



#HealthierMO

Transforming the Future of Public Health in Missouri

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The release of United Health Foundation's 2017 America's Health Rankings report this week left a bitter taste as Missouri dropped three in the state rankings, falling from 37th to 40th. The report showed lost ground on indicators like children in poverty (-25), child and adolescent immunizations (-11 and -4 respectively), disparity in health status (-10), and excessive drinking (-8). The report also noted the low rate of dentists per population and showed an 18% increase in drug deaths over the past five years.

Since the report was first published in 1990, Missouri has fallen 16 places from 24th in the nation to 40th. Now is the time to turn the tide. Stakeholders across Missouri must pull together to transform the public health system and improve health outcomes in key indicators.

The #HealthierMO initiative seeks to transform the future of public health, making positive changes to create a healthier Missouri. Led by the Missouri Public Health Association, in partnership with Support KC, the initiative will engage active statewide participation and investment in transforming public health into a stronger system that offers every Missouri resident the opportunity for a healthier life.

The initiative will explore opportunities to unite professional organizations with similar goals and will invite input from stakeholders during a special convening session in early 2018. It will listen to concerns, integrate innovative ideas, and build a strong collaborative team that will move toward developing and implementing a shared vision for transforming the future of public health in Missouri.

Every community deserves foundational public health services. The #HealthierMO initiative will coordinate efforts to achieve a stronger, more culturally relevant and sustainable statewide public health system that will positively impact health outcomes for all Missouri residents.

To get involved, follow the initiative on Facebook @HealthierMO, share posts, use #HealthierMO, and sign up to receive weekly e-updates at www.HealthierMO.org.

The Missouri Public Health Association is leading the #HealthierMO initiative in partnership with Support KC. Funding for the first phase of this multi-year initiative was provided by the Missouri Foundation for Health and the Health Care Foundation of Greater Kansas City. To learn more, visit www.HealthierMO.org.