

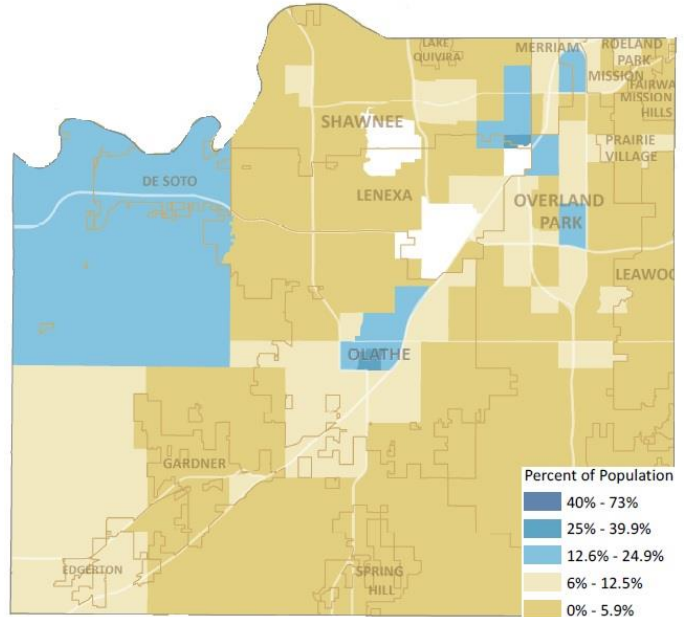
Poverty in Johnson County Cities

More than 34,000 Johnson County residents, 6.2% of the population, live below the federal poverty level, according to 5-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Thousands more earn just enough to avoid the technical definition of poverty, which was \$11,770 for an individual and \$20,090 for a family of three in 2015. Since 2007, poverty growth has outpaced population growth by nearly four times. If poverty was a city, it would be the 5th largest city in Johnson County.

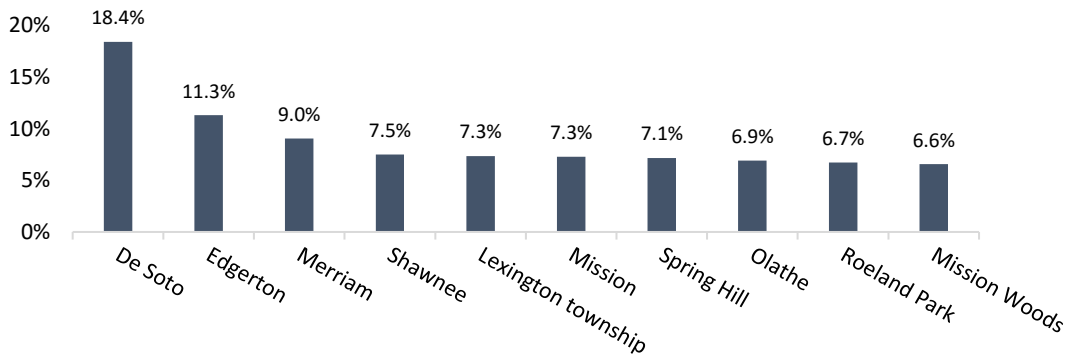
UCS uses 5-year estimates to track poverty in local cities, because the Census Bureau provides only 5-year estimates (rather than 1-year estimates) for jurisdictions with fewer than 20,000 people. Based on those estimates, every city in the county has experienced an increase in the number of poor since 2009.

While poverty can be found throughout Johnson County, mapping analysis conducted by Mid America Regional Council (MARC) indicates that poverty is greater in certain geographic locations. Census tracts with relatively higher poverty rates are located in the Northeast suburbs, the county seat of Olathe, urban communities along the I-35 corridor, and the rural areas of Edgerton and De Soto.

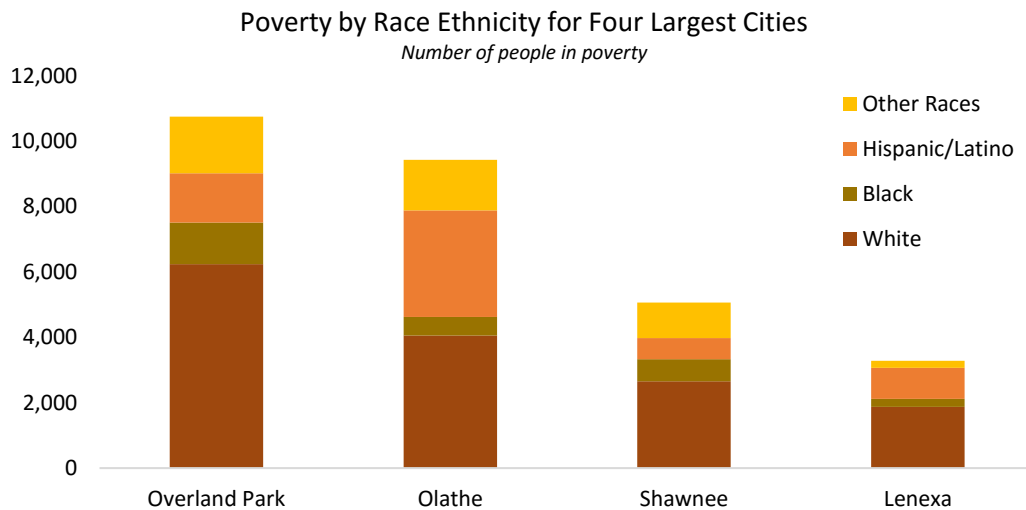
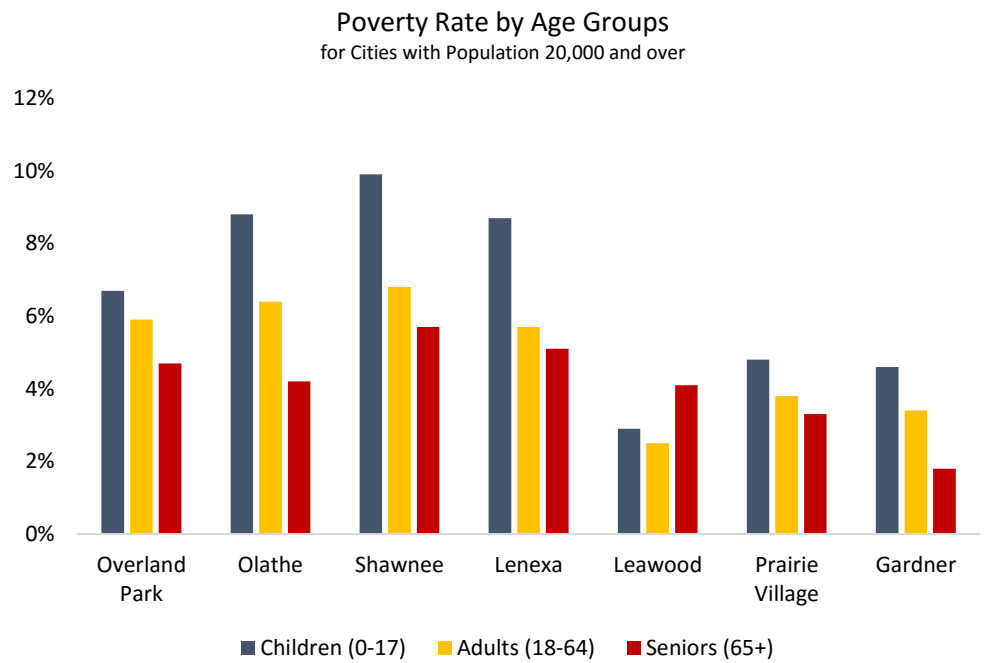
It is important to keep in mind the relative scope of poverty across Johnson County cities. While Overland Park has the largest number of people in poverty (10,620), the proportion of people in poverty is only 5.9% -- lower than the county's overall poverty rate. Meanwhile, De Soto's poverty rate is three time higher than the county poverty rate, but fewer than 2,000 De Soto residents live in poverty. Each cities approach to addressing poverty must consider both the number and the proportion of residents living in poverty.



Cities with the Highest Poverty Rates



Poverty at the city level also varies based on factors such as age and race. In most of the large cities in Johnson County, the rate of child poverty is higher than that of any other age group. The exception is Leawood, where the poverty rate for seniors is higher than the poverty rate for both children and adults (age 18-64). In the four largest cities in Johnson County, White residents make up the largest proportion of poor individuals, although the poverty rates for people of color tend to be higher than the poverty rate for whites in most of Johnson County's cities and townships.



The effects of poverty ripple out beyond those directly experiencing it to nearly everyone who lives or works in every city. Health and human service programs and initiatives aimed at reducing poverty should consider the unique demographic, social, environmental, and economic context of each community in order to be most effective at creating opportunity for vulnerable residents. Staying current on who is experiencing poverty, where it is concentrated, and how those factors change over time can inform how local jurisdictions invest public dollars in coordinated, strategic approaches to addressing poverty and a variety of other health and human service needs.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2011-2015 **About the data:** The data are based on survey data. Because surveys cover only a limited sample of individuals or households – rather than the entire population – estimates calculated from survey data are subject to uncertainty due to sampling error. Estimates for low-population cities should be interpreted with caution, as they may be subject to significant uncertainty.