



## **Access** to **Quality**Rural Health Services

Rural Missouri is known for its charming towns, rich farmlands, strong work ethic and mid-west way of life. In addition, residing in rural areas sometimes means a lack of timely access to all needed health care services. Missouri is home to 35 critical access hospitals, 76 rural hospitals, 382 federally certified rural health clinics, and several other medical clinics and public health offices offering health and safety services to rural residents.

Missouri's Rural Health programs have a number of projects, and work with partners to ensure strategies and initiatives so rural Missourians are better able to get quality care for medical, dental and mental health.

Access to health care is ranked as a top need of Missouri counties and is the core of Missouri's rural communities. Transportation services also play a role in the ability of rural residents, especially the elderly, to readily see their healthcare provider.

## Did You Know?

According to the 2010 Census, 37% of Missourians live in 101 rural counties of Missouri. A greater proportion of rural residents than urban residents are uninsured or covered through public sources. Thirty-three of Missouri's rural counties have a higher uninsured rate than the overall state rate of 15.3 percent. Also, fewer rural Americans receive insurance through their employer than their urban counterparts. Rural workers also pay more for health insurance plans than urban workers.