



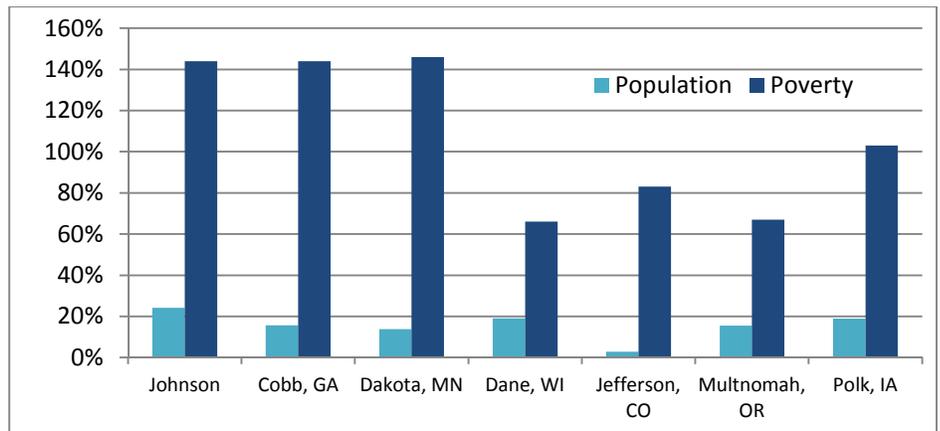
Suburban Poverty – How Does Johnson County Compare?

Johnson County, Kansas and counties just like it across the country are experiencing dramatic increases in poverty. In the U.S., suburbia is now home to more poor residents than central cities. This analysis looks at poverty growth in six counties across the country identified by Johnson County Government as similar in economic and quality of life characteristics to Johnson County.

Johnson County and the six comparable counties are all experiencing dramatic increases in poverty. In every county the number of poor grew between 20,000 and 50,000 people from 2000 to 2012. In Johnson County, the increase was 22,000. The federal poverty level is \$19,530 for a family of three.

The percentage increase in number of poor outpaced population growth

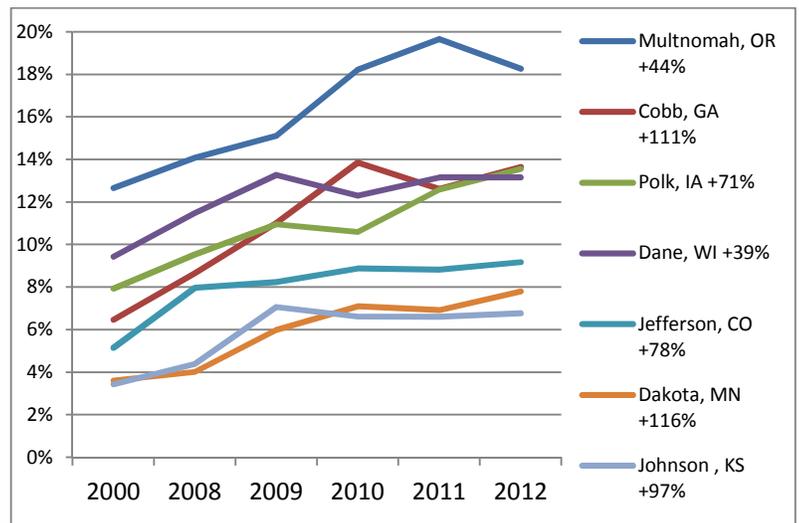
Between 2000 and 2012, in these counties, the percentage increase in people in poverty outpaced the percentage increase in total population by 3 ½ to 10 times. In Johnson County, the percentage increase in number of poor was six times greater – the county’s population increased 24%, while the number of poor went up 144%.



Poverty rates trending up

When poverty growth outpaces population growth, the poverty rate goes up, which is what happened in every county examined. For three counties, including Johnson, the poverty rate doubled or more, between 2000 and 2012. While it might be expected that poverty rates would decline following the recession, no county has seen a statistically significant reduction in its poverty rate since 2010.

While Johnson County had one of the largest percentage increases in poverty rate, it currently has the lowest rate of the comparable counties, at 6.8%.



Learn more about suburban poverty:

On June 10, the UCS Human Service Summit will continue to explore this population shift. Elizabeth Kneebone, a fellow at the Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings and co-author of *Confronting Suburban Poverty in America*, will keynote the event. For more information and to register go to www.ucsjoco.org.

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