

## **10 FAST FACTS**

### **The Need for Affordable Health Care in Phelps County\***

1. Phelps County is designated by the federal government as a “Health Professional Shortage Area” for primary medical care, dental care and mental health care. The St. James area of Phelps County is designated as a Medically Underserved Area.
2. In 2010, per capita income in Phelps County was \$19,878, compared to \$23,920 for Missouri and \$28,661 nationwide -- thus, Missouri’s per capita income is 20.3% higher than Phelps County and the nation’s is 44.2% higher.
3. Phelps County has a significantly higher percentage of residents living at poverty level (18.4%) compared to the state (14.5%) and the nation (14.4%).
4. 53% of Phelps County children under the age of six years live below 200% of the federal poverty level.
5. 32.4% of Phelps County residents 65 years of age and older have incomes at or below 200% of the federal poverty level.
6. The percentage of uninsured Phelps County residents (18.2%) exceeds both state and national rates of uninsured individuals.
7. In 2009, 17.5% of Phelps County residents were enrolled in Medicaid compared to 14.7% at the state level—57.4% of births in 2009 in Phelps County were to mothers on Medicaid – 47.8% in Missouri.
8. Children in Phelps County without health insurance exceed both the state and national rates.
9. Phelps County mortality rates exceed Missouri’s for heart disease (smoking attributable), stroke, chronic lower respiratory diseases, pneumonia and influenza, kidney disease, septicemia, and chronic liver disease.
10. Phelps County’s rate of emergency room visits, hospitalizations and deaths for injuries exceeds that of Missouri.

**\*A Needs Assessment was conducted in winter 2011 by Ray and Associates analyzed Phelps County data**

Phelps County Community Health Center Planning Committee Member Organizations

