

Characteristics of the Poor in Johnson County

Unlike poverty rates, the percentages on this page tell us the portion of the poor that have certain characteristics. For example in 2012, of all the people with income below 100% of the federal poverty level 32% were under age 18, 61% were between 18 and 64, and 7% were over age 65. The percentages add to 100 and represent all the people with income below the poverty level.

While the number of poor has more than doubled in Johnson County, the characteristics have remained relatively stable. **When compared to suburbs across the country, Johnson County is very similar. Notable differences are a larger portion of the poor in Johnson County are white-non-Hispanic, are working and are college educated.**

	2000	2012	In All U.S. Suburbs**
Number of poor	15,320	37,450	
Number of poor families	2,621	6,760	
Number of poor unrelated individuals	6,927	14,954	
Unemployment rate - annual average	3.0%	5.0%	
Number of unemployed - annual average	7,884	14,898	
Share of poor individuals:			
In deep poverty (< 50% of the federal poverty level)	44%	43%	44%
With a disability	22%	12%	16%
Who are:			
Under age 18	28%	32%	35%
Ages 18-64	62%	61%	57%
Age 65 and over	10%	7%	8%
Foreign-born	14%	15%	20%
Non-citizen	11%	12%	
White, non-Hispanic	72%	63%	44%
Unrelated individuals (Age 15 and older)	45%	40%	
16 -64 years old who:			
Worked full time, year round		8%	9%
Worked part time or part year		51%	33%
Did not work		41%	59%
25 years and older with:			
Less than a high school diploma	20%	12%	30%
A high school diploma	25%	27%	32%
Some college or an associate's degree	31%	31%	25%
A bachelor's degree or higher	24%	31%	12%
Share of poor families:			
With at least one worker		75%	66%
Who are:			
Married with children	28%	30%	27%
Married with no children	19%	15%	13%
Male-headed, with children	5%	8%	8%
Male-headed, no children	2%	<1%	3%
Female-headed, with children	41%	42%	44%
Female-headed, no children	4%	4%	7%

* U.S. Census Bureau, 2010 Decennial Census, American Community Survey, 2012 1-year estimates

** "Confronting Suburban Poverty in America," Elizabeth Kneebone and Alan Berube, 2013
Data compiled by UCS, May 2014