STATUS OF SENIOR POPULATION:
ST. LOUIS COUNTY—1990-2000

St. Louis University Summer Geriatric Institute

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UM Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis

http://oseda.missouri.edu
St. Louis County Senior Population by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas
Nearly 145,000 seniors age 65 and older live in St. Louis County. They are among the fastest growing segment of our population. Other features such as population pyramids, area profiles and data queries are accessible above and described in the Application Summaries.
• St. Louis County's population is growing older more rapidly than it is growing larger. Seniors are a sizable and expanding segment of the county population—especially older seniors.

• Also, there are important population differences among the many communities within the county—some areas are declining while others are rapidly growing. Moreover, the senior population varies somewhat differently by area than the overall population.
Since the 1970s St Louis County has experienced negative net migration. During the 1990s nearly 21,500 more persons moved out of St. Louis County than moved into the county.

The slight gain in St. Louis County population resulted because there were 44,296 more births than deaths.

Natural increase has declined over the past few decades reflecting an older population of residents who have completed their families and seen children leave home.
Different parts of St. Louis County are growing at different rates and influencing the characteristics of the senior population in different areas of the county. Clearly, growth is fastest in the southwest areas of the county. These patterns are evident in maps of the county's Census Tract Neighborhood Areas.
Among the 37 neighborhood tract areas the average total population is about 27,400 persons and the population distribution is fairly uniform.

Area populations range in size from about 14,000 persons around Bridgeton (impacted downward by Lambert expansion) to over 40,000 persons around Mehlville and around Ballwin/Manschetter (impacted upward by development in the south and west county).
Percent Change in Total Population by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 1990-2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [1990 SF1; 2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
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Total Population by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USD C, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.20.2003
• Just over 18 percent of all Missourians live in St. Louis County and just under 19 percent of all Senior Missourians live in St. Louis County. In fact, the senior population of St. Louis County is larger than the total population of all but six other Missouri counties.
• There are nearly 145,000 seniors in St. Louis County or 14.1 percent of total population - a larger proportion than the nation (13 percent) or the state (13.5 percent).

• St. Louis County's senior population is growing four times faster than the county population overall and twice as fast as the senior population in Missouri.
Age Distribution of the Senior Population
Percent Population Age 85 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
• About half the senior population is 75 and older, and 12 percent are 85 and older. The oldest seniors have been growing more rapidly than younger seniors.
Percent Change in Population Age 65 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 1990-2000

Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Percent Change in Population Age 85 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 1990-2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [1990 STF3; 2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED A)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Distribution of the Senior Population by Gender
• The older population is predominantly female. Women account for 74 percent of St. Louis County's nearly 18,000 seniors age 85 and older.
Percent Females Population Age 85 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3] 
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA) 
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health. 
Map Generated on 11.18.2003
The full text and graphics depicting the St. Louis County Senior Population is included in OSEDA Project Files located at http://www.oseda.missouri.edu

In that file a population age-sex pyramid for each neighborhood area can be selected and viewed. As an illustration, an age-sex pyramid for the Ladue/Clayton and the Wellston/Pagedale areas follows.
Race / Ethnicity
St. Louis County is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse. While the total population increased 2.3 percent during the last decade, the African American population increased 38.8 percent and the Hispanic population increased 48.6 percent.
### Change in State of Missouri

**African American Population**

**Age 65-84 and 85 and over, 1990-2000**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Age 65-84</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1990</td>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Change</td>
<td>% Change</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Population</strong></td>
<td>45,046</td>
<td>47,454</td>
<td>2,408</td>
<td>5.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age 85 and over</strong></td>
<td>5,266</td>
<td>6,178</td>
<td>912</td>
<td>17.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• During the 1990s, the St. Louis African American population increased from 139,318 in 1990 to 193,306 in 2000 - an increase of 38.8 percent. That 53,988 African American population increase in St. Louis County during the 1990s accounted for 66.5 percent of Missouri's total African American population increase during the 1990s.

• The Asian minority population of St. Louis County increased from 41,277 in 1990 to 64,773 in 2000 - an increase of 57 percent.
### Change in St. Louis County, St. Louis City, and Jackson County Senior African American Population – 1990-2000

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Population</th>
<th>1990</th>
<th>2000</th>
<th>% Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis County</td>
<td>7,748</td>
<td>12,990</td>
<td>67.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Louis City</td>
<td>23,236</td>
<td>20,604</td>
<td>-11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jackson County</td>
<td>12,129</td>
<td>13,268</td>
<td>9.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>43,113</td>
<td>46,862</td>
<td>8.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Together St. Louis County, Jackson County and St. Louis account for 87.4 percent of Missouri African-American total.
•There are eight of the 37 Census Tract Areas in which each includes a population of more than 600 senior African Americans. Those eight areas are generally on the north side and/or border St. Louis City.

•Those eight areas combined include 8,796, (68 percent) of the county African American senior population. The largest senior African American population is in Wellston/Pagedale with 2,089, followed by University City/Olivette North with 1,815, Black Jack with 1,137 and Jennings with 969.

•Conversely, 18 of the 37 areas have a senior African American population of less than 100.
Percent African American Population Age 65 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health
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Percent Change in Asian/Pacific Islander Population Age 65 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 1990-2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [1990 STF3; 2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.18.2003
The senior population in St. Louis County is about 90 percent White and 9 percent African American. The Hispanic population, which is not considered a racial category by the Census, accounts for 5 percent of the 2000 senior population.

The number of Hispanics increased from 9,811 in 1990 to 14,577 in 2000 - an increase of 48.6 percent.
• 16 of the 37 areas declined in population of senior whites during the 1990s. At the same time, there were some areas experiencing exceptional senior growth.

• Among the most rapidly growing areas were West Chesterfield with an increase of 90 percent in white senior population, Mehlville with an increase of 62.9 percent, Chesterfield with an increase of 56.4 percent and South Ballwin/Manchester with an increase of 58.3 percent.
Percent Change in Caucasian Population Age 65 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 1990-2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [1990 STF3; 2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.18.2003
- The senior African American population increased in 25 of the 37 areas during the 1990s. The senior African American population in the remaining 12 Areas either declined (eight areas) or didn't change (four areas).

- The greatest increases were in Black Jack with an increase of 814 (252 percent), University City/Olivette North with an increase of 623 (52 percent), Jennings with an increase of 563 (139 percent) and Wellston/Pagedale with an increase of 521 (33 percent).
Living Arrangements
of St. Louis Senior Population
• Overall, the marital status of St. Louis County's senior population mirrors the state with a little over 50 percent married, 33 percent widowed and about 7 percent divorced.

• The highest percentage of married Seniors is in the North Ballwin/Manchester areas (70 percent) and the lowest percentage of married Seniors is in the Jennings area (37 percent).
Percent Population Age 65 and Older That Are Married Couples by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Since Maplewood/Richmond Heights has the third lowest percentage of married couples (41.7 percent) and the greatest number of "never married" among the areas, it is not surprising that that area has the highest percentage of persons 65 and older living alone (42.9 percent versus only 28.8 percent county-wide).

The North Ballwin/Manchester and Jamestown Areas have the largest proportion of seniors (65 and older) living in families with 79.1 and 76.1 percent respectively compared with only 63.2 percent county-wide and 61.3 percent statewide.
• There was significant variation among the areas in the extent of change. The number of family households increased in 21 of the 37 Census Tract Areas during the 1990s and declined in the remaining 16. The gain in family households was especially great in the Mehlville (1,420), Sappington/Concord (1,280), Chesterfield (1,227), Jamestown (1,022), West Chesterfield (930) and South Ballwin/Manchester (891) areas.
• Over 41,000 seniors in St. Louis County were living alone in 2000--about 29 percent of the 65 and older population. Maplewood/Richmond Heights had the largest proportion living alone (43 percent) and Town and Country the smallest proportion (16 percent).
Percent Population Age 65 and Older in Nonfamily Households Living Alone by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED)A
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
• Over 41,000 seniors in St. Louis County were living alone in 2000 - about 29 percent of the 65 and older population.

• Maplewood/Richmond Heights had the largest proportion living alone (43 percent) and Town and Country the smallest proportion (16 percent).
Home Ownership Among St. Louis County Seniors
The home ownership rates in St. Louis County are only slightly higher than rates for the state. The proportion of seniors renting their housing increases with age and rental rates may reflect different living arrangements. For example, one of the areas with highest rates of rental housing for Seniors is in West Chesterfield, a relatively affluent area.
Percent of Population Age 65 to 74 that are Home Owners by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Distribution of Income Among St. Louis County Senior Population
• Among St. Louis County households headed by a person age 65 and older, more than 28,000 (30.8 percent) had an annual household income in excess of $50,000 and 33,500 (36.3 percent) had an annual income of less than $25,000.

• Comparatively, only 19.3 percent of the Missouri senior population had an annual household income of greater than $50,000 but 50.3 percent had an annual income of less than $25,000.
• There is much variation among the St. Louis County neighborhood areas.

• Even though only 8 percent of all St. Louis senior households had an income of less than $10,000, there were 15 areas in which more than 10 percent of senior households had an income of less than $10,000. Household income was below that level in 18 percent of the households in two areas, Jennings and Wellston/ Pagedale.
• Although there are only 92,000 St. Louis County households headed by a person age 65 and older, there are nearly 108,000 households who receive Social Security income. Although most Social Security recipients are age 65 and older there are other households headed by a person under age 65 who are eligible for Social Security benefits. These may include persons between age 62 and 65 who elect to take an early retirement. There are also households who may be entitled to Social Security payments to support dependent children in the event of death of the principal wage earner.
• There are 13 neighborhood areas in which more than 30 percent of households are Social Security recipients. Among those the highest percentage is in the Crestwood/Sunset Hills Area with 40.2 percent followed by Lemay with 38.0 percent and Lindbergh with 37.3 percent. The following map shows those three areas, and several others in which more than 30 percent of households are headed by Social Security recipients. These are concentrated in the southeast corner of the county.
Among the St. Louis County senior households, 69.2 percent had a household income of less than $50,000 and 30.8 percent had an income in excess of $50,000.

There were four neighborhoods in which more 50 percent of households had an income in excess of $50,000. Those four areas were Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Ladue/Clayton and Town and Country. There were five neighborhoods in which fewer than 20 percent of households had an income in excess of $50,000. Those included Berkeley/Airport, Bellefontaine Neighbors/Riverview, Jennings, Lemay and St. Ann.
•The data make clear that income of households headed by a person age 75 and older is far below younger age cohorts. In St. Louis County, 75 percent of households in that age cohort have an annual income of less than $50,000.

•Within St. Louis County, in more than half the neighborhoods (19 of 37) more than 10 percent of households headed by a person age 75 and older have an annual income of less than $10,000.
Median Household Income Householder Age 55 to 64 by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.20.2003
Median Household Income Householder Age 65 to 74 by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDIA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health
Map Generated on 11.20.2003
Median Household Income Householder Age 75 and Older by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.20.2003
Poverty Rate Among St. Louis County Seniors
• The poverty rate among seniors in St. Louis County (5.3 percent) is about half the state rate (9.9 percent).

• Nonetheless, in 2000, over 7,200 St. Louis County seniors were living in poverty. Wellston/Pagedale, University City/Olivette, Normandy, Maplewood/Richmond Heights and Jennings. All had senior poverty rates exceeding the state rate of 10 percent.
• According to the 2000 Population Census, the income of only 6.9 percent of St. Louis County residents fell below the federal poverty guideline. That is only slightly more than half of the 11.6 percent below the poverty line statewide.

• An exception occurred among the senior population. The number of St. Louis County residents age 65 and older below the poverty line declined from 7,625 in 1990 to 7,259 in 2000. This offset the increased poverty rate in the county by about 400 persons.
The proportion of the senior population with an income below the poverty line varies significantly among the Census Tract Neighborhoods. Although only 5.3 percent of all St. Louis County Seniors are below poverty level, there are 17 of the 37 areas in which more than 5.3 percent are below the poverty line.
• The highest percentage of poor seniors is found in the Wellston/Pagedale Area with 15.4 percent, followed by the University City/Olivette South Area with 12.8 percent, the Normandy Area with 11.0 percent and Jennings and Maplewood/Richmond Heights each with just over 10 percent.
• There were 19 areas in which the number of poor seniors increased from 1990 to 2000. These 19 areas are not consistently either high or low income areas. The location of a nursing home in several of the relatively higher income areas may provide an explanation for an increase in number of senior low-income people. Included in this category would likely be the Ladue/Clayton, Lemay, Mehlville, Parkway North, Sappington/Concord and South Ballwin/Manchester Areas.
Employment Among St. Louis County Seniors
• More than 20,000 (14.3 percent) St. Louis County seniors are employed, which is a slightly larger rate of senior employment than Missouri statewide (13.2 percent).

• The percent of all St. Louis County seniors employed ranges from a low of 8.9 percent in the Bellefontaine Neighbors/Riverside Area and 9.5 percent in Lemay to a high of 24.0 percent in the Des Peres/Valley Park Area.
Percent of Population Age 75 and Older Employed by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSED&A)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.20.2003
• The four areas with the highest percent senior employment (more than 22 percent) are: Ladue/Clayton, Creve Coeur, University City/Olivette South and Des Peres/Valley Park.

• These four areas have by far the highest rate of employment among seniors age 75 and older and are areas having the highest percent of seniors having earned a graduate or professional degree.
• Not unexpectedly the percent of persons employed declines with advancing age. Among St. Louis County seniors, nearly 28 percent of the 65-69 age cohort is employed, while just over 15 percent of the 70-74 year-olds are employed. The percent employed declines further to 6.2 percent of those age 75 and older. In each age group, the percent of St. Louis residents employed is higher than the comparative percentage statewide.
Percent of Population Age 65 to 69 Employed by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health
Map Generated on 11.20.2003
Percent of Population Age 70 to 74 Employed by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 12.1.2003
• More than 20,000 (14.3 percent) St. Louis County seniors are employed, which is a slightly rate of senior employment than Missouri statewide (13.2 percent).
Educational Attainment Among St. Louis County Seniors
• Generally Missouri's population age 65 and older has completed fewer years of education than Missouri's younger age cohorts.

• The senior population of St. Louis County has completed more years of education than seniors in other parts of the state.
• The educational attainment of St. Louis County seniors is higher than Missouri overall with more than a quarter of the senior population completing a Bachelor's degree (26.7 percent) compared with 16.7 percent statewide.

• At the same time, there are large differences in educational attainment within the county. There are nine areas in which more than 40 percent of seniors have not graduated from high school while there are 11 areas in which fewer than 20 percent of seniors have failed to complete high school.
• 19.1 percent of St. Louis seniors have attained at least a college degree. That compares with only 11.8 percent of seniors throughout the remainder of the state who have completed at least a college degree.
• There are 27,454 St. Louis County seniors who are at least college graduates. Included in that total, 7.6 percent of the senior population have attained a post-graduate or professional degree beyond a college degree.
At the lower end of the distribution of advanced educational attainment are 10 areas in which less than 10 percent of the senior population holds a college degree or beyond. These are generally areas found to have high percentages of low-income population. The fewest seniors having a college degree or beyond is found in the Jennings Area with 4.7 percent, Bellfontaine Neighbors/Riverview with 5.6 percent, Berkeley/Airport with 5.7 percent and Wellston/Pagedale with 5.9 percent.
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older With a Bachelor's Degree by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing (2000 SF3)
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Disability Among St. Louis County Seniors
• Two-thirds of the St. Louis County senior population reports having at least one disability - nearly 95,000 persons. While the county rate of disability is lower than the state rate (78.5 percent), there are some areas of the county where more than 90 percent of the seniors report having a disability.
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older with a Self-Care Disability by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing (2000 SF3)
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
The proportion of St. Louis County seniors reporting one or more disabilities varied greatly among the neighborhood areas. At the highest level more than 90 percent of residents 65 and older in the Moline (94.1 percent), Berkeley/Airport (92.3 percent), and Wellston/Pagedale (90.4 percent).
• Three areas report having at least one disability. Those three areas are also included among the areas having the highest poverty rates.

• At the other extreme, there were only four areas, Chesterfield, Creve Coeur, Southwest and Town and Country in which fewer than half the seniors reported one or more disabilities. Not coincidentally those four areas are also included among those having the highest median household income.
• Physical disabilities are the most frequently reported. More than 33,000 (23 percent) of the county's seniors report being physically disabled. Next most frequently reported was the nearly 24,000 who reported "Go-outside-home" disability.

• Following those two, other disabilities, in order of frequency reported, were "sensory disability" reported by just over 15,000 (10.6 percent), "mental disability" reported by more than 11,000 (8.1 percent) and "self-care disability" reported by nearly 11,000 (7.5 percent).
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older with a Sensory Disability by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older with a Mental Disability by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older with a Self-Care Disability by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]  
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)  
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.  
Map Generated on 11.19.2003
St. Louis County Seniors
Who Are Military Veterans
• Of the 143,000 St. Louis County residents age 65 and older, 43,330 are civilians now but are military veterans. This is just over 30 percent of the senior civilian population. That proportion is slightly higher than the 28.8 percent of Missouri civilians age 65 and older who are veterans.

• Since most of the veterans age 65 and older are men, these data show that just over 50 percent of the senior men are veterans. The veteran status of the senior population is important because of the eligibility of many of them for veterans' health care services.
There is very little variation among the 37 Census Tract Neighborhoods in the percent of the senior population who are veterans. The highest percent of veterans among the 65 and older population is found in the Jamestown Area with 36.9 percent.

That is well above the rest of the areas - the next highest being Ladue/Clayton with 34.4 percent and North Ballwin/Manchester with 34.3 percent. Altogether, there are 22 areas in which greater than 30 percent of the seniors are veterans.
Percent of Population Age 65 and Older that are Veterans by Census Tract Neighborhood Areas, 2000

Source: USDC, Bureau of the Census, Census of Population and Housing [2000 SF3]
Prepared by: Office of Social and Economic Data Analysis (OSEDA)
Project Sponsored by St. Louis County Department of Health.
Map Generated on 2.19.04