

In 1977, Randy's daughter, Rebecca, was born. She remembers being short and a little pudgy at age 10 with big permed hair common in the late 1980s. Like her father, she wore glasses and rolled up her jeans but completed her look with two layers of colored socks. Her home was nestled in a large subdivision with very little space for outdoor recreation. She did however, ride her bike a short distance, perhaps a quarter of a mile, to an apartment complex where many of her friends lived and to a nearby video store. She spent countless hours playing Nintendo, watching the World Wrestling Federation and play wrestling with her brother. Rebecca's parents took her to school and dropped her off at the mall. She ate meals at home from items purchased at a chain grocery store and has fond Friday-night memories of Kentucky Fried Chicken and Sunday-night McDonald's happy meals. With both parents working full-time, Rebecca was afraid of intruders while home alone.

Through the eyes of the Burton family, we have seen very clearly how our city has changed, and how we are truly products of our environment. We have gone from dirt roads to multi-laned paved streets and from neighborhood mom-and-pop stores to larger national chains that require us to use motorized transportation. We have gone from outdoor play to playing computer video games. We have more shopping and dining options than ever before. We have incredible schools, medical facilities and parks. In spite of these resources, the health of our children is at risk, as we are seeing alarming increases in type II diabetes and obesity.

With these factors in mind, where do we go from here? There are no easy answers and no quick fixes. But each of us can make a difference in our own lives and those of our children and grandchildren. We encourage you to find ways to leave the car parked, take advantage of our parks and insist on sidewalks and safe bike paths. By taking an active interest in how our neighborhoods and city are designed we can help our community leaders find workable solutions that will move us one step closer to a healthier community, while allowing for continued growth and prosperity.

COMMUNITY HEALTH DATA

	Greene County 2001	Greene County 2002	Greene County 2003	Greene County 2004	Missouri 2004
Maternal Health (percent of total live births)					
Low Birth Weight	6.1	6.7	7.7	7.4	8.3
First Trimester Prenatal Care	89.4	88.9	89.5	89.3	86.2
Births to Mothers Under Age 18	3.7	4.4	3.1	3.6	3.6
Mothers as Medicaid Participants	46.3	49.6	50.5	52.8	47.6
Mothers Smoking During Pregnancy	18.6	19.2	21.0	20.4	18.1
Children's Health and Wellness					
Infant Deaths (per 1000 live births)	7.2	7.5	7.1	8.3	7.5
Child Abuse and Neglect (rate per 1000 children)	16.7	11.4	10.9	10.1	11.6
Child Fatalities (birth through age 17)	55	53	58	56	984
Immunization Rate (percentage of children, public clinics)	92.3	92.2	87.2	88.6	81.6
Women, Infants, Children Clinic (average monthly client visits)	5,300	5,475	5,519	5,666	132K
JVCHC* (established in 2002)					
Medical Visits	-	-	1,223	1,574	-
Dental Visits	-	-	2,671	5,068	-
Communicable Disease (incidence per 100,000 population)					
Gonorrhea	73.5	96.6	113.0	128.5	164.7
Tuberculosis	4.9	2.9	3.7	3.2	2.3
HIV	3.3	11.5	3.3	2.5	6.5
Deaths (crude rate per 100,000 population)					
Cardiovascular Disease	375.5	350.1	354.4	354.9	349.9
Lung Cancer	77.2	61.2	65.9	65.7	69.9
Breast Cancer	16.0	16.0	19.5	13.3	15.6
Motor Vehicle Crashes	13.6	16.8	20.3	14.1	18.9
Suicide	14.0	14.0	13.4	16.1	12.7

* Jordan Valley Community Health Center



Parking lot across the street from First and Calvary Presbyterian Church. (circa 2006)

2006 Community Health

R E P O R T C A R D

Brought to you by the Springfield-Greene County Health Department in celebration of Public Health Week, April 3-9

A Great Past, An Even Greater Future

Springfield-Greene County residents have many opportunities to get healthy through the gold-medal-winning Parks System's programs and facilities.

With voter approval of a referendum on the August 8 ballot to renew the current 1/8-cent Parks Sales Tax and add a new 1/8-cent for the next five years, the Springfield-Greene County Park Board will have additional opportunities to offer quality recreation throughout our community. Additional revenue would support renovation, preservation, and new park facilities.

The projects funded by the sales tax would include:

- New greenway trails and linear parks
- Renovations at Ewing, Meador, Killian, and Gillenwaters sports complexes
- Public swimming pool improvements
- A new aquatic center at Doling Family Center
- Land acquisition for a new east side park and planning of a future family center
- Building a new Botanical Center at Nathanael Greene/Close Memorial Park
- Improvements at Dickerson Park Zoo
- Ten (10) new school-park facilities
- Lake and waterway improvements at area parks

The Springfield-Greene County Health Department would like to thank the Burton family for sharing their childhood memories thus allowing each of us a view of how life has changed in Springfield.



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"Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the total of all those acts will be written the history of this generation."

-President John F. Kennedy



Children running in the park across the street from First and Calvary Presbyterian Church. (circa 1950)

Above photograph provided by the History Museum for Springfield-Greene County

Designing Healthy Communities, Raising Healthy Kids: A Generational Perspective

How many of us have taken the time to think about how our city's design impacts our lives and our health? This year, the theme of public health week will help us do just that. We will look at our built, man-made, environment through the eyes of three generations of a Springfield family. They will help us discover how life has changed over the last six decades.

In 1947, recent newlyweds, Opal and Marvin Burton, moved to Springfield. They moved into 12 different rental properties, before they loaded all their belongings into the back of their 1939 Ford pickup and moved to the home that would become their permanent residence on North Fort. They remember the street as being a dirt road and nearby Kearney, though paved, was only two lanes. Almost all necessities could be bought on the Square, and there were brick streets downtown with street trolleys still in operation. Although many families were fortunate enough to have their own car, walking was common. Opal and Marvin recall growing and canning tomatoes, beans and other vegetables. What could not be grown, was available at the mom-and-pop grocery stores that were sprinkled throughout the neighborhood. Although Opal prepared most of their meals at home, the family did enjoy an occasional visit to the local A&W. They were afraid of drunk drivers and childhood diseases like smallpox, but never questioned leaving their doors unlocked.

In 1949, Randy Burton was born. He describes himself at age 10 as being short and thin as a rail. He sported a crew cut, wore glasses, rolled up his jeans and completed the look with Keds tennis shoes. He remembers ball games played in the open field across the street and flying gas powered planes until becoming dizzy and falling down. He rode his chrome-fendered, red bike to Doling Park and McDaniel Lake and walked to school. Often he would stop at one of the neighborhood grocery stores on his way home to buy pixie sticks with the money he had earned by collecting pop bottles, mowing yards, and redeeming coupons. He helped in the garden and loved his mom's home-cooked meals. He was afraid of girls but worked through it, and never questioned the dangers of motor vehicle traffic.