



JOHNSON COUNTY
SCHOOL-AGE
CHILDREN & YOUTH
TRENDS REPORT
2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR

DECEMBER 2009



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INTRODUCTION

This report is intended to draw attention to the well-being of Johnson County school-age children and youth, and to strengthen positive action on their behalf. The report provides information on indicators and profiles that reflect conditions for children and youth, and presents data for a variety of factors that affect the ability to learn, such as language and poverty. Throughout the report there are comments from UCS' partner organizations that help us understand the importance of schools and the community working together for the well-being of children. It is hoped that the information will motivate and encourage advocacy, inform and enhance planning, influence resource allocation, and assist in evaluating progress toward improving the lives of Johnson County children and youth.

United Community Services (UCS) will use the information in this report as a planning tool for the Children's Coordinating Council of Johnson County. This UCS initiative was founded in 1995 to foster the development of a comprehensive, interconnected service network in order to accomplish better outcomes for Johnson County's most vulnerable children and youth. The Council will consider the report as it plans future collaborative activities. It is UCS' goal that others will also use the report to understand current and emerging needs in order to develop an effective human service response. This information can help guide the future action of human service providers and school districts to achieve positive outcomes for children.

UCS acknowledges and thanks the six Johnson County public school districts who regularly complete UCS' annual survey, the Johnson County District Attorney's Office and Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services which also provided data for this report. UCS also thanks the Johnson County Mental Health Center which provides partial financial support for the Children's Coordinating Council.

ABOUT UCS

For more than 40 years UCS has spearheaded efforts to make vital human services available to individuals and families in Johnson County, especially those facing challenges. This neutral, nonprofit organization brings together human service providers, policy-makers, funders and community leaders to address issues impacting the well-being of residents. These partnerships ensure that the collective human service impact in Johnson County is far greater than the accomplishments individual organizations can achieve working alone. In addition to providing leadership for community-based planning, UCS provides information and trend analysis while playing a vital role in securing funding for the area's human service organizations.

For more information about the Johnson County School-Age Children and Youth Trends Report contact Marya Schott, UCS Director for Community Initiatives, maryas@ucsjoco.org. For information about UCS or other data UCS has available, visit the organization's web site at www.ucsjoco.org.

CHILD POPULATION

Johnson County children and youth represent more than one-fourth of Johnson County's population, and as a community it is important that we work together to make sure the school-age population receives quality education, has caring adults in their lives, and support from community resources when needed.

- The proportion of children and youth under the age of 20 in the County's total population has remained stable since 1990 at nearly 3 in 10. However, this represents a decline from the 1960s and 1970s when 4 in 10 residents were under the age of 20.
- The number of children with living circumstances other than a two-parent family has increased faster than the overall increase in the number of children.
- Between 1990 and 2008, the total number of children in the County's population increased 46%; the number of children with living circumstances other than a two-parent family increased by 80%.

Johnson County Children by Age Range 1960-Present

	1960	1970	1980	1990	2000	2008
0-4 Years	18,304	19,325	19,604	28,049	33,641	39,593
5-9 Years	19,008	24,408	20,898	27,692	34,076	38,420
10-14 Years	14,798	24,930	22,942	25,417	35,594	38,419
15-19 Years	8,453	19,875	23,411	22,093	29,883	34,618
Total 0-19	60,563	88,538	86,855	103,251	133,194	151,050
% of Total Population	42%	41%	32%	29%	29%	28%

Where Children Live

	1990	2000	2008
Total Population 0-17	95,116	122,168	138,650
Two Parent Family	79,356	99,602	110,333
Single Mother	10,395	13,652	16,668
Single Father	1,945	3,831	4,227
Non-parent relatives	2,389		
Grandparent		2,754	3,288
Other relatives		785	1,172
Non-relative	855	1,238	984
Group Quarters	130	257	1,978
Head of Household/spouse	46	49	N/A
Two Parent Family	83.4%	81.5%	79.6%
Single Mother	10.9%	11.2%	12.0%
Single Father	2.0%	3.1%	3.0%
Non-parent relatives	2.5%		
Grandparent		2.3%	2.4%
Other relatives		0.6%	0.8%
Non relative	0.9%	1.0%	0.7%
Group Quarters	0.1%	0.2%	1.4%
Head of Household/spouse	0.0%	0.0%	

About the Data

Source: US Census 1960, 1970, 1980, 1990, 2000; American Community Survey (ACS) 2008.

1990 Source - UCS Making Children a Priority; 2000 Source - Census, File 1 QTP11; File 1 P28 Head of Household and group quarters; 2008 Source - ACS; Household B09002; Grandparents B10001; Group quarters B09001



POVERTY

Almost one-third of the poor living in Johnson County are children under the age of 18. Of these children, those 6 to 11 years-old have the highest poverty rate; infants and toddlers have the second highest poverty rate. While the number of children increased 14% between 2000 and 2008, the increase in the number of children living at or below 100% of Federal Poverty Level was 61%.

PERSPECTIVE

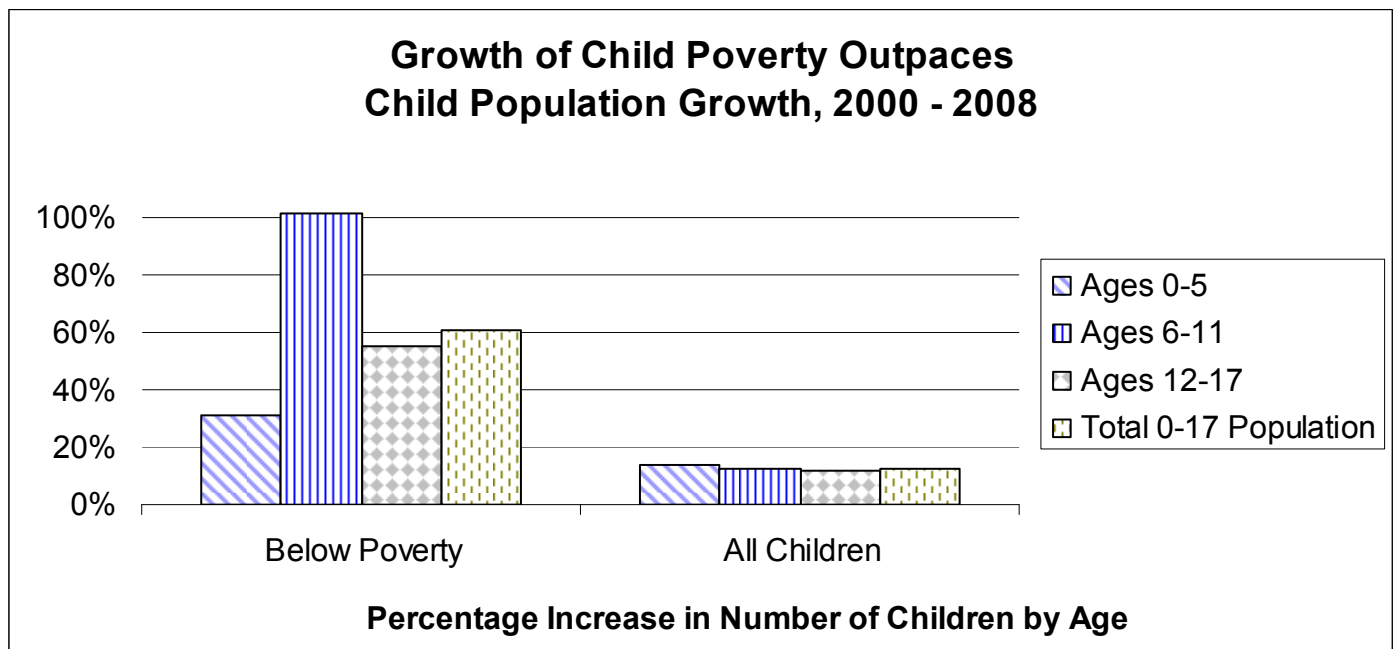
“The rapid growth of child poverty is a challenge not just to the school systems, but to all organizations who work to support families struggling financially. When children feel safe, when they are getting adequate nutrition and when they have warm clothes, they are much more likely to perform well academically. Unfortunately this increase in need corresponds to a time of decreasing fiscal resources.” Dr. Mark Kelly, Roseland Elementary School Principal, Shawnee Mission School District

Poverty by Age

	Total Age Group	100% FPL	Poverty Rate at 100% FPL	200% FPL	Poverty Rate at 200% FPL
Ages 0-5	45,919	2,086	4.5%	7,840	17.1%
Ages 6-11	45,640	2,783	6.1%	8,723	19.1%
Ages 12-17	44,505	2,064	4.6%	6,588	14.8%
Total Ages 0-17	136,064	6,933	5.1%	23,151	17.0%
Total County Population All Ages	527,363	23,174	4.4%	74,458	14.3%

Source: 2008 American Community Survey, Table B17024

Note about the data: The number represents those for whom poverty was calculated and may not represent the total number of county residents. (See “About the Data” below.)



About the Data

The American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual data product based on a sample of the population and is therefore most useful when considered as a portrait of characteristics of a geographic area. The margin of error for Johnson County poverty data is plus or minus 4,562 people. In 2008, 100% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) for a family of four was \$21,200; 200% of FPL was \$42,400.

Source: 2000 U.S. Census; 2008: U.S. Census Bureau, ACS, 2008 data, released Sept. 29, 2009. Some calculations by UCS.

POVERTY: HOMELESSNESS AND SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Homeless Children and Youth

Participating with a national count on homelessness under the auspices of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Johnson County Continuum of Care on Homelessness counted homeless and near-homeless persons during one 24-hour period on January 28, 2009. These included persons living on the streets, in cars, an emergency shelter or transitional housing, or staying temporarily with others but having been told they must leave within seven days. Findings include:

- In Johnson County, 331 homeless persons and near-homeless were identified which included 84 households with children (265 persons).
- Almost one of two children (60 of 131) in surveyed households with children was age six and under – critical years to lay the foundation for lifelong learning and development. (Children in domestic violence shelters are omitted.)
- 82% (69) of households with children were headed by single adults; 96% of single adult households with children were headed by females (66 of 69).

Another measure of the homelessness among children and youth comes from school districts. All six public school districts report yearly to the Kansas Department of Education, the number of homeless children and youth they have identified. The Department of Education's definition is based upon the federal McKinney-Vento statute which states homeless children and youth include those who "lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence." It includes those living in motels, camping grounds, emergency and transition shelters, and migratory children. Findings from this count include:

- During 2008-09 school-year, 576 students were identified as homeless in Johnson County. This is an increase of 78% over the prior school year.

School Lunch Participation (See table and graph on next page.)

An indicator of child poverty, the level of student participation in the National School Lunch Program demonstrates a dramatic increase. During the 2008-09 school year, 18.8% of all public school students received a free or reduced-cost lunch. To be eligible, family income must be at or below 185% of the federal poverty level (\$33,873 for a family of three in 2008). This represents a five-year increase of 37.4%.

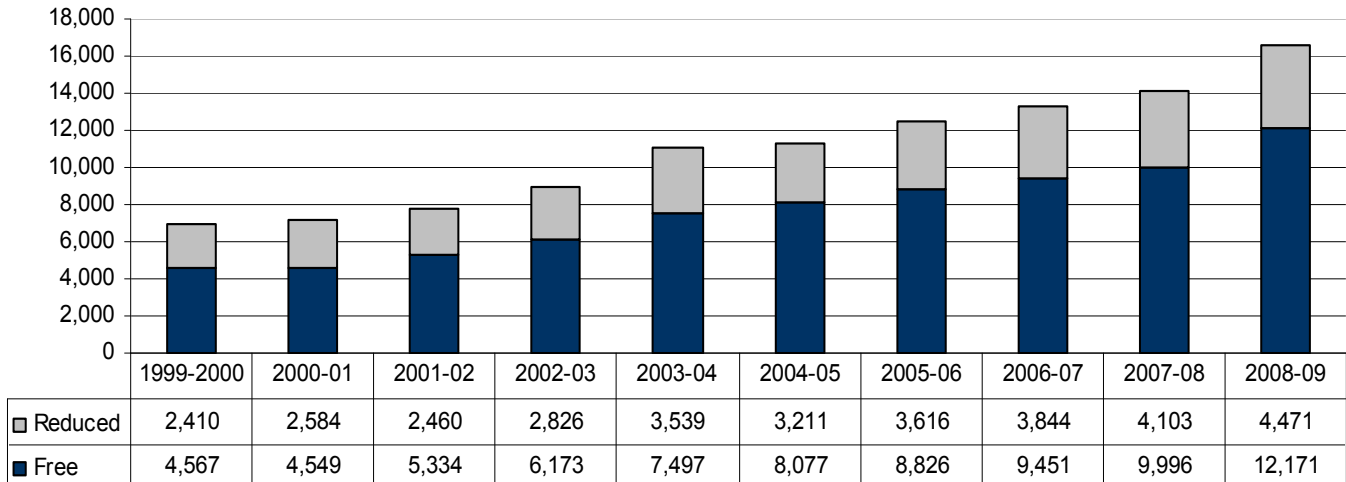
- During the 2008-09 school year, in 15 school buildings over 50% of all students participated in the School Lunch Program. In five of those 15 buildings, the participation rate was over 70%.

PERSPECTIVE

"The Olathe School District has a strong commitment to meeting the needs of all students and families in our community through our ongoing needs assessment and continuous improvement processes. We are proactive in identifying and committing resources to meet the needs of the growing numbers of students considered at-risk because of factors such as poverty and homelessness. Strategic use of federal and state grant funds, support from the Olathe Public Schools Foundation, and many community partnerships help us meet ever-growing needs and close achievement gaps for students in poverty." Carolyn Good, Instructional Project Coordinator, Olathe School District

POVERTY: SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAM

Enrollment in Free and Reduced-Cost School Lunch Program



	2003-04	2008-09	Growth in Participation over 5 years	2008-09 Participation Rate
Blue Valley	586	1,091	69.4%	5.3%
De Soto	559	877	10.4%	13.7%
Gardner-Edgerton	775	1,252	19.6%	27.3%
Olathe	4,283	5,528	11.3%	20.9%
Shawnee Mission	4,608	7,428	70.6%	26.7%
Spring Hill	225	466	31.5%	18.5%
Total - All Districts	11,036	16,642	37.4%	18.8%

About the Data

Source: Johnson County Public School Districts; UCS School Lunch Survey.

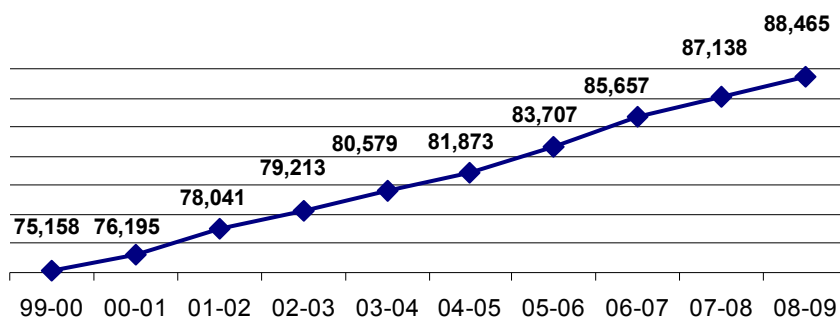
Definition: Families at or below 185% of federal poverty level (\$39,220 for a family of four in the 2008-09 school year) were eligible for school lunch program subsidies. To be eligible for a free lunch, household income must be at or below 130% of the federal poverty guidelines. In the 2008-09 school year, 130% of poverty for a family of four was \$27,560.

Explanations and Caveats: The actual number of students below these levels of poverty may be higher, as this data reflects the number of households who applied for assistance – not the total eligible population.

In the fall of the school year, school districts report the number of children receiving free and reduced-cost lunch to the Kansas Department of Education. Because UCS collects this information from school districts in the spring of the school year, the enrollment figures above are different from what is reported by the Kansas Department of Education and local media.

JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Johnson County Headcount Enrollment



Enrollment grew 9.8% over the past five years, and 17.7% over the past nine years – to 88,465 in the 2008-09 school year. De Soto and Spring Hill had the greatest growth rate in the past five years.

Enrollment in English as a Second Language (ESL) increased by 68% over the past five years, and 308% over the past ten years.

During the 2008-09 school year, 64 languages were spoken by students in the Shawnee Mission District, 52 in Blue Valley, and 49 in Olathe.

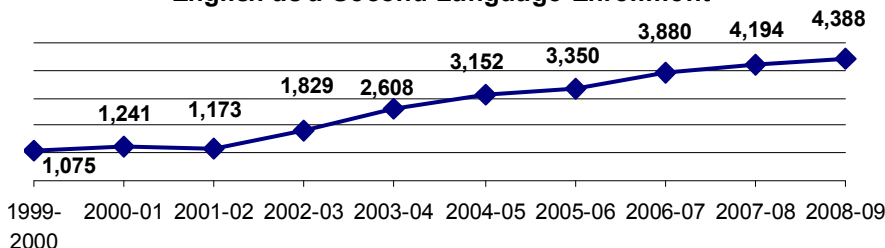
Headcount Enrollment by District

District	2003-04	2008-09	Percent Change
Blue Valley	18,906	20,776	9.9%
De Soto	4,491	6,383	42.1%
Gardner-Edgerton	3,401	4,593	35.0%
Olathe	22,794	26,425	15.9%
Shawnee Mission	29,389	27,772	-5.5%
Spring Hill	1,598	2,516	57.4%
Total	80,579	88,456	9.8%

PERSPECTIVE

"Blue Valley has been both enriched and challenged by the growing number of students whose first language is not English. Our solution has been to work to build a welcoming sense of community for our English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) families and to partner with them in providing their children an unparalleled education." Sue Denny, Executive Director of Student Services, Blue Valley School District

Johnson County Public Schools English as a Second Language Enrollment



Number of Languages Spoken by Students in ESL Programs 2008-09

Blue Valley	52
De Soto	14
Gardner Edgerton	8
Olathe	49
Shawnee Mission	64
Spring Hill	5

About the Data

Source: Kansas Department of Education, USD Headcount Enrollment; UCS Survey of Johnson County Public School Districts, 2008-09 school year.

JOHNSON COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

Over the past five years, minority students increased from nearly one in seven in 2003-04 to nearly two in nine in 2008-09. The largest increase occurred in the percentage of Hispanic students, which grew from 5% of total enrollment in 2003-04 to nearly 8% in 2008-09.

School Enrollment by Ethnicity and Race

School Year	District Headcount Enrollment	White	White % Total	Black	Black % Total	Hispanic	Hispanic% Total	American Indian or Alaska Native	American Indian or Alaska Native % Total	Asian or Pacific Islander	Asian or Pacific Islander % Total	Multi-Ethnic*	Multi-Ethnic % Total*
2008-09	88,465	69,158	78.2%	4,908	5.5%	6,773	7.7%	441	0.5%	4,023	4.5%	3,159	3.6%
2007-08	87,138	69,076	79.3%	4,792	5.5%	6,157	7.0%	411	0.5%	3,737	4.3%	2,799	3.2%
2006-07	85,657	68,748	80.3%	4,696	5.5%	5,877	6.9%	393	0.5%	3,526	4.1%	2,348	2.7%
2005-06	83,707	68,495	81.8%	4,553	5.4%	5,250	6.3%	382	0.5%	3,366	4.0%	1,661	1.9%
2004-05	81,873	68,088	83.2%	4,365	5.3%	4,690	5.7%	363	0.4%	3,187	3.9%	1,180	1.4%
2003-04	80,579	68,537	85.1%	4,171	5.2%	4,122	5.1%	356	0.4%	3,060	3.8%	333	0.4%
2002-03	79,213	68,640	86.7%	3,895	4.9%	3,538	4.5%	356	0.4%	2,784	3.5%		
2001-02	78,041	68,556	87.8%	3,402	4.4%	3,152	4.0%	342	0.4%	2,589	3.3%		
2000-01	76,195	67,681	88.8%	2,989	3.9%	2,774	3.6%	316	0.4%	2,435	3.2%		
1999-2000	75,158	67,304	89.6%	2,898	3.9%	2,403	3.2%	301	0.4%	2,252	3.0%		
1998-99	73,659	66,548	90.3%	2,679	3.6%	2,114	2.9%	264	0.4%	2,054	2.8%		
1997-98	71,866	65,375	91.0%	2,433	3.4%	1,871	2.6%	264	0.4%	1,923	2.7%		
1996-97	70,294	64,309	91.5%	2,273	3.2%	1,658	2.4%	237	0.3%	1,817	2.6%		

*The multi-ethnic category was added in 2003.

About the Data

Source: Kansas Department of Education.

SPECIAL EDUCATION ENROLLMENT

Over 10% of Johnson County public school students have special needs related to disabilities – as indicated by the number who are enrolled in Special Education. (Students who receive special education services include those who are gifted, as well as those with disabilities.) Of those who are in the disabled or non-gifted category, more than one-third have a learning disabilities. Approximately 4% of students with a disability have an emotional disturbance; of those, three in ten are elementary students.

PERSPECTIVE

"The Gardner Edgerton School District proactively meets the challenge of the growing number of students with disabilities in a positive manner. Consistent monitoring of student growth and program evaluation allow the district to serve each student's individual needs. A well established partnership with families and community resources, such as the Children's Coordinating Council, provides our teams with the necessary tools to meet the needs of our students." Dr. Judy Martin, Director of Special Services, Gardner Edgerton School District

Special Education Enrollment by District 2008-09 School Year

District	Gifted	Disabled	All Exceptionalities*	Percent of Students in District with Disabilities
Blue Valley	1,469	1,877	3,314	9.0%
De Soto	152	485	636	7.6%
Gardner/Edgerton	102	599	700	13.0%
Olathe	851	3,149	3,963	11.9%
Shawnee Mission	1,527	3,086	4,592	11.1%
Spring Hill	38	247	285	9.8%
TOTAL	4,139	9,443	13,490	10.7%

About the Data

Source: Kansas Department of Education; UCS Survey of Johnson County Public School Districts, 2008-09 school year.

Definition: State Regulation KAR 91-40 states "special education means specially designed instruction, at no cost to the parents, to meet the unique needs of an exceptional child." Students who receive special education services include those who are gifted and talented, as well as those who are non-gifted and have disabilities such as visual impairment, autism, speech or language impairment.

*Gifted students receiving services for disability are counted under both the disability and gifted category, but are not duplicated in the All Exceptionalities total.

ACADEMIC—3RD GRADE READING LEVELS

Percent of 3rd graders meeting or exceeding State Reading Standards

Blue Valley	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
All 3rd Graders	90.6	92.9	90.0	94.9
Economically Disadvantaged	77.4	82.7	90.3	88.4
ELL	57.2	85.8	81.3	80.0
De Soto				
All 3rd Graders	81.2	85.8	87.2	89.5
Economically Disadvantaged	58.1	62.2	67.8	82.4
ELL	65.0	53.0	57.1	68.2
Gardner Edgerton				
All 3rd Graders	92.7	97.9	98.1	97.3
Economically Disadvantaged	87.4	96.0	97.8	95.1
ELL	n/a	n/a	100.0	n/a
Olathe				
All 3rd Graders	86.6	87.4	88.1	89.2
Economically Disadvantaged	71.9	71.1	74.2	75.9
ELL	51.6	60.5	67.7	73.4
Shawnee Mission				
All 3rd Graders	82.6	82.0	82.9	87.1
Economically Disadvantaged	65.4	67.6	66.2	74.6
ELL	48.8	56.8	54.7	63.2
Spring Hill				
All 3rd Graders	74.0	82.5	76.2	82.5
Economically Disadvantaged	52.7	63.3	55.5	72.0
ELL	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
State of KS				
All 3rd Graders	78.5	81.8	83.5	85.2
Economically Disadvantaged	68.1	73.3	74.8	77.3
ELL	51.5	63.2	65.4	67.9

- Over the four year period of 2005-06 to 2008-09, all Johnson County school districts experienced gains in 3rd graders' reading skills as measured by state assessments. Improvements ranged from 3% to 11%.
- Economically disadvantaged and English Language Learners (ELL) students have lower 3rd grade reading scores when compared to other students. However, all districts experienced significant improvements for these populations between 2005-06 and 2008-09. Blue Valley and Olathe saw 40% increases in the percent of ELL students meeting or exceeding state standards. De Soto and Spring Hill both achieved scores more than 30% higher for their economically disadvantaged population.
- Five of the six districts exceed the state's percentage of all third graders who meet or exceed state standards in the 2008-09 school year.

PERSPECTIVE

"We know from research and experience that children not reading at grade level by third grade are at a high risk for having problems reading in the 9th grade. The Spring Hill District is focusing on those children and working together to help them become better readers while they're in elementary school." Tom Lawson, Director of Special Services, Spring Hill School District

About the Data:

Source: Kansas Department of Education School Report Cards.

Definitions: Economically disadvantaged students, according to the Kansas Department of Education, are those who qualify for a free or reduced-cost lunch.

Explanations and Caveats: In most cases, a small percentage of students was not tested.

STUDENT SUPPORT

Students who feel there are people who care about them in school and feel connected to school are more likely to be academically motivated and less likely to engage in a variety of negative behaviors (*Marin and Brown, 2008*). * Caring adults in schools may include anyone with whom students come into contact. All Johnson County school districts have counselors, psychologists, and school resource officers; however, they are not available at every grade level. All districts except Spring Hill have at least one social worker.

- A five year comparison of ratios shows overall little change across positions. However, the ratio of School Resource Officers (SROs) to students has gone up in some districts and down in others.

Johnson County Public Schools' Support Staff 2008-09

	Coun- selsors	Ratio Coun- selsors to Students	Social Work- ers	Ratio Social Workers to Students	Psy- chologi- sts	Ratio Psy- chologists to Students	Nurses	Ratio Nurses to Students	School Re- source Officers	Ratio SROs to Students	FTE Enroll- ment
Blue Valley	55	1:363	3	1:6646	21	1:949	32	1:623	12	1:1662	19,939
De Soto	14	1:434	6	1:1012	6	1:1012	13	1:467	2.5	1:2428	6,070
Gardner-Edgerton	13	1:333	3.3	1:1313	4.5	1:963	2	1:2166	2	1:2166	4,332
Olathe	68.4	1:368	18.5	1:1362	26	1:969	50	1:504	10	1:2519	25,190
Shawnee Mission	51	1:521	38.5	1:690	19.5	1:1363	51	1:521	11	1:2416	26,579
Spring Hill	6	1:371	0	0	2	1:1113	3	1:742	1	1:2225	2,225

**National Recom-
mended Ratio**

1:250

1:500

1:1000

1:750

n/a

*Pilar Marin, M.P.P. and Bret Brown, Ph.D. (2008) "The School Environment and Adolescent Well-Being: Beyond Academics," Child Trends Research Brief. Washington, D.C.: Child Trends.

About the Data

Source: UCS School Survey and Ks. Dept. Ed. Superintendents' Reports

FTE enrollment from Kansas Department of Education Superintendents' Reports. Kansas Department of Education defines FTE (full time equivalency enrollment) as "the total enrollment in grades kindergarten through 12, and three and four year old preschool special education as of September 20th. Any pupil who is not enrolled full time is counted as that proportion of one pupil that his/her regular enrollment bears to full time enrollment. Pupils enrolled in three and four year old preschool special education or kindergarten are counted as half-time pupils."

Sources for National Recommendations:

Counselors: American School Counselor Assoc. (www.schoolcounselor.org);

Social Workers: National Assoc. of Social Workers (www.socialworkers.org)

Psychologist: National Assoc. of School Psychologists (www.nasponline.org);

Nurses: National Assoc. of School Nurses (www.nasn.org) recommends one school nurse to 750 students in the general population; one nurse to 225 in main-streamed population; one nurse to 125 students in the severely chronically ill or developmental disabled population.

SRO: National Association of School Resource Officers (www.nasro.org). No recommended ratio available.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

During the 2008-09 school year, three in four of Johnson County public school students took the Communities That Care Student Survey which asks 6th, 8th, 10th, and 12th graders about behaviors and attitudes that are correlated with their risk for substance abuse. Survey findings include:

- Alcohol is the most likely substance abused, and many students are engaged in binge drinking.
- Almost one in five 12th graders and one in seven 10th graders reported having been drunk or high at school at least once in the past year.
- Johnson County students are drinking at a young age – 13 is the average age of a child taking his/her first drink, and 11 is not uncommon.
- High school age students report both greater lifetime usage, and use within the past 30 days of marijuana, than the state average.

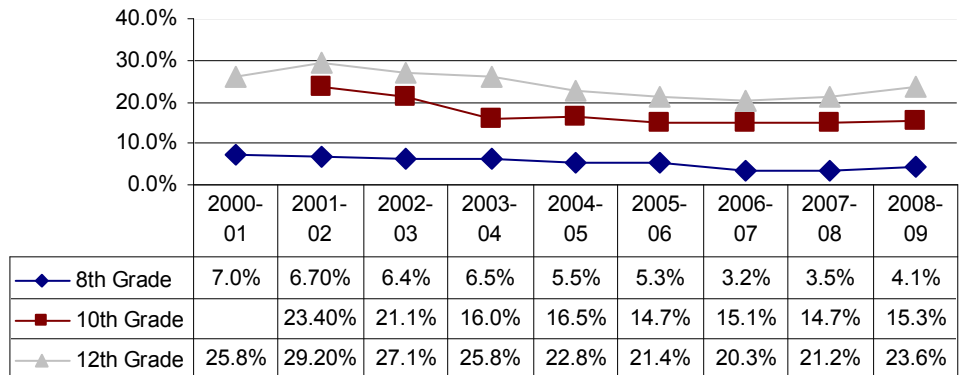
There are a variety of strategies and programs to prevent substance abuse among children and youth; most include components of education, opportunities for alternative behavior and early intervention activities focused on reducing risk factors and/or enhancing protective factors.

PERSPECTIVE

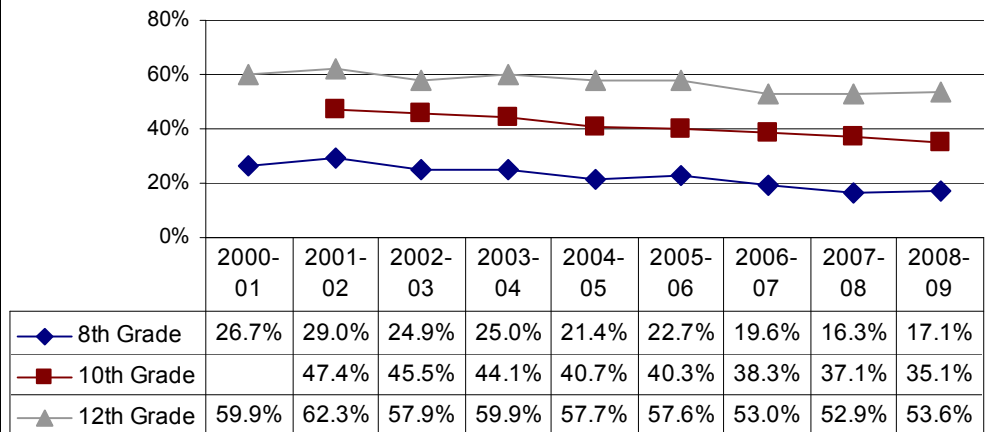
"Substance abuse interferes with a student's ability to think, making learning and concentration more difficult which hinders academic performance. The more a student uses alcohol, the lower their grade point average is likely to be. Children who begin drinking before the age of 15 are four times more likely to suffer from dependency than those who wait until the legal age of 21. Prevention is key in helping our children avoid life-long consequences related to substance abuse." Janine Gracy, Director, Regional Prevention Center of Johnson, Leavenworth and Miami Counties

"The Trends report helps our staff identify the substances to target in our prevention/intervention programming for students. It allows us to compare data with results from our Communities That Care survey as well as across the county." Alvie Cater, Director of Community Relations, De Soto School District

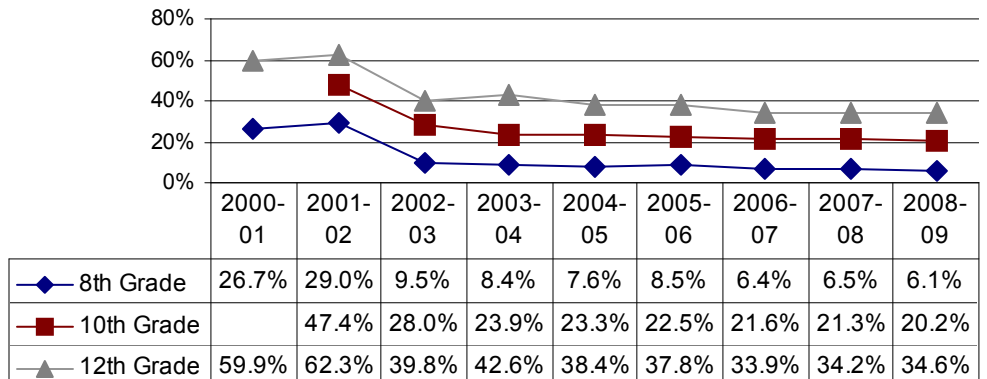
Current Marijuana Use Self-Reported by Johnson County Students



Current Alcohol Use Self-Reported by Johnson County Students



Binge Drinking Self-Reported by Johnson County Students (Five or more drinks in a row within past 2 weeks)



About the Data

Source: Communities that Care Student Surveys 2000-2008; Regional Prevention Center of Johnson, Leavenworth and Miami Counties.

Definition: Adolescents who report using alcohol, tobacco and/or marijuana within the past 30 days are considered "current users."

Explanations and Caveats: For school years 2000-01 through 2005-06, data were collected from four Johnson County public school districts. Beginning with the 2006-07 school year, all six Johnson County school districts administered the Communities That Care Student Survey.

SAFETY

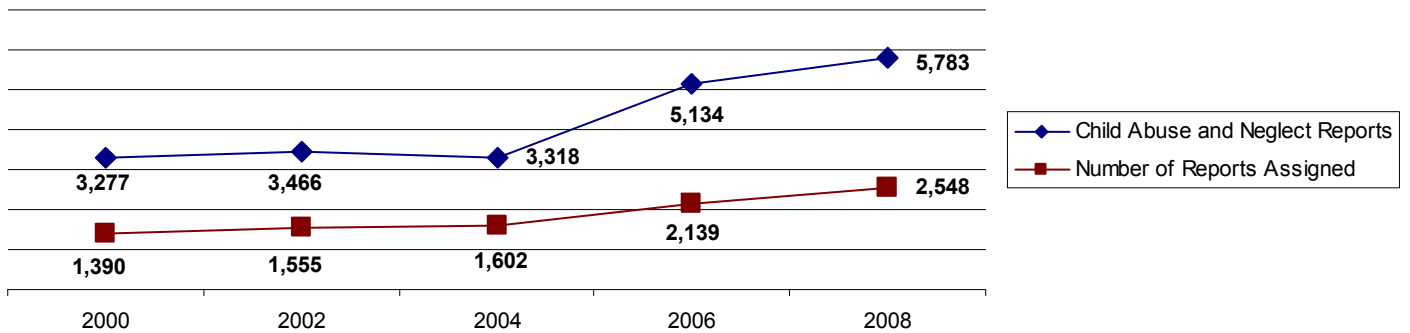
“Child abuse is any physical injury, physical neglect, emotional injury, or sexual act inflicted upon a child.” (SRS, *A Guide to Reporting Child Abuse in Kansas, revised 2008*). When a report of abuse or neglect is made to the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS), an initial assessment is completed to determine if SRS should become involved. If the report meets the criteria for SRS involvement, it is investigated by a social worker or special investigator. If it is determined that a child’s safety is at risk, then a recommendation is made by SRS or law enforcement to the court regarding the action that should be taken. The court is ultimately responsible for the decision to remove a child from the home. These court cases are referred to as “Child in Need of Care (CINC).”

- The number of Johnson County reports made to SRS increased by 64% between 2000 and 2008, and the number of reports assigned for investigation increased by 83% over the same time period.
- While about one-half of reports are assigned for investigation, only about 5% of those investigated are substantiated.
- Statewide the top 3 maltreatment types involved in FY 2009 assigned reports were physical abuse, emotional abuse and lack of supervision.
- Also statewide, 80% of assigned reports involving non-abuse neglect were for children without proper control.
- Truancy filings by the Johnson County District Attorney’s Office, which are CINC non-abuse neglect filings, have remained stable since 2001.
- Over the past 10 years, Johnson County CINC/Termination of Parental Rights case filings have ranged from low of 315 in 2008, to high of 459 in 2004.

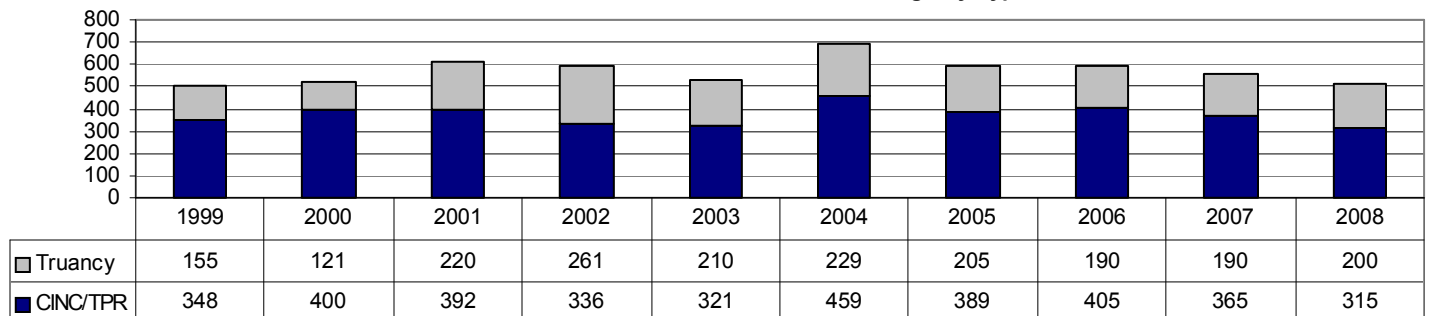
PERSPECTIVE

“Statewide in FY 2009, one-half of all reports to SRS were assigned for investigation and assessment by an SRS social worker or special investigator. While the majority of the findings for the reports assigned were unsubstantiated, the critical mission of SRS always remains assessing and ensuring the safety and well-being of children. Every call to the Protection Report Center is important; all reports are thoroughly assessed to determine whether there is a need for further assessment in the field by SRS workers.” Trish Hampton, Program Administrator Social Services, Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS)

Child Abuse and Neglect



Child in Need of Care Case Filings by Type



About the Data:

Source: Johnson County District Attorney’s Office; Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services

Explanations and Caveats: TPR (Termination of Parental Rights). Beginning in 2007, a second case is not filed for TPR but another charge is added to original CINC filing. Over time, other procedures and/or definitions may have varied also.

JUVENILE CRIME

Juvenile case filings reflect how well the community is preparing its youth to make positive life choices. Further, case filing trends provide guidance as to current needs for resource investment throughout the continuum of services targeting youth both within the juvenile justice system, and among youth at-risk of becoming court-involved.

- Total case filings declined 31% between 1999 and 2008, from 3,251 to 2,227.
- Property crimes increased in 2008, after declining to the lowest level in 10 years during 2007.
- Drug and alcohol cases have fluctuated, but reflect a decrease from 1999.
- Case filings by gender show an overall decline for both males and females.
- 2008 male filings were the lowest they have been in 10 years.
- Female case filings account for about 1/3 of juvenile offender case filings.

PERSPECTIVE

“As criminal justice professionals and community leaders plan and form recommendations for the improvement of the juvenile justice system, it is crucial that we base these decisions on data such as case filing trends, as well as other predictors of juvenile crime. Using a data driven decision process in combination with recommending programming that is evidence-based, we can be more confident that the best decisions will be made to serve the youth and families of our community.” Rise Haneberg, Criminal Justice Coordinator, Johnson County Government

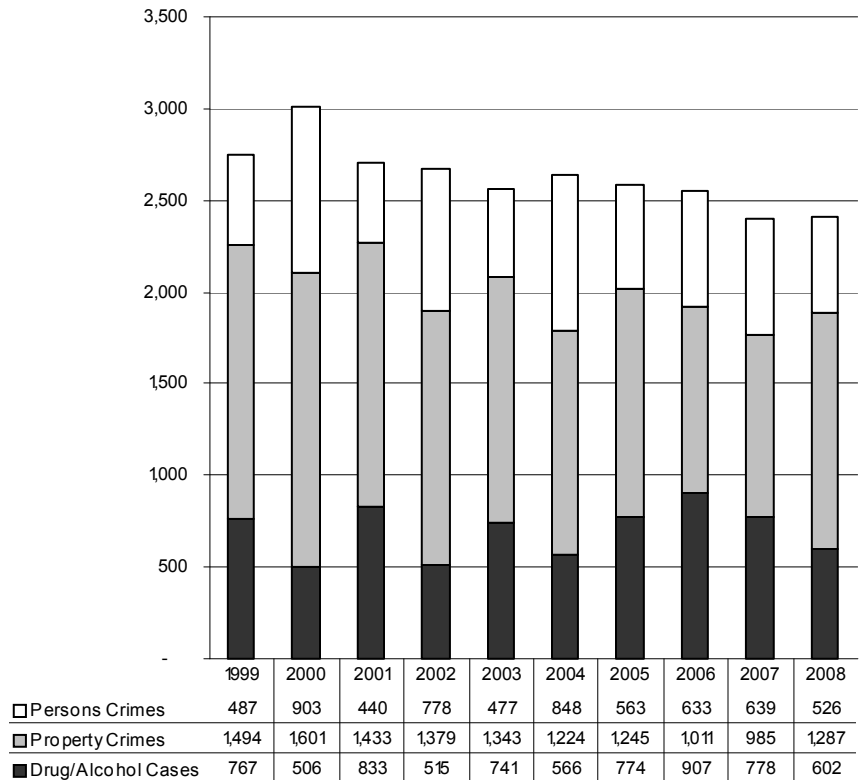
About the Data

Source: Johnson County Kansas District Attorney's Office.

Explanations and Caveats: These statistics are a compilation of Court Services' reporting data, and are tracked to monitor general filing trends, such as CINC vs. Juvenile Offender filings. Case filings are often used as a proxy measure of crime.

Cases are classified according to the highest rated charge. For example, a case with a battery charge and a minor in possession of alcohol charge would be counted as a battery case. Some cases are classified as "other." Those cases are not reflected in the top graph.

Juvenile Offender Cases by Type



Juvenile Offender Case Filings by Gender

