

2024

**Community Health
Needs Assessment**



SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville

3400 E. Racine St., Janesville, WI 53546

President's message to our community

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville delivers exceptional, compassionate care to the Janesville area and its surrounding communities.

The Franciscan Sisters of Mary, who founded SSM Health, cherished the sacredness and dignity of each person they cared for. We continue in this tradition and are inspired by their work each day, as we provide services that reveal the healing presence of God.

Our commitment to improving our community's health can be seen through our strong partnerships with local leaders and organizations.

Together, we have identified and developed plans to address high-priority community health needs. We are grateful for the continued collaboration and strive to reach area individuals who are most in need.

We have conducted a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) by gathering unbiased data from several sources throughout the past year. We also interviewed key health partners, conducted community discussion forums throughout our service area and surveyed our community members to identify concerns about the health of our community.

The SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville CHNA is important and extensive. It provides us areas of focus, but it is only one piece of a broad community health improvement process.

Our goal at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville is to continue working with local organizations to truly address our community's health needs and improve the health of residents.

Data collection identified many areas of need, which were prioritized on the level of importance to community members and our ability to make an impact.

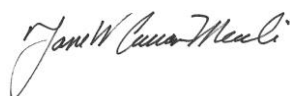
The community priorities which SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville will address over the next three years are:

1. Mental Health
2. Housing

We will continue to nurture, develop productive relationships, and remain steadfast in our Mission to serve.

Please visit ssmhealth.com to learn more about how we will continue to make a difference in Janesville and beyond.

Pax et bonum – Pace e bene – Peace and all good.



Jane Curran-Meuli

President - SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville



Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR)

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR), a collaborative of over 100 individuals, representing diverse sectors of the community, conducted the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) beginning in January 2024 and concluding in July 2024 with the launch of the new Healthy Rock Wisconsin website. This website is now home to Rock County Community Health Assessment data and was developed as a quality improvement effort for the 2024 CHNA. With collaboration at the foundation, HEAR conducts a formal assessment every three years using the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) framework.

The 2024 CHA was developed using the following tools:

Primary Data: *Data collected by the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County through a survey, community conversations, and key informant interviews.*

Secondary Data: *Data gathered from credible external sources including state and national surveys and reports, hospital utilization data, and area census information.*

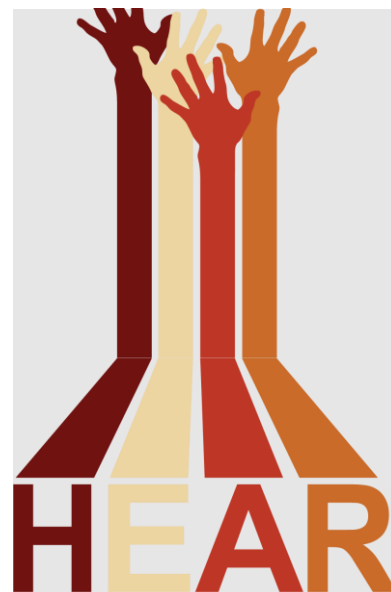
Historical Spotlights on Health: *Showcases the impacts of historical events or policies which impact our community's health today.*

We are grateful for the contributions that Rock County residents made to ensure that this assessment reflects the community. Our sincere hope is that this assessment and the Healthy Rock Wisconsin website serve as tools for organizations serving Rock County to identify how they can influence the health of our community. This effort could be utilizing the data provided to strengthen existing programs and services or working towards addressing policies and systems that contribute to the disparities and sub-optimal health outcomes that we see.

From the assessment and a process of prioritization, Mental Health and Housing have been identified as the topics for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). We know that addressing these topics will require collective action to not just improve access to care and mental health at the individual level, but to improve at the population level through addressing systems, policies, and environments. We look forward to taking actions together.

Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) Advisory Committee

- Christine Streich, HEAR Coordinator and Public Health Strategist – Rock County Health Department
- Alison Chouinard, Public Health Supervisor – Rock County Health Department
- Katrina Harwood, Health Officer/Director - Rock County Health Department
- Michelle Genthe, Health and Nutrition Manager – RWCFS Head Start/Early Head Start
- Megan Timm, Regional Director of Community Health – SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville
- Becky Huber, Coordinator of Prevention and Community Engagement - Rock County Human Services
- Sara Ennocenti, Health and Wellbeing Educator – University of Wisconsin-Division of Extension
- Samuel Karns, Todd Elementary School Principal – School District of Beloit
- Sharon Cox, Vice President and CNO - Beloit Health System
- Ashley Glowacki, Community Mental Health Professional – Clover Family Services



Executive summary

Background

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville is pleased to present the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This CHNA report provides an overview of the health needs and priorities associated with our service area. The goal of this report is to provide persons with a deeper understanding of the health needs in their community,

as well as to help guide the hospital in its community benefit planning efforts and development of an implementation strategy to address evaluated needs. The SSM Health Wisconsin Regional Board approved this CHNA on November 12, 2024.

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville last conducted a CHNA in 2021 to determine priority areas for the 2025-2027 Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP). The Affordable Care Act (ACA) requires 501(c)(3) tax-exempt hospitals to conduct a CHNA every three tax years and adopt a strategic implementation plan for addressing identified needs.

Priorities

As a member of the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR), SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville, in collaboration with community partners, determined priorities for the 2025-2027 Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP) which include:

Mental Health: Local resources include Rock County Public Health and Human Services, Beloit Area Community Health Center, Janesville Counseling Center, Jacob's SWAG Foundation, YWCA, Boys and Girls Club of Janesville, NAMI Rock County, Building a Safer Evansville, Behavioral Health Redesign Steering Committee, and Stateline Mental Health.

Housing: Local resources include Rock County Public Health and Human Services, Homeless Intervention Task Force, Beloit Area Task Force on Homeless, Legal Action of Wisconsin, ECHO Inc., Housing Authority, Community Action Inc., Project 16:49, Rock County Family Services, GIFTS Men's Shelter, United Way Blackhawk Region, local school districts.

Strategies

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) in partnership with the Wisconsin Institute for Public Policy and Service and the University of Wisconsin Division of Extension employed a Deliberative Inquiry model for determining appropriate strategies to address these two priority areas. These strategies for each priority area will be highlighted in the 2025-2027 Community Health Implementation Plan (CHIP), however a preliminary general list of strategies are provided below.

Mental Health:

- Strengthen the Mental Health Workforce
- Increase Access to Affordable Mental Health Services
- Improve Community Conditions to make Rock County a Mentally Healthy Place to live

Housing:

- Improve the Living Conditions of Housing
- Reduce the Impacts of Homelessness
- Improve Housing Affordability



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About SSM Health and St. Mary's Hospital - Janesville

SSM Health

Nationally recognized for quality and innovation, SSM Health is a Catholic, not-for-profit, fully integrated health system working to advance health equity and empower all people to achieve their full potential.

With care delivery sites in Illinois, Missouri, Oklahoma, and Wisconsin, SSM Health provides convenient access to high-quality community-based services as well

as world-class academic medicine, clinical trials, and research studies. The organization's footprint includes hospitals, physician offices, outpatient and virtual care services, comprehensive home care, senior care, and hospice services, a fully transparent pharmacy benefit company, a health insurance company, and an accountable care organization. As one of the largest employers in every community it

serves, the organization's 40,000 team members and 13,900 providers are dedicated to fulfilling SSM Health's Mission: "Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God." Like our founding sisters, we care deeply for our communities -- SSM Health reported \$470 million in community benefit in 2023, including \$346 million in uncompensated care.

Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God.

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville

Highlight of services

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-Janesville opened its doors to the public in 2012. The health ministry offers inpatient and emergency care, in addition to specialists for women's health, cancer care, orthopedics, general surgery, pediatrics, rehabilitation services, and more. SSM Health Dean Medical Group offers patients a seamless health care experience.

Community benefit

In 2023, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville provided \$4,967,839 in net community benefit, comprised of \$846,725 in charity care; \$340,569 in community services; and \$3,762,545 in unpaid costs of Medicaid and other public programs.

Examples of our community benefit programs include:

- Annual Mini Grant program
- Community-based health education
- Staff time on community coalitions and service to local nonprofits
- Financial contributions to local community partners

Awards and Certifications

- CMS Five-Star Rating (2019-2023)
- Top Recommended Hospital, Becker's Hospital Review (2023)
- Healthgrades America's 100 Best Hospitals for Stroke Care (2022)
- TJC Acute Stroke Ready Certification
- Baby-Friendly Hospital Certification
- Cribs for Kids Bronze Level Safe Sleep designation

Hospital at a glance

Admissions	2,585
Outpatient visits	65,871
ER visits	19,493
Births	454
Beds	50
Employees	399
Medical staff	
Volunteers	30
Charity care	\$846K

Definition of Community

For the purpose of this community health needs assessment (CHNA), SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville defines its community as Rock County, which covers the hospital's primary service area. This CHNA was done in partnership in the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) which consists of members from each Rock County Health Department, local healthcare providers, free and charitable clinics, Rock County Human Services, UW Division of Extension, area school districts and nonprofit partners addressing the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH).

Why Place Matters

Where a person lives can make a big difference to health. Some things like healthy food, healthcare services, and safe recreational areas are easier to find in some areas than others. This can affect a person's general well-being, length of life, and quality of life. Place can also offer things that help you stay healthy, like good schools, jobs that pay well, and safe places to live and play. Living in a place that meets a person's needs can impact overall health and wellness.

Geography

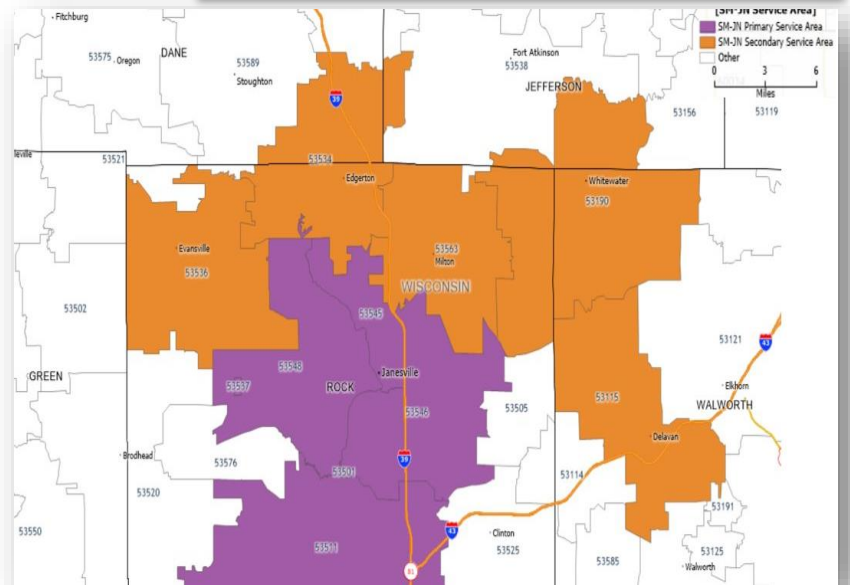
Rock County is centrally located in the southern part of Wisconsin near the Illinois-Wisconsin border. The name 'Rock County' was given by Native American and New England area settlers who referenced the area by a large rock that sticks out of the Rock River. Rock County has many historic places where families and businesses reside. Some developments provide spaces for modern homes and new businesses to thrive. For residents and visitors, Rock County has a range of activities to explore. This includes many natural wonders like beautiful parks, the Rock River, and a statewide Ice Age Trail.

Land Acknowledgement

Rock County is located on the ancestral lands of Native Nations, including the Ho-Chunk and Potawatomi. We acknowledge these Indigenous communities, who have stewarded this land through the generations, and pay respect to their elders, past and present.

Service delivery area

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital is located at 3400 E. Racine Street in Janesville, Wisconsin. Janesville is the county seat of Rock County and the county's largest city. According to the U.S. Census in 2023, Janesville has an estimated population of 66,102 and Rock County had an estimated population of 164,278, making it the ninth largest county in Wisconsin. The majority of SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville's patient population lives within Rock County with the primary service area limited to the two larger cities of Rock County: Janesville and Beloit. The secondary service area extends into other communities of Rock County including Milton, Evansville and Edgerton and Walworth County including Whitewater and Delavan.



Rock County Community Profile

Demographics

When compared to Wisconsin and the United States, Rock County’s population is slightly less diverse with 83.5% of the population being white. When looking at Rock County youth, 32.4% of all Black community members are under the age of 18 compared to 19.7% of all white community members being under the age of 18. For the Spanish-speaking population in Rock County, 64.4% are English proficient.

The percent of individuals with a disability in Rock County is 13.2% which is greater than the state of Wisconsin (11.9%) and the United States overall (12.9%). This is relevant as those identifying with a disability may require more services, support and outreach.

The percent of persons living in poverty is nearly 20% higher in Rock County than in both Wisconsin and the United States as a whole. Though unemployment for Rock County was at it’s highest at 13% in 2011, in the last three years it has reduced from 7% in 2022 to 3% in 2024.

Finally, Rock County is considered an Urban county, meaning less people living in Rock County are in a rural setting, however 20% of Rock County residents are considered rural.

The following demographics and factors from HealthyRockWI.org and the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (2022) provide useful information regarding the population of Rock County.

Demographic Category	Demographic Factor	Rock County	Wisconsin	United States
Age (2022)	Persons Under 5 years	5.8%	5.7%	6.0%
	Persons Under 18 years	22.9%	21.8%	22.3%
	Persons 18-64	60.5%		
	Person 65 years and over	16.6%	17.5%	16.5%
Race and Ethnicity (2022)	Black or African American	4.6%	6.7%	13.4%
	American Indian or Alaska Native	0.2%	1.2%	1.3%
	Asian	1.1%	3.0%	5.9%
	Two or more races	7.0%	2.0%	2.8%
	Hispanic or Latinx	9.5%	7.1%	18.5%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latinx	83.5%	80.9%	60.1%
Language	Language other than English in the home	8.8%	8.7%	21.7%
Veteran Status		7.4%	6.7%	6.6%
People with Disabilities		13.24%	11.86%	12.86%
Rural Population	Percent of Population Living in Rural Areas	20%	32.9%	20%
Health Insurance	Persons without health insurance, under 65 years	7.1%	6.8%	9.5%
Education	No High School Diploma	7.7%	6.9%	10.9%
	Bachelor's degree or higher	24.4%	32.1%	34.3%
Poverty	Persons in poverty	12.3%	10.4%	10.5%

Rock County Disadvantage and Opportunities

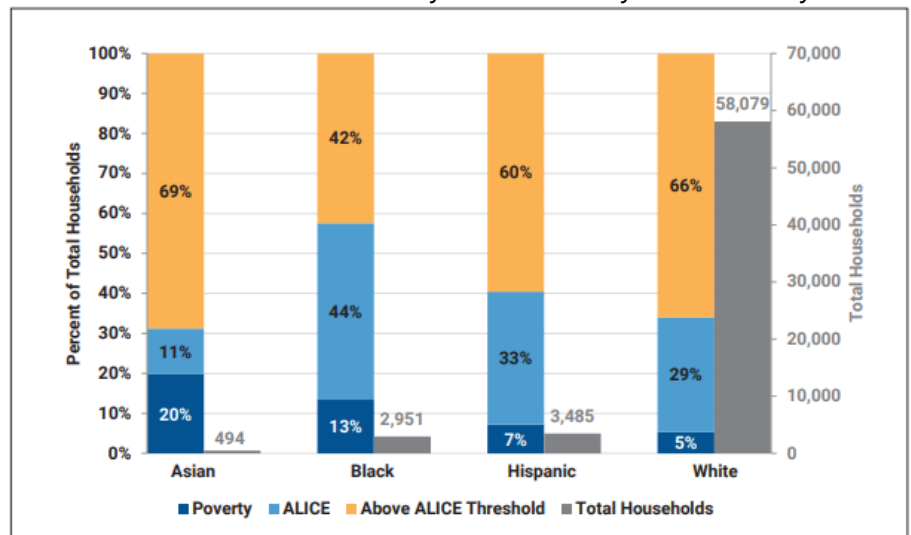
Historically Marginalized populations

Rock County and SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville's community includes people who are at high risk of not receiving adequate medical care due to being uninsured/underinsured, are experiencing health disparities, or facing barriers related to geography, language, financial circumstances, transportation, stigma, accessibility to technology, access to healthy and affordable foods and low-income housing. Potentially medically-underserved populations include the rural poor and older adults who may be without adequate transportation; Black, Latino and other persons of color (BIPOC) individuals who may be experiencing discrimination and health disparities; low socio-economic status (SES) and homeless individuals; lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer (LGBTQ+) residents; and incarcerated individuals or people engaged in the criminal justice system.

ALICE

Financial Hardship Over Time ALICE is an acronym for **Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed** — households that earn more than the Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the county (the ALICE Threshold). Households below the ALICE Threshold — ALICE households plus those in poverty — can't afford the essentials. Households move below or above the ALICE Threshold as economic factors and circumstances change. This was especially true amid the economic crosscurrents of the COVID-19 pandemic, with higher wages, inflation, and additional pandemic assistance. By 2022, 24,293 households (36%) were below the ALICE Threshold in Rock County.

Household Financial Status by Race/Ethnicity, Rock County, 2022



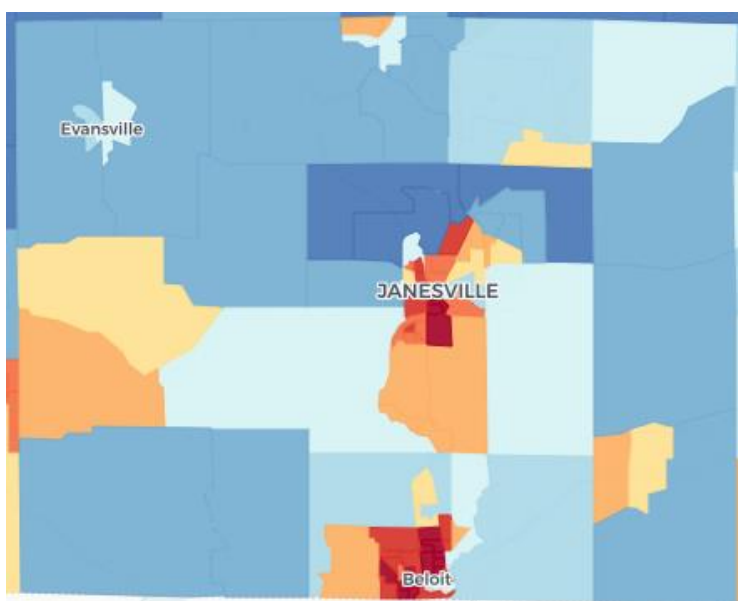
ALICE Threshold, 2022; American Community Survey, 2022

Area Deprivation Index

Living in a disadvantaged neighborhood has been linked to a number of health outcomes including higher rates of diabetes and heart disease, increased utilization of services and earlier death.

The Neighborhood Atlas (ADI) created by the University of Wisconsin provides scores showing areas in each county with the least disadvantaged groups (blue) to the most disadvantaged groups (red). The ADI is calculated based on 17 measures related to four primary domains (Education; Income & Employment; Housing; and Household Characteristics). The overall scores are measured on a scale of 1 to 100 where 1 indicates the lowest level of deprivation (least disadvantaged) and 100 is the highest level of deprivation (most disadvantaged). **The ADI score for Rock County was 63, compared to a score of 55 for the state and 46 for the United States overall.**

In Rock County, the main areas with the most disadvantaged groups include the Fourth Ward and south side of Janesville as well as the Merrill and Hackett neighborhoods in Beloit.



University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health. (2024) Area Deprivation Index. Source: Downloaded from <https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu/>

Conducting the assessment

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville, as a member and advisor of the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR), conducted the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) beginning in January and finalizing in August 2024. The 2024 CHA was developed using the following tools:

Primary Data: Data collected by the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County through a survey, community conversations, and key informant interviews.

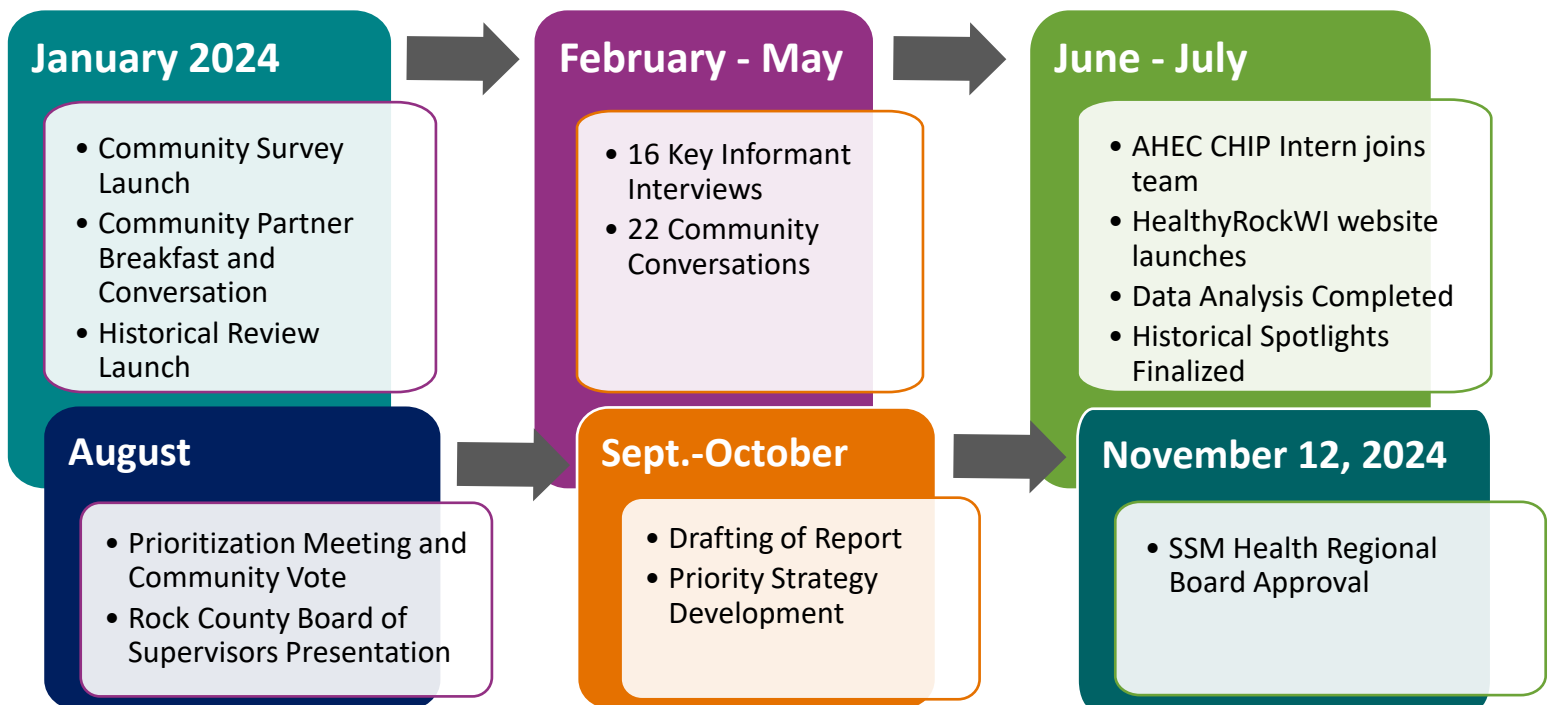
- A 32-question survey on perceptions of health that was available in English and Spanish. 537 total responses were collected throughout the survey period.
- 22 small group conversations were held throughout Rock County with over 150 participants. The themes of the conversations are indicated in the image below.
- 16 interviews were held with Rock County leaders.

Secondary Data: In addition to a review of demographics, we gathered and reviewed data from broad sources to set the initial direction and priorities of the community health needs assessment.

- The secondary data was derived from a variety of unbiased sources including U.S. Census Bureau, County Health Rankings, Youth Behavioral Risk Survey, Community Commons, Area Deprivation Index and Opportunity Atlas, and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

Historical Spotlights on Health: The social, economic, and environmental conditions that shape the health of populations are not just the products of circumstance; they are part of an historical continuum.

- 14 partners from across Rock County performed an extensive historical review of 15 categories which impact the health of residents today.



Health Equity

Health equity and empowerment lens

Defining health equity and health disparities promotes a shared understanding of these concepts and helps individuals, organizations, and communities nationwide align their resources and efforts — and identify areas for collaboration. (Health People 2030)

Healthy People 2030 defines health equity as “the attainment of the highest level of health for all people. Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and the elimination of health and health care disparities.” (Health People 2030)

Healthy People 2030 defines a health disparity as “a particular type of health difference that is closely linked with social, economic, and/or environmental disadvantage. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identity; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion.” (Health People 2030)

A characteristic common to groups that experience health inequities—such as marginalized persons, racial and ethnic minorities, and women—is lack of political, social or economic power. Research indicates a strong relationship between self-reported racism and discrimination with negative mental health outcomes and negative health-related behaviors. Research also indicates that chronic stress from experiencing discrimination, such as racism, throughout the lifespan can lead to negative health outcomes. These outcomes are seen even after controlling for differences such as socio-economic status and access to adequate health care. (Communities in Action: Pathways to Health Equity)

EQUALITY:

Everyone gets the same – regardless if it’s needed or right for them.



EQUITY:

Everyone gets what they need – understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.



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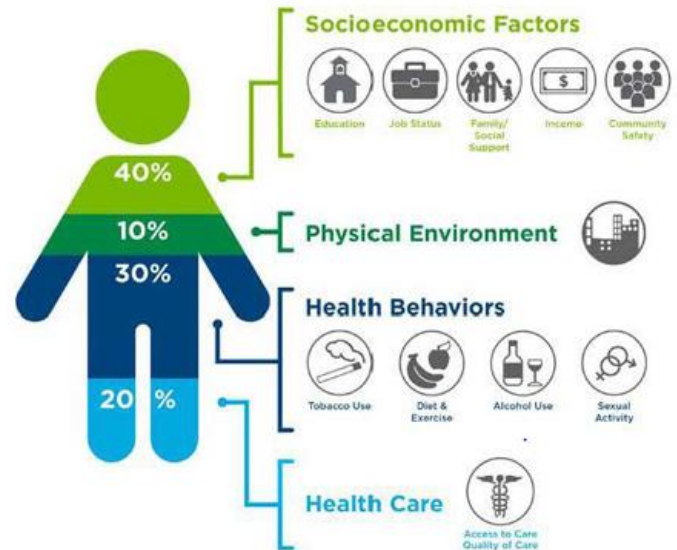
Social Determinants of Health

The social determinants of health are the non-medical factors that influence health outcomes. They are the conditions in which people are born, grow, work, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.

Examples of these factors include safe and affordable housing, access to quality education, public safety, availability of healthy foods, accessible health care services, and positive social support systems.

Research shows that the social determinants can be more important than health care or lifestyle choices in influencing health. For example, numerous studies suggest that socioeconomic factors contribute to 40% of health outcomes and a person's physical environment impacts health outcomes by 10%. In addition, estimates show that the contribution of sectors outside health to community health outcomes exceeds the contribution from the health sector. By applying what we know about SDOH, we can not only improve individual and community health but also advance health equity.

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville began screening for the social determinants of health for acute care patients in January 2023. The data below reflects the percent of patients at risk for **Housing Instability, Lack of Access to Transportation, Financial Strain, and Food Insecurity.**



Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement. Going Beyond Clinical Walls. Solving Complex Problems (October 2014). The BridgeSpan Group

Housing Instability

2023

- 2.9% of patients stated they did not have stable were housing.

2024

- 2.1% of patients stated they did not have stable were housing.



Access to Transportation

2023

- 2.9% of patients stated they did not have reliable transportation.

2024

- 3.5% of patients stated they did not have reliable transportation.



Financial Strain

2023

- 2.6% of patients stated they had financial resource strain.

2024

- 3.3% of patients stated they had financial resource strain.



Food Insecurity

2023

- 5.2% of patients stated they did not have regular access to food.

2024

- 4.0% of patients stated they did not have regular access to food.



History as a Determinant of Health

The social, economic, and environmental conditions that shape the health of populations are not just the products of modern circumstance; they are part of an historical continuum. Thus, the exploration of history in Rock County offered the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) insight on how the past influences the present, and how an understanding of history can help us create a healthier world. ¹

The Historical Spotlights written by the Historical Review Team are not a complete history of Rock County and they were not written solely by historians. It is intended to give community members and local organizations an overview of some of the historical events, governmental policies, and movements that contributed to intentional inequalities and inequities among groups of people in the region due to racism, sexism, classism, etc. While “history” implies a time that is in the past, many of these discriminatory and oppressive acts are ongoing and still affect people in Rock County today—through traumatic lived experiences of residents, stories passed down by elders, inter-generational trauma, or through educational, economic, and social factors that are impacting where residents live, work, play, and pray. ² Some of these spotlights can be found throughout this report and more can be found at the HealthyRockWI.org website.

Achieving health equity requires valuing everyone equally with focused and ongoing societal efforts to address avoidable inequalities, historical and contemporary injustices, and social determinants of health — and to eliminate disparities in health and health care.

Healthy People 2030



Historical Spotlight on Health

Social acceptance and community belonging are important aspects of a healthy and thriving community. Yet, history shows us that many people from diverse backgrounds have experienced different forms of racism. One form was in the formation of sundown towns. A sundown town is any organized jurisdiction that for decades kept African Americans or other groups from living in it. Thus, it was classified “all-white” on purpose according to an excerpt in the late James W. Loewen’s book titled “Sundown Towns: A Hidden Dimension of American Racism.”

According to a database of sundown towns, Janesville (WI) was labeled as “surely” being a sundown town.¹ Numerous articles have been published in the Janesville Gazette that share first-hand accounts of Janesville as a sundown town. According to a study published in the National Library of Medicine, “even though Sundown towns are outlawed, the enduring legacy of racial segregation and structural racism may impact the health inequities experienced by racial and ethnic minority populations in these historic Sundown towns today.” ²

7.1% of CHA survey respondents report that they or someone in their household always or often experienced discrimination in the community. Racial discrimination was reported as one of the most frequent types of discrimination experienced in the community.

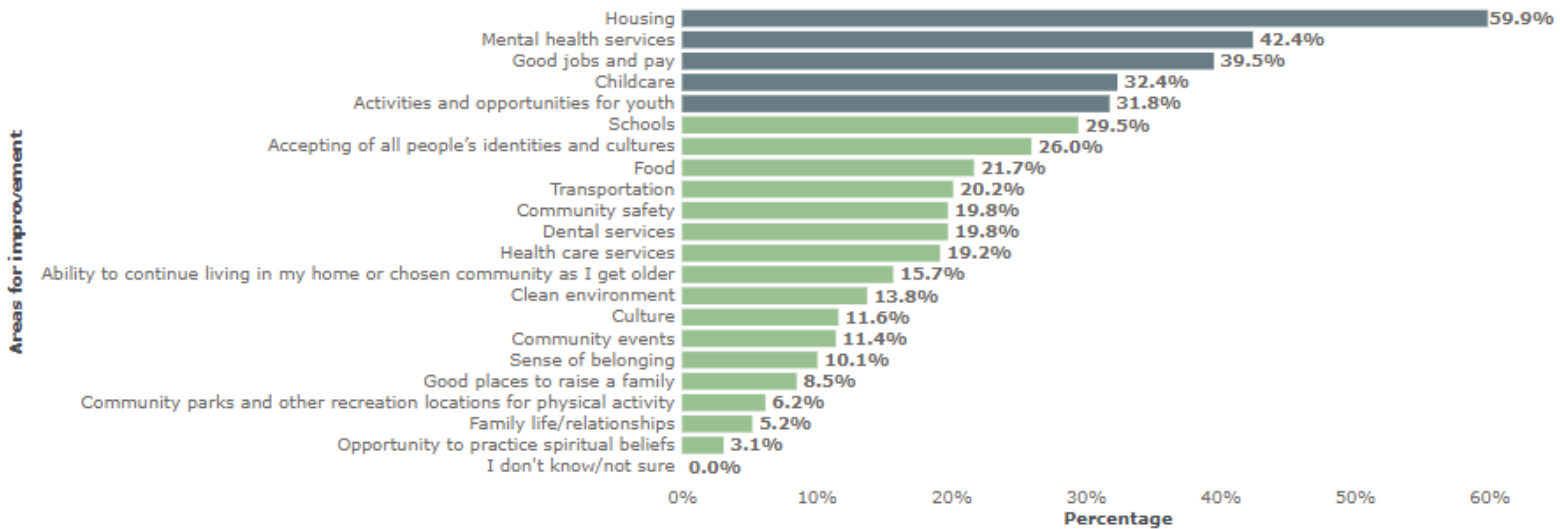
Community Survey

The Community Health Assessment Survey is a 32-question online assessment developed to assess the health of Rock County residents. With a special focus on the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), the survey aimed to identify potential health disparities. In 2024, the Survey, which was translated in both English and Spanish, had a total of 537 responses from Rock County residents. The table below provides insight to who responded and provided their insight.

Demographic Category	Demographic Specifics	Survey Respondents	Demographic Category	Demographic Specifics	Survey Respondents
Age	Under 18 years	2.1%	Gender	Male	22.9%
	18-24	6.2%		Female	71.6%
	25-34	15.3%		Transgender	0.2%
	35-44	25.5%	Sexual Orientation	Non-binary	1.1%
	45-54	19.1%		Heterosexual	87.5%
	55-64	18.0%		Gay or Lesbian	1.8%
	65-74	8.9%		Bisexual	3.2%
75+	3.7%	Asexual	0.4%		
Race and Ethnicity	Black or African American	5.1%	Insurance	Pansexual	1.1%
	AI/AN	0.4%		Health Insurance	95.2%
	Asian	0.2%	Dental Insurance	85.4%	
	Two or More Races	20%	Disability	18.8%	
	Hispanic or Latinx	7.7%	Languages Spoken	English	87.1%
	Middle Eastern	0.4%		Spanish	1.3%
	White	59.1%	Responses	Total	537

Primary Data Analysis took place from June through July 2024. The top five areas of improvement including **Housing, Mental Health Services, Great Jobs and Pay, Childcare and Activities and Opportunities for Youth.**

Community Areas for Improvement



Key Informant Interviews

Sixteen, one-to-one conversations with a diverse group of community stakeholders were conducted from February-June 2024. Representatives interviewed included community leaders, professionals, and residents who live or work in Rock County to gain insight on the nature of the issues facing Rock County residents and identify recommendations for potential solutions. The word clouds below showcase the major themes that resulted from these interviews.

Changes Seen in the County Over Time



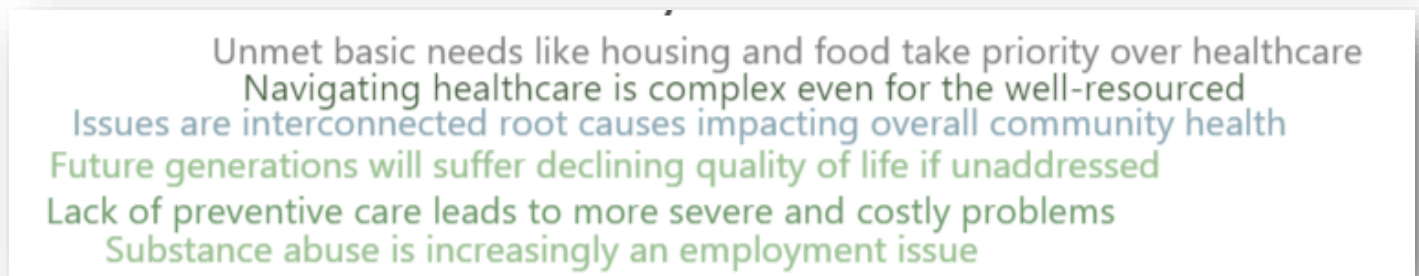
Assets in the Community



Concerns for Community Health

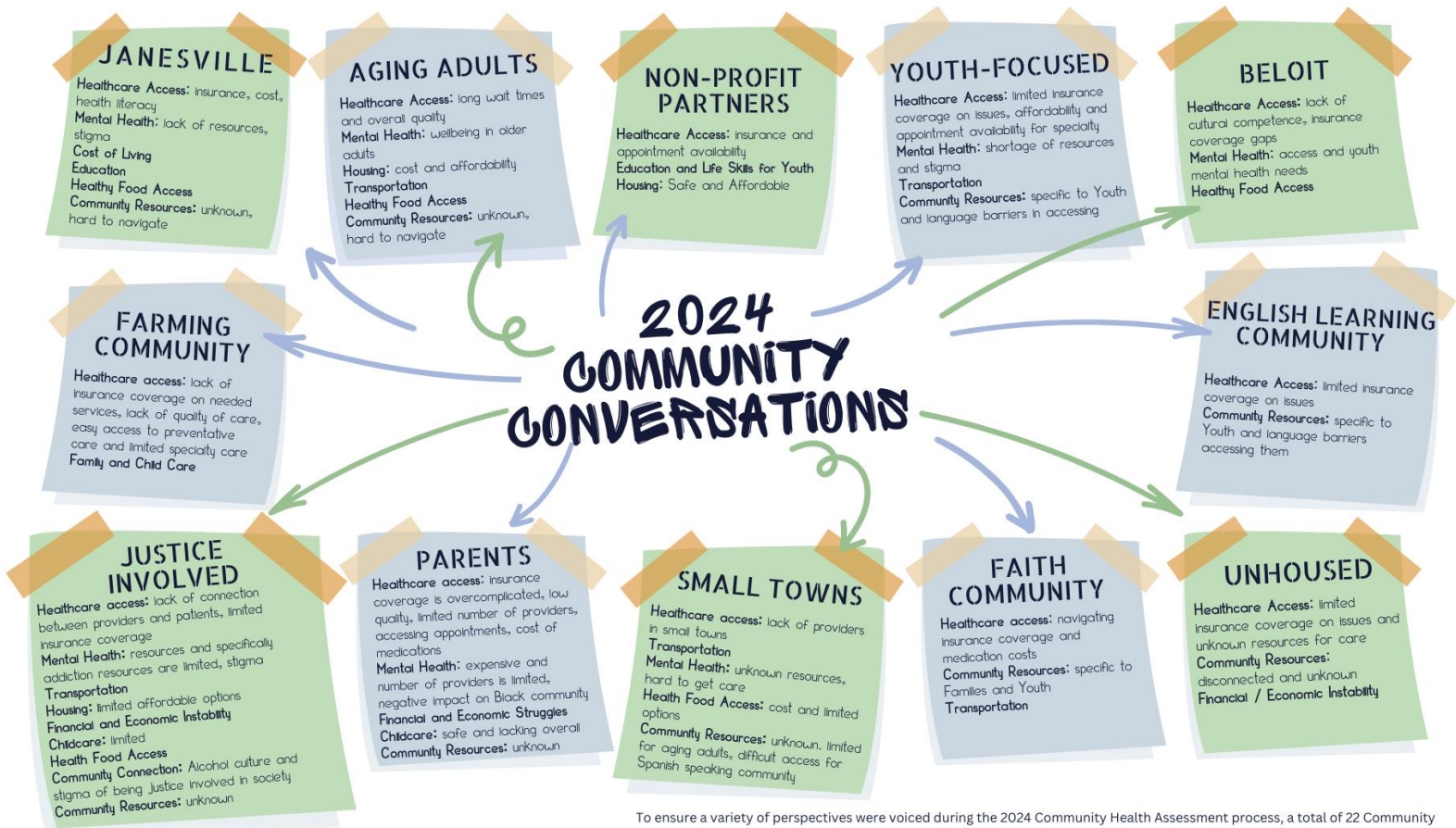


Reasons why these are Concerns for Community Health



Community Conversations

There were 22 community conversations held across Rock County to obtain a diverse perspective of health concerns and impacts in each community. These conversations, facilitated by members of the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) hosted over 150 people from January-June 2024. The graphic below summarizes the key issues these groups brought forward.



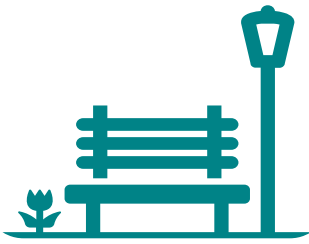
To ensure a variety of perspectives were voiced during the 2024 Community Health Assessment process, a total of 22 Community Conversations were hosted and facilitated by members of the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) from January to June 2024.

Community Feedback

Access to Care	<p><i>“Decent options (for healthcare) but difficult to actually get to care or to receive care.”</i></p>
Housing	<p><i>“Difficult to receive resources unless you are physically homeless.”</i></p>
Mental Health	<p><i>“My own motivation is a barrier having my kids, the last thing I have is time for myself. You forget about yourself sometimes.”</i></p>
Economic Stability	<p><i>“People have to pick and choose what they pay for – either food or utilities.”</i></p>

Community Strengths

The top 4 strengths of Rock County noted by community members through the community survey, community conversations and key informant interviews were noted as the following:



Community Parks and Opportunities for Physical Activity



Community Events



Good Place to Raise a Family | Relationships



Schools

Community Areas of Improvement

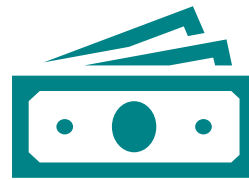
The top 4 areas of improvement in Rock County noted by community members through the community survey, community conversations and key informant interviews were noted as the following:



Housing



Mental Health Services



Good Jobs and Pay



Childcare

Concluding Community Health Themes

Healthcare Services | Mental Health Services | Dental Services | Economic Well-Being | Housing | Transportation

Healthcare Services

- Appointment Availability
- Affordability
- Navigation of Healthcare



Mental Health Services

- Access to Mental Health
- Appointment Availability
- Affordability



Dental Health Services

- Appointment Availability
- Affordability



Economic Well-Being

- Impact of Poverty
- Employment Opportunities
- Support for Working Families



Housing

- Affordability
- Impacts of Homelessness
- Regulatory Practices of Rental Housing



Transportation

- Public Transportation
- Walkability
- Medical Transportation

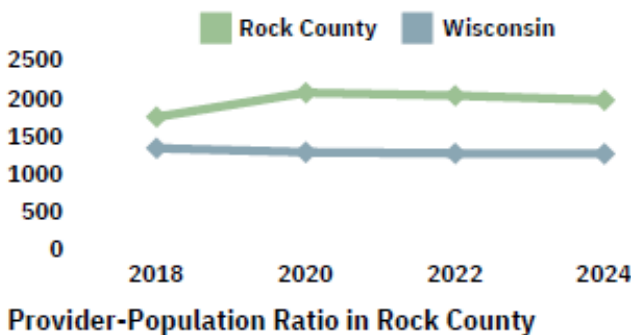
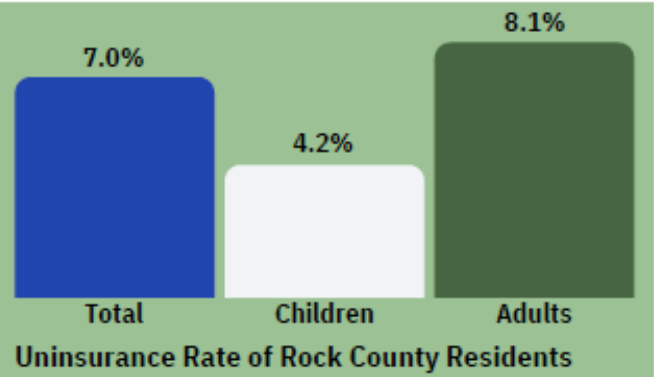


Let's Talk Healthcare, Rock County

Access to healthcare can influence a person's quality and length of life. The ability to access healthcare is generally determined by one's insurance coverage status, ability to access a location that provides the service needed, and having a relationship with a trusted provider. Community members in Rock County continue to face challenges accessing needed healthcare services. In the 2024 Rock County Community Health Assessment (CHA), barriers were often related to appointment availability, affordability of care, and difficulty navigating the healthcare system.

Insurance Status for Rock County Residents

Health insurance is one of the largest influences in accessing healthcare services. Over the past decade, the rate of those without insurance has decreased from a high of 13% in 2013 to 7% in 2021. State and federal policies can influence the uninsurance rates. Insurance is often tied to employment and can be a major cost. Not having insurance can delay people from accessing preventative care or other needed services. This can lead to overall poorer health outcomes and can also be more costly to treat medical issues when care is delayed.



Provider and Appointment Availability

Rock County is located in a healthcare professional shortage area (HPSA) meaning there are not enough providers to meet the needs of the community. The provider to population ratio shows how many patients one provider in Rock County would be assigned to meet the need. Rock County has higher provider-population ratios that can make appointments harder to access along with longer wait times. Providers can become overwhelmed with the higher workloads and may result in higher turnover rates of providers.

Factors Influencing Access to Healthcare

Who is affected

- Those who don't have insurance or have insurance that does not meet their medical needs
- Those who aren't eligible for insurance
- Those who have less than full-time employment
- Youth
- Those within minority culture groups
- Those with chronic conditions, complex health needs, or coexisting conditions

What influences access

- Insurance coverage
- Income and access to employment
- Number of providers available and provider turnover
- Transportation access and proximity to care
- Appointment availability
- Cultural norms and trauma impacting trust of system
- Stigma-community/provider perspectives
- Policies impacting eligibility for health insurance and paid leave
- Health literacy

When and Where

- Rural areas where services are limited or are hard to get to
- Accessing specialty services
- Seeking care during the weekend or evening hours
- Areas with limited broadband access for telehealth services
- Low-income neighborhoods



To View More Healthcare Data, Scan the QR Code

Let's Talk Healthcare, Rock County

Rock County Input on Access to Healthcare During the 2024 CHA

Survey Responses

537 total

- 51% experiences challenges in accessing needed healthcare services for their household
- Of those who indicated challenges accessing care:
 - Over half (58.1%) of respondents said they are not able to get appointments in a timely manner.
 - Over half (55.7%) of respondents said healthcare services are too expensive

Community Conversations

150+ Participants

- Access to healthcare is limited due to issues with provider availability, costly and complex insurance plans, and long wait times for appointments.
- Communication barriers and mistrust between patients and providers can negatively influence health outcomes for certain communities.
- Community members often have to choose between meeting basic needs and managing their health.

Key Informant Interviews

16 Interviews

- Navigating the healthcare system is complex and difficult for many.
- Declining access to affordable healthcare has negative impacts to overall community health due to factors such as:
 - Insurance coverage
 - Providers and specialty shortages
 - Lack of preventive care



Historical Spotlight on Health

Tuberculosis (TB) is a potentially serious infectious disease that usually affects the lungs. It was once the leading cause of death in the United States and Europe in the 1800s. As germ theory developed in the late 19th century, it became standard of practice to isolate patients to prevent the spread of the disease. Sanatoriums were specialized hospitals deliberately built away from towns and cities, where patients would stay for months at a time. ¹

Rock County had a Sanatorium called Pinehurst Sanatorium (Rock County's Hospital for the Treatment of Tuberculosis). It had room for 60-70 patients and the average length of stay was 10.3 months. ²

TB can be identified through x-rays, and Rock County Public Health held periodic health clinics to check county residents for the disease. Once antibiotics came into use during World War II and other treatment options progressed, home treatment of tuberculosis became more practical. Pinehurst transitioned to an outpatient TB clinic in the early 1970s, and it shut down after 1983. Pinehurst stood where the current Rock County Jail and Sheriff's Department Complex are located.

Let's Talk Mental Health, Rock County

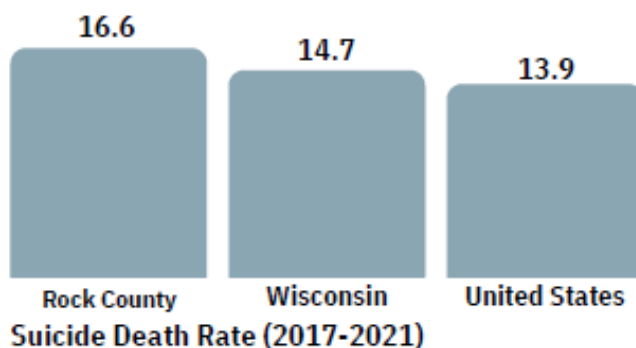
Mental well-being is essential to one's overall health. Many factors contribute to mental health wellness and can affect how one is able to cope with stress, relate to others, and make choices. Community members in Rock County continue to face challenges accessing needed mental health services. In the 2024 Rock County Community Health Assessment (CHA), barriers were often related to appointment availability, access to mental health services, and affordability of care.

Poor Mental Health in Rock County

Self-reported mental health measures can help gauge how residents feel about their mental health and the influence it has on their daily lives. In 2021, Rock County residents reported an average of five mentally unhealthy days over the past month. 10% of Rock County adults reported having 14 or more days of poor mental health. Poor mental health can have negative impacts on employment, housing stability, and overall health and well-being.



1 in 10 Adults Experience 14+ Days of Poor Mental Health per Month



Suicide in Rock County

Suicide deaths can show the impact of poor mental health on a community. Suicide deaths are the **top leading cause of death for youth ages 10-24**. In 2021, 8% of students in 8th-12th grade on average reported attempting suicide over the past 12 months. Rock County emergency rooms see an average of 14 patients per month due to suicide attempts from 2018-2023. The suicide death rate for Rock County was higher (16.6) than Wisconsin (14.7) and the United States (13.9) over a 5-year average in years 2017-2021.

Factors Influencing Mental Health

Who is affected

- Those who don't have, aren't eligible, or have insurance that does not meet medical needs
- Those who have less than full-time employment or low income
- Youth and older adults
- Those within minority culture groups
- Those with chronic conditions, complex health needs, or coexisting conditions
- Veterans
- Those without housing
- Those with substance use disorder or are justice-involved

What influences access

- Insurance status
- Income and access to employment
- Number of providers available
- Transportation access and proximity to care
- Appointment availability
- Cultural norms and trauma
- Cultural humility practices
- Policies impacting eligibility for health insurance and paid leave
- Access to health education
- Health literacy
- Religion and support networks
- Acceptance of mental health

When and Where

- Rural areas where services are limited or are hard to get to
- When accessing specialty services
- When seeking care during weekend or evening hours
- Areas with limited broadband access for telehealth services
- Low-income neighborhoods
- Areas where mental health is criminalized
- Crisis situations

To View More Mental Health Data, Scan the QR Code



Let's Talk Mental Health, Rock County

Rock County Input on Mental Health During the 2024 CHA

Survey Responses 537 total

- 20% of respondents rated their mental health as fair or poor

Of the 51% of respondents who indicated having challenges accessing healthcare services:

- 23.7% indicated mental health providers do not accept their insurance
- 45% said cost was a barrier
- 44% couldn't get an appointment in timely manner
- 17% didn't know how to find the providers they need
- 23% had scheduling issues

Community Conversations 150+ Participants

- Inadequate mental health services lead to unaddressed mental health issues, self-medication, and overflow of crisis-level care to emergency rooms.
- The separation of mental and physical health, lack of education and resources, and stigma delay people from seeking appropriate care.
- There's a need for lower-cost resources and shorter wait times to meet the demand for services.

Key Informant Interviews 16 Interviews

- Mental health continues to be an area of concern in the community.
- Access to mental health is declining due to
 - Lack of affordability
 - Shortage of mental health providers



Historical Spotlight on Health

A growing number of studies demonstrate a positive impact of same-sex marriage on the mental health of LGBTQ+ individuals. In 2014, Wisconsin became the 27th state to legalize same-sex marriage. While legal, LGBTQ+ individuals still witness national legislative bodies, courts, and media debate over their existence and the human rights they should receive. Due to this exposure, LGBTQ+ communities continue to struggle for validation and acceptance today, which can negatively impact their wellbeing and mental health.

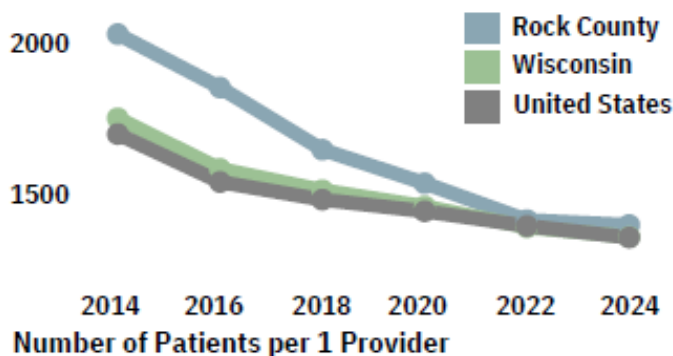
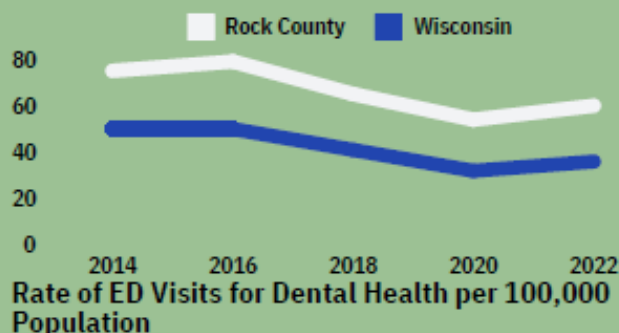
In the 2021 Rock County High School Youth Risk Behavior Survey, LGBTQ+ youth were more than four times as likely to attempt suicide than their peers. Additionally, 39% of LGBT youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year compared to 10% of straight and cisgender students. Schools in Rock County have student groups that can support LGBTQ+ youth find safe places and allies within their peers such as the Gay Straight Alliance. For adults, there are social associations such as Rock County LGBTQ+ Committee, Yellow Brick Road Organization, Greater Evansville ROOTS, and Janesville Pride for LGBTQ+ community members to find support, resources and validation through a support community.

Let's Talk Dental Health, Rock County

Dental health refers to the health of teeth, gums, and the entire system that allows one to smile, speak, and chew. Routine dental visits, brushing, and flossing can improve both dental and overall health. Community members in Rock County continue to face challenges accessing dental services. In the 2024 Rock County Community Health Assessment (CHA), barriers were often related to appointment availability and affordability of care.

Dental Visits

Rock County has a **higher prevalence of dental visits** among adults aged 18 years and older (68.4%) compared to the United States overall (59%). Those who are uninsured or have Medicare or Medicaid insurance, accessing regular dental care can be more difficult. Many will turn to visiting Emergency Departments (ED) for their dental health concerns. Rock County has **greater utilization of ED visits for oral health** compared to Wisconsin, showing a possible access barrier.



Dental Provider Availability in Rock County

The number of dental providers in Rock County have **increased** in recent years. A key measure is the provider to population ratio. Since 2019, Rock County has seen a **decrease in the number of patients per provider** meaning an increase in provider availability. When comparing ratios across Rock County, Wisconsin, and the United States, ratios are now similar across the three geographic locations. Prior to 2019, Rock County had a higher ratio than Wisconsin and the United States.

Factors Influencing Dental Health

Who is affected

- Those who don't have insurance or have insurance that does not meet their medical needs
- Those who aren't eligible for insurance
- Those who have less than full-time employment
- Children under the age of five
- Those within minority culture groups
- Those with chronic conditions, complex health needs, or coexisting conditions
- Older adults
- Pregnant people

What influences access

- Lack of dental home
- Income level
- Reimbursement rates for dental services
- Number of providers available
- Transportation access and proximity to care
- Appointment availability
- Cultural norms, trauma, fear impacting trust of system
- Stigma-community/provider perspectives
- Policies impacting eligibility for health insurance and paid leave
- Health literacy
- Dental programs (Seal a Smile)

When and Where

- Rural areas where services are limited or are hard to get to
- When accessing specialty services like dental surgery
- When seeking care during weekend or evening hours
- Seeking crisis care
- Low-income neighborhoods



To View More Dental Data, Scan the QR Code

Let's Talk Dental Health, Rock County

Rock County Input on Dental Health During the 2024 CHA

Survey Responses 537 total

Of the 51% of respondents who indicated having challenges accessing healthcare services:

- 27% of respondents indicated dental providers do not accept their insurance
- Scheduling problems was a barrier for 28% of respondents
- 37% were not able to get a dental appointment in a timely manner
- Cost of dental services was a barrier for 46% of respondents

Community Conversations 150+ Participants

- Difficulty accessing dental care was a concern among community conversations due to
 - Limited dental providers that accept Medicare or Medicaid insurances
 - Limited availability of dental care in general

Key Informant Interviews 16 Interviews

- Concerns around dental care access and affordability was a theme across key informant interviews

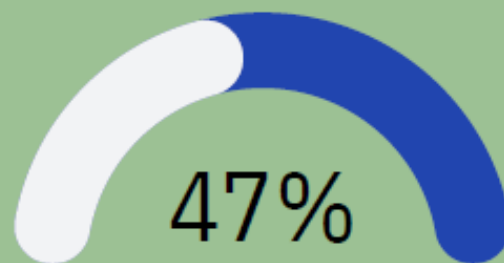


Let's Talk Money, Rock County

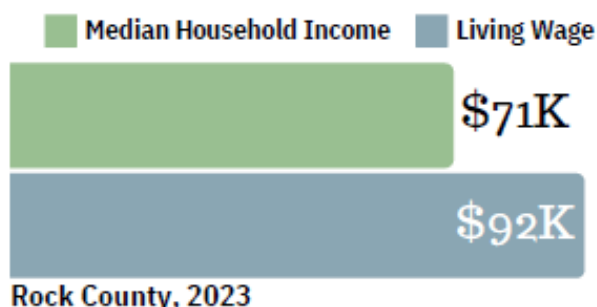
Economic well-being is the ability to earn enough income to support basic needs. Access to affordable nutritious food, safe and quality housing, and healthcare services support one's health. In contrast, poverty, is the state or condition of lacking financial resources or other living essentials. Rock County community members acknowledged a growing strain of financial resources and the rising cost of living impacting their health. Reducing these impacts, improving opportunities to gain employment, and more support for working families were among the top priorities expressed in the 2024 Rock County Community Health Assessment (CHA).

Poverty in Rock County

Poverty is a key indicator of economic instability. Those in poverty are often faced with poorer health outcomes and shorter life expectancy. Rock County childhood poverty has decreased since 2013, with most recent data showing 14%. Income is generally used to determine eligibility for public assistance programs. One example is the free and reduced-price lunch program in public schools. In 2021-2022, 47% of children qualified for this program. Unemployment is often a large contributor to poverty. In Rock County, 63% of the population was employed with a 3% unemployment rate in 2024. This could mean wages are not maintaining the current cost of living.



Children Eligible for Free and Reduced-Price Lunch, 2021-2022



Household Income Versus Living Wage

Household income is one way to estimate economic well-being in a specified area. This is calculated by totaling the earnings of those living in a single household. Half of Rock County households make less than \$71,000 per year. For a household of one adult and two children to cover basic expenses, this income would not suffice. 2023 living wage data shows that Rock County households of this size would need to make \$92,000 per year to cover basic expenses. This gap can lead to financial stress in trying to decide which expenses are prioritized.

Factors Influencing Economic Well-Being

Who may be more affected

- Those unable to work or on fixed income programs
- Groups facing income inequality based on their identity
- Older adults and youth
- Those with gaps in work history
- Single-income households
- Those with chronic conditions or complex health needs
- Those with unstable housing
- Migrant workers
- Those with less than full-time employment or making less than the living wage

What influences access

- Generational wealth
- Stigma around public assistance
- Access to good paying jobs with benefits like sick time or insurance
- Availability of affordable housing and childcare
- Financial literacy
- Hiring practices
- Policies impacting eligibility for public assistance
- Cost of living
- Personal and professional networks and support
- Education levels and skills

When and Where

- Rural areas where services are limited or are hard to get to
- Areas facing disinvestment
- Car-dependent areas with limited access to public transport
- Limited broadband areas
- Weather-dependent jobs
- Times of national economic instability
- Times of crisis in personal lives



To View More Economic Data, Scan the QR Code

Let's Talk Money, Rock County

Rock County Input on Economic Well-Being During the 2024 CHA

Survey Responses 537 total

- Money is a major stressor for 25% of survey respondents.
- 31% of survey respondents indicated living paycheck to paycheck. In contrast, 33% indicated they are financially secure and can meet the household needs.
- 32% of survey respondents disagreed that there are enough good-paying jobs in the community.
- The majority (64%) agreed that their job supports their well-being.

Community Conversations 150+ Participants

- The high cost of living forces many community members to make difficult financial choices between basic needs and their health. This is especially difficult for those on fixed incomes or single-income households.
- Many indicated a need for support in finding employment opportunities, job training services, and more accessible jobs with fewer education requirements.

Key Informant Interviews 16 Interviews

- Key Informants were concerned with the widening wealth gap in our community.
- Rock County has faced deindustrialization and a loss of high-skill jobs.
- The community has unmet basic needs like access to housing and food that tends to take priority over health.
- There has been a noticeable growth in the business sector.



Historical Spotlight on Health

In 2008, General Motors closed its doors for good and the economic consequences rippled throughout Rock County. According to *Amy Goldstein's book, Janesville: An American Story*, many individuals who lost a job, or lived with someone who did, took various steps to cope financially and that may have impacted their nutrition and health. The University of Wisconsin Survey Center conducted a survey in 2013 to assess the economic impact of the General Motors closure in 2008 with the following results:¹

- 83% cut back on transportation spending
- 63% cut back on doctor visits or medical treatment
- 50% had trouble paying for food
- 44% increased their credit card debt to help pay bills
- 30% missed a mortgage or rent payment
- 15% had their utilities cut off

The Rock County Food Environment Report published in 2023, showed that those who rent had a lower presence of food available in their household.² They were also less likely to report ease of purchasing fruits and vegetables. As income increases, so does the presence of food in the home. In 2022, the Nutrition Collaborative of Rock County was formed to improve access to food, provide comprehensive nutrition education, and connect food and nutrition resources throughout Rock County. SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville is an active member on this collaborative.

Let's Talk Housing, Rock County

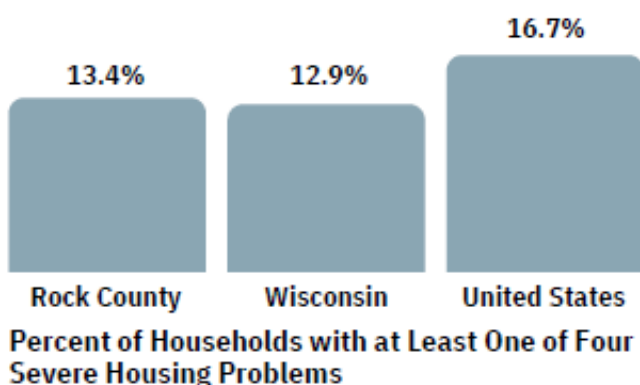
Access to quality and stable housing can influence one's health. Rock County community members discussed challenges associated with finding quality housing that is affordable, especially among rental properties. Increasing the availability of affordable, quality homes and coordinating resources for those faced with homelessness were the top priorities related to the neighborhood and built environment from the 2024 Rock County Community Health Assessment (CHA).

Housing Cost Burden in Rock County

Housing is considered cost burdened when 30% or more a household's income is spent on housing. In Rock County, **10% of households spend 50% or more of their household income on housing.** Renters are more likely to be impacted by cost burden. The median cost of **renting in Rock County can cost \$981 per month.** Many Rock County residents own their own home with a **median monthly cost of \$1,440 for those with a mortgage.**



Households with High-Cost Burden in Rock County



Housing Quality

Quality housing plays a large role in one's health. High housing costs, lack of kitchen or plumbing facilities, or overcrowded homes can be a measure of severe housing problems. In Rock County, 13.4% of households have at least one of these four problems. While these problems can apply to both home owners and renters, renters are more likely to face issues with substandard housing, especially those with a low-income. Residents of poor-quality housing are at greater risk for injury, disease, poor childhood development, and poor mental health.

Factors Influencing Housing

Who is affected

- Those with less than full-time employment or making less than the living wage
- Youth and older adults
- Those within minority culture groups
- Veterans
- Those with chronic conditions or complex health needs
- Those with mental illness (diagnosed or not), including substance misuse
- Single-income households
- Renters
- Those without stable housing

What influences access

- Housing availability
- Income level
- Relationships with landlords and banking
- Transportation access
- Trauma and resiliency
- Policies impacting low income housing development
- Financial literacy
- Credit scores and background checks
- Economic trends
- Support systems
- Regulatory practices of housing

When and Where

- Rural areas
- Communities facing disinvestment
- Limited broadband access
- Low-income neighborhoods
- History of evictions, substance use, or criminal activity
- Areas that homelessness is criminalized
- Changes in employment



To View More Housing Data, Scan the QR Code

Let's Talk Housing, Rock County

Rock County Input on Housing During the 2024 CHA

Survey Responses 537 total

- Housing was identified as the greatest area of improvement with 59.9% of respondents indicating housing as a need.
- 50.9% of respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed that “there are enough safe and affordable houses and apartments in my community”.
- While the majority of respondents own their homes (69.8%), others indicated renting (23.5%), staying with others (7.4%), unhoused, or living in a vehicle or emergency shelter.

Community Conversations 150+ Participants

- There are limited options of affordable housing.
- Physical and social barriers like inaccessibility of buildings and background checks make it difficult for people to find stable and safe housing.
- Affordable housing options, sober living facilities, home renovation and repair programs are among the resources and support people identified as a need to combat homelessness and housing insecurity.

Key Informant Interviews 16 Interviews

- Worsening housing affordability in the area.
- Homelessness is increasing, especially for youth.
- Limited resources for youth that have instable housing and are unaccompanied.



Historical Spotlight on Health

Safe and affordable housing is essential for promoting overall health, yet not always attainable. Many historical policies and practices promoted the separation of communities of color and White communities. Although the practices are not legal today, history continues to influence community design. One practice grouped people of color or with low incomes into certain areas. These areas were denied access to certain resources and were deemed risky places to invest. This practice is referred to as redlining, and it still impacts communities today. Residents of these communities continue to be largely inhabited by racial and ethnic minority groups, have fewer opportunities to build capital, and face poorer health outcomes.¹

In 2023, Rock County had higher rates of eviction filings that went to judgements (12%) than Wisconsin's rates overall (7%).² Filing for eviction is the first step for landlords to take in having a tenant removed from a rental property. Whether an eviction is filed or court ordered, this record can stay on a tenant's record for either two years, or up to twenty years which can prevent renters from being accepted for new housing.³ This can show how many people may be facing unstable housing that can be harmful to physical and mental health. Communities of color, families with children, and low-income renters are more likely to face eviction.¹ While redlining is not practiced today, the impacts it continues to have on the neighborhoods and the people who live there are still impacted.

Let's Talk Transportation, Rock County

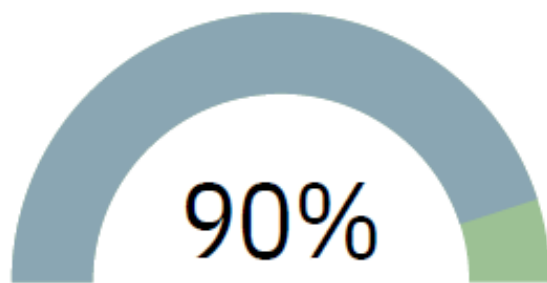
Communities are healthier when its residents are able to access parks, grocery stores, employment and healthcare. Quality neighborhood design includes public transportation and infrastructure that promotes healthy behaviors like walking and biking. During the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA), improving public transportation, walkability, and transportation services to medical appointments were among the top priorities of Rock County residents.

Walkability of Rock County Communities

A key measure of a community's access to amenities is walkability. Walkability is how friendly an area is to walk based on the ease and number of options for walking to places of interest. **Higher walkability scores are associated with better health.** Evansville has a 'very walkable' score followed by Milton and Clinton with a 'somewhat walkable' score. **All other communities are considered car-dependent where many or all errands require a car.**



7 in 10 Rock County Communities are Car-Dependent Where Many or All Errands Require a Car



Percent of Residents Who Travel by Vehicle in Rock County

Means of Transportation in Rock County

With most places in Rock County being car-dependent, **90% of residents travel by car, truck, or van. Less than 5% of residents walk, bike, or use public transportation** in the community. This can lead to higher traffic volume and longer work commutes which have been linked to poorer health outcomes. When required to spend more time in a car, people are less likely to be active and can have more exposure to air pollution causing harm to their health in the short and long term.

Factors Influencing Transportation

Who is affected

- Those with less than full-time employment or making less than the living wage
- Youth and older adults
- Those within minority culture groups
- Veterans
- Those with specialized transit needs
- Those with a history of substance use on their driving record
- Those without a car or support system

What influences access

- Insurance status
- Income level
- Transportation access and proximity to transportation
- Smartphone access
- Cultural norms
- Affordability of vehicles including insurance, maintenance, and public transport
- Efficiency and reliability of public transportation routes
- Awareness of options
- Support for transportation infrastructure

When and Where

- Rural areas
- Communities facing disinvestment
- Low-income neighborhoods
- Attending school
- Weekend and evening hours
- Extreme weather conditions
- Low walkability neighborhoods or car-dependent areas



To View More Transportation Data, Scan the QR Code

Let's Talk Transportation, Rock County

Rock County Input on Transportation During the 2024 CHA

Survey Responses 537 total

- 81% of survey respondents reported always having access to dependable transportation.
- Many reported a need of more transportation options and bike or pedestrian-friendly infrastructure in the community.
- Safety concerns in regards to travel was reported as a need. People stated that more infrastructure to reduce speeding and reckless driving would be beneficial.

Community Conversations 150+ Participants

- Many reported that the county has limited transportation options. The options available have mixed reports of reliability, affordability, and accessibility.
- Transportation options are limited for those who live outside the main cities or who need to access services on evenings and weekends.
- When transportation services are available, participants reported difficulty understanding the routes.

Key Informant Interviews 16 Interviews

- A mix of improvements and issues have been made with public transportation in recent years.
- There is a lack of transportation services available to access health services.

Secondary Data: Premature Death

In Rock County, 8,000 years of life were lost to deaths of people under age 75, per 100,000 people from 2019-2021. The leading cause of death for people under the age of 75 in Rock County:



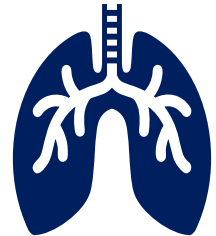
Malignant Neoplasms
/ Cancer



Diseases of the Heart



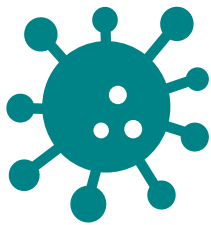
Accidents



Covid-19 and
Respiratory Diseases

Secondary Data: Worsening Health Behaviors

Many things influence how well and how long we live. Health factors represent those things we can improve to live longer and healthier lives. They are indicators of the future health of our communities. The following are health behaviors that are worsening or are higher than the state and national statistics.



Sexually Transmitted
Infections (STIs)



Drug Overdose
Deaths



Alcohol Impaired
Driving Deaths



Teen Births

Secondary Data: Worsening Social Factors

Many things influence how well and how long we live. Health factors represent those things we can improve to live longer and healthier lives. They are indicators of the future health of our communities. The following are social and environmental health factors that are worsening or are higher than the state and national statistics.



Air Pollution



Childcare Cost
Burden



Income Inequality



Limited Access to
Healthy Food

Disparities and Inequities in Health Outcomes

The following health outcomes give us insight on *who* in Rock County is living longer, fuller lives on average. These racial disparities in life expectancy require us to develop equitable and just solutions.



Low Birth Weight for Black Infants was 17% compared to 8% of population overall.



Life Expectancy for Black community was a on average 68.1 years compared to 77.1 years for the population overall.



Child Mortality for Black youth was a rate of 190 per 100,000 people compared to 60 per 100,000 overall.

Disparities and Inequities in Health Behaviors

The following are health behaviors impacting historically marginalized members of our community. These disparities require us to develop equitable strategies to improve the health of all Rock County residents.



Only 38% of Hispanic Women completed their Mammogram Screenings compared to 47% completion overall.



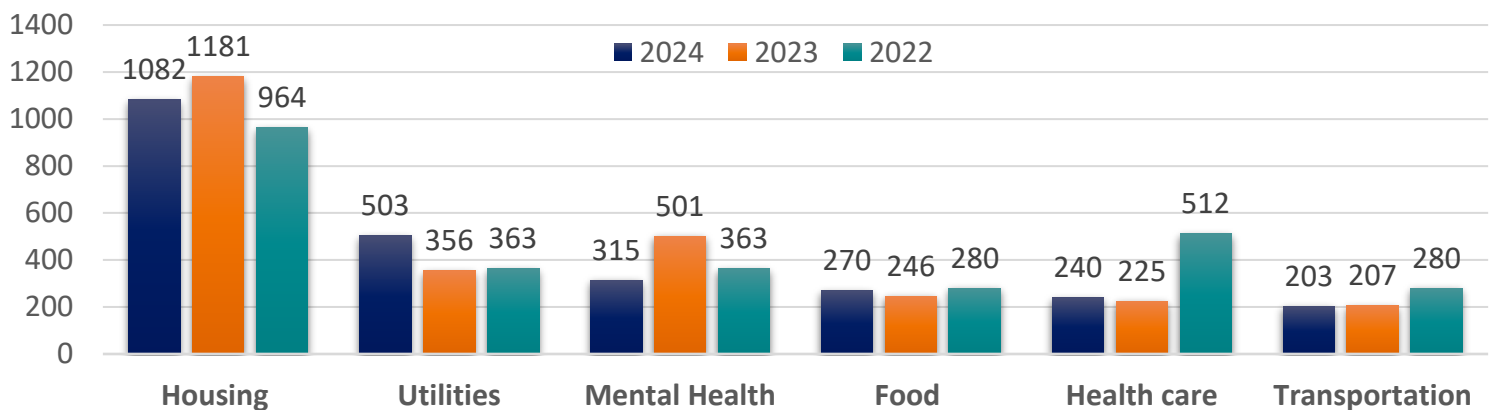
Only 31% of Hispanic community members received their flu shot compared to 54% of the population overall



There were 46 teen births per 1,000 Black female teens compared to rate of 19 per 1,000 females overall

Rock County Top Requested Services – 211

211, supported by the United Way, is a free and confidential connection to local services people need – specifically the social determinants of health: Housing, Food, Transportation, Utilities Support and Financial Resources. From January through October 2024, there were over 7,400 referrals for requested services through United Way 211 for Rock County community members. The following chart shows which categories are most called for in Rock County.



Prioritization of health needs

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) considered the Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) when developing the community health survey and identifying priority areas. These social determinants can either contribute to poor health outcomes or support a healthy community including Economic Stability, Educational Access and Quality, Healthcare Access and Quality, Social and Community Context with a Sense of Belonging, and Neighborhood and Built Environment including Housing and Transportation Access, Quality and Safety.

Upon completion of primary and secondary data collection, the CHNA workgroup met weekly to analyze the community health survey, community conversations, and key informant interview responses. The analysis consisted of creating a quantitative method for measuring the qualitative data and applying a healthy equity lens to fully understand each area of improvement identified by Rock County residents. Ultimately, the data was narrowed down to the following six priority areas for the community and HEAR general body to vote upon in August 2024.

- **Healthcare Access**
- **Economic Stability**
- **Mental health**
- **Housing**
- **Access to Dental Care**
- **Transportation**

Prior to the HEAR member review of the data and community vote on priority areas, a list of criteria was developed to aid in the selection of priority areas. During the data-review process, attention was directed to health issues meeting the following criteria:

- Ranking of priority areas based on primary data including community perspectives and secondary data including unbiased local, state and national resources.
- Health issues that impact a lot of people or for which disparities exist, and which put a greater burden on some population groups.
- Current efforts or gaps that exist in Rock County to address each priority as well as ideas to improve each priority area in Rock County at an individual, organizational and community level.

On August 14, 2024, over 30 community members were present for a data share out session to assist in prioritization and shared decision-making. Voting was made available through August 31, 2024 and resulted in Mental Health and Housing rising to the top two health priorities for the 2025-2027 Improvement Plan.

DATA TO ACTION:
USE THE HEALTHY ROCK DATA FOR LOCAL DECISION-MAKING
HEALTHYROCKWI.ORG

HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE'S
2024 CHA Data Share Session
August 14th, 2024 | 11:00am - 12:30pm
DWRC-Beckman Mill Conference Room
Refreshments Provided

Agenda:
1. Community Health Assessment (CHA) Results
2. Priority Area Strategy Development
3. Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) Voting

Use this QR code to
RSVP for the meeting or
to vote on the CHIP
priorities for 2025-2027

SCAN

HEAR
HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE OF ROCK COUNTY

2025-2027 Priority areas

Priority 1: Mental Health

20%

of survey respondents rated their mental health as fair or poor.



- The average number of mentally unhealthy days in the last 30 days for Rock County community members was 5 days compared to 4.8 for WI and United States overall.
- According to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in 2023, 17% of high school students in Rock County shared they had considered suicide in the past 12 months and 45% of high school females shared they experience prolonged sadness and depression.
- 23% of Rock County high schoolers reported drinking alcohol and 15% reported vaping in the last 30 days. For Rock County high school seniors, 31% reported drinking alcohol compared to 25.3% of Rock County adults. These rates are higher than the state of WI overall.

Key Strategies

- Strengthen the Mental Health Workforce
- Increase Access to Affordable Mental Health Services
- Improve Community Conditions to make Rock County a Mentally Healthy Place to live

Priority 2: Housing

60%

of survey respondents indicated Housing was the greatest area of improvement for Rock County.



- 33.7% of households in Rock County have at least 1 of 4 housing problems such as overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities or lack of plumbing. This is nearly 8% higher than the state of WI overall.
- According to the City of Beloit's Comprehensive Plan, 32% of households in Beloit are cost-burdened (spending greater than 30% of income on housing) and 14% are severely cost-burdened (spending over 50% of their income on housing).
- 26.9% of Community Health Assessment Survey respondents Disagreed and 4.4% Strongly Disagreed with the statement "There are enough safe and affordable houses and apartments in my community".

Key Strategies

- Improve the Living Conditions of Housing
- Reduce the Impacts of Homelessness
- Improve Housing Affordability

Progress Since Previous Assessment

Priority 1: Mental Health

- SSM Health became the primary healthcare sponsor of the Jacob's SWAG Foundation "Got Your Back" app to support mental health access and suicide prevention across our service area. As part of Beloit Turner Schools' effort to improve youth mental health, staff attended and shared resources with over 120 youth during their mental health fair in Fall 2023.
- SSM Health instructed over 1500 students in Rock County through the Catch my Breath vaping prevention curriculum, specifically to middle school and high school students.
- SSM Health provided \$15,000 to GIFTS Men's Shelter for Art Therapy in 2023 and Music Therapy in 2024 for guests to have an alternative method for improving their mental health. The men donated a handmade wooden to the SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville Healing Garden as a thank you.
- SSM Health, in partnership with KANDU Industries, provided funds to create a Sensory Room for those with neurodivergence to relax and regroup throughout the day. In 2024, SSM Health provided funds for Equestrian Therapy opportunities for further support.
- SSM Health became the initial healthcare partner to join the Wisconsin Coalition to End Isolation and Loneliness. As part of this coalition, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville sat on the data collection workgroup and piloted Senior Isolation and Loneliness screenings.
- In 2022, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville hired a community health worker specifically focused on aging adults to support isolation and loneliness as well as fall prevention. This Community Health Worker instructed the evidence-based program, Stepping On, for fall prevention to over 25 aging adults; sat with aging and lonely patients in the hospital lobby waiting for transportation to offer resources and support, and handed out over 500 fall prevention kits including the CDC Fall Prevention Home Checklist and supports to reduce loneliness to elders in Rock County.
- As part of the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) efforts to improve access to mental health for all community members, the Rock County Public Health department collaborated with Credible Mind to launch a Rock County specific website which shares local resources, assessment tools, and a learning lab with practice guides for improving overall wellbeing.



Progress Since Previous Assessment

Priority 2: Access to Care

- Since 2022, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville has provided over \$10,000 in community contributions focused on improving literacy. Key partners include Stateline Literacy Council who provided digital literacy to Spanish speaking community members and the Janesville Jets who launch a reading program for area elementary schools each spring.
- In February 2024, SSM Health was proud to offer MyChart Spanish as part of ongoing efforts to ensure that all our patients and families have access to their health information. This version allows for translations of MyChart menus and standardized SSM Health language and information. This supports patients who read Spanish to navigate MyChart and allow for much easier access to their telehealth visits.
- One of the key collaborative strategies for the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) to address issues in accessing care was to conduct a Health Literacy Organizational Assessment at each Rock County healthcare organization. SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital completed this assessment from January-June 2023 which reviewed internal policies, patient facing forms, signage and wayfinding within the hospital and ease of access for patients. The results of this assessment were reviewed by hospital leadership and steps are being made to implement change where identified.
- Dental access for uninsured and under-insured patients in Rock County is difficult. To ensure patients presenting at the Emergency Department at SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville get the dental support they need, every patients with an oral health diagnosis is referred to HealthNet to establish dental care that same week as part of the dental diversion program.
- At SSM Health, we understand that expanding our diverse and representative workforce is a key strategy supporting access to care for our community. In 2022, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville hired a community health worker (CHW) specifically focused on supporting aging adults in healthcare navigation and health literacy. Since then, this CHW has supported numerous patients by conducting 1:1 education on MyChart sign up and navigation, teaching skills on how to advocate for yourself as a patient, and trained area librarians on how to support community members in navigating the healthcare system.
- In partnership with Rock County based prenatal and postpartum doulas, SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville hosted a Doula Meet and Greet in December 2022. This opportunity allowed clinical nurses, OB providers and doulas an opportunity to learn from each other, understand roles to support patients and build relationship with each other. In Rock County, SSM Health was the first hospital to bring this essential care team to the forefront by ensuring pregnant patients get access to a doula if they desire.



2024

Appendices

SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville

3400 E. Racine St., Janesville, WI 53546

Appendix A: Community Partners

As a member of the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR), SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville worked many community partners to develop the 2024 Rock County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA).

Health Equity Alliance of Rock County Partners

- Aging and Disability Resource Center
- Beloit Area Community Health Center
- Beloit Health System
- Beloit Public Library
- Beloit NAACP
- Building a Safer Evansville (BASE)
- City of Beloit
- City of Janesville
- Children's Resource Center - South
- Community Action, Inc.
- Edgerton Hospital and Health Services
- HealthNet of Rock County
- Hedberg Public Library
- Janesville Community Center
- Janesville Mobilizing 4 Change (JM4C)
- Mercyhealth
- Milton Youth Coalition
- Nutrition and Health Associates / Rock County WIC
- Rock County Human Services Department
- Rock County Prevention Network
- Rock County Public Health Department
- Rock County Supervisors and Administration
- Rock Valley Community Programs
- Rock-Walworth Comprehensive Family Services Head Start/Early Head Start
- School District of Beloit
- School District of Janesville
- Second Harvest Food Bank
- Society's Assets
- South Central Wisconsin Area Health Education Center
- Southwest Wisconsin Workforce Development Board
- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville
- United Way Blackhawk Region
- University of Wisconsin Division of Extension
- UW Madison Carbone Cancer Center
- Youth 2 Youth
- YWCA of Rock County
- Community Members at Large

Historical Review Team Acknowledgements

- Beloit Historical Society
- Edgerton Public Library
- Hedberg Public Library
- Empowered Therapy, LLC
- HealthNet of Rock County
- Milton House
- Nutrition and Health Associates / Rock County WIC
- Premier Bank
- S & J Consulting
- SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville
- Rock County Historical Society
- Rock County Public Health Department
- WiLS (WI Library System)
- YWCA of Rock County

Special thanks to Community Health Interns through the South-Central Area Health Education Center: Sam Roherty for his contribution in identifying best practice and analyzing primary data for an unbiased, inclusive community health needs assessment.

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

DEJA QUE SE ESCUCHE

.....: *Tu Voz* :.....

¡Encuesta de evaluación de la salud comunitaria disponible!



← Español

¿Necesitas ayuda? Llame al (608) 757-5440 o envíe un correo electrónico: hearcoordinator@co.rock.wi.us

LET YOUR VOICE

.....: *Be Heard* :.....

Community Health Assessment Survey Available!



← English

Need help? Call (608) 757-5440 or email: hearcoordinator@co.rock.wi.us

Where you live is an important part of your health. What are your thoughts about the health of your community?

The Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR) wants to hear from you about what is going well in your community and what needs improvement. Your response to this survey will help us develop local solutions for health issues that you believe are important. The survey will take about 5 minutes to complete. All responses will be confidential and anonymous. We will only share combined results from the survey. Your response is voluntary and you are able to exit the survey at any time. Your progress will not be saved if you try to return to the survey at a later time.

This survey has a focus on addressing the drivers of health. Examples include income/financial status, education, neighborhood and physical environment, employment, and social support networks, as well as access to health care. Addressing these conditions are important for improving health outcomes and reducing long standing health problems in our communities.

Questions or concerns about the survey can be directed to the HEAR Coordinator at HEARCoordinator@co.rock.wi.us or by calling 608-757-5440.

Thank you for your participation!

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play.

The questions in this section help us better understand which Social Determinants of Health are affecting our communities in Rock County.

- Do you live or work in Rock County?
 1. I live and/or work in Rock County.
 2. I do not live or work in Rock County.
- Please choose the best response to reflect your opinion.

	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neither Agree nor Disagree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Not Applicable or Not Sure
I am friendly with most of my neighbors.						
There are places for people like me to gather in my community (such as places of worship, community centers, events, libraries and/or parks.)						
I feel safe in my community.						
Children in my community have access to high quality education.						
There are enough safe and affordable houses and apartments in my community.						
I feel like I belong in my community.						
I trust the public service providers in my community such as public health, law enforcement and emergency services.						
Decisions for the community are made with resident participation.						
My community has enough good-paying jobs.						
My community is a good place to raise children.						
My job supports my well-being.						

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

3. My household has transportation that we can depend on to meet our daily needs. This may include a car or truck, bike, bus, taxi, etc.
 - a. Always
 - b. Often
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Rarely
 - e. Never

4. Everyone in my household can get the health services we want and need including physical, mental and dental health services.
 - a. Always
 - b. Often
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Rarely
 - e. Never

5. Which types of health services are difficult to get for your household members ?

a. Dental Services	c. Physical health services
b. Mental Health Services	d. Other:

6. What challenges, if any, do members of your household face when receiving health services? Physical health services, Mental health services, dental services, does not apply or not sure if it applies.

	Physical Health Services	Mental Health Services	Dental Services	Not Applicable or Not Sure
Healthcare services are too expensive and/or the deductible or copay is too high				
Healthcare providers do not accept my health insurance				
I do not have health insurance				
We can't get an appointment in a timely manner				
We don't feel welcome				
We don't know how to find the healthcare providers we need				
My cultural beliefs are not respected by healthcare services and staff				
I am not able to talk to healthcare staff in general in my preferred language				
Interpretation services are hard to access for support during appointments				

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

	Physical Health Services	Mental Health Services	Dental Services	Not Applicable or Not Sure
We have schedule problems (when we are available, healthcare services are closed)				
We have transportation problems				
It's hard to find childcare during my appointments				
I do not understand what my health providers tell me				

7. Where do you go most often for health services?
- a. Emergency Room
 - b. Urgent Care
 - c. Doctor's office
 - d. Virtual visit
 - e. VA
 - f. Other:
8. I have continuous access to healthy foods for my household.
- a. Always
 - b. Often
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Rarely
 - e. Never
9. What challenges do you or your household members face getting healthy food. Select all that apply.
- a. Food pantries and other sources of free food are not available in my community.
 - b. Healthy food is not available in my community.
 - c. Healthy food is too expensive in my community.
 - d. I don't have the time to buy or prepare healthy food.
 - e. I don't know how to find food pantries and other sources of free food.
 - f. I have schedule problems in accessing stores with healthy foods.
 - g. I have transportation problems.
 - h. The store I go to does not take EBT, QUEST, or FoodShare .
 - i. The store I go to does not take WIC.
 - j. Other:
10. I or someone in my household experiences discrimination in my community.
- a. Always
 - b. Often
 - c. Sometimes
 - d. Rarely
 - e. Never

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

11. What types of discrimination have you or your household members experienced in your community? Please select all that apply.
- a. Age
 - b. Citizenship status
 - c. Criminal justice background
 - d. Disability status
 - e. Gender
 - f. Income or socioeconomic status
 - g. Place of birth
 - h. Race
 - i. Religious
 - j. Sexual orientation
 - k. Skin color
 - l. Mental health status
 - m. Education
 - n. Where I live
 - o. Weight
 - p. Current or past substance misuse
 - q. Other:
12. In what situations have you or your household members experienced discrimination in your community?
- a. At a place of worship
 - b. At school
 - c. At work
 - d. In my home
 - e. In public places like parks, libraries, etc.
 - f. When applying for a job
 - g. When interacting with government agencies
 - h. When interacting with law enforcement
 - i. When looking for housing to rent or buy
 - j. When receiving healthcare services
 - k. When shopping at stores or eating at restaurants
 - l. Other:
13. What do you think are the top 5 STRENGTHS of your community right now? Choose only 5 responses and select the ones you believe your community is doing really well.
- a. Ability to continue living in my home or chosen community as I get older
 - b. Dental services
 - c. Mental health services
 - d. Physical health services
 - e. Food
 - f. Housing
 - g. Transportation
 - h. Clean environment
 - i. Community events
 - j. Community safety
 - k. Accepting of all people's identities and cultures
 - l. Good jobs and pay
 - m. Good places to raise a family
 - n. Community parks and other recreation locations for physical activity
 - o. Schools
 - p. Opportunities to practice spiritual beliefs
 - q. Sense of belonging
 - r. Family life/relationships
 - s. Childcare
 - t. Activities and opportunities for youth
 - u. Culture
 - v. Other

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

14. What do you think are the top 5 AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT in your community?

Please choose only 5 responses and select the ones you believe your community needs to be doing better or should be focusing on. Your response to this question will help us determine what health priorities will be in Rock County over the next few years.

- | | |
|---|---|
| a. Ability to continue living in my home or chosen community as I get older | k. Community safety |
| b. Dental services | l. Accepting of all people's identities and culture |
| c. Mental health services | m. Good jobs and pay |
| d. Physical health services | n. Good places to raise a family |
| e. Food | o. Schools |
| f. Housing | p. Opportunities to practice spiritual beliefs |
| g. Transportation | q. Sense of belonging |
| h. Community parks and other recreation locations for physical activity | r. Family life/relationships |
| i. Clean environment | s. Childcare |
| j. Community events | t. Activities and opportunities for youth |
| | u. Culture |
| | v. Other |

In your opinion, what would make your community a healthier place to live, work and play? *Note: Responses from this section may be quoted in online or print materials related to the survey.* Survey responses state Physical health services

Now we will ask a little more about you.

The following questions help us better understand our community members. You may choose not to answer any questions and all responses will be confidential and anonymous. We will only share combined results.

- Would you say that, in general, your health is:

a. Excellent	d. Fair
b. Good	e. Poor
c. Average	
- Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression, anxiety, and problems with emotions. How would you rate your mental health?

a. Excellent	d. Fair
b. Good	e. Poor
c. Average	
- How would you rate your dental health?

a. Excellent	d. Fair
b. Good	e. Poor
c. Average	
- What is your gender identity?

a. Male	d. Transgender
b. Female	e. Prefer not to say
c. Non-binary	f. Other:

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

1. What is your sexual orientation?
 - a. Straight or heterosexual
 - b. Gay or lesbian
 - c. Bisexual
 - d. Pansexual
 - e. Prefer not to say
 - f. Other:

2. With which categories do you identify? Select all that apply.
 - a. African American or Black
 - b. American Indian or Alaska Native
 - c. Asian Indian
 - d. East Asian
 - e. Hispanic or Latinx
 - f. Middle Eastern or North African
 - g. Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander
 - h. Southeast Asian
 - i. White
 - j. Prefer not to say
 - k. Other:

3. What languages do you speak at home?

4. What is your age group?
 - a. Under 18
 - b. 18-24
 - c. 25-34
 - d. 35-44
 - e. 45-64
 - f. 55-64
 - g. 65-74
 - h. 75-84
 - f. 85+

1. What is the highest grade or year of school you completed?
 - a. Less than 9th grade
 - b. 9-12 grade, no diploma
 - c. High School graduate or GED
 - d. Trade/Technical Training Program
 - e. Some college credit, no degree
 - f. Associate degree
 - g. Bachelor's degree
 - h. Graduate or Professional degree

2. What is your current housing situation?
 - a. Rent
 - b. Own
 - c. Unhoused
 - d. Living in vehicle
 - d. Staying with family, friends, or others
 - e. Hotel
 - f. Emergency Shelter

3. What is your employment status? (choose all that apply)
 - a. Employed, full-time (includes self-employed)
 - b. Employed part-time (includes self-employed)
 - c. Looking for employment
 - d. Seasonal
 - e. More than 1 job
 - f. Caregiver
 - g. Student
 - h. Retired
 - i. Veteran
 - j. Not employed
 - k. Unable to work
 - l. Other:

Appendix B: Primary Data

Community Health Survey Questions

1. How would you describe your current financial situation? (choose all that apply)
 - a. I don't have enough money to pay the bills to meet household needs.
 - b. Money is a major stressor in my life.
 - c. I live paycheck to paycheck.
 - d. I am financially secure and meet my household needs.
 - e. I have enough money to live comfortably without stress.
 - f. I could cover my expenses for at least 3 months if I lost my income.

2. Please select any type of disabilities that apply to you:
 - a. Neurodiversity (Autism spectrum, ADHD, learning disabilities, etc.)
 - b. Hearing
 - c. Intellectual, developmental, or cognitive disability
 - d. Mental health
 - e. Mobility or physical
 - f. Speech
 - g. Vision
 - h. None of the above
 - i. Other

3. How many adults (age 18 and over) live in your household?
 - a. 1
 - b. 2
 - c. 3
 - d. 4
 - e. 5
 - f. More than 5

4. How many children under the age of 18 live in your household?
 - a. 0
 - b. 1
 - c. 2
 - d. 3
 - e. 4
 - f. 5
 - f. More than 5

5. What is your home or work zip code in Rock County?
6. Is there anything else you would like to share that was not covered in this survey? *Note: Responses from this section may be quoted in online or print materials related to the survey.*

Appendix C: Primary Data Community Conversations & Key Informant Interviews

Primary Data Collection Acknowledgements

- Adaptive Alliance
- Beloit Community Health Systems
- Beloit Health System
- Beloit NAACP
- Beloit Public Library
- Building a Safer Evansville (BASE)
- Caritas
- City of Janesville
- City of Janesville
- Children’s Wisconsin
- Clinton Public Library
- Clover Family Services
- Community Support Program
- Edgerton Community Outreach
- Faith Lutheran Church
- Farm Bureau of Rock County
- HealthNet
- Healthy Climate WI
- Janesville Senior Center
- Justice Point
- League of Women Voters
- Merrill Community Center Mom’s Group
- Messiah Lutheran
- Milton Youth Coalition
- Orfordville Public Library
- Project 16:49
- Project Hope
- RECAP
- Rock County Drug Court
- Rock County Economic Development
- Rock County Historical Society
- Rock County Human Services
- Rock County School Nurse Collaboration
- Rock-Walworth Comprehensive Services Head Start and Early Head Start
- SSM Health St. Mary’s Hospital – Janesville
- Stateline Literacy Council
- Strong Bodies
- St. Paul Lutheran Church
- The Scharine Group
- Town of Milton
- Whitewater Police Department

Questions asked in community conversations are as follows:

- What do you see as the top three health challenges for people in your community and why?
- What are the barriers and root causes to achieving better health?
- What changes could be made in our community to improve health?
- What do you like about Rock County?

Questions asked in the key informant interviews are as follows:

- In your time living/working in Rock County, how have you seen it change?
- What are your concerns about health in the community?
- Why are you concerned about your responses to the previous question?
- Why are these issues important to you?
- What are the assets in the community?
- What is one initiative that we should all get behind?
- How do we meet that initiative?

LET YOUR VOICE

..... *Be Heard*

Join a Community Conversation!

- **Who:** Beloit Residents
- **Where:** Beloit Public Library
- **When:** March 26, 5:30-6:30pm

Meal Provided

RSVP before March 22 to save your spot!

LWV LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF BELOIT

NAACP

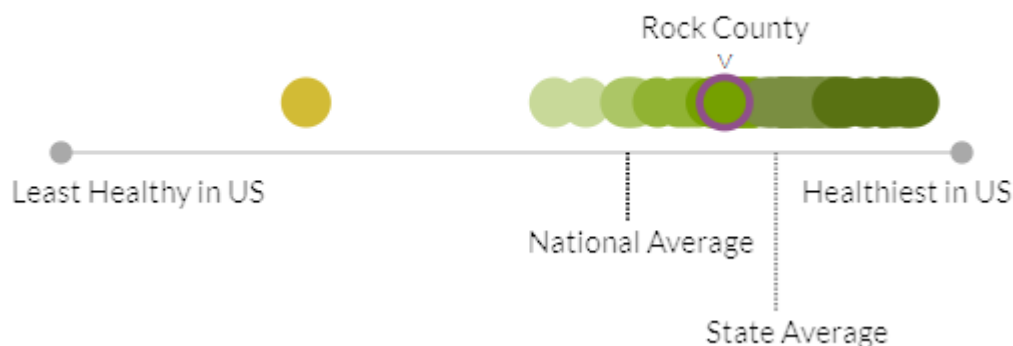
HEAR HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE OF ROCK COUNTY

Appendix D: Secondary Data

Data Source	Description
American Community Survey (US Census Bureau)	The American Community Survey (ACS) helps local officials, community leaders, and businesses understand the changes taking place in their communities. It is the premier source for detailed population and housing information about our nation. https://data.census.gov/profile/Rock_County,_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55105
County Health Rankings and Roadmaps	The annual Rankings provide a revealing snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play. It provides a starting point for change in communities. https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/rock?year=2024
Area Deprivation Index (Neighborhood Atlas)	The Area Deprivation Index (ADI) is based on a measure for primarily county-level use, but refined, adapted, and validated to the Census block group/neighborhood level. It allows for rankings of neighborhoods by socioeconomic status disadvantage in a region of interest. https://www.neighborhoodatlas.medicine.wisc.edu
2023 Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS)	The Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System (YRBSS) monitors six categories of health-related behaviors that contribute to the leading causes of death. YRBSS also measures the prevalence of obesity and asthma and other health-related behaviors such as vaping and alcohol use. https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbss
Center for Applied Research and Engagement Systems (Community Commons)	Community Commons is a site that holds curated tools, resources, and inspirational stories to drive public health work forward. Data tools, maps, and tables on this site are created to build healthy, equitable, and sustainable communities. https://www.communitycommons.org/entities/4c128e63-7457-4e58-84bb-ac161fa0277e
Wisconsin Dept of Health Services – Data and Statistics	Health-related data from over 100 federal and state data tracking and database systems.
211 Wisconsin	2-1-1- Counts offers data about the top requests- the most important basic needs of callers such as food, shelter, and clothing. The WI Social Determinants of Health Dashboard allows users to access 2-1-1 Counts by category for each county. https://211wisconsin.communityos.org/social-determinants-dashboard
United for ALICE	ALICE, an acronym for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed, is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn above the Federal Poverty Level, but not enough to afford a bare-bones household budget. https://cdn.ymaws.com/www.unitedwaywi.org/resource/resmgr/alice/fact_sheets/2024_county_face_sheets/rock_county.pdf
SSM Health Social Determinants of Health Epic Dashboard	SSM Health began screening for the social determinants of health for admitted patients in January 2023. Through the electronic health record system, SSM Health can monitor percent of patients screened, percent of patients at risk and percent of patients receiving resources for those social determinants.
Healthy People 2030	Healthy People provides 10-year, measurable public health objectives — and tools to help track progress toward achieving them. https://odphp.health.gov/healthypeople
Healthy Rock Wisconsin	A partnership providing data to residents and organizations who want to make Rock County a healthier place to live, learn, work, and play for all people. The data dashboards were created to allow people to interact with the data provided. https://www.healthyrocks.wi.org/

Appendix E: Secondary Data: Health Outcomes

2024 County Health Rankings

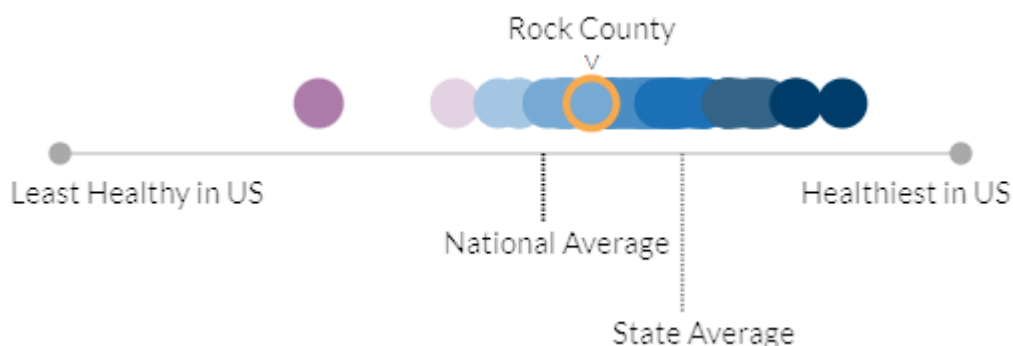


Out of 72 total counties in Wisconsin, Rock County is faring **worse** than the average county in WI for **health outcomes**, and better than the average county in the nation.

Health Outcome	Rock County	Trend	Wisconsin	United States
Life Expectancy	77.1	Neutral	78.2	77.6
Poor/Fair Health	14%	Neutral	13%	14%
Poor Physical Health Days	3.4	Improving	3.1	3.3
Poor Mental Health Days	5.0	Worsening	4.8	4.8
Low Birthweight	8%	Neutral	8%	8%
Child Mortality (per 100,000)	60	Neutral	50	50
Infant Mortality (per 100,000)	5	Neutral	6	6
Diabetes Prevalence	8%	Improving	8%	10%
HIV Prevalence	115	Neutral	137	382
Frequent Mental Distress	15%	Neutral	14%	15%
Frequent Physical Distress	10%	Neutral	9%	10%

Appendix E: Secondary Data: Health Behaviors

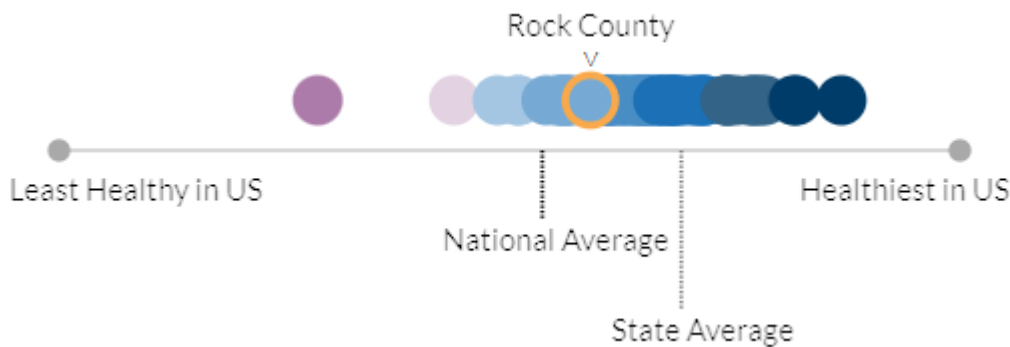
2024 County Health Rankings



Out of 72 total counties in Wisconsin, Rock County is faring **worse** than the average county in WI for **health factors**, and better than the average county in the nation.

Health Behaviors	Rock County	Trend	Wisconsin	United States
Adult smoking	16%	Neutral	14%	15%
Adult Obesity	35%	Neutral	34%	34%
Physical Inactivity	21%	Neutral	19%	23%
Excessive Drinking	22%	Neutral	25%	18%
Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths	38%	Neutral	35%	26%
Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)	520.1	Worsening	472.3	495.5
Teen Births	19	Neutral	12	17
Limited Access to Healthy Food	12%	Neutral	5%	6%
Drug Overdose Deaths	37	Worsening	26	27
Preventable Hospital Stays	3,388	Improving	2,451	2,681
Injury Deaths	119	Worsening	93	80
Mammography Screening	47%	Improving	50%	43%
Suicides	17	Neutral	15	14
Flu Vaccinations	54%	Improving	52%	46%
Uninsured	7%	Improving	6%	10%
Primary Care Providers	1960:1	Worsening	1250:1	1330:1
Mental Health Providers	460.1	Neutral	400.1	320:1
Dental Health Providers	1400:1	Improving	1360:1	1360:1

Appendix E: Secondary Data: Social, Economic and Environmental Factors



Out of 72 total counties in Wisconsin, Rock County is faring **worse** than the average county in WI for **health factors**, and better than the average county in the nation.

Social Factors	Rock County	Trend	Wisconsin	United States
Residential Segregation Black/White	56		76	23
High School Completion	92%		93%	89%
Social Associations	9.2		11.0	9.1
Disconnected youth	7%		5%	7%
Homicides (per 100,000)	4		4	6
Firearm Fatalities	10		11	13
Motor Vehicle Crash Deaths	13		10	12
Economic Factors	Rock County	Trend	Wisconsin	United States
Children in Poverty	14%	Neutral	13%	16%
Gender Pay Gap	.82		.81	.81
Median Household Income	67,400		71,100	74,800
Children Eligible for Free Lunch	47%		39%	51%
Child Care Cost Burden	37%		31%	27%
Environmental Factors	Rock County	Trend	Wisconsin	United States
Air Pollution	9.5	Improving	7.8	7.4
Severe Housing Problems	13%		13%	17%
Driving Alone to Work	81%		77%	72%
Long Commute	32%		28%	36%
Sever Housing Cost Burden (>50%)	10%		11%	14%

Appendix F: Historical Review Resources

Data Source	Description
Sense of Belonging	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> History & Social Justice, Janesville, WI: https://justice.tougaloo.edu/sundowntown/janesville-wi/ Structural racism through Sundown towns and its relationship to COVID-19 local risk and racial and ethnic diversity: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10207838/
Access to Healthcare	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Center of Disease Control and Prevention, History of World TB Day https://www.cdc.gov/tb/worldtbdays/default.htm#:~:text=Each%20year%2C%20we%20recognize%20World,History%20of%20World%20TB%20Day. Wisconsin Historical Society, Property Record https://wisconsinhistory.org/Records/Property/HI43446#:~:text=Pinehurst%20Sanatorium%20consists%20of%20the,Rock%20County%20sheriff's%20office%20and
Mental Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. Youth Risk and Behavior Survey (2021). https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs/online
Economic Stability	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Goldstein, Amy. Janesville: An American Story, c2017. page 303 Food Environment Report: https://www.co.rock.wi.us/home/showpublisheddocument/57278/638174223970970000
Housing	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Berkeley Public Health, https://publichealth.berkeley.edu/news-media/research-highlights/50-years-after-being-outlawed-redlining-still-drives-neighborhood-health-inequities#:~:text=Discriminatory%20lending%20practices%20continue%20to,trend%20is%20likely%20to%20continue. State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, Wisconsin Eviction Data Project. 2023 Wisconsin County Eviction Filings and Judgements per County, full-year: https://doa.wi.gov/Documents/2023-full-year-dec.pdf Tenant Resource Center, CCAP: The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly. https://core.tenantresourcecenter.org/ccap#:~:text=If%20the%20eviction%20case%20was,Stat. Historic Residential Redlining and Present-Day Social Determinants of Health, Home Evictions, and Food Insecurity within US Neighborhoods: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10255945/
Historical as a Determinant of Health	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> School of Public Health. 2017. "History as a Determinant of Health." Boston University. https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2017/history-as-a-determinant-of-health/#:~:text=The%20social%2C%20economic%2C%20and%20environmental,part%20of%20an%20historical%20continuum. Virginia Planning District 10. 2019. "MAPP2Health." https://www.vdh.virginia.gov/content/uploads/sites/91/2019/08/2019-MAPP2Health-Report.pdf