



LBDI Fact Sheet

- 54% of Shawnee County Infants are not fully immunized by age two¹
- 17% of Shawnee County adults under the age of 65 do not have health insurance. ¹
- Drug and alcohol related deaths are significantly higher in Shawnee County (12.3 per 1000 versus statewide 9.7 per 1000)¹
- Kansas has one of the highest rates for child food insecurities in the nation at 21%; the food insecurity for Shawnee County is the high rate of 15.2%. Malnutrition has been proven to adversely affect a child's future health outcome. ¹
- A high 6.5% sales tax on food, the second highest in the country, makes it difficult to purchase healthy and nutritious food. ²
- The Suicide Mortality Rate in Shawnee County (20.2 per 100,000) is higher than both the statewide rate (15.9) and the US Rate (13.3) and trending upward. ³
- 10 percent of low-income residents live in food deserts.¹
- Infant mortality in Shawnee County is still higher than the state's 6.8 per 1000 versus the states 6.4 per 1000. ¹
- Children under the age of 5 experience the highest rate of poverty for any age group in Topeka and Shawnee County, with 17% living below the poverty line. ⁴
- The highest rate of poverty is experienced by single mothers with children under 5 only (43%) followed by single mothers who have children under 5 and children 5 to 17 (39%). The lowest poverty rate is reported for married couple families with children 5 to 17 (2%).⁵
- According to information provided by Topeka MAACLink, 57% of our food recipients are Caucasian, 24% African American, 16% Hispanic and 4% Native American. 47% of those served are children or elderly.
- The working poor are the largest group of families (41%) receiving emergency food assistance. ⁴
- The Topeka Rescue Mission has seen a dramatic increase in number of human trafficking victims coming forward or being reported – from 4 in 2014 to an estimated 100 in 2017. ⁶
- In Kansas, for Fiscal Year 2017, there were 67,642 reports of child abuse/neglect⁷



- In Shawnee County there were 6,064 reported cases of child abuse/neglect. This is about 9% of the total number of reported cases in the state.⁸
- In 2016 the Topeka Police Department reported 1411 domestic violence incidents⁹
 - o 1114 female victims (78.95%)/297 male victims (21.05%)
 - o 278 of these cases had children present (19.70%)
 - o 400 of these cases the offender was suspected of using drugs and/or alcohol (28.35%).
- 295 children stayed at the Topeka Rescue Mission in 2018¹⁰
- One of the biggest contributors to homelessness is chronic mental illness – reoccurring mental illness and the debilitating effects it causes.¹¹
- 1 in 6 people in Topeka live at or below the national poverty level¹²

¹ Source: 2016 Shawnee County Community Health Needs Assessment

² “Change Kansas’ Grocery Tax”, 2016, Retrieved from: <https://www.kchealthykids.org/change-kansas-grocery-tax/>

³ “Shawnee County Community Health Improvement Plan”, September, 20, 2019, Retrieved from: <http://www.stormontvail.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/2020-2022-SNCO-CHIP-9-20-19.pdf>

⁴ “Topeka & Shawnee County Hunger Facts”, Accessed September 2019, Retrieved from: <https://www.projecttopeka.org/donate/hunger-facts>

⁵ “Trends in child poverty”, 2017, Retrieved from: <https://www.childtrends.org/indicators/children-in-poverty>

⁶ “Sex trafficking skyrockets in Topeka: What you need to know”, June 6, 2018, Retrieved from: <https://www.wibw.com/content/news/Sex-trafficking-up-in-NE-KS-What-you-need-to-be-aware-of-484769521.html>

⁷ “House Committee on Children and Seniors – Kansas Foster Care Overview”, 2017, Retrieved from: http://www.kslegislature.org/li_2018/b2017_18/committees/ctte_h_children_and_seniors_1/documents/testimony/20170110_03.pdf

⁸ “DCF: Reports of abuse and/or neglect in Kansas up 9.7 percent”, April 16, 2017, Retrieved from: <https://www.hayspost.com/2017/04/16/dcf-reports-of-abuse-andor-neglect-in-kansas-up-9-7-percent/>

⁹ “Domestic Violence, Stalking, and Sexual Assault In Kansas As Reported by Law Enforcement Agencies”, 2017, Retrieved from: <http://www.accesskansas.org/kbi/stats/docs/pdf/DVStalking%20Rape%202017.pdf>

¹⁰ “2018 Annual Report”, 2018, Retrieved from: https://www.trmonline.org/files/publications/TRM_2018_AnnualReport.pdf

¹¹ “As homelessness rises in Topeka, Rescue Mission see record numbers”, February 21, 2018, Retrieved from: <https://www.wibw.com/content/news/474763163.html>

¹² “Poverty in Topeka, Kansas”, 2017, Retrieved from: <https://www.welfareinfo.org/poverty-rate/kansas/topeka>