



# 25,000 UNINSURED, KANCARE-ELIGIBLE CHILDREN: WHERE ARE THEY?

This fact sheet is the third of a three-part series examining the geographic variation in health insurance coverage for Kansans.

Public health insurance through Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) is a key source of coverage for children age 0-18 in Kansas. These programs are administered at the state level through KanCare. In 2017, Medicaid or CHIP was available for children living in low-income families that earned less than 241 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL; \$59,286 for a family of four in 2017). This fact sheet provides data on where Kansas children enrolled in KanCare in 2017 lived (Figure 1), and examines where uninsured children likely eligible for KanCare but not enrolled lived (Figure 2, page 2).

## Medicaid/CHIP Enrollment by County in 2017

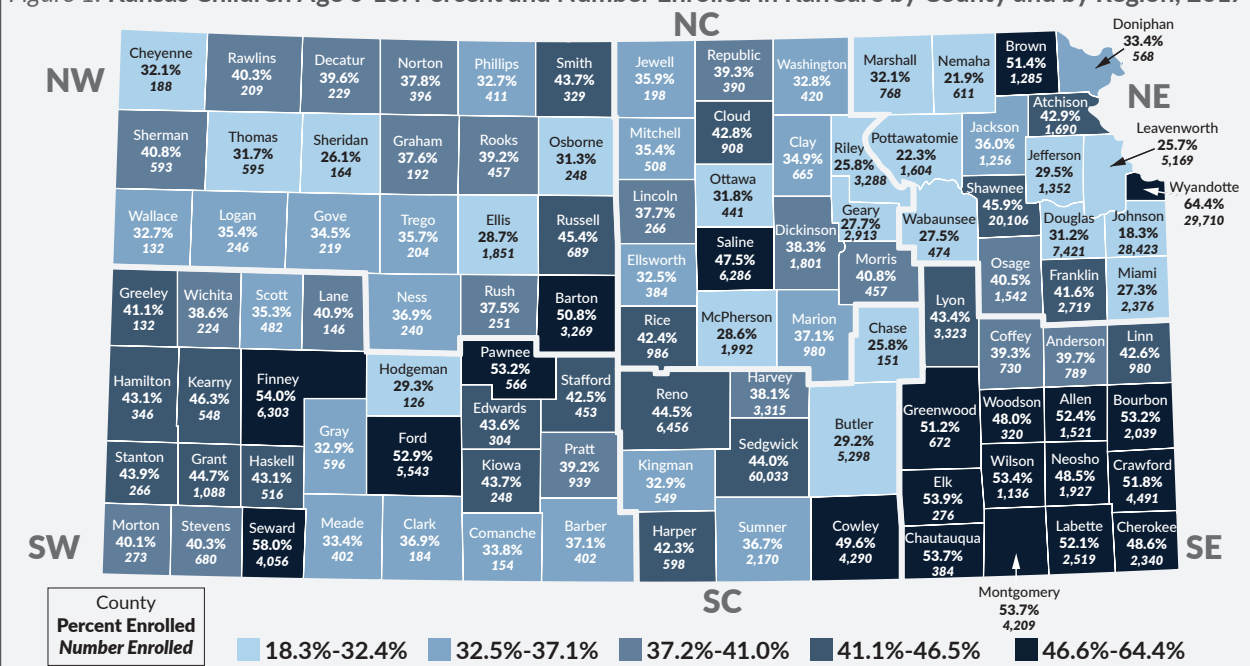
Using data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment, there were 276,562 (37.5 percent) Kansas children enrolled in KanCare in 2017 (Figure 1).

Half (52.7 percent) of Kansas children enrolled in KanCare lived in one of the five most populous counties (Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte). However, the percentage of children enrolled in KanCare also was high in the southeast and southwest regions.

## Likely Eligible, but Uninsured

An estimated 37,982 children in Kansas were uninsured in 2017, and 25,436 (67.0 percent) of

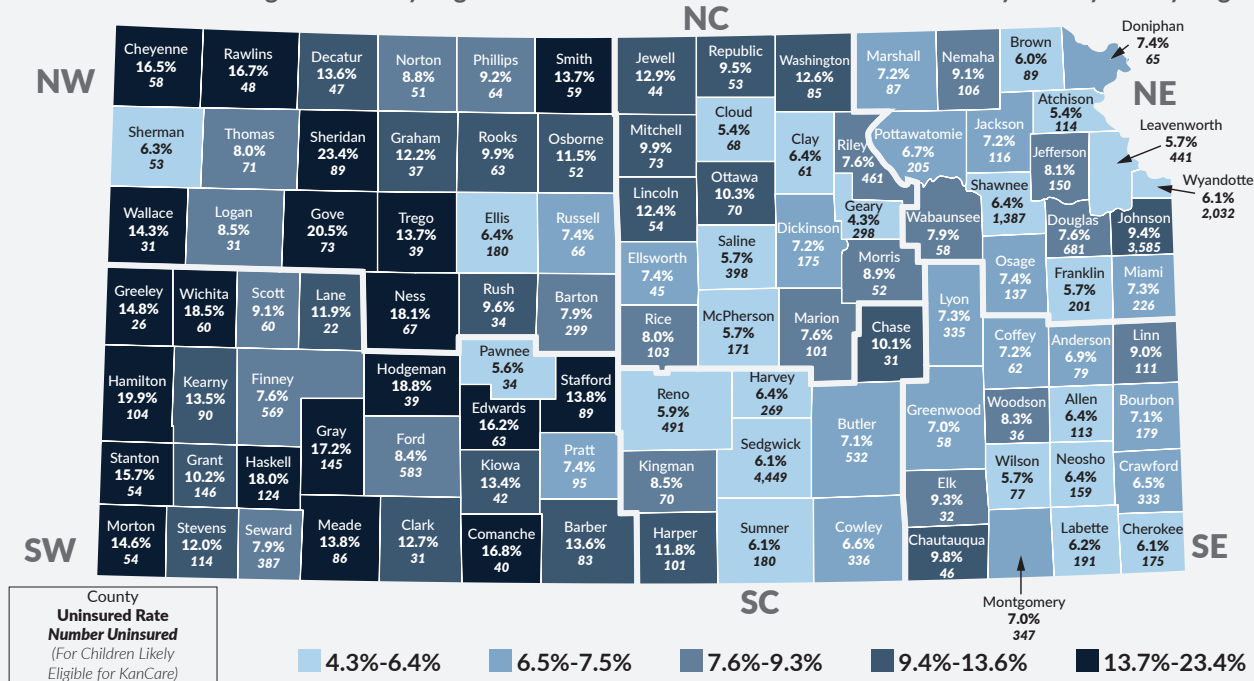
Figure 1. Kansas Children Age 0-18: Percent and Number Enrolled in KanCare by County and by Region, 2017



| Region           | North Central | Northeast | Northwest | South Central | Southeast | Southwest | Kansas  |
|------------------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------|
| Percent Enrolled | 34.8%         | 31.6%     | 38.1%     | 42.3%         | 49.4%     | 48.4%     | 37.5%   |
| Number Enrolled  | 22,883        | 107,074   | 11,112    | 82,860        | 27,656    | 24,977    | 276,562 |

Note: KanCare enrollees age 0-18 = 276,562. Regions are designated using the Kansas Department of Health and Environment District Office Boundaries map. The percent of children age 0-18 enrolled in KanCare (Medicaid/CHIP) is calculated using average monthly enrollment of children and dividing by the total number of children. County-level data in Excel format are available at [bit.ly/35g4MJL](http://bit.ly/35g4MJL). Source: KHI analysis of data from the Kansas Department of Health and Environment Data Analytic Interface and U.S. Census Bureau 2017 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE).

Figure 2. Kansas Children Age 0-18 Likely Eligible for KanCare: Uninsured Rate and Number by County and by Region, 2017



| Region  | North Central | Northeast | Northwest | South Central | Southeast | Southwest | Kansas |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-----------|-----------|--------|
| Uninsured Rate<br><i>(For Children Likely Eligible for KanCare)</i>   | 6.6%          | 7.3%      | 9.7%      | 6.3%          | 6.9%      | 9.9%      | 7.2%   |
| Number Uninsured<br><i>(For Children Likely Eligible for KanCare)</i> | 2,312         | 9,680     | 1,512     | 6,459         | 2,333     | 3,140     | 25,436 |

Note: Uninsured Kansas children age 0-18 likely eligible for Medicaid/CHIP (based on income alone) = 25,436. Children living in families with incomes less than or equal to 250 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL; \$61,500 for a family of four in 2017) were used as a proxy for those eligible for Medicaid/CHIP, which is 241 percent of FPL (\$59,286 for a family of four in 2017) because all income categories are not available in the data. Regions are designated using the Kansas Department of Health and Environment District Office Boundaries map. The uninsured rate is calculated by dividing the number of uninsured children likely eligible for KanCare by the total number of children likely eligible for KanCare. County-level data in Excel format are available at [bit.ly/2MnXPV5](http://bit.ly/2MnXPV5).

Source: KHI analysis of data from the U.S. Census Bureau 2017 Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE).

them might have been eligible for KanCare but were not enrolled (Figure 2).

Many counties in western Kansas had a significantly higher uninsured rate among children likely eligible for KanCare than the statewide rate (7.2 percent). The highest uninsured rate (23.4 percent) was in Sheridan County, representing 89 children. The northwest region of Kansas as a whole had a rate of 9.7 percent, representing 1,512 children. The southwest region had a rate of 9.9 percent, representing 3,140 children.

The uninsured rate for KanCare-eligible children

generally was not as high in more populous areas of the state. However, nearly half (47.7 percent) of uninsured children likely eligible for KanCare lived in one of the five most populous counties — Douglas, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wyandotte — representing 12,134 children.

## Conclusion

Reaching children and families who are eligible for KanCare could be particularly challenging in rural areas of the state. Partnering with local organizations is an important strategy to facilitate enrollment.

### Technical Note

The U.S. Census Bureau's Small Area Health Insurance Estimates (SAHIE) data is the only data source for single-year county-specific estimates for health insurance coverage (<http://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie/about.html>). SAHIE estimates for health insurance coverage at the state level could differ slightly from those derived from other data sources because of differences in methodology.

## ABOUT THE FACT SHEET

This fact sheet is based on work done by Hina Shah, M.P.H., and Madison Hoover, M.S. It is available online at [khi.org/policy/article/19-40](http://khi.org/policy/article/19-40).

## KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

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