



THE STATE OF **PUBLIC HEALTH** IN MISSOURI

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) is devoted to its aspiration, "We will protect health and keep the people of Missouri safe."

WHAT THE DATA SHOWS

The Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services used the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) model to identify key health issues facing our state.

17 Key public health issues in the state of Missouri to address



You can read more about these 17 issues in the State Health Assessment at Health.Mo.Gov.

The other health issues identified in our assessment, but not highlighted below, include: Built Environment/Neighborhood, Dental Care, Collaboration and Collective Impact, Emerging Public Health Threats Preparedness, Health Inequities and Disparities, Mental Health Access, Violent Crime/Intentional Injury, and Workforce Development and Training.



OBESITY

Obesity affects 35% of Missouri's adult population and more than 16% of our youth population.



HEART DISEASE

Heart disease is Missouri's leading cause of death at 15,941 deaths annually, of which 24% are caused by heart attack.



DIABETES

Missouri ranks 17th in the U.S. for diabetes with more than 10% of adults reporting a diabetes diagnosis.



CANCER

Cancer is the 2nd leading cause of death in Missouri with the state's cancer mortality rate ranking 12th in the U.S.



SMOKING

Missouri ranks 10th in the U.S. for adults who smoke and is above the national average for adult use of tobacco products.



OPIOID USE

In Missouri, opioid-related deaths surpassed 1,100, with deaths related to synthetic opioid use rising 40%.



INFANT & MATERNAL MORTALITY

Missouri's infant mortality rate of 6.3 per 1,000 live births was significantly higher than the U.S. rate.



ECONOMICS

In Missouri from 2015 to 2019, 13.7% of residents were living below the federal poverty level (FPL).



HEALTH SERVICE ACCESS & COST

For those under 65 years old, all counties with the highest uninsured rates are all rural. Four counties have rates above 20%.

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

The 17 key health issues led to the development of six strategic priorities, which are outlined in greater detail in the State Health Improvement Plan at Health.Mo.Gov.

1

PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM BUILDING

Focusing on creating a sustainable high-performing public health system

2

INFANT & MATERNAL HEALTH

Reducing infant mortality and support equitable maternal health

3

HEALTH BEHAVIOR

Helping Missourians with foundational health behaviors

4

EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH THREATS PREPAREDNESS

Preparing to respond, mitigate and recover from unexpected public health threats

5

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Addressing SDoH factors that impact citizens is integral to improving health and reducing disparities

6

WHOLE PERSON HEALTH ACCESS

Ensuring access to all needed medical, dental and behavior health systems for the entire person

OUR TARGET TIMELINE

We will address the six priority areas identified through 2027 and beyond.

2022 (1) PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM BUILDING, (2) INFANT & MATERNAL HEALTH AND (3) HEALTH BEHAVIOR

2023 (4) EMERGING PUBLIC HEALTH THREAT PREPAREDNESS AND (5) SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

2024 (6) WHOLE PERSON HEALTH ACCESS

2027



HOW WE WILL GET THERE

The six priority areas were developed with the help of nearly 100 state and federal government partners, health care community partners, external stakeholders and local public health agencies. This structure provided invaluable feedback from a diverse group of citizens and will be critical as we move our plan forward through 2027.



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & SENIOR SERVICES

Leadership will be provided from DHSS and the executive branch.

HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY

This plan will need engagement from the broader health care community, including nonprofits, hospitals, and organizations providing direct care.

EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS

External stakeholders, like academic institutions and advocacy groups, will play a critical role in ensuring our plan is successful.

LOCAL PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCIES

LPHAs are the backbone of the public health delivery system in Missouri.