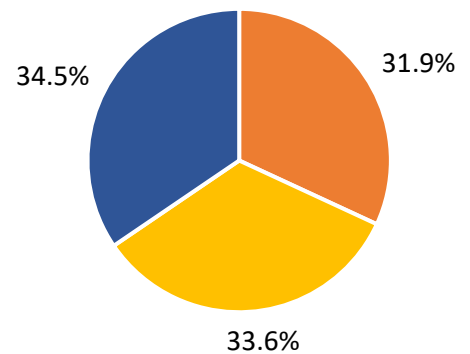


Characteristics of Children Staying at Home In Johnson County during COVID-19

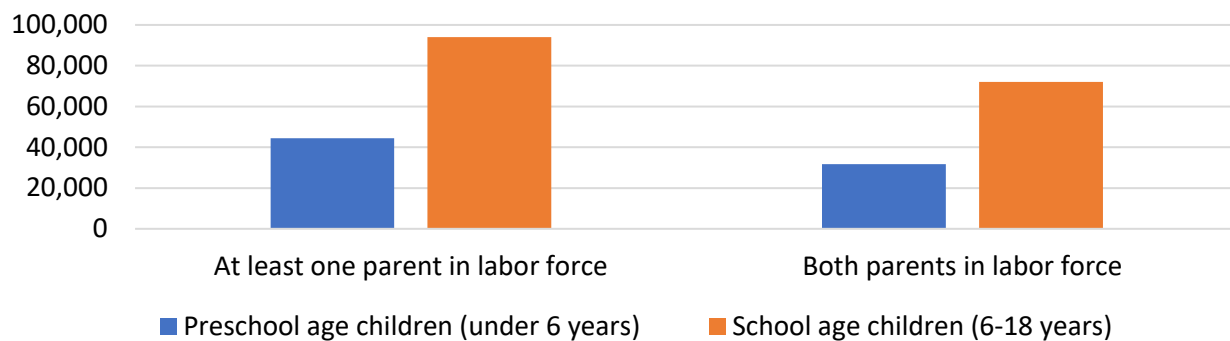
The COVID-19 crisis and subsequent stay-at-home order in Kansas has generated a new normal in Johnson County: children are staying at home. Public schools have been ordered to close, and many of them will remain closed until the end of the current academic year and through the summer. Many childcare centers and out-of-school programs have also closed temporarily and are evaluating how to reopen safely while maintaining social distancing protocols, which may result in fewer available slots. In Johnson County, there are more than 145,500 children under the age of 18. 92% of children (age 3 to 17 years) are enrolled in school/preschool, and of those 81% are enrolled in public schools. More than 3 in 5 children are school-age and may require some form of homeschooling from their caregivers while staying home due to COVID-19.

Johnson County Children by Age



Most children in Johnson County live with their parents, while 5% live with grandparents, foster parents, or other relatives. Data from the U.S. Census Bureau suggests that most of these children are staying at home with parents who are in the labor force, which means they are able and available to work. A rapid spike in unemployment due to the economic fallout of COVID-19 makes it difficult to determine how many of those parents are currently working. However, 97% of children live with at least one parent in the labor force, while 73% live with two parents who are in the labor force.

Labor Force Participation of Parents by Age of Children
Johnson County, KS



The economic experiences of these may children vary significantly based on their household living arrangement. The median household income in Johnson County for married-couple families is \$126,543, compared to \$56,888 for male-headed households and \$41,477 for female-headed households. Inadequate household income increases the risk for food insecurity and housing instability, which may be exacerbated by the current unemployment conditions. Currently, 1 in 4 children in Johnson County qualifies for free and reduced lunch (FRL) and nearly 1 in 4 children live in rental housing. Data indicates that approximately 7% of children live in households with incomes low enough to qualify for some form of public assistance.

Poverty rate of children by household living arrangement			
In Johnson County	In married-couple household	In male-headed household	In female-headed household
6.8%	2.5%	11.8%	27.2%

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Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2014-2018