

Poverty: At Home in the Suburbs

The New Reality in Johnson County



United Community Services of Johnson County

www.ucsjoco.org

November 2011

Produced with funding from United Way of Greater Kansas City



About United Community Services

Provide the leadership to **shape more effective approaches** to prepare for and respond to critical human needs.

- Inform and Advocate
- Lead Collaborations
- Leverage Resources

United Way's research and planning partner



Presentation Overview



- Poverty matters
- Poverty and economic hardship is on the rise
- Poverty can be reduced

Why poverty matters

The poor face daily hardships. Nearly 50% experienced one or more of the following in the previous 4-12 months:

- Hunger
- Overcrowded housing
- Late rent or mortgage
- Forgone Doctor or hospital visit



Why poverty matters

Poverty has many tangible and intangible costs for a community.

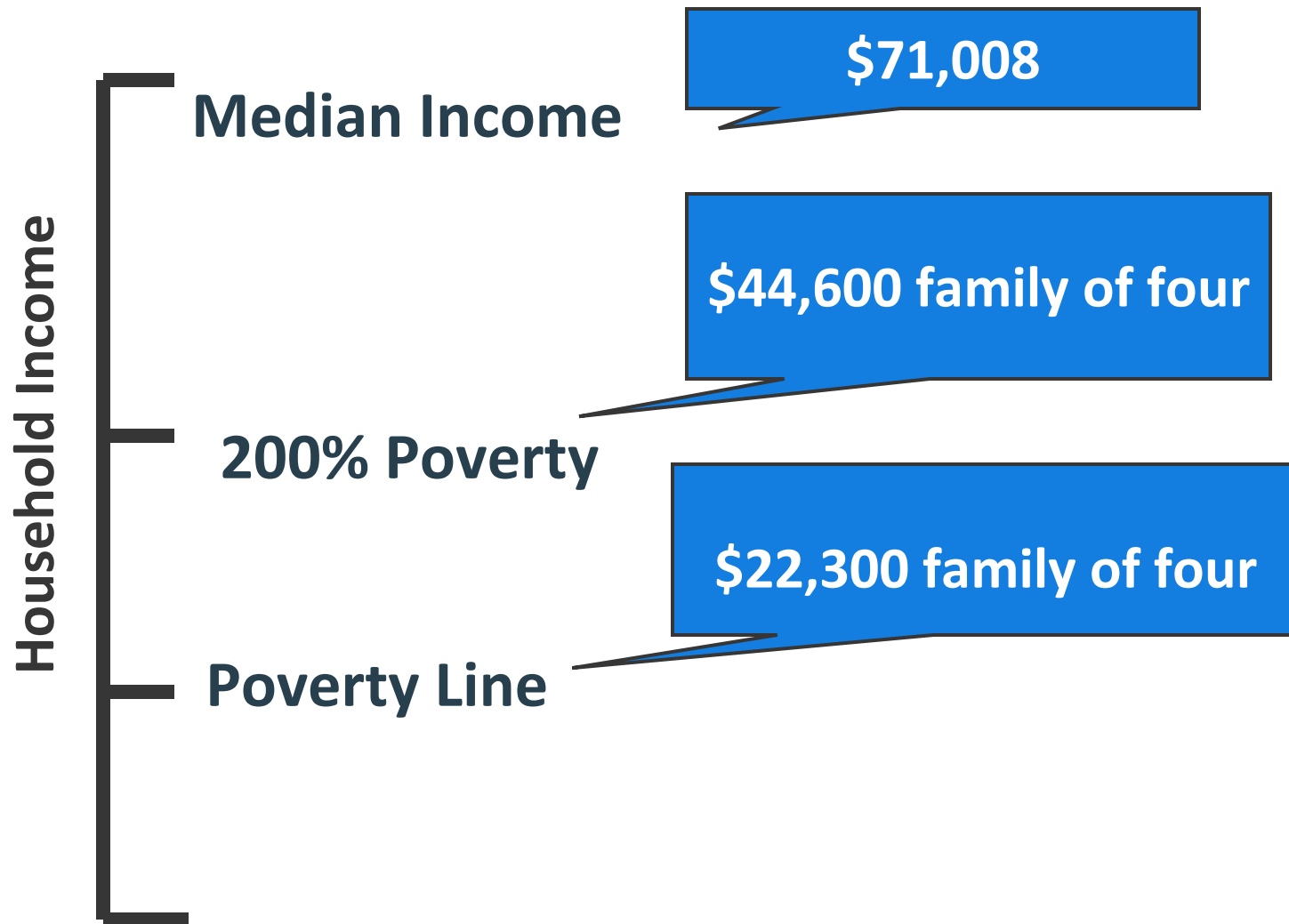
- Lower student achievement in schools
- Loss of human potential and productivity
- Reduction of workforce readiness and economic competitiveness
- Higher health insurance premiums and medical costs
- Increased crime and the rising cost of criminal justice
- Reduced levels of civic engagement



Primary data source: US Census Bureau

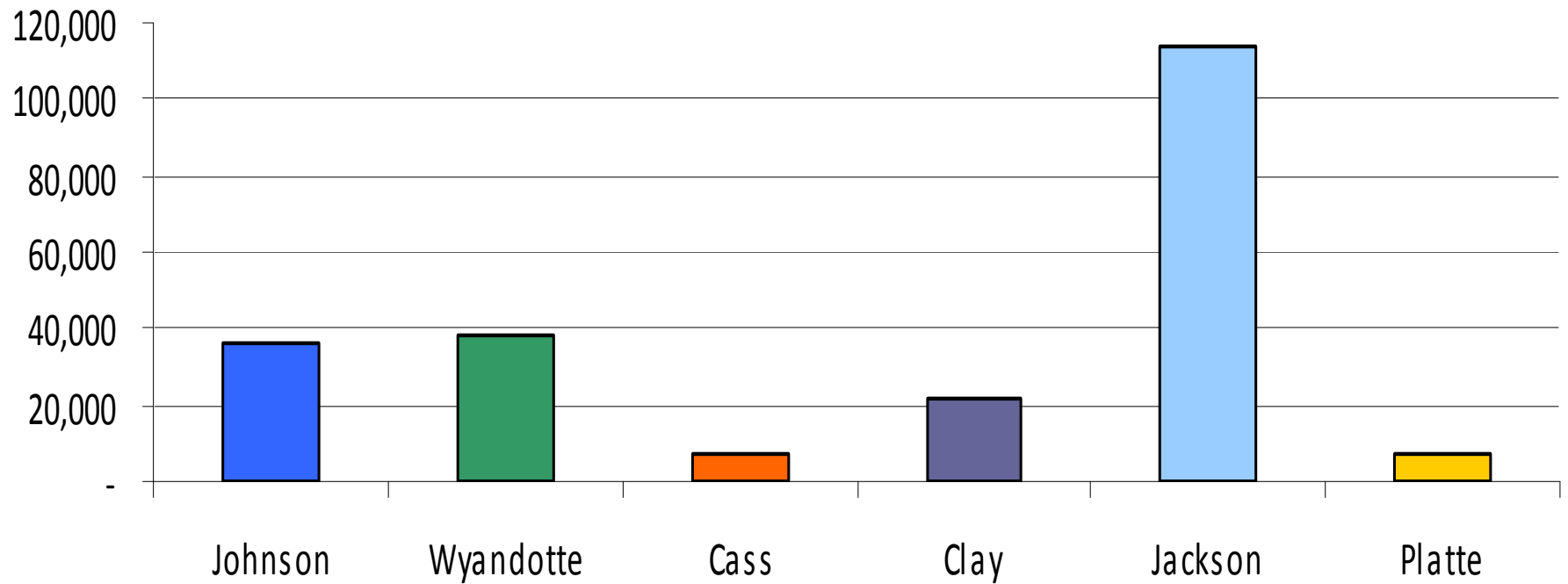
- 2000 and 2010 Census; 2008, 2009, 2010 American Community Survey

Poverty level households have income less than one-third that of the average Johnson County household



Poverty in the Kansas City Area by County, 2010

Number of People in Poverty by Metro Counties, 2010




Poverty Trend – Kansas City Area by Urban and Suburban Counties


	2000	2007	2010
Total 100% FPL	135,940	178,400	225,100


URBAN: % of area poverty	75%	73%	67%
-------------------------------------	------------	------------	------------


Wyandotte	25,770	31,200	38,100
Jackson	<u>76,810</u>	<u>99,600</u>	<u>114,000</u>
<i>Urban Total</i>	<i>102,580</i>	<i>130,800</i>	<i>152,100</i>

 47%

SUBURBAN: % of area poverty	25%	27%	32%
--	------------	------------	------------

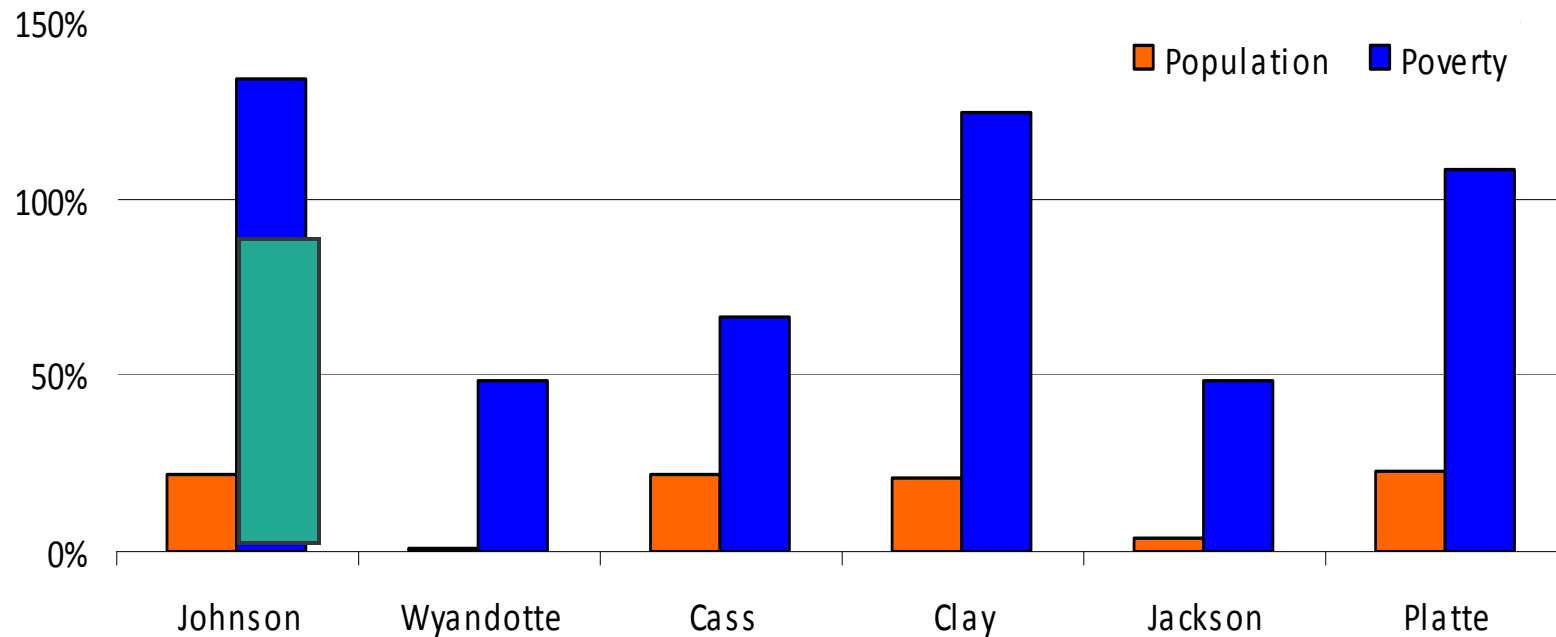
Johnson	15,320	22,000 	35,800
Cass	4,660	6,600	7,800
Clay	9,900	14,000	22,200
Platte	<u>3,480</u>	<u>5,000</u>	<u>7,200</u>
<i>Suburban Total</i>	<i>33,360</i>	<i>47,600</i>	<i>73,000</i>

 134%

 119%

Percentage Increase in Population and Poverty

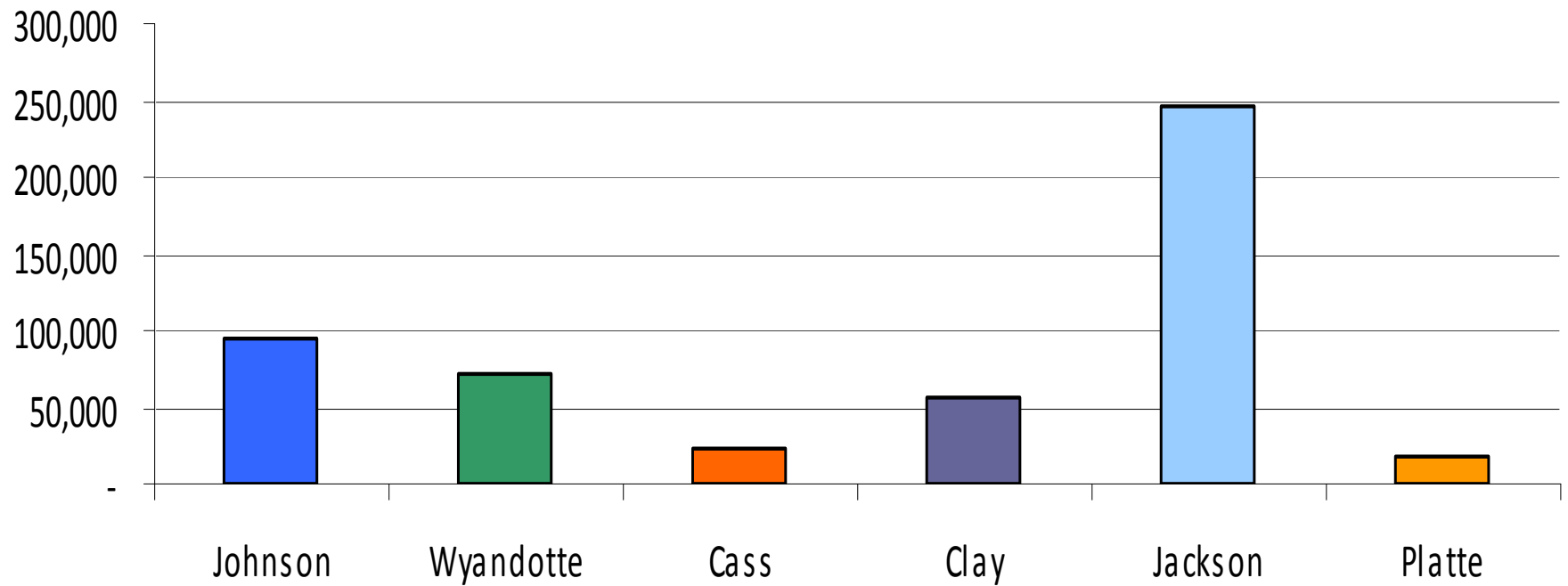
Johnson County population grew 21% compared to a 134% increase in number of people below the poverty level between 2000 and 2010



Poverty rate:	6.6%	24.3%	7.9%	10.1%	17.1%	8.1%
----------------------	-------------	--------------	-------------	--------------	--------------	-------------

Economic Hardship in the Kansas City Area by County, 2010

Number of People at 200% Poverty by Metro Counties, 2010



Rate:	17%	46%	23%	26%	37%	20%
--------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------	------------

Why poverty in the suburbs is growing

- More people moving to the suburbs for jobs, quality education and safe neighbors.
- Downward mobility of the middle class over the past decade.
- Recession-related fiscal challenges – job loss, unemployment and underemployment and foreclosure crisis.

Source: “The Suburbanization of Poverty: Trends in Metropolitan America, 2000 to 2008.” Brookings Institution, Metropolitan Policy Program

Who is poor in Johnson County?

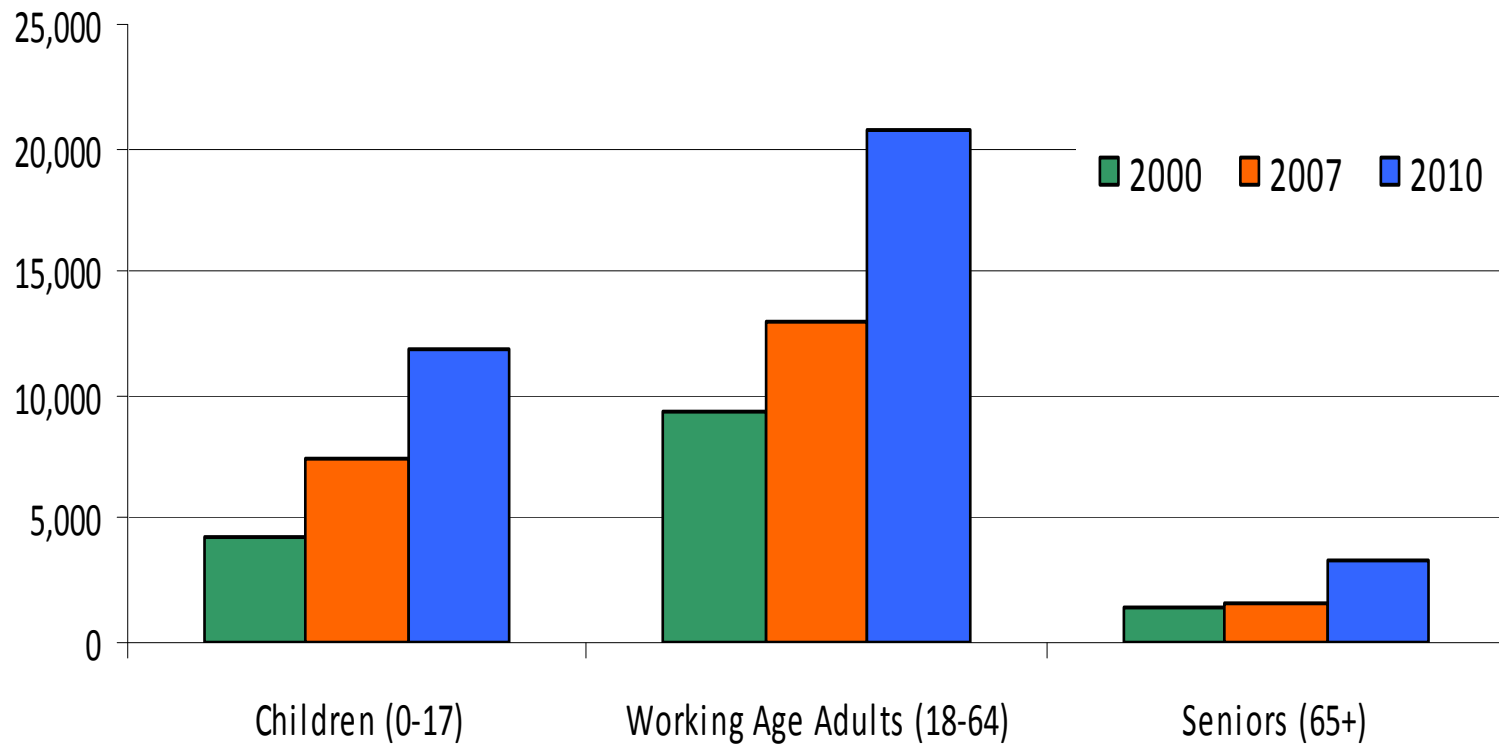
Children (ages 0-17)

One-third of the poor are children, yet they make up only one-fourth of the county's population

Children have a 8.3% poverty rate



Poverty by Age Group – Children are the poorest age group



2010 poverty rate: 8.3%

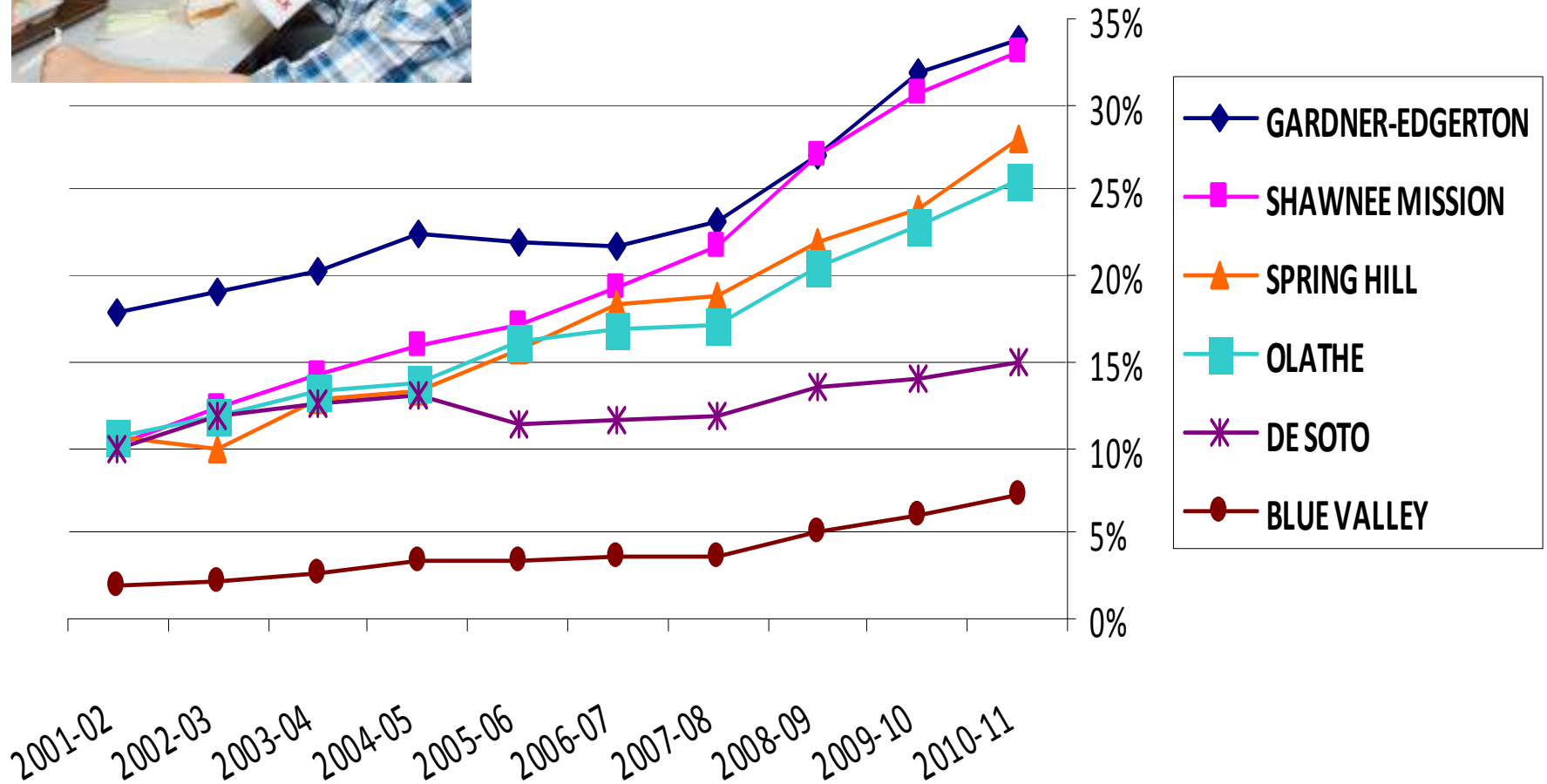
6.1%

5.7%

School Lunch Enrollment



Johnson County Public School Lunch Program enrollment climbed to 1 in 4; up from 1 in 12 at the beginning of the decade



Source: Ks. Department of Education

Who is poor in Johnson County?

People of color are disproportionately poor

While two-thirds of the poor are white, the poverty rate for people of color is more than two times higher



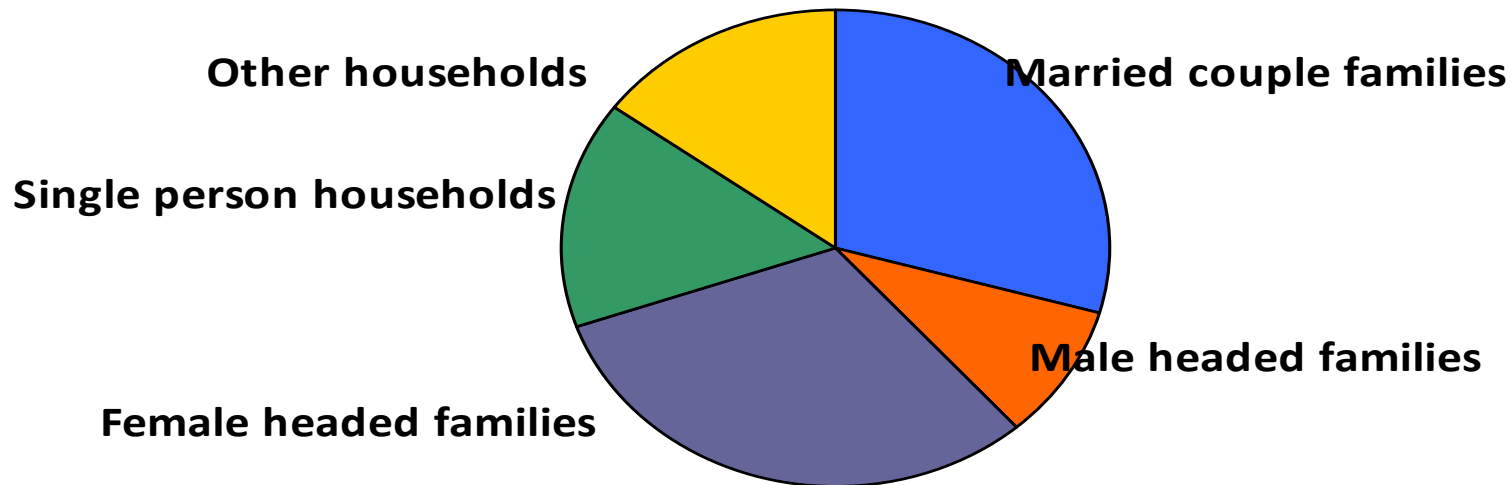
Who is poor in Johnson County?

Households with children

Households with children have higher poverty rates than households without children

Nearly one-third of the poor live in married couple families and one-third live in a female headed household

36,000 people in poverty by household type



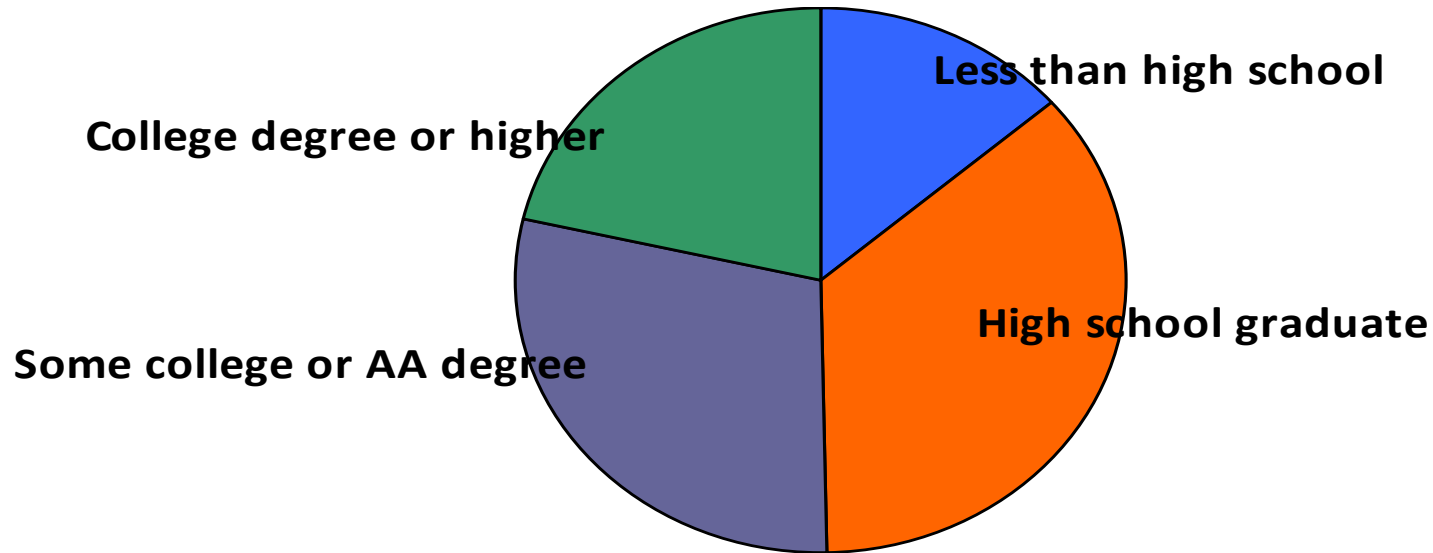
Who is poor in Johnson County?

Adults without a high school degree

Non-high school graduates have a 19% poverty rate

However, the majority of the poor have a minimum of some college

19,530 adults age 25+ in poverty by education



Who is poor in Johnson County?

Persons with Disabilities

Persons with one or more disabilities have a 10% poverty rate and account for more than one in 8 of the poor



Who is poor in Johnson County?

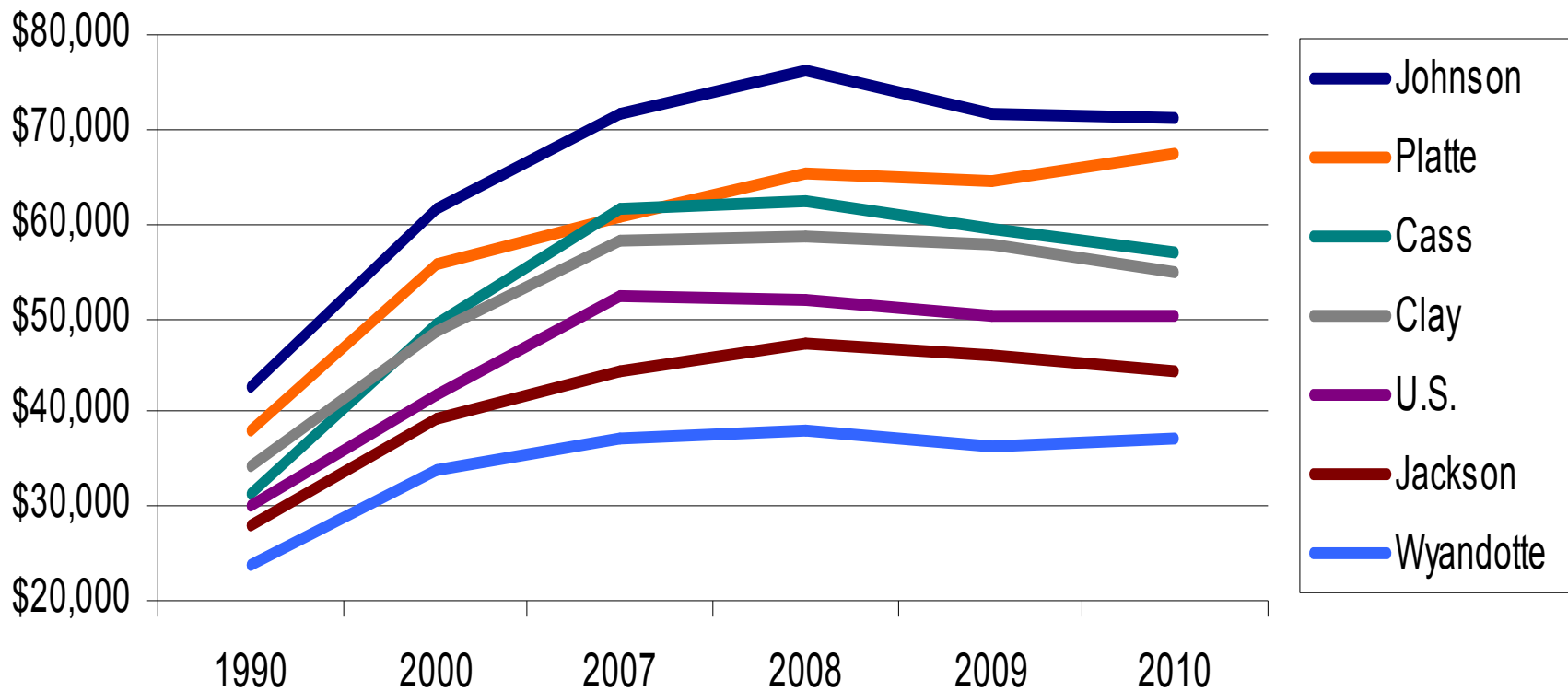
Workers

Nearly 50% of the poor ages 16-64 worked full or part time in the past 12 months



KC Area Counties Median Household Income, 1990 - 2010

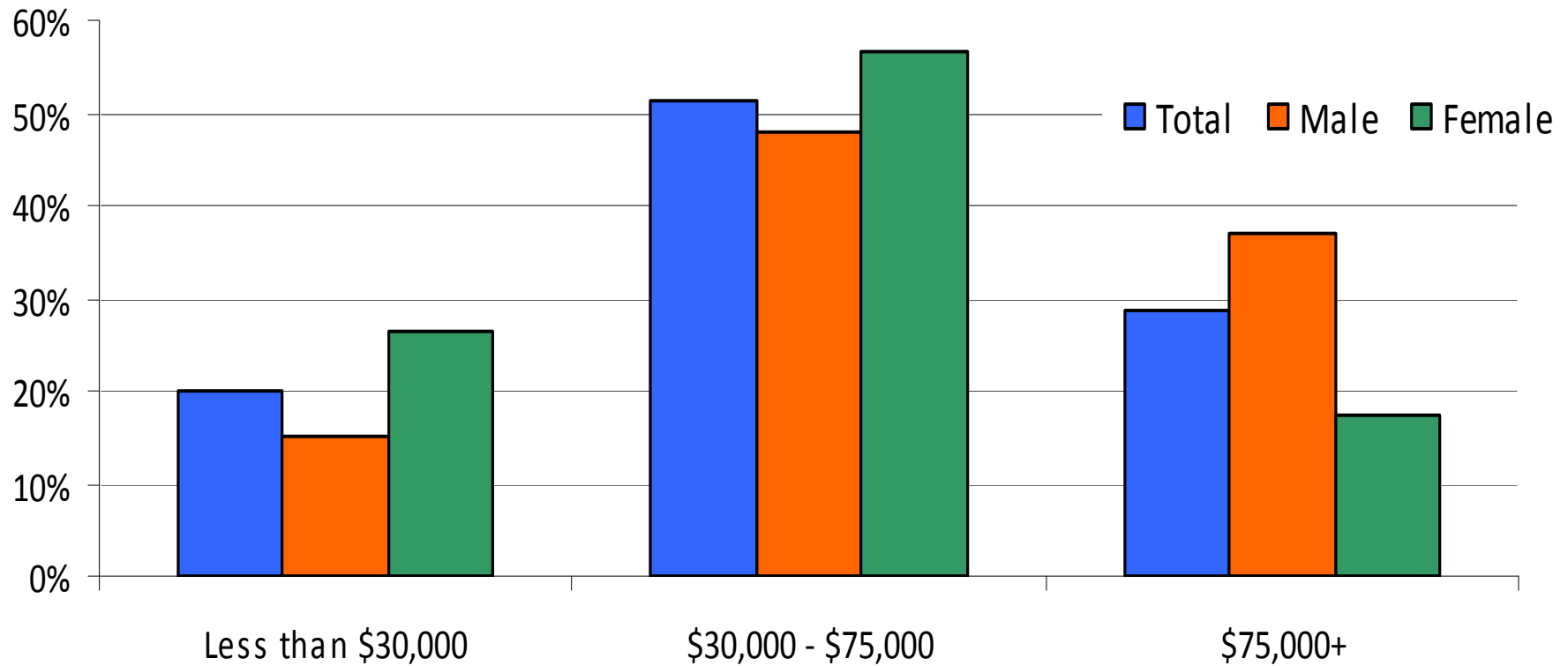
Johnson County median income declined 7% between 2008 and 2010



Not adjusted for inflation

Earnings for Full-Time, Year Round Johnson County Workers, 2010

1 in 5 full time, year round workers living in Johnson County earned less than \$30,000 in 2010



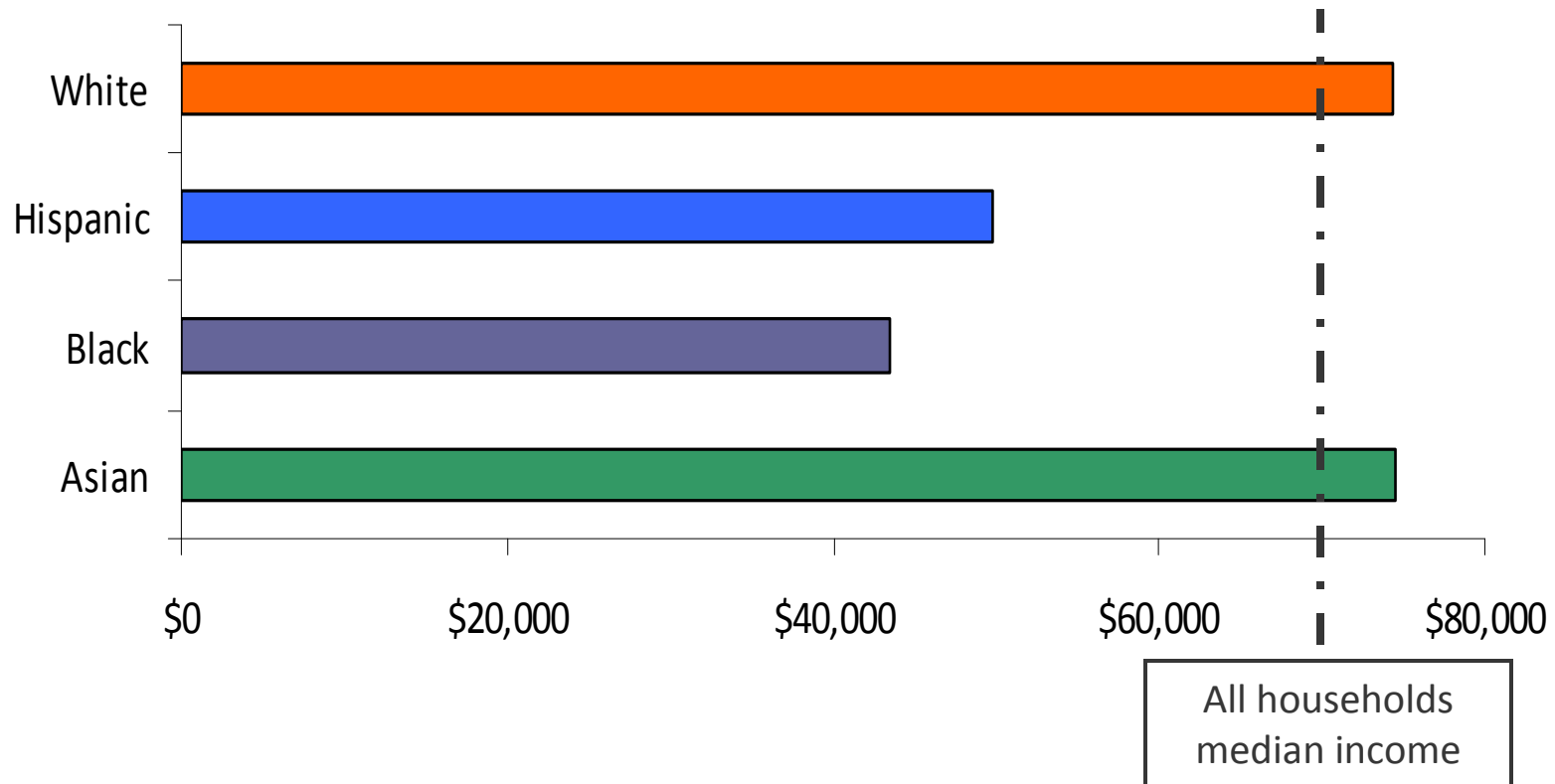
Labor Force – most parents are working parents

- 9 in 10 single mothers are in the labor force
- 7 in 10 two-parent families have both parents in the labor force



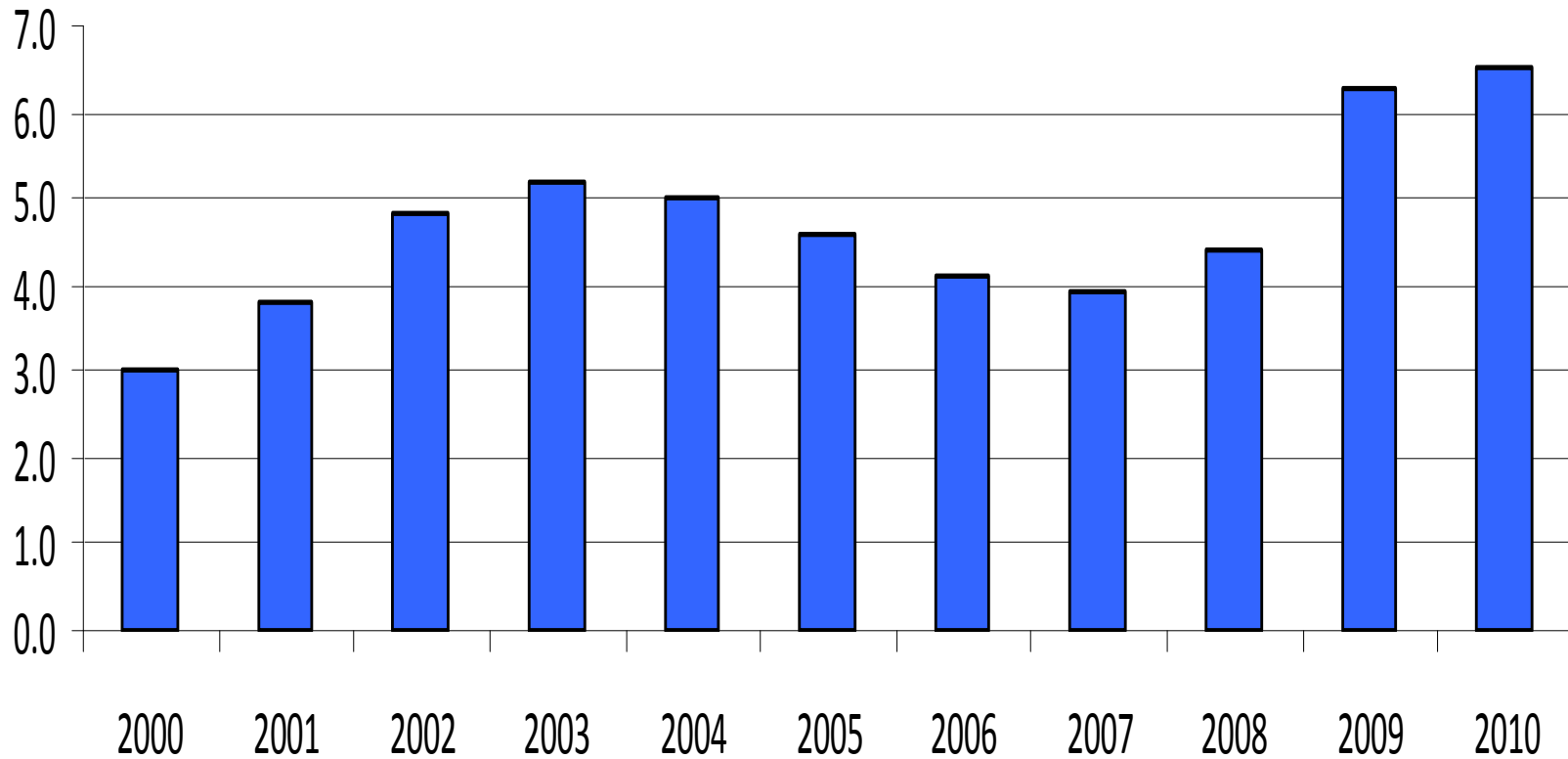
Median Household Income by Race Johnson County, 2010

Black and Hispanic households had income at least 30% lower than White households



Johnson County Unemployment

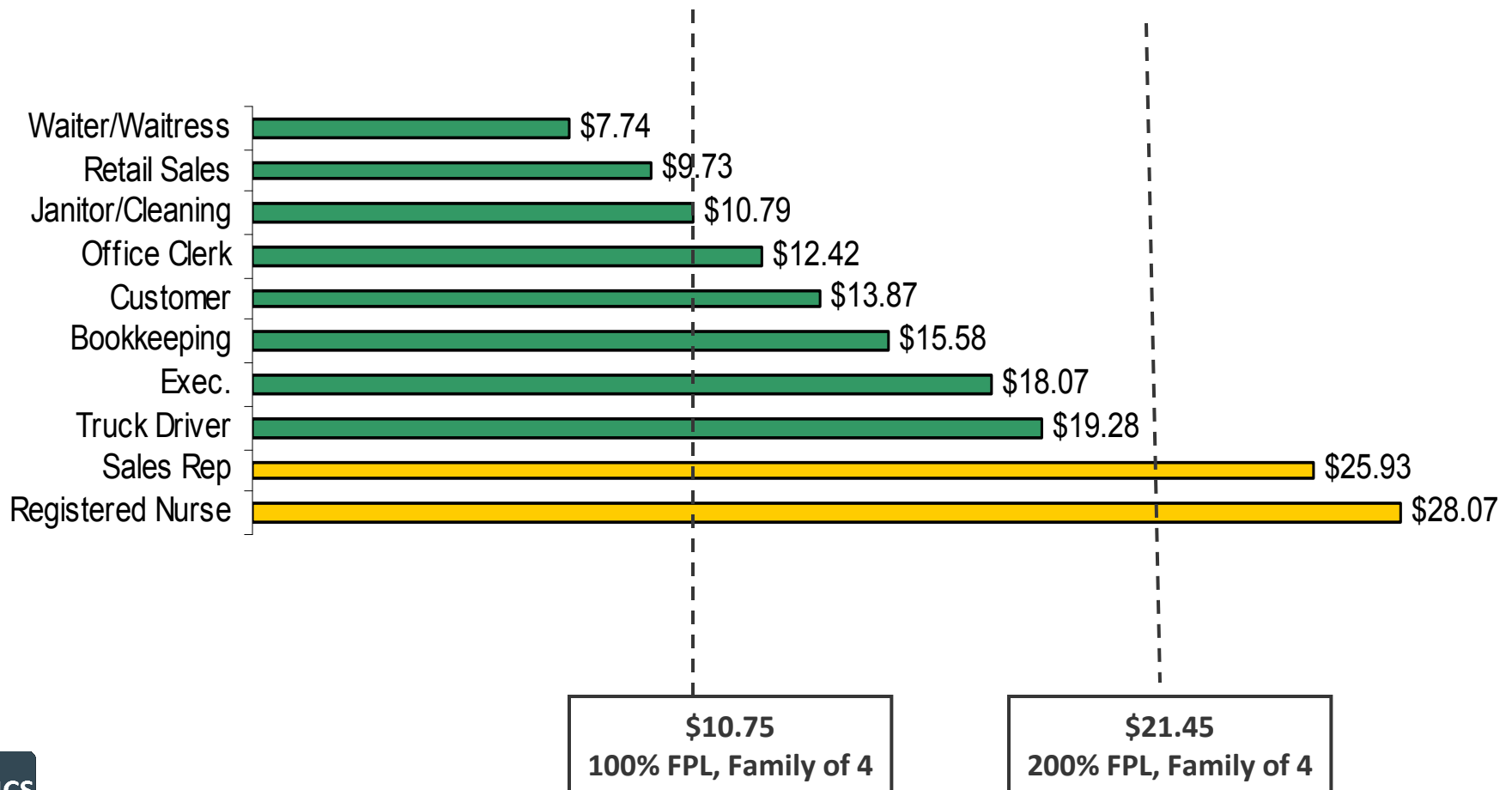
Johnson County annual unemployment rate was 6.5% in 2010, more than double the 2000 rate



Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Top 10 occupations with highest absolute change, KS Region Projections, KS Dept. of Labor 2006-2016

Highest job growth expected in low paying occupations; 85% of projected new jobs have median wages below 200% FPL for family of 4



What will it take to reduce poverty?

- Make work pay
- Help parents balance work and family responsibilities
- Raise educational attainment of disadvantaged children



For more information:

Karen Wulfkuhle

karenw@ucsjoco.org

913-438-4764

