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The Half Empty Glass:

Exploring the Value of State Level
Data on Hispanic Health Disparities

M. Ryan Barker, MSW, MPPA
5/19/09
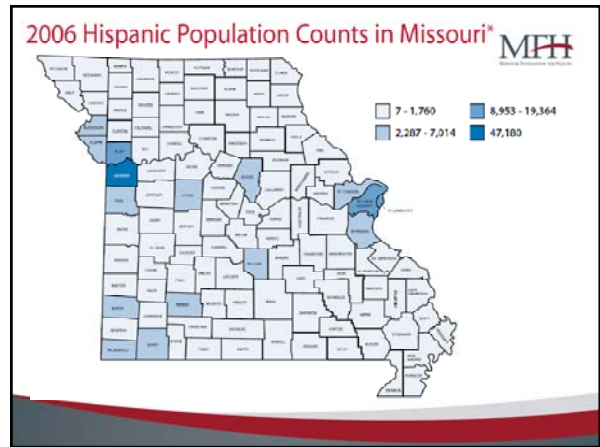

Missouri Foundation for Health

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- Mission
- Target Population
- Geographic Service Region
- Grantmaking Areas of Interest
- Health Policy Area
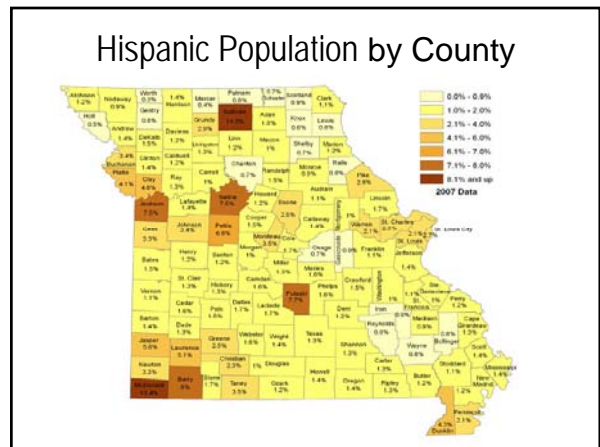

MFH Data Books

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- Fall 2003- MFH Health Policy Agenda
- 2004/2005- MFH Releases Original Data Books
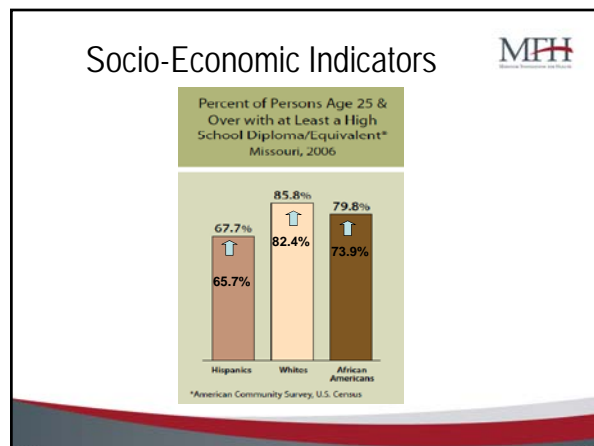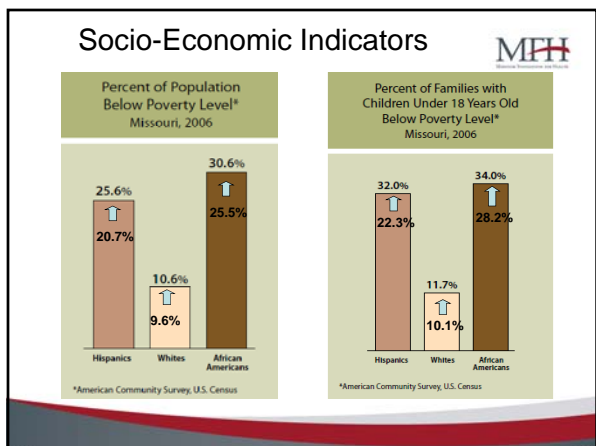- 2009- Updated Versions
- Other Health Disparities Contracts

2006 Hispanic Population Counts in Missouri*

2007 Top 15 Missouri Counties

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County	Hispanic Population
Jackson County	50,139
St. Louis County	21,366
Clay County	10,235
St. Louis city	9,406
St. Charles County	7,796
Greene County	6,703
Jasper County	6,438
Boone County	3,735
Platte County	3,509
Pulaski County	3,391
Cass County	3,233
McDonald County	3,059
Buchanan County	2,980
Jefferson County	2,956
Barry County	2,896

Hispanic Population by County

Percent Change: Hispanic Population 2000-2006

Population Growth Projections Missouri 2000-2025

Age-Gender Distribution by Race/Ethnicity

Socio-Economic Indicators

- Increased Disparities
  - Median Household Income
  - Population Below Poverty
  - Families with Children Below Poverty
  - High School Education

Socio-Economic Indicators
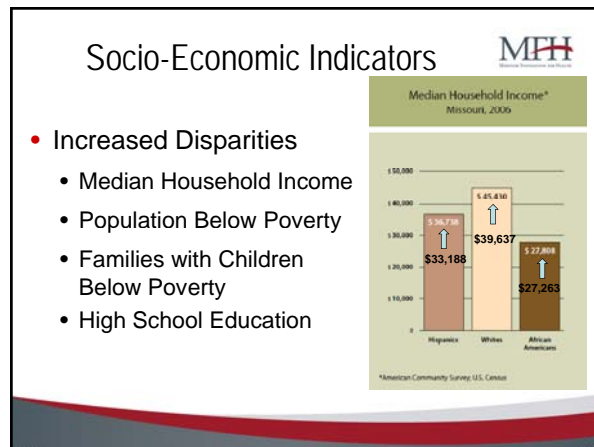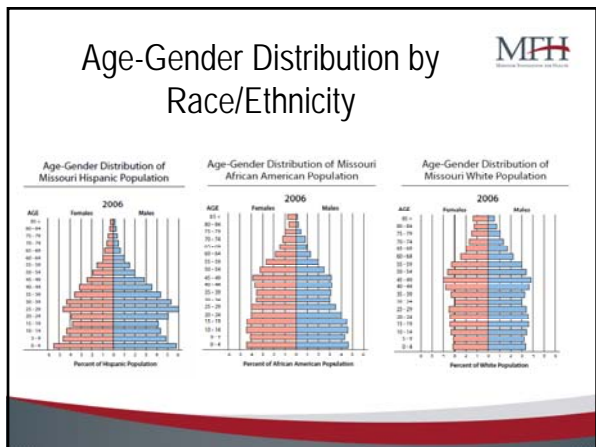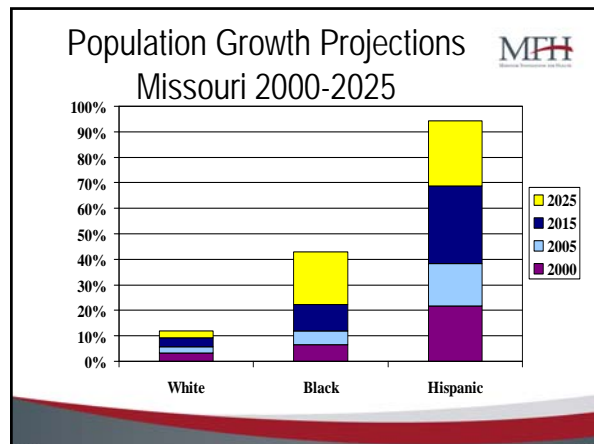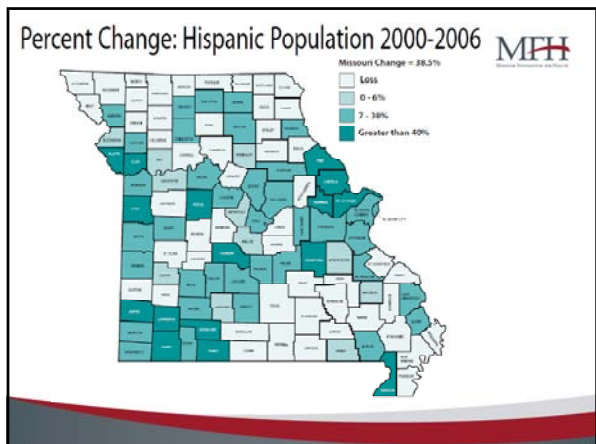
Socio-Economic Indicators

How Does Economic Status Affect Health?

- Those with Lower Economic Status have…
  - Reduced Access to Health Insurance
  - Less Information from Health Care Providers
  - Reduced Ability to Pay for Medical Care
  - Reduced Ability to Pay for Healthy Lifestyles
  - Less Access to Transportation

Socio-Economic Indicators

Expected Pay Source for Emergency Room Visits
Missouri, 2006
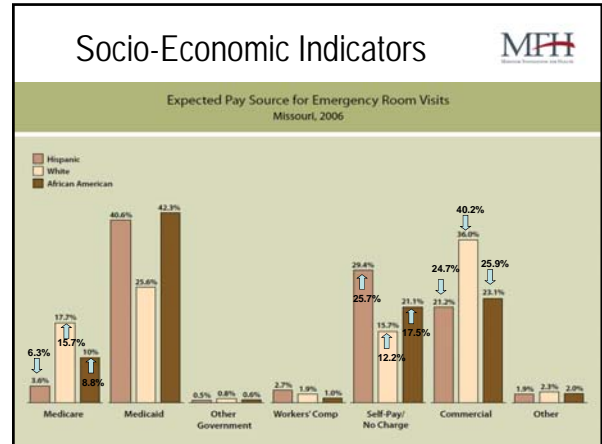
Missouri's Uninsured

- 729,000 Uninsured Missourians (2007)
  - 150,000 Children
  - 571,000 Adults
  - 8,000 Seniors

Missouri Uninsured Rates for the Nonelderly by Race/Ethnicity 2006-2007

	Number	Percent
White	542,086	13%
Black	131,369	22%
Hispanic	41,369	26%
Total	744,026	15%

Impacts of Uninsurance

- Lack Needed Medical Care
- Less Screening and Preventive Care
- Less Care for Serious and Chronic Conditions
- Enter System in Poorer Health
- Worse Health Outcomes

Maternal and Child Health

- Increased Rates
  - Births to Unmarried Mothers
  - Births to Mothers Receiving Medicaid
  - Mothers with Less Than a High School Education

Rates of Mothers with Less Than a High School Education*
Missouri, 2002-2006

Maternal and Child Health

- Decreased Inadequate Prenatal Care
- Hispanic Low-Birth-Weight Rate Lower than Other Groups

Inadequate Prenatal Care Rates*
Missouri, 2002-2006

Injury Rates and ER Visits

- Assault and Pedestrian Injury Rates Decreased
- ER Visits for Hispanics Decreased
- Comparing ER Visit Rates for Hispanics Versus Other Groups
- Four Intriguing Indicators

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Essential Hypertension:
ER Visit Rates*
Missouri, 2006

5.0
4.5
1.6
0.6
1.3
1.2
Hispanics   Whites   African Americans

*Age-Adjusted Rates per 1,000 Population

Why the Differences?

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- Demographics
- Data Issues
- Low Awareness Levels
- Fear

Death Rates

- Decreases in Death Rates for Heart Disease, Cancer, and Stroke

- Overall Death Rate Lowest for Hispanics

353
308.8
280
259
244
155.8
279
253.8
202
195.5
160
120.4

Heart Disease   Cancer

*Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population

Death Rates

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- Death Rates for Hispanics Decreased in All Categories, Yet Disparities Still Exist for Death Rates Due to:
  - Chronic Liver Disease
  - Diabetes
  - HIV/AIDS
  - Homicide

HIV/AIDS Death Rates*
Missouri, 2002-2006

11.7
10.1
4.5
3.8
1.6
1.3

Hispanics   Whites   African Americans

*Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population

Death Rates

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Homicide Rates*
Missouri, 2002-2006

33.7
30.6
10.9
7.7
3.4
3.3

Hispanics   Whites   African Americans

*Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population

Chronic Liver Disease/
Cirrhosis Death Rates*
Missouri, 2002-2006

14.6
9.2
8.3
7.4
7.2
7.1

Hispanics   Whites   African Americans

*Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population

Diabetes Mellitus Death Rates*
Missouri, 2002-2006

35.1
30.6
23.2
22.7
51.9
49.9

Hispanics   Whites   African Americans

*Age-Adjusted Rates per 100,000 Population

Death Rates

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- However…
  - Small Numbers
  - Demographics
  - Migration
  - Issues with Death Certificates

Data Sources

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- US Census Bureau

- Missouri Dept. of Senior Services
  - Birth Certificates
  - Hospital Records
  - Death Certificates

Strengths of the Data

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- Provides a General Overview on Hispanic Health Disparities
- Offers a Baseline and Trends Over Time
- Presents an Idea of Concerning Health Indicators
- Furnishes a Jumping Off Point for Additional Research (What is missing from the glass?)

Limitations of the Data

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- Small Numbers for Many Health Indicators
- Lack of Meaningful Rates at State and County Levels
- Imperfect Data Systems
- Language Barriers
- Under-Reporting of Hispanic Origin

What is Missing?

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- Framing Considerations
- Geographic Differences in Strengths and Needs
- Data on Sub-Populations
  - Country of Origin
  - Gender
  - Age
- What Do the Findings Mean?

Where Do We Go From Here?

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- Educate Policymakers
- Get Out the Facts
- Dialogue and Community Input
- Addressing the Underlying Issues
- Model Programs and Best Practices

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Questions?

"Data on patient race, ethnicity, and primary language would allow for disentangling the factors that are associated with health care disparities..."

-from the 2002 IOM Report

1000 St. Louis Union Station, Suite 400
St. Louis, MO 63103
(314) 345-5510
www.mffh.org