KANSAS CITY, MISSOURI — known as the Heart of America — was founded in 1850 and is the second largest city in Missouri after St. Louis. Kansas City is often referred to as the City of Fountains and is well known for its vibrant artistic and performing arts scenes, award-winning barbecue, world-class museums, and jazz music. Kansas City is home of the National Football League’s Kansas City Chiefs, the National Baseball League’s Kansas City Royals and Major League Soccer’s Sporting Kansas City. KC boasts of a thriving economy driven by thousands of small businesses, tech start-ups, medical research, and headquarters of companies like Hallmark and Sprint. Many outsiders are confused that there’s a Kansas City, Kansas and a Kansas City, Missouri. Simply put, Kansas City is one big metropolitan area that happens to have a “state border down the middle.”

**QUICK FACTS ABOUT KANSAS CITY, MO**

- The city center is located in Jackson County.
- Population of Jackson County in 2010: 674,158 (Source: 2010 Census)
- Median Household Income of Jackson County in 2010: $46,252 (Source: U.S. Census 2006-2010 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates)
- *Frommers* has named Kansas City one of its top destinations of 2012. Kansas City is the only American City on that coveted list.
- The March 2012 issue of *Forbes* named the Kansas City downtown as one of the top 10 in the nation for its rich culture in arts, numerous fountains, upscale shopping and various local cuisines - most notably barbecue.
- Attractions include the new Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts, the National World War I Museum, the Negro Leagues Baseball Museum, and the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art.

**HEALTH & HOMELESSNESS IN KANSAS CITY**

(Source: U.S Conference of Mayors Hunger and Homelessness Survey)

- Metro Unemployment Rate: 7.8%
- Families Living Below the Poverty Line: 17.0%
- Estimated number of homeless in 2011: 3,307
- From 2010-2011, number of homeless individuals increased by 15 %.
- In 2011, 20% of the demand for shelter went unmet.
- Requests for emergency food assistance increased by 40 % over the past year.
- Among persons requesting food assistance, 60% were in families, 20% were employed, 8% were elderly, and 5% were homeless.
- Jackson County’s monthly foreclosure rate is 1 in 519 units in comparison to U.S. foreclosure rate of 1 in 634
- In 2009, 17.3% of Jackson County’s population was uninsured. (Source: U.S. Census Bureau’s Small Area Health Insurance Estimates between 2000-2009)

**Initiatives and Services for those Experiencing Homelessness**

Kansas City established the Homelessness Task Force in 2009 to reverse the growing trend of homelessness in the metropolitan area. The Task Force encompasses a five-county, two-state area. The Task Force consists of six subcommittees that each contribute a variety of resources, services, advocacy and information to help transform and reduce the number of people who are homeless in the region. Website: [http://www.kcmo.org/CKCMO/Depts/Neighbor](http://www.kcmo.org/CKCMO/Depts/Neighbor)

Many organizations provide services to assist those who are experiencing homelessness. Some are highlighted below:

**Swope Parkway Health Care for the Homeless**: Swope Health Services is a “One-Stop Shop,” offering the following services all under one roof: Health Care, Prescriptions, Dental, Optometry, Case management, Therapy, Substance Abuse, HIV Care (Ryan White), HIV Testing, W.I.C. Services, Women & Minority HealthCare, and Project Your Choice (a SAMHSA funded program that assists clients obtain and maintain housing using a “housing first” model).

**reStart Inc.** is the outgrowth of an overnight emergency shelter established by an inter-faith group in downtown Kansas City. reStart provides more than 110,000 bed nights of emergency, transitional and permanent shelter to approximately 11,000 homeless men, women, families with children and unaccompanied youth.

For 2012, the city has set aside $892,000 in HOME Investment Partnership funds to start a tenant-based rental assistance program that will target 75-150 homeless families and individuals. This is the first time HOME funds have been specifically targeted for this purpose. In addition, three of the current Continuum of Care member agencies have reallocated Supportive Services Only (SSO) and emergency shelter (ES) program units to 654 new Permanent Housing/Permanent Supportive Housing beds to those who are unstably housed in the Kansas City area.
Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Nebraska are located in HRSA Region VII. With the exception of Missouri, most of the states in this region have relatively low populations when compared with other regions of the country. The map to the left shows the change in the overall number of homeless people from 2009 to 2011 for each of the 50 states, plus the District of Columbia as provided by HUD’s Point-in-Time Count report. Using HUD’s data, the nation’s overall homeless population decreased 1% (7,050 people), from 643,067 in 2009 to 636,017 in 2011. However, the data show a 29% and 33% increase in the homeless populations for Missouri and Kansas respectively. Iowa and Nebraska both experienced a decrease in homelessness.

Family homelessness also increased in the region. From 2009 to 2011, the number of families who became homeless increased by 38% in Missouri and by 66% in Kansas.

*(Source: The State of Homelessness in America, 2012, National Alliance to End Homelessness)*

### Comparison of Health Center Clients in Region VII Uniform Data System Information (2010)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>Missouri</th>
<th>Iowa</th>
<th>Nebraska</th>
<th>Kansas</th>
<th>United States</th>
<th>United States Homeless Only</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Population</strong></td>
<td>5,988,927</td>
<td>3,062,309</td>
<td>1,842,641</td>
<td>2,871,238</td>
<td>311,591,917</td>
<td>805,064</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Total Homeless reported</em></td>
<td>17,007</td>
<td>10,386</td>
<td>2,737</td>
<td>5,771</td>
<td>1,051,750</td>
<td>770,602</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homeless reported by non-HCH grantees</td>
<td>2,520</td>
<td>1,570</td>
<td>735</td>
<td>2,825</td>
<td>254,810</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Percent 200% Poverty (Known)</em></td>
<td>95.7%</td>
<td>94.0%</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>95.0%</td>
<td>92.7%</td>
<td>98.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Percent Uninsured</em></td>
<td>36.2%</td>
<td>38.7%</td>
<td>56.7%</td>
<td>54.1%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>64.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Percent Medicaid Coverage</em></td>
<td>41.3%</td>
<td>32.8%</td>
<td>26.4%</td>
<td>24.3%</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>25.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Number of Veterans</em></td>
<td>3,659</td>
<td>950</td>
<td>494</td>
<td>1,114</td>
<td>226,019</td>
<td>23,119</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH Clients in Homeless Shelters</td>
<td>5,488 (32.3%)</td>
<td>1,275 (12.3%)</td>
<td>1,783 (65.1%)</td>
<td>1,725 (29.9%)</td>
<td>289,781 (27.6%)</td>
<td>284,488 (36.9%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH Clients in Transitional Shelters</td>
<td>994 (5.8%)</td>
<td>1,420 (13.7%)</td>
<td>56 (2.0%)</td>
<td>101 (1.8%)</td>
<td>110,190 (10.5%)</td>
<td>107,927 (14.0%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH Clients Doubling Up</td>
<td>2,479 (14.6%)</td>
<td>5,221 (50.3%)</td>
<td>131 (4.8%)</td>
<td>911 (15.8%)</td>
<td>179,365 (17.1%)</td>
<td>176,018 (22.8%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCH Clients Living on Street</td>
<td>369 (2.2%)</td>
<td>350 (3.4%)</td>
<td>23 (0.8%)</td>
<td>102 (1.8%)</td>
<td>75,899 (7.2%)</td>
<td>75,310 (9.8%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1 The Uniform Data System (UDS) tracks a variety of information, including patient demographics, services provided, staffing, clinical indicators, utilization rates, costs, and revenues. UDS data are collected annually from Health Center Program grantees.

*Includes all clients served at Health Center Program grantees.