

Data Walk: Sedgwick County FOSTER CARE



Accessible Version

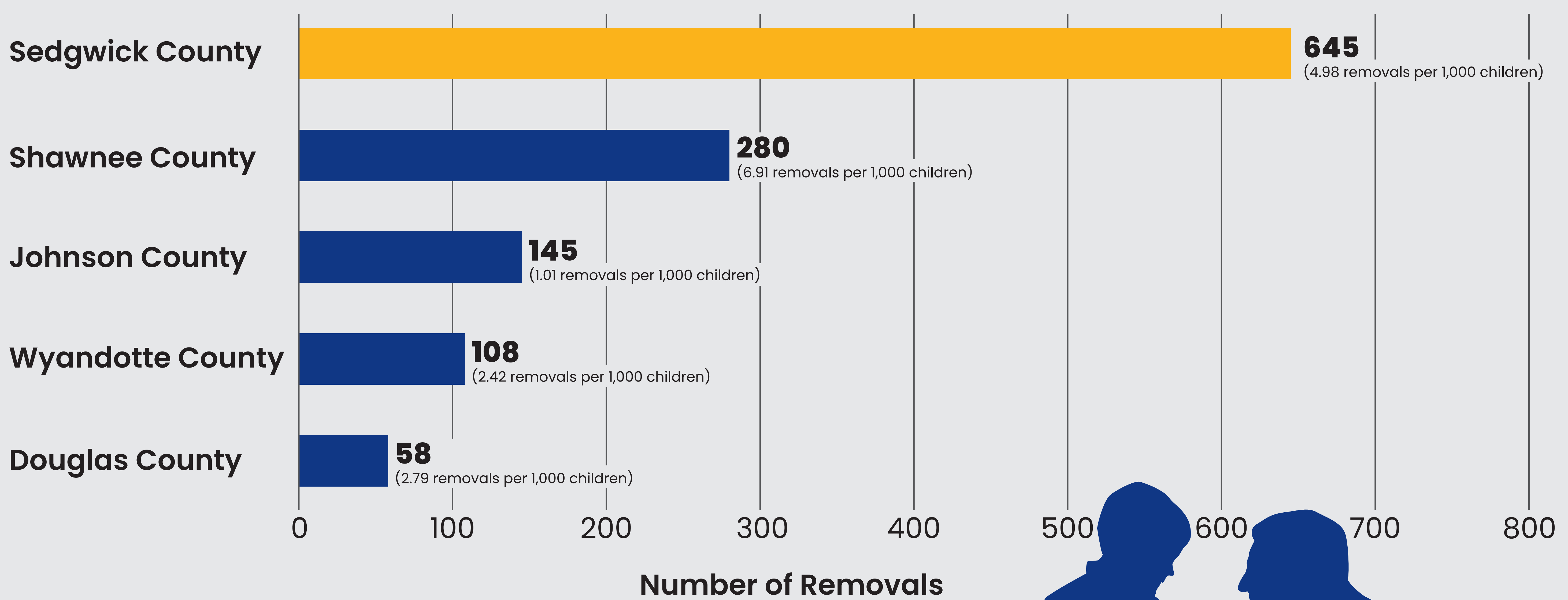
What This Measures:

The number of children removed from their homes into foster care during state fiscal year (SFY) 2023 (July 1, 2022- June 30, 2023) by county.

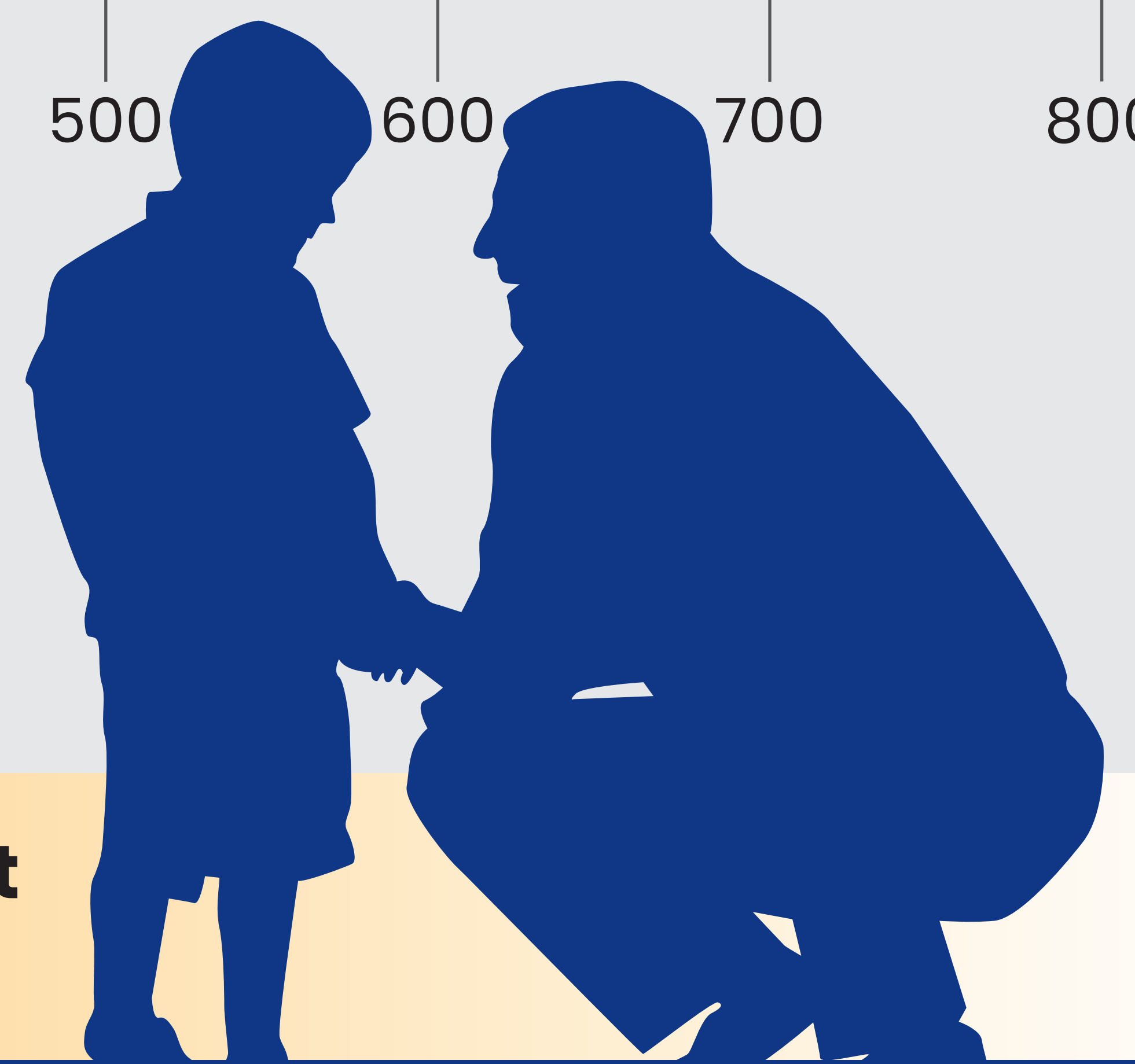
One-fifth of all Kansas children removed into foster care

or 21.8 percent of all removals in Kansas were in Sedgwick County – more than any other Kansas county. This is 4.98 removals per 1,000 children in Sedgwick County.

Total Number of Children Removed From Their Homes Into Foster Care in the Five Most Populous Kansas Counties, SFY 2023



Note: During FY 2023, 2,960 Kansas children were removed into foster care (4.28 removals per 1,000 children). Removals per 1,000 children were calculated using 2022 child population (age 0-17) for Kansas (690,832); Sedgwick (129,479); Johnson (143,498); Wyandotte (44,564); Shawnee (40,538); and Douglas (20,756). Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of Kansas Department for Children and Families FY 2023 Removals, Exits and Out of Home Summary and U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2022 Annual County and Puerto Rico Municipio Population Estimates by Selected Age Groups and Sex.



Removals in Sedgwick County accounted for 21.8 percent of all removals in Kansas during SFY 2023.

Why this is important: Children are temporarily removed from their homes for their safety and well-being and placed with relatives or kin, in foster homes, group homes or residential centers while DCF seeks to safely reunite the family or find children another permanent home. These children may experience trauma, including abuse and neglect, which have lasting impacts on emotional, behavioral and physical health. Caring for children in the child welfare system is costly, with many states, including Kansas, offsetting the cost by collecting child support payments from families with children in the foster care system. The 2022 federal guidance discourages enforcement of child support collection to help pay for foster care, citing the further financial burden on families in poverty and impact on delaying reunification.

(Source: Kansas Department for Children and Families, Annie E. Casey Foundation, Administration for Children and Families, Office of Child Support Enforcement Collection Report)

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