

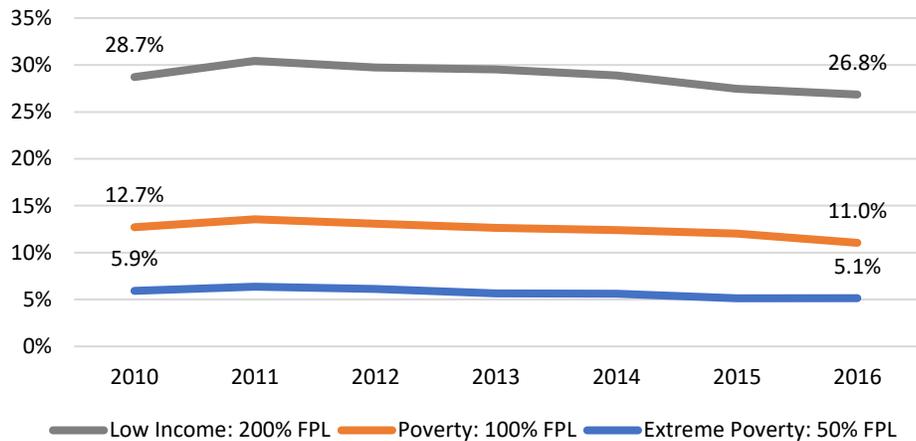


**Walking the Financial Tightrope  
Poverty & Economic Insecurity in Greater Kansas City**

**2016 Community Profile**

People across the greater Kansas City region live with economic hardship. More than 200,000 residents are below the official poverty line; many more are above that line, but still unable to make ends meet. Many people living in poverty rely on public and private safety net services to meet their families' basic needs during tough economic times. Health and human services not only prevent a fall deeper into poverty, but benefit the whole community – from creating a healthy start for children and promoting workforce participation to strengthening social mobility.

**Poverty Trends in Greater Kansas City**  
100% of the federal poverty level (FPL)



Poverty, as measured at three thresholds, shows economic conditions are not significantly improving for the most vulnerable residents of our community. The local trend mirrors the national and state trends: despite improvements in the unemployment rate, poverty levels remain stagnant. The U.S. poverty rate in 2016 was 14%. Missouri had a 14% poverty rate and Kansas had a poverty rate of 12%.

**2016 Federal Poverty Guidelines**  
*Adjusted annually by family size*

- 1 person = \$11,880
- 2 persons = \$16,020
- 3 persons = \$20,160
- 4 persons = \$24,300

Add \$4,140 for each additional person

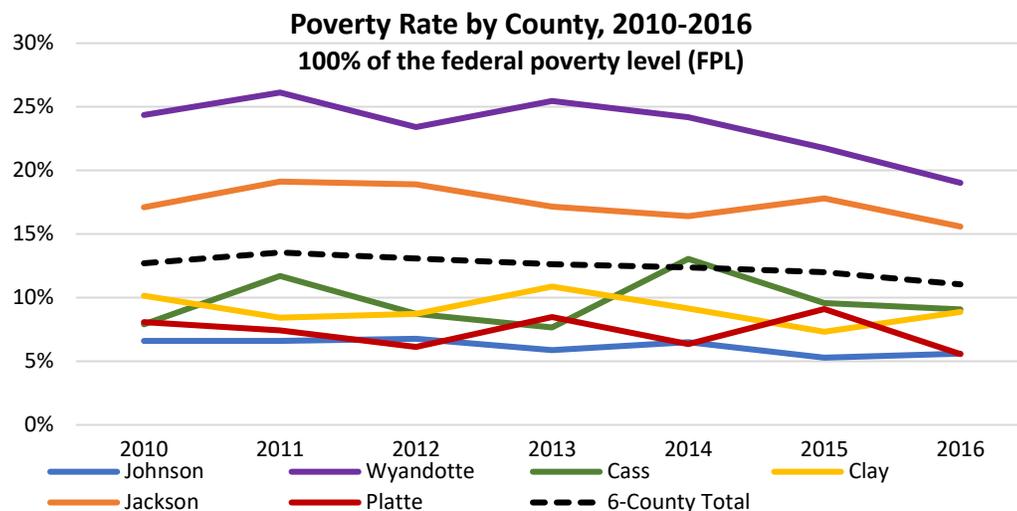
**People Walk the Financial Tightrope in Every Community**

- 1 in 9 residents in 2016 was poor (204,830 people).
- One in 20 lived in extreme poverty, having income less than one-half of the federal poverty level (95,377 people).
- More than 1 in 4 residents was near-poor or low-income, defined as income less than two times the federal poverty level (497,944 people).

	Extreme Poverty: <50%		Poverty: 100% FPL		Low-Income 200% FPL	
	# of Persons	Rate	# of Persons	Rate	# of Persons	Rate
Johnson	16,335	2.8%	32,437	5.6%	93,605	16.2%
Wyandotte	14,168	8.7%	30,865	19.0%	76,507	47.2%
Cass	2,337	2.3%	9,171	9.1%	22,159	22.0%
Clay	8,951	3.8%	20,861	8.9%	57,631	24.5%
Jackson	51,684	7.6%	106,061	15.6%	233,143	34.3%
Platte	1,902	1.9%	5,435	5.6%	14,899	15.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>95,377</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>204,830</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>497,944</b>	<b>26.8%</b>



Since the last decennial Census in 2010, the poverty rate in all six counties has remained relatively stagnant. Johnson and Platte Counties have the lowest poverty rates in the region, but in 2016 Johnson County had more people living in poverty than Wyandotte, Cass, or Clay counties respectively. The suburban communities of Johnson, Clay, Cass, and Platte counties are home to 1 in 3 of the region's poor residents.



### Young children and young adults in the region face the highest risk of poverty\*

More than 1 in 6 of our region's youngest children experience poverty before reaching school age. More than one in three young adults lives with low income. About half of the residents living in poverty are under the age of 25.

POVERTY BY AGE GROUP	# of Persons in Poverty: 100% FPL	Poverty Rate	# of Low-Income Persons: 200% FPL	Low-Income Rate
Young Children 0-5	24,225	17.5%	56,089	40.5%
Children and Youth 6-17	46,512	15.9%	105,822	36.1%
Young Adults 18-24	26,022	18.3%	54,653	38.4%
Working-Age Adults 25-64	86,591	9.2%	214,494	22.7%
Seniors 65+	16,045	6.8%	51,987	21.9%
<b>All Ages</b>	<b>199,395</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>483,045</b>	<b>27.5%</b>

### Race and Education Matter\*

While the overall poverty rate for the region's residents is 11.0%, the poverty rates for Latinos (21.2%) and African Americans (25.7%) are triple the poverty rate of White non-Hispanic residents (7.1%), according to 2016 data.

Likewise, adults without a high school degree have a 26.2% poverty rate, but residents with at least a high school diploma are half as likely to experience poverty. Only 3% of adults with a bachelor's degree or higher lives in poverty.

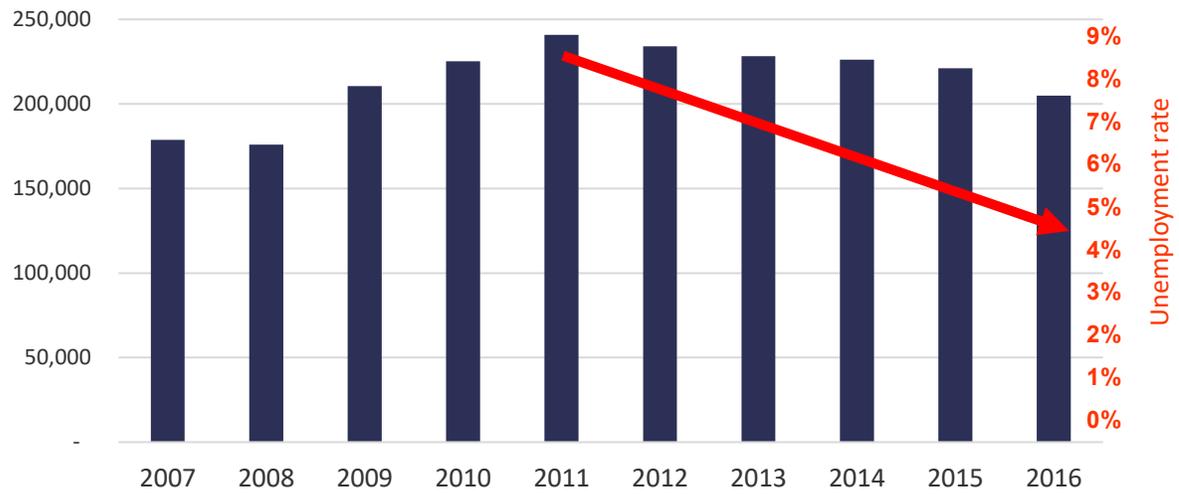
### The Role of Income and Wages

Poverty persists despite decreasing unemployment rates in the Greater Kansas City region. In 2011, both poverty and unemployment were at an all-time high – 13.6% of the population lived below the poverty level, and 8.7% of the population was unemployed. Since then, the unemployment rate has decreased by almost half to 4.6%. Yet, in that same period, the poverty rate decreased by only 2 percentage points to 11.3%. This suggests that people are working, but not making enough to live above the poverty line.

The median household income for the region is \$61,385, compared to \$53,508 before the Recession in 2007. However, when adjusting for inflation, real median household income remains below pre-Recession levels (inflation-adjusted income in 2007 was \$61,906).

\*Please note that these data do not include Platte County, MO. The U.S. Census Bureau did not publish certain 2016 estimates for Platte County due to failure to meet data standards.

## Poverty in Greater Kansas City Despite Decreasing Unemployment Rates, Poverty Persists



### ***A Call to Action***

Local action, health and human services, collaborative efforts, and public policy changes all play a critical role in creating a healthy, thriving community. These initiatives must span the life cycle – from early childhood through working age adulthood – for short-term success and long-term impact in the lives of all Johnson County residents.

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