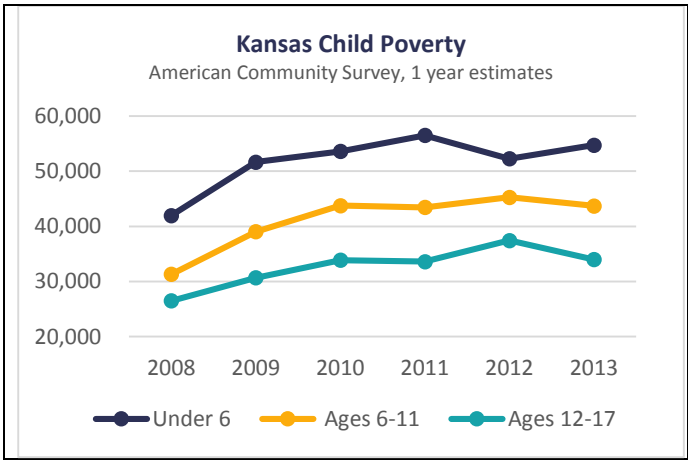
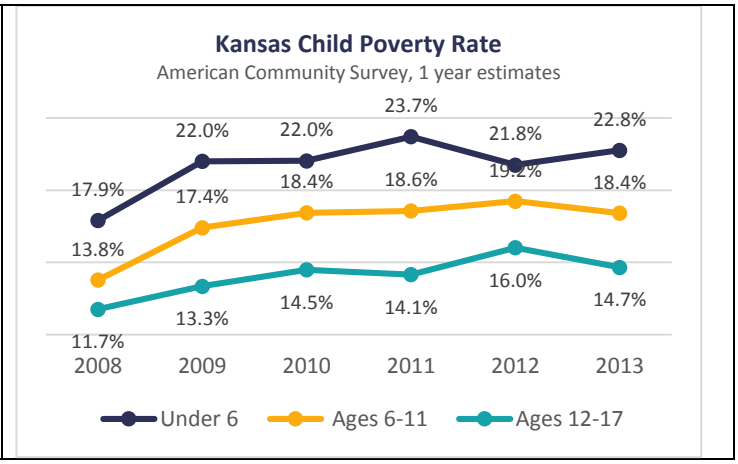
# Child Poverty in the State of Kansas

In 2013, nearly 132,500 Kansans under the age of 18 were estimated to live below the federal poverty line - $19,530 for a family of three. According to the U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey one-year estimates, this was about 33,000 more children than in 2008 when the child poverty count was 99,800. The number of poor children grew by 33% during a period (2008-2013) when child population went up by only 3%.

Children accounted for one-third of the state's poor and had a poverty rate for combined ages 0-17 of 18.7%. The Kansas child poverty rate was statistically unchanged from 2012. By comparison, the U.S. child poverty rate was 22.2% in 2013, and did show a statistically significant decline over 2012.

**Families with Children and Poverty**: In Kansas, the 2013 poverty rate for families with related children under 18 was 15.6%, virtually unchanged from 2012. The rate for married couples with children (7.2%) and female headed households with children (41.5%) were unchanged between 2013 and 2012. At the national level, poverty rates for these family types showed a statistically significant decline.




**Young Children**: With a poverty rate of 22.8%, children under age 6 have the second highest poverty rate in the state. Only 18-24 year-olds have a higher rate, 28.5%. For this group, the poverty rate has climbed 4.9 percentage points and nearly 13,000 more children since 2008.
**Children 6-11**: Elementary age children (ages 6-11) had an 18.4% poverty rate in 2013, up 4.6 percentage points from 2008. The number of poor in this age group went up 40%, or 12,400 children.
**Children and Youth 12-17:** Middle and high school age Kansans had a 14.7% poverty rate in 2013, up 2.9 percentage points from 2008. The total living in poverty in this age group is about 7,500 more in 2013 than in 2008.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey 1-year estimates. Some calculations by UCS. The American Community Survey is an annual data product based on a sample of the population and therefore most useful when considered as a portrait of characteristics of a geographic area. Numbers have been rounded.

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