

KC Community Health Tracker

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Introduction: Hospitals across the Kansas City region work daily to improve care and the health of the communities they serve. Data are key in identifying obstacles to health that may contribute to health disparities that can be found in every community. These can occur across diverse populations and geographies, and their universal common denominator is most often nonmedical factors, which can explain up to 80% of an individual's health outcomes. The Kansas City Metropolitan Healthcare Council's KC Community Health Tracker dashboard includes powerful data from the Kansas and Missouri hospital associations on hospital experiences for residents of the 14-county bistate service area. The dashboard is designed to empower efforts aimed at dismantling disparities and improving the health and well-being of communities served by KCMHC.

“Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care.” — Robert Wood Johnson Foundation¹

For optimal performance, these dashboards should be viewed in currently supported Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge or Firefox (may require disabled pop-up blockers) internet browsers. For questions or suggestions, contact [Josh Grotzinger](#), MHA Vice President of Research, Analytics and Innovation; [Brett Moorehouse](#), Executive Director of the Kansas City Metropolitan Healthcare Council; or [Sally Othmer](#), KHA Vice President of Data and Strategic Analytics.

Date	Summary of Changes
01/29/2026	Inaugural KCMHC KC Community Health Tracker dashboard, featuring 100+ hospital-based diagnoses in the Kansas City metro area, with county and ZIP code data aggregations available

Data Sources and Methods: The most recent three fiscal years of inpatient, outpatient and emergency department claims for Missouri and Kansas residents collected by the Hospital Industry Data Institute are used to generate metrics covering the included domains surrounding Behavioral Health, Frailty Markers, Maternal & Child Health, Health Outcomes, Acute Physical Health Factors, Chronic Physical Health Factors and Social Determinants of Health. For the most recent study period, this represented more than 22 million individual claims for more than 2.5 million distinct Missouri and Kansas residents. All metrics are reported as a percentage of total hospital encounters to minimize redacted information resulting from small cell sizes. Cells with fewer than 11 or 20 encounters (depending on sensitivity of the selected measure) are not reported to minimize reidentification risk. As a result, metrics for several population subgroups may be unavailable, particularly in sparsely populated and demographically homogenous geographic areas.

All data are reported as unadjusted univariate counts and rates. Reported prevalence metrics are calculated as the number of encounters where the patient was diagnosed with the condition of interest as a percentage of total encounters for the selected demographic group. Disparity factors are calculated

as the unadjusted ratio of prevalence rates for selected demographic groups and conditions (prevalence for group 2/prevalence for group 1). All data are displayed descending by the disparity factor within each subdomain but are sortable by prevalence for demographic group 1 or demographic group 2.

The tooltips (hover-over boxes) on the map layer show selected demographic/social factor data provided by the U.S. Census Bureau's annual American Community Survey, five-year estimates.ⁱⁱ Only the most recent ACS data are available in this tool.

All data will be updated annually in the first quarter to coincide with the release of new Census ACS data. A detailed data dictionary is available [online](#).

Description of Dashboard and Included Data Elements: The KCMHC KC Community Health Tracker dashboard provides a detailed depiction of differences in health outcomes and health factors diagnosed in a hospital setting for finite population groups and geographic areas. Each condition is limited by a minimum number of diagnoses (11 or 20 for sensitive conditions). As a result, low prevalence conditions only will be available for larger geographies and/or demographic groups.

Next, users can specify individual or groups of these diagnoses from the domains in the drop-down menus to limit the conditions displayed in the table and maps below.

HINTS: Hold down the Control key when selecting multiple counties dynamically from the map; drilling through to the ZIP code-level dashboard can be achieved in a variety of ways:

- 1) Directly from the "Go to ZIP" icon on the county-level map
- 2) Right clicking on a county and selecting the drill through—>KCMHC ZIP option
- 3) Right clicking on a condition of interest and selecting the drill through—> KCMHC ZIP option

Users then can select reference and comparison demographic groups to complete the analysis. The demographic selections can be further stratified by age and payer status using the additional drop-down menus included in each demographic group selection box.

Upon completion of the demographic selections, data are populated dynamically in the maps, table and tooltips. The color ramps in the maps depict observed prevalence of hospital-based diagnoses for the selected condition and demographic groups — the map is automatically updated first with the ratio of visit prevalence (demographic group 2/demographic group 1). From the table on the right, users can select any of the displayed hospital-based diagnoses to populate the ratio of demographic group 2 to group 1 on the map. The label at the bottom of the map will update with the name of the condition selected.

Values presented in tooltip boxes show the county name, selected demographic data from the selector on the left, demographic group comparison, total hospital-based encounters, total number of unique residents treated in a Missouri or Kansas hospital, in addition to the disparity factor for the selected geography.

Data are populated in the table in descending order of the disparity ratio. Arranging the data in this fashion allows users to quickly identify which hospital-based diagnoses have the largest observed (i.e., non-risk-adjusted) disparities in their primary service area for the selected demographic groups and measure of interest. In addition to the disparity ratio, the tabular data include prevalence of conditions within the selected domain for demographic group 1 and group 2.

Data Stratification Available on Module

Geographic	County-level, individual or agglomerated; ZIP code-level, individual or agglomerated
Race	Non-Hispanic White, Non-Hispanic Black, Non-Hispanic Other, Hispanic
Age Groups	0 to 17, 18 to 44, 45 to 64, 65 to 74, 75+
Payer	Commercial, Medicaid, Medicare, Other, Uninsured

Limitations: The health-related data included in the KCMHC KC Community Health Tracker dashboard are hospital claims-based and do not include information from nonhospital-affiliated, community-based primary care, and other clinics or health care settings such as Federally Qualified Health Centers, Community Mental Health Centers and private physician practices. As a result, numerators and denominators are confined to individuals who had one or more hospital inpatient, outpatient or ED encounters during the three-year study period. Compared to other information on health disparities (i.e., the CMS Office of Minority Health’s Mapping Medicare Disparities Dashboardⁱⁱⁱ), HIDI hospital claims data include patients of all ages and payer types, including self-pay and charity care patients.

ⁱ Braveman, P., Arkin, E., Orleans, T., Proctor, D. & Plough, A. (2017, May 1). What is Health Equity? Retrieved from <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/05/what-is-health-equity-.html>

ⁱⁱ U.S. Census Bureau. (n.d.). American Community Survey. Retrieved from <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs.html>

ⁱⁱⁱ CMS Office of Minority Health. (2021, April). Mapping Medicare Disparities. Retrieved from <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/OMH-Mapping-Medicare-Disparities>