

Poverty in Johnson County Cities

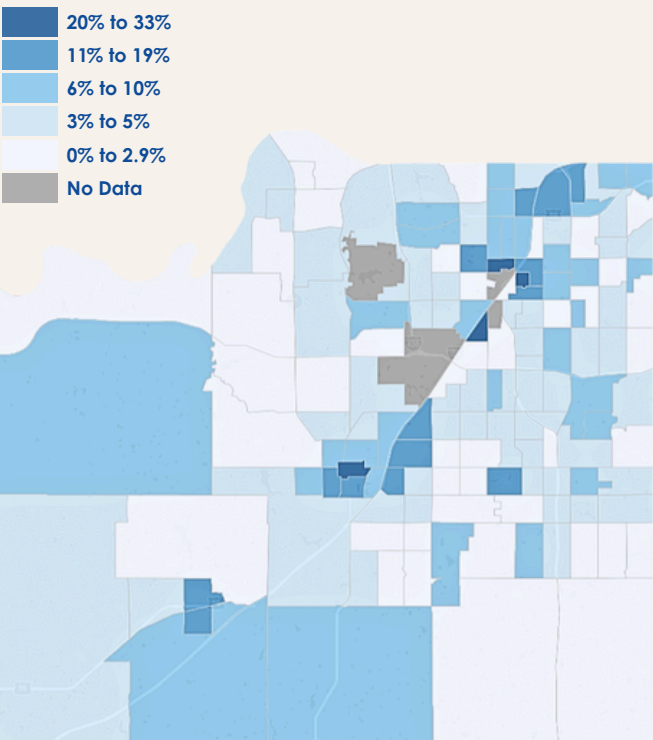
More than 32,000 Johnson County residents, or 6% of the population, live below the federal poverty level, according to 5-year estimates from the U.S. Census Bureau. Thousands more earn just enough to avoid the technical definition of poverty, which was \$12,430 and \$37,290 for a family of three in 2023.

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 65,000 people.

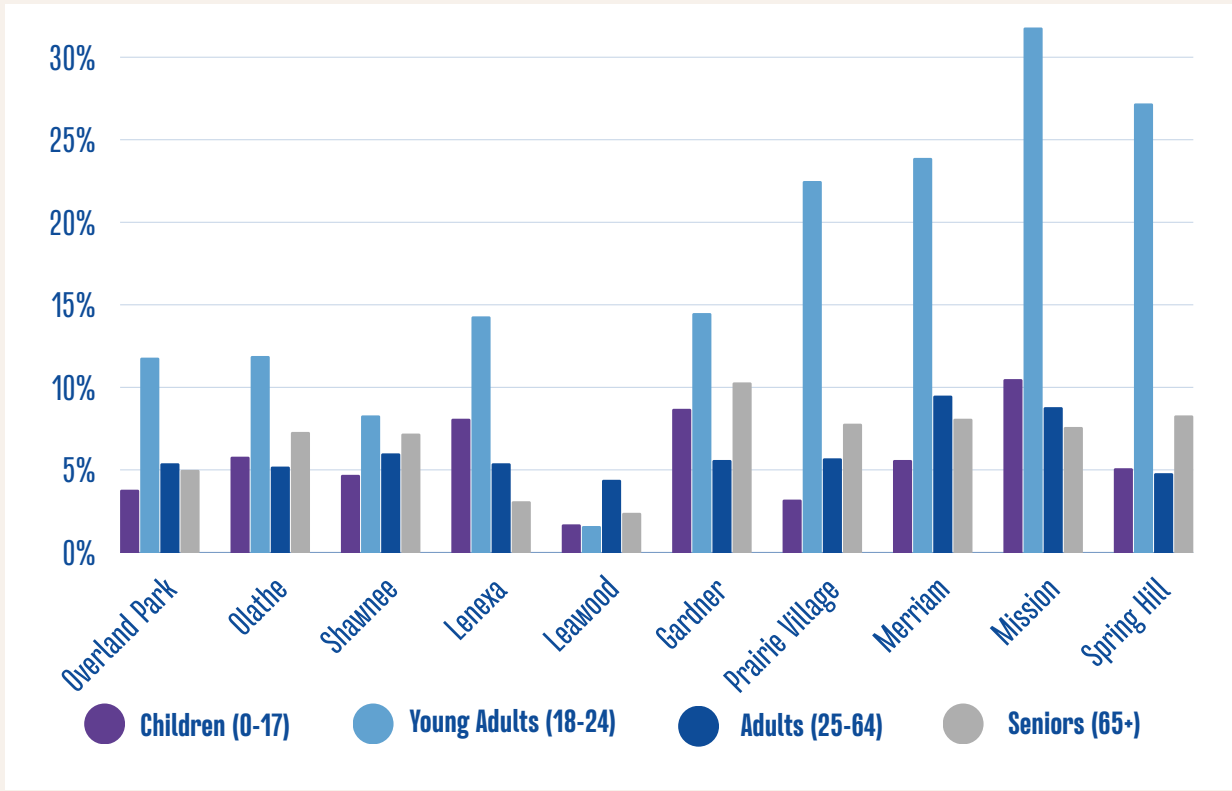
While poverty can be found throughout Johnson County, mapping analysis conducted by Johnson County Department of Health and Environment (JCDHE) indicates that poverty is greater in certain geographic locations.

Census tracts with relatively higher poverty rates are 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. Poverty at the city level varies by age group. In most of the large cities in Johnson County, the rate of poverty for young adults (also known as transitional-age youth age 18-24) is higher than that of any other age group.

Percent below poverty



Poverty Rate By Age Group
10 Largest Johnson County Cities



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey 5-year estimates 2019-2024. 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.

Individuals and families in poverty do not have enough income to meet their basic needs. As a result, they have limited resources with which to choose safe and affordable housing, healthy food, reliable transportation, and health care services. Poverty is one of the most prevalent social determinants of health and has implications for where, how, and how long a person lives. Cities should consider innovative programs as well how policy and system reform opportunities when considering how to address the needs of residents in poverty.

Population and Poverty In Johnson County Cities and Townships			
	Total Population	Poverty (under 100%)	Poverty Rate
Cities			
De Soto	6,276	166	2.6%
Edgerton	1,772	66	3.7%
Fairway	4,177	157	3.8%
Gardner	23,724	1,693	7.1%
Lake Quivira	942	20	2.1%
Leawood	33,774	836	2.5%
Lenexa	57,520	3,308	5.8%
Merriam	10,889	897	8.2%
Mission	9,868	1,043	10.6%
Mission Hills	3,556	37	1.0%
Mission Woods	182	1	0.5%
Olathe	141,909	7,935	5.6%
Overland Park	195,763	9,533	4.9%
Prairie Village	22,567	1,316	5.8%
Roeland Park	6,800	779	11.5%
Shawnee	67,689	3,627	5.4%
Spring Hill	8,628	550	6.4%
Westwood	1,843	42	2.3%
Westood Hills	484	2	0.4%
Townships			
Aubry township	4,666	22	0.5%
Gardner township	1,880	246	13.1%
Lexington township	1,208	22	1.8%
McCamish township	980	19	1.9%
Olathe Township	517	10	1.9%
Oxford Township	1,946	14	0.7%
Spring Hill Township	2,569	301	11.7%
Total	612,139	32,642	5.3%