

# COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2024



PUBLIC HEALTH  
SAUK COUNTY  
WISCONSIN  
Together we thrive

## Contents

Message to Our Community .....	4
Acknowledgements.....	5
Community Health Needs Assessment Process.....	6
Primary Data .....	6
Convenience Survey .....	6
Community Conversation Focus Groups & Key Informant Interviews.....	7
Secondary Data .....	7
Health Takes All of Us.....	8
Health For All Is Our Vision .....	8
How a Community Becomes Healthier .....	9
Sauk County Community Profile .....	10
Health Outcomes .....	14
Length of Life.....	14
Quality of Life .....	15
Mental Health .....	15
Physical Health .....	16
Health Factors .....	17
Health Behaviors .....	18
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use .....	18
Diet & Exercise .....	22
Sexual Activity .....	24
Clinical Care.....	25
Access to Care .....	25
Social & Economic Factors .....	28
Education .....	28
Employment.....	29
Economic Stability .....	29
Family & Social Support .....	31
Community Safety.....	34
Physical Environment.....	35
Air & Water Quality.....	35
Housing .....	37

Transportation.....	39
Health Priority Areas.....	40
Prioritization Process .....	40
Next Steps .....	40
<b>Want to get involved? Join a Community Coalition!</b> .....	40
Appendix A: Community Health Survey.....	41
Survey Questions .....	41
Survey Results .....	44
Quantitative Results .....	44
Qualitative Results .....	60
Survey Marketing Materials .....	65
Social Media, Print Materials, Mailings.....	65
Press Release.....	66
Appendix B: Community Conversation Focus Groups .....	67
Questions .....	67
Themes.....	67
Appendix C: Key Informant Interviews.....	69
Questions .....	69
Themes.....	69
Appendix D: References & Secondary Data Sources.....	70

## Message to Our Community

Dear Sauk County Stakeholder,

Public Health Sauk County is proud to provide programs and services to the diverse communities that live, work, and play in Sauk County. It takes all of us to create the conditions in which everyone can thrive. The following report, released every three years by the Sauk County Health & Wellness Steering Committee, is a culmination of community feedback and local data identifying the top community health priorities. Similar to the 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment Report, mental health, affordable housing and substance use remain the top health priority areas. Public Health Sauk County, each of the area healthcare systems, and numerous community groups have all made significant strides in addressing these issues, however, there is more work to be done.

Everyone's voice and experiences are valued. We therefore invite you to participate in the coalitions working to make Sauk County a great place to live, work, and visit.

In solidarity,

*J. Weitzel*

Dr. Jennifer Weitzel, PhD, RN

## Acknowledgements

A Community Health Needs Assessment of this scope was made possible with the partnerships of many individuals. Public Health Sauk County gratefully acknowledges the following individuals & organizations who contributed.

- Siobhan Allen, Public Health Sauk County
- Sara Jesse, Public Health Sauk County
- Jodie Molitor, Public Health Sauk County
- Jessie Phalen, Public Health Sauk County
- Jennifer Weitzel, Public Health Sauk County
- Kate Hansen, Public Health Sauk County
- Hannah Erdman, Public Health Sauk County
- Rebecca Szydowski, Public Health Sauk County
- Taylor Fish, Public Health Sauk County
- Jill Quinn, Public Health Sauk County
- Julie Jaech, Public Health Sauk County
- Kelly Koch, Public Health Sauk County
- Treemanisha Stewart, Public Health Sauk County
- Marina Wittmann, Aging & Disability Resource Center
- Ken Carlson, Sauk Prairie Healthcare
- Brenda Humbracht, Sauk Prairie Healthcare
- Errin Wellman, Sauk Prairie Healthcare
- Megan Timm, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital
- Tammie Jamiska, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital
- Heather Sloan, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital
- Claudie Jamison, SSM Health, Baraboo – St Clare Hospital
- Carey Craker, Reedsburg Area Medical Center
- Emily Herritz, Reedsburg Area Medical Center
- Jen Baird, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Michelle Sampere, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Haley Weisert, Pathway Home of South Central WI
- Wendy Schneider, Pathway Home of South Central WI
- Angela Witczak, Pathway Home of South Central WI
- Stacy Parson, UW Extension
- Ed Geick, Former Baraboo City Administrator
- Brian Duvall, City of Reedsburg
- Jeff Wright, Sauk Prairie School District
- Rainey Briggs, Baraboo School District
- Tywana German, Sauk Prairie Chamber of Commerce
- Danielle Sander, UW Extension
- Ray Ring, Village of Plain

We would like to thank all the community members who completed our online survey as well as those who participated in our focus groups and key informant meetings. Everyone took time out of their busy schedules to listen to health data and reports, share their concerns, and comment on their experiences, and for that we are sincerely grateful.

## Community Health Needs Assessment Process

In partnership with our healthcare systems, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Sauk Prairie Healthcare & SSM Health, Baraboo-St Clare Hospital, Public Health Sauk County facilitated the Health and Wellness Steering Committee and the Sauk County Data Council to conduct a Community Health Assessment (CHA). We collected primary and secondary data to complete this report.

### Primary Data

The primary data includes multiple perspectives and experiences from people who live and/or work in Sauk County. The primary data was collected using multiple methods: a community health assessment survey, one-on-one key informant interviews, and focus groups.

### Convenience Survey

To collect primary data, we used an online convenience sample survey that was available from February 5, 2024, to May 1, 2024. The confidential and anonymous survey asked respondents to think about their community and identify community problems and community strengths. Respondents were also asked to answer demographic questions. For complete survey results, see [Appendix A](#).

The survey was advertised to our entire community by way of local newspaper press releases. Online advertisements ran on the websites of all 3 county healthcare systems as well as Public Health's and included corresponding social media sites. Radio interviews on Magnum Radio Group stations, press releases to the school districts, internal communications within the coalition entities, and local entities such as churches and libraries assisted by distributing information. Cards advertising the survey were created and handed out at local entities including libraries, local businesses, churches, mental health offices, and pharmacies. A targeted mailing list was purchased and a survey card sent to residents in low internet areas.

### *How representative was our survey?*

We received 1,106 responses overall, about 1.6% of the county population in 2023<sup>1</sup>.

<b>Over-Represented on the Survey</b>	<b>Survey Respondents</b>	<b>2023 Census Quick Facts</b>	<b>Under-Represented in the Survey</b>
Women	77%	50%	Men
Adults ages 18-64	72%	57.8%	Only 1% of survey respondents were youth
Higher Educational Attainment	50% with Bachelor's degree or higher	27.1%	No High School degree, High School degree as highest education
White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	91%	88.9%	Hispanic, American Indian, Black, 2 or More Races

## Community Conversation Focus Groups & Key Informant Interviews

The survey was balanced by 18 focus groups and 12 key informant interviews conducted by Steering Committee members that represented some of the historically under-represented populations below.

- Hispanic
- People experiencing Homelessness
- Domestic Violence Survivors
- People in Recovery
- Youth
- Single Parents
- People living in Poverty
- Municipal Leaders of Rural Areas

A listing of the Focus Group questions and themes can be found in [Appendix B](#).

A listing of the Key Informant Interview questions and themes can be found in [Appendix C](#).

## Secondary Data

In addition to gathering input directly from our community members, secondary data was collected. The secondary data were gathered by credible local, state, and national governmental and non-governmental entities. Reflective of the County Health Rankings model, the data are grouped in the following categories:

- Health Outcomes
- Health Factors
  - Health Behaviors
  - Clinical Care
  - Social & Economic Factors
  - Physical Environment

A comprehensive list of the secondary data and corresponding sources can be found in [Appendix D](#).

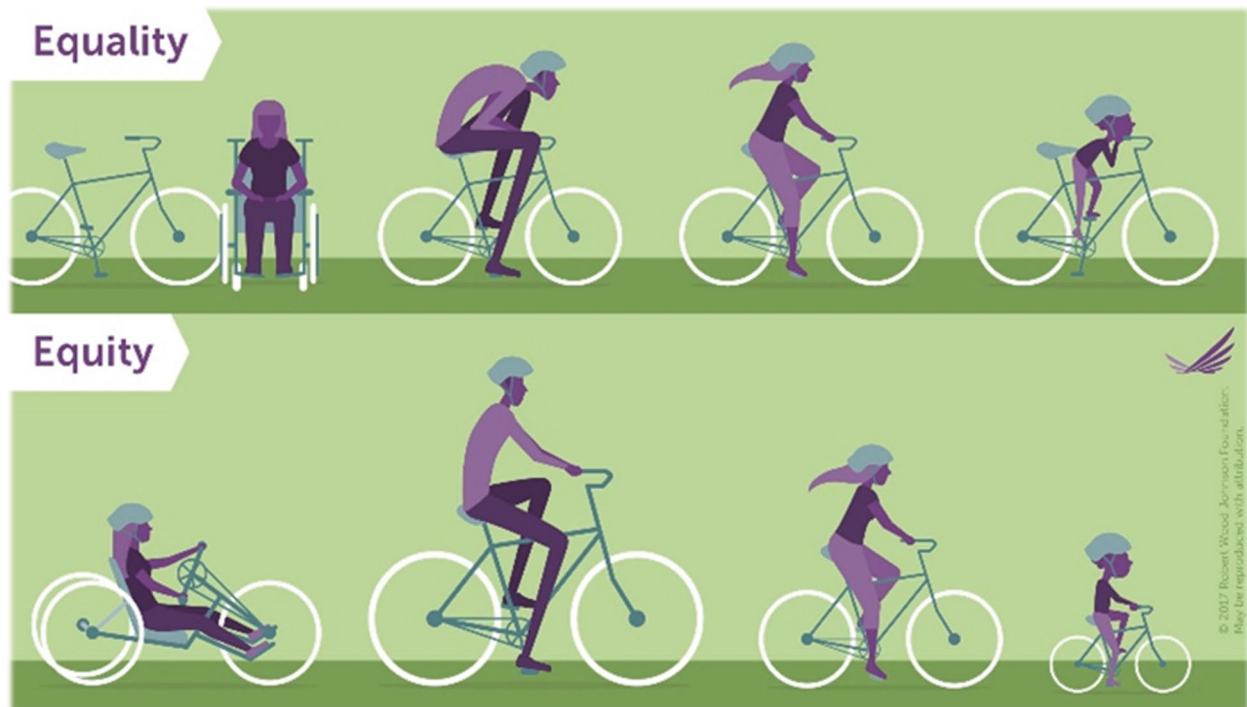
## Health Takes All of Us

Improving community health takes partnerships, time, and commitment. It takes sustainable changes to policies and systems. It takes problem-solving and innovation. It takes all of us working together toward a shared goal. To address the breadth of health factors in our county, we not only need people from public health and health care, but expertise from business, education, government, community members, and many more.

We want to live in a place where all people are treated fairly, where everyone has a voice in decisions that affect them, and where we all have a chance to succeed. And we know that positive change is possible. When communities have brought to life strategies to ensure safe drinking water, provide early childhood education, improve neighborhood safety, or reduce obesity, we have all benefited.

## Health For All Is Our Vision

We want to be part of the solution. Public Health Sauk County is excited to continue the work of bringing our community together to look at the many factors that influence health, select strategies that can improve health for all, and make changes that will have a lasting impact.





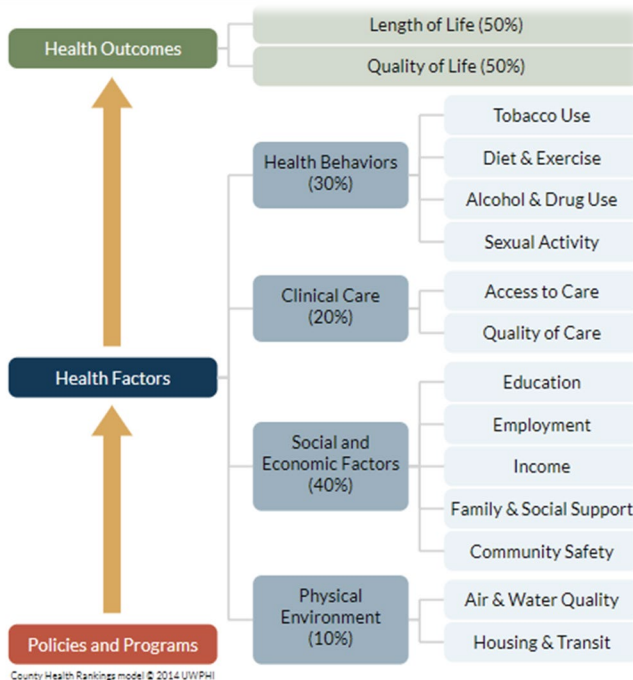
## How a Community Becomes Healthier

The Take Action Cycle at right shows us how to create a healthy community.

At the heart of this cycle is people working together. We know that when people work together with a shared vision and commitment to improve health, it can yield better results than working alone.

The County Health Rankings<sup>2</sup> are based on the below model of community health that emphasizes the many factors that influence how long and how well we live. The Rankings use more than 30 measures that help communities understand how healthy their residents are today (health outcomes) and what will impact their health in the future (health factors).

After taking into account all of the primary and secondary data and much community discussion, Public Health Sauk County, with the partnership of the Health & Wellness Steering Committee and the Data Council, used the following criteria to help identify the most actionable public health issues facing Sauk County residents:



Magnitude: how many people are affected?

Severity: how bad is it?

Time trend: is it getting better or worse?

Comparisons: how do we compare to the state? Other similar counties?

Community readiness: is it feasible to achieve success?

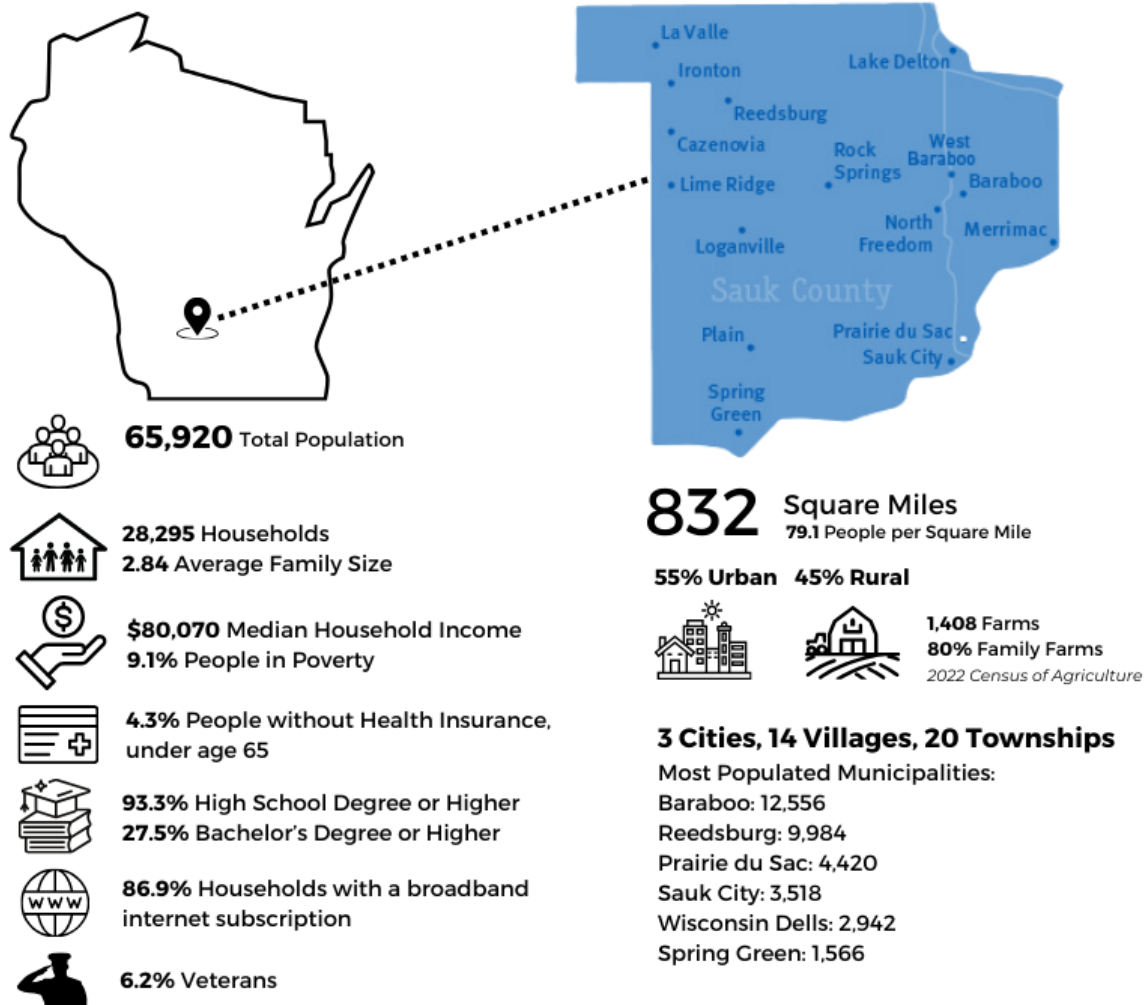
Disparities: are some groups impacted more?

## Sauk County Community Profile

For an interactive Sauk County Health Profile, visit <https://bit.ly/saukhealthprofile>.

# Sauk County Community Profile

Data Source: Census 2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates Unless Noted



3

Sauk County, Wisconsin has 831.54 square miles of land area and is the 27th largest county in Wisconsin by total area<sup>4</sup>. The county is more rural than Wisconsin overall, with 44.7% of the population in rural areas and 55.3% in urban areas in 2020<sup>5</sup>.

An estimated 65,920 people call Sauk County home. The Median Age is 42.2 years old, which is slightly higher than the national median age of 39. Overall, 21.9% of the population is under age 18, 57.7% are ages 18-64, and 20.4% are age 65+<sup>6</sup>.

There are four small urban communities within the county with a population ranging from 5,000-15,000. One of these communities is Lake Delton in the northeast part of the county. Lake Delton/Wisconsin Dells is a tourist destination, welcoming over 5 million visitors each year<sup>7</sup>. Many foreign workers, including Asian, Hispanic and Eastern Europeans, contribute to the workforce in this tourist area.

Sauk County is home to the Ho-Chunk Nation, one of two First Nations with an oral history placing their origin in Wisconsin. Tribal members do not reside on a reservation but on trust lands throughout the county. The Ho-Chunk Nation is the largest employer in Sauk County<sup>8</sup>.

The rural areas of Sauk County support a thriving farming community with an estimated 1,408 farms, 80% of which are family farms<sup>9</sup>. The western, rural areas of Sauk County are also home to an estimated 1,195 Amish<sup>10</sup>. This community is known for their home grown produce, greenhouses, baked goods, and carpentry skills.

From 2010 to 2020, the population of Sauk County grew 6%. Sauk County’s population is increasing in diversity, as shown in Table 1 below. An estimated 7.2% of Sauk County residents ages 5 and over speak a language other than English, with Spanish being the most common<sup>11</sup>, followed by Other Indo-European languages, which includes the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect of German spoken by the area’s Amish community.

**Did You Know? Public Health Sauk County (PHSC) services impact all people who live in and visit our community. Through wellness programs, environmental health initiatives and a focus on creating systemic change, we cultivate healthier places and people so that Sauk County can thrive. In 2024, PHSC received \$1.8 million in tax levy funding. This is a cost of \$28 per resident. To learn more about PHSC services, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth>**

**Table 1: Race & Ethnicity of Sauk County Residents<sup>12,13</sup>**

*Note: The numbers of people of each Race/Ethnicity listed below do not equal the Total Population, as people of Hispanic Ethnicity are also counted in different race categories.*

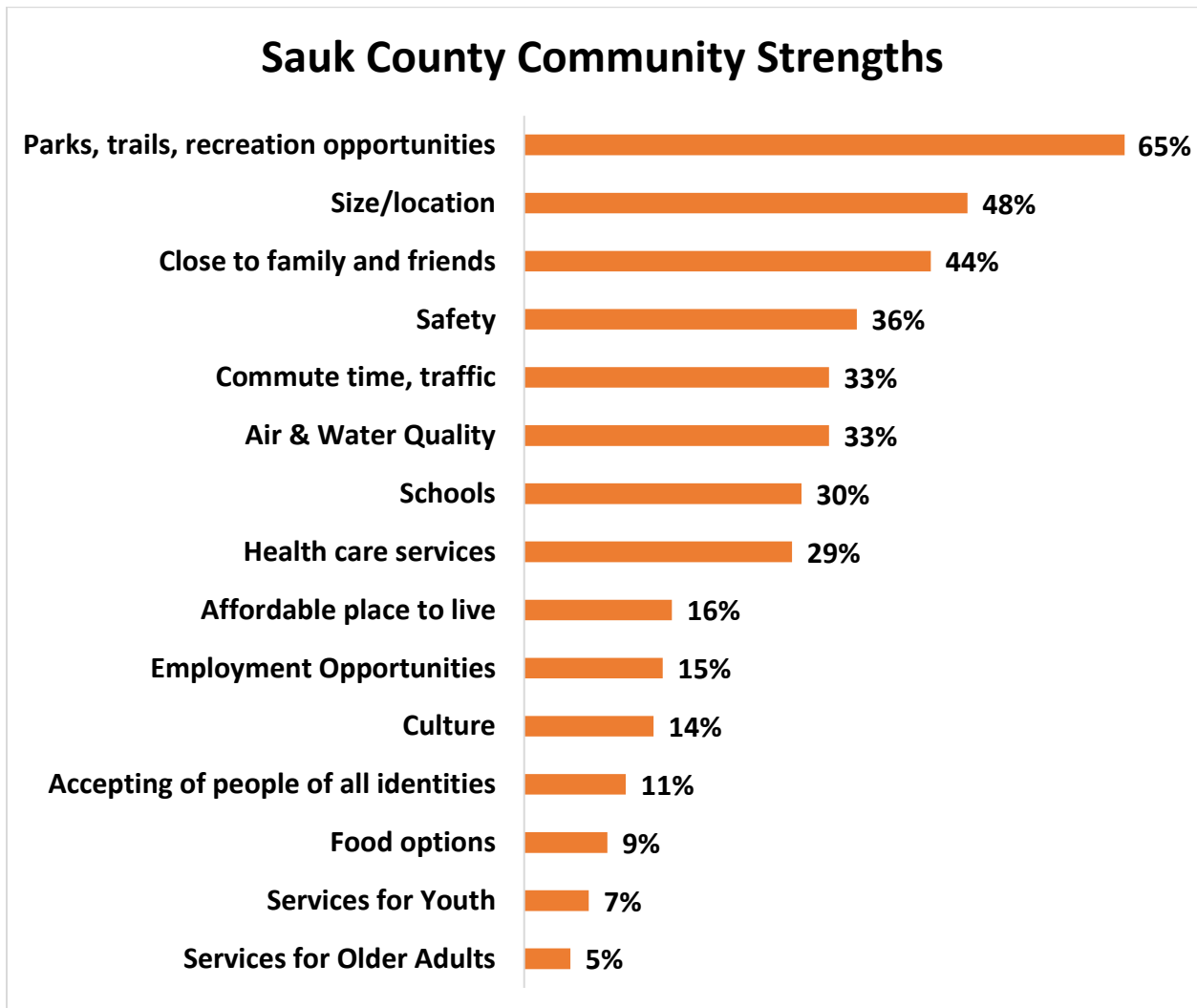
Race/Ethnicity	2010	% Change	2020
Total Population	61,976	6%	65,763
American Indian & Alaska Native	769	12%	863
Asian	337	18%	398
Black	357	74%	622
Hispanic	2,675	51%	4,050
Native Hawaiian & other Pacific Islander	13	38%	18
Two or More Races	756	330%	3,248
Other	1,156	74%	2,012
White	58,588	0%	58,602

**Table 2: Foreign-Born Residents of Sauk County<sup>14</sup>**

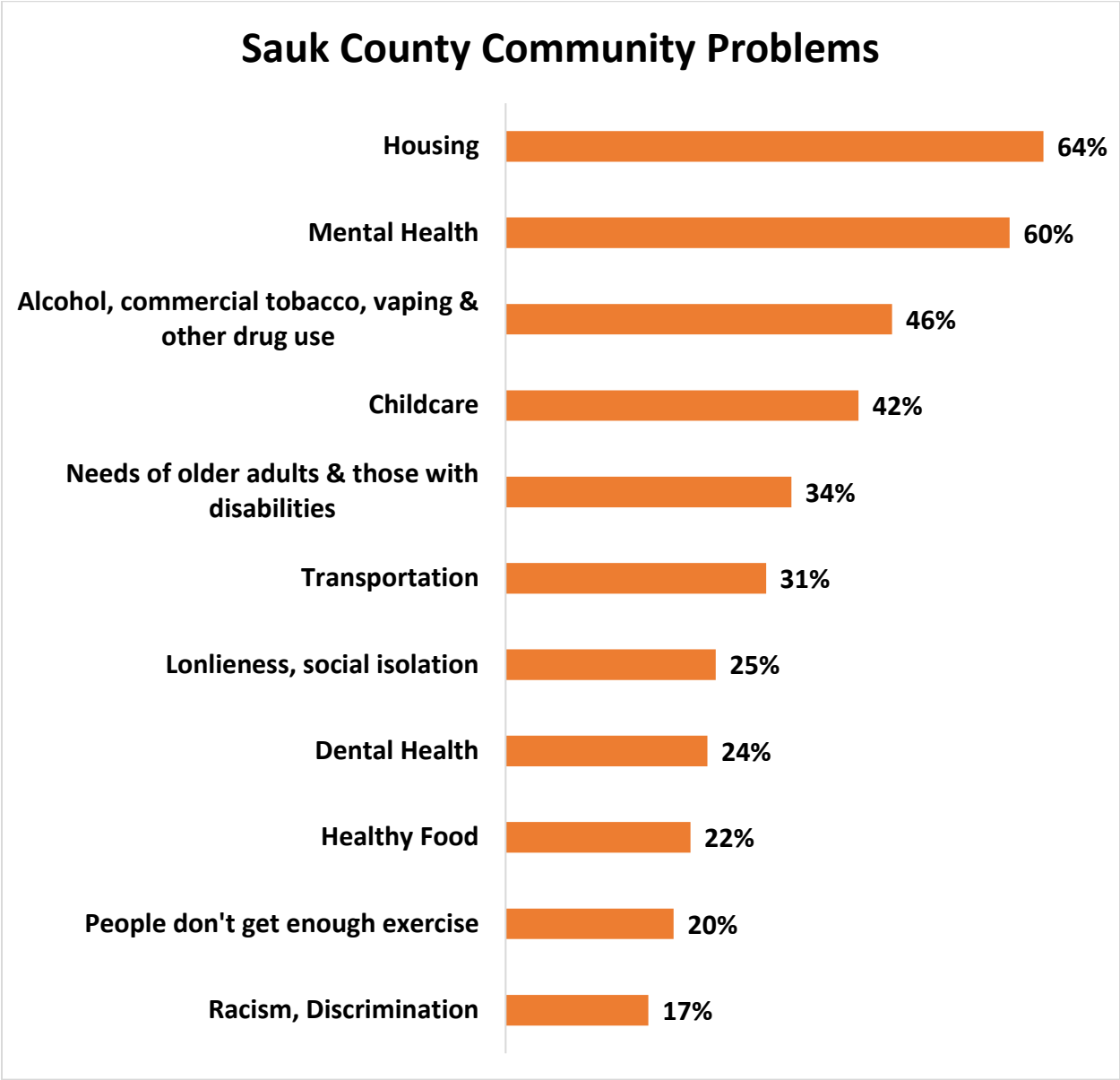
Census data shows that the number of foreign-born residents in Sauk County declined from 2010 to 2020.

Place of Birth (ACS 5 Year Estimates)	2010	% Change	2020
Foreign-Born	2,353	-12%	2,068
Naturalized US Citizen	724	-0.3%	722
Not a US Citizen	1,629	-17%	1,346

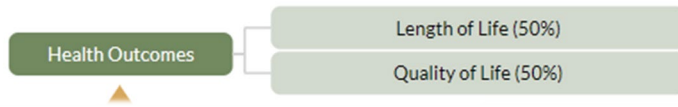
Sauk County has many strengths that make it an attractive place to live. In the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) Survey, respondents were asked to “Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play. What do you like best about it?” Here’s what they selected.



Sauk County also has opportunities for improvement to make it better. In the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA) Survey, respondents were asked to “Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play. What are the biggest problems?” Here’s what they selected.

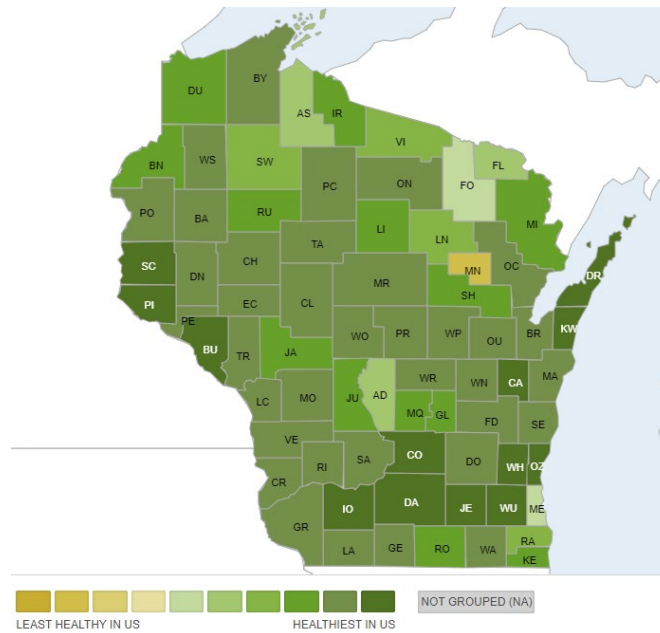


## Health Outcomes



Health Outcomes tell us how long people live on average within a community, and how much physical and mental health people experience in a community while they are alive.

**Sauk County is faring about the same as the average county in Wisconsin for Health Outcomes, and better than the average county in the nation. Sauk County ranked 35<sup>th</sup> out of 72 WI Counties in Health Outcomes<sup>15</sup>.**



### Length of Life

We measure how long people live to reveal what might have led to early deaths. We investigate length of life among population groups to help us understand differences in health outcomes. We can influence how long people live by improving the community-level factors that influence health. Some examples of these factors include improving access to nutritious foods, quality medical care, good jobs and a clean environment<sup>16</sup>.

**The average life expectancy in Sauk County is 78.2 years<sup>17</sup>.** The leading causes of death under age 75 in Sauk County from 2018-2022 were Cancer, Heart Disease, Accidents, Diabetes, and Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases<sup>18</sup>.

## Quality of Life

Quality of Life represents the well-being of a community. It underscores the importance of physical, mental, social, and emotional health from birth to adulthood. Quality of life data tells us about how people perceive their health. It tells us whether they feel healthy and satisfied. Quality of Life measures include self-reported physical and mental wellness.

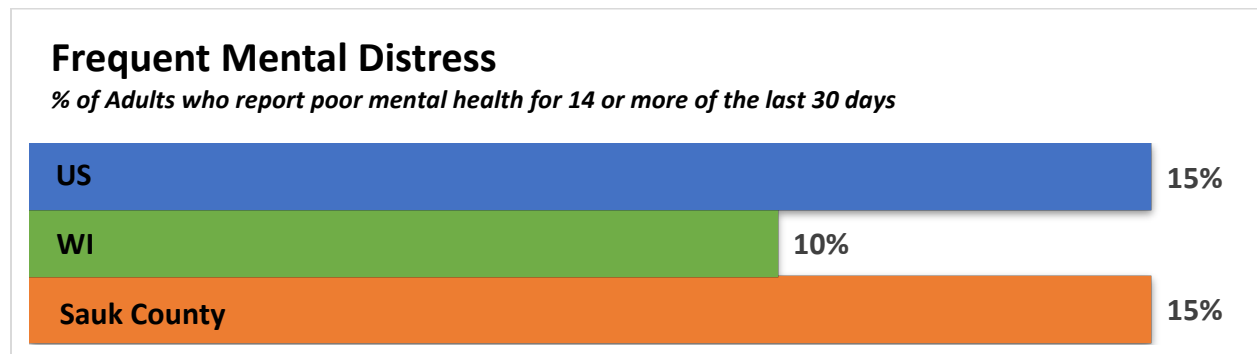
## Mental Health

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological, and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel, and act, and helps determine how we handle stress, relate to others, and make choices<sup>19</sup>.

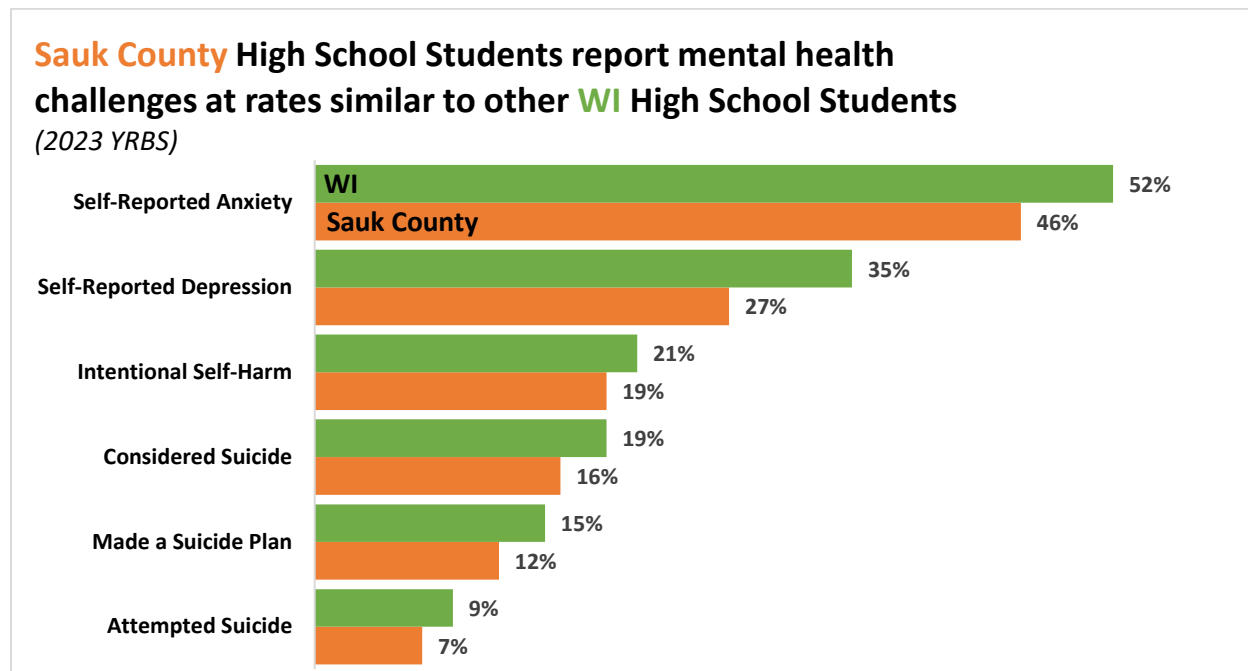
**60%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Mental Health** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve, making it the 2<sup>nd</sup> most selected community problem.

## Adult Mental Health

An estimated **25.6%** of Sauk County adults have ever been told by a health professional that they had depression<sup>20</sup>, higher than the national average of 23.2%. **15%** of Sauk County Adults report 14 or more days of Poor Mental Health each month, higher than the state rate<sup>21</sup>.

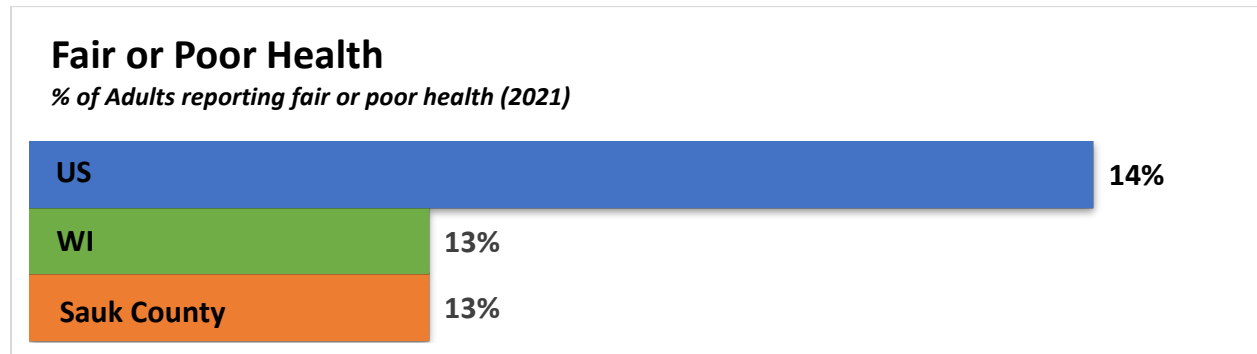


## Youth Mental Health<sup>22,23</sup>

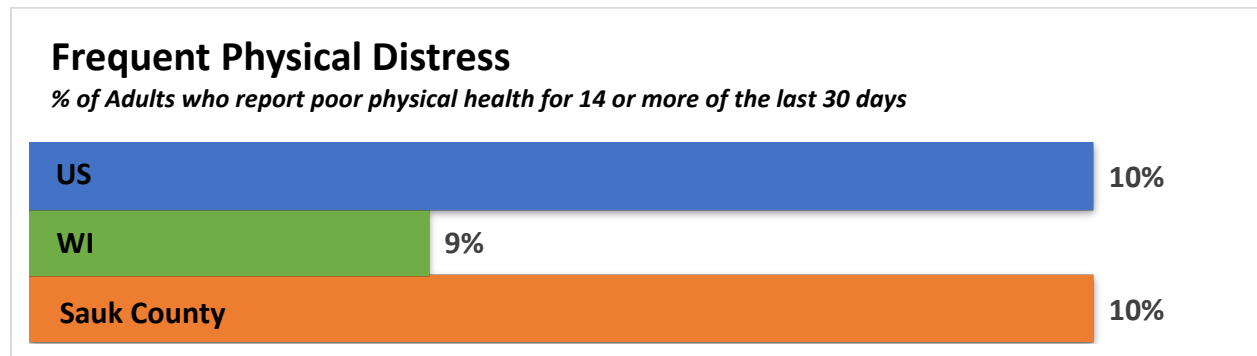


Physical Health

13% of Sauk County Adults report that they consider themselves in fair or poor health<sup>24</sup>.

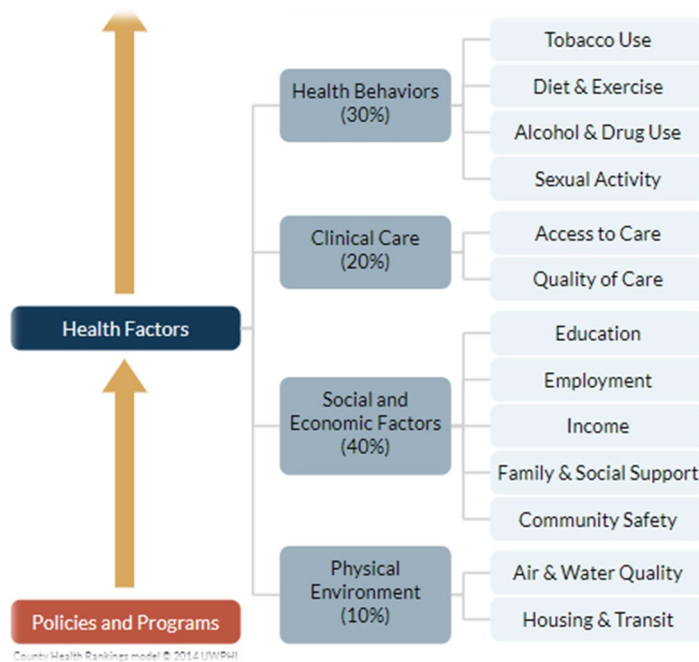


10% of Sauk County Adults report 14 or more days of Poor Physical Health each month<sup>25</sup>.



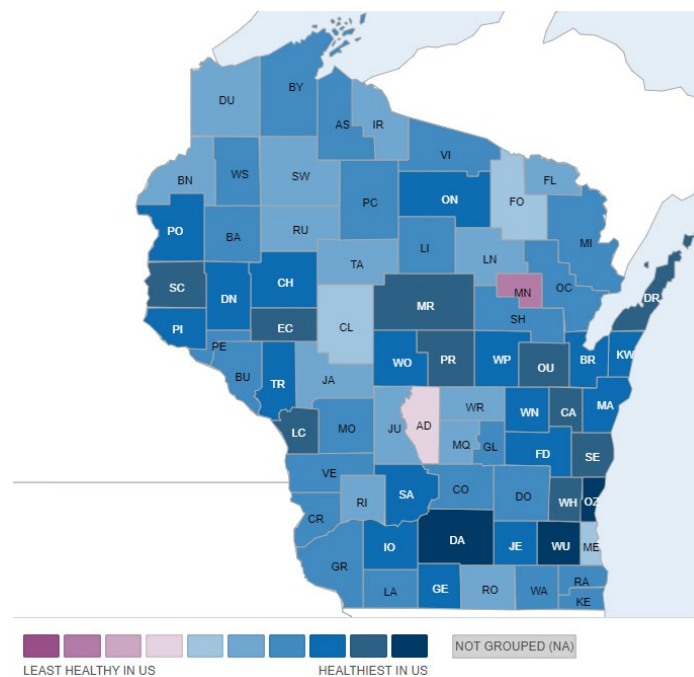


# Health Factors

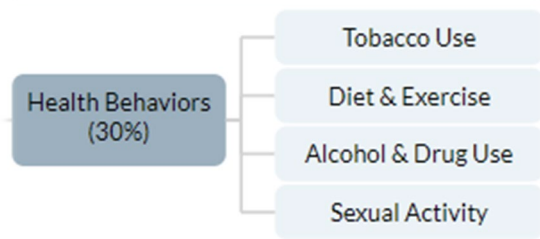


Health Factors represent those things we can improve to live longer and healthier lives. These include Health Behaviors, Clinical Care, Social & Economic Factors, and Physical Environment. They are indicators of the future health of our communities.

**Sauk County is faring about the same as the average county in Wisconsin for Health Factors, and better than the average county in the nation. Sauk County ranked 28<sup>th</sup> out of 72 WI Counties in Health Factors<sup>26</sup>.**



## Health Behaviors



Health behaviors are actions individuals take that affect their health. They include actions that lead to improved health, such as eating well and being physically active, and actions that increase one's risk of disease, such as smoking, excessive alcohol intake, and risky sexual behavior.

## Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use

**46%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Alcohol, Commercial Tobacco (Nicotine), Vaping & Other Drug** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve, making it the 3<sup>rd</sup> most selected community problem.

### *Alcohol Use in Sauk County*

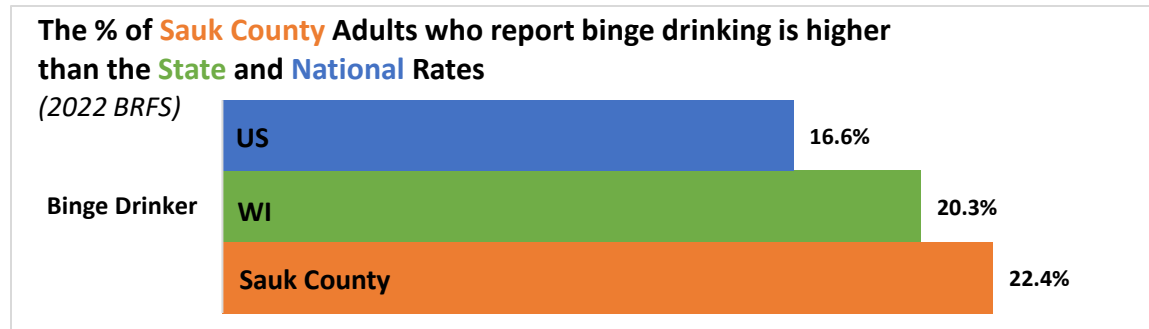
Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in WI<sup>27</sup>. Wisconsin's strong culture of excessive alcohol use makes it challenging to address this issue. 63.1% of WI adults report Alcohol Use in the past month, much higher than the national rate of 52.2%. There is a long list of health risks related to drinking alcohol, including increased cancer risks, heart disease, liver disease, alcohol use disorder, unintentional injuries, and motor vehicle crashes.

Binge drinking is defined as having four or more drinks (women) or five or more drinks (men) on one occasion. Most people who binge drink are not dependent on alcohol, however, people who binge drink are at higher risk for serious health effects from alcohol<sup>28</sup>. While binge drinking is more common in adults, teenagers also engage in drinking behaviors. Alcohol affects young people more powerfully than it does adults, and drinking before the brain and body are fully developed can have dangerous effects. Talking to teens about alcohol and modeling safe drinking habits can play a major role in shaping teens' attitudes around alcohol<sup>29</sup>.

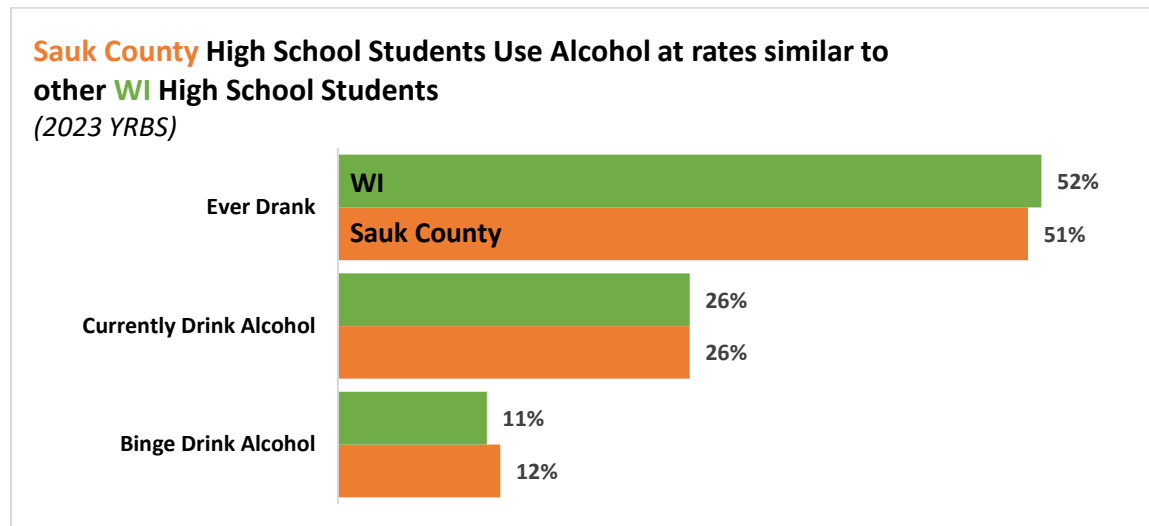
### **Sauk County Alcohol Data:**

- 279 establishments have a Liquor License, a ratio of 233 people per license<sup>30</sup>
- 22.4% of Sauk County Adults report binge drinking, higher than the state and national rates<sup>31,32</sup>.
- Sauk County High School Students Use Alcohol at rates similar to other WI High School Students<sup>33,34</sup>:
  - 52% report ever drinking alcohol
  - 26% report currently drink alcohol
  - 12% report binge drinking
- In 2023, there were 526 chronic-alcohol related emergency room visits and 341 inpatient hospitalizations<sup>35</sup>.
- There were 44 alcohol-attributable deaths in 2022<sup>36</sup>.
- From 2017-2021, 34% of motor vehicle crash deaths involved alcohol<sup>37</sup>.

## Adult Binge Drinking <sup>38,39</sup>



## Youth Alcohol Use <sup>40,41</sup>



### *Commercial Tobacco (Smoking & Vaping) in Sauk County*

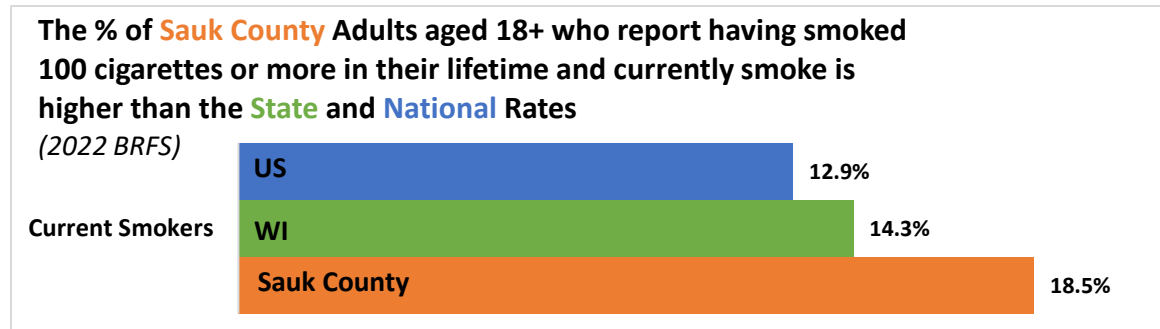
*Note: Tobacco in this report refers to commercial tobacco, not traditional Native American/Indigenous tobacco.*

Commercial tobacco and nicotine products are a leading cause of preventable death and disease. Smoking can cause cancer, heart disease and stroke, lung diseases, Type 2 diabetes, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Tobacco is also changing to e-cigarettes (vapes), little cigars/cigarillos, smokeless products, and flavorings, many of which appeal to youth<sup>42</sup>.

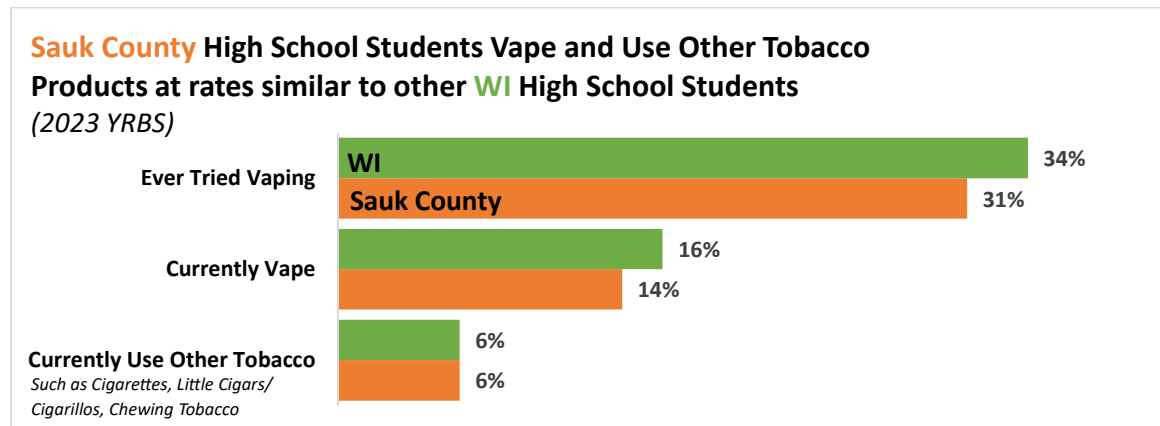
The **WI Tobacco Quit Line** is a free 24/7 service for WI residents who want to quit smoking, vaping, or chewing tobacco.

Call 800-QUIT NOW  
Text READY to 34191  
Visit [WIQuitLine.org](http://WIQuitLine.org)

**Adult Smoking** <sup>43,44</sup>



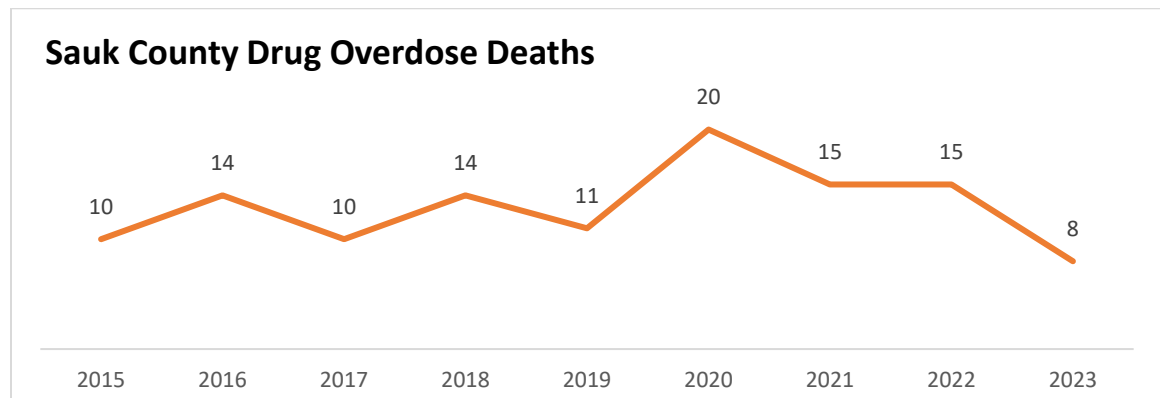
**Youth Tobacco Use** <sup>45,46</sup>



*Other Drug Use*

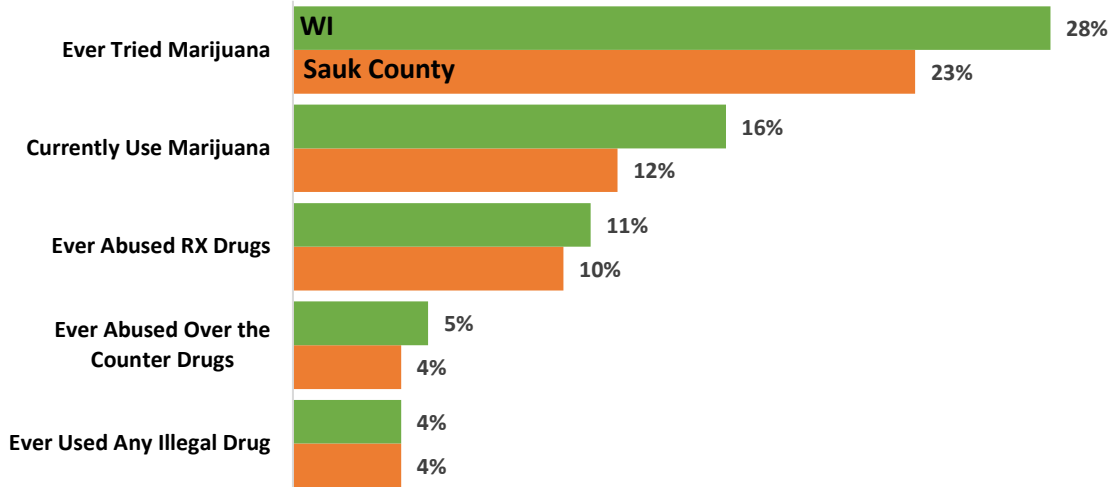
Drug overdose deaths are a national public health emergency. Naloxone can reverse opioid overdoses and prevent death. Increasing access to naloxone and to evidence-based treatments for substance use disorder can help reduce overdose deaths. For information on Naloxone Training, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/you-and-naloxone-can-save-life>.

**Drug Overdose Deaths in Sauk County declined in 2023<sup>47</sup>.**



Youth Other Drug Use <sup>48,49</sup>

**Sauk County High School Students Use Other Drugs rates similar to other WI High School Students**  
(2023 YRBS)



**“Alcohol, tobacco, drugs - our culture encourages abuse of these things, and it devastates people's lives.”**  
(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 48)

Partnership for Prevention (P4P) works to reduce youth substance use in Sauk County. To learn more, visit <https://p4psauk.org/>.

Support People and Empower Recovery (SUPER) works to create a safe, inclusive, and supportive Sauk County community where everyone can recover and thrive. To learn more, visit <https://www.facebook.com/saukSUPER>.

## Diet & Exercise

Balanced nutrition and physical activity are essential for health. Poor nutrition can hinder growth and development, while excessive calorie consumption can lead to obesity, especially when paired with too little physical activity. Inadequate physical activity also contributes to increased risk of conditions such as coronary heart disease, diabetes, and some cancers<sup>50</sup>.

**22%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Healthy Food** and **20%** selected **People don't get enough exercises** as **community problems** that we should work to improve.

Only **9%** of Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Food options** as **something they like best** about their community.

## Food Insecurity

Everyone need nutritious food to be healthy. Food insecurity is the lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life. Key drivers of food insecurity include unemployment, poverty, and financial instability. Food insecurity measures If people had a constant food supply over the past year. Food insecurity also considers the ability to provide balanced meals, including fruits and vegetables. **In 2022, 10.3% of Sauk County's population (6,740 people) were food insecure,<sup>51</sup> similar to the state rate and better than the national rate.**

### Food Insecurity

*% of population who lack adequate access to food  
Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2022*



**“Healthy foods are hard to get and expensive, costs of foods are growing and out pacing wage increases, heck even cheap, unhealthy foods are getting expensive.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 731)

## Physical Inactivity<sup>52,53</sup>

Physical inactivity is linked to increased risk of health conditions such as Type 2 diabetes, cancer, stroke, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, and shortened life expectancy. Physical activity is associated with improved sleep, cognitive ability, bone and musculoskeletal health, and reduced risk of dementia. Physical activity, in addition to diet, is important for the prevention of obesity<sup>54</sup>. **Sauk County's physical inactivity rate (23.4% of adults with no physical activity outside of work) is similar to the state and national rates.**

## Physical Inactivity

*% of adults participating in no physical activity outside of work  
2022 BRFSS*



**“It's not something new that almost everyone needs more exercise. More people are becoming obese and need to exercise and the illnesses that go along with obesity are also on the rise. There are not enough places for people to go where they can get exercise in our area for free or a low price. There are a lot of gyms in our area, but they are too expensive for many and others don't feel comfortable going to a gym. It would be nice to see local groups that maybe get together for walks, runs, aerobics in the park, etc.; maybe something that could be set up as a free and open to the public once a week event.”**

**(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 895)**

**“Exercise -- Half of the gyms in the area are for elitists -- the top members of the community. The cost, environment, vibes, etc., are so unwelcoming to the average person at those places. More options for solid gym spaces with 24-hour access would be great.”**

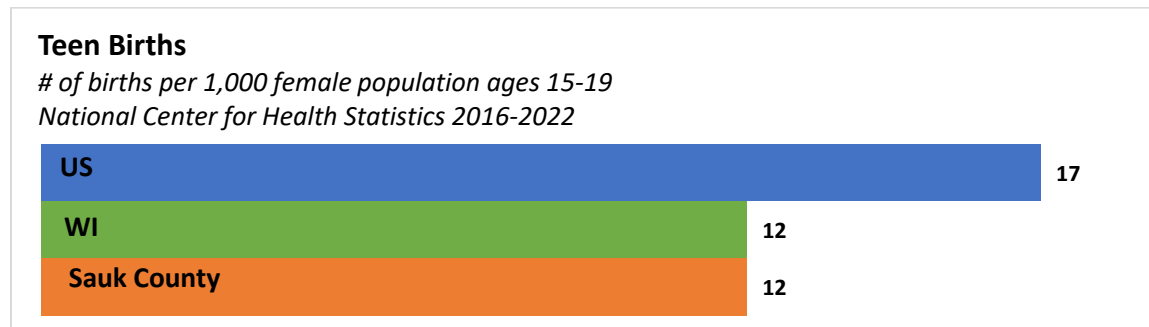
**(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 389)**

## Sexual Activity

High risk sexual practices such as unsafe sex and higher numbers of lifetime sexual partners can lead to sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unplanned pregnancies, which can affect immediate and long-term health as well as the economic and social well-being of individuals, families, and communities<sup>55</sup>.

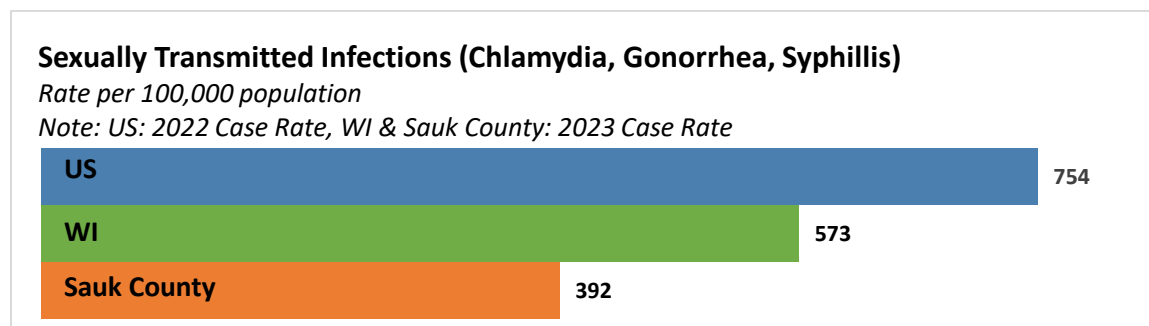
### Teen Births<sup>56</sup>

Early childbearing during teenage years has been associated with adverse health outcomes for the mother-child unit, the impacts of which can extend to partners, other family members, and the community. **Sauk County's Teen Birth rate (12 births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19) is the same as the state average, and lower than the national average.**



### Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)<sup>57, 58</sup>

STIs are associated with an increased risk of cervical cancer, infertility, and premature death. **Sauk County's STI rates (392 per 100,000 population) is lower than state and national rates.**





## Clinical Care<sup>59</sup>

Clinical Care is anything relating to the direct medical treatment or testing of patients. Access to affordable, quality health care can prevent disease and lead to earlier disease detection. Community members are living longer lives because of breakthroughs in clinical care, such as advancements in vaccinations, surgical procedures, and preventative screenings.



## Access to Care

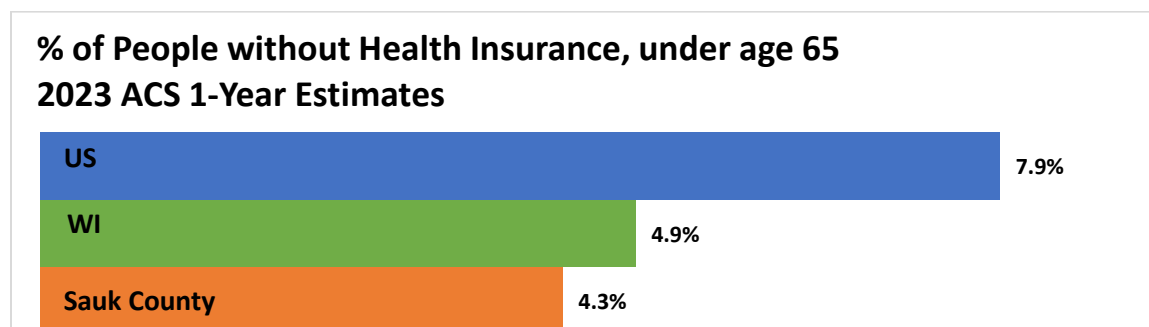
Access to affordable, quality health care is important to physical, social, and mental health. Health insurance helps individuals and families access needed primary care, specialists, and emergency care, but does not ensure access on its own—it is also necessary for providers to offer affordable care, be available to treat patients, and be in relatively close proximity to patients. Together, health insurance, local care options, and a usual source of care help to ensure access to health care. Having access to care allows individuals to enter the health care system, find care easily and locally, pay for care, and get their health needs met.

**Healthcare appointments are getting harder to get for both regular and specialty care. Then your option is to go to urgent care or ER, which both have long wait times.**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 46)

## Uninsured<sup>60</sup>

Lack of health insurance coverage is a significant barrier to accessing needed health care and to maintaining financial security. A report from the Kaiser Family Foundation on access to healthcare found that "Going without coverage can have serious health consequences for the uninsured because they receive less preventative care, and delayed care often results in serious illness or other health problems. Being uninsured can also have serious financial consequences, with many unable to pay their medical bills, resulting in medical debt."<sup>61</sup> **In Sauk County, 4.3% of people under age 65 do not have Health Insurance.**

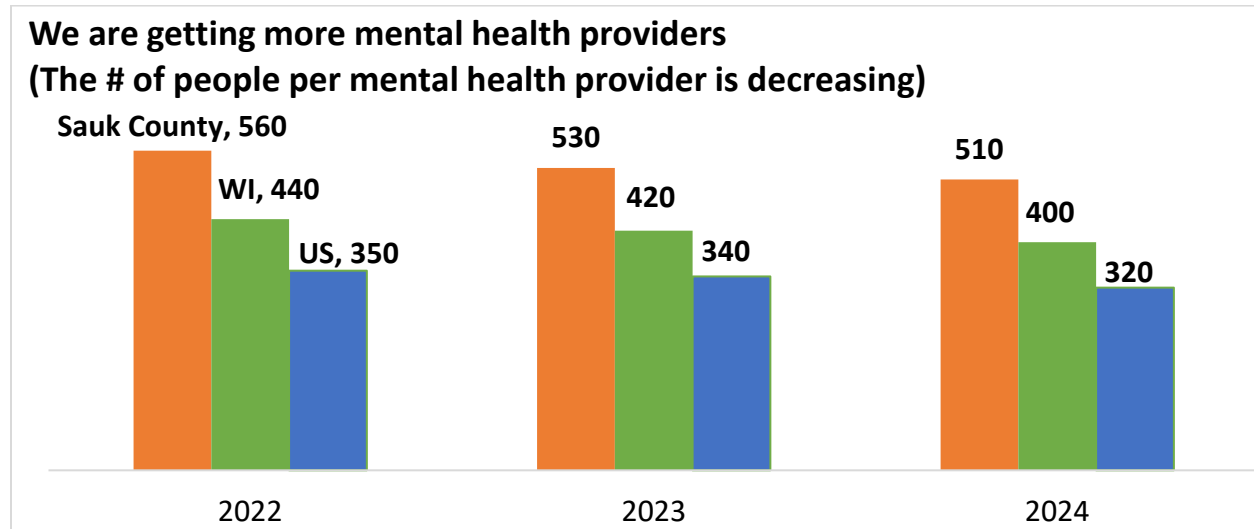


## Primary Care Physicians<sup>62</sup>

Access to health care requires not only financial coverage, but also access to providers. Sufficient availability of primary care physicians is essential for preventive and primary care and, when needed, referrals to appropriate specialty care. **In Sauk County, there was one primary care physician per 1,000 people. This is better than the state and national ratios.**

### Mental Health Providers<sup>63</sup>

While the number of Mental Health Providers in Sauk County is increasing, some people still encounter challenges in accessing mental health services. Finding a provider that accepts your insurance, being able to afford out of pocket costs, needing to travel out of area to be seen, and long wait lists were all mentioned by 2024 Sauk County CHA survey takers.



### Dentists

**24%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Dental Health** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve.

When we look at the responses by Race/Ethnicity, **40%** of the respondents that are **People of Color** selected **Dental Health** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve.

This tells us that **Access to Dental Care** is **not the same** for all groups of people in Sauk County.

Untreated dental disease can lead to serious health effects including pain, infection, and tooth loss. Although lack of sufficient providers is only one barrier to accessing oral health care, much of the country suffers from shortages. **In Sauk County, there was 1 dentist per 1,460 people<sup>64</sup>. This is worse than the state and national ratios.** There also is a shortage of dentists that accept Badgercare, resulting in many Sauk County residents needing to travel long distances to see a Dentist.

**“We’re having to leave and drive a distance for dental care as nowhere in our town is covered by our insurance.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 370)

**“The number of dentists who accept patients with Medical Assistance has been perpetually insufficient. This makes it very challenging for both families and individuals to seek dental care in both in an emergency as well as preventatively. The reimbursement rate to dentists from MA needs to be greatly increased.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 492)

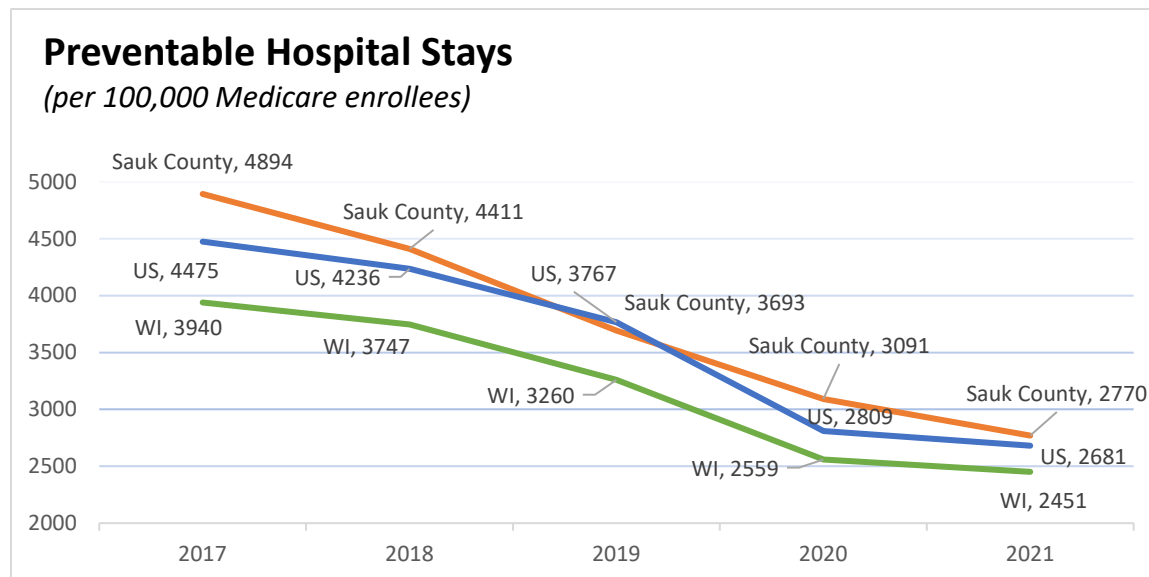
### Quality of Care

High quality health care is timely, safe, effective, and affordable—the right care for the right person at the right time. High quality care in inpatient and outpatient settings can help protect and improve health and reduce the likelihood of receiving unnecessary or inappropriate care.

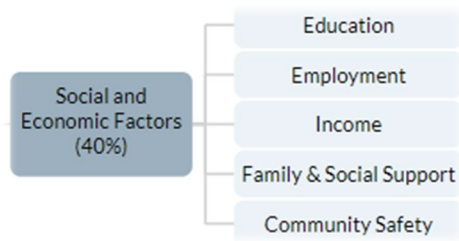
**29%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Health care services** as something **they like best** about their community.

### Preventable Hospital Stays<sup>65</sup>

Hospitalization for ambulatory-care sensitive conditions, diagnoses usually treatable in outpatient settings, suggests that quality outpatient care was not accessible. This measure may also represent a tendency to overuse emergency rooms and urgent care as a main source of care. **While Sauk County is improving in this measure, our rates of preventable stays (2,770 per 100,000 Medicare enrollees) are higher than the state and national rates.**



## Social & Economic Factors

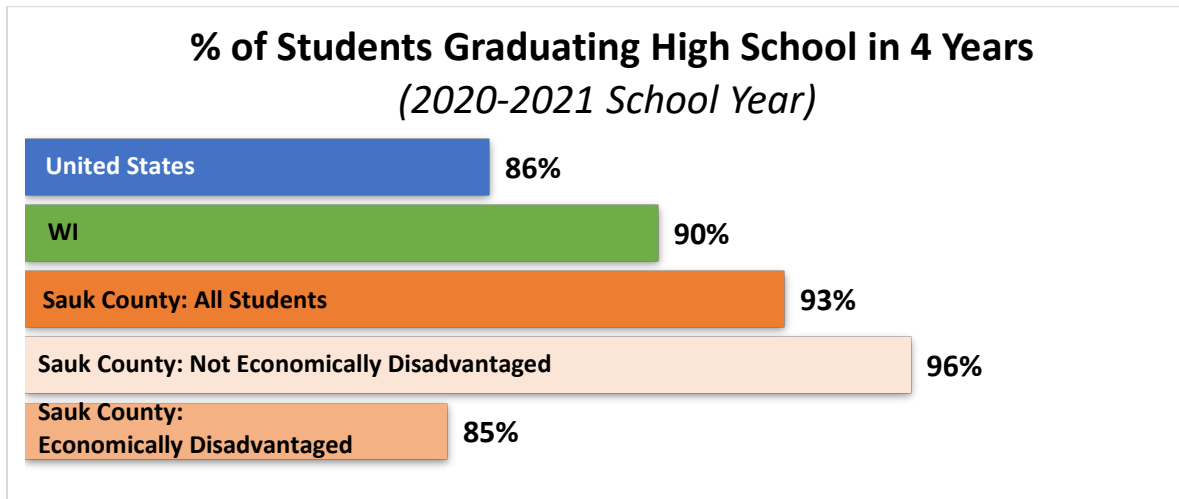


Social and economic factors-- such as education, employment, income, family and social supports, and community safety significantly affect how well and how long we live. They account for 40% of health outcomes-- they are our largest influencers of health. Social and economic factors affect our ability to make healthy choices, afford medical care and housing, manage stress, and more.

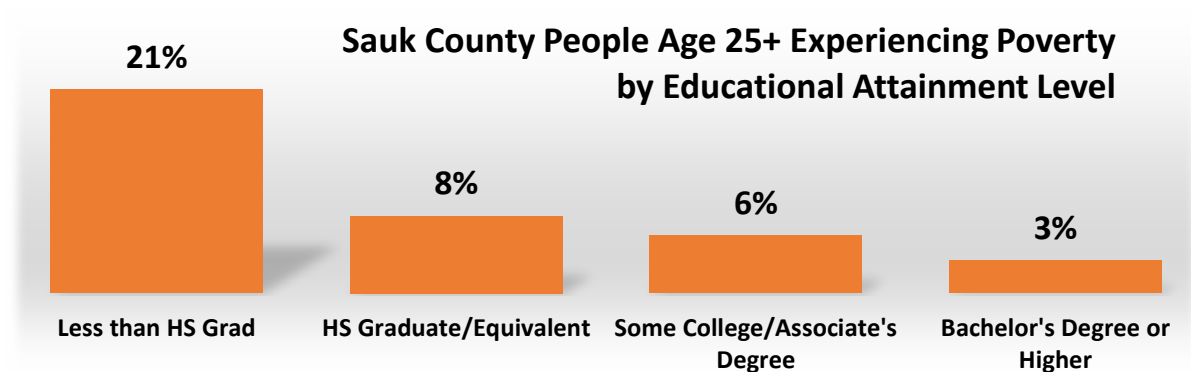
## Education

**30%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Schools** as something **they like best** about their community.

At 93%, Sauk County's High School Graduation rate is good, above both the National and State averages<sup>66</sup>. However, this rate is significantly lower for economically disadvantaged students (85%)<sup>67</sup>.



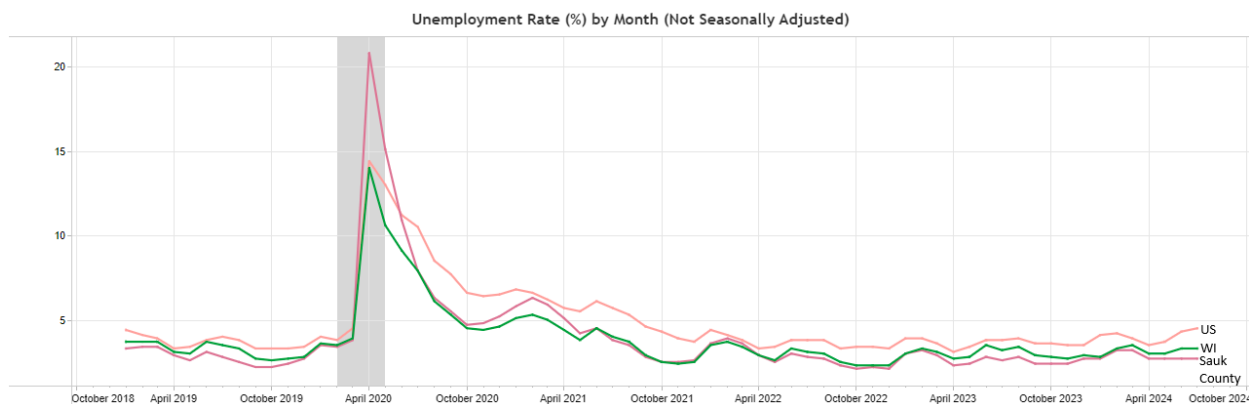
Poverty Rates are tied to Education levels. As a person's educational attainment level goes up, their chances of living in poverty goes down<sup>68</sup>.



## Employment

**Only 15% of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Employment Opportunities** as something they like best about their community.**

Unemployment in Sauk County generally is comparable to the rest of Wisconsin. **In July 2024, the unemployment rate in Sauk County was 2.7%, lower than both the National and State Unemployment Rates<sup>69</sup>.**



## Economic Stability

**Some people in Sauk County are struggling and can't afford basic needs like healthy food, healthcare, and housing. The poverty rate in Sauk County in 2023 was 9.1% (an estimated 5,929 people), lower than National and State rates<sup>70</sup>.**

People with steady jobs are less likely to live in poverty and more likely to be healthy. People with disabilities, injuries, or chronic conditions may be especially limited in their ability to work<sup>71</sup>. **An estimated 1,345 Sauk County Residents are Working Poor, employed with income below the poverty level<sup>72</sup>.**

### *ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed*

We all know people who are **ALICE: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed**, meaning they earn more than Federal Poverty Level, but less than the basic cost of living for the area they live in. These households can struggle to keep up with rising costs of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care, and other household essentials.

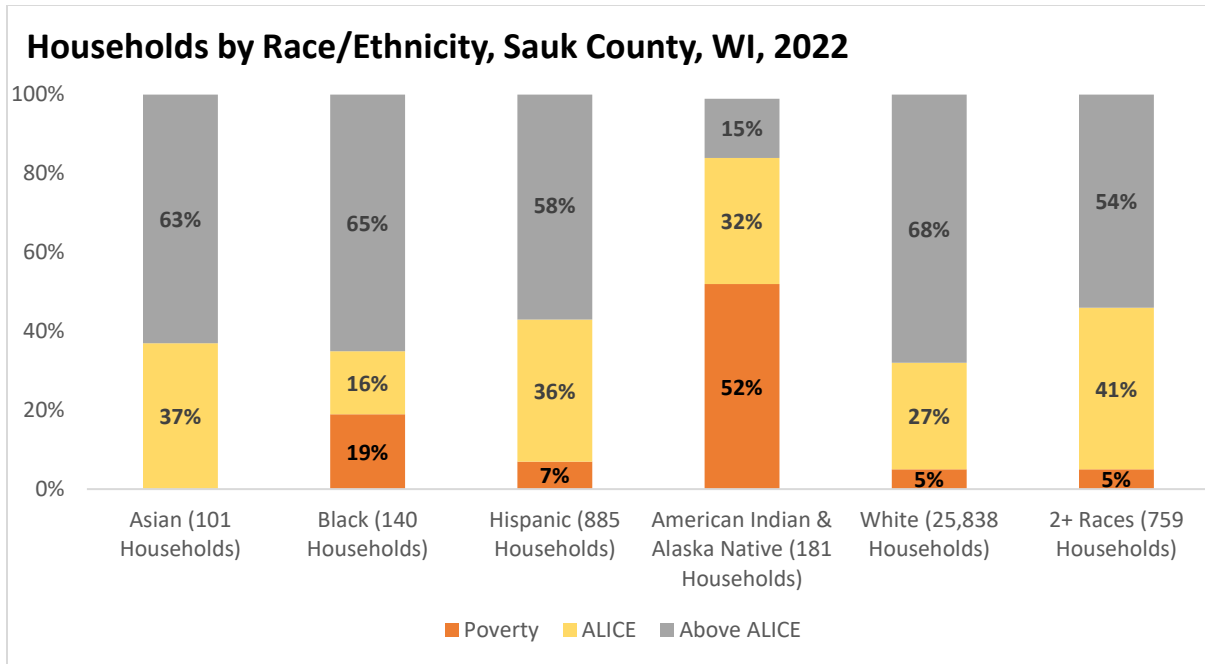


*1 in 3 Sauk County Households were below the ALICE thresholds in 2022.*

**In Sauk County, 33% of households were below the ALICE threshold (24% ALICE households and 9% households in Poverty)<sup>73</sup>. That means 1 in 3 Sauk County households struggle to afford the essentials.**

### *Financial hardship is not evenly distributed in Sauk County*

The percentage of household below the ALICE threshold varies by race and ethnicity. In Sauk County, American Indian/Alaska Native households (85%), 2+ Races households (46%), and Hispanic households (42%) are more likely to be ALICE than others<sup>74</sup>.



There were also differences by household type and age. **Single-Female-Headed Households with Children in Sauk County were most likely to be below the ALICE threshold. Younger Households (Under Age 25) and Older Householders (Age 65+) were also more likely to be ALICE.**

<b>Household Type:</b>	<b>% Below ALICE Threshold</b>
Single or Cohabiting (no children)	30%
Married (with children)	9%
<b>Single-Female-Headed (with children)</b>	<b>71%</b>
Single-Male-Headed (with children)	31%
<b>Under Age 25</b>	<b>66%</b>
25-44 Years	24%
45-64 Years	26%
<b>Age 65+</b>	<b>46%</b>

## Family & Social Support

People with greater social support, less isolation, and greater interpersonal trust live longer and healthier lives than those who are socially isolated.

**“There is a sense of community here I’ve not found anywhere else in the U.S.”**

(Sauk County CHA Respondent 186)

## Isolation

People experience social isolation when they have few or infrequent social contacts. Loneliness is the subjective and distressing feeling of social isolation, often defined as the difference between actual and desired level of social connection<sup>75</sup>.

**25%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Loneliness, social isolation** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve.

When we look at the responses by Age, **Youth (Under 18)** were more likely to select **Loneliness, social isolation** as a community problem, with **54%** selecting it.

***This indicates that our community should consider youth when addressing loneliness and social isolation.***

Many Sauk County CHA Survey Respondents commented with concerns about social isolation, particular with regards to senior residents. Lack of transportation and lack of community activities were often identified as barriers to socializing. **In Sauk County, 10.3% of seniors age 65+ live alone<sup>76</sup>.**

## % of Seniors 65+ Living Alone (2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates)



**“Loneliness; social isolation- Regular group offerings in the community at various locations. Allowing some groups to have a size limit would be helpful for those that become anxious in large groups or offer a separate room for people who prefer a smaller setting. It doesn't have to be very organized; just offer various activities. Have card games, board games, coloring sheets, crafts. People could do what they are comfortable with and spend time with others.**

**Connection is key; we all need it, but there are limited options as adults.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 657)

**“For older adults getting isolated happens quickly. There needs to be more of a sense of community. A feeling of belonging. Not sure what the solution is. ADRC is a great resource but not the solution to creating a feeling of community.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 480)

*Discrimination*

Discrimination is unequal treatment based on physical characteristics or social group assignment. Discrimination can impact one's ability to access community resources and services, indirectly affecting a person's health. Directly, the stress of experiencing discrimination can lead to mental health impacts to the person experiencing discrimination, as well as to those who witness it<sup>77</sup>.

**55% of Spanish Survey Takers and 40% of the People of Color** that responded to the Sauk County CHA Survey selected **Racism, Discrimination** as a **community problem** we should work to improve.

**Discrimination was mentioned 50 times by Sauk County CHA Survey respondents and was also brought up by Focus Group Participants and in Key Informant Interviews.**

*Translated from Spanish: "Racism because we are Hispanic and some people from the US treat us poorly, rejection."*

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 1105)

**"I've seen various things happen in the community that are both blatantly racist and more subtly racist."**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 345)

**"I just had a friend who was born in Sauk County move to New York due to anti-Asian racism here...being threatened by someone following them and blocking them into a dead-end street while screaming racist profanity at them. My son is biracial, and he has dealt with a fair amount of racism here also. And the anti-Native racism is extreme."**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 441)

**"Many in the area are totally distrustful and unwilling to accept people of color. Anyone that resembles someone from south of the border (even those here legally) are distrusted at best and hated at worse."**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 704)

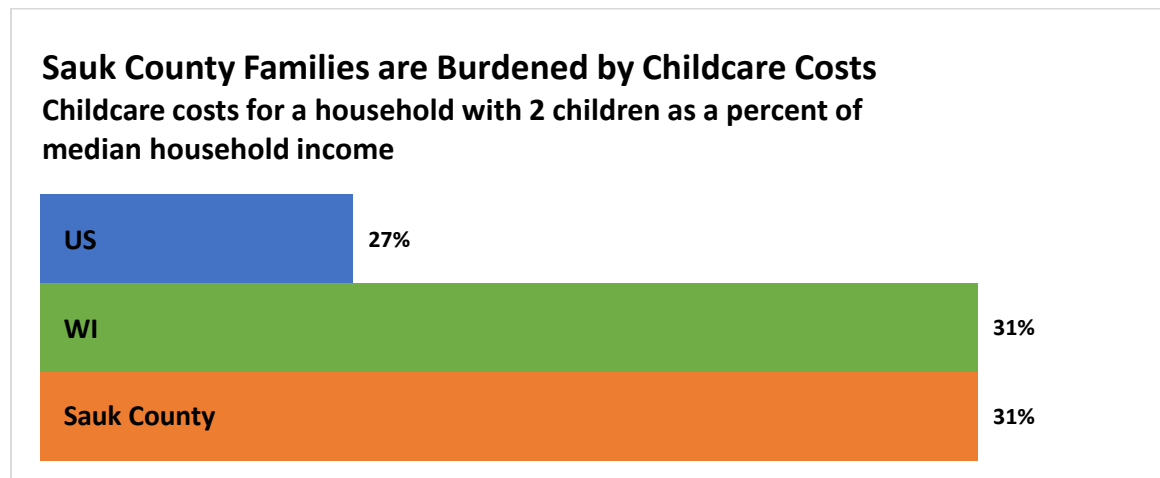
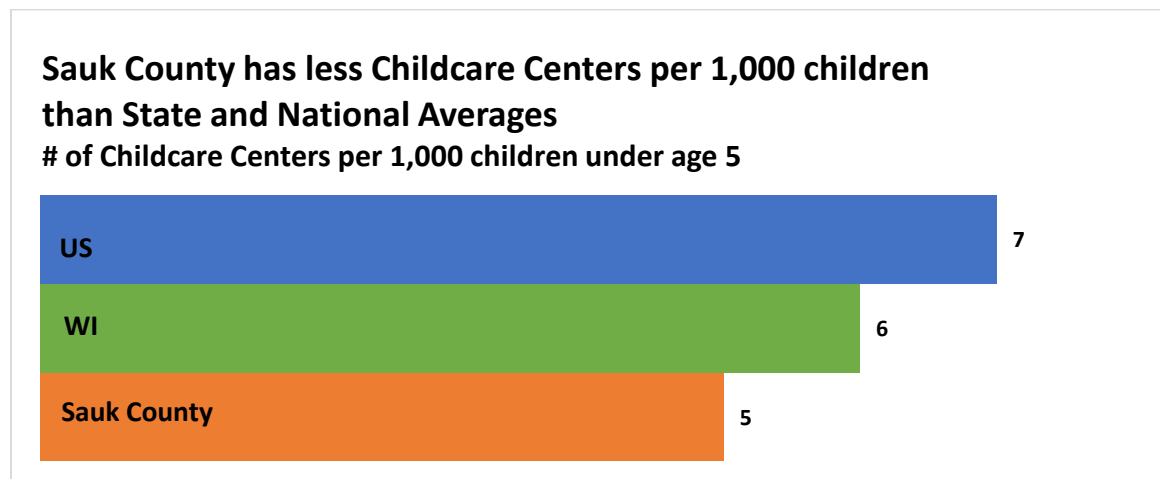


### Childcare

Families that are supported with accessible, affordable childcare have greater opportunities to pursue further education or participate in paid work to earn income and in some cases, gain healthcare and retirement benefits for their families. In addition to supporting economic security for families, access to high-quality childcare contributes positively to a child’s health and development, especially for children from low-income or socially marginalized households<sup>78,79</sup>.

42% of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Childcare** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve, making it the 4<sup>th</sup> most selected community problem.

**Sauk County has fewer childcare centers than the state and national averages, and 1 in 3 Sauk County families are burdened by childcare costs. To better meet the needs of families with young children, Sauk County needs accessible and affordable childcare options<sup>80,81</sup>.**



**“We spent \$26K in daycare costs for two kids in 2023. That does not leave extra money for other things like healthy foods or contributing to savings or retirement.”**  
(Sauk County CHA Respondent 381)

## Community Safety

Accidents and violence affect health and quality of life in the short and long-term, for those both directly and indirectly affected, and living in unsafe neighborhoods can impact health in a multitude of ways. Community safety reflects not only violent acts in neighborhoods and homes, but also injuries caused unintentionally through accidents<sup>82</sup>.

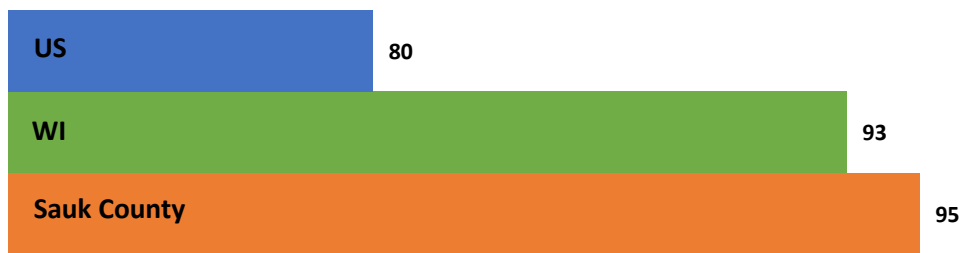
**36%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Safety** as something **they like best** about their community, making it the 4<sup>th</sup> most selected community strength.

### *Injury Deaths*<sup>83</sup>

Injuries happen when a place is unsafe or when people engage in unsafe behaviors. Injuries may be intentional or unintentional. Intentional injuries are usually related to violence caused by oneself or by another. Unintentional injuries are accidental in nature. Injury Deaths is the number of deaths that result from injuries per 100,000 people. This measure includes injuries from intentional causes (such as homicide or suicide) and unintentional causes (such as motor vehicle accidents). **Sauk County has a higher injury death rate (95 per 100,000 people) than both the state and national rates.**

#### **Sauk County has more Injury Deaths than State and National Rates**

*Injury Deaths per 100,000 people (2017-2021)*

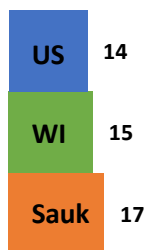


### *Suicide*

Suicide serves as an important measure of the mental health of a county's population, impacting the emotional and mental health of surviving friends, family members, and loved ones. **Sauk County has a higher suicide death rate (17 per 100,000 people) than both the state and national rates**<sup>84</sup>.

#### **Sauk County has more Suicide Deaths than State and National Rates**

*Suicide Deaths per 100,000 people (2017-2021)*



Prevent Suicide Sauk County works to reduce suicide in Sauk County. To learn more, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/prevent-suicide-sauk-county-0>.

## Physical Environment

The physical environment is where individuals live, learn, work and play. People interact with their physical environment through the air they breathe, the water they drink, the homes in which they live and the transportation they use.



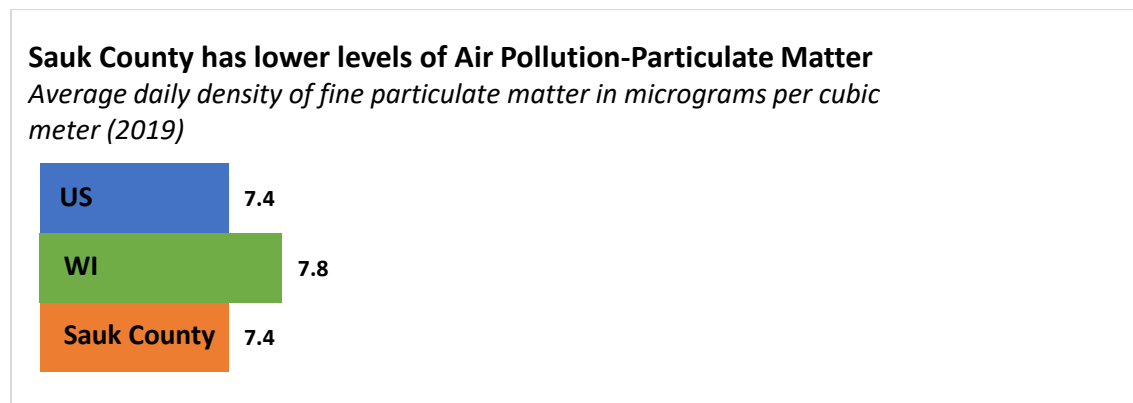
### Air & Water Quality

Clean air and safe water are prerequisites for health. Poor air or water quality can be particularly detrimental to vulnerable populations such as the very young, the elderly, and those with chronic health conditions.

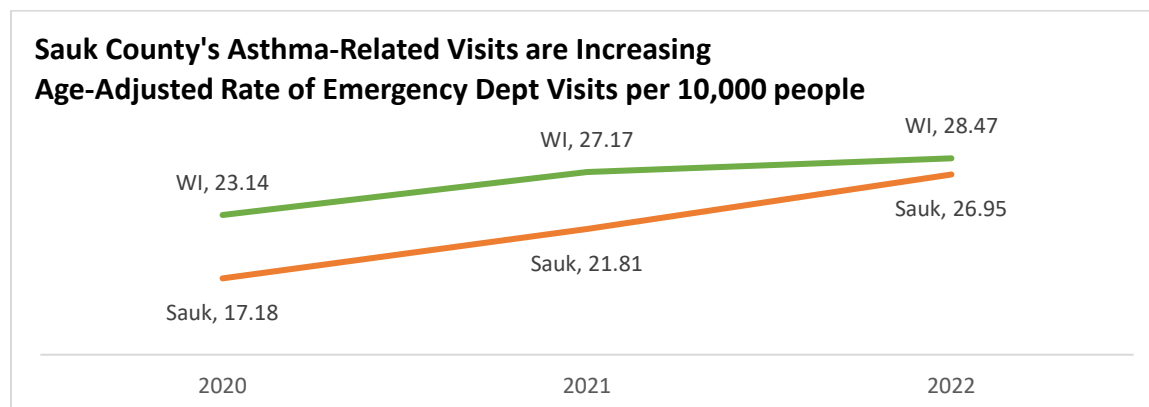
**33%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Air & Water Quality** as something **they like best** about their community.

### Air Quality

**Air Pollution - Particulate Matter** is a measure of the fine particulate matter in the air. It is reported as the average daily density of fine particulate matter in micrograms per cubic meter. Fine particulate matter is defined as particles of air pollutants with an aerodynamic diameter less than 2.5 micrometers (PM2.5)<sup>85</sup>. **Sauk County had less air pollution particulate matter than the state average in 2019.**

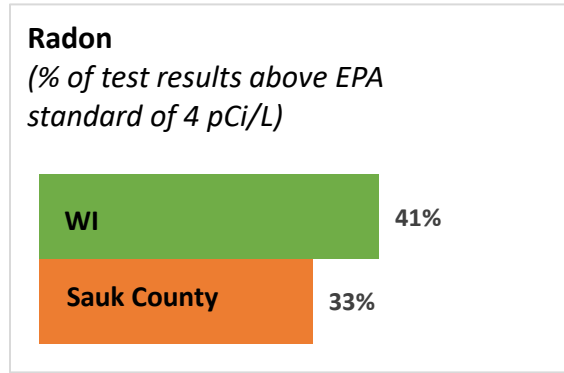


Another way to measure air quality is in Asthma Emergency Department Visits. **Sauk County had less Asthma-Related Visits than the statewide average, however, we are seeing an increase in these visits in recent years<sup>86</sup>.**



**Radon** is a naturally occurring gas that is radioactive and can cause lung cancer. Radon can leak into your home and is common in Wisconsin. Radon can leak into homes and other buildings through cracks in the foundation. Radon can't be seen or smelled. Homes both old and new can have unsafe radon levels, and the only way to know if a home has high radon levels is to test for it. For information about purchasing a Radon Test Kit in Sauk County, visit

<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/environmental-health/radon>.



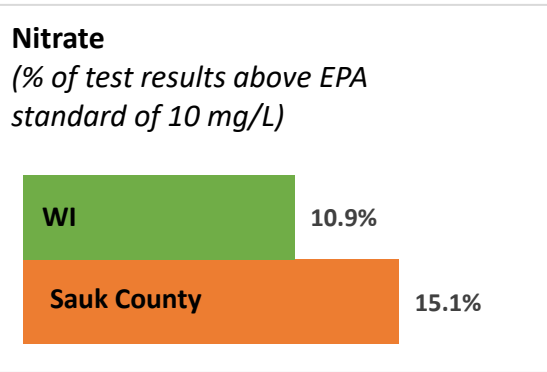
**In Sauk County, 33% of homes tested for Radon had results above the EPA standard of 4 pCi/L, lower than the state average<sup>87</sup>.**

*Private Well Water Quality*

About four in 10 Wisconsin homes get their water from private wells. Well owners are responsible for monitoring and testing their wells. All private wells should be tested regularly to ensure the water is safe to use and drink. For more information about Well Water Testing, visit

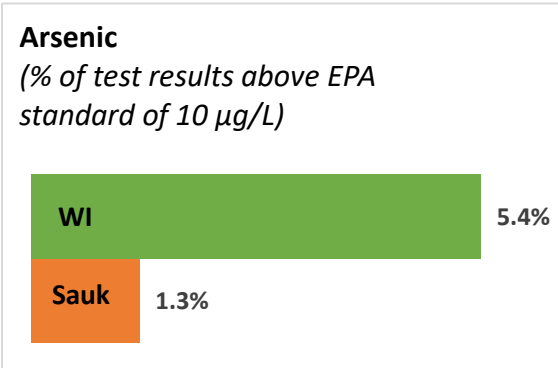
<https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation/drinking-water-program>

Nitrate naturally occurs in plants and animals and can enter groundwater from fertilizers or animal and human waste. In Wisconsin, nitrate is one of the most common groundwater contaminants. High nitrate levels are linked with some birth defects. Infants who consume drinking water with high nitrate levels are at risk of blue baby syndrome, a condition that limits the blood's ability to carry oxygen.



**In Sauk County, 15.1% of well water test results were above the EPA's Nitrate standard of 10 mg/L, higher than the state average<sup>88</sup>.**

Arsenic can naturally occur in soil and rock formations but can also come from some types of pesticides, treated wood, and certain foods. Drinking water with high levels of arsenic can cause skin rashes and stomach problems. Arsenic can also increase the risk for certain kinds of cancer. Infants and children are especially sensitive to arsenic, and high levels can affect cognitive development.



**In Sauk County, 1.3% of well water test results were above the EPA's Arsenic standard of 10 µg/L, lower than the state average<sup>89</sup>.**

## Housing

Our homes play a critical role in shaping our health. The safety and quality of our homes are directly correlated with health outcomes.

**64%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Housing** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve.

**Only 16%** of Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Affordable place to live** as something **they like best** about their community.

### *Housing Cost Burden*

Good health depends on having homes that are safe and free from physical hazards. When adequate housing protects individuals and families from harmful exposures and provides them with a sense of privacy, security, stability, and control, it can make important contributions to health. In contrast, poor quality and inadequate housing contributes to health problems such as infectious and chronic diseases, injuries, and poor development during childhood. Households

experiencing severe cost burdens have to face difficult trade-offs in meeting other basic needs. When the majority of a paycheck goes toward the rent or mortgage, it makes it hard to afford health insurance, health care and medication, healthy foods, utility bills, or reliable transportation to work or school. This, in turn, can lead to increased stress levels and emotional strain<sup>90</sup>.

**70.8% of households in Sauk County live in homes they own**<sup>91</sup>. However, households looking to purchase a home or who have outgrown their current homes and are seeking new homes are struggling to find housing they can afford. **The median listing price of a house in Sauk County was \$546,176 in August 2024**<sup>92</sup>. With current mortgage rates around 6% for a 30-year fixed mortgage, and assuming 20% down, a mortgage on a \$546,000 home would be \$3,347 (estimated with taxes and fees). **To afford this, a family would need a household income of \$133,880, or two adults working full time earning \$32.18 per hour. This is well over Sauk County's median income of \$80,070**<sup>93</sup>.

Renters also face housing cost stresses. **The 2024 HUD Fair Market Rent for a 2-bedroom apartment is \$1,042**<sup>94</sup>. Feedback from community members (and a search on [www.apartmentfinder.com](http://www.apartmentfinder.com)) indicated that rent for 2-bedroom units ranged from \$1,000-\$2,250, with most in the \$1,200-\$1,600 range.

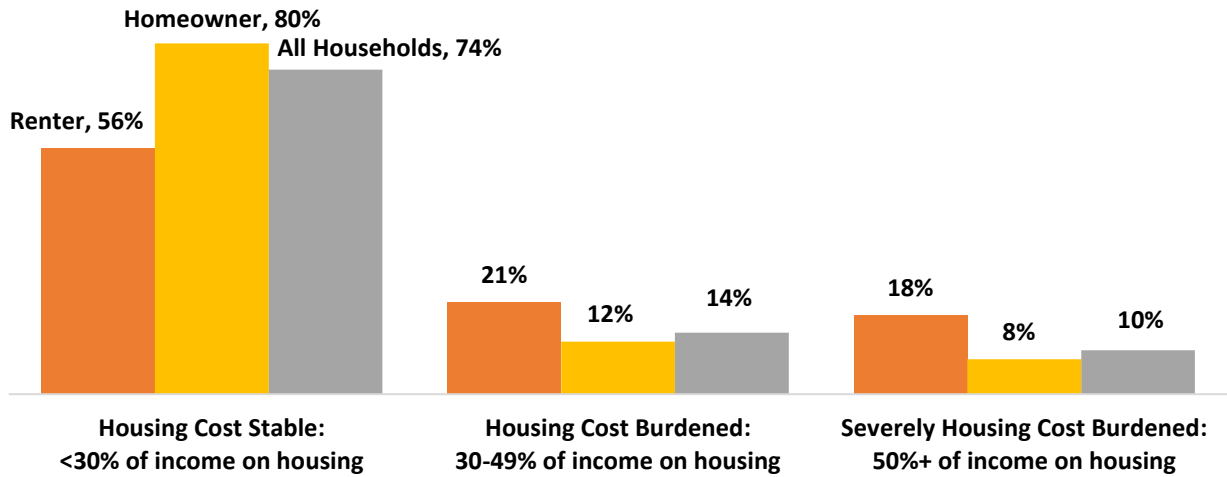
**"Affordable housing is nonexistent. It is a joke when so many units are being built and then \$1K a month is affordable - for whom?"** (Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 424)

Ideally, households should spend less than 30% of their income on housing. **Overall, an estimated 6,637 (24%) Sauk County families spend 30% or more of their income on housing, and 2,794 (10%) are Severely Housing Cost Burdened, spending more than 50% of their income on housing.** Renters are more likely than Homeowners to have a housing cost burden<sup>95,96</sup>.

The Sauk County Housing Action Team works to foster affordable, equitable, and feasible housing solutions. To learn more, visit <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/housing-action-team>

## Renters are More Likely than Homeowners to Spend More of their Income on Housing

Percent of Income Spent on Housing, 2022 ACS 5-Year Estimates, Sauk County  
(Note: Categories do not equal 100% as costs could not be computed for all households)



## Transportation

**31%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Transportation** as a **community problem** that we should work to improve.

Transportation is a daily necessity to get to work, school, grocery shop, get to medical appointments, access community-based resources, attend social events, and more. In Sauk County there is limited public transportation options, so people without access to reliable, affordable transportation can struggle to get

where they need and want to go to live a healthy life. Transportation services are needed in Sauk County for seniors, people with disabilities, people without legal driving status, and people who cannot afford the expense of a vehicle.

Given the lack of public transportation options, **79% of Sauk County workers drive alone to work.** This can impact health, as people who drive to work are less likely to reach recommended activity levels than people who use other forms of transportation<sup>97</sup>. Longer commuting distances in vehicles have been associated with an increase in blood pressure and body mass index (BMI), and a decrease in physical activity. Longer commute times have also been associated with poorer mental health. **30% of Sauk County workers that drive alone to work commute more than 30 minutes each way**<sup>98</sup>.

**33%** of 2024 Sauk County CHA Survey respondents selected **Commute time, traffic** as something **they like best** about their community.

**“I think about when I am unable to drive any more. I live alone on a farm. My children live out of state. There is no public transportation nearby. How will I get to the doctor, get groceries without going broke???”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 300)

**“If you don't drive, you have trouble getting a job, being in school, groceries, everything. Taxi service is limited and expensive. Charges more for going to West Baraboo so groceries become a major expensive trip via taxi.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 424)

**“Transportation in rural areas is a barrier to the older population who cannot drive themselves to get groceries, go to doctors' appointments, or social activities.”**

(Sauk County CHA Survey Respondent 690)

## Health Priority Areas

### Prioritization Process

Question 1 of the 2024 Sauk County Community Health Assessment asked, “Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play. What are the biggest problems?”

The responses were counted, and the top three problem areas were selected as Health Priority Areas.

1. **Housing** (selected by 64% of survey respondents)
2. **Mental Health** (selected by 60% of survey respondents)
3. **Alcohol, commercial tobacco, vaping & other drug use** (selected by 46% of survey respondents)

These are the same health priority areas that were identified in the 2021 Community Health Assessment.

### Next Steps

Public Health Sauk County will move into the next phase of the process and create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) targeting our 3 priorities. As the health priority areas have remained the same, we will continue the work of current Coalitions and Action Teams to address these health challenges. We look forward to continuing to work with members of the Sauk County Health & Wellness Coalition, the Sauk County Housing Action Team, Prevent Suicide Sauk County, Partnership for Prevention, SUPER, and other community partners as we all work together on improving the health of Sauk County.

## Want to get involved? Join a Community Coalition!

- **Housing:**
  - Sauk County Housing Action Team: <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/housing-action-team>
- **Mental Health:**
  - Prevent Suicide Sauk County: <https://www.co.sauk.wi.us/publichealth/prevent-suicide-sauk-county-0>
  - Safe Kids Sauk County: <https://www.safekidswi.org/Coalitions-/Safe-Kids-Sauk-County>
- **Alcohol, commercial tobacco, vaping & other drug use:**
  - Partnership for Prevention (P4P): <https://p4psauk.org/>
  - Support People and Empower Recovery (SUPER): <https://www.facebook.com/saukSUPER>



## Appendix A: Community Health Survey

### Survey Questions

Public Health Sauk County and local hospitals want to hear from you: what is going well in your community and what needs improvement? Your answers will help us improve community health. This survey will take about 5 minutes to complete and will be open through May 1, 2024. All responses are confidential and anonymous. Thank you for sharing your thoughts with us!

1. Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play. What are the biggest problems? Choose up to 5 problems in your community that we should work to improve.

- Dental health
- Mental health
- Housing
- Healthy food
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Racism, discrimination
- Alcohol, commercial tobacco (nicotine), vaping & other drug use
- Loneliness, social isolation
- Needs of older adults & those with disabilities
- People don't get enough exercise
- Other:

2. Please tell us more about the problems you selected above. Explain what makes them challenges in your community and share your ideas to help solve them:

3. Still thinking about your community: what do you like best about it? Select up to 5.

- Accepting of people of all identities
- Affordable place to live
- Air and water quality
- Close to family and friends
- Culture
- Commute time, traffic
- Employment opportunities
- Food options
- Health care services
- Parks, trails, recreation opportunities
- Safety
- Schools
- Services for youth
- Services for older adults
- Size/location
- Other:

We want to hear from a wide variety of community members. Please answer the following questions about you.

4. What city do you live in?

5. What is your home zip code?

6. How old are you (in years)?

7. What is your current housing situation?

- Rent
- Own
- Homeless
- Prefer not to say
- Other:

8. How many adults live in your household (include yourself if you are 18 or older)?

9. How many children (under 18) live in your household (include yourself if you are under 18)?

10. Which language do you mostly speak?

11. If another language is spoken in your home, what is it?

12. Which best describes your gender?

- Woman
- Man
- Non-Binary
- Transgender
- None of these describe me, and I want to describe myself as:
- Prefer not to say

13. Which best describes your sexual orientation?

- Straight or heterosexual
- Lesbian or Gay
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- None of these describe me, and I want to describe myself as: \_\_\_\_\_
- Prefer not to say

14. Which best describes you? (choose all that apply):

- American Indian/Alaskan Native (ex. Ho-Chunk, Ojibwe, Sioux, etc.)
- Black/African American
- East Asian (ex. Chinese, Japanese, Korean, etc.)
- Hispanic /Latinx (ex. Colombian, Mexican, Puerto Rican, etc.)
- Middle Eastern/North African (ex. Egyptian, Iranian, Syrian, etc.)
- Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (ex. Filipino, Guamanian, Samoan, etc.)

- South Asian (ex. Asian Indian, Pakistani, Nepalese, etc.)
- Southeast Asian (ex. Cambodian, Hmong, Vietnamese, etc.)
- White/Caucasian
- A race/ethnicity not listed (please specify):
- Prefer not to say

15. Estimated Household Income (how much money all adult household members earn):

- Less than \$10,000
- \$10,000 - \$14,999
- \$15,000 - \$24,999
- \$25,000 - \$34,999
- \$35,000 - \$49,999
- \$50,000 - \$74,999
- \$75,000 - \$99,999
- \$100,000 - \$149,999
- \$150,000 - \$199,999
- \$200,000 or more
- Prefer not to say

16. Highest level of schooling completed:

- Some high school
- High school diploma or GED
- Some college, no degree
- Trade/technical/vocational degree/certificate
- Associate degree
- Bachelor's degree
- Master's degree
- Doctorate or Professional degree
- Other:
- Prefer not to say

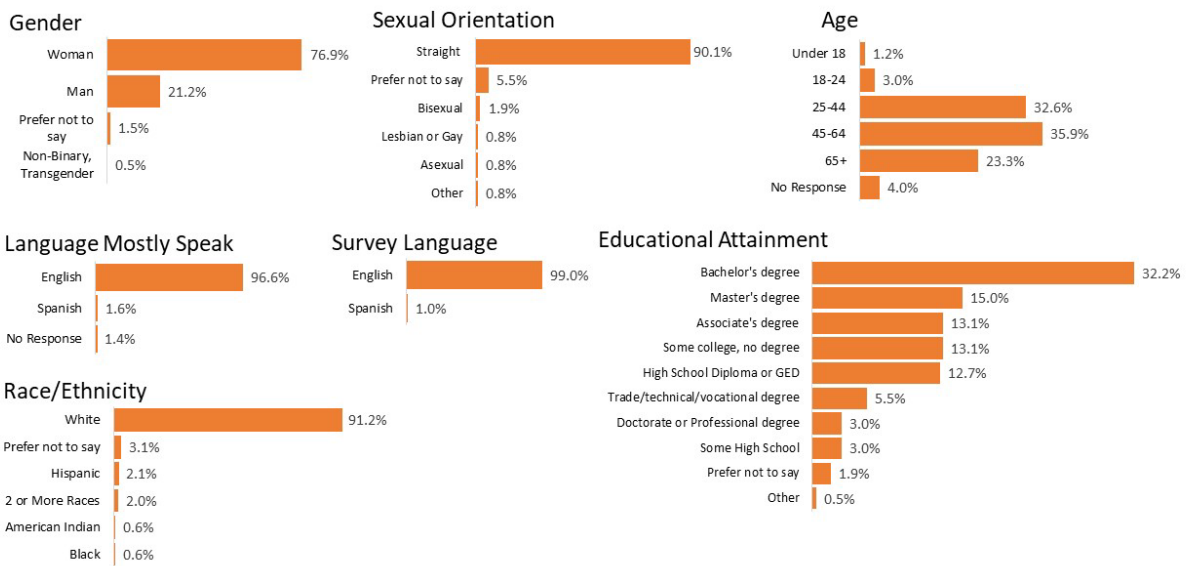
Thank you for your participation! Your survey response will help us choose and act on what's important to your community to improve health.

# Sauk County Area CHA Survey 2024

Results and Comparisons Between Different Demographics

## Who Took the Survey? Respondent Demographics

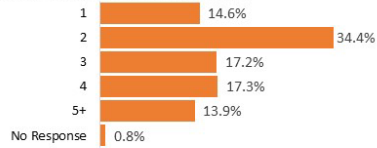
Total Surveys Completed: 1,106  
*Note: Data Counts of less than 5 are suppressed*



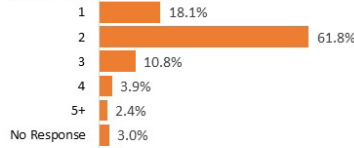
# Who Took the Survey? Household Characteristics

Total Surveys Completed: 1,106  
 Note: Data Counts of less than 5 are suppressed

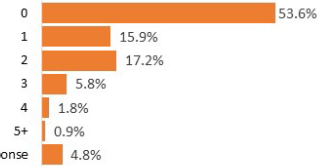
Total People in Household



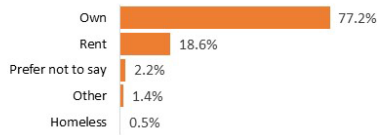
Adults in Household



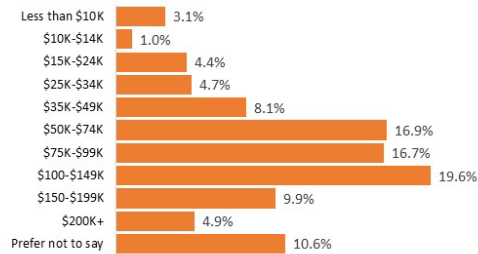
Children in Household



Housing Type

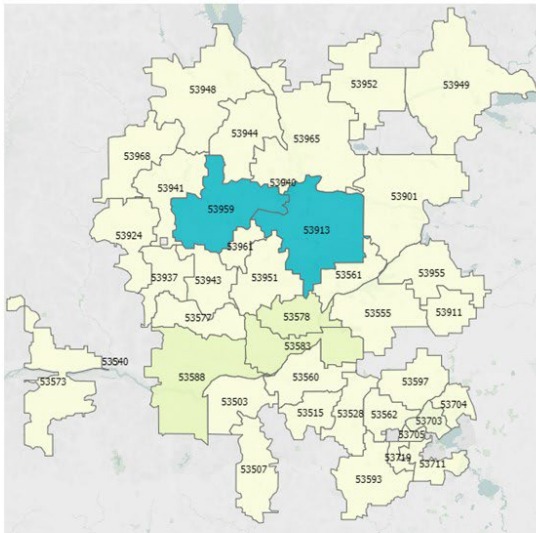


Household Income



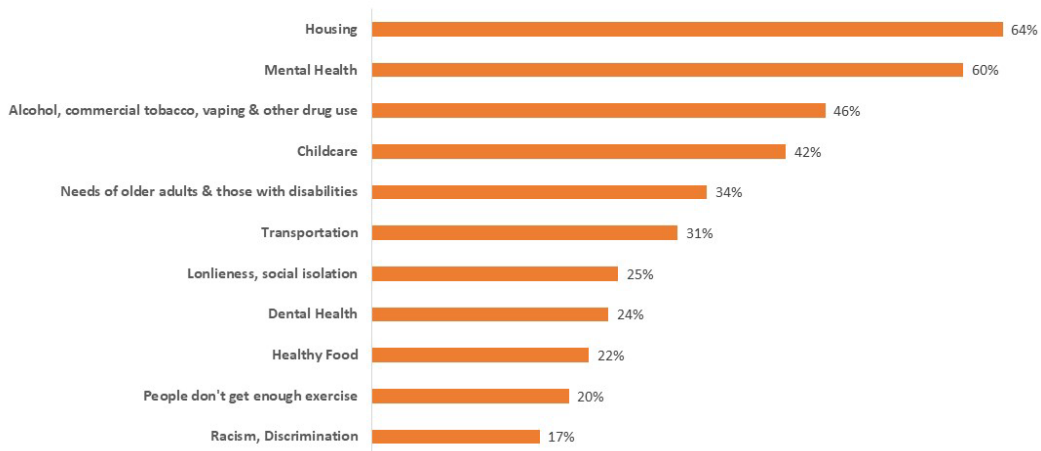
# Who Took the Survey? Respondent City, Zip Code

Total Surveys Completed: 1,106  
 Note: Data Counts of less than 5 are suppressed

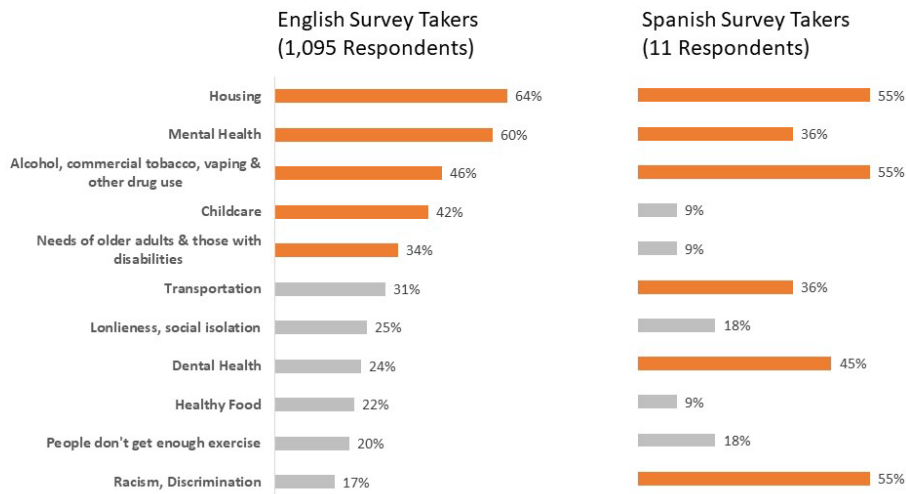


City, Zip	# of Responses
Baraboo, 53913	295
Reedsburg, 53959	266
Prairie du Sac, 53578	99
Sauk City, 53583	90
Spring Green, 53588	61

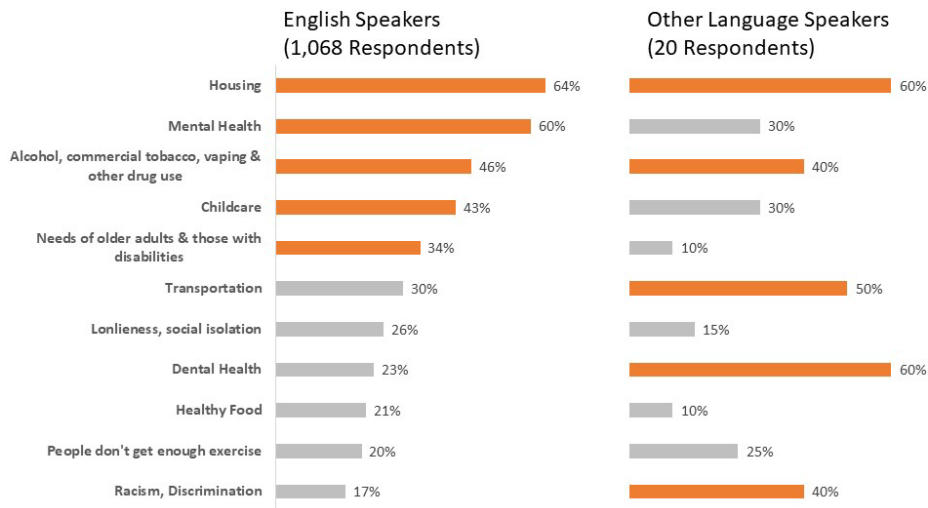
Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play.  
 What are the biggest problems?



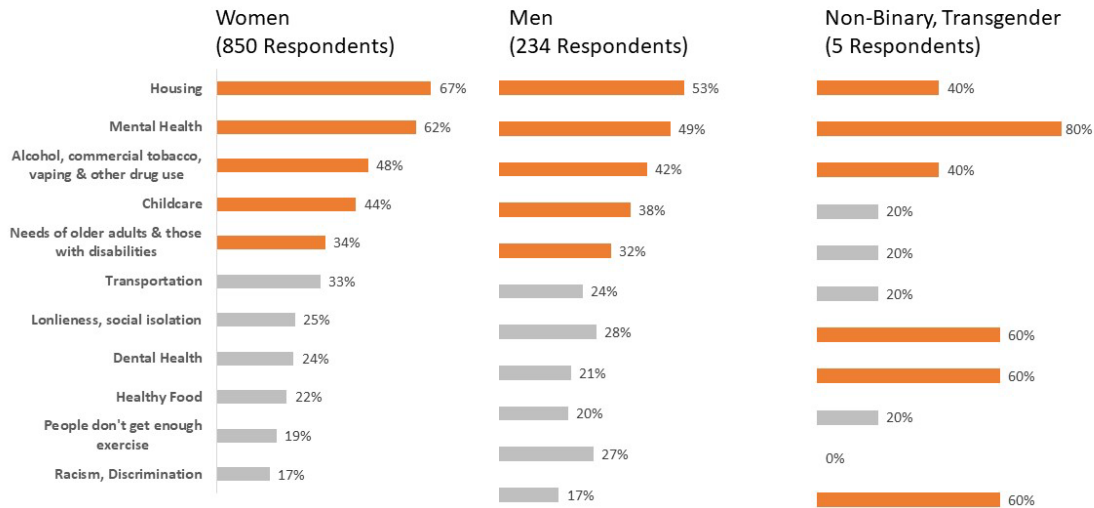
### Community Problems Comparison: Survey Language



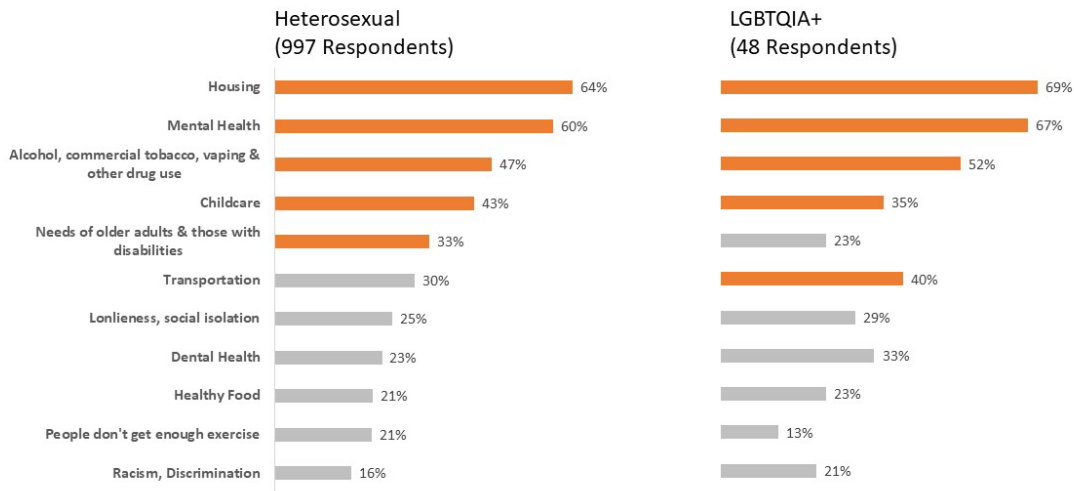
# Community Problems Comparison: Language Respondent Most Often Speaks



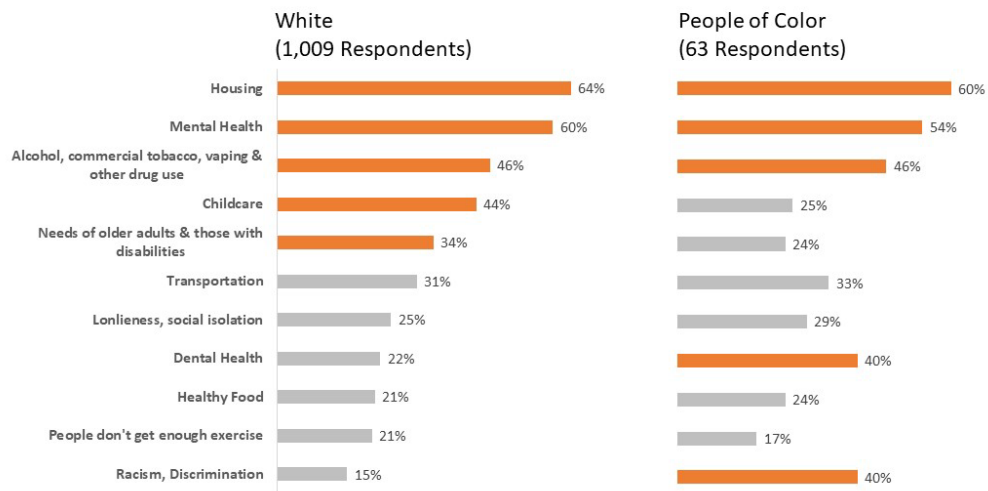
# Community Problems Comparison: Gender



# Community Problems Comparison: Sexual Orientation

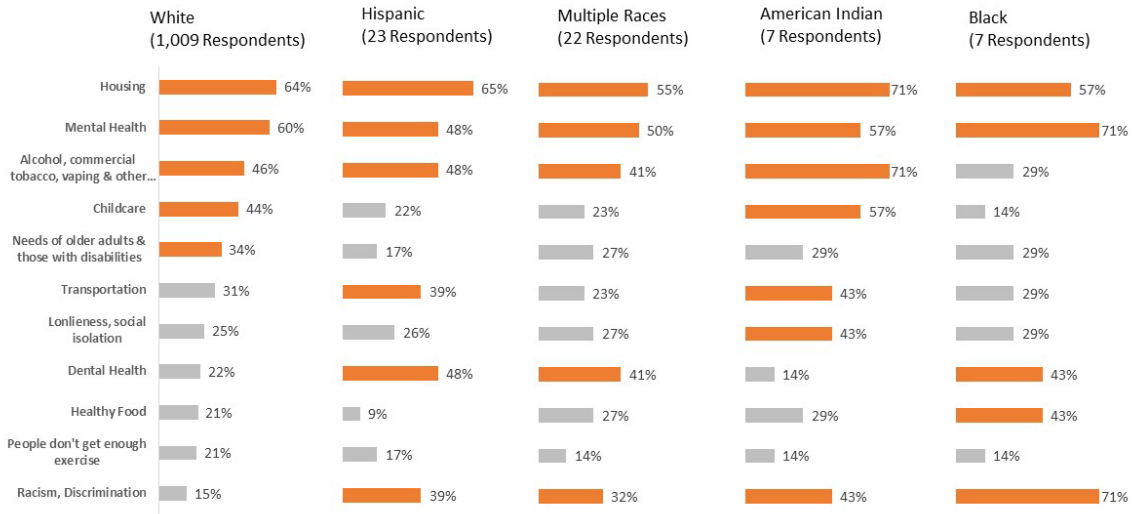


# Community Problems Comparison: Race/Ethnicity

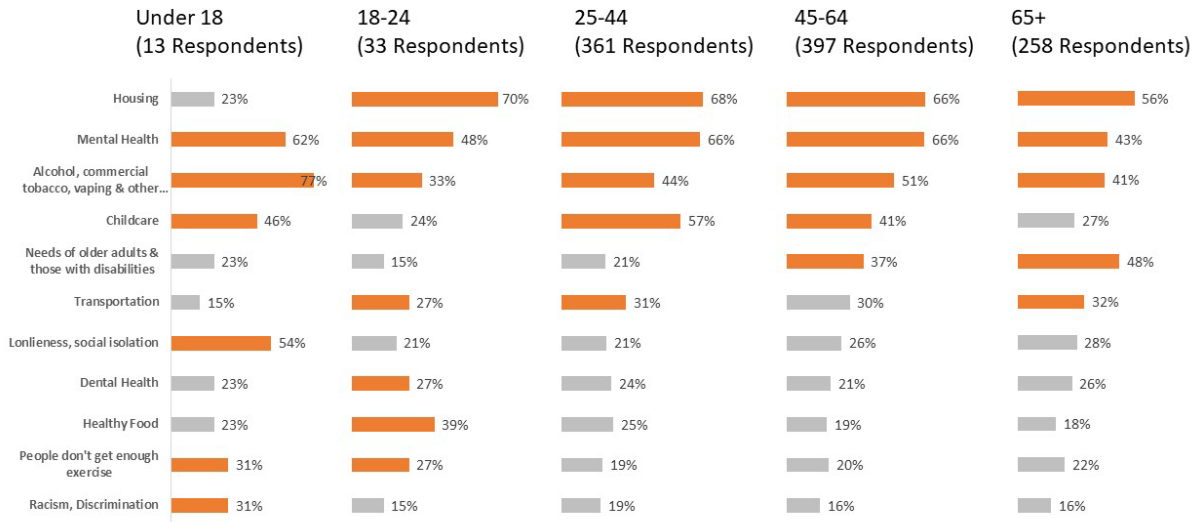




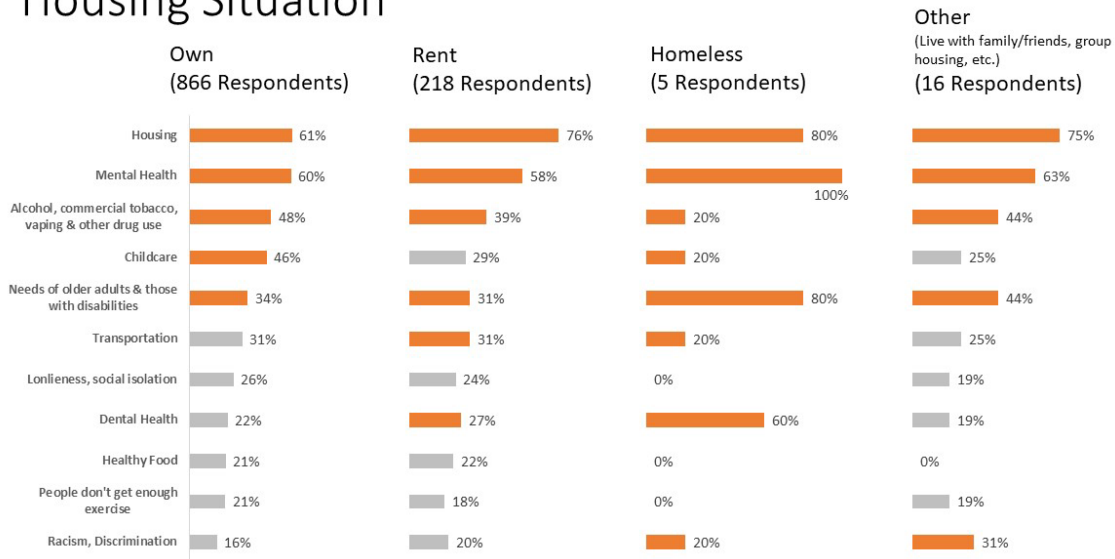
# Community Problems Comparison: Race/Ethnicity



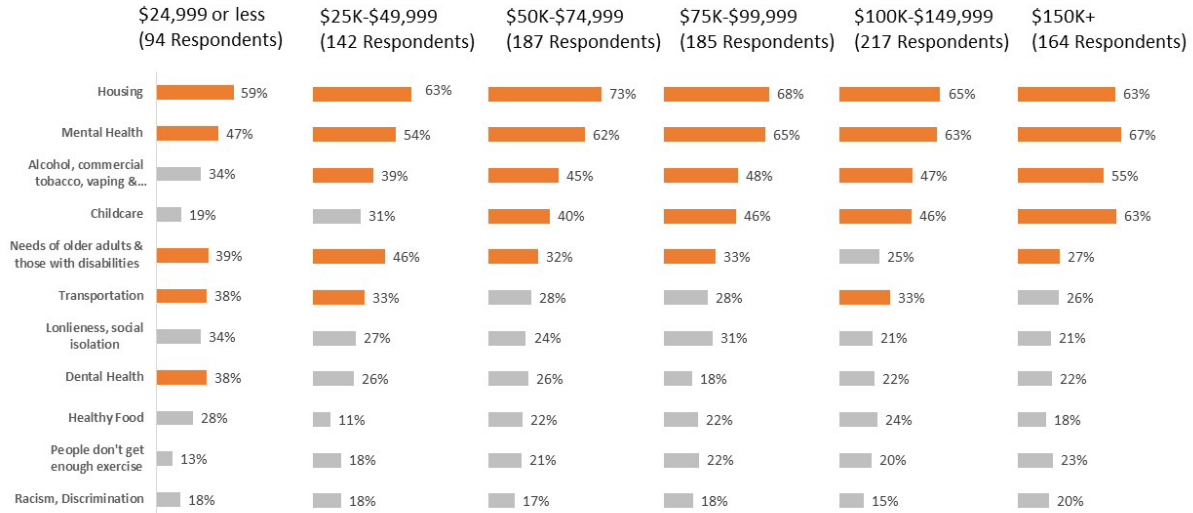
# Community Problems Comparison: Age



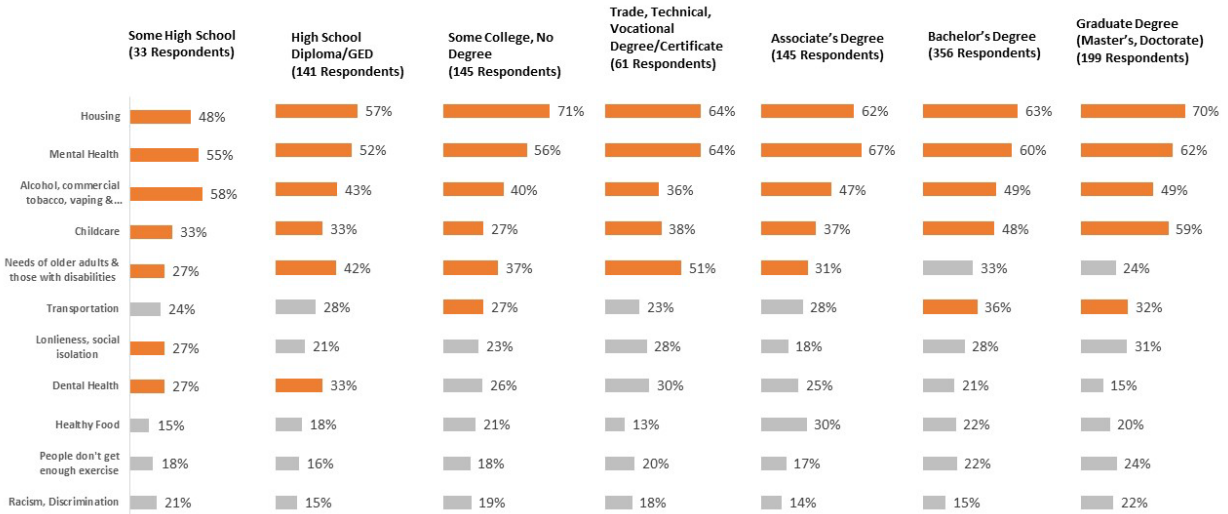
## Community Problems Comparison: Housing Situation



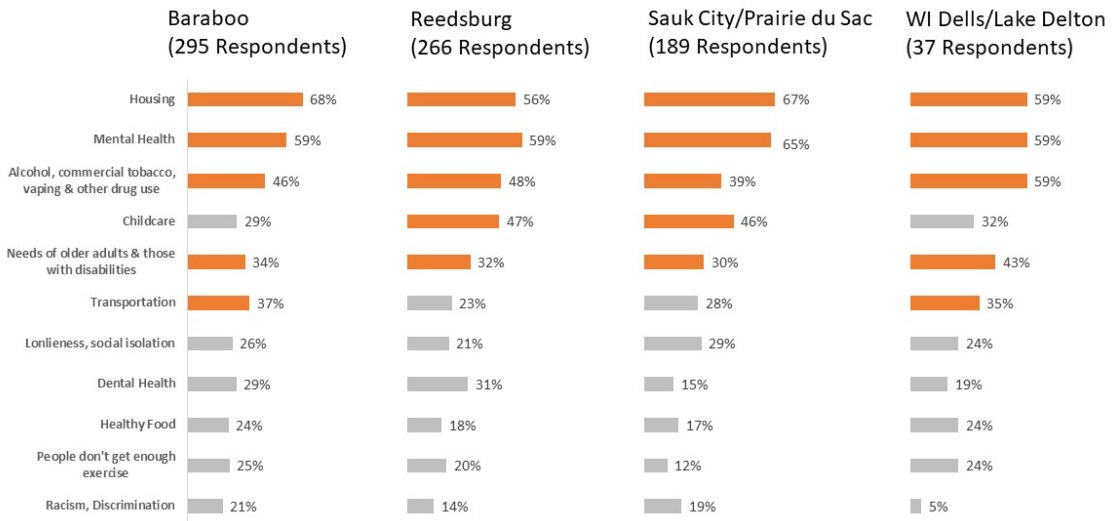
## Community Problems Comparison: Household Income



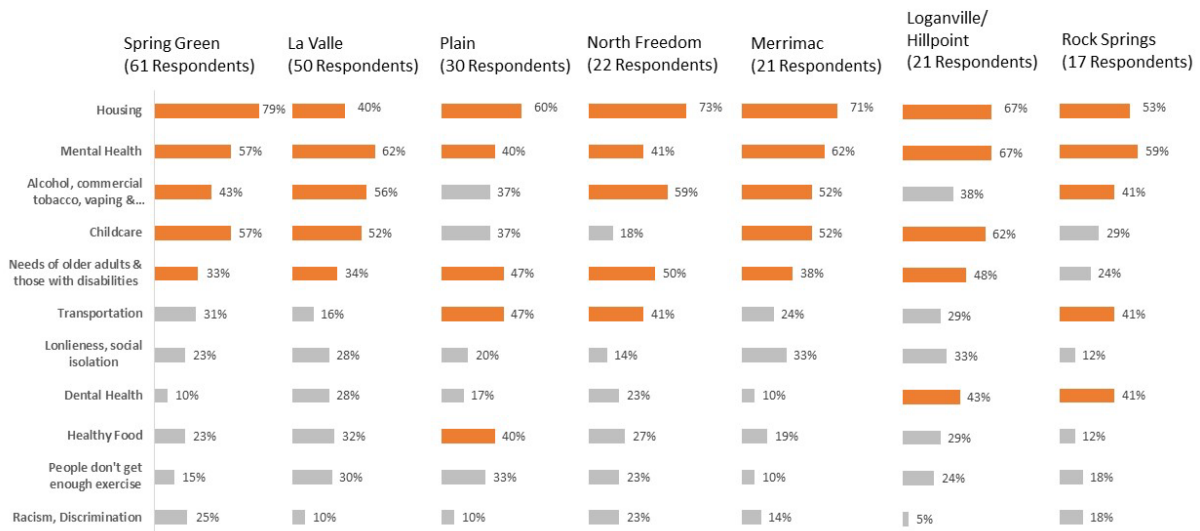
# Community Problems Comparison: Educational Attainment



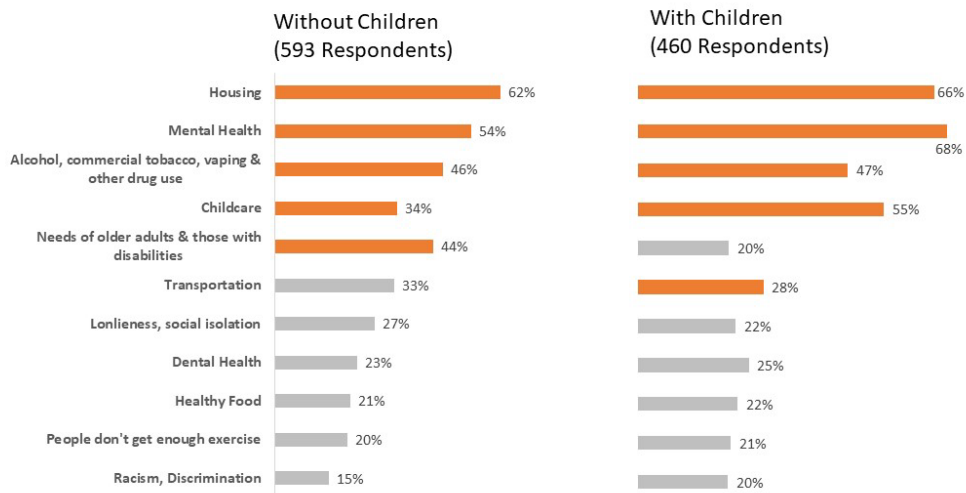
# Community Problems Comparison: Cities



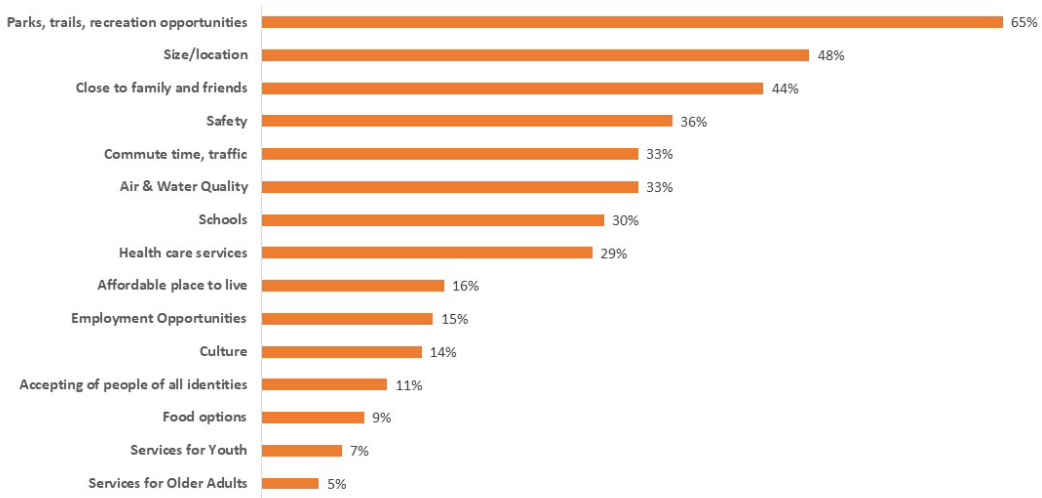
# Community Problems Comparison: Towns



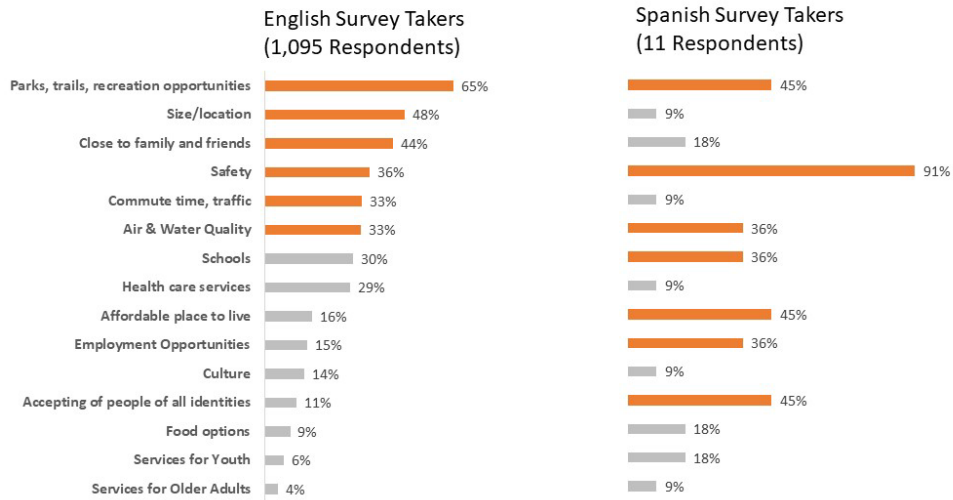
# Community Problems Comparison: Households with/without children



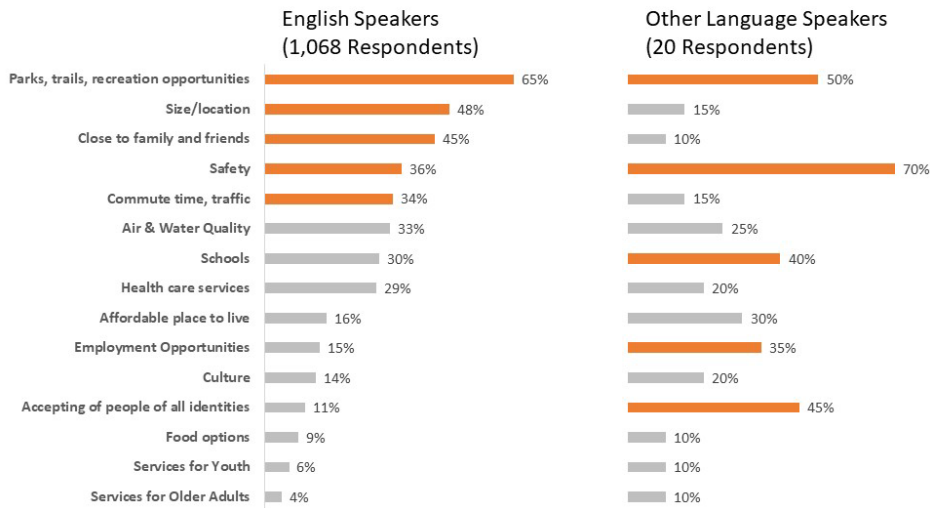
Think about your community: where you live, learn, work, and play.  
 What do you like best about it?



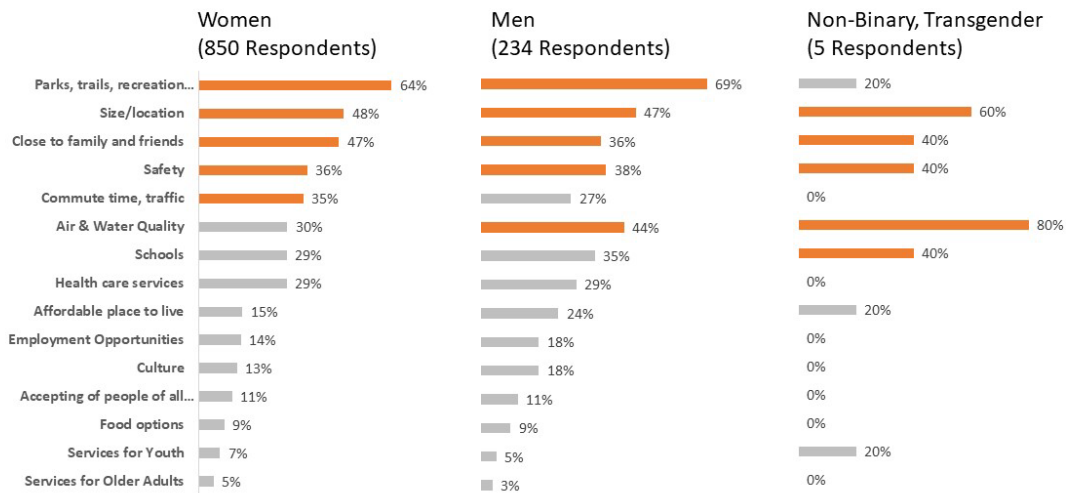
## Community Strengths Comparison: Survey Language



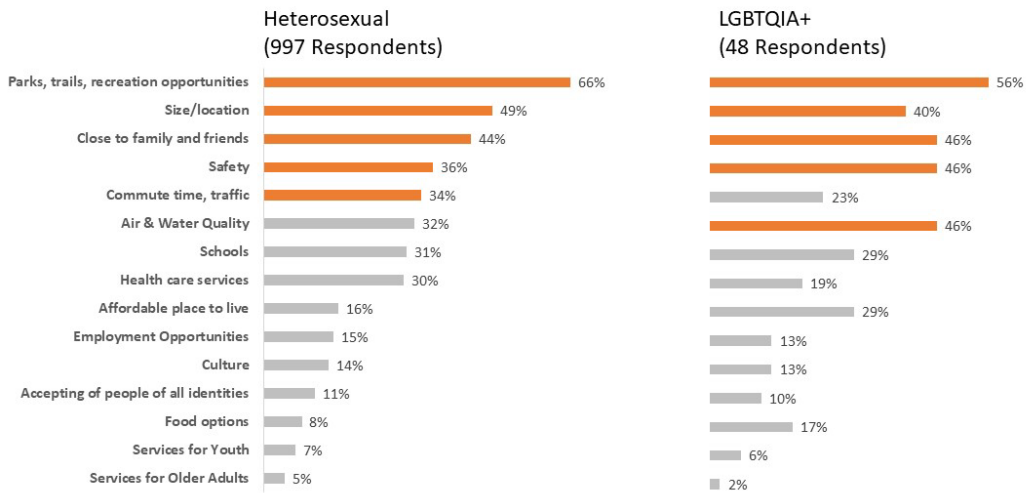
# Community Strengths Comparison: Language Respondent Most Often Speaks



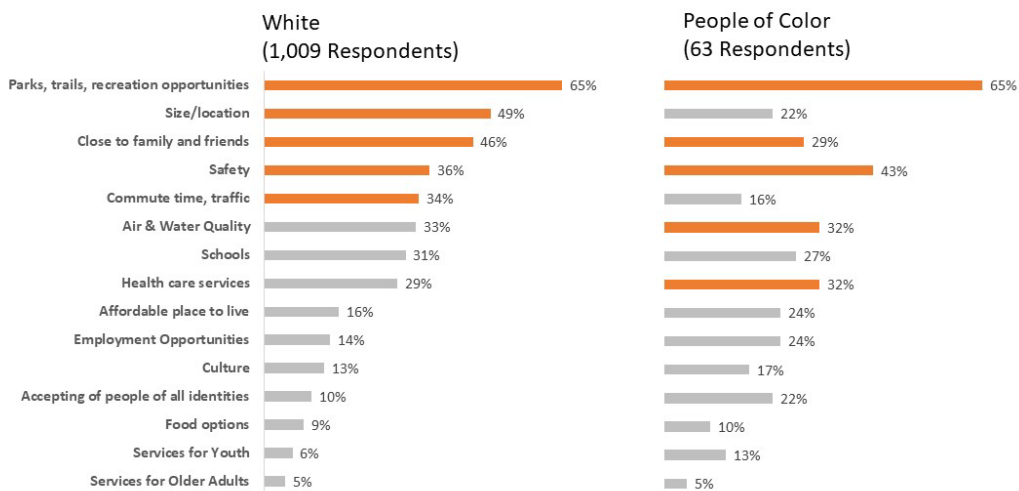
# Community Strengths Comparison: Gender



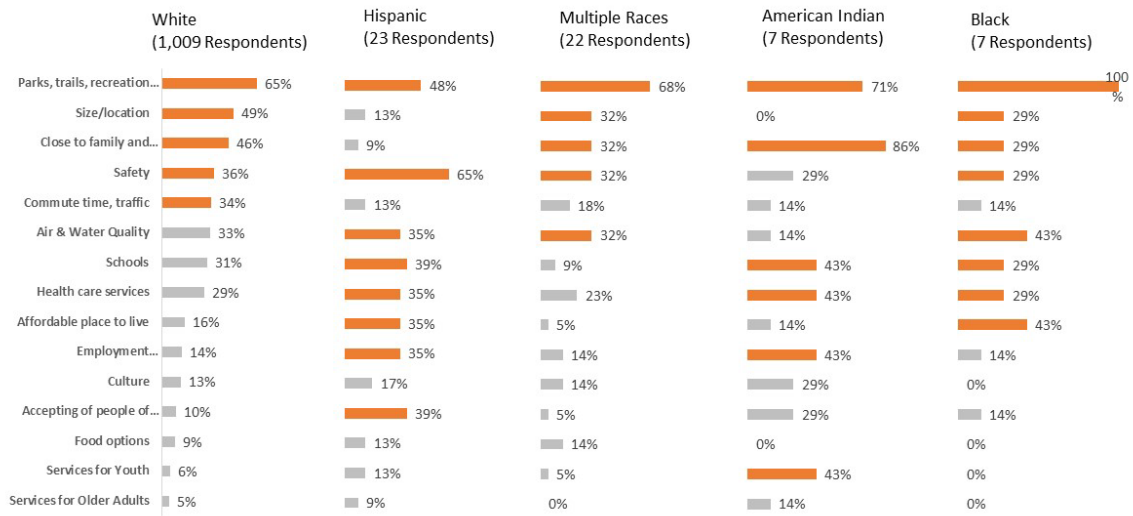
# Community Strengths Comparison: Sexual Orientation



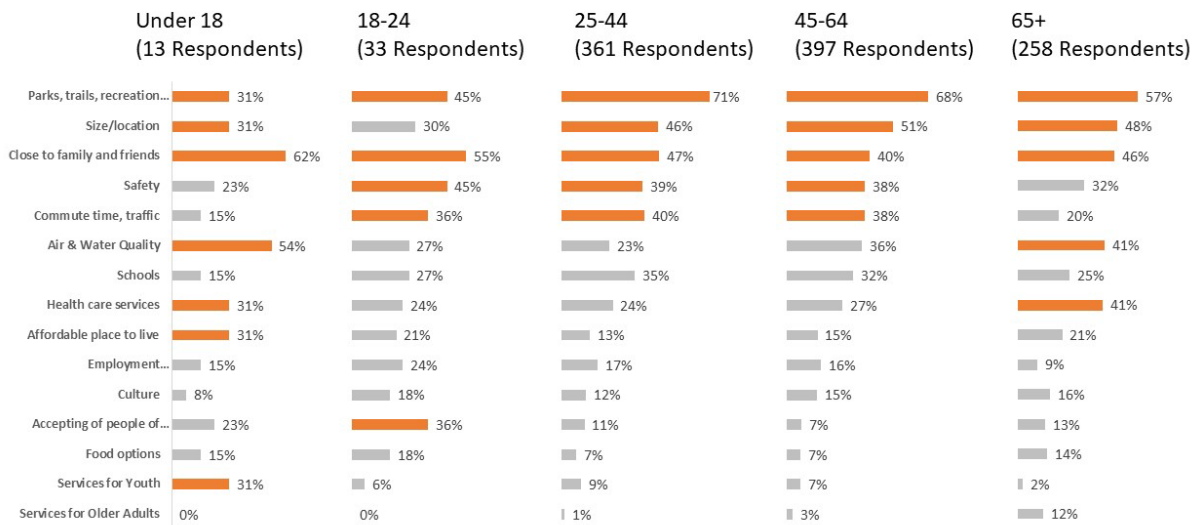
# Community Strengths Comparison: Race/Ethnicity



## Community Strengths Comparison: Race/Ethnicity

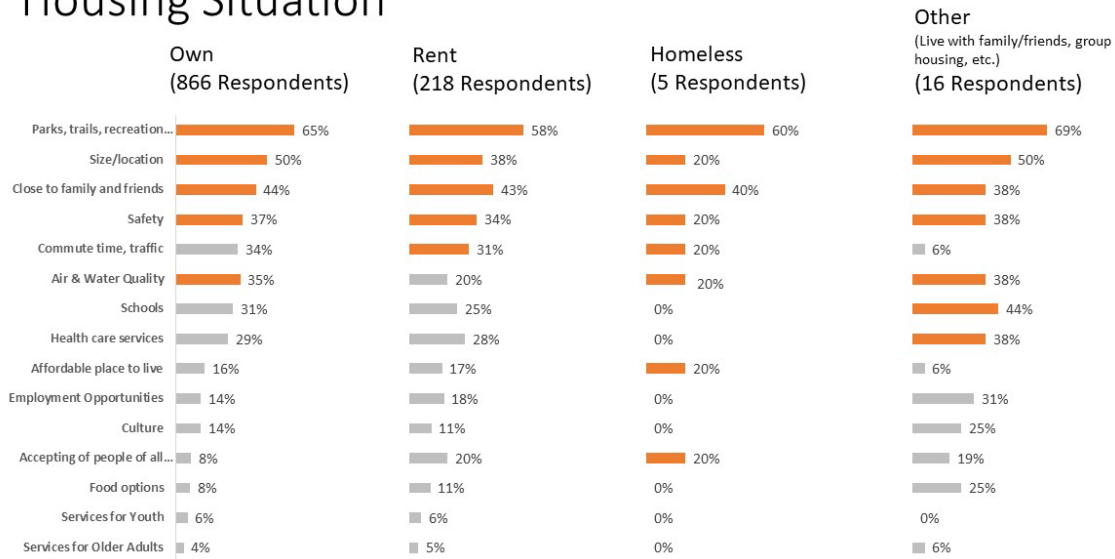


## Community Strengths Comparison: Age

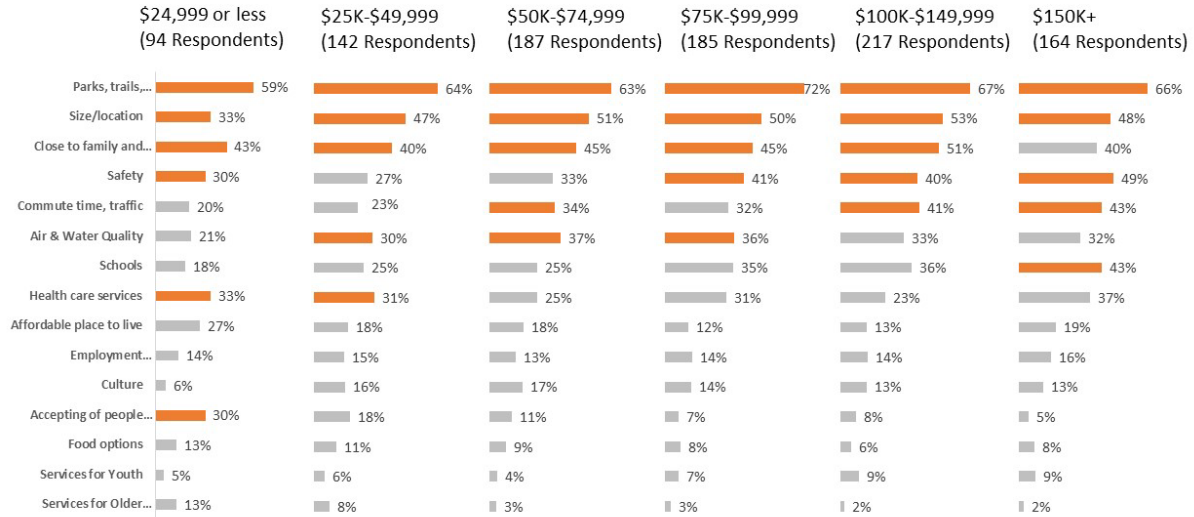




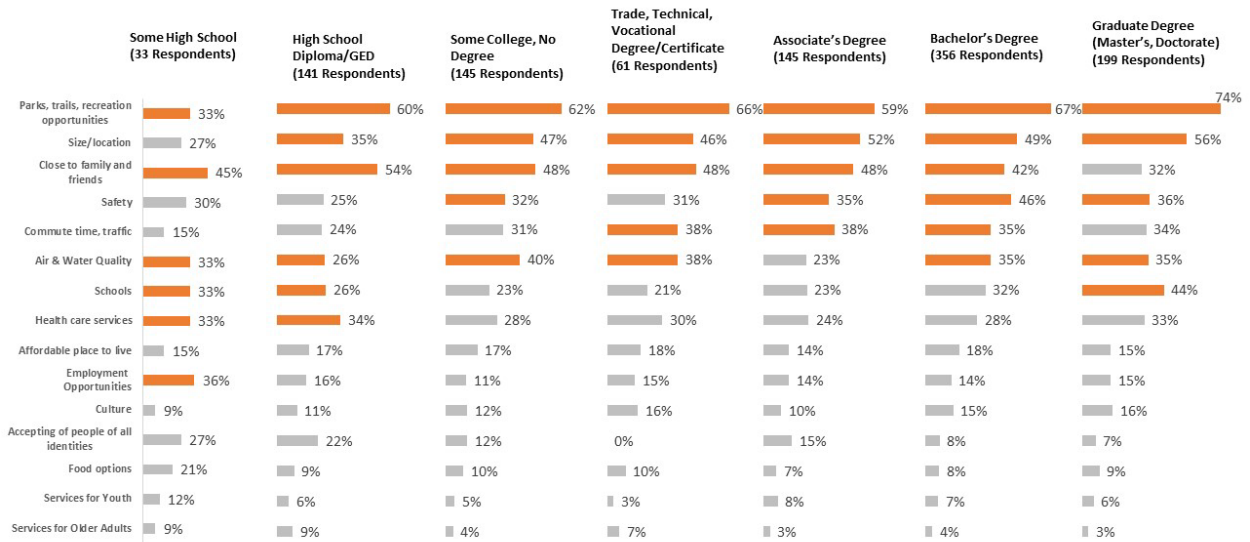
# Community Strengths Comparison: Housing Situation



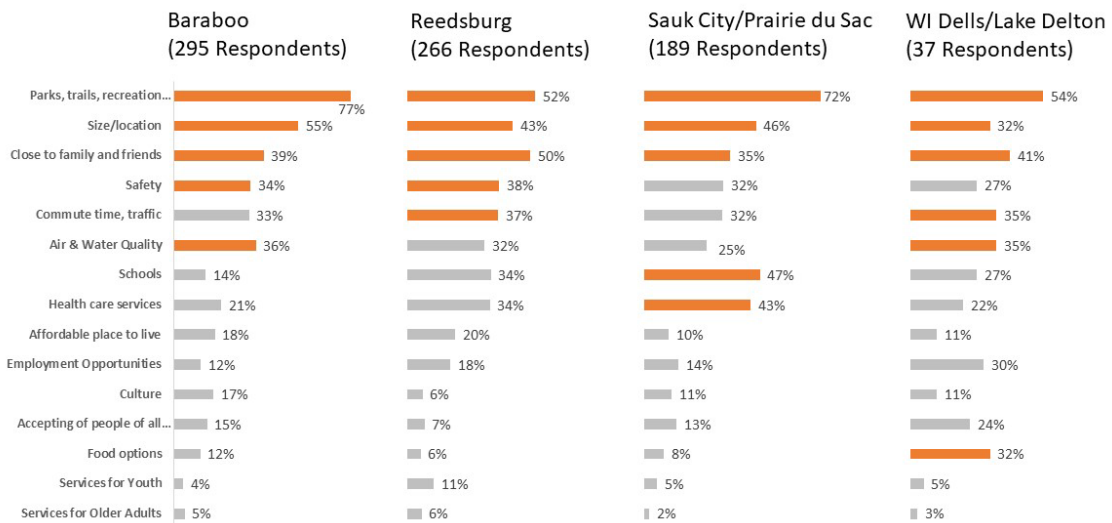
# Community Strengths Comparison: Household Income



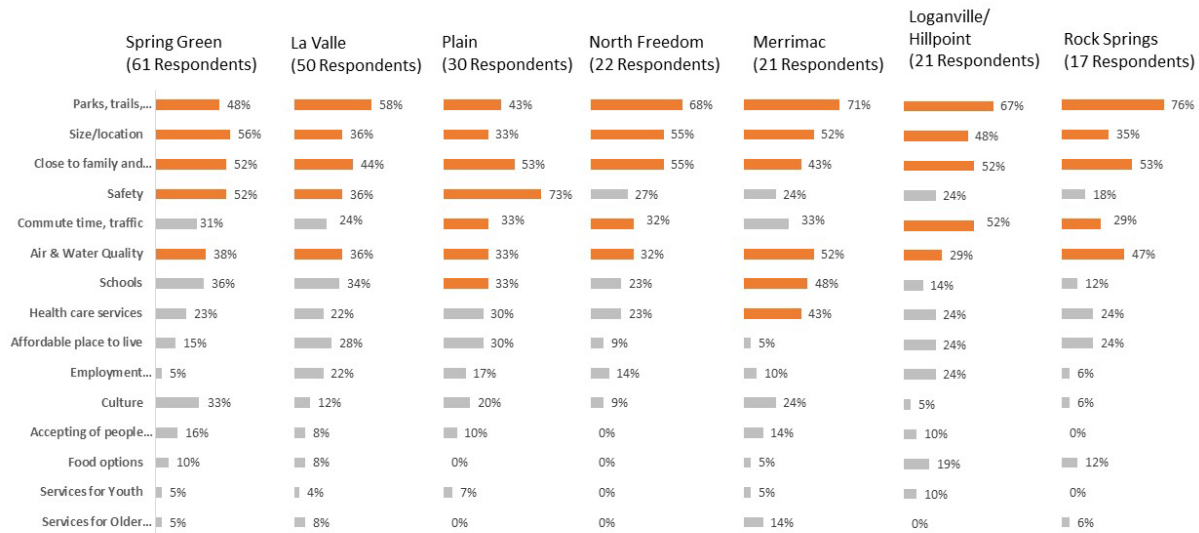
# Community Strengths Comparison: Educational Attainment



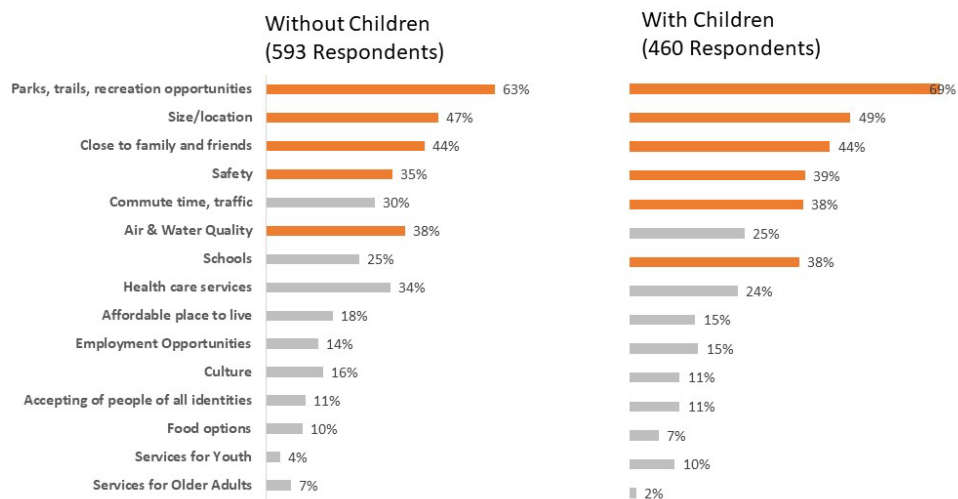
# Community Strengths Comparison: Cities



# Community Strengths Comparison: Towns



# Community Strengths Comparison: Households with/without children



## Qualitative Results

Analyzed the survey free-text/comments to identify themes, and counted the number of times each theme was mentioned to rank them.

### Community Problems Themes:

Theme	Count
Housing	384
Mental Health	273
Substance Use	224
Childcare	221
Transportation	172
Dental Care	139
Food Access	135
Seniors	128
Social Isolation	115
Physical Activity	75
Healthcare	60
Discrimination	50

### Community Problems Notable Comments:

- **Housing:**
  - “My low-income elderly mother-in-law had to move to Columbia county to get low-income handicap accessible housing. Moving away from friends and family has increased her isolation.” (Respondent 116)
  - “Rent is too high. Apartments are not big enough for families - You have to sacrifice your first-born, walk through fire and give a blood sample to even be considered as a renter.” (Respondent 829)
  - “Housing for our most vulnerable people is still extremely elusive and difficult to find...Housing provides the essential foundation on which all other services can build on. If you do not have a place to call home, other services can be wasted because of the chronic issues homeless people face.” (Respondent 909)
  - “Affordable housing is nonexistent. It is a joke when so many units are being built and then \$1K a month is affordable - for whom?” (Respondent 424)
- **Mental Health**
  - “Mental health affects to many people, but getting help is almost impossible. When someone takes the initiative to call and try to get help, the wait list is so long and there is no help for in the moment. I don't want to wait 6 weeks for an appointment! The cost is another barrier.” (Respondent 593)
  - “I wouldn't necessarily say there is a complete shortage of mental health facilities in the area, but the cost is absurdly high. Not to mention the wait lists to get in can be very challenging, depending on the type of mental health treatment you are seeking. Also finding practitioners who work with children can be very challenging. This has been an ongoing issue for quite some time now.” (Respondent 624)

- “Mental health resources are extremely limited. Many people don't know where to begin. In-person appointments are almost impossible to schedule and virtual appointments come with their own set of problems. These challenges can be overwhelming for someone who is already stressed. There is also a stigma to mental health, making people feel that asking for mental health help is a sign of weakness.” (Respondent 40)
- “No inpatient resources in Sauk County. We're frequently sending people to Madison, Oconomowoc, Brown Deer, etc. It's difficult to get in for follow up.” (Respondent 478)
- “We are already stressed beyond our means. I know we all need therapy from the loss of my Dad, but I don't know if we can afford it. To cope with the stress my husband smokes almost a pack a day. I am a former smoker...with everything that has happened I feel that I will relapse from that. ” (Respondent 236)
- “The mental health and social isolation concerns go together for me. I'd like to see a focus on the mental health of functional adults (those without any clinically diagnosed concerns). Somehow we need to reach adults that are feeling overwhelmed with their day to day lives and find ways to provide a sense of community. Perhaps provide cash for families to attend the cocoa crawl, swim passes for the outdoor pool, dance lessons for their kids, tickets to attend the theater guild plays, participate in swim team or other school sports, passes for DLSP. We have lots going on in baraboo, let's make it easy for folks to participate by removing financial barriers at least.” (Respondent 519)
- “For older adults getting isolated happens quickly. There needs to be more of a sense of community. A feeling of belonging. Not sure what the solution is. ADRC is a great resource but not the solution to creating a feeling of community.” (Respondent 480)
- “Need more social life for seniors ie: dances kareoke or other musical entertainment on a regular basis.” (Respondent 498)
- “Loneliness; social isolation- Regular group offerings in the community at various locations. Allowing some groups to have a size limit would be helpful for those that become anxious in large groups or offer a separate room for people who prefer a smaller setting. It doesn't have to be very organized; just offer various activities. Have card games, board games, coloring sheets, crafts. People could do what they are comfortable with and spend time with others. Connection is key; we all need it, but there are limited options as adults.” (Respondent 657)
- “Need more programs for older folks to socialize.” (Respondent 431)
- **Substance Use**
  - “Alcohol, tobacco, drugs - our culture encourages abuse of these things, and it devastates people's lives.” (Respondent 48)
  - “We recently found needles at a local park where my kids play. That was awful. Now I don't feel safe allowing them to play at the park next to our home.” (Respondent 840)
  - “I know a lot of kids that are alcoholics and smoke. It's really sad. The hallways sometimes smell like weed at school.” (Respondent 947)
  - “VERY disappointing to see a vaping store right across the street from the Baraboo public swimming pool, tennis courts, and skate park area where kids and families gather.” (Respondent 494)

- “We need to cultivate more safe, sober places to gather and foster connections.” (Respondent 388)
- “Alcohol and drug use are continuing to be on the rise. During the pandemic the use of these drugs increased and the groups to help these individuals were no longer able to meet such as Al-Anon. We as a community need to help individuals get back into these group settings and help people to quit their drug use. We used to have a drug rehab center in our community and no longer have this as a resource. Our community is now forced to go to other counties such as Dane to Madison to get this assistance. Our community needs a resource for our people to seek treatment here for our family and friends.” (Respondent 895)
- “There is a lot of illicit drug use in our communities. I feel there should be more available resources in rural areas to help people with their addictions. Not everyone can drive to bigger towns to access help!” (Respondent 1088)
- **Discrimination**
  - Translation from Spanish: “Racism because we are Hispanic and some people from the US treat us poorly, rejection.” (Respondent 1105)
  - “I’ve seen various things happen in the community that are both blatantly racist and more subtly racist.” (Respondent 345)
  - “I just had a friend who was born in Sauk County move to New York due to anti-Asian racism here...being threatened by someone following them and blocking them into a dead-end street while screaming racist profanity at them. My son is biracial, and he has dealt with a fair amount of racism here also. And the anti-Native racism is extreme.” (Respondent 441)
  - “Many in the area are totally distrustful and unwilling to accept people of color. Anyone that resembles someone from south of the border (even those here legally) are distrusted at best and hated at worse.” (Respondent 704)
  - “Racism and discrimination continue to be a very real issue in Sauk and it would be great to do more DEI workshops and have more conversations about this.” (Respondent 471)
  - “Being a minority who has just moved here, the lack of diversity in Sauk County is pretty astounding; and if I didn't have good employment here, I would not recommend moving here to others.” (Respondent 978)
  - “Being in a rural, predominantly white community, I hear racist comments from both students in our schools and by adults in our community. The percentage of the people making these comments is low, but there is a general lack of understanding regarding race, equity, etc.” (Respondent 290)
  - “I hear more racist comments being made by students (and some adults in the community). This is concerning and we are doing what we can to combat this talk. Being primarily a white, rural community, people need to be educated about racism.” (Respondent 332)
  - “My family and I have witnessed significant racism and discrimination in the high school. Adults in the high school administration blame students for bullying but in our experience, most bullying in our high school is in the form of adults in positions of authority bullying students. This is the issue that led to us seeking mental health

resources. It is not fair to ask a child to stand up to an adult bully in a position of authority. High school administration is toxic.” (Respondent 40)

- **Other**

- “I think about when I am unable to drive any more. I live alone on a farm. My children live out of state. There is no public transportation nearby. How will I get to the doctor, get groceries without going broke???” (Respondent 300)
- “I don't believe the public is aware of the benefits the community has, if they are available...There needs to be a centralized physical location for information. To rely completely on social media or websites is limiting many people which in turn can be viewed as a not needed resource.” (Respondent 620)
- “We spent \$26K in daycare costs for two kids in 2023. That does not leave extra money for other things like healthy foods or contributing to savings or retirement.” (Respondent 381)
- “Healthy foods are hard to get and expensive, costs of foods are growing and out pacing wage increases, heck even cheap, unhealthy foods are getting expensive.” (Respondent 731)
- “It's not something new that almost everyone needs more exercise. More people are becoming obese and need to exercise and the illnesses that go along with obesity are also on the rise. There are not enough places for people to go where they can get exercise in our area for free or a low price. There are a lot of gyms in our area, but they are too expensive for many and others don't feel comfortable going to a gym. It would be nice to see local groups that maybe get together for walks, runs, aerobics in the park, etc.; maybe something that could be set up as a free and open to the public once a week event.” (Respondent 895)
- “Exercise -- Half of the gyms in the area are for elitists -- the top members of the community. The cost, environment, vibes, etc., are so unwelcoming to the average person at those places. More options for solid gym spaces with 24-hour access would be great.” (Respondent 389)
- “Healthcare appointments are getting harder to get for both regular and specialty care. Then your option is to go to urgent care or ER, which both have long wait times.” (Respondent 46)
- “We're having to leave and drive a distance for dental care as nowhere in our town is covered by our insurance.” (Respondent 370)
- “The number of dentists who accept patients with Medical Assistance has been perpetually insufficient. This makes it very challenging for both families and individuals to seek dental care in both in an emergency as well as preventatively. The reimbursement rate to dentists from MA needs to be greatly increased.” (Respondent 492)
- Transportation in rural areas is a barrier to the older population who cannot drive themselves to get groceries, go to doctors' appointments, or social activities. (Respondent 690)

**Community Strengths Themes:**

Theme	Count
Environment	10
Community	8
Social Support	7
Recreation	4

**Community Strengths Notable Comments:**

- “Being by nature and seeing nature and wildlife, love feeding the birds.” (Respondent 374)
- “Community comes together in times of need to be supportive in any way they can.” (Respondent 690)
- “There is a sense of community here I've not found anywhere else in the U.S.” (Respondent 186)
- “Proximity to amazing natural areas - Baxter’s Hollow, Devil’s Lake, Mirror Lake, etc.” (Respondent 406)
- Translation from Spanish: “A close-knit people” (Respondent 147)
- “Love the rural lifestyle with fewer people than in a big city.” (Respondent 222)
- “If there is a need in the community, I believe this area is willing to listen, then in some towns.” (Respondent 575)
- “Strong sense of community, I know my neighbors and lots of folks in town.” (Respondent 295)



Survey Marketing Materials

Social Media, Print Materials, Mailings

<https://bit.ly/SaukSurvey>



Chance to win  
1 of 10  
\$100  
gift cards!

**WHAT'S GOOD IN  
YOUR COMMUNITY?**  
What can be better?  
**TAKE THE SURVEY TODAY!**

For a paper survey, contact Jodie at [jodie.molitor@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:jodie.molitor@saukcountywi.gov) or 608-355-4315



<https://bit.ly/SaukSalud>



¡Oportunidad  
de ganar 1 de  
tarjetas regalo  
de 100 \$!

**¿QUÉ ES LO BUENO DE SU  
COMUNIDAD?**  
¿QUÉ PUEDE MEJORAR?  
**RESPONDA HOY A LA ENCUESTA!**

Para obtener una encuesta impresa, póngase en contacto con Jodie en [jodie.molitor@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:jodie.molitor@saukcountywi.gov) o 608-355-4315



## Press Release



**PUBLIC HEALTH  
SAUK COUNTY**  
Together we thrive



**sauk prairie  
HEALTHCARE**



**For immediate release, from Sauk County Public Health, Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, and SSM Health- St. Clare Hospital**

February 6, 2024

Contact: Jodie Molitor, Health Educator, Public Health Sauk County

608-355-4315

[Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov)

### **What Would Make Your Community Healthier? Sauk County Survey Now Open**

Public Health Sauk County and local hospitals have launched a Community Health Survey of area residents ages 13 and older. The 5-minute survey asks what is going well in the health of our communities and what needs improvement. The survey is available online and on paper in both English and Spanish. Everyone who completes it has a chance to win 1 of 10 \$100 gift cards.

"We know that your zip code is a major factor in the length and quality of your life," says Jodie Molitor, Health Educator for Public Health Sauk County. "This survey is a great opportunity to weigh in on what your community needs to be healthier." In past years, survey respondents focused on issues like mental health, substance use, housing, social isolation, healthy eating, exercise, and dental care.

The confidential survey is part of a larger Community Health Needs Assessment that is done every three years. Results of the 2024 assessment will drive community health improvement plans through 2027. Molitor explains the process: "We take the results of the survey-- along with information we gather from interviews, focus groups, and data reports-- and we use all that information to make decisions about what to focus on. We can't work on everything. We need to focus on what's important. This survey is your chance to tell us what is important to you."

Molitor encourages people who live or work in Sauk County to fully participate in the community health assessment and improvement planning process. In addition to completing the survey, community members can join a listening session to share in-depth feedback about the health of their community or join a coalition or committee to help create change to improve community health.

The survey is being conducted jointly by Reedsburg Area Medical Center, Sauk Prairie Healthcare, SSM Health-St. Clare Hospital, and Public Health Sauk County. It is available online at <https://bit.ly/SaukSurvey> (English version) and <https://bit.ly/SaukSalud> (Spanish version) and on paper. For a paper survey or more information, contact Jodie Molitor, Health Educator, Public Health Sauk County at 608-355-4315 or [Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov](mailto:Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov)

## Appendix B: Community Conversation Focus Groups

### Questions

1. In your opinion, what makes a community healthy?
  - a. Imagine you are designing a healthy community. What would it look like? What would make it a healthy place to live?
  - b. What about issues like housing, good-paying jobs, and social connection—how big of a role do these issues play in making a community healthy?
2. Now think about your community. What do you think prevents your community from being healthier?
  - a. What prevents people in your community from being healthy, making healthy decisions, and accessing healthcare?
  - b. In your community, do you think all people have an equal opportunity for good health? Why or why not?
3. What do you think are the top 5 health issues in your community?
4. What strengths does your community have that we could build on to make it a healthier place?

### Themes

1. What makes your community healthy?

Theme	Count
Social Support	7
Programming	6
Recreation	4

- a. Imagine you are designing a healthy community. What would it look like? What would make it a healthier place to live?

Theme	Count
Food Access	17
Social Support	15
Community	13
Healthcare	13
Mental Health	9

- a. What about issues like housing, good-paying jobs, and social connection—how big of a role do these issues play in making a community healthy?

Theme	Count
Housing	4
Recreation	4
Transportation	3
Childcare	2
Social Support	2
Transportation	2

2. What do you think prevents your community from being healthier?

Theme	Count
Housing	20
Food Access	17
Transportation	17

<b>Mental Health</b>	16
<b>Communication</b>	12

- a. What prevents people in your community from being healthier, making healthier decisions and accessing healthcare?

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Healthcare</b>	8
<b>Finances</b>	7
<b>Transportation</b>	5

- b. In your community, do you think all people have an equal opportunity for good health? Why or why not?

i. **All 27 Focus Group Participants Responded No to this question.**

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Healthcare</b>	5
<b>Income</b>	4
<b>Health Insurance</b>	4
<b>Transportation</b>	4
<b>Discrimination</b>	3

3. What do you think are the top 5 health issues in your community?

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Mental Health</b>	7
<b>Healthcare</b>	5
<b>Substance Use</b>	4
<b>Housing</b>	3
<b>Transportation</b>	3

4. What strengths does your community have that we could build upon to make it a healthier place?

<b>Theme</b>	<b>Count</b>
<b>Community</b>	23
<b>Social Support</b>	18
<b>Healthcare</b>	7
<b>Recreation</b>	6
<b>Volunteerism</b>	5

## Appendix C: Key Informant Interviews

### Questions

#### Section 1: About our Community

1. What do you believe are the 2-3 most important characteristics of a healthy community?
  - a. What do you think are the important characteristics or features of a healthy community?
2. How would you rate the quality of life in Sauk County? Poor, Fair, Good, Excellent
3. What do you think are the most significant health needs in your community or the community you serve?
  - What factors contribute to these health needs?
  - What is being done to address these health needs?
  - What do you think could be done to more effectively address the health needs?
    - Are there programs or services that could be improved?
    - Are there specific programs or services that are needed?
  - What challenges, if any do you see to implementing a program and/or policy aimed at improving the health needs/issues you described?
    - What strategies would you suggest for overcoming these barriers?
4. What do you think are the top three most important health needs in your community that should be addressed in the next 5-10 years?
5. Does everyone in your community have access to health care?
  - a. If no, what groups do not have access?
  - b. Can you explain why certain groups are unable to access health care?
  - c. Are there specific organizations that are essential in helping residents to access health care?
    - i. How are they beneficial?
6. What do you see as the strengths of the community in terms of services available to the population?
7. What do you see as strengths in terms of resources available to the community/population?

### Themes

The Top 5 themes that came up during the key informant interviews included:

1. Mental Health
2. Alcohol & Other Drug Use
3. Physical Activity
4. Tobacco Use & Exposure
5. Oral Health

## Appendix D: References & Secondary Data Sources

- <sup>1</sup> Census QuickFacts. (2023) Sauk County, Wisconsin. Retrieved August 1, 2024 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/saukcountywisconsin/>
- <sup>2</sup> County Health Rankings & Roadmaps; [www.countyhealthrankings.org/](http://www.countyhealthrankings.org/)
- <sup>3</sup> Census Profiles. Sauk County, Wisconsin. Retrieved September 16, 2024 from [https://data.census.gov/profile/Sauk\\_County,\\_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/profile/Sauk_County,_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55111).
- <sup>4</sup> Census QuickFacts. (2023) Sauk County, Wisconsin. Retrieved August 1, 2024 from <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/saukcountywisconsin/>
- <sup>5</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020) URBAN AND RURAL. Decennial Census, DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics, Table P2. Retrieved August 1, 2024 from [https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.P2?q=urban%20and%20rural%20&t=Populations%20and%20People&g=040XX00US55\\_050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.P2?q=urban%20and%20rural%20&t=Populations%20and%20People&g=040XX00US55_050XX00US55111)
- <sup>6</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). Age and Sex. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S0101. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from [https://data.census.gov/table?q=age%20and%20sex&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US55\\_050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/table?q=age%20and%20sex&g=010XX00US_040XX00US55_050XX00US55111).
- <sup>7</sup> Wisconsin Dells Visitors & Convention Bureau, Economic Impact Report 2023. Retrieved September 24, 2024 from <https://www.wisdells.com/Media/Facts-and-Figures/Economic-Impact>
- <sup>8</sup> Wisconsin First Nations. (2017). Ho-Chunk Nation. <https://wisconsinfirstnations.org/ho-chunk-nation/>
- <sup>9</sup> USDA NASS, 2022 Census of Agriculture, Ag Census Web Maps. Number of Farms and Farms by Type of Organization. Retrieved September 11, 2024, from <https://agcensusmaps.nass.usda.gov/>.
- <sup>10</sup> "Amish Population in the United States by State, County, and Settlement, 2024 ." Young Center for Anabaptist and Pietist Studies, Elizabethtown College. Accessed September 23, 2024 at [https://groups.etown.edu/amishstudies/files/2024/08/Amish-Pop-2024\\_by-state-and-county\\_c.pdf](https://groups.etown.edu/amishstudies/files/2024/08/Amish-Pop-2024_by-state-and-county_c.pdf)
- <sup>11</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Language Spoken at Home. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1601. Retrieved September 11, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST5Y2022.S1601?g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>12</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). HISPANIC OR LATINO, AND NOT HISPANIC OR LATINO BY RACE. Decennial Census, DEC Demographic and Housing Characteristics, Table P9. Retrieved September 11, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALDHC2020.P9?g=050XX00US55141>.
- <sup>13</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). RACE. Decennial Census, DEC Redistricting Data (PL 94-171), Table P1. Retrieved September 11, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/DECENNIALPL2020.P1?g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>14</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2020). SELECTED SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS IN THE UNITED STATES. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP02. Retrieved September 23, 2024, from [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2020.DP02?q=Native and Foreign-Born&g=050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP5Y2020.DP02?q=Native%20and%20Foreign-Born&g=050XX00US55111).
- <sup>15</sup> County Health Rankings, Health Data, Sauk, WI. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024>.
- <sup>16</sup> County Health Rankings, Length of Life. Retrieved September 11, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-outcomes/length-of-life?year=2024&county=55111>
- <sup>17</sup> County Health Rankings, Health Outcomes. Retrieved September 11, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-outcomes>.
- <sup>18</sup> Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) data query system, <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>, Mortality Module, accessed 9/11/2024.
- <sup>19</sup> SAMHSA. What is Mental Health? Last Updated April 24, 2023. Retrieved September 24, 2024 from <https://www.samhsa.gov/mental-health>.
- <sup>20</sup> PLACES. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Interactive Map. Accessed September 24, 2024. <https://arcg.is/1HmX800>
- <sup>21</sup> County Health Rankings, Frequent Mental Distress, Sauk, WI. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-outcomes/quality-of-life/frequent-mental-distress?year=2024&county=55111>.



- 
- <sup>22</sup> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. 2024. "2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report." Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs>
- <sup>23</sup> Sauk County YRBS Results compiled from Baraboo - Baraboo High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), River Valley - River Valley High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), and Reedsburg - Reedsburg Area High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version). Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2023. Data compiled by Public Health Sauk County Staff, August 2024.
- <sup>24</sup> County Health Rankings, Fair or Poor Health, Sauk, WI. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-outcomes/quality-of-life/poor-or-fair-health?year=2024&county=55111>.
- <sup>25</sup> County Health Rankings, Frequent Physical Distress, Sauk, WI. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-outcomes/quality-of-life/frequent-physical-distress?year=2024&county=55111>.
- <sup>26</sup> County Health Rankings, Health Data, Sauk, WI. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024>.
- <sup>27</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Alcohol Use in Wisconsin. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/alcohol/index.htm>
- <sup>28</sup> National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion. Binge Drinking. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Updated November 14, 2022. Accessed September 13, 2024. <https://www.cdc.gov/alcohol/excessive-drinking-data/index.html>.
- <sup>29</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Small Talks: Get the Facts on Underage Drinking. <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/small-talks/underage-drinking-facts.htm>
- <sup>30</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental Public Health Data Tracker Interactive Dashboard, Alcohol Outlet Density 2020-2021 by County. Accessed September 13, 2024. <https://dhsgis.wi.gov/DHS/EPHTracker/#/all/Alcohol/alcoholIndex/NOTRACT/Alcohol/alcoholIndex2>
- <sup>31</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. PLACES Data [online]. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://places.cdc.gov/?view=county&locationIds=55111>.
- <sup>32</sup> Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health(WISH) data query system, BRFSS Module. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>.
- <sup>33</sup> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. 2024. "2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report." Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs>
- <sup>34</sup> Sauk County YRBS Results compiled from Baraboo - Baraboo High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), River Valley - River Valley High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), and Reedsburg - Reedsburg Area High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version). Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2023. Data compiled by Public Health Sauk County Staff, August 2024.
- <sup>35</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services. DHS Interactive Dashboards, Alcohol Hospitalizations Module. Data last updated 3/4/2024. Accessed September 13, 2024 at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/alcohol/hospitalizations-county.htm>.
- <sup>36</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services. DHS Interactive Dashboards: Alcohol Death Module. Last Updated 3/13/2024. Accessed September 13, 2024 at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/alcohol/deaths-county.htm>.
- <sup>37</sup> County Health Rankings, Health Data, Sauk, WI. Retrieved Accessed August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024>.
- <sup>38</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. PLACES Data [online]. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://places.cdc.gov/?view=county&locationIds=55111>.
- <sup>39</sup> Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health(WISH) data query system, BRFSS Module. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>.
- <sup>40</sup> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. 2024. "2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report." Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs>
- <sup>41</sup> Sauk County YRBS Results compiled from Baraboo - Baraboo High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), River Valley - River Valley High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), and Reedsburg - Reedsburg Area High 2023 YRBS

---

Results (High School Version). Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2023. Data compiled by Public Health Sauk County Staff, August 2024.

<sup>42</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services. Tobacco is Changing.

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/tobaccoischanging/index.htm>

<sup>43</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. PLACES Data [online]. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://places.cdc.gov/?view=county&locationIds=55111>.

<sup>44</sup> Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health(WISH) data query system, BRFSS Module. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>.

<sup>45</sup> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. 2024. "2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report." Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs>

<sup>46</sup> Sauk County YRBS Results compiled from Baraboo - Baraboo High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), River Valley - River Valley High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), and Reedsburg - Reedsburg Area High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version). Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2023. Data compiled by Public Health Sauk County Staff, August 2024.

<sup>47</sup> Coroner and Vital Records accessed by Public Health Sauk County.

<sup>48</sup> Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction. 2024. "2023 Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Summary Report." Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://dpi.wi.gov/sspw/yrbs>

<sup>49</sup> Sauk County YRBS Results compiled from Baraboo - Baraboo High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), River Valley - River Valley High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version), and Reedsburg - Reedsburg Area High 2023 YRBS Results (High School Version). Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction, 2023. Data compiled by Public Health Sauk County Staff, August 2024.

<sup>50</sup> County Health Rankings, Diet & Exercise. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/health-behaviors/diet-and-exercise?year=2024>

<sup>51</sup> Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap Dashboard. Accessed September 13, 2024.

<https://map.feedingamerica.org/county/2022/overall/wisconsin/county/sauk>.

<sup>52</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, Division of Population Health. PLACES Data [online]. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://places.cdc.gov/?view=county&locationIds=55111>.

<sup>53</sup> Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health(WISH) data query system, BRFSS Module. Retrieved September 13, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm>.

<sup>54</sup> County Health Rankings, Physical Inactivity. <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/health-behaviors/diet-and-exercise/physical-inactivity?year=2024>

<sup>55</sup> County Health Rankings, Sexual Activity, Accessed September 16, 2024 from

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/health-behaviors/sexual-activity>

<sup>56</sup> County Health Rankings, Teen Births, 2016-2022 data. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-factors>

<sup>57</sup> Wisconsin Dept. of Health Services, Division of Public Health, STI Unit, Sexually Transmitted Infections in Wisconsin, 2023 Report P-00415. Published September 6, 2024. Accessed September 16, 2024 at <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00415-2023.pdf> and Sauk County level report at

<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p00415b-sauk-2023.pdf>

<sup>58</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. NCHHSTP AtlasPlus. STD Health Data. Retrieved September 16, 2024 from <https://www.cdc.gov/nchhstp/about/atlasplus.html>.

<sup>59</sup> County Health Rankings, Clinical Care. Accessed September 16, 2024 from

<https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/clinical-care>.

<sup>60</sup> U.S. Census Bureau, U.S. Department of Commerce, & U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). Selected Characteristics of Health Insurance Coverage in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S2701. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from

[https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2701?g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US55\\_050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S2701?g=010XX00US_040XX00US55_050XX00US55111).

<sup>61</sup> Foutz J, Squires E, Garfield R, Damico A. The uninsured: A primer - key facts about health insurance and the uninsured under the Affordable Care Act. San Francisco: Kaiser Family Foundation; 2017.



- 
- <sup>62</sup> County Health Rankings, Primary Care Physicians. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-factors>
- <sup>63</sup> County Health Rankings, Mental Health Providers. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-factors>
- <sup>64</sup> County Health Rankings, Dentists. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-factors>
- <sup>65</sup> County Health Rankings, Preventable Hospital Stays. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-factors>
- <sup>66</sup> County Health Rankings, % of high-schoolers graduated in four years, 2020-2021 data. Retrieved August 8, 2024, from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-outcomes>
- <sup>67</sup> WI DPI WISEdash, School Districts of Baraboo, Reedsburg, River Valley, Sauk Prairie, Weston, and WI Dells, School Year 2020-2021. Retrieved August 22, 2024 from <https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/17867?filtersetId=f67dd9f8-903e-4559-9749-cf5c9b143abb>.
- <sup>68</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. "Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months." American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701, 2022. Retrieved August 22, 2024 from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2022.S1701?q=poverty&g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>69</sup> Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS) from the WI Department of Workforce Development and Bureau of Labor Statistics. Retrieved August 22, 2024, from <https://jobcenterofwisconsin.com/wisconomy/pub/laus.htm#Viz>.
- <sup>70</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701. Retrieved September 19, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1701?q=poverty&g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>71</sup> Healthy People 2030. Economic Stability. <https://health.gov/healthypeople/objectives-and-data/browse-objectives/economic-stability>
- <sup>72</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2023). Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1701. Retrieved September 19, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1701?q=poverty&g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>73</sup> United for ALICE. ALICE in Sauk County (2024) [https://www.unitedwaywi.org/resource/resmgr/alice/fact\\_sheets/2024\\_county\\_face\\_sheets/sauk\\_county.pdf](https://www.unitedwaywi.org/resource/resmgr/alice/fact_sheets/2024_county_face_sheets/sauk_county.pdf)
- <sup>74</sup> United for ALICE. Research Center. <https://www.unitedforalice.org/county-reports/wisconsin>
- <sup>75</sup> Health Affairs. Social Isolation And Health. Health Policy Brief. Accessed September 20, 2024. <https://www.healthaffairs.org/doi/10.1377/hpb20200622.253235/full/>
- <sup>76</sup> U.S. Census Bureau (2023). Households and Families. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Subject Tables, Table S1101. Retrieved September 20, 2024, from [https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1101?q=householder&g=010XX00US\\_040XX00US55\\_050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/table/ACSST1Y2023.S1101?q=householder&g=010XX00US_040XX00US55_050XX00US55111).
- <sup>77</sup> Health Affairs, Discrimination: A Social Determinant of Health Inequities. Health Affairs Forefront. Accessed September 20, 2024 from <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/discrimination-social-determinant-health-inequities>
- <sup>78</sup> Magnuson K, Waldfogel J. Chapter 9: Delivering high-quality early childhood education and care to low-income children: How well is the U.S. doing? In: Gambero L, Stewart K, Waldfogel J, eds. An equal start? Providing quality early education and care for disadvantaged children. Bristol, UK: Bristol University Press; 2014:193-218. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt9qgznh.14>
- <sup>79</sup> Lyonette C, Kaufman G, Crompton R. 'We both need to work': Maternal employment, childcare and health care in Britain and the USA. Work, Employment and Society. 2011;25(1):34-50. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0950017010389243>
- <sup>80</sup> County Health Rankings, Child Care Centers. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/wisconsin/sauk?year=2024#health-factors&county=55111>
- <sup>81</sup> County Health Rankings, Child Care Cost Burden. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/social-economic-factors/family-and-social-support/child-care-cost-burden?year=2024&county=55111>
- <sup>82</sup> County Health Rankings, Community Safety. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/social-economic-factors/community-safety>

- 
- <sup>83</sup> County Health Rankings, Injury Deaths. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/social-economic-factors/community-safety/injury-deaths?year=2024>
- <sup>84</sup> County Health Rankings, Suicides. Retrieved September 20, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/social-economic-factors/community-safety/suicides?year=2024&county=55111>.
- <sup>85</sup> County Health Rankings, Air Pollution-Particulate Matter. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/physical-environment/air-and-water-quality/air-pollution-particulate-matter?year=2024&county=55111>
- <sup>86</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental Public Health Data Tracker Interactive Dashboard, Asthma Emergency Department Visits by County, Age-Adjusted Rates per 10,000. Accessed September 18, 2024. <https://dhsgis.wi.gov/DHS/EPHTracker/#/all/Asthma/asthmaIndex/NOTRACT/Emergency%20Department%20Visits>
- <sup>87</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. 2023 County Environmental Health Profile-Sauk County. Home Hazards-Radon. Retrieved September 25, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00719-sauk.pdf>
- <sup>88</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. 2023 County Environmental Health Profile-Sauk County. Private Water Quality-Nitrate. Retrieved September 25, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00719-sauk.pdf>
- <sup>89</sup> Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Environmental Public Health Tracking Program. 2023 County Environmental Health Profile-Sauk County. Private Water Quality-Arsenic. Retrieved September 25, 2024 from <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p0/p00719-sauk.pdf>
- <sup>90</sup> County Health Rankings, Housing and Transit. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/physical-environment/housing-and-transit?>
- <sup>91</sup> Census Profiles. Sauk County, Wisconsin. Retrieved September 16, 2024 from [https://data.census.gov/profile/Sauk\\_County,\\_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/profile/Sauk_County,_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55111).
- <sup>92</sup> Realtor.com, Housing Inventory: Average Listing Price in Sauk County, WI [AVELISPRI55111], retrieved from FRED, Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis; <https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/AVELISPRI55111>, September 23, 2024.
- <sup>93</sup> Census Profiles. Sauk County, Wisconsin. Retrieved September 16, 2024 from [https://data.census.gov/profile/Sauk\\_County,\\_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55111](https://data.census.gov/profile/Sauk_County,_Wisconsin?g=050XX00US55111).
- <sup>94</sup> HUD FY 2024 Fair Market Rent Documentation System, <https://www.huduser.gov/portal/datasets/fmr.html#year2024>
- <sup>95</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Household Income by Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25074. Retrieved September 23, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACS5Y2022.B25074?q=B25074&g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>96</sup> U.S. Census Bureau. (2022). Household Income by Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in the Past 12 Months. American Community Survey, ACS 5-Year Estimates Detailed Tables, Table B25095. Retrieved September 25, 2024, from <https://data.census.gov/table/ACS5Y2022.B25095?q=B25095&g=050XX00US55111>.
- <sup>97</sup> County Health Rankings, Driving Alone to Work. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/physical-environment/housing-and-transit/driving-alone-to-work?year=2024&county=55111>.
- <sup>98</sup> County Health Rankings, Long Commute-Driving Alone. Retrieved September 18, 2024 from <https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/health-data/health-factors/physical-environment/housing-and-transit/long-commute-driving-alone?year=2024&county=55111>.