

2023 UPDATE

COMMUNITY HEALTH

BLUE RIBBONS Collaboration · Strength of health-care infrastructure · Tobacco-use prevention

RED FLAGS Mental health and substance use problems · Access to care · Children's health

COVID fallout still impacting health outcomes

According to the 2023 County Health Rankings, Greene County dipped to 59th out of 115 counties in Missouri based on health outcomes and health factors, or aspects that we can modify to improve the length and quality of our life. The county's ranking has slipped from 42nd of 115 counties in 2021.

Unfortunately, during the COVID-19 pandemic, our health outcomes decreased due to fewer options for preventive services, education and treatment. For example, we had fewer options for cessation treatment and classes because of lockdowns. During this time, community members weren't receiving preventive services, which has likely affected our obesity and sexually transmitted infections, to name a few.

While many factors must be taken into account with these rankings, our community continues to leverage our Blue Ribbons to address our Red Flags.

Collaboration among community partners to assess the health of our community and address priority issues has continued since the last report. The Community Health Needs Assessment was released in May 2022, and the Community Health Improvement Plan was released in early 2023. The CHIP is a collaborative approach to addressing the health priorities, which include several Red Flags previously identified.

The **strength of our healthcare infrastructure** has remained:

- A number of community clinics have been opened since the last report across Greene County. CoxHealth, Jordan Valley Community Health Center

and Mercy have all opened new clinics or expanded clinics to increase access points for immediate care.

- Burrell Behavioral Health's Behavioral Crisis Center has continued to address crisis-level behavioral health needs in the community through 24-hour access. Since the 2020 opening of the Springfield center, this collaborative model has been replicated by Burrell in Columbia and Independence.

Tobacco use among school-age children has continued to decrease as shown in the 2022 Missouri Student Survey, with a 28% decrease in tobacco use and a 37% decrease in e-cigarette use among youth in Greene County between 2018-2022. Seventeen Greene County schools have implemented vaping education.

The Greene County Tobacco and Vape Prevention Coalition, a collaborative awareness campaign in partnership with the Springfield Parks Department, includes vape prevention banners at local baseball fields, the Springfield Skatepark and outdoor pools.

Mental health and substance use are among the top Red Flags in our community.

Suicide mortality has decreased very slightly since 2020 but remains at high levels — higher than state and national rates. The suicide mortality rate is 22 deaths by suicide per 100,000 persons.

Overdose mortality has continued to increase steadily over the past two years. The drug poisoning mortality rate is 27.5 per 100,000 persons and 25% higher than the national rate.



RECENT SUCCESS STORY

This year, Burrell Behavioral Health broke ground on the Youth Behavioral Crisis Center – Rapid Access Unit, a facility similar to its adult Behavioral Crisis Center but serving youth.

The facility will allow providers to provide immediate mental-health care for young people ages 12 to 17.

The project is another hallmark of collaboration in the community. In 2022, the Greene County Commission awarded a \$5.325 million ARPA grant to establish the facility, and another \$5 million in state funds had been allocated to fund a residential component of this facility.

IMAGE COURTESY OF BURRELL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

The community continues to come together to address this important Red Flag:

- Community partners Burrell, Springfield-Greene County 911 and the Springfield Police Department deployed the Mental Health Mobile Response Team in September 2022. Through this program, Burrell crisis responders report in lieu of or with law enforcement to calls identified as a behavioral health issues.
- Deployment of 988 on a national and local level. Following the summer 2022 launch of the national 988 number, Burrell leveraged an American Rescue Plan Act grant from the City of Springfield to expand its existing crisis line to be a community crisis and resource line for Greene County, answering mental health crisis calls but also providing resources for many other situations

including housing, food insecurity, transportation needs, domestic violence, and more.

- Collaboration among Heathy Living Alliance community partners to deploy Mental Health 417. This comprehensive electronic resource hub connects people in Springfield and Greene County with vital mental health information, with the goal of halting progression before it reaches a crisis.
- The Community Health Improvement Plan established a collaborative, community-based blueprint to approach mental health and substance use and recovery. Priority community initiatives include supporting trauma-informed care to become a trauma-informed community and implementing an overdose-fatality review board.

Access to care is still a Red Flag. According to the 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment, Springfield has 80.3 primary care providers per 100,000 persons and 85.5 mental health providers per 100,000 persons. While ratios for medical and mental health providers are higher in our area than the rest of the state, we have only 2.2 per 100,000 substance use providers. While we may have providers, it is difficult to seek care due to lack of transportation and overburdened and understaffed providers.

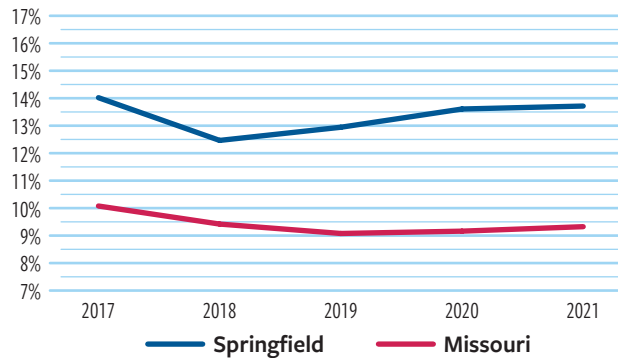
Our community continues to seek to increase access to care in multiple ways:

- Increasing medical clinics across the community.
- Missouri State University and Burrell have partnered to establish a doctor of psychology program at MSU.
- The Community Health Improvement Plan seeks to increase multi-sector care coordination through the implementation of a community information exchange. This exchange will increase connection to resources (social, health and other) for all providers to increase overall health and well-being.

Children's health has remained a Red Flag. The 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment found that children in Greene County were 70 percent more vulnerable to disease and other health/social risks than children in other

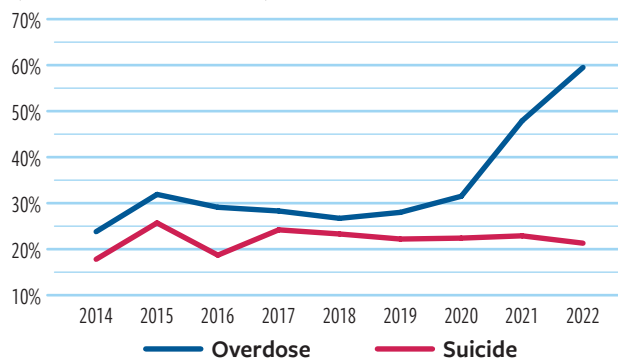
KEY METRICS

Springfield Residents without Health Insurance



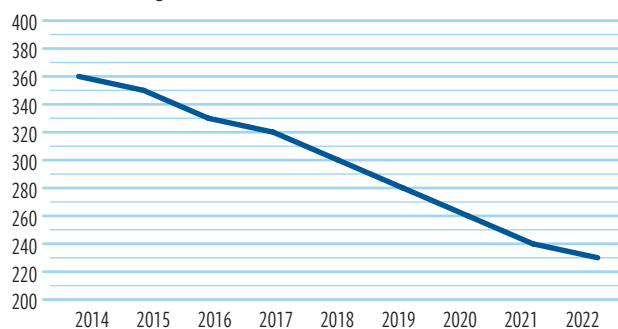
SOURCE: U.S. CENSUS BUREAU

Greene County Overdose and Suicide Mortality (per 100,000 population)



SOURCE: CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION; COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAPS

Greene County Mental Health Provider Ratio



SOURCE: COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS AND ROADMAPS

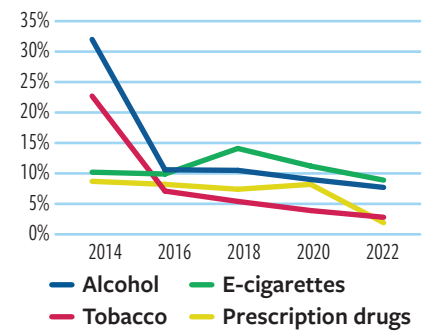
counties.

According to 2023 MO Kids Count, substantiated child abuse/neglect cases increased, to a rate of three per 1,000 persons. While preventable hospitalizations for all causes in children under 18 has improved, we have seen an increase in mental/behavioral hospitalizations in

children 19 and under, at a rate of 148.6 per 10,000 persons.

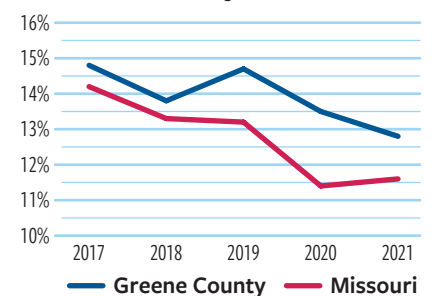
- Springfield-Greene County Health Department is working to deploy Family Connects, a program to support new parents through home visits and connection to community resources. This evidence-based model decreases child

Substance Use/Misuse in Past 30 Days by Greene County Students in Grades 6–12



SOURCE: MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH, STUDENT SURVEY

Percentage of Households with Food Insecurity



SOURCE: MAP THE MEAL GAP — COUNTY HEALTH RANKINGS

ABOUT THE 2023 UPDATE

This interim update reviews current data for the Blue Ribbons and Red Flags from the 2021 report. The 20th anniversary report, to be released in 2024, will develop an updated list of Blue Ribbons and Red Flags.

abuse and neglect, increases health outcomes and mitigates maternal mental health issues.

- Preferred Family Healthcare was awarded funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to establish Preserving Families Through Partnership. Through this effort, the organization will provide in-home services to pregnant and/or post-partum women struggling with substance use. The program has impacted families and children, and has shown to decrease drug and alcohol

use, depression and trauma symptoms.

- In mid-2022, the Youth Medical and Mental Health Collaborative formed to bring together providers and community partners to identify a means of caring for youth with mental health issues, coupled with aggressive behaviors, to provide support and hope for our children. The collaborative consists of child/youth focused organizations across the community, including the Greene County Juvenile Office, Cox-Health, Mercy, Jordan Valley, Burrell Behavioral Health, Children's Division,

Division of Youth Services, Perimeter Healthcare, Springfield Police Department, the Greene County Sheriff's Office, Community Partnership of the Ozarks, Foster Adopt Connect, and is continuing to expand.

The Community Health 2023 Update was produced by Erica Little of the Springfield-Greene County Health Department with input from Alexis Brown, Jordan Coiner, Heather Coulter, Betsy Fogle, Molly Holtman, Matt Lemmon, Emily Ogden and Kathryn Wall.