

# Kansas earns a D- for its civil forfeiture laws:

- Low bar to forfeit: Prosecutors must prove by preponderance of the evidence that property is connected to a crime.
- Poor protections for the innocent: Third-party owners must prove their own innocence to recover seized property.
- Large profit incentive: 100% of forfeiture proceeds go to law enforcement.

## Recent Reforms

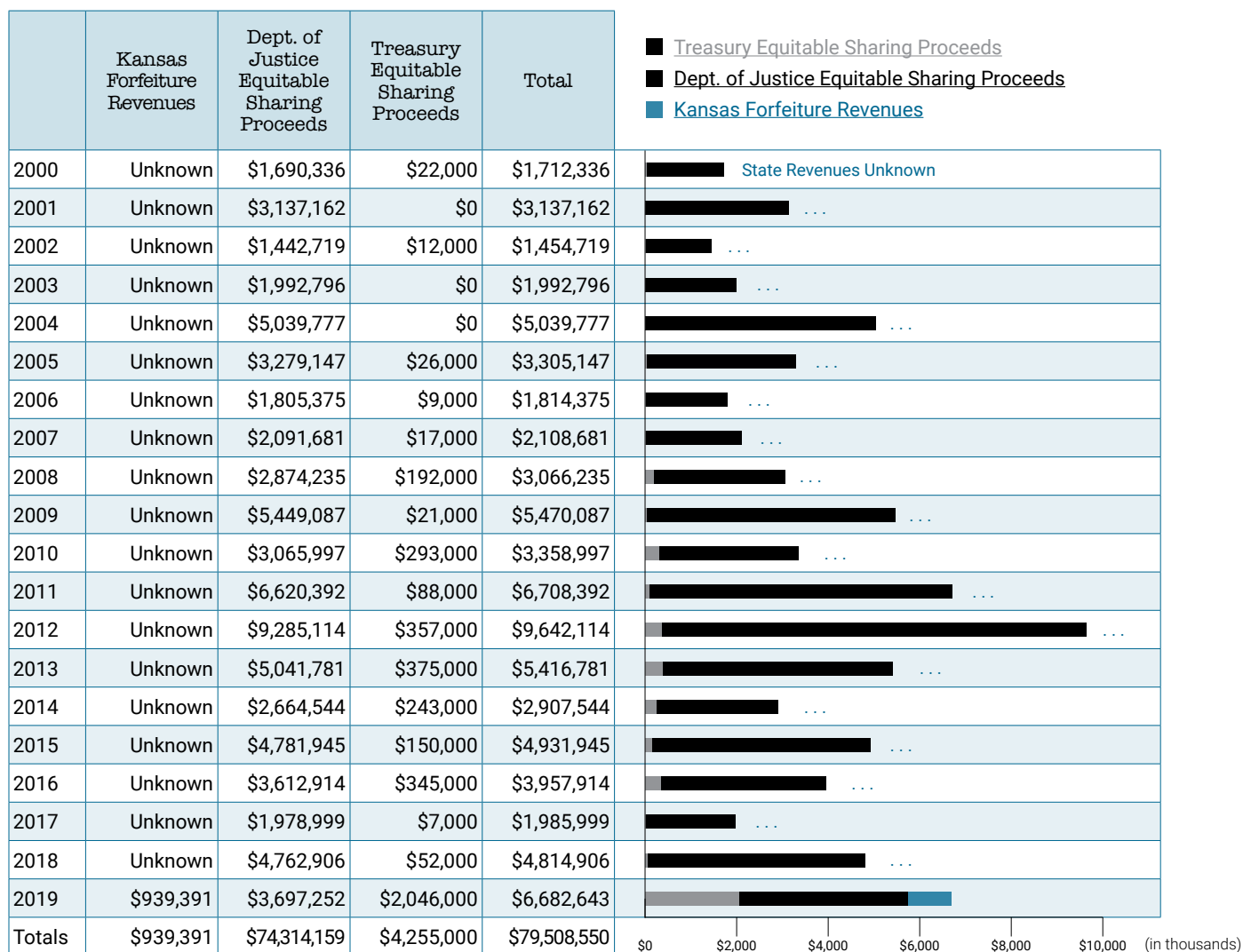
- (2018) HB 2459: Adopted IJ's model reporting legislation, giving Kansas one of the best forfeiture transparency laws in the country.

### State and Federal Forfeiture Revenues, 2000–2019

In the second half of 2019, Kansas law enforcement agencies forfeited more than \$939,000 under state law. Between 2000 and 2019, they generated an additional \$78 million from federal equitable sharing, for a total of at least \$79 million in forfeiture revenue. Kansas ranks 29th for its participation in the Department of Justice's equitable sharing program. The state does not prevent state and local agencies from using equitable sharing to circumvent state forfeiture law.

**At least \$79 million  
in state and federal  
forfeiture revenue**

2000–2019



All revenue figures include both civil and criminal forfeitures. Revenues are not adjusted for inflation.

# Kansas' Forfeiture Transparency and Accountability Report Card

Tracking Seized Property	<b>A-</b>	Accessibility of Forfeiture Records	<b>A</b>
Accounting for Forfeiture Fund Spending	<b>A</b>	Penalties for Failure to File a Report	<b>B*</b>
Statewide Forfeiture Reports	<b>A</b>	Financial Audits of Forfeiture Accounts	<b>F</b>

\* Agencies must file even when they have nothing to report.

For full transparency and accountability grades, visit [www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards](http://www.ij.org/TransparencyReportCards).

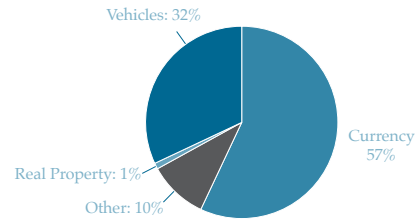
## Forfeitures Under Kansas Law: Key Facts

### Median Value



In the second half of 2019, half of Kansas' currency forfeitures were worth less than \$2,591 per case.

### Property Types



In the second half of 2019, 57% of Kansas' forfeitures were of currency.

### Civil vs. Criminal

UNKNOWN

Kansas does not report whether forfeitures are processed under civil or criminal forfeiture law.

### Expenditures

UNKNOWN

Kansas expenditure data were not used for this report.

### Data Notes

Case-level data are from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation website. Because the state's reporting requirements are new, only a limited time frame of data was available. Figures represent July 2019 through December 2019. Counts and median figures represent case-level forfeitures. Figures are based on the calendar year in which revenues were disbursed. Equitable sharing data are from DOJ's and Treasury's annual forfeiture reports. Due to differences in reporting and accounting practices, state figures may not match aggregate numbers produced by the state and do not cover the same time period as the federal data.