

# Family First Prevention Services

## Evaluation Report

Oct 1, 2019 to Oct 31, 2025

### Our Goal

The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation examines the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting 5 areas: mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, substance use, and other prevention services. **Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.**

Total Referrals  
**8,030**

### Total Statewide Referrals



Mental  
Health

**2,948**  
37%

**Mental Health** services are therapeutic services delivered by a qualified clinician such as Parent Child Interaction Therapy, and Multi-Systemic Therapy.

**Parent Skill Building** services are in-home skill-based programs that include parenting skills training and education, including Parents as Teachers, Family Mentoring, Fostering Prevention, Family Centered Treatment (FCT) and Healthy Families America.

**Kinship Navigation** programs like Kids2Kin provide legal help for kinship families, eliminating legal barriers around permanency for kinship families.



Parent  
Skill Building

**2,506**  
31%



Kinship  
Navigation

**1,061**  
13%

**Substance Use** services include treatment services delivered by a qualified clinician, such as Substance Treatment and Recovery Teams (START), Parent Child Assistance Program, Strengthening Families and Seeking Safety.

**Other Prevention Services** are delivered by Kansas Legal Services (Parent Advocate Program) in Cowley, Reno, Sedgwick and Wyandotte; and Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office (Community Support Specialist) in Sedgwick county.



Substance  
Use

**487**  
6%



Other Prevention  
Services

**1,027**  
13%

## Referrals by Region

Region	Mental Health N=2,948	Parent Skill Building N=2,506	Kinship Navigation N=1,061	Substance Use N=487	Other Prevention Services N=1,027
Northwest	406 (14%)	508 (20%)	62 (6%)	66 (13%)	
Southwest	577 (20%)	421 (17%)	122 (11%)	77 (16%)	151 (15%)
Wichita	735 (25%)	567 (23%)	283 (27%)	98 (20%)	616 (60%)
Kansas City	527 (18%)	400 (16%)	174 (17%)	10 (2%)	260 (25%)
Northeast	277 (9%)	310 (12%)	128 (12%)	170 (35%)	
Southeast	425 (15%)	299 (12%)	290 (27%)	66 (14%)	

## Outcomes

Measure	Goal	Mental Health N=2,948	Parent Skill Building N=2,506	Kinship Navigation N=1,061	Substance Use N=487	Other Prevention Services N=1,027	Statewide N=8,030
Target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care. Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program.	90%	90%	92%	93%	85%		90%
Families referred to Family First who were engaged timely in services (within 2 days).	95%	76%	78%	66%	92%	53%	73%
Cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service.	95%	53%	39%	53%	51%	38%	47%
Target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case. Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program.	<10%	5%	3%	4%	8%	0.10%	4%

Data Source: Kansas Department for Children and Families FACTS.

Evaluation Contacts: Kaela Byers ([kaela@ku.edu](mailto:kaela@ku.edu)), Meghan Cizek ([mcizek@ku.edu](mailto:mcizek@ku.edu)).

