

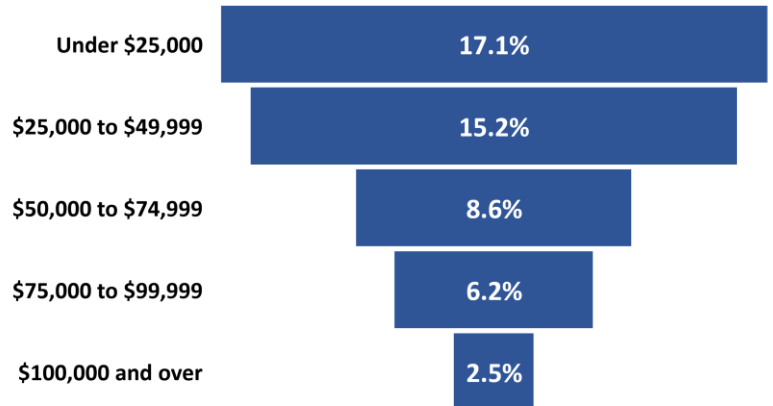


Health Insurance Status and the Case for Medicaid Expansion in Kansas

According to data from the U.S. Census Bureau, 34,900 people, or almost 6% of Johnson County’s population, were uninsured in 2021. Health insurance coverage for individuals and families is vital for the health and well-being of the entire community. It provides financial protection from the costs associated with medical care, including hospital stays, doctor visits, prescription drugs, and other services. Health insurance helps people to access the care they need when they need it so they can maintain good health, care for their loved ones, and participate in activities, such as the workforce, that keep our community running smoothly. A 2018 research and policy review by Kaiser Family Foundation found that access to affordable health insurance and care can help people maintain or manage their health, promoting individuals’ ability to obtain and maintain employment.

Uninsured Rate by Household Income in Johnson County

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2021 5- year estimates

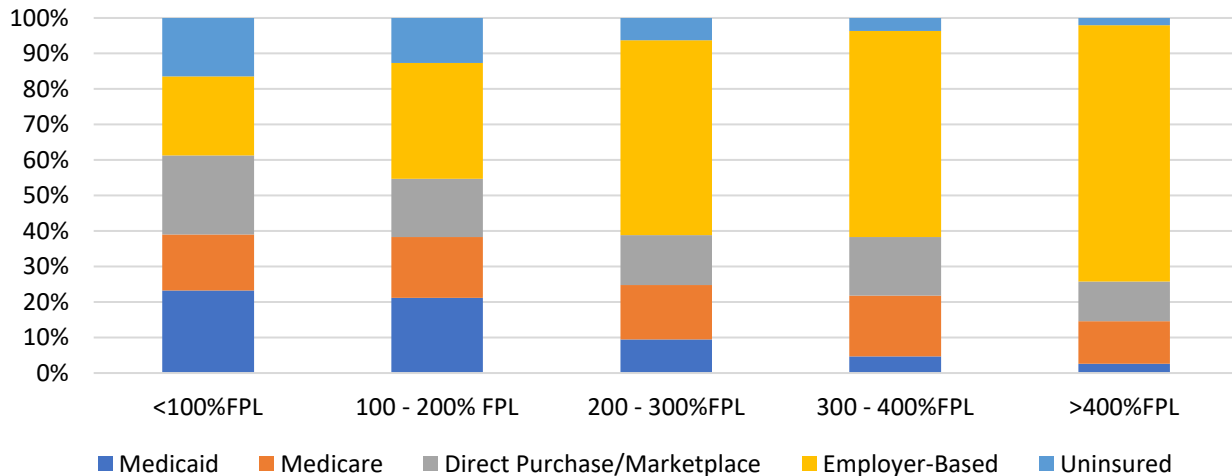


The uninsured rate in Johnson County varies by demographic factors such as income and race. Black residents in Johnson County were more than twice as likely than white residents to be uninsured (13% compared to 5%); Hispanic residents were four times as likely to be uninsured than white residents (22% compared to 5%). Nearly 20% of all Johnson County residents with incomes below the poverty level were uninsured in 2021.

Among the insured population in Johnson County, the most common form of health insurance is employer-based coverage. Households with higher incomes are more likely to have employer-based coverage than low-income households.

Source of Health Insurance by Federal Poverty Level in Johnson County

Source: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2021 5- year estimates



Those with employer-based health insurance benefit in a number of ways. According to the Kansas Health Institute, on average, employers cover 80% of the health insurance premium costs for employees. Contributions employees make to their health insurance premiums can be made pre-tax, lowering a household's taxable income. On average in Kansas in 2021, the annual health insurance premium contribution for an individual employee was \$1,458, and \$5,669 for an employee with a family. In addition to premiums, health insurance deductibles—or the amount a policy holder is required to pay out of pocket before health insurance plans start to pay-- can present a significant financial cost. In Kansas in 2021, an individual employee paid just under \$2,000 on average for deductible costs, and family deductibles averaged \$3,600.

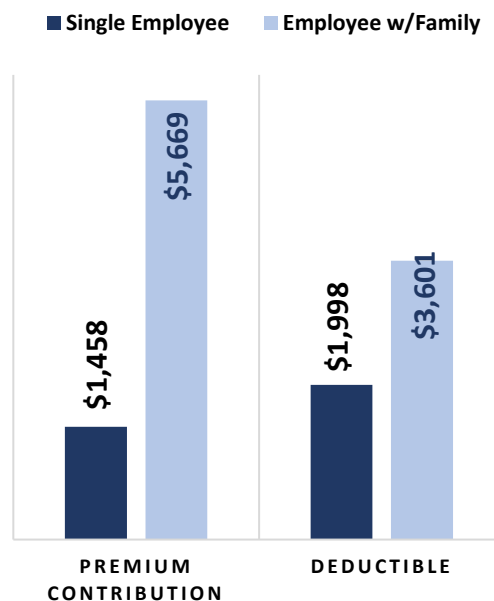
Those without access to employer-provided health insurance are able to purchase health insurance directly on the health insurance marketplace provided through the Affordable Care Act (ACA). Across income levels, Johnson County households obtain their health insurance through the ACA marketplace. Nearly a quarter of all Kansas ACA marketplace enrollees live in Johnson County; in 2022, more than 26,700 people in Johnson County enrolled in a marketplace health insurance plan, according to Kansas Health Institute. The average monthly ACA premium in Kansas is \$104 per month with subsidies, or \$1,248 annually; and \$562 per month without subsidies, or \$6,744 annually.

More than 9 in 10 Kansas marketplace enrollees receive subsidies. Prior to 2021, ACA subsidy eligibility included those with household incomes between 100% and 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 expanded subsidy eligibility to those making above 400% of the Federal Poverty Level (\$51,040 for an individual, \$104,800 for a family of four). While those at higher levels of income now have access to ACA subsidies to make their health insurance more affordable, Kansas continues to have a gap in coverage options for those making between 38% and 100% of the Federal Poverty Level.

In Kansas, federal Medicaid dollars are administered through the program known as KanCare. KanCare eligibility currently provides no coverage options for adults without a disability and without children under the age of 18, or for adults with children who make more than 38% of FPL (\$8,751 for a family of three). In states that have expanded Medicaid, households with incomes up to 138% of FPL are eligible for benefits. Kansas is now one of only 11 states that has opted not to expand Medicaid. Medicaid Expansion would create a path to health insurance for more than 9,700 Johnson County residents currently uninsured by increasing eligibility to 138% of the FPL, or a maximum annual income of \$31,781.

It is important to note that 125,000 Kansans may be removed from KanCare in 2023 due to the end of the continuous enrollment requirement that was part of the in Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA). Put into place at the beginning of the COVID pandemic, the continuous enrollment provision allowed those who were already enrolled in KanCare to stay enrolled without going through the renewal process. Congress set March 31, 2023, as the end date for this provision.

Average Annual Premium and Deductible for Employer-Provided Health Insurance in Kansas 2021



Sources: U.S. Census American Community Survey 2021 5-year estimates; Kansas Health Institute 2022; Kaiser Family Foundation