

# STRONGER TOGETHER

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT



**UNITED WAY**  
Johnson and  
Washington Counties

 **DELTA DENTAL®**

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**UNITED IS THE WAY™**



**UNITED  
WAY**



# UNITED IS THE WAY

MEETING THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

## Dear Friends,

In 2024, United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties launched a Community Needs Assessment to better understand and address the challenges our region faces. With support from Common Good Iowa, we brought together local partners to identify key issues, gaps in services, and opportunities for collaboration.

Focusing on Youth Opportunity, Financial Security, Community Health, and Community Resilience, our workgroups provided invaluable insights that will guide our efforts to strengthen services and empower communities.

We are grateful to all who contributed their time and expertise. Your dedication helps us build a future where everyone can thrive.

With gratitude,

President & CEO

United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties







## UNITED WAY'S APPROACH TO THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

United Way is dedicated to fostering a thriving community by addressing critical needs in health, youth opportunity, community resilience, and financial stability. To effectively support Johnson and Washington Counties, we are conducting a comprehensive Community Needs Assessment (CNA) to analyze current data, evaluate the impact of existing programs, and identify areas requiring additional support.

Our CNA process is rooted in community collaboration, data-driven decision-making, and strategic planning. Through partnerships with local organizations, public agencies, and residents, we gathered qualitative and quantitative insights to inform this roadmap .

### GOALS OF THE COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

- **Evaluate Progress Over Time** – Assess changes in our community over the past decade.
- **Identify Critical Needs** – Examine social, economic, environmental, and health-related challenges affecting residents.
- **Prioritize Key Issues** – Guide resource allocation based on data-driven insights.
- **Address Service Gaps** – Identify unmet needs and opportunities for enhanced programming.
- **Strengthen Community Collaboration** – Foster cross-sector partnerships to drive collective impact.
- **Empower Residents and Organizations** – Equip stakeholders with knowledge and resources to advocate for sustainable change.

Through this process, United Way has developed a shared community roadmap that unites local stakeholders in driving meaningful, long-term change.

## STEERING COMMITTEE

The Steering Committee oversaw the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) by setting objectives and goals, developing strategies to ensure equity, and guiding the workgroups. The steering committee includes:

- Lynette Jacoby, Johnson County Social Services
- Cady Gerlach, Better Together 2030 & Greater IC
- Paul Johanson, Iowa Health Care
- Jennifer Banta, United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties
- Jenifer Roberts, Washington County Public Health

## COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT TIMELINE SUMMARY

### June – July

- In partnership with Johnson County Public Health, gather and categorize data.
- With assistance from Common Good Iowa and the Steering Committee, set goals and strategies for the CNA.

### August – September

- Identify data gaps and plan additional collection strategies.
- Finalize Impact Area workgroups and facilitate workgroup discussions.

### October – November

- Analyze outcomes of workgroup meetings with the Steering Committee.
- Host feedback sessions with partner agencies and United Way board of directors.

### January – February

- Draft the CNA report and begin socializing it.
- Continue to gather feedback from the Steering Committee, workgroups, and the community.





# OUR AREAS OF IMPACT

At United Way of Johnson and Washington Counties, we dedicate our **efforts and investments** to four interconnected areas that help families in our community achieve self-sufficiency. These areas **work together** to drive progress toward our goals.

By addressing each of these key aspects, we ensure that our community thrives:



## Healthy Community

Helping families stay healthy. Getting seniors to appointments. Improving health and wellbeing for all.

## Youth Opportunity

Connecting kids with the support they need to thrive from preschool through college and into their careers.

## Financial Security

Everyone deserves the opportunity to earn a living to sustain a family and build security. We help achieve those goals.

## Community Resiliency

When disasters occur, we're there with immediate relief and rebuilding support.

# COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

We bring people and resources together to tackle our communities' toughest challenges.

## PEOPLE SERVED IN OUR TWO-COUNTY AREA

181,324

people were served by United Way funded programs & partnerships across our counties last year.



JOHNSON COUNTY

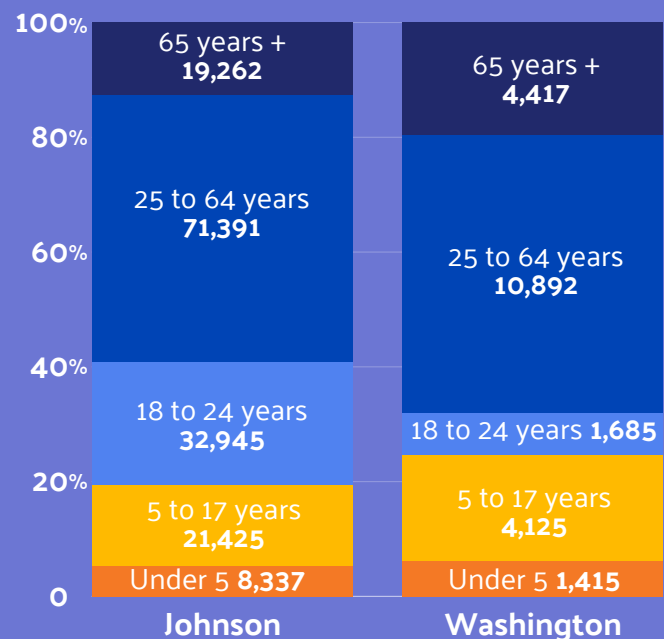
158,759

WASHINGTON COUNTY

22,565

## PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION BY AGE GROUP AND COUNTY

The region's population is distributed across the lifespan; Johnson County has a notably high share of young adults due to the presence of the University of Iowa.



Source: U.S Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018-22

# COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

## PERCENT OF THE TOTAL POPULATION BY RACE OR ETHNICITY AND COUNTY

Although still mostly white, the region’s population is becoming more diverse.

Note: Values do not equal 100%. Hispanic or Latino people may be of any race. People of American Indian Alaskan Native and Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander descent, not shown in table, made up less than 1% of the population in both counties.

|   | 2010-14 | 2019-23 |
|---|---------|---------|
| <b>Johnson County</b>   |         |         |
| Asian   | 6%      | 6%      |
| Black or African American   | 5%      | 8%      |
| Hispanic or Latino  | 5%      | 7%      |
| Two or more races   | 2%      | 7%      |
| White, not Hispanic   | 82%     | 76%     |
| <b>Washington County</b>  |         |         |
| Asian   | <1%     | <1%     |
| Black or African American   | <1%     | <1%     |
| Hispanic or Latino  | 5%      | 7%      |
| Two or more races   | 1%      | 4%      |
| White, not Hispanic   | 92%     | 89%     |
| Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2010-14 and 2019-23. |         |         |

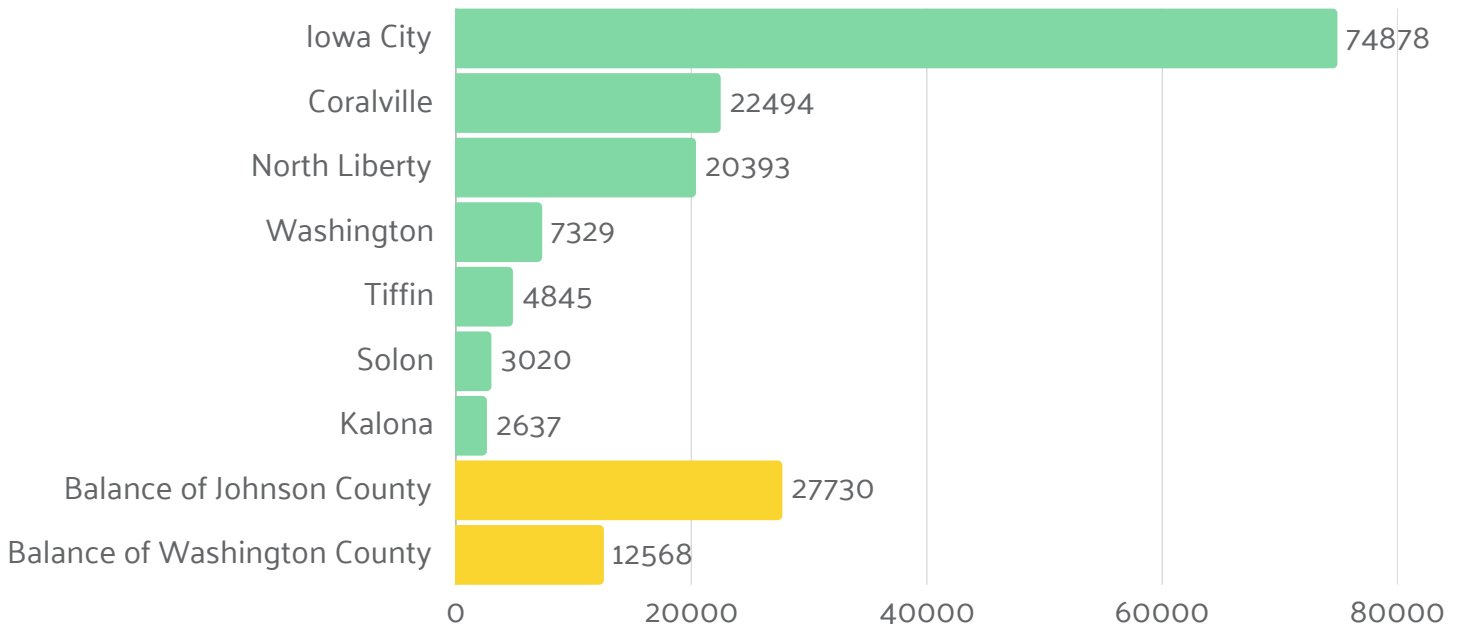




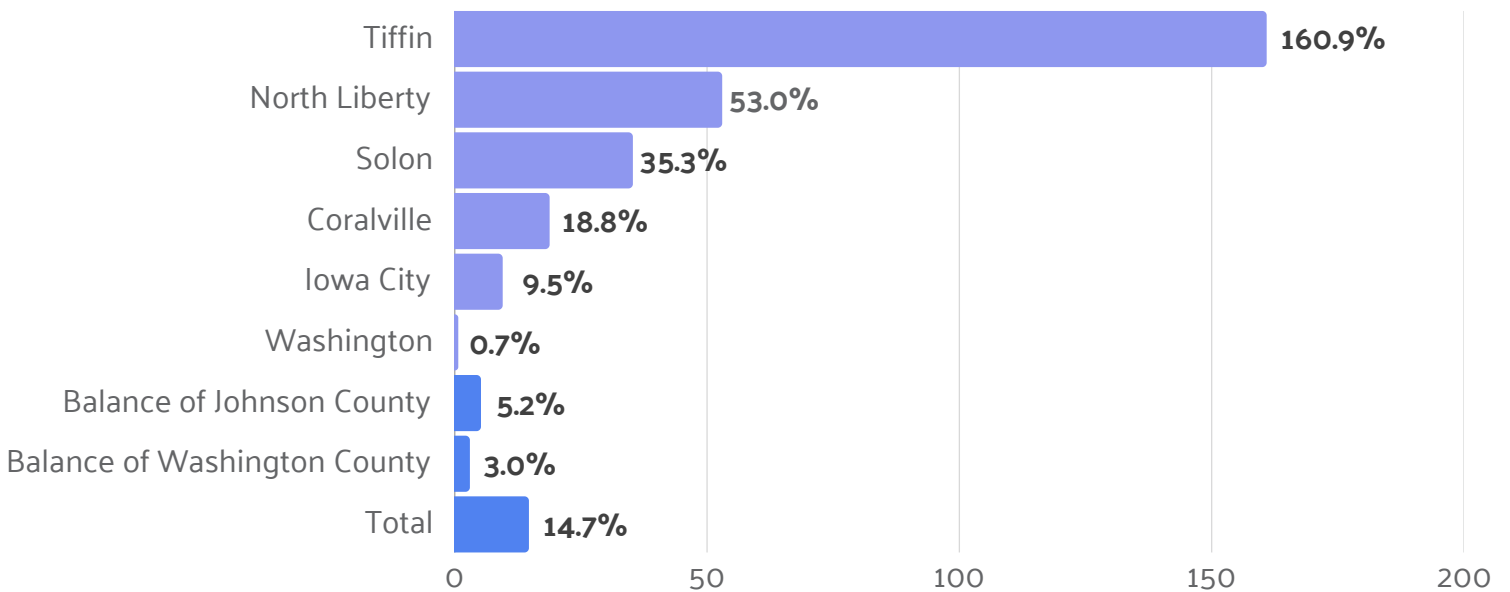
# COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

Iowa City remains region's largest city, but fastest **growth** is in suburbs

## POPULATION BY CITY AND BALANCE OF COUNTIES, 2018-22 AVERAGE



## POPULATION CHANGE BY CITY AND BALANCE OF COUNTIES, 2012-17 TO 2018-22



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2013-17 and 2018-22

# IMPACT AREA Healthy Community



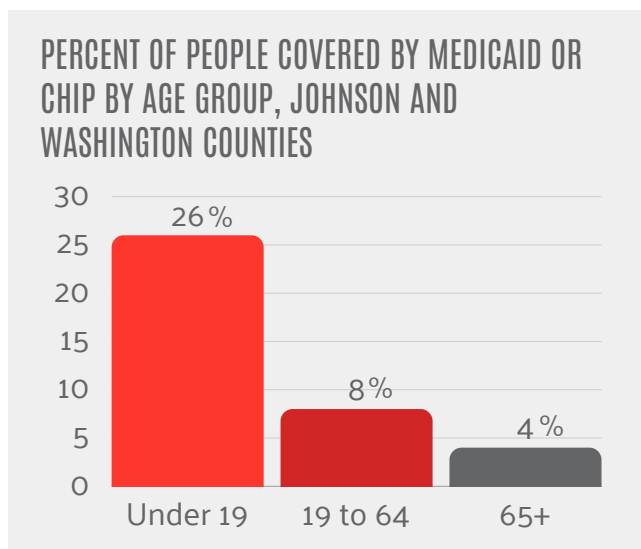


## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone receives the health care they need to live happy and healthy lives

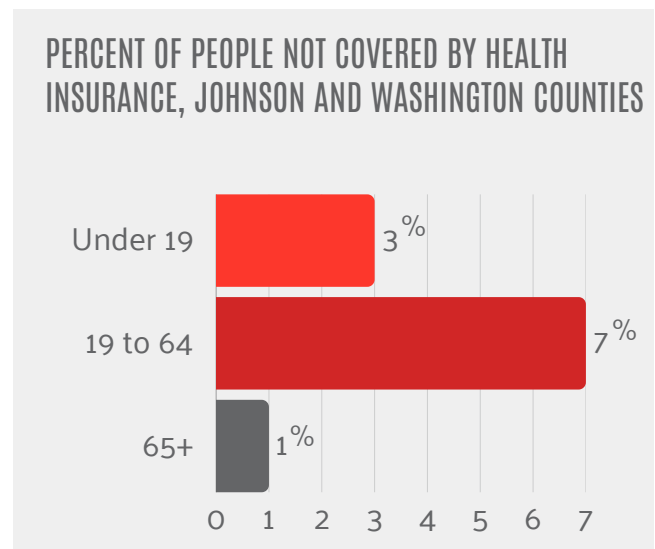
### KEY MEASURES OF HEALTH IN OUR COMMUNITY:

The highest share of uninsured people is among working-age adults:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimate, 2023, Table B27010

Public insurance programs are an important source of health coverage, especially for children:



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 1-Year Estimate, 2023, Table B27010





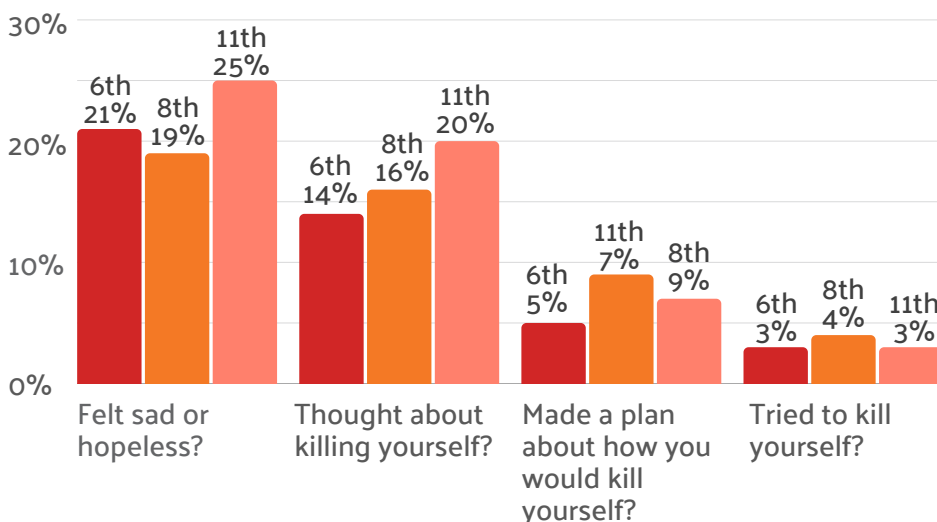
## Too many youth are struggling with their mental health

### IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone receives the health care they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives



### PERCENT OF STUDENTS IN A SELECTION OF JOHNSON COUNTY-AREA SCHOOLS ANSWERING “YES” TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THEIR MENTAL HEALTH:



Source: Iowa Department of Public Health, Iowa Youth Survey: Johnson County Results, 2021

### Note: Here are the exact questions asked in the survey:

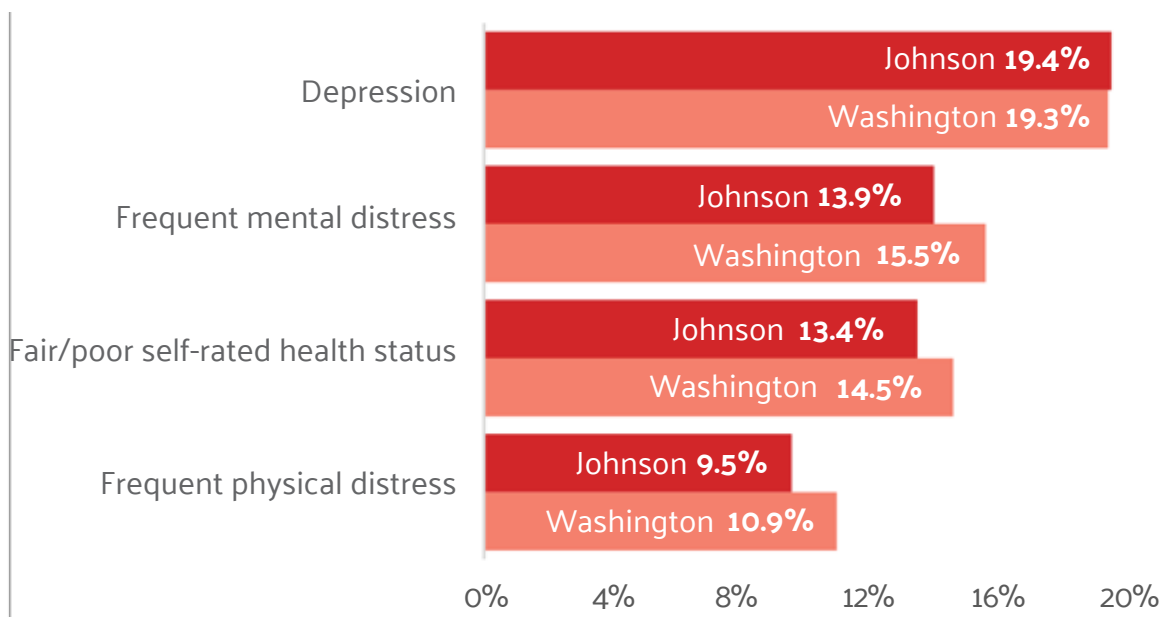
- In the past 12 months, did you ever feel so sad or hopeless almost every day for 2 weeks or more in a row that you stopped doing some usual activities?
- In the past 12 months, have you thought about killing yourself?
- In the past 12 months, have you made a plan about how you would kill yourself?
- In the past 12 months, have you tried to kill yourself?



## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone receives the health care they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives

### MENTAL AND PHYSICAL HEALTH CONCERNS COMMON AMONG ADULTS:



# 23%

of Johnson County residents don't have a primary care provider

**Top reason cited:** High cost of health care

# 17%

of Johnson County residents haven't seen a dentist in more than two years

**Top reasons cited:** Do not have dental insurance, concerned will be too expensive



## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone receives the health care they need to live happy and healthy lives



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- Increase the share of people who are covered by **affordable insurance** and **increase access to free or reduced-cost** clinics for those without coverage.
- Ensure more people get **key health services**, including behavioral health, dental, and primary care.
- Integrate social determinates of health into health care services so providers can assess and refer patients **who have additional barriers to wellbeing**.





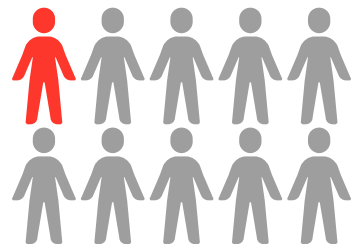


## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone in our community has enough food to eat

### KEY MEASURES OF FOOD SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY:

More than one in 10 people in our community don't have enough food for an active, healthy life because of limited financial resources.



#### In Johnson County

11.5%

are food insecure

Among food insecure people:

39%

are **above** SNAP threshold

61%

are **below** SNAP threshold

#### In Washington County

11.5%

are food insecure

Among food insecure people:

47%

are **above** SNAP threshold

53%

are **below** SNAP threshold

Source: Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2024

## What is SNAP?

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), began in the United States in the late 1930's to **help people buy and eat nutritious food**, be stronger, and make up a more productive society. In 1971, the Food Stamp Program became a nationwide entitlement program. That means that as long as you meet the rules for SNAP, you have a legal right to get them.



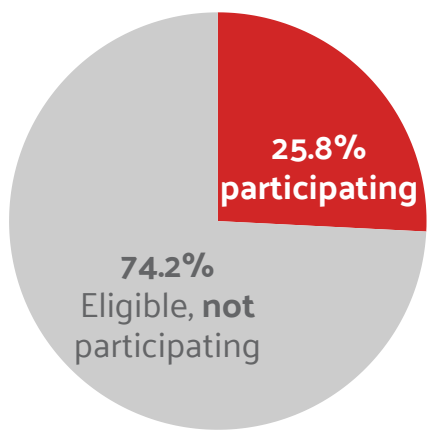
Only a fraction of people who are eligible for SNAP participate in the program.

**IMPACT GOAL:**

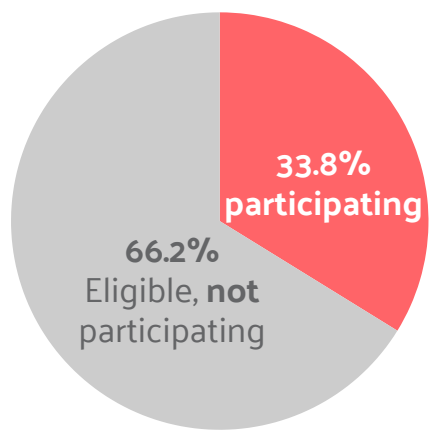
Everyone in our community has enough food to eat



**POPULATION ELIGIBLE FOR SNAP**



**Johnson County**



**Washington County**

**NOTE:** 6.2% of Johnson County's total population participates in SNAP, while 5.9% of Washington County's population utilizes this benefit.

Sources: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Hunger Coalition, September 2024

Even as area food pantries serve record numbers, only a fraction of people who could benefit from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) – including many who are eligible – participate in the program.







## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone in our community has enough food to eat

### In Johnson County

**9,577**

people in 4,481 households received SNAP in FY 2024

**\$169.82**

average per-person monthly SNAP benefits received

### In Washington County

**1,359**

people in 682 households received SNAP in FY 24

**\$159.95**

average per-person monthly SNAP benefits received

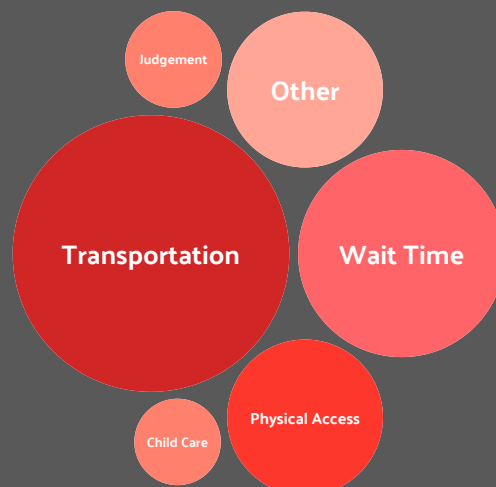
**SNAP is an essential support for many households, but SNAP benefits alone are not enough to meet a monthly food budget or sustain a healthy diet.**

Sources: Iowa Department of Health and Human Services and Iowa Hunger Coalition, September 2024.

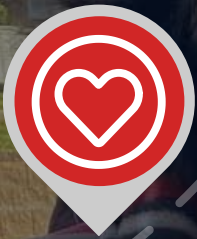
When family budgets and SNAP run out, our area's food pantries are key to filling the gap; some people face barriers getting access.

Source: Johnson County Public Health, Food Security Assessment Report, August 2024.

**20% OF PANTRY USERS FACE BARRIERS TO ACCESS: OF THOSE, THESE ARE THE DIFFICULTIES IDENTIFIED**







## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone in our community has enough food to eat



## HOW WE WILL GET CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- **Improve food pantry offerings** by increasing the variety and availability of nutritious and culturally appropriate foods.
- **Integrate community wide data** across local pantries to identify gaps and areas for improvement.
- **Increase participation in SNAP** by reducing barriers to enrollment and expanding outreach to seniors and other populations with low participation rates.



# UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN Healthy Community



## FUND & COLLABORATE

United Way is committed to **Community Health** by investing in strategies and programs that reduce health disparities and improve well-being for all. Using **community-based approaches**, we address barriers to health equity and work to **better align health care options and resources** to improve health outcomes for our community. Through collaboration and targeted investments, we strive to create a healthier future for everyone.

## ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

We advocate for policies and practices to improve health and well-being and provide **equitable access to care** for every member of our community. We advocate for **food-security initiatives** by increasing SNAP participation, improving food availability at pantries, and integrating data for stronger support systems. We educate and promote policy change to **address our community's gaps in essential oral health services**.



**UNITED WAY**

Johnson and  
Washington Counties







# IMPACT AREA Financial Security







## IMPACT GOAL:

People have the resources they need to support themselves and their families.

### KEY MEASURES OF FINANCIAL SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITY:

**A**sset  
**L**imited  
**I**ncome  
**C**onstrained  
**E**mployed

**24%**

of Johnson Co.  
households

**29%**

of Washington  
Co. households

are ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained,  
Employed)

Source: United for ALICE, 2022

These households earn above the federal poverty level, but not enough to afford the basics. Another 17% in Johnson County and 8% in Washington County earn below the poverty level.

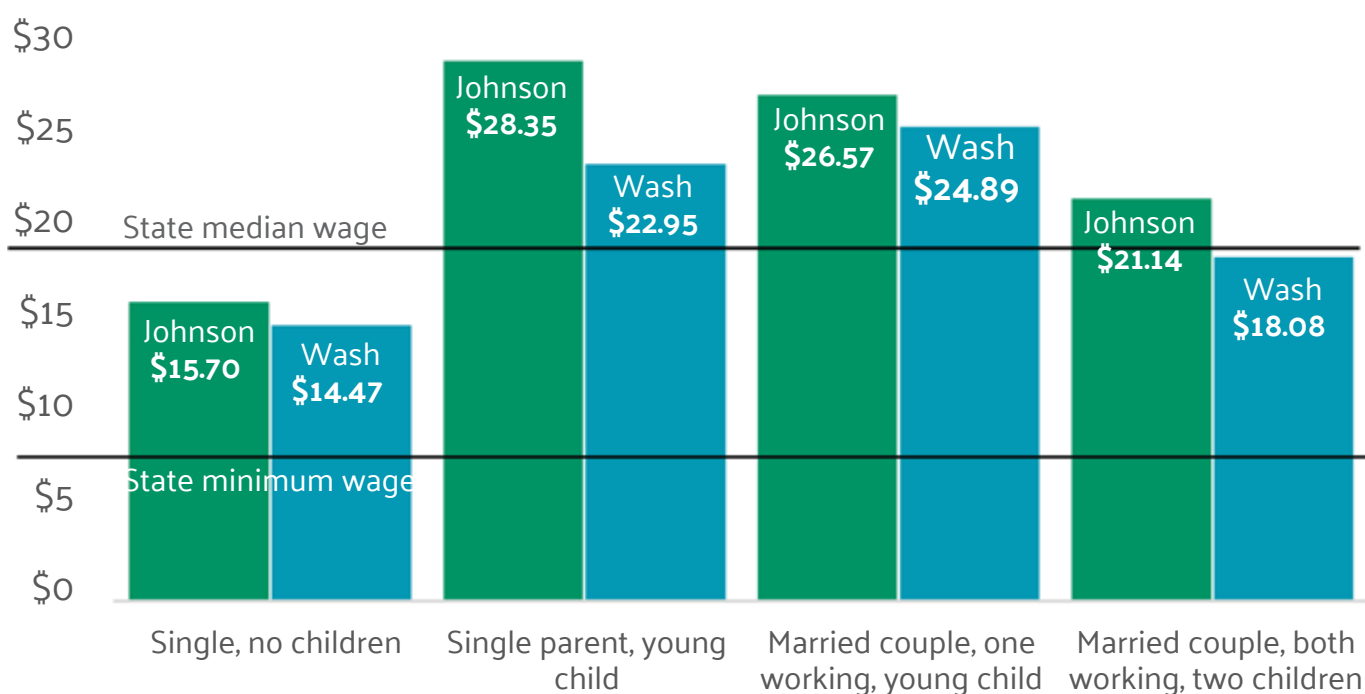




## IMPACT GOAL:

People have the resources they need to support themselves and their families.

### HOURLY EARNINGS REQUIRED TO MEET A BASIC-NEEDS BUDGET BY FAMILY TYPE, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



Source: Common Good Iowa, The Cost of Living in Iowa, 2023 Edition

**For all family types, it takes far more than the minimum wage to meet even a bare-bones budget. For some it takes more than the state median wage.**

# IMPACT GOAL:

People have the resources they need to support themselves and their families.



## BASIC-NEEDS FAMILY BUDGETS BY FAMILY TYPES, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

### Johnson County

| Monthly Expenses                     | Single, no children | Single parent, one child | Married couple, one working, one child | Married couple, both working, two children |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Rent and utilities                   | \$757               | \$1,063                  | \$1,063                                | \$1,063                                    |
| Food                                 | \$321               | \$470                    | \$729                                  | \$938                                      |
| Health care                          | \$253               | \$627                    | \$493                                  | \$1,101                                    |
| Child care                           | \$0                 | \$1,095                  | \$0                                    | \$1,490                                    |
| Clothing & household expenses        | \$332               | \$432                    | \$525                                  | \$630                                      |
| Transportation                       | \$628               | \$606                    | \$1,102                                | \$1,294                                    |
| Monthly total                        | \$2,292             | \$4,292                  | \$3,912                                | \$6,515                                    |
| <b>Annual total expenses</b>         | <b>\$27,509</b>     | <b>\$51,508</b>          | <b>\$46,947</b>                        | <b>\$78,185</b>                            |
| Annual before-tax earnings needed    | \$32,658            | \$58,977                 | \$55,274                               | \$87,939                                   |
| Less: Income & payroll taxes         | (\$5,600)           | (\$9,017)                | (\$7,018)                              | (\$12,562)                                 |
| Net resources                        | \$27,058            | \$49,960                 | \$48,255                               | \$75,377                                   |
| <b>Family supporting hourly wage</b> | <b>\$15.70</b>      | <b>\$28.35</b>           | <b>\$26.57</b>                         | <b>\$21.14</b>                             |

### Washington County

| Monthly Expenses                     | Single, no children | Single parent, one child | Married couple, one working, one child | Married couple, both working, two children |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Rent and utilities                   | \$604               | \$847                    | \$847                                  | \$847                                      |
| Food                                 | \$321               | \$470                    | \$729                                  | \$938                                      |
| Health care                          | \$227               | \$361                    | \$461                                  | \$713                                      |
| Child care                           | \$0                 | \$706                    | \$0                                    | \$1,048                                    |
| Clothing & household expenses        | \$332               | \$432                    | \$525                                  | \$630                                      |
| Transportation                       | \$628               | \$606                    | \$1,102                                | \$1,294                                    |
| Monthly total                        | \$2,113             | \$3,422                  | \$3,665                                | \$5,470                                    |
| <b>Annual total expenses</b>         | <b>\$25,352</b>     | <b>\$41,063</b>          | <b>\$43,974</b>                        | <b>\$65,636</b>                            |
| Annual before-tax earnings needed    | \$30,101            | \$47,740                 | \$51,766                               | \$75,211                                   |
| Less: Income & payroll taxes         | (\$4,966)           | (\$6,187)                | (\$6,122)                              | (\$9,393)                                  |
| Net resources                        | \$25,135            | \$41,552                 | \$45,644                               | \$65,828                                   |
| <b>Family supporting hourly wage</b> | <b>\$14.47</b>      | <b>\$22.95</b>           | <b>\$24.89</b>                         | <b>\$18.08</b>                             |

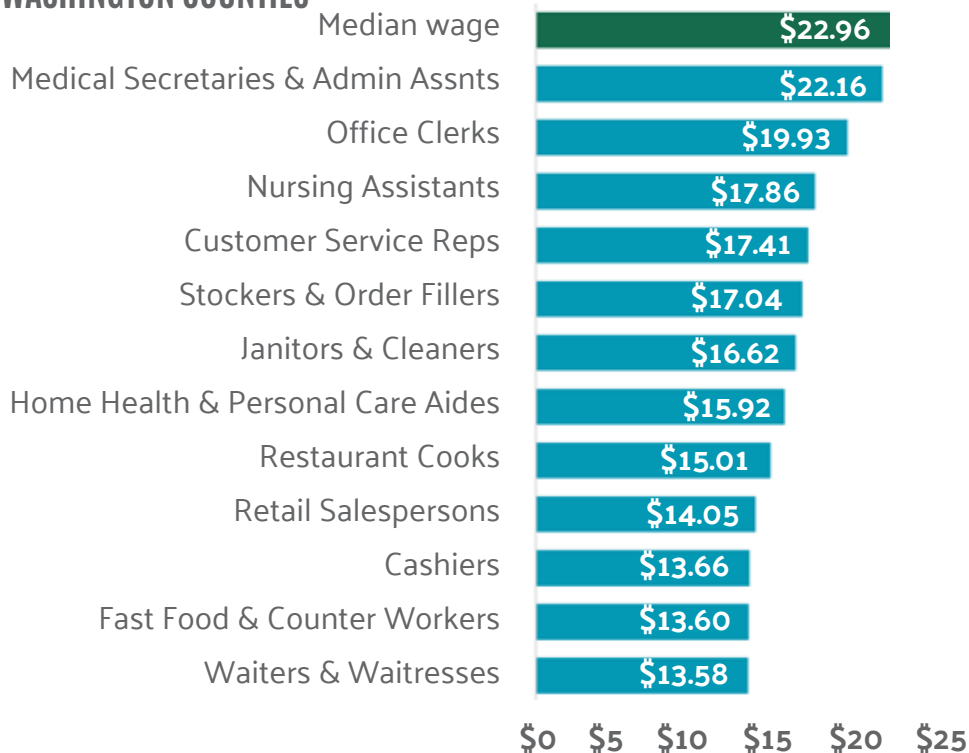


# IMPACT GOAL:

People have the resources they need to support themselves and their families.



## MOST COMMON OCCUPATIONS EARNING BELOW MEDIAN WAGE, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

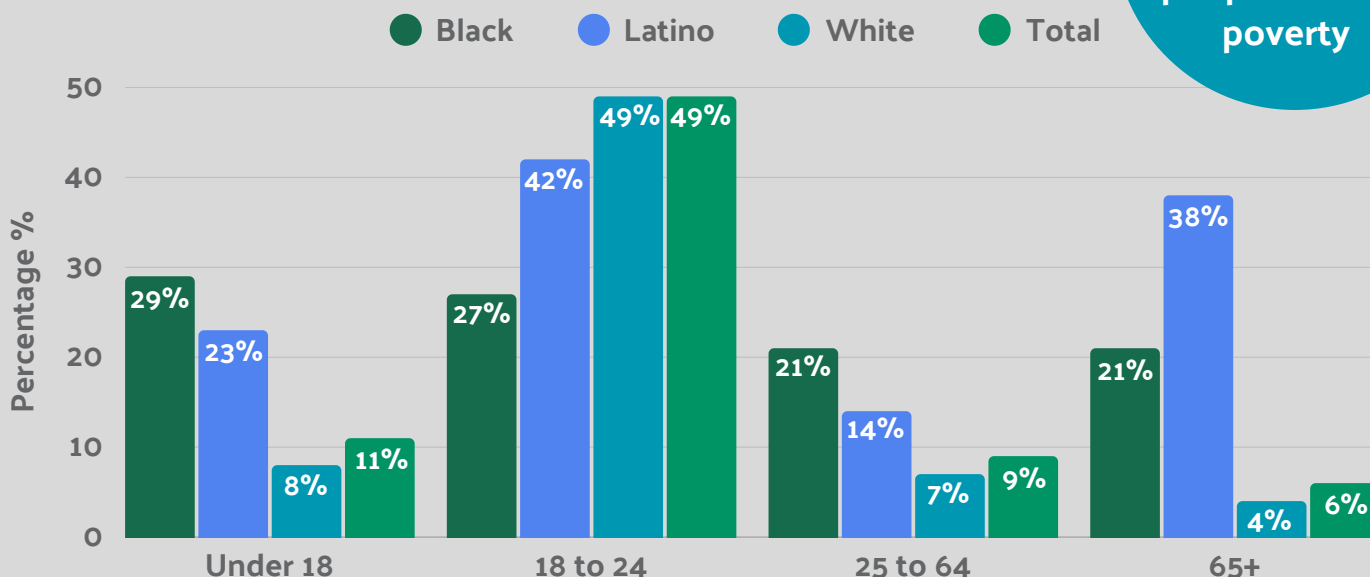


Many of the common – and needed – jobs in our community pay below what it takes to make ends meet

**Note:** Includes all occupations with employment of more than 1,000 people and below-average median wages.

Source: U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2023

## PERCENT OF POPULATION BELOW THE FEDERAL POVERTY LEVEL BY AGE AND RACE/ETHNICITY, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



People of color are more likely than white people to live in poverty

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2018-2022

**Note:** The poverty level in 2022 was \$13,590 for a single person and \$27,750 for a family of four. Poverty rates among people 18 to 24 in the region are significantly higher than in the state as whole, especially among white young people, because a higher-than-average share of them are students.



## IMPACT GOAL:

People have the resources they need to support themselves and their families.



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- Increase the number of people who earn enough to support their basic needs.
- Improve access to public benefits and community basic needs supports like food to help individuals and families bridge gaps during times of financial hardship, illness, or job loss.
- Strengthen workforce readiness by increasing participation in career training programs and creating stronger pathways from high school to in-demand local jobs.







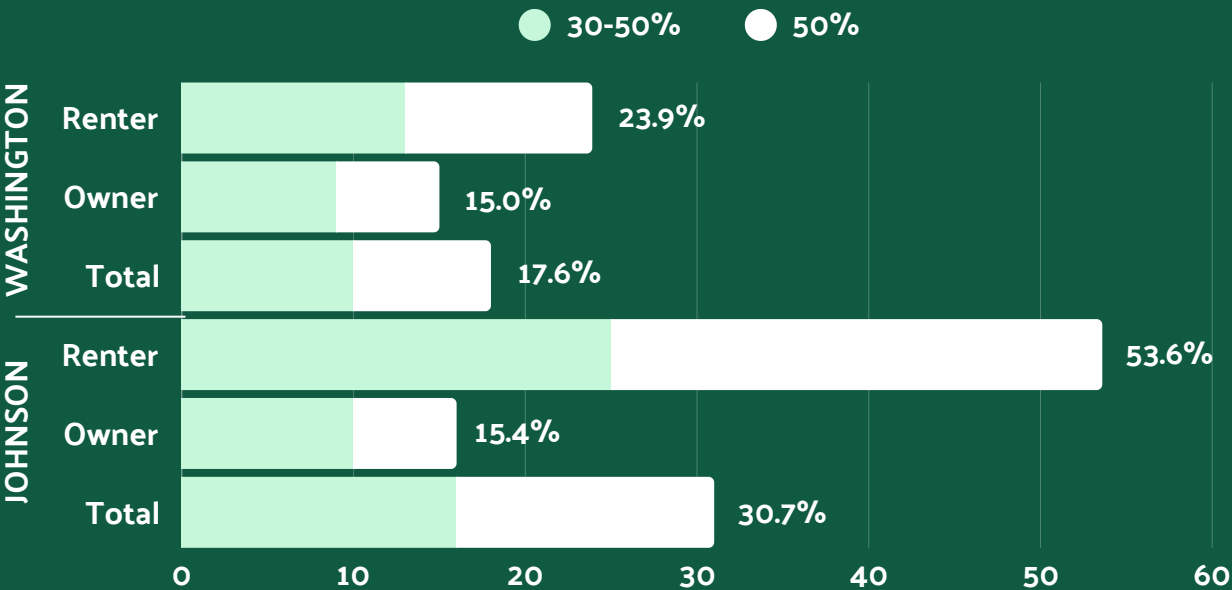
## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone has safe and stable housing that they can afford.

### KEY MEASURES OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND ADEQUACY IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Many households are burdened by high housing costs; renters face biggest burdens, but homeowners are not exempt.

#### PERCENT OF HOUSEHOLDS SPENDING MORE THAN 30% OF THEIR INCOMES ON HOUSING, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES:



Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2017-21 CHAS (Comprehensive Housing Affordability Strategy) data, calculated from American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates.





Rent is expensive  
and rising.

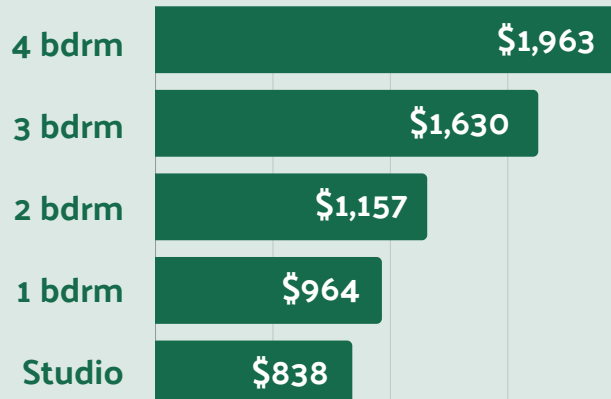
**IMPACT GOAL:**

Everyone has safe and  
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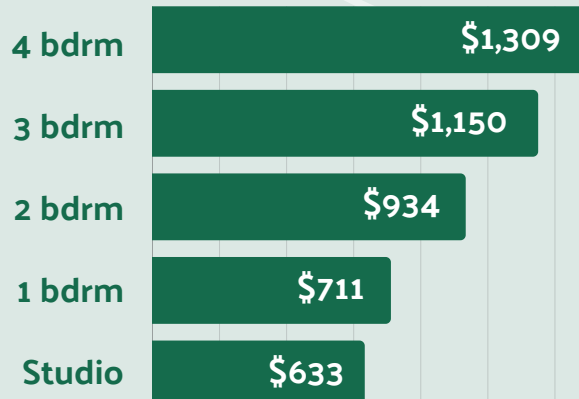


**MEDIAN RENT BY UNIT SIZE, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, 2024**

**Johnson County**

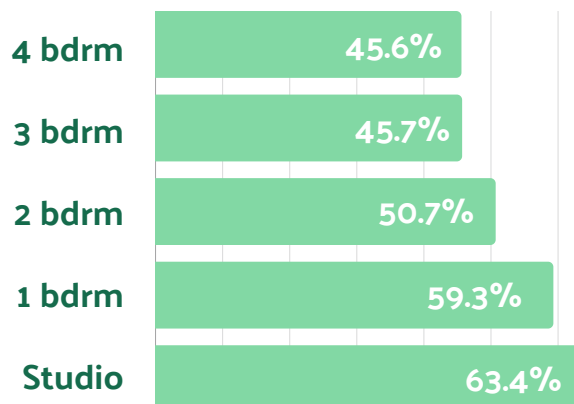


**Washington County**

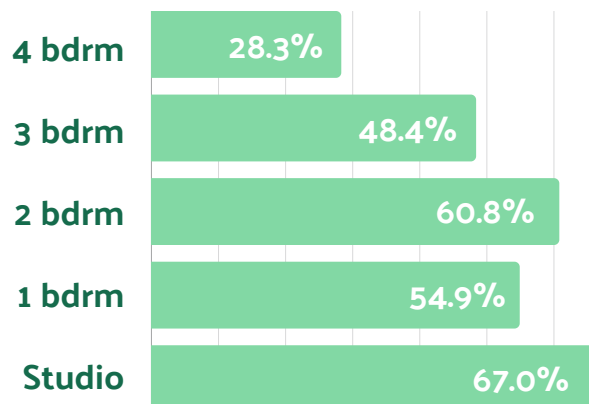


**PERCENTAGE CHANGE IN MEDIAN RENT, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, 2010-24**

**Johnson County**



**Washington County**



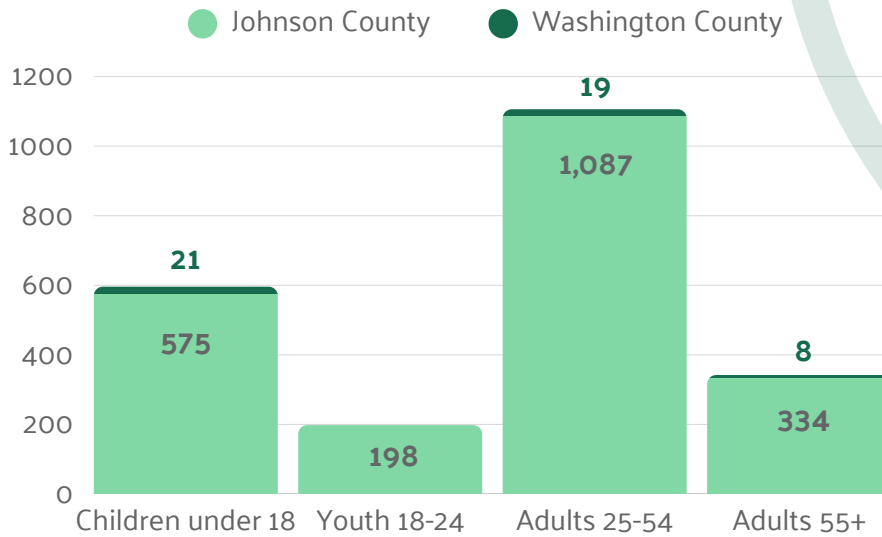
Source: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 50th Percentile Rent Estimates



## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone has safe and stable housing that they can afford.

### PEOPLE WHO SOUGHT FORMAL HOUSING SERVICES OR SHELTER, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, 2023



Source: Ehren Stover-Wright, "Snapshot 2024: Service and Shelter Use & County Data Book," Institute for Community Alliances, September 2024

# 2,242

people experienced extreme housing instability sufficient for them to seek services or shelter in 2023

Once housing-insecure people have run out of informal options, they seek help from formal housing organizations.







## IMPACT GOAL:

Everyone has safe and stable housing that they can afford.



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- Increase the supply of affordable housing units by increasing the number of landlords who accept housing vouchers and exploring other innovative solutions.
- Improve the safety and quality of housing by reducing the number of poorly maintained, deficient units.







# IMPACT GOAL:

Families have access to quality childcare they can afford

## KEY CHILD CARE MEASURES IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Most families in our community need child care

The cost of full-time child care nears or beats cost of tuition and fees at UI

78.5%

of young children in Johnson and Washington counties have all available parents in the labor force

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table B23008, 2023.

Tuition and fees, University of Iowa

\$11,283

## AVERAGE ANNUAL COST OF CHILD CARE BY AGE OF CHILD & TYPE, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES

|                     | Johnson County             |                                    | Washington County          |                                    |
|---------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------------|
|                     | Licensed Child Care Center | Registered Child Development Homes | Licensed Child Care Center | Registered Child Development Homes |
| Infant              | \$16,705                   | \$10,048                           | \$10,196                   | \$8,537                            |
| 3-year-old          | \$12,651                   | \$9,397                            | \$8,864                    | \$8,190                            |
| Before/after school | \$4,939                    | \$4,035                            | \$4,867                    | \$4,247                            |

Source: Iowa Child Care Resource and Referral, March 2025. Weekly rates are multiplied by 52 to calculate annual cost



## IMPACT GOAL:

Families have access to quality childcare they can afford



## LOW PAY

Among the lowest of any profession – makes it difficult for child care centers to hire enough workers to meet demand and makes it difficult for child care workers to support their own families.

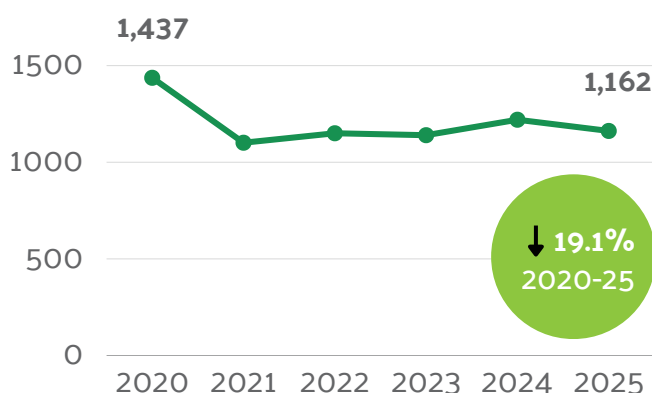
**\$12.57**

is the average wage of child care workers in Johnson and Washington counties

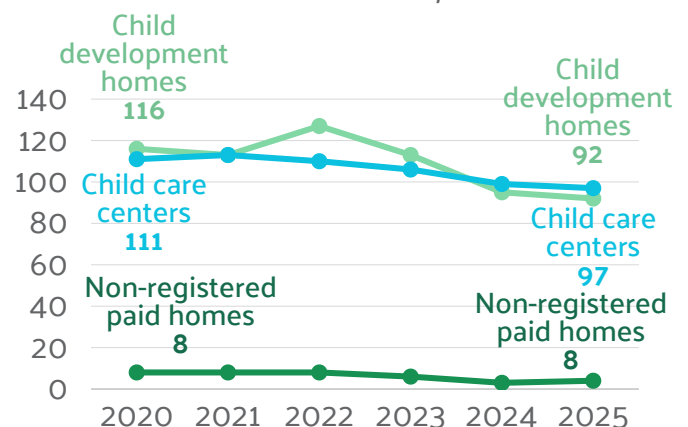
Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics, Occupational Employment and Wage Statistics, May 2023.

Despite the great need in our region, participation in Child Care Assistance – the state’s program to help low-wage working parents afford child care – is declining.

NUMBER OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, FY 2020-25



NUMBER OF CHILD CARE PROVIDERS PARTICIPATING IN CHILD CARE ASSISTANCE BY TYPE, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES, FY 2020-25







## IMPACT GOAL:

Families have access to quality childcare they can afford



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- Reduce the financial burden of child care by **increasing the number of centers accepting Child Care Assistance (CCA) and expanding the availability of CCA-funded slots.**
- **Increase wages for childcare workers through non-tuition funding sources,** helping centers attract staff, expand available slots, and improve provider options for families.





# UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN Financial Security



## FUND & COLLABORATE

We're investing in strategies and local programs that help families achieve economic stability. Through partnerships, we connect individuals with resources to access affordable child care, housing and other basic needs and connect to job training programs. In addition, we support the **Child Care Coalition** and invest in proven approaches to reduce family homelessness, including improving access to food, providing case management, and expanding housing options.

## ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

At United Way, we believe financial stability is the foundation for a thriving community. Yet, 40% of Johnson and Washington County individuals and families – facing barriers to stable employment, affordable housing, and essential resources – struggle to make ends meet.

We advocate for access to affordable housing and child care to help individuals build long-term financial security. We advocate for an increase to the Child Care Assistance reimbursement rates, to increase access to quality child care and promote stabilization in the child care workforce.



# UNITED WAY

Johnson and  
Washington Counties

# IMPACT AREA

# Youth Opportunity





## IMPACT GOAL:

All children experience quality early learning, so they start school ready to succeed.

### KEY EARLY LEARNING MEASURES IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Share of 3- and 4-year-olds not enrolled in preschool

**49%**

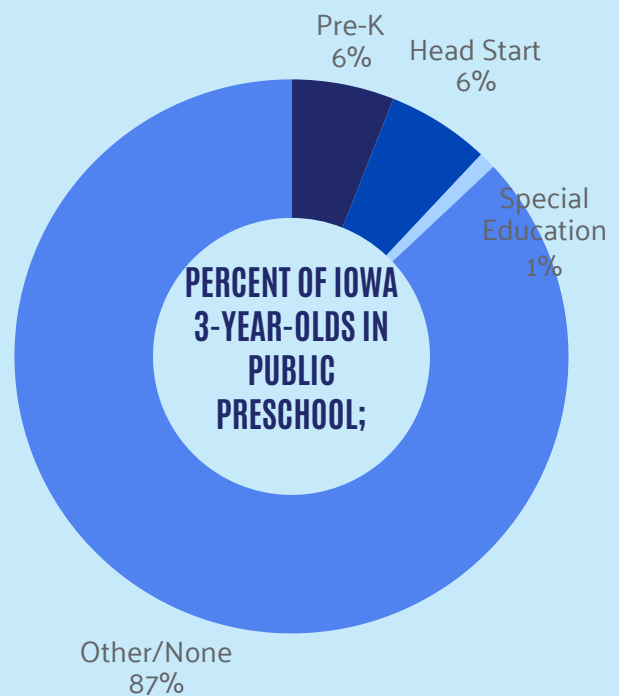
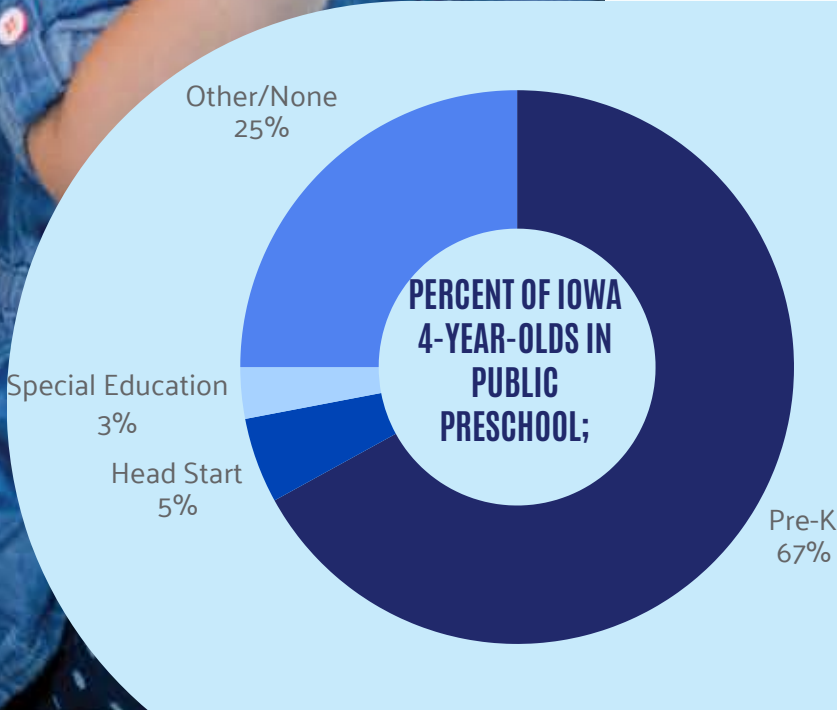
in Johnson County

**38%**

in Washington County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2019-23

Statewide, most 4-year-olds attend public preschool, but few 3-year-olds do







## IMPACT GOAL:

All children experience quality early learning, so they start school ready to succeed.



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- Increase family support resources for **parent-led at home early learning**.
- Increase the number of **accredited and quality-rated** preschool programs.
- Expand the number of children enrolled in preschool, with a focus on expanding **access to quality programs that offer all-day and 3-year-old options** and those operating in areas underserved by preschool or child care.





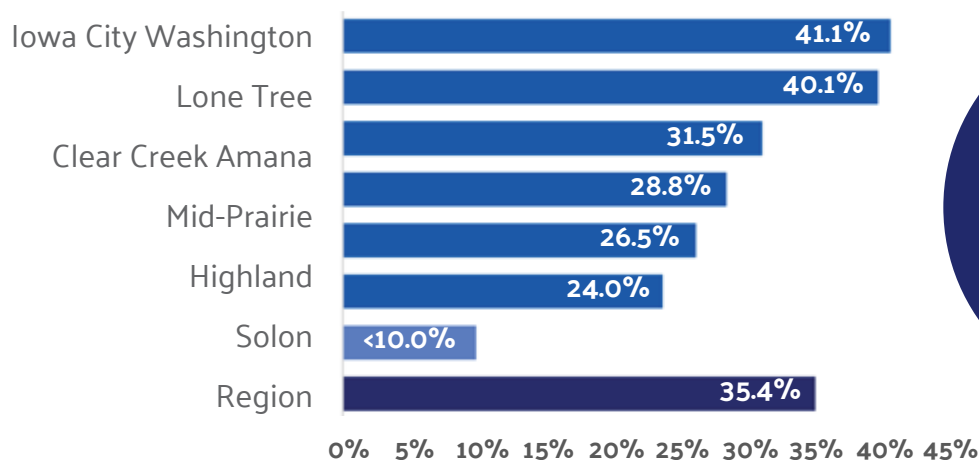


## IMPACT GOAL:

All youth and their families have access to basic needs and social and emotional supports so children are ready to learn.

### KEY MEASURES OF YOUTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT IN OUR COMMUNITY:

#### PERCENT OF STUDENTS ELIGIBLE FOR FREE OR REDUCED-PRICED MEALS BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

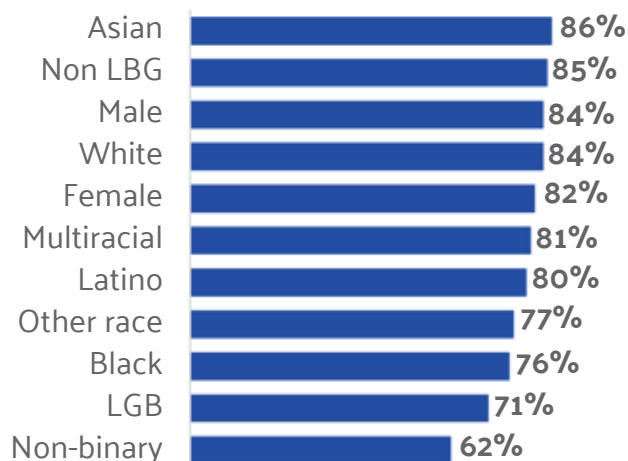


Regionwide, more than a third of students rely on free or reduced-price school meals

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, Student Reporting in Iowa, 2024-2025 fall enrollment file. Note: Exact data for Solon was suppressed due to low numbers.

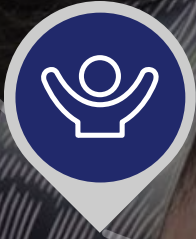
#### PERCENT OF IOWA CITY COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT STUDENTS WHO REPORT A SENSE OF BELONGING AT SCHOOL, BY GROUP

Students largely feel connected to school, but the degree of connection varies by group



Source: Iowa City Community School District, School Climate and Culture Report, 2022-23





## IMPACT GOAL:

All youth and their families have access to basic needs and social and emotional supports so children are ready to learn.



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- Expand access to non-academic support services by implementing models that **meet the unique needs of local schools and districts.**
- Increase family support services to **help parents meet basic needs** and foster strong, nurturing relationships with their children.





## IMPACT GOAL:

All students are prepared academically for a wide range of careers

### KEY CAREER-READINESS MEASURES IN OUR COMMUNITY:

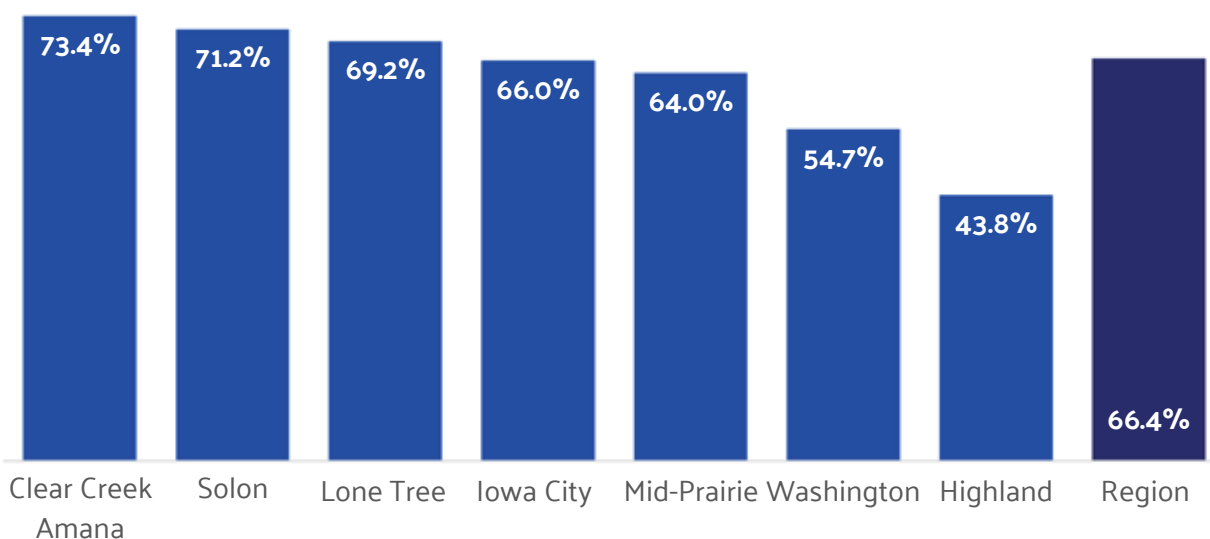
100%

#### PERCENT OF THIRD GRADERS PROFICIENT IN READING BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

One-third of area third graders are not proficient in reading

Source: Iowa Department of Education, English Language Arts Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), 2023-24

90%  
80%  
70%  
60%  
50%  
40%  
30%  
20%  
10%  
0%



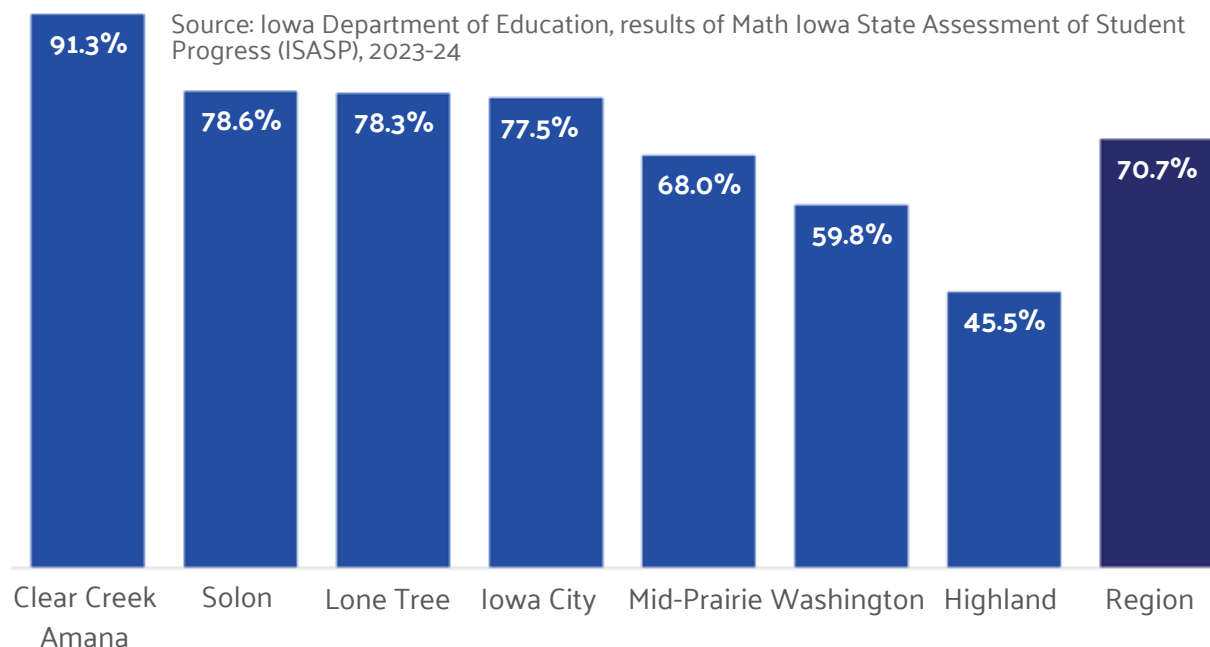
100%

#### PERCENT OF EIGHTH GRADERS PROFICIENT IN MATH BY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Nearly one-third of eighth graders are not proficient in math

Source: Iowa Department of Education, results of Math Iowa State Assessment of Student Progress (ISASP), 2023-24

90%  
80%  
70%  
60%  
50%  
40%  
30%  
20%  
10%  
0%







## IMPACT GOAL:

All students are prepared academically for a wide range of careers

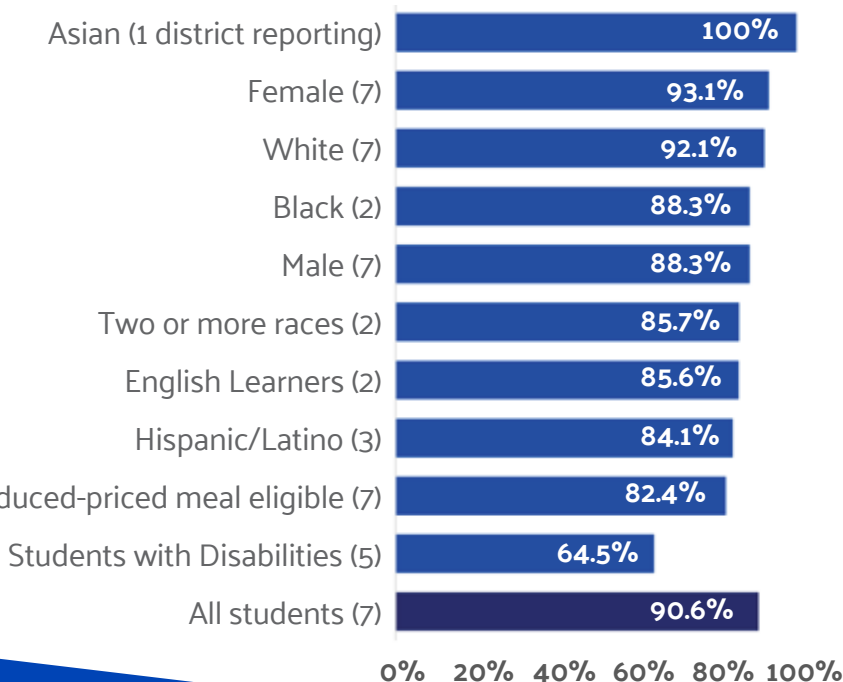


Overall, 9 of 10 students graduate from high school on time, but some groups – notably students with disabilities and those in rural areas – have much lower graduation rates.

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, Student Reporting in Iowa, Iowa Public School District Class of 2023 Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rates by Student Group

**Note:** Parentheses show the number of districts for which data were available. Data were suppressed for districts with small numbers.

### ON-TIME HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BY GROUP, AREA SCHOOL DISTRICTS, 2023



Share of 18- and 19-year-olds not enrolled in school

8%

in Johnson County

25%

in Washington County

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2019-23

9.2%

of the region's graduating seniors did not intend to go on any additional education or training or join the military.

Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, Student Reporting in Iowa spring data collection, 2023-24



## IMPACT GOAL:

All students are prepared academically for a wide range of careers



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- **Expand opportunities** for students to participate in career academies, trade programs, and apprenticeships.
- Increase access to job and life mentoring to help students **develop skills for future careers.**
- Increase access to career advising so **students better understand** their education and job **options.**



# UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN Youth Opportunity

## FUND & COLLABORATE

We're investing in **cradle-to-career education** by supporting quality **child care** and **early childhood education**, including programs like **Reading Buddies** and **Math Kits** to foster early learning and build strong connections with families. We know that parents are children's first teachers. We also lead initiatives that prepare youth for success in the classroom and beyond, through **tutoring, mentoring** and **social-emotional learning** such as empathy and confidence.

## ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

United Way advocates for youth opportunities by **raising awareness** of early learning gaps, expanding preschool access, and supporting parent-led education at home. It strengthens family support through services that address **basic needs and mental health** while promoting student engagement and belonging. To enhance academic and career readiness, United Way advocates for **career academies, apprenticeships, and mentoring programs** while addressing proficiency gaps in reading and math. By sharing critical data, increasing resources, and advocating for policy changes, United Way ensures **all children** have access to quality education and support systems that prepare them for future success.



**UNITED WAY**

Johnson and  
Washington Counties





IMPACT AREA

# Community Resilience

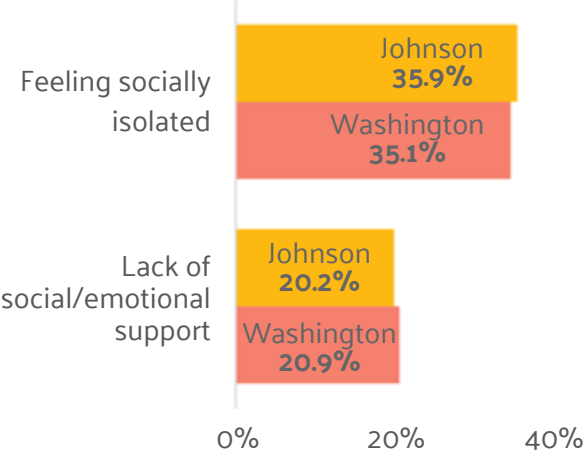




**IMPACT GOAL:**  
Residents feel connected to their neighborhood and the broader community.

**KEY MEASURES OF RESILIENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY:**

**PERCENT OF ADULTS REPORTING THEY FEEL SOCIALLY ISOLATED OR LACK SOCIAL/EMOTION SUPPORT, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES**



There are people in our community who feel disconnected from friends, family and their community.

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES analysis of 2022 BRFSS and Census data

Johnson County lags state and nation in presence of social associations; Washington measures above.

Research links belonging to voluntary groups and organizations to higher levels of social trust. This indicator measures the number of membership organizations, including civic, political, religious, sports, labor, business and professional groups, per 10,000.

**MEMBERSHIP ORGANIZATIONS PER 10,000 PEOPLE**



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, County Business Patterns via County Health Rankings, 2021



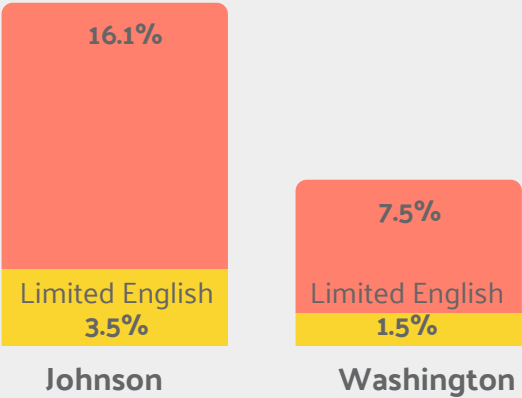


# IMPACT GOAL:

Residents feel connected to their neighborhood and the broader community.

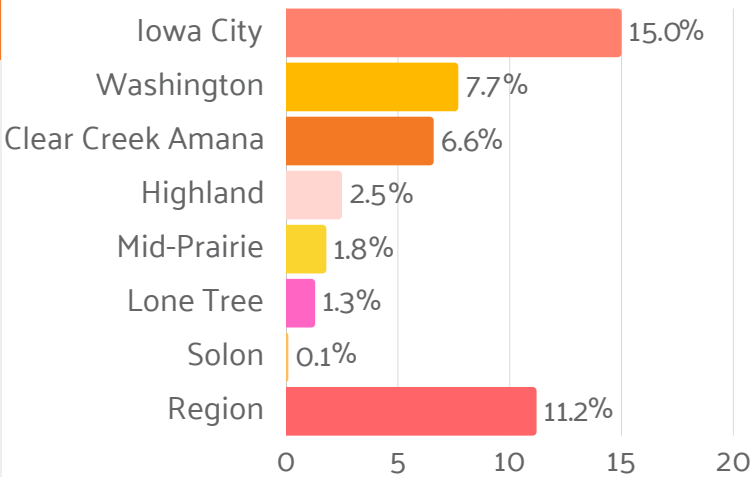
New arrivals to our community may need extra language support to build community connections and knowledge.

## SHARE OF HOUSEHOLDS SPEAKING A LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH AND SHARE THAT ARE LIMITED ENGLISH-SPEAKING, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES.



Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates, Table S1602, 2023.

## PERCENT OF STUDENTS RECEIVING ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNER SERVICES, BY SCHOOL DISTRICT



Source: Iowa Department of Education, Bureau of Information and Analysis Services, Student Reporting in Iowa 2024-2025 fall enrollment file

Regionwide,  
**2,509**  
students were receiving English Language Learners services





## IMPACT GOAL:

Residents feel connected to their neighborhood and the broader community.



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- **Increase number of neighborhood hubs** and increase the share of people who engage with their neighborhood groups to foster **stronger community connections**.
- **Increase community awareness of resources**, making certain those resources are culturally and linguistically accessible and recognizable within the different communities being served.



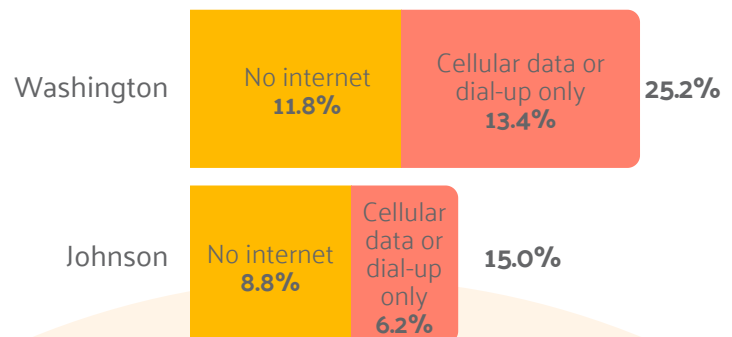




## IMPACT GOAL:

Residents are prepared for and able to recover from disasters and other adversity.

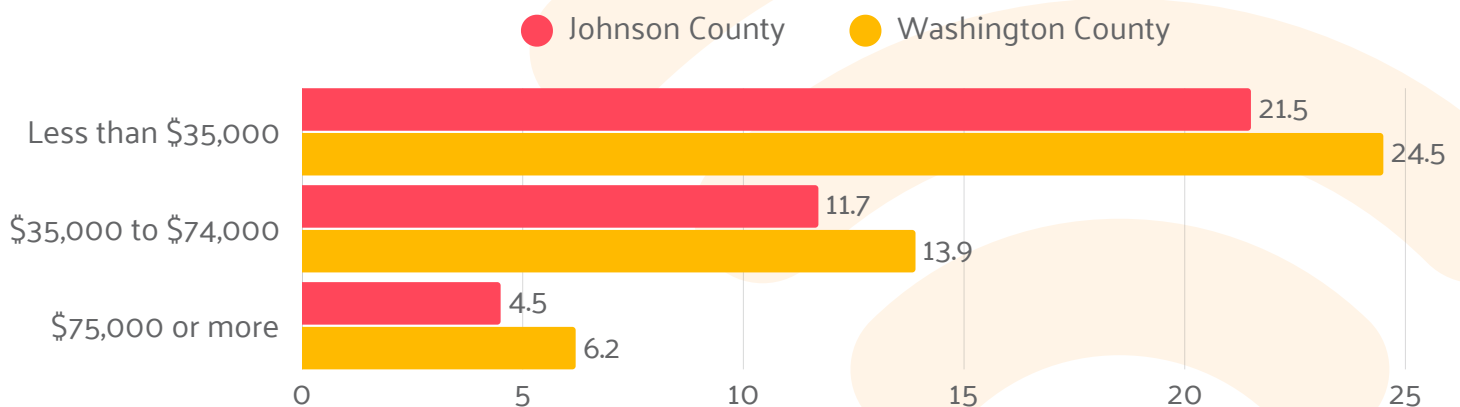
### PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE IN HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO INTERNET ACCESS OR ONLY CELLULAR DATA AND/OR DIAL-UP ACCESS, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



## KEY MEASURES OF PREPAREDNESS IN OUR COMMUNITY:

Some area households have no or limited internet access to rely on for guidance before or during emergencies; low-income households are more likely to lack access.

### PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLDS WITH NO INTERNET ACCESS BY INCOME, JOHNSON AND WASHINGTON COUNTIES



U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates, 2019-2023





## IMPACT GOAL:

Residents are prepared for and able to recover from disasters and other adversity.

Some area residents cannot easily leave their homes during emergencies.

SHARE OF ADULTS WHO LACKED RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION IN THE LAST YEAR.

**5.9%**  
in Johnson County

**6.4%**  
in Washington County

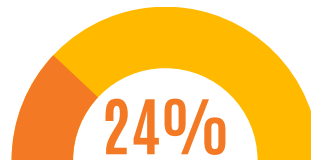
Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, PLACES analysis of 2022 BRFSS and Census data

## SELECT FINDINGS FROM SURVEY OF JOHNSON COUNTY RESIDENTS



18%  
reported someone in their household uses **electricity-dependent medical equipment**

Increasing number of hot days stresses workers, strains family budgets



24%  
said the **cost of electricity** prevents them from using their air conditioning



13%  
said **concern about greenhouse gases** prevents them from using their air conditioning

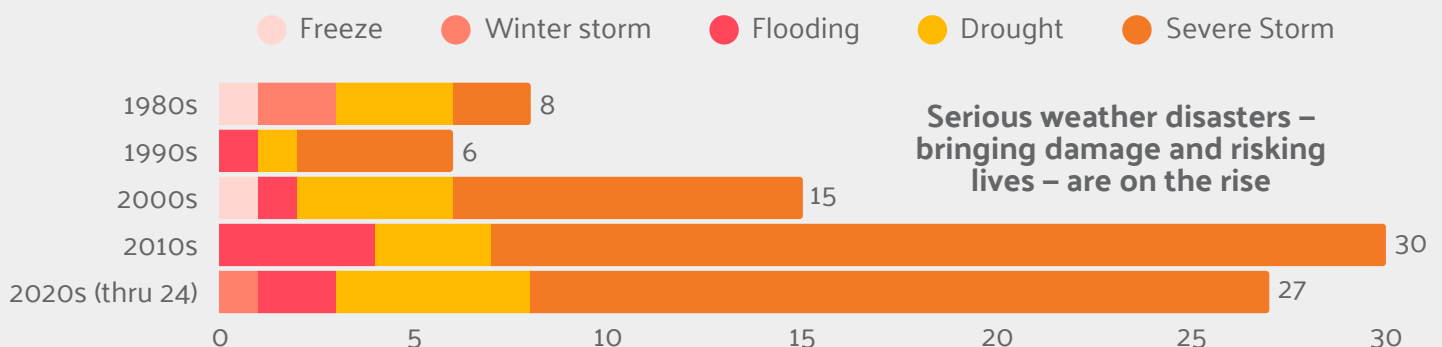


21%  
**work outdoors** in some capacity (most during the daytime)



11%  
work indoors in a location **without air conditioning**

## BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTERS IN IOWA BY TYPE, 1980-2024



Serious weather disasters – bringing damage and risking lives – are on the rise

Source: Johnson County Public Health, Heat Vulnerability Assessment Report, August 2022.



## IMPACT GOAL:

Residents are prepared for and able to recover from disasters and other adversity.



## HOW WE WILL MOVE CLOSER TO OUR GOAL:

- **Enhance emergency preparedness and response** through improved collaboration among community-based organizations and local emergency management in a cross-sector approach.
- Expand the number of neighborhoods with **disaster plans** and strategies and the number of **people trained in resilience “work.”**
- **Expand formal and informal supports for new arrivals**, who face acculturation stressors – discrimination, employment and language barriers, limited access to health care, and other factors – that can limit access to resources and information before, during and after emergencies.





# UNITED WAY'S ROLE IN Community Resilience



## FUND & COLLABORATE

Strong, resourced communities are better able to build back from adversity. United Way strengthens Community Resilience by **bringing people and organizations together** to address challenges and create lasting solutions. Through our extensive network of **nonprofits, businesses and community leaders**, we help our community **understand problems, co-create solutions and ensure accountability** for results. We lead the **Community Organizations Active in Disaster (CoAD)**, ensuring a coordinated response to local crises, and operate **211**, a vital helpline that connects individuals to essential resources like housing, food, and crisis support. By leveraging partnerships and resources, we build a stronger, more resilient community that can adapt and thrive in the face of challenges.

## ADVOCATE & EDUCATE

We recognize that climate change disproportionately impacts vulnerable populations, threatening housing stability, financial security and overall well-being. A resilient community is one that can adapt, withstand and recover from climate-related challenges while ensuring all individuals have access to essential resources. We advocate for climate-resilient housing, sustainable infrastructure, and neighborhood-based emergency preparedness to protect communities from extreme weather and environmental disruptions.



# UNITED WAY

Johnson and  
Washington Counties