The Unequal Impact of COVID on Douglas County

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IPSR Goals for COVID-19 Crisis

• Synthesize the data on the Coronavirus in Kansas
• Report economic indicators
• Inform the public and policymakers on these issues on a monthly basis.
• Data and briefings available at http://ipsr.ku.edu/covid19/
• Thanks to Xan Wedel who helped with the data, visualizations & slides.
Douglas County Population

- Since 1940, Douglas County is growing at a faster rate than the State. It has become increasingly diverse.

### Population by Race & Ethnicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Race/Ethnicity</th>
<th>Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>98,478</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>5,047</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American Indian and Alaskan Native</td>
<td>2,935</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>6,229</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Other Race</td>
<td>1,337</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>5,266</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>7,356</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White alone, not Hispanic</td>
<td>93,868</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Diversity</td>
<td>21.33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population in Douglas County by Race

Overall Douglas County has 21% of the population who are non-white, not-Hispanic.

The population is more diverse in younger age groups.

Population Under 18 by Race

There are 17,320 people under 18 in Douglas County:
- 4,799 under age 5
- 5,025 age 5 to 9
- 4,650 age 10 to 14
- 2,846 age 15 to 17

Douglas County Households

Single parent households vary by race of householder.

- 11% of white
- 23% of Black
- 32% of Native American

• Douglas County—has one of the highest levels of high school graduates and college graduates in the state of Kansas.
3,066 residents age 25 and over lack a high school diploma or equivalency. 81% are white males.

Overall 95.5% of residents have a high school education or higher this varies by race and ethnicity.

Douglas County has some of the highest housing costs in the state. Median rents are $897.

Median value of owner occupied housing is $193,000.
Black households in Douglas County are half as likely to own their home as white households.

Despite the disparity in ownership, white and black households moved at similar frequencies.

Median House Listing Price in the Region

- Median House Listing Price is $309,050 in Douglas County
- $215,050 for State of Kansas

Source: St. Louis Federal Reserve, FRED, https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/MEDLISPR28140
Median Gross Rent

- Median Gross Rent in Douglas County is $897
- This puts Douglas in the highest quartile in the state.

The median value of owner-occupied housing units in Douglas County is $192,800.

• 53% of renters and 19% of homeowners have housing costs that exceed 30% or more of income.
The Economic Policy Institute estimates the cost of a family of four to live in Douglas County is $81,396. Median household income is $55,832. Difference leaves a shortfall of $25,564.
Median Household Income

• Median Household income in Douglas County is $55,832
• The statewide median is $57,422.

Median Family Incomes vary more widely by race than household incomes.

Douglas County Residents Commute for Work

- 56% of Douglas County residents work in the county.
- 44% of residents commute to work. More workers commute to the East with 17% working in Johnson County.
White workers are 4x as likely to work from home and 5x less likely to take public transportation to work as Black workers.

Douglas County Residents Lack Broadband Access

Between 13 – 21% of households within Douglas County School Districts have no Internet Subscription.
Douglas County Computer/Broadband Access

- Under-represented groups have less access to broadband and computers

Douglas County Initial Unemployment claims have been trending upward since Aug 1st.

Source: Kansas Department of Labor.
Douglas County Initial Unemployment Claims

Comparing the last week of January to the last week of October, initial unemployment claims from whites were 10x higher.

Source: Kansas Department of Labor.
Douglas County Initial Unemployment Claims

Initial claims are higher for whites than for under-represented groups as of October 31st.

Source: Kansas Department of Labor.
Douglas County Unemployment Claims

- Males with a Bachelor’s degree are most likely to be unemployed.

Overall, Douglas County unemployment claimants are slightly more likely to be male.

Source: Author’s calculations.
Douglas County Unemployment Claims

- Male Unemployment:
  - Education
  - Accommodation & Food Service
  - Manufacturing
- Female Unemployment:
  - Education
  - Health Care
  - Accommodation & Food Service

Source: Author’s calculations.
Douglas County Unemployment Claims

Claimants are predominantly White.

Source: Author’s calculations.
Claimants are predominantly White though a greater share of non-white claimants are continued claims.

Source: Author’s calculations.
Using ACS data on workers by race we can estimate unemployment rates by race.

Blacks have higher unemployment rates.

Source: Author’s calculations using initial and continued unemployment claimants as of October 31st with workers (Armed Forces and civilian) from the 2014-2018 American Community Survey.
The overall portion of Douglas County residents living in poverty is 18.7%
12.3% of children under 18 in Douglas County live in poverty
Douglas County falls into the upper quartile for Kansas counties for people in poverty

Overall 12.3% of children under 18 in Douglas County live in poverty though non-white children are 2-4x as likely to be in poverty.
Participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), have increased.

- 8% increase in SNAP & TANF program participants

Source: Kansas Department of Children and Families.
Douglas County SNAP Participation

The ACS contains self-reported participation which indicates nearly 30% of Black or African-American households participate in SNAP.

COVID-19 in Douglas County

- Covid 19 is increasing in the city despite having strong mitigation efforts.

COVID-19 in Douglas County

- Black and Native Americans in Douglas County have higher rates of COVID than whites.

The Unequal Impact of COVID

• COVID-19 has led to higher unemployment and higher cases for under-represented groups.
• I am very concerned that COVID-19 cases will spike in Douglas County after the holidays.
Thank You!