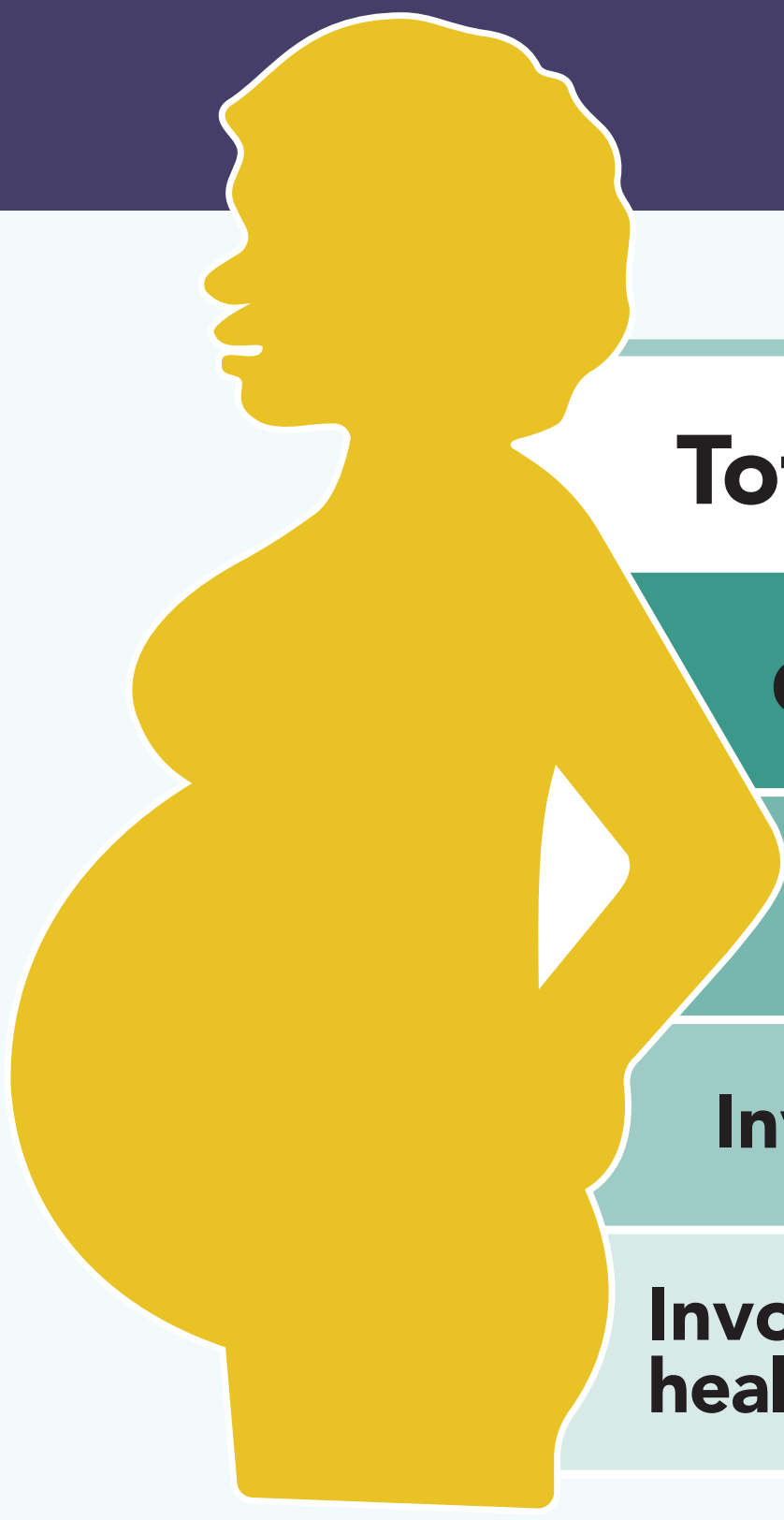


Mapping Maternal Health Needs and Kansas Connecting Communities Supports

Presenters: Merve Akin-Tas, Ph.D.; Ella Seibel, M.S.Ed.; Madison Roberts, D.O.; Erin Bider, M.D.



Total pregnancy-related deaths*

56

Considered preventable

44 (79%)

Occurred in postpartum

31 (55%)

Involved substance use

17 (30%)

Involved mental health conditions

16 (29%)

* 2016 to 2023

Background

Kansas Connecting Communities (KCC) helps translate maternal mortality prevention recommendations into practical provider and system supports. By offering consultation, resource and referral support, training, and screening implementation technical assistance, **KCC strengthens the statewide response to perinatal behavioral health needs, service-access gaps, and contributes to larger efforts to reduce preventable maternal deaths.**

Kansas Maternal Mortality Review Committee (KMMRC) findings highlight the need to:

- ▶ screen every mother for mental health and substance use conditions through one year postpartum
- ▶ provide coordinated care through referrals to address behavioral health and social determinants of health needs
- ▶ ensure access to collaborative behavioral health treatment and support

KMMRC findings also identified discrimination and system-level gaps as important areas for action. These recommendations align closely with **KCC's mission to empower providers to identify, refer, and treat perinatal behavioral health conditions.**

Data Sources & Methods

This poster combines KMMRC recommendations, maternal health indicators, and KCC evaluation data to describe how KCC's statewide services align with maternal health needs in Kansas. County-level indicators were used to visualize geographic need and service-access gaps. KCC program data were summarized to describe the reach and impact of KCC services.

Scan the QR code to view the Kansas Severe Maternal Morbidity and Maternal Mortality, 2016-2023 Executive Summary.



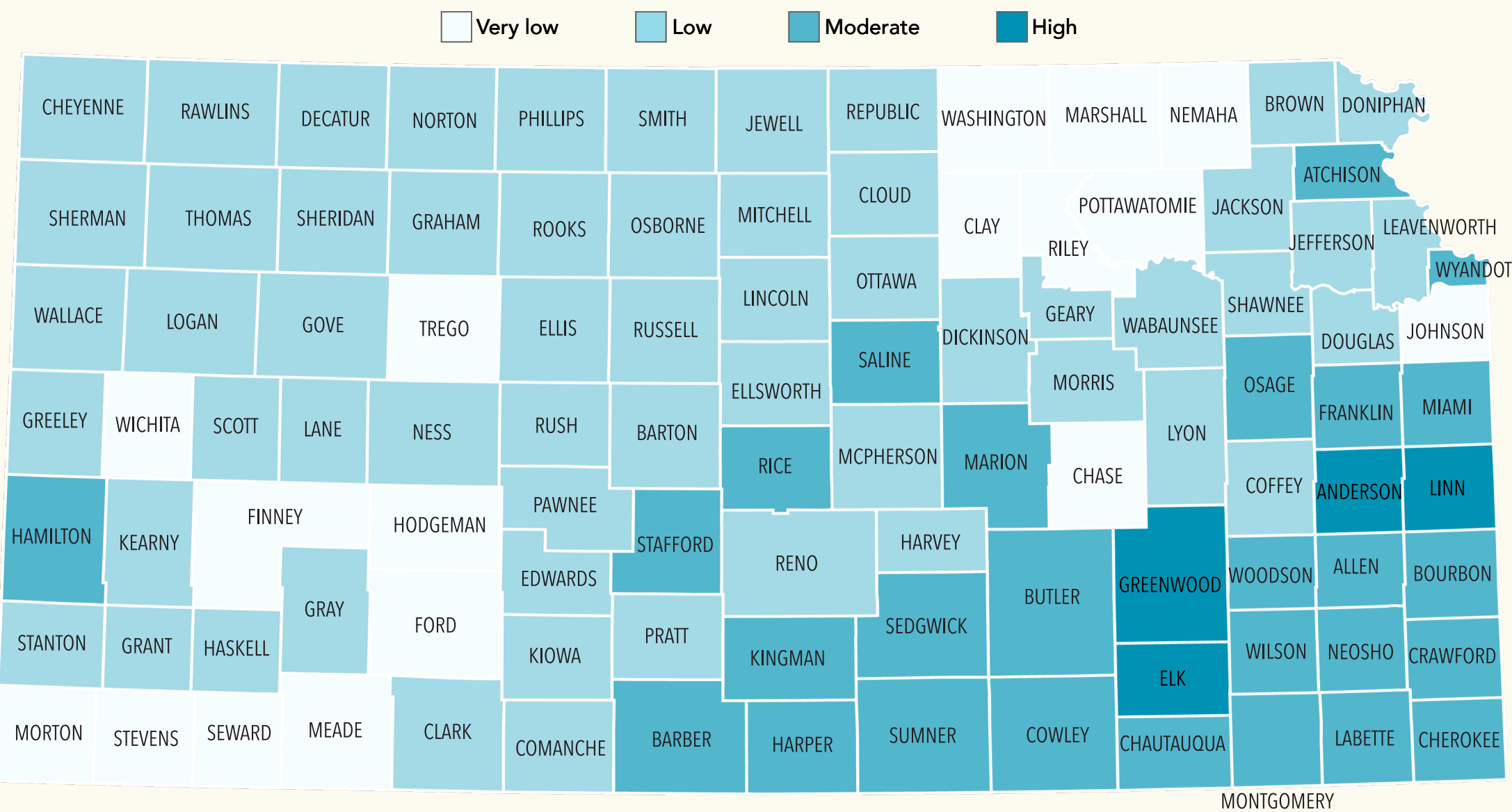
bit.ly/KS_MaternalMortality

Research Questions

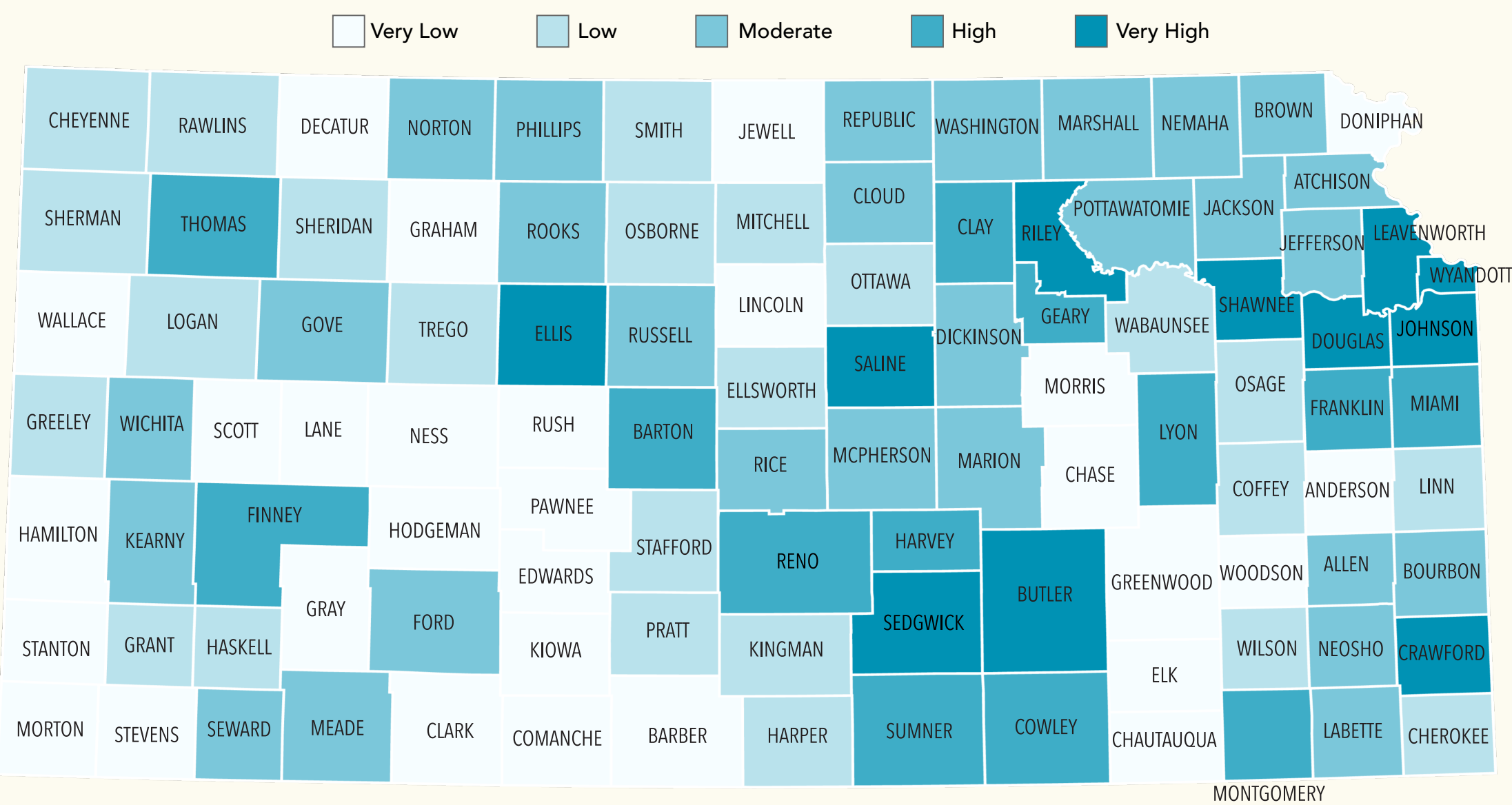
Where are maternal health needs and service-access gaps concentrated across Kansas?

How does Kansas Connecting Communities support providers and systems in responding to these needs?

Maternal Vulnerability Index by County



Counties Reached by KCC Services



Note: County reach counts ranged from 36 to 1,113. Categories are based on the distribution of county-level KCC training and telehealth reach counts.

From Recommendations to Action

KMMRC Recommendation for Change

Better **communication and collaboration** between providers, including referrals.

Continue to provide **mental health treatment** during pregnancy.

Promote and support **culturally congruent, holistic care coordination** as the standard of perinatal care.

Screen, brief intervention, and referrals to treatment (**SBIRT**) for behavioral health conditions.

KCC's Response

Consultation with expert perinatal psychiatry team for medication and treatment planning.

Resource and referral and care coordination support for mental health services substance use treatment.

Training to identify and treat perinatal behavioral health conditions.

Facilitated cohort-level learning collaboratives, and CQI support.

Technical assistance to integrate perinatal behavioral health screening and referral into practice.

The KCC IMPACT

Since 2020



245
support requests

Since 2023

69
trainings

2,567
providers trained

49 clinics, hospitals, & programs supported through TA

11,755 patients collectively served annually



2018 through 2023

KCC provided training and screening implementation support to Kansas Maternal Child Health programs, which led to:

Total pregnant/postpartum women served 10,149

Screened for **depression** **69%**

Screened for **anxiety** **66%**

Screened for **substance use** **51%**

In 2025

KCC provided a seven-week Perinatal Mental Health Learning Collaborative to equip all Kansas Part C programs with training and screening implementation support.



165
providers trained

to screen & refer parents for perinatal mental health conditions

References

kansasmch.org | kdhhs.gov | mvi.surgohs.org
Maternal Mental Health Action Alert (May, 2024).
www.kdhe.ks.gov/DocumentCenter/View/40629/Maternal-Mental-Health-Action-Alert-2024-PDF

Data sources

KMMRC maternal mortality findings and recommendations | Surgo Health Maternal Vulnerability Index | KCC program service utilization data
KCC provider and clinic self-efficacy and evaluation data | KCC outreach and communication metrics
Kansas Maternal Child Health (MCH) Program DAISEY behavioral health screening and referral data



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