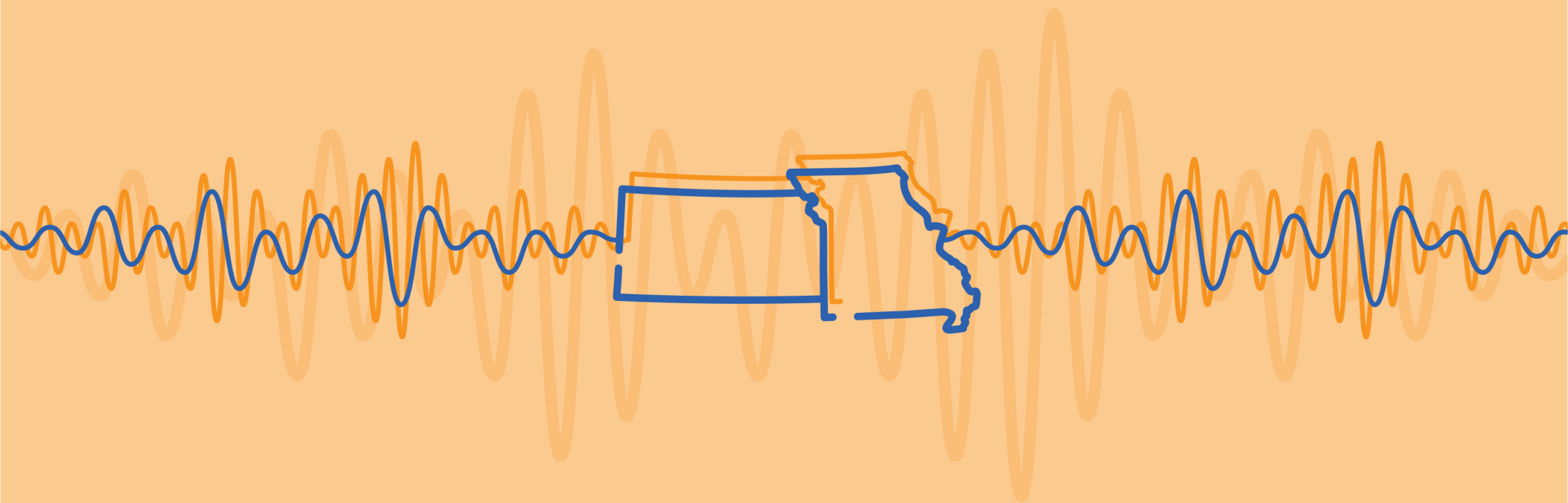


A VIEW OF

CONSUMER HEALTH ACCESS IN KANSAS AND MISSOURI



*Results from the 2017 Kansas and Missouri
Consumer Health Access Survey*

Prepared for:
Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City
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Survey Background

Purpose of the KMHS

The Kansas and Missouri Consumer Health Access Survey (KMHS) was designed to provide a clearer picture of access to health care in Kansas and Missouri for stakeholders and policy makers. Survey content focuses on the health and unmet needs of adults, including health and dental insurance coverage, barriers to care, and unmet needs for chronic conditions, mental health care, specialists, and dental care.

Funding of the KMHS

The KMHS was funded by five regional health foundations: Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City (HCF), Kansas Health Foundation, Missouri Foundation for Health, REACH Healthcare Foundation (REACH), and United Methodist Health Ministry Fund.

Survey Methods

The KMHS was administered between September 2017 and January 2018 by RTI International. The sample was drawn from cell phone and landline households to represent the population of adults in Kansas and Missouri. Residents of Kansas or Missouri ages 19 and older were eligible to participate in the survey. In households with children, one child ages 0–18 was randomly selected for an abbreviated interview.

Sample Population

Estimates are representative of the resident population of each state ages 19 and over, and children in these households. A total of 4,274 adults (3,149 ages 19–64) and 1,159 children completed interviews: 2,069 adults (1,527 ages 19–64) and 562 child residents in Kansas; and 2,209 adults (1,622 ages 19–64) and 597 children in Missouri. The KMHS Survey Methodology Report is available at <https://reachhealth.org/kmhs-finalreport/>.

Key Results

Medical Bill Problems

- 28 percent of adults ages 19–64 in Kansas and 34 percent in Missouri live in households reporting problems paying off medical bills in the past year, and represented 462,300 adults in Kansas and 1,154,900 in Missouri.
- Among children ages 0–18, 33 percent in Kansas and 38 percent in Missouri live in households with medical bill problems. This represents 236,100 children in Kansas and 531,000 in Missouri.

Health Insurance Coverage

- Among adults ages 19–64, 20 percent were uninsured in both Kansas and Missouri at the time of interview. This percentage is comparable to estimates from 2018 national survey data for states that did not expand Medicaid.
- Among adults ages 19–64, Hispanic adults had significantly higher uninsured rates at 53 percent in Kansas and 50 percent in Missouri, compared to 14 percent of white non-Hispanic adults, in Kansas; and 17 percent of white non-Hispanic adults, in Missouri.
- Among uninsured adults ages 19–64 in both states, most are under age 45 and most are working, though over half reported a diagnosed chronic condition and 10 percent reported a disability preventing work.

Chronic Conditions and Injury

- Over 60 percent of adults ages 19–64 reported a diagnosed chronic condition. Of those with chronic conditions, 19 percent in Kansas and 28 percent in Missouri did not get needed care for the condition in the last year.
- Just over 10 percent of adults ages 19–64 reported an injury that limits the amount of work they can do. Of those with such an injury, 21 percent in Kansas and 29 percent in Missouri did not get needed care for this injury due to cost or lack of coverage in the last year.
- Roughly 30 percent of adults ages 19–64 in both states reported a mental health diagnosis, substance abuse, or addiction. Of those with such a condition, 22 percent in Kansas and 35 percent in Missouri did not get needed mental health care or counseling due to cost or lack of coverage.

Usual Places for Care

- Among adults ages 19–64, 70 percent in Kansas and 63 percent in Missouri reported having a place to go for medical care other than an emergency room or urgent care.
- Community health centers (CHCs) play a central role in improving access to care for low-income residents, especially the uninsured:
 - ♦ Among uninsured adults ages 19–64, 39 percent in Kansas and 32 percent in Missouri go to a CHC as their usual place for care.
 - ♦ Among adults ages 19–64 below 138 percent of poverty, 34 percent in Kansas and 23 percent in Missouri go to a CHC.
- Among Hispanic adults, 49 percent in Kansas and 39 percent in Missouri go to a CHC for care.

Recent Use of Emergency Departments

- Nearly 80 percent of adults ages 19–64 with a recent visit to the ER in both states went to the ER because a provider or the respondent perceived their health problem as serious enough to need an ER.

Unmet Need for Care

- Among adults ages 19–64, over one-third in both Kansas and Missouri lacked dental coverage. Roughly one in five did not get the dental care they needed. Barriers to dental care were frequently reported by residents in all regions of both states and among all racial and ethnic backgrounds.
- Roughly 15 percent of adults ages 19–64 said they needed care at the time of interview but could not get it due to cost or lack of coverage. The top three types of care most frequently described were
 - ♦ In Kansas, dental care, general medical care, and surgery; and
 - ♦ In Missouri, general medical care, care for chronic conditions, and medication.

Low-income Adults (Below 138 Percent of Poverty)

- Among adults ages 19–64, roughly one in four in both states reported family income below 138 percent of poverty. Among these low-income residents:
 - ♦ 44 percent in Kansas and 33 percent in Missouri were uninsured.
 - ♦ 34 percent of residents in Kansas and 23 percent in Missouri with a usual place of care described a community health center as the place they usually go for medical care.
 - ♦ Roughly 20 percent reported a disability that prevents them from working.