The Half Empty Glass: Exploring the Value of State Level Data on Hispanic Health Disparities

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

MFH Data Books

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

Missouri Foundation for Health

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

2007 Top 15 Missouri Counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County</th>
<th>Hispanic Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>50,139</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis County</td>
<td>21,386</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clay County</td>
<td>10,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis city</td>
<td>9,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Charles County</td>
<td>7,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greene County</td>
<td>6,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jasper County</td>
<td>6,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boone County</td>
<td>3,725</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Platte County</td>
<td>3,509</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulaski County</td>
<td>3,391</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cass County</td>
<td>3,233</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McDonald County</td>
<td>2,959</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buchanan County</td>
<td>2,946</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson County</td>
<td>2,516</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barry County</td>
<td>2,896</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Population Growth Projections
Missouri 2000-2025

- White
- Black
- Hispanic

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

- Percent of Population Below Poverty Level* Missouri, 2006
- Percent of Families with Children Under 18 Years Old Below Poverty Level* Missouri, 2006

Percent of Persons Age 25 & Over with at Least a High School Diploma or Equivalent** Missouri, 2006

*American Community Survey, U.S. Census
**American Community Survey, U.S. Census
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

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>542,086</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black</td>
<td>131,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic</td>
<td>61,369</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>744,026</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

Maternal and Child Health

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

Why the Differences?

- 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

Death Rates

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

Death Rates

- However...
  - Small Numbers
  - Demographics
  - Migration
  - Issues with Death Certificates
Data Sources

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

Strengths of the Data

- 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

- 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?

- 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?

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

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