

Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care



2024

GAPS ANALYSIS REPORT

Missouri Balance of State Continuum of
Care

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Executive Summary

The Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) conducted an extensive analysis to understand the factors influencing regional performance standards for homeless services. This report details our methodological approach, key findings, and evidence-based recommendations aimed at enhancing the efficacy and equity of homeless services within our continuum.

Methodology Overview

Data Collection:

Our data collection employed a mixed-methods approach, integrating quantitative data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) with qualitative data from structured interviews and surveys. This inclusive strategy ensured a comprehensive understanding of our community's diverse needs and perspectives.

Data Validation and Quality Assurance:

Robust protocols were implemented to ensure data integrity. We cross-referenced qualitative findings with quantitative data, prioritized ethical considerations regarding data privacy, and employed advanced data validation techniques. This multifaceted approach enabled us to provide reliable and actionable insights.

Data Analysis:

The Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) played a pivotal role in analyzing the HMIS data. Our analysis integrated quantitative statistical techniques and qualitative thematic analysis, enabling a rigorous examination of the factors influencing regional performance standards. Comparative analysis and stakeholder engagement were key components of our methodology, ensuring that our findings were grounded in real-world perspectives.

Key Findings

1. Impact of Permanent Housing Beds:

- Positive SPM Impacts: An increase in the percentage of permanent housing (PH) beds positively impacted several System Performance Measures (SPMs), including reducing the Length of Time Homeless (LOTH) and decreasing Returns to Homelessness.

- Mechanism: The distribution of beds plays a critical role. While emergency shelter (ES) beds provide initial access, an adequate proportion of PH beds is essential for successful long-term outcomes.

Identified Gaps: Regions 2, 3, and 5 within the CoC have an inadequate number of PH beds, leading to prolonged periods of homelessness and higher rates of returns to homelessness. Emergency shelter (ES) beds alone are insufficient to achieve positive long-term outcomes.

2. Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Income Increases:

- PSH Projects: These projects significantly impact increasing client income. PSH beds provide ongoing case management, supporting clients in achieving stable housing and improving their economic situation.

- Mechanism: Focused case management and stable housing environments facilitate clients' ability to increase their income.

Identified Gaps: Regions 4, 8, 9, and 10 lack sufficient PSH projects, limiting opportunities for clients to receive the intensive case management necessary for income increases and housing stability. Additionally, the existing PSH units are often inadequate to meet the demand.

3. Resource and Staffing Shortages:

- Stakeholder Feedback: Qualitative data highlighted severe resource shortages, including shelter beds, supportive services, and adequate staffing. These shortages create barriers to successful exits from homelessness.

- Recommendations: Addressing these resource gaps by increasing funding, improving program eligibility, and expanding supportive services is critical to enhancing service delivery.

Recommendations

1. Increase Permanent Housing Beds:

- Rationale: A higher percentage of PH beds correlates with better outcomes in terms of LOTH, Returns to Homelessness, and Income Increases.

- Action: Prioritize the development and allocation of PH beds to ensure a balanced distribution that supports long-term housing stability .

2. Expand Rapid Rehousing and Permanent Supportive Housing:

- Rationale: Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and PSH beds contribute to successful exits and income increases, respectively.

- Action: Increase the number of RRH and PSH beds, particularly in regions with high demand and limited capacity .

3. Enhance Supportive Services Budgets:

- Rationale: Adequate supportive services are essential for addressing immediate needs and facilitating successful transitions out of homelessness.

- Action: Ensure that new and existing projects have sufficient budgets for supportive services to mitigate barriers and improve client outcomes .

4. Improve Program Accessibility:

- Rationale: Stakeholders identified limited program eligibility and resources as significant barriers.

- Action: Expand program eligibility criteria and increase resource availability to better meet the diverse needs of the homeless population.

By implementing these recommendations, the Balance of State CoC can improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of its homeless services, resulting in better outcomes for clients and communities alike. These strategies are designed to ensure that the CoC system is responsive to the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly those with severe needs, and that it can provide the necessary support to facilitate successful and sustainable exits from homelessness.

Next Steps

Implementation of Recommendations

- Resource Allocation: Strategically allocate resources to increase the percentage of Permanent Housing (PH) beds and enhance supportive services to address immediate and long-term needs.
- Project Expansion: Coordinate with local agencies to expand Rapid Rehousing (RRH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects, prioritizing regions with high demand and limited capacity. While this applies throughout the entire CoC, it is driven primarily by Regions 2, 3, 5, and 4, 8, and 9.

Monitoring and Evaluation

- Framework Establishment: Develop a continuous monitoring and evaluation framework to assess the impact of implemented changes on regional performance standards.
- Data Utilization: Employ both quantitative and qualitative data to refine strategies and ensure ongoing improvements in service delivery and client outcomes.

Stakeholder Engagement

- Active Engagement: Maintain active engagement with stakeholders, including clients, service providers, and community members, to gather feedback and ensure that the changes address the community's needs.
- Regular Forums: Facilitate regular forums and meetings to keep stakeholders informed and involved in the process, fostering transparency and collaboration.

Policy Advocacy

Based on the findings of the gaps analysis, several policy gaps and areas for potential policy advocacy have emerged:

Funding Allocation and Resource Distribution:

Policy Gap: Inadequate funding for Permanent Housing (PH) and Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) projects.

Recommendation: Advocate for increased state and federal funding dedicated to expanding PH and PSH units. Policy changes should prioritize sustainable funding streams to ensure long-term stability.

Program Eligibility Criteria:

Policy Gap: Stringent eligibility criteria for various housing and support programs that may inadvertently exclude some of the most vulnerable populations.

Recommendation: Reassess and modify eligibility criteria to ensure inclusivity, reducing barriers for individuals seeking assistance. Policies should be designed to accommodate diverse needs, including those with legal and sober living requirements.

Supportive Services and Staffing:

Policy Gap: Shortages in supportive services and adequately trained staff to meet the needs of the homeless population.

Recommendation: Implement policies that provide incentives for training and retaining staff in the homeless services sector. Additionally, policies should encourage the integration of supportive services with housing programs to enhance overall effectiveness.

Coordination and Collaboration:

Policy Gap: Lack of coordinated efforts between local governments, educational institutions, and private sector stakeholders.

Recommendation: Develop policies that foster collaboration and resource-sharing among various stakeholders. This can include creating formal partnerships and incentivizing joint initiatives to address homelessness more comprehensively.

By following these next steps, the Balance of State CoC aims to enhance the effectiveness and responsiveness of homeless services, ensuring better outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness and strengthening community resilience.

Conclusion

This analysis of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care highlights critical factors influencing performance standards for homeless services. By implementing the recommended strategies, increasing resource allocation, and maintaining active stakeholder engagement, we can significantly enhance the efficacy and equity of homeless services. Our commitment to evidence-based practices and continuous improvement will drive meaningful progress in addressing homelessness and improving the lives of those we serve.

OVERVIEW OF THE GAPS ANALYSIS

The Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) Lead Agency, in collaboration with the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA), undertook a gaps analysis to identify the factors influencing regional performance standards in homeless services. This analysis aims to evaluate the existing homeless services system, including coordinated entry, shelter, and housing programs, to identify gaps and provide tailored, prioritized recommendations for improving the overall homeless response.

Goal of the Research

The primary goal of this research was to understand how different project components affect various measures of outcomes for clients within the MO BoS CoC. By identifying these factors, the research seeks to inform future policy and programmatic decisions to enhance the efficacy and equity of homeless services.

Key Inquiries:

Our research centered on the primary domains to comprehensively examine the factors that influenced changes and disparities in regional performance standards for homeless services.

Determinants of Regional Performance and Factors Contributing to Variations in Performance Standards:

We conducted a comprehensive analysis of the performance across various regions, assessing the impact of multiple factors on outcomes. These factors included:

Housing Types and Unit Numbers: Analyzing the diversity of housing options and the number of available units to understand their role in regional performance.

Budgets for Supportive Services: Evaluating the allocation and utilization of budgets for supportive services to determine their effect on performance outcomes.

Programmatic Elements: Investigating the specific programmatic components implemented in each region and their effectiveness.

In addition to these project-specific factors, we also examined broader community factors such as:

Household Size: Considering the average household size within each region and its correlation with performance.

Risk Scores: Analyzing the risk scores associated with the population served to identify potential challenges and opportunities for improvement.

Housing Inventory: Assessing the availability and quality of the housing inventory in each region to determine its impact on service delivery.

Population Dynamics: Examining the population size and demographics to understand their influence on regional performance.

Our research aimed to identify key performance predictors and highlight modifiable factors that could be leveraged to enhance performance standards across regions. By understanding these determinants, we aim to provide actionable insights that can guide future policy and programmatic decisions, ultimately improving the efficacy and equity of homeless services.

Methodology Overview:

Data Collection:

Our data collection methodology was designed to be thorough and multifaceted, employing a mixed-methods research approach that integrates data mining from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) with qualitative data collected through surveys and interviews. This comprehensive approach allowed us to gain a nuanced understanding of the factors influencing regional performance standards for homeless services. Below is a detailed outline of our data collection methodology:

Collaborative Data Extraction from HMIS:

Our collaboration with the Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) was essential for gathering quantitative data from HMIS. This data included extensive details on client demographics, service usage patterns, program outcomes, and regional performance indicators. ICA's expertise ensured precision and thoroughness in the technical aspects of data extraction.

Qualitative Data Collection:

Surveys: To ensure diverse and representative input, we targeted survey participants through our Regional Leads, who facilitated outreach and encouraged participation from various stakeholders, including service providers, clients, and community members. Participants were solicited via a flyer that was distributed

throughout service providers in each Region. Their contributions have been crucial in shaping a comprehensive understanding of the challenges and opportunities within our Continuum of Care. We are pleased to report that 47 individuals participated in our electronic survey, providing valuable insights into the state of homeless services across the region. This robust participation rate is a positive indicator of stakeholder engagement and has significantly enriched our data. See *Appendix for Qualitative Analysis Tables*.

Interviews: We conducted structured interviews targeted key stakeholders involved in homeless services, aiming to encompassing individuals with lived experience, service providers, policymakers, and community advocates. These interviews were designed to capture a comprehensive range of perspectives and experiences, providing valuable insights into the real-life dynamics of accessing and delivering homeless services. Interview participation was solicited via flyer distribution to service providers in each Region. While we scheduled nine interviews, only four participants attended. Although this turnout was less than ideal and limited our ability to gather a broader range of perspectives, the insights from these interviews remain valuable. The feedback provided by these stakeholders has been instrumental in identifying key challenges and opportunities within our homeless services system, ensuring that our analysis is still grounded in real-world experiences and observations. See *Appendix for Interview Questions and Tables of Analysis*.

Forums: We organized virtual community forums to facilitate open discussions and information sharing. These forums provided a platform for participants to express their thoughts, concerns, and suggestions regarding homeless services. The forums focused on identifying successful and limited instances of resource utilization in achieving positive outcomes, guided by system performance measures. Unfortunately, despite thorough planning, the scheduled forums did not receive participation.

Inclusivity and Relevance:

Our data collection process was designed to be exceptionally comprehensive, actively engaging a diverse array of participants from various backgrounds and roles within the Continuum of Care (CoC). This inclusive approach was pivotal in ensuring that the data collected accurately reflected the broad spectrum of needs, experiences, and perspectives present within our community.

To achieve this, we reached out to a wide range of stakeholders, including individuals experiencing homelessness, service providers, policymakers, community

advocates, and general community members. By incorporating such a diverse group of participants, we were able to gather rich, multifaceted data that provided a holistic understanding of the issues at hand.

The questions and topics addressed in our interviews and surveys were meticulously crafted to align with our research objectives. These instruments were designed to delve deeply into the factors influencing regional performance standards, the efficacy of services provided, and potential opportunities for improvement and enhancement within the CoC system.

Each question was thoughtfully formulated to extract specific, relevant information that would contribute to a comprehensive analysis. For instance, interviews were structured to elicit detailed narratives about personal experiences and operational challenges, while surveys included both quantitative metrics and qualitative feedback prompts to capture a wide range of data points.

By employing such a detailed and inclusive data collection methodology, we ensured that our research was grounded in the lived realities and diverse viewpoints of our community members. This approach not only enhanced the relevance and accuracy of our findings but also ensured that our recommendations were well-informed and capable of driving meaningful improvements in the CoC's efforts to address homelessness and improve service delivery.

Data Validation and Quality Assurance:

Robust validation and quality assurance protocols were meticulously implemented to ensure the reliability and integrity of both quantitative and qualitative data collected during our research. This comprehensive process involved several key steps:

1. Cross-Referencing Data:

We systematically cross-referenced qualitative findings from interviews, forums, and surveys with quantitative data extracted from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). This method allowed us to identify correlations, patterns, and inconsistencies, ensuring that our data was both accurate and comprehensive.

2. Ethical Considerations:

Throughout all stages of data collection and storage, stringent ethical considerations were upheld. We prioritized data privacy and confidentiality, ensuring that all participants' information was securely handled and that their anonymity was

maintained. Informed consent was obtained from all participants, and data was stored in compliance with relevant privacy laws and guidelines.

3. Integration of Data Sources:

By integrating data collected from HMIS with qualitative insights gathered from interviews, forums, and surveys, we created a rich, multifaceted dataset. This comprehensive integration enabled us to triangulate our findings, providing a nuanced and in-depth understanding of the factors influencing regional performance standards in homeless services.

4. Data Validation Techniques:

Advanced data validation techniques were employed to ensure the accuracy and reliability of our findings. This included consistency checks, outlier detection, and cross-validation methods to verify the robustness of our quantitative data. For qualitative data, thematic analysis and coding consistency checks were conducted to ensure the reliability of identified themes and patterns.

5. Quality Assurance Procedures:

Quality assurance procedures were embedded throughout the research process. These included regular audits of data collection processes, peer reviews of data analysis methods, and feedback sessions with stakeholders to validate findings and interpretations. This iterative process ensured that our research remained rigorous and reflective of real-world dynamics.

6. Comprehensive Reporting:

The final step in our quality assurance process involved the synthesis of our findings into a comprehensive research report. This report integrated quantitative data with qualitative insights, providing a holistic view of the factors affecting regional performance standards. It also offered evidence-based recommendations aimed at driving meaningful improvements in the CoC's services.

By implementing these rigorous validation and quality assurance protocols, our research not only ensured the integrity and reliability of the data but also provided a solid foundation for making informed, evidence-based recommendations. This multifaceted approach has equipped us to offer actionable insights that can significantly enhance our community's efforts to address homelessness and improve the overall efficacy of the Continuum of Care's services.

Limitations of the Research

Exclusion of VSP data

In the MO BoS CoC, there are many homeless service providers that do not utilize HMIS, typically due to one of the following reasons: 1) they are not required to participate by their funders, 2) providing homeless services is not their primary function, 3) they are a domestic violence provider and are required by federal law to use a separate data system, or 4) they do not have the capacity to participate in HMIS. Without a larger percentage of providers operating using the HMIS system, it is challenging to draw systemwide conclusions about programs, strengths, and areas for growth. Instead, HMIS data currently provides only a portion of the picture, based on the providers and programs that do use HMIS.

The decision to exclusively use data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) rather than Victim Service Providers (VSPs) comparable databases for our analysis was driven by several key factors. First, our focus was on project-level System Performance Measures, which are not required in the comparable databases used by VSPs. This absence means that these databases do not have the necessary programming to track federal performance measures at the project level. Additionally, detailed project-level reporting is only achievable through custom reporting tools like BusinessObjects, utilized by ICA in HMIS, which the federal reports do not inherently provide.

Furthermore, our analyses were intended to evaluate system-level performance outcomes, whereas VSP comparable databases typically contain data limited to single agencies. This isolation of data makes it impossible to amalgamate reports from these databases to assess performance across the entire system. A related challenge is the inability to deduplicate client records across VSP comparable databases and HMIS, which is crucial for accurate system-wide analysis.

Looking ahead, we recognize the value of incorporating VSP data into future analyses. This would involve planning analyses around reports that are required or are likely to be programmed into the comparable databases of VSPs, thereby broadening our data scope and enhancing our understanding of system-wide performance metrics.

Regional Grouping

For our quantitative analysis, data was examined across the entire Continuum of Care (CoC) as well as within three grouped subsets of the Balance of State (BoS) Regions. This approach was adopted instead of analyzing all ten regions individually for several strategic reasons. Primarily, the county was the unit of analysis and

examining each region separately did not yield a sufficient number of counties with comprehensive data necessary for robust statistical analysis. To ensure meaningful and accurate groupings, these were configured in consultation with both the ICA BoS Programmatic Team and the Lead Agency. This collaborative effort aimed to maximize the utility and relevance of the data while maintaining a focus on regional characteristics and needs.

OVERVIEW OF THE MISSOURI BALANCE OF STATE CoC

This section provides an overview of the Missouri BoS CoC's overarching goal as well as contextual and geographic background to the CoC's homeless system of care in the following sections:

- The Goal of the System
- Regions
- Resources
- Coordinated Entry

The Goal of the System

The primary goal of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) is to coordinate and implement community-wide strategies aimed at ending homelessness across its 101 counties. The MO BoS CoC strives to ensure that individuals and families experiencing homelessness receive equitable, comprehensive, and effective services that meet their diverse needs. This goal is achieved through a structured, collaborative approach that aligns with federal, state, and local policies.

Key Objectives of the MO BoS CoC include:

Coordinated Entry (CE) Implementation:

- Establishing and maintaining a centralized or coordinated assessment system to provide an initial, comprehensive assessment of the housing and service needs of individuals and families experiencing homelessness. This ensures that people are prioritized for assistance based on their vulnerability and the severity of their needs.

Strategic Planning and Policy Development:

- Developing and updating policies, strategies, and activities that address homelessness effectively. This involves regular consultation with recipients of

Emergency Solutions Grants (ESG) and other stakeholders to ensure that services are aligned with the community's needs.

Data-Driven Decision Making:

- Utilizing data from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) and other sources to identify gaps in services, measure system performance, and inform policy and funding decisions. Regularly reviewing and analyzing data helps in setting performance targets and evaluating the outcomes of funded projects.

Resource Allocation and Fundraising:

- Preparing and submitting applications for CoC funding to support homeless assistance projects. This involves a collaborative process to develop a comprehensive application that reflects the community's priorities and needs. The CoC also seeks to secure additional funding from various sources to enhance service delivery.

Community Engagement and Education:

- Engaging with the community to raise awareness about homelessness issues, gather input on service delivery, and build support for initiatives aimed at ending homelessness. This includes hosting regular meetings with CoC members, service providers, and other stakeholders.

Performance Monitoring and Improvement:

- Monitoring the performance of CoC and ESG recipients to ensure that funded projects meet established performance targets. This includes evaluating project outcomes and taking corrective actions for projects that underperform. The CoC is committed to continuous improvement to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of homeless services.

Equity and Inclusion:

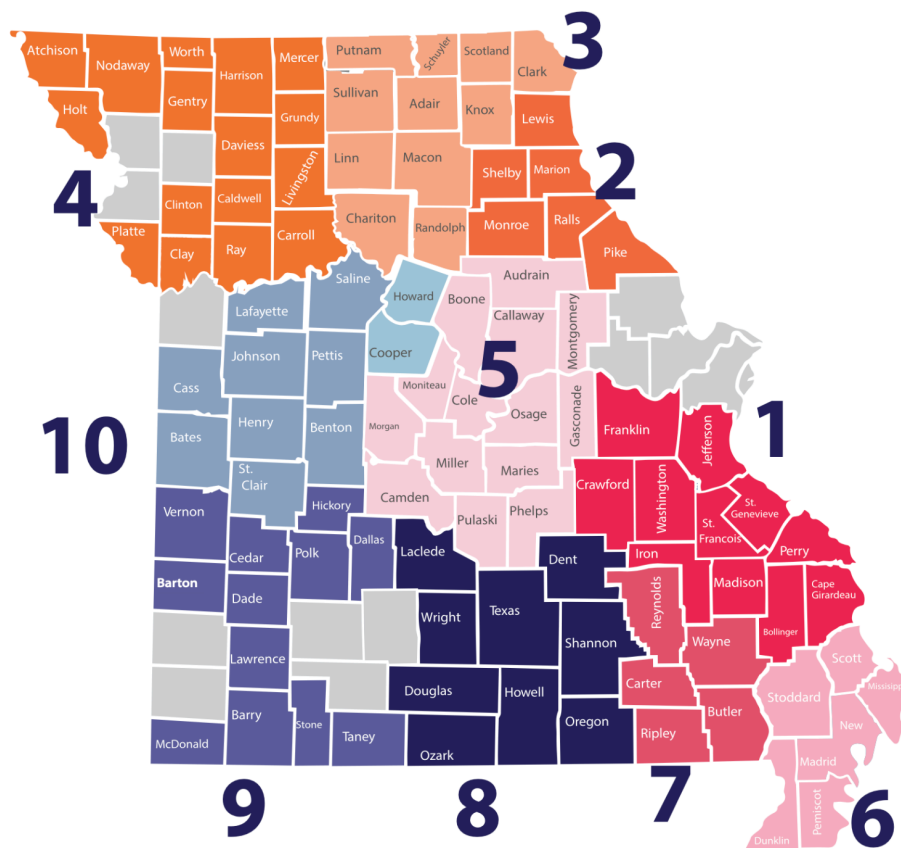
- Ensuring that services are accessible and equitable for all individuals experiencing homelessness, regardless of their background or circumstances. The CoC emphasizes the importance of addressing disparities and promoting inclusivity in all aspects of service delivery.

Through these strategic efforts, the MO BoS CoC aims to reduce the length and frequency of homelessness by providing coordinated, effective, and equitable services. By leveraging data, engaging the community, and fostering collaboration

among service providers, the CoC strives to create a comprehensive system of care that meets the needs of the most vulnerable populations and moves them towards stable housing and self-sufficiency.

Regions

The Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) is divided into ten regions, each with unique characteristics and service needs. These regions work collaboratively to address homelessness across the state's vast geography, ensuring that services are tailored to the specific needs of each area.



The inclusion of Regional Overviews in this report serves to provide contextual and background information on the current state of each region within the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC). These overviews offer a snapshot of the demographic, economic, and social characteristics unique to each region, highlighting the diverse challenges and opportunities faced by different

communities. By understanding the specific context of each region, stakeholders can better appreciate the varying needs and resource gaps that influence the performance of homeless services. This foundational information is crucial for interpreting the analysis and recommendations, ensuring that they are grounded in the realities of each region's unique environment and circumstance

Region 1: Counties of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Crawford, Franklin, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Perry, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, and Washington

This region features a mix of urban and rural communities with diverse economic bases and demographic profiles.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

Population and Demographics: The population in Region 1 is predominantly White, with Cape Girardeau County being the most diverse. The median age varies, with urban centers having a younger population due to higher education institutions and employment opportunities, while rural areas have an older demographic.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Cape Girardeau Demographics](#)

Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 1 is driven by agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, and education. Urban counties like Cape Girardeau and Jefferson County benefit from a more diversified economic base and higher median household incomes, whereas rural counties face higher poverty rates and limited employment opportunities.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

Housing Market: The housing market in Region 1 varies significantly between urban and rural areas. Urban centers such as Cape Girardeau and Jefferson County have higher median home values and rental rates, creating affordability challenges for low-income residents. For example, the median home value in Cape Girardeau County is approximately \$175,000, while rural counties like Iron and Madison have median home values between \$100,000-\$120,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Cape Girardeau County, Iron County, Madison County](#)

Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are higher in rural counties, with some counties like Bollinger and Perry having homeownership rates exceeding 75%. Urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Cape Girardeau County is around \$854. The

median gross rent for Jefferson County, MO is approximately \$957. Both of these are below the US median gross rent of \$1,268.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Bollinger County, Perry County](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Cape Girardeau County](#)

Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are higher in rural areas, reflecting declining populations and economic challenges. For instance, Washington County has a vacancy rate of 18%, while Cape Girardeau County's rate is closer to 10%.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 118% rise in unsheltered homelessness and a 158% increase in Sheltered Homeless from 2022 in Region 1. Family Homelessness also increased by 70%. Despite increases in homelessness, there was a 7% decrease in Rapid Rehousing Beds. There are no Youth Beds in Region 1.

- [ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS](#)

Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 1 has improved, with a slight increase in overall bed utilization rate to 76% from the previous year of 75%, where the entire CoC saw a 6% increase in utilization rate. Region 1 saw the lowest utilization in Transitional Housing Project Type- which was also where the large decrease in utilization presented from 2002 (63%) to 2023 (33%). Region 1 had 100% utilization of its Permanent Supportive Housing (86 beds) and Rapid Rehousing (74 beds).

- [ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS](#)

Challenges and Opportunities:

Region 1 faces a variety of specific challenges and opportunities rooted in its geographic and socioeconomic landscape.

Economic disparities between urban centers like Cape Girardeau and Jefferson counties and more rural counties present significant challenges.¹ Cape Girardeau County, with its higher median household income and more diversified economy, contrasts sharply with the economic instability and higher poverty rates seen in rural areas like Iron and Madison counties. High vacancy rates in these rural counties indicate a surplus of unoccupied housing, which may be in poor condition and unsuitable for habitation.²

¹ [Gaps in U.S. rural and urban economic growth widened in the post-Great Recession economy, with implications amid the coronavirus recession - Equitable Growth](#)

² <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0166046216300382>

The region's rural nature also leads to transportation barriers, limiting residents' access to essential services such as healthcare and education.³ Limited healthcare facilities in rural areas exacerbate health disparities, with residents often traveling long distances to receive medical care.⁴ Additionally, educational resources are unevenly distributed, with rural schools lacking the funding and resources available in more urbanized areas.⁵

Expanding affordable housing options in both urban and rural areas is crucial to addressing housing instability and reducing homelessness.⁶ Programs focused on rehabilitating vacant properties can improve housing conditions and reduce vacancy rates in rural counties.⁷ Enhancing infrastructure, such as improving road networks and expanding broadband internet access, is essential for connecting residents to broader economic opportunities and services.⁸

Leveraging the economic strength of urban centers like Cape Girardeau and Jefferson counties can drive regional growth. Initiatives to attract businesses and investments to rural areas can create job opportunities and stimulate local economies. Developing partnerships with local healthcare providers to expand mobile clinics and telehealth services can improve access to healthcare for rural residents.

Educational improvements are also vital. Supporting rural schools with better resources and implementing adult education and job training programs can help break the cycle of poverty and equip residents with the skills needed for modern job markets. Strengthening collaboration among local governments, community organizations, and private sector stakeholders can lead to more effective solutions tailored to the unique needs of Region 1, enhancing housing stability, economic resilience, and overall well-being for all residents.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

³ [Transportation to Support Rural Healthcare Overview - Rural Health Information Hub](#)

⁴ [Addressing Health Disparities in the Rural United States: Advocacy as Caregiving among Community Health Workers and Promotores de Salud - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

⁵

[The-forgotten-20-percent-achievement-and-growth-in-rural-schools-across-the-nation_NWEA_research-brief.pdf](#)

⁶ [Addressing the Affordable Housing Crisis Requires Expanding Rental Assistance and Adding Housing Units | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(cbpp.org\)](#)

⁷ [Vacant and Abandoned Properties: Turning Liabilities Into Assets | HUD USER](#)

⁸ [The benefits and costs of broadband expansion | Brookings, Catalyzing Economic Impact - Rural Missouri \(Rural LISC\).pdf \(philanthropymissouri.org\)](#)

Region 2: Counties of Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby

This region features predominantly rural communities with a few urban centers, such as Hannibal in Marion County, which is a significant cultural and economic hub.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 2 is primarily White, with Marion County being the most populous and diverse. The median age across the counties ranges from mid-30s to early 40s, with an aging population in rural areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Marion County Demographics](#)

Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 2 is heavily reliant on agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Urban areas like Marion County have a more diversified economy with lower unemployment rates and higher median household incomes. Rural counties, such as Lewis and Shelby, face economic challenges with higher unemployment and poverty rates.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

Housing Market: The housing market varies significantly between urban and rural areas. Urban centers such as Hannibal in Marion County have higher median home values and rental rates, which can be a barrier for low-income residents. Median home values in Marion County are around \$150,000, while rural counties like Shelby have median home values closer to \$90,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Marion County, Shelby County](#)

Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in rural counties, with rates often exceeding 70%. For example, Ralls County has a homeownership rate of 87%. In contrast, urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Marion County is approximately \$757.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Ralls County, MO](#)

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Marion County, MO](#)

Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Lewis County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 15%, while Marion County's vacancy rate is about 10%.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 41% decrease in unsheltered homelessness and a 60% increase in

Sheltered Homeless from 2022 in Region 2. Family Homelessness also increased by 10%. In response, there was a 58% increase in Rapid Rehousing Beds. There are no Youth Beds in Region 2.

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Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 2 has improved, with a significant increase in overall bed utilization rate to 87% from the previous year of 77%, with the lowest utilization rate in Emergency Shelter Project Type (59%). Region 2 had 100% utilization of Permanent Supportive Housing (68 beds) and Rapid Rehousing (12 beds).

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Challenges and Opportunities:

Region 2, encompassing the counties of Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby, faces unique challenges and opportunities rooted in its rural landscape and economic profile.

Key challenges in Region 2 include economic instability, with counties like Lewis and Monroe experiencing higher unemployment and lower median household incomes. The aging population and high vacancy rates in rural areas reflect a decline in economic opportunities and population. For instance, Lewis County has a high vacancy rate, indicating a surplus of unoccupied housing which may be in poor condition. Additionally, transportation barriers limit access to essential services, making it difficult for residents to reach healthcare and educational facilities.

Opportunities for improvement in Region 2 involve expanding affordable housing options to address the needs of low-income families and reduce homelessness. Enhancing infrastructure, such as road networks and broadband internet access⁹, is crucial for connecting residents to broader economic opportunities and essential services. Developing partnerships with local agricultural businesses can help create more stable job opportunities and stimulate economic growth.¹⁰

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 3: Counties of Adair, Chariton, Clark, Knox, Linn, Macon, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland and Sullivan

⁹ [Catalyzing Economic Impact - Rural Missouri \(Rural LISC\).pdf \(philanthropymissouri.org\)](#)

¹⁰ [USDA and the U.S. Small Business Administration Strengthen Partnership to Create Jobs and Economic Growth in Rural America | Rural Development](#)

This region is characterized by predominantly rural communities with a few urban centers, such as Kirksville in Adair County, which serves as a significant cultural and economic hub.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

Population and Demographics: The population in Region 3 is primarily White, with Adair County being the most populous and diverse due to the presence of Truman State University. The median age across the counties ranges from mid-30s to mid-40s, with an aging population in rural areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Adair County Demographics](#)

Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 3 is heavily reliant on agriculture, education, and healthcare. Urban areas like Adair County have a more diversified economy with lower unemployment rates and higher median household incomes. Rural counties, such as Knox and Scotland, face economic challenges with higher unemployment and poverty rates.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

Housing Market: The housing market varies significantly between urban and rural areas. Urban centers such as Kirksville in Adair County have higher median home values and rental rates, which can be a barrier for low-income residents. Median home values in Adair County are around \$146,000, while rural counties like Knox have median home values closer to \$90,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Adair County, Knox County](#)

Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in rural counties, with rates often exceeding 70%. For example, Putnam County has a homeownership rate of 81%. In contrast, urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Adair County is approximately \$758.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Adair County, Putnam County](#)

Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Knox County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 16%, while Adair County's vacancy rate is about 10%.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 78% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 27% decrease in Sheltered

Homelessness from 2022 in Region 3. Family Homelessness also increased by 17%. Region 3 has no Rapid Rehousing Beds and no Youth Beds.

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Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 3 saw a slight decrease in overall bed utilization rate to 66% from the previous year of 68%. Region 3 bed utilization rate is lowest in Emergency Shelter Project Type (48%), but saw the greatest decline in Other Permanent Housing (30%). Region 3 had 100% utilization of its Permanent Supportive Housing (17 beds).

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS.

Challenges and Opportunities

Region 3, which includes the counties of Adair, Chariton, Clark, Knox, Linn, Macon, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, and Sullivan, faces a variety of challenges specific to its largely rural composition. The region is characterized by an aging population, high poverty rates, and limited access to healthcare and educational resources. Economic instability is prevalent, with many areas heavily reliant on agriculture, which can be affected by market fluctuations and environmental factors.

Key challenges in Region 3 include the high vacancy rates and aging housing stock, which reflect declining populations and economic hardships. For example, counties like Knox and Scotland have significant vacancy rates, indicating a surplus of unoccupied and potentially dilapidated housing. Additionally, transportation barriers complicate access to essential services, particularly in more remote areas.¹¹

Opportunities for improvement in Region 3 involve expanding affordable and quality housing options, which are crucial to addressing the needs of low-income families and reducing homelessness. Developing infrastructure, such as improving road networks and expanding broadband internet access, can enhance connectivity and economic opportunities.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 4: Counties of Atchison, Caldwell, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Mercer, Nodaway, Platte, Ray, and Worth

¹¹ [Rural-Transportation-and-Health-2018.pdf \(mffh.org\)](#), [MU researchers study barriers and facilitators to accessing health care in rural Missouri // Show Me Mizzou // University of Missouri](#)

This region includes a mix of urban and rural communities, with Clay and Platte counties being part of the Kansas City metropolitan area, contributing to a more diverse economic and demographic profile.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 4 is predominantly White, with Clay and Platte counties being the most populous and diverse due to their proximity to Kansas City. The median age across the counties ranges from mid-30s to early 40s, with urban areas having a younger demographic compared to rural areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Clay County Demographics](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau: Platte County Demographics](#)
- [Mid America Regional Council Community Views](#)

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 4 is diverse, with key industries including agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, and services. Urban counties like Clay and Platte benefit from a diversified economic base with lower unemployment rates and higher median household incomes. Rural counties like Grundy and Mercer face economic challenges with higher unemployment and poverty rates.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

- Housing Market: The housing market varies significantly between urban and rural areas. Urban centers such as those in Clay and Platte counties have higher median home values and rental rates, which can be a barrier for low-income residents. Median home values in Clay County are around \$237,000, while rural counties like Atchison and Worth have median home values less than \$100,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Clay County, Atchison County, Worth County](#)
- [Housing Data Hub](#)

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in rural counties, with rates often exceeding 75%. For example, Daviess County has a homeownership rate of 78%. In contrast, urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Clay County is approximately \$1,133.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Daviess County, Clay County](#)

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Holt County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 18%, while Platte County's vacancy rate is about 8%.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 34% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 117% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 4. Family Homelessness also increased by 143%. Region 4 saw a significant decrease in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 22% and a 33% decrease in Youth Beds.

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Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 4 saw a small increase in overall bed utilization rate to 81% from the previous year of 76%, but this was driven by large increases in utilization of Emergency Shelter (19%) and Transitional Housing (25%). Region 4 had 100% utilization of its Other Permanent Housing (46 beds), Permanent Supportive Housing (56 beds), and Rapid Rehousing (167 beds).

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS.

Challenges and Opportunities

Region 4 faces a unique set of challenges. The region includes both urbanized areas like Clay and Platte counties, which are part of the Kansas City metropolitan area, and deeply rural counties such as Gentry and Worth. This mix leads to significant economic and infrastructural disparities.

Urban areas, particularly Clay and Platte counties, experience challenges related to housing affordability due to high demand and rising rental costs. Meanwhile, rural counties struggle with higher vacancy rates, aging infrastructure, and limited economic opportunities.¹² The economic activities in rural areas are largely driven by agriculture, which can be unstable due to market fluctuations and environmental factors.¹³

Opportunities for improvement in Region 4 include expanding affordable housing options in urban areas to address the high cost of living and prevent homelessness. In rural areas, improving infrastructure such as road maintenance and broadband internet access can significantly enhance connectivity and economic prospects. Leveraging the economic activity of the Kansas City metropolitan area can also provide rural counties with better access to markets and services.¹⁴

¹² [Catalyzing Economic Impact - Rural Missouri \(Rural LISC\).pdf \(philanthropymissouri.org\)](#)

¹³ [Socioeconomic and Environmental Indicators for Rural Communities: Bridging the Scholarly and Practice Gap - Catherine Brinkley, Marjory Anne Visser, 2022 \(sagepub.com\)](#)

¹⁴ [Comprehensive-Economic-Development-Strategy-Plan.pdf \(marc.org\)](#)

Collaborative regional development initiatives can bridge the urban-rural divide. Investing in job training programs and small business support can stimulate local economies and reduce unemployment. Additionally, enhancing healthcare and educational resources across the region, including mobile health units and satellite education centers, can improve access to essential services. Strengthening partnerships between local governments, non-profits, and the private sector will be key to developing comprehensive strategies that address both immediate needs and long-term goals for housing stability and economic resilience in Region 4.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 5: Counties of Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cole, Cooper, Gasconade, Howard, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Montgomery, Morgan, Osage, Phelps and Pulaski

This region includes a mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas, with Boone County, home to the University of Missouri in Columbia, serving as a significant cultural and economic hub.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 5 is diverse, with Boone County being the most populous and having a more diverse demographic due to the presence of the University of Missouri. The median age across the counties ranges from mid-30s in Boone County to mid-40s in more rural areas.

- U.S. Census Bureau: Boone County Demographics

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 5 is diverse, with significant contributions from education, healthcare, manufacturing, and agriculture. Urban areas like Boone and Cole counties benefit from lower unemployment rates and higher median household incomes due to a diversified economic base. Rural counties like Gasconade and Maries face higher unemployment and poverty rates.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri

- Housing Market: The housing market varies significantly between urban and rural areas. Boone and Camden counties lead the region in home values due to their economic and recreational significance. Rural counties such as Audrain, Gasconade, and Maries feature the lowest home values within Region 5, highlighting the economic disparities across the region. The median home value of Boone County is

approximately \$237,000, reflecting the influence of the University of Missouri and the city's economic activity, while rural counties like Audrain County have median home values closer to \$110,000.

- U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Boone County, Audrain County

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in rural counties, with rates often exceeding 75%. For example, Moniteau County has a homeownership rate of 76%. In contrast, urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Boone County is approximately \$994.

- U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Moniteau County, Boone County

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Gasconade County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 15%, while Boone County's vacancy rate is about 8%.

- U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 123% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 15% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 5. Family Homelessness, though, decreased by 23%. Region 5 saw a significant decrease in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 22% and a 33% decrease in Youth Beds.

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Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 5 saw a small increase in overall bed utilization rate to 82% from the previous year of 78%, driven by a significant increase in Other Permanent Housing (45%). The lowest utilization was in Emergency Shelter Beds (66%). Region 5 had 100% utilization of its Rapid Rehousing (105 beds) Project Type.

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Challenges and Opportunities

Region 5 faces a variety of challenges. The region is marked by economic disparities between urban areas like Boone County, home to Columbia and the University of Missouri, and more rural counties such as Gasconade and Maries. Urban areas face housing affordability issues due to higher home values and rental rates, while rural areas struggle with higher vacancy rates and economic instability.

Opportunities for improvement in Region 5 include leveraging the presence of higher education institutions in Boone County to drive economic growth and innovation¹⁵. Expanding affordable housing options in urban areas can help mitigate the impact of rising housing costs on low-income residents.¹⁶ In rural areas, enhancing infrastructure such as transportation and broadband internet access can connect residents to broader economic opportunities and essential services.¹⁷ Additionally, fostering partnerships between local governments, educational institutions, and private sector stakeholders can help address the unique needs of both urban and rural communities.¹⁸ Investing in job training programs and supporting small businesses can also promote economic development and reduce unemployment in the region. Strengthening the availability of supportive services, such as healthcare and education, will be crucial in improving the overall quality of life and housing stability for residents throughout Region 5.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 6: Counties of Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, and Stoddard

This region is primarily rural, with agriculture playing a significant role in the local economy. The region faces unique challenges related to economic stability and access to services.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 6 is predominantly White, with a significant African American minority, particularly in counties like Pemiscot and New Madrid. The median age across the counties is generally in the early to mid-40s, reflecting an aging population in many rural areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Pemiscot County Demographics](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau: New Madrid County Demographics](#)

¹⁵ [Garibay-Strategies-2020.pdf \(ucf.edu\)](#), [cicep-new-metrics-field-guide_201405.pdf \(aplu.org\)](#), <https://doi.org/10.1002/nml.21051>

¹⁶ [Addressing the Affordable Housing Crisis Requires Expanding Rental Assistance and Adding Housing Units | Center on Budget and Policy Priorities \(cbpp.org\)](#), [The GAP | National Low Income Housing Coalition \(nlihc.org\)](#)

¹⁷ [The benefits and costs of broadband expansion | Brookings](#)

¹⁸ [The impacts of collaboration between local health care and non-health care organizations and factors shaping how they work: a systematic review of reviews | BMC Public Health | Full Text \(biomedcentral.com\)](#)

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 6 is heavily reliant on agriculture, with significant contributions from manufacturing and healthcare. The region faces higher unemployment rates and lower median household incomes compared to the state average. For example, Pemiscot County has an unemployment rate of 6.5% and a median household income of around \$32,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Pemiscot County](#)

- Housing Market: The median home values in Region 6 are generally lower than the state average, reflecting the rural and agricultural nature of the region. For example, in Dunklin County, the median home value is approximately \$90,000, while in Scott County, it is around \$130,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Dunklin County, Scott County](#)

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are relatively high in the region, often exceeding 70%, which is common in rural areas. For instance, Stoddard County has a homeownership rate of 71%. However, the rental market is less developed, but with limited rental availability. Rental rates in Region 6 are also relatively low. The median gross rent in counties like Dunklin and Pemiscot is around \$600 to \$700, making rental housing more affordable compared to urban areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Dunklin County, Pemiscot County](#)

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are higher in Region 6, reflecting economic challenges and population decline. For example, Dunklin County has a vacancy rate of 16%, indicating a significant amount of unoccupied housing.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 2% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 64% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 6. Family Homelessness also increased by 17%. Region 6 saw a significant increase in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 500% but a 100% decrease in Youth Beds.

- [ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS](#)

Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 6 saw a slight decrease in overall bed utilization rate to 81% from the previous year of 82%. This decrease was primarily driven by the decrease in bed availability from 61 beds in 2022 to 32 beds in 2023. Region 6 had 100% utilization of its Permanent Supportive Housing (108 beds), Rapid Rehousing (14 beds), and Safe Haven (8 beds).

Challenges and Opportunities

Region 6 faces several unique challenges. High poverty rates and limited access to quality healthcare and education are significant issues, particularly in the more rural counties like Pemiscot and Dunklin. The region's economy is heavily reliant on agriculture, which is subject to market fluctuations and natural disasters, leading to economic instability and unemployment.

Opportunities for improvement in Region 6 include expanding affordable housing options to address the significant housing needs of low-income families. Improving healthcare access through mobile clinics and telehealth services can mitigate the challenges posed by the region's rural nature¹⁹. Enhancing educational resources by investing in rural schools and providing adult education and job training programs can help break the cycle of poverty. Additionally, strengthening infrastructure, such as road networks and broadband internet²⁰, is crucial for connecting residents to essential services and economic opportunities. Collaborating with agricultural businesses²¹ to create more stable job opportunities and investing in disaster resilience measures can further support the region's economic stability and improve overall quality of life for its residents.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 7: Counties of Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, and Wayne

This region is predominantly rural, with significant natural landscapes and economic reliance on agriculture and forestry.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 7 is predominantly White, with a relatively small minority population. The median age across the counties ranges from mid-40s to early 50s, reflecting an aging population common in rural areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Butler County Demographics](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau: Ripley County Demographics](#)

¹⁹ [Telehealth Interventions and Outcomes Across Rural Communities in the United States: Narrative Review - PMC \(nih.gov\)](#)

²⁰ [Catalyzing Economic Impact - Rural Missouri \(Rural LISC\).pdf \(philanthropymissouri.org\)](#)

²¹ [Catalyzing Economic Impact - Rural Missouri \(Rural LISC\).pdf \(philanthropymissouri.org\)](#)

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 7 is heavily reliant on agriculture, which influences the housing market. Economic stability in these areas affects the housing market, with lower income levels limiting housing affordability.²² The region faces higher unemployment rates and lower median household incomes compared to the state average. For example, Reynolds County has an unemployment rate of around 6% and a median household income of approximately \$43,800.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Reynolds County Demographics](#)

- Housing Market: The median home values in Region 7 are generally lower than the state average, reflecting the rural and agricultural nature of the region. For example, Carter County has a median home value of approximately \$180,000- the highest in the region, while Ripley and Reynolds Counties' median home value is around \$100,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Region 7 Counties](#)

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in the region, often exceeding 70%, which is common in rural areas. For instance, Wayne County has a homeownership rate of 74%. However, the rental market is less developed, with lower rental rates but limited rental availability. The median gross rent in Butler County is around \$729.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Butler County, Wayne County](#)

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates tend to be higher in rural areas, indicating economic challenges and population decline. For example, Carter County has a vacancy rate of 17%, indicating a significant amount of unoccupied housing.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 15% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 43% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 7. Family Homelessness also increased dramatically by 833%. Region 7 saw a significant increase in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 42% but a 100% decrease in Youth Beds.

- [ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS](#)

Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 7 saw a slight increase in overall bed utilization rate to 81% from the previous year

²² [Home | Missouri Economic Research and Information Center \(mo.gov\)](#)

of 80%, despite a significant decline in utilization of Transitional Housing beds (from 93% to 22%). Region 7 had 100% utilization of Rapid Rehousing (42 beds).
- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS.

Challenges and Opportunities

Region 7 faces significant challenges, including high poverty rates and limited access to healthcare and educational resources, particularly in rural counties like Carter and Reynolds. The region's predominantly rural nature exacerbates issues related to transportation and service delivery, making it difficult to reach isolated populations. Additionally, there is a shortage of permanent housing solutions, with many residents living in substandard housing conditions.

Opportunities for improvement in Region 7 include expanding affordable housing options and increasing the availability of supportive services tailored to the unique needs of rural communities. Enhancing infrastructure, such as improving road conditions and expanding broadband internet access, can help bridge the gap in service delivery. Innovative approaches, such as mobile healthcare units and community-based educational programs, can provide essential services to remote areas. Strengthening collaboration between local governments, non-profits, and community organizations can help create a more cohesive support network, improving overall quality of life and housing stability for residents in Region 7.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 8: Counties of Dent, Douglas, Howell, Laclede, Ozark, Oregon, Shannon, Texas, and Wright

This region is predominantly rural with small towns and agricultural communities. There are no significant urban centers in this region, which influences the economic and housing dynamics significantly.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

The population in Region 8 is largely rural, with a higher median age compared to urban areas. The demographic profile shows a predominantly White population, with small percentages of other racial and ethnic groups.

- U.S. Census Bureau: Laclede County Demographics

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Howell County Demographics](#)

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 8 is heavily reliant on agriculture, small-scale manufacturing, and services. Rural counties like Douglas and Shannon face higher unemployment and poverty rates compared to the state average. Douglas County has 18.5% poverty and Shannon County has 21.4%, compared to 13.2% poverty for the State of Missouri.²³

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

- [U.S Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Douglas County, Shannon County](#)

- Housing Market: The housing market is characterized by lower median home values and rental rates compared to urban areas. For instance, the median home value in Howell County is around \$140,000, while rural counties like Dent have even lower median home values.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts-Howell County, Dent County](#)

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in Region 8, often exceeding 70%, reflecting the rural character of these areas where owning property is more common than renting. For example, Wright County has a homeownership rate of 77%. Rental markets are less competitive, with lower rental rates compared to urban areas. The median gross rent in Howell County is approximately \$680.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Wright County, Howell County](#)

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Douglas County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 18%, while Howell County's vacancy rate is about 12%.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates](#)

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 3% decrease in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 20% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 8. Family Homelessness also decreased by 48%. Region 8 saw a significant increase in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 100%. Region 8 has no Youth Beds.

- [ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS](#)

²³ [U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts: Missouri](#)

Utilization of Housing Resources: in 2022, region 8 had 154 total beds with 80 people in them for an average utilization of 52%. in 2023, that was 183 total beds with 88 people in it for an average utilization of 48%. While the project type utilization rates stayed the same, the increase in ES beds in 2023 at the same utilization rate brought the overall average down.

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS.

Challenges & Opportunities

Region 8 faces significant economic challenges, particularly in the more rural counties such as Dent²⁴, Shannon²⁵, and Ozark²⁶. These areas have limited employment opportunities, leading to higher unemployment and poverty rates. The reliance on agriculture and small-scale industries contributes to economic volatility. Access to quality healthcare services is limited, especially in remote areas. Many residents must travel long distances to reach medical facilities, which exacerbates health disparities and impacts overall well-being. The lack of nearby healthcare services often results in delayed treatment and poorer health outcomes. The quality of available housing is often poor, with many homes in rural areas being outdated and in need of repair. High vacancy rates in counties like Douglas and Texas reflect economic challenges and declining populations, which can lead to an increase in abandoned or poorly maintained properties.

Expanding affordable housing options is crucial for addressing housing needs and reducing homelessness. Programs focused on rehabilitating vacant and substandard housing can improve living conditions and reduce vacancy rates, providing more stable housing options for residents. Developing partnerships with local businesses and exploring diversification into other industries can create more stable job opportunities and stimulate economic growth. Supporting small businesses and entrepreneurship can also contribute to economic resilience and job creation. Supporting rural schools with better resources and implementing adult education and job training programs can help break the cycle of poverty. These investments can equip residents with the skills needed for modern job markets, enhancing economic mobility and stability. Partnerships with local educational institutions can provide targeted training to meet the specific needs of the regional job market

²⁴ [Dent, Missouri | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

²⁵ [Shannon, Missouri | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

²⁶ [Ozark, Missouri | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps](#)

See Appendix for detailed geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 9: Counties of Barry, Barton, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Hickory, Lawrence, McDonald, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Vernon

This region includes a mix of rural and suburban areas, with significant tourism activity, particularly in Stone and Taney counties due to the presence of Branson, a popular tourist destination. The region's economy is diverse, with a mix of rural and suburban areas. However, this diversity can also create disparities.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 9 is primarily White, with a growing Hispanic community in some areas. The median age varies, with younger populations in tourism-driven counties like Taney and older populations in more rural areas.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Polk County Demographics](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau: Taney County Demographics](#)

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 9 is diverse, with significant contributions from agriculture, tourism, manufacturing, and retail. Urban areas like those around Branson in Taney County benefit from lower unemployment rates and higher median household incomes due to tourism. Rural counties like Hickory and Vernon face higher unemployment and poverty rates. While tourism boosts the local economy, it can also strain resources and infrastructure.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

- Housing Market: The median home values vary significantly within Region 9. Urban centers like Branson in Taney County have higher home values compared to more rural counties. For example, Taney County has higher median home values (\$175,000) due to the tourism industry, which drives demand. In contrast, rural counties like Barton and Cedar have lower median home values.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Quick Facts- Taney County, Barton County, Cedar County](#)

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in rural counties, with rates often exceeding 75%. For example, Polk County has a homeownership rate of 72%. In contrast, urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Taney County is approximately \$870.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Polk County, Taney County](#)

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Vernon County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 16%, while Stone County's vacancy rate is about 10%.

- U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 133% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 100% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 9. Family Homelessness also increased by 100%. Region 9 saw a significant decrease in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 100%. There are no Youth Beds in Region 9.

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS

Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 9 saw a significant increase in overall bed utilization rate to 87% from the previous year of 64%. This increase is driven by large increases in both Emergency Shelter utilization (51% to 99%) and Other Permanent Housing utilization (24% to 100%). Other Permanent Housing (56 beds), Permanent Supportive Housing (29 beds), and Rapid Rehousing (36 beds) all had 100% utilization. Region 9 had the highest overall utilization among all Project Types.

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS.

Challenges and Opportunities

Region 9 faces a range of challenges related to housing and economic stability. The region includes both rural and suburban areas, with significant tourism activity in Stone and Taney counties due to Branson. This tourism drives up housing costs, creating affordability issues. Meanwhile, rural counties like Hickory and Vernon struggle with higher poverty rates, economic instability, and higher vacancy rates, reflecting a lack of economic opportunities and population decline.

Expanding affordable housing options in urban areas such as Branson can help mitigate the rising costs driven by tourism. Initiatives like workforce housing for tourism industry employees can provide stable housing for low-income workers. Rehabilitating vacant properties in rural counties can reduce vacancy rates and improve housing conditions. Partnerships with local businesses and community organizations can foster the development of mixed-use housing projects, integrating affordable housing with commercial spaces to support local economies.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

Region 10: Counties of Bates, Benton, Cass, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Saline, and St. Clair

This region includes a mix of urban, suburban, and rural areas, with Cass and Johnson counties having significant suburban populations due to their proximity to the Kansas City metropolitan area.

Housing and Homelessness Factors

- Population and Demographics: The population in Region 10 is diverse, with significant urban and suburban growth in counties like Cass and Johnson. The median age across the counties varies, with urban areas having a younger demographic compared to more rural counties.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: Cass County Demographics](#)
- [U.S. Census Bureau: Johnson County Demographics](#)

- Economic Indicators: The economy in Region 10 is diverse, with key industries including agriculture, manufacturing, healthcare, and education. Urban counties like Cass and Johnson benefit from lower unemployment rates and higher median household incomes due to a diversified economic base. Rural counties like Benton and St. Clair face higher unemployment and poverty rates.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics: Missouri](#)

- Housing Market: The housing market varies significantly between urban and rural areas. Urban centers such as Harrisonville in Cass County have higher median home values and rental rates, which can be a barrier for low-income residents. Median home values in Cass County are around \$242,000, while rural counties like St. Clair have median home values closer to \$125,000.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Cass County, St. Clair County](#)

- Homeownership and Rental Rates: Homeownership rates are high in rural counties, with rates often exceeding 75%. For example, Henry County has a homeownership rate of 74%. In contrast, urban areas have more competitive rental markets with higher rental rates. The median gross rent in Cass County is approximately \$1097.

- [U.S. Census Bureau: QuickFacts- Cass County, Henry County](#)

- Vacancy Rates: Vacancy rates are generally higher in rural areas, reflecting economic challenges and declining populations. Benton County, for instance, has a vacancy rate of 15%, while Cass County's vacancy rate is about 8%.

- U.S. Census Bureau: Vacancy Rates

Homelessness Trends and Housing Programs: The entire CoC saw a notable increase in homelessness from 2022 to 2023. The 2023 Point-in-Time (PIT) data indicates a 3% rise in Unsheltered Homelessness and a 119% increase in Sheltered Homelessness from 2022 in Region 10. Family Homelessness also increased by 173%. Region 10 saw a significant increase in Rapid Rehousing Beds by 119%. There are no Youth Beds in Region 10.

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS

Utilization of Housing Resources: The utilization rate of housing resources in Region 10 saw a significant increase in overall bed utilization rate to 73% from the previous year of 44%. This increase is driven by increases in Emergency Shelter utilization (21% to 56%) and Transitional Housing (70% to 90%).

Region 10 Permanent Supportive Housing (70 beds) and Rapid Rehousing (16 beds) were at 100% utilization.

- ICA 2023 PITHIC BOS.

Challenges and Opportunities

Region 10 faces a variety of challenges related to housing and economic stability. Urbanized areas like Cass and Johnson counties, which are part of the Kansas City metropolitan area, struggle with housing affordability due to high demand and rising rental costs. Conversely, rural counties such as Benton and St. Clair face higher vacancy rates and underdeveloped infrastructure, reflecting economic hardships and population decline. Transportation barriers and limited access to healthcare and educational resources further exacerbate these issues.

Expanding affordable housing options in urban centers like Cass and Johnson counties is crucial to address the high cost of living and prevent homelessness. Rehabilitating vacant properties in rural areas can improve housing conditions and reduce vacancy rates. Enhancing infrastructure, such as improving road networks and expanding broadband access, can significantly boost connectivity and economic prospects, enabling rural residents to access broader opportunities.

Leveraging the economic activity of the Kansas City metropolitan area can drive regional growth, providing rural counties with better access to markets and

services. Developing partnerships between local governments, non-profits, and private sector stakeholders can foster the development of innovative housing solutions, such as mixed-income housing projects and community land trusts. Additionally, investing in mobile healthcare units and telehealth services²⁷ can mitigate healthcare access issues, while educational improvements and job training programs can equip residents with the skills needed for modern job markets. These comprehensive strategies can enhance housing stability and economic resilience across Region 10.

See Appendix for geographic and socioeconomic profile.

²⁷ [**Telehealth Interventions and Outcomes Across Rural Communities in the United States: Narrative Review - PMC \(nih.gov\)**](#)

RESOURCES AND SERVICES

The Missouri BoS CoC coordinates the following services to people experiencing homelessness in the ten regions: Emergency shelters, Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH), Rapid Rehousing (RRH), Safe Haven (SH), Transitional Housing (TH), Coordinated Entry (CE), supportive services, and street outreach.

Emergency Shelter (ES) means any facility, the primary purpose of which is to provide a temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless and which does not require occupants to sign leases or occupancy agreements.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) is permanent housing in which housing assistance (e.g., long-term leasing or rental assistance) and supportive services are provided to assist households with at least one member (adult or child) with a disability in achieving housing stability. The CoC utilizes a system that prioritizes Persons Experiencing Chronic Homelessness and other Vulnerable Homeless Persons in Permanent Supportive Housing first.

Rapid Re-Housing (RRH) is permanent housing that provides short-term (up to three months) and medium-term (4-24 months) tenant-based rental assistance and supportive services to households experiencing homelessness.

Transitional Housing (TH) provides temporary housing with supportive services to individuals and families experiencing homelessness with the goal of interim stability and support to successfully move to and maintain permanent housing.

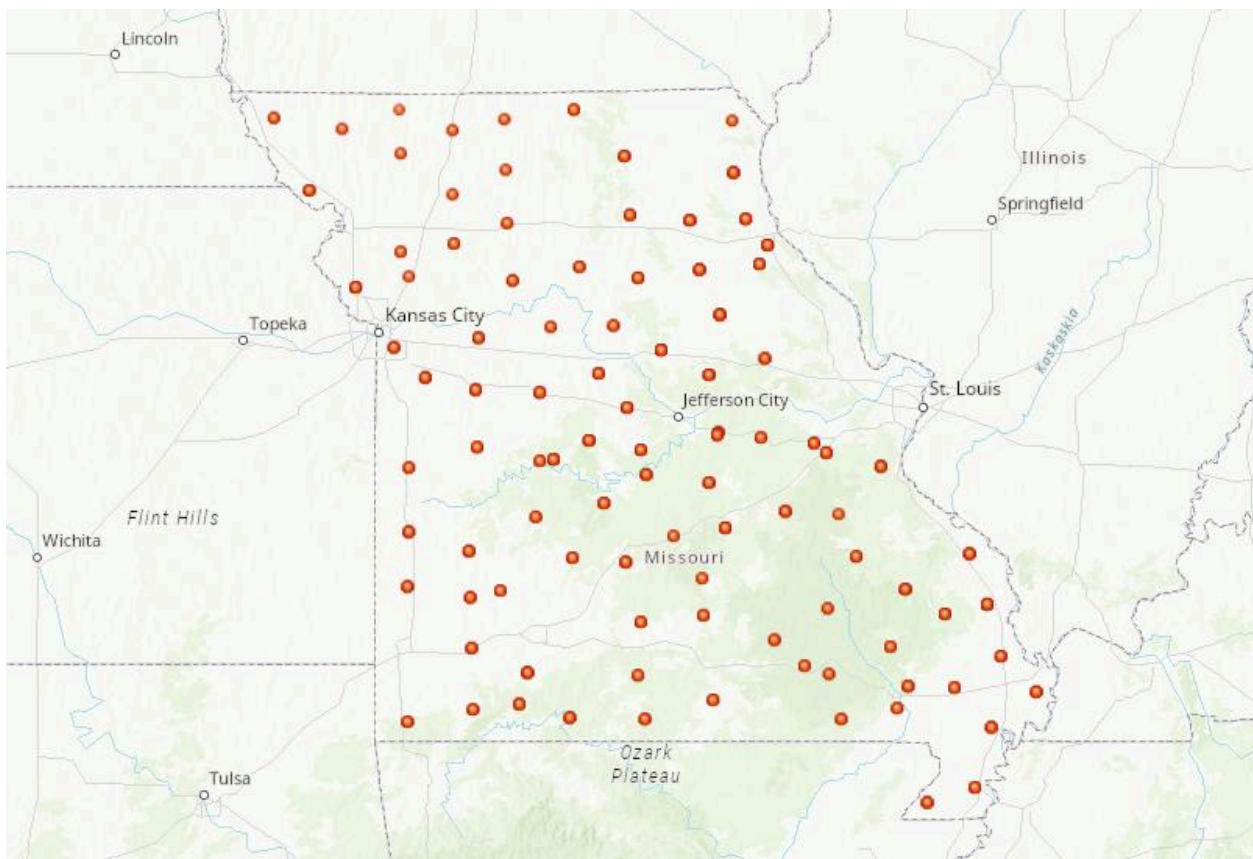
Homeless Prevention provides short-term or medium-term rental assistance and housing relocation and stabilization services.

Housing programs operate within the CoC and offer support and services in a variety of ways, depending on the purpose. This includes: mental health & disability support, substance abuse support, case management, rental assistance, and any other aspects of the specific program.

See Appendix for a list of CoC Projects by Region.

Coordinated Entry (CE) is a vital component of each Continuum of Care's (CoC) system of care. CE is designed to streamline the process for people experiencing homelessness or those at risk of homelessness to be assessed, prioritized, and connected or referred to appropriate services. The four main elements of CE are access, assessment, prioritization, and referral. Individuals can access CoC housing resources and services based on their progression through these stages. Additionally, people experiencing homelessness can access other mainstream (non-CoC/CE) service provider resources that cater to a broader population.

CE systems can vary across CoCs, featuring different types of access points managed by various service providers or CoC representatives. These access points can include phone lines or websites where individuals can initiate contact to access homeless services, street outreach workers, and physical locations such as shelters or drop-in centers. The Missouri BoS CoC, for instance, has established CE access points throughout its ten regions, as illustrated in the map below.



**This map is based on the current identified CE access points. Some of these locations serve more than one region. Based on input from the Missouri BoS CoC personnel, it is possible that this map is missing some CE access points. This map does not reflect all agencies participating in CE. Additionally, some locations may be missing if the site addresses are unknown to the Missouri BoS CoC Personnel.

Access Point-Client Entry

The Missouri BoS CoC ensures that access points are available across the CoC and offer entry in an easy, fair, and consistent manner. Telephone-based access is permitted, and each region will have multiple access points to ensure that services are available throughout the counties. Prioritization within the Missouri BoS CoC is based on the principle of helping the most vulnerable first. The CoC will prioritize the most vulnerable and those with the most severe needs. This is the primary factor in determining service and housing allocation.

Prioritization List (PL)

The CoC utilizes a system that prioritizes persons by measures of chronicity and vulnerability. Prioritization was established at the BOS CoC wide level. Please note that the Prioritization List is not a "wait list". If there are not enough resources to assist households within 60 days or less, the MO BoS CES Committee should make immediate updates to prioritization standards to more precisely differentiate and identify resources for those households with the highest needs and most acute vulnerability.

Regional Case Conferencing and Referrals

The 10 regions of the CoC host individual case conferencing meetings to cover the 101 counties of the Balance of State. Housing projects obtain referrals at case conferences or by contacting the Level 4 Access Point. Case Conferencing will generate referrals to clients based on the prioritization. Referrals are made to all programs that clients may be eligible for among participating agencies (including non-CoC related projects such as ministries and privately funded partners).

QUANTITATIVE FINDINGS

Data Analysis Approach:

The Institute for Community Alliances (ICA) played a pivotal role in analyzing the data extracted from the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS). Our analysis adopted a meticulously structured approach designed to elucidate the intricate relationships between identified factors and regional performance standards. To ensure the effectiveness and depth of our analysis, we followed these key steps:

1. Data Integration:

We integrated data from various sources, including HMIS and qualitative information gathered from forums, surveys, and interviews with individuals with lived experience and service providers. This mixed-methods approach allowed us to triangulate data from multiple sources, providing a rigorous and comprehensive analysis of the factors influencing regional performance standards.

2. Quantitative Analysis:

Our quantitative analysis involved the use of advanced statistical techniques and modeling to identify correlations, trends, and statistical significance among variables. We examined a range of factors, including budgets of supportive service projects, beds by household type, program scale, risk scores, capacity, and housing inventory. This detailed examination aimed to pinpoint specific factors contributing to variations in performance standards across different regions.

3. Qualitative Analysis:

Qualitative data collected from interviews and surveys underwent thematic analysis. This process involved systematically identifying common themes, patterns, and narratives in the responses provided by stakeholders. These qualitative insights added depth and context to our quantitative findings, enriching our understanding of the data and highlighting the nuanced experiences and perspectives of stakeholders.

4. Comparative Analysis:

We conducted a comparative analysis of data across different regions to highlight disparities and commonalities in performance standards. This approach enabled us

to identify best practices in high-performing regions and potential areas for improvement in regions struggling to meet benchmarks. The comparative analysis provided a robust framework for understanding regional variations and performance dynamics.

5. Stakeholder Engagement:

Throughout the analysis process, we actively engaged with stakeholders, including CoC board members, service providers, and community members. This engagement involved validating findings, gathering additional insights, and ensuring that our analysis was grounded in real-world perspectives and experiences. Stakeholder collaboration was integral to the reliability and relevance of our analysis.

6. Report Generation:

The culmination of our data analysis efforts was the production of a comprehensive research report. This report synthesized quantitative and qualitative findings, providing a detailed account of the factors influencing regional performance standards. It also offered evidence-based recommendations for enhancing CoC homeless services, aimed at driving meaningful improvements in our community's efforts to address homelessness.

By implementing this well-structured and thorough data analysis approach, we ensured that our findings were robust, reliable, and actionable. This approach enabled us to provide a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing regional performance standards, offering valuable insights and recommendations to enhance the effectiveness and equity of homeless services within the Continuum of Care.

Methods

This quantitative analysis sought to understand various impacts on the system performance outcome measures of the Balance of State in order to provide strategic recommendations for improving the homeless response system.

Outcome Measures

The analyses were designed to focus on factors affecting system-level performance. Therefore, the five outcome measures included in the analyses were designed to approximate the specifications of HUD's System Performance Measures²⁸.

²⁸ System Performance Measures:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/coc/system-performance-measures/guidance>

Length of Time Homeless: The average length, in days, that clients were enrolled in HMIS-participating Emergency Shelters, Safe Havens, and Transitional Housing projects in the Balance of State.

Returns to Homelessness: The average percentage of clients that return to homelessness within 2 years after exiting a project to a permanent housing destination. This measure examines clients who exited in the 2 years prior to the report period from an HMIS-participating Balance of State project to a permanent housing destination and then became enrolled in the next two years in an HMIS-participating Balance of State Street Outreach, Emergency Shelter, Transitional Housing or Safe Haven project.

Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness: The total number of clients enrolled in HMIS-participating Emergency Shelters, Safe Havens, and Transitional Housing projects in the Balance of State.

Increases in Income: The average percentage of clients that increased income across their project stay. This measure was calculated for *Stayers* (adults active in a project at the end of the reporting period and enrolled for at least one year), *Leavers* (adults who exited from a project within the reporting period), and *Stayers & Leavers* combined. For *Stayers*, increases in income are calculated between the client's latest Annual Assessment and their previous Annual Assessment or their Project Start. *Stayers* without an Annual Assessment recorded are excluded from this measure. For *Leavers*, increases in income are calculated between the client's Project Exit and their latest Annual Assessment or Project Start. These analyses focused on increases in Total Income (Earned and Non-Employment Income). Unlike HUD's System Performance Measures, these analyses included all projects in the CoC rather than only CoC-funded projects.

Successful Exits and Retentions: The average percent of clients who had successful exits from street outreach, residential settings (i.e., all emergency shelter, safe haven, and transitional housing projects, as well as rapid rehousing when clients have exited and other permanent housing where clients exited without moving into housing), and permanent housing projects that are not rapid rehousing and the client has moved into housing. Successful exits differ depending on the project type. For street outreach, successful exits are exits to any temporary destination, some institutional destinations, and any permanent housing destination. Only permanent housing destinations are considered successful exits for residential and permanent housing projects. For permanent housing projects, clients who have moved into housing and remain in that housing situation are also considered to be successful. **See Appendix for a full list of successful exit destinations.**

All outcome measures were pulled from the CoC's HMIS (WellSky's® Community Services) via reports custom-built in the SAP® BusinessObjects reporting tool.

Reports pulled data from all projects in the Balance of State CoC for the reporting period of Fiscal Year 2023 (10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023). For each measure, reports pulled project-level summary data. County-level aggregate data was then constructed based on the project geocodes and used as the analysis unit in the regression models.

Predictor Measures

The analyses included fourteen predictor measures to understand how resource availability and provider-level factors impact the Balance of State's system performance outcomes.

Total Beds: The total number of beds available for all HMIS-participating projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Emergency Shelter Beds: The total number of beds available for HMIS-participating Emergency Shelter projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Transitional Housing Beds: The total number of beds available for HMIS-participating Transitional Housing projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Safe Haven Beds: The total number of beds available for HMIS-participating Safe Haven projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Rapid Rehousing Beds: The total number of beds available for HMIS-participating Rapid Rehousing projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Permanent Supportive Housing Beds: The total number of beds available for HMIS-participating Permanent Supportive Housing projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing: The average percentage of beds available across the entire reporting year in permanent housing (Rapid Rehousing, Permanent Supportive Housing) versus beds in temporary housing (Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, Transitional Housing) projects, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS. This provides a measure of the relative distribution of available permanent and temporary beds in a region, and whether there are more of one type than the other.

Adult Only Beds: The total number of beds designated for Adult Only Households in all HMIS-participating projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Adult & Child Beds: The total number of beds designated for Adult & Child Households in all HMIS-participating projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Child-only Beds: The total number of beds designated for Child-Only Households in all HMIS-participating projects across the entire reporting year, calculated based on the bed inventory information recorded in HMIS.

Shelter Utilization: The average utilization of HMIS-participating Balance of State Emergency Shelters is measured as the number of clients served divided by the number of beds available.

Provider Risk Score: This score is an indication of the relative challenges clients face when obtaining and maintaining housing. This score assigns points based on the number of clients who were chronically homeless at project start; had a prior residence of "Place Not Meant for Habitation"; have a history of alcohol or drug use disorder; have a history of serious mental illness; or lacked income at project start. A higher Provider Risk Score indicates that the project serves clients who face more barriers to housing. For these analyses, the Provider Risk Score was an average for all the projects in each county.

HMIS Coordinated Entry Access Points: The number of HMIS-participating Coordinated Entry Access Points. For projects that serve multiple counties, a primary county was designated in consultation with the agency's HMIS Lead staff.

Budget for Supportive Services: The total budget for Supportive Services Only projects is based on the CoC Grant Inventory Worksheet.

All predictor measures, except for the Budget for Supportive Services, were pulled from the CoC's HMIS (Wellsky's® Community Services) via reports custom-built in the SAP® BusinessObjects reporting tool. Reports pulled data from all projects in the Balance of State CoC for Fiscal Year 2023 (10/1/2022 – 9/30/2023). For each measure, reports pulled project-level summary data. County-level aggregate data was then constructed based on the project geocodes and used as the unit of analysis in the regression models. Data on Supportive Services budgets was provided by CPSEMO, the Balance of State's Collaborative Applicant.

Statistical Analyses

A series of multiple regression models was conducted to analyze the potential impacts of the predictor factors on the outcome measures.

First, analyses focused on the entire Balance of State CoC. Separate models were created for each outcome measure. The data was first examined to determine if any predictor variable had insufficient data to be included in the model. Simple correlations were conducted for these predictors with the predictor variable and outcome measure. All other predictors were included in an initial multiple regression model. After evaluating model assumptions, a multicollinearity check was performed to identify predictor variables that correlated with each other. Such variables were removed from the regression model. Model comparison was used to test whether the removed variables significantly contributed to the model. When appropriate, the reduced model was used to determine the collective impact of the predictors on the outcome model. Significant effects were determined for the final model based on beta weights and significance tests. For these analyses, effects were considered statistically significant when they reached the threshold of a *p-value* less than .1. Effects with that significance value indicate that there is at least a 90% chance that the observed relationship between the factors is a true finding and not due to chance.

Following the full CoC analysis, additional analyses were performed for smaller regions to determine if there were any regional-specific effects on the outcome measures. While the intention was to examine each region of the Balance of State CoC independently, there was not sufficient data per region to perform such analyses. Therefore, the CoC was grouped into three regions: the Southeast region, comprising Regions 1, 6, and 7; the North Central region, comprising Regions 2, 3, and 5; and the West region, comprising Regions 4, 8, 9, 10. Due to the limited sample size, the regional analyses focused on simple correlations between predictor and outcome measures.

Table 1 (below) shows the number of counties contributing data to each analysis. When examining the data, one county, Dunklin, was a significant outlier in Length of Time, being over 3.5 standard deviations above the average. This is the only county in the data set with Safe Haven beds, which, in contrast to other temporary residential projects, do not have a time limit on clients' enrollments. Therefore, this county was excluded from further analyses on this outcome measure.

Table 1: # Counties for Analysis

	Length of Time	Returns to Homelessness	Number of Persons Homeless	Increases in Income: Stayers	Increases in Income: Leavers	Increases in Income: Stayers & Leavers	Successful Exits and Retentions
Full CoC	17	26	29	18	28	28	21
Southeast	6	10	10	6	9	9	8
North Central	5	6	8	6	7	7	6
West	6	10	11	6	12	12	7

All analyses were conducted using R Statistical Software²⁹.

Results from the ICA Data Analysis

The analyses aimed to understand how various resource availability and provider-level factors influence the Balance of State’s system performance outcomes. Results are organized by outcome measure. For each measure, we state HUD’s goal (e.g., having a shorter Length of Time Homeless) to better understand the influence of the various predictors on the outcomes.

Length of Time Homeless

The goal for Length of Time Homeless is to be shorter. Across the full CoC, there was a relationship between Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing and Length of Time where the higher the percentage of beds for permanent housing, the shorter Length of Time Homeless. This effect was so strong that for every 1% increase in the Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing there was a 54 day decrease in Length of Time (Figure 1*).

This effect seems to suggest that increasing permanent housing beds would be key to decreasing Length of Time. However, it is more complex than that. It turns out that more Rapid Rehousing beds was actually related to a longer, not shorter Length of Time Homeless (Figure 2). Figure: LoT avPlots RRH Beds.png

Therefore, instead of just increasing the number of permanent housing beds, efforts to decrease Length of Time Homeless must examine the overall distribution of

²⁹ R Core Team (2024). R: A language and environment for statistical computing. R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. URL <https://www.r-project.org/>.

*All Figures can be found in the Appendix

available beds in a region, working to ensure there are proportionally more beds for permanent housing projects than for temporary housing projects.

The only region to show significant effects was the North Central region. Here, relationships were found between the Length of Time Homeless and several predictors (Emergency Shelter beds, Adult-only beds, Adult & Child beds, Total Beds, and HMIS Coordinated Entry Access Points). However, one county (Boone) has both the highest number of beds in the region and the longest Length of Time by far in this region. This county acted as a strong outlier and was the main driver of these effects. The regional analyses for Length of Time Homeless found no other significant effects.

The Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing effect suggests that it is important to ensure that a system is set up to house people temporarily through shelter and that the system's focus, in terms of resource allocation, is on housing people permanently. Having more permanent housing beds than shelter beds allows clients to spend less time in shelter and move more quickly into permanent housing.

Returns to Homelessness

Returns to Homelessness measures how often clients who exit to permanent housing then return to homelessness within 2 years. The goal was to reduce this rate of return.

Three of the predictor factors were found to influence Returns to Homelessness: Shelter Utilization, Budget for Supportive Services, and Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing. Higher Shelter Utilization was associated with a higher rate of return to homelessness (Figure 3). However, this effect was not found in the specific regional analyses, and in the Southeast Region the opposite pattern was found (Figure 4). Further research is warranted to understand better the impact of Shelter Utilization on Returns to Homelessness.

Areas where there was a higher Budget for Supportive Services had more Returns to Homelessness (Figure 5). This effect was quite small, where a \$1 increase in the Budget for Supportive Services led to a less than 1% increase in Returns to Homelessness. It is possible that this may reflect the ability for additional Supportive Services to connect clients with services when they do return to homelessness. Another possibility is that additional Supportive Services resources are being directed to areas that have the highest level of need. If this is true and the additional supportive services helps clients maintain their housing, in the coming years we would expect to see the opposite pattern of effect where a higher budget for Supportive Services relates to fewer Returns to Homelessness.

Regionally, the North Central region demonstrated a relationship with Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing; the higher the proportion of permanent housing beds in a region, the fewer Returns to Homelessness (Figure 6).

Like the effect of Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing on Length of Time, this relationship also had a large effect. Every 1% increase in Percent of Beds for Permanent Housing was associated with an 88% decrease in Returns to Homelessness.

Overall, better performance on Returns to Homelessness was related to having proportionally more permanent housing beds than temporary beds. Clients who were able to move more quickly from shelter into permanent housing are then able to maintain that housing situation better.

Increases in Income

For Increases in Income, the goal is to increase the percentage of clients that increase their income over the course of their project enrollment. When looking across Increases in Income for Stayers, Leavers, and both Stayers and Leavers, this factor was affected by Provider Risk Score, Permanent Supportive Housing Beds, and the Percentage of Beds for Permanent Housing.

Higher Increases in Income were related to increased permanent housing – both the total number of Permanent Supportive Housing beds and the Percentage of Beds for Permanent Housing. Specifically, the more total Permanent Supportive Housing beds, the higher the Increases in Income for Stayers at the full CoC level (Figure 7) and in the West region for Stayers and Leavers (Figure 8).

Looking at the distribution of beds in a region, a higher Percentage of Beds for Permanent Housing was associated with higher Increases in Income for Stayers and Leavers in the North Central region (Figure 9). Having more permanent housing, whether in total number or distribution, may relate to more Increases in Income in at least two ways. First, the Permanent Supportive Housing project type includes focused case management to support clients in maintaining housing as well as connecting them to jobs and other resources that allow the client to succeed. This analysis shows that these efforts result in more clients increasing their income. Second, in a system focused on permanent housing, clients are more likely to be in stable housing situations and may be more able to focus on efforts to increase their income. On the other hand, clients who are not yet in permanent housing are likely more focused on obtaining housing and have fewer resources to work towards increasing their income.

An additional finding for Increases in Income was that areas where projects had a higher Provider Risk Score – that is, serve clients who have more barriers to housing – also had more Increases in Income at the full CoC level for Stayers (Figure 10), Leavers (Figure 11), and Stayers and Leavers (Figure 12). This effect was also found in the West region for Stayers (Figure 13). One explanation for this finding is that one of the barriers included in the Provider Risk Score is a lack of income at the project start. Therefore, it may be that programs working with these clients are able to help them obtain any form of income, while it may be harder to help clients who come in with income to increase that income.

Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness

This measure assesses the scope of homelessness in an area. The goal is to have fewer people experiencing homelessness. In the current analyses, as in HUD's System Performance Measures, this outcome measure pulls from clients enrolled in Emergency Shelter, Safe Haven, and Transitional Housing projects. This does not account for clients experiencing unsheltered homelessness or who are otherwise not connected to HMIS-enrolled services. Therefore, unlike other outcomes, this measure is directly tied to many of the predictors. That is, more people can be counted as experiencing homelessness if there are more shelter beds for people to stay in versus if there are fewer beds available.

The observed results showed this pattern. Several factors were found to be related to a higher Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness, all of which are predictors that, by nature, allow a community to count more people experiencing homelessness. These predictors included Emergency Shelter Beds (significant at the full CoC and each region: full CoC (Figure 14); Southeast (Figure 15); North Central (Figure 16); and West (Figure 17)); Shelter Utilization (full CoC (Figure 18), and Southeast region (Figure 19)); Total Beds (North Central region (Figure 20)), and West region (Figure 21), Adult Only beds (North Central region (Figure 22)), and West region (Figure 23), Adult and Child beds (North Central region (Figure 24)), and West region (Figure 25), Child Only beds (North Central region (Figure 26)).

Two other factors were related to a higher Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness that are not as directly tied to the outcome measure. However, both are related to having more shelter beds, a factor shown above to be directly tied to counting more people experiencing homelessness. The first factor was the number of HMIS Coordinated Entry Access Points (North Central region (Figure 27), and West region (Figure 28)).

Having more HMIS Coordinated Entry Access Points can be linked to the number of shelter beds as most agencies that have HMIS Coordinated Entry Access Points also have shelter beds. Moreover, Coordinated Entry connects clients to resources, including to shelter. Therefore, the more HMIS Coordinated Entry Access Points in an area, the more likely clients are to be in shelter and able to be counted as experiencing homelessness. The second factor was Rapid Rehousing beds (North Central region (Figure 29), and West region (Figure 30). In both the North Central and West regions, the number of Rapid Rehousing beds was correlated with the number of Emergency Shelter beds.

Of note, unlike the North Central and West Regions, only Emergency Shelter Beds and Shelter Utilizations were significant predictors in the Southeast region. Further research is needed to understand why these other factors differentially affect this region.

Thus, several factors predicted a higher Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness, all of which are tied to having more opportunities (i.e., shelter beds) for counting clients experiencing homelessness.

Successful Exits and Retentions

For Successful Exits and Retentions, the goal is to have more exits to successful destinations or retentions of permanent housing.

Across the full CoC, there was a very small effect where increasing the number of Transitional Housing beds was related to a lower percentage of Successful Exits and Retentions (Figure 31). Only three counties in the Balance of State have Transitional Housing Beds, and none of the regional analyses found this effect.

At the regional level, three predictors related to a lower percentage of Successful Exits and Retentions: Emergency Shelter Beds (Figure 32) and Shelter Utilization in the Southeast region (Figure 33), and Rapid Rehousing beds in the North Central region (Figure 34). The last effect, Rapid Rehousing beds, is driven by one outlier county, Boone County. The Emergency Shelter effects (beds and utilization) may suggest that, in this region, when shelters are serving more clients, they may be less able to support clients in moving on to successful next steps in their housing journey. This may suggest the need for additional wraparound services at these shelters to ensure clients being served receive not only a place to sleep, but also support in attaining a stable housing situation. Further investigation into this possibility is needed.

QUALITATIVE FINDINGS

Qualitative Analysis of Structured Interviews and Surveys

Introduction:

The structured interviews and surveys conducted as part of the Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) Gaps Analysis provided comprehensive qualitative insights into the challenges, successes, and operational dynamics of homeless services within the region. These findings, when juxtaposed with the quantitative data, offer a robust understanding of the system's performance and areas needing improvement.

Key Themes from Interviews and Surveys:

Barriers and Unmet Needs:

- Limited Funding: A predominant theme across all stakeholder groups was the need for more funding. This was highlighted by both individuals with lived experience and service providers as a critical barrier to effective service delivery.
- Program Eligibility and Resource Constraints: Issues related to restrictive eligibility criteria and insufficient resources were frequently mentioned. Service providers noted the challenges in meeting the diverse needs of homeless populations due to limited program flexibility and funding constraints.
- Transportation and Accessibility: Both individuals with lived experience and service providers identified limited transportation options as a significant barrier, impacting the ability to access services and resources.
- Staffing Issues: A common concern was the need for increased staffing to adequately support and manage homeless services. This was noted as crucial for improving service delivery and reducing burnout among existing staff.

Service Delivery and Operational Challenges:

- Timeliness and Waitlists: Long waiting periods for assistance and services were a significant concern. Stakeholders emphasized the need for more efficient processes to reduce wait times and expedite service delivery.
- Housing Availability: The shortage of affordable and available housing, especially for specific groups like single males, couples without children, and multifamilies, was highlighted. This scarcity exacerbates homelessness and prolongs the duration individuals remain without stable housing.

- Legal and Sober Living Requirements: Legal status and requirements for sober living facilities were noted as barriers to accessing certain services, highlighting the need for more inclusive and flexible service provision.

Effective Service Elements:

- Basic Needs Support: Stakeholders appreciated the assistance with basic needs such as food, hygiene items, showers, and laundry services. These supports were crucial in maintaining dignity and stability for those experiencing homelessness.

- Utilities Assistance and Homeless Prevention Programs: Programs that provided utilities assistance and helped prevent individuals from losing their homes were seen as highly effective. Such initiatives were vital in reducing the risk of homelessness and providing immediate relief to those in need.

- Resource-Rich Urban Areas: Larger towns with more resources and support systems were noted as better equipped to handle homelessness, providing a wider array of services and support compared to rural areas.

Recommendations from Stakeholders

- Increased Funding and Staffing: The most frequently mentioned recommendation was the need for more funding and staffing across all regions and stakeholder groups. This was seen as essential for expanding services, reducing wait times, and improving overall service quality.

- Enhanced Collaboration and Coordination: Improving collaboration between different service providers and community organizations was suggested to create a more cohesive and efficient service delivery system.

- More Shelters and Support Groups: The need for additional shelters, especially those accommodating diverse populations, and more support groups, particularly in the evenings, was highlighted.

- Streamlined Intake Processes: Reducing the time taken for intake processes and making them more efficient was recommended to ensure timely access to services.

Comparison with Quantitative Analysis

The qualitative findings align closely with the quantitative analysis, reinforcing key areas of concern and potential improvement within the MO BoS CoC.

Length of Time Homeless:

- The quantitative data indicated that increasing the percentage of permanent housing beds correlates with a shorter length of time homeless. This supports the qualitative feedback on the need for more permanent housing options and shelters.

Returns to Homelessness:

- Both qualitative and quantitative data emphasize the importance of supportive services in preventing returns to homelessness. The qualitative data highlighted the need for better follow-up and ongoing support, which aligns with quantitative findings that higher shelter utilization is associated with higher returns to homelessness.

Increases in Income:

- The need for more permanent supportive housing was evident in both datasets. Qualitative insights about the benefits of stable housing and supportive programs are reflected in the quantitative analysis showing that increased permanent supportive housing beds lead to higher income increases among clients.

Number of Persons Experiencing Homelessness:

- The qualitative data underscored the limitations of current housing availability and the need for more shelters. Quantitative analysis similarly pointed to the direct relationship between the number of shelter beds and the count of persons experiencing homelessness, indicating that more beds could help in better managing homelessness.

Successful Exits and Retentions:

- Both datasets highlight the critical role of transitional and rapid rehousing programs in ensuring successful exits from homelessness. The need for more wraparound services and support in shelters, as suggested qualitatively, aligns with the quantitative findings on the impact of shelter beds and utilization rates on successful exits.

Conclusion

The integration of qualitative and quantitative data provides a comprehensive understanding of the performance and gaps within the MO BoS CoC. Addressing the identified barriers, increasing funding and resources, enhancing collaboration, and focusing on permanent housing solutions are pivotal steps towards improving the efficacy and responsiveness of homeless services in the region. These insights will be instrumental in formulating targeted recommendations and strategic actions to enhance the Continuum of Care system.

OUTCOMES OF THE RESEARCH

Key Findings

The Missouri Balance of State Continuum of Care (MO BoS CoC) conducted a comprehensive gaps analysis to understand the factors influencing regional performance standards for homeless services. Based on the analysis, the following key findings were identified:

Impact of Permanent Housing (PH) Beds

Positive SPM Impacts:

- An increase in the percentage of PH beds in a community is positively correlated with improvements in Standard Program Measures (SPMs). Specifically, it reduces the Length of Time Homeless (LOTH) and decreases Returns to Homelessness.
- In contrast, communities with an increase in emergency shelters (ES) and shelter utilization without a corresponding increase in PH beds showed negative impacts on LOTH and the number of homeless individuals.
- The mechanism underlying these findings indicates that ES beds and shelters provide initial access to the CoC system, but without adequate PH beds, they do not reduce SPMs. Therefore, the percentage of PH beds is an essential mitigating factor for successful outcomes in communities with high shelter beds and utilization.

Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) and Income Increases

PSH Projects' Impact:

- PSH projects have the most significant impact on increasing client income. Although the statistical analysis shows marginal significance, there is a weak correlation between PSH projects and income increases.
- This is the only type of housing project that was associated with positive outcomes for SPMs.
- The mechanism involves PSH beds allowing for more opportunities for ongoing case management with program participants. Annual assessments and selection criteria can highlight opportunities to record increased income, supporting positive SPM outcomes.

Resource and Staffing Shortages

Qualitative Data Insights:

- Individuals involved in the system stressed a severe lack of adequate staffing, shelter, and project capacity. While this may seem like an obvious takeaway, it is still a critical issue that needs to be addressed to improve service delivery and outcomes for individuals experiencing homelessness. The lack of adequate staffing, shelter, and project capacity has a significant impact on the effectiveness of homeless services. These deficiencies can lead to longer wait times, reduced service quality, and an inability to meet the growing demand for support. Nationally, the industry faces staffing shortages, so innovative approaches such as internship programs, partnerships with educational institutions, and offering incentives for difficult-to-fill positions may be necessary.

- There were concerns about program eligibility, with many experiencing barriers to accessing the programs offered. Eligibility requirements for various programs can often create significant barriers for individuals seeking housing and support services. These requirements may inadvertently exclude some of the most vulnerable populations, limiting their access to essential resources and exacerbating their housing instability. Programs should be designed with inclusivity in mind, ensuring that eligibility criteria do not unintentionally exclude vulnerable populations. This involves reassessing current criteria and making necessary adjustments to lower barriers to access.

- Qualitative data also pointed to barriers related to support service budgets and case management capacity, highlighting the need for more programs and meeting supportive service needs.

Service Delivery and Operational Challenges

Timeliness and Waitlists:

- Long waiting periods for assistance and services were a significant concern. Stakeholders emphasized the need for more efficient processes to reduce wait times and expedite service delivery.

Housing Availability:

- The shortage of affordable and available housing, especially for specific groups like single males, couples without children, and multifamily households, was highlighted. This scarcity exacerbates homelessness and prolongs the duration individuals remain without stable housing. The shortage of affordable and available housing is a significant issue that directly impacts the effectiveness of homelessness services and the overall stability of individuals and families. Housing shortages lead to longer durations of homelessness as individuals and families struggle to find suitable and affordable housing options.

Legal and Sober Living Requirements:

- Legal status and requirements for sober living facilities were noted as barriers to accessing certain services, highlighting the need for more inclusive and flexible service provision. Legal and sober living requirements can often create significant barriers for individuals seeking housing and support services. These requirements can exclude some of the most vulnerable populations from accessing essential services, thereby exacerbating their housing instability. Addressing these barriers is critical and aligns with the principles of the Housing First approach, which prioritizes providing permanent housing without preconditions.

Effective Service Elements

Basic Needs Support:

- Stakeholders appreciated the assistance with basic needs such as food, hygiene items, showers, and laundry services. Providing support for basic needs is an integral part of the continuum of services for people experiencing homelessness. While these services might seem fundamental, they play a vital role in maintaining the dignity and stability of individuals and families facing housing insecurity. It complements other services such as emergency shelter, rapid rehousing, permanent supportive housing, and case management. Together, these services create a comprehensive support system.

Utilities Assistance and Homeless Prevention Programs:

- Programs providing utilities assistance and helping prevent individuals from losing their homes were seen as highly effective. Such initiatives were vital in reducing the risk of homelessness and providing immediate relief to those in need. Utilities assistance and homeless prevention programs play a crucial role in the broader continuum of care for individuals and families at risk of homelessness. These programs not only offer immediate relief but also contribute significantly to improving system performance measures, such as reducing the number of new entries into the homeless system.

Resource-Rich Urban Areas:

- Larger towns with more resources and support systems were noted as better equipped to handle homelessness, providing a wider array of services and support compared to rural areas. While the observation that urban areas are better equipped to handle homelessness might seem obvious, it underscores a critical issue that needs to be addressed: the disparity in resources and support systems between urban and rural areas. This feedback highlights the need to build capacity within rural areas themselves, rather than relying solely on urban organizations to serve rural populations.

Recommendations from Stakeholders

Increased Funding and Staffing:

- More funding and staffing across all regions and stakeholder groups is essential for expanding services, reducing wait times, and improving overall service quality. While the call for increased funding and staffing may appear to be a common response and seem like it's telling us something we already know, it is crucial to recognize and address this feedback. The consistent mention of these needs underscores their fundamental importance in improving service delivery and addressing the gaps in our system. This feedback serves as a reminder that despite existing efforts, significant gaps remain that need to be addressed to improve service delivery comprehensively.

Enhanced Collaboration and Coordination:

- Improving collaboration between different service providers and community organizations can create a more cohesive and efficient service delivery system. While we believe that our current efforts in collaboration and coordination are robust, the consistent feedback from stakeholders highlighting this need indicates that there are still significant areas for improvement. It is essential to recognize and address this feedback to ensure that our service delivery system is as effective and seamless as possible.

More Shelters and Support Groups:

- There is a need for additional shelters, especially those accommodating diverse populations, and more support groups, particularly in the evenings. While the stakeholder feedback highlights the necessity for increased Emergency Shelter (ES) facilities, it is essential to consider this in the context of system performance measures. Data indicates that Emergency Shelters do not consistently demonstrate positive system performance measures across various metrics. The primary takeaway from this feedback is not simply the expansion of Emergency Shelter capacity, but rather the strategic development of shelter resources tailored to meet the needs of specific vulnerable subpopulations of the homeless. By focusing on the specific needs of these subpopulations, Emergency Shelters can enhance their effectiveness and contribute more positively to overall system performance. This approach ensures that vulnerable groups receive the targeted support they require, leading to better long-term outcomes and improved stability.

Streamlined Intake Processes:

- Reducing the time taken for intake processes and making them more efficient is recommended to ensure timely access to services. While the feedback clearly indicates a need for streamlined intake processes, this nuance is not fully captured

in our quantitative data. One significant reason for this gap is the limited usage of the Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) for tracking services and support activities. HMIS data primarily focuses on housing-related metrics and outcomes, often overlooking the detailed process metrics that affect client experience, such as intake efficiency. Integrating more comprehensive service tracking can provide a fuller picture of client journeys and identify areas for process improvement. Enhancing HMIS usage to include intake efficiency metrics may help quantify these operational aspects and inform future strategies.

The integration of qualitative and quantitative data provides a comprehensive understanding of the performance and gaps within the MO BoS CoC. Addressing identified barriers, increasing funding and resources, enhancing collaboration, and focusing on permanent housing solutions are pivotal steps towards improving the efficacy and responsiveness of homeless services in the region. These insights will be instrumental in formulating targeted recommendations and strategic actions to enhance the Continuum of Care system.

Overall Recommendations

Based on the analysis of both quantitative and qualitative data, the following recommendations are made to enhance the overall effectiveness and efficiency of the Balance of State CoC's homeless services:

Increase the Percentage of Beds for Permanent Housing (PH)

- Rationale: The relative distribution of beds among project types has a significant impact on various system performance outcomes, including the Length of Time Homeless (LOTH), Returns to Homelessness, and Increases in Income for Stayers and Leavers.
- Action: Increase the number of beds dedicated to permanent housing rather than temporary housing. This shift will lead to:
 - Shorter LOTH across the entire CoC.
 - Fewer Returns to Homelessness, particularly in the North Central region.
 - More Increases in Income for Stayers and Leavers in the North Central region.

Increase the Total Number of Rapid Rehousing (RRH) Beds

- Rationale: Analysis indicates that increasing the number of RRH beds improves Successful Exits and Retentions across all project types.
- Action: Prioritize the development and allocation of additional RRH beds, particularly in regions with high demand and limited capacity.

Increase the Total Number of Permanent Supportive Housing (PSH) Beds

- Rationale: PSH projects have the most significant impact on increasing client income and provide ongoing case management and support, which are crucial for clients with severe needs.
- Action: Expand the number of PSH beds to ensure clients with severe needs have access to more resources and stronger connections to ongoing case management.

Ensure Adequate Support Services Budgets for New Projects

- Rationale: Adequate support services are essential for addressing immediate needs and facilitating successful transitions out of homelessness. Without sufficient support services, communities with high levels of emergency shelter (ES) beds and utilization may experience negative impacts.
- Action: Ensure that new permanent housing projects have adequate budgets for support services. This will help mitigate the adverse effects on communities with high ES beds and utilization by providing clients with the immediate support they need.

Increase Preference for Locally Connected PH Projects

- Rationale: Clients who have access to shelter resources to address barriers are more likely to successfully exit homelessness.
- Action: Increase preference for PH projects that offer access to local shelter resources. This will enhance clients' ability to overcome barriers and achieve stable housing outcomes.

Summary

By implementing these recommendations, the Balance of State CoC can improve the overall effectiveness and efficiency of its homeless services, resulting in better outcomes for clients and communities alike. These strategies are designed to ensure that the CoC system is responsive to the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness, particularly those with severe needs, and that it can provide the necessary support to facilitate successful and sustainable exits from homelessness.

APPENDIX

Exit Destinations

Exit Destination	Street Outreach	Emergency Shelter	Safe Haven	Transitional Housing	Permanent Housing
Homeless Situations					
Emergency shelter, including hotel or motel paid for with emergency shelter voucher, Host Home shelter	+				
Place not meant for habitation					
Safe Haven	+				
Institutional Settings					
Hospital or other residential non-psychiatric medical facility	x	x	x	x	x
Foster care home or foster care group home	+	x	x	x	x
Jail, prison, or juvenile detention facility					
Psychiatric hospital or other psychiatric facility	+				
Substance abuse treatment facility or detox center	+				
Long-term care facility or nursing home	+	x	x	x	x
Temporary Housing Situations					
Residential project or halfway house with no homeless criteria	x				
Hotel or motel paid for without emergency shelter voucher	+				
Staying or living with family, temporary tenure	+				
Staying or living with friends, temporary tenure	+				
Transitional housing for homeless persons (including homeless youth)	+				

Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA TH	+				
Host Home (non-crisis)	+				
Permanent Housing Situations					
Moved from one HOPWA funded project to HOPWA PH	+	+	+	+	+
Owned by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	+	+	+	+	+
Owned by client, with ongoing housing subsidy	+	+	+	+	+
Rental by client, no ongoing housing subsidy	+	+	+	+	+
Rental by client, with housing subsidy	+	+	+	+	+
Staying or living with family, permanent tenure	+	+	+	+	+
Staying or living with friends, permanent tenure	+	+	+	+	+
Other					
Deceased	x	x	x	x	x
Client doesn't know					
Client prefers not to answer					
Data not collected					
No exit interview completed					
Other					

Exit Destinations. + indicates the destination is considered successful for that project type. Clients who exit to a destination marked with an X are excluded from all analyses.

GEOGRAPHIC AND SOCIOECONOMIC PROFILES

Region 1: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 1 includes the counties of Bollinger, Cape Girardeau, Crawford, Franklin, Iron, Jefferson, Madison, Perry, St. Francois, St. Genevieve, and Washington in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 575,000.

Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the population size varies across these counties, with Jefferson and Franklin counties being the most populous.

- [Jefferson County Demographics](#)
- [Franklin County Demographics](#)

Age Distribution: The population is fairly distributed across age groups, with a significant proportion of residents between 25-54 years old. There is also a notable elderly population, particularly in rural counties. For instance, Bollinger County has a higher percentage of residents over 65 years old.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population is White, with African American and Hispanic communities being the largest minority groups. Cape Girardeau County, in particular, has a higher percentage of African Americans compared to other counties in the region.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)
- Household Income Levels: Median household incomes vary significantly, with higher incomes generally found in Jefferson and Franklin counties. Rural counties like Iron and Madison have lower median incomes.
- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

The economic landscape of Region 1 is diverse, with variations in employment rates, industries, and poverty levels across counties.

Employment Rates: According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), the unemployment rates in this region are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 5%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Major Industries: Key industries include healthcare, education, manufacturing, agriculture, and retail. Cape Girardeau and Jefferson counties are significant economic hubs, offering diverse employment opportunities.

- [Industry Data](#)

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in more rural counties. For instance, Iron County has a poverty rate exceeding 20%, while Jefferson County's rate is closer to 10%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

Median Household Income: Jefferson County boasts a median household income of around \$60,000, whereas counties like Iron and Madison have median incomes below \$40,000.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Access to healthcare and health outcomes in Region 1 show considerable variation.

Access to Healthcare: According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), urban areas have better access to healthcare facilities and providers. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers located in more urbanized counties.

- [CDC](#)

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent, particularly in rural areas with limited healthcare access.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Jefferson County has a higher life expectancy compared to Iron County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates due to better employment opportunities and access to employer-sponsored health plans.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and quality of education also vary across Region 1.

Education Attainment Levels: The National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) shows that urban areas like Cape Girardeau and Jefferson counties have higher

levels of educational attainment, with a larger percentage of residents holding college degrees.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable, but rural areas face challenges with declining student populations.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics compared to those in rural areas.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight several risk factors prevalent in Region 1.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties, correlating with higher vulnerability scores.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Iron and Madison have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas, impacting the overall vulnerability scores.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas, further increasing social vulnerability.

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely.

Public Transportation: Urban counties have better public transportation options. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas may face challenges with broadband internet and water infrastructure.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas, with rural regions often facing issues with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good, though industrial activities in some areas may impact local environments.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Jefferson have well-developed parks and recreational areas, while rural areas boast natural landscapes and agricultural land.

- [Green Spaces Data](#)

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas may face challenges with flooding and agricultural runoff, impacting local water quality.

- [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 1 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 2: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 2 includes the counties of Lewis, Marion, Monroe, Pike, Ralls, and Shelby in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 75,000.

Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Marion County is the most populous county in Region 2 with approximately 28,630 residents. Shelby County has the smallest population with about 6,220 residents.

- [Lewis County Demographics](#)
- [Marion County Demographics](#)

Age Distribution: The median age across the counties varies slightly. Marion County has a median age of 40.5 years, indicating a relatively young population compared to the more rural Shelby County with a median age of 42.3 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 2 is White. Marion County has the highest diversity, with 94.2% White, 3.4% African American, and 2.4% Hispanic or Latino. In contrast, Shelby County is 97.3% White, with smaller percentages of other racial groups.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

Household Income Levels: Median household income also varies, with Marion County having the highest median income at \$52,400, while Shelby County has the lowest at \$45,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 2 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 6%. For example, Lewis County has an unemployment rate of 3.8%, while Shelby County is at 4.1%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Major Industries: Agriculture is a key industry in the more rural counties such as Lewis and Shelby. Marion County, being more urbanized, has a diversified economy with significant employment in healthcare, education, and manufacturing sectors.

- [Industry Data](#)

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. Lewis County has a poverty rate of 14.3%, while Marion County has a lower rate at 12.6%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

Median Household Income: Median household income ranges from \$52,400 in Marion County to \$45,000 in Shelby County, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 2.

Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Marion County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with more hospitals and clinics. Rural counties like Lewis and Shelby rely on regional medical centers for advanced healthcare services.

- [CDC](#)

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are more prevalent in rural counties due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Marion County has a life expectancy of 77 years, compared to 74 years in Lewis County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Health insurance coverage is higher in urban counties. Marion County has an insurance coverage rate of 89%, while rural counties like Shelby have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 2.

Education Attainment Levels: Marion County has higher levels of educational attainment, with 28% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, only 15% of residents in Lewis County hold a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Shelby County has seen a 10% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. For example, Marion County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Lewis.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 2.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Lewis County has an unemployment rate of 4.0%, compared to 3.5% in Marion County.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Lewis and Monroe have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 14.3% of Lewis County residents live below the poverty line.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Shelby County, 18% of the population is disabled.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Monroe County, 25% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 2.

Public Transportation: Urban counties like Marion have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 60% of households in Lewis County have access to high-speed internet.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Shelby face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 2.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 2, although agricultural runoff in rural areas can impact water quality.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Marion have well-developed parks and recreational areas, while rural areas boast natural landscapes and agricultural land.

- [Green Spaces Data](#)

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas face challenges with flooding and

These insights into Region 2 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 3: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 3 includes the counties of Adair, Chariton, Clark, Knox, Linn, Macon, Putnam, Randolph, Schuyler, Scotland, and Sullivan in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 90,000.

Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Adair and Randolph counties are the most populous, with approximately 25,000 residents each. Schuyler County has the smallest population with about 4,400 residents.

- [Adair County Demographics](#)
- [Randolph County Demographics](#)

- Schulyer County Demographics

Age Distribution: The median age varies, with Adair County having a younger median age of 30.8 years due to the presence of Truman State University, while other counties like Knox and Scotland have higher median ages around 43 years.

- Age Distribution Data

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population is White, with small percentages of African American and Hispanic residents. Adair County, for example, is 92.5% White, 2.7% African American, and 1.8% Hispanic.

- Racial and Ethnic Composition

Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly, with Randolph County having a median income of \$47,500, while Putnam County has a lower median income at \$41,000.

- Household Income Data

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 3 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 5%. For instance, Adair County has an unemployment rate of 4.1%.

- Bureau of Labor Statistics

Major Industries: Key industries include agriculture, healthcare, and education. Adair County's economy is significantly influenced by the presence of Truman State University and the Northeast Regional Medical Center.

- Industry Data

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in more rural counties. Knox County has a poverty rate of 17%, while Adair County has a rate of 19%.

- Poverty Rate Data

Median Household Income: Adair County has a median household income of \$41,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- Median Household Income Data

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 3.

Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Adair County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- CDC

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Adair County has a life expectancy of 78 years, compared to 75 years in Scotland County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Adair County has an insurance coverage rate of 88%, while rural counties like Scotland have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 3.

Education Attainment Levels: Adair County has higher levels of educational attainment due to the presence of Truman State University, with 30% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Knox County has only 12% with a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Sullivan County has seen a 5% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Adair County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Knox.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 3.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Knox County has an unemployment rate of 4.5%, compared to 3.8% in Adair County.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Knox and Scotland have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 18% of Knox County residents live below the poverty line.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Sullivan County, 20% of the population is disabled.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Scotland County, 22% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 3.

Public Transportation: Urban counties like Adair have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 65% of households in Knox County have access to high-speed internet.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Sullivan face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 3.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 3, although agricultural runoff in rural areas can impact water quality.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Adair have well-developed parks and recreational areas, while rural areas boast natural landscapes and agricultural land.

- [Green Spaces Data](#)

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas face challenges with flooding and agricultural runoff, impacting local water quality.

- [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 3 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 4: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 4 includes the counties of Atchison, Caldwell, Carroll, Clay, Clinton, Daviess, Gentry, Grundy, Harrison, Holt, Mercer, Nodaway, Platte, Ray, and Worth in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 250,000.

Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Clay and Platte counties are the most populous, with approximately 250,000 residents combined. Atchison and Worth counties are among the least populated.

- [Clay County Demographics](#)
- [Platte County Demographics](#)
- [Atchison County Demographics](#)
- [Worth County Demographics](#)

Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Clay County having a younger median age of 37.2 years, reflecting its suburban nature, while Worth County has an older median age around 45 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 4 is White. Clay County has the highest diversity, with 85% White, 7% African American, and 6% Hispanic or Latino. In contrast, Gentry County is 97% White with minimal representation from other racial groups.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Clay County has a median household income of \$74,000, while rural counties like Worth have a median income of \$45,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 4 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 5%. Clay County has an unemployment rate of 3.2%, while Holt County's rate is 4.5%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Major Industries: Key industries include healthcare, education, manufacturing, and agriculture. Clay and Platte counties have more diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Caldwell and Gentry rely heavily on agriculture.

- [Industry Data](#)

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. For instance, Daviess County has a poverty rate of 15%, while Clay County's rate is 8%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

Median Household Income: Clay County has the highest median household income at \$74,000, reflecting the economic disparities within the region.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 4.

Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Clay County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- [CDC](#)

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Clay County has a life expectancy of 79 years, compared to 74 years in Harrison County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Clay County has an insurance coverage rate of 90%, while rural counties like Grundy have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 4.

Education Attainment Levels: Clay County has higher levels of educational attainment due to its suburban nature, with 35% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Worth County has only 15% with a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Carroll County has seen a 5% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Clay County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Harrison.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 4.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Harrison County has an unemployment rate of 4.5%, compared to 3.2% in Clay County.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Daviess and Mercer have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 17% of Daviess County residents live below the poverty line.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Mercer County, 20% of the population is disabled.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Grundy County, 25% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 4.

Public Transportation: Urban counties like Clay and Platte have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 70% of households in Mercer County have access to high-speed internet.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Worth face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 4.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 4, although agricultural runoff in rural areas can impact water quality.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Clay and Platte have well-developed parks and recreational areas, while rural areas

These insights into Region 4 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 5: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 5 includes the counties of Audrain, Boone, Callaway, Camden, Cole, Cooper, Gasconade, Howard, Maries, Miller, Moniteau, Montgomery, Morgan, Osage, Phelps, and Pulaski in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 400,000.

Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Boone County is the most populous county in Region 5, with approximately 180,000 residents. Maries County has the smallest population with about 8,500 residents.

- [Boone County Demographics](#)
- [Maries County Demographics](#)

Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Boone County having a younger median age of 29.8 years due to the presence of the University of Missouri, while other counties like Gasconade and Maries have higher median ages around 44 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 5 is White, with Boone County showing the highest diversity, including 78% White, 11% African American, and 4% Hispanic or Latino. Rural counties like Howard and Osage have higher percentages of White residents, around 95%.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Boone County has a median household income of \$55,000, while rural counties like Maries have a median income of \$42,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 5 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 5%. Boone County has an unemployment rate of 3.1%, while Pulaski County's rate is 4.4%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Major Industries: Key industries include healthcare, education, manufacturing, and agriculture. Boone and Cole counties have diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Gasconade and Morgan rely heavily on agriculture.

- [Industry Data](#)

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. For instance, Maries County has a poverty rate of 16%, while Boone County's rate is 12%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

Median Household Income: Boone County has the highest median household income at \$55,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 5.

Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Boone County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- [CDC](#)

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Boone County has a life expectancy of 79 years, compared to 74 years in Maries County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Boone County has an insurance coverage rate of 91%, while rural counties like Montgomery have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 5.

Education Attainment Levels: Boone County has higher levels of educational attainment due to the presence of the University of Missouri, with 40% of residents

holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Maries County has only 14% with a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Phelps County has seen a 3% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Boone County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Gasconade.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 5.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Maries County has an unemployment rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.1% in Boone County.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Gasconade and Howard have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 16% of Gasconade County residents live below the poverty line.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Miller County, 19% of the population is disabled.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Howard County, 22% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 5.

Public Transportation: Urban counties like Boone and Cole have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 68% of households in Montgomery County have access to high-speed internet.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Maries face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 5.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 5. However, agricultural activities in rural areas can impact water quality due to runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Boone and Cole have well-developed parks and recreational areas, offering a variety of outdoor activities and enhancing the quality of life for residents. In contrast, rural areas like Gasconade and Morgan counties boast extensive natural landscapes and agricultural land.

- [National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](#)

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas may face challenges with flooding, particularly in low-lying regions near rivers and streams. This can lead to soil erosion and water contamination issues.

- [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 5 provide a comprehensive understanding of the demographic, economic, housing, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

These insights into Region 5 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 6: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 6 includes the counties of Dunklin, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Scott, and Stoddard in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 140,000.

- Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Scott County is the most populous county in Region 6 with approximately 39,000 residents. Mississippi County has the smallest population with about 13,000 residents.

- [Scott County Demographics](#)

- [Mississippi County Demographics](#)

- Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Stoddard County having a median age of 40.6 years, while Pemiscot County has a median age of 37.5 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

- Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 6 is White, with Scott County showing the highest diversity, including 85% White, 10% African American, and 3% Hispanic or Latino. Rural counties like New Madrid and Stoddard have higher percentages of White residents, around 90%.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

- Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Scott County has a median household income of \$44,000, while rural counties like Pemiscot have a median income of \$35,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 6 show significant variation across counties.

- Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 4% and 6%. Scott County has an unemployment rate of 4.2%, while Pemiscot County's rate is 5.5%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

- Major Industries: Key industries include agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Scott and Stoddard counties have diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Pemiscot and Dunklin rely heavily on agriculture.

- [Industry Data](#)

- Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. For instance, Pemiscot County has a poverty rate of 25%, while Scott County's rate is 17%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

- Median Household Income: Scott County has the highest median household income at \$44,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.
 - [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 6.

- Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Scott County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.
 - [CDC](#)
- Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.
 - [Chronic Disease Data](#)
- Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Scott County has a life expectancy of 76 years, compared to 72 years in Pemiscot County.
 - [Life Expectancy Data](#)
- Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Scott County has an insurance coverage rate of 87%, while rural counties like Pemiscot have lower rates.
 - [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 6.

- Education Attainment Levels: Scott County has higher levels of educational attainment due to its urban nature, with 20% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Pemiscot County has only 10% with a bachelor's degree.
 - [NCES](#)
- School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Mississippi County has seen a 4% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.
 - [Enrollment Data](#)
- Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Scott County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like New Madrid.
 - [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 6.

- Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Pemiscot County has an unemployment rate of 5.5%, compared to 4.2% in Scott County.
 - SVI Data
- Low Income: Counties like Pemiscot and Dunklin have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 25% of Pemiscot County residents live below the poverty line.
- Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In New Madrid County, 18% of the population is disabled.
- Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Dunklin County, 26% of households with children are single-parent households.
 - SVI Data

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 6.

- Public Transportation: Urban counties like Scott have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.
 - Public Transportation Data
- Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 65% of households in Mississippi County have access to high-speed internet.
 - Utilities Data
- Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Pemiscot face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.
 - Infrastructure Data

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 6.

- Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 6. However, agricultural activities

in rural areas can impact water quality due to runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides.

- [EPA](#)
- Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Scott have well-developed parks and recreational areas, offering a variety of outdoor activities and enhancing the quality of life for residents. In contrast, rural areas like New Madrid and Pemiscot counties boast extensive natural landscapes and agricultural land.
 - [National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](#)
- Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas may face challenges with flooding, particularly in low-lying regions near rivers and streams. This can lead to soil erosion and water contamination issues.
 - [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 6 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 7: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 7 includes the counties of Butler, Carter, Reynolds, Ripley, and Wayne in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 90,000.

- Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Butler County is the most populous county in Region 7 with approximately 42,000 residents. Carter County has the smallest population with about 6,000 residents.
 - [Butler County Demographics](#)
 - [Carter County Demographics](#)
- Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Wayne County having a median age of 43.1 years, while Butler County has a median age of 40.1 years.
 - [Age Distribution Data](#)
- Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 7 is White, with Butler County showing the highest diversity, including 90% White, 5% African American, and 2% Hispanic or Latino. Rural counties like Carter and Reynolds have higher percentages of White residents, around 95%.
 - [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

- Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Butler County has a median household income of \$37,000, while rural counties like Reynolds have a median income of \$34,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 7 show significant variation across counties.

- Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively high, with most counties reporting rates between 5% and 7%. Butler County has an unemployment rate of 5.3%, while Carter County's rate is 6.2%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

- Major Industries: Key industries include agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Butler and Ripley counties have diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Carter and Reynolds rely heavily on agriculture.

- [Industry Data](#)

- Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. For instance, Ripley County has a poverty rate of 23%, while Butler County's rate is 20%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

- Median Household Income: Butler County has the highest median household income at \$37,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 7.

- Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Butler County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- [CDC](#)

- Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

- Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Butler County has a life expectancy of 75 years, compared to 71 years in Reynolds County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

- Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Butler County has an insurance coverage rate of 85%, while rural counties like Carter have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 7.

- Education Attainment Levels: Butler County has higher levels of educational attainment due to its urban nature, with 18% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Carter County has only 10% with a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

- School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Ripley County has seen a 5% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

- Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Butler County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Carter.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 7.

- Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Reynolds County has an unemployment rate of 6.2%, compared to 5.3% in Butler County.

- [SVI Data](#)

- Low Income: Counties like Carter and Reynolds have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 23% of Carter County residents live below the poverty line.

- Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Ripley County, 19% of the population is disabled.

- Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Butler County, 25% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 7.

- Public Transportation: Urban counties like Butler have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- Public Transportation Data

- Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 60% of households in Reynolds County have access to high-speed internet.

- Utilities Data

- Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Carter face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- Infrastructure Data

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 7.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 7. However, agricultural activities in rural areas can impact water quality due to runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides.

- [EPA](<https://www.epa.gov>)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Butler have well-developed parks and recreational areas, offering a variety of outdoor activities and enhancing the quality of life for residents. In contrast, rural areas like Carter and Reynolds counties boast extensive natural landscapes and agricultural land.

- [National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA)](<https://www.nrpa.org/>)

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas may face challenges with flooding, particularly in low-lying regions near rivers and streams. This can lead to soil erosion and water contamination issues.

- Environmental Hazard Data

These insights into Region 7 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the U.S. Census Bureau, BLS, HUD User, CDC, and EPA websites.

Region 8: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 8 includes the counties of Dent, Douglas, Howell, Laclede, Ozark, Oregon, Shannon, Texas, and Wright in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 150,000.

Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Howell County is the most populous county in Region 8 with approximately 40,000 residents. Shannon County has the smallest population with about 8,000 residents.

- [Shannon County Demographics](#)
- [Howell County Demographics](#)

Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Wright County having a median age of 42.3 years, while Howell County has a median age of 39.5 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 8 is White, with Howell County showing the highest diversity, including 94% White, 2% African American, and 2% Hispanic or Latino. Rural counties like Shannon and Ozark have higher percentages of White residents, around 96%.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Howell County has a median household income of \$38,000, while rural counties like Shannon have a median income of \$34,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 8 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively high, with most counties reporting rates between 5% and 7%. Howell County has an unemployment rate of 5.5%, while Shannon County's rate is 6.1%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Major Industries: Key industries include agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Howell and Texas counties have diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Shannon and Dent rely heavily on agriculture.

- [Industry Data](#)

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. For instance, Shannon County has a poverty rate of 25%, while Howell County's rate is 21%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

Median Household Income: Howell County has the highest median household income at \$38,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 8.

Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Howell County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- [CDC](#)

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Howell County has a life expectancy of 76 years, compared to 72 years in Shannon County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Howell County has an insurance coverage rate of 87%, while rural counties like Oregon have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 8.

Education Attainment Levels: Howell County has higher levels of educational attainment due to its urban nature, with 20% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Oregon County has only 10% with a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Wright County has seen a 4% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Howell County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Douglas.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 8.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Shannon County has an unemployment rate of 6.1%, compared to 5.5% in Howell County.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Shannon and Ozark have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 25% of Shannon County residents live below the poverty line.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Douglas County, 18% of the population is disabled.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Howell County, 24% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 8.

Public Transportation: Urban counties like Howell have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 62% of households in Texas County have access to high-speed internet.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Shannon face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 8.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 8. However, agricultural activities in rural areas can impact water quality due to runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides. This can lead to contamination of local water bodies, affecting both human health and aquatic ecosystems.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Howell have well-developed parks and recreational areas, offering a variety of outdoor activities and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Examples include the West Plains City Parks in Howell County. In contrast, rural areas like Shannon and Texas counties boast extensive natural landscapes and agricultural land, which provide ample opportunities for outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, and camping in areas like the Mark Twain National Forest.

- [National Recreation and Park Association ([NRPA](#))

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas may face challenges with flooding, particularly in low-lying regions near rivers and streams, such as those in the Current River and Jacks Fork River areas in Shannon County. Flooding can lead to soil erosion, water contamination, and property damage, impacting agricultural productivity and local infrastructure.

- [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 8 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 9: Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 9 includes the counties of Barry, Barton, Cedar, Dade, Dallas, Hickory, Lawrence, McDonald, Polk, Stone, Taney, and Vernon in Missouri. The total population of this region is approximately 250,000.

- Population Size: According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Barry County has a population of approximately 35,000 residents. Vernon County has around 20,000 residents, while Lawrence County is more populated with around 38,000 residents.

- [Barry County Demographics](#)

- [Lawrence County Demographics](#)

- [Vernon County Demographics](#)

- Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Stone County having a median age of 47.5 years, indicating a significant elderly population. Lawrence County has a median age of 38.2 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

- Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 9 is White. Barry County, for example, is approximately 91% White, 2% African American, and 5% Hispanic or Latino.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

- Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Lawrence County has a median household income of \$46,000, while Barton County's median income is around \$42,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 9 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 5%. Barry County has an unemployment rate of 4.1%, while Hickory County's rate is 5.2%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

Major Industries: Key industries include agriculture, manufacturing, and healthcare. Lawrence and Polk counties have diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Dade and Cedar rely heavily on agriculture.

- [Industry Data](#)

Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in more rural counties. For instance, Barton County has a poverty rate of 20%, while Barry County's rate is 18%.

- [Poverty Rate Data](#)

Median Household Income: Lawrence County has the highest median household income at \$46,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- [Median Household Income Data](#)

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 9.

Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Lawrence County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- [CDC](#)

Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- [\[Chronic Disease Data](#)

Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Lawrence County has a life expectancy of 77 years, compared to 72 years in Cedar County.

- [Life Expectancy Data](#)

Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Lawrence County has an insurance coverage rate of 89%, while rural counties like Dallas have lower rates.

- [Health Insurance Data](#)

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 9.

Education Attainment Levels: Lawrence County has higher levels of educational attainment due to its urban nature, with 22% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, McDonald County has only 12% with a bachelor's degree.

- [NCES](#)

School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Taney County has seen a 3% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.

- [Enrollment Data](#)

Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Lawrence County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Dade.

- [School Quality Data](#)

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 9.

Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Cedar County has an unemployment rate of 5.2%, compared to 4.1% in Barry County.

- [SVI Data](#)

Low Income: Counties like Cedar and Hickory have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 20% of Cedar County residents live below the poverty line.

Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Dade County, 17% of the population is disabled.

Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Barry County, 24% of households with children are single-parent households.

- [SVI Data](#)

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 9.

Public Transportation: Urban counties like Lawrence have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.

- [Public Transportation Data](#)

Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 64% of households in Barton County have access to high-speed internet.

- [Utilities Data](#)

Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Hickory face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.

- [Infrastructure Data](#)

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 9.

Air and Water Quality: According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 9. However, agricultural activities in rural areas can impact water quality due to runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides. This runoff can lead to contamination of local water bodies, affecting both human health and aquatic ecosystems.

- [EPA](#)

Presence of Green Spaces: Urban counties like Lawrence have well-developed parks and recreational areas, offering a variety of outdoor activities and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Examples include public parks and recreational facilities in the cities of Monett and Aurora. In contrast, rural areas like McDonald and Vernon counties boast extensive natural landscapes and agricultural land, which provide ample opportunities for outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, and camping.

- [National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](#)

Exposure to Environmental Hazards: Rural areas may face challenges with flooding, particularly in low-lying regions near rivers and streams. This can lead to soil erosion, water contamination, and property damage, impacting agricultural productivity and local infrastructure. Areas along the Sac and Osage Rivers in counties like Cedar and Vernon are particularly susceptible to flooding.

- [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 9 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

Region 10: Detailed Geographic and Socioeconomic Profile

Demographic Information

Region 10 includes the counties of Bates, Benton, Cass, Henry, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Saline, and St. Clair in Missouri. While we encountered issues accessing specific data for Bates County, we provide a general overview based on available data.

Population Size: Cass County is the most populous county in Region 10 with approximately 107,000 residents. St. Clair County is among the least populated with about 9,000 residents.

- [Cass County Demographics](#)
- [St. Clair County Demographics](#)

Age Distribution: The median age varies across counties, with Cass County having a median age of 37.5 years, while Benton County has a median age of 50.2 years.

- [Age Distribution Data](#)

Racial and Ethnic Composition: The majority of the population in Region 10 is White. Cass County, for example, is approximately 85% White, 5% African American, and 5% Hispanic or Latino.

- [Racial and Ethnic Composition](#)

Household Income Levels: Median household income varies significantly. Cass County has a median household income of \$75,000, while Benton County's median income is around \$42,000.

- [Household Income Data](#)

Economic Indicators

Economic conditions in Region 10 show significant variation across counties.

Employment Rates: The unemployment rates are relatively low, with most counties reporting rates between 3% and 5%. Cass County has an unemployment rate of 3.5%, while Benton County's rate is 4.7%.

- [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#)

- Major Industries: Key industries include healthcare, education, manufacturing, and agriculture. Cass and Pettis counties have diverse economies with significant employment in healthcare and education, while rural counties like Benton and St. Clair rely heavily on agriculture.

- Industry Data

- Poverty Rates: Poverty rates are higher in rural counties. For instance, Benton County has a poverty rate of 19%, while Cass County's rate is 8%.

- Poverty Rate Data

- Median Household Income: Cass County has the highest median household income at \$75,000, reflecting economic disparities within the region.

- Median Household Income Data

Health and Well-being

Health outcomes and access to healthcare services vary significantly across Region 10.

- Access to Healthcare: Urban areas like Cass County have better access to healthcare facilities and providers, with several hospitals and clinics. Rural counties often rely on regional medical centers.

- CDC

- Prevalence of Chronic Diseases: Chronic diseases such as diabetes and heart disease are prevalent in rural areas due to limited access to healthcare and preventive services.

- Chronic Disease Data

- Life Expectancy: Life expectancy is generally higher in urban counties. For example, Cass County has a life expectancy of 78 years, compared to 72 years in Benton County.

- Life Expectancy Data

- Health Insurance Coverage Rates: Urban counties have higher health insurance coverage rates. Cass County has an insurance coverage rate of 90%, while rural counties like Benton have lower rates.

- Health Insurance Data

Education

Educational attainment and school quality vary significantly across Region 10.

- Education Attainment Levels: Cass County has higher levels of educational attainment due to its urban nature, with 30% of residents holding a bachelor's degree or higher. In contrast, Benton County has only 15% with a bachelor's degree.

- NCES
- School Enrollment Rates: School enrollment rates are stable in urban areas but face challenges in rural areas with declining student populations. Saline County has seen a 4% decrease in school enrollment over the past decade.
 - Enrollment Data
- Quality of Local Schools: Schools in urban counties tend to have better resources and higher performance metrics. Cass County schools have higher graduation rates and test scores compared to rural counties like Pettis.
 - School Quality Data

Vulnerability Scores

Social vulnerability indices highlight risk factors prevalent in Region 10.

- Unemployment: Unemployment rates are higher in rural counties. Benton County has an unemployment rate of 4.7%, compared to 3.5% in Cass County.
 - SVI Data
- Low Income: Counties like Benton and St. Clair have significant low-income populations, contributing to higher vulnerability. 19% of Benton County residents live below the poverty line.
- Disability: The prevalence of disability is higher in rural areas. In Saline County, 16% of the population is disabled.
- Single-Parent Households: Single-parent households are more common in economically disadvantaged areas. In Cass County, 22% of households with children are single-parent households.
 - SVI Data

Public Services and Infrastructure

The quality and availability of public services and infrastructure vary widely across Region 10.

- Public Transportation: Urban counties like Cass have better public transportation options, including bus services. Rural areas often lack adequate public transit, relying heavily on personal vehicles.
 - Public Transportation Data
- Access to Utilities: Access to utilities is generally good, though some rural areas face challenges with broadband internet. Only 65% of households in St. Clair County have access to high-speed internet.
 - Utilities Data
- Infrastructure Conditions: Infrastructure conditions are better in urban areas. Rural counties like Benton face challenges with road maintenance and aging infrastructure.
 - Infrastructure Data

Environmental Factors

Environmental conditions and quality of life are influenced by various factors in Region 10.

- **Air and Water Quality:** According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), air and water quality are generally good in Region 10. However, agricultural activities in rural areas can impact water quality due to runoff containing fertilizers and pesticides. This runoff can lead to contamination of local water bodies, affecting both human health and aquatic ecosystems.

- [EPA](#)

- **Presence of Green Spaces:** Urban counties like Cass have well-developed parks and recreational areas, offering a variety of outdoor activities and enhancing the quality of life for residents. Examples include public parks and recreational facilities in the cities of Harrisonville and Raymore. In contrast, rural areas like St. Clair and Benton counties boast extensive natural landscapes and agricultural land, which provide ample opportunities for outdoor recreation such as hiking, fishing, and camping in areas like Truman Lake and Harry S. Truman State Park.

- [National Recreation and Park Association \(NRPA\)](#)

- **Exposure to Environmental Hazards:** Rural areas may face challenges with flooding, particularly in low-lying regions near rivers and streams. This can lead to soil erosion, water contamination, and property damage, impacting agricultural productivity and local infrastructure. Areas along the Osage and South Grand Rivers in counties like Benton and Henry are particularly susceptible to flooding.

- [Environmental Hazard Data](#)

These insights into Region 10 provide a deeper understanding of the demographic, economic, health, educational, and environmental factors that shape the region's unique challenges and opportunities. For more detailed data, you can visit the [U.S. Census Bureau](#), [BLS](#), [HUD User](#), [CDC](#), and [EPA](#) websites.

PROJECT LISTING BY REGION

Region 1 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SCB Shelter Plus Care SEMO
- FCC Behavioral Health-Cape Girardeau Women and Children SHP
- Safe House for Women, Inc.-Rapid Re-Housing for Victims of Domestic Violence
- Missouri Department of Mental Health-2021 - Shelter Plus Care Jefferson/Franklin Co
- Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.-NWPH FY

Region 2 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Preferred Family Healthcare, Inc.-Rapid Rehousing
- Missouri Department of Mental Health-2021 - SCH Shelter Plus Care NEMO

Region 3 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SCH Shelter Plus Care NEMO

Region 4 Projects

- Synergy Services - SSO-CE-DV
- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SZI Shelter Plus Care Central/West Mo
- Hillcrest Ministries of MidAmerica-BOS Youth and Families RRH
- Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.-NEMPH
- Synergy Services, Inc.-Domestic Violence Center Housing Program DV Bonus Dollars
- The Kansas City Metropolitan Lutheran Ministry-MLM BoS CoC RRH

Region 5 Projects

- Callaway Cares - SSO-CE-DV
- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Phoenix Programs, Inc.-22-23 AT Home
- The Salvation Army-- Midland Division-The Salvation Army PHP Jefferson City
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SZI Shelter Plus Care Central/West Mo
- Welcome Home, Inc.-Welcome Home, Inc RRH

Region 6 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SCB Shelter Plus Care SEMO
- FCC Behavioral Health-PERMANENT HOUSING FOR SEMO'S HOMELESS AND DISABLED
- FCC Behavioral Health-SEMO SAFE HAVEN
- Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation-Housing Opportunities Made Easy-HOME
- Delta Area Economic Opportunity Corporation-Bootheel House of Progress PH

Region 7 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project 2021
- FCC Behavioral Health-PERMANENT HOUSING FOR SEMO'S HOMELESS AND DISABLED
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SCP Shelter Plus Care
- SEMO Christian Restoration Center-FOUNDATIONS FOR LIVING FY
- SEMO Christian Restoration Center-Restoring Families FY
- Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Inc.-MO-606 CCSOMO RRH Program

Region 8 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SCW Shelter Plus Care West Plains
- Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Inc.-MO-606 CCSOMO RRH Program

Region 9 Projects

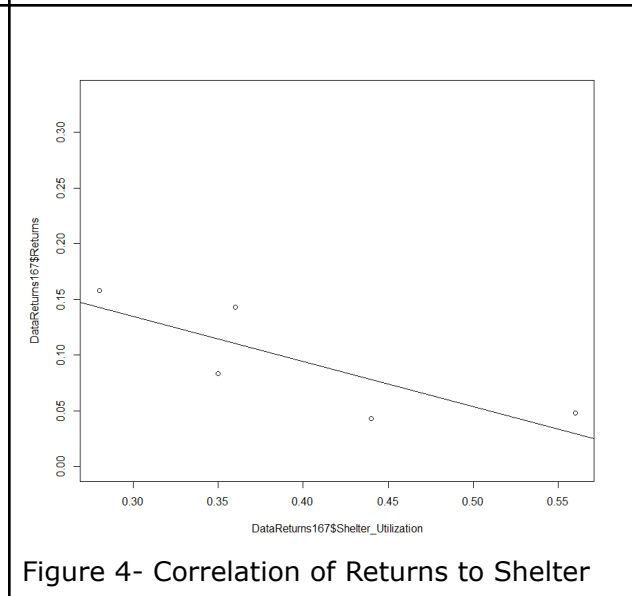
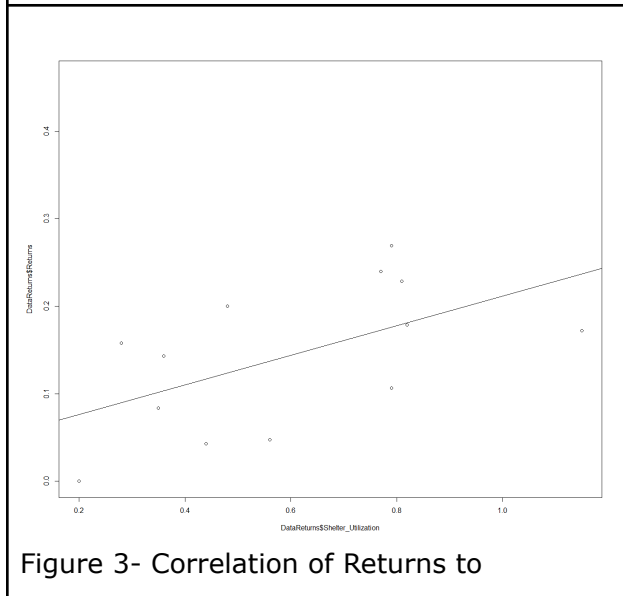
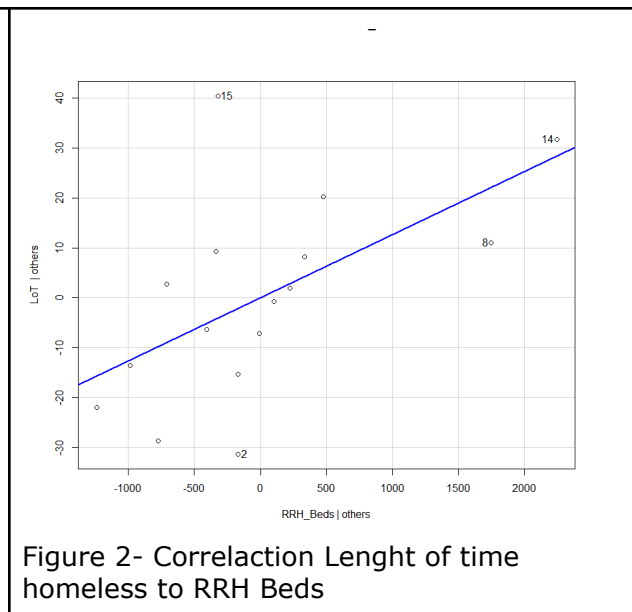
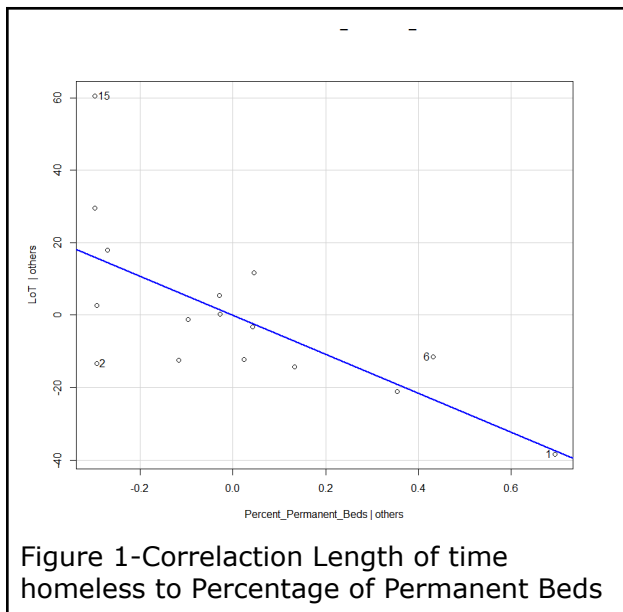
- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project

- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SZI Shelter Plus Care Central/West Mo
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SCT Shelter Plus Care Branson
- Catholic Charities of Southern Missouri, Inc.-MO-606 CCSOMO RRH Program

Region 10 Projects

- Institute for Community Alliances-MO BoS HMIS Project
- Missouri Department of Mental Health- SZI Shelter Plus Care Central/West Mo
- Catholic Charities of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Inc.-NEMPH FY

FIGURES FROM QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS



Homelessness to Shelter Utilization of CoC wide

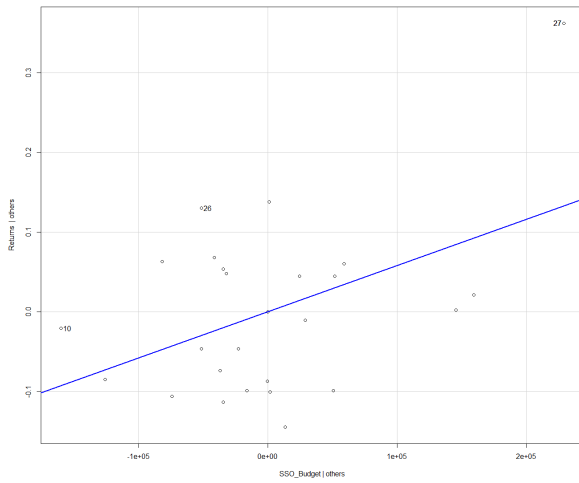


Figure 5- Correlation of Returns to SSO Budget

Utilization for Regions 1,6,7

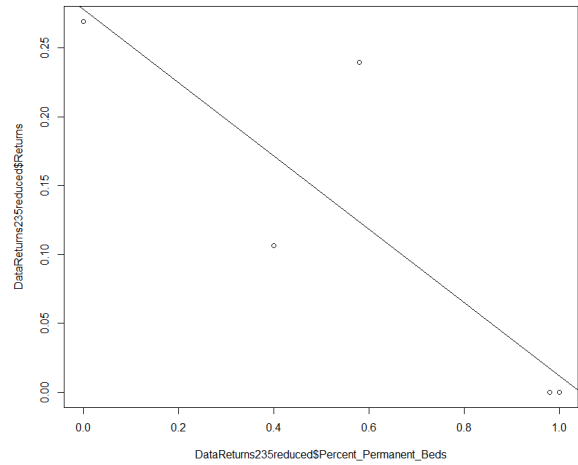


Figure 6- Correlation of Returns in Region 2,3,5 to Percentage Permanent Beds in Region 2,3,5

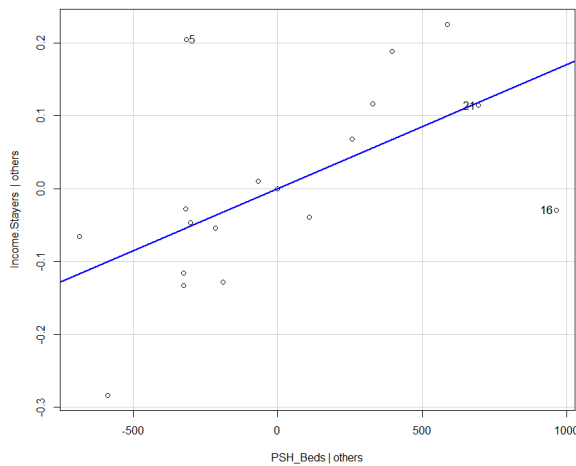


Figure 7- Correlation of Income of Stayers to PSH beds

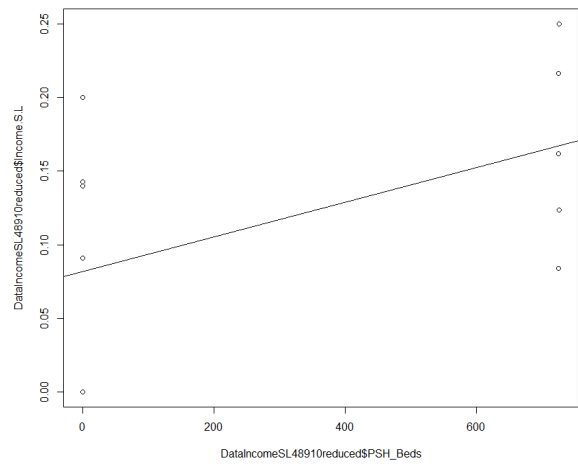


Figure 8- Correlation of Income Stayers and Leavers in Regions 4,8,9 reduced income to Income Stayers and Leavers reduced income PSH beds

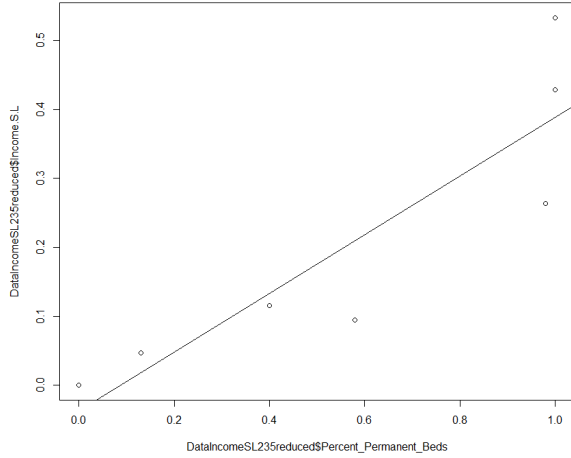


Figure 9- Data on Income Stayer/Leavers in Regions 2,3,5 reduced income in correlation to income Stayers/Leavers in regions 2,3,5 percentage of Permanent Beds

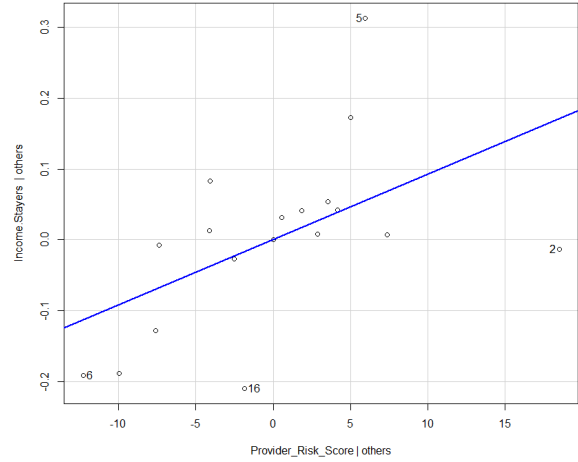


Figure 10- Income Stays CoC wide in correlation to Providers Rsk Score

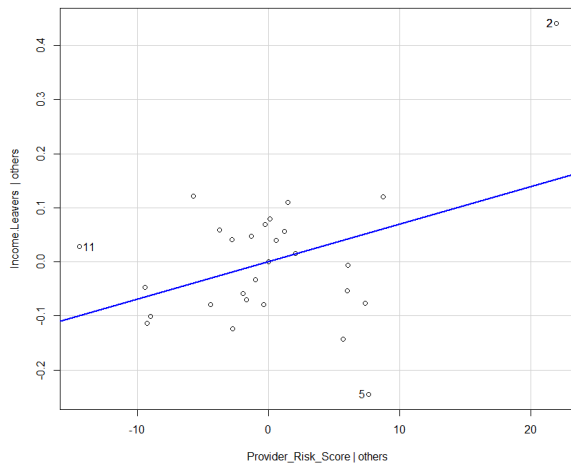


Figure 11- Income Leavers for the CoC wide in correlation to Providers Risk Scores

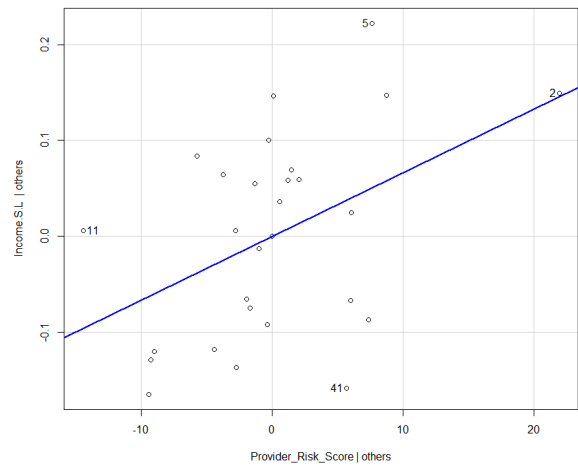


Figure 12- Income Stayers/Leavers in the CoC wide in Correlation to Provider Risk Scores

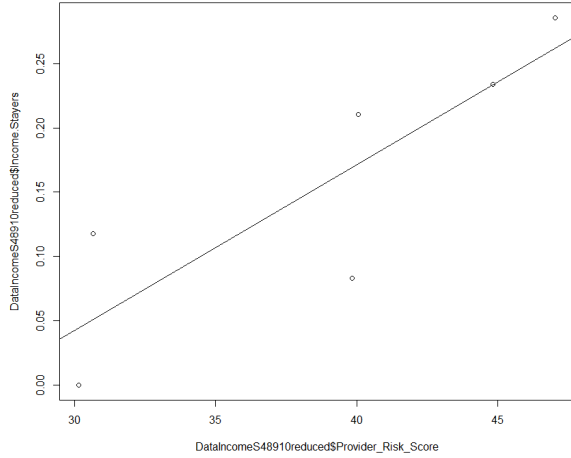


Figure 13- Data Income Stayers for Regions 4,8,9,10 in correlation to reduced income Stayers

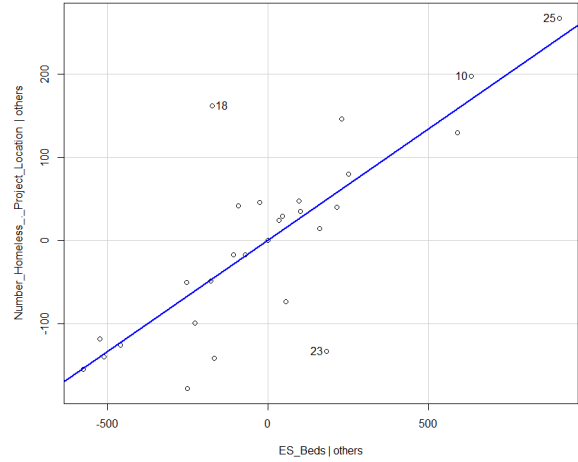


Figure 14- Number of Homeless Project Location in correlation to ES beds

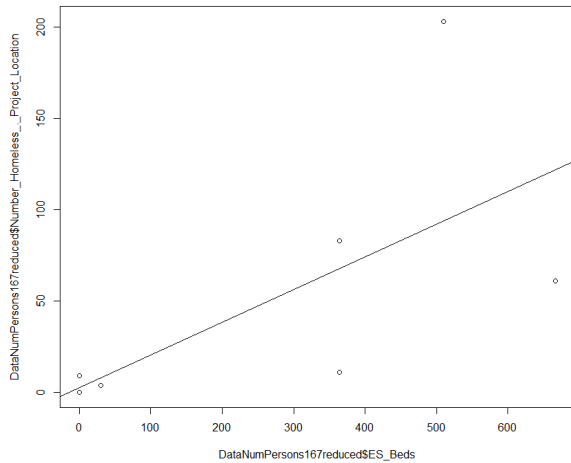


Figure 15- Data Number Persons in Region 1,6,7 in correlation to reduced number homeless Project by location

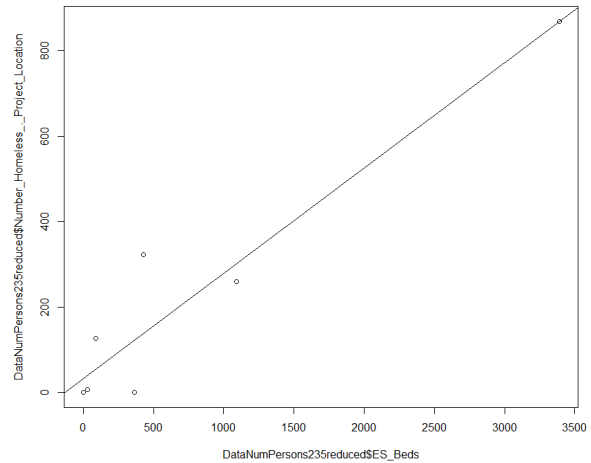


Figure 16-Data Number Persons in regions 2,3,5 reduced number of Homeless Projects in correlation to Data Numbers Persons in regions 2,3,5 reduced ES Beds

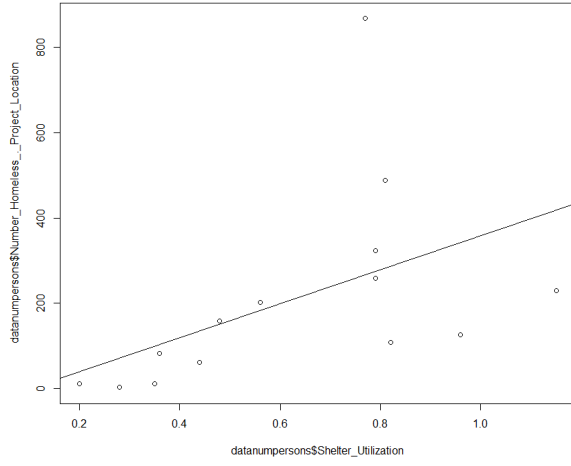


Figure 17- Data Numbers persons homeless by project location in correlation to data number person in Shelter Utilization in CoC wide

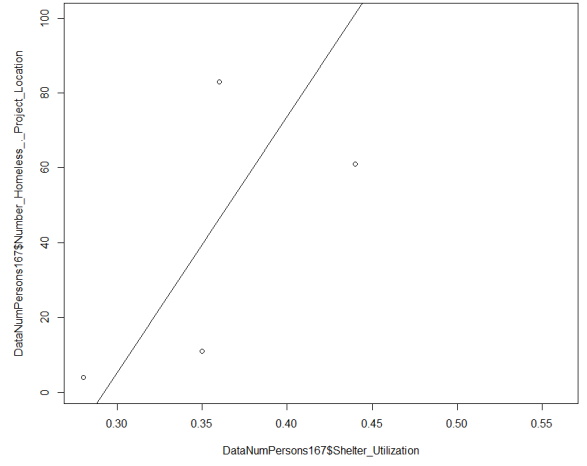


Figure 18- Data number persons in Regions 1,6,7 by number of homeless projects in the region and in correlation to data number persons in that region and Shelter Utilization

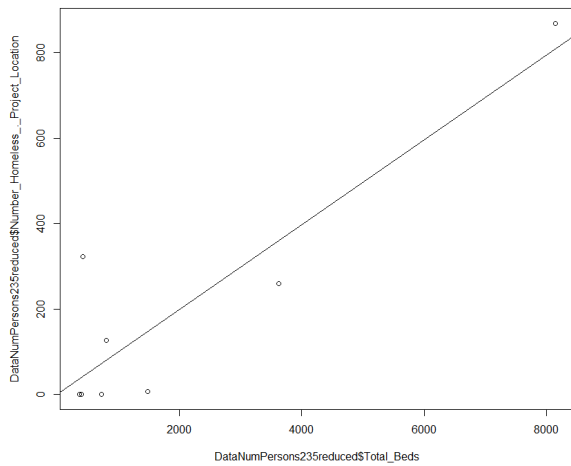


Figure 19- Data Number persons in Regions 2,3,5 reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number person in same region with reduced total number of beds

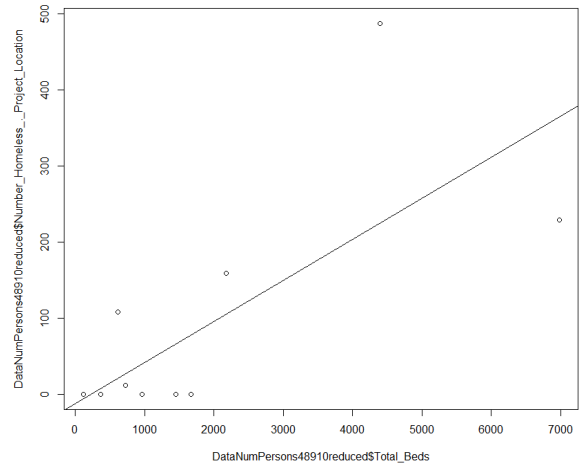


Figure 20- Data Number Persons in regions 4,8,9,10 reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number persons in same region with reduced number of total beds

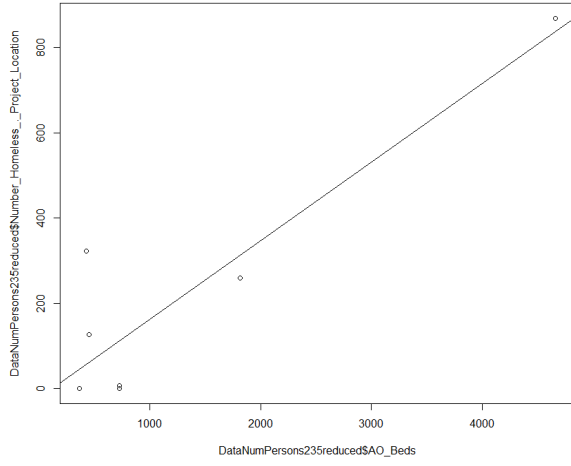


Figure 21- Data Number of Persons in regions 2,3,5 reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number of Persons in same region with reduced number of beds

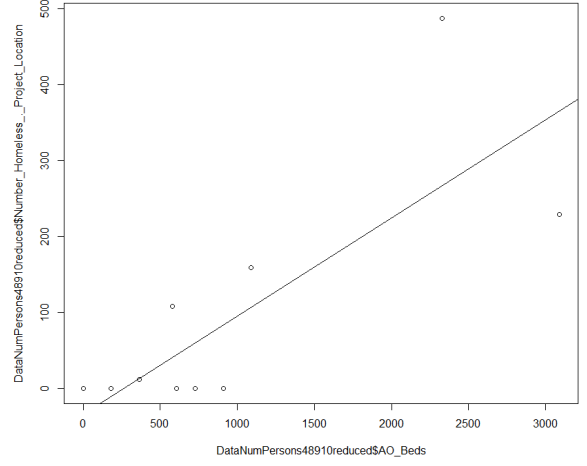


Figure 22- Data number of persons in regions 4,8,9,10 reduced number of homeless Projects in correlationto data number of persons in same regions with reduced number of beds

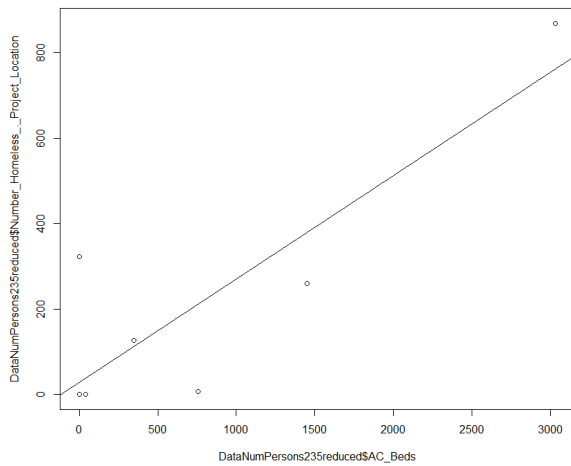


Figure 23- Data Number of persons in regions 2,3,5 with reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number persons in same region in reduced number of neds

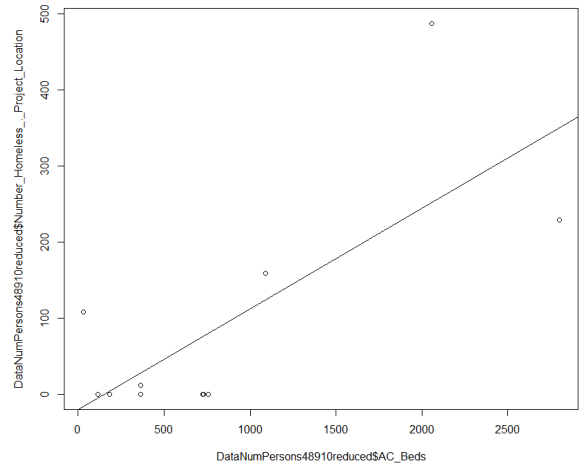


Figure 24- Data Number of Persons in regions 4,8,9,10 reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number person in same region reduced number beds

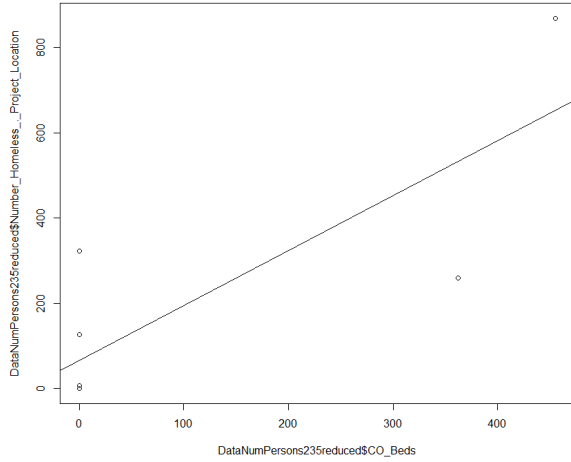


Figure 25- Data Number of Persons in regions 2,3,5 with reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number of persons in same region reduced number of beds

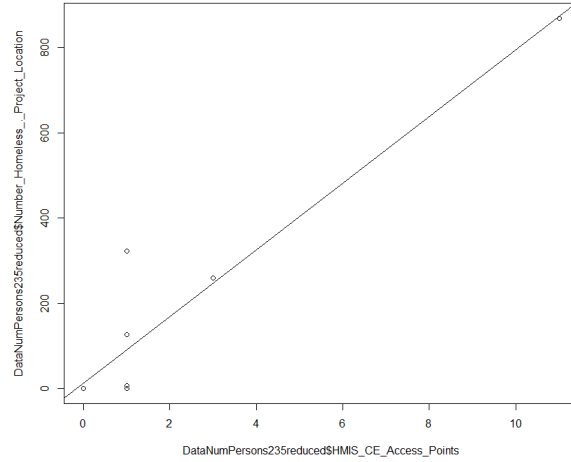


Figure 26-Data number of persons in regions 2,3,5 with reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number persons in same region reduced number of HMIS CE Assess Points

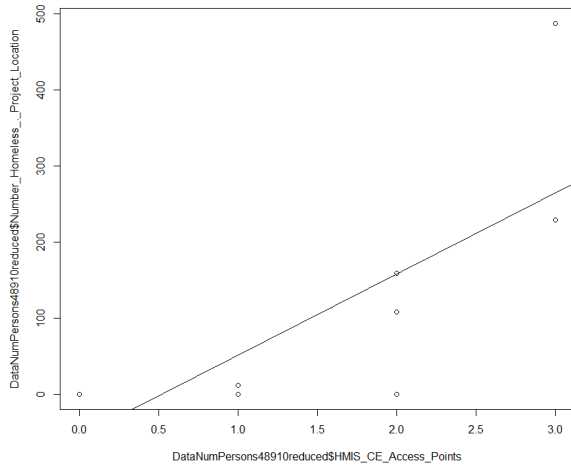


Figure 27- Data number of persons in regions 4,8,9,10 reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data numbers of person in same region with reduced number of HMIS CE Assess Points

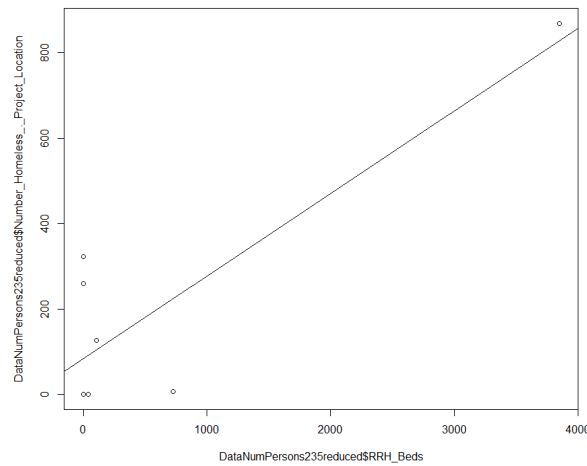


Figure 28- Data number of persons in regions 2,3,5 with reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number of persons in regions 2,3,5 with reduced number of RRH beds

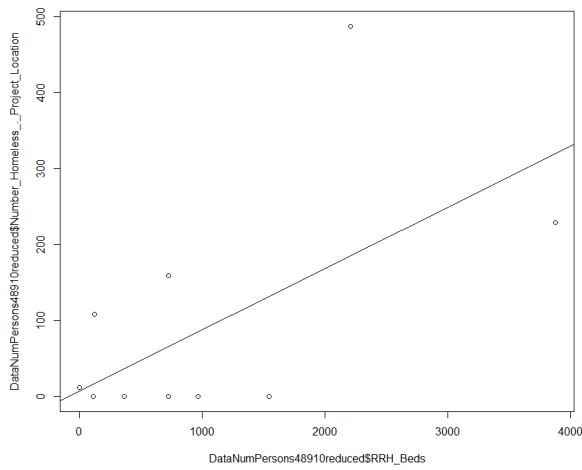


Figure 29- Data number of persons in regions 4,8,9,10 with reduced number of homeless projects in correlation to data number of persons in same region with reduced number of RRH beds

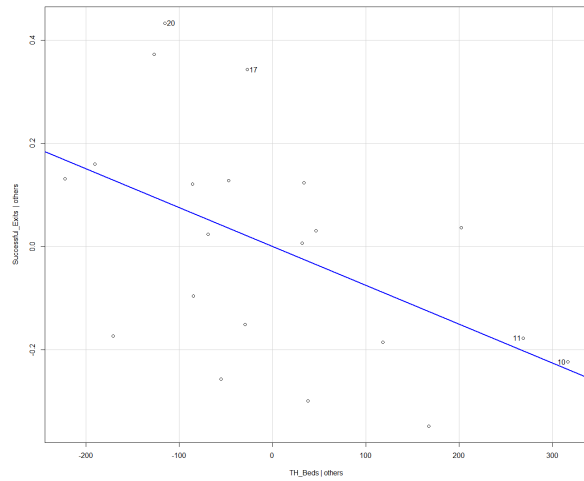


Figure 30- Number of Successful exits in correlation to TH beds in CoC wide

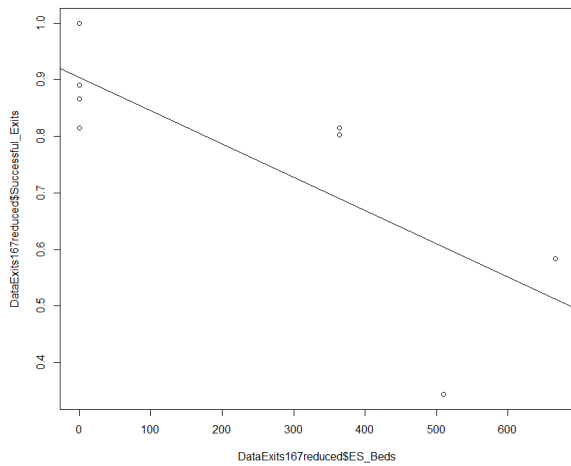


Figure 31- Data number of exits in Region 1,6,7 with reduced Successful Exits in correlation to data of exits in same region with reduced ES beds

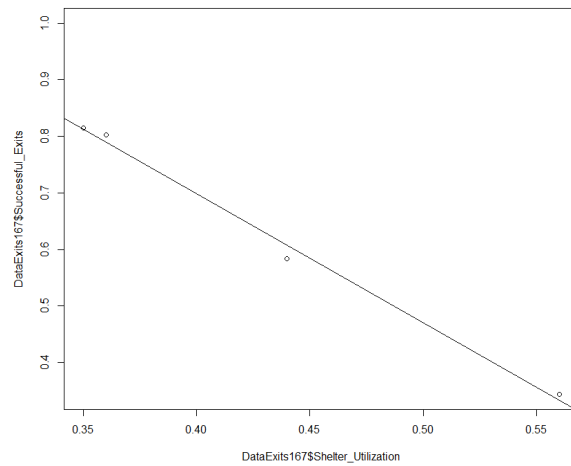


Figure 32- Data of Exits in Regions 1,6,7 with successful exits in correlation to data of exits in same regions considering shelter utilization

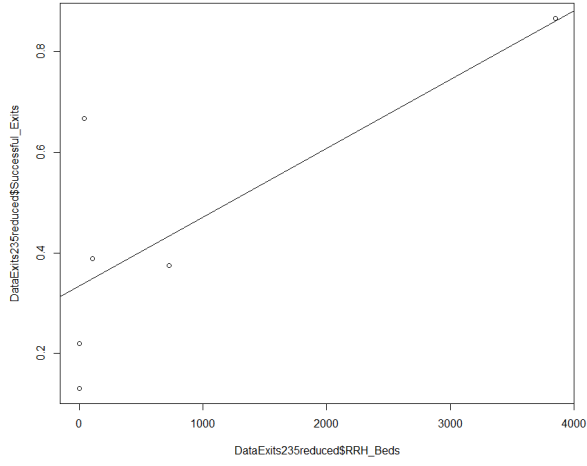


Figure 33- Data Exits in Regions 2,3,5 with reduced successful exits in correlation to data of exits in same region with reduced RRH beds

QUALITATIVE DATA TABLES

Gaps Analysis Qualitative Data Table (interviews)

Table 1- Participants

Geographic location data was not used in our analysis due to constraints posed by limited sample sizes.

Participant ID	Identify As
PI	Person with Lived Experience
P2	Person with Lived Experience
P3	Service Provider
P4	Person with Lived Experience

Table 2- Initial Codes

Initial Code	N of participants contributing (N=4)	N of transcript excerpts assigned	Example Quotes from participants
Program Eligibility	4	4	P1- "We need more programs for male single or couples with no kids." P3- "I am trying to look into housing for the ones that have had a criminal history or that have been previously evicted from a place. It is very hard to find housing for them". P4- "I had Issues with felonies to get into services and housing".

More Resources	3	3	P1- "Better resources to find help". P2- "Need more shelters, food, and resources". P4-"Cape has more resources than Sikeston."
Limited Shelters	2	3	P2- "Need more shelters, food, and resources". P3-"Mainly because we do not have a homeless shelter"
Limited Transportation	2	2	P3- "I feel like transportation is a barrier". P4 "There is limited transportation and child support needs to stop taking licenses away".
Daycare assistance	1	1	P2- "Homeless mothers need daycare assistance or affordable child care."

Gaps Analysis Qualitative Data Tables (Surveys)

Table 1- Participants

Geographic location data was not used in our analysis due to constraints posed by limited sample sizes.

Participant ID	Identify As
P1	Service Provider
P2	Service Provider

P3	Service Provider
P4	Service Provider
P5	Community Member
P6	Service Provider
P7	Service Provider
P8	Service Provider
P9	Service Provider
P10	Community Member
P11	Service Provider
P12	Service Provider
P13	Service Provider
P14	Service Provider
P15	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P16	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P17	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P18	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P19	Service Provider
P20	Service Provider
P21	Service Provider
P22	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs

P23	Service Provider
P24	Service Provider
P25	Service Provider
P26	Service Provider
P27	Service Provider
P28	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P29	Community Member
P30	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P31	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P32	Community Member
P33	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P34	Community Member
P35	Community Member
P36	Service Provider
P37	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P38	Service Provider
P39	Community Member
P40	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P41	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P42	Community Member

P43	Community Member
P44	Community Member
P45	Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
P46	Service Provider
P47	Service Provider

Table 2- Initial Codes

Initial Codes- Barriers, Unmet needs or recommendations in your community

Initial Code	N of participants contributing (N=47)	N of transcript excerpts assigned	Example Quotes for participants
Staffing	10	15	P15- "more funding for Housing Liaison Program".
Limited Funding	10	15	P28- "More funding to help with basic needs-toilet paper".
Responses of none, no or N/A	7	13	
More Resources	6	6	P34- "Need to expand helping."
Program Eligibility	4	5	P30- "Yes, as a married man with no kids I got no help".

Help was provided	4	5	P41- "Just keep doing The work you are doing the work you are doing. Just be genuine and kind and supportive!".
Timeliness of assistance/Process/waitlist	3	4	P15- "Intake in days was very overwhelming and background checks on staff so male staff made be uncomfortable and hire people with compassion for all programs".
Limited Transportation	3	3	P5- "Limited transportation and it took our family a while to find a home".
Limited Shelters	3	3	P37- "We need more shelters in the Bootheel of Missouri. A place for people to shower and do laundry would also be a huge help to those experiencing homelessness."

More Collaboration and partners	2	2	P2- "Not at this time other than we wish we had more partners to help with homeless issues and our city understand the need for help."
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Table 3- Grouping of Initial Codes to Form Themes

Theme	N of the participants contributing (N= 51)	N of the transcript excerpts assigned
Theme 1: The data collected shows a high demand for programs, shelters, funding, and staffing.	35	47
Theme 2: The feedback supports the lack of staffing that provides supportive services and addresses the barriers for exits/housed.	35	61

Interview Questions

Interview Questions for Person's with Lived Experience

What region/counties do you reside?

What types of programs have you participated in?

Do you feel your agency providers have all the services that your regional homeless need?

What are some areas of support do you feel they are doing well?

What are some areas of support do you feel are not doing well?

Do you feel that there are barriers or unmet needs within your region?

What barriers or unmet needs do you see within your region when serving the homeless population?

What recommendations do you have for improving services in your region?

Do you have any other thoughts to share on this topic or related topics?

Interview Guide for Service Providers

Please share the following details about your agency and its support for the homeless population in your region:

Region you reside and programs you have participated in

Are all necessary services being provided to the homeless population in your region?

Areas within your region that are providing effective support, and areas that need improvement

Barriers or unmet needs within your region

Recommendations for improving services in your region

Any additional thoughts on this topic or related issues

Survey

GAPS Analysis Survey 2024 - ends 3/29/24 none accepted after that date.

form

* Indicates required question

1. Please specify which option applies to you *

Mark only one oval.

- Service Provider *Skip to question 12*
- Person with Lived Experience currently working with Homeless programs
Skip to question 2
- Community Member *Skip to question 19*

PLE Survey

Person with Lived Experience

2. How many are there in your household?

3. Have you participated in any Homeless Programs in MO? If yes, which one?

4. What is your satisfaction level for your overall experience with the program you mentioned above?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

5. Were you satisfied with the intake process?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

6. Were you satisfied with the staff?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

7. Were you satisfied with the time it took to get housed?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

8. Do you feel your needs were met?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

9. Were there barriers or unmet needs?

10. Would you recommend this program to others in your situation?

Check all that apply.

- Yes
- No

- 11. Are there any recommendations on how to improve that program or any additional programs/supports you feel would or could help you?

Skip to section 5 ([Survey for Compensation- this information will not be shared and secure](#))

Service Provider survey

Service Provider

- 12. What region/counties does your agency cover?

- 13. What populations do your agency's program assist?

14. What is your satisfaction level for your overall experience with the programs your agency provides?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

15. Were you satisfied with the intake process for your programs?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

16. Do you feel satisfied with the timeliness of your programs?

Mark only one oval.

- Very Dissatisfied
- Dissatisfied
- Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied
- Satisfied
- Very Satisfied

- 17. Do you feel within your programs there barriers or unmet needs? If yes, please share.

- 18. Are there any recommendations on how to improve your agencies' programs?

Skip to section 5 ([Survey for Compensation- this information will not be shared and secure](#))

Community Member

Community Member

- 19. What county do you live in?

20. Do you have previous homeless lived experience?

Mark only one oval.

Yes

No

21. If yes, describe

22. What is your knowledge on local resources for homeless population?

23. What is your satisfaction level on the amount of resources in your community for the homeless population?

Mark only one oval.

Very Dissatisfied

Dissatisfied

Neither Satisfied or dissatisfied

Satisfied

Very Satisfied

- 24. Do you feel within your community there barriers or unmet needs? If yes, please share.

- 25. Are there any recommendations on how to improve your community homeless resources?

Skip to section 5 ([Survey for Compensation- this information will not be shared and secure](#))

Survey for Compensation- this information will not be shared and secure

Please note that the only way to provide compensation for this survey is to complete this additional form. The data is collected separately to maintain confidential answers.

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