

**Strengthening  
Early Childhood  
in Kansas in 2019**

WEBINAR

September 4, 2019



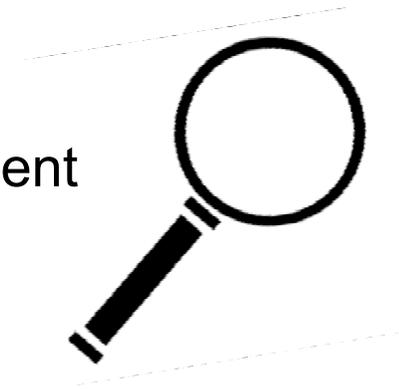
## Statewide Needs Assessment

- ▶ Review Existing Needs Assessment Reports and Information
- ▶ Community Engagement Sessions
- ▶ Our Tomorrows Story Collection and Sensemaking Workshops
- ▶ Gather Additional Information – PD Survey, Parent Cafes, Environmental/Facilities Scan, Visioning Sessions

*“We are ALL Early Childhood Stakeholders”*  
Governor Laura Kelly

# Statewide Needs Assessment – Key Findings and Themes

- ▶ Accessibility
- ▶ Availability
- ▶ Navigation
- ▶ Collaboration & Integration
- ▶ Workforce
- ▶ Systems Alignment
- ▶ Facilities
- ▶ Bright Spots



[NA Themes Document Link](#) – includes additional information and examples.

# Statewide Needs Assessment – Key Findings and Themes

- ▶ Two key understandings that impacts children and families experience with the early childhood care and education system:
  - ▶ Too many young children in Kansas are growing up in families where basic needs are not being met.
  - ▶ Families' experiences are profoundly shaped by where they live.

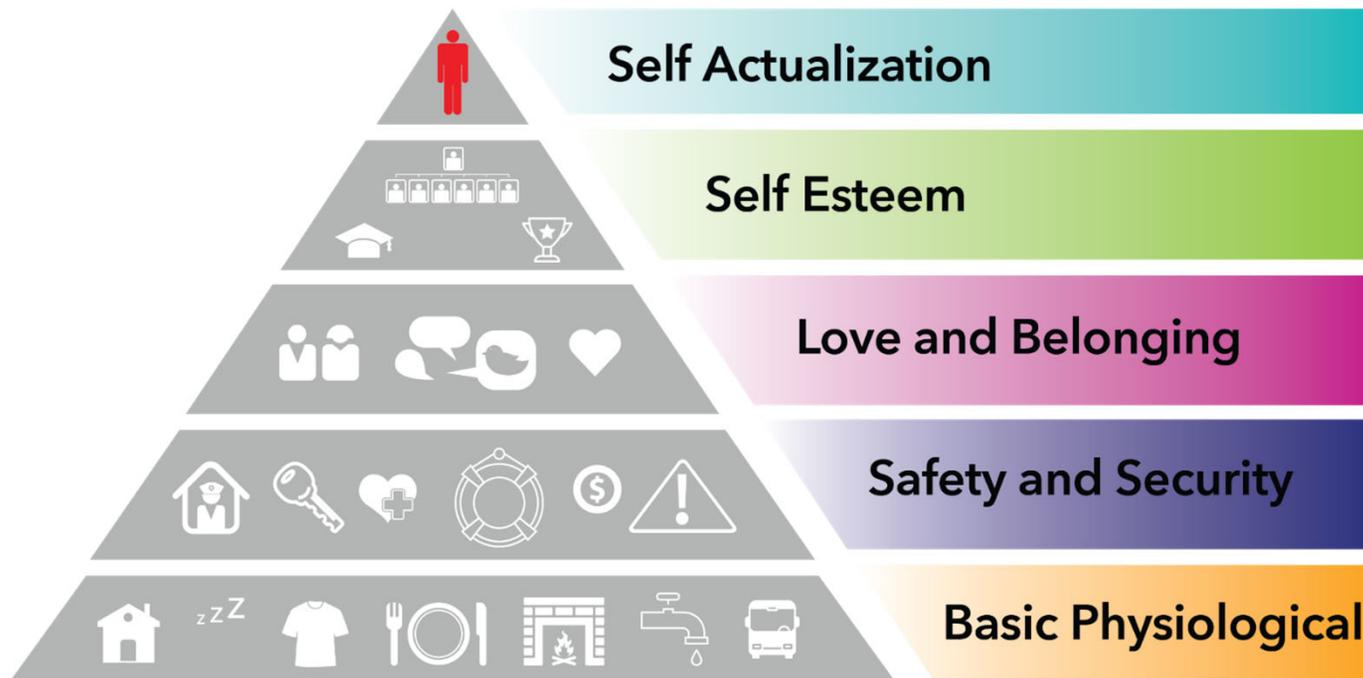


## The Reality of What Kansas Families are Facing ...

*“I work 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. and **am lucky I have a good network** to pull it all together, but each day is new day . . . **heaven forbid someone gets sick.**”*

*“Parents and children are **living in houses that are unsafe** and falling down around them because **that is all they can afford.**”*

# Building Blocks and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs

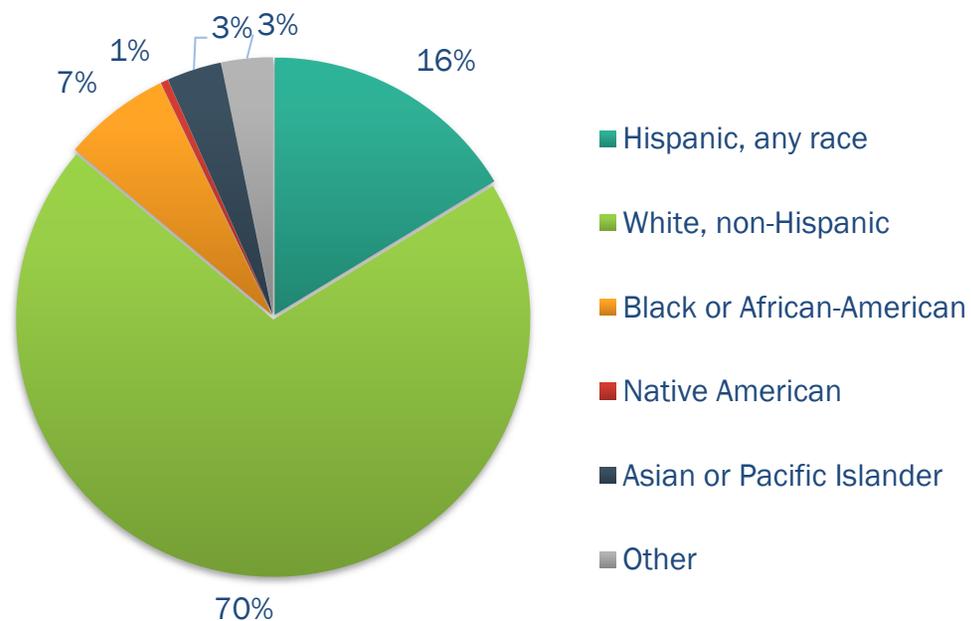




**What is it like  
to be a  
young child  
living in Kansas?**

## What is it like to be a young child living in Kansas?

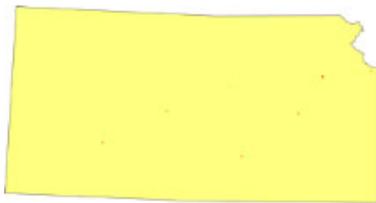
Kansas has **193,049** total children under age 5.



# Statewide Needs Assessment – Disparities

- ▶ Our children are facing disparities and disruptions which impacts how they interact with the early childhood system.
- ▶ These disparities for children ages B-5 are evident in the data.

**Where you  
live matters.**



**Family income  
matters.**



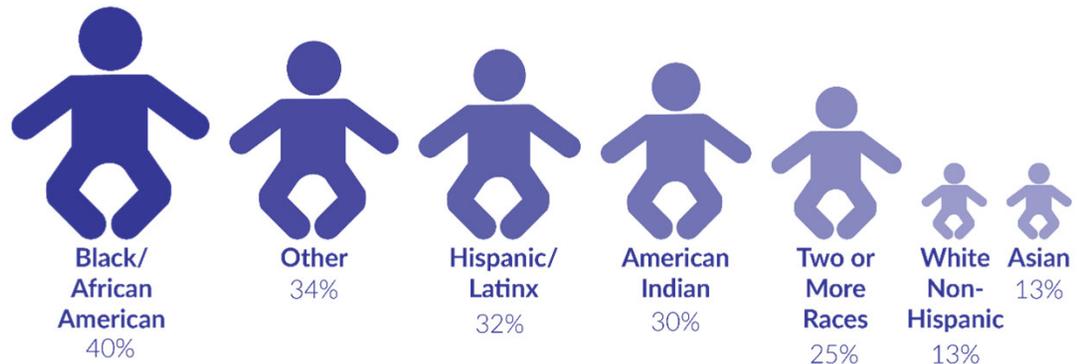
**Race and  
Ethnicity matters.**



## Statewide Needs Assessment: Poverty

- ▶ **19.1%** of Kansas children ages B-5 are living in poverty (37,082 children).
- ▶ 27% of Kansas families are low-income despite employment.
- ▶ Poverty rates in Kansas vary by what type of area you live.
  - ▶ Frontier counties (16.3%)
  - ▶ Rural counties (17.9%) and **densely settled rural counties (23.02%)**
  - ▶ Semi-urban counties (21.7%) and Urban counties (19.35%)

- ▶ Poverty rates **disproportionately impact people of color.**



## Our Tomorrows – The Kansas Lived Experience

- ▶ Surviving Financial Problems

*“We **live paycheck to paycheck**,  
and rely on payday loans  
too frequently.”*

## Statewide Needs Assessment: Homelessness and Housing Instability

**9,131**  
**Children**  
Under the age  
of 6 years

Experienced  
Homelessness



- ▶ **89%** of the 9,131 Kansas children experiencing homelessness are not receiving early childhood services through McKinney-Vento or Head Start/Early Head Start. (2015)
- ▶ 24% of Kansas families with children have a high housing cost burden.
- ▶ 46% of Kansas children in poverty live in a household where housing is more than 50% of income.

## Statewide Needs Assessment: Food Insecurity

- ▶ **23%** of Kansas infants and toddlers have low or very **low food security**.
- ▶ African Americans, Native Americans, and Latinos are 3x more likely to face hunger and poverty than the general population.



- ▶ **26%** of Kansans **do not have access** to healthy food sources such as **grocery stores** within a reasonable distance from their home.
- ▶ 48% of school-age Kansas kids receive free and reduced lunch

## Statewide Needs Assessment: Health Care

- ▶ **4.5% of Kansas children are uninsured.**
  - ▶ The rate varies geographically five-fold. SW Kansas is most impacted where rates range from 8.3 - 13.6%.
- ▶ **Infant Mortality Rate** statewide = 6.0/1,000
  - ▶ White, Non-Hispanic = 4.7/1,000
  - ▶ **Black, Non-Hispanic = 11.8/1,000**
  - ▶ Hispanic, any race = 7.2/1,000
- ▶ 69.2% of Kansas children are fully immunized by 24 months of age.



22.7% of Kansas children have not had a preventative dental visit in the past year.

## Our Tomorrows – The Kansas Lived Experience

### ▶ Needing Healthcare

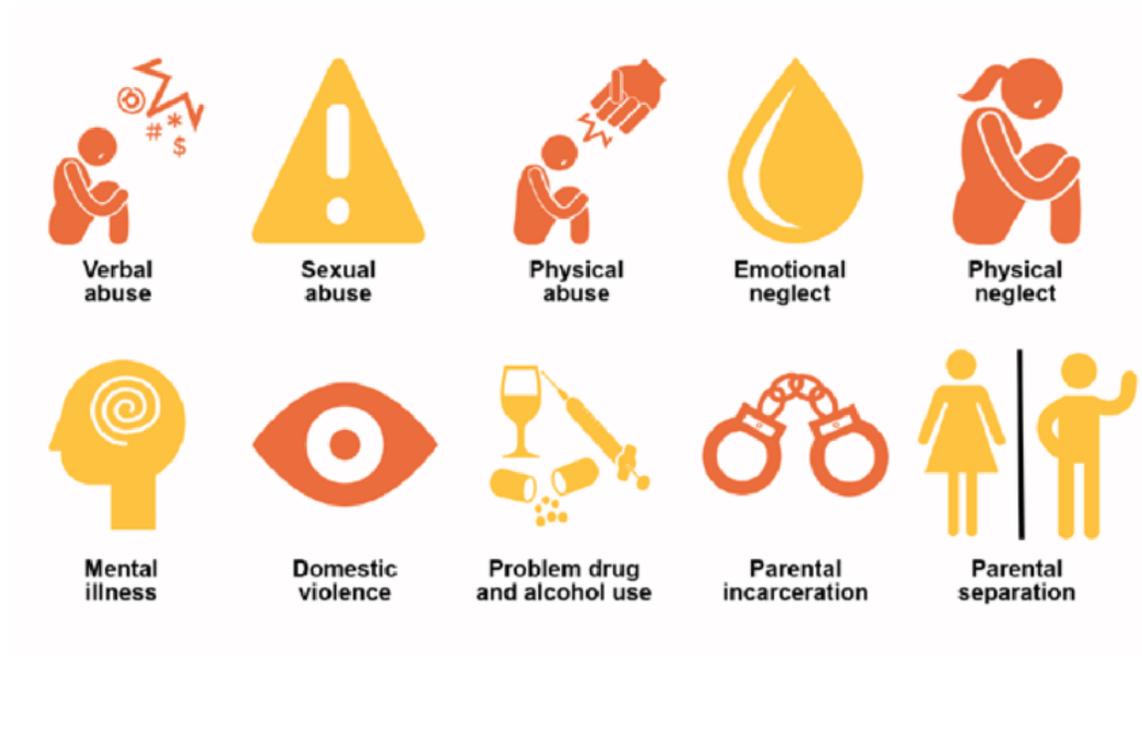
*“My partner and I **don't have health insurance** and I applied for state insurance and I'm not sure why I was denied but I have been needed to get a check up and it is so expensive to pay out of pocket that **we just hardly go to the doctor.**”*

*I don't know of other insurance options and last year I was sick with a cough and cold where I couldn't hardly eat for two months and **it was a struggle.**”*

# Statewide Needs Assessment: Adverse Childhood Experiences

Kansas Children Ages  
Birth – 5 (2017 data):

- ▶ **26% have 1** or more ACES
- ▶ **14.4% have 2** or more ACES
- ▶ 7.2% have an incarcerated parent.



# Our Tomorrows – The Kansas Lived Experience

## ▶ Not a Stable Home

*“When I was younger **my family always struggled with having enough food.** My mom was a single mother of 5 kids. We moved around a lot, we were in about 13 homes give or take. Because my mom would end up struggling with the rent or lost a job and **couldn't keep up with the bills.** I remember always saying to myself that I wished I was rich so I wouldn't have to deal with the **pain of hunger or being bullied** by other kids that had nice things. I would have to wear hand-me-downs I didn't care much for it. But always thought that it would be nice if I had new clothes every once in awhile, but it never happened. So I got used to the bullying and soon let it take over me.*

***I shut out my emotions and didn't make many friends.***

*my childhood was a time that **I wish I could've enjoyed more** and done more with **so I would have better memories.**”*

## **Statewide Needs Assessment: Foster Care Out-of-Home Placement**

- ▶ **2,638** Kansas children ages birth to five are in an **out-of-home placement**.
- ▶ 35% of total out-of-home placements in Kansas are children ages birth to five.
- ▶ **1 in 3 children** in foster care in Kansas is ages **birth to five**





# **The Landscape of Early Childhood Care and Education across Kansas**

## Our Tomorrows – The Kansas Lived Experience

- ▶ Isolated in my own town

*“When I was living in the [Location] area on Section 8 I was **struggling to find a new apartment** that was not **so isolated**. My neighbors where not great, I was **struggling with mental health issues**, there was not grocery store close by or any community gathering spaces, and the **bus route was limited**.”*

## Accessibility and Availability: Child Care



- ▶ **Child care supply** is particularly low for Hispanic/Latinx, rural, and low-income families. People of color are disproportionately impacted by child care deserts.
  - ▶ 60% of Hispanic/Latinx families
  - ▶ 54% of African American families
  - ▶ 45% of families in rural areas
  - ▶ 63% of low-income families

## **Accessibility and Availability: Child Care**

- ▶ **92%** of child care facilities **do not offer non-traditional hours.**
- ▶ 38% of families that contacted the Child Care Aware® of Kansas Child Care Resource Center in 2017 requested facilities offering care during nontraditional hours (evenings, weekends, and overnight).



## Accessibility and Availability: Pre-K



- ▶ There is no standard Pre-K offering through public schools in Kansas.
- ▶ In a survey of Kansas School Districts conducted in July 2019, with 245 responding districts ...



## **Accessibility and Availability: Home Visiting**

- ▶ Approximately **49%** of Kansas families with children under the age of 6 meet the targeted criteria of at least one home visiting model in the state.
- ▶ **Only about 9% of them actually received home visiting services in 2017.**



# Accessibility and Availability: Health Care

Primary Care	Dental Care	Mental Health
<b>18 counties</b> are considered Health Professional Shortage Areas	<b>22 counties</b> are considered Dental Health Shortage Areas.	<b>61 counties (over half the state)</b> are designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas.
	26% of Kansas dentists participate in Medicaid	70% of licensed, board certified psychiatrists are located in 5 counties (Johnson, Douglas, Wyandotte, Shawnee, and Riley).

# Affordability of Child Care

The cost of child care is significant.

- ▶ The annual cost of child care as a % of Kansas AMI is:
  - ▶ **20%** for center-based care
  - ▶ **13%** for family-based care.
- ▶ The number of children receiving child care **subsidies has decreased 60%** in the last 9 years.
  - ▶ **2010:** 20,319 children
  - ▶ **2019:** 8,823 children



For single Kansas parents of infants and toddlers,  
child care costs **48.7% of income.**

# Workforce

Median Wage Comparison	
Child care workers in Kansas	<b>\$9.25/hour</b>
An elementary school teacher in Kansas	<b>\$27.73/hour</b>

“It’s a **vicious cycle**. Our **families here don’t make enough** to pay for child care and our child care **providers don’t make enough** to stay in business. How do you entice quality folks and avoid a tremendously **high burn-out rate**?”



## How does Kansas rank nationally?

- ▶ In a recent study conducted by WalletHub, **Kansas ranked 46<sup>th</sup> (6<sup>th</sup> worst) overall early education system in the country.** The study found that Kansas ranked 17<sup>th</sup> for access to care, but 49<sup>th</sup> in the nation for both quality and spending per child in Pre-K. Missouri was ranked the 3<sup>rd</sup> worst. Nebraska was ranked the best.
- ▶ The Bipartisan Policy Center ranked **Kansas 49<sup>th</sup> on early childhood system integration and program administration.** The ranking scored states across a number of measures including consolidating program administration, establishing advisory councils, implementing quality measures, and deploying available funds.
- ▶ **Kansas ranks 15<sup>th</sup> on child well-being.**

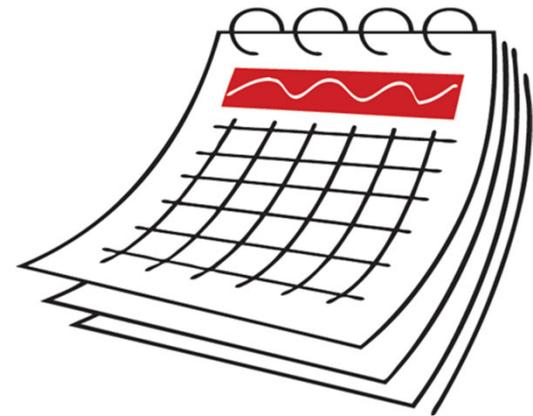


**This impacts the  
future of our children.**

**What is the future we want  
for Kansas children?  
What is the story we want tell?**

# Upcoming Events

- ▶ **Governor's Symposium on Early Childhood**
  - ▶ Monday, October 7
  - ▶ Hyatt Regency Hotel in Wichita, KS
  - ▶ Governor Kelly – opening keynote at 9am
  - ▶ Virtual attendance option will be available (details to come)
  
- ▶ **Parent Leadership Conference**
  - ▶ November 15-16, 2019
  - ▶ Capitol Plaza Hotel – Topeka
  - ▶ Contact Pam Noble or visit [www.kcsl.org](http://www.kcsl.org) for more information



# What's Next?

- ▶ **Needs Assessment**
  - ▶ Synthesis and Final Report Writing
  - ▶ Our Tomorrows Story Collection – Currently at 2,193 Kansas Stories  
**(Harper and Comanche Counties –we want to hear from you!)**
- ▶ **Community Sensemaking Workshops**
  - ▶ Regional session in Topeka – 9/5
- ▶ **Strategic Plan**
  - ▶ Online Share Form – open through 9/30 to provide ideas
  - ▶ Governor's Symposium on Early Childhood
    - ▶ October 7, 2019 - Wichita Hyatt Regency
    - ▶ Registration is Open – [kschildrenscabinet.org/symposium](http://kschildrenscabinet.org/symposium)

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Thank you!!