

A Profile of Our Community

The Kansas City 6-County Region

Johnson and Wyandotte in Kansas;
Cass, Clay, Jackson and Platte in Missouri



| Population | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The six county population is 1.8 million. Since the beginning of the decade, the region has grown by 213,000 people. Three-fourths of the growth was in Johnson, Cass, Clay and Platte Counties. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|--------------------------|---------|-----------|---------|--------|---------|--------|-------|----------------|--------|--------|-------|--------|--------|-------|---------|--------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|-------|---------|----------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|---------|--------|---------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Age | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of the region's population is working age, 18-64. More than six in 10 residents (63%) are in this age group. Grade school and high school age students comprise the next largest population group, accounting for 18.5% of the region's population. Senior adults age 65+ account for 11% of the population. Infants and young children under age 5 represent 7.5% of the population. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Diversity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One in four residents of the region belongs to a racial or ethnic minority. That number was 18% in 1980. The white population grew by 12% between 1990 and 2008, compared to growth ranging from 15% for Blacks to 228% for Hispanics. Diverse populations accounted for more than 50% of the region's growth between 1990 and 2008. 5% of the population over age 5 report speaking English "less than very well." Two out of three of those speaking English less than very well are Spanish speaking. Asian and Pacific Islander languages are the next most frequently spoken. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Income and Poverty | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The median household income for the Kansas City Metropolitan Region was \$53,508 in 2008. One in 10, or about 176,000, of the region's population has income below 100% of the federal poverty level, or less than \$18,000 a year. ¹ One half of the region's poor are under age 25. Children under 6 are most often the poorest age group based on county-by-county data. In Jackson and Wyandotte counties, one young child in four is poor. One in four of the region's population has an income below 200% of the federal poverty level and is considered low income. That is about 436,000 people. ² Nearly one half of the low income population is under age 25. Two in five 18-24 year olds have low incomes. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><i>Poverty Threshold</i></th> <th>Johnson</th> <th>Wyandotte</th> <th>Cass</th> <th>Clay</th> <th>Jackson</th> <th>Platte</th> <th>Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Under 100% FPL</td> <td>23,174</td> <td>30,073</td> <td>4,853</td> <td>15,196</td> <td>95,850</td> <td>6,779</td> <td>175,925</td> </tr> <tr> <td>100-200% FPL</td> <td>51,284</td> <td>35,031</td> <td>13,643</td> <td>28,233</td> <td>121,738</td> <td>9,890</td> <td>259,819</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total under 200% FPL</td> <td>74,458</td> <td>65,104</td> <td>18,496</td> <td>43,429</td> <td>217,588</td> <td>16,669</td> <td>435,744</td> </tr> <tr> <td> </td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>200% FPL Rate</i></td> <td>14.1%</td> <td>43.0%</td> <td>19.0%</td> <td>20.4%</td> <td>32.9%</td> <td>19.8%</td> <td>25.1%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Between 2000 and 2008, the number of low income people grew by 86,000; more than half of the growth was in the suburban/rural counties. The number of low income people increased by more than 50% in both Johnson and Platte Counties.</p> | <i>Poverty Threshold</i> | Johnson | Wyandotte | Cass | Clay | Jackson | Platte | Total | Under 100% FPL | 23,174 | 30,073 | 4,853 | 15,196 | 95,850 | 6,779 | 175,925 | 100-200% FPL | 51,284 | 35,031 | 13,643 | 28,233 | 121,738 | 9,890 | 259,819 | Total under 200% FPL | 74,458 | 65,104 | 18,496 | 43,429 | 217,588 | 16,669 | 435,744 | | | | | | | | | <i>200% FPL Rate</i> | 14.1% | 43.0% | 19.0% | 20.4% | 32.9% | 19.8% | 25.1% |
| <i>Poverty Threshold</i> | Johnson | Wyandotte | Cass | Clay | Jackson | Platte | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 100% FPL | 23,174 | 30,073 | 4,853 | 15,196 | 95,850 | 6,779 | 175,925 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 100-200% FPL | 51,284 | 35,031 | 13,643 | 28,233 | 121,738 | 9,890 | 259,819 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| <i>200% FPL Rate</i> | 14.1% | 43.0% | 19.0% | 20.4% | 32.9% | 19.8% | 25.1% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Financial Stability | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Households that were considerably cost burdened (paying more than 35% of household income toward housing costs) rose from 90,000 in 2000 to 145,000 in 2008, an increase of 55,000 households. More than one in three renters is considerably cost burdened and one in five homeowners with a mortgage. June 2010 preliminary unemployment rate for the KC Metropolitan area was 8.5%, up from 5.4% at the beginning of the recession. The six counties are home to nearly 78,000 unemployed, 30,000 more people than in January 2008. ³ Nearly 205,000 area residents were enrolled in SNAP aka Food Stamps as of May 2010. (A change in reporting methodology by the state of Missouri prevents comparing enrollment prior to October 2009.) ⁴ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Among those ages 25 and older in the six county region, 10% did not graduate from high school – about 110,000 people. For adults without a high school diploma, the poverty rate is two and one-half times the general population. |
| Healthy People, Healthy Communities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An estimated 14% of the population age 0-64 (215,000 people) do not have health insurance. Only about 1% of senior adults, ages 65+, are without health insurance. 11% of the population reports a disability that limits daily activity. Slightly more than one-third of those with a disability are age 65+. The percentage of adults aged 18 and older reporting “fair” or “poor” overall health ranges from 9% in Johnson County to 16% in Jackson County. ⁵ The percentage of adults reporting no leisure-time physical activity or exercise in the past 30 days: Johnson 17%; Wyandotte 37%, Cass, 30%; Clay 22%; Jackson, 25% and Platte 22%. ⁶ In 2007, the level of obesity among adults in Kansas and Missouri was 26.9% and 27.5% respectively. ⁷ In the region, county infant mortality rates ranged from a low of 4.5% to 10.1%. As in the rest of the U.S., infant mortality among African Americans was twice that of other groups. ⁸ |
| Children, Youth and Families | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children and young adults are disproportionately poor. Ages 0-24 comprise 35% of the region’s population and 50% of the poor. The region’s poorest households are those headed by women under age 25, with a poverty rate of nearly 50%. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All Households = 9.7% Male or female head under 25 = 26% Female head under 25 = 48% Female head under 25 and with children = 47% Female head and with children = 24% Female head 65+ = 20% Nearly 100,000 grade school and high school students participate in the National School Lunch Program. 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). Participation rates have grown in every county, with the highest five-year increase in Johnson County (+51%). ⁹ For children under age 6, 69% live in households where all parents are in the labor force. For older children, ages 6-17, 75% live in households where all parents are in the labor force. Nearly 30% of the region’s children live in a single parent family – more than 117,000 children. Nearly 24,000 calls were placed to the Domestic Violence Hotline in a recent 12-month period. The majority of callers were calling for the first time. ¹⁰ |

About the Data: Unless otherwise noted, data is from the U.S. Census Bureau decennial census and American Community Survey. The most recent data available is 2008.

¹ Federal Poverty Level (FPL): FPL measures household income based on income at various thresholds. The threshold for 100% FPL for a family of 3 was \$17,600 in 2008 when the most recent data was collected. 200% FPL is often used as an indicator of households that are low income and struggle financially. For a family of three, \$35,200 was the threshold for 200% of poverty.

² 200% FPL is often used as an indicator of households that are low income and struggle financially. For a family of three, \$35,200 was the threshold for 200% of poverty in 2008.

³ Bureau of Labor Statistics

⁴ KS Dept. of Social and Rehabilitation Services and MO Dept. of Social Services

⁵ Community Health Status Indicator Project; CDC Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2000-2006.

⁶ Ibid.

⁷ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System Survey Data. Atlanta, Georgia: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2007.

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ KS State Dept. of Education and MO Dept. of Elementary and Secondary Education

¹⁰ Domestic Violence Network



Prepared by United Community Services of Johnson County
for United Way of Greater Kansas City – For more information contact UCS at:
12351 W. 96th Terrace, Suite 200, Lenexa, KS 66215
913-438-4764 www.ucsjoco.org

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