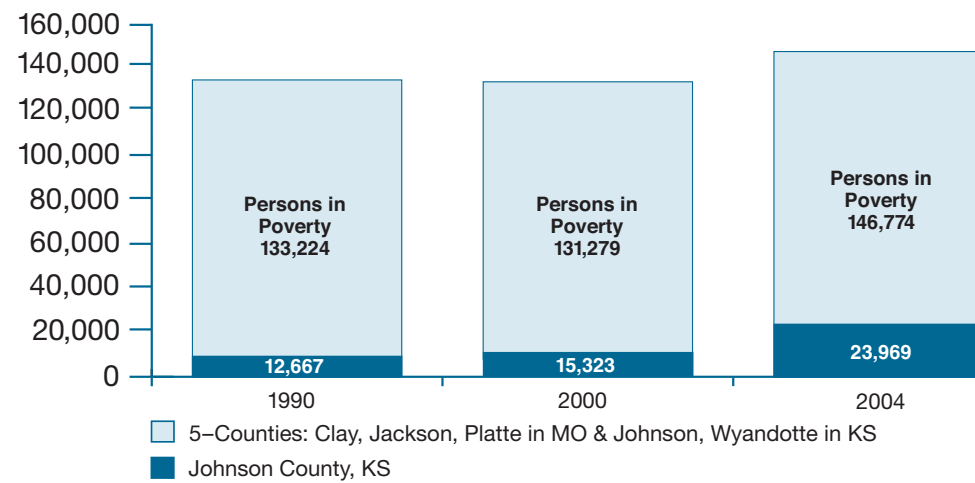


POVERTY GROWING IN JOHNSON COUNTY

- The number of Johnson County residents living below the federal poverty level (\$15,670 in 2004 for a family of three) nearly doubled from 1990–2004, to almost 24,000.
- 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.

Poverty in 5-County KC Area



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 increase—over 8,600 individuals—occurred in Johnson County.**

County	1990		2000		2004	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Clay	8,818	5.9	9,898	5.5	12,859	6.6
Jackson	81,142	13.0	76,808	11.9	80,474	12.3
Platte	3,226	5.7	3,477	4.8	4,473	5.5
Johnson (KS)	12,667	3.6	15,323	3.4	23,969	4.8
Wyandotte (KS)	27,371	17.1	25,773	16.5	24,999	16.1

U.S. Census, 1990, 2000 Decennial Census, 2004 Current Population Survey; MARC.

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SAVE THE DATE
State of Caring
June 13

ABOUT UCS:

Established in 1967, United Community Services (UCS) of Johnson County is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) research and planning organization that addresses human service needs in Johnson County, Kansas.

Through ongoing research and planning, UCS identifies the critical human needs that most impact the community and uses those findings to inform decision makers, guide resource allocation and advance community action. The result is a better quality of life for children, families and individuals in Johnson County.



UNITED COMMUNITY SERVICES OF JOHNSON COUNTY

SPRING 2006

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Poverty Growing in Johnson County

In late 2001, UCS began facilitating meetings with a team of community leaders and professionals to identify how to improve Johnson County's response to family violence. Current policy and practice addressed child welfare and domestic violence independently. The overarching goal—an integrated approach to family safety—became known as *Safe from the Start*. This community planning process culminated in January 2004 with the publication of *Guidelines on the Co-Occurrence of Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment*. More than 60 professionals and stakeholders representing the court system, public and community-based child protection services, and domestic violence service providers offered input.

The *Guidelines* recommend that three groups—First Responders, Direct Service Professionals, and other Community Professionals—engage in earlier screening for family violence than current practice provided. The *Guidelines* contain a screening tool for each group to assess the safety of the adult or child, and establish safety procedures.

In 2005, members of the *Safe from the Start* leadership team, together with the Community Violence Action Council (COMVAC), a community collaboration to coordinate preventing and reducing domestic violence, met to review progress and identify next steps. These efforts are summarized as *Safe from the Start, 2005 Update*.

(Continued on page 2)

SAVE THE DATE

State of Caring
June 13, 2006, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Join UCS and United Way of Johnson County on June 13 for this annual event to share ideas about current and emerging issues, and strategies to respond to priority needs. The morning session will launch Navigating the Future II, a multifaceted planning process that will engage community leaders, service providers, consumers and residents to create a new community action plan for human services. Details will be available on the UCS website, www.ucsjoco.org; invitations will be mailed in early May.

Domestic Violence, Child Maltreatment (Continued from page 1)

Key Accomplishments achieved during the past two years include:

- Police academy training addresses co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. Domestic violence (DV) criminal reports include information on the presence of children at the time of the incident. As a result of a special screening process, a small percent of child-in-need-of-care (CINC)/co-occurrence cases are identified and assigned to a new CINC/DV docket handled by the same judge assigned to the CINC docket.
- TLC for Children & Families, the County’s Juvenile Intake & Assessment Center (JIAC), implemented a new case management program to quickly establish a supervision plan for families with CINC/DV cases. Before *Safe from the Start*, these families would not have received such services.
- Court Services identifies cases involving multiple courts within the 10th Judicial District. Information coordination occurs on key issues, such as child placement decisions and protection from abuse orders (PFAs).
- Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services’ Child Welfare Division (SRS) and SAFEHOME implemented a “memorandum of agreement” which has resulted in greater trust and understanding between their respective programs. Sunflower House hired a family advocate and includes co-occurrence screening questions in their intake process in order to identify potential domestic violence issues within families.

Next Steps identified to continue improving the response to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment include:

- Develop a Family Court to handle all civil cases involving children, and providing initial assessment of needed services, such as family therapy or mediation.
- Adding training to the Johnson County Police Academy curriculum and offering training to direct service professionals on the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment. For details on training available in April 2006, call 913.324.6986.
- Increasing utilization of TLC’s domestic violence case management program, including where a CINC case is not filed, and coordination with diversion cases and adult probation.

Additional Next Steps are under discussion. For more information, contact Carol Smith, or see the complete *2005 Update* on the [UCS website, www.ucsjoco.org](http://www.ucsjoco.org).

“To protect the best interests of the child and the victimized parent, the court must be a problem-solver. It is important to add resources to address the real needs of these families. This plan to create a Family Court for civil cases is a goal we’ve been working towards for several years now. It gets us closer to one-family, one-court.”

District Judge Allen Slater
Chair, *Safe from the Start*
Leadership Team

Permanency Planning Council

The Children’s Coordinating Council, a UCS project since 1996, established a new work group—the Johnson County Permanency Planning Council—to create a more seamless Child-in-Need-of-Care (CINC) process. Members of the group include representatives of the court and child welfare system. The effort seeks to improve the system by identifying and removing

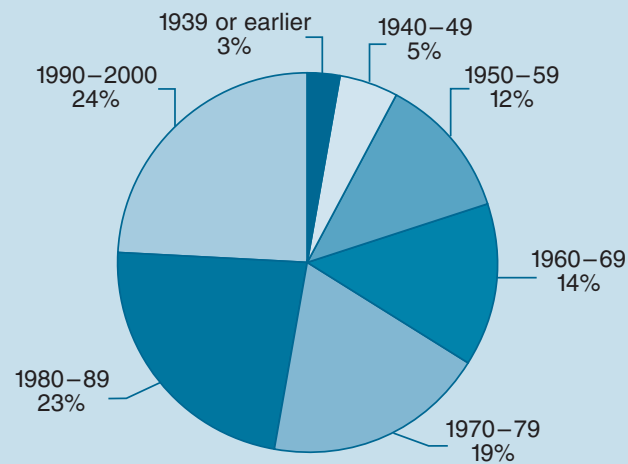
barriers to moving children more quickly into placement with fewer court hearings. UCS is facilitating this process with help from a \$5,000 grant from Johnson County Court Services, and a \$3,000 domestic violence special program fee grant from the 10th Judicial District Court. For more information, contact [Marya Schott](mailto:Marya.Schott@ucsjoco.org) at UCS.

**Quality and Opportunity:
IDENTIFYING TODAY’S HOUSING CHALLENGES**

Quality, affordable housing contributes to a community’s overall economic vitality and the well-being of all residents. “While many communities across the country face greater housing challenges, we can identify housing issues that need our attention,” said Gary Anderson, UCS board president. “Now is the time to proactively plan for the future of housing quality and opportunity in Johnson County.”

Housing Age Affects Housing Quality. One out of every three housing units in Johnson County was built prior to 1970. Many older units are in excellent condition, but others show signs of needing major rehabilitation. While older units can be found in every city, some areas include higher concentrations of older units.

Age of Johnson County Housing Stock, 2000



Changing Demographics Call for Different Housing Options. Over the last three decades, the number of non-traditional households in Johnson County, such as single-persons, grew from 7,281 in 1970 to 52,351 households in 2000. During this time, families with children declined from one out of every two (52%) households in 1970 to three out of ten (30%) in 2000. To highlight another trend, the number of seniors over age 65 is expected to grow nationally from one out of eight (13%) in 2000 to one out of five (22%) by 2030. Changing demographics create demand for varying housing opportunities.

More Cost-Burdened Households—Both Homeowners and Renters.

Household income has not kept pace with rapidly rising housing costs. The result is more low-to-moderate income Johnson County workers—homeowners and renters—who spend more than 30% of their incomes on housing, the national standard of affordability. Persons on fixed and/or disability incomes are also at risk of losing either rental housing or a single-family residence.

UCS Continues to Partner with Local Governments for Resource Allocation

UCS works closely with Johnson County cities and County Government each year by managing two pooled funds—the Alcohol Tax and Human Service Funds. Both of these resource allocation processes provide opportunities for local government to invest tax dollars that ensure a strong network of needed services are available to all Johnson County residents. During 2006, UCS anticipates recommending Alcohol Tax Fund grants totaling over \$1 million, and Human Service Fund grants of nearly \$200,000. [Additional details will be available May 16 on the UCS website, www.ucsjoco.org.](http://www.ucsjoco.org)

2007 Alcohol Tax Fund Application Timeline

- May 16** Request for Proposal and Application available on UCS website
- July 18** Applications due by 4:30 p.m. at UCS

Funds must be awarded for programs “whose principal purpose is alcoholism and drug abuse prevention and education, alcohol and drug detoxification, intervention in alcohol and drug abuse or treatment of persons who are alcoholics or drug abusers or are in danger of becoming alcoholics or drug abusers.” K.S.A. §79-41a04.

2007 Human Service Fund Application Timeline

- May 17** Request for Proposal and Application available on UCS website
- June 30** Applications due by 4:30 p.m. at UCS

Funding priorities are programs that build economic self-reliance for families and individuals to meet basic needs, and/or that strengthen prevention and human service responses as an effective means to protect personal and community safety.

UCS and the Drug & Alcoholism Council of Johnson County extend their appreciation to the following participating jurisdictions for their support of the Alcohol Tax and Human Service Funds.

Johnson County Government, *City of De Soto, *City of Fairway, City of Gardner, *City of Lake Quivira, City of Leawood, City of Lenexa, *City of Merriam, City of Mission, *City of Mission Hills, *City of Mission Woods, City of Olathe, City of Overland Park, City of Prairie Village, *City of Roeland Park, City of Shawnee, *City of Spring Hill, *City of Westwood.

* Indicates participation in Human Service Fund only.