

## Children in Need of Care in Out-of-Home Placement Johnson County, Kansas

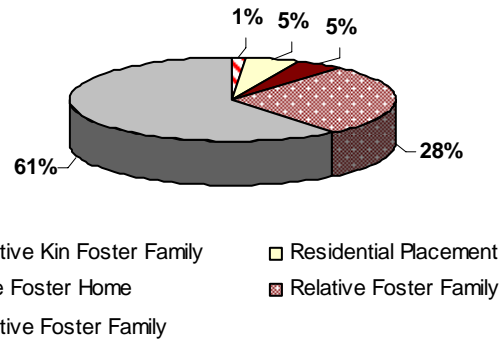
This fact sheet focuses on children who are in state custody due to abuse or neglect, and in out-of-home placement. Children identified as in need of care have experienced living conditions or life circumstances that have jeopardized their physical or emotional health, family and housing stability, and/or educational progress. Court-ordered out-of-home placement includes placement with a relative and/or in foster care, or in a residential facility. Foster care is intended to be short-term. Most children who require foster care have been abused or neglected, and many have significant developmental, physical, and emotional needs. The goal is to reintegrate children safely with their family or extended kin, and if reintegration is not possible, to place children with loving and caring adoptive families, or prepare older youth for successful independent living. In 1997 private contract agencies assumed responsibility for foster care services. In Johnson County, the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) currently contracts with KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Inc. (KVC) to provide foster care and reintegration services.

### KEY FACTS

#### 602 Johnson County children were in out-of-home placement during fiscal year 2006.

- The race and ethnicity of these children were 79% Caucasian, 15% Black, and less than 1% of Hispanic ethnicity.
- 334 children in out-of-home placement were served by KVC on June 30, 2006. The majority of those were living with foster families. KVC was serving 93% of the total number of Johnson County children.
  - 90% of KVC's children were not living in an intensive foster home or in residential care (temporary shelter, level 4, level 5, level 6, psychiatric hospital).
  - Of the 334 children, 70% were placed in Johnson County or contiguous counties.
  - 75% of siblings were placed together.
  - "Non-relative kin" is a new term used beginning in July 2005. This person is identified by adult family or the child as having a kinship bond – an established relationship with the child.

Out-of-home Placement Children Served by KVC on  
June 30, 2006 N = 334



### State contract goals include fewer placements for children (i.e. children experience stability while in care), and that children stay safely connected to their family and community.

- Johnson County is making progress toward achieving state contract standards by various measures.\*

	Contract Standard	Johnson County Percentage		Kansas Statewide Percentage	
		4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter FY05*	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter FY06*	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 05*	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter FY 06*
Two or fewer placements for children in care less than 12 months	86.7%	50%	53%	41%	54%
Children placed in family-like setting	90%	n/a	93%	n/a	92%
Children placed with relative, sibling or attend same school as before removed from their home	75%	n/a	67%	n/a	58%

**The state’s goal is for children to achieve timely permanency in safe, secure, stable placements that are connected to their community, and to reduce the amount of time children spend in out-of-home placement.**

- From FY05 to FY06, the length of time Johnson County children spent in out-of-home placement remained essentially flat. In a positive trend, it continues to be less than the state average and the averages of other urban counties.

**Average number of months in out-of-home placement\***

	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter FY05*	4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter FY06*
Johnson County	17.9	18.3
Sedgwick County	24.8	22.2
Wyandotte County	23	25.2
State	22.2	21.1

**During FY06, 187 Johnson County children were released from KVC’s care. Of those, 52 were released to adoption, 27 aged-out (turned 18 years of age), 30 were released to guardianship,\*\* and 69 were reintegrated with their families. \*\*\***

- On June 30, 2006, 45 Johnson County children were waiting for adoption. These children were, on average, ten years of age. A need exists for more Johnson County families to be foster parents and/or to adopt adolescents and teens.
- Of those children adopted and in KVC’s care prior to adoption, 21% spent 24 months or less in care, and 15% spent over 48 months in care.
- Nearly 50% of those children reintegrated with their families achieved reintegration within 12 months or less.

**Length of time in KVC’s care based upon reason for release**

	Contract Standard	Kansas Statewide FY06	Johnson County FY06 Served by KVC
Release to adoption: 24 months or less	32%	30%	21%
Between 24 and 36 months			35%
Between 36 and 48 months			29%
Over 48 months			15%
Release to reintegration: 12 months or less	76.2%	54%	45%
Between 12 and 24 months			54%
Over 24 months			1%

\*Children in out-of-home placement during last month of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of fiscal year, or on last day of 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of fiscal year. This sample was chosen because data was not available on the total number of children served during each fiscal year. Source: SRS ([http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports\\_files/judicialdistrictreport.pdf](http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports_files/judicialdistrictreport.pdf))

\*\*When courts determine that a child cannot go home, permanent guardianship is an option. Some children are placed with relatives who are willing to raise the child, but do not want to change their legal relationship.

\*\*\* The court either released the remaining nine children at the end of June, 2006, or the court-60 day rule applies to KVC.

Sources: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services; KVC Behavioral HealthCare, Inc.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** **Website: [ucsjoco.org](http://ucsjoco.org)**

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