



Data Walk: Sedgwick County FOSTER CARE



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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) in Sedgwick County, removals per 1,000 population age 0-19 and relative risk of removal.

Over 3 times more likely

Children identified as Black (alone or in combination with another race) were over 3 times more likely to be removed into foster care in Sedgwick County than all other children in Sedgwick County.

Removals into Foster Care in Sedgwick County by Race, SFY 2023

Child's Race	Number of Removals	Estimated Population (Age 0-19)	Removals per 1,000 Population	Disparity Index
Two or More Races	126	11,496	11.0	2.8
Black Alone	145	15,758	9.2	2.3
Caucasian Alone	371	107,953	3.4	0.4
American Indian Alone	2	1,925	1.0	0.2
Asian Alone	1	5,375	0.2	0
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander Alone	0	131	0	0
Total	645	142,638	4.5	N/A

244 children removed into foster care identified as Black (alone or in combination with another race). Disparity Index: 3.1

Note: Race for children removed into foster care is reported by their parent/guardian and recorded by Kansas Department for Children and Families staff. Children with two or more races removed into foster care in SFY 2023 include Black/Caucasian (66.7%), American Indian/Caucasian (19.0%), American Indian/Black (10.3%), Asian/Caucasian (2.4%), Asian/Black (0.8%) and Black/Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander (0.8%). In SFY 2023, no children removed in Sedgwick County were identified as "Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander alone" and "unable to determine" race. Disparity index is calculated as relative risk, or risk of removal for children within one racial group divided by removal of all other children. Relative risk of greater than 1 means removal is more likely to occur than for all groups, less than 1 means removal is less likely to occur than for all other groups. Population estimates use number of people age 0-19 year who identify as a single race. Although only children age 0-17 are removed into foster care, this estimate is the best approximation for county-level data by race and ethnicity. Because population age 18 and 19 are included in this estimate, disparity index rates and rates per 1,000 population likely underestimate true value slightly. "Caucasian" aligns with how removals are recorded in FACTS and uses population estimates for White alone. Source: Kansas Health Institute analysis of data from Kansas Department for Children and Families, SFY 2023 and U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2022 Annual County Resident Population Estimates by Age, Sex, Race and Hispanic Origin.



Why this is important: Nationally, the proportion of children in foster care who are Black is **lower** than it's been in two decades. However, **Black youth are still overrepresented in foster care** compared to the general child population. The U.S. Children's Bureau calls for more nuanced approaches, such as **recognizing the intersectional identities of children** in the child welfare system and **applying an equity lens** in prevention and support efforts to address the impact of these disparities in the system.

(Source: Annie E. Casey Foundation, Administration for Children and Families Children's Bureau)

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