

Missouri Public Health System *at a Glance*



Health Profile for St. Louis County

Many of the health indicators in St. Louis County are better than, or comparable to those of the entire state of Missouri. However, a number of health indicators in St. Louis County should be noted. The County's rate of asthma emergency room visits among children under 15 years is 52% higher than the state's rate; the County's rates of infant mortality and low birth weight are 9% and 8% higher than the state's rates, respectively; they are 21% and 20% higher than the national rates. The County's rate of gonorrhea is 10% higher than the state's rate, and 60% higher than the national rate. Adult women in the County are 54% less likely to have a pap test in the past three years, compared with the state as a whole (see table below).

St. Louis County

	St. Louis County	MO	US	Year
Diseases and Conditions				
Age-Adjusted Death Rate (per 100,000)				
Heart Disease	245.8	246.4	217.0	2004
Asthma ER Visits Among Children Under 15 years (per 1,000)	15.5	10.2	-	2005
Infant Death Rate (per 1,000 live births)	8.2	7.5	6.8	2004
Low Birth Weight (per 100 live births)	9.0	8.3	8.1	2004
Reported Cases of Sexually Transmitted Disease (per 100,000)				
Gonorrhea	181.3	164.7	113.5	2004
White	11.5	31.3	33.3	2004
African-American	630.5	958.7	629.6	2004
Chlamydia	394.1	381.0	319.6	2004
White	47.1	131.2	143.6	2004
African-American	1159.2	1545.4	1209.4	2004
Risk Factors (%)				
Current Smoker Among Adults Aged 18+ Years	25.7	27.2	22.0	2003
Cancer Screening				
No Pap Test in the Past Three Years Among Women Aged 18+ Years	23.4	15.2	14.1	County: 2003 MO, US: 2004

Selected Public Health Activities in St. Louis County

Cancer Screening

Missouri's Show Me Healthy Women Program (SMHW) provides free breast and cervical cancer screenings to women meeting age, income, and residency criteria throughout the state. Health care providers delivering the SMHW services within St. Louis County can be located through a clickable county map at www.dhss.mo.gov/BreastCervCancer/ProviderList/ProviderListMap.html.

The Missouri Screen For Life (MSFL) program provides free colorectal screening tests to men and women who meet age, income, and residency guidelines. Residents of St. Louis County are eligible to participate. If colorectal cancer is diagnosed as a result of a colonoscopy funded by MSFL, the Siteman Cancer Center in St. Louis will provide free treatment to the client.

Asthma

The Asthma Program has trained over 300 school nurses and 100 child care consultants throughout the state who provide education to children with asthma and their families. The funding from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention provides less than \$.50/year for each child with asthma in Missouri. There has not been funding to train physicians or establish regional systems for care of children with asthma.

Tobacco Smoking

The Missouri Tobacco Quitline offers telephone counseling and resource materials to help Missourians stop tobacco use. The Quitline number is 1-800-QUIT-NOW (1-800-784-8669).

Home Visitation

The Building Blocks of Missouri program is a prenatal and early childhood nurse home visitation program that promotes healthy and safe parenting and home environment. In St. Louis County, the program services are delivered through the St. Louis County Department of Health.

The Missouri Community-Based Home Visiting (MCBHV) Program utilizes nurses and paraprofessionals and provides intensive sustained visits and community services to address the needs of families who are most at risk of infant mortality or morbidity, and child abuse or neglect. St. Louis County is within the MCBHV service areas.

Youth Health

The Nutrition and Physical Activity Program provides technical assistance to the Healthy Youth Partnership that aims to increase physical activity and improve nutritional status of youth in St. Louis County.

St. Louis County has the Chronic Disease Primary Prevention Program that conducts a Social Marketing Program with Bayless School District to promote physical activity, healthy eating and smoking cessation among youth.

Communicable Diseases

STDs

St. Louis County has a higher incidence of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including gonorrhea and chlamydia, than the state and national figures.

The Missouri Infertility Prevention Project (MIPP) provides chlamydia/gonorrhea screening and testing to eligible clients through Family Planning and STD clinics statewide. The Bureau of STD/HIV/Hepatitis in the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services' (DHSS) Division of Community and Public Health provides some medications for treatment of positive clients.

An evaluation of STD/Substance Abuse/Hepatitis/HIV for St. Louis City and County has showed significant racial disparities (Blacks are more affected), and an association of substance abuse with HIV and hepatitis.

Communicable Diseases Investigation

Numerous outbreaks of communicable diseases occur in St. Louis City and surrounding areas throughout the year. They have been identified and managed by the local health agencies in collaboration with DHSS. For example:

- Eastern District investigated 32 infectious disease outbreaks in 2006;
- An ongoing outbreak of shigellosis with over 700 cases has been identified and managed in St. Louis City and County.