

Increase Access to Mental Health Care in Kansas

Support Full Practice Authority for APRNs.

Access to Mental Health Care in Kansas

- Kansas ranks 36th in access to mental health care.
- According to 2020 HRSA data, 102 of 105 counties in Kansas are mental health provider shortage areas.

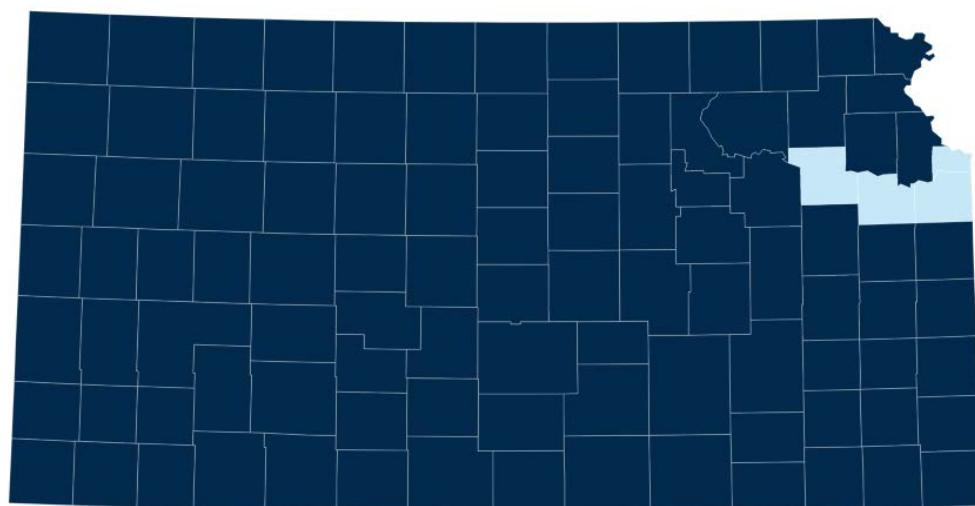
APRN Provided Mental Health Care

- Certified psych / mental health advanced practice registered nurses are educated and licensed to provide the full range of mental health services including assessment, diagnosis, treatment, and prescribing.

- Between 2006 and 2011, mental health related visits in U.S. community health centers (CHCs) were twice as likely to be serviced by nurse practitioners than physicians in full practice versus restricted states.

- A 2020 study found that policies that restrict full practice authority for psych/mental health APRNs' harm "our behavioral health care system by exacerbating provider shortages, increasing health care costs, reducing access and discouraging innovation."

Health Professional Shortage Areas: Mental Health, by County, 2020 - Kansas



Source: [data.HRSA.gov](https://data.hrsa.gov), October 2020.

- Difficulty in finding a physician to enter into an agreement with delays access to APRN psychiatric services and delays needed psychiatric medication management.
- Safe and quality mental health APRNs in Western Kansas have opted to work in Colorado for a better regulatory environment due to restrictive collaborative agreements.