



United Community Services
of Johnson County

Struggling to Make It....

The impact of inadequate income on
Johnson County, Kansas residents

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About United Community Services

45 years experience in community planning
focused on human services in Johnson County

UCS' mission to enhance the availability and delivery of health and human services --

- Analyze Data
- Lead Collaborative Planning
- Leverage Resources
- Advocate for Improvements

United Way's research and planning partner



According to David Shipler, author of *The Working Poor, Invisible in America*, the invisible poor are engaged in the activity most respected in American ideology—hard, honest work....but still they are poor.

The man who washes cars does not own one.



The clerk who files cancelled checks at the bank has \$2.02 in her own account.



The woman who copy edits medical textbooks has not been to a dentist in a decade.



This is the forgotten America. At the bottom of its working world, millions live in the shadow of prosperity, in the twilight between poverty and well-being. Whether you're rich or poor, or middle-class, you encounter them every day.

*They serve you Big
Macs.*



*And help you find
merchandise at Wal-
mart.*



*They harvest your
food...*



*...Clean your
offices...*



....And sew your clothes.



*In a California
factory, they
package lights for
your kids' bikes.*



In a New Hampshire plant, they assemble books of wallpaper samples to help you decorate.



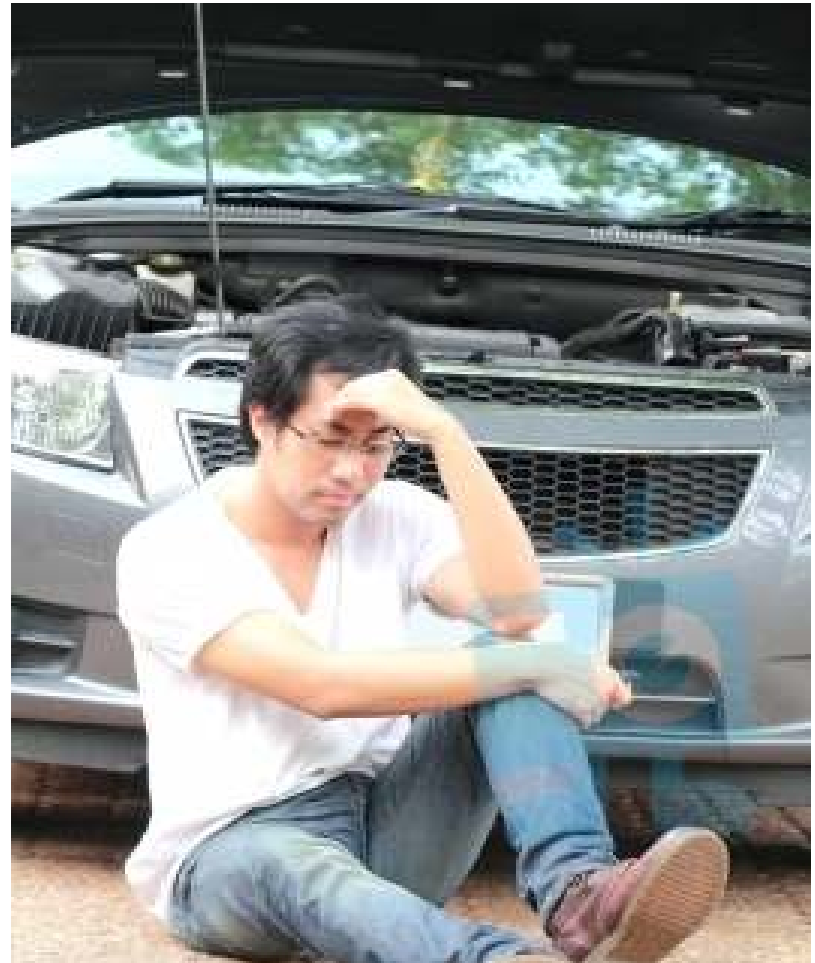
*Moving in and out of
jobs that demand
much and pay little..*



*...many people tread
just above the official
poverty line,
dangerously close to
the edge of
destitution.*



*An inconvenience to an affluent family –
minor car trouble*



A brief illness



*Disrupted child care –
is a crisis to them, for
it can threaten their
ability to stay
employed.*



They spend everything and save nothing. They are always behind on their bills. They have minuscule bank accounts or none at all, and so pay more fees and higher interest rates than more secure Americans. Even when the economy is robust, many wander through a borderland of struggle, never getting very far from where they started. When the economy weakens, they slip back toward the precipice.

The Working Poor, Invisible in America

By David Shipler

While you might know that poverty is growing in Johnson County, you might not know the extent of poverty in our community or you might not be able to put a face on poverty.

The quote from the book **The Working Poor, Invisible in America** is a reminder that we see and interact every day with people who are struggling. They are the people working low-wage jobs that the economy depends upon. They are our neighbors, co-workers and family members.



Why poverty matters

Income is one of the most significant factors that drives our well-being. Individuals and families without adequate income face daily hardships – including hunger, poor housing conditions, homelessness, and lack of health care to name just a few.

Based on a national survey, nearly 50% of the poor 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

Why poverty in the suburbs is growing

Increased poverty in the suburbs is a national trend and a local reality. There are three key reasons.

- More people moving to the suburbs for jobs, quality education and safe neighborhoods.
- 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

How is poverty defined?

The concept of the **poverty threshold** was established in 1964 based on the spending pattern of an average family. The U.S. Census Bureau uses the poverty threshold to determine the number of people above and below the federal poverty level. The threshold is adjusted annually for inflation and varies depending on household size and composition. The poverty threshold is the same for every state (except Alaska and Hawaii).

Family Size	2011 Poverty Threshold
1 adult	\$11,344
1 adult, 1 child	\$15,030
1 adult, 2 children	\$17,458
2 adults, 2 children	\$22,113

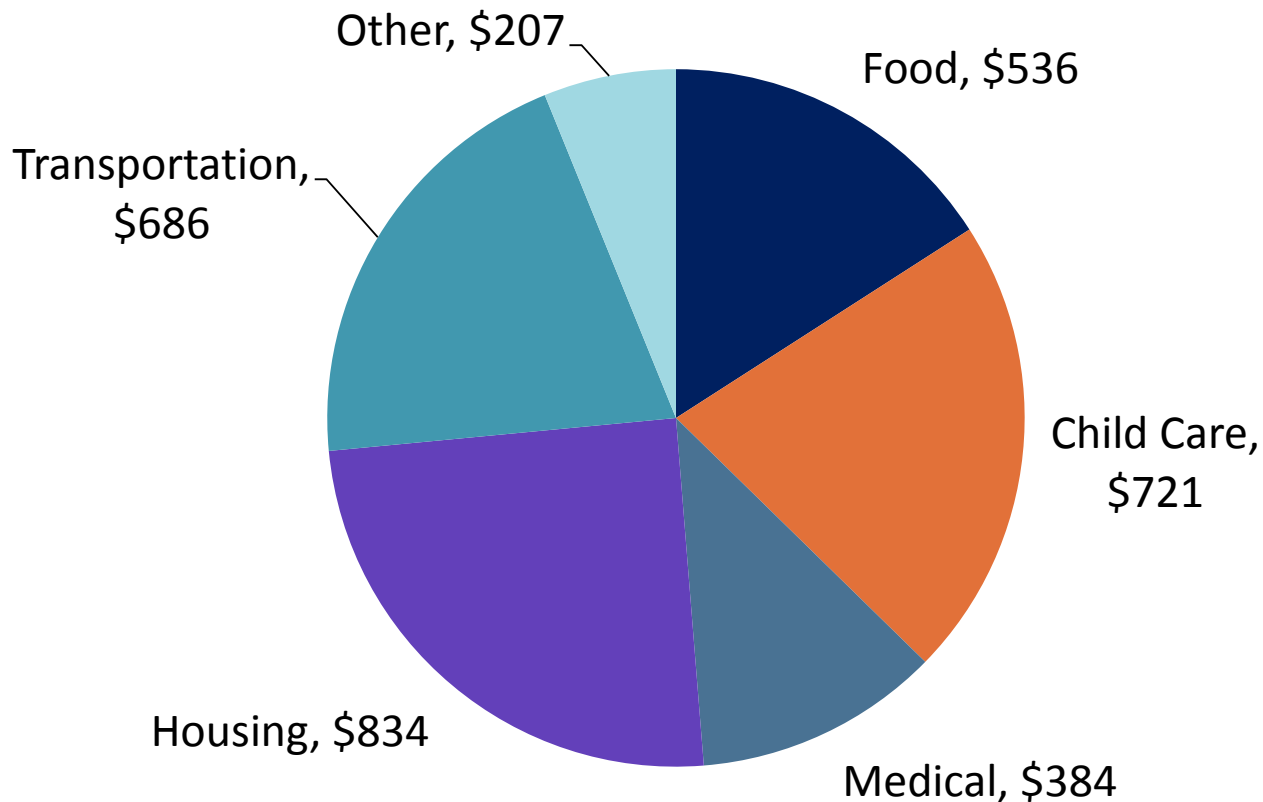
How does the poverty threshold compare to what it costs to live in Johnson County?

The **Living Wage Calculator**, unique to every county in the country, arrives at the annual wage that would be required for a person or family to meet their minimum basic needs. Key factors in increased costs are number, age and gender of children.

Family Size	Poverty Threshold	Johnson County Living Wage*
1 adult	\$11,344	\$19,460
1 adult, 1 child	\$15,030	\$39,982
1 adult, 2 children	\$17,458	\$48,686
2 adults, 2 children	\$22,113	\$40,429

*Source: Dr. Amy K. Glasmeir and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology
www:Livingwage.mit.edu/

Typical expenses used to calculate Johnson County Living Wage estimate for 1 adult and 2 children (\$3,368 per month after taxes)



Measures of Economic-Well Being

The next slides present information on three measures of economic well-being



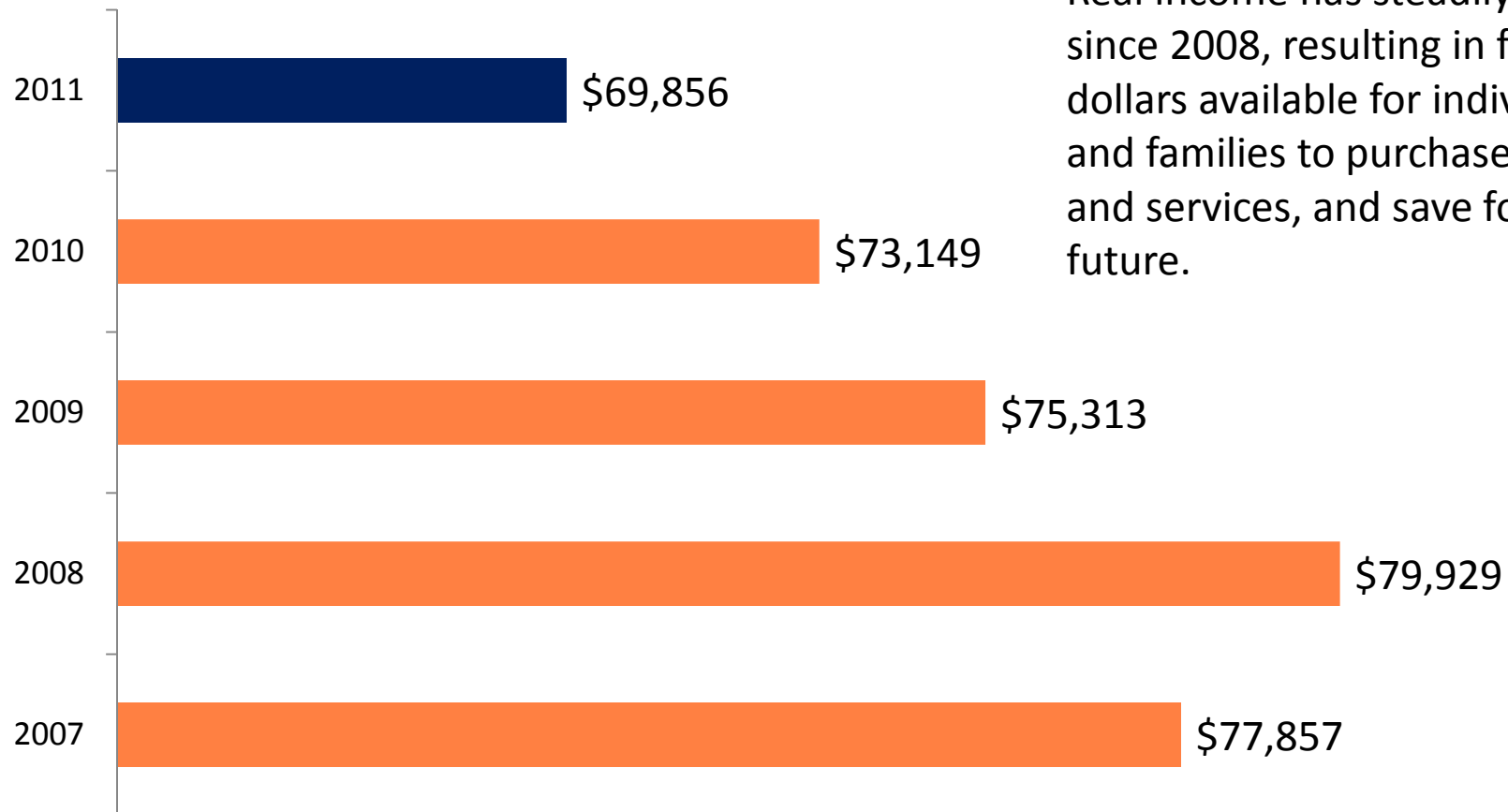
- **Median Income** = Mid-point in annual earnings

- **Low-income** = **200% of the Federal Poverty Level**
 - \$3,015 a month for a family of three
 - \$38,180 annual income

- **Poverty** = **100% of the Federal Poverty Level**
 - Less than \$1,600 a month for a family of three
 - \$19,090 annual income

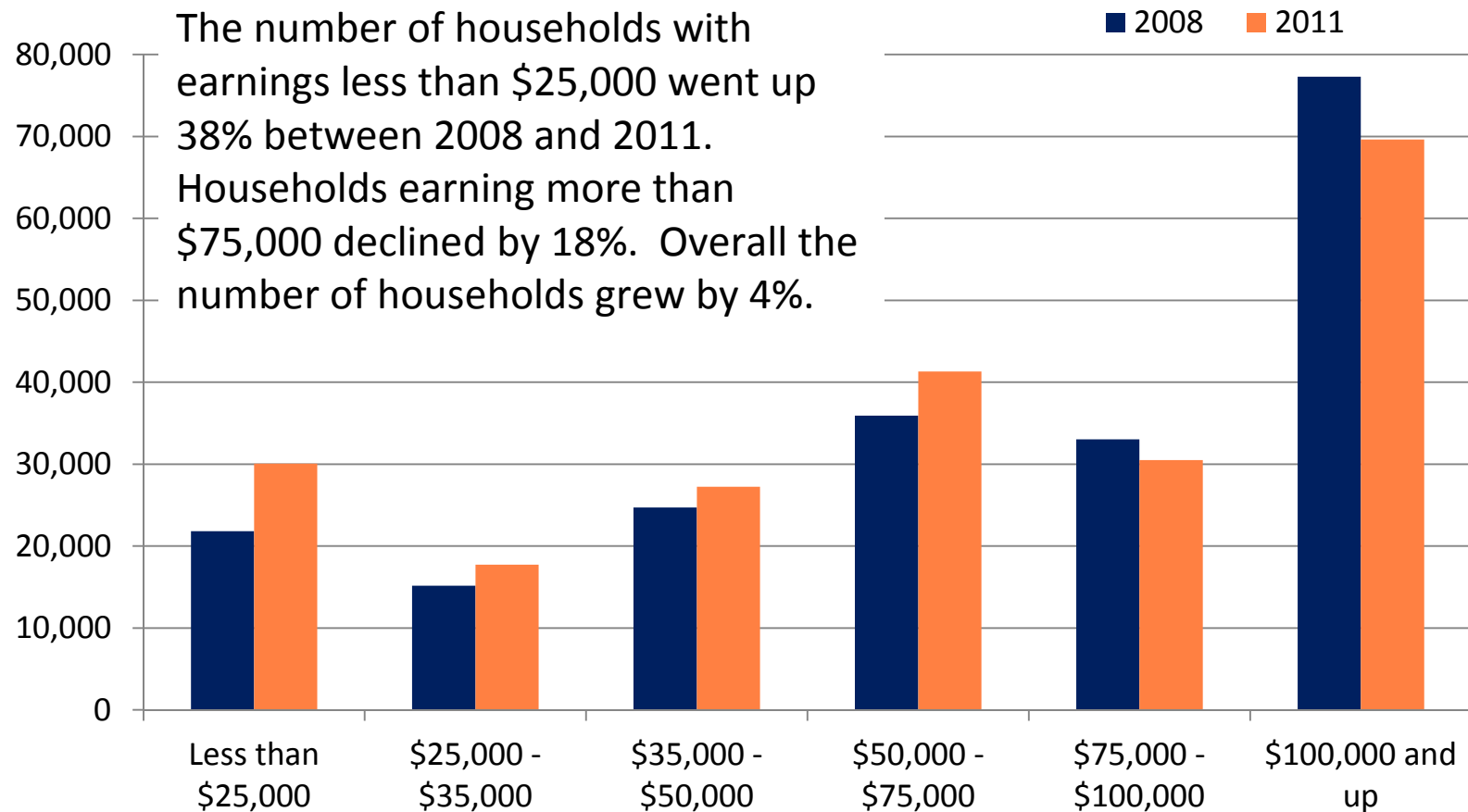
Primary data source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-year estimates

Johnson County Real Median Household Income (2011 Dollars)

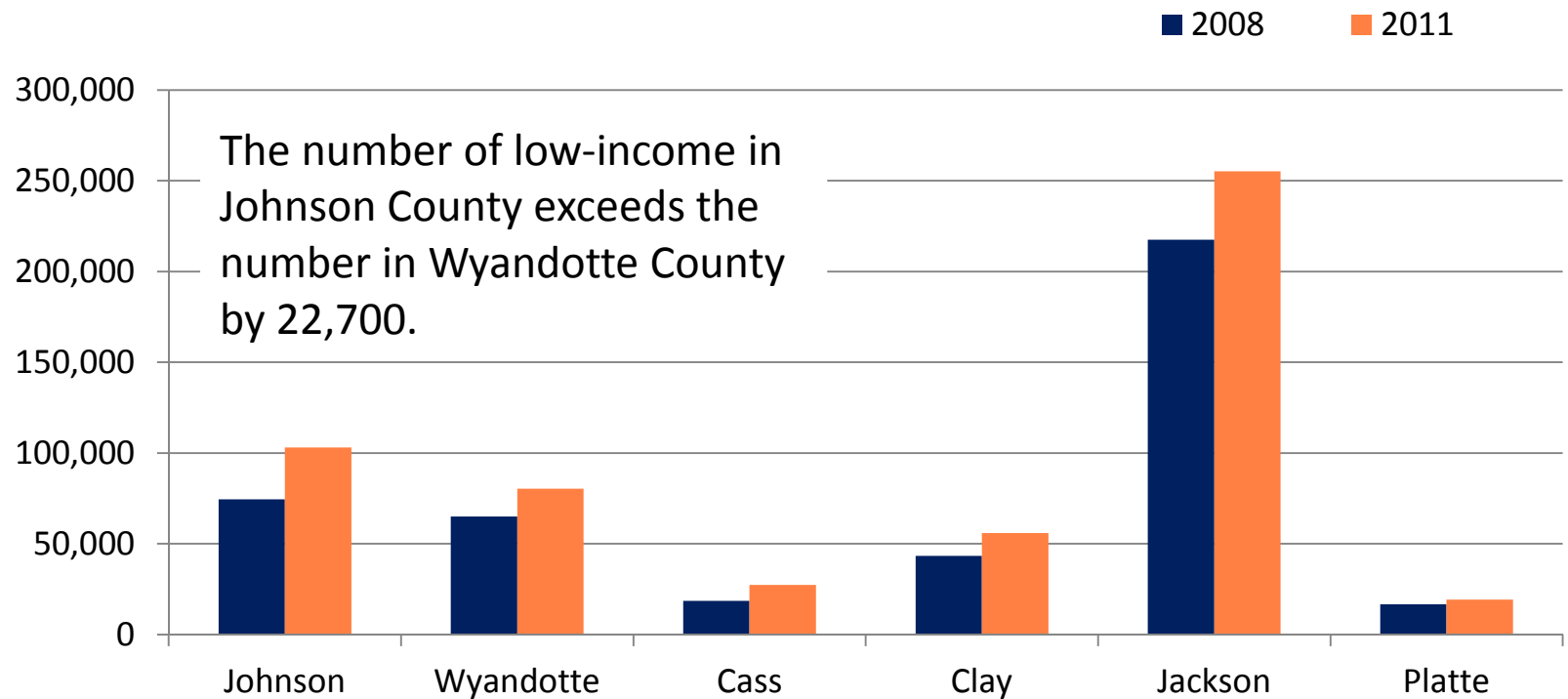


Real income has steadily declined since 2008, resulting in fewer dollars available for individuals and families to purchase goods and services, and save for the future.

Johnson County Household Income (2011 Inflation-Adjusted Dollars)



More than ½ million people in the KC Metro had income below 200% of poverty in 2011; a 24% increase from 2008



% of population at 200% Federal Poverty Level in 2011

19%

51%

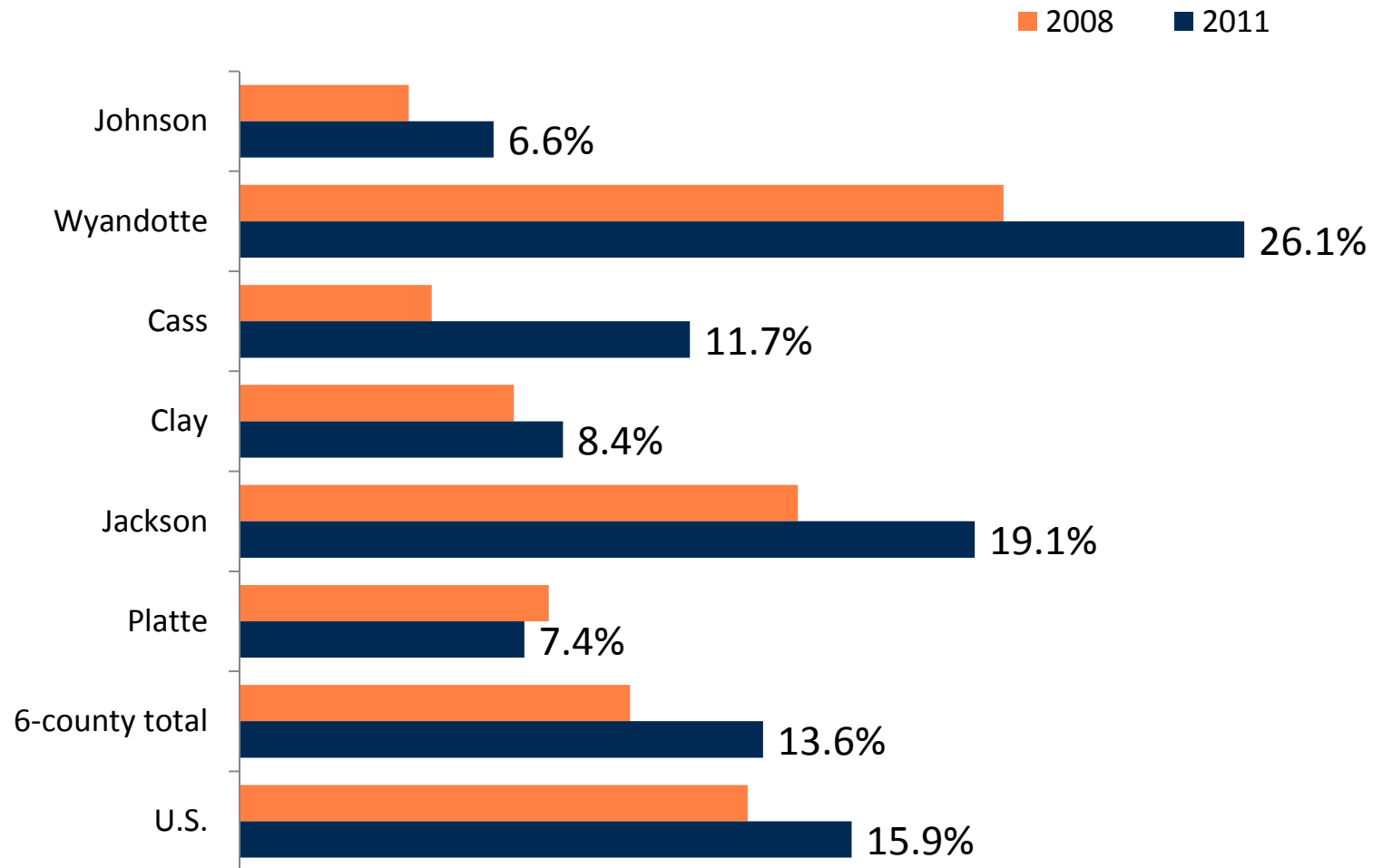
28%

25%

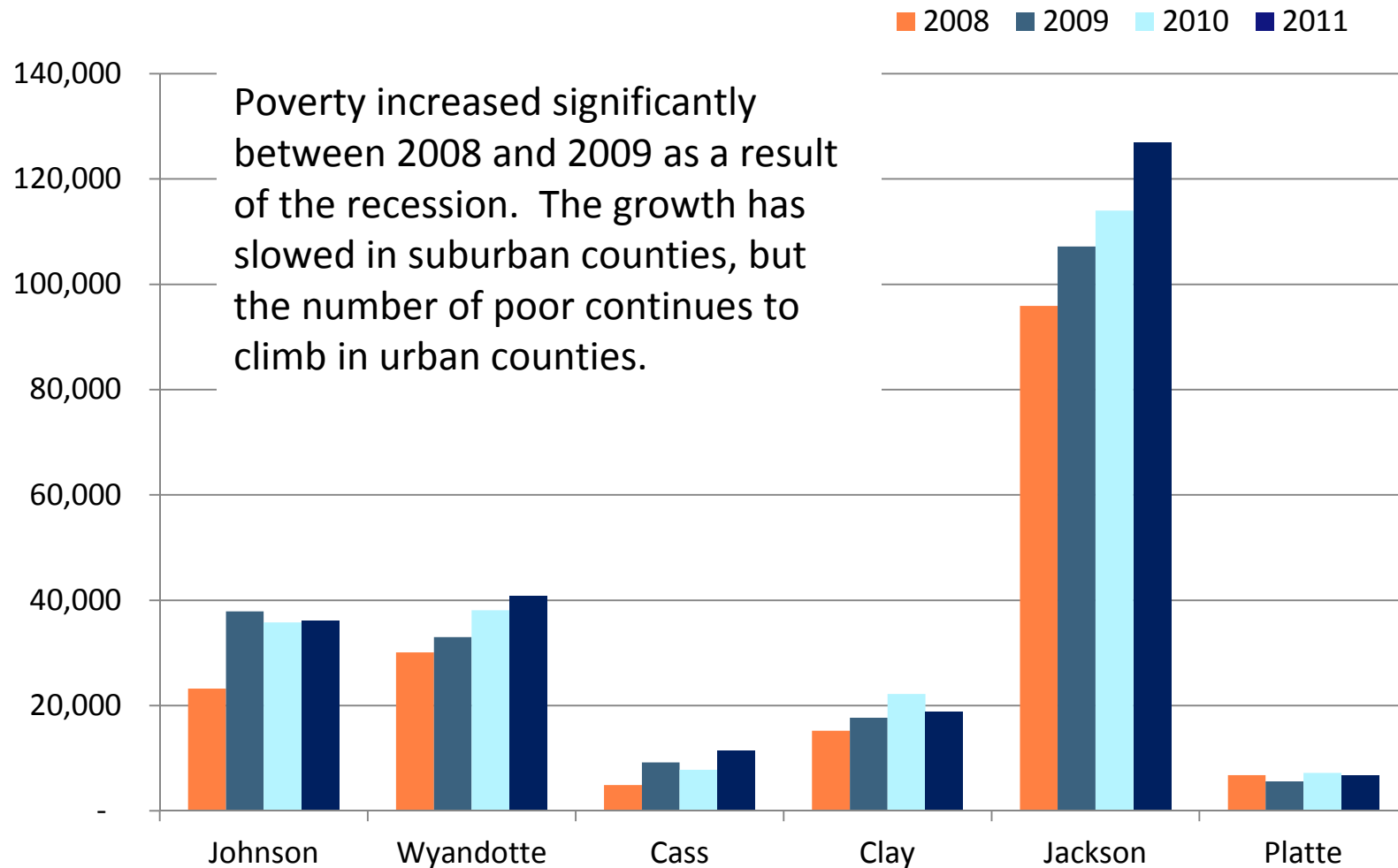
38%

21%

Poverty Rate by County in the KC Metro



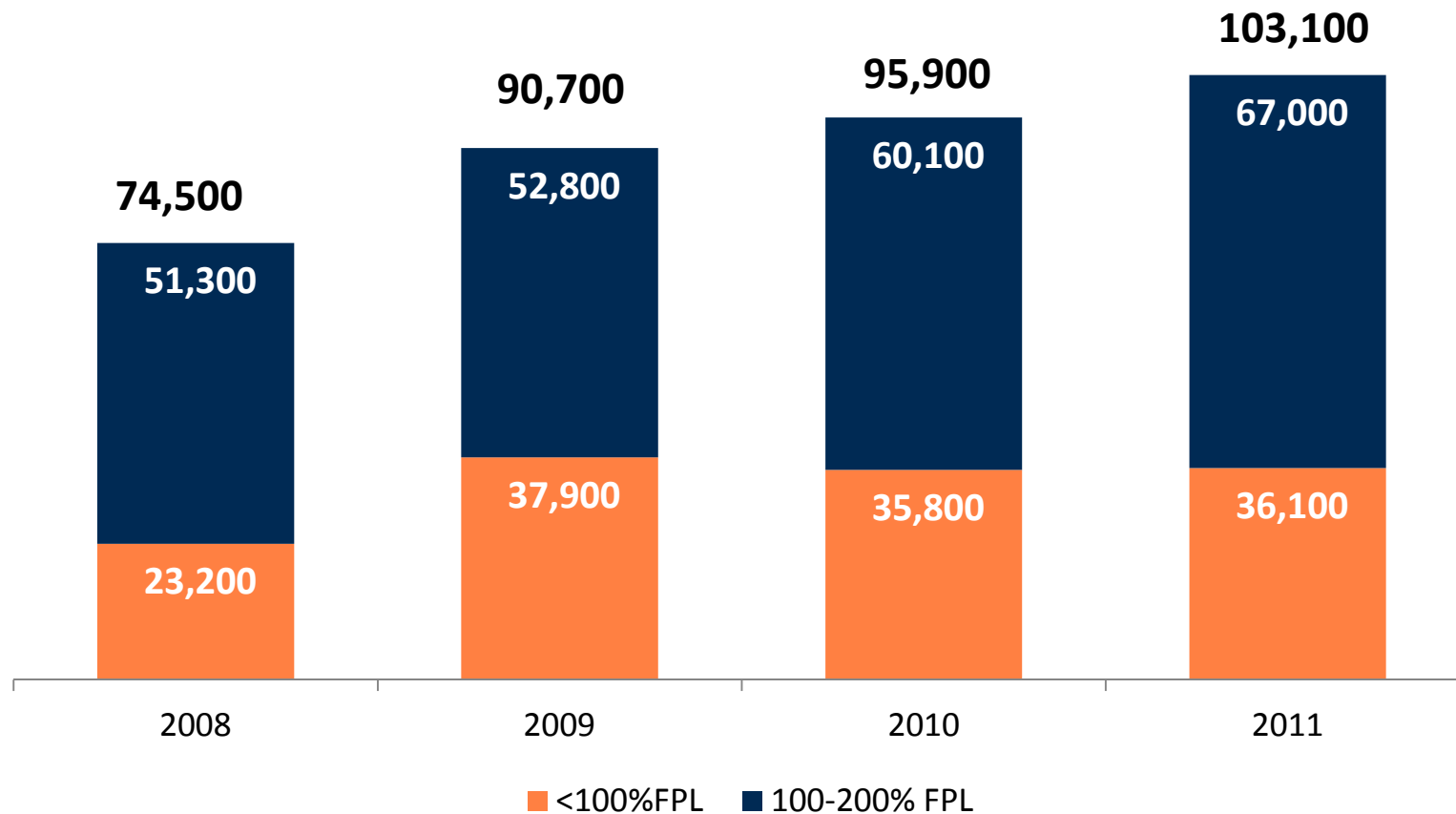
Poverty Trend by County in the KC Metro



Poverty and Low-Income Trend, Up 38%

Johnson County, 2008-2011

Nearly 1 in 5 residents is low-income



Who is poor in Johnson County?

1 in 11 children, youth and young adults lives below poverty

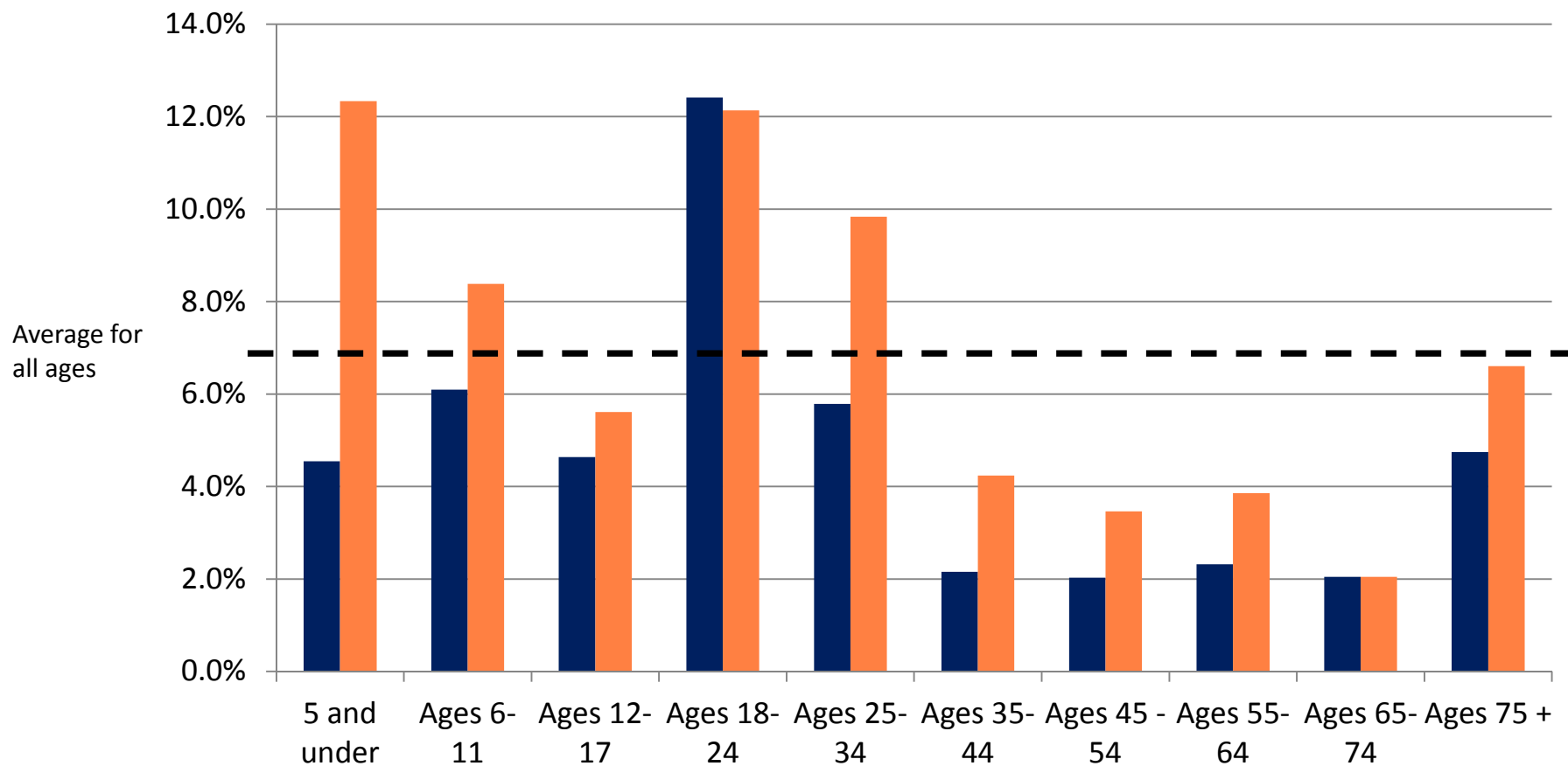


1 in 20 adults ages 25 and over lives below poverty

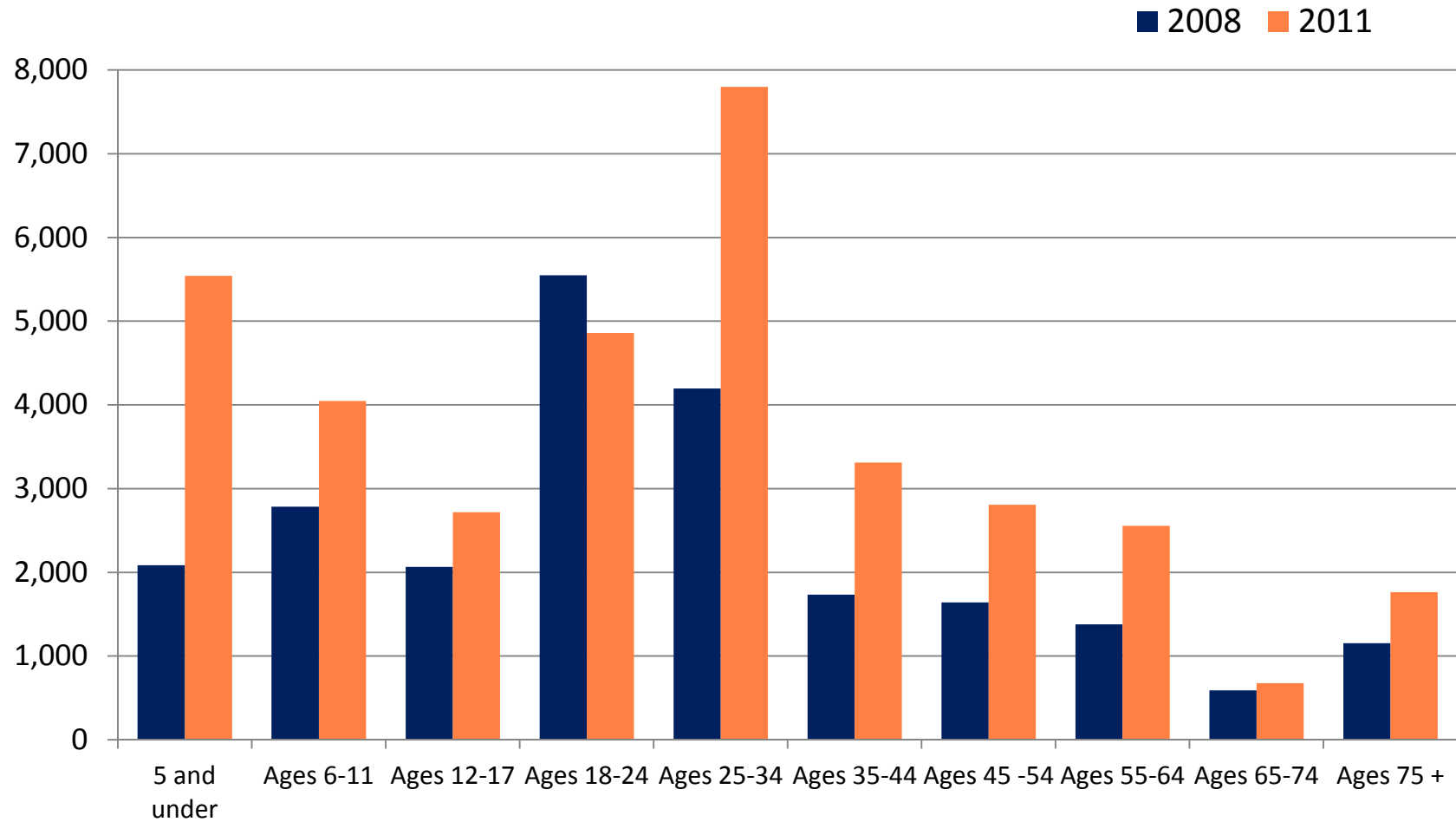


Poverty Rate by Age Johnson County

■ 2008 ■ 2011



Number of People in Poverty by Age Johnson County

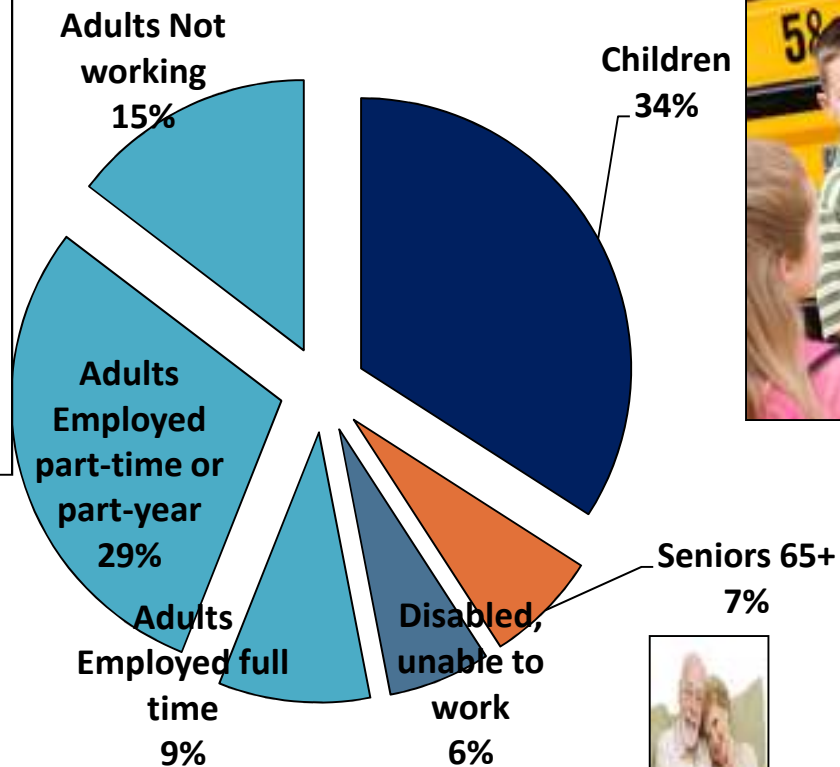


Who is poor in Johnson County?

36,100 people lived in households with income below the federal poverty level in 2011



Working Age Adults
53%



Seniors 65+
7%



Who is Poor in Johnson County?

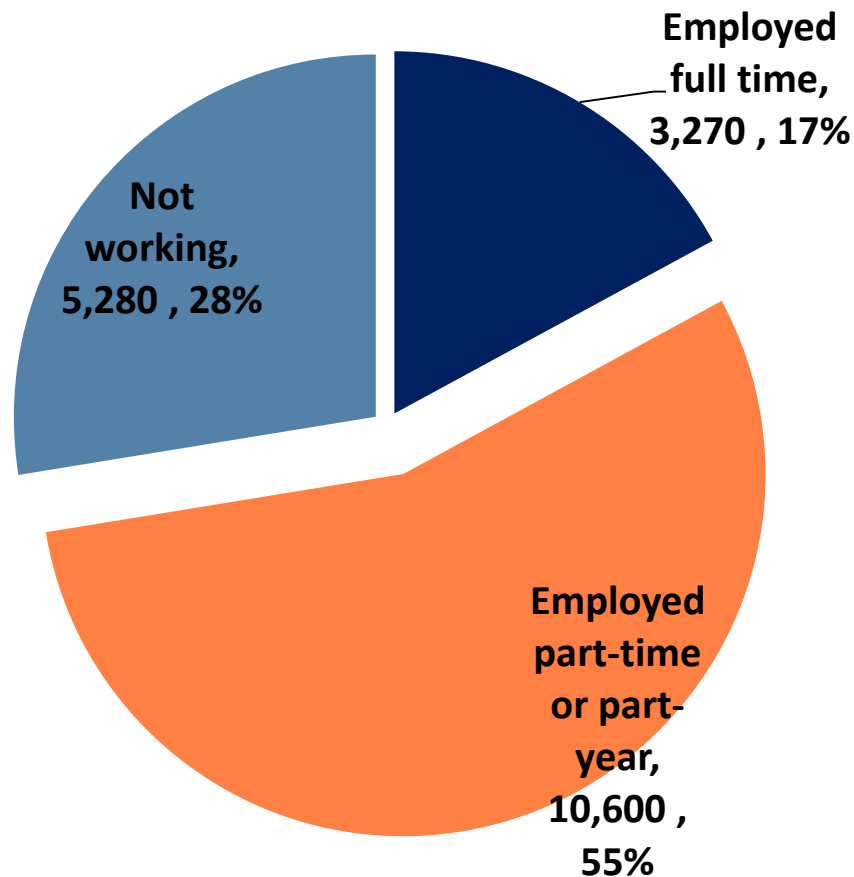
- 1 in 3 are children
 - Children ages 0-17 = 12,300

- 1 in 8 are disabled adults who are unable to work and seniors age 65+
 - Disabled adults = 2,450
 - Seniors = 2,200

- 1 in 2 are working age adults
 - Worked during year = 13,870
 - Did not work during year = 5,280

Working Age Adults Who are Poor

19,150 adults ages 18-64 had income below poverty in 2011



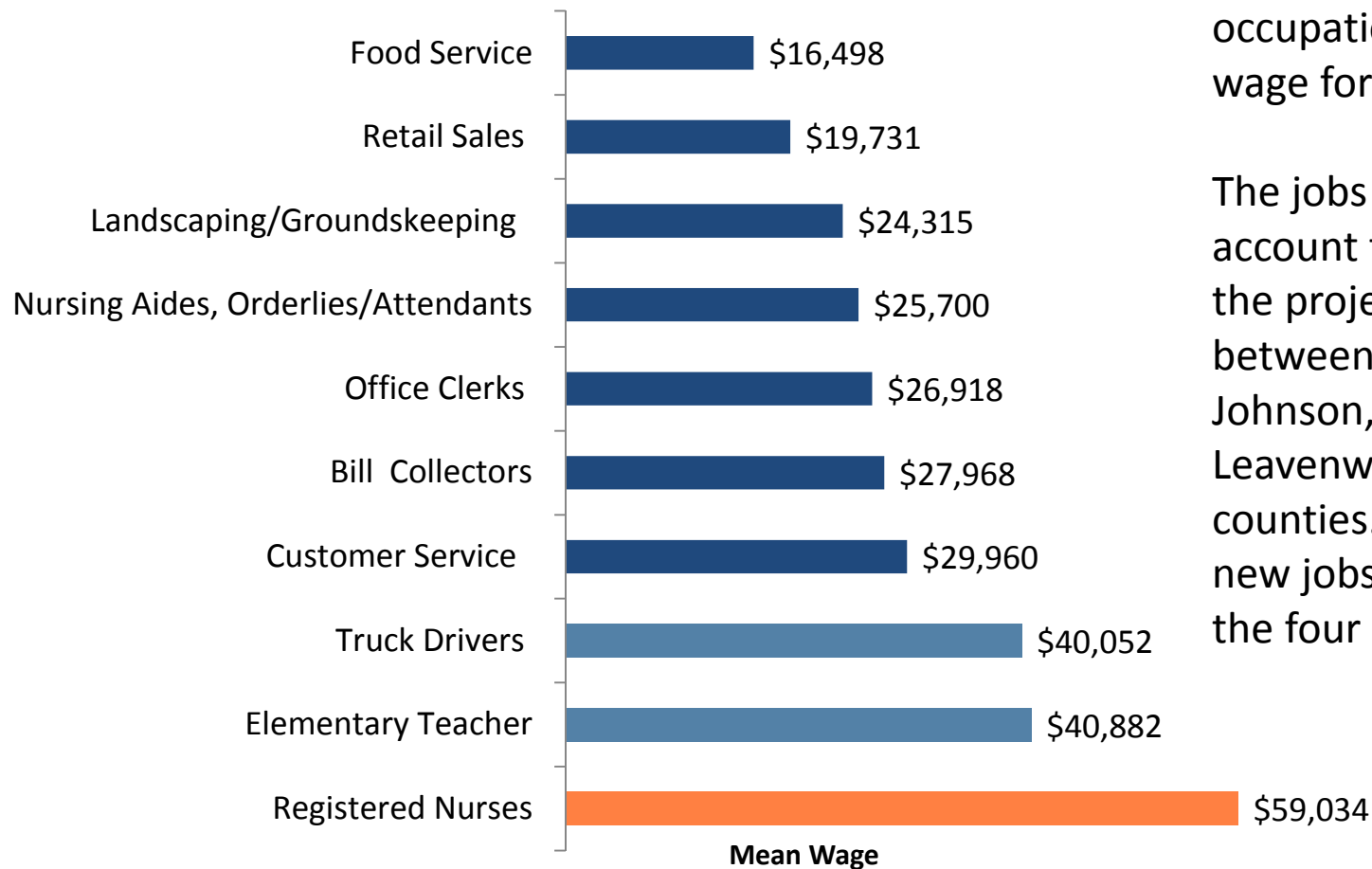
More than 7 in 10 of working age adults in Johnson County who were poor in 2011 worked at some time during the year.

Poverty and Work

The data show that most adults who are poor work. For those who work full-time, wages are not adequate to move them above the poverty level. And for thousands more who are low-income, working full-time does not provide a living wage. **One in three jobs in Johnson County pays less than \$30,000 in annual wages** (based on median wages). There are about 300,000 total jobs in Johnson County, with about 100,000 paying less than \$30,000.

Projected job growth is expected to include a large number of low wage jobs.

Top 10 occupations with highest projected growth KS Region Projections, KS Dept. of Labor 2008-2018



Only 1 of the top growing occupations will pay a living wage for a family of three.

The jobs on this chart account for one-fourth of the projected job growth between 2008 and 2018 in Johnson, Wyandotte, Leavenworth and Miami counties. A total of 70,000 new jobs are projected for the four county area.

What will it take to reduce poverty?

■ **Promote Work and Make it Pay**

- Earned Income Tax Credit; Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit
- Employment benefits (health insurance, paid leave)
- Subsidized job program
- Higher minimum wage

■ **Maintain Robust Safety Net**

- Unemployment Insurance and other support for workers
- Public and private aid
- Support for seniors and disabled

■ **Raise Educational Attainment**

- Early learning programs
- Public education and college aid

Maintaining a robust safety net

The next slide helps you get a sense of the type of programs that are part of the **Safety Net**. The majority of Safety Net programs are funded by government, but many are delivered through community organizations. Additionally, philanthropic efforts supplement work in many of these areas.

But, the Safety Net could not exist without government support. Here's just one example: all the food aid that churches and charities provide only amounts to about 6% of what the federal government spends on programs like SNAP and school lunch. Bread for the World calculated that each of the 335,000 religious congregations in the US – big or small - would have to spend at least \$50,000 annually to fill the gap.

Safety Net

WORK AND INCOME

Child Care
Job Training
Social Security
SSI / SSDI
Temporary Assistance to
Needy Families
Tax Credits
Unemployment Insurance
Vocational Rehabilitation

BASIC NEEDS

Emergency Aid

Housing

Nutrition

Utility
Assistance

HEALTH, WELLNESS AND SAFETY

Child/Adult Abuse

Child Welfare

Medicaid / Medicare

Health Care

Mental/Behavioral Health

Physical/Developmental
Disabilities

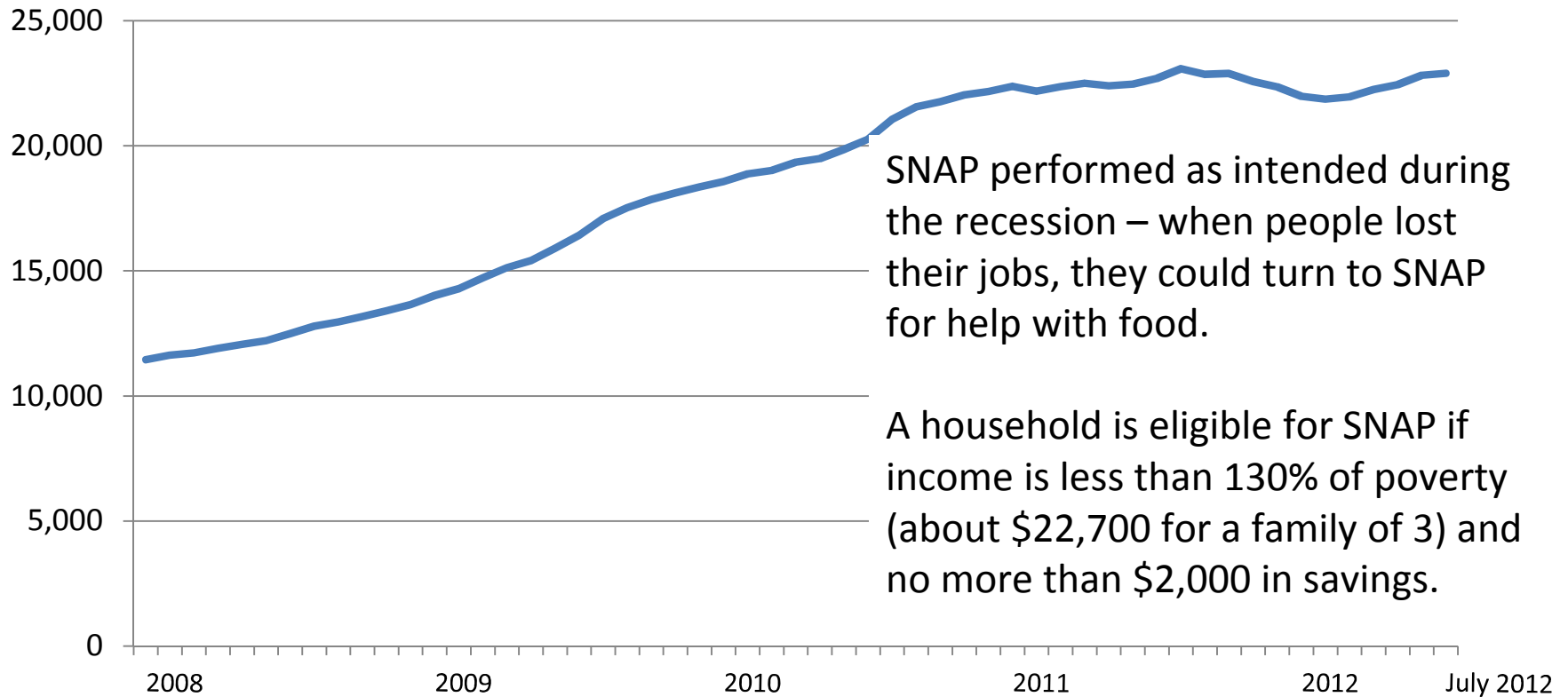
Substance Abuse



A Safety Net Program

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program)

Johnson County Residents Enrolled Each Month



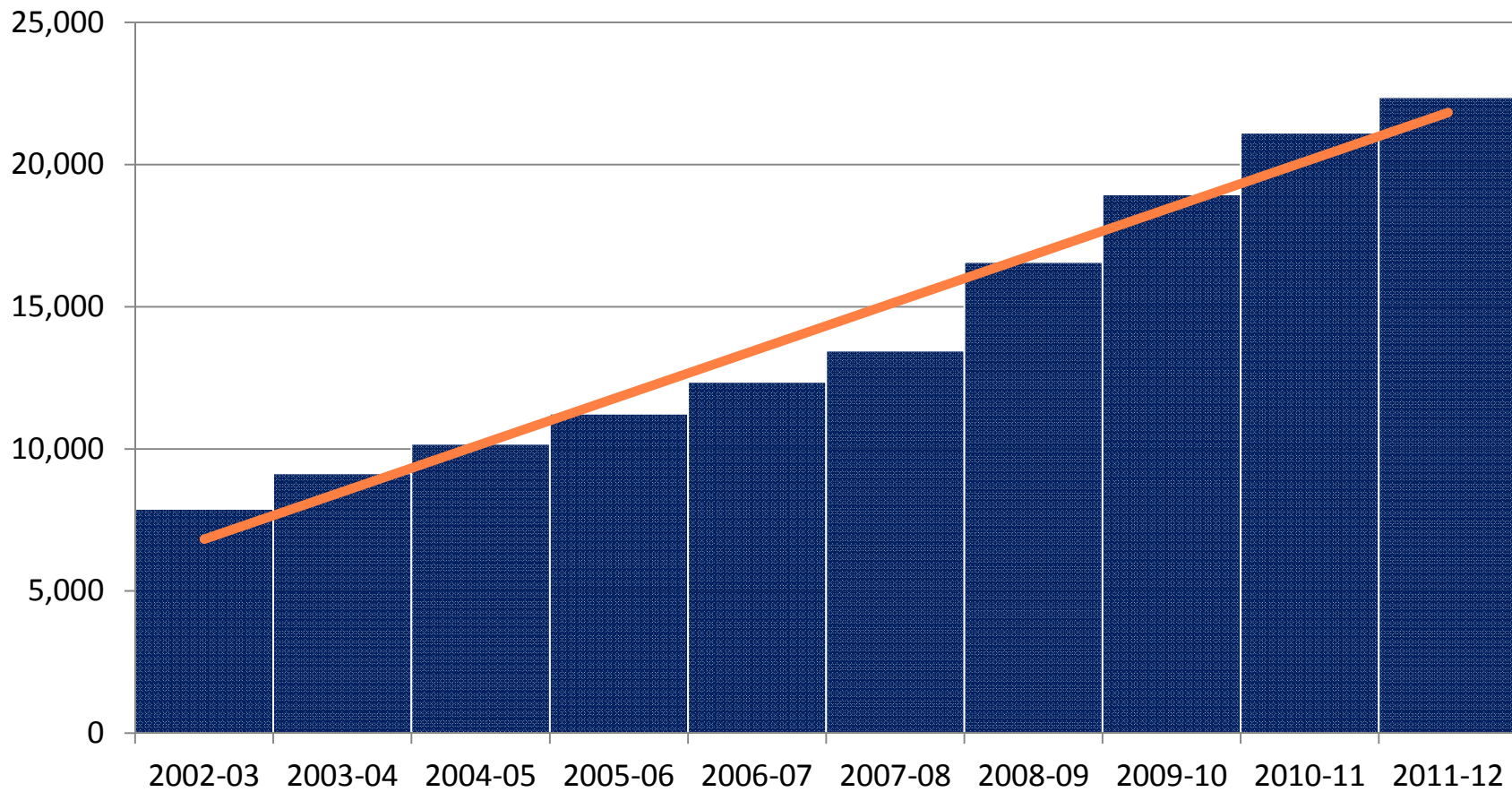
SNAP performed as intended during the recession – when people lost their jobs, they could turn to SNAP for help with food.

A household is eligible for SNAP if income is less than 130% of poverty (about \$22,700 for a family of 3) and no more than \$2,000 in savings.

A Safety Net Program

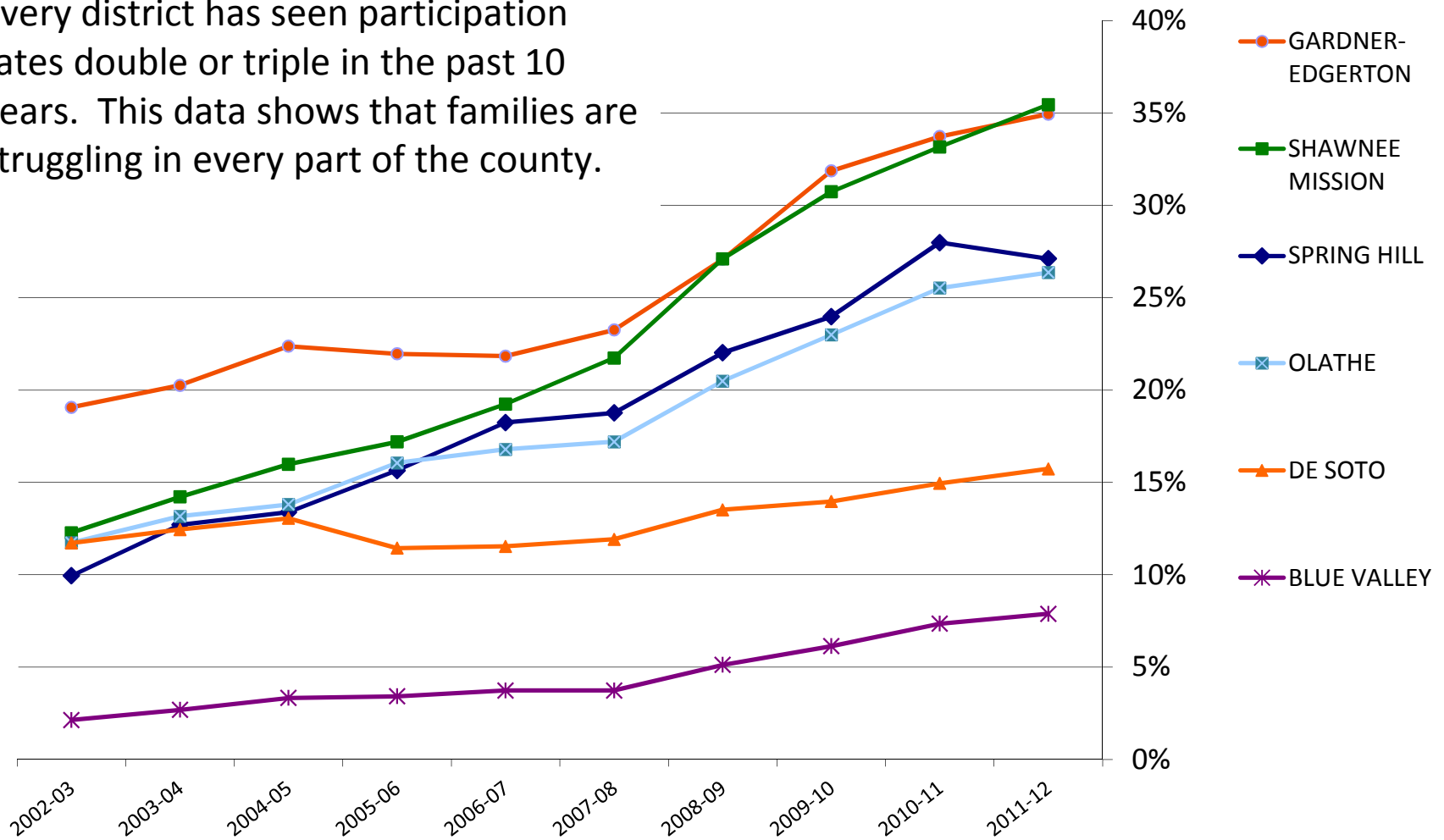
Free and Reduced Lunch Program

Johnson County Public School Student Enrollment



Participation Rate in Free and Reduced Lunch Program By Johnson County School Districts

Every district has seen participation rates double or triple in the past 10 years. This data shows that families are struggling in every part of the county.



For More Information

Sources

- David Shipler; *The Working Poor, Invisible in America*, 2004
- U.S. Census Bureau
<http://factfinder2.census.gov>
- KS Dept. for Children and Families
- KS Dept. of Education
- KS Dept. of Labor

Resources

- Half in Ten Campaign
- Spotlight on Poverty
- Greg Kauffman's Blog
www.thenation.com
- Center on Budget and Policy Priorities
www.cbpp.org
- United Community Services
www.ucsjoco.org

This presentation is available at www.ucsjoco.org/ Community Data tab