Our Goal: The Kansas Family First Prevention Service Evaluation is a 3-year study examining the impact of prevention programs to strengthen families and prevent child welfare involvement in the state of Kansas. This project assesses implementation and outcomes related to the delivery of these community-based programs targeting mental health, parent skill building, kinship navigation, and substance use. Our goal is to provide evidence of the effectiveness of prevention services in Kansas to keep children safely with their families whenever possible.

Mental Health services are therapeutic services delivered by a qualified clinician such as Family Centered Treatment, Functional Family Therapy, Parent Child Interaction Therapy, and Multi-Systemic Therapy. Mental Health services account for 48% of all Family First Referrals statewide.

BY THE NUMBERS

Family First Mental Health Outcomes

89% of target children and youth who have reached 12 months from the time of service referral remained together at home without need for foster care.*

73% of families referred to Family First were engaged timely in services (within 2 days). (GOAL: 95% of cases)

64% of cases served and closed had successfully completed the referred service. (GOAL: 95% of cases)

4% of target children and youth served have been placed in foster care during an open Family First case. * (GOAL: Less than 10% of cases)

*Target children are candidates for care within the target age range of the referred program.

Data Source: Kansas Department for Children and Families FACTS

Evaluation Contact: Dr. Kaela Byers, kaela@ku.edu