

2023

Community Health Assessment & Community Health Improvement Plan

Green Lake County



Green Lake County Health Department



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Thank you to all the community members who submitted photos that are pictured on the cover and throughout the report.

Cover photos by: Mike Newbold, Steph Chiafos, Nancy Lange, Kristen Dorsch

Foreword

Green Lake County Health Department is pleased to present the 2023 community health assessment. The partnership of steering committee and community organizations were an integral part in the development and implementation of the community health assessment process. Many thanks go out all those who were involved over the past six months.

A Community Health Assessment (CHA) is conducted to improve and promote a healthier Green Lake County community. The goal of this process is to identify the factors that affect the health of our citizens and to determine the availability of community resources. The CHA is a collaborative effort that included county leaders, the Health Department, Hospitals, local organizations, and Green Lake County residents.

The CHA is a snapshot of where county residents stand in terms of health and health behaviors. This report is crucial in directing the planning efforts for the health department and community partners. Together, we will use this information to guide our cooperative planning to improve the health conditions of Green Lake County residents.

This collaborative effort was made possible because of the dedication and support of community leaders and partners. We thank them all for their support in making this document a reality. We would like to thank all the community members who completed the survey and those that participated in focus group discussions. This process would not be complete without the input and participation from all. It is the desire of Green Lake County Health Department that we work together to use the power of multiple resources to generate ideas, collaborations, and plans that will guide Green Lake County in becoming a happier and healthier community.

Sincerely,

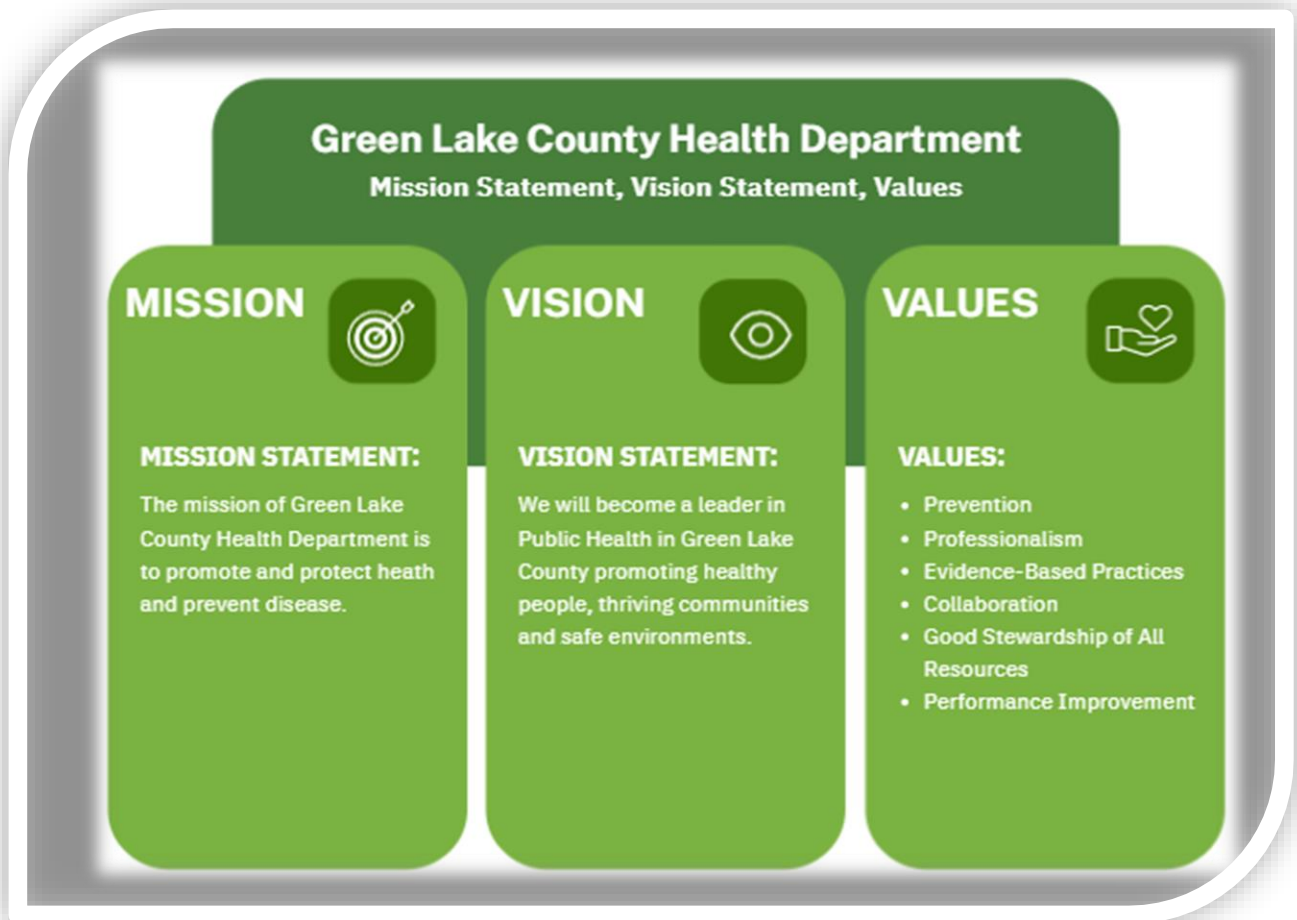


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Green Lake County Health Department



Acknowledgements

Green Lake County Community Health Assessment Partners

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations for their role in the 2023 Community Health Assessment.

Steering Committee

Tammy Bending, ThedaCare
Matt Vande Kolk, Green Lake County Sheriff's office
Lisa Schiessl, Green Lake County DHHS-Children and Families Dawn
Brantley, Green Lake County DHHS- Fox River Industries
Jason Jerome, Green Lake County DHHS and Town of Kingston Board Rebecca
Bays, Berlin Area Senior Center
Nichol Wienkes, Green Lake County DHHS- Behavioral Health Mindy
Collado, Tri-County Boys and Girls Club
Terri Mael, Community Member
Ken Bates, Green Lake County Board of Supervisors Nancy
Hoffman, Green Lake County Board of Supervisors
Julie Sosinsky, Princeton School District Educator and Community Member
Sabrina Pierstorff, Community Member
Janice Button, Director of Berlin Daycare
Carrie Nolan, Business Owner of Sassafras Coffee
Paul Yoder, Care4U Clinic Board Member
Lynn Miller, Amish Community Representative Zoe
Niemuth, Green Lake Townsquare
Rita Socha, Home, and Community Educators
Glenn Eastberg, Consumer
Rachel Prellwitz, Green Lake County Health Officer Lauren
Olson, Green Lake County Deputy Health Officer Allison
Krause, Green Lake County Public Health Nurse Nancy
Gimenez, Green Lake County Public Health Nurse Lisa
Rollin, Green Lake County Public Health Nurse

Focus Group Hosts

ADVOCAP-Headstart	Tri-County Boys and Girls Club
Green Lake County CSP Group	Manchester Senior Center
Green Lake County Jail	Green Lake County Fox River Industries
Mama123 Central Wisconsin Midwifery	Princeton Senior Center
River Shores Church	

We would also like to thank all the county libraries and Christianos Pizza in Green Lake and Pizza Factory in Princeton for helping to distribute the community surveys.

GREEN LAKE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

At-a-Glance

PRIORITIZED HEALTH NEEDS



Access to Healthcare (Medical and Dental)



Mental Health



Substance Misuse (Alcohol & Drug Use)

Survey Respondents Top 3 Community Health Concerns



1. Mental Health
2. Alcohol and Drug Use
3. Access to Healthcare

Key Data Highlights



47.6%

Survey respondents identified Mental Health & Mental Disorders as a top community health issue



37.4%

Adults who Binge Drink



38%

Survey Respondents identified Access to Affordable Health Care Services as a Top Community Health Issue

DATA COLLECTION METHODS

Secondary Data

State and National Data Resources



Focus Groups

Green Lake County conducted **10** Focus Groups with representatives from parent groups, midwives, seniors, persons who are incarcerated, adolescents, and churches.



Community Survey

Green Lake County had **738** Community Survey Respondents.



Background and Purpose

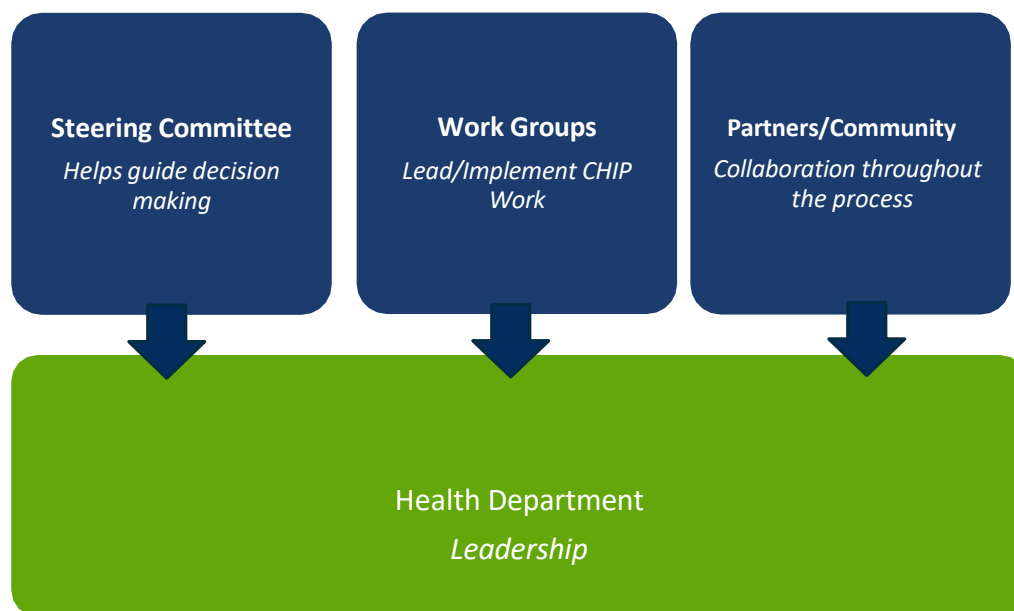
The 2023 CHA and CHIP process used the work completed from the 2016 Green Lake County CHA and 2017 CHIP reports to address the three health priorities and develop action plans.

The purpose of this CHA report is to identify and prioritize significant health needs of the community in Green Lake County, Wisconsin. Since 1993 Wisconsin State Statutes have required local health departments to develop and implement health plans to address health conditions affecting the community.¹ This CHA is a collection of analyzed data that aided in identifying health needs in Green Lake County. The priorities identified in this report will help to guide community health improvement programs and activities, as well as collaborative efforts with other organizations that share a mission to improve health.

The information provided in this report is intended for the use of residents and community organizations of Green Lake County. The CHIP is updated annually and revised every three to five years based on the most recent CHA.

CHA and CHIP Structure

The CHA and CHIP structure includes Green Lake County Health Department, a steering committee, workgroups, and community partners who will work together to complete this process.



¹ Community Health Improvement Assessment and Plans, Wisconsin Department of Health Services (2023). <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/chip/index.htm>

Defining the Community

Defining the community is a key component of the CHA process as it determines the scope of the assessment and improvement strategies.

Definition of Community

Green Lake County is in the U. S. state of Wisconsin. It is located 90 miles northwest of Milwaukee and 180 miles northwest of Chicago. The county seat is the city of Green Lake. The counties estimate population as of 2022 was 19,220². It is the third smallest county in Wisconsin surrounded by six counties: Waushara, Winnebago, Fond du Lac, Dodge, Columbia, Marquette. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the county has a total area of 380 square miles, of which 349 square miles are land 31 square miles are covered by water³.



Green Lake County

Cities: Berlin, Green Lake (county seat), Markesan, Princeton

Villages: Kingston, Marquette

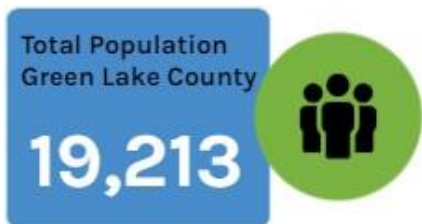
Towns: Berlin, Brooklyn, Green Lake, Kingston, Mackford, Manchester, Marquette, Princeton, Seneca, St. Marie

² U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts. (2022). <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/greenlakecountywisconsin>

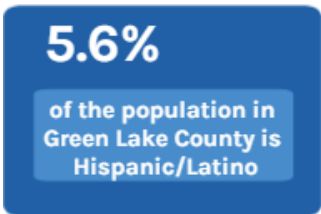
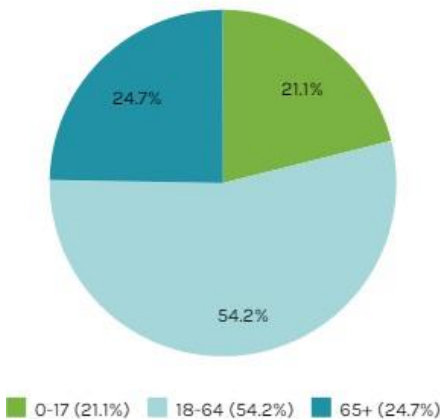
³ U.S. Census Bureau, QuickFacts. Geography (2022). <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/greenlakecountywisc>

Demographic Profile

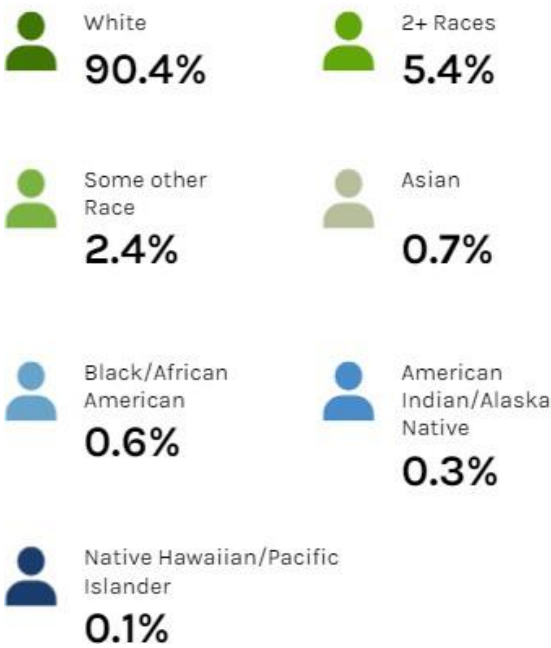
The demographics of a community significantly impact its health profile. Different racial, ethnic, age and socioeconomic groups may have unique needs and require varied approaches to health improvement efforts. The following section explores the demographic profile of Green Lake County, Wisconsin.



Total Population by Age
Green Lake County



Gender



SOURCE: HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INSTITUTE-CLARITAS, 2023

Process Overview

Green Lake County Health Department used a community-driven, multi-sector process to improve health and achieve health equity. Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships (MAPP) 2.0 tools were used to assess and identify health needs in Green Lake County. Mapp provided a structure to assess the most pressing health issues and align resources across sectors for strategic action.

MAPP Framework:

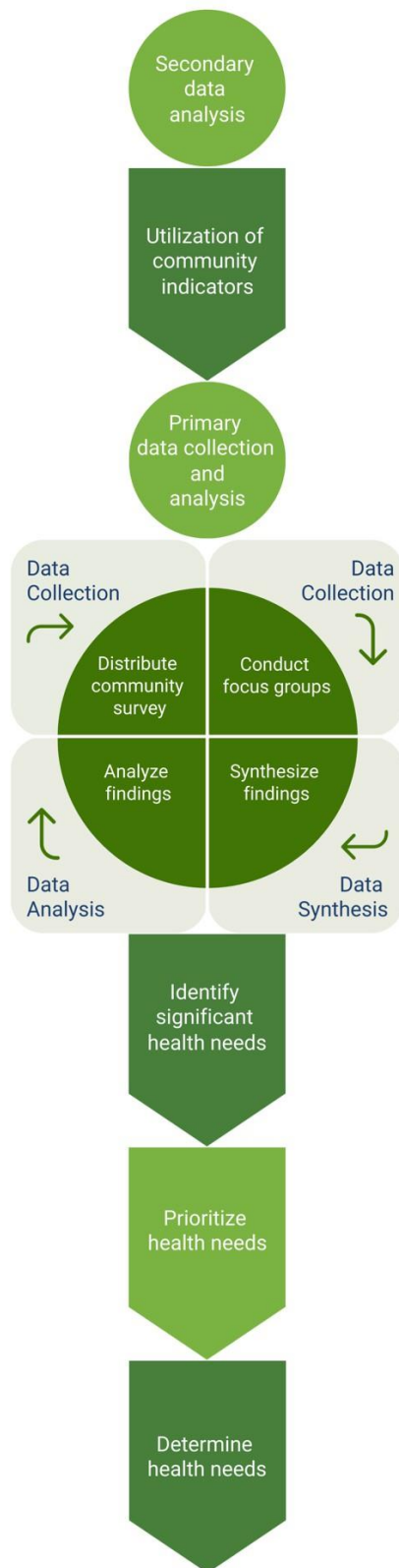
- Is a three-phase process for community health improvement planning at the local level.
- Has a strong emphasis in community engagement and collaboration for system-level planning.
- Promotes continuous understanding of the community's needs over time.



MAPP 2.0 PROCESS

Below are the core steps in determining the CHA health needs and CHIP action plan.

CHA Steps



CHIP Steps



CHA and CHIP Timeline

JANUARY - FEBRUARY

- Project Kickoff Meeting
- Secondary Data Analysis
- Steering Committee (SC) selection & plans

MARCH - APRIL

- Primary Data Collection
- Community Survey
- Focus groups
- Data synthesis

MAY - JUNE

- Analysis and interpretation of primary and secondary data
- Prioritization meeting
- Identify key themes/community needs
- CHIP development, planning
- Workgroup planning

JULY - AUGUST

- CHIP kickoff
- Workgroup sessions
- Finalize workplans for each health need
- Finalize resource inventory sheet

DECEMBER

- Final CHA/CHIP report

Data Sources for Green Lake County

The community health assessment includes three different data collection methods. Qualitative and quantitative data was collected in the forms of a secondary data, community survey, and focus groups. See Appendix B for complete summary.



Community Survey

Community input was collected through an online community survey available in English and Spanish from March 2023, through April 2023. The survey consisted of 52 questions related to top health needs in the community and perception of their overall health, access to health care services, as well as social and economic determinants of health. Announcements promoting the community surveys in Green Lake County included a press release, radio broadcast, social media, and emails blasts to various organizations, GLCHD staff, internal and external teams. A total of 738 responses were collected, 629 online and 109 hard copies. Response rates met the target rate of collecting more than 377 surveys.



Focus Groups

Green Lake County Health Department conducted ten focus groups in ten different locations to further engage community members and take a deeper dive into understanding what the communities needs were in specific populations. The focus of these facilitated group conversations was to gain deeper insights about perceptions, attitudes, experiences, or beliefs held by community members about their health and the health of their community.



Secondary Data

Secondary data used for this assessment were data primarily derived from state and national public secondary data sources. Data were collected and analyzed from a community indicator database developed by Conduent Healthy Communities Institute (HCI). The database, maintained by researchers and analysts at HCI, includes over 150 community indicators, spanning at least 24 topics in the areas of health, determinants of health, and quality of life. The value for each of these indicators is compared to other communities, national targets, and to previous time periods.

Prioritization Process

To better target activities to address the most pressing health needs in the community, Green Lake County Health Department convened members from the CHA Steering Committee to participate in a presentation of data on significant health needs facilitated by HCI. Following the data presentation and facilitated discussion, participants were given access to an online link to complete a scoring exercise to assign a score to each significant health need based on a set of criteria. Appendix F includes the detailed criteria and tools used for prioritization.

Significant Health Needs

Figure 22 illustrates the six significant health needs, listed in alphabetical order, which were included for prioritization based on the findings of all forms of data collected for the Green Lake County 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment.

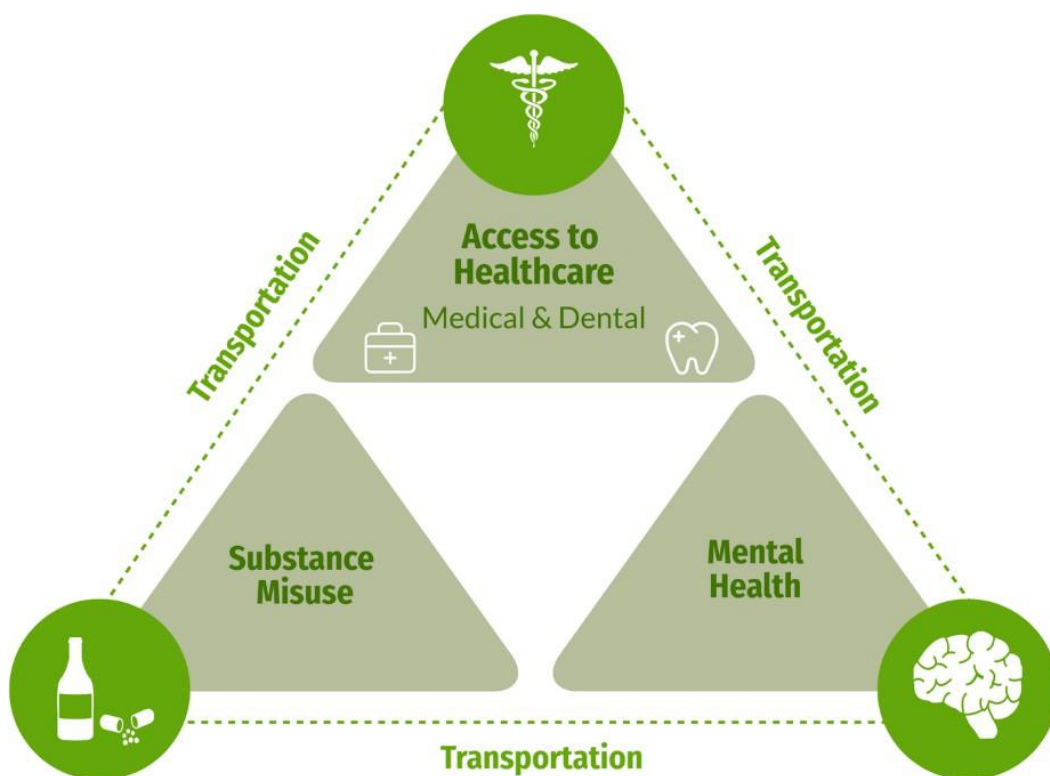
FIGURE 22. GREEN LAKE COUNTY SIGNIFICANT HEALTH NEEDS



Prioritized Significant Health Needs

Following the prioritization session, Green Lake County Health Department staff reviewed and discussed the scoring results of the prioritized significant community needs and identified three health needs and one focus area to be considered for subsequent implementation planning. They include Access to Healthcare, which will include medical and dental care, Mental Health, Substance Misuse, with all health needs having an emphasis on transportation. Figure 24 illustrates the health needs and focus area.

FIGURE 24. 2022 GREEN LAKE COUNTY PRIORITIZED HEALTH NEEDS



Understanding What Makes a Healthy, Equitable Community

Social Determinants of Health

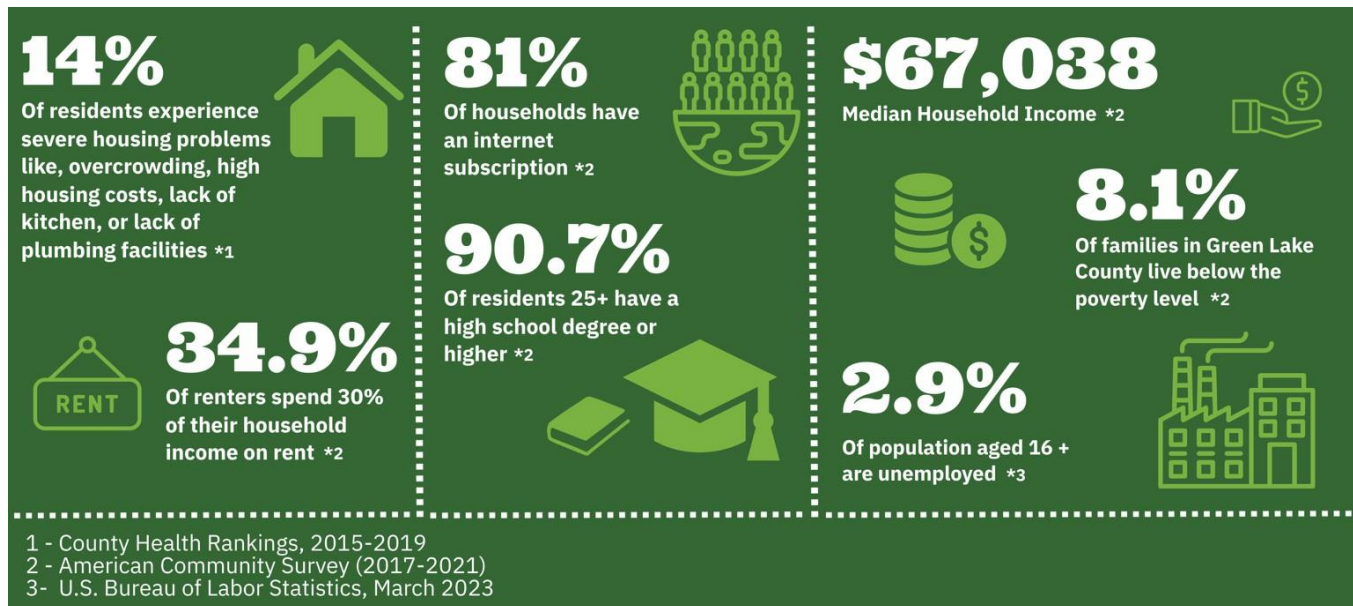
This section explores the economic, environmental, and social determinants of health impacting Green Lake County.

Social determinants of health (SDOH) are the nonmedical factors that influence health outcomes. They are conditions in which people are born, grow, live, and age, and the wider set of forces and systems shaping the conditions of daily life.⁴ As shown in Figure 25, SDOH are grouped in five domains, each having a major impact on people's health, well-being, and quality of life. Green Lake County Health Department has committed to address SDOH in the CHA and CHIP by working with community partners to improve the conditions of Green Lake County residents.

FIGURE 25: SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH



Examples of SDOH include financial security, transportation, housing, education, employment, and access to healthcare. SDOH can contribute to wide health disparities and inequities. The images below display social issues identified in Green Lake County.



⁴ Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Social Determinants of Health at CDC, <https://www.cdc.gov/about/sdoh/index.html> (2023).

Health Equity and Disparities

Health Equity

Health equity focuses on the fair distribution of health determinants, outcomes, and resources across communities.⁵ National trends have shown that systemic racism, poverty, and gender discrimination have led to poorer health outcomes for groups such as Black/African American persons, Hispanic/Latino persons, indigenous communities, people with incomes below the federal poverty level, and LGBTQ+ communities.

Disparities

When it comes to achieving and maintaining good health, it is critical to recognize that not everyone starts from the same place or has the same opportunities. To advance health equity, it is important to understand how communities are experiencing disparities. Identifying those disparities by population groups and geography helps to inform and focus priorities and strategies.

The Index of Disparity analysis for Green Lake County reveals that Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, 'Multiple Races,' and White populations are disproportionately impacted in the areas of Children Living Below Poverty Level, People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level and People Living Below Poverty Level. There are also gender disparities that exist. Females were affected in the category of Children Living Below Poverty Level. Table 2 identifies groups in Green Lake County who are experiencing disparities based on the Index of Disparity.⁶

TABLE 2: RACE, ETHNICITY AND GENDER DISPARITIES

Health Indicator (Measure)	Group(s) Negatively Impacted
Children Living Below Poverty Level	White Multiple Races Female
People 65+ Living Below Poverty Level	Multiple Races Hispanic / Latino Female
People Living Below Poverty Level	Black American Indian / Alaska Native Multiple Races Hispanic / Latino Female

⁵ Klein R, Huang D. Defining and measuring disparities, inequities, and inequalities in the Healthy People initiative. National Center for Health Statistics. Center for Disease Control and Prevention.
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/ppt/nchs2010/41_klein.pdf

⁶ Percy, J. & Keppel, K. (2002). A Summary Measure of Health Disparity. Public Health Reports, 117, 273-280.

Top Health Needs

The following section provides a detailed description of each prioritized health need. An overview is provided for each health topic. A description of key themes, barriers, and challenges that emerged from community feedback can be found under each health need, in addition to secondary data and quotes from focus group sessions. The prioritized health needs are presented in alphabetical order. Appendix B includes detailed data sets for each health need.

Access to Healthcare: Dental

Dental and Oral Health is an area of concern in Green Lake County. The Oral Cavity and Pharynx Cancer Incidence Rate in Green Lake County is 13.9%, which falls in the worst 50% of counties in Wisconsin and in the U.S.⁷ Accessing dental services was another need identified by Green Lake County focus groups and survey participants. Below is a snapshot of the most recent key themes from community input, focus group discussions, and secondary data collected.

Key Themes from Community Input



WHAT WORKS

- Family Health La Clinica
- Department of Health & Human Services

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

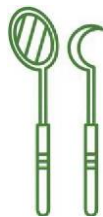
- Transportation is a common barrier in accessing oral care, next provider accepting patients is 65/85 miles away
- Clinics are unable to schedule routine cleanings due to staffing concerns and shortage of dentists (months long waiting period)
- Many area dentists don't accept BadgerCare
- Limited staff/appointment availability leads to months long waiting period to see a dentist
- Dental care is a need especially for children: need to travel to Appleton or Oshkosh
- Populations most affected: Senior population, people without a private vehicle, homebound individuals, non-English speaking people, children

⁷ Healthy Communities Institute, Claritas 2023.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE: DENTAL



"There is a shortage of dentists here. Many area dentists don't accept Medicare/BadgerCare."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Senior citizens-especially those that are lower income, have difficulties affording *dental care*."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"We have to go to Appleton or Oshkosh for dental care, especially for children. There's nothing here."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Timeliness and availability of appointments for dental care is a top health problem in Green Lake County."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"We are unable to schedule routine cleanings due to staffing concerns at Family Health La Clinica. There is a month's *long* waiting period."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



"The Save a Smile Children's Dental Program is for Fond du Lac County residents only. There isn't anything like that in Green Lake County."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"When I told the dentist I could not pay for it, I was told to take *my* business elsewhere."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE: DENTAL

41.6

Green Lake County:
Non-traumatic Oral
Health ED visits per
10,000 population *1



34

Wisconsin:
Non-traumatic Oral
Health ED visits per
10,000 population *1

1750:1

Green Lake County:
Ratio of dental
providers to residents *2



1380:1

Wisconsin:
Ratio of dental
providers to residents *2

20.3%

Survey Respondents did
NOT get the dental or oral
health services needed in
the past 12 months *3



About 1 in 5

9.8%

Survey Respondents
identified Oral Health
and Access to
Dentistry Services as a
Top Community Health
Issue *3



56.2%

Survey Respondents
cited "cost- too
expensive/can't pay" as
the top reason they did
NOT get the dental or
oral health services
needed in the past 12
months *3

1 - Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking, 2021
2 - County Health Rankings, 2021
3- CHNA Community Survey, 2023

Access to Healthcare: Medical

Access to healthcare is a critical component to the health and well-being of community members in Green Lake County. The Non-Physician Primary Care Provider Rate (providers per 100,000 population) is 58.2 compared to 133.8 in the state of Wisconsin.⁸ Access to Healthcare was identified as a top need in the community survey and focus groups. Below is a snapshot of the most recent key themes from community input, focus group discussions, and secondary data collected.

Key Themes from Community Input



WHAT WORKS

- Program in Green Lake Jail to reinstate BadgerCare upon release from jail
- Care4U Clinic
- Birth to Three Program
- Midwife Services
- ADVOCAP
- Department of Health & Human Services
- ThedaCare Rural Health Initiative
- Incentivizing providers to provide care, practice in rural areas, accept insurance
- Partnering with health systems to expand telehealth services to rural areas
- Bringing in cash pay providers
- Partnering with community groups to provide public health updates, preventative screenings, and other educational opportunities

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

- **Shortage of providers:** limited staff, timeliness / availability of appointments, lack of follow-up from doctors as they're overwhelmed, referrals to specialists not close to home
- **Cost, Insurance:** confusion with what is covered, providers don't accept insurance because of reduced reimbursement rates to providers for Medicare/Medicaid creating healthcare deserts, older adults on fixed income have difficulty affording care, protocols & reinsurance of hospitals have squelched what they're able to provide so everything gets shipped to Madison
- **Built Environment:** delay in care/lack of care due to rural & remote areas, hospitals are very far away, lengthy response time for hospitals/EMS

⁸ Healthy Communities Institute, Claritas 2023.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE: MEDICAL



"There are less healthcare options in rural areas. If UW-Health system could expand their telehealth service offerings to cover the entire state rather than only urban areas, people would spend less time away from work as appointments may only need to be 15 minutes."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"The rural nature of Green Lake County makes it difficult to access care for general appointments, and specialized services like podiatrists/foot clinics for diabetic shoes."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Not seeking care in a timely manner: they are stoic so that if they have a problem, they'll ignore it until it can't be ignored. So, the problem becomes a real problem."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Genetic conditions—Caspr2 leads to heart defects. Many are resistant to testing due to cost and transportation barriers."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"The lack of reimbursement costs of BadgerCare/Medicaid for providers leads to Healthcare deserts. It's not sustainable. You have poor communities that get poorer and healthcare dissipates"

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Specialty providers are not close, so patients often get sent to Fond du Lac County for cancer treatment, eating disorder treatment, etc. There will be an increased need for the aging population having to go outside the county for this care."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Many providers do not accept BadgerCare/Medicaid insurance because of reduced reimbursement rates for providers. As a result, this creates healthcare deserts."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE: MEDICAL

1750:1

Green Lake County:
Ratio of primary care
physicians to residents *1



11%

Green Lake County:
Percentage of population under
age 65 without health insurance *1



1240:1

Wisconsin:
Ratio of primary care
physicians to residents *1



7%

Wisconsin:
Percentage of population under
age 65 without health insurance *1

10%

United States:
Percentage of population under
age 65 without health insurance *1



23%

Survey Respondents feel
there are NOT affordable
health care services in their
community *2



18%

Survey Respondents can
NOT access needed health
care services within a
reasonable time frame and
distance from my home or
work *2

38%

Survey Respondents
identified Access to
Affordable Health Care
Services as a Top
Community Health
Issue *2



Ranked as the 3rd
Most Pressing
Health Issue *2

Mental Health

Mental Health was identified as a top health need in Green Lake County. It was selected as the most important health problem in the community by survey respondents, and the top health issue among households with children under the age of 18. Secondary data indicated the mental health provider rate (providers per 100,000 population) was 100.5 compared to 226.8 in the state of Wisconsin.⁹ Below is a snapshot of the most recent key themes from community input, focus group discussions, and secondary data collected.

Key Themes from Community Input



WHAT WORKS

- Fox River Industries
- Addressing barriers to care including transportation and increasing the number of providers that accept Medicare/Medicaid
- Department of Health & Human Services
- Care4U Clinic

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

- Shortage of providers/treatment centers, difficulty scheduling timely appointments, transportation barriers, eligibility requirements/restrictions, lack of trauma support services/education, lack of insurance coverage locally for specialized services (Neuro/Psych)
- Ongoing stigma & lack of awareness/understanding for people with mental health conditions
- Lack of preventative services leads to trauma resurfacing years later (ACEs)
- Children's mental health:
 - Social emotional behavioral needs of children have gotten worse due to COVID-19
 - Lack of qualified clinicians/social workers to meet the demand in schools
 - LGBTQ+ youth are not accepted by their peers leading to mental health issues
 - Childhood trauma surfacing years later/affect them as adults
- Mental health/medical services in jail are funded by grants and are not always guaranteed/stable
- Homeless population: AODA folks, people with mental health issues never been diagnosed by anybody and try to get them help is a problem because you have to be diagnosed

⁹ Healthy Communities Institute, Claritas 2023.

MENTAL HEALTH

19.7%

Green Lake County:
Adults ever diagnosed with
depression *1



18.4

United States:
Adults ever diagnosed
with depression *1

47.6%

Survey respondents
identified Mental Health
& Mental Disorders as a
top community health
issue *3



Ranked as the
Most Pressing
Health Issue *3



1070:1

Green Lake County:
Ratio of mental health
providers to residents *2



420:1

Wisconsin:
Ratio of mental health
providers to residents *2

13.2%

Survey Respondents did NOT
get the mental health services
or alcohol/substance abuse
treatment needed in the past
12 months *3



37.1%

Survey Respondents
cited "cost- too
expensive/can't pay" as
the top reason they did
NOT get the mental
health services or
alcohol/substance abuse
treatment needed in the
past 12 months *3

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS



MENTAL HEALTH



“Ongoing and long-term stigma is an issue. I was always told to just deal with it.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“It's difficult finding providers that take BadgerCare.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“Transportation barriers to accessing mental health care are a real issue here.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“There is a need to address Adverse Childhood Events (ACEs) preventatively. Childhood trauma is surfacing year later and affecting them as adults.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“It [mental health] has always been around and is likely just going to keep getting worse. It is also correlated with alcohol/substance use, suicide as seen through self-medicating.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“There is a lack of awareness/understanding of mental health conditions and lack of family education and support for families with kids with mental health diagnoses/conditions.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“LGBTQ+ youth are not accepted by their peers which is leading to an increase in depression, self-harm, and other mental health issues.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



“Green Lake County has a large low-income population which causes stress and anxiety around how to make ends meet. This all affects mental health.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“The length of time it takes for appropriate diagnosing and addressing the mental health concern is a problem.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“There is a lack of treatment centers in Green Lake County (both outpatient/inpatient). Treatment centers/agencies in neighboring counties/communities are sometimes limited due to not being a resident of that county or other eligibility restrictions/limitations.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

“The social emotional behavioral needs of children has only gotten worse and there is a lack of qualified teachers to meet the demand for mental health care in schools.”

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

Substance Misuse

Substance Misuse is the use of illegal drugs and the inappropriate use of legal substances, such as alcohol and tobacco. Substance Misuse was identified as a top concern in Green Lake County. Forty-two percent of survey respondents indicated it was one of the top three most important health problems in the community. Secondary data indicated the alcohol-impaired driving deaths (percentage of driving deaths with alcohol involvement) rate was higher than the state of Wisconsin at 35.6 and nation rate of 27.¹⁰ Below is a snapshot of the most recent key themes from community input, focus group discussions, and secondary data collected.

Key Themes from Community Input



WHAT WORKS

- Establishing a clearly structured & streamlined pathway for those seeking recovery
- Addressing barriers to care including transportation and increasing the number of providers that accept Medicare/Medicaid
- Department of Health & Human Services
- NA/AA meetings

BARRIERS & CHALLENGES

- Treatment not meeting community needs, more robust programs needed
- Drug Court not being supported in the county
- No peer support programs within the county for those with alcohol/substance use disorder to share their lived experiences
- Understanding how to cope with appropriate boundaries for those whose families are an ongoing source of alcoholism/drug addiction
- Mental health illness as a prelude to substance use ("self medicating")
- Less bars/more options for healthy engagement for youth
- Drunk driving/accidents – need to have stricter laws for unsafe drivers to protect community
- Nothing for young people to do in rural areas/lack of recreation leads to boredom and drug use
- Vaping/smoking is a top health concern and more prevention is needed
- Stress, poor coping skills, peer pressure, over prescribing medications

¹⁰ Healthy Communities Institute, Claritas 2023.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS



SUBSTANCE MISUSE



"More *recovery* services like AA and NA are needed."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Drug use is the direct result of stress, peer pressure, poor coping skills, and over prescribing of medications."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"More prevention and preventative efforts are needed to address vaping and smoking."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"There is a *lack* of structured and sober activities for the community."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Drunk driving and accidents - need to have stricter *laws* for unsafe *drivers* to protect the community *by* adjusting our court systems."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Ongoing and long-term stigma is an issue. I was always told to just deal with it."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Less bars and more options for healthy engagement are needed as there has been an increase in alcohol, drugs, smoking and violence."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT



"It [*mental health*] has always *been* around and is likely just going to keep getting worse. It is also correlated with alcohol/substance use, suicide as seen through self-medicating."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

"Substance Use Disorder treatment is not meeting the needs of the community. There is a lack of open beds, so we have to send patients out of county for treatment. More robust programs are *needed*."

-FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANT

SUBSTANCE MISUSE

37.4%

Adults who Binge Drink
*1



57.1%

Alcohol-Impaired
Driving Deaths *2

13.2%

Survey Respondents did NOT get the
mental health services or
alcohol/substance abuse treatment
needed in the past 12 months *5

Top Reasons for not receiving care:

- Cost - too expensive/can't pay (37.1%)
- No doctor is nearby (33.7%)
- Wait is too long (29.2%)



1,427

Opioid-related deaths in
2021 in Wisconsin *3



4,258

Opioid-related hospital visits in Wisconsin *3



12.8%

Mothers Who Smoked During
Pregnancy *4

42%

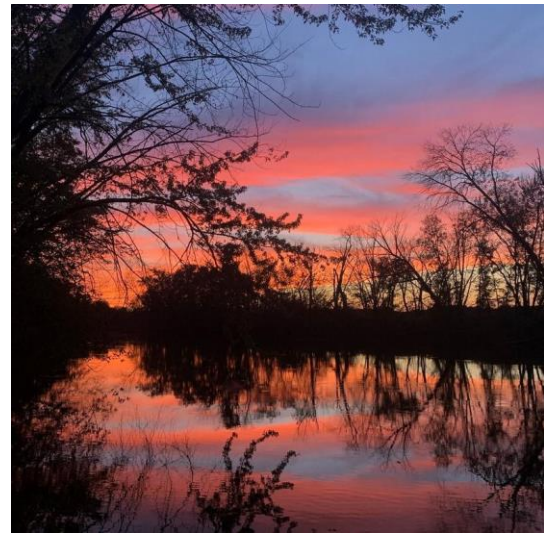
Survey Respondents
identified Alcohol &
Drug Use as a Top
Community Health
Issue *5



Ranked as the 2nd
Most Pressing
Health Issue *5

1 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2014-2016
2 - County Health Rankings, 2016-2020
3 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2021
4 - Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2020
5 - CHNA Community Survey, 2023

Community Health Improvement Plan



Green Lake County

Access to Healthcare

Goal: Improve access to healthcare, including medical and dental services in Green Lake County

Performance Measures

- **Non-Traumatic Oral Health Emergency Department Visit Rate**
- **Dentist Rate**
- **Adults who Visited a Dentist**
- **Adults who have had a Routine Checkup**
- **No Recent Dental Visit**



Strategy 1: Planning and coordination of services and activities to increase awareness about dental health in Green Lake County.

Objective 1: By 2025, provide dental services (via Bridging Brighter Smiles) to 20 WIC participants.

Strategy 2: Coordination of prevention and education efforts to improve dental services in Green Lake County.

Objective 2: By 2025, increase oral health services through implementation of the FHLC Mobile Dental Unit in Green Lake County.

Other Possible Strategies

- **Increase health literacy**
- **Increase awareness of school based dental programs**
- **Support Community Health Worker in Green Lake County**

Access to Healthcare

Goal: Improve access to healthcare, including medical and dental services in Green Lake County

Performance Measures

- **Non-Physician Primary Care Provider Rate**
- **Persons with Health Insurance**
- **Adults without Health Insurance**



Medical

Strategy 1: Connect and educate on preventative services to improve healthcare access and navigation in Green Lake County.

Objective 1: Increase access to primary/preventative care services in partnership with community organizations and programs.

Strategy 2: Ensure residents in Green Lake County have access and knowledge of resources to support a healthy life.

Objective 2: Host Health Clinic Fair targeting social determinants of health to Green Lake County communities.

Other Possible Strategies:

- **Increase health literacy**
- **Create materials to assist community members how to connect to telehealth services**
- **Promote alternative locations for medical care (fee-based clinics, pop up health department clinics, Vivent, etc.)**
- **Support Community Health Worker in Green Lake County**

Mental Health

Goal: Build a culture of mental wellness throughout Green Lake County

Performance Measures

- **Mental Health Provider Rate**
- **Poor Mental Health: Average Number of Days Adults Ever Diagnosed with Depression**
- **Depression: Medicare Population**



Strategy 1: Support countywide collaborative efforts to reduce suicides and promote mental health prevention, and treatment services.

Objective 1: By 2026, implement the Zero Suicide program in partnership with Health and Human Services Department.

Strategy 2: Coordination of prevention and education related to mental health programming and services in Green Lake County.

Objective 2: By 2026, increase awareness of the National Suicide and Crisis line 988 and other mental health services.

Strategy 3: Coordination of mental health prevention and education for children and adolescents.

Objective 3: By 2026, increase the awareness and education of mental health in Green Lake County schools.

Strategy 4: Expand the use of promising practices, evidence based or adaptive based practices to improve treatment outcomes.

Objective 4: By 2026, increase training opportunities and programming related to the peer support specialist (PSS) program.

Other Possible Strategies

- **Support actions to reduce access to lethal means for persons at risk of suicide such as distributing gun locks and medication lock boxes.**
- **Promote mental health resources directed toward vulnerable communities, veterans, farmers, youth, etc.**
- **Host evidence based mental health trainings in the community (QPR, Mental Health First Aid, etc.)**
- **Distribute the Green Lake County Healthy Living Guide with mental health resources for community members to share.**

Substance Misuse

Goal: Prevent or reduce substance misuse among youth and adults in Green Lake County

Performance Measures

- Alcohol-Impaired Driving Deaths
- Death Rate due to Drug Poisoning
- Adults who Binge Drink
- Mothers who Smoke During Pregnancy



Substance
Misuse

Strategy 1: Build collaboration and capacity of substance use prevention.

Objective 1: By 2026, increase community and organization knowledge about more effective and efficient delivery programs and eliminate duplication of efforts by creating a Substance Misuse Coalition.

Strategy 2: Coordination of prevention, education and services related to Narcan Distribution Program, and alcohol and other drug misuse programs.

Objective 2: By 2026, increase knowledge about interventions, treatments, or recovery services among residents.

Strategy 3: Expand the use of promising practices, evidence based or adaptive based practices to improve treatment services.

Objective 3: By 2026, increase training opportunities and programming related to the peer support specialist (PSS) program.

Other Possible Strategies

- Educate the community on identifying a drug overdose and what to do when someone overdoses
- Educate parents and the community on current drug trends
- Promote additional harm reduction strategies in Green Lake County
- Advocate for alcohol-free and smoke-free spaces in community spaces and at community events
- Promote tobacco cessation opportunities for Green Lake County Residents
- Promote 'THC is Changing' campaign

Conclusion

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHA) conducted by Green Lake County Health Department leveraged primary and secondary data analysis to provide a more comprehensive picture of health in Green Lake County, Wisconsin. The CHA prioritization process identified the top three health needs including: Access to Healthcare, Mental Health, and Substance Misuse. These findings were used to guide the development of the Green Lake County Health Department Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), which outlines strategies to address these identified priorities and improve the health of the community.

A series of virtual meetings and workshops were conducted to identify the goals, objectives, and strategies documented in this plan. Goals were developed for each health need, ensuring alignment and consistency across the health department, and partnering organizations.

The goals, objectives, and strategies outlined in this report will guide Green Lake County Health Department to address each health priority within the next five years. Periodic evaluation will be conducted to ensure that strategies are on track and be completed as described.



PHOTO BY: STEFANIE WADE

Appendix Summary

Appendix A. Demographics

- Geography and Data Sources

Appendix B. Additional Data for Top Health Needs

- Access to Healthcare (Medical and Dental)
 - Secondary Data
 - Primary Data

Appendix C. Primary & Secondary Data Methodology and Data Scoring Tables

- Primary Data Methodology
 - Qualitative Data
- Secondary Data Methodology
 - Secondary Data Sources
 - Data Scoring
- Social Determinants of Health
 - Geographic Disparities
- Data Considerations

Appendix D. Community Input Assessment Tools

- Community Survey
- Focus group guide

Appendix E. Community Survey Demographics

Appendix F. Prioritization Toolkit

Appendix G. Infographics