

2006 Poverty Trends in Johnson County, Kansas

One out of every 20 Johnson County residents lives facing the challenges of poverty. While the poverty rate declined from 2005 to 2006, total persons experiencing poverty is still dramatically higher than during 2000. Poverty levels are set nationally according to annual income, family size and number of children, and updated annually for inflation. For example, in 2007 a one-person household is at 100% of the poverty level with an annual income under \$10,210, or a three-person family with income under \$17,170.

KEY FACTS

Poverty trends over the past year are mixed – still demonstrating striking increases over 2000.

- One in 20 Johnson County residents lives below the federal poverty level – 25,058 persons or more than double the 12,667 persons in 1990.
- Census Bureau’s American Community Survey is an estimate of poverty and includes a margin of error range. The 2006 range put the number of poor persons between 20,833 and 29,233 – very similar to 2005 estimate (see Source Notes below).
- Poverty is growing across the five-county Kansas City metropolitan area – reversing the poverty rate declines that occurred during the economic boom of the late 1990’s.
- One in 7 of the region’s poor persons in 2006 lived in Johnson County. This represents a steady increase from 1 of 11 in 1990 and 1 of 9 in 2000.

	1990	2000	2005	2006
Johnson County	3.6%	3.4%	5.3%	4.9%
	12,667	15,323	26,732	25,058
Wyandotte County	17.1%	16.5%	19.7%	19.1%
	27,371	25,773	30,153	29,147
Clay County	5.9%	5.5%	7.5%	7.4%
	8,818	9,898	14,940	15,133
Jackson County	13%	11.9%	14.1%	15.5%
	81,142	76,808	91,213	101,140
Platte County	5.7%	4.8%	6.3%	6.8%
	3,226	3,477	5,132	5,648
5-County Total	133,224	131,279	168,170	176,126

Source: U.S. Census Bureau - 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census, 2005 and 2006 American Community Survey. See Census Source Notes below.

Johnson County child and senior poverty increases.

- Over 8,200 children under age 18 live in poverty – nearly double the number in 2000. Three in 4 poor children (6,339) are under age 12 – ages when parents need quality, affordable child care.
- Seniors in poverty increased in number by 78% from 1,487 in 2000 to 2,650 in 2006.
- While the number of adults ages 18 to 64 in poverty declined between 2005 and 2006, the 14,201 persons found in 2006 still represents a 49% increase over 2000.

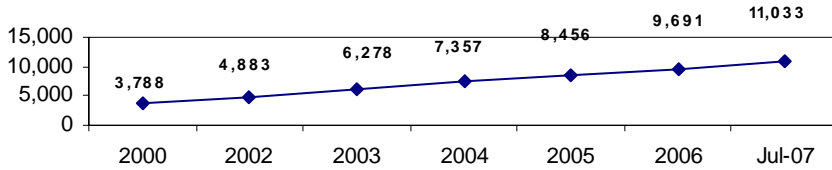
	2000	2006	% Change 2000 to 2006
Children Under 18	3.4%	6.2%	
	4,304	8,207	91%
Adults 18 to 64	3.4%	4.3%	
	9,532	14,201	49%
Seniors 65+	3.6%	5.5%	
	1,487	2,650	78%
All Ages	3.4%	4.9%	
	15,323	25,058	64%

OTHER POVERTY INDICATORS DEMONSTRATE INCREASING NEED

Residents accessing nutrition assistance nearly triples since 2000.

- Over 11,000 residents accessed help in meeting nutritional needs through the Food Stamp program during the summer months of 2007 – nearly triple the average monthly number in 2000.
- Over 35,000 residents had household incomes under 125% of the federal poverty level in 2006 – incomes that indicate they might be eligible for Food Stamps’ aid in addressing hunger.

Residents (Children & Adults) Accessing Food Stamps

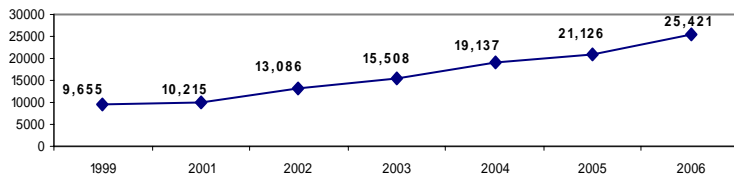


Source: Kansas Department of Social & Rehabilitation Services

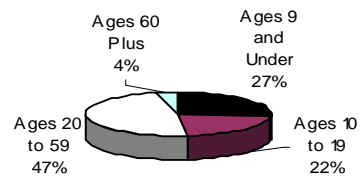
More residents seek emergency help to meet basic needs.

- Over 25,000 persons sought emergency assistance from this community’s safety net providers in 2006 – a one year increase of 20% over 2005. This aid is for essential household expenses, such as food and utilities. Nearly half or 12,538 persons were children and youth under age 19.

Persons Accessing Emergency Assistance



Emergency Assistance Participants By Age Group

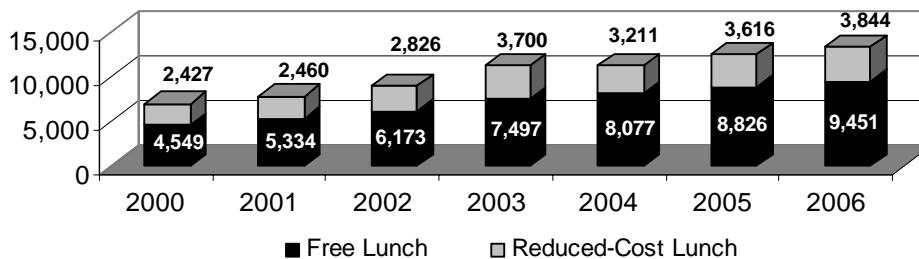


Source: Mid America Assistance Coalition, MAALink Database

More students access free and reduced cost lunch.

- Over 13,000 public school students accessed a free or reduced cost school lunch in 2006-2007 school year – nearly double the 6,976 students in 2000-2001. Three in 4 participating students access a free school lunch – demonstrating that more children are from families with household incomes closer to poverty.

Free and Reduced Cost School Lunch Participants
School Years 2000-01 to 2006-07



Source: Johnson County Public School Districts

Census Source Notes: Key parts of this fact sheet focus on new 2006 American Community Survey (ACS) data released by U.S. Census Bureau on 8/28/07. Important methodology differences exist between the 1990 and 2000 Decennial Census, as well as 2005 and 2006 American Community Survey, such as questionnaire design, data collection method and sample size. Specific to poverty, in 2005 ACS data was limited to the population living in housing units and excluded persons in institutions, such as nursing homes or prison; in group quarters and unrelated individuals under 15 years, such as children in foster care. While 2006 ACS added surveys for persons in group quarters, there are still major differences in how the data was collected from 2000 Decennial Census. Major differences also exist in income collection methods between 2000 Decennial Census and ACS. For more information on how to compare ACS data with other Census data, go to: <http://www.census.gov/acs/www/UseData/compACS.htm>

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