

## Children's Mercy Kansas City Kansas City, Missouri

**W**ith the primary focus of improving the health status of children, [Children's Mercy Kansas City](#), a pediatric health care system with 354 beds, offers a wide range of health care services for children from birth to 21 years of age.

To enhance its 2016 community health assessment's **data documentation and communication process**, Children's Mercy incorporated mapping tools to best present data collected on three of the most common health care issues—poverty, asthma and lead exposure—among children in the counties it serves. The geographical maps provide a visual representation of the four counties in the health system's service area and the health issues that influence the well-being of those residents. Margo Quiriconi, director of community health initiatives, explains, "It all starts with a simple map. These maps tell a story about our community. More people are willing to initiate conversations about these health issues because these informative maps have made it easier for other communities and organizations to see linkages. Visualizing data has helped us initiate partnerships with various organizations, and we hope to incorporate more maps in the future."

Key tips to enrich the mapping process are:

- Gather the right data sets.
- Work with experienced professionals to improve quality output.
- Make maps user-friendly and visually appealing.
- Tell a story through data.
- Develop a color scheme for consistency.
- Highlight streets and regions in the community that have a higher prevalence of a specific health issue.

See how Children's Mercy Kansas City incorporated maps in its community health assessment [here](#).

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