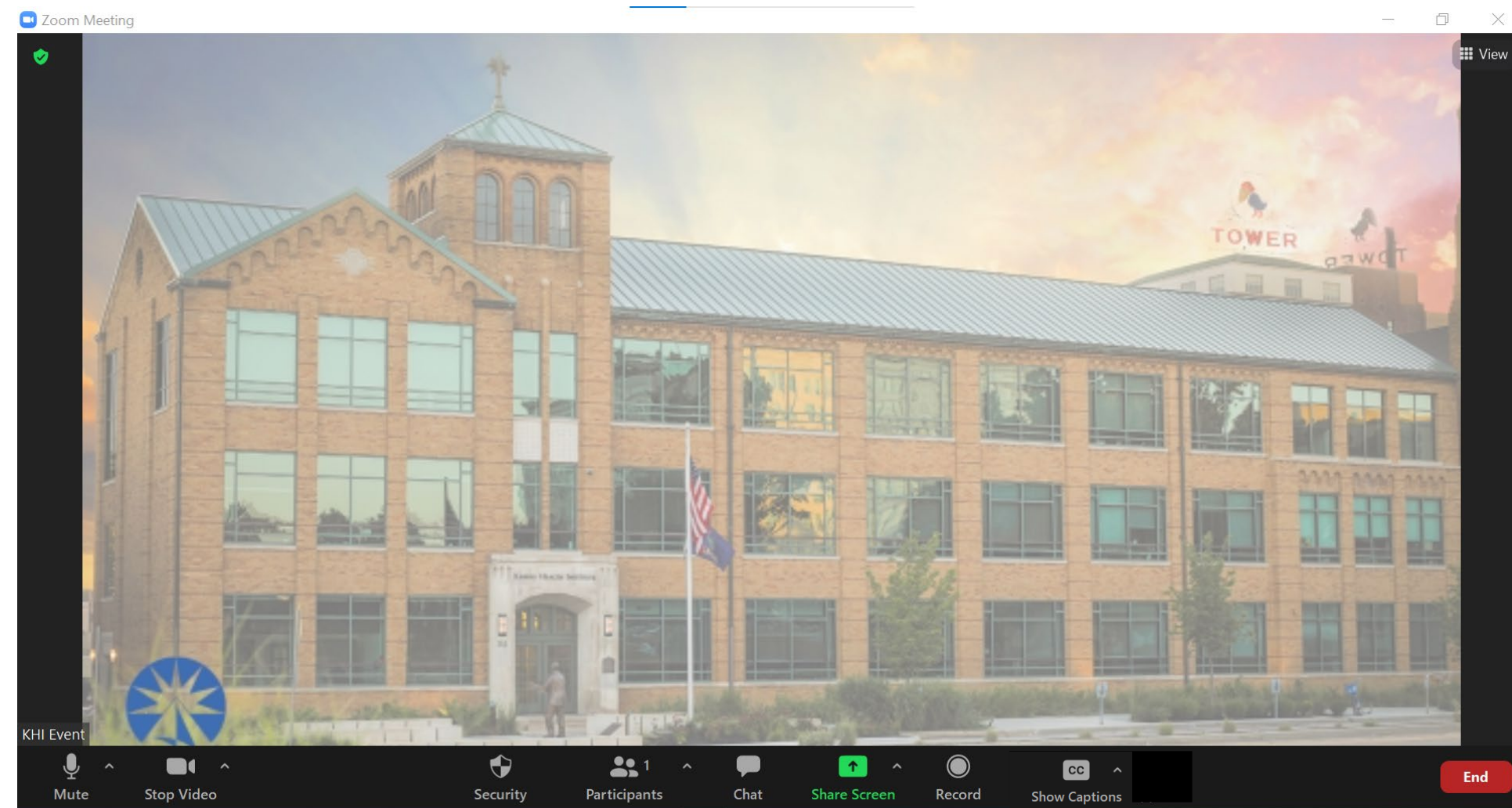




KANSAS HEALTH INSTITUTE

# Advancing Community Paramedicine in Kansas: Policy Options & Considerations

January 30, 2024



**View:** Switch between Speaker and Gallery view.

## Helpful Hints for Zoom Meeting

Technical questions about your Zoom connection or functionality?

> Find **'KHI, IT Help'** in the Participants list to connect for assistance.

**Mute**

**Video:** Stop or start your individual video

**Participants listing:** Find a participant to message

**Chat:** Use this feature to enter questions and comments.

**Closed Captions:** Option for participants





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# Welcoming Remarks

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**Linda Sheppard**

*Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Lead*

*Kansas Health Institute*



# Who We Are

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- Nonprofit, nonpartisan educational organization based in Topeka.
- Established in 1995 with a multi-year grant by the Kansas Health Foundation.
- Committed to convening meaningful conversations around tough topics related to health.



# Our Vision & Mission

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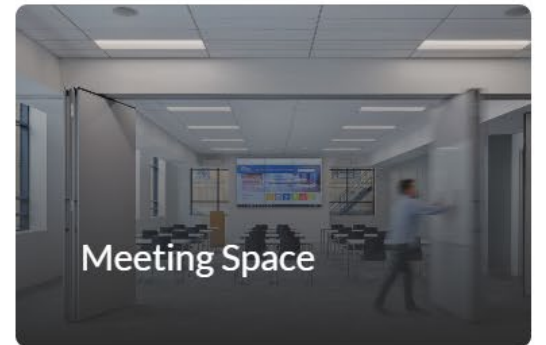
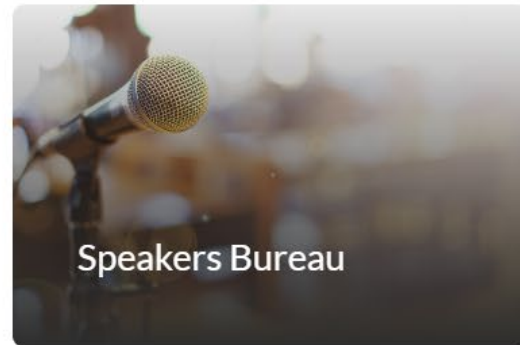
**Healthier Kansans through effective policy.**

Improve the health of all Kansans through nonpartisan research, education and engagement that support effective policymaking.



# Our Services

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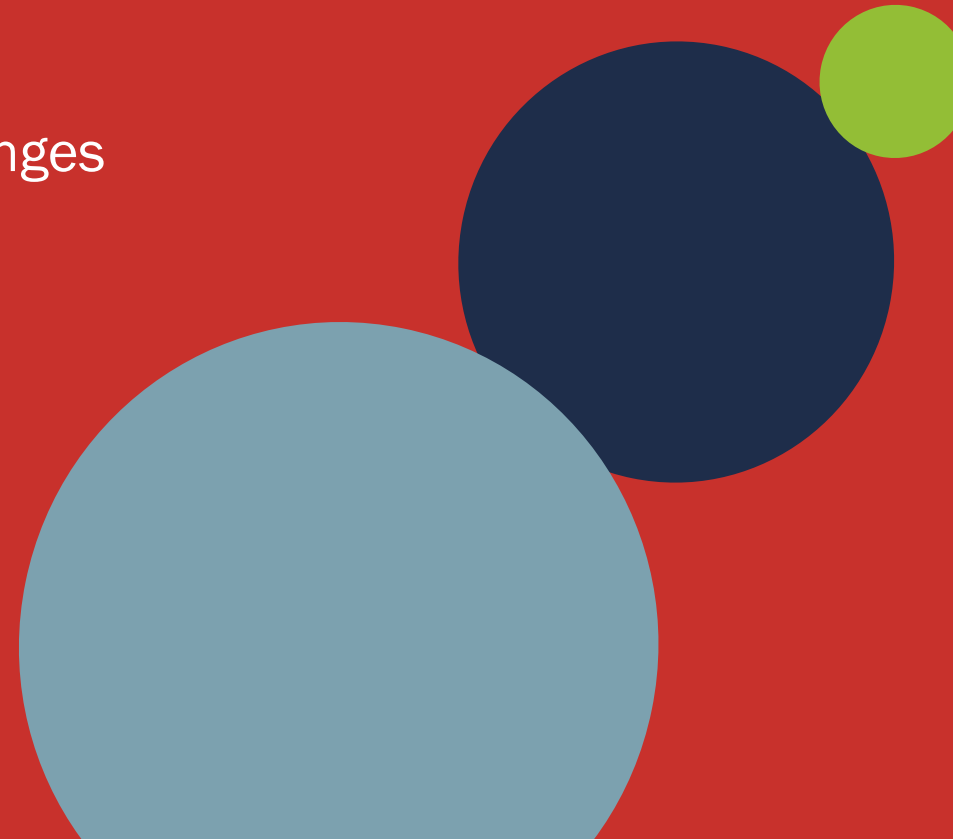
<https://www.khi.org/services/>



# Expanding the Care Team:

Innovative Solutions to address Kansas' Workforce Challenges

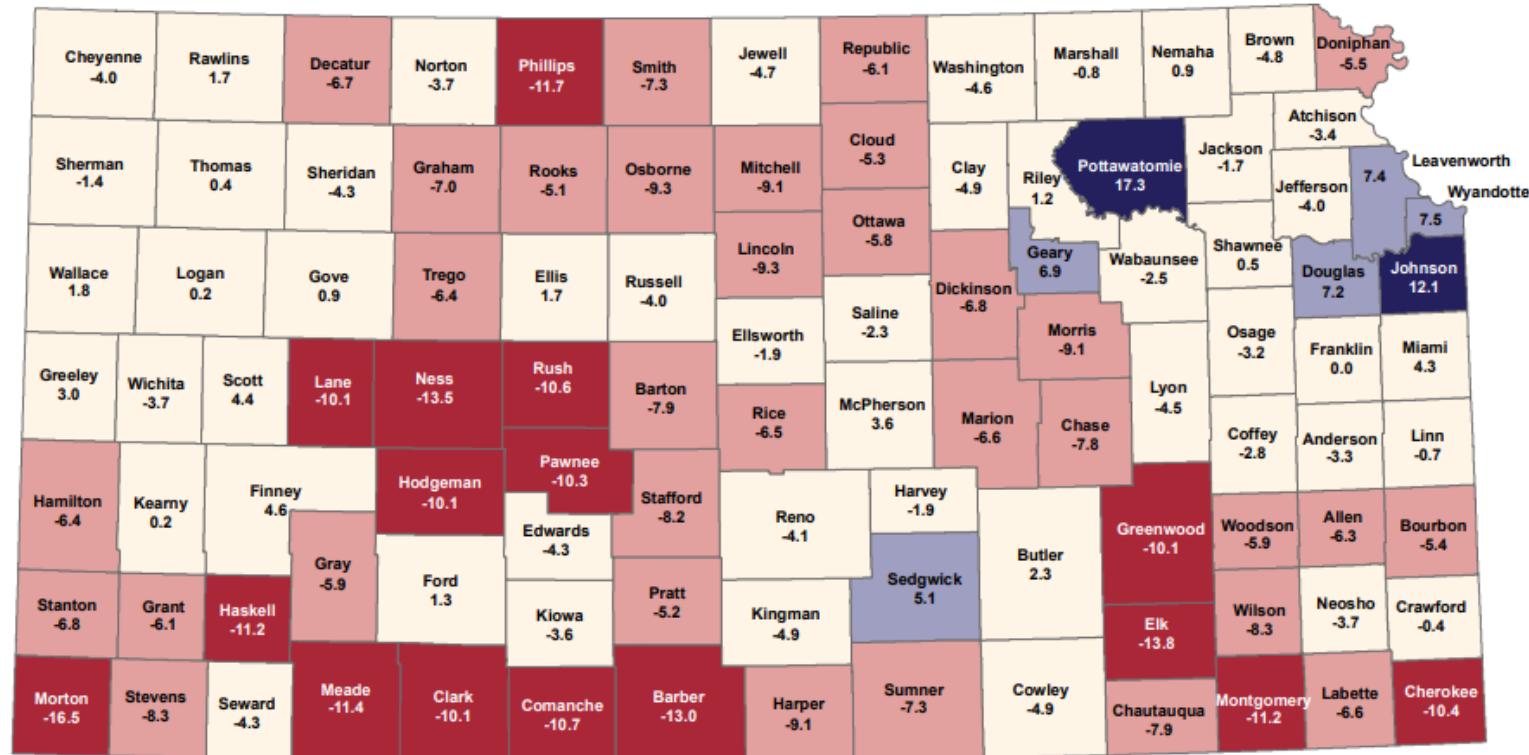
David Jordan,  
President and CEO



# Demographics: An Important Factor

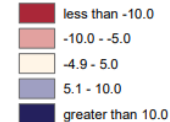
Kansas Population is Growing... Slower and Mainly in Cities

Percent Population Change in Kansas, by County  
2010 - 2020



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research, The University of Kansas; data from the U.S. Census Bureau.

Percent Population Change

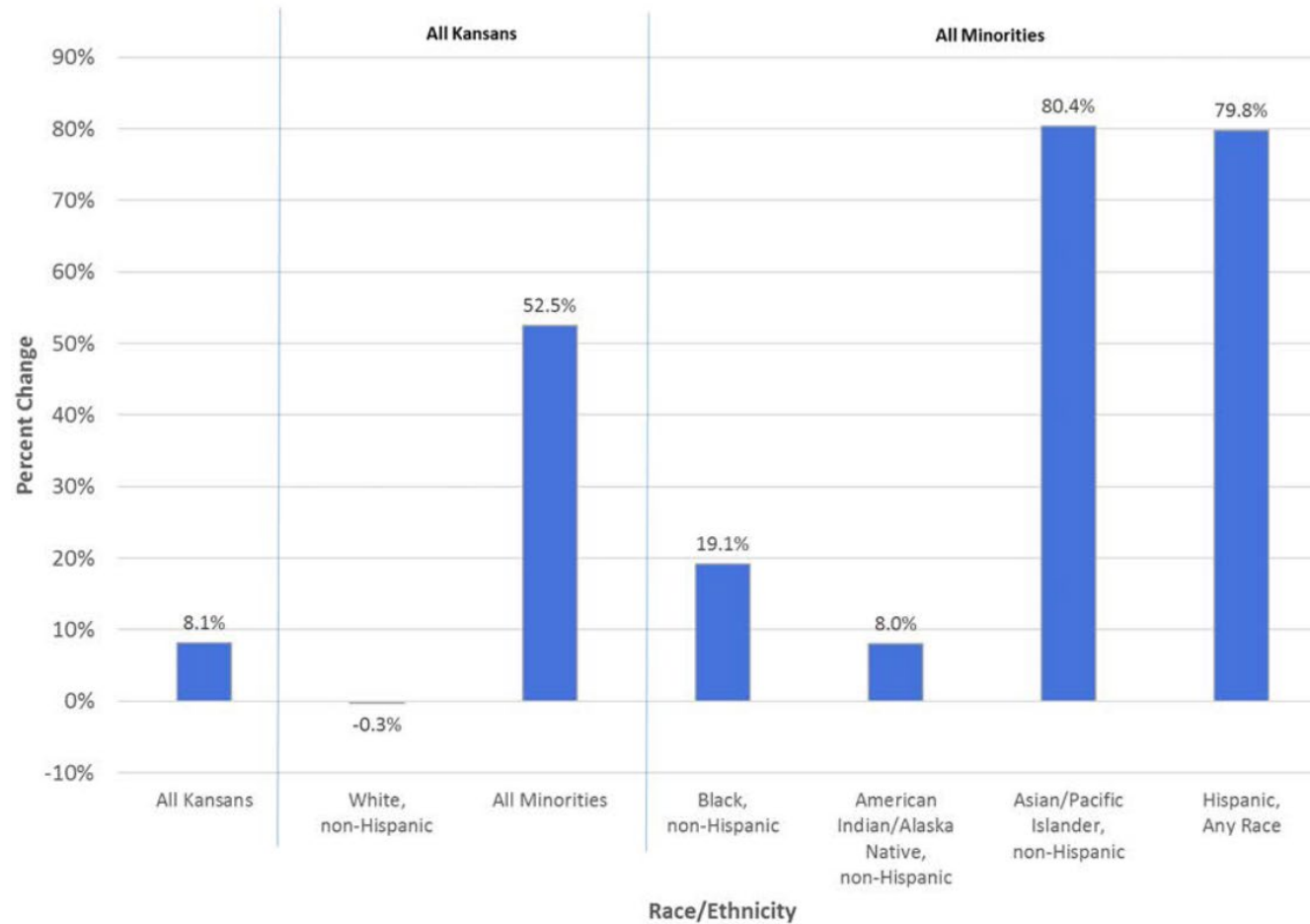


State: 3.0



# Kansas' Changing Demographics

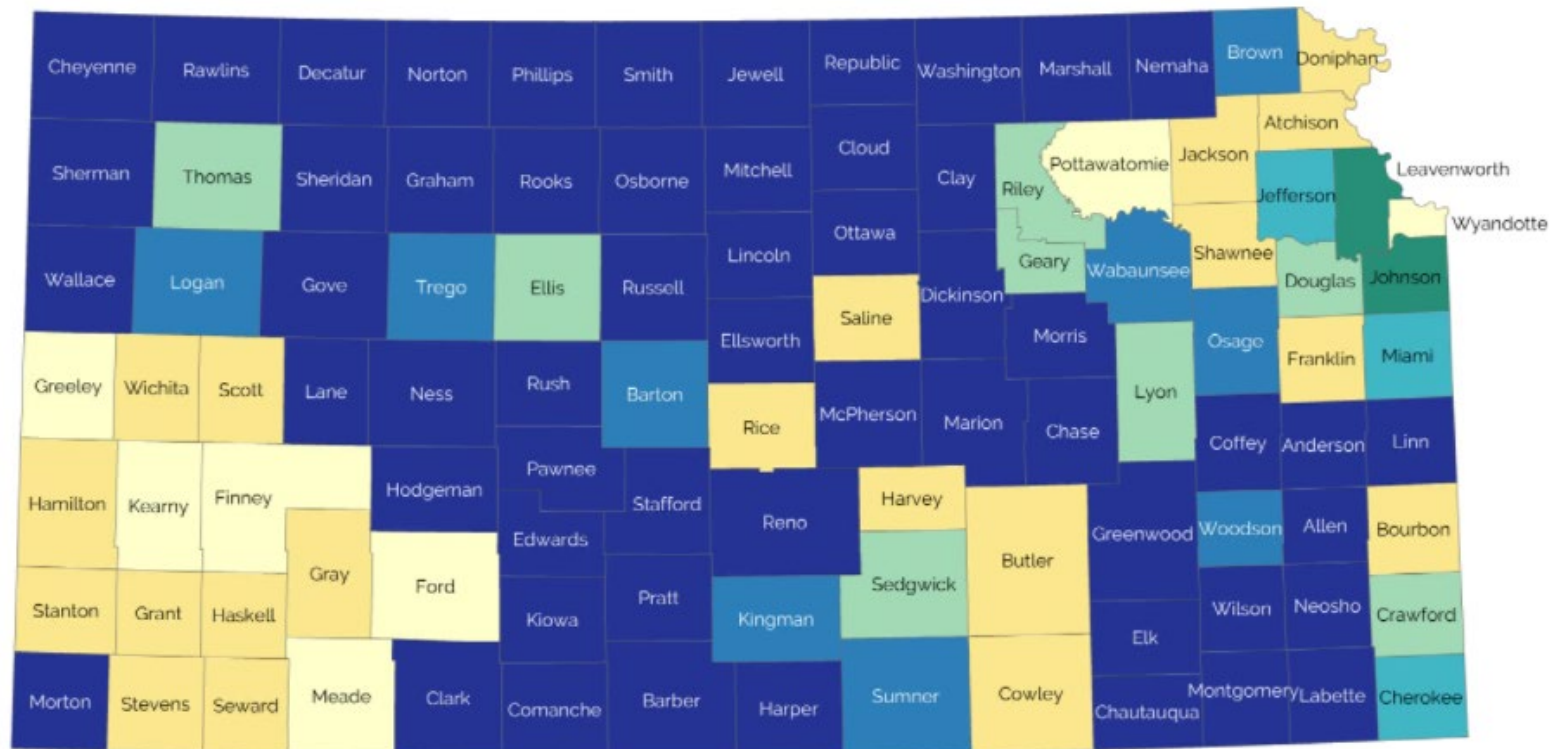
Figure 2.2.3a. Population Change (Percent) by Race/Ethnicity in Kansas, Between 2000 and 2016



# Demographics: An Important Factor

## Kansas Population is Growing... Older

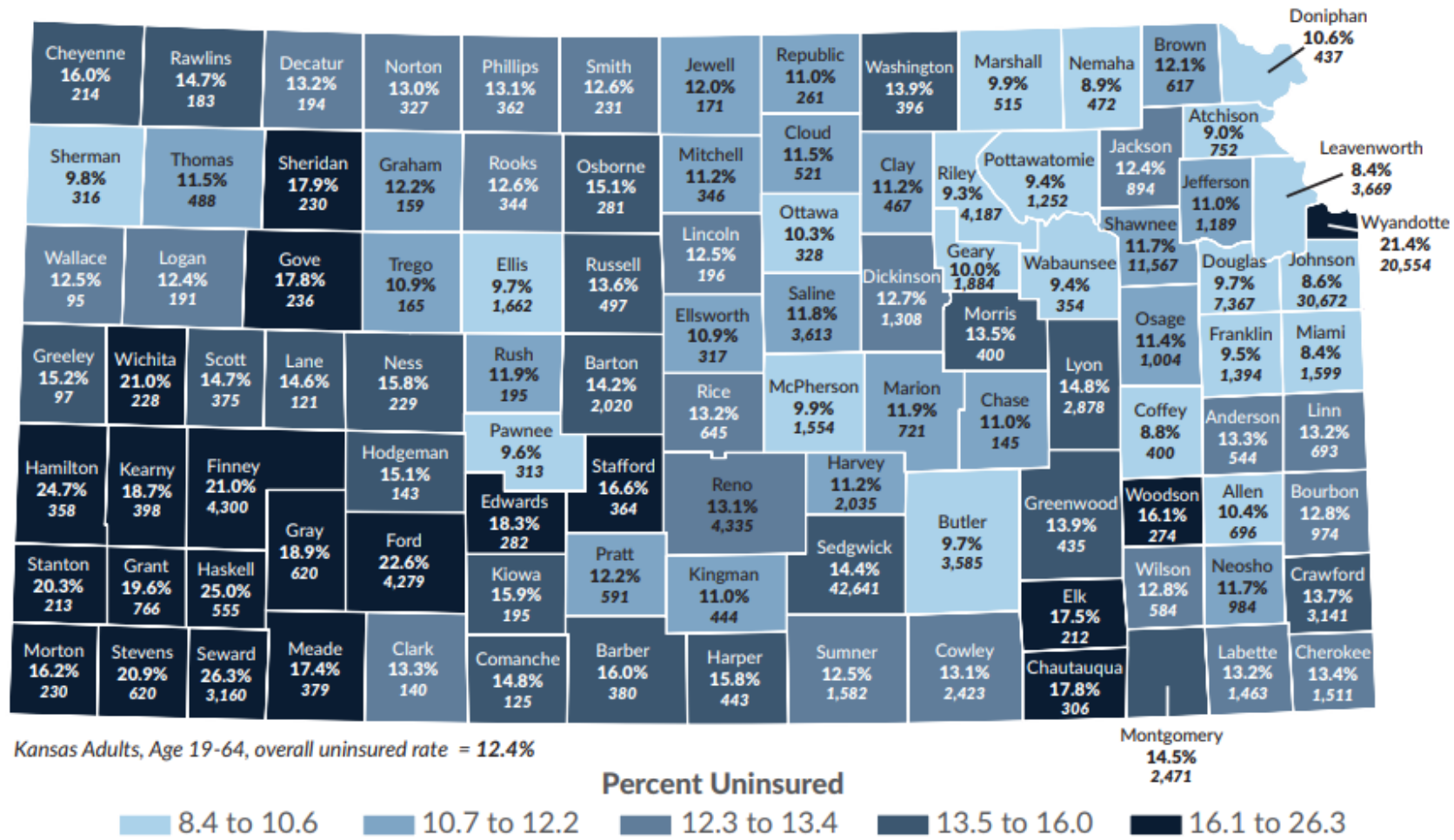
Largest Age Group in Kansas, by County, 2020



Source: Institute for Policy & Social Research,  
The University of Kansas;  
data from the National Center for Health Statistics,  
2020 Population Estimates by Single Year of Age.



# The Number of Uninsured Patients Continues to Grow in Rural Areas



Source: Kansas Health Institute

# Health Care and Public Funding

- Kansas has lost over \$5 billion by not expanding Medicaid
- Kansas ranks #47 in drawing down federal funds
- Kansas ranked #39 in public health spending
  - The top state spends 5x more than Kansas
  - Kansas spends \$87 per person while the top state spends \$449

# Kansas Healthcare Workforce Shortages

## Primary Care Shortages, 2020



- County-level Primary Care HPSA Score of 18 or higher
- County-level Primary Care HPSA Score of 17 or lower
- Not eligible for County-level Primary Care HPSA score
- Application for HPSA score has been submitted to HRSA

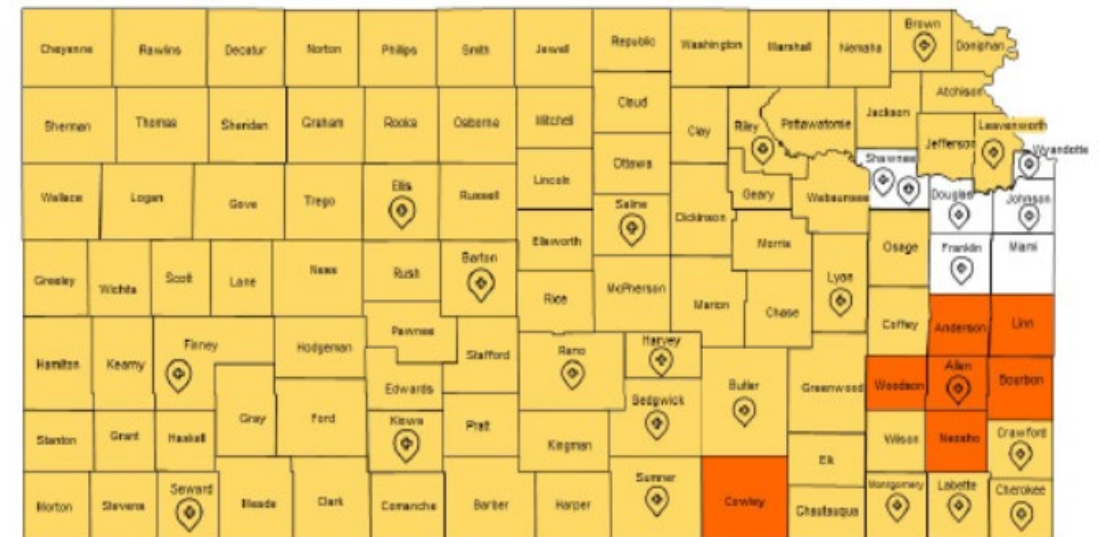


Countries with Geographic Primary Care HPSA Designation

Data Source: Health Resources & Services Administration Data Warehouse, December 2020

Data Note: HPSA scores shown are listed in Data Warehouse as of December 2020. Updates to HPSAs made after this date are not reflected.

## Mental Health Shortages, 2020



- County-level Mental Health HPSA Score of 18 or higher
- County-level Mental Health HPSA Score of 17 or lower
- Not eligible for County-level Mental Health HPSA score



Community Mental Health Center Location

Data Sources: Health Resources & Services Administration Data Warehouse, December 2020  
Association of Community Mental Health Centers of KS, Inc., 2018

Data Note: HPSA scores shown are listed in Data Warehouse as of December 2020. Updates to HPSAs made after this date are not reflected.

Source: KDHE Health Professional Underserved Areas Report

# Health Care Workers are Leaving

3 in 10 health-care workers say they have considered no longer working in health care.

Washington Post/Kaiser Family Foundation 2021

32% of nurses surveyed in November 2021 said they intended to leave their current position in the next year.

McKinsey & Company 2022

More than half of nurses surveyed under the age of 40 are less committed to the profession than 1 year ago.

Trusted Health 2021


2022 Community Conversations on Health Care

In January and February 2022,  
over 50% of Kansas hospitals  
reported limiting services due  
to staffing shortages.

Kansas Hospital Association

United Methodist  
**HealthMinistryFund**

1:08 / 2:31   Scroll for details




## KANSAS HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION


An analysis of health profession degree programs in Kansas.

### PROGRAM DURATION


Most degree programs took two or fewer years to complete.



**288 (62.7%)**  
Associate's degrees or < 2 years in duration



**80 (17.4%)**  
Bachelor's degrees




**36 (7.8%)**  
Master's degrees


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### SNAPSHOT

Kansas offers health profession education programs across the state. In 2019:



11,804 students graduated from health profession programs



459 health profession programs were offered across 51 institutions

### TOP DEGREE TYPES

Most awarded degrees were related to nursing or allied health.

**1** Practical Nursing, Vocational Nursing, Nursing Assistants

**2** Registered Nursing, Nursing Admin., Nursing Research

**3** Allied Health Diagnostic, Intervention, & Treatment Professions

**4** Allied Health and Medical Assisting Services

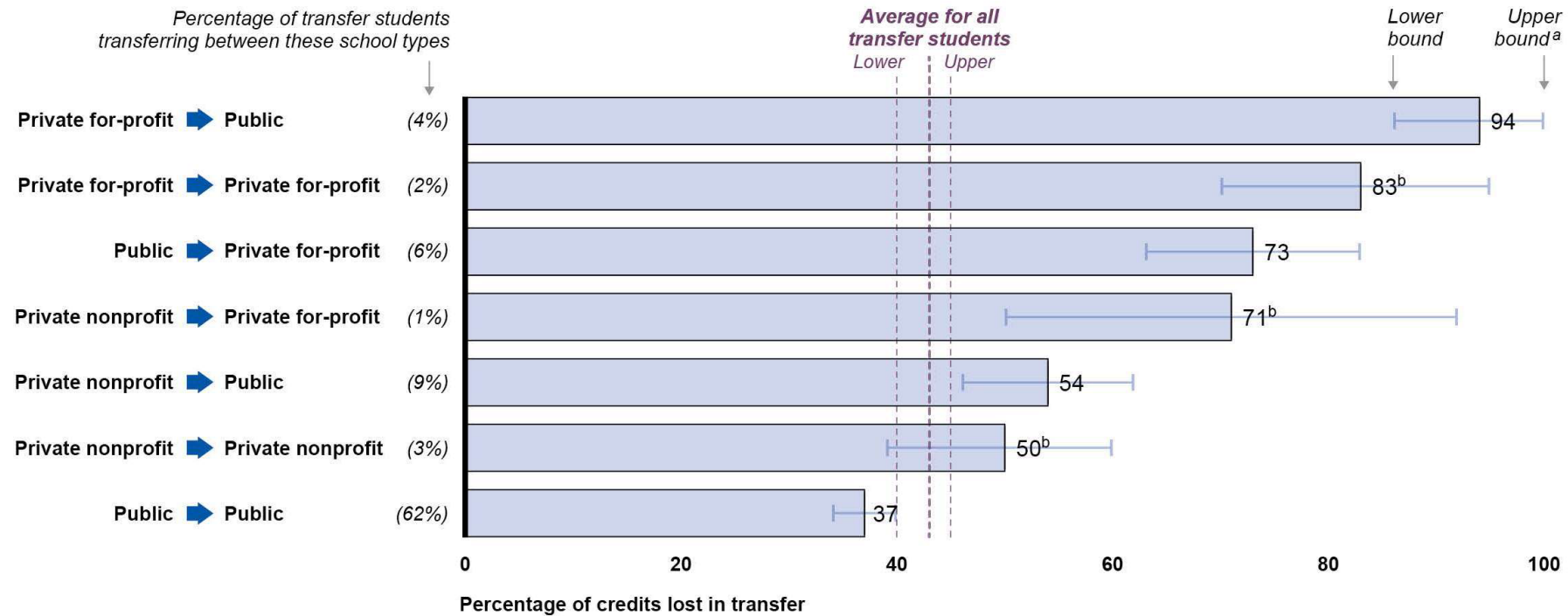
Infographic source: Hughes, Dorothy, and Nick Baldetti. "Health Professions Across Kansas: Analysis of US Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) 2019 Program Completion Data." March 21, 2022.



# Estimated Percentage of Credits Lost in Transfer



**Figure 2: Estimated Percentage of Credits Lost in Transfer, on Average, by School Type, Academic Years 2003-04 to 2008-09**

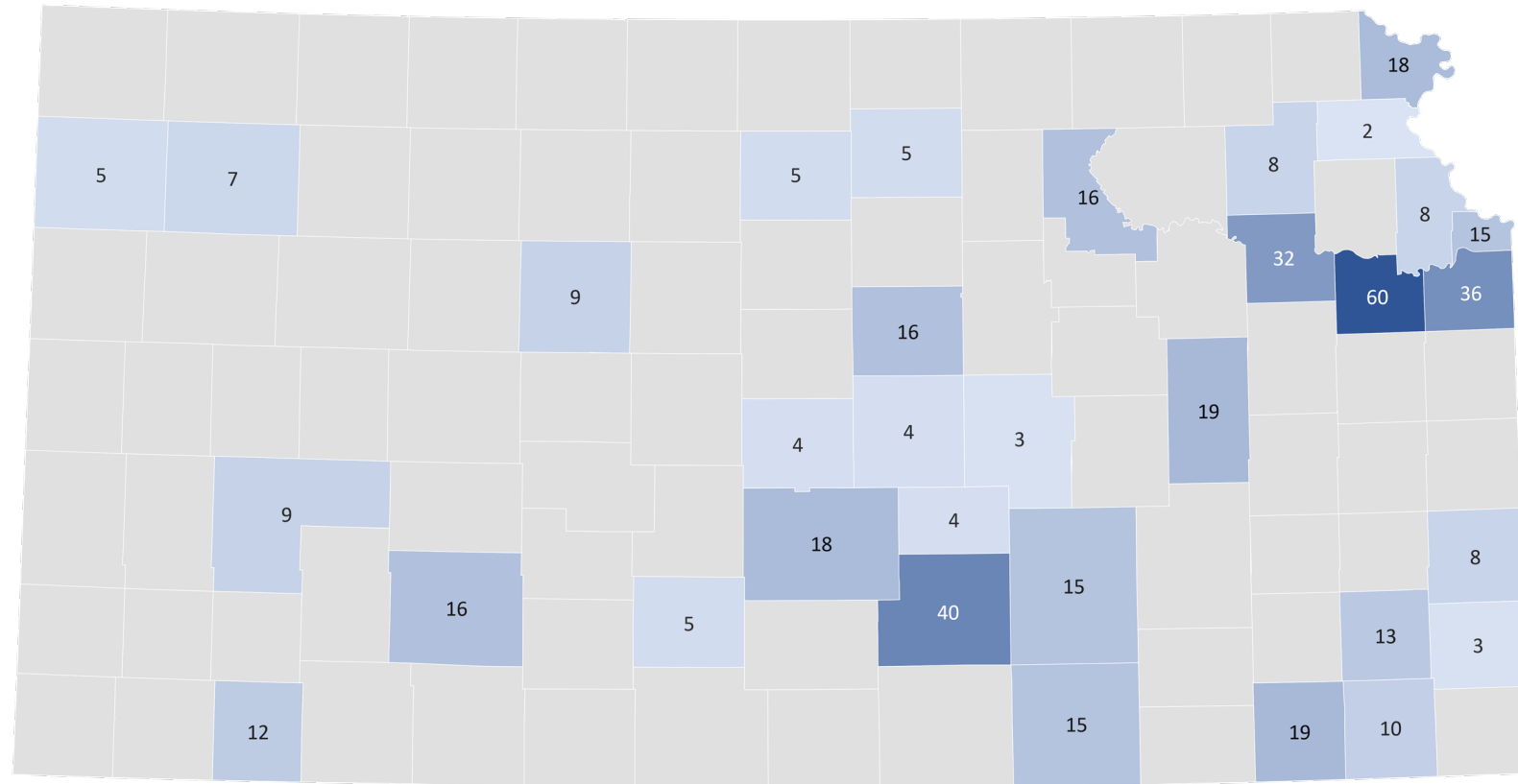


Source: GAO analysis of 2004-2009 Beginning Postsecondary Students Longitudinal Study. | GAO-17-574

# Health Professions Programs Across Kansas



Health Professions Programs Across Kansas (All/IPEDS 2019)



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**Expanding  
the Care Team:**  
Leveraging a  
Broad Workforce  
to Improve Health Care  
in Kansas

# Professionals in a Health Care Team

Figure 1. Example Professionals in an Expanded Health Care Team, by Health Care Service Category

Health Care Service Category	Health Care Profession
Emergency Medical Services	Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT) Paramedic Community Paramedic
Nursing and Patient Care	Certified Nurse Aide (CNA) Certified Medication Aide (CMA) Home Health Aide (HHA) Medical Assistant (MA)
Case Management and Coordination	Care Coordinator Case Manager
Support Services	Certified Dietary Manager (CDM) Community Health Worker (CHW) Dental Assistant Doula (birth, postpartum, end-of-life) Home Visitor Occupational Therapy Assistant (OTA) Peer Mentor (Substance Use) Peer Specialist (Mental Health) Physical Therapy Assistant (PTA) Respiratory Therapist (RT)

Note: This is not a list of all occupations that could be included in an expanded health care team. While not precisely defined, health care professionals included in an expanded health care team are those for which the education required to enter the profession is less than an advanced post-secondary degree. However, these professionals may have other entry-level education, experience or certification requirements.

Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of health care professionals, education requirements and policies from various sources.



POLICYMAKER BRIEF

OCTOBER

2022



## Kansas Community Health Workers

This profession increases access to clinical and community-based services, helping to reduce health disparities and the cost of care.

### CHW ROLE

Community health workers (CHWs) are community members trained to work with the local health care and social services systems to bridge the gap between these systems and their clients.

CHWs are also referred to as: health navigator, promotor(a), advocate, and educator

Their work ensures clients receive access to needed health, social and community services. Unlike many members of the health care team, CHWs are often seen beyond the walls of health care facilities, working in the community, and even making house calls. Community health workers can serve as the eyes and ears of the health care team.

Not everyone has equitable access to health care and social services. These systems are complex and can be incredibly difficult to navigate. CHWs benefit many populations who may otherwise not have equitable or adequate access to care or who may rely solely on emergency care, such as:

- Individuals with low or no income
- Communities of color
- Immigrants
- Individuals with language barriers
- Patients with chronic conditions
- Individuals in crisis
- Individuals without local support systems

Kansas CHWs use a combination of skills and knowledge to connect individuals to the information and services that will lead to optimal health outcomes. CHWs can have many roles and responsibilities:

- **Client Support:** CHWs provide encouragement and social supports to assist clients with setting goals and identifying barriers.

*"One of my first referrals was a 23-year-old, obstetric patient, mother of two. The client had*

*no insurance and was considering cancelling her ultrasound appointment as she didn't have the money to pay for it. During the enrollment process, I found she had numerous goals we could work on together. Many goals were met: applying for Medicaid, SNAP, WIC, moving from an unsafe apartment to subsidized housing, obtaining a library card for internet access, enrolling in the adult learning center ... It's so rewarding to see how well this client is doing since her discharge."*

*-Lucy Watie, former CHW, Bob Wilson Hospital, Ulysses*

- **Care Coordination:** CHWs assist in organizing care instructions across a client's health care team and connecting clients to appropriate information and services.

*"I helped a patient with stage 4 cancer through the paperwork process to get his part-time caregiver paid. Ultimately, his caregiver support increased, which allowed the patient to have assistance with household chores, shopping, transportation to and from appointments, etc."*

*-Stephanie Goetz, Salina Family Healthcare Center*

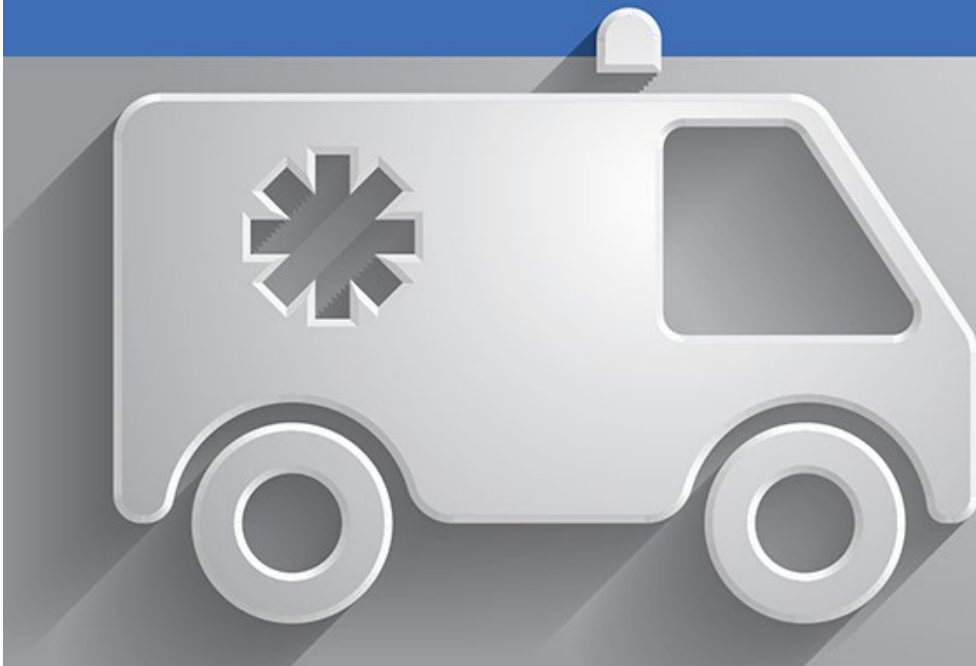
### HOW KANSAS CHWS DEFINE THEMSELVES

*A community health worker is a frontline public health worker who is a trusted member of and/or has an unusually close understanding of the community served. This trusting relationship enables the worker to serve as a liaison/link/intermediary between health/social services and the community to facilitate access to services and improve the quality and cultural competence of service delivery.*

*A community health worker also builds individual and community capacity by increasing knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities such as outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support, and advocacy.*

*-Definition adopted by the Kansas Community Health Worker Coalition*

## Advancing Community Paramedicine in Kansas: Policy Options & Considerations



Tuesday, Jan. 30, 2024  
1:30-3:30 p.m.



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[khi.org](http://khi.org)

**Thank you!**





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# Setting the Stage

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## Community Paramedicine Programs

**Wyatt Beckman**

*Senior Analyst*

*Kansas Health Institute*





# Community Paramedicine

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As defined by the National Association of Mobile Integrated Healthcare Providers, **Community Paramedicine** is:

“patient-centered delivery care model using appropriately trained Emergency Medical Service (EMS) clinicians in an expanded role to render care, facilitate a more efficient delivery of care, and enhance access to community resources that address the social determinants of health.”

*Right care, right time, right place*



# Common Goals, Populations and Services

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## Common Goals:

- Prevent Hospital Readmissions
- Expand Access to Care
- Chronic Disease Management
- Alternate Destinations

## Common Populations Served:

- Frequent EMS & Emergency Department Users
- Populations Managing Chronic Disease

## Common Services:

- Assessment & Testing
- Fall Risk Assessment/mitigation
- Medication Evaluation
- Nutrition Assessment
- Referrals (social services, home health, mental health etc.)
- Wound Care
- Vaccines



# Outcomes & Effectiveness

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## A Promising Model of Care

- Developing field of research
- Key areas of success:
  - Emergency department utilization
  - Readmission
  - Patient satisfaction & engagement
  - Cost savings



**57% Reduction  
in ED Transports**

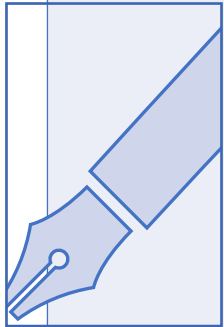


**52% Reduction in  
Medicare Claims**

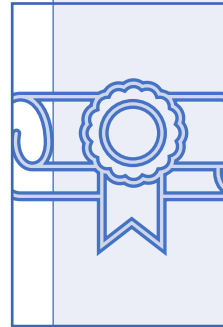


# Key Policy & Practice Considerations

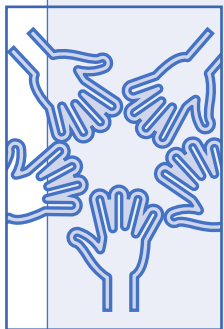
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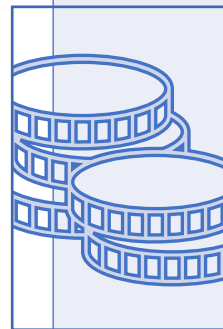
**Definitions &  
Scope of  
Practice**



**Education &  
Training  
Requirements**



**Health Care  
System  
Integration**



**Financing &  
Reimbursement**

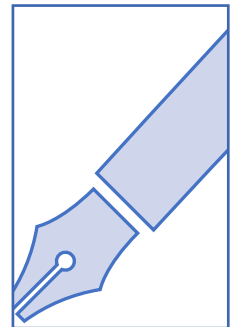


# Definition & Scope of Practice

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## What can these professionals and programs do?

- Permitted actions a health care professional may take:
  - Preventative services
  - Alternative destinations
- Most states do not have a community paramedic-specific scope of practice
- Builds on existing EMT/Paramedic scope
- Medical Director oversight and approval

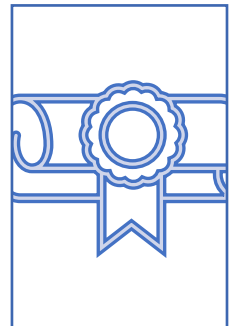


# Education & Training Requirements

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## How do we prepare them for the job?

- Different state-level approaches
  - Endorsement, certification, licensure
- National exam and curriculum resources
- Common Components:
  - Existing EMT or Paramedic license
  - Experience
  - Training program
  - Exam

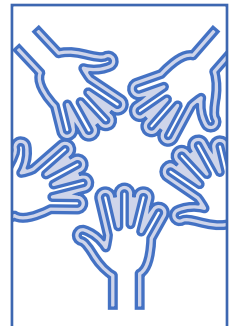


# Integration with Other Health Care Services

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How do they integrate with other health care stakeholders?

- Informed and designed around community needs
- Beneficial referral and partner relationships
- Written into policy:
  - Primary care plan
  - Non-duplicative
  - Collaborative agreements



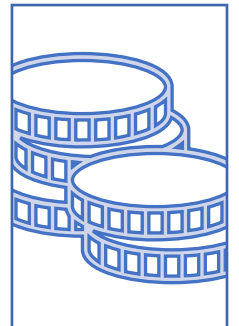


# Funding & Reimbursement

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## How do we pay for these services?

- Common barrier and challenge
- Funding sources:
  - Grants and pilots
  - Self-funding
  - Provider partnerships
  - Commercial reimbursement
  - Medicaid reimbursement





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# **Panel Discussion:** ***Policy Options & Considerations for Community Paramedicine Programs***





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# Closing Remarks

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**Linda Sheppard**

*Senior Analyst & Strategy Team Lead*

*Kansas Health Institute*



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# Reflections & Key Takeaways



# Upcoming KHI Events – Ad Astra ECHO

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## Immunization for Maternal Health

Friday, Feb. 16 | 11 a.m. – 12:30 pm

## Access to Immunizations for Uninsured Adults

Friday, March 22 | 10 – 11:30 a.m.



Visit our Events Page

[khi.org/view-all-events/](https://khi.org/view-all-events/)



# Upcoming KHI Events – Bring It

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- Join us online as we continue the conversation.
- Noon – 1 p.m., Feb. 13
- Virtual event, *Bring It: Leveraging an Expanded Health Care Team in Kansas*
- Sign up to receive our emails for a link to register!



# Connect With Us

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