

4. Community Context

Background Information

*The safety net is influenced by a wide variety of community characteristics in addition to those specifically related to the health care system. Population size and composition, the economy, living arrangements, and crime rates all influence the structure and functioning of communities and determine the context in which the safety net functions. A safety net in an area facing considerable population growth is likely to address different health care needs than one in a community facing declining population.*²¹

Community Context is measured by looking at demographic related indicators and include:

- Population
 - County-level Population
 - Percent of Change in Population
- Race and Ethnicity
 - Population by Race
 - Percent Hispanic Population (any race)
- Indices of Racial and Economic Separation
 - Racial Dissimilarity Indices
 - Economic Indices
- Immigrant Population
 - Percent of Population Foreign Born
 - Foreign Born
 - Place of Foreign Birth
 - Percent of Population that Speak Non-English at Home
 - Percent of Population Speak English Less Than Very Well
- Economy
 - Percent Below Poverty
 - Median Household Income
 - Percent of Households with Incomes Under \$15,000
 - Percent of Households with Incomes Over \$75,000
 - Percent of Households Under \$15,000 on Public Assistance
 - Mean Public Assistance Amount (\$)
 - Percent of Population Ages 16+ Not in Labor Force
 - Percent of Population Ages 16+ Unemployed
- Living Arrangements, Housing, Education, and Crime
 - Living Arrangements
 - Housing
 - Education
 - Index Crimes

²¹ Book I, Chapter 6, Billings and Weinick (2003).

Population

Population indicators are very useful in learning about the demographics and the population trends at the state, regional, and county level. The percent of change in population by different age groups can be examined to better understand the population growth pattern at the county level and the need or demand for a health care system, including the safety net. The population change in the county or the region may also be influenced by migration. Negative growth in a county or the region may be attributed to out migration indicating the lack of economic opportunities and/or poor quality of life including poor health care access.

The latest available county-level estimate for the year 2002 was used for this report. Population change rate was calculated for the last five years ending in 2002. Population density was calculated with 2002 population estimates. Regional statistics are presented in Table 4.1 and include total population, population density, and the percent of change in population from 1997 to 2002 for all ages, under age 18, ages 18-64, and age 65 and older. County-level data for total population and the change in total Missouri population by the three age groups are presented in Map 4.1, Map 4.2, and Appendix 4(a).

BRFSS Regions	Total Population	Population Density	% Change in Population (1997-2002)			
			Total	U18	18 - 64	65+
Missouri	5,674,000	82	3.5	-2.0	6.6	0.5
Kansas City Metro	1,093,687	283	4.3	0.3	6.6	1.6
St. Louis Metro	2,027,786	529	2.5	-2.7	5.2	0.7
Central Region	670,251	51	5.5	-1.5	9.0	2.4
Southwestern Region	831,427	63	6.5	1.3	9.7	2.7
Southeastern Region	554,053	34	1.4	-6.0	5.6	-1.4
Northwestern Region	243,061	34	2.1	-5.3	6.5	-3.2
Northeastern Region	253,735	22	-0.3	-7.1	4.2	-5.4

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Census, Population Estimates for 2002

The data indicated a population growth at 3.5% between 1997-2002. According to the 2002 data, all of the regions showed a positive population growth except the northeastern region. Statewide, the highest growth was observed in the population group ages 18-64, and a decline of 2% was observed in the younger population (age 0-17). With the exception of Kansas City Metro and the southwestern region, the rest of the regions were attributed with negative population growth for those under age 18.

Race and Ethnicity

Population by Race

The data source of county level population by race and ethnicity was the 2000 U.S. Census, which is also the latest data for this measure. Table 4.2 provides the summary by regions. The statistics suggested that White/Caucasian was the largest race representing 85% of the population, followed by the Black/African American race at 11%, and Hispanic and Asian races at 1.4% and 1.1%, respectively, of Missouri's total population. One and a half percent of Missouri's population was multiracial (Table 4.2). Appendix 4(b) portrays the population by the three major races: White, Black, and Hispanic. The highest concentration of Blacks is in St. Louis City, where Blacks were the majority (51%) followed by Whites (44%), and Hispanics (2%). Other counties with a high concentration of Black population (13% - 26%) were Jackson, St. Louis City, Pemiscot, New Madrid, and Mississippi counties.

BRFSS Regions	% Population							% Population Hispanic (Any Race)				
	Single Race						2+ Races	All Hispanic	Mexican	Puerto Rican	Cuban	Other
	White	Black	Asian	Native American	Hawaiian / Pacific Island	Other						
Missouri	84.9	11.2	1.1	0.4	0.1	0.8	1.5	2.1	1.4	0.1	0.1	0.6
Kansas City Metro	91.2	5.2	0.7	0.4	0.1	0.9	1.5	2.5	1.8	0.1	0.1	0.5
	6/7(86)	1/7(14)	3/7(43)	5/7(71)	3/7(43)	3/7(43)	3/7(43)	4/7(57)	4/7(57)	5/7(71)	3/7(43)	3/7(43)
St. Louis Metro	86.0	11.2	0.9	0.3	0.0	0.4	1.2	1.3	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.4
	5/7(71)	2/7(29)	2/7(29)	2/7(29)	0	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	0	0	6/7(86)	2/7(29)	1/7(14)
Central Region	93.5	3.5	0.6	0.5	0.0	0.5	1.3	1.4	0.8	0.1	0.0	0.4
	20/21(95)	1/21(5)	3/21(14)	15/21(71)	5/21(24)	3/21(14)	4/21(19)	3/21(14)	3/21(14)	13/21(62)	5/21(24)	3/21(14)
Southwestern Region	96.0	0.5	0.3	0.9	0.1	0.8	1.5	2.0	1.4	0.1	0.0	0.5
	100%	0	1/21(5)	100%	7/21(33)	5/21(24)	4/21(19)	6/21(29)	6/21(29)	14/21(67)	2/21(10)	6/21(29)
Southeastern Region	93.5	4.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	0.2	1.3	1.0	0.5	0.1	0.0	0.3
	22/25(88)	3/25(12)	0	16/25(64)	0	1/25(4)	7/25(28)	1/25(4)	1/25(4)	14/25(56)	1/25(4)	0
Northwestern Region	96.3	1.8	0.3	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.8	1.0	0.7	0.1	0.0	0.3
	100%	0	1/13(8)	5/13(39)	4/13(31)	1/13(8)	1/13(8)	2/13(15)	2/13(15)	2/13(15)	1/13(8)	0
Northeastern Region	96.0	2.2	0.2	0.3	0.0	0.5	0.8	1.4	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.5
	100%	0	1/21(5)	5/21(24)	4/21(19)	3/21(14)	1/21(5)	2/21(10)	2/21(10)	10/21(48)	2/21(10)	3/21(14)

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000

Note:

1. The regional statistics are un-weighted averages
2. Shaded statistics show the proportion and the % of counties in the region with rate greater than State level

Though Hispanics were only 2% of Missouri's total population, their highest concentration (9%) was located in McDonald and Sullivan Counties followed by Pulaski, Jackson, Barry, and Saline Counties where they were 4% to 6% of Missouri's population.

Percent Hispanic Population (Any Race)

The country of origin further categorizes all Hispanic races. It is defined as the number of individuals reporting Hispanic/Mexican/Puerto Rican/Cuban/other Hispanic Latino ethnicity divided by the total population reporting ethnicity. This data suggested that 2.1% of all Missourians are Hispanic. The largest ethnic group had Mexican origin, representing 67% of all the Hispanic population in Missouri.

Indices of Racial and Economic Separation

Racial Dissimilarity Indices

AHRQ provided three racial dissimilarity indices: Black, Hispanic, and All Non-White. These are defined as the percent of the Black/Hispanic/All Non-White population in an area that would have to move from all area zip codes to have an equal proportion of the area's Black/Hispanic/All Non-White population. The Racial Dissimilarity Index for Blacks was higher than the state level in about 43% of the counties in the St. Louis Metro. The racial dissimilarity index for Hispanics was higher than the state level in 69% of the counties in the northwestern region (Table 4.3).

Economic Indices

Two economic indices, Gini Coefficient and the Economic Dissimilarity Index, are provided by AHRQ. The Gini Coefficient is defined as the proportion of income that would have to be redistributed to equalize the incomes of all residents of an area. The Economic Dissimilarity Index shows the percent of the population with family incomes less than \$15,000 per year in an area that would have to move from all area zip codes to have an equal proportion of the population with family incomes less than \$15,000 per year.

According to the Gini Coefficient, inequality of income distribution was greater than the state level in the majority of the relatively less urbanized counties of the central, both southern and both northern regions. Twenty-three out of twenty-five (92%) counties in the southeastern region had greater than state level inequality of income distribution. For the southwestern region this percent was 81%, followed by northwestern (77%) and northeastern (76%) Table 4.3.

Greater economic dissimilarities were observed in the counties of the two metro regions (St. Louis and Kansas City) for the low-income population (Table 4.3).

Table 4.3: Community Context - Indices of Racial and Economic Separation					
BRFSS Regions	Number (Percent) of Counties of the Region With Racial Dissimilarity Indices Greater than the State Level			Number (Percent) of Counties of the Region With Economic Indices Greater than the State Level	
	Black	Hispanic	All Non-White	Gini-Coefficient	Dissimilarity Index
Missouri	33/115 (29)	39/115 (34)	13/115 (11)	77/115 (67)	8/115 (7)
Kansas City Metro	1/7 (14)	2/7 (29)	1/7 (14)	1/7 (14)	3/7 (43)
St. Louis Metro	4/7 (43)	2/7 (29)	2/7 (29)	1/7 (14)	3/7 (43)
Central Region	5/21 (24)	5/21 (24)	2/21 (10)	9/21 (43)	0/21 (0)
Southwestern Region	7/21 (33)	6/21 (29)	1/21 (5)	17/21 (81)	1/21 (5)
Southeastern Region	9/25 (36)	6/25 (24)	4/25 (16)	23/25 (92)	1/25 (4)
Northwestern Region	4/13 (31)	9/13 (69)	2/13 (15)	10/13 (77)	0/13 (0)
Northeastern Region	4/21 (19)	9/21 (43)	1/21 (5)	16/21 (76)	0/21 (0)

Reference: Book II, Billings and Weinick (2003). Source: 2001 Claritas (1999 interpolated estimate) Claritas Inc.
 Note: The statistics show the proportion and the % of counties in the region with rate greater than State level

Immigrant Population

Percent Population Foreign Born

Percent Population Foreign Born is determined by the number of individuals born outside of U.S. divided by the total population for whom nativity and place of birth is reported. The 2000 U.S. Census data showed that 2.7 % of the Missouri population was foreign born (Table 4.4). Appendix 4(c) portrays the foreign-born population in Missouri counties. Their concentration (5% to 6%) was in the counties of Sullivan, Jackson, Boone, Pulaski, McDonald and St. Louis. Most of these counties were the same with greater concentration of Hispanic population.

Foreign Born

Two indicators are used to show the foreign born population in the area. The first indicator, *Percent Lived in U.S. 10 Years or Less*, is defined as the number of individuals born outside of the U.S. who have lived in the U.S. for 10 years or less, divided by the total number of individuals born outside of the U.S. Of Missouri's foreign-born population, 52.4% lived in the U.S. for 10 or less years (Table 4.4).

The second indicator, *Percent Naturalized Citizen* is defined as the number of individuals born outside of the U.S. who have been naturalized as U.S. citizens, divided by the total number of individuals born outside of the U.S. About 41% of Missouri's foreign-born population was naturalized (Table 4.4).

Place of Foreign Birth

The foreign born population in Missouri was categorized based on six different regions of the world. The percent Latin America/Asia/Africa/Europe/North America/Oceania is defined as the number of individuals born in Latin-America/Asia/Africa/Europe/North America/Oceania divided by the total number of individuals born outside of the U.S. (Table 7.4). The majority of the foreign born populations in Missouri were from Asia (35%), Europe (29%) and Latin America (26%) Table 4.4.

Percent Speak Non-English at Home

This measure is defined as the number of individuals age 5 and older speaking a language other than English at home, divided by the total population age 5 and older who reported language spoken at home. About 5% of Missourians did not speak English at home (Table 4.4). The GIS map in Appendix 4(c) portrays the county level data on percent of people who speak non-English at home. Sullivan, McDonald, and Daviess stand out as the counties with the highest concentration in this category with 5% to 6% of the population who did not speak English at home. Sullivan and McDonald were the counties with the highest concentration of Hispanics. Daviess is one of the few counties with 99% Whites.

Table 4.4: Community Context - Immigrant Population, 2000											
BRFSS Regions	% Population Foreign Born	Foreign Born		Place of Foreign Birth						% Speak Non-English at Home	% Speak English Less than Very Well
		% Lived in U.S. 10 Years or Less	% Naturalized Citizen	% Latin America	% Asia	% Africa	% Europe	% North America	% Oceania		
Missouri	2.7	52.4	40.9	25.8	34.9	5.6	28.5	4.2	1.0	5.1	2.0
Kansas City Metro	2	43.5	45.5	35.7	27.2	4.2	27.3	4.7	0.9	4.1	1.6
	3/7 (43)	1/7 (14)	5/7 (71)	4/7 (57)	2/7 (29)	3/7 (43)	4/7 (57)	4/7 (57)	4/7 (57)	3/7 (43)	2/7 (29)
St. Louis Metro	2.2	44	48.8	22	30.3	3.7	37.9	5.5	0.7	4.2	1.6
	2/7 (29)	1/7 (14)	6/7 (86)	2/7 (29)	1/7 (14)	2/7 (29)	6/7 (86)	4/7 (57)	1/7 (14)	2/7 (29)	2/7 (29)
Central Region	1.6	37.9	51.1	22.5	27.7	4.9	38.6	5.8	0.5	4.2	1.5
	4/21(19)	7/21(33)	14/21(67)	6/21(29)	7/21(33)	7/21(33)	14/21(62)	11/21(52)	3/21(14)	7/21(33)	6/21(29)
Southwestern Region	1.5	38.9	50.7	33.6	20.6	1.5	33.3	8.9	2.1	3.7	1.5
	1/21 (5)	5/21 (24)	13/21(62)	12/21(57)	2/21(10)	2/21(10)	14/21(57)	16/21(76)	8/21(38)	4/21(19)	6/21(29)
Southeastern Region	0.8	39.6	50.1	22.3	27.6	0.9	40.6	6.5	2.1	2.4	0.8
	0/25 (0)	6/25 (24)	19/25 (76)	7/25 (28)	9/25(36)	0/25 (0)	21/25(84)	13/25(52)	9/25(36)	1/25 (4)	0/25 (0)
Northwestern Region	0.8	32.6	52.8	17.7	30.9	2.6	39.7	7.7	1.5	3.2	1.2
	1/13 (8)	3/13 (23)	8/13 (62)	4/13 (31)	4/13(31)	2/13(15)	9/13(69)	9/13 (69)	4/13(31)	2/13(15)	2/13(15)
Northeastern Region	1.1	36.7	47.3	29.9	25.8	0.6	36.3	6.2	1.2	3.8	1.5
	2/21(10)	5/21 (24)	13/21 (62)	8/21 (38)	6/21(29)	0/21 (0)	13/21(62)	8/21 (38)	5/21(24)	5/21(24)	3/21(14)
Worth County	0.2	0.0	100.0	0.0	60.0	0.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	2.0	0.4
Putnam County	0.5	0.0	100.0	44.4	22.2	0.0	14.8	18.5	0.0	2.8	0.7

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Note:

1. The regional statistics are un-weighted averages
2. Shaded statistics show the proportion and the % of counties in the region with rate greater than State level
3. 100% of Worth and Putnam counties' population is naturalized citizen of the United States and have no individual born outside of the U.S. who have lived in the U.S. for 10 years or less

Percent Speak English Less than Very Well

The Percent that speak English Less Than Very Well is defined as the number of individuals age 5 and older who report speaking English less than very well, divided by the total population age 5 and older who reported language spoken at home. About 2% of all Missourians spoke English less than very well (Table 4.4). The GIS map portraying the county data on percent of people who spoke English less than very well is in Appendix 4(c). Their highest concentration (6.6% to 10.2%) was in the counties of McDonald, Sullivan, Pulaski, Scotland, Daviess, Jackson, Boone, Moniteau, and Morgan.

Economy

Percent Below Poverty

This measure is based on 2000 data from the Census Bureau and was defined as the number of total individuals and in the age groups 0-17, 18-64 and 65+ with incomes less than 100 percent of the federal poverty level, divided by the total population in the respective age group for whom poverty status is reported. Table 4.5 reports the regional statistics for the percent below poverty and the proportion of counties in the regions with rates greater than the state level. Missouri's county level data on population below poverty level (total and under different age groups) was previously reported (Table 1.3 and Map 1.3).

According to the 2002 estimates from U.S. Census Bureau, Missouri ranked 23rd in the nation with 11.3% of its residents in poverty. 18.7% of Missouri's children under the age of 5 were in poverty and Missouri ranked 22nd in the nation for this age group. For the age group 5-17 years, 14% were in poverty ranking Missouri 21st in the nation.

Median Household Income (\$)

Median household income in Missouri was \$37,934 in 2000 and increased in 2002 to \$40,309. Missouri ranked 32nd in the nation from the highest median household income in 2002. The Kansas City Metro region had the highest median income (\$44,969) and the southeastern region had the lowest median income at \$26,928, based on 2000 estimates (Table 4.5). The GIS map portraying the median income by county is in Appendix 4(d). Ten counties (Wright, Texas, Shannon, Carter, Wayne, Oregon, Ripley, Dunklin, Pemiscot, and Mississippi) with median income less than \$25,000 are located in the southeastern region. The highest median income of \$43,475 - \$57,258 was found in Platte, Clay, Cass, Charles, Jefferson, St. Louis, and St. Louis City. All of these counties are located in the two metro regions of Kansas City and St. Louis.

Percent Households Income Under \$15,000

At the state level the percent of households with income under \$15,000 was 17.1%. The lowest percent (12.1%) of people with household income less than \$15,000 was in the Kansas City Metro region, while the highest number was in the southeastern region at 28%. In the southeastern region, twenty-four out of twenty-five (96%) counties had a greater percent of households with income under \$15,000 as compared to the state level (Table 4.5). Appendix 4(d) contains the GIS map that portrays the percent of population with income less than \$15,000 by county. Eleven out of 12 counties in Missouri with the highest concentration (30% - 37%) are located in the southeastern region. Adair stands out as the only county outside this region with 31% of Missourians with income less than \$15,000.

Percent Households Income Over \$75,000

Seventeen point six percent of all households in Missouri had income greater than \$75,000. The greater percent was in the Kansas City Metro region (20.9%) and the lowest was in the southeastern region (7.7%). In the former region, 86% of the counties had a percent greater than the state level but in the latter none of the twenty-five counties had a percent greater than the state level (Table 4.5). Counties with a high concentration of Missourians with income over \$75,000 were located in and around the Kansas City Metro and St. Louis Metro (Appendix 4(d)).

The counties of Boone (Columbia) and Cole (Jefferson City) were the other two counties outside the two metro regions that had a greater percentage of Missourians with incomes over \$75,000.

Table 4.5: Community Context – Economy, 2000											
Area	% Below Poverty				Median Household Income (\$)	% Household Income Under \$15,000	% Household Income Over \$75,000	% Household Under \$15,000 on Public Assistance	Mean Public Assistance Amount (\$)	% Ages 16+ Not In Labor Force	% Ages 16+ Unemployed
	Total	Ages 0-17	Ages 18-64	Ages 65+							
Missouri	11.7	15.3	10.4	9.9	37,934	17.1	17.6	19.6	2,292	34.8	5.3
Kansas City Metro	7.5	9.4	6.5	7.8	44969.3	12.1	20.9	19.3	2261.0	31.6	4.0
	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	7/7(100)	0/7(0)	6/7(86)	4/7(57)	2/7(29)	0/7(0)	1/7(14)
St. Louis Metro	9.4	12.4	8.1	8.9	44052.3	13.5	20.8	23.0	2330.9	32.0	5.3
	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	2/7(29)	6/7(86)	1/7(14)	6/7(86)	6/7(86)	4/7(57)	1/7(14)	1/7(14)
Central Region	12.9	16.7	11.6	11.0	33458.6	19.6	10.8	16.5	1960.9	37.9	5.0
	11/21(52)	12/21(57)	12/21(57)	13/21(62)	3/21(14)	15/21(71)	2/21(10)	5/21(24)	4/21(19)	17/21(81)	8/21(38)
Southwestern Region	15.0	20.5	13.2	12.4	30109.9	22.1	8.7	16.3	2001.2	40.2	5.4
	19/21(91)	17/21(81)	20/21(95)	16/21(81)	1/21 (5)	20/21(95)	0/21(0)	1/21 (5)	5/21(24)	18/21(86)	7/21(33)
Southeastern Region	19.4	25.8	17.0	16.8	26928.2	28.0	7.7	18.6	1995.2	43.5	6.7
	22/25(88)	22/25(88)	23/25(92)	24/25(96)	0/25(0)	24/25(96)	0/25(0)	8/25(32)	5/25(20)	23/25(92)	21/25(84)
Northwestern Region	12.9	15.0	12.0	12.1	31715.7	21.4	9.6	13.8	2007.0	39.1	4.4
	10/13(77)	5/13(39)	8/13(61)	11/13(85)	1/13 (8)	12/13(92)	0/13(0)	1/13 (8)	2/13(15)	11/13(85)	5/13(39)
Northeastern Region	14.7	18.4	13.1	13.4	29849.7	23.5	8.2	13.7	1889.6	38.6	4.6
	19/21(91)	16/21(81)	19/21(91)	20/21(95)	0/21(0)	20/21(95)	0/21(0)	1/21 (5)	4/21(19)	19/21(91)	2/21(10)

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Note:

1. The regional statistics are un-weighted averages
2. Shaded statistics show the proportion and the % of counties in the region with rates greater than State level

Percent Households Under \$15,000 on Public Assistance

About one in every five persons with income less than \$15,000 per year was receiving public assistance in Missouri. The greatest percent was from the St. Louis region and the lowest percent was from the northeastern region (Table 4.5). Appendix 4(d) contains the GIS maps portraying the county level percent of households under \$15,000 on public assistance.

Mean Public Assistance Amount (\$)

Mean public assistance income of the households in Missouri was \$2,292. The lowest amount of \$1,889 was received in the northeastern region and the highest amount of \$2,331 was in the St. Louis Metro region (Table 7.5).

Percent Ages 16+ Not In Labor Force

The percent of young adults ages 16 and older not in the labor force, for the state of Missouri, was 35%. The highest percent of individuals, ages 16 and older who were not in the labor force was in the southeastern region (43.5%) and the lowest was in the Kansas City Metro region (31.6%) Table 4.5. Appendix 4(d) portrays county level data in the GIS map. Nine of thirteen counties, with about 50% of Missourians not in labor force, were located in the southeastern region.

Percent Ages 16+ Unemployed

The unemployment rate for Missouri was 5.3% in the year 2000. The unemployment rate was highest in the southeastern region at 6.7% and the lowest in the Kansas City Metro region at 4% (Table 4.5). Two GIS maps in Appendix 4(d) portray the percent unemployed. Six out of the nine counties that had the highest concentration of unemployed Missourians was located in the southeastern region (9% - 11%). In the second GIS map the county level percents were compared with the state level (5.3%). The southeastern region stands out with 21 out of 25 counties with an unemployment percent higher than the state level. Overall, 45 of 115 counties in Missouri had a percent of unemployment higher than the state level.

Living Arrangements, Housing, Education, and Crime

Living Arrangements

Two indicators are used to measure living arrangement. The first indicator is *Percent of Families with Non-Married Parent* and the second indicator is *Percent Living Alone*. The *Living Alone* category is further broken up into *Total Living Alone* and the *Age 65+ Living Alone*.

Total Living Alone is defined as the number of people living alone divided by the total population. In Missouri, 11% of all individuals lived alone. Appendix 4(e) contains GIS maps portraying the percent of Missourians living alone all ages, and 65 years and older. The highest concentration was in St. Louis City (17%). Most of northern Missouri and a few counties in the southeastern region showed a higher concentration of Missourians of all ages, and 65 years and older living alone.

The individuals *Age 65+ Living Alone* is the number of people age 65 and older living alone divided by the total population age 65 and older. The 2000 U.S. Census data showed that 30% of all senior citizens lived alone in the state of Missouri.

Percent of Families Living with Non-Married Parent is the number of family households with a single parent or a non-married couple, divided by the total number of family households. About 30% of all individuals in Missouri had this type of living arrangement. According to the GIS maps in Appendix 4(e), the southeastern region stands out with a higher concentration of single parent households. The counties of Mississippi, Pemiscot, and St. Louis City had the highest concentration of single parent households with 40, 44, and 57 percent, respectively.

Housing

Percent Owner Occupied is defined as the number of housing units occupied by their owner divided by the total number of occupied housing units. In Missouri, 70.3% of the houses were

occupied by the owners (Table 4.6). GIS maps in Appendix 4(e) portray that 24 counties in Missouri had an owner occupancy rate less than the state level.

Vacancy Rate for Missouri was 7.4%. It is calculated as the number of vacant housing units divided by the total number of housing units (not including seasonal, recreational, and occasional use units) (Table 4.6).

Seventeen percent of the houses in Missouri were considered newer houses because they were built between 1990 and March 2000. More than half (51%) of the houses in the state of Missouri were older than 30 years. These are the number of housing units built in 1969 or earlier divided by the total number of housing units (Table 4.6). Appendix 4(e) contains GIS maps portraying county data on percent of old and new housing in Missouri.

Area	Living Arrangements			Housing				Education		Index Crimes per 10,000
	% Living Alone		% of Families with Non-Married Parent	% Owner Occupied	Vacancy Rate (%)	Housing Age		% High School or Less	% College or More	
	Total	Ages 65+				% 0-10 Years	% 30+ Years			
Missouri	10.7	29.9	28.9	70.3	7.4	17.0	50.6	51.4	48.6	430
Kansas City Metro	9.4	28.2	25.2	73.5	6.0	20.5	44.3	51.6	48.4	387.3
	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	5/7(71)	1/7(14)	6/7(86)	2/7(29)	3/7(43)	4/7(57)	3/7(43)
St. Louis Metro	9.3	27.8	28.7	75.5	6.6	22.1	42.7	53.6	46.4	470.4
	2/7(29)	1/7(14)	1/7(14)	6/7(86)	2/7(29)	5/7(71)	2/7(29)	5/7(71)	2/7(29)	1/7(14)
Central Region	9.8	29.3	25.4	74.6	8.4	20.3	44.3	61.7	38.3	210.7
	4/21(19)	11/21(52)	1/21 (5)	17/21(81)	16/21(76)	17/21(81)	7/21(33)	18/21(86)	3/21(14)	0/21(0)
Southwestern Region	10.0	28.5	24.8	75.3	8.7	22.3	42.4	63.0	37.0	219.0
	9/21(43)	6/21(29)	2/21(10)	18/21(86)	19/21(91)	16/21(76)	6/21(29)	19/21(91)	2/21(10)	3/21(14)
Southeastern Region	10.3	30.7	27.2	74.1	9.4	17.0	46.3	70.4	29.6	195.4
	9/25(36)	16/25(64)	9/25(36)	18/25(72)	21/25(84)	14/25(56)	7/25 (28)	25/25(100)	0/25(0)	1/25 (4)
Northwestern Region	10.8	31.0	23.1	72.7	10.0	12.8	60.6	61.3	38.7	142.7
	8/13(61)	10/13(77)	1/13 (8)	9/13(69)	12/13(92)	4/13 (31)	10/13(77)	12/13(92)	1/13 (8)	1/13 (8)
Northeastern Region	11.3	32.1	24.4	74.6	11.1	13.3	59.0	65.1	34.9	180.8
	15/21(71)	19/21(91)	3/21(14)	19/21(91)	21/21(100)	2/21(10)	18/21(86)	20/21(95)	1/21 (5)	0/21(0)

Source: U.S. Census, 2000

Note:

1. The regional statistics are un-weighted averages
2. Shaded statistics show the proportion and the % of counties in the region, with rate greater than State level

Education

Half of Missouri's population had a high school or less education and the rest had college or more level of education. These statistics are defined as the number of individuals age 25 years and older with educational attainment of a high school degree (or equivalent)/ education beyond a high school degree, divided by the total population age 25 years and older reporting

educational attainment (Table 4.6). Almost all the counties in the southeastern region had more than 70% population with high school or less education. Appendix 4(e) contains the GIS maps. Mississippi County had the highest level in the state with 77% of the population with less than a high school education.

Index Crimes

At the state level, the value of index of crimes is 430. This implies that 430 crimes (murder, forcible rape, robberies, aggravated assaults, burglaries, larcenies, and auto theft), for every 10,000 Missourians, were committed during the year 1999. The highest rate of 470 was in St. Louis County and the lowest of 143 was in the northwestern region. In Missouri, the highest rate of 1388 was in St. Louis City and the lowest of 14 was in the counties of Ralls and Gentry (Table 4.6).

Compared to other states (31 states for which AHRQ safety net data was available), Missouri ranked 18th. The highest rate of 725 was noted in the District of Columbia and the state of Kansas had the lowest rate at 129.

Relationship Between Community Context and Population Outcomes

AHRQ found several associations between community context with population health outcomes.

- At the county level an association was observed between an increasing proportion of the non-white population with a moderate to high increase in negative outcomes, including preventable hospitalizations for all ages and poor birth outcomes. This relationship was weaker at the MSA level. Higher rates of preventable hospitalization and poor birth outcomes may also be associated with higher racial and economic dissimilarity indices. The racial dissimilarity indices are also associated with lower rates of lacking a usual source of care and having no physician visits in the past year. The association between foreign born and the proportion speaking English less than "very well" was found to be weak, with typically only a slight to low association.²²
- When looking at the population living alone, there was a moderate positive associations between the proportion of the population living alone and each of the outcomes at the community/county level. Families with only one parent in the household was highly to very strongly associated with higher preventable hospitalization rates and higher rates of poor birth outcomes at the county level. These relationships are the same at the MSA level, but are less strong. It is likely that these associations are related to single parents and those living alone being less likely to take care of themselves, or it may represent a lesser extent of community "cohesion" in areas where these rates are high. Communities/counties with older housing or vacant houses tended to be associated with negative outcomes whereas higher levels of owner-occupied housing were associated with better outcomes.²³
- Lastly, there was a moderate to very strong association between the proportion of the population who are unemployed with a higher rate of all of the negative outcomes studied at the community/county level. These relationships are maintained at the MSA level, however, they are somewhat less strong for preventable hospitalization and the rate of

²² Book I, Chapter 6, Billings and Weinick (2003).

²³ See footnote 22.

late or no prenatal care. Similar relationships were found for education. As the proportion of the population having a high school education or less increased, higher rates of negative outcomes were observed. The association between crime rate and health care outcomes followed the same pattern, however, the relationships were less strong.²⁴

Based on census data for Missouri, nine community context variables population density, % non-White races, % speak English less than very well, % household income under \$15,000, % ages 16+ not in labor force, % ages 16+ unemployed, % single parent families, % with high school or less education, and index crimes per 10,000 were picked to rank the counties. Table 4.7 shows the individual and composite ranking of top 20% counties with environment of greater potential for health care safety. Complete ranking is at Appendix 4(f).

	County Name	Population Density	% Non-White Races	% Speak English Less than Very Well	% Households Income Under \$15,000	% Ages 16+ Not In Labor Force	% Ages 16+ Unemployed	% Single Parent Families	% With High School or Less Education	Composite Rank of Environment
1	Pemiscot	80	113	74	115	101	109	114	111	817
2	Dunklin	86	104	91	112	98	89	110	108	798
3	St. Louis City	115	115	112	101	65	115	115	21	759
4	Mississippi	60	111	6	113	86	110	113	115	714
5	Butler	89	91	77	95	95	96	106	42	691
6	Washington	59	76	39	94	106	105	91	106	676
7	New Madrid	46	109	13	103	88	82	111	114	666
8	Pike	64	105	102	59	97	56	90	79	652
9	St. Francois	103	106	19	70	38	91	107	95	629
10	Ripley	49	44	43	110	109	108	59	101	623
11	McDonald	68	101	114	83	39	32	86	91	614
12	Sullivan	6	78	115	98	50	67	92	104	610
13	Hickory	39	32	52	89	115	107	84	86	604
14	Wayne	25	26	12	109	113	111	98	110	604
15	Phelps	84	86	89	79	69	93	87	15	602
16	Oregon	24	81	18	111	111	103	49	103	600
17	Howell	69	60	65	99	79	92	74	56	594
18	Ste. Genevieve	36	77	9	114	105	98	42	112	593
19	Texas	45	59	29	104	100	94	81	81	593
20	Iron	30	52	20	90	103	97	103	97	592
21	Audrain	76	97	99	39	78	28	96	77	590
22	Jasper	104	89	101	44	28	95	102	20	583
23	Jackson	113	114	110	23	20	77	112	8	577

Source: Computation of these ranks is based on data from Census 2000, Claritas 2001

Note: The higher rank is assigned to the county/city where the value of these indicators is higher. Therefore, indicating poor environment for health care safety net. This ranking helps with the objective of identifying the counties where environment requires/necessitates the greatest need for the health care safety net in Missouri since greater percentage of non-White races, people with poor English, lower income, out of labor force, unemployed, single parents, and lower level of education would make them less likely to have regular source of health care.

²⁴ Book I, Chapter 6, Billings and Weinick (2003).