



Title: **Child poverty stats a cause for concern**

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Child poverty stats a cause for concern

The latest Kansas childhood poverty figures released today by the U.S. Census Bureau show the importance of Kansas Action for Children’s continuing work to enhance access to crucial anti-poverty programs used by families.

The share of Kansas kids living in poverty was 14.8 percent in 2017, compared with 14.1 percent in 2016, suggesting that efforts to move the needle have stalled. In short, a lengthy economic recovery and

low unemployment aren’t benefiting a substantial number of our state’s children and families.

More than 105,000 Kansas who live in poverty today. For reference, that’s the combined populations of Pittsburg, Hays, Garden City, Junction City, Colby, Concordia, and Frontenac.

“KAC has spent years studying the data,” said Annie McKay, president and CEO at the Topeka-based nonprofit. “Our

concern is that, given the economy, we’re behind where we could be. State officials have claimed that limiting access to anti-poverty programs will improve the lives of kids, but these results show that’s not the case.

“Removing hurdles to affordable child care and medical assistance would do much to support Kansans of all ages. These investments will pay off for families and the state economy alike.”