

2022 Healthcare Affordability State Policy Scorecard

This Scorecard looks at both policies and related outcomes across four affordability-related areas that were implemented as of Dec. 31, 2021. Lawmakers, regulators, consumer advocates and the public can use the Scorecards to understand how their state performs when it comes to healthcare affordability policies and outcomes relative to other states and identify opportunities to improve.

STATE:

KANSAS

RANK:

49

out of 50 states + DC

POLICY SCORE

4.1

out of 40

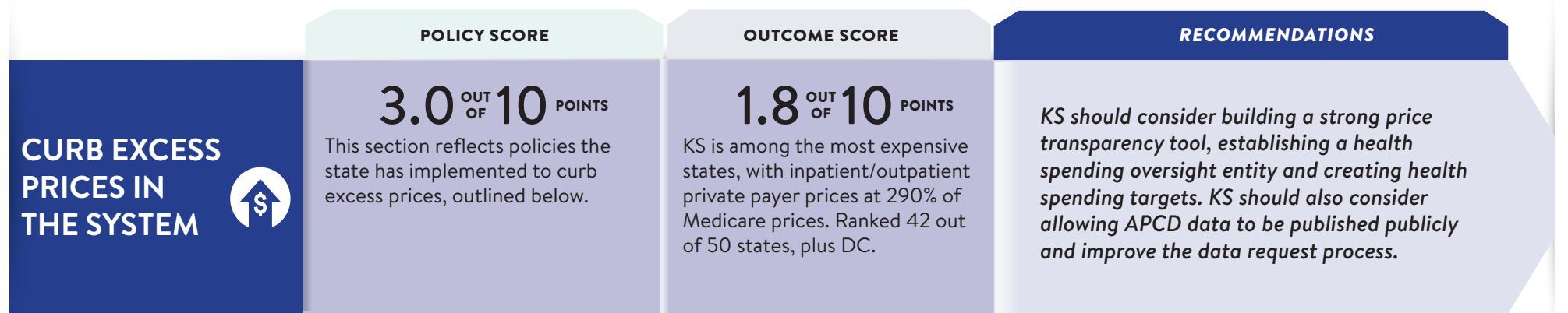
OUTCOME SCORE

10.7





out of 40




TOTAL
14.8 OUT OF 80
POSSIBLE POINTS

Setting the stage: According to SHADAC, 27% of Kansas adults experienced healthcare affordability burdens as of 2020. According to the Personal Consumption Expenditure, healthcare spending per person in Kansas grew 30% between 2013 and 2021, totaling \$7,495 in 2021. Please note some of the outcome measures in this Scorecard include data from 2020, which may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.



THIS CHECKLIST IDENTIFIES THE POLICIES THAT WERE EVALUATED FOR THIS SECTION.

	Create an all-payer or multi-payer claims database to analyze healthcare price inflation, price variation and utilization Kansas has created an all-payer claims database (APCD) that collects medical, dental and pharmacy claims, eligibility files and provider information from public and private health insurance plans. However, Kansas regulations treat service prices as trade secrets and prohibits their publication. As a result, the Kansas Insurance Department can only share aggregated figures, and most of the data is used only internally, with limited access through the formal request process. These issues severely limit the APCD's usefulness for identifying price variation or sharing healthcare prices with the public.
	Create a permanently convened health spending oversight entity Kansas did not have a permanently convened health spending oversight entity as of Dec. 31, 2021.
	Create all-payer healthcare spending and quality benchmarks for the state Kansas did not have active health spending benchmarks as of Dec. 31, 2021.
	Implement free, public-facing healthcare price transparency that reflects negotiated rates and features treatment- and provider-specific prices Kansas did not have a tool that met the criteria to receive credit. To receive credit, a state's tool has to be public-facing, searchable by specific procedure and hospital and show the negotiated rate paid by insurance plans/patients (not chargemaster rate).

KEY:  = implemented by state  = not implemented by state  = the state has implemented policies, but could be enhanced

Full report and additional details at www.HealthcareValueHub.org/Affordability-Scorecard/Kansas

Healthcare Affordability State Policy Scorecard

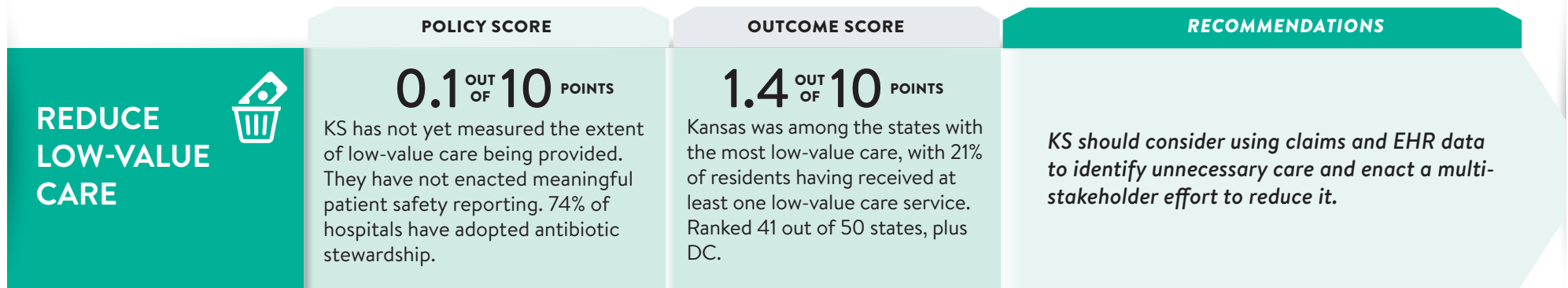
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<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Analyze claims and electronic health records data to understand how much is spent on low- and no-value services</p> <p>Kansas did not measure the provision of low-value care as of Dec. 31, 2021.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Require validated patient-safety reporting for hospitals</p> <p>Central line-associated bloodstream infections (CLABSI) and catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) are two common forms of hospital-acquired infections. Kansas does not mandate any patient safety reporting or validation for CLABSI/CAUTI.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>Universally implement antibiotic stewardship programs using CDC's 7 Core Elements</p> <p>Improper use of antibiotics is another type of low-value care. Antibiotic stewardship is the effort to measure and improve how antibiotics are prescribed by clinicians and used by patients, and states were scored on what share of their hospitals follow the CDC's stewardship program. 74% of Kansas hospitals have adopted antibiotic stewardship. States with 90% adoption or more get the most credit.</p>

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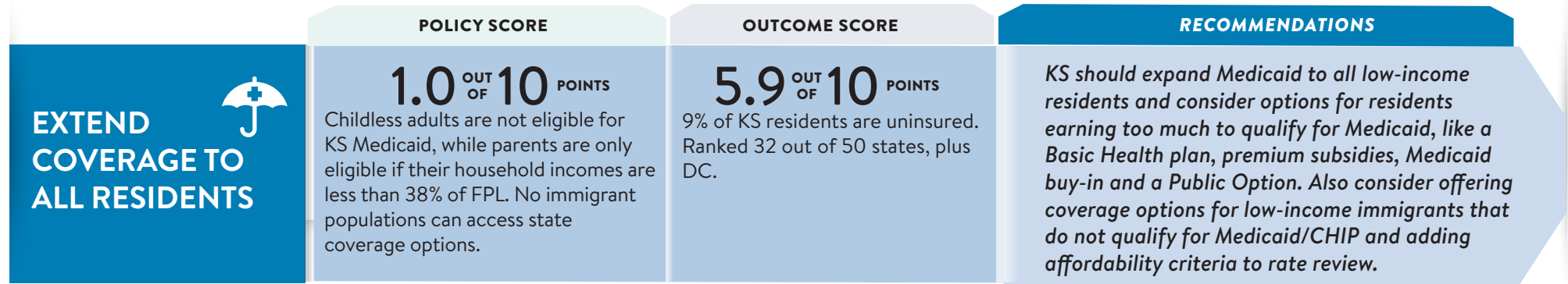
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	<p>Expand Medicaid to cover adults up to 138% of the federal poverty level</p> <p>Kansas has not expanded Medicaid—parents are eligible up to 38% FPL and childless adults are not eligible. In 2022, the state governor included Medicaid expansion in her proposed budget for SFY 2023 with additional federal Medicaid funds from ARPA incentive, but the legislature did not include expansion in its final budget.</p>
	<p>Provide high-quality, affordable coverage options for people whose incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid, e.g., Basic Health Plan, reinsurance or augmented premium subsidies</p> <p>Kansas did not offer any additional coverage options for residents earning too much to qualify for Medicaid as of Dec. 31, 2021.</p>
	<p>Provide options for immigrants that don't qualify for the coverage above</p> <p>Kansas offers no coverage options for legally residing immigrants without a 5-year wait or for undocumented immigrants.</p>
	<p>Conduct strong rate review of fully insured, private market options</p> <p>Kansas has effective rate review as classified by CMS but does not incorporate affordability criteria into rate review.</p>

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POLICY SCORE

0.0 OUT OF **10** POINTS

KS has not enacted any of the policies to reduce out-of-pocket costs, outlined below.

OUTCOME SCORE

1.6 OUT OF **10** POINTS

KS ranked 49 out of 50 states, plus DC on affordability burdens—27% of adults faced an affordability burden: not getting needed care due to cost (7%), delaying care due to cost (9%), changing medication due to cost (12%), problems paying medical bills (14%) or being uninsured due to cost (79% of uninsured population).

RECOMMENDATIONS

KS should consider a suite of measures to ease consumer burdens, such as protections against short-term, limited-duration health plans; surprise medical bill protections not addressed by the federal No Surprises Act and waiving or reducing cost-sharing for high-value services. If KS wants to pursue standard plan design, they can establish a state-based exchange.

MAKE OUT-OF-POCKET COSTS AFFORDABLE



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✗	<p>Limit the availability of short-term, limited-duration health plans</p>	<p>Kansas has no protections against short-term, limited duration health plans (STLDs) beyond federal regulations. Some people choose STLD health plans for their lower monthly premiums compared to ACA-compliant plans. However, they offer poor coverage, can discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions and pose financial risks for consumers. States received credit depending on how much they limit these plans.</p>
✗	<p>Protect patients from inadvertent surprise out-of-network medical bills</p>	<p>Kansas has no state-level protections against surprise medical bills (SMBs). The federal No Surprises Act prohibits SMBs in most plans effective January 2022. However, it does not cover ground ambulances. States can still implement protections in this area—70% of ground ambulance rides in KS charged to commercial insurance plans had the potential for SMBs (2021).</p>
✗	<p>Waive or reduce cost-sharing for high-value services</p>	<p>Kansas did not require waiving or reducing cost-sharing for high-value services as of Dec. 31, 2021.</p>
✗	<p>Require insurers in a state-based exchange to offer evidence-based standard plan designs</p>	<p>Kansas conducts plan management activities on a federally facilitated marketplace and cannot implement standardized plans unless they establish a state-based exchange. Standard plan design makes cost-sharing the same across plans within metal tiers, making it easier for consumers to compare plans. They also help regulators and exchanges negotiate or set rates with insurance carriers, which may translate to lower prices for consumers.</p>

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