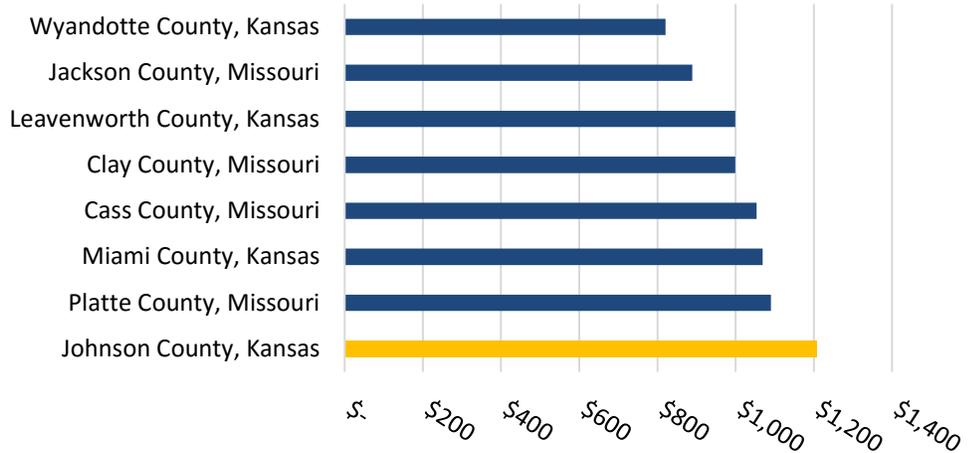


The Importance of Affordable Housing in Johnson County

Stable and affordable housing is the foundation on which families can build a healthy, sustainable future. The cost of housing can influence the type of community in which a family lives, the schools and jobs they are able to access, and the overall stability of the family unit. Because housing is one of the largest expenses for any household, the cost can determine how much money is left to meet other household needs. When it comes to housing costs, Johnson County is one of the most expensive communities in the Kansas City region.

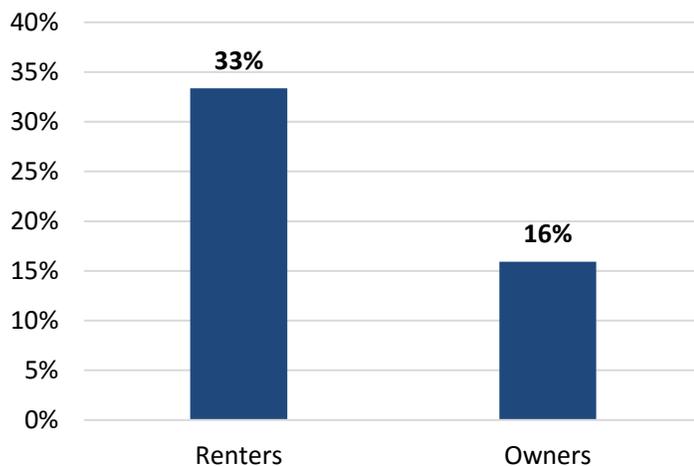
**Median Monthly Housing Costs
Kansas City Region**



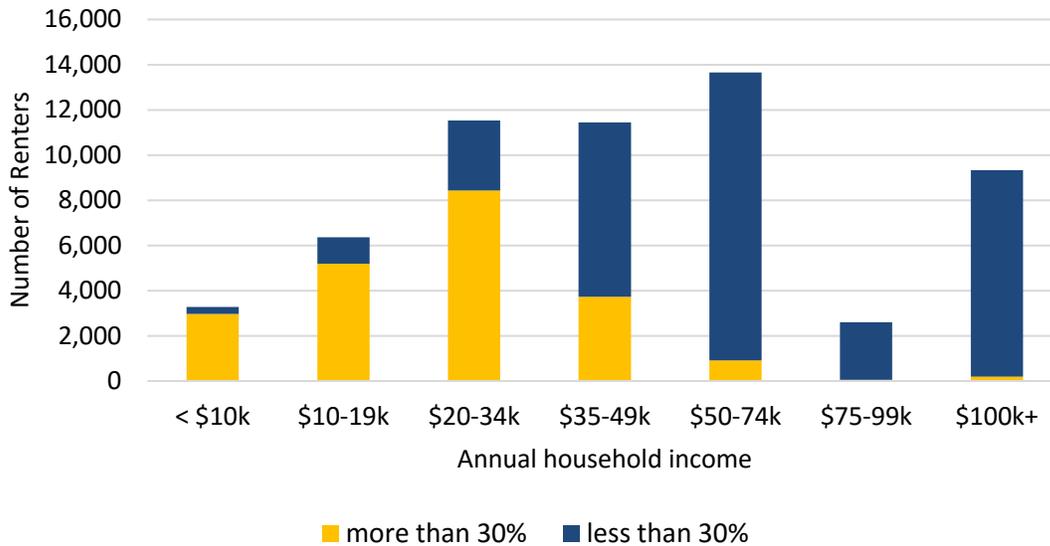
Data from the U.C. Census Bureau indicates that the cost of all housing in Johnson County has increased by nearly 10% over the last decade. Renters alone have seen an even sharper increase of 28% since 2005, with a median gross rent of \$978 in 2015.

The conventional public policy indicator of housing affordability in the United States is the percent of income spent on housing. Housing expenditures that exceed 30% of household income have historically been viewed as an indicator of a housing affordability problem. The term “cost-burdened” is used to define this indicator. Both renters and owners can be cost-burdened, but renters tend to experience it more often than owners in Johnson County. While the majority of housing in Johnson Counties is occupied by homeowners, homeowners have a median household income of more than \$100,000 compared to \$48,000 for renters.

**Rate of Cost-Burden in Johnson County
30% or more of income spent on housing**

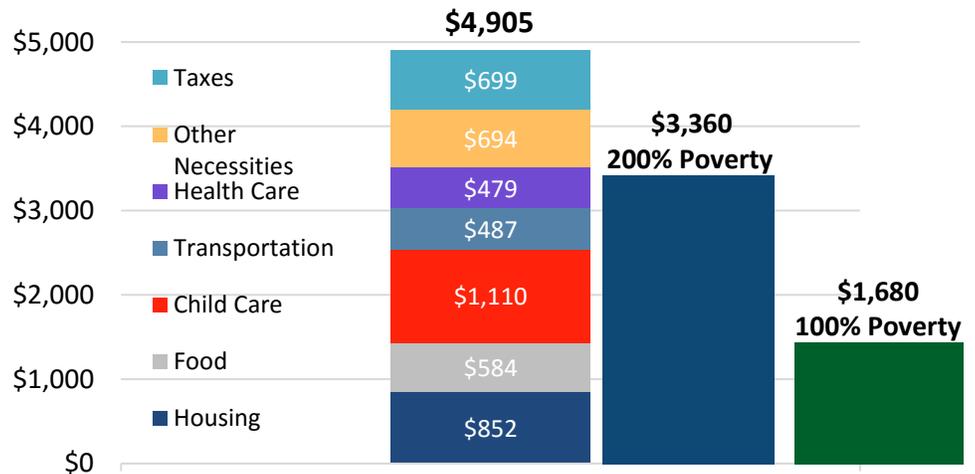


In Johnson County, 63% of families in poverty rent their homes, which means families in poverty are most likely to be affected by the high cost of rent. If vulnerable families are unable to regularly pay rent, they are at risk of instability. Data indicates that the lower a household's income is, the more likely they are to be burdened by the cost of housing.



According to the Economic Policy Institute, a single individual living in Johnson County needs an annual income of \$27,000 to maintain a modest yet adequate lifestyle; a single parent with two children needs \$59,000 annually. Regardless of household size, the cost of housing makes up a significant portion of a household's monthly budget. Unfortunately, families living with incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level, of which there were nearly 90,000 in Johnson County in 2015, often do not make enough money to regularly meet the cost of living.

What it Takes to Raise A Family –Single Parent with Two Children



Low-income households living in Johnson County need good jobs with adequate wages so that they can regularly and sustainably maintain safe, stable, and affordable housing.

Additionally, local governments might consider initiatives that make it easier for both low-income renters and homeowners to afford housing, such as minor home repair programs, affordable housing incentives for developers, and funding for emergency rent and utilities services.

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