

KEEP ALERT KANSAS!

Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect

Throughout 2020, Kansas saw a drop in reports of child abuse and neglect. With the stay-at-home orders in place and many children spending more time away from school and other adults, there are fewer opportunities for kids to be seen by state mandated reporters. It is important to remain vigilant for any warning signs of abuse and to report your suspicions.

RISK FACTORS FOR ABUSE



Parental history of abuse/neglect



Transient, non-biological care giver



Community violence



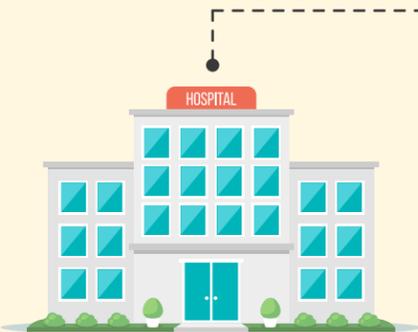
Family stress (including divorce, intimate partner violence, and financial hardship)



Social isolation



Substance abuse and/or mental illness in family



WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR IN HEALTHCARE

- New onset mental illness
- Bruises/injuries in multiple states of healing
- Injury explanations are inconsistent/ do not match
- Lacks appropriate hygiene/clothing
- Lack of medical/dental care
- Appears malnourished or underfed
- Parent seems detached or unconcerned
- Child reports abuse or neglect

HOW TO REPORT SUSPECTED ABUSE

- If you are (or think you may be) a mandated reporter, familiarize yourself with your institution's reporting policies.
- Through the Kansas Department for Children and Families, reports can be made 24/7 to the Kansas Protection Report Center at 1-800-922-5330.

WHAT TO WATCH OUT FOR IN SCHOOLS

- Sudden academic/behavioral changes
- Difficulty concentrating
- Inappropriate behavior for age
- Unexplained injuries/bruises
- Lack of appropriate hygiene/clothing
- Lack of medical/dental care
- Expresses fear of home or caregiver
- Reports abuse/neglect

KANSAS QUICK STATS

- The trend observed in Kansas differs from the nationally observed trend, where emergency department visits related to abuse and neglect for children younger than age 18 began increasing March 15-22, 2020 above 2019 visits.
- In Kansas, from March 22-April 4, emergency department visits related to child abuse and neglect (in those <18) decreased below 2019 levels.
- This decrease aligned with the announcement of the COVID-19 National Emergency.
- Kansas emergency department visits for child abuse and neglect rose to 2019 counts between May 14-30, and then increased above the 2019 counts starting mid November through the end of the year.
- The number of both assigned and received reports of child abuse and neglect in the state of Kansas declined between February-April 2020. April had the lowest assignment rate for the fiscal year at 47%.



RESOURCES

[Kansas Department for Children and Families](#)
[Child Welfare Information Gateway](#)
[Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
[Child Advocacy Centers of Kansas](#)
[Prevent Child Abuse America](#)

HIPPA/PRIVACY CONCERNS

We understand that there can be uncertainty surrounding reporting suspected abuse. While patients have the right to privacy, HIPPA has provisions to allow for the reporting of suspected abuse/neglect. If you have questions, check with your employer or the Kansas Department for Children and Families.