



WICHITA STATE
UNIVERSITY

W. FRANK BARTON
SCHOOL OF BUSINESS

Center for Economic Development
and Business Research

Children in Families in Poverty by School District in the Wichita Metropolitan Area

This document presents annual income and poverty statistics released by the U.S. Census Bureau' Small Area Income and Poverty Estimates (SAIPE) program in 2014. Estimates for the number of children who are aged from 5 to 17 in families in poverty by school district and median household income by county are explored for the Wichita Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Butler, Harvey, Kingman, Sedgwick, and Sumner counties.

To determine poverty status, SAIPE compares total annual income to a set of dollar value thresholds that differ by family size, number of related children, and age of householder. A family and every member in it are in poverty when their before tax-money income is below the dollar value of their threshold.

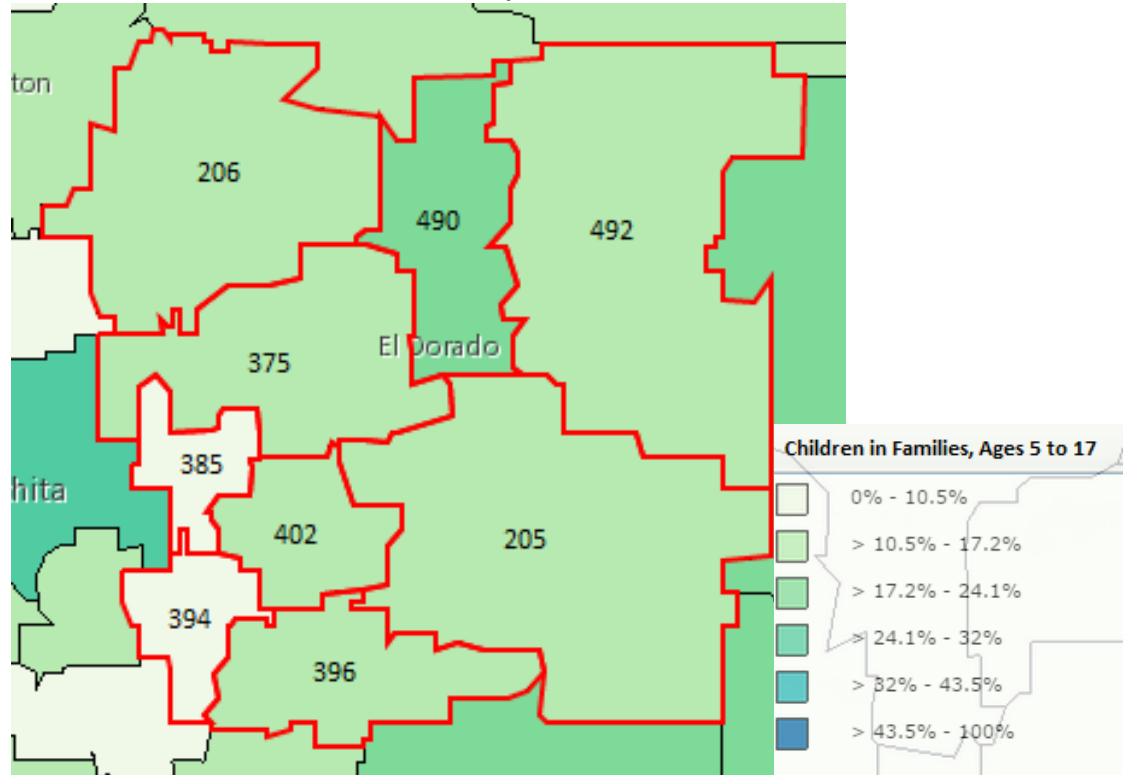
Highlights

- In the Wichita metro area, Sedgwick County had lower shares of school-age children in families in poverty and Sumner County had higher shares. However, these two counties had school districts with poverty rates surpassing both Kansas and the United States averages. In fact, in 2013, the share of school-age children in families in poverty was 25.3 percent in the Wichita Unified School District (Sedgwick County) and 23.3 percent in the Caldwell Unified School District (Sumner County).
- All the school districts in Harvey County had shares of school-age children in families in poverty lower than Kansas and the United States averages.
- In the Wichita metro area, in the last few years, patterns of lower poverty rates can be observed in the following school districts: Circle Unified School District 375 (Butler County), Burrton Unified School District (Harvey County), and Mulvane Unified School District (Sedgwick County).
- Although median household income increased in each county between 2006 and 2013, poverty stayed elevated or kept increasing for most school districts in the Wichita metro area. Several reasons can explain this paradox, such as, higher costs of living or new higher paying jobs being offered to people who are not in poverty.

Butler County

The map below indicates the distribution of school-age children, who are aged from 5 to 17, living in families in poverty by school district in Butler County, Kansas, in 2013. The white areas indicate the school districts with the lowest poverty rates ranging below 10.5 percent; while, the green areas indicate the school districts with higher poverty rates ranging above 10.5 percent.

**Children in Families in Poverty by School District in 2013
Butler County¹**



In 2013, the school districts with the lowest poverty rates were the Andover Unified School District 385 (7.0 percent) and the Rose Hill Public Schools Unified School District 394 (7.6 percent).

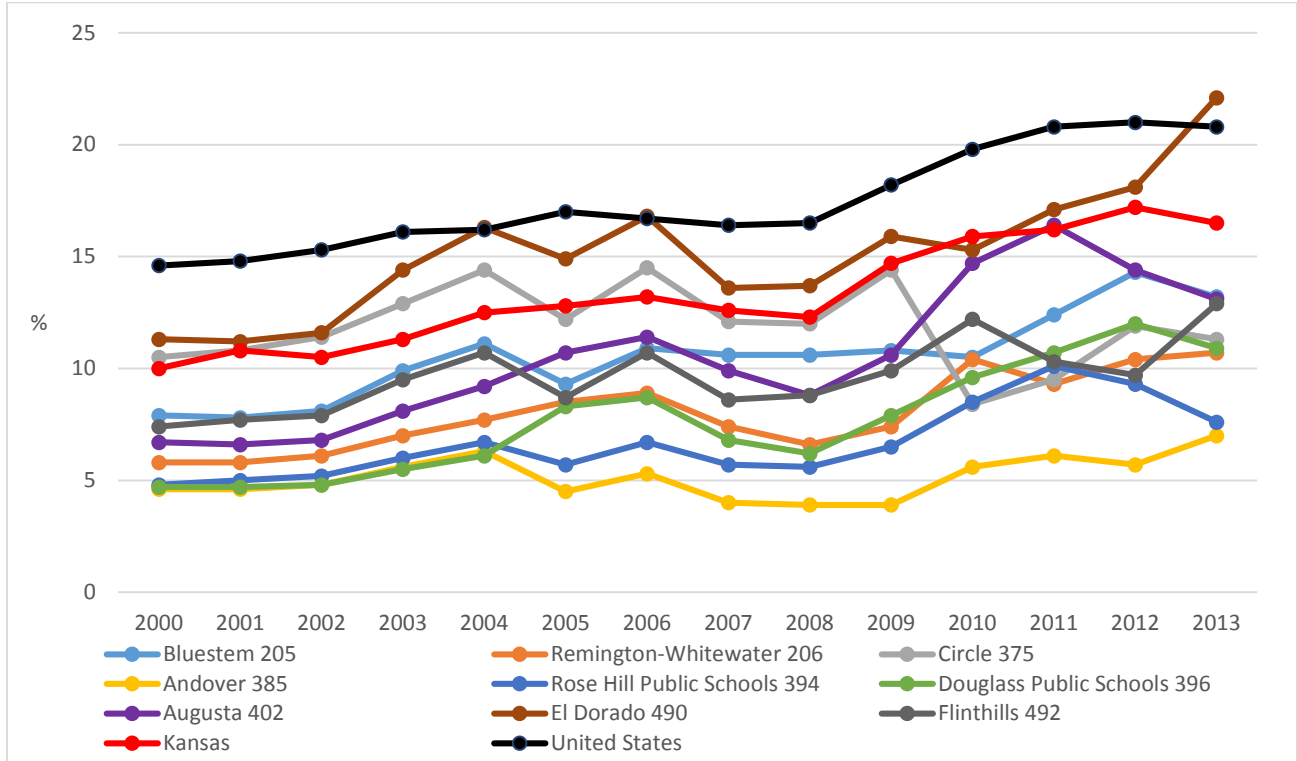
With 22.1 percent of school-age children in families in poverty, the El Dorado Unified School District 490 had the highest poverty rate, which surpassed Kansas (16.5 percent) and the United States (20.8 percent).

The graph below compares poverty rates by school district in Butler County for school-age children in families in poverty from 2000 to 2013. Historically, Andover and Rose Hill school districts had the lowest poverty rates in the county. Nonetheless, poverty rates in the Andover school district began to follow an upward trend from 2010, leading to the district's highest

¹ Indicated percentages are not true poverty rates since the denominator includes all children who are aged from 5 to 17.

poverty rate in 2013 (7 percent). On the other hand, the Circle Unified School District 375 began to experience lower poverty rates from 2010.

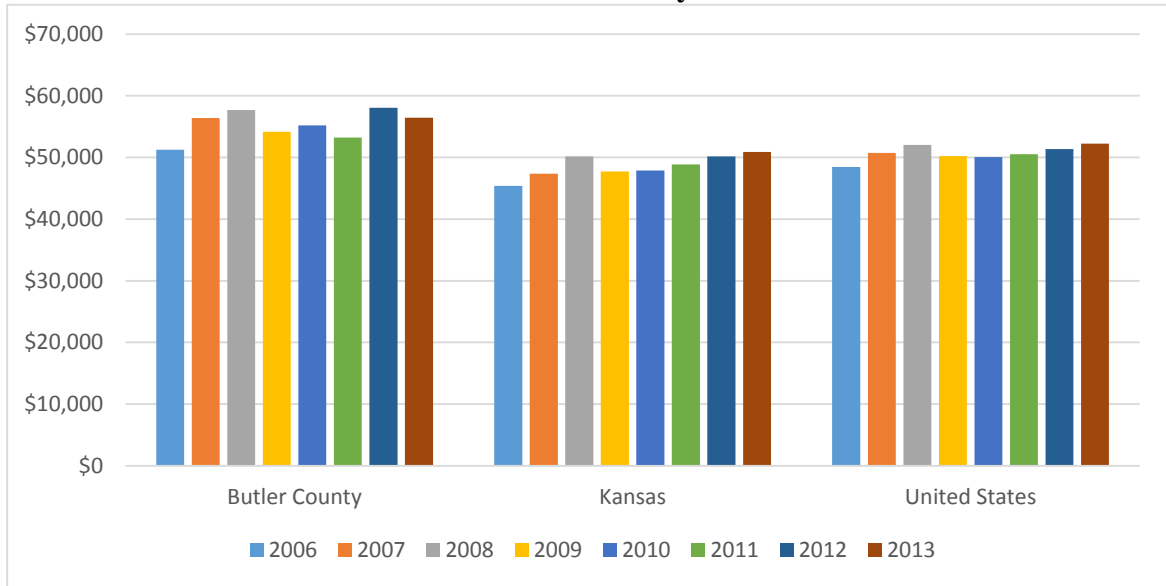
**Percent of Children in Families in Poverty by School District from 2000 to 2013
Butler County**



During the 13-year period, the El Dorado school district generally had the highest share of school-age children in families in poverty.

Overall, poverty rates increased in most school districts in Butler County. However, they have been lower than Kansas and the United States averages, partly due to a higher median household income. As the chart below depicts, Butler County’s median household income, ranging from \$51,254 in 2006 to \$58,031 in 2013, was consistently higher than Kansas and the United States averages during the eight-year period.

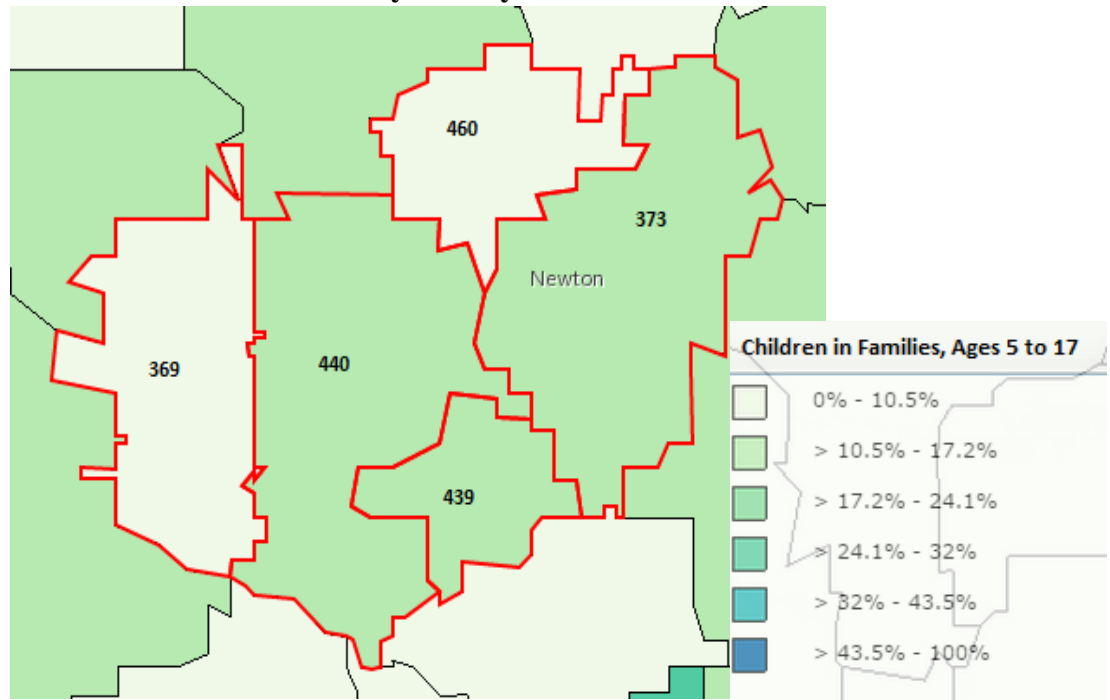
**Median Household Income from 2006 to 2013
Butler County**



Harvey County

The map below indicates the distribution of school-age children, who are aged from 5 to 17, living in families in poverty by school district in Harvey County, Kansas, in 2013. The white areas indicate the school districts with the lowest poverty rates ranging below 10.5 percent; while, the green areas indicate the school districts with higher poverty rates ranging above 10.5 percent.

Children in Families in Poverty by School District in 2013 Harvey County²

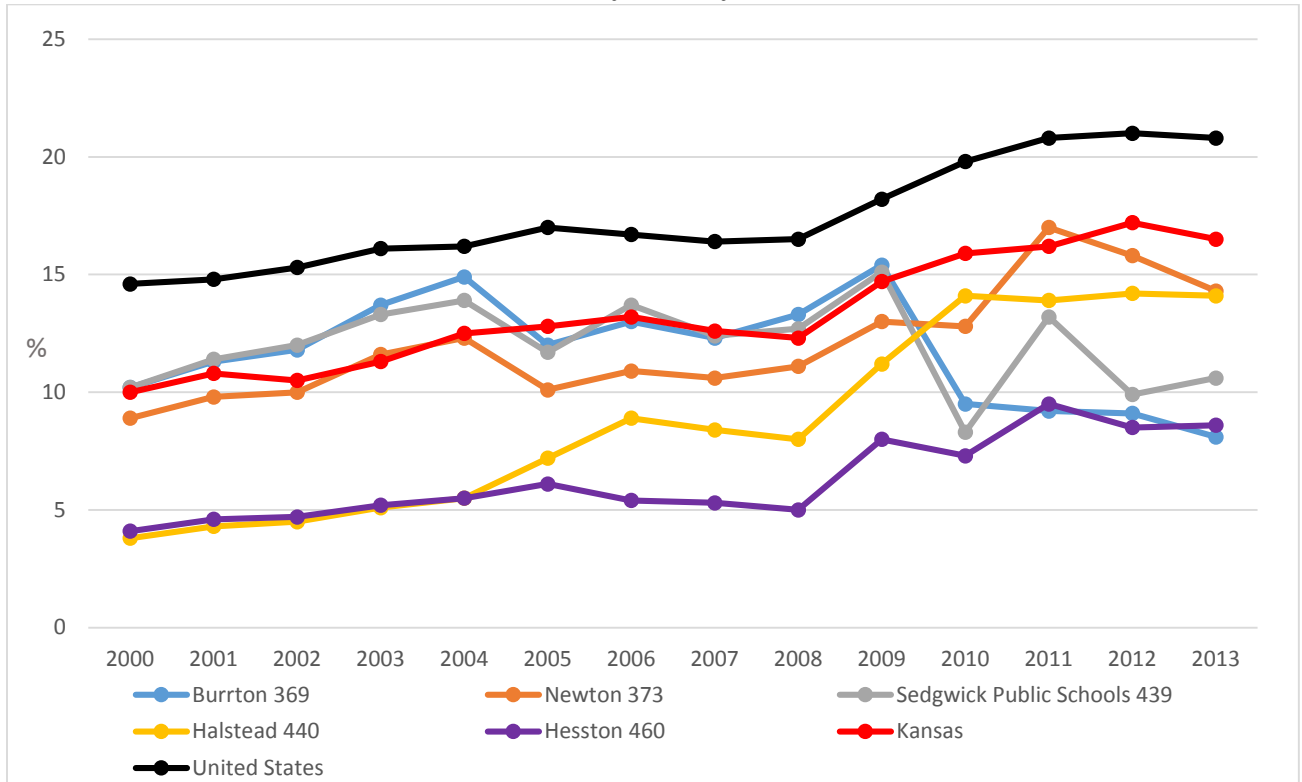


In 2013, the school districts in Harvey County with the lowest poverty rates were the Burrton Unified School District 369 (8.1 percent) and the Hesston Unified School District 460 (8.6 percent). The same year, all the school districts in the county had poverty rates lower than Kansas and the United States averages.

The graph below compares poverty rates by school district in Harvey County for school-age children in families in poverty from 2000 to 2013. Poverty rates in the Burrton school district and the Sedgwick Public Schools Unified School District 439 dropped by nearly 6 percentage points and 7 percentage points from 2009 to 2010, respectively. Since then, poverty rates in these two districts remained below Kansas averages, contrasting the previous years. Unlike the Sedgwick public schools, the Burrton school district poverty rates continued to decline between 2009 and 2013.

² Indicated percentages are not true poverty rates since the denominator includes all children who are aged from 5 to 17.

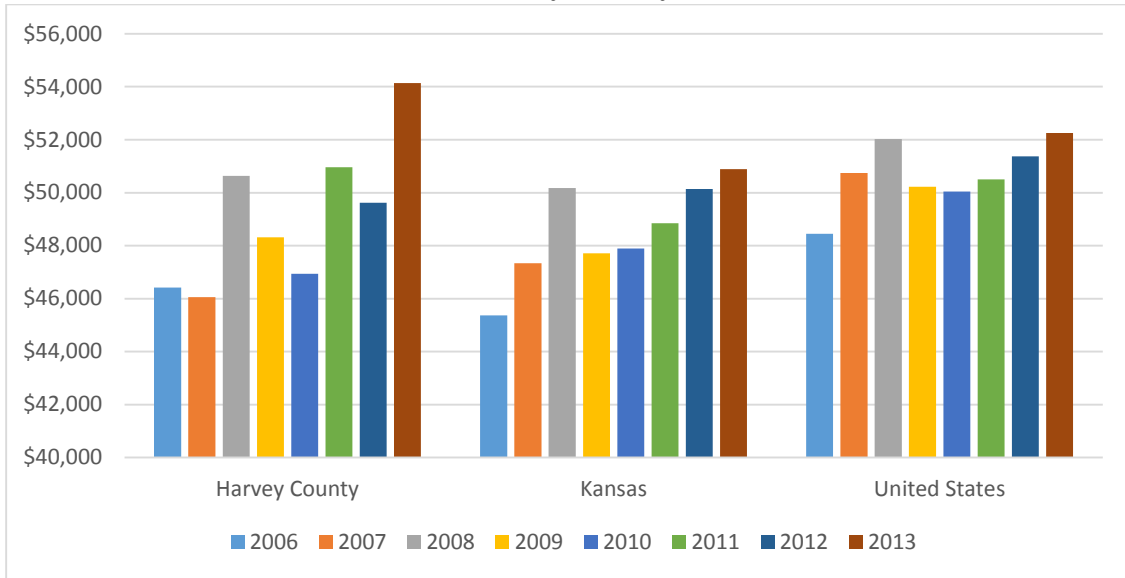
**Percent of Children in Families in Poverty by School District from 2000 to 2013
Harvey County**



From 2008, the Halstead Unified School District 440 and the Hesston school district started experiencing an upward trend in the shares of school-age children in families in poverty.

Different trends in the school districts' mirror fluctuating median household income in Harvey County, as depicted in the graph below. Harvey County's median household income varied widely between 2006 and 2013, ranging both above and below Kansas and the United States averages. Between 2012 and 2013, median household income in the county increased by 9.1 percent and surpassed the state and national averages.

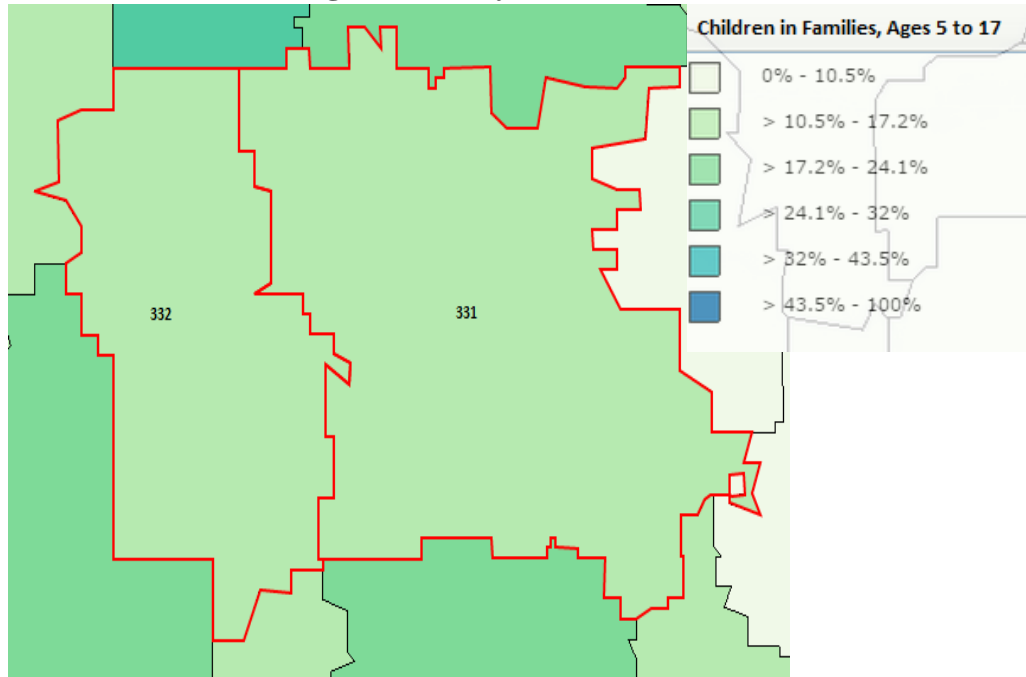
**Median Household Income from 2006 to 2013
Harvey County**



Kingman County

The map below indicates the distribution of school-age children, who are aged from 5 to 17, living in families in poverty by school district in Kingman County, Kansas, in 2013. The green areas indicate that both school districts in Kingman County have higher poverty rates ranging above 10.5 percent.

**Children in Families in Poverty by School District in 2013
Kingman County³**

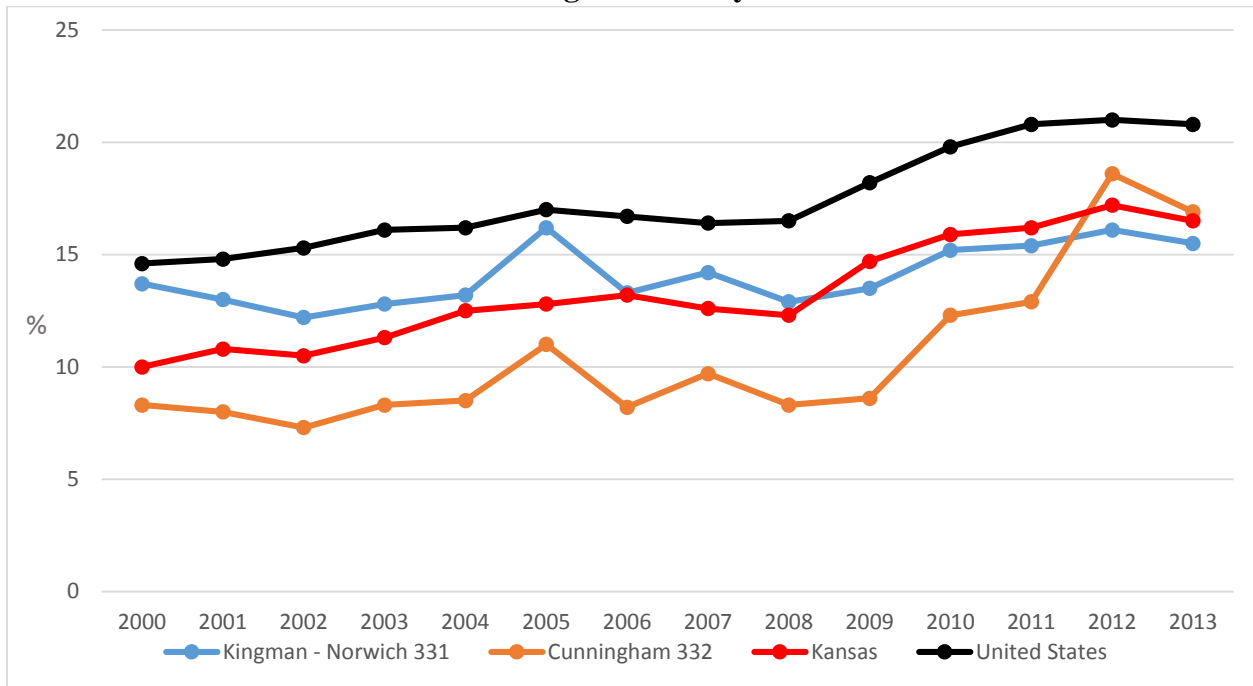


In 2013, the Cunningham Unified School District 332 and the Kingman-Norwich Unified School District 331 had 16.9 percent and 15.5 percent of school-age children in families in poverty, respectively. The same year, the poverty rate in the Cunningham school district was 0.4 percentage point higher than the state average and 3.9 percentage points lower than the national average.

The graph below compares poverty rates by school district in Kingman County for school-age children in families in poverty from 2000 to 2013. The Cunningham school district had the lowest poverty rates between 2000 and 2009. However, the district’s share of school-age children in families in poverty drastically increased by 10 percentage points between 2010 and 2012, surpassing Kansas averages and the Kingman-Norwich school’s poverty rates. Although the Kingman-Norwich school district always had higher poverty rates, they began to be less than the state averages the year the recession ended (2009).

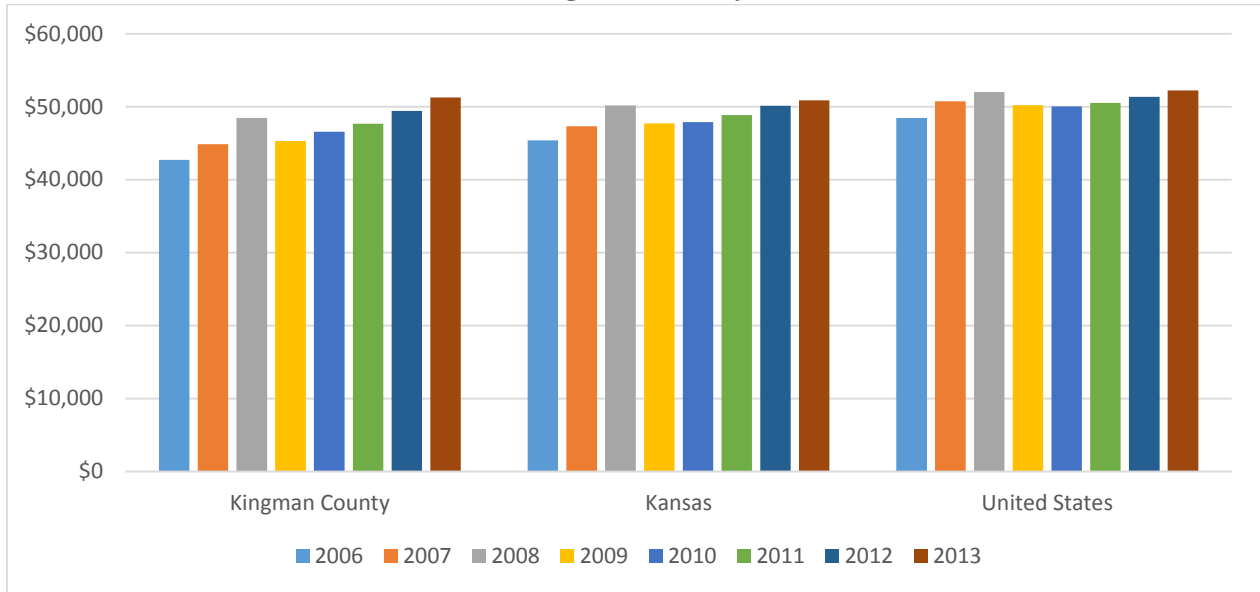
³ Indicated percentages are not true poverty rates since the denominator includes all children who are aged from 5 to 17.

**Percent of Children in Families in Poverty by School District from 2000 to 2013
Kingman County**



The median household income in Kingman County went up between 2006 and 2013 by \$8,581; but, this rise in income was not enough to lower the share of school age children in families in poverty. The county's median household income stayed below Kansas averages until 2013 and below the United States averages over the entire period.

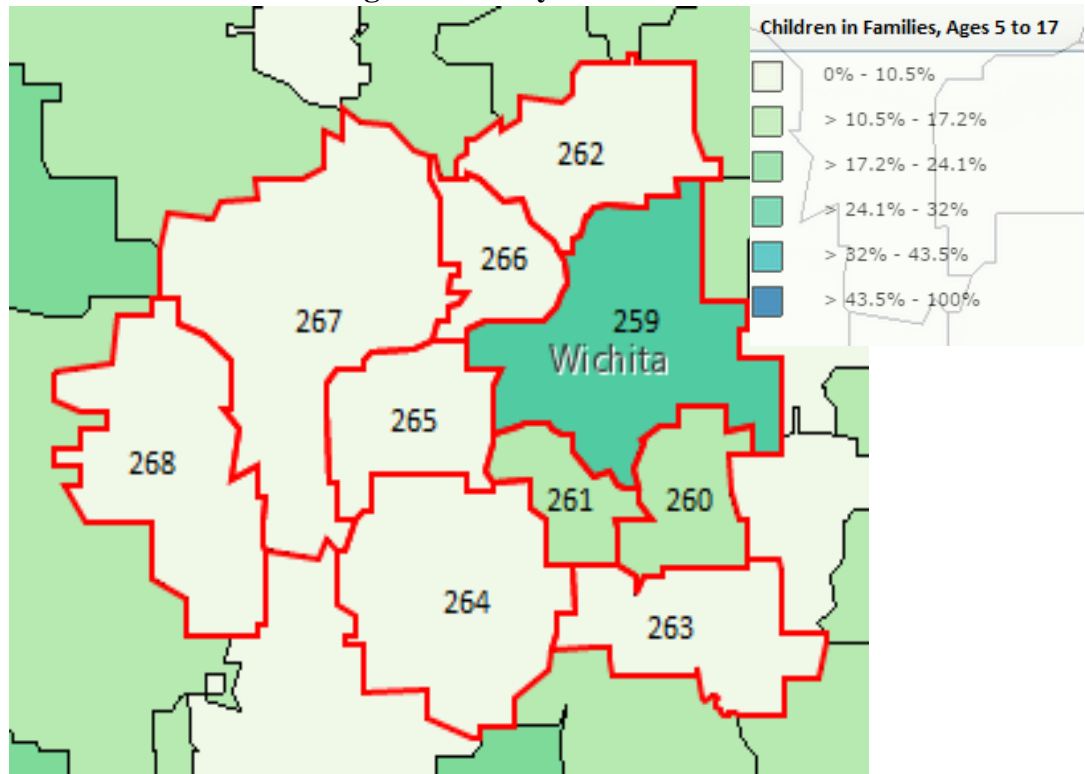
**Median Household Income from 2006 to 2013
Kingman County**



Sedgwick County

The map below indicates the distribution of school-age children, who are aged from 5 to 17, living in families in poverty by school district in Sedgwick County, in 2013. The white areas indicate the school districts with the lowest poverty rates ranging below 10.5 percent; while, the green areas indicate the school districts with higher poverty rates ranging above 10.5 percent.

**Children in Families in Poverty by School District in 2013
Sedgwick County⁴**



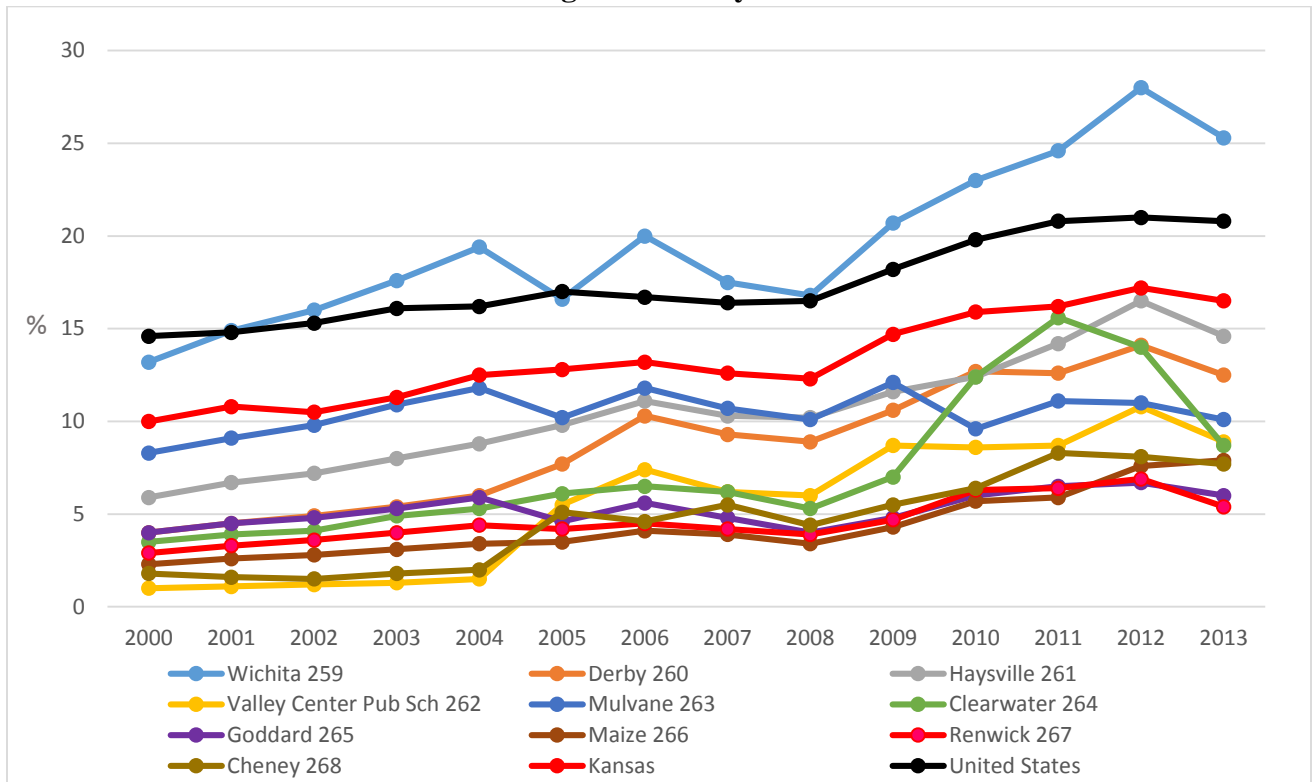
In Sedgwick County in 2013, the Wichita Unified School District 259 had the highest share of school-age children in families in poverty (25.3 percent). The poverty rate in the school district was nearly 9 percentage points and 4.5 percentage points higher than Kansas and the United States averages, respectively.

The Haysville Unified School District 261 (14.6 percent) and the Derby Unified School District 260 (12.5 percent) had the second and third highest poverty rates of school-age children, in 2013.

The graph below compares poverty rates by school district in Sedgwick County for school-age children in families in poverty from 2000 to 2013. Historically, the Wichita school district had higher poverty rates than the state and national averages, with the exception of the year 2001 when poverty rate was 1.4 percentage points less than the United States average. In the middle of the recession (2008) until 2012, poverty rates in the Wichita school district rose significantly by 11.2 percentage points. Similarly, poverty rates in the Clearwater Unified School District 264 nearly doubled in that time period going from 7 percent in 2009 to 15.6 percent in 2011.

⁴Indicated percentages are not true poverty rates since the denominator includes all children who are aged from 5 to 17.

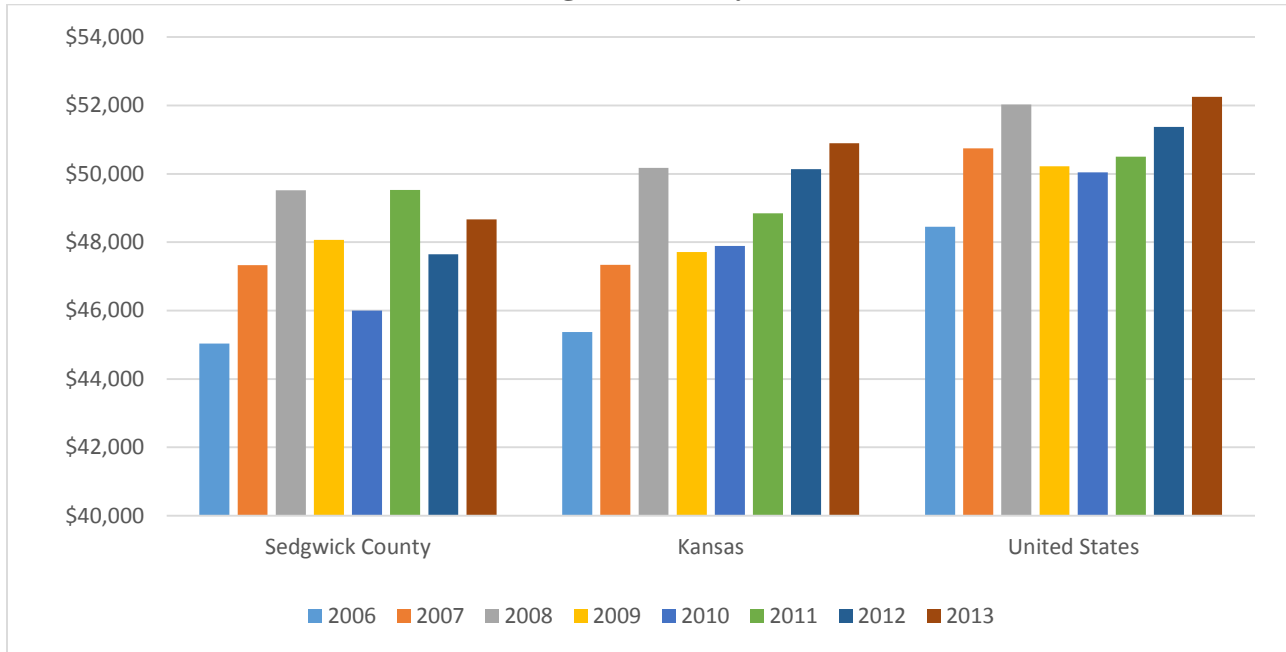
**Percent of Children in Families in Poverty by School District from 2000 to 2013
Sedgwick County**



The Mulvane Unified School District 263 started experiencing lower poverty rates from 2010. In 2013, poverty rate in the school district (10.1 percent) was lower than the year the recession started (10.7 percent in 2007).

Although shares of school-age children in families in poverty in school districts remained high, median household income in Sedgwick County slowly increased by \$3,635 between 2006 and 2013 as depicted by the following chart.

Median Household Income from 2006 to 2013 Sedgwick County

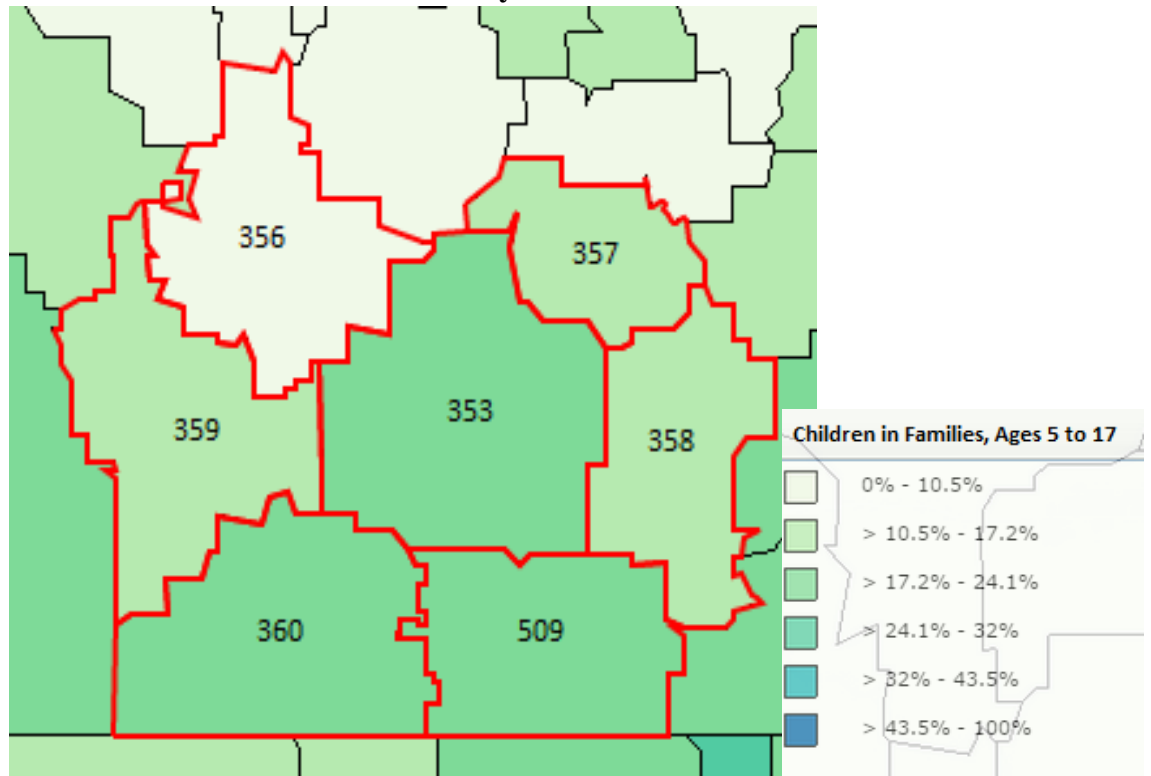


The median household income in Sedgwick County fluctuated and remained below the United States averages during the eight-year period. The county’s median household income was also surpassed by Kansas, except in 2009 and 2011.

Sumner County

The map below indicates the distribution of school-age children, who are aged from 5 to 17, living in families in poverty by school district in Sumner County, Kansas, in 2013. The white area indicates the school district with the lowest poverty rate; while, the green areas indicate the school districts with higher poverty rates ranging above 10.5 percent.

**Children in Families in Poverty by School District in 2013
Sumner County⁵**



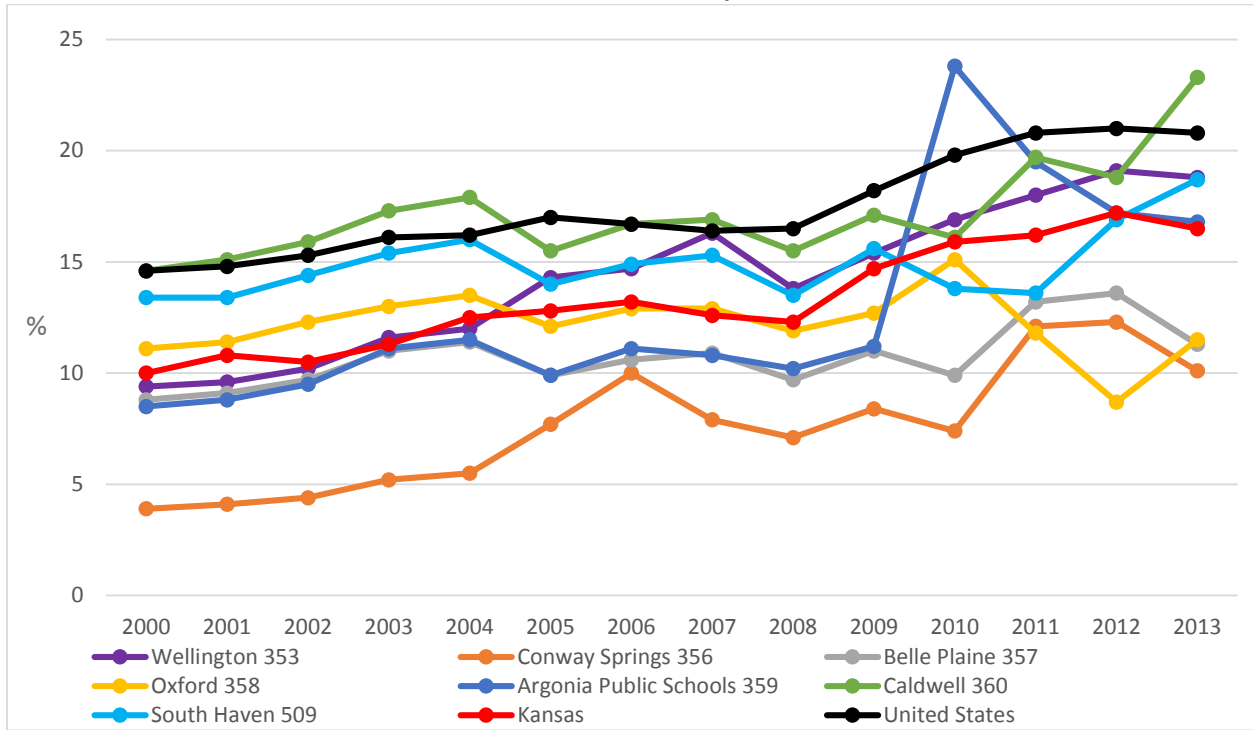
In 2013, the lowest poverty rates of school-age children in Sumner County were in the Conway Springs Unified School District 356 (10.1 percent), the Belle Plaine Unified School District 357 (11.3 percent), and the Oxford Unified School District 358 (11.5 percent).

The Caldwell Unified School District 360 had the highest poverty rate (23.3 percent) surpassing Kansas and the United States averages. The remaining school districts in Sumner County had poverty rates higher than Kansas, but below the United States.

The graph below compares poverty rates by school district in Sumner County for school-age children in families in poverty from 2000 to 2013. Poverty rates in most school districts in Sumner County increased during the 13-year period. Some school districts were affected by the recession as their poverty rates peaked in 2009 or 2010. For instance, the share of school-age children in families in poverty more than doubled between 2009 and 2010 in the Argonia Public Schools Unified School District 359, increasing to 23.8 percent from 11.2 percent.

⁵ Indicated percentages are not true poverty rates since the denominator includes all children who are aged from 5 to 17.

**Percent of Children in Families in Poverty by School District from 2000 to 2013
Sumner County**



Unlike other school districts, the Oxford Unified School District 358 experienced a steep decline in its poverty rates between 2010 (15.1 percent) and 2012 (8.7 percent). In 2013, the Oxford school district poverty rate (11.5 percent) was lower than pre-recession rates.

As the chart below depicts, the median household income in Sumner County increased slightly by \$3,074 during the eight-year period, which did not have a significant positive impact on poverty rates. In addition, median household income in the county was below the averages in Kansas and the United States during the time period, except for the year 2006 when Sumner County's median household income was \$2,401 higher than the state.

Median Household Income from 2006 to 2013 Sumner County

