



Early Childhood (Ages 0-5) in Johnson County, KS

Johnson County, Kansas is home to nearly 48,000 children age 5 and under, according to 2014 data from the U.S. Census Bureau. Between 2000 and 2014, the number of young children increased 18%, while the overall population increased 28%. Racial and ethnic diversity of young children is greater than the overall population, 27% compared to 19%.

Key Facts on Child Care

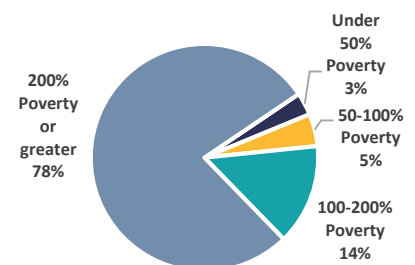
- More than 70% of Johnson County births occur to women in the work force. This suggests that many children will need out of home care at some point before they reach school age. Full day care at a local child care center can cost on average \$13,600 for an infant and \$11,200 for a toddler.ⁱ
- About 9,500, or 1 in 5, young children live with one parent (although some households may include an unmarried partner). For these families, the cost of child care can be beyond reach. Median earnings for a single father were \$45,410 in 2014 and \$34,560 for a single mother (with children of any age).
- Help with child care for low-income parents is limited.
 - In Johnson County, there are 4 Early Head Start slots available per 100 children birth through age 3 living in families with incomes below the poverty threshold.ⁱⁱ There are 20 Head Start enrollment slots available per 100 children 3 and 4 years of age.
 - 839 households received child care support through the state-administered program Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (includes children of any age).ⁱⁱⁱ

Key Facts on Poverty and Low-Income Young Children

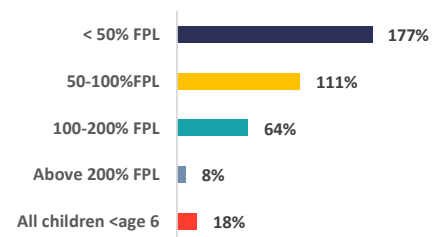
Studies have shown that children living in poverty have less development in areas of the brain tied to learning and educational functioning, compared to more affluent peers. As a result, there is a gap in academic achievement based on the income of a child's family. However, targeted interventions in the early years of a poor child's life can significantly improve academic outcomes. These interventions might be economic, such as the income-boosting Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC); or environmental, such as parents intentionally talking, reading, and playing with their children every day.

- The poverty rate for children ages 0-5 was 7.8% in 2014, compared to a 6.5% poverty rate for the total population. 14% of children lived in households with income between 100% and 200% of the federal poverty level.^{iv} Together, more than 1 in 5 Johnson County children are low-income.
- Children 5 and under in female headed households had a poverty rate of 38%, in male-headed households the poverty rate was 27%. For married couple households, the poverty rate was 4%
- While white, non-Hispanic young children represent the largest share of poor children age 5 and under, the poverty rates for African-American and Hispanic children are more than five times higher than the poverty rate for white young children.
- Nearly 1 in 4 of all births in Johnson County occur to a woman below 200% of the federal poverty level.

Poverty status of Johnson County's
48,000 children under age 6



Percentage increase in children
under age 6
by poverty status, 2000-2014



Data: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 1-year estimates, 2014

ⁱ KS Child Care Market Rate Study, 2013 data, KS Dept. of Children and Families

ⁱⁱ Kansas Head Start Association, 2013

ⁱⁱⁱ SYF2015 Caseload Detail Report for Selected Assistance Programs, KS Dept. of Children and Families

^{iv} The poverty threshold for a family of two is currently \$15,930; for a family of three, the poverty threshold is \$20,090.

Published November 2015

