

Priority Two: All infants and families have support from strong community systems to optimize infant health and well-being.

The Kansas MCH program provides breastfeeding support, safe sleep education, and empowers families to make educated choices about infant health and well-being.

What will success look like?

A higher percentage of...

- caregivers will utilize safe sleep practices when putting their infants to sleep.
- newborns will be exclusively breastfed for at least six months, and racial disparities will be significantly reduced/eliminated.



Brightspots

98% of Kansas infants had a well-baby checkup.²

Safe sleep has been an important MCH issue. The Kansas Infant Death and SIDS Network provides training to more than 4,500 parents and providers each year. The rate of sleep-related Sudden Unexpected Infant Deaths (SUID) has been trending downward in the state.¹



Nearly nine in 10 infants were ever breastfed.³

The percentage of Kansas infants who were breastfed exclusively for 6 months (34%) is the 11th highest in the U.S.⁴

Challenges

8% of Black babies on WIC are breastfed exclusively for six months⁵

compared to 16% of white babies on WIC breastfed exclusively for six months⁵

Far too few infants are placed to sleep on a separate, approved sleep surface (37.3%) and/or are placed to sleep without soft objects or loose bedding (44.3%).²

120 infants are diagnosed each year with neonatal abstinence syndrome (what happens when babies are exposed to drugs in the womb). This rate has been increasing.⁶

Spotlight on Disparity

The infant mortality rate of Black infants is twice that of White Infants (11.3 vs. 5.4 deaths per 1,000 live births). There are also disparities by educational attainment and insurance status.¹



¹ Kansas birth and death data (resident). KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics.

² PRAMS. KDHE.

³ Kansas birth data (resident). KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics.

⁴ National Immunization Survey (NIS). CDC.

⁵ KWIC database. KDHE Bureau of Family Health Nutrition and WIC Services.

⁶ Kansas hospital discharge data (resident). KDHE Bureau of Epidemiology and Public Health Informatics.