Our Town, Our Kids
Juvenile Justice and Inclusion in the Heartland
Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.
smile.
Population Density Classifications in Kansas, by County, 2017


Population Density by Classification*
(persons per square mile)

- Frontier (less than 6.0 ppsm)
- Rural (6.0 - 19.9 ppsm)
- Densely-settled Rural (20.0 - 39.9 ppsm)
- Semi-Urban (40.0 - 149.9 ppsm)
- Urban (150.0 ppsm or more)

* Kansas Department of Health and Environment classifications.
K-State Juvenile Justice Collaborative

Multidisciplinary team from Kansas State University, Fort Hays State University, K-State Extension
Recognizing that home is where our stories begin, Our Town Our Kids is designed to enhance capacity of Kansas communities to reduce the number of youth at-risk for involvement in the juvenile justice system.
the story
The anti-nap movement

- It’s never just one thing
  - Developmental
  - Health
  - Environmental
  - Distractions, peers

- It’s not all about you
  - Bandaids and magic bullets
  - Palliative versus curative
“trouble-makers”

• It’s never just one thing
  • Developmental
  • Health
  • Environmental
  • distractions, peers

• It’s not all about you
  • Band aids and magic bullets
  • Palliative versus curative
• 39% less likely to complete high school

• 41% more likely to enter adult prison by age 25

• High incidence of depression, poor mental health, suicide

• Drastically reduces future earnings and ability to work

• Increases recidivism

• Mid-point at juvenile arrests but 5th in custody rate

• 80% out-of-home placements at low/med risk

• Longer secure-placement sentences
TOPEKA, Kan. (AP) — Kansas lawmakers have voted to overhaul the juvenile justice system by allowing more low-risk offenders to stay at home while participating in community-based programs like anger management.

Juvenile offenders can currently be placed in juvenile detention centers or group homes for any level offense.

Kansas has the sixth-highest rate of juvenile offenders placed in detention centers or group homes nationwide.
• Restricts out-of-home placement
• Focuses intensive system responses on highest-risk juveniles
• Shifts resources toward evidence-based alternatives
• Cost saving
Our Town Our Kids
juvenile justice toolkit for local communities

Starting where you are. Learning the team approach, engaging key players, and organizing local groups.

Laying the foundation. What do communities need to know about juvenile justice AND their kids?

Enhancing local capacity. Developing goals and expertise, establishing collaborative pathways, fostering coalitions.

Ensuring long-term sustainability. Establishing partnerships, instituting task forces, and chartering ongoing training and support.
Conceptual model of foundational work, Our Town Our Kids
The learning journey

- Relationships
- Listening tour
- District dialogue circles
The learning journey

• Attainment
• KDOC training
• KJCC training
• Local data bases
The learning journey

- Capacity building
- Study circles
- Capacity circles
The learning journey

• System building
• All of the above
• OTOK guidelines
The learning journey

• Replication
• Support and networking
• OTOK website
  • ourtownourkids.org
Assets

- Right issue
- Right time
- Right place
Assets

• Right issue
• Right time
• Right place
Assets

- Right issue
- Right time
- Right place
Challenges

• Urban ethnocentrism
Challenges

- Urban ethnocentrism
- Structural/cultural shifts
- Moving parts
Next steps

• District dialogues
• Training the trainers
• Adding partners