



# **Bridging the Gap**

**2005 Community Health Assessment**

A Collaborative Effort Between

The Taney County & The City of Branson Health Departments

*Written and Edited By:*

Shanna Brooks  
Jenine Conway  
Kim Conway  
Stacy Cummings  
Donna Gold  
Robert Niezgoda  
Buddy Roberts  
Shane Seamans

## Acknowledgements

The completion of this community assessment involved many individuals and organizations. Sincere appreciation is given to the following community partners who were instrumental in providing research, data, editing, and assistance. Thank you.

Berean Christian School

Bradleyville Public Schools

Branson City Public Schools

City of Branson Health Department

City of Branson Parks and Recreation

City of Branson Public Works

City of Hollister

College of the Ozarks

Faith Christian Academy

Friends of Lake Taneycomo

Healthy Family Task Force

Hollister Public Schools

James River Basin Foundation

Kirbyville Public Schools

Mark Twain Public Schools

Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

Missouri Department of Conservation

Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

Missouri Department of Mental Health

Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Missouri Department of Social Services

Missouri State Highway Patrol

Project Taney Inc.

Skaggs Community Foundation

Skaggs Community Health Center

Taney County Sewer District

Taney County Health Department

Taneyville Public Schools

United States Corps of Engineers

United States Environmental Protection Agency

White River Basin Foundation

## Table of Contents

<b>Methodology</b>	<b>i</b>
<b>Chapter 1</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Demographic and Socioeconomic Issues</b>	
Population	
Employment Characteristics	
Income Characteristics	
Housing	
Poverty	
Education	
<b>Chapter 2</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Environmental Health Issues</b>	
Area Growth	
Water Quality	
Food Safety and Quality	
Recreational Water Issues	
Animal Control Issues	
West Nile Virus Surveillance	
Radon Testing	
Fertilizer Usage	
Regulated Facilities	
Lead Testing	
<b>Chapter 3</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>Health Care Issues</b>	
Nursing	
Hospital Services	
Physicians	
Long-Term Care Facilities	
Medicaid and Other Pay Sources	
<b>Chapter 4</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Communicable Diseases</b>	
Reported Communicable Diseases	
Campylobacteriosis	
Giardiasis	
Hepatitis A, B, and C	
Tuberculosis	
Salmonellosis	
Gonorrhea and Chlamydia	
Vector-Borne Diseases	
West Nile Virus	
Immunization Rates	

**Chapter 5** **65**

---

**Chronic Disease and Injury**

- Chronic Disease Risk Factors
- Cancer
- Cardiovascular and Cerebrovascular Disease
- Diabetes, Asthma, and Respiratory Diseases
- Motor Vehicle Injuries and Deaths
- Fall and Jump Injuries
- Over-Exertion Injuries
- Alcohol and Drug Injuries
- Work-Related Injuries
- Mortality Projections

**Chapter 6** **81**

---

**Minority Health Issues**

- Demographic and Socioeconomic Issues
- Maternal and Child Health
- Health Care

**Chapter 7** **91**

---

**Maternal and Child Health**

- Characteristics of Live Births
- Prenatal Care
- Maternal Smoking
- Maternal Weight Gain
- Education
- Teen Pregnancy
- Economic Characteristics
- WIC and Medicaid Mothers
- Child Abuse and Neglect
- Childhood Immunization

**Chapter 8** **117**

---

**Youth Issues**

- Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Community Survey
- Juvenile Crime
- Abuse and Neglect
- Health Issues
- Educational Issues
- Teen Pregnancy

**Chapter 9** **133**

---

**Senior Issues**

- Demographics and Socioeconomics
- Disabilities
- Injuries
- Chronic Disease

**Social Issues**

- Disabilities
- Crime
- Registered Sex Offenders
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Tobacco Use
- Suicide
- Housing

**Community Resources**

“ A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step.”

Lao-tzu

“There are risks and costs to a program of action. But they are far less than the long-range risks and costs of comfortable inaction.”

John F. Kennedy

## **Methodology**

Data for the 2005 Taney County Community Health Assessment was collected from a variety of primary and secondary data sources. To ensure accuracy, data from sources were examined to clarify reporting sources, data collection methods, and population or sample sizes. Every reasonable effort was made to collect and present reliable, accurate information for dissemination. Efforts were made to update the charts with the most recent information available from the reporting agencies. Presented data that seemed to be misleading, or of questionable quality, was compared to other sources to check for errors.

Rate calculations were based on the methods utilized by the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services and population estimates provided by the United States Census Bureau. Efforts were made to review calculations to determine accuracy and reliability.

The charts and graphs presented in the chapters were developed using the data collected from the referenced sources. Every effort was made to provide the reader with charts and graphs that provided as much information as possible in an understandable format. When charts and graphs were found to be unclear, efforts were made to clarify and reformat the information.

Every effort was made during the editing process to limit the possibility of errors in the presentation of data and calculations. However, we are unable to prevent errors due to the collection, compilation, and dissemination of data by reporting agencies. Data cited from reporting agencies is provided with the understanding that data is only as reliable and valid as the methodologies and processes employed to collect, evaluate, standardize, and report the data. Additionally, reliability and validity of locally collected data was limited because of collection procedures that limited randomization. Consequently, locally collected data should be considered to be representative of the population groups sampled and cautiously representative of the county as a whole.

All of the information presented in this assessment was reviewed and edited for accuracy. Any errors within this assessment are purely unintentional and are deeply regretted. If an error is noted, please let us know; so that we may identify, correct, or clarify the information.