



# Our Healthy KC Eastside Accomplishments

Our Healthy KC Eastside (OHKCE) is a Jackson County initiative that aims to achieve health equity by providing county-wide COVID-19 vaccinations, health services, and prevention health programs in collaboration with health organizations and business, faith, neighborhood, and youth organization partners. OHKCE also conducts community-wide health surveys and research studies to understand and address health inequities. Highlights of OHKCE 2021-2022 accomplishments are below.

## Spotlights

### Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccinations in Collaboration with Community and Health Partners

OHKCE's community engagement approach with 60 community partners resulted in 12,942 persons vaccinated, exceeding the goal of providing 5,000 vaccinations. Vaccination of this large number of mostly Jackson County residents was achieved in over 120 OHKCE community-clinic events coordinated by 160 trained community health liaisons in collaboration with health partners. This approach demonstrates the success of increasing community capacity and reach of vaccination services in trusted, accessible community partner locations in socially vulnerable communities. **Impact:** The KCMO Health Department reported that OHKCE priority zip codes' first dose vaccination rates overall exceeded KC's overall vaccination rate average.

### Meeting the Need for Prevention Health Services in Jackson County Socially Vulnerable Communities

3,496 persons completed OHKCE health surveys. Hypertension, diabetes, asthma, and depression were their top reported health issues. Most alarming, 40% reported experiencing food insecurity. Also, 32% lost their job or income, 24% had forgone medical services, and 21% had transportation challenges due to the pandemic. 80% said they would use health services provided at OHKCE vaccination events. In addressing these health and social issues, OHKCE provided 4,152 units of blood pressure, blood glucose, mental health, dental, STD, and cancer screenings along with medical referrals and linkages to community resources like food, indicating the need and importance of OHKCE provision of health services in community-clinics.

### Listening to the Community to Expand Efforts to Tackle Health Concerns that Burden the Eastside

The first annual OHKCE Community Forum brought together 121 community, health, and research partners to discuss OHKCE accomplishments and challenges, and gather input on next steps. Persons attended the forum in-person and virtually, and participated in 12 focus groups to discuss health concerns that burden the Eastside and feasible intervention strategies. Diabetes, high blood pressure and mental health were spotlighted as top health priorities to address. Key intervention strategies identified included: health education on chronic diseases; affordable access to healthy foods, grocery stores, physical activity, and weight loss programs; and ongoing access to "pop-up" community-clinics, lower healthcare costs, and transportation. The next phase of OHKCE will address these issues.

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AT A GLANCE

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY PARTNER ORGANIZATIONS ENGAGED



60

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY HEALTH LIASONS TRAINED



160

NUMBER OF OHKCE VACCINATION AND HEALTH SERVICE EVENTS COMPLETED



123

NUMBER OF VACCINATIONS GIVEN



12,942

NUMBER OF HEALTH SCREENINGS AND TREATMENTS PROVIDED



4,152

NUMBER OF COMMUNITY-WIDE HEALTH SURVEYS COMPLETED



3,496

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN COVID-19 RELATED RESEARCH STUDIES



2,284

SPECIAL THANKS TO OHKCE COMMUNITY, HEALTH, AND RESEARCH PARTNERS!