

Green County Community Health Assessment

2024



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Message to Our Community

Dear Green County Community,

We are excited to share that we have recently completed the Green County Community Health Assessment (CHA), a vital process that helps us understand the health needs and priorities of our community. This assessment is essential for guiding our health initiatives and ensuring we address the most pressing issues affecting our community. We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to each of you who helped inform this process by completing the community health survey, participating in community conversations, engaging in key informant interviews, and attending planning meetings. Your insights and experiences are invaluable, and they play a crucial role in shaping the health programs and services we provide.

Through this process, we've identified key areas of focus, including mental health and housing. Your voices have helped illuminate these priorities, and we are committed to working collaboratively to enhance the health and well-being of our community. As we move forward, we encourage you to stay engaged. Your continued participation and feedback will be essential as we develop action plans and implement strategies based on the findings of the CHA.

Thank you, once again, for your support and commitment to improving our community's health.

Warm regards,



RoAnn Warden
Health Officer/Director
Green County Public Health



Jane W. Curran-Meuli
President
SSM Health Monroe Hospital

Green County Public Health



Programs

Communicable Disease

- Disease Investigation
- Immunizations
- Rabies Control

Chronic Disease & Injury Prevention

- Car Seat Safety
- Tobacco & Vaping Prevention
- Medication Safety
- Keeping Kids Alive

Environmental Health

- Private Well Water Testing
- Human Health Hazard Control
- Lead Poisoning Prevention
- Small Public Water System Monitoring
- Radon Testing

Maternal, Child & Family Health

- Breastfeeding
- Women, Infants & Children (WIC)
- Prenatal Care Coordination
- Home Visiting

Other

- Education & Presentations
- Emergency Preparedness
- Community Partnership Development

Mission

Green County Public Health is a leader in enhancing and promoting health through education, outreach, and partnership.

Vision

A Green County community that is kind, inclusive, safe, and supports the health of all.

What We Do

Green County Public Health works to promote and protect the health of Green County residents.

In addition to offering programs and services directly to community members, we also promote policies, systems, and environmental changes that will improve health.

We work with organizations such as healthcare, businesses, schools, nonprofits, and other governmental organizations to address and prevent health issues in Green County.

Contact Us

- (608) 328-9390
- info@greencountywi.org
- www.gcpublichealth.org
- N3152 WI-81, Monroe, WI 53566

Find us on Social Media!



Exceptional care, close to home.

SSM Health in Monroe overview



About SSM Health in Monroe

SSM Health Monroe Hospital and SSM Health Monroe Clinic Medical Group are part of a Catholic, not-for-profit health care network with one hospital and a multi-specialty physician practice with over 120 employed providers offering a broad range of health care services to meet the needs of the communities. It serves southern Wisconsin and northern Illinois. SSM Health in Monroe also includes 12 clinic locations, a 24-hour emergency department, a home care and hospice agency, walk-in and urgent care clinics, rural family medicine residency and emergency medicine fellowship programs, and primary and specialty care sites offering preventive, acute, and rehabilitative care.

Wisconsin locations: Albany, Brodhead, Monroe, Monroe Express Clinic, Monroe Hospice Home, New Glarus

Illinois locations: Durand, Freeport Clinic on Kiwanis Dr., Freeport Urgent Care, Freeport Eye Care, Freeport Clinic on Kunkle Blvd., Lena

Exceptional services and program highlights

- Recognized by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services with the “Big Shot” Award for their efforts to vaccinate 90% or more of their patients 2-years-old and under against diseases.
- Expanded robotic surgical services by adding the Da Vinci Xi robot, which is used to treat colorectal cancers, hernias, prostate cancers, gynecology cases, and mitral valve repairs.
- Launched an innovative inpatient dialysis program in 2023, streamlining processes and keeping patients close to home for dialysis care while in the hospital.



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Fast facts

Location: 515 22nd Avenue,
Monroe, WI 53566

Contact: 608-324-2000

Key statistics:*

Licensed beds: **58**

Licensed providers: **120+**

Employees: **1,000+**

Emergency department, urgent
care & express clinic visits: **38,131**

Surgical cases: **3,842**

Inpatient admissions: **2,759**

Average daily census: **28**

Births: **461**

Clinic appointments: **316,709**

* Data from January 1, 2023 – December 31, 2023

Awards:

- Chartis Center for Rural Health
Top 100 Rural & Community
Hospital (2019-2023)
- Chartis Center for Rural Health
Top 20 Rural & Community
Hospitals (2021 and 2023)
- Healthgrades Outstanding
Patient Experience Award
(2019-2023)
- Healthgrades Patient Safety
Excellence Award (2023)
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
Services 5-Star Patient
Experience Rating (8 times)



Executive Summary

What is a Community Health Assessment?

The purpose of a Community Health Assessment (CHA) is to identify priority health issues in a community. Using a community engaged process rooted in health equity, a CHA is followed by the development of a Community Health Improvement Plan, which details specific actions to address the priority health issues.



What’s included in this report?

This report highlights key findings from the 2024 Green County Community Health Assessment, which involved gathering information from a variety of sources, including a Community Health Survey, Community Conversations, Key Informant Interviews, and a comprehensive review of existing data.

Community Health Survey	Community Conversations & Key Informant Interviews	Review of Existing Data
<p>Over 1,300 people completed a survey (available online and in person; in English and Spanish) asking Green County residents about the best parts of living in Green County, perspectives on the drivers of health, the most important health issues facing the community, and the most important community needs that have to be addressed to improve health.</p>	<p>We held a total of four (4) community conversations with members of our community who are from historically under-represented groups in order to better understand their perspectives.</p> <p>We also conducted 13 key informant interviews to gain a comprehensive understanding of the health needs and priorities of the Green County community.</p>	<p>A comprehensive review of secondary data was conducted, using measures from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services CHA-CHIP Indicator list. Data sources included the U.S. Census American Community Survey, Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, County Health Rankings, Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.</p>

Who was involved?

The 2024 Green County Community Health Assessment was led by Green County Public Health in partnership with SSM Health Monroe Hospital. Members of the Green County Healthy Community Coalition were instrumental in the process.

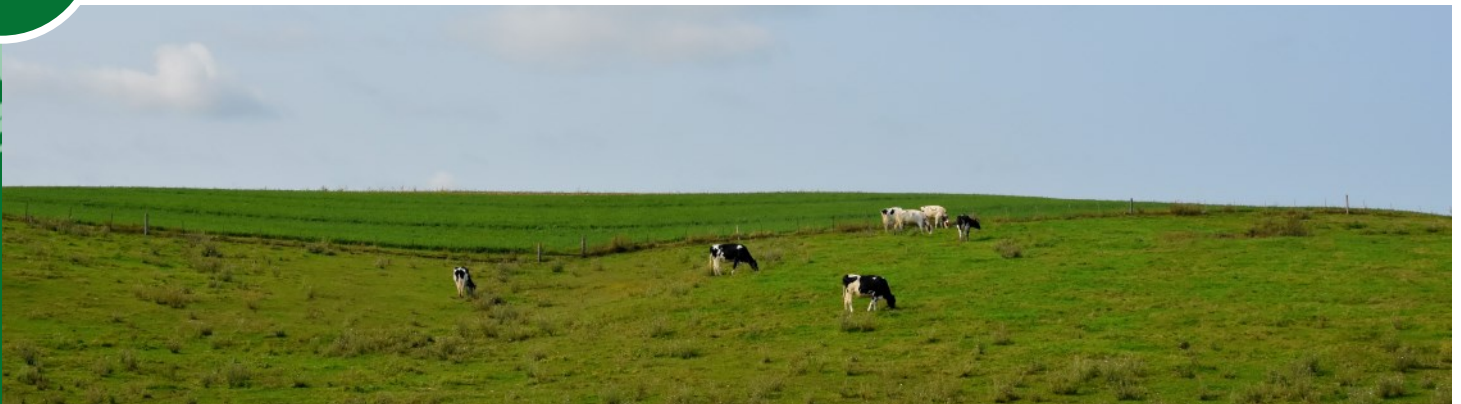
What are the most important health issues?

Members of the Green County community were asked: *What do you think are the **five** most important health issues/conditions impacting people in your community?* By far, **mental health** conditions were identified as the top health condition impacting people in Green County—over half of respondents selected this issue. **Drug use and abuse** and **excessive alcohol use** were the next top concerns, followed by **chronic diseases**, and **adverse childhood experiences**.





About Our Community



Demographics

Green County has a population of 37,066 that skews slightly older (median age of 43) than the state as a whole. It's a less racially diverse county than the state, with 93% of the population identifying as White Non-Hispanic.

Households are growing in Green County—more women gave birth during the past year than Wisconsin as a whole. And, there is very little vacant housing—only 4% of housing units are not occupied. Most housing stock is single unit (80%) and owner-occupied.

A quarter of the county has a bachelor's degree or higher (compared to 32% in Wisconsin).

Per capita income of \$40,954 is about the same as the amount in Wisconsin, and the median household income of \$76,080 is a little higher than the amount in Wisconsin. A lower proportion of people in Green County are living below the poverty line—6.6% compared to Wisconsin's 10.7%.

Overall health outcomes

In terms of overall health, Green County is “faring about the same as the average county in Wisconsin for Health outcomes and better than the average country in the nation,” according to County Health Rankings. Life expectancy in Green County is 79.6 years.

Across all age groups, heart disease, cancer, and other causes are the top causes of death. Among younger age groups, unintentional injuries and suicide are leading causes of death.





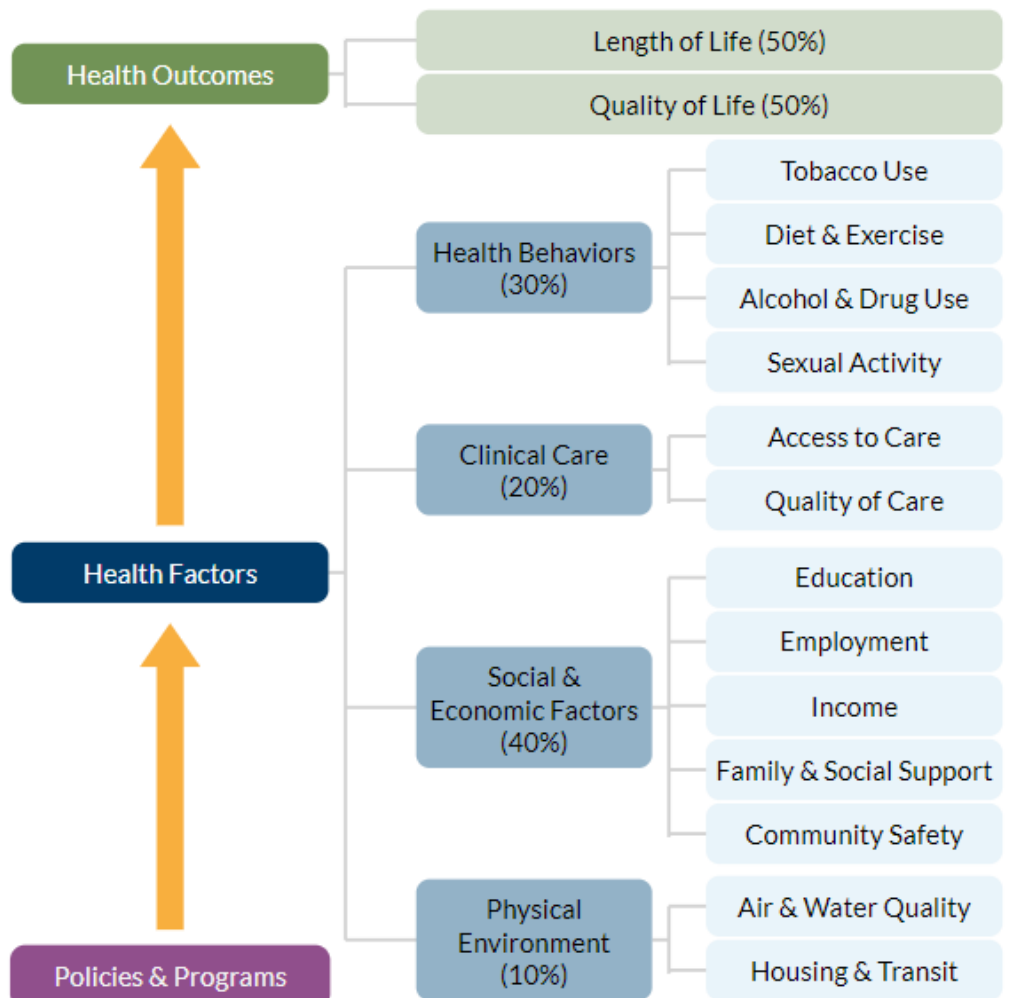
What Makes A Community Healthy

Health is more than health care

Health is often thought of as the absence of disease. A more zoomed-out lens shows how factors like economic stability, education access and quality, healthcare access and quality, neighborhood features, and social and community connectedness all play a role in impacting health. How the neighborhood “got to be how it is” further shifts the focus upstream.

As [County Health Rankings](#) puts it, “Many factors contribute to health and the conditions that shape thriving, healthy communities. Societal and political structures, systems and policies all influence and, in many cases, create environments that determine how long and how well people live. While safe housing, good-paying jobs and well-resourced schools are among the factors that make up the health of a community, it is how these conditions are created and maintained that determines the opportunity for everyone to thrive. As such, supporting healthy communities goes beyond decisions about housing, employment, or education; it requires collective input and the power to shift mindsets and resources.”

It’s with this perspective—to achieve health in a community, we can structure things in a way so that everyone benefits—that we approach the Community Health Assessment. One way to assess where we are today is to assess health disparities, and then work to understand the root causes of those differences.



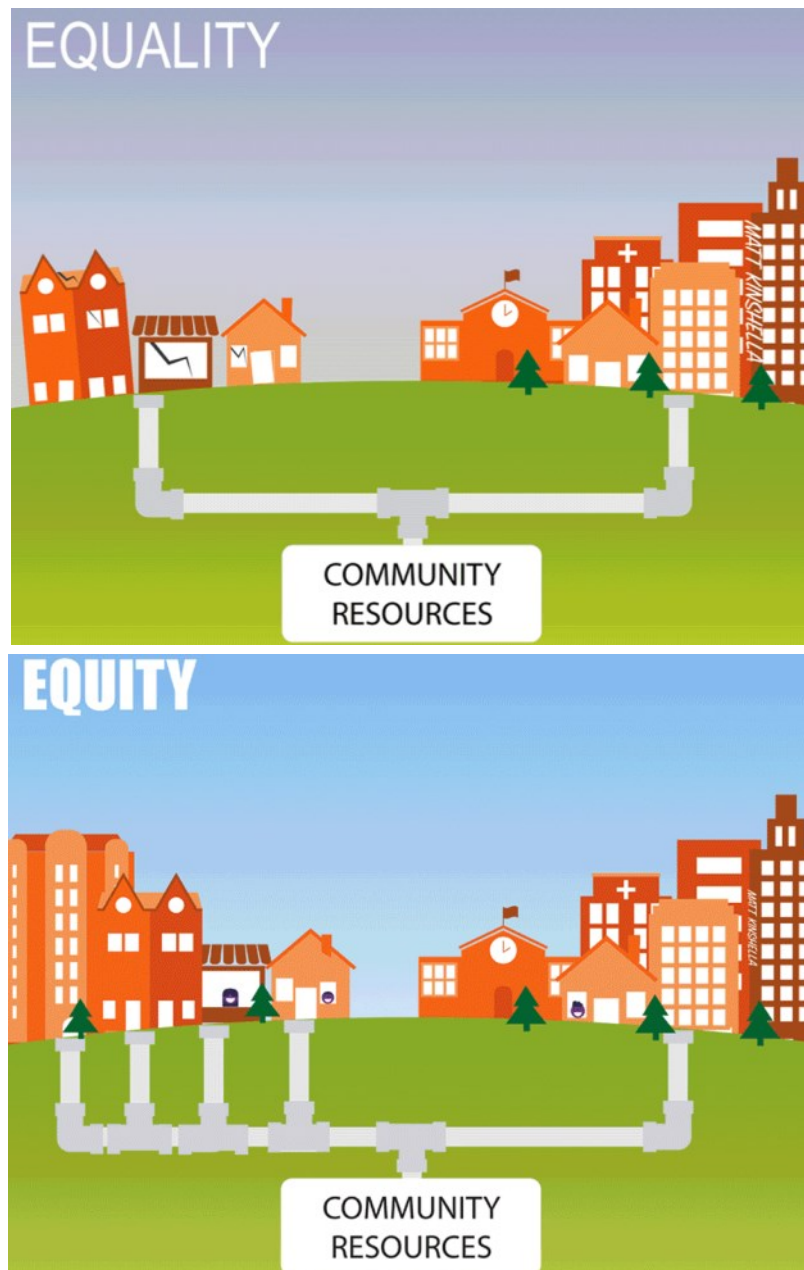
County Health Rankings model © 2014 UWPHI

Source: [County Health Rankings and Roadmaps](#)

Social factors have large impacts on health

Factors that may affect community health are often largely beyond individual behavior. Systemic factors such as transportation, jobs, and access to healthy foods and green spaces tend to drive community health. When there is a significant difference in health between two or more groups, this is called a health disparity. This visual below shows how when it comes to expanding opportunities for health, different communities need different kinds of resources to thrive.

Not every community has the same kind of health issues or experiences the issue to the same degree, so each community should be approached in a way appropriate to their unique situation. This is the concept at the heart of health equity, which is all about meeting communities where they are, addressing specific needs of each community, and not using a one-size-fits-all approach for every community.



Source: [Matt Kinshella](#)

Community Health Assessment Overview

What is a Community Health Assessment?

The purpose of a Community Health Assessment is to identify priority health issues in a community. Using a community engaged process rooted in health equity, a CHA is followed by the development of a Community Health Improvement Plan, which details specific actions to address the priority health issues.

The 2024 Green County Community Health Assessment featured information from a variety of sources. Resident perspectives were gathered via a survey, key informant interviews, and community conversations. Alongside these critical inputs, a review of secondary data was conducted.

Community Health Survey

In April 2024, we developed a survey as a part of the community health assessment process. The survey aimed to:

- Center community perspectives related to social determinants of health (economic security, education, housing, food and nutrition, social connectedness, environment and healthcare)
- Identify community strengths
- Identify the most important health issues facing the community
- Identify community needs to improve health
- Allow for stratification by demographic groups: Spanish-speaking, age 65+, child in home, people of color, LGBTQ+, people with a disability, financially strained

Questions were sourced and modified from other CHAs throughout Wisconsin. The survey was available in English and Spanish via Survey Monkey, as well as on paper. Responses were collected from the end of April to the beginning of July 2024.

The survey asked Green County residents about the best parts of living in Green County, perspectives on the drivers of health, the most important health issues facing the community, and the most important community needs that have to be addressed to improve health. You can download and view the **Survey Questions** (Appendix A), **Survey Results Summary Report** (Appendix B), and **Survey Results Summary Slides** (Appendix C) online at www.greencohcc.org.



Who took the survey?

A total of 1,427 respondents began the survey, with 1,302 completing enough of the survey to be included for analysis. With a total county population of 37,093, the sample size is more than sufficient. In fact, the respondents comprise 3.5% of the entire county’s residents.

The respondent demographics align with population-level demographics, with a few exceptions: Spanish-speaking households, people of color, and people with disabilities responded at higher levels than the population, while people who were 65 and older responded at lower levels than the population.

Demographics Table

Total respondents: 1302*

Demographics	Percent	Number
Age		
18-24	12%	142
25-34	27%	315
35-44	24%	271
45-54	16%	186
55-64	12%	142
65 and older	8%	94
Spanish speaking		
No	96%	1377
Yes	4%	50
Race/ethnicity**		
White	59%	774
Hispanic	9%	118
Black/African American	7%	96
American Indian/Alaska Native	7%	96
East Asian (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, etc.)	6%	77
Middle Eastern/North African	4%	60
Multi-racial	3%	45
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	3%	42
Southeast Asian (Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese)	2%	27

*Not all respondents answered every demographic question

**Respondents could pick more than one race/ethnicity

Demographics Table (continued)

Demographics	%	Number
Children under 18 in household		
Yes	57%	654
No	43%	499
Gender		
Woman	61%	697
Man	36%	415
Prefer not to say	2%	25
Non-binary	1%	13
Unsure	0%	2
LGBTQ+		
No	83%	944
Yes	17%	194
Disability		
No	74%	842
Yes	26%	303
Financially secure		
Yes	73%	841
No	27%	305





Community Assets

Community Health Assessment survey results uncovered several key community assets.

Respondents love Green County's access to community parks, trails, and green space—they identified this as the best part of the county.



Quotes from the Community

"There seems to be pride in the ag community here."

"Farm Land and Farm Community."

"Local farms, rolling hills, undeveloped."

The next best element of Green County was identified as proximity to family and friends, followed by size of the community, safety of the community, and rural lifestyle.



Quotes from the Community

"Distance to larger cities is attractive."

"Appreciate the small town vibe in Monroe. Also has some really nice parks."

"Community-minded library offering diverse opportunities."

For the most part, different demographic groups had similar top community assets. For Spanish-speaking residents, the best part about Green County was that it's a good place to raise kids—this was also in the top five for people of color and people with a child under 18 living at home. People of color also included "community events" in their top five. Spanish-speaking residents also highlighted good schools and "welcoming community" as top five community assets.



Drivers of Health

Survey respondents identified strengths and weaknesses of Green County's social and economic context.

Given the many factors that contribute to the health of a community, respondents were asked about the following drivers of health: economic security, education, housing, food and nutrition, social connectedness, environment, and healthcare.

Around half of respondents agreed that the economic security of Green County was strong—employment opportunities exist, as well as support for people and businesses. However, a third disagreed that job training or employment resources are available for those who need them and 32% disagreed that there are plenty of jobs available for those who are under 18 years old.

Over half of respondents agreed that their community provides quality K-12 education, while 57% agreed that preschools and early childhood education programs are accessible, and 57% agreed that the community promotes racial equity in educational settings. Just over half agreed that the schools are well funded. When it comes to childcare, affordability was identified as an issue, with only 36% agreeing that childcare was affordable.

Respondents identified housing as the social determinant of health most lacking in the community: 35% disagreed that there are affordable places; 41% disagreed that there are enough housing options that cater to the needs of different demographics; and 40% disagreed that there are enough resources available for people facing housing insecurity or homelessness.

Respondents mostly agreed that healthy food options are available and accessible; however, a third didn't think local restaurants offer healthy food options.



NEIGHBORHOOD AND BUILT ENVIRONMENT



SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CONTEXT



HEALTH CARE AND QUALITY



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



EDUCATION ACCESS AND QUALITY



ECONOMIC STABILITY

Respondents identified social connectedness as a great strength of Green County. People care, value, and respect each other. People feel safe in their neighborhood. An area for growth could be in the community promoting a sense of empathy and compassion toward those facing challenges or adversity—only 44% agree this is happening.

Respondents rated Green County’s environment highly—especially the parks and recreational facilities. They thought air and water quality are good and it’s easy for people to get around regardless of ability. An area for improvement could be strengthening sidewalks or trails to make walking and biking more safe.

In general, respondents thought the community had quality and affordable healthcare services. They were concerned about access—38% disagreed that people can access healthcare services regardless of race, sexual orientation, or immigration status.



Most important health issue

By far, mental health conditions were identified as the top health condition impacting people in Green County—it’s the only option selected by over half of respondents. Drug use and abuse and excessive alcohol use were the next top concerns, followed by chronic diseases, and adverse childhood experiences.

When stratified by group, nearly all groups identified mental health conditions as the top concern, with the exception of Spanish-speaking residents (most concerned with chronic diseases); and people of color, people with disabilities, and people experiencing financial stress (drug use and abuse was their top concern).

Most important community needs

The highest number of respondents identified access to affordable housing as the top community need, followed by access to mental health services, affordable healthcare, and affordable daycare. Good paying jobs and strong economy was the fifth most common response.

All groups indicated housing as the top issue, with the exception of LGBTQ+ respondents who identified access to social services/safety net for people who are struggling as the most important community need.



Community Conversations

We held four community conversations with members of our community who are from historically underrepresented groups in order to better understand their perspectives. Conversations were held with high school youth, rural farmers, members of the Spanish-speaking Latino community, and individuals in recovery. During the conversations, members of the community were asked to discuss the following questions:

- **What does a healthy Green County community look like?**
- **In order to create a healthy Green County community, what needs to change?**
- **What changes would you expect to see in the next year to show we are heading in the right direction?**

The following themes emerged from the conversations.

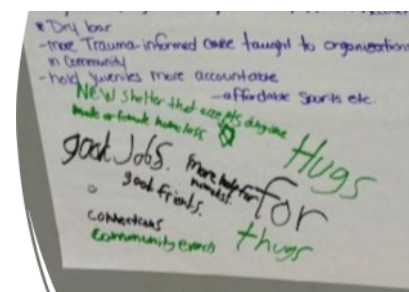


Spanish-speaking Latino community

- Access to Spanish-language healthcare services
- Financial and legal support
- Community engagement and representation

Individuals in recovery

- Increase funding for mental health and recovery programs (transportation, long-term, transitional housing)
- Reduce stigma
- More sober community activities



Rural farmers

- Mental health
- Access to affordable healthcare (especially for self-employed)
- Increased access to healthy foods

High school youth

- Local resources for mental health
- Cyberbullying
- Lack of activities for youth





Key Informant Interviews

A total of 13 interviews were conducted virtually with key informants in the community. These individuals were identified as experts whose input would contribute greatly to a comprehensive understanding of the health needs and priorities of the Green County community. Below is a list of the questions that were asked and key themes that emerged from the conversations. You can download and view additional descriptions of the themes in the **Key Informant Interviews Summary** (Appendix D) online at www.greencohcc.org.

Question Topic 1: Community Health Perceptions

What do you think makes Green County healthy?

Key themes:

- Strong sense of community
- Healthy lifestyle and environment
- Work-life balance and commute
- Effective community collaborations and resources
- High-quality health services
- Supportive educational environment

Question Topic 2: Current Health Needs/ Challenges, and Disparities

What do you see as the biggest health needs or challenges facing this community right now?

Key themes:

- Housing and affordability issues
- Mental and behavioral health
- Access to care
- Substance abuse and mental health
- Aging and elder care
- Childcare and workforce participation
- Limited public health and community resources
- Economic and social challenges

Are there specific groups within this community that you think experience these health needs or challenges more than others? If so, which groups and why?

Key themes:

- Latinx and Spanish-speaking community
- Youth and young adults
- Elderly community
- Low-income individuals, families, and those in poverty
- Individuals with mental health and substance use
- Children and families
- Veterans, farmers, and specific occupational groups
- Individuals facing domestic abuse



Key Informant Interviews (continued)

Question Topic 3: Community Strengths

What do you believe are the greatest strengths or assets that this community possesses in terms of promoting health and preventing disease?

Key themes:

- Strong community involvement and connectedness
- Strong healthcare and educational systems
- Collaboration and partnership
- Vibrant community life and resources

Question Topic 4: Potential Solutions

What potential solutions do you see for addressing the health challenges discussed during this interview?

Key themes:

- Improved healthcare access and mental health
- Improved housing and community infrastructure
- Enhanced community engagement and coordination
- Support for specific populations
- Nutrition and food accessibility
- Government programs and services awareness
- Workforce development and recognition

Question Topic 5: Other Insights

Is there anything else you'd like to share? Anything else that should be considered?

Key themes:

- Housing and community engagement
- Gun violence and safety
- Built environment and infrastructure
- Community collaboration and engagement
- Systemic challenges and the need for change



Key Informant Quote

“Green County is the type of place I would have liked to raise my family in.”



Review of Existing Data

We pulled from a variety of data sources to inform the Community Health Assessment

While primary data collection—that is, a survey, interviews, and community conversations—served a central role in painting the Community Health Assessment data picture, secondary data from other sources provided important additional context. Using measures from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services [CHA-CHIP Indicator list](#), data were gathered for 95 variables spanning a variety of demographics, health behaviors, health outcomes, and community conditions. Metrics were compared between Green County and Wisconsin to understand whether there was a topic where Green County was consistently worse off than the state. The purpose of this was to assure we were not missing a major health area needing attention that was not elevated in the community-sourced primary data. Across these key measures, Green County was most often better or no different than the state. The areas where Green County was worse than the state largely aligned with areas identified by community members as concerns—alcohol and mental health. You can download and view all the secondary data that was collected in the **Green County Data Indicators List** (Appendix E) online at www.greencohcc.org.

Key secondary data sources

U.S. Census American Community Survey	The U.S. Census Bureau’s survey that provides data on demographic, social, economic, and housing characteristics
Youth Risk Behavioral Survey	A school-based survey that collects information about the health behaviors and experiences of high school students
County Health Rankings	A data warehouse on health outcomes and factors that influence health, including health behaviors, clinical care, social & economic factors, and physical environment
Behavioral Risk Factor Survey	A survey that collects information about health-related risk behaviors, chronic health conditions, and use of preventative health services.
Wisconsin Department of Health Services	A variety of datasets, including Environmental Health, immunizations, birth outcomes, communicable diseases, injuries, hospitalizations, opioid treatment



Prioritizing Key Issues

An important step in the community health improvement planning process is identifying priorities. While there are many important issues to address in the community, we need to focus on prioritizing for the greatest impact. In September of 2024, members of the Green County Healthy Community Coalition met to review the results of the community health assessment and engage in a process to identify priorities. You can download and view the **Data Presentation and Priority Selection Meeting Slides** (Appendix F) online at www.greencohcc.org. The following priority selection criteria were taken into consideration:

- Size of the problem
- Urgency of the problem
- Severity of the problem
- Impact on others
- Are certain groups impacted more than others
- Is there a suitable intervention/way to make an impact on the problem?
- Does it make economic sense to address this problem?
- Does the community think it's a problem and want change?
- Are there any legal/policy barriers to addressing the problem?



*If everything is a priority...
nothing is a priority.*

After reviewing the results of the community health assessment, each person was asked to identify what they felt were the top 3 priority issues. Next, they paired with another person and discussed the issues, reviewed the criteria, and came to consensus on what they both felt were the top 3 priority issues. This process of pairing and sharing repeated until, ultimately, the entire group came together and identified the top priority issues: **mental health** and **housing**.





Mental Health



58% of Green County survey respondents listed mental health conditions as a top health issue.

Out of 1,165 survey respondents, mental health conditions were identified as the top health condition impacting people in Green County—it's the only option selected by over half of respondents. Drug use and abuse and (48%) and excessive alcohol use (42%) were the next top concerns.

People in Green County feel socially connected.

Survey respondents identified social connectedness as a great strength of Green County, which can be a protective factor for mental health. People care, value, and respect each other. People feel safe in their neighborhood. An area for growth could be in the community promoting a sense of empathy and compassion toward those facing challenges or adversity—only 44% agree this is happening.

79% of respondents agreed that people in their neighborhood **care about each other**

73% of respondents agreed that their community **values and respects the contributions of all its members**, regardless of background or identity

71% of respondents agreed that their community **works to address social isolation and loneliness** among its residents



Quotes from the Community

“Knowing our neighbors and having more empathy to lift up those that live in Green County. We all need to work together to make sure we have a good community to live in.”



Access to Mental Health Services

Many adults in Green County experience mental health conditions.

On the whole, adults in Green County have similar numbers of people experiencing poor mental health as Wisconsin. However, poor mental health is still very common. Behind each number are people who deserve support and treatment.

Roughly **1 in 6 Green County adults (17.6%)** say that their **mental health was not good** for 14 days or more in the past month.



95% Confidence Interval: 15.9-19.3%
Source: [CDC PLACES](#), 2022.

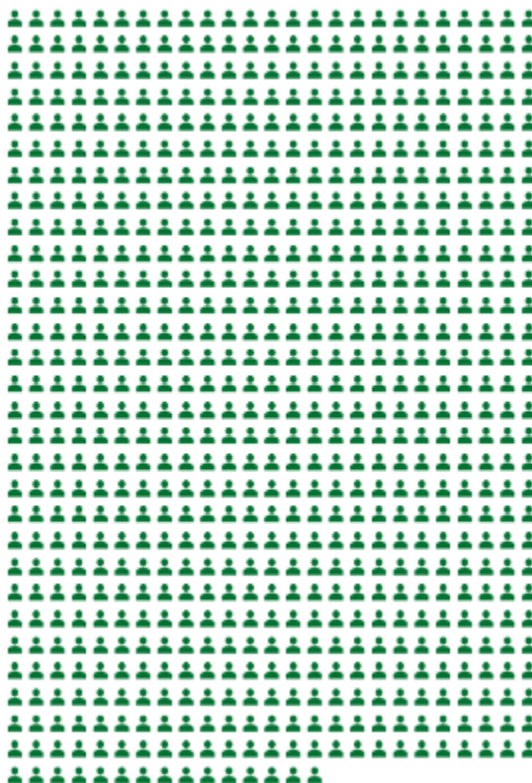
A lack of providers makes accessing mental health care challenging.

Green County has notably fewer mental health providers compared to Wisconsin as a whole. In Wisconsin, there is one mental health care provider for every 420 people. In Green County, there are 43% fewer providers (one provider for every 740 people.)

For every 740 people in Green County, there is only one mental health care provider.



[County Health Rankings and Roadmaps](#), 2022.



Quotes from the Community

“There shouldn't be a 6 month+ wait to receive mental health services in our community.”

“Access to mental health services-there are good ones out there, there just is such a waiting line for them.”



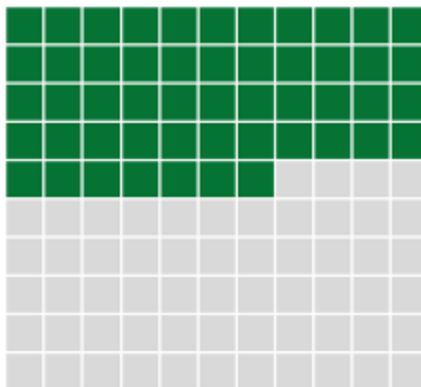
Youth Mental Health

Green County youth also experience mental health conditions, including anxiety and suicidal ideation.

The Wisconsin [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) (YRBS) samples students about a wide variety of topics, including mental health. Anxiety was commonly reported among high school students in Green County, and a smaller but important number of students reported considering or attempting suicide.

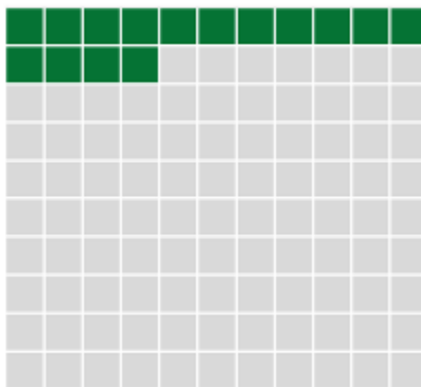
Green County fares better overall on all of the below metrics than Wisconsin, but there are still many opportunities to improve outcomes for youth mental health. Behind each number are children who deserve support and treatment.

46% of high school students report experiencing significant problems with **anxiety** in the last year.



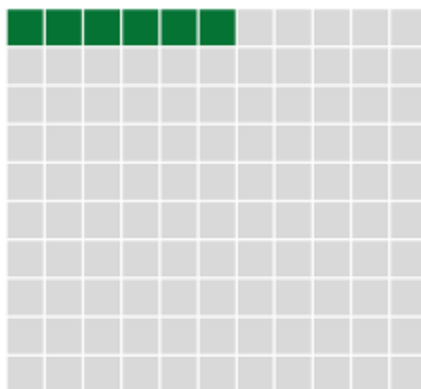
95% Confidence Interval: 45-50%.
Source: [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#), 2023.

14% of high school students report **seriously considering suicide** in the last year.



95% Confidence Interval: 13-16%.
Source: [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#), 2023.

5% of high school students report **having attempted suicide** in the last year.



95% Confidence Interval: 3-6%.
Source: [Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#), 2023.



Substance Use

Alcohol use impacts adults and youth in Green County.

Alcohol use can have ripple effects on a person’s physical health and mental health. It can also be deadly for both the person who uses alcohol and people who might be impacted (i.e. drunk driving.) Both adults and youth report high levels of alcohol use in Green County.

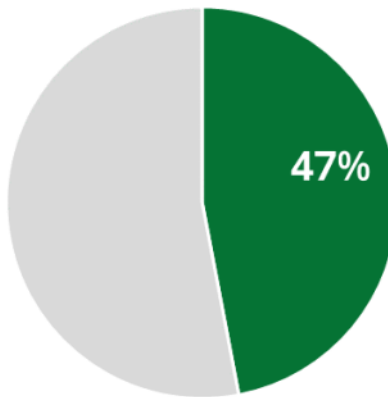
1 in 3 students

had their first alcoholic drink before age 13.

That’s **twice as many students** as Wisconsin overall.

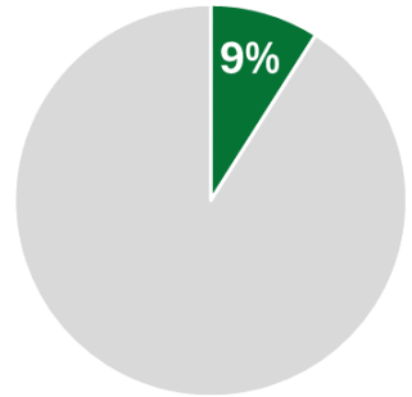
33% of Green County students try alcohol before age 13.
95% Confidence Interval: 29-37%.
Source: [Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2023.](#)

47% of high school students report **ever drinking alcohol.**



95% Confidence Interval: 44-50%.
Source: [Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2023.](#)

9% of high school students report **binge drinking in the past month.**



95% Confidence Interval: 7-11%.
Source: [Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 2023.](#)

1 in 4 Green County adults (24.9%) report **binge drinking** in the past 30 days.



95% Confidence Interval: 20.8-29.2%.
Source: [Wisconsin DHS Alcohol Use Dashboard, 2022.](#)

1 in 9 motor vehicle accidents (11.1%) were flagged as impaired driving.

Only 6.9% of crashes in Wisconsin are from impaired driving.



Source: [Wisconsin DOT Crash Comparison Dashboard, 2022.](#)



Housing



54% of Green County survey respondents listed access to affordable housing as a top community need.

Out of 1,166 survey respondents, access to affordable housing was identified as the top most important community need in Green County. It was closely followed by access to mental health services (49%). Access to affordable healthcare (43%) and access to affordable childcare (42%) followed. All are related to the rising cost of necessary expenses that people need to thrive in Green County.

Less than half of Green County survey respondents thought that there was enough **housing options for different demographics**, or enough support for **people facing housing insecurity**.

There are affordable places to live in our community



There are enough housing options that cater to the needs of different demographics (for example, families, seniors, people with disabilities)



There are enough resources and support services available for people facing housing insecurity or homelessness in our community





Housing

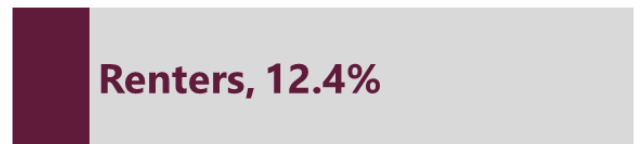
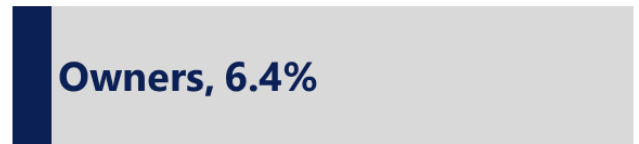
Renters are generally more burdened with housing costs than homeowners.

If someone is experiencing housing cost burden, it means their housing costs is 30% or more of their monthly household income. Extreme housing cost burden is when housing costs are 50% or more of someone’s monthly household income. In general, renters experience higher levels of housing burden in Green County. Homeownership also helps families accumulate wealth, unlike renting.

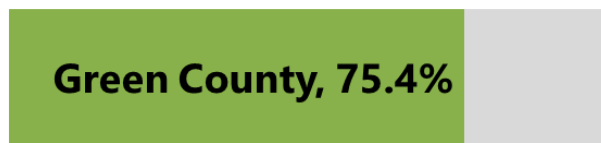
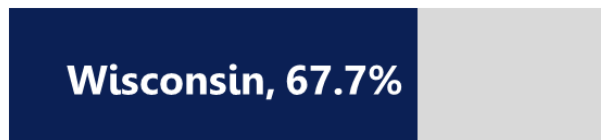
Renters are roughly twice as likely to experience **housing cost burden** than owners.



Renters are more likely to experience **extreme housing cost burden** than owners.



Green County has a higher proportion of **homeowners** than Wisconsin overall.



94.7% of housing units in Green County are **occupied**, versus only 89% of Wisconsin overall.



Quotes from the Community

“Need to address cost of housing, people can't afford to buy a house, and rent is so expensive, and it makes it difficult for young families to make ends meet.”

All Data: [U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates, 2022](#). Data tables: B23091, B23070, B25003, B25001, B25003A to B25003I



Housing

People in Green County experience housing concerns beyond housing cost burden.

Housing quality can also influence health. [Lead](#) can damage people’s brains and bodies. It especially affects children, and children are [most commonly exposed](#) from lead-based paint found in buildings built before 1978.

Houses can also have physical problems, such as overcrowding, lacking complete plumbing or kitchen facilities, etc. One in five housing units in Green County have either a financial or physical housing problem. Financial problems are defined as costs greater than 30% of household income.

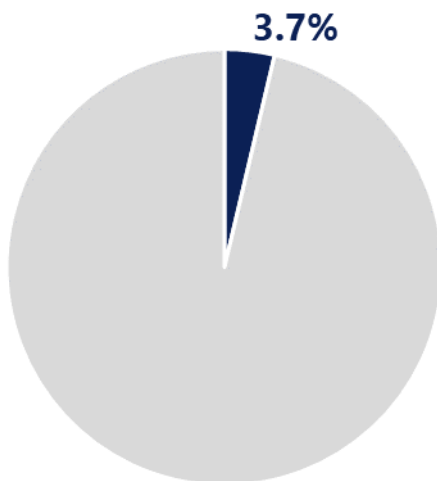
1 in 5 housing units in Green County have a financial or physical housing problem.



[U.S. Census American Community Survey 5-year estimates](#), 2022. Data table B25123

3.7% of children under age 6 who were tested for lead had a blood lead level of **5µg/dL or greater**.

3.5µg/dL is considered elevated and requires action.



[Wisconsin Department of Health Services](#), 2018-2021.



Quotes from the Community

“Better housing options for all, not just affordable housing - we need housing for young professionals to encourage positive growth in our community.”

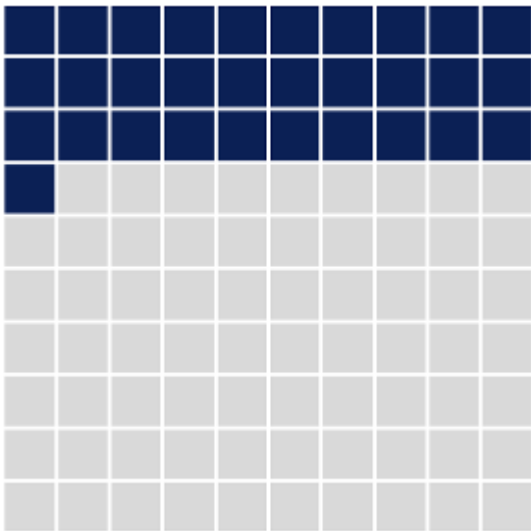


Housing

Other costs contribute to the overall burden of household expenses.

Major expenses like food and childcare can contribute to stress, as well as leave less money for healthcare and health behaviors that promote wellbeing. Green County households on average spend 31% of their household income on childcare (for households with two children.) Nearly 1 in 7 children in Green County is food insecure, meaning they don't have enough to eat and don't know where their next meal may come from.

Green County households spend an estimated **31% of monthly income on childcare costs** (for two children).



\$47.30

Hourly wage needed to cover basic household expenses for one adult and two children in Green County

[County Health Rankings](#), 2023.

[County Health Rankings](#), 2024.

Roughly 1 in 7 (13.7%) of children in Green County are **food insecure**.



[Feeding America](#), 2022.



Next Steps

Now that the issues have been prioritized, we need to work together to develop, implement, and evaluate a plan to improve the health of the Green County Community. This work will be done by Work Group members that will form for each of the priority issues identified. Work groups will be co-led by a member of the community and a representative from Green County Public Health. Green County Public Health staff will provide oversight and support throughout the process.



Get Involved

The Green County Community Health Improvement Plan is the **COMMUNITY'S** plan!

Driven *by* the community
Developed *for* the community
Implemented *with* the community

If you would like to **Join the Email List** to stay up-to-date throughout the planning process or **Join a Work Group**, please email info@greencountywi.org.





Acknowledgements

The 2024 Green County Community Health Assessment and the development of this report was led by the **Green County Healthy Community Coalition**. However, this important work would not have been possible without the contributions of many members of the community. The Green County Healthy Community Coalition would like to express their gratitude for the contributions made by those who participated in the process, including:

Members of the Green County Healthy Community Coalition

- Green County Public Health
- SSM Health Monroe Hospital
- Green County Human Services
- UW Extension Green County
- Better Brodhead
- Reach Green Early Head Start
- Green County Family YMCA
- New Glarus School District
- Kuhn North America
- United Way of Green County
- Green County Child Advocacy Center
- Aging and Disability Resource Center of Green County
- Colony Brands
- Green County Development Corporation
- Avenues Counseling, LLC
- UW Extension Green County
- Vitality Youth Services
- Southwest Wisconsin Community Action Program
- Growing Tree
- Corrine's Little Explorer
- Green County Sheriff's Office
- Monroe Police Department
- Brodhead Police Dept
- Fowler Dental Clinic
- Monroe School District
- Bank of New Glarus
- Green County Board of Health
- Green County Literacy Council
- Sexual Assault Recovery Program
- National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Green County
- Zwingli UCC
- Blackhawk Technical College
- 4-C
- Family Promise
- UW Health Belleville
- Miramont Behavioral Health



Acknowledgements (continued)

Green County Healthy Community Coalition Steering Committee Members

Alicia Fishlock* - Green County Human Services, Behavioral Health

Betsy Atwell* - Green County Human Services, Behavioral Health

Bob Gibson - Green County Human Services, Behavioral Health

Bridget Mouchon - UW Extension Green County

Bridget Zimmerman* - Green County Public Health

Kathy Comeau* - Better Brodhead

Cynthia Villavicencio - Reach Green Early Head Start

Trent Henning - Green County Family YMCA

Tammie Jamiska* - SSM Health Monroe Hospital

Jeff Eichelkraut - New Glarus School District

Jill Leitzen* - Kuhn North America

Teresa Keehn* - United Way of Green County

Stephanie King* - Green County Child Advocacy Center

Laura Steiner* - Aging and Disability Resource Center of Green County

Tracy Meier - Colony Brands

Olivia Otte* - Green County Development Corporation

RoAnn Warden* - Green County Public Health

Megan Schilt - Avenues Counseling, LLC

Victoria Solomon* - UW Extension Green County

**2024 Community Health Assessment Planning Committee Member*

Special thanks to **Ujima United, LLC** for their consulting services throughout the process.

Most importantly, we are so grateful to the **Members of the Green County Community** who took time to thoughtfully provide their valuable input by completing the Community Health Survey and participating in community conversations and interviews. Your voice matters and was heard!

The Green County Community Health Assessment was made possible by the generous support of SSM Health, Green County Public Health, and American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.

This report was approved by the SSM Health Wisconsin Board of Directors on November 12, 2024 and the Green County Board of Health endorsed this report on November 13, 2024.

Suggested Citation: Green County Public Health (2024). *2024 Green County Community Health Assessment*. Available online at www.greencohcc.org.



List of Appendices

The following appendices are available to view and download on the Green County Healthy Community Coalition website at greencohcc.org.

Appendix A: Green County Community Health Survey Questions

Appendix B: Green County Community Health Survey Results Summary Report

Appendix C: Green County Community Health Survey Results Summary Slides

Appendix D: Green County Key Informant Interviews Summary

Appendix E: Green County Data Indicators List

Appendix F: Green County Data Presentation and Priority Selection Meeting Slides

