



*Update
March 2010*

Resources

Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is recognized nationally as Child Abuse Prevention month. As the state chapter for [Prevent Child Abuse America](#), Kansas Children's Service League has many resources available to help raise awareness during the month of April.

[Pinwheels for Prevention](#) is Prevent Child Abuse America's new campaign representing the need to prioritize child abuse prevention. The messaging reflects what prevention is and the simple tasks people can do to make help prevent child abuse - advocate, educate, volunteer, support. Pinwheels can be [purchased](#) from KCSL at \$1.00 each.

The blue ribbon continues to be a symbol of child abuse prevention. Please wear a ribbon to support the ideal that every child should grow up in a healthy and nurturing home. Blue ribbon cards can be [ordered](#) for free from the KCSL website.

KCSL also has other materials (proclamation templates, calendars, messages) available on the website to help your organization raise awareness of the need for child abuse prevention programs. For more information about Child Abuse Prevention month activities in Kansas contact Pam Noble at (877) 530-5275 ext. 1343.

Kansas' Infant Mortality Rate

In February, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment released an Op-Ed Column by Jason Eberhart-Phillips, MD, the Kansas State Health Officer and Director of Health discussing results of infant mortality rates in Kansas. Alarming, about 300 children under the age of one are dying each year in Kansas. Kansas is currently ranked as the 18th worst state in the country. While the national infant mortality rate has been gradually falling each year, the rate in Kansas – more than 7 per 1,000 – is essentially unchanged from the late 1990s. Kansas does worse than the country as a whole in every racial and ethnic group, but it is among African-American babies born here that the death rate is truly astounding. Currently the infant mortality rate among black Kansas babies is about 14 per 1,000, more than double the white rate. Blacks account for 7 percent of all births in Kansas but suffer from 17 percent of infant deaths. This news release

discusses the Kansas Blue Ribbon Panel's recommendations to tackle Kansas' infant mortality problem. Read: [Infant Mortality: Giving Our Most to the Littlest Kansans](#)

States Report on Strengthening Families Initiatives

Sixteen Strengthening Families National Network states, including Kansas, submitted their annual tracking reports, giving us some clues about how Strengthening Families is growing across the country. Highlights from the aggregated data include:

- **\$36,451,740** in direct dollars have been invested in Strengthening Families. The largest state investment was over \$14,000,000, and the smallest, of those reporting, was \$20,500.
- **\$5,777,144** in matching resources were leveraged for Strengthening Families, among states reporting.
- **14** states report that Strengthening Families is part of their **ECCS** plan.
- **14** states report that Strengthening Families is part of their **CBCAP** RFP process.
- **11** states report that Strengthening Families is part of their **QRIS** process.
- **13** states report that their **CCR&Rs** are engaged in Strengthening Families.

More key findings from the state reports will be posted in the coming weeks.

National Incidence Study IV

The following appeared on the [Policy for Results](#) blog. Policy for Results is a project of the Center for the Study of Social Policy that promotes better results for kids and families through research-informed policy.

Chapin Hall recently released an issue brief, [Child Abuse Prevention: A Job Half Done](#). The brief addresses the recently released [Fourth National Incidence Study on Child Maltreatment \(NIS 4\)](#) which found significant reductions in the rate of sexual abuse, physical abuse and emotional abuse toward children, but no significant changes in the rates of child neglect. The brief also states that the important drop in violence toward children suggests that comprehensive intervention strategies, high-quality clinical interventions, and holding people who harm children accountable – have helped to keep children safe. While the drop in violence toward children is good news, the lack of a reduction in rates of neglect (the most common cause of child maltreatment) suggests there is still a great deal of work to be done.

The brief advocates for those in prevention, practice and policy to look at the results of the NIS 4 in its historical context – because while there has been a reduction in maltreatment since the previously released NIS 3 (1993) the rate of child maltreatment in this recent iteration is still significantly higher than the rates found in the first two NIS reports (1980, 1986).

Maintaining and enhancing the gains that were found in the NIS 4, and addressing the rate of child neglect, will be difficult with state budget gaps and economic crises. The brief addresses the importance of continuing efforts to expand intensive home-based interventions, as a part of strategies to promote child well-being, and lists several other important strategies for policymakers and practitioners to consider when addressing the best ways to protect children.

National Center for Children in Poverty

The National Center for Children and Poverty has two articles on parent support and recommendations to promote financial security of families with children.

Supporting Parents of Young Children in the Child Welfare System explores the challenges and opportunities of improving mandated parent training. Drawing on lessons from research and practice it calls on states, courts and communities to use a more intentional, cost effective, and strategic approach to required parent training. Read: [Supporting Parents of Young Children in the Child Welfare System](#)

Asset Poverty and Debt Among Families with Children examines the concept of asset poverty and estimate the proportion of families who are asset poor, then examine debt and financial assets of families with children. The brief concludes with policy implications and recommendations to promote financial security of families with children. Read: [Asset Poverty and Debt Among Families with Children](#).

Reminder: text4baby campaign

text4baby is a new, free mobile information service designed to promote maternal and child health. An educational program of the National Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Coalition (HMHB), text4baby provides pregnant women and new moms with information they need to take care of their health and give their babies the best possible start in life. The service is available thanks to a large public-private partnership. Find out more [online](#) or via the Kansas version of the text4baby fact sheet. You can also contact [Cristi Cain](#), Kansas Project LAUNCH Coordinator, for more information.

Upcoming Events

Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health 2nd Annual Spring Conference

The 2nd Annual Spring Conference for the Kansas Association for Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health will be May 19 & 20 at the Ramada Inn in Salina.

Be sure to save the date and plan to attend. KAIMH's Spring Conference last year turned out to be the largest Kansas gathering of professionals concerned about the social/emotional developments of infants and toddlers. KAIMH is planning programs that will address infant and early childhood professionals across our state.

Details on the Conference agenda and how you can register to attend will be announced in the next few weeks. Check the [KAIMH website](#) for more information. In the meantime, be sure to mark your calendar to be in Salina on May 19 & 20 for the KAIMH Spring Conference.

Upcoming Events, Conferences & Training Opportunities in Kansas

Do you have an event, conference or training coming up that would benefit other KSF partners? Let us know, and we will promote it on the KSF website and in the newsletter, the *KSF Update*. Send information to hilharms@ku.edu or contact Hilary Harms Logan at (785) 864-6069.