

2009 JEFFERSON COUNTY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

SUMMARY

The 2009 Jefferson County Community Health Assessment report was a collaborative effort between Jefferson County Health Department staff and consultants from Community Asset Builders, paid for by a grant from the Missouri Foundation for Health and including input from community stakeholders. The collection of data was guided by the use of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' Community Assessment Inventory Tool. Data was collected from numerous local, state and federal sources, which are cited for each indicator and are listed at the end of the report.

SOCIO-ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL PROFILE:

- Population: During the period from 2000 to 2008, Jefferson County's population increased by 19,580, from 198,099 to 217,679. This was a change of 9.9 percent, compared to 5.7 percent for the state. Jefferson County had 10,423 more births than deaths between 2000 and 2008. Between 2000 and 2008, Jefferson County had an estimated net migration of +9,157. In 2007, an estimated 10.3 percent of Jefferson County residents were 65 and older compared to 13.4 percent statewide. At the same time, the Census Bureau estimated that young people (under 18) made up 25.3 percent of the county's population, compared to 24.2 percent for the state. The 2007 Census Bureau estimate indicated 96.9% of the population was white, and 1.2% was African American.
- The 2007 poverty rate in Jefferson County was 9.1 percent which was lower than that of the state (13.3 percent). The poverty rate among children (12.2%) was lower than that of the state (18.4%).
- In 2007, 29.7 percent of children in Jefferson County were enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, compared to 41.7 percent statewide.
- The May 2008 unemployment rate (per BLS, preliminary and not seasonally adjusted) was 8.5 percent, compared with 7.0 percent statewide.
- In Jefferson County, 65.0 percent of workers commuted outside their home county to work in 2000. At the same time, 9.5 percent of workers traveled more than 60 minutes to work, compared with 5.4 percent statewide.
- In 2000, about 12.1 percent of Jefferson County residents aged 25 years and over (15,290) were college graduates, compared to 21.6 percent statewide. An additional 38,897 had some college education (30.9%) compared with 27.0 percent of all Missourians over the age of 25.

HEALTH CONCERNS:

- Jefferson County ranks in the top 20% among all Missouri counties for heart disease related deaths, hospitalizations and emergency room visits.
- The potential for lead exposure to infants and children is high in areas where lead related-activities having historically taken place.
- In Jefferson County, 34.1% of residents are at risk of stroke due to being overweight; and 23.5% are at risk due to high cholesterol levels.
- Jefferson County ranks in the top 20% among all of Missouri counties for all types of cancer, and has especially high rates of lung cancer, which is closely related to tobacco use. A survey conducted in 2008 found that 42% of respondents were current tobacco users.
- The death rate in Jefferson County from diabetes during the period 1997-2007 was 32.2 per 100,000 compared to the state rate of 24.6. Obesity and lack of physical activity are risk factors leading to diabetes.

- Methamphetamine manufacture and use have become epidemic in Jefferson County.
- Access to health care, and especially dental services is a problem for many residents due lack of transportation, being uninsured or under-insured, and a lack of providers accessible to the community.
- Pertussis or whooping cough has been a persistent problem in Jefferson County since 2008.

ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

- Many areas of the county have air, soil and/or water contaminated by lead.
- A safe drinking water supply and proper sewage disposal are concerns throughout the county.
- The rate of unintentional injuries is high, especially for motor vehicle accidents.