

Population

Kansas increased in population from 2,735,502 residents in 2004 to 2,744,687 residents in 2005, a 0.3 percent increase. Johnson, Jackson and Miami counties had the largest increases in population from 2001 to 2005 with percent changes of 8.9, 6.2, and 6.0 respectively. Greeley, Ness, and Lane counties had the largest decreases in population with percent changes of 10.2, 9.9, and 9.4 respectively. ([Table 2](#))

Frontier and rural counties continue to lose population (4.8 and 2.5 respectively) while semi-urban, and urban counties gain in population (1.5, and 4.1 respectively). ([Table 2](#))

The rate of natural increase (difference between birth rate and death rate) has generally declined from a rate of 6.4 in 1966. In 2005, the rate of natural increase was 5.5, a 5.2 percent decrease from 5.8 in 2004. ([Figure 6](#))

The median age of Kansans in 2005 was 36.0 years, a 3.7 percent increase from the 34.7 median age in 1996. The median age for Kansas males and females in 2005 was 34.6 and 37.5 respectively. ([Figure 7](#), [Table 4](#))

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1996-2005 was 6.7 percent, including a 7.7 percent increase for Kansas males and a 5.7 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1996 to 2005 included decreases in the 5-14, 35-44, and 65-74 age-groups of 5.2, 8.4, and 6.6 percent respectively. An increase of 32.1 percent in residents 45-54 years of age and 33.5 percent in residents 55-64 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers. Furthermore, there were 4.4, 13.7, and 10.0 percent increases in the 0-4, 15-24, and 75 and over age-groups respectively. There was no change in the 25-34 age-group. ([Figure 8](#), [Table 4](#))

According to 2005 population estimates, 89.4 percent of Kansans were White and 5.9 percent were Black. Hispanics made up 8.3 percent of Kansas' population. ([Table 5](#))

The population density of Kansas was 33.5 persons per square mile in 2005, a 23.6 percent increase from 27.1 persons per square mile in 1966 and a 6.7 percent increase in population density since 1996. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. has increased from 54.3 to 83.8 persons per square mile from 1966 to 2005 respectively, a 54.3 percent increase. ([Figure 9](#))

In 2005, 33 of Kansas' 105 counties had population densities of less than 6.0 persons per square mile. The most sparsely populated counties were Greeley and Wallace with a density of 1.7 persons per square mile. The most densely populated county was Johnson, with 1,062 persons per square mile. ([Figure 10](#))