

Population

Kansas increased in population from 2,744,687 residents in 2005 to 2,764,075 residents in 2006, a 0.7 percent increase. Douglas, Johnson and Miami counties had the largest increases in population from 2002 to 2006 with percent changes of 9.6, 8.4, and 6.9 respectively. Ness, Logan and Lane counties had the largest decreases in population with changes of 11.2, 10.8, and 10.2 percent. ([Table 2](#))

Frontier and rural counties continue to lose population (5.4 and 2.9 percent respectively) while semi-urban, and urban counties gain in population (1.3 and 4.2 percent). ([Table 2](#))

The rate of natural increase (difference between birth rate and death rate) has remained fairly constant over the past twenty years. In 2006, the rate of natural increase was 5.9, a 7.3 percent increase from 5.5 in 2005. ([Figure 6](#))

The median age of Kansans in 2006 was 36.0 years, a 12.5 percent increase from the median age of 32.0 in 1987. The median age for Kansas males and females in 2006 was 34.6 and 37.4 respectively. ([Figure 7](#), [Table 4](#))

The percent increase in the Kansas total population from 1987-2006 was 11.6 percent, including a 12.9 percent increase for Kansas males and a 10.4 percent increase for Kansas females. Shifts in the Kansas population distribution by age from 1987 to 2006 included decreases in the 25-34 and 65-74 age-groups of 20.0 and 7.1 percent respectively. An increase of 78.3 percent in residents 45-54 years of age and 27.9 percent in residents 55-64 years of age reflected the aging of the baby boomers. Furthermore, there were 1.0, 7.6, 11.6 and 21.6 percent increases in the 0-4, 5-14, 15-24, and 75 and over age-groups respectively. ([Figure 8](#), [Table 4](#))

According to 2006 population estimates, 81.1 percent of Kansans were White Non-Hispanic and 5.7 percent were Black Non-Hispanic. Hispanics made up 8.6 percent of Kansas' population. ([Tables 5](#) and [6](#))

The population density of Kansas was 33.8 persons per square mile in 2006, an 11.6 percent increase from 30.3 persons per square mile in 1987. For comparison, the population density of the U.S. has increased from 67.4 to 84.6 persons per square mile from 1987 to 2006 respectively, a 25.5 percent increase. ([Figure 9](#))

In 2006, 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 1,083 persons per square mile. ([Figure 10](#))