

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ACCESS CHALLENGES IN MISSOURI

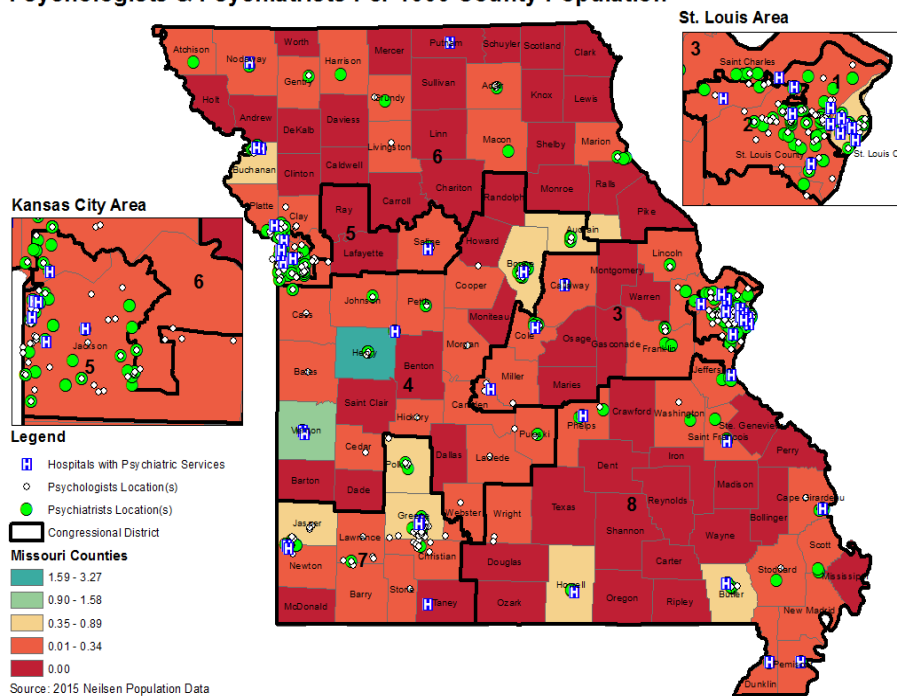


Many Missourians have limited access to behavioral health providers and services. Federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration data indicate **Missouri is below the national average for behavioral health providers.**



Missouri has **21.8% fewer psychiatrists** and **13.6% fewer psychologists** than the national average.

**Psychologists & Psychiatrists Per 1000 County Population**



Between 2008 and 2017, ED utilization for mental health-related disorders increased 212% for Medicaid managed care and 30% for Medicaid fee-for-service. The increase for all other payers combined was 42%.

**There are 65 counties in Missouri without access to a psychologist and 50 counties without access to a psychiatrist.** Lacking access to behavioral health providers, patients in crisis commonly come to the emergency departments of acute-care hospitals. These hospitals are challenged to provide appropriate treatment and stabilization, post-discharge placement, and patient transportation. The growth in the number of these patients who come to hospitals is highest among Missouri's Medicaid population, driven by high usage in Medicaid managed care plans.

Federal investment in behavioral health service expansion has helped reduce regional access disparities. However, much work remains to build a system that reaches all communities statewide.

