

State Public Benefit Trends

According to the Kansas City Star (*Poverty in Kansas*, January 6, 2013), the number of Kansans receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) cash aid since Sam Brownback became governor decreased 38%, or 14,800 people, including more than 9,000 children. At the same time, the number of Kansans receiving food stamps went up 21%, or 315,000 people.

The overarching policies for food stamps are set by the federal government, while states have greater flexibility regarding TANF. The decline in TANF enrollment coincides with state policy changes that took effect November 2011. Among the policy changes were reduce life-time eligibility period from 60 months to 48 months and less flexibility regarding compliance with work requirements. A change by the state in calculating food stamp benefits for children of undocumented immigrant parents occurred at the time where food stamp enrollment dropped in late 2011.

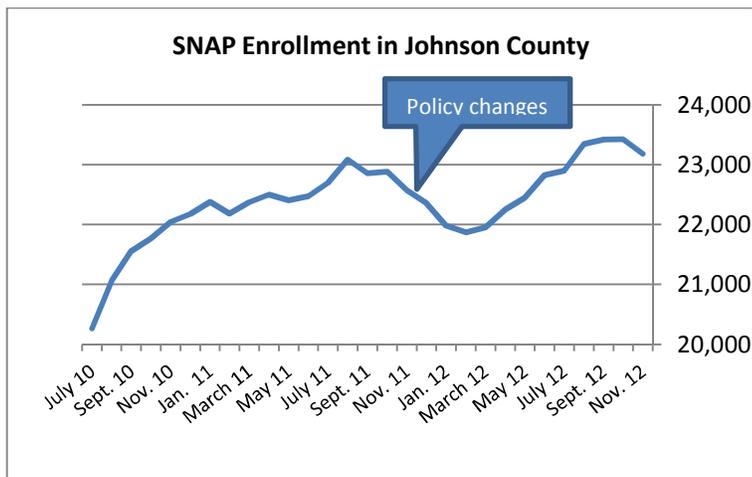
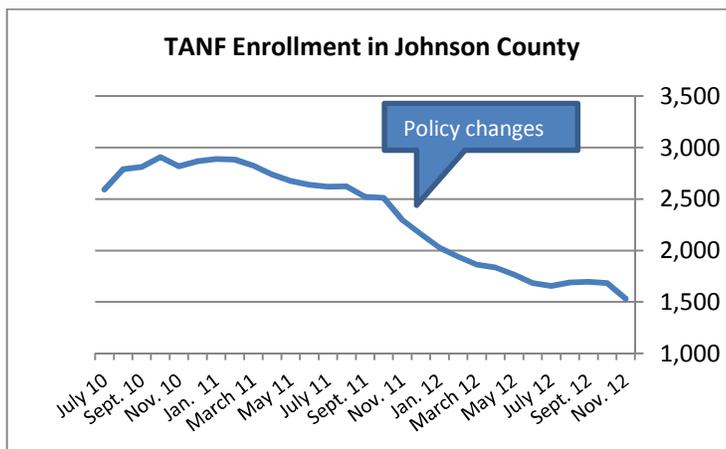
How do Johnson County enrollment trends compare to the state trends?

Johnson County also experienced a dramatic decline in the number of TANF recipients. From January 2011 to November 2012, **the number of TANF recipients declined by 39%**, or 981 people (parents and children). As of November 2012, 1,532 people received benefits compared to 2,513 in October 2011. Of those receiving TANF, 70% are children.

Kansas Department for Children and Families (DCF) has not provided data to indicate whether families leaving TANF have secured employment, and if so if wages lift the family above the federal poverty level.

Food stamp program enrollment in Johnson County shows an upward trend line slightly higher than the state. Unlike TANF which is limited to families with children, individuals and families without children may receive benefits if they meet income guidelines.

Between FY2010 and November 2012, **food stamp enrollment in Johnson County went from 18,378 to 23,178, a 26% increase**. Nearly one-half of food stamp recipients are children.



Data Source: DCF Caseload Detail Reports
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