

Opportunities to Improve Early Education and Care in Kansas

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About KAC

Kansas Action for Children (KAC) is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to shaping *health, education* and *economic* policy that puts children first.

www.kac.org



Agenda

- About early education and child care in Kansas
- Recent changes to supports for kids and families
- New opportunities and resources to support healthy development of young kids
- Your role

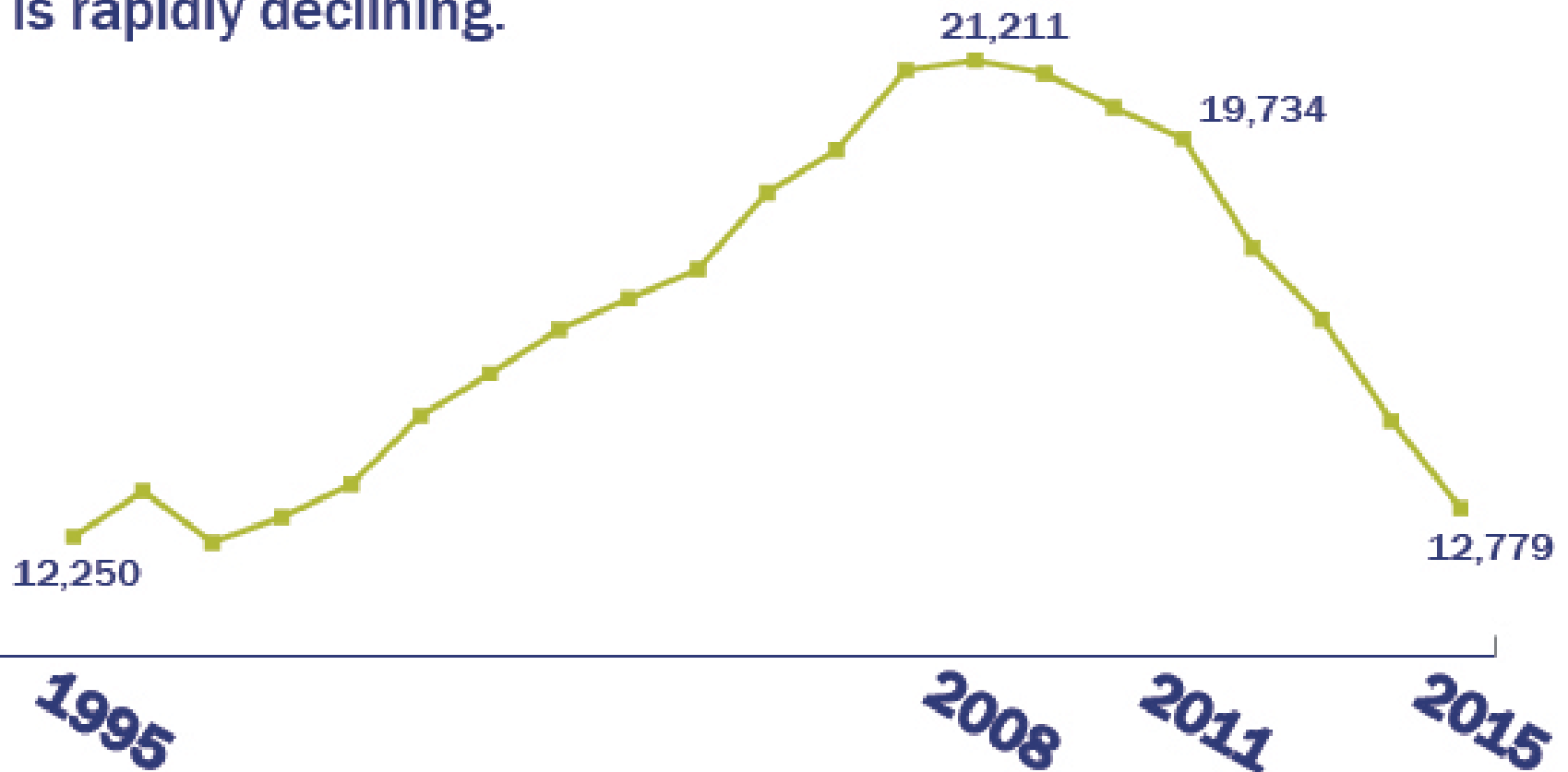
Early Education and Child Care

- Child care = early education
 - Declining participation in child care assistance
- Benefits for kids
 - Health
 - School readiness
 - Educational achievement, lifetime earnings
- Benefits for parents
 - Work participation



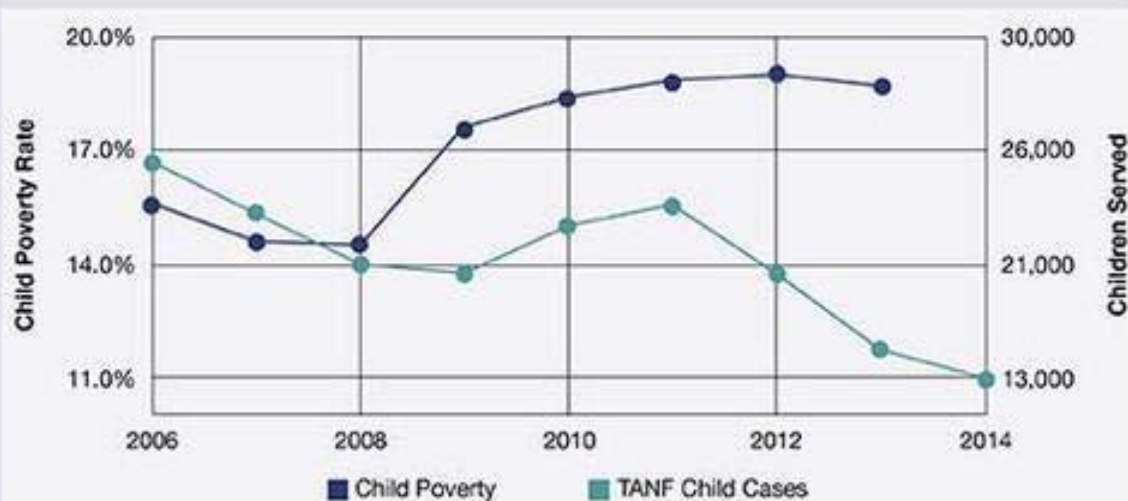
Child Care Assistance

The average number of Kansas children receiving child care subsidies is rapidly declining.



Closing pathways out of poverty

Childhood poverty is *increasing* in Kansas, yet fewer children are receiving aid from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families.



New Opportunities

CCDF | CHILD CARE
DEVELOPMENT FUND

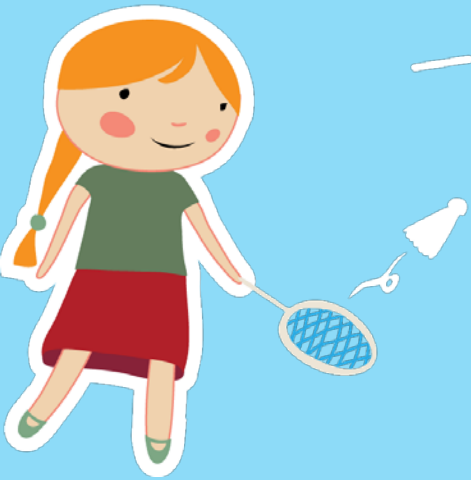
Primary means for funding
child care in Kansas

\$42.2 M in federal CCDBG funds
+ \$20.4 M in federal TANF funds
+ \$16.0 M in state funds

\$78.6 M

What it funds: CCDF funds a number of valuable programs including the statewide resource and referral network, child care workforce development and quality initiatives supporting children and families.

- **Federal Reauthorization of Child Care Development Block Grant**
 - Improve child care assistance *eligibility during job search and graduated phase out*
 - Improve *nutrition and physical activity standards*



IT'S TIME
TO THINK
BIG



www.ThinkBigStartSmallKS.com



THINK BIG.

Start Small.

www.thinkbigstartsmallks.com



BETTER BEVERAGES

BEVERAGES
play a big part in
KIDS' HEALTH



UNPLUG

MAKE
SCREENTIME
A REWARD—
not a routine



RIGHT REWARDS

DON'T LIMIT
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY
as punishment for
poor behavior



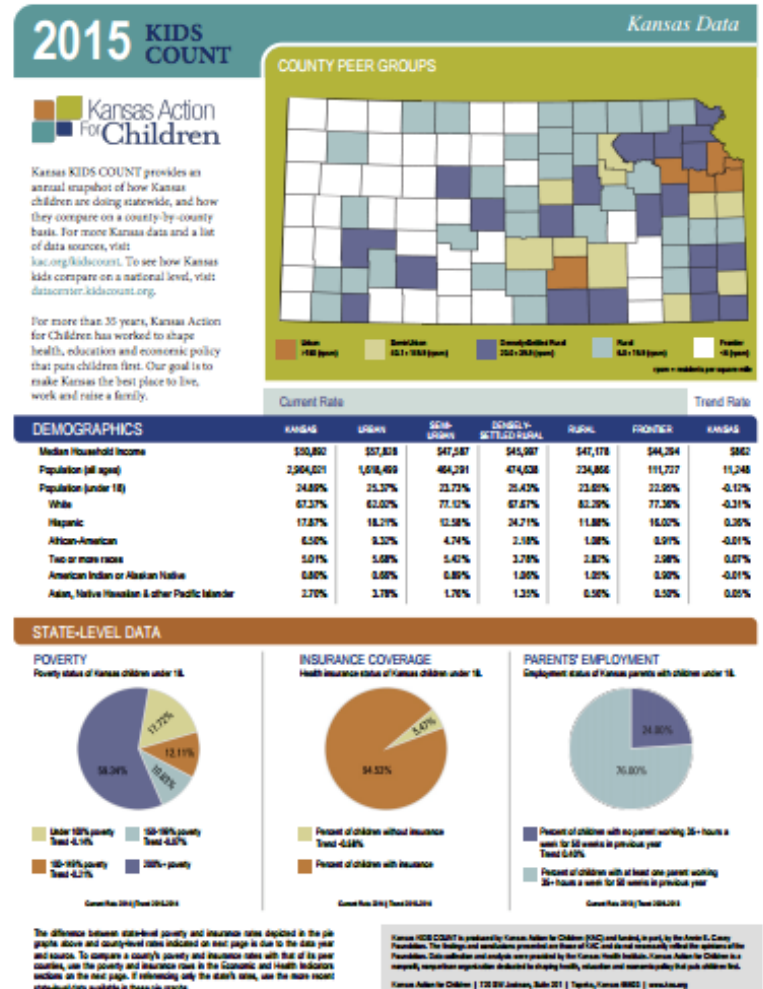
BREASTFEEDING BENEFITS

DISCUSS STRATEGIES
to overcome the challenges
of breastfeeding



New KIDS COUNT reports

- KIDS COUNT – 2015 State and County reports released this week
- Report on 25 indicators of child wellbeing statewide and for each of Kansas' 105 counties at www.kac.org



Your Role

- Share the toolkit resources
- Sign up for news and alerts
- Speak up for kids and families



Contact and more information

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<http://kac.org/take-action/toolkit/>

<http://kac.org/sign-up/>