

# 2006 Health: C+



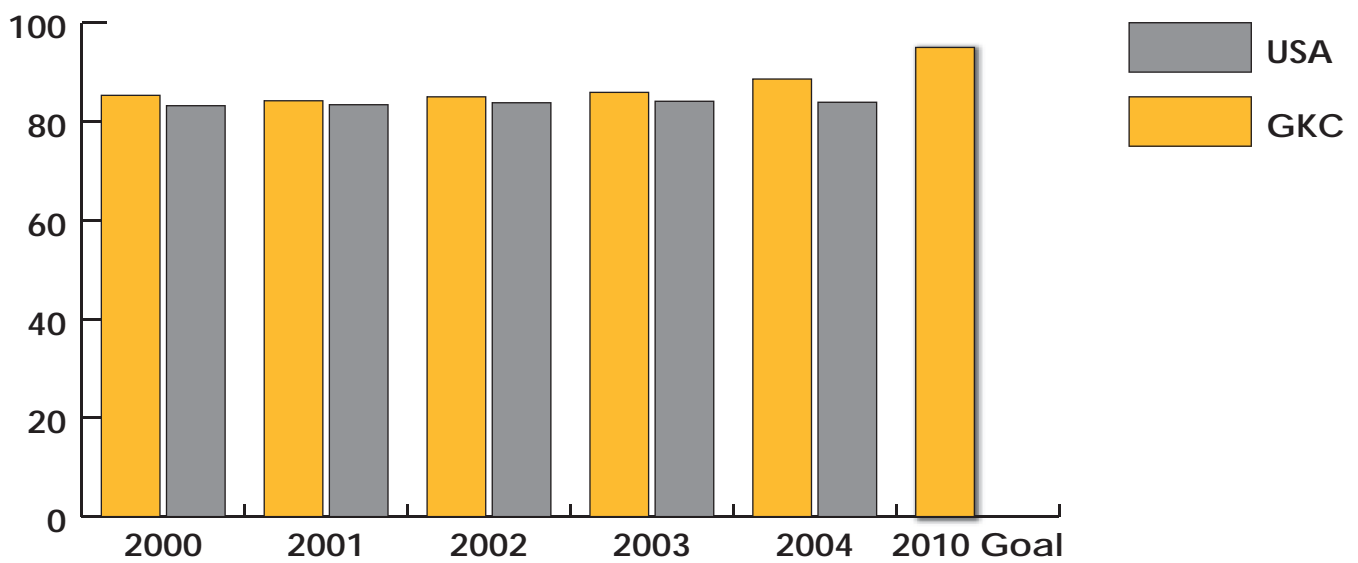
# Early Prenatal Care

The percentage of metro area infants whose mothers had at least one prenatal visit during the first trimester of pregnancy has improved over the past four years. In 2004, the early prenatal care rate rose slightly to 88.6% from 2003's 85.9% and is above the national early prenatal care rate of 83.9%.

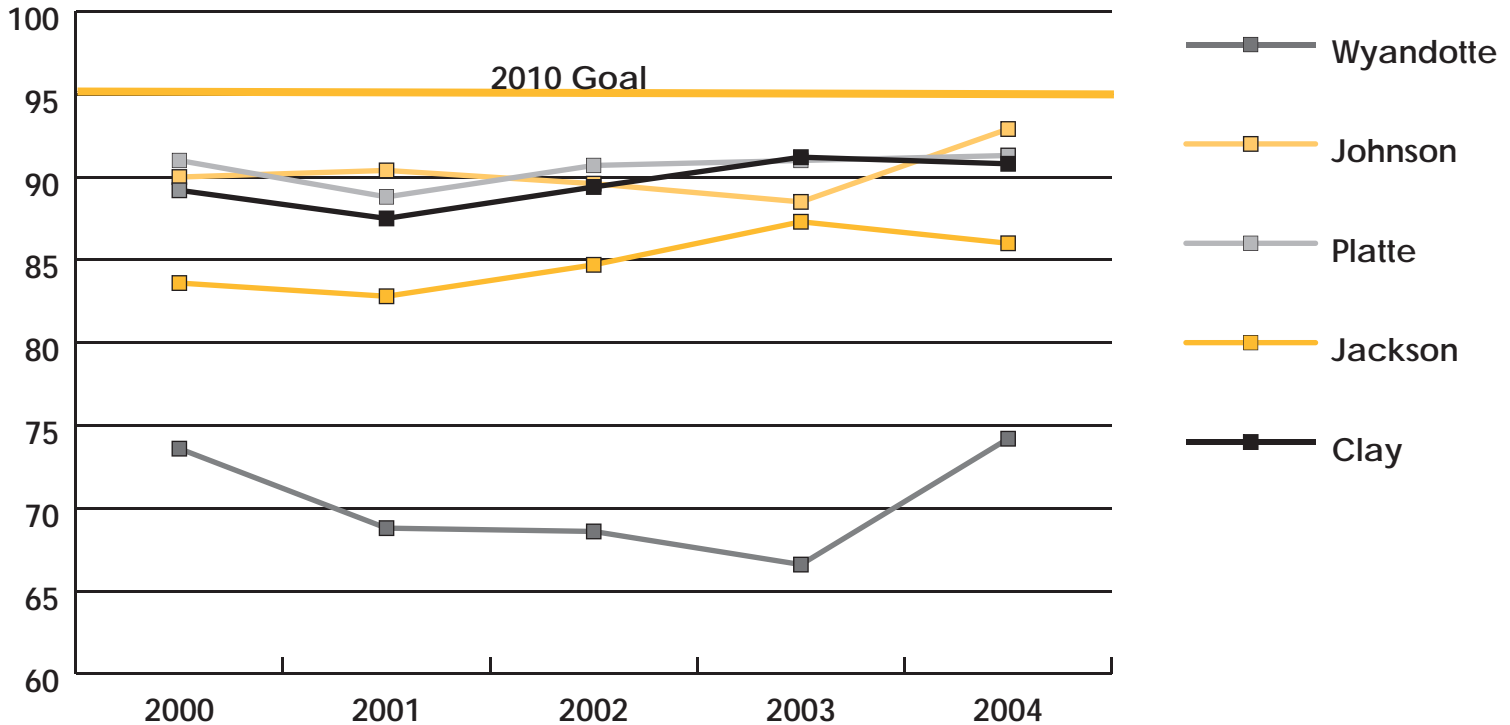
- Although Greater Kansas City's early prenatal care rate has reached its highest level in five years, that rate is still below the average prenatal care rates the metro area saw in the mid-1990's.
- Over the past five years, the early prenatal care rate has seen steady but slight improvement, however, acceleration is necessary if Greater Kansas City is to reach the 2010 Goal.
- The three Missouri counties in the metro area all remained relatively the same in their early prenatal care rates. The two Kansas counties both saw increases. Johnson County had the highest rate of 92.9%, while Wyandotte had the lowest at 74.2%.
- The racial gap increased at the state and national levels over the rates in 2003, however, the Kansas and national rates for minority women receiving early prenatal care increased in 2004.

**Year 2010 Goal: 95% of all women should begin prenatal care within the first three months of pregnancy. Complete Data Appendix appears on page 81.**

## Early Prenatal Care



# Mothers Who Received Early Prenatal Care as a Percentage of Total Births by County



## Rate of Prenatal Care Community Snapshot:

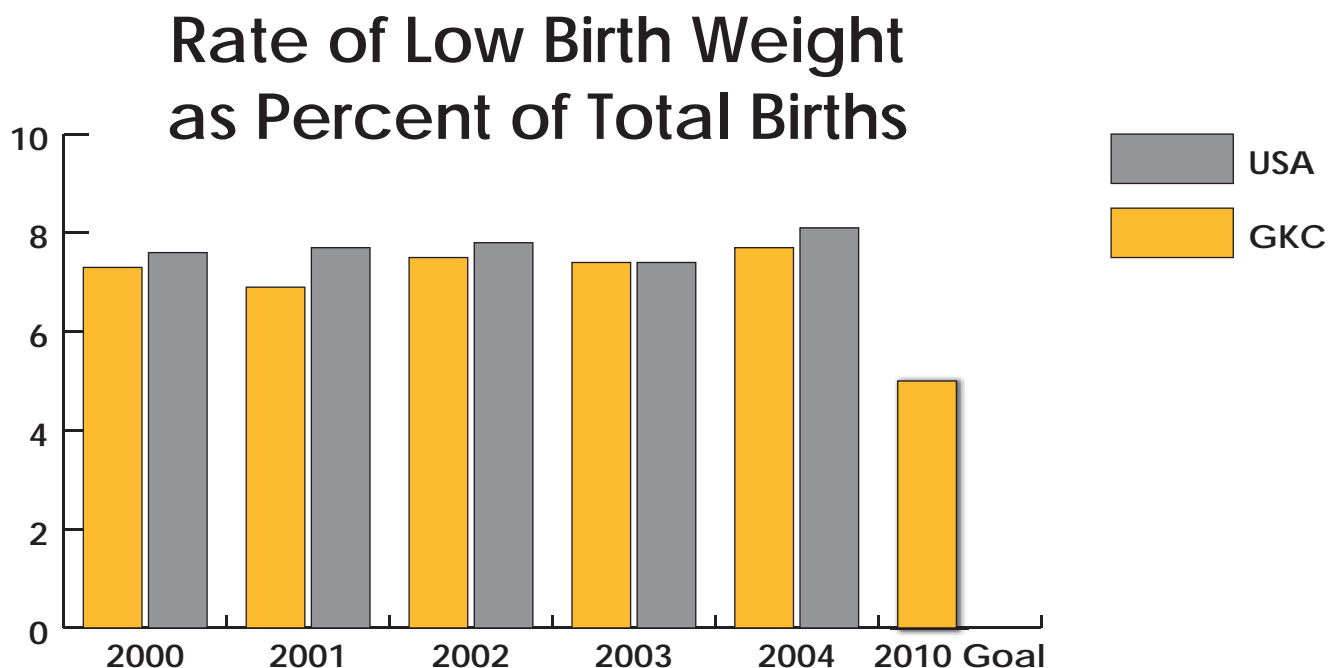
- While the rates of early prenatal care in every county are higher than the rates in 2000, none of them are on track to reach the 2010 Goal.
- Wyandotte County has the lowest rate of early prenatal care and has shown the second-lowest average annual increase of the five counties in the metro area.
- Jackson County has the second-lowest rate of early prenatal care and has shown the second-highest average annual increase in the metro area.
- Clay and Platte Counties have remained stable over the past five years. While they are both relatively close to reaching the 2010 Goal, at their current average annual increases, they will be unable to reach it.
- Johnson County has the highest rate of early prenatal care and the highest average annual increase of the five counties. While the current rate of increase places it closest to the goal by 2010, it still would not reach the goal until 2011.

# Low Birth Weight

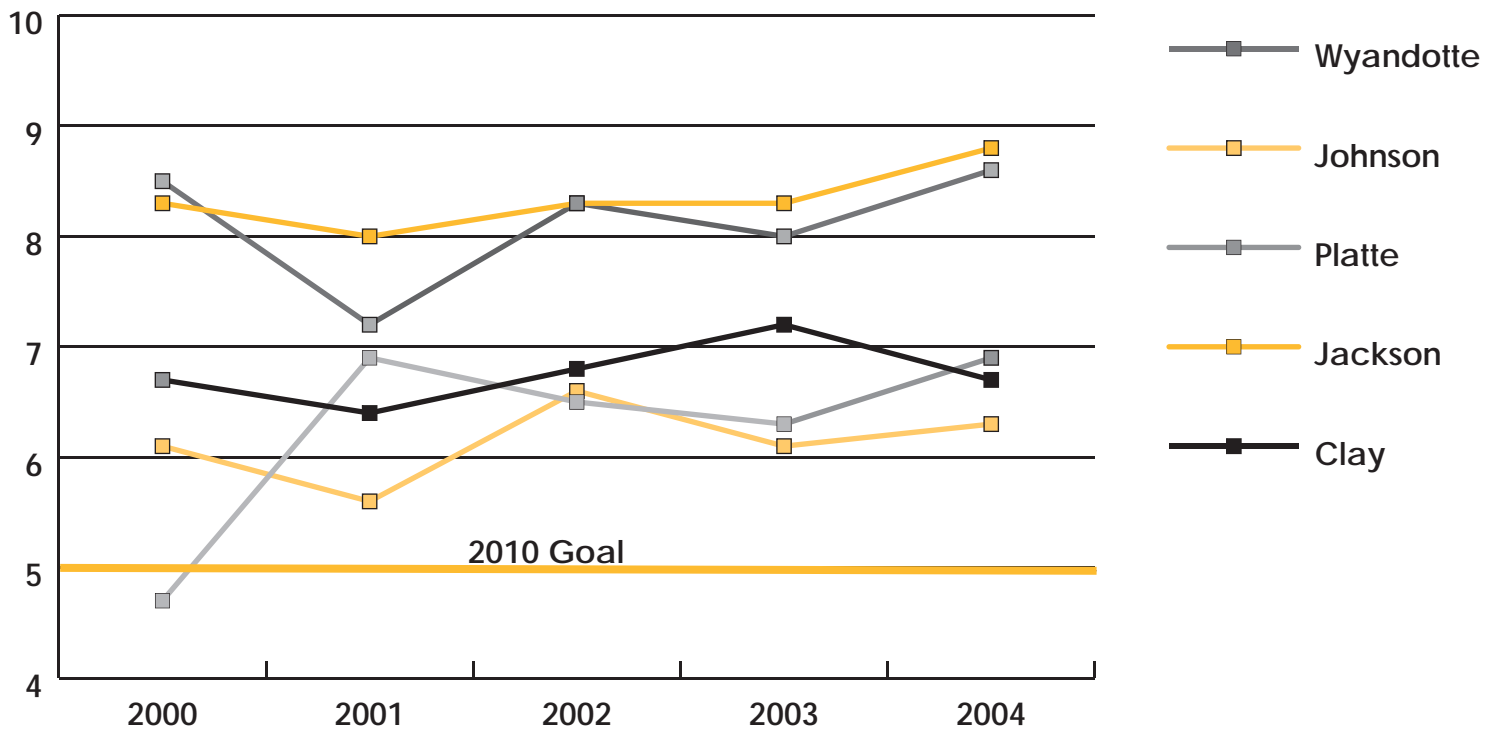
Low birth weight rate is defined as the number of babies born weighing less than 2,500 grams (5.5 pounds), as a percentage of total births. The low birth weight rate in the metro area increased slightly in 2004. The rate reached a low of 6.9% in 2001 and has increased to 7.7%. The metro area rate is slightly lower than the national average of 8.1%.

- Though higher than the rate in 2000, the rate of low birth weight babies has not changed significantly over the past five years. If this stabilizing trend continues, Greater Kansas City's low birth weight rate will not reach the 2010 Goal.
- In 2004, Jackson County saw the highest low birth weight rate at 8.8% and Johnson County saw the lowest at 6.3%. The only metro area county to see a decrease in the rate of low birth weight babies was Clay County, whose rate jumped in 2003 to 7.2% and has now decreased to 6.7%, even lower than the 2002 rate of 6.8%.
- The rate of minority women giving birth to low weight babies improved slightly in Kansas (from 12.3% to 11.1%) but is still far from the five year low of 9.8% in 2002.

**Year 2010 Goal: Decrease low birth weight rate to no more than 5% of all live births. Complete Data Appendix on page 82.**



# Rate of Low Birth Weight as a Percent of Total Births by County



## Rate of Low Birth Weight Community Snapshot:

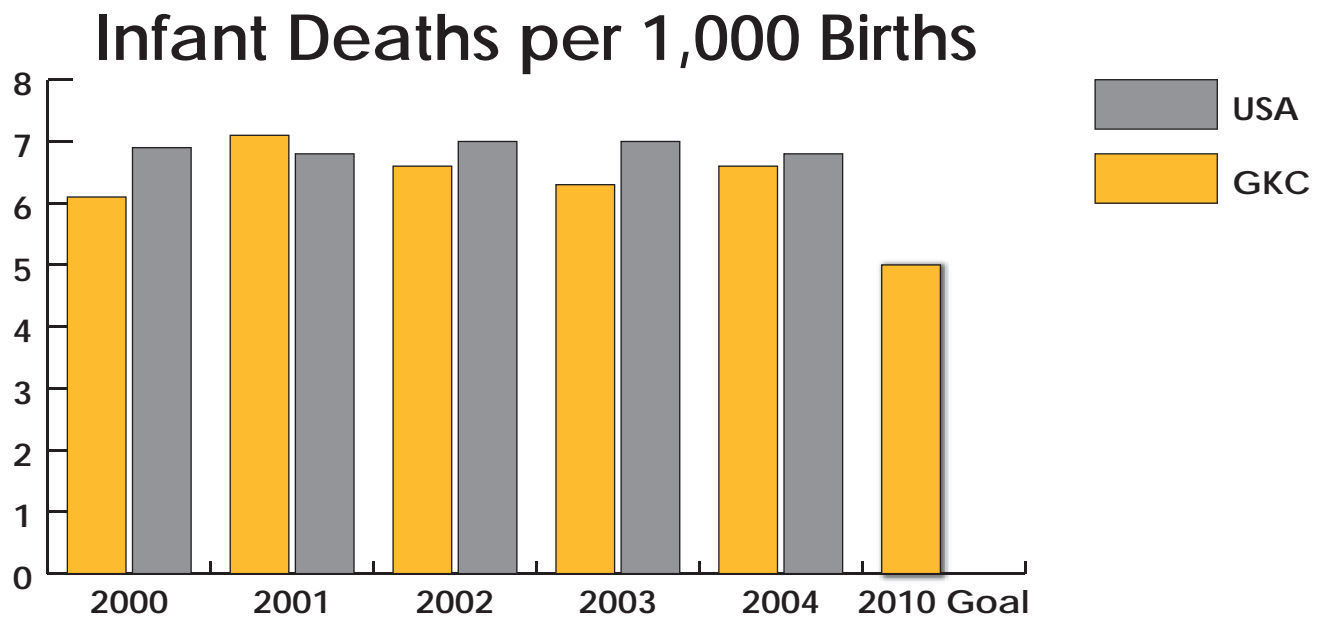
- None of the counties in the metro area have shown an average annual improvement in the rate of low birth weight babies.
- Wyandotte County has the second-highest rate of low birth weight babies at 8.6%, but has also had the second-lowest rate increase in the metro area.
- Jackson County has the highest rate of low birth weight babies at 8.8% and has a worse rate than it showed in 2000.
- Clay County has had the smallest average annual increase in low birth weight babies in the metro area and after a spike in 2003, has returned to the same rate as in 2000.
- Platte County has had the greatest average annual increase in low birth weight babies in the metro area. After starting with a rate better than the 2010 Goal in 2000, it reached a rate more than 2 percentage points higher in 2004.
- Johnson County has the lowest rate of low birth weight babies in the metro area but has also shown an average annual increase comparable to the other counties.

# Infant Mortality

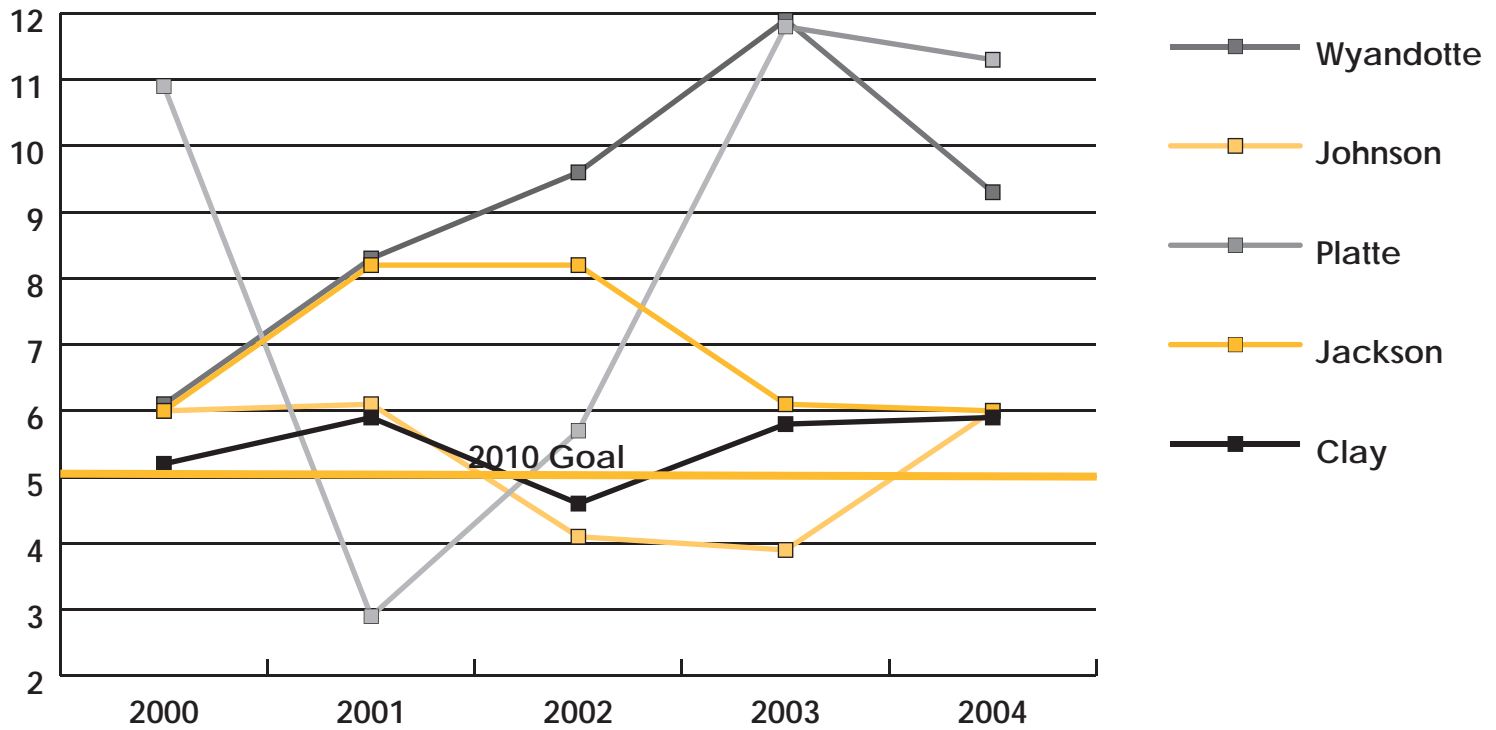
The metro area infant mortality rate (the number of infants per 1,000 births who died in the first year of life) increased in 2004 after three years of improvements. In 2004, the infant mortality rate was 6.6, compared to 6.3 in 2003 and 6.6 in 2002. Greater Kansas City's infant mortality rate is below the national rate of 6.8.

- The infant mortality rate for the metro area has been on a stabilizing trend for the last five years, but the rate in 2004 was worse than the rate in 2000.
- The highest infant mortality rate in the metro area was in Platte County, at 11.3. Preliminary 2005 data, however, shows a sharp decline in infant mortality in Platte County.
- Missouri saw improvement in its infant mortality rate in 2004, while Kansas increased to return to its 2002 rate.

**Year 2010 Goal:** Reduce the death rate for infants to no more than five deaths per 1,000 live births. Complete Data Appendix on page 82.



# Infant Deaths per 100,000 Births by County



## Rate of Infant Mortality Community Snapshot:

- None of the counties in the metro area have shown an average annual improvement in the rate of infant mortality.
- Wyandotte County has the second-highest rate of infant mortality in the metro area, and has the second-worst average annual increase.
- Jackson and Johnson Counties each have a rate of 6 infant deaths per 1,000 births and are at the same rate they had in 2000.
- Clay County has the lowest rate of infant mortality in the metro area, however, in 2004 it had a higher rate than it had in 2000.
- Platte County has had the greatest average annual increase in low birth weight babies in the metro area, and has a higher rate of infant mortality than it had in 2000.

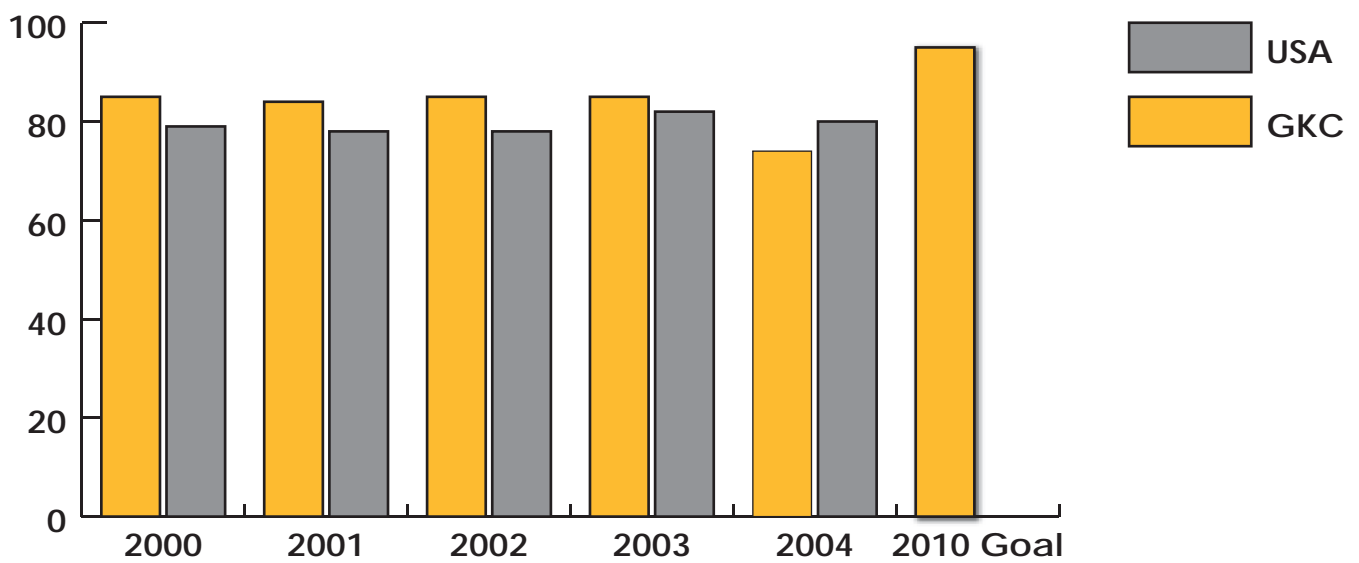
# Immunizations

The percentage of children in the five-county metro area who were fully immunized by age two dropped 5 percentage points to a rate of 80% in 2004, the worst rate since 1999. The metro area's immunization rate was equal to the national average in 2004. It should be noted that beginning in 2002, the county immunization rates in Missouri were self-reported, which could have impacted the immunization rates since for Greater Kansas City.

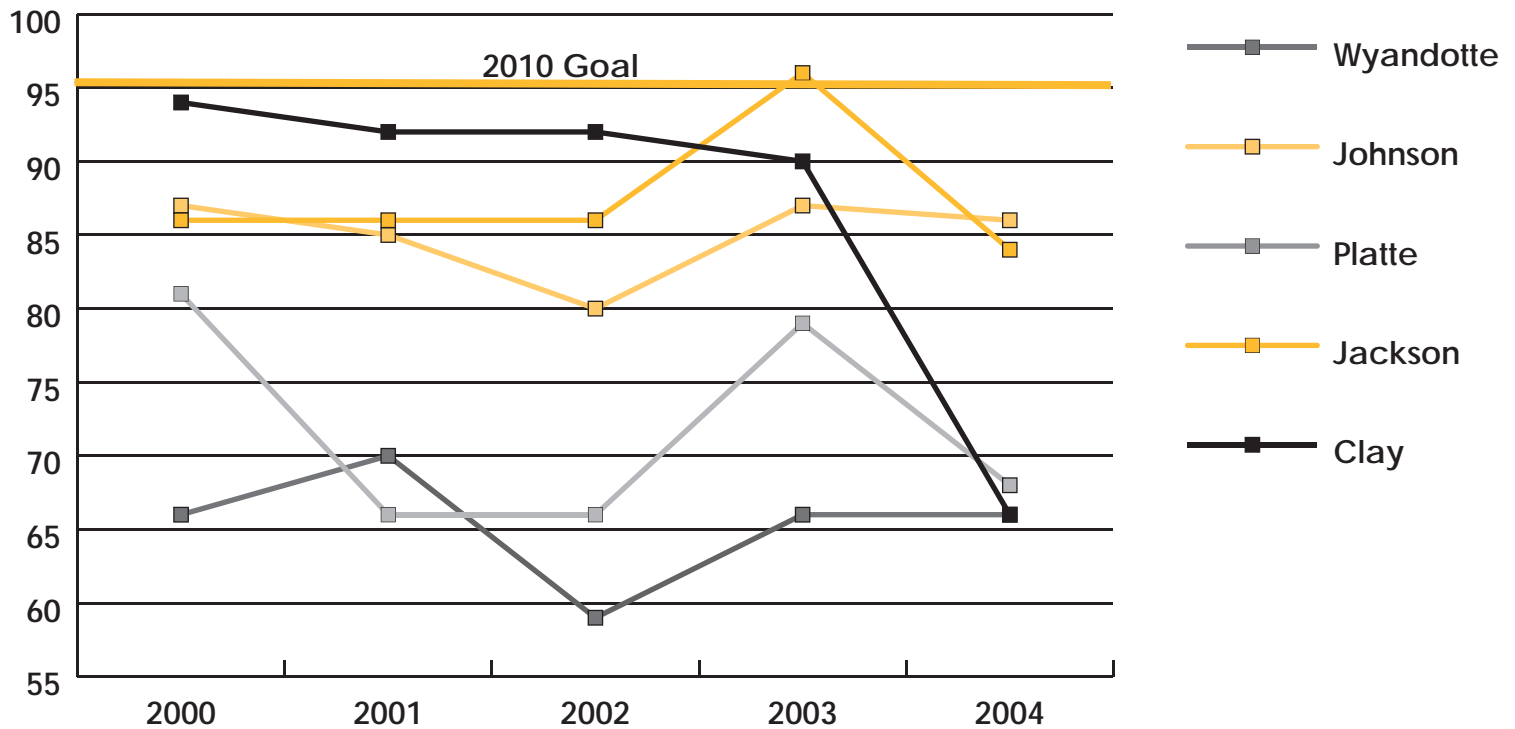
- Over the past several years, the margin by which Greater Kansas City's immunization rate was higher than the national average decreased until they became equal in 2004.
- Every county in the metro area declined in its rate of childhood immunizations except for Wyandotte County which remained at the same rate (66%) as 2003.
- Childhood immunization rates in both Kansas and Missouri increased in 2004. Missouri's rate increased 8 percentage points to 86% and Kansas increased 2 percentage

**Year 2010 Goal: 95% of children will be fully immunized by the age of two. Complete Data Appendix on page 82.**

## Percent of Children Fully Immunized by Age Two



# Percent of Children Fully Immunized by Age Two by County



## Immunization Rate Community Snapshot:

- None of the counties in the metro area have shown an average annual improvement in their childhood immunization rates.
- Wyandotte and Clay Counties have the lowest childhood immunization rates in the metro area. Clay County also has the worst average annual decrease in the metro area, while Wyandotte County's rate is the same as it was in 2000.
- Platte County's childhood immunization rate is only slightly higher than Clay and Wyandotte. Platte County has the second-worst average annual decrease in the metro area.
- Jackson County has the second-highest childhood immunization rate in Greater Kansas City, but showed a decline of 12 percentage points between 2003 and 2004.
- Johnson County had the highest rate of childhood immunizations, but declined one percentage point from 2003.

# Policy Decisions for Health

Below is a list of policies that have been proven to impact the specific Health benchmarks with which they are associated. PFC has compiled this chart to illustrate the decisions that the States of Missouri and Kansas have made with regard to each policy.

## Early Prenatal Care

Cost Assistance    Expecting mother earning limit  
 Assistance for single pregnancy continues even if income increases  
 Assistance limited to legal citizens or legal immigrants

MO	KS
185% FPL	150% FPL
Yes	No
Yes	Yes

## Low Birth Weight

Dietary Assistance    Dietary assistance (food stamps) given to expecting mothers receiving medical assistance  
 Mandatory risk assessment for expecting mothers receiving state assistance

MO	KS
Yes	Yes
Yes	No

## Infant Mortality

Medical cost assistance    Child born to mother receiving state medical assistance is eligible for medical assistance for first year of life if child stays with mother  
 Expecting mother earning limit

MO	KS
Yes	No
185% FPL	150% FPL

## Immunizations

Cost Assistance    Immunizations covered by state child health insurance programs  
 Vaccines available at no cost to under or uninsured children

Required for Grade Entry    Measles, mumps and rubella vaccine required for school entry  
 Measles booster, hepatitis B and polio vaccines required for entry into 3rd-12th Grade

Exemptions    Religious exemption for immunization requirements  
 Students with possible or proven adverse reaction to vaccines exempted

MO	KS
Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes
Yes	Set by Secretary
Yes	No
Yes	Yes
Yes	Yes

Sources: Revised Statutes of Missouri; Kansas State Statutes