

# FAMILIES AND NEIGHBORHOODS IMPACT AREA

## Overview

United Way of Greater Kansas City is creating positive community change by investing in programs that address health and human service needs, and developing strategies aimed at eliminating their underlying causes. This work is accomplished within a framework of six “impact areas”: families and neighborhoods, health, self-sufficiency, seniors, young children and youth. An Impact Committee provides leadership for United Way’s work in each area.

Through an inclusive community planning effort, United Way developed a vision and goals in each impact area and set forth priorities that guide its work in funding programs, implementing community initiatives, and advocating for changes in public policy.

## Vision - Families and Neighborhoods

Communities where families are strong and healthy; and live in safe, viable neighborhoods.

## Why It Matters

Families are the foundation on which strong neighborhoods and communities are built. A safe, nurturing and supportive environment protects people from abuse, neglect, violence and crime. The availability of decent, affordable housing options contributes to strong communities.

## Goals

- Increase the number of **safe** individuals, families and neighborhoods.
- Increase the number of families living in quality **housing** in **strong, healthy, communities**. (short term goal)
- Quality affordable **housing** with **strong, healthy communities** is available to everyone. (long term goal)
- Increase the number of **healthy families**.
- Increase the number of participants in **educational programs** to promote healthy families and safe neighborhoods.

## Public Policy Advocacy

United Ways recognize that many human services are delivered through a public/private partnership, and that public sector funding and/or programs are often critical to the consumers who also benefit from the community-based programs United Way supports. Community volunteers and agency representatives from across the six-county metropolitan area identified Policy Principles that align with each impact area vision and goals.

Policy Principles that promote the Families and Neighborhoods Impact Area address:

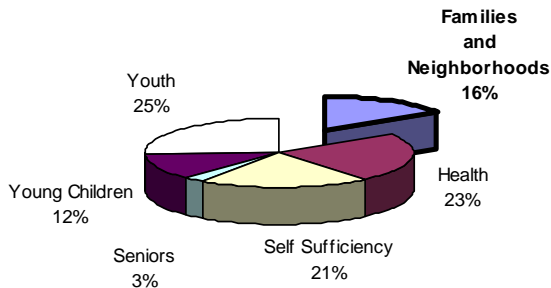
- Access to family and social services in order to ensure that more children and adults live in strong, healthy families free from abuse, neglect and domestic violence.
- Access to comprehensive family support and preservation programs.
- Safety and community wellness through improved employment opportunities, safer neighborhoods, and wider access to health and other services.
- The provision of appropriate adoption subsidies to move children more quickly to permanency.
- Maintaining support and adequate staffing for children’s services and child assessment centers.
- Strengthening support for relatives caring for children who have been removed from their homes.
- Maintaining effective child welfare systems, such as effective foster care and adoption programs.
- Upholding child welfare statutes that effectively protect children and youth from abuse and neglect.



## United Way Investment in Families and Neighborhoods

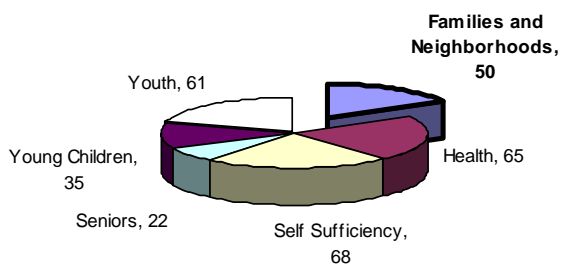
Through the volunteer-led Resource Investment Process for 2007, United Way is investing \$16.6 million to support 301 regional and local health and human service programs that are organized by six areas. The Families and Neighborhoods Impact Area, regional and local, represents 16 percent, or \$2,633,732.

### **United Way Investment by Impact Area \$16,618,049**



Fifty programs that address a wide range of services targeted to families and the neighborhoods where they live are funded. These programs represent 17 percent of the programs funded by United Way through the Resource Investment Process.

### **301 Funded Programs in 2007**

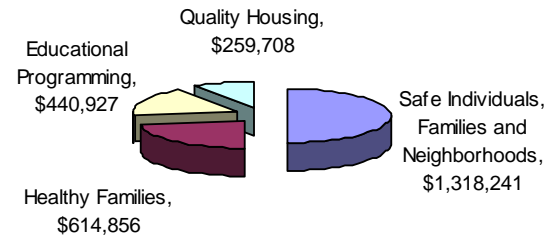


## Types of United Way Investment

United Way works to improve lives with two types of investments through the Resource Investment Process. One is investing in programs that **deliver direct services** to individuals or families. Outcomes focus on the program's benefits for each participant. The other is investing in efforts to **influence community change or systems of services**. Outcomes are measured for a population group, rather than individuals. Both types of investment are essential to advance United Way's vision and goals.

## Types of Programs Funded

The Families and Neighborhoods Impact Area is targeted to improve neighborhoods and the lives of the individuals and families that live in those neighborhoods. There are four areas of focus for United Way funding.



### **Safe Individuals, Families, and Neighborhoods:**

Fifty percent of the funds set aside for the Families and Neighborhoods Impact Area are invested in programs that help make people and their neighborhoods safe. Examples of programs funded in this area are individual and family counseling, domestic violence shelters, transitional housing for the homeless, safety training such as CPR and First Aid, and community preparedness.

**Healthy Families:** About 23 percent of funding designated for this impact area is distributed to programs that provide counseling for a wide variety of issues including family dysfunction, anger management, grief, substance abuse, and to interrupt and prevent family violence.

### **Educational Programming Promoting Healthy Families and Safe Neighborhoods:**

Seventeen percent of funding is allocated to programs that help the community respond quickly and appropriately to disaster, provide community education regarding domestic violence and sexual assault in an effort to help prevent and reduce these crimes, and help educate individuals about persons with disabilities.

### **Quality Housing In Strong, Healthy Communities:**

The types of programs funded under this area of focus are those that advocate for basic needs including housing, and legal counsel to individuals working to maintain their existing housing or find adequate housing. The money allocated for this goal represents three percent of the Families and Neighborhoods dollars.

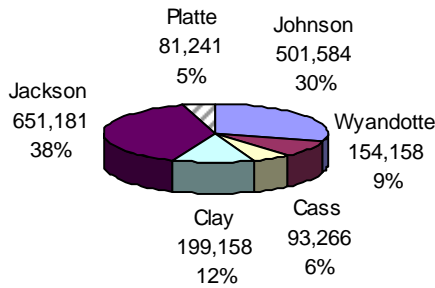
# Community Profile

## Why It Matters

Information about our community and the people who live here is a tool for making decisions on the investment of United Way dollars. The data alone will not provide definitive answers. This data profile does, however, establish the size and some characteristics of the target population, and point to areas where greater attention may be needed.

## 2005 Regional Demographics

**2005 Regional Population by County**  
Total Population = 1.7 Million People



## 2005 Regional Snapshot

### A People Profile

1,680,588 people live in the six-county region of Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte Counties in Missouri and Johnson and Wyandotte Counties in Kansas:

- Two in 3 residents live in our largest counties – Jackson County, Mo. and Johnson County, Ks.
- Nine in 10 (93%) live in the same county as a year ago.
- One in 4 (26%) are children/youth under age 18.
- One in 10 (11%) are seniors age 65 and over.
- One in 4 (25%) self-identifies with a racial or ethnic minority – up from 18% in 1990.
- One in 10 (10%) speak a language other than English at home.
- One in 8 (12%) non-institutionalized persons age 16 and over has a disability.
- One in 9 (11%) of the total population lives in poverty. Nearly 66,000 children (16%) and 12,000 seniors (7%) face the challenges of living in poverty.

## Families & Neighborhoods Impact Area – Community Indicators

## Families & Neighborhoods

### Key Facts

#### Household Types

- Two in 3 households are family households, comprised of two or more people related to each other by birth, marriage or adoption.
- Married couples comprise the largest family household type. Fully half (50%) of all households are married couples.
- One in 3 households (32%) includes related children under age 18 years.
- One in 8 households (12%) is a female-headed household – and 48,134 or 62% have children under age 18. Three in 5 female-headed households with children have household incomes under 185% of federal poverty level.
- One in 3 households (35%) is a nonfamily household – with single-person households comprising more than 4 in 5 (82%) of this household type.

## Child Abuse and Neglect

- 1,741 children were substantiated as victims of child abuse and/or neglect in 2005 – down in number from the 3,155 in 2001. As one factor affecting this trend, both Missouri and Kansas implemented new, higher evidentiary standards in 2004.

**Child Abuse & Neglect – Confirmed Cases**

	2001	2003	2005
Johnson	697	504	340
Wyandotte	832	765	207
Cass	169	188	171
Clay	169	188	171
Jackson	1,274	1,263	902
Platte	61	46	53
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,155</b>	<b>2,864</b>	<b>1,741</b>

### Child Abuse – Out-of-Home Placements

- 2,449 children under age 18 in the six-county region experienced the risk factor of out-of-home placement in 2006 due to involvement with the child welfare system, such as child abuse or neglect.

**Children and Youth in Out-of-Home Placements**

	2006
Johnson	602
Wyandotte	897
Cass	20
Clay	51
Jackson	855
Platte	24
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,449</b>

### Domestic Violence – 2006 Profile of Adults in Shelters across Region

- 1,713 adult domestic violence clients were served by the region’s shelters in 2006. Nearly 2 in 5 (38%) were under age 30.
- Nine in 10 had incomes below the poverty level.
- Average household size was 1.3 persons – adults were caring for 1,540 dependents.
- Three in 5 had a high school education, equivalency or less.
- One in 4 had been with their abuser 3-5 years; another 1 in 3 had been with their abuser 6 or more years.
- Two in 5 of those reporting were adult children of alcoholics.
- One in 2 of those reporting had witnessed domestic violence as a child.
- 616 child dependents (45%) witnessed their parent’s abuse, and 99% of victims were female.

### Domestic Violence Incidents

- Nearly 14,000 domestic violence incidents were reported by law enforcement in 2005. Incidents may or may not result in an arrest.

**Domestic Violence Incident Reports**

	2005
Johnson	2,734
Wyandotte	1,711
Cass	1,035
Clay	923
Jackson	7,283
Platte	124
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,810</b>

### Housing Costs

- Seven in 10 housing units are owner occupied.
- One in 4 homeowners (27%) with a mortgage is cost-burdened by their housing, paying 30% or more of household income for housing and utilities – the nationally recognized standard of affordability.
- One in 7 homeowners (14%) without a mortgage is cost-burdened by their housing – indicating that some homeowners have difficulty even covering household utilities.
- Three in 10 housing units are renter occupied.
- Two in 5 renters (43%) are cost-burdened by their housing.

### Mental Disability

- One in 20 (73,556) persons age 5 and over reported a mental disability in 2005, defined as a physical, mental or emotional condition lasting six months or longer.
- A higher 1 in 9 (19,251) seniors reported such a mental disability.

**Persons over Age 5 with Mental Disability**

	2005
Johnson	15,025
Wyandotte	9,824
Cass	4,206
Clay	9,207
Jackson	32,820
Platte	2,654
<b>Total</b>	<b>73,556</b>

*Sources:* U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 American Community Survey; NewHouse, ALICE report for all shelters 1/2006 – 12/2006; Kansas Bureau of Investigation, “A Report on Domestic Violence & Rape Statistics in Kansas; University of Missouri, Domestic Violence Project Results – 2005 County Data; Kansas Missouri Department of Social Services, Missouri Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report; Partnership for Children, 2006 Report Care & Data Briefing Book; Missouri Kids County Data; Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services.

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