Boone County, Missouri
A Focus on Poverty
Concentrated Poverty is keeping Boone County from reaching its potential. A household in poverty is under the constant stress of a multitude of barriers. Eliminating a single barrier does not address the challenges that remain in other aspects of life. Coordinated interventions are necessary to combat systemic poverty.

- Children in poverty enter school behind their peers and struggle to catch up.
- Families in poverty spend a significant percentage of their income on basic needs, making it difficult to cover other expenses and maintain household stability.
- Lack of employment in a household creates more than just financial problems.
- Poverty contributes to chronic stress, illness, and lack of access to treatment.

Imagining a More Equitable Community

The map indicates the two census tracts with the highest percentage of individuals under 18 experiencing poverty in Boone County. The data points below compare these two census tracts to Columbia and County-wide averages.

- 62% of children and youth under the age of 18 experienced poverty compared to 16% for Columbia and 15% for Boone County.
- 30% of residents have a Bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 55% for Columbia and 47% for Boone County.
- 41% of residents that experienced poverty are black or African American compared to 31% for Columbia and 28% for Boone County.
POVERTY IS EXPERIENCED IN MULTIPLE FORMS

- **Children Academically Ready for Kindergarten**
  - Columbia Public Schools: 96.7%
  - Boone County Rural Schools: 89.9%

- **Columbia Public Schools Drop Out Rates**
  - 6.2 Black rate
  - 3.2 Male rate
  - 2.7 Total rate
  - 2.2 Female rate
  - 1.9 White rate
  - 1.7 Hispanic rate

- **Educational disparities have multidimensional ramifications, affecting parents’ earning potential, job stability, and ability to support their children’s education.**

- **Poverty Rate by Educational Attainment**
  - 32% in poverty have less than a high school degree.
  - 11% in poverty have a high school degree.
  - 5% in poverty have a bachelor’s degree or higher.

- **Poverty Level for One Adult & Two Children**
  - $7.85 Minimum Wage
  - $9.82 Hourly
  - $1,702 Monthly
  - $20,424 Annual

- **Earnings by Educational Attainment (Population over 25 years)**
  - Less than a high school degree: $21,311
  - High school graduate: $27,639
  - Some college or associate’s degree: $32,214
  - Bachelor’s degree: $40,173
  - Graduate or professional degree: $50,588

- **21% of blacks in Columbia have a bachelor’s degree or higher compared to 49% of whites.**

- **Nutrition Environment Measurement Survey (NEMS)**
  - NEMS measures food availability, price, accessibility, and overall nutritional value.

- **Boone County Life Expectancy**
  - Black: 73.5
  - Male: 77.5
  - Total: 79.6
  - White: 80.0
  - Female: 81.5

- **Households Spending Over 30% Income on Housing**
  - 31% of households are cost burdened in Boone County.
  - 53% of renters are cost burdened in Boone County.
  - 16% of home owners are cost burdened in Boone County.

- **Minimum Wage**
  - $7.85

- **2014 Median Family Household Income by Race**
  - White alone: $72,896
  - Black alone: $79,073
  - White: $50,904
  - Black: $40,904

- **HUD Definitions**
  - Severe Rent-Burdened - those who pay more than 50 percent of their income for housing.
  - Cost-Burdened - those who pay more than 30 percent of their income for housing.

- **Map of Columbia’s Strategic Neighborhoods**
  - Average NEM Scores
    - North: 15.15
    - East: 13.88
    - Central: 12.66
    - All Columbia: 17.88
    - Columbia w/o Strategic Neighborhoods: 20.27
We All Have a Stake

Vision: A thriving community of equal opportunity, free of disparities.

Socio-economic, health, housing, and educational disparities conspire to keep too many of our neighbors trapped in a cycle of intergenerational poverty. This report is intended to convey the multidimensional nature of poverty, with the goal of stimulating conversation and action to end poverty and allow our community, and all its members, to reach their full potential.

The Boone County Community Services Department (BCCSD) and City of Columbia are partners of the Boone Impact Group (BIG), which advances the collective impact of community resources to improve the lives of all Boone County residents. The BCCSD mission is to support the greatest possible level of independence and self-sufficiency of Boone County residents by promoting their physical, mental, and social well-being to cultivate a safe and healthy community. BCCSD is responsible for the administration of the Children's Services, Community Health, and Domestic Violence funds. The City of Columbia Division of Human Services (DHS) mission is to address the causes and effects of poverty. To do so, DHS provides, coordinates, and purchases social services in the community.

Visit www.booneimpact.org to view resources utilized in this report.