



**2018 Federal Poverty Guidelines**  
*Adjusted annually by family size*

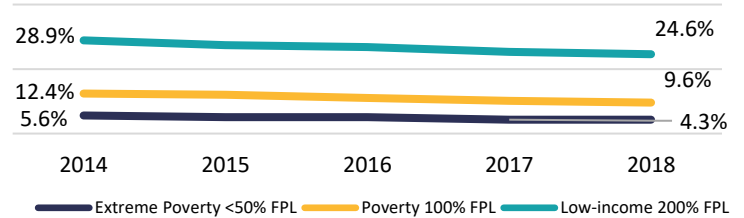
- 1 person: \$12,140
- 2 persons: \$16,469
- 3 persons: \$20,780
- 4 persons: \$25,100

Add \$4,320 for each additional person

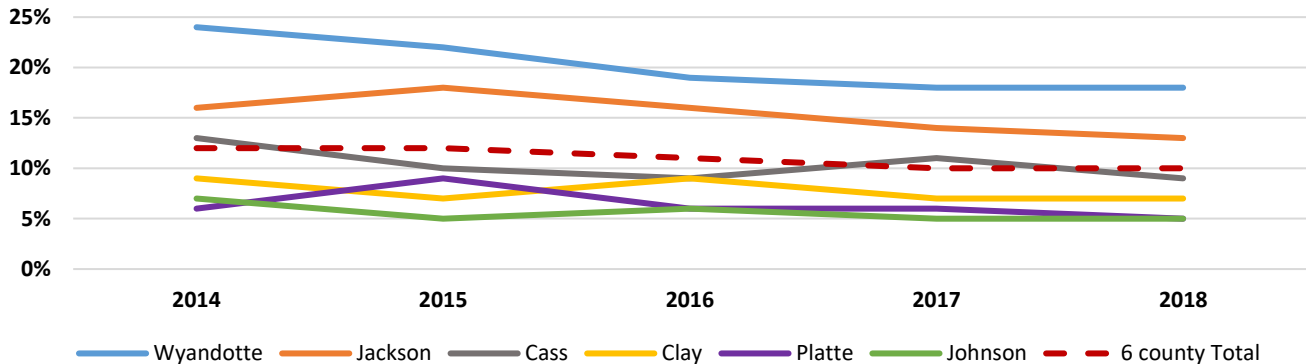
### Greater Kansas City Community Profile

Recent data from the 2018 U.S. Census American Community Survey indicate that while there has been little change in the percentage of persons living at or below the poverty level in the past year in the greater Kansas City region, there was a steady decrease in overall levels of poverty from 2014 to 2018. Economic conditions continue to improve for many residents in the community, but a significant proportion of residents—1 in 10—continue to have income below 100% of the federal poverty level. Additionally, 1 in 4 residents (464,857 people) was low-income, defined as income less than two times the federal poverty level in 2018.

**Poverty Trends at 3 Income Thresholds**  
**6-County Kansas City Area**



**Poverty Rate by County, 2014-2018**  
**100% of the Federal Poverty Level**



The communities in the region that have historically had the highest levels of poverty have overall seen the greatest reductions since 2014.

- In Kansas, Wyandotte County saw an almost 25% reduction in the number of people living at or below the poverty level between 2014 and 2018—from 38,710 to 28,860.
- In this same 5-year period, the number of people in Cass County, Missouri living at or below the poverty level fell from 12,990 to 8,874—or 31.6%
- Between 2014 and 2018 in Jackson County, Missouri the poverty level fell 19.4%, or from 110,380 to 88,942.
- The U.S. poverty rate in 2018 was 13.1%. In Missouri the 2018 poverty rate was 13.2%, and in Kansas it was 12%. The combined 6 counties had a poverty rate of 9.6%, far lower than either state’s level.

	Extreme Poverty: <50%		Poverty: 100% FPL		Low-Income 200% FPL	
	# of Persons	Rate	# of Persons	Rate	# of Persons	Rate
<b>Johnson</b>	15,773	3.4%	31,942	5.4%	82,391	13.9%
<b>Wyandotte</b>	10,201	8.7%	28,860	17.7%	71,269	43.7%
<b>Cass</b>	2,925	3.0%	8,874	8.6%	21,778	21.0%
<b>Clay</b>	8,701	5.2%	16,488	6.8%	52,120	21.3%
<b>Jackson</b>	40,754	8.6%	88,942	12.9%	217,516	31.5%
<b>Platte</b>	3,221	6.0%	5,564	5.4%	19,756	19.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>81,575</b>	<b>4.3%</b>	<b>180,670</b>	<b>9.6%</b>	<b>464,857</b>	<b>24.6%</b>



### Young Children and Young Adults in the Kansas City Area Face the Highest Risk of Poverty.

Children under the age of 6 and young adults 18-24 have the highest rates of poverty in our region; 1 in 7 residents in each group live below 100% of the FPL compared to 1 in 10 for all ages. Senior adults—those above 65 years of age—have the lowest poverty rate in the region.

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	20,420	14.1%	49,282	34.0%
Children and Youth 6-17	41,790	13.0%	98,070	33.4%
Young Adults 18-24	21,447	14.3%	47,995	32.1%
Working-Age Adults 25-64	80,670	8.0%	206,420	20.4%
Seniors 65+	16,340	6.0%	63,690	23.4%
All Ages	180,670	9.6%	464,857	24.6%

### Race/Ethnicity and Education Matter

In 2018 poverty rates among Hispanic (18.2%) and African American (21.5%) residents in the Kansas City Metropolitan area were 3 or more times greater than poverty rates among white non-Hispanic residents in the community (6.6%). Household income levels across all demographic groups have increased over the past five years, but income for Hispanic (\$48,158) and African American (\$39,028) households lags significantly behind white non-Hispanic households (\$73,627).

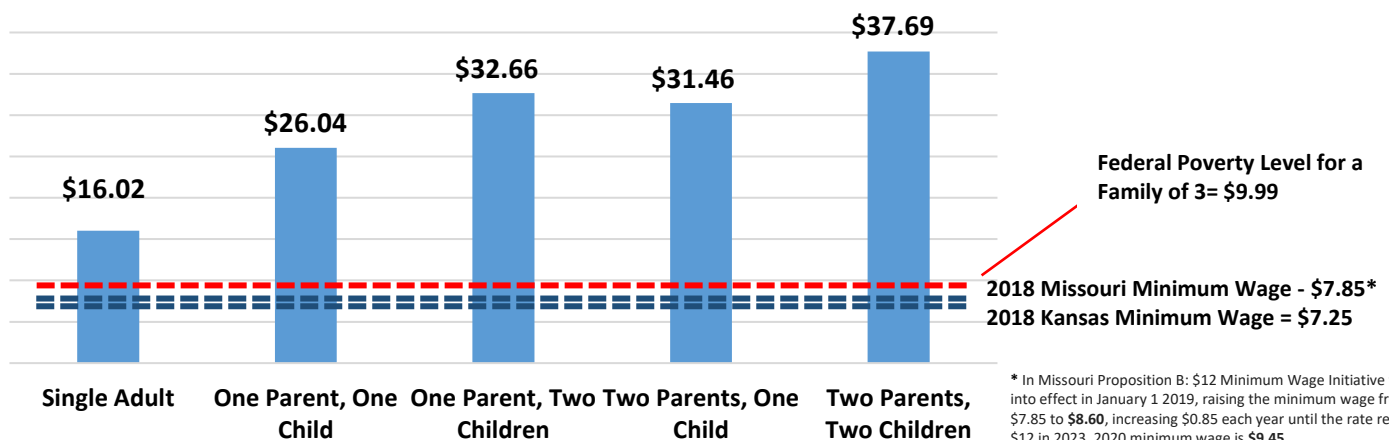
Median Household Income and Poverty Rates by Race/Ethnicity 2018

	Median Household Income	Poverty Rate: 100% FPL
African American	\$39,028	21.5
Hispanic	\$48,158	18.2
White non-Hispanic	\$73,627	6.6
6 County Total	\$65,768	9.6

Adults without a high school diploma are almost twice as likely to experience poverty as those who complete high school. Less than 3% of adults with a bachelor’s degree or higher lives in poverty. Those with a bachelor’s degree earn an average of \$24,000 more per year than those with only a high school diploma.

### Income and Cost of Living

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) annually publishes a geography-specific Family Budget Calculator, which estimates the income a household needs to maintain a modest yet adequate standard of living for the KC metro area. According to 2018 data, a household with one parent and two children needs to earn the equivalent of at least \$32.66 per hour (full-time, year-round) to afford necessities. Even for single adult households, income must be at least \$16 per hour to regularly sustain a household in the Kansas City Metro. The current minimum wage in both Kansas and Missouri falls short of the wages needed to cover the cost of living in the region, and also falls below the federal poverty level for a family of three (\$20,780, or \$9.99 per hour full time, year-round).



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