

Poverty in Johnson County

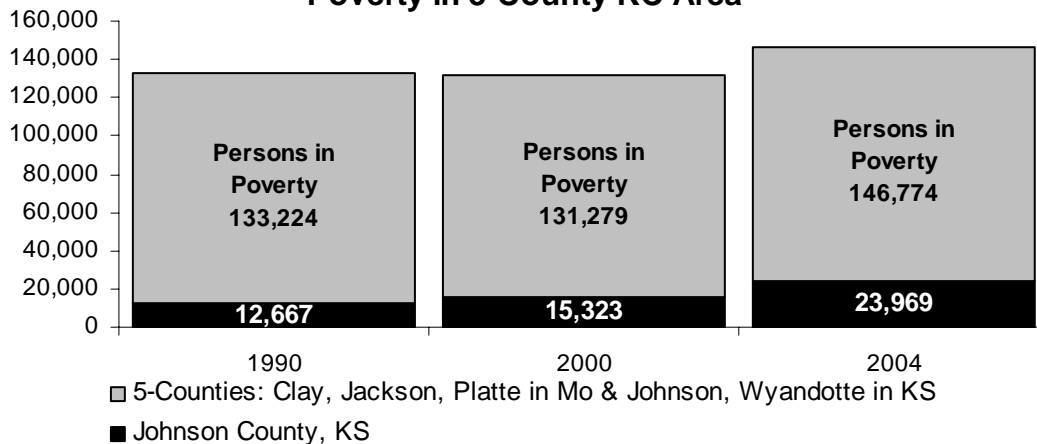
Poverty is measured by the U.S. Census Bureau according to annual income, family size and number of children. The same thresholds are used throughout the United States, and updated annually for inflation. For example, in 2006 a one-person household at 100% of poverty earns less than \$9,800, a three-person household earns less than \$16,600 and a five-person household earns less than \$23,400.

KEY FACTS

An increasing number of the region’s poor live in Johnson County.

- The number of Johnson County residents living below the federal poverty level nearly doubled from 1990-2004 – increasing to almost 24,000 persons or 4.8% of the population.
- In 2004, 1 of 6 poor persons in the five-county Kansas City area lived in Johnson County. This represents a steady increase from 1 of 11 in 1990 and 1 of 9 in 2000.
- Within the five-county metropolitan area, the number of people living in poverty increased from 131,279 in 2000 to 146,774 in 2004; 56% of the net increase—over 8,600 individuals—occurred in Johnson County.

Poverty in 5-County KC Area

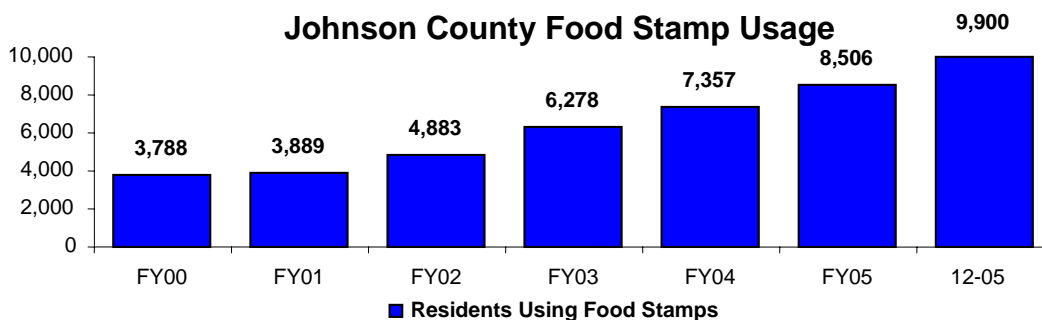


Johnson County Poverty Rate	1990	2000	2004
	3.6%	3.4%	4.8%

Other poverty indicators demonstrate this increasing need.

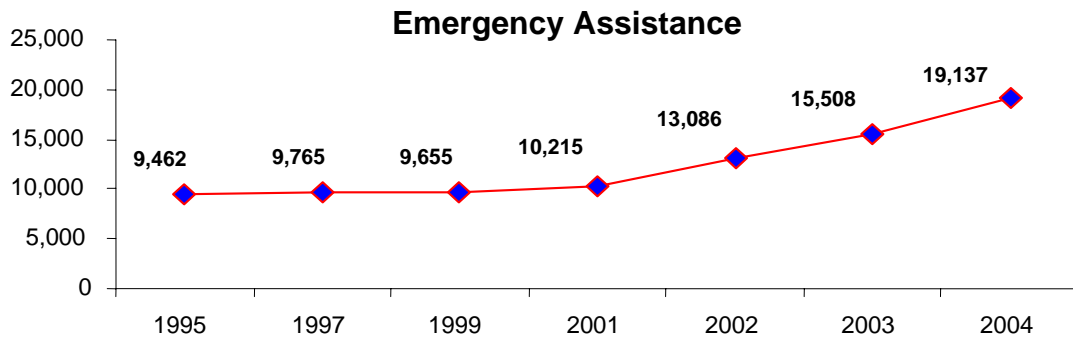
- Food Stamp usage more than doubled between fiscal year 2000 and 2005.
- As the chart below demonstrates, the increase in Food Stamp usage continues into late 2005.

Johnson County Food Stamp Usage



Johnson County residents seeking emergency help to meet basic needs are on the rise.

- In 2004, over 19,000 residents sought emergency assistance to meet basic household expenses, such as food and utilities. This total represents a striking 23% increase over the 15,508 residents that sought help in 2003.



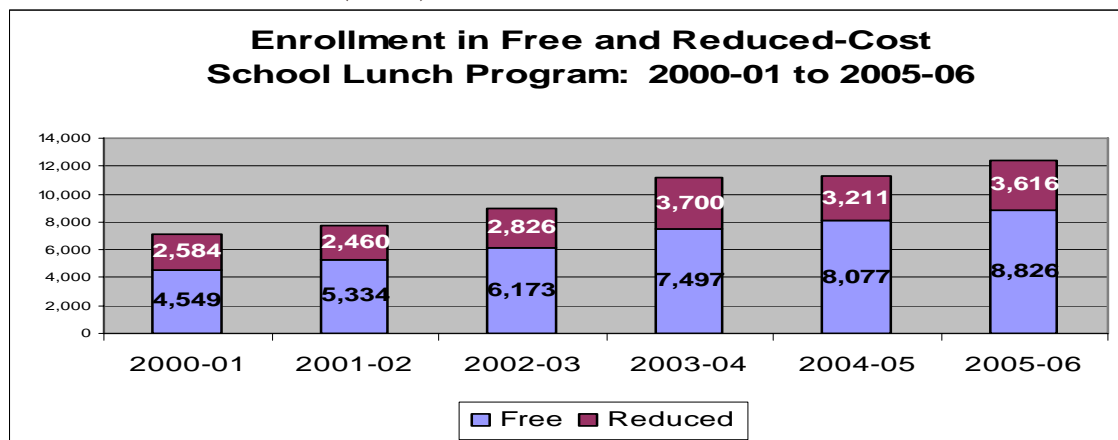
- The chart below shows the total number of persons and households seeking assistance during the first eight months of 2003, 2004 and 2005. While the increase is markedly steeper from 2003 to 2004, totals for 2005 continue an upward trend.

Emergency Assistance Participants

	<u>Jan.-Aug.</u> <u>2003</u>	<u>Jan.-Aug.</u> <u>2004</u>	<u>Jan.-Aug.</u> <u>2005</u>
Total Persons Served	10,983	13,726	14,923
Persons Served for First Time	3,450	4,905	4,184
Total Households Served	4,445	4,820	4,904
Households with Children	2,361	3,109	3,166
Households with No Children	2,084	1,711	1,738

Significantly more students are accessing a free or reduced cost school lunch.

- The number of public school students accessing a free or reduced cost school lunch continues to rise. From school years 2000-01 to 2005-06, participation grew by 74% for this program serving households at or below 185% of the federal poverty level. Enrollment increased by 9.9% during the same period. The demand for free lunches is both higher and increasing at a faster rate (+94%) than for reduced cost lunches (+40%).



SOURCES: U.S. Census – 1990, 2000 Decennial Census, 2004 Current Population Survey; Mid America Assistance Coalition; Johnson County School Districts; and Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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