



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Community Health Assessment

Pulaski County Health

Department

Pulaski County Home Health

Agency

FFY 2010

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Demographic/Educational/Socioeconomic Indicators

Population and Change:

Pulaski County is the 12th fastest growing county in Missouri with a percentage growth of 12.9 percent. The population has steadily increased each year with the exception of 2006 where we experienced a slight decline. Between 2000-2009, Pulaski County's population increased by 5,292, by going from 41,165 in 2000 to 46,457 in 2009. The largest growth incline occurred within the timeframe of 2008 to 2009 with a change of 4 percent compared to Missouri change of 1 percent. With this exponential amount of growth strategic planning of funds and programs is vital in preparing for future health care and environmental demands. See Table 1.1

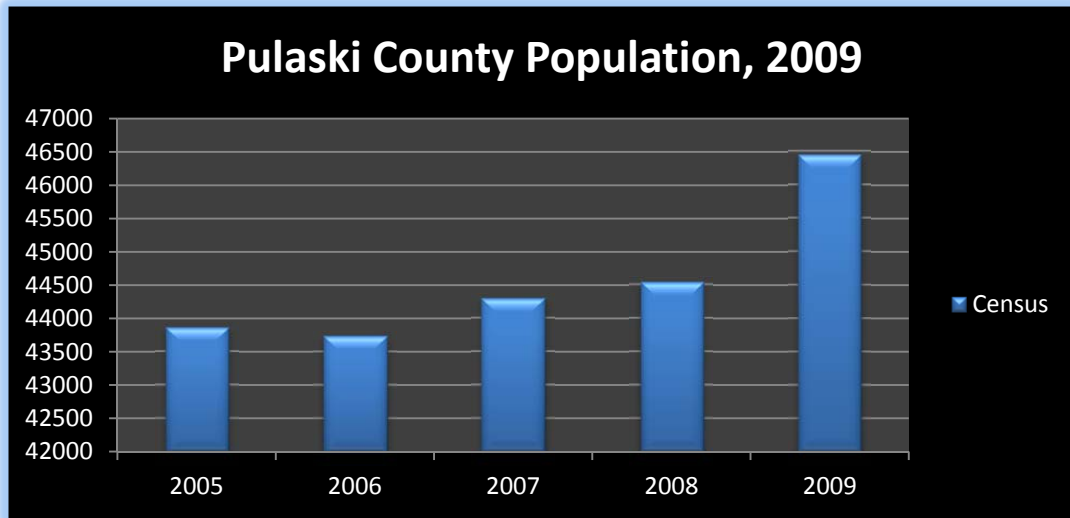


Table 1.1: Source: MODHSS, Population MICA, UM Extension Social and Economic Profile

The age breakdown of Pulaski County shows that children under the age of 18 have the largest population rate of 26.3 percent as compared with the State of Missouri's rate of 24.0 percent. Our smallest population is the number of residents over the age of 65, at 7.9 percent of population compared to the State rate of 13.7 percent. Pulaski County's gender population is broken down as 53 percent male and 47 percent female. See Table 1.2.

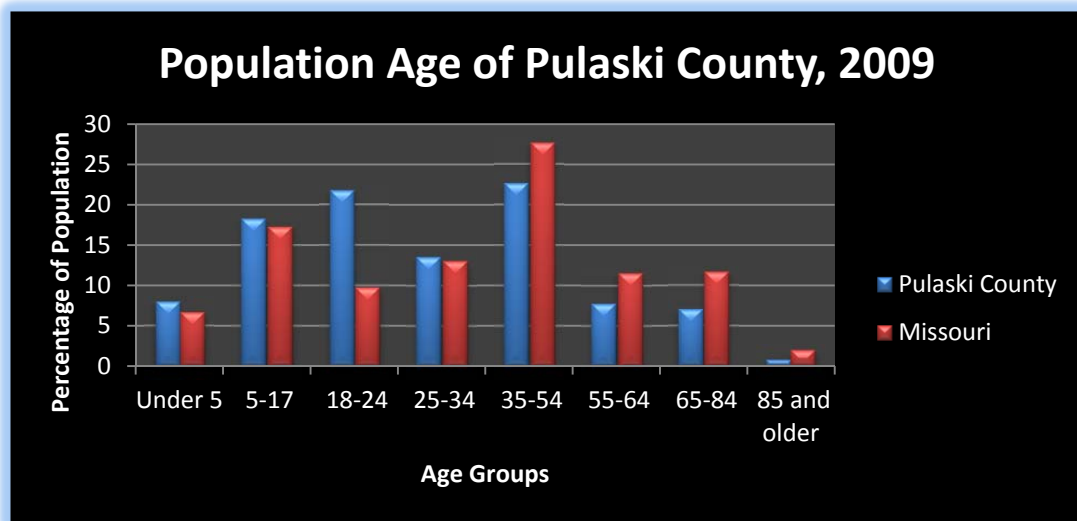


Table 1.2- Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile

Natural increase is defined as births minus deaths. Pulaski County had a natural increase of 3,730 between 2000 and 2009. Migration is the difference between the number of people who moved into and area and the number of people who moved out. Between 2000 and 2009, Pulaski County had a net migration (gain) of 1,562. Of the total population, 73.6 percent live in unincorporated areas, 17.1 percent live in places of 2,500 or more population and 9.3 percent live in places with fewer than 2500 population.

Racial Diversity:

There has not been a significant change in the race and ethnicity population from 2006 to 2009. The whites have continued to be the largest race population in the county at 82.4 percent. Blacks are the second largest racial population at 10.4 percent, which is a slight decline since 2006. 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 1.3

Population by Race and Ethnicity, 2009	County		State
	Total	Percentage of Population	Percentage of Population
White Alone	38,291	82.4	84.9
Black Alone	4,850	10.4	11.5
Am. Indian & Alaskan Native Alone	495	1.1	.5
Asian and Pacific Islander Alone	1,398	3.0	1.6
Multiracial	1,423	3.1	1.5
Hispanic	3,819	8.2	3.4

Table 1.3- Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, 2009, Pulaski County, Missouri

Educational Attainment:

According to the Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey (completed 2006-2008), the 2008, graduation rate for Pulaski County was 93.6 percent as compared to the statewide rate of 85.8 percent. The Survey also showed that 37.7 percent of people 25 years and older have a high school diploma or equivalent, 21.9 percent have some college but no degree, 9.6 percent have attained an associated degree and 15.7 percent have received a Bachelor’s degree or higher.

In 2009, the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reported the High School graduation rates in Pulaski County remained above the statewide rate of 85.0 percent. The Dixon School District’s graduation rate is 95.3 percent; Crocker School District is 92.5; Waynesville is 91.9; Laquey is 88.0; and Richland is 87.0. 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	23,558		3,886,568	
Less than 9 th Grade	1,214	5.2	188,390	4.8
9 th -12 th grade, no diploma	2,314	9.8	370,578	9.5
High school graduate, includes equivalency	8,893	37.7	1,287,126	33.1
Some college, no degree	5,162	21.9	836,080	21.5
Associates degree	2,267	9.6	251,433	6.5
Bachelors degree	2,403	10.2	608,777	15.7
Graduate or professional degree	1,305	5.5	344,184	8.9
High School Graduate or higher	20,030	85.0	3,327,600	85.6
Bachelor degree or higher	3,708	15.7	952,961	24.5
High School Graduation Rate, 2008		93.6		85.8

Table 1.4- Source: Bureau of the Census, American Community Survey, detailed tables for 2006-2008

Housing, Household and Families

According to the US Census Bureau's estimates, there were 16,408 housing units in Pulaski County in 2008. Of the total units 86.4 percent are occupied of which 58.7 percent are owner occupied and 41.3 percent are renter occupied, leaving 13.6 percent units vacant. The median value of an owner occupied housing unit in 2009 was \$119,200 as compared to the 2000 value of \$78,300 and 2009 statewide value of \$137,100.

In 2008, there were 14,184 households in the county. Family households make up 67.6 percent (9,594) of the households. About 28.2 percent of households are married couples with children under 18 which are higher than the state at 20.6 percent. Pulaski County's single parent households (9.1%) are slightly lower than the state as a whole (9.5%). Grandparents responsible for their grandchildren is now at 46.7 percent statewide (local rates are not available).

As of July 2010, the unemployment rates for Pulaski County were at 8 percent which is lower than the state rate of 9.4 percent. There were 30,300 jobs in Pulaski County in 2008 of which 42.7 percent are military. Federal civilian jobs made up 12.5 percent followed by accommodations and food service at 7.4 percent. See Table 1.5 for all categories.

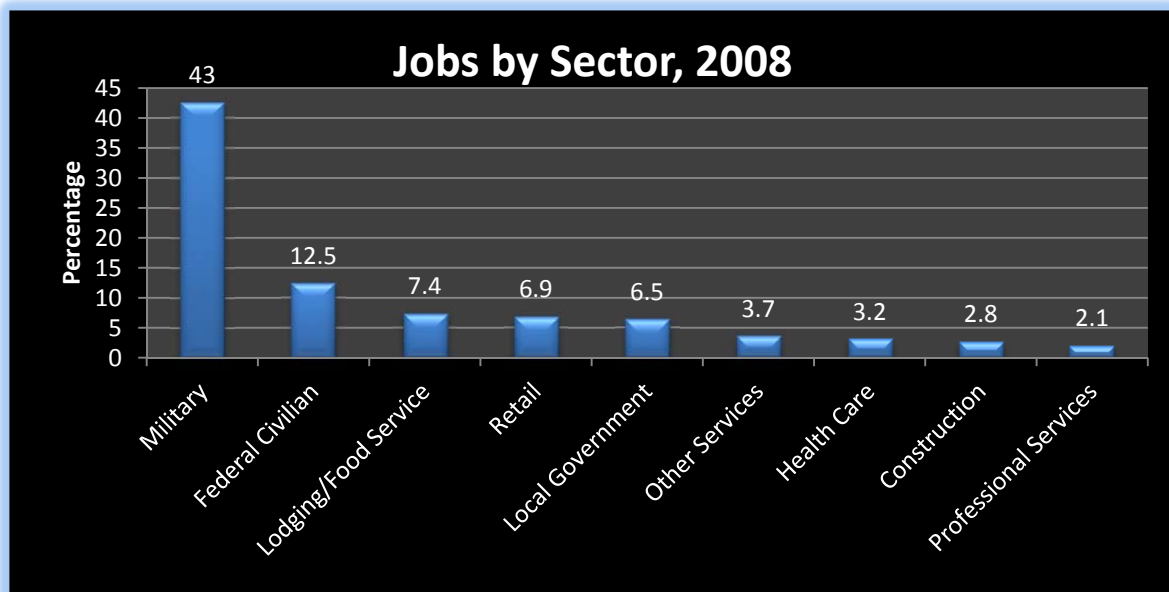


Table 1.5-Source UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, Pulaski County

County Income Patterns:

Pulaski County generated over \$1,820,487 of total personal income in 2008 according to the BEA. Per capita income was \$40,672 compared to the statewide at \$36,356. The median household income was at \$44,540 which is also lower than the state average of \$46,847. Significant sources of income were:

- Military \$1,123,909 (61.7%)
- Federal Civilian \$285,416 (15.7%)
- Personal current transfer receipts \$216,670 (11.9%)
- Dividends, interest, and rent \$152,065 (8.4%)

In 2007, farming and agriculture statistics showed a total of 481 farms in 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.

Environmental Health Risk Factors

Housing:

Pulaski County offers a wide range of housing with only about 10 percent of the units being built prior to 1950. Estimates for 2008, showed 73.6 percent live in unincorporated areas, 17.1 percent live in places of 2,500 or more population and 9.3 percent live in places with fewer than 2500 population. Other characteristics are shown below in Table 2.1 and Table 2.2.

Household by Type, 2008	Number	Percentage	State
Total Households	14,184		
Family Households	9,594	67.6	65.9
Married-couple families	5,277	54.7	49.9
with own children under 18 years	3,993	28.2	20.6
Single Parent Households	1,838	13.0	16.0
Single Mothers	1,218	8.6	11.8
Single Fathers	620	4.4	4.2
Nonfamily Households	4,590	32.4	34.1
Householder living alone	4,125	29.1	28.6
65 years and older living alone	1,099	7.7	9.9

Table 2.1 – Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, Pulaski County

Population by Place Category, 2009	Number	Percent	State
Living in incorporated places of 2500+ population	7,929	17.1	59.3
Living in incorporated places of less than 2500	4,337	9.3	7.1
Living in an unincorporated area	34,191	73.6	33.7

Table 2.2- Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, Pulaski County

Lead Testing:

Pulaski County is a non-high risk area for lead screening. 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 Department 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, Richland, and Dixon. Crocker decided to discontinue fluoridation of their water system due to cost. 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.

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 2009, the environmental staff worked 29 recalls requiring visits to grocery stores, schools and other facilities. The total number of inspections and trainings in 2009 are as follows:

- **Food Establishments-423**
- **Lodging Facilities-79**
- **Child Care Facilities-61**
- **On-site Wastewater Systems (OSWT)-103**
- **Complaint investigations -43**
- **Truck wreck/Fire-6**
- **Food Handler Trainings-207**
- **OWTS Installer Trainings-23**

Also in 2009, one environmental staff person was certified by the Missouri Board of Certification for Environmental Health Professionals.

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 2007, law enforcement made 1,640 total arrests. Violent crimes, property damage and domestic violence reports accounted for 1,163 of these arrests and also for 155 referrals to the Juvenile Court system. Referrals were also made to the juvenile system for 180 cases of truancy, 17 cases of beyond parental control, 26 cases of runaways, and 206 cases of injurious behavior.

For the time period of 1998-2008, Pulaski County's cause of death due to assault injuries of 4.4 is statistically significantly lower than the statewide rate of 7.14 (Death rates are per year per 100,000 population and are age-adjusted to the U.S. 2000 standard population). County rates for hospitalizations (1.5) and ER Visits (1.7) for assault injuries are also lower than the statewide average (3.12 and 4.05 respectively).

Illegal Drug Use and Alcohol Abuse:

Concern of illegal drug use and alcohol abuse continues to exist. Methamphetamine lab incidents for 2005-2007 had a significant decrease of 10 incidents compared to 113 incidents from the previous three year period. In 2007, fewer arrest were made (477) related to drug and alcohol use/abuse than in previous years (586 in 2006, 692 in 2005). Juvenile Courts saw 42 cases of minors with offenses associated with drugs and alcohol abuse and 12 cases where parents were abusing drugs and/or alcohol. Alcohol contributed statistics include 240 Hospital/ER visits, 4 drinking prenatally, and 2 deaths. Drug related statistics include 253 Hospital/ER visits and 6 deaths.

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, however, is still higher than the statewide average rates. Table 3.1 show a comparison of the rate of child abuse/neglect in 2007 of Pulaski County, Missouri, and surrounding counties. Table 3.2 depicts the average moving rates for Pulaski County and the State of Missouri.

Child Health Rates: Probable Cause Child Abuse/Neglect, 2007 Under Age 18

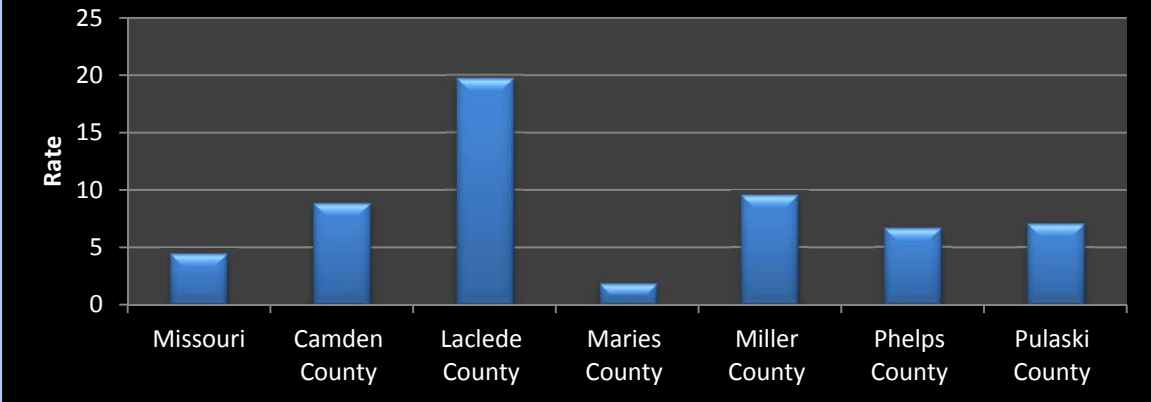


Table 3.1-Rates for Child Abuse/Neglect indicators are per year per 1000 population. Source: Community Data Profiles - Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Probable Cause Child Abuse/Neglect Moving Average Rates

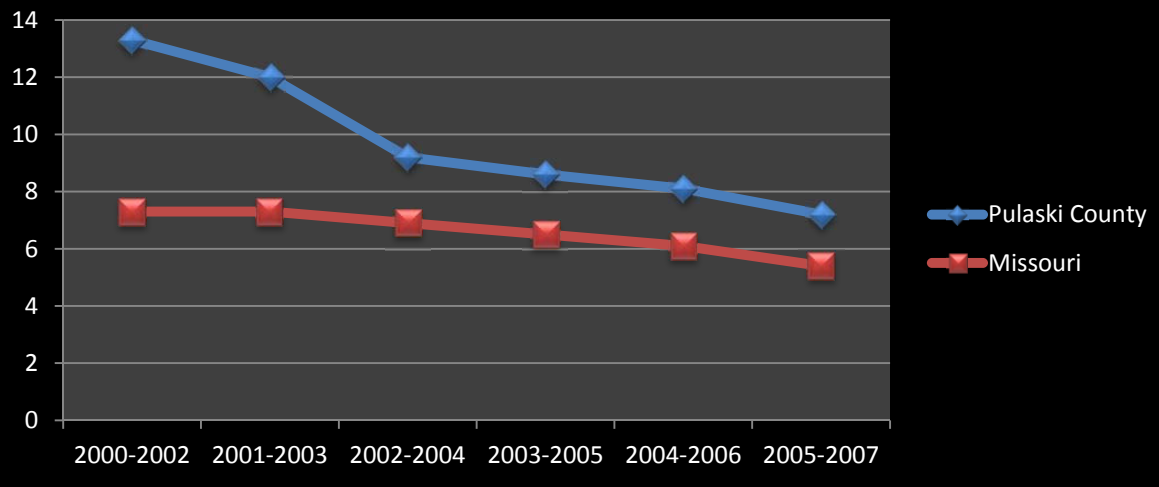


Table 3.2-Rates for Child Abuse/Neglect indicators are per year per 1000 population. Source: Community Data Profiles - Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Unintended Injury

Indicators Related to Injury:

In 2008, there were a total of 2,700 reported injuries in Pulaski County. This is an increase from 2,572 in 2007 and 2,343 in 2006. The reported injuries in 2008 include the following categories:

- Abuse/Neglect/Rape Injuries (9)
- Cut/Peirce Injuries (200)
- Fall/Jump Injuries (824)
- Fire/Burn Injuries (36)
- Firearm Injuries (11)
- Machinery Injuries (13)
- Motor Vehicle Traffic Injuries (268)
- Motor Vehicle Non-Traffic Injuries (75)
- Other Transport Injuries (7)
- Weather/Wildlife related Injuries (139)
- Over-Exertion Injuries (298)
- Poison/Overdose Injuries (88)
- Struck By/Against (362)
- Suffocate/Hang Injuries (4)
- Other Injuries (356)
- Unknown cause of Injury(s) (10)

Indicators Related to Traffic Safety:

About half 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 1997-2007, the Pulaski County's rate was 4.1 per 100,000 population, which is not significantly different than the statewide rate of 4.9 per 100,000 population. The rate motor vehicle deaths in children 15-19 in Pulaski County was 34.0 compared with the state rate of 38.9. The Pulaski County rates are unstable due to less than 20 events and thus a statically significant difference can not be determined. The overall motor vehicle death rate for all ages combined was 22.8 in Pulaski County compared to a statewide rate of 19.21. The rate, though slightly higher than the state, has no statistical difference.

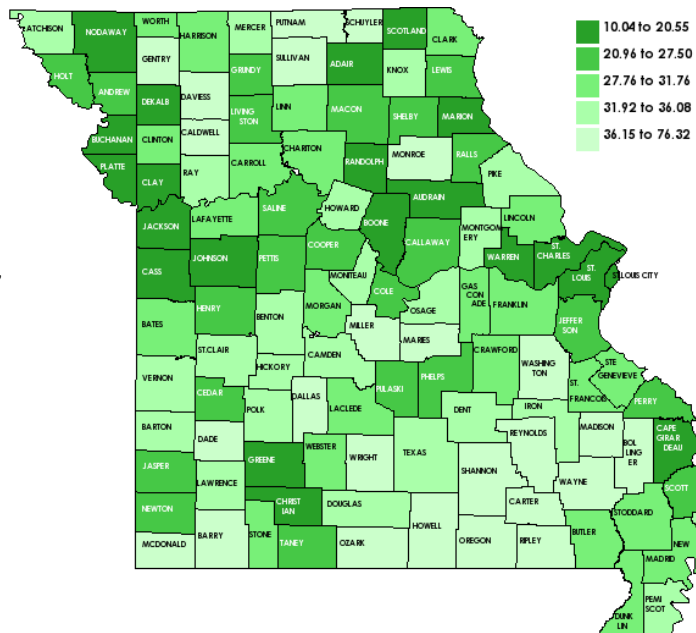
Missouri 1998-2008

Leading Cause of Death Profile

Mortality Rates: Motor Vehicle Accidents

Table 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.

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 15,327 children under the age of 19. Population estimates for 2008 is depicted in Table 5.1.

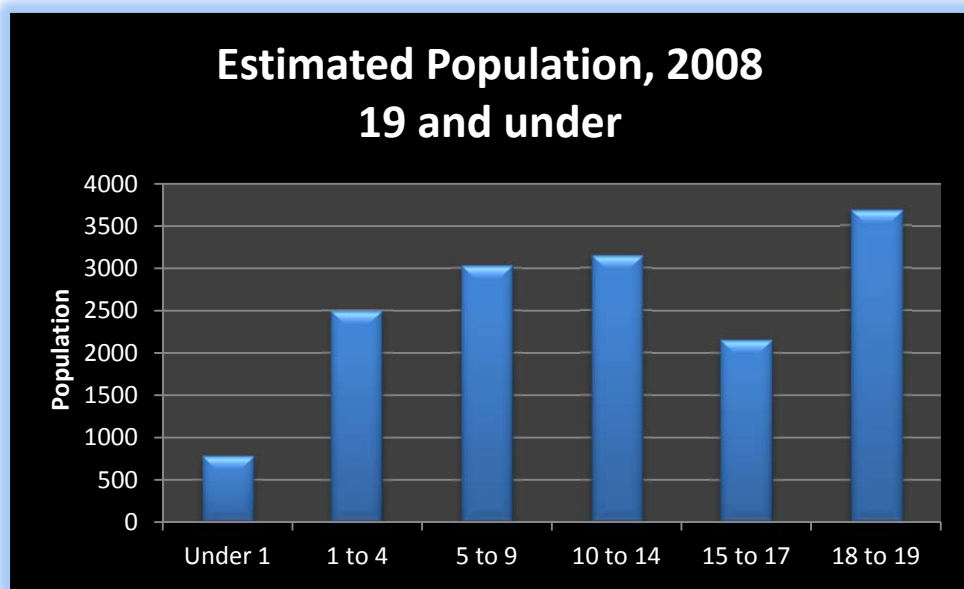


Table 5.1- Source: MO DHSS, Population MICA

The 2010 Kids Count Report showed that children make up 15 percent of the population in Pulaski County in 2007. Of these children, 2.7 percent were receiving cash assistance and 24.1 percent were receiving food stamps. In 2008, 40.2 percent of Pulaski County children were enrolled in the Free/Reduced Lunches Program and 23.9 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 since 2004. Births to teenage moms had decreased from about 41percent in 2004 to 34 percent in 2008. Pulaski County had a Kids County overall ranking of 26 out of 115 (2008).

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 2010 focuses on improving the rates of intentional and unintentional injuries associated with car seat safety, bicycle safety, bullying and safe environments through evidence based prevention programs.

Overall, the rates of maternal child health issues are comparable to the state rate. The chart 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	%
2000	3,702	10.3	11.7
2008 (SAIPE est)	5,137	14.0	13.5
Children (Ages 0 to 17) Below Poverty			
2000	1,363	12.4	15.3
2008 (SAIPE est)	1,820	16.1	18.9
Students enrolled in free & reduced lunch program, 2008	3,314	40.2	42.0
Low birth weight infants (count/per 1000), 2004-2008	264	7.4	8.1
Child abuse and neglect (count/per 1000), 2008	419	36.0	32.1
Births to Teens Aged 15-19 (count/per 1000), 2008	73	33.9	45.4
Food stamp recipients (kids), 2008	2,803	24.1	32.7
Children enrolled in MC+/Medicaid, 2008	2,780	23.9	33.5
Overall Kids Count composite rank (out of 115), 2008	26		.
<i>Note: 3 items in this table have rates per 1000 in the Percent column.</i>			

Table 5.2-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 88.5 percent is slightly higher than the statewide average rate of 85.9 percent. Prenatal smoking rates are also slightly higher in Pulaski County than statewide. County and State rates are comparable for inadequate prenatal care and low birth weight indicators. The rate of prenats with less than 12 years of education in Pulaski County (12.5) is lower than the state (17.9). See Table 5.3 for the prenatal profile for Pulaski County.

Prenatal Profile for Pulaski Residents	Data Years	Age-Adjusted Rate	Significantly Different	Age-Adjusted State Rate
Care Began First Trimester	2008	88.5	N/S	85.9
Late Care (2nd/3rd Trimester)	2008	11.2	N/S	13.4
No Prenatal Care	2008	0.3*	N/S	0.7
Inadequate Prenatal Care	2008	12	N/S	11.9
Prenatal Medicaid	2008	30.4	L	47.6
Prenatal WIC	2008	51.2	H	43.5
Prenatal Food Stamps	2008	17.5	L	26.5
Weight Gain less than 15 Pounds - Term Singleton	2004-2008	7.8	N/S	8.9
Weight Gain greater than or equal to 45 Pounds - Term Singleton	2004-2008	21.2	H	19.3
Mother Smoked During Pregnancy	2008	16.5	N/S	17.6

Table 5.3- 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. Table 5.4 depicts the total participants served by year.

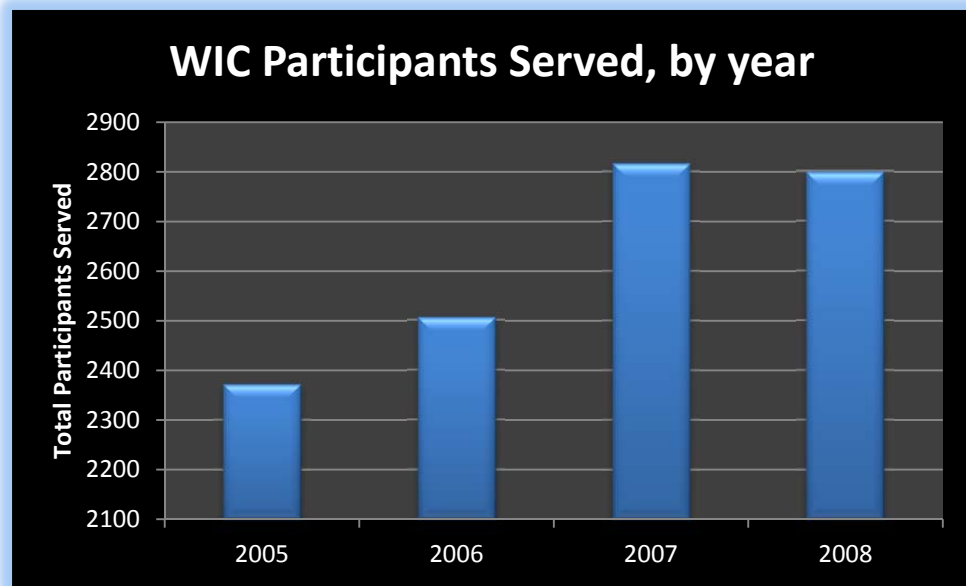


Table 5.4-Source: MO DHSS, WIC MICA

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 (847) of diseases reported to the health department in 2009 is as follows:

- Animal Bites (107)
- Food/Water Borne (16)
- Tick/Mosquito Borne(48)
- Influenza (182)
- Latent TB Infection (2)
- Sexually Transmitted (435)
- Hepatitis (A, B, C) (57)

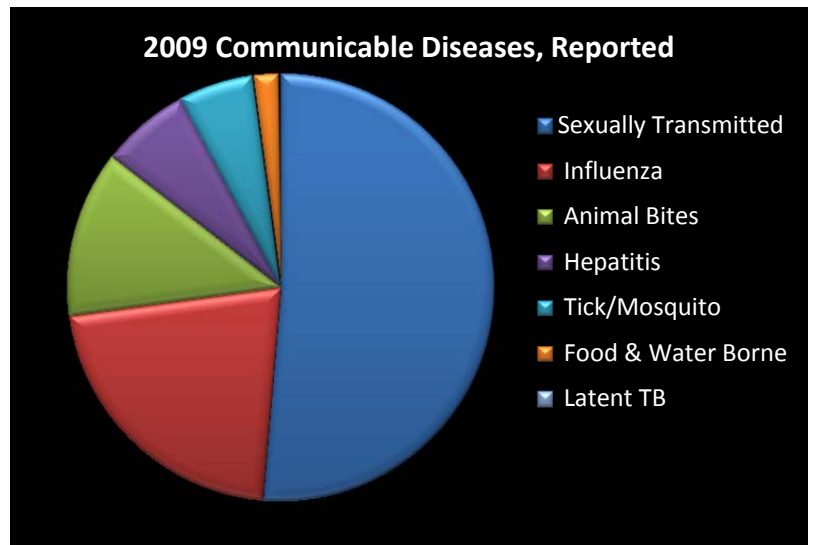


Table 6.1- Source: PCHD 2009 Annual Report

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 2063.9 for reported Chlamydia in females age 15-44 was statistically significantly higher than the statewide rate of 1423.23 in 2006-2008. This has been an ongoing health issue in our county and has continued to grow and prove challenging.

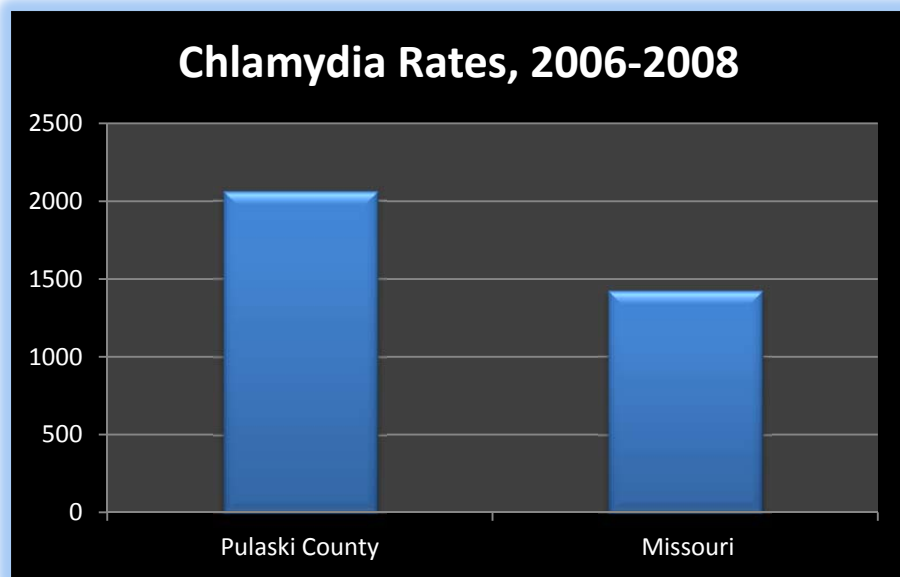


Table 6.2-Source: MO DHSS, Maternal Health Profile

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. A representative from the Department of Health and Senior Services was the guest speaker and educator on the responsibilities and choices teen girls will face. There were 18 eighth grade girls and three mothers in attendance along with their Health Education teacher. The attendees were 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 2010 County Health Rankings, Pulaski County is ranked 52 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 62 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 48 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 2010 County Health Rankings shows Pulaski County at a ranking of 89 out of 115 for Health Factors. Four different categories were looked at to obtain the overall Health Factors ranking; Health Behaviors (ranked 109), Clinical Care (ranked 75), Social & Economic Factors (ranked 34) and Physical Environment (ranked 20). The lower ranking of the Health Behaviors category is associated with our adult smoking rates (30%), adult obesity rates (32%), binge drinking (13%), motor vehicle crash death rate (20), Chlamydia rate (659) and teen birth rate (41). See Table 7.1.

Table 7.1	Pulaski County	Missouri	Rank of 115
Health Outcomes			52
Mortality			52
Premature death	8,707	8,112	
Morbidity			48
Poor or fair health	21%	16%	
Poor physical health days	3.9	3.7	
Poor mental health days	3.3	3.6	
Low birthweight	7.20%	8.00%	
Health Factors			89
Health Behaviors			109
Adult smoking	30%	25%	
Adult obesity	32%	28%	
Binge drinking	13%	16%	
Motor vehicle crash death rate	20	20	
Chlamydia rate	659	399	
Teen birth rate	41	45	
Clinical Care			75
Uninsured adults	18%	14%	
Primary care provider rate	45	99	
Preventable hospital stays	80	85	
Diabetic screening	74%	81%	
Hospice use	21%	31%	
Social & Economic Factors			34
High school graduation	82%	81%	
College degrees	19%	22%	

Unemployment	6%	6%	
Children in poverty	17%	18%	
Income inequality	38	45	
Inadequate social support	20%	20%	
Single-parent households	10%	9%	
Violent crime rate	436	525	
Physical Environment			20
Air pollution-particulate matter days	0	1	
Air pollution-ozone days	0	1	
Access to healthy foods	50%	35%	
Liquor store density	0.9	0.7	

Table 7.1-Source: 2010 County Health Rankings

* 90th percentile, i.e., only 10% are better

Note: Blank values reflect unreliable or missing data

Chronic Disease Risk Factors:

Chronic Disease risk factors are a great concern in Pulaski County. For the period ending 2008, the leading causes of death for the county were:

- Heart Disease
- Cancer
- Stroke/Other Cerebrovascular Diseases
- Chronic Lower Respiratory Disease
- Unintentional Injuries

As Table 7.2 below indicates, Pulaski County has a higher rate of chronic disease risk factors than that of the state rate.

Health Status Indicators	Pulaski Co.	State
Pct Reporting Health as <i>Fair or Poor</i> , 2010	21.0	16.0
Pct with no health care coverage , 2010	18.0	14.0
Prevalence of Health Problems, 2003		
Current Smoker	30.9	26.5
High Blood Pressure	28.7	28.5
High Cholesterol (35 years and older)	44.5	37.3
Diabetes	8.1	7.2
Mortality Rates Significantly Higher than the State , 2003		
Heart Disease	346.1	298.0
Lung Cancer	80.9	64.3
Diabetes	31.6	24.1
Smoking-Attributable	202.8	171.7
<i>Note: mortality rates are age-adjusted and per 100,000 population</i>		

Table 7.2-Source: UM Extension Social and Economic Profile, 2003; County Health Rankings, 2010

In 2010, the Health Department partnered up to gain the ability to offer Chronic Disease Self-Management Workshops. These workshops are designed to help people living with chronic conditions to better manage their conditions and are provided at no cost to residents.

Disabilities:

Based on the 2000 census, there were 6,103 disabled people over the age of 5 and 1,695 disabled people over the age of 65. Among the working aged population (16-64), 11.8 percent had a working disability compared with the state percentage of 10.8.

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. St. John’s Clinic-St. Robert has extended their clinic hours with one physician available during weekend walk-in clinics. There are no pediatric or OB/GYN physicians practicing in the county.

There are six dental offices; two that will accept Medicaid patients and/or patients with no insurance. The Smile Mobile visits each school district and the Pulaski County Health Department annually. This allows students and underserved children in the community the opportunity to receive dental care.

Table 8.1 depicts the Pulaski County and Missouri Health Care to Population Ratio.

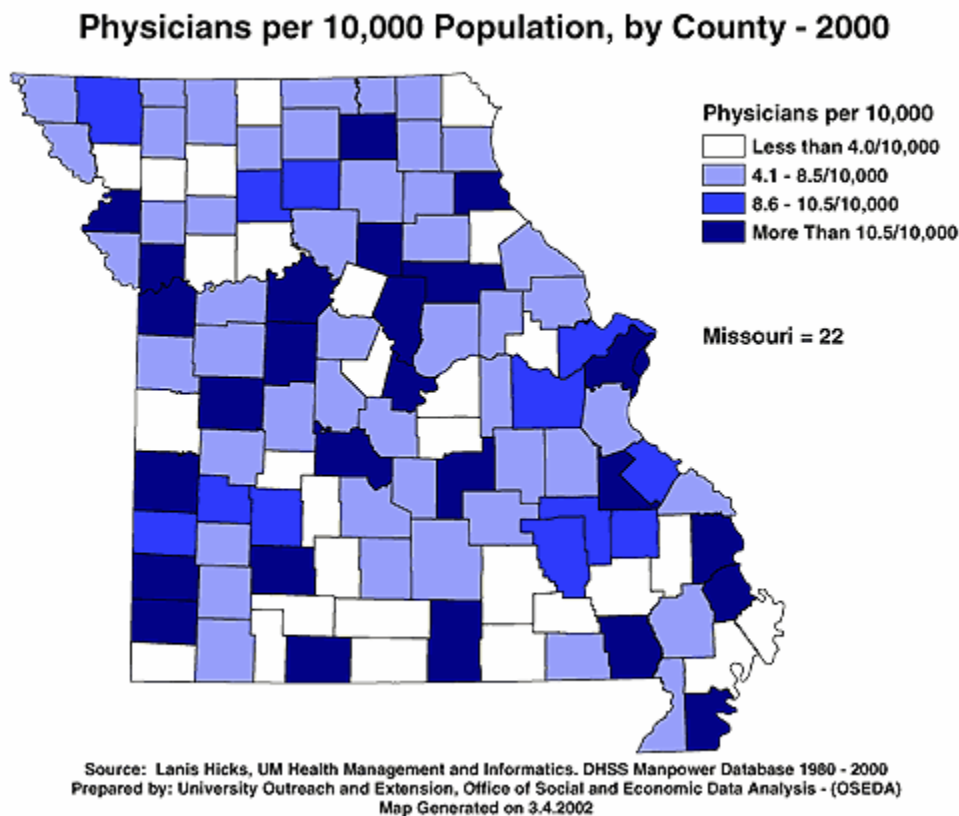


Table 8.1

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
- Smoking Attributable disease
- Unintentional Injury

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. In addition the senior population experienced a higher rate of falls and injuries.

Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) rates continue to increase and are 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. However, child abuse rates in Pulaski County are 4% higher than the state wide average.

The general health in Pulaski County is poor. Behavioral risk factors are all considerably higher than the statewide rates, including residents with no health insurance. 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 and noncompliance with screenings for mammograms and colonoscopy are higher than state rates. Also with the rise of unintentional injuries, the increase in the measure of safety has become more of a concern.

Overall, the mortality rate for Pulaski County residents is much higher than the state rate.

Primary Data Sources

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Appendix A: Pulaski County Health Department 2009 Annual Report

Appendix B: 2007 Epidemiologic Profiles of HIV Disease and STDs in Missouri