



# BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

## Purpose Of This Report

- To highlight improvements in the safety net health care system that have occurred since the RHC issued the initial “Building a Healthier St. Louis” report in 2003
- To document the current status of health outcomes and access to care for the medically underserved in our community
- To serve as a platform for the RHC to make future recommendations concerning the organization and financing of primary and specialty care services in our region

*It is our continuing goal that the data and conclusions in this report will spur and support efforts to improve health care in our region, especially for those most in need. In particular, we encourage community groups, practitioners, and policy makers to utilize the data to craft innovative programs and initiatives that will positively influence the health status of the medically underserved.*