

2025-2027

Community Health Needs
Implementation Strategy

SSM Health St. Clare Hospital - Baraboo

707 14th Street | Baraboo, WI 53913

Message to our community

SSM Health St. Clare Hospital- Baraboo is proud to deliver exceptional and compassionate care to the Baraboo area. Inspired by our founding Franciscan Sisters of Mary and guided by our Mission – Through our exceptional health care services, we reveal the healing presence of God – we cherish the sacredness and dignity of each person as demonstrated through our Values of compassion, respect, excellence, stewardship, and community.

Our sustained community commitment can be seen through our collaborative partnerships with residents and organizations. Over the last 12 months, as a member of the Sauk County Health and Wellness Coalition, we have conducted a community health needs assessment by gathering health-related information a variety of resources regarding Sauk County. We have also interviewed key health officials, conducted community discussion forums and/or focus groups to identify concerns about the health of these communities and the number of area-based programs and organizations that exist to address their needs. From these discussions and prioritization process, the same health priorities rose to the top for the 2025-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP):

#1 Mental Health

#2 Affordable Housing

#3 Substance Use

Moving forward, SSM Health St. Clare Hospital will continue to further develop its community partnerships and deliver an exceptional experience through high-quality, accessible, and affordable care to all residents. Please visit our website at ssmhealth.com to learn more about our ongoing efforts to make a positive impact in our community.

I welcome your suggestions on how we can further enhance the health and wellbeing of Sauk County and its surrounding communities. Together, we can create a healthier future for all.

Sincerely,

DeAnn Thurmer

President, SSM Health St. Clare - Baraboo



Table of Contents

Introduction

About our Community Hospital	[4]
Executive Summary	[5]

Community Assets and Coalitions

Community Assets	[6]
Influential Workgroups	[6]
Health and Wellness Steering Committee	[6]

Community Initiatives and Programs

Our Progress Since 2018	[7]
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Priorities and Processes

Health Needs of the Community	[8]
Strategic Implementation Plan	[8]

Prioritized Needs

Priority 1	[9]
Priority 2	[10]
Priority 3	[11]
Strategy Crosswalk	[12]

Appendices

Appendix A: CHIP Processes	[14]
Appendix B: CHA Report	[15]
Appendix C: Community Health Improvement Data	[16]
Appendix D: References	[17]

About SSM Health and St. Clare Hospital Baraboo

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, senior care, comprehensive home 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.



SSM Health St. Clare Hospital

Highlight of services

SSM Health St. Clare Hospital offers a comprehensive range of acute inpatient services, along with an ambulatory care consisting of primary care and specialty care providers. Services include radiation oncology, total joint replacement, women's health services, cardiac/pulmonary rehab, sleep studies, chronic disease education and other clinical departments.

Community benefit

In 2023, SSM Health St. Clare Hospital – Baraboo provided \$8,008,789 in community benefit, through our investment in community benefit programs, we focus to enhance the health of all who live in our area.

In 2023, we gave \$126,652 for community partnership programs specific to our most recent health priorities of Mental Health, Affordable Housing and Substance Use.

Additional affiliations

The connection with SSM Health Dean Medical Group offers patients a seamless health care experience. Patients receive exceptional care from the moment they begin their journey with SSM Health. The heritage of healing continues today with a deep-rooted commitment to providing personal and compassionate care.

Hospital at a glance

Admissions | 1,631

Outpatient visits | 81,834

ER visits | 21,310

Births | 196

Beds | 100

Employees | 420

Medical staff | 390

Volunteers | 107

Charity care | \$333K

Executive Summary

Background

SSM Health St. Clare Hospital – Baraboo is pleased to present the 2025-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) as a response to the 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) conducted from January-September 2024. The CHNA report provides an overview of the health needs and priorities associated with our service area with a goal of providing our community with a deeper understanding of current health needs, to help guide the hospital in its community benefit planning efforts and to develop an implementation strategy to address evaluated needs. The SSM Health Wisconsin Regional Board approved the 2024 CHNA on November 12, 2024.

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. The strategies adopted as part of the 2025-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan were carefully developed through the work of the Health and Wellness Steering Committee, where SSM Health St. Clare Hospital serves as a committee member and advisor. The SSM Health Wisconsin Regional Board approved this Community Health Improvement Plan on February 25th, 2025.

Priorities

In Sauk County, we identified **housing, mental health, and substance use** as our top health priorities based on community feedback and data analysis. By working collaboratively with local government, nonprofit organizations, and community stakeholders, we aim to implement effective solutions that will enhance the overall health and well-being of our community.

Strategies

The Health and Wellness Steering Committee of Sauk County in partnership with various community organizations and stakeholders, has formulated and shared strategies to address our two priority areas. While these strategies will be elaborated upon later in this plan, a preliminary overview of the objectives is provided below.

Housing

- Decrease the percent of Sauk County households that are stressed by high housing costs.



Substance Use

- Reduce the use of alcohol and commercial tobacco among youth ages 12-18 by 10% per substance.
- Reduce the misuse of painkillers among youth and adults by 10%.
- Reduce overdose deaths by 25% from 8 in 2023 to 6 in 2027.



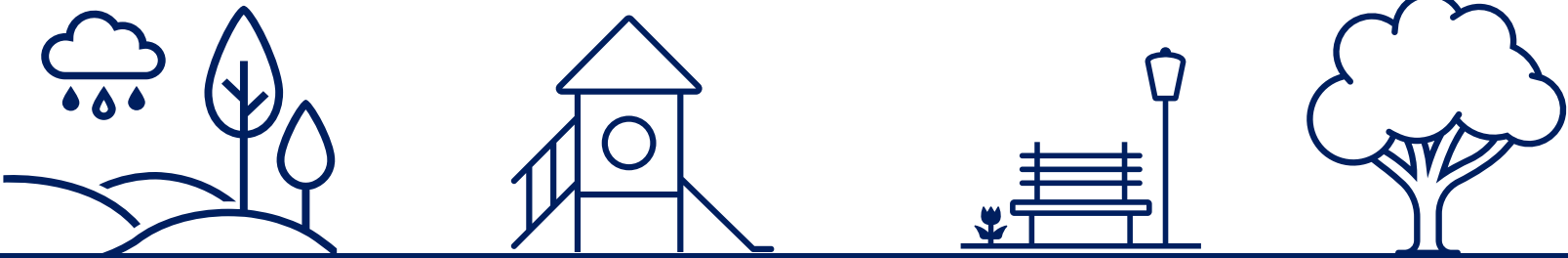
Mental Health

- Reduce suicide deaths by 20% from 10 in 2023 to 8 in 2027.



Community Assets

Sauk County offers a wealth of community assets and perks. The county is known for its stunning natural beauty, including glacial bluffs and expansive fields, making it a great place for outdoor activities and scenic views. Parks, trails, and recreation opportunities were even listed as the top strengths by the community. Additionally, the county's steady population growth reflects its appeal as a vibrant and thriving area. With a strong focus on local arts and community unity, Sauk County provides a supportive and enriching environment for its residents



Influential Workgroups



[Prevent Suicide Sauk County](#)

[Housing Action Team](#)

[Partnership for Prevention](#)

[Substance Use Response](#)

Health and Wellness Steering Committee

SSM Health St. Clare Hospital - Baraboo

Sauk County Public Health Department

Reedsburg Medical Center

Sauk Prairie Healthcare

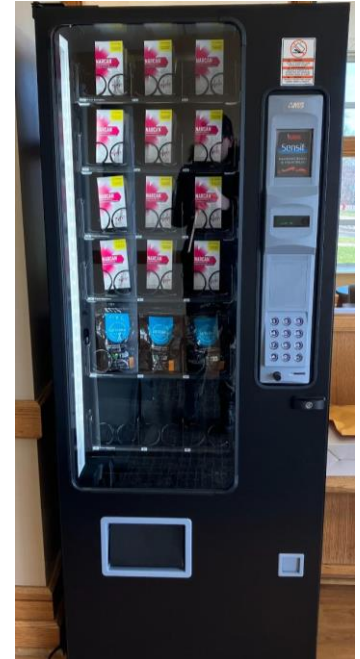
Ho-Chunk Nation



Our Progress Since 2018



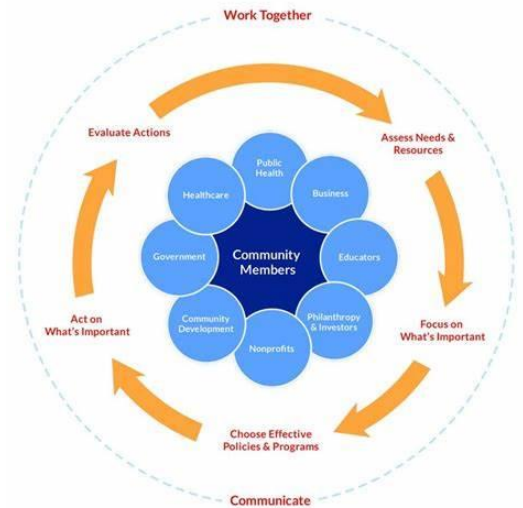
- In 2021, the Sauk County Health & Wellness Steering Committee conducted a survey revealing a high demand for mental health support, with many residents facing wait lists to see providers, exacerbating their challenges. To address this, the committee chose the CredibleMind platform to offer mental health support to Sauk County residents.
- Public Health Sauk County has installed two free vending machines dispensing Narcan, at-home prescription drug deactivation kits, and We Heart You community resource kits that list local mental health and substance use resources. These machines are located at SSM St. Clare Hospital Emergency Room entrance in Baraboo (24/7 access) and SSM Health Urgent Care in Lake Delton (during office hours). An outdoor vending machine will soon be available at Reedsburg Area Medical Center (24/7 access). Overdose Aid Kits (OAKs) containing Narcan, breathing masks, Dispose Rx Packets, fentanyl test strips, and resource information can be installed at businesses.
- The Little Heart Project is dedicated to spreading hope and love while raising awareness about suicide prevention. Volunteers create small knit or crocheted hearts, each accompanied by a note of encouragement, and leave them in public places like grocery stores, libraries, gas stations, coffee shops, and even landmarks like the Empire State Building or the Great Wall of China. Inspired by The Peyton Heart Project and personal experiences with mental health struggles, this initiative aims to show that healing is possible, and no one is alone.
- The Coldest Night of the Year is a family-friendly walk that raises funds for local charities, supporting those experiencing hurt, hunger, and homelessness.
- Kids Safety Day educates adults on child safety while offering fun activities for kids. The event features demonstrations, car seat checks, educational handouts, life jackets, first aid kits, and opportunities for kids to meet emergency service heroes.



The Health Needs of Our Community

In the evaluation of Sauk County's health needs, we identified housing, mental health, and substance use as top priorities based on thorough primary data collection. The primary data, collected from Sauk County residents and workers, was gathered through a community health assessment survey, key informant interviews, and focus groups. An online convenience sample survey, conducted from February 5 to May 1, 2024, asked respondents to identify community problems and strengths, and included demographic questions. The survey was promoted via local newspapers, websites, social media, radio, schools, and community entities such as churches and libraries. Additionally, survey cards were distributed at local businesses, mental health offices, and pharmacies, and a targeted mailing list was used to reach residents in low internet areas.

Sauk County Community Problems



Strategic Implementation Plan

- 1. Data Collection:** Surveys, focus groups, interviews, and secondary data analysis to identify health needs.
- 2. Health Priorities:** Prioritize identified health issues (e.g., housing, substance use, mental health).
- 3. Goals and Objectives:** Set clear, actionable goals and objectives.
- 4. Strategy Development:** Collaborate with stakeholders to create strategies and allocate resources.
- 5. Implementation Plan:** Develop an action plan with timelines, responsibilities, and performance metrics.
- 6. Community Engagement:** Keep the community informed and involved, ensuring transparency.



Housing



Sauk County Housing Workgroup Objective

By 12/31/2027, decrease the percent of Sauk County households that are stressed by high housing costs (paying 30% or more of their household income on housing) from 24% in 2024 to 22% in 2027.

Workgroup Strategies

- Provide technical assistance and support to 5 municipal leaders.
- Provide 4 newsletters to municipal leaders to highlight innovative and best practices.

SSM Health Strategies

- Disseminate our housing resources to SSM Health social workers and case managers while concurrently collaborating with our marketing team to effectively promote and publicize these efforts.
- Place-Based Investing
 - SSM Health Place-Based Investment (PBI) program strives to address health inequities and make a positive economic impact in the communities we serve. This initiative helps fill financing gaps in the marketplace by adding affordable and flexible capital for community projects that address upstream determinants of health, such as housing.



Substance Use



Substance Use Prevention Workgroup Objectives

Objective 1

By 12/31/27, reduce the use of alcohol and commercial tobacco among youth ages 12-18 by 10% per substance (YRBS data).

Objective 2

By 12/31/27, reduce the misuse of painkillers among youth and adults by 10% (YRBS, overdose rates data).

Workgroup Strategies

- Maintain the Wisconsin Wins program, conducting law enforcement checks on tobacco and alcohol sales.
- Increase/provide more safe medication storage and disposal sites around the county.
- Continue to manage existing vending machines and assist in the implementation of new ones.

Substance Use Response Workgroup Objective

By 12/31/27 reduce overdose deaths by 25% from 8 in 2023 to 6 in 2027.

Workgroup Strategies

- Increase access to Naloxone by installing 3 more Overdose Aid Kits (OAKs) and 2 more vending machines.
- Host 12 sober social events.
- Provide peer support services to 300 people via EMS Response Teams, WisHope Community Center, and other partnerships.



Mental Health Workgroup Objective

By 12/31/2027, reduce suicide deaths by 20% from 10 in 2023 to 8 in 2027.
















Workgroup Strategies

- Train at least 8-gun shop staff in suicide prevention.
- Enroll 3-gun shops/shooting ranges in the Safe Storage Program.
- Promote and support the CredibleMind website and its resources.
- Provide crisis intervention training for law enforcement

SSM Health Strategies

- Enhance access to care by continuing to promote the Virtual Behavior Health Integration program.
 - In 2023, SSM Health launched the Virtual Behavioral Health Integration (VBHI) program in over 71 Family and Internal Medicine clinics for patients 18+. This free program offers telephonic mental health coaching, addressing concerns like grief, substance use, and stress management. Since its launch, VBHI has supported over 16,000 patients in the SSM Health Wisconsin region, enhancing access to care and focusing on each patient's unique needs and goals.
- Support and promote the Care for the Caregiver program.
 - The program is for caregivers involved in medical errors looking to receive support. This support can be provided organizationally with trained individuals, or through referral networks. Implementing a Care for the Caregiver program ensures these support levels are available, helping caregivers cope and recover after adverse events.
- Promote and support the Jacob SWAG Foundation and the Got Your Back app.
- Complete a region-wide Zero Suicide assessment
 - A framework for healthcare systems, believing suicide deaths are preventable. It improves patient safety with seven elements for implementation. As part of the 2025-2027 plan, SSM Health of Wisconsin will conduct an assessment, using a practical toolkit to guide system-wide changes.

Strategy Crosswalk

Objectives	Sauk County Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP)	State Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)	Healthy People 2030
Decrease the percent of Sauk County households that are stressed by high housing costs.			
Reduce the use of alcohol and commercial tobacco among youth ages 12-18 by 10% per substance.			
Reduce the misuse of painkillers among youth and adults by 10%.			
Reduce overdose deaths by 25% from 8 in 2023 to 6 in 2027.			
Reduce suicide deaths by 20% from 10 in 2023 to 8 in 2027.			

2025-2027

Appendices

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Appendix A:

CHIP Process

Mission Statement:

We collaborate to raise awareness, provide education, and inspire action on health issues meant to improve the health of Sauk County residents.

The individual members of this coalition demonstrate a strong commitment to assessing health needs and to work collaboratively with the goal of improving the health of Sauk County's population. The members of the committee represent Public Health Sauk County, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, SSM Health St Clare - Baraboo and the Ho-Chunk Nation.



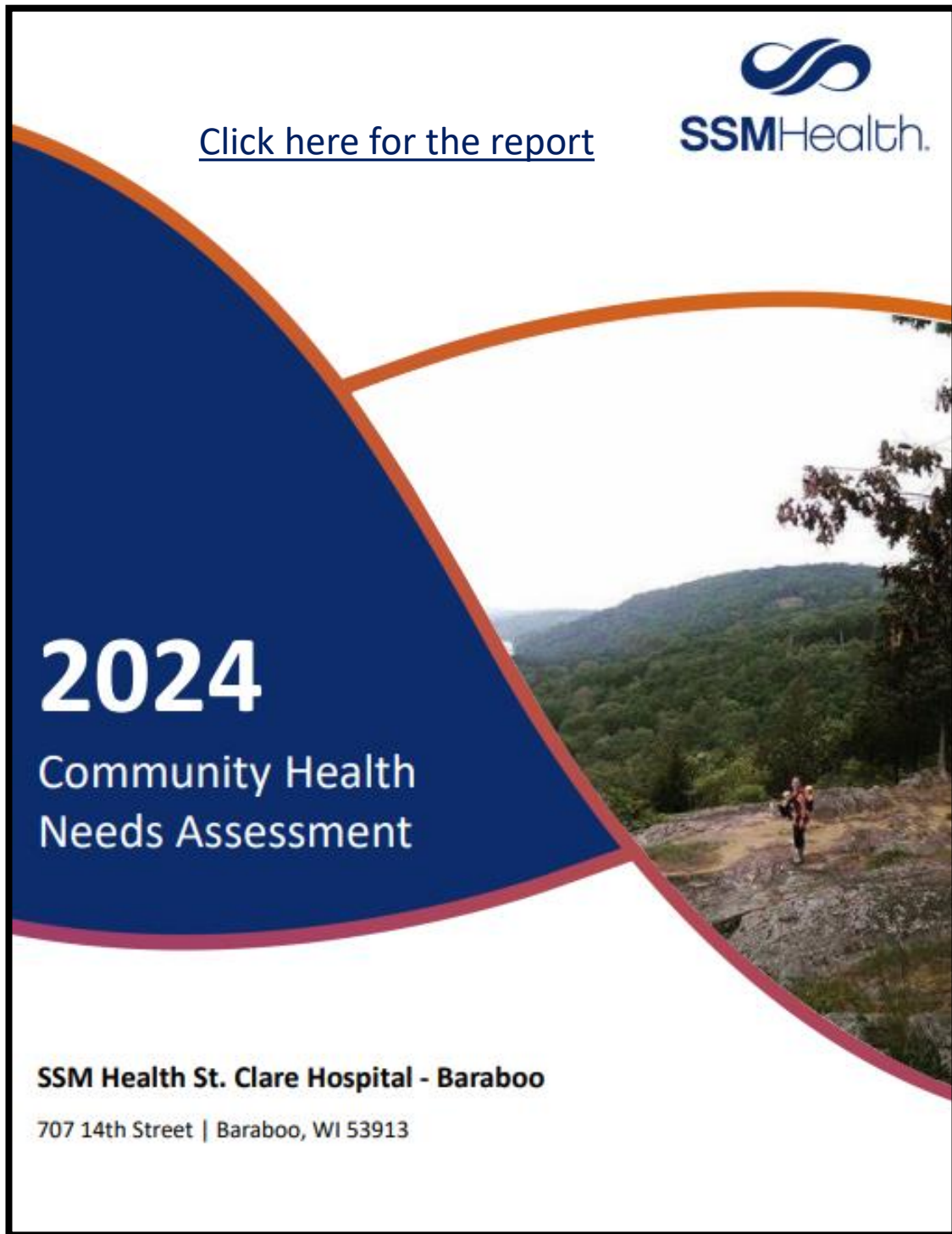
The Health & Wellness Steering Committee's objective is to contribute towards a Community Health Assessment (CHA) for each entity every three years. This assessment reveals the top health priorities that need to be addressed in the county and service areas. After the completion of the CHA a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is developed for each entity. With input from the public, the committee creates county-wide goals and steers the development of coalition work and health events centered around the top health priorities.

Community Health Improvement Plan Process

On October 3, 2024 the Sauk County Health and Wellness Steering Committee hosted a Community Breakfast at Ho Chunk Casino and Hotel with over 100 community members in attendance. The intent of this meeting was to showcase the Community Health Needs Assessment findings and learn from our community where they believe we should be focusing our attention for innovative, yet realistic strategies for greatest impact.

From these conversations, the Sauk County workgroups addressing each of these priorities went to work on determining focused strategies for the 2025-2027 Community Health Improvement Plan. In addition to SSM Health's commitment to these community-based strategies, SSM Health St. Clare Hospital – Baraboo identified other key strategies to focus on as an organization including the implementation of our Place-Based Investing program to address housing gaps, region-wide assessment to adopt the Zero Suicide Framework for hospitals, and our Care for the Caregiver Program to strengthen our workforce. These were chosen based off greatest impact and continuing efforts where resources and staff were already identified.

Appendix B: CHNA Report



[Click here for the report](#)

SSMHealth.

2024
Community Health
Needs Assessment

SSM Health St. Clare Hospital - Baraboo
707 14th Street | Baraboo, WI 53913

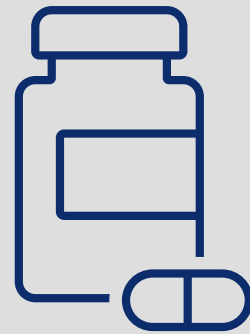
Appendix C:

Community Health Improvement Data



[Click here for Mental Health Data by Sauk County Public Health](#)

[Click here for Substance Use Data by Sauk County Public Health](#)



[Click here for Housing Data by Sauk County Public Health](#)

Appendix D: References

Care for the Caregiver Program

Jacob SWAG Website

CredibleMind Sauk County

Zero Suicide Website

Place-Based Impact Investing