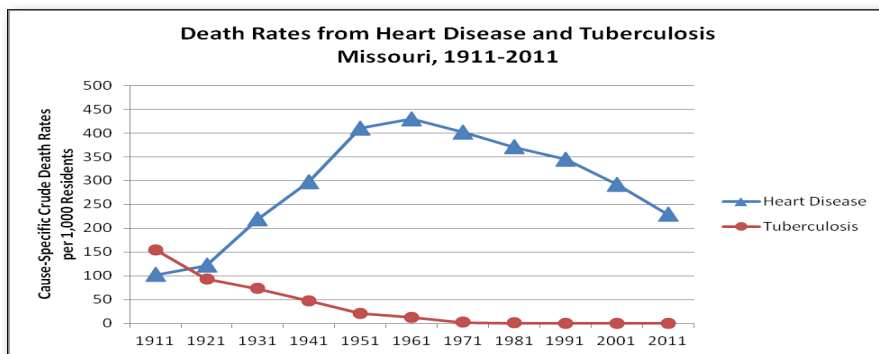# rural spotlight

April 2014

Missouri Data Collection & Use

2013 marked the 100th anniversary of Vital Statistics in the state of Missouri. This milestone provides a unique opportunity to use historical data archived in Vital Statistics to look at how Missouri's health has changed over the past one hundred years. As medical knowledge, infrastructure, social changes and other factors developed across the state of Missouri, many diseases and conditions have changed dramatically. For example, the following trend line chart illustrates the changes in the heart disease and tuberculosis death rates between 1911 and 2011.

Death Rates from Heart Disease and Tuberculosis Missouri, 1911-2011

This data is used by the State of Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services under the name Missouri Information for Community Assessment (MICA) data that is available to anyone wanting to access its use for personal inquiry or to help with a community assessment. Missouri also has a Community Health Information Resources (CHIR) which uses the following four web-based resources:

1. Data MICA (Missouri Information for Community Assessment) - an interactive data query system for use in conducting a needs assessment.

2. Community Profiles - state, regional, and local data for selected health issues for use in assessment and evaluation.

3. Priorities MICA - an interactive tool to assist with prioritizing diseases and risk factors.

4. Intervention MICA - information, tools and resources for planning evidence-based interventions to address health conditions or risk factors.

The internet based tools MICA and CHIR provides an interactive planning system designed for use by public health practitioners and community stakeholders to improve the health of a community. For more information and training opportunities, please refer to http://health.mo.gov/data or contact the Bureau of Health Care Analysis & Data Dissemination, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, PO Box 570, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0570; Telephone: 573-751-6272; Email: info@health.mo.gov.

Course 1: Introduction to Profiles and MICA

This course includes a review of the basic statistics used in the Community Data Profiles and MICA (Missouri Information for Community Assessment), as well as hands-on demonstrations of the trend line, graphing, download and other features. Multiple exercises allow participants to practice the skills covered.

Course 2: Health Data Analysis

The Health Data Analysis course demonstrates Priorities MICA and explains the process of using Profiles and MICA data to generate other statistics, such as percentage change and years of potential life lost. It also provides communication strategies and examples of how to clearly communicate health data through a variety of presentation formats, such as tables, charts, maps and narrative. These strategies can be applied to grant proposals, health assessments, newsletters, health education materials, presentations and other publications. During class, instructors will guide participants through creation of a sample community health assessment document.