Community Health Assessment

**2013**

Pulaski County Health Center & Home Health Agency

8/1/2013



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**Pulaski County Health Department**

*2013 Health Status Report*

**Demographic/Educational/Socioeconomic Indicators**

**Population and Change:**

Pulaski County is one of the fastest growing counties in Missouri. The population has steadily increased each year over the past seven years and is continuing on its incline. Between 2006-2012, Pulaski County’s’ population increased by 9,517, by going from 43,742 in 2006 to 53,259 in 2012. The largest growth incline occurred within the timeframe of 2009 to 2010 with a change of approximately 12.5 percent compared to Missouri change of ½ percent respectively. With this exponential amount of growth strategic planning of funds and programs is vital in preparing for future health care and environmental demands. See Chart 1.1

Chart 1.1: Source: MODHSS, Population MICA, Census Bureau

The age breakdown of Pulaski County shows that children under the age of 18 have the largest population rate of 23.9 percent as compared with the State rate of 23.5 percent. Our smallest population is the number of residents over the age of 65, at 7.3 percent of population compared to the State rate of 14.2 percent. Pulaski County is considered to have an overall young population. Although the highest percentage of the population is children, the 18-24 year olds follows slightly behind at 22.8 percent which is more than double the statewide percentage of 9.8 percent. Pulaski County’s gender population is broken down as 53 percent male and 47 percent female. See Chart 1.2

Chart 1.2- Source: MODHSS, Population MICA, Census Bureau

**Racial Diversity:**

There has not been a significant change in the race and ethnicity population from 2009 to 2012. The whites have continued to be the largest race population in the county at 79.2 percent. Blacks are the second largest racial population at 11.9 percent. Although the percentages of the other racial and ethnic groups are relatively small for Pulaski County they are approximately twice the statewide rate. See Table 1.1

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2012 County State | | | |
|  |  | Percentage of Population | Percentage of Population |
| White Alone |  | 79.2 | 83.9 |
| Black Alone |  | 11.9 | 11.7 |
| Am. Indian & Alaskan Native Alone |  | 1.0 | .5 |
| Asian and Pacific Islander Alone |  | 2.8 | 1.8 |
| Multiracial |  | 4.4 | 2.0 |
| Hispanic |  | 9.7 | 3.7 |

Table 1.1- Source: Census Bureau, State & County Quick Facts: Pulaski County, Missouri

**Educational Attainment:**

According to the Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey (completed 2007-2011), the 2011, graduation rate for Pulaski County was 90 percent as compared to the statewide rate of 86.8 percent. The Survey also showed that 32.8 percent of people 25 years and older have a high school diploma or equivalent (down 5 percent since the last survey), 27.3 percent have some college but no degree (up 6%), 10.6 percent have attained an associated degree (up one percent) and 19.3 percent have received a Bachelor’s degree or higher (up 3.5 percent). See Table 1.2

In 2013, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reported the High School graduation rates in Pulaski County remained above the statewide rate of 88.0 percent. The Dixon School District’s graduation rate is 96.8 percent; Crocker School District is 94.7; Waynesville is 93.9; Laquey is 92.6; and Richland is 91.1. Most schools have continued to increase graduation rates and decrease dropout rates.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Educational Attainment Pulaski Missouri | | | | |
|  | Total | Percentage | Total | Percentage |
| Population Age 25 or older | 36,949 |  | 3,943,728 |  |
| Less than 9th Grade | 886 | 3.3 | 171,935 | 4.4 |
| 9th-12th grade, no diploma | 1,802 | 6.7 | 348,445 | 8.8 |
| High school graduate, includes equivalency | 8,843 | 32.8 | 1,267,071 | 32.1 |
| Some college, no degree | 7,364 | 27.3 | 888,762 | 22.5 |
| Associates degree | 2,848 | 10.6 | 265,571 | 6.7 |
| Bachelors degree | 3,044 | 11.3 | 630,556 | 16.0 |
| Graduate or professional degree | 2,162 | 8.0 | 371,388 | 9.4 |
| High School Graduate or higher |  | 90.0 |  | 86.8 |
| Bachelor degree or higher |  | 19.3 |  | 25.4 |
| High School Graduation Rate, 2013 |  | 93.8 |  | 88.0 |

Table 1.2- Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, detailed tables for 2007-2011

**Housing, Household and Families**

According to the US Census Bureau’s estimates, there were 17,754 housing units in Pulaski County in 2011. Of the total units 88.5 percent are occupied of which 55.4 percent are owner occupied and 44.6 percent are renter occupied. The median value of an owner occupied housing unit in 2011 was $122,600 as compared to the 2009 value of $119,200 and 2011 statewide value of $138,900.

Pulaski County offers a wide range of housing with only about 8 percent of the units being built prior to 1950. In 2011, there were 15,708 households in the county. Family households make up 64.9 percent (10,188) of the households. About 35.9 percent of households are married couples with children under 18 which are higher than the state at 19.6 percent. Pulaski County’s single parent households (10%) are slightly higher than the state as a whole (9.6%). Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren are now at 26.6 percent for the county and 47.1 percent statewide. Other characteristics are shown below in Table 1.3.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Household by Type, 2011 Number Percentage State | | | |
| Total Households | 15,708 |  |  |
| Family Households | 10,188 | 64.9 | 65.8 |
| Married-couple families | 8,107 | 51.6 | 49.7 |
| with own children under 18 years | 4,067 | 25.9 | 19.6 |
| Single Parent Households | 1,574 | 10.0 | 9.6 |
| Single Mothers | 1,197 | 7.6 | 7.3 |
| Single Fathers | 377 | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| Nonfamily Households | 5,520 | 35.1 | 34.2 |
| Householder living alone | 4,395 | 28.0 | 28.4 |
| 65 years and older living alone | 1,133 | 7.2 | 10.0 |

Table 1.3 – Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, Pulaski County and Missouri

**County Income Patterns:**

As of July 2013, the unemployment rate for Pulaski County was at 8.7 percent which is higher than the state rate of 7.1 percent. There were 29,583 jobs in Pulaski County in 2011 of which 32.2 percent are military, this is down 10% since 2008. Government civilian jobs made up 38.7 percent of the civilian jobs listed in Chart 1.3 below.

Chart 1.3-Source UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, Pulaski County; Bureau of the Census

Pulaski County generated around $2,214,993 of total personal income in 2011 according to the Bureau of Economic Analysis. Per capita income was $20,168 compared to the statewide at $25,371. The median household income was at $46,919 which is also lower than the state average of $47,202.

In 2007, farming and agriculture statistics showed a total of 481in Pulaski County. Ag farm production costs in 2007 were approximately $266,000 which is higher than the statewide estimate of $262,000. Farms in Pulaski County showed a net loss in 2007. The Census of Agriculture is conducted by the USDA every five years. The 2012 survey data is not yet available.

**Environmental Health Risk Factors**

**Lead Testing:**

Pulaski County is a non-high risk area for lead screening. As listed in the previous section, only eight percent of the housing was built prior to 1950, reducing the risk of lead exposure from the home. Medicaid children are tested at 12 months and 24 months. The county lead screening reporting rates are low but are steadily increasing. Our rates are low mostly due to the number of military children being tested at the General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital (GLWACH). FLW is not a part of the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services reporting system. Although reporting rates are relatively low, the testing outcomes are very good.

The Pulaski County Health Center has continued its efforts to educate on lead. Children under the age of six are screened on a yearly basis and are tested based upon any positive responses indicating the child is at high risk for lead poisoning. Efforts are continuously made to improve the reporting process and rates.

**Public Water Supplies:**

Pulaski County is well within the normal and safe range of standards for water. The drinking water supply is fluoridated in Waynesville, St. Robert and Ft. Leonard Wood. Most of the citizens of Pulaski County have access to public water supply systems. The water is tested for lead and other contaminates and is generally not an issue in public water available in Pulaski County. The populations consuming public water are those living in an incorporated area. Those in unincorporated areas consume water from private wells.

**Food, Lodging, and Day Care Safety:**

Pulaski County has seen a continued growth of restaurants, lodging facilities and day cares due to the growth of military personnel at Ft Leonard Wood. During 2012, the environmental staff worked 127 recalls requiring visits to grocery stores, schools and other facilities. The Environmental Public Health Staff performed a total of 977 inspections 2012.

As of September 1, 2013, the Consumer Food Safety Regulation 13-05 will be in effect for the purpose to establishing permit compliance procedures for permanent food establishments in Pulaski County.

Also in 2012, the Pulaski County Health Center received “Organization of the Year” due to the effort and community work of the Environmental Program Staff.

**Public Safety/Domestic Violence**

**Crime Rates:**

The health of the community is negatively impacted by crime and substance abuse for stress, fear, injuries, and addictions that prevent some county residents from reaching their fullest potential. In 2012, law enforcement made 2,006 total arrests. Violent crimes, property damage and domestic violence reports accounted for 1,360 of these arrests and also for 99 referrals to the Juvenile Court system.

For the time period of 1999-2009, Pulaski County’s cause of death due to assault injuries of 4.2 is statistically significantly lower than the statewide rate of 7.08 (Death rates are per year per 100,000 population and are age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population). County rates for hospitalizations (1.4) and ER Visits (1.7) for assault injuries are also lower than the statewide average (3.12 and 3.99 respectively).

**Illegal Drug Use and Alcohol Abuse:**

Concern of illegal drug use and alcohol abuse continues to exist. In 2012, there were 325 drug related arrests, 323 driving under the influence arrests and 76 alcohol arrests within Pulaski County. The availability of county-level data on substance abuse is limited; however, the Missouri Student Survey provides insight and estimates on youth in 6th -12th grades. Table 3.1 shows details of their findings.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Current Substance Use for Grades 6-12, 2012 data | | | |
|  | 30 Day Use, Pulaski Co. | 30 Day Use, Missouri | Age of First Use, County |
| Cigarettes | 18.9% | 10.6% | 12.47 |
| Alcohol | 26.0% | 16.9% | 12.43 |
| Binge\* | 19.4% | 9.6% | N/A |
| Marijuana | 17.6% | 8.6% | 13.32 |
| Inhalants | 4.0% | 2.3% | 12.40 |
| RX Abuse | 8.5% | 4.7% | Unknown |
| OTC Abuse | 10.5% | 3.5% | Unknown |
| Synthetic | 5.8% | 2.9% | Unknown |

Table 3.1 Source: Behavior Health Profile, Behavioral Health Epidemiology Workgroup

**Abuse and Neglect:**

The abuse and neglect of the children in our community impacts everyone. Pulaski County’s rate of child abuse/neglect has continued to decline since 2000, and is now slightly lower than the statewide average rates. Chart 3.1 shows a comparison of the rate of child abuse/neglect in 2011 of Pulaski County, Missouri, and surrounding counties. Chart 3.2 depicts the average moving rates for Pulaski County and the State of Missouri. There are currently two shelters for battered women and children in Pulaski County.

Chart 3.1-Rates for Child Abuse/Neglect indicators are per year per 1000 population.

Source: Community Data Profiles - Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Chart 3.2-Rates for Child Abuse/Neglect indicators are per year per 1000 population.

Source: Community Data Profiles - Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

**Injuries**

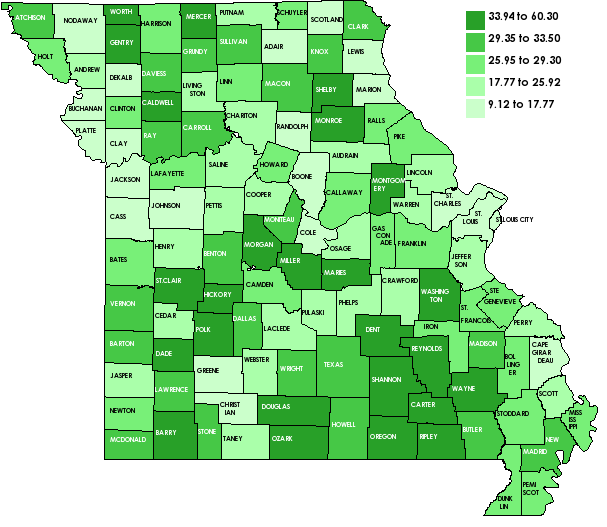
**Indicators Related to Injury:**

In 2011, there were a total of 2614 reported injuries in Pulaski County. This is a decrease from 2,753 in 2010 and 2,793 in 2009. The reported injuries in 2011 include the following categories:

* Assault-114
* Legal Int./War- 3
* Self Injury- 53
* Unintentional- 2405
* Unknown- 39

**Indicators Related to Traffic Safety:**

About one quarter of Missouri’s unintentional deaths to children age 1-14 are caused by motor vehicle crashes. This holds true in Pulaski County. For the time period of 2001-2011, the Pulaski County’s rate was 20.6 per 100,000 populations, which is not significantly different than the statewide rate of 17.6 per 100,000 populations. The rate motor vehicle deaths in children 15-19 in Pulaski County was 21.2 compared with the state rate of 23.7. The Pulaski County rates are unstable due to less than 20 events and thus a statically significant difference cannot be determined. The overall motor vehicle death rate for all ages combined was 19.7 in Pulaski County compared to a statewide rate of 13.6. The rate, though slightly higher than the state, has no statistical difference.

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**Missouri 2001-2011  
Leading Cause of Death Profile   
Mortality Rates: Motor Vehicle Accidents**

Chart 4.1- Rates are per year per 100,000

population and are age-adjusted to the U.S.

2000 standard population.

Source: MO DHSS, Community Data Profiles,

Death, Leading Cause Profile

Although child seats can greatly reduce fatal injury to children, they are often misused or not used at all. In focusing on decreasing the prevalence of motor vehicle crash related injury and death, the first step to prevention is increasing awareness and knowledge. The use of restraint devices and improving environmental dangers are another step in decreasing these injuries. Environmental changes include: eliminating drinking and driving, improving driver skills and behaviors, and increasing social support interventions. Child Safety Seats installation and inspections are available at the Pulaski County Health Center. Seats may be provided if available for eligible children.

**Maternal & Child Health**

**Indicators related to Children’s Health:**

The indicators of child well being include educational level of parents, prenatal care, abuse, death and hospitalization rates and family economic status. In Pulaski County, there are 16,992 children under the age of 19. Population estimates for 2011 is depicted in Chart 5.1.

Chart 5.1- Source: MO DHSS, Population MICA

The 2012 Kids Count Report showed that children make up 23.9 percent of the population in Pulaski County in 2011. Of these children, 2.8 percent were receiving cash assistance and 25.3 percent were receiving food stamps. In 2011, 43.1 percent of Pulaski County children were in enrolled in the Free/Reduced Lunches Program and 24.1 percent were enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids. The report also shows that the rate of low birth weight infants and infant mortality have shown little change and have actually experienced a slight decline since 2007. Births to teenage moms had improved significantly from about 36.6 percent in 2007 to 23.3 percent in 2011. Pulaski County had a Kids Count overall ranking of 22 out of 115 (2012).

The Health Department offers health prevention services and education programs through the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services Maternal Child Health Services Contract. The contract beginning October 2013 focuses on improving the rates of obesity among children, adolescents, and women associated with poor diet and lack of physical activity; improving the smoking rates among adolescents and women; and prevent and reduce intentional and unintentional injuries among infants, children, adolescents and women; and prevent and reduce adverse birth outcomes all through utilizing evidence based prevention programs.

Overall, the rates of maternal child health issues are comparable to the state rate. The table below shows the poverty rate of children in Pulaski County, as well as the child abuse rate and children enrolled in MO HealthNet for Kids/Medicaid.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Children and Families Pulaski MO | | | |
| All Persons Below Poverty Number Percent % | | | |
| 2008 | 5,137 | 14.4 | 13.5 |
| 2011 | 5,793 | 14.1 | 14.3 |
| Children (Ages 0 to 17) Below Poverty | | | |
| 2008 | 1,820 | 16.1 | 18.9 |
| 2011 | 2,075 | 17.7 | 20.0 |
| Students enrolled in free & reduced lunch program, 2011 | 3,749 | 43.1 | 47.7 |
| Low birth weight infants (count/per 1000), 2007-2011 | 310 | 7.5 | 8.1 |
| Child abuse and neglect (count/per 1000), 2011 | 382 | 30.1 | 33.7 |
| Births to Teens Aged 15-19 (count/per 1000), 2011 | 47 | 23.3 | 34.4 |
| Food stamp recipients (kids), 2011 | 1,466 | 25.3 | 37.9 |
| Children enrolled in MC+/Medicaid, 2011 | 1,396 | 24.1 | 37.5 |
| Overall Kids Count composite rank (out of 115), 2011 | 22 |  | . |
| *Note: 3 items in this table have rates per 1000 in the Percent column.* | | | |

Table 5.1-Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, Pulaski County, MO

**Indicators Related to Prenatal Risk:**

A number of factors contribute to birth outcome and child health. Among those are lack of education, late care received during pregnancy, inadequate prenatal care, smoking during pregnancy and births to teens.

Pulaski County rate for prenatal care beginning in the first trimester at 78.2 percent is slightly higher than the statewide average rate of 76.6 percent. Prenatal smoking rates are slightly lower in Pulaski County than statewide. County and State rates are comparable for inadequate prenatal care and low birth weight indicators. One significant change since the 2008 rates was the decline in prenatals on WIC in Pulaski County. In 2008, Pulaski County has a statistically significantly higher rate of 51.2 than the state rate of 43.5. The reduction leaves no statistical significance in the 2010 rates. The rate of prenatals with less than 12 years of education in Pulaski County (12.0) is lower than the state (17.84). See Table 5.2 for the prenatal profile for Pulaski County.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Prenatal Profile for Pulaski Residents |  |  |  |  |
|  | Data  Years | Rate | Significantly  Different | State Rate |
|  |
| Care Began First Trimester | 2010 | 78.2 | N/S | 76.6 |
| Late Care (2nd/3rd Trimester) | 2010 | 21.3 | N/S | 22.4 |
| No Prenatal Care | 2010 | 0.6\* | N/S | 1.0 |
| Inadequate Prenatal Care | 2010 | 11.7 | N/S | 13.9 |
| Prenatal Medicaid | 2010 | 16.4 | L | 46.1 |
| Prenatal WIC | 2010 | 47.1 | N/S | 46.7 |
| Prenatal Food Stamps | 2010 | 16.4 | L | 34.4 |
| Weight Gain less than 15 Pounds - Term Singleton | 2006-2010 | 9.4 | N/S | 9.6 |
| Weight Gain greater than or equal to 45 Pounds - Term Singleton | 2006-2010 | 22.1 | H | 19.2 |
| Mother Smoked During Pregnancy | 2010 | 17.0 | N/S | 18.7 |

Table 5.2- Source: MO DHSS Community Health Profiles, Prenatal; \* Fewer than 20 events in numerator; rate is unstable.

**WIC (Women, Infants and Children) Program Utilization**

WIC is an educational based nutrition program that teaches mothers and young children how to eat well and stay healthy. WIC is for women who are pregnant, breastfeeding or whose pregnancy recently ended; infants under 12 months old; and children under 5 years old who qualify based on income and health risk needs. WIC promotes and educates on the benefits of breastfeeding for mothers and their infants. Qualifying women, infants and children are prescribed a food package based on individual need. New food items recently added to WIC food packages include, whole wheat bread or tortillas, tofu, fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables, canned beans and jars of baby food. The growth of the county has also carried over on the demand for the WIC program. Chart 5.2 depicts the total participants served by year.

Table 5.4-Source: PCHC Annual Reports 2009-2012



**Prevalence of Infectious Disease**

Each year the Pulaski County Health Department reports, investigates and educates on the communicable diseases in the county. A system is in place to receive and transmit information on reportable communicable, environmental and occupational disease reports received from laboratories, physicians, hospitals, clinics, or other public/private institutions as defined in CSR 20-20.020. The Communicable Disease Preventions programs:

* Provide health care providers and mandated disease reporters information about reporting requirements, methods of reporting, and recognition of, and response to critical incidents.
* Provide the community with information on community health risk.
* Provide health education information on specific diseases to individual clients.

The total number (479) of diseases reported to the health department in 2012 The percentage of the tests actually administered by PCHC is as follows:

Chart 6.1- Source: PCHC, Monthly Nursing Reports, 2012

Sexually transmitted disease continues to be the leading communicable disease at more than 50 percent of the total cases in the county. A county rate of 2,320.7 for reported Chlamydia in females age 15-44 was statistically significantly higher than the statewide rate of 1484.27 in 2007-2009. In 2012, Pulaski County was ranked number one in the state with the highest Chlamydia rates per 100,000 population. This has been an ongoing health issue in our county and has continued to grow and prove challenging. Chart 6.2 shows the reported STD’s for 2012.

Chart 6.2-Source: PCHC, STD Health Improvement Plan, 2013

With the continuous increase, the health department has worked diligently to step up our efforts to combat this problem. We continue to offer more abstinence programs to local school districts; offer testing and prevention measures to residents of the community; and offer more frequent clinics with extended hours. Because of more frequent testing, the health department realizes that we may continue to see a slight increase in cases, but hope to see a decline in the near future.

In April 2009, the health department hosted the first Annual Steppin’ Out Tea Time and the tradition has continued each year after. A qualified guest speaker and health educator discuss the responsibilities and choices teen girls will face. Mothers are encouraged to attend. Similar education is provided to eighth grade boys. The attendees are educated on the different STD’s and how they are contracted. The main focus was on abstinence as prevention as well opening up opportunities for conversation between parents and their teenagers.

**Prevalence of Chronic Risk Factors Leading Causes of Mortality**

**Health Outcomes:**

According to the 2013 County Health Rankings, Pulaski County is ranked 34 out of 115 counties overall for Health Outcomes. This ranking is scored based on a county’s mortality and morbidity rates. The county’s ranking for mortality was 26 out of 115. Mortality looks at premature death rate or the number of years of potential life lost before the age of 75. Every death that occurs before the age of 75 will add to the total number of potential years of life lost. Our morbidity ranking was 64 out of 115. The morbidity ranking looks at the reported number of quality of health days and low birth-weight. For a more in-depth look at the details, see Table 7.1.

**Health Factors:**

The 2013 County Health Rankings shows Pulaski County at a ranking of 46 out of 115 for Health Factors. Four different categories were looked at to obtain the overall Health Factors ranking; Health Behaviors (ranked 86), Clinical Care (ranked 39), Social & Economic Factors (ranked 33) and Physical Environment (ranked 47). The lower ranking of the Health Behaviors category is associated with our adult smoking rates (17%), adult obesity rates (28%), physical inactivity (17%) as well as motor vehicle crash death rate STD rates and teen birth rate(rates discussed in previous sections). See Chart 7.1 for Health Risk Factors, Chart 7.2 for Healthy Environmental Factors, and Chart 7.3 for Obesity Quintile Rankings in Missouri.

Chart 7.1- Source: MO DHSS, 2011 County Level Study, Health & Preventative Practices

Chart 7.2- Source: MO DHSS, 2011 County Level Study, Health & Preventative Practices

**Chronic Disease Risk Factors:**

Chronic Disease risk factors are a great concern in Pulaski County. For the period ending 2011, the leading causes of death related to disease for the county were:

* Heart Disease
* Cancer (All types)
* Smoking Attributable
* Stroke/Other Cerebrovascular Diseases
* Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease

In 2012, the Health Center received funding from the Missouri Foundation for Health to build the Healthy Futures Pulaski County Coalition to promote and build Environmental Smoke-Free policy in Pulaski County. In 2013, additional funding was received from the Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services to assist in continuing Environmental Smoke-Free policy work.

The Show-Me Healthy Women program is implemented at the Health Center and has been for several years. The program assists low-income women over the age of 35 with preventative women’s wellness services. In 2011, the staff of the Health Center along with multiple community members and businesses began raising funds to help women that do not meet the criteria for Show-Me Healthy Women and were in need of breast diagnostic services. Fundraising has included: Trivia Night, Auction, BBQ, Bracelet Sales, T-Shirt Sales, 5K, Zumbathon, and Pink Canoe raffle.

**Disabilities:**

As of July 2013, there were 853 totally and permanently disabled people receiving MO Healthnet benefits in Pulaski County of the total 5,773 recipients.

**Health Care System Indicators**

The health care system in Pulaski County has a somewhat lower rate than the state rate. The county is a physician shortage area with only five health care clinics. There are two additional clinics with only one physician, but with limited hours. The only hospital in the county is General Leonard Wood Army Community Hospital, which see military personnel and dependents only. Mercy Clinic-St. Robert has extended their clinic hours to include weekend walk-in clinics. There are six dental offices; two that will accept Medicaid patients and/or patients with no insurance.

Table 8.1 depicts the residents to primary care physician in rural vs. metro area.

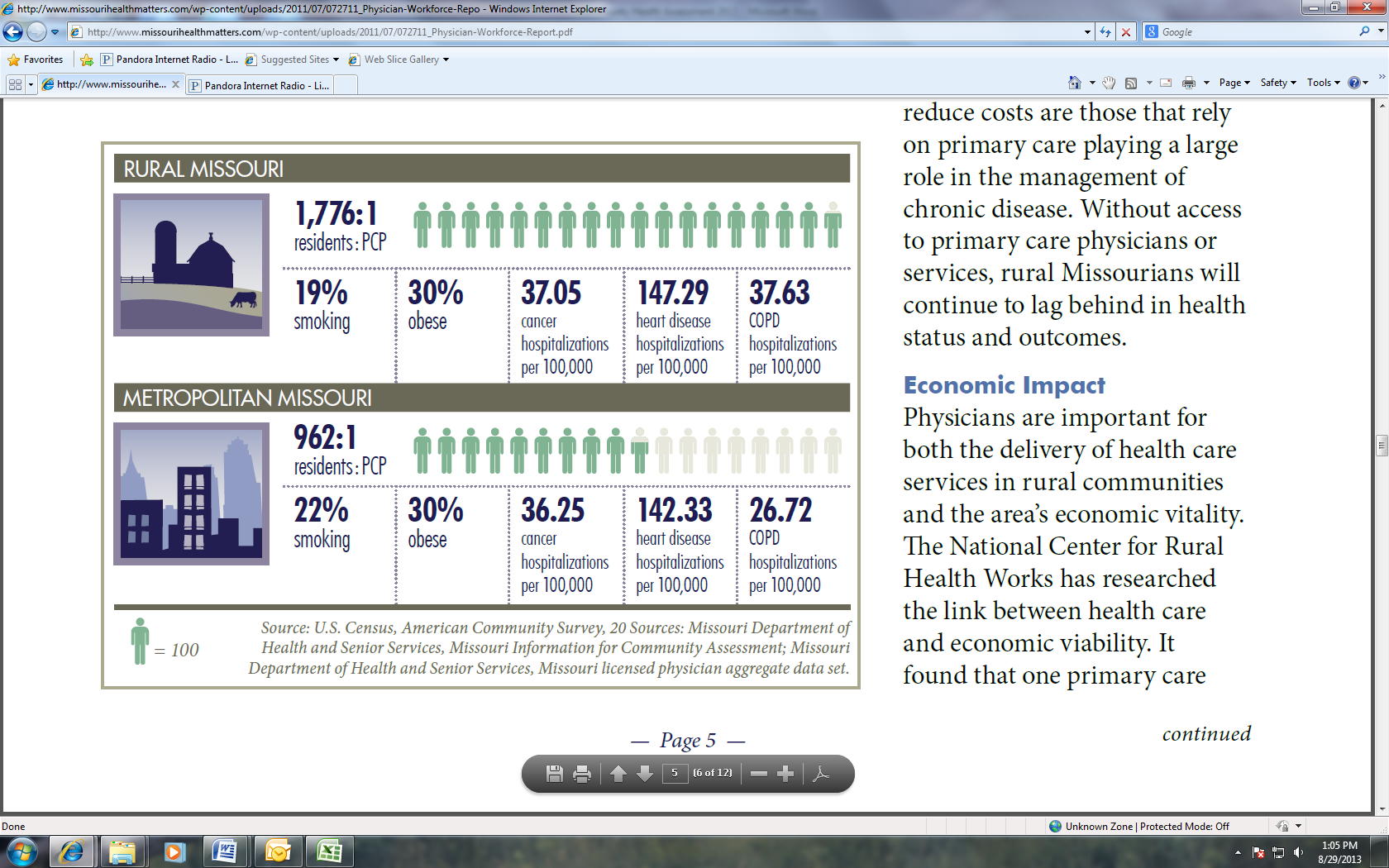


Table 8.1

Community Health Assessment Summary of Findings

The priority risk factors and priority disease/condition report for Pulaski County indicates we have higher mortality and morbidity rates than the state rates. Many of the illnesses and deaths experienced by the adult population are in part a culmination of lifestyle choices such as smoking, lack of physical activity and proper diet, lack of regular prevention and screening services.

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) rates have begun to fall but remain significantly higher than the state rate.

Maternal and Child Health issues in Pulaski County are about average with the state. We continue to be slightly lower and/or equal to the state in many MCH health concerns. Child abuse rates in Pulaski County were 4% higher in the previous assessment and are now comparable with the state wide average.

The general health in Pulaski County is poor. Behavioral risk factors are now slightly lower than the statewide rates, whereas they previously were considerably higher. The trend has remained that the amount of chronic disease cases continues to be higher with screening rates still lower.

Physical inactivity, elevated blood pressure, elevated cholesterol, diabetes among adults are now below or comparable to state rates but are still a concern with the continuation of the obesity epidemic in the county, state and country. Obesity is a risk factor for almost all of the leading causes of death for Pulaski County. Obesity paired with tobacco use only continues to escalate the prevalence of chronic disease.

Review of the community health status indicators, including primary and secondary data reveals the three most significant problems affecting the health status of Pulaski County’s residents are:

* Heart Disease & Stroke
* Smoking Attributable disease
* Obesity Attributable disease

These problems attribute to the leading causes of death are preventable in most cases. Through continued effort through education and programming, the Pulaski County Center along with its partners will strive to build a health future for Pulaski County.

**Primary Data Sources**

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**Appendix A: Pulaski County Health Center 2012 Annual Report**

**Appendix B: 2012 Epidemiologic Profiles of HIV Disease and STDs in Southwest Region, Missouri**

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