

# Missouri TurningPoint

Collaborating for a New Century in Public Health

**A strong public health system is crucial for protecting and improving the health of Americans.**

## Missouri's Public Health

In 1999 the United Health Foundation State Health Rankings ranked Missouri the 26th healthiest state in the country. By 2002 Missouri had fallen to 32nd in overall key health indicators. Missourians are experiencing a significant increase in the number of deaths due to heart disease, cancer, and infectious disease. Combined with increases in smoking, children living in poverty, and a general lack of health insurance, the health of Missourians is in danger.

A shortage of resources at all levels of government has devastated the public health workforce and its capacity to respond at the very time that emerging threats to the public's health require advances in public health science, training, and leadership.

Sustained, comprehensive attention and support is needed for improving Missouri's health and the ability of its workforce to address priority health issues and be prepared for public health emergencies.

### For more information

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## What is Missouri Turning Point?

The national Turning Point Initiative aims to transform and strengthen the public health system in the United States by making it more community-based and collaborative. Turning Point in Missouri has created the Missouri Institute for Community Health (MICH) a multi-sector organization that facilitates planning and decision making among health care providers, the private sector, community colleges, universities, health and human service associations, and state and local government.

## How is Turning Point improving the lives of Missourians through MICH?

- Encouraging and supporting comprehensive community efforts to promote health and target the root causes of preventable disease—efforts such as county-wide health assessment, planning, and community prioritizing
- Supporting efforts to increase the skills and capacity of Missouri's public health workforce
- Fostering the use of standards of practice in the performance of essential public health activities at the community level so that communities are guaranteed their right to comprehensive public health service and protection
- Supporting approaches that improve public health at the level of more efficient systems
- Utilizing diverse partnerships to maximize shared resources and decision making

## What can Turning Point's MICH help you do?

- Communicate new and emerging public health issues to the public health workforce and the people of Missouri
- Showcase Missouri as a model state for voluntary standardization of local public health agencies
- Convene community health systems together with local residents to improve public health responsiveness at the local level

## Support

The Turning Point Initiative is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The National Program Office is located at the University of Washington School of Public Health and Community Medicine. Contact the National Program Office at 206-616-8410 or visit [www.turningpointprogram.org](http://www.turningpointprogram.org).

