance issues. The cost of child care, especially care for infants, is a significant factor for their staff as well. They shared that they have had good employees leave because of the high cost of child care.

Number of Programs

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 120

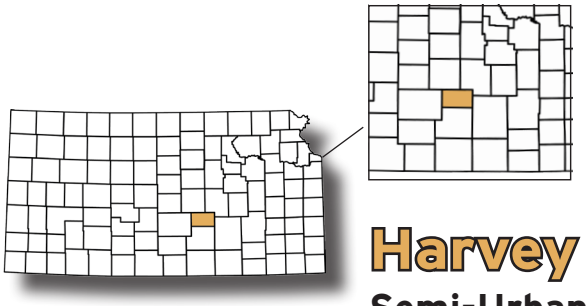
Child Care Centers - 37

Programs Offering Care During Nontraditional Hours

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 17

Child Care Centers - 1

Wyandotte County contains 5.6% of the state's population and accounts for 3.9% of the state's income. The healthcare sector is the largest employer in the county, followed by manufacturing, and retail trade. Wyandotte County businesses employ 93,106 people on average.



Harvey County

Semi-Urban Settlement

Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand
38%

During 2017, in Harvey County, 1 new Licensed and Group Day Care Home was opened, however 10 existing facilities closed during the same time. Child Care Centers experienced some growth, as 2 new Centers opened and 1 closed.

Interview Summary

Area businesses expressed a need for expanded child care options, such as drop-in child care. This helps meet a need in emergencies such as illness or school closings. They also reported that both full time and part time staff were challenged by the lack of consistent and affordable child care options. One business stated they understand how important child care is, and that they try diligently to be flexible with employees.

Number of Programs

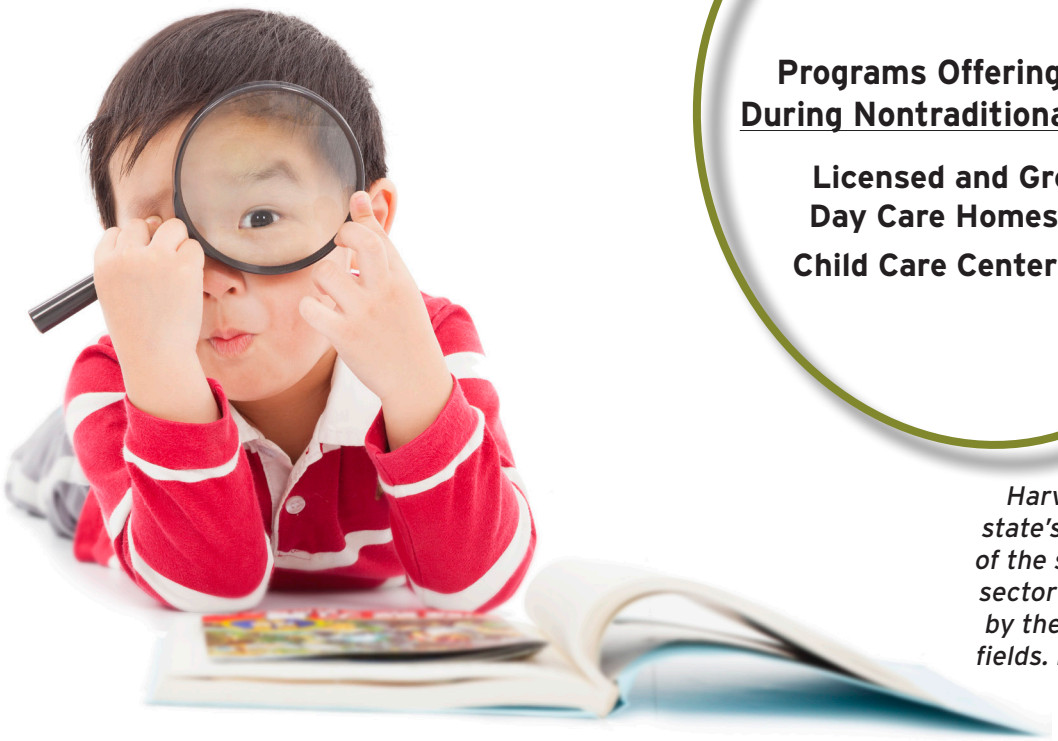
Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 34

Child Care Centers - 5

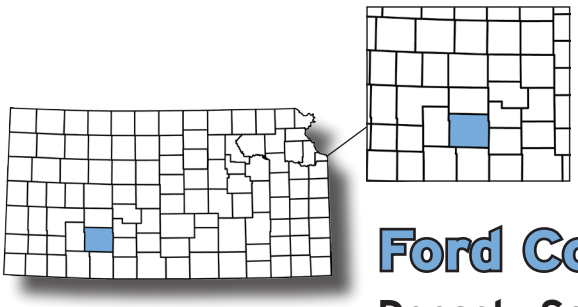
Programs Offering Care During Nontraditional Hours

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 3

Child Care Centers - 0



Harvey County contains 1.2% of the state's population and accounts for 1.1% of the state's income. The manufacturing sector is largest employer, followed next by the healthcare and social assistance fields. Harvey County businesses employ 13,799 people on average.



Ford County

Densely Settled Rural Settlement

Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand
26%

During 2017, in Ford County, 5 new Licensed and Group Day Care Homes opened, however 10 existing facilities closed. There was no change in the number of Child Care Centers in 2017.

Interview Summary

Businesses in Ford County reported a high number of staff requesting different shifts or positions due to limited child care options. Several business have experienced staff turnover due to unmet child care needs. They noted a shortage of child care programs in general, but also an unmet need for child care options after 5:00 pm or overnight.

Number of Programs

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 42

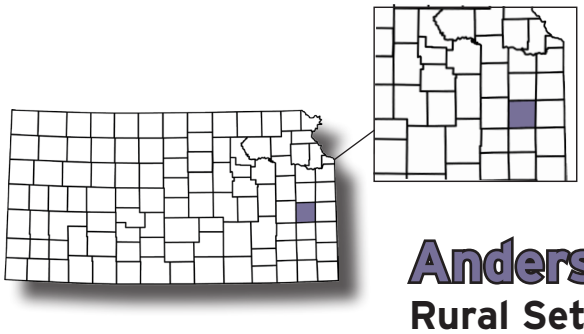
Child Care Centers - 5

Programs Offering Care During Nontraditional Hours

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 4

Child Care Centers - 0

Ford County contains 1.2% of the state's population and accounts for 1.0% of the state's income. The most common employment sectors are manufacturing, healthcare and social assistance and educational services. Ford County businesses employ 17,677 people on average.



Anderson County
Rural Settlement

Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand
28%

During 2017, in Anderson County, there were no new Licensed and Group Day Care Homes opened, however 2 existing facilities closed. No Child Care Centers were opened, however 1 closed during this time.

Interview Summary

An Anderson County employer shared that child care can be difficult to find in their area. There is a need for infant care, but there are only a limited number of slots available for young children. The employer also indicated that staff struggle to find child care during evenings and often rely on family. According to one staff member, inability to find child care could lead them to having to leave their position.

Number of Programs

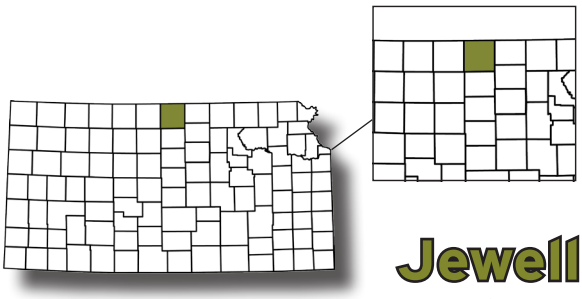
Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 15

Child Care Centers - 0

Programs Offering Care During Nontraditional Hours

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 0

Anderson County contains 0.3% of the state's population and accounts for 0.2% of the state's income. Health care and social assistance are the most common employment sectors in Anderson County, followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and then retail trade. Anderson County businesses employ 2,032 people on average.



Jewell County
Frontier Settlement

Extent Child Care Openings Potentially Meet Demand
29%

In 2017, in Jewell County, there was no change in the number of Licensed and Group Day Care Homes in 2017.

Interview Summary

Businesses reported child care needs, especially infant and toddler care, are high. Child care programs are hard to find. A number of people rely on family for child care because they do not have options. The shortage of child care programs and lack of other options has made a big impact on tardiness, attendance and turnover among staff.

Number of Programs

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 3

Child Care Centers - 0

Programs Offering Care During Nontraditional Hours

Licensed and Group Day Care Homes - 0

Jewell County contains 0.1% of the state's population and accounts for 0.1% of the state's income. The health care and social assistance sectors employ the largest number of people, followed by agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting, and then educational services. Jewell County businesses employ 762 people on average.

Strategies

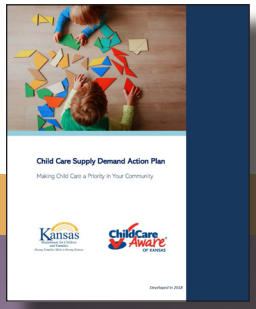
The following strategies have been identified to help build and sustain child care in Kansas:

1. Increase the availability of licensed child care slots by exploring a variety of options, such as new provider recruitment activities and increasing subsidy rates for child care providers.

2. Support enhanced data analysis so that communities and partners have the necessary information to develop plans, based on an accurate picture of the needs of families in their area.

3. Ensure that the necessary infrastructure is in place to support new and existing child care professionals. Support training that is intentional, sequential, competency-based, combined with coaching and mentoring, and tied to measurable outcomes. Provide additional support to potential child care providers through scholarships, coaching, and grants.

Key elements to a fully developed early childhood network of support for a decreasing child care workforce include: planning; personnel development; training and technical assistance; program evaluation; continuous quality improvement; and ongoing coordination and communication. If these items are not in place, we are surely going to see a continued decline in the number of child care slots available for young families.



Child Care Supply Demand Action Plan

Child Care Aware® of Kansas has created an Action Plan to guide communities in evaluating and addressing the supply and demand for child care. It is available on our website, *www.ks.childcareaware.org.*

Remarks

Child Care Aware® of Kansas collects self-reported data about families, children, and child care needs from most clients. In some cases, clients choose not to share demographic information, and clients using the online self-service search are not asked for all of the same information and questions. While the regulatory and licensing data provided is comprehensive, it cannot be considered complete. There is likely some delay leading to some closed facilities being included and some newly opened facilities being excluded. The assumption was also made that child care will be near a family's home.

Sources

- Child Care Aware® of Kansas, WorkLife Systems
- Data USA
- Kansas Action for Children, Kids Count State and County Data
- Kansas Department for Children and Families
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment
- Kansas Department of Labor
- The Center for Economic Development and Business Research, Wichita State University
- U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey
- U.S. Census Bureau, Population Division

Special thanks to Amanda Petersen (Gress) at Kansas Action for Children for input and guidance and to the businesses that responded to our questions in the County Spotlights.

About Us

Child Care Aware® of Kansas is the network of four Child Care Resource and Referral (CCR&R) agencies that serve all 105 counties in Kansas. Daily, we provide information, support and resources to child care providers, families, and communities.

For Methodology, go to www.ks.childcareaware.org.

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