

TRENDS IN ENTRIES INTO CARE AND CHILD SAFETY IN KANSAS

The table below compares the number of children officially reported as taken from their parents over the course of a year to the two key safety outcomes used by the federal government to measure child welfare system performance, reabuse of children within six months and foster-care “recidivism,” the proportion of children returned home from foster care who have to be placed in foster care again within a year.

Entry data are available both by federal fiscal year and state fiscal year. The safety indicators are available by federal fiscal year only.

In general, the rate of reabuse improved as removals declined – and continued to improve when they went up again. But if safety can be improved either way, it makes far more sense to improve child safety without exposing ever more children to the trauma of needless foster care.

Recidivism generally declined as removals declined and worsened as removals increased again.

Though re-abuse can be compared from 2000 through 2004 and from 2005 through 2007, these two sets of years can't be compared to each other. That's because, in 2005, Kansas raised the standard for substantiating abuse – which means the standard for when abuse has recurred also is higher. That is likely to lower the reabuse rate. Only years when the standard is the same should be compared to each other. So if people at SRS try to claim they reduced reabuse from 7.8 percent to 2.6 percent – as they probably will, it's probably not true.

And finally, these are only officially-reported entries into care, not the many more to which SRS turns a blind eye.

Year	Entries into care FFY /SFY	%Re-abuse FFY	%Recidivism FFY
2000	3,191 / n/a	7.8	4.3
2001	2,834 / 3,071	8.3	3.1
2002	2,766 / 2,600	8.2	3.8
2003	2,677 / 2,642	7.1	3.4
2004	3,038 / 2,834	6.5	3.5
2005	3,119 / 2,981	5.4	n/a
2006	3,506 / 3,683	3.8	5.5
2007	n/a / 3,829	2.6	5.4

Sources:

Entries into care, federal fiscal year: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, *Foster Care, FY 2000-FY 2005, Entries, Exits and Numbers of Children in Care on the Last Day of Each Federal Fiscal Year*, available online at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/stats_research/afcars/statistics/entryexit2005.htm 2006: Same source, but the data are not yet available online. NCCPR obtained them via a federal Freedom of Information Act request.

Entries into care, state fiscal year: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, *Reintegration Referrals and Permanencies*, available online at http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports_files/refsumfy20012007.pdf

Re-abuse: 2000-2004: U.S. Department of Health and Human services, *Child Maltreatment, 2004*, Table 3-18, available online at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm04/table3_18.htm, 2005: U.S. Department of Health and Human services, *Child Maltreatment, 2005*, table 3-15, available online at http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm05/table3_15.htm, 2006: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, *Recurrent Maltreatment (Federal Measure)* available online at http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports_files/ChildrenThrive/Recurrentvics_FedMeasure.pdf, 2007: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services *Recurrent Maltreatment (Federal Measure) FY 2007*, available online at http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/2007datareports/ChildrenThrive/Recurrentvics_FedMeasureFY07.pdf

Recidivism: 2000-2004 Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, *Kansas CFSR Data Profile Across Years*, available online at http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports_files/CFSRdatapofileacrossyears.html

2006: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, *Foster Care Reentries (Federal Measure) FY 2006*, available online at http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports_files/Safe&Stable/FC_Reentries.pdf 2007: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, *Foster Care Reentries (Federal and Contract Measure) FY 2007*, available online at http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/2007datareports/Safe&Stable/FC_ReentriesCont_FedFY07.pdf

OFFICIAL RATES OF REMOVAL IN SEDGWICK COUNTY AND STATEWIDE COMPARED TO OTHER CITIES AND STATES

Comparison to children living in poverty:

Jurisdiction	Impoverished children	Entries into care/ time period	Rate-of-removal
Metro Chicago	303,300	1,400/SFY 2007	4.6
Illinois	519,000	5,004/FFY 2006	9.6
New York City	579,570	7,072/CFY 2007	12.1
Los Angeles County	652,752	11,572/yr ends 3/31/07	17.7
Alabama	245,000	3,791/FFY 2006	15.5
Missouri	246,333	5,657/FFY 2006	23.0
National Average	12,921,333	303,456/FFY 2006	23.5
Kansas 2006	122,000	3,506/FFY 2006	28.7
Kansas 2007	122,000	3,823/SFY 2007	31.3
Sedgwick County 2006	22,019	531/SFY 2006	24.1
Sedgwick County 2007	22,019	791/SFY 2007	35.9

Comparison to total child population:

Jurisdiction	Children	Entries into care/ time period	Rate-of-removal
Metro Chicago	1,397,819	1,400/SFY 2007	1.0
Illinois	3,215,244	5,004/FFY 2006	1.6
New York City	1,940,269	7,072/CFY 2007	3.6
Los Angeles County	3,078,096	11,572/yr ends 3/31/07	3.7
Alabama	1,114,301	3,791/FFY 2006	3.4
Missouri	1,416,592	5,657/FFY 2006	4.0
National Average	73,735,562	303,456/FFY 2006	4.1
Kansas 2006	695,837	3,506/FFY 2006	5.0
Kansas 2007	695,837	3,823/SFY 2007	5.4
Sedgwick County 2006	125,835	531/SFY 2006	4.2
Sedgwick County 2007	125,835	791/SFY 2007	6.3

The Sedgwick County and Kansas figures are, of course, for officially acknowledged placements only. Sedgwick County Deputy District Attorney Ron Paschal estimates that in 2006, 80 percent of removals ended with returning the child home or placing informally with a relative before the first court hearing. That means these placements don't appear in official figures issued by the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services for the county or the state. *Therefore to get a sense of the real rate of removal in Sedgwick County in 2006 one must take the official figure and multiply by five.*

Sources

Entries into care:

- Illinois, Alabama, Missouri, Kansas (2006): U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, AFCARS database, obtained by NCCPR through a federal Freedom of Information Request.
- Metropolitan Chicago: State of Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, *Executive Statistical Summary*, October, 2007, available online at <http://www.state.il.us/DCFS/docs/execstat.pdf>
- Kansas (2007), Sedgwick County: Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitative Services, *Reintegration Referrals and Permanencies*, available online at: http://www.srskansas.org/CFS/datareports_files/refsumfy20012007.pdf
- Los Angeles County: University of California at Berkeley, Child Welfare Resource Center, *Child Welfare Services Reports*, available online at <http://cssr.berkeley.edu/CWSCMSreports/cohorts/firstentries/>
- New York City: Mayor's Management Report, available online at: <http://www.nyc.gov/html/ops/downloads/pdf/mmr/acs.pdf>

Impoverished child population:

- States: U.S. Census Bureau, *Current Population Survey, Annual Demographic Survey, 2006 Annual Social and Economic Supplement*, available online at http://pubdb3.census.gov/macro/032007/pov/new46_100125_03.htm
- Cities and counties: U.S. Census Bureau, *Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates: Estimates for 2004*, available online at: <http://www.census.gov/hhes/www/saie/country.html>

Total child population:

- States: U.S. Census Bureau, *Annual Estimates of the Population by Sex and Age*, available online at: <http://www.census.gov/popest/states/asrh/SC-EST2006-02.html>
- New York City, metropolitan Chicago: 2000 Census via Annie E. Casey Foundation KidsCount database, www.kidscount.org/census
- Sedgwick County, Census Bureau estimate for 2005 via KidsCount, available online at http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliqs.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=KS&areaid=87
- Los Angeles County: Estimate for 2007, based on a projection from census data by the California Department of Finance, available via KidsCount at http://www.kidscount.org/cgi-bin/cliqs.cgi?action=profile_results&subset=CA&areaid=20

