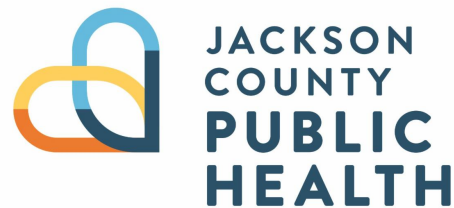


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Monday, March 4, 2024
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JCPH Publishes Community Health Assessment for Eastern Jackson County

Free resource incorporates local data, policies, and over a thousand residents' responses in snapshot of community health

Lee's Summit, MO: Jackson County Public Health (JCPH) has officially published our new [Community Health Assessment](#), offering a data-driven snapshot of our county's health alongside community-driven health priorities.

“While no document can ever capture the full scope of our residents’ lived experiences, a Community Health Assessment enables us to identify emerging health trends and areas where public health interventions are most urgently needed,” explains Bridgette Shaffer, Health Director of JCPH.

JCPH is proud to offer this Community Health Assessment (CHA) as a comprehensive resource for residents as well as community partners and leaders across Eastern Jackson County (EJC). The final document, which can be found [here](#), provides an in-depth look into 14 topics currently impacting the health of EJC.

To better understand the factors affecting the health of our jurisdiction, JCPH conducts a CHA every five years. Most recently, this process included analyzing local and state health data, examining the potential health impact of local policies, and receiving survey responses from more than a thousand EJC households about their health and the communities they live in.

But numbers alone can't provide a full picture of our community. As a result, JCPH also worked closely with community focus groups and interviewed key stakeholders to better understand where our residents would like to see the most change.

As part of these efforts, we worked with our community members to identify two key priority areas impacting Eastern Jackson County's health:

- **Economic Stability**
 - 1 in 5 survey respondents had to choose between buying food or paying other bills within the last year. From nutritious food to safe living conditions, financial security has an enormous impact on one's health.
- **Mental Health**
 - Approximately 1 in 4 EJC residents have experienced depression,

surpassing the national average of nearly 1 in 5 adults (CDC). This includes everything from mood disorders to substance abuse, issues that resonated deeply with our survey participants.

The data within this CHA is intended to not only serve as a resource for our community, but also to help guide the creation of future programs and partnerships to improve population health. JCPH is currently working with local partners to explore collaborative solutions to these community-identified health challenges.

“At JCPH, our vision is to build a community where everyone can live their healthiest lives,” Shaffer says. “However, not everyone in our county has an equal opportunity to do so. **Our residents’ life expectancy can differ by over a decade between zip codes.**”

Our hope is that other local organizations will find this data to be a useful resource for their own work in addressing these health disparities. We look forward to collaborating with partners on future public health improvement efforts across EJC.

If you would like to become a community partner with JCPH and join the conversation, please contact our CHA workgroup at incolab@uhkc.org. For media questions, please contact Kindle.Biermann@uhkc.org.

For more information about the [2023 CHA](#), including [in-depth city reports](#), visit jcph.org.



JACKSON COUNTY
PUBLIC HEALTH

About Jackson County Public Health:

We offer services, provide programs, and advocate for policies so that all people have a fair and just opportunity to be healthy. Learn more at www.jcph.org.

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