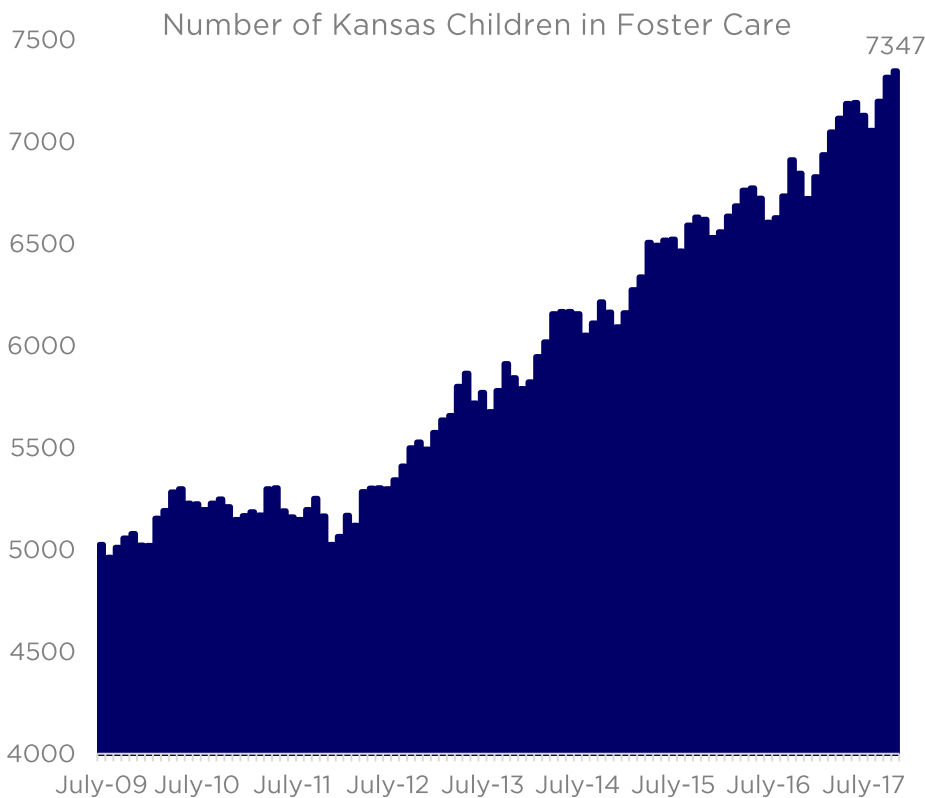




**An independent coalition of organizations and individuals dedicated to reforming Kansas’s foster care system.** Steering committee members:

- ❖ Carl Burris, young leader
- ❖ FosterAdopt Connect
- ❖ Kansas African American Foster Care/Adoption Coalition
- ❖ Kansas Appleseed
- ❖ Kansas Association of Community Action Programs
- ❖ Kansas Chapter National Association of Social Workers
- ❖ Micah Kubic, executive director of the ACLU of Kansas
- ❖ Natalie Zarate, young leader
- ❖ Sister Therese Bangert, Social Justice Office, Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth

**This coalition came together over concerns about the record number of children in foster care.** There are over 2,000 more children in foster care today compared to 5 years ago. At the end of November, 2017, there were 7,347 Kansas children in foster care, the highest number on record.



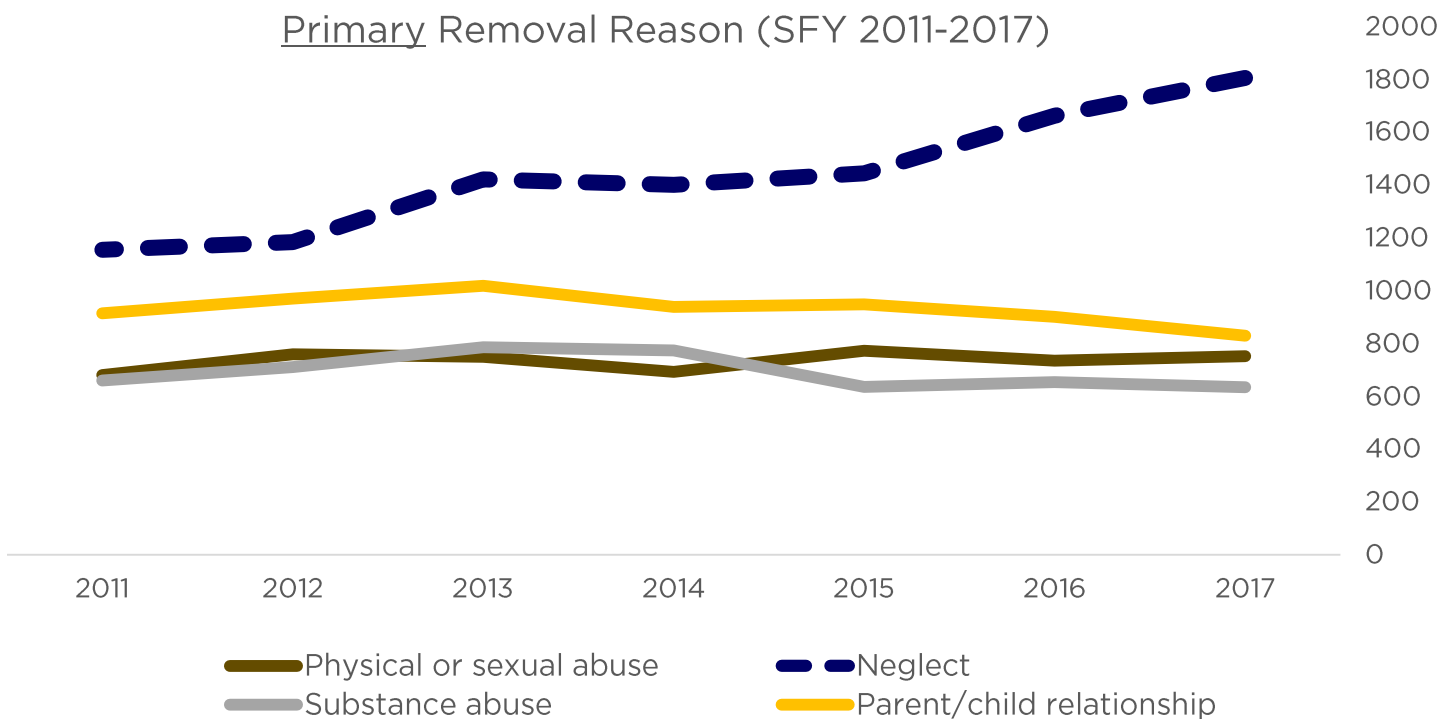
Number in foster care per 1,000 kids
Kansas: 10
United States: 6

Even before the recent increases, Kansas had a higher rate of children in foster care than most other states. In the most recent year of available data (2015), Kansas ranked #43 out of the 50 states.

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.

**Child neglect is the primary reason more children have been removed from their homes and placed into foster care in Kansas.**

As in other states, the largest share of removals in Kansas has historically been related to neglect. However, it is notable that the recent growth in children entering foster care in Kansas has been almost entirely related to neglect; the number of children entering foster care due to physical or sexual abuse has remained steady. (Child welfare cases- like families- are complex, and commonly involve multiple removal reasons. Because the primary removal reason is related to neglect does not mean that other factors, such as parental substance abuse, are not involved.)



**In 2017, the two highest categories of removals in Kansas were both related to neglect:** physical neglect and lack of supervision.

2011	2017
1. Parent’s Substance Abuse 606 removals (18%)	1. Physical Neglect 688 removals (17%)
2. Physical Abuse 508 removals (15%)	2. Lack of Supervision 631 removals (16%)
3. Physical Neglect 362 removals (11%)	3. Parent’s Substance Abuse 619 removals (15%)

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.

**As the number of children in foster care has gone up—largely related to cases involving neglect—social safety net programs in Kansas have assisted many fewer children and families.**

Number of children served by <b>TANF</b>		Number of children served by <b>child care assistance</b>	
July 2010	25,467	July 2010	20,627
July 2017	7,516	July 2017	10,145

Source: DCF data summarized by SFRH Coalition.

Research from the University of Kansas has demonstrated a causal connection between social safety net cuts and increasing numbers of children in foster care.

### **What other supports do families and communities need?**

We still have more to learn about how needs in other protective systems may impact foster care numbers in Kansas:

- Are families able to access the mental health and substance abuse treatment services they need in their communities?
- Are appropriate services available for children with higher needs, and what barriers might exist to accessing them?
- Are home visiting and other early childhood interventions reaching as many families as they could?

Coming soon from the  
*Strengthen Families  
Rebuild Hope* coalition:

**Community forums to share concerns and discuss solutions** around the question: what does your community need to better support families and keep kids safe and out of foster care?

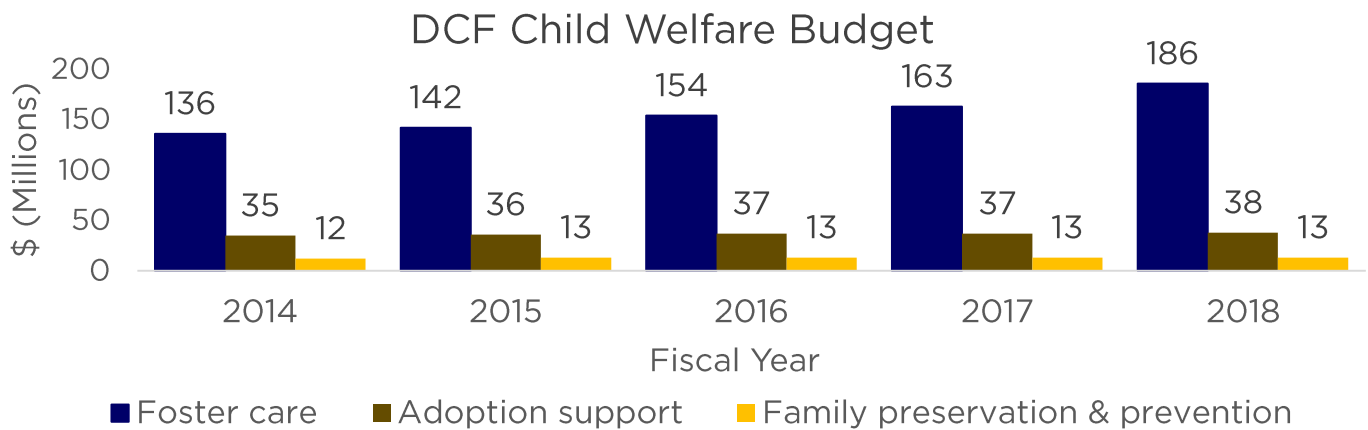
Manhattan, February 15th

Southeast Kansas, Topeka, Wichita, others TBD

**Flexible funding streams could support a broader array of services.**

Could more families’ needs be served with child welfare programs less extreme than foster care, including family preservation services?

As more children have entered foster care, Kansas is spending \$55 million more through its child welfare budget today compared to five years ago. Nearly all of the additional spending has been on foster care; spending on family preservation and prevention has remained flat.

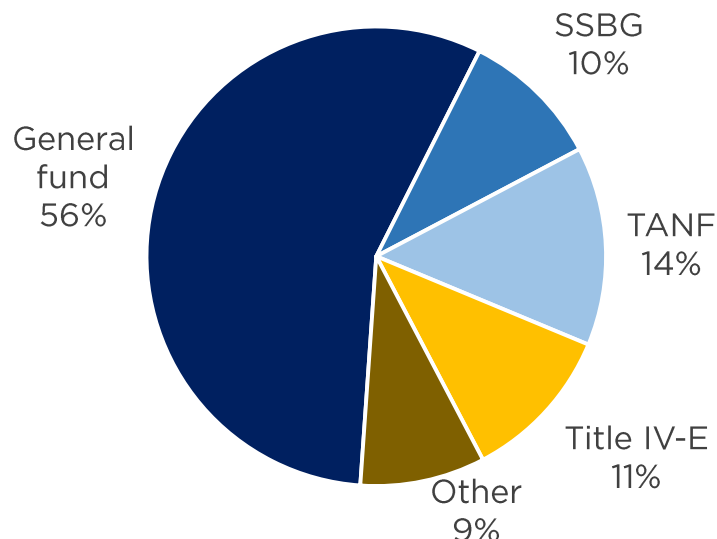


Source: Data presented to the Kansas Child Welfare Task Force summarized by SFRH Coalition.

Kids in foster care today deserve sufficient funds dedicated to their care. **Going forward, if we could reduce the number of children in foster care, flexible sources could fund other efforts to support children and families.**

Historically, the large majority of funding for foster care in Kansas has come from flexible sources (shaded blue in the pie chart): the state general fund, federal Social Services Block Grant, and federal TANF block grant. These three sources made up 80% of Kansas’s foster care funding in state fiscal year 2016. (The more restrictive federal Title IV-E funds, by comparison, contributed 11%.)

Kansas Foster Care Funding Sources SFY 2016



Source: Kansas Legislative Research Department data summarized by SFRH Coalition.