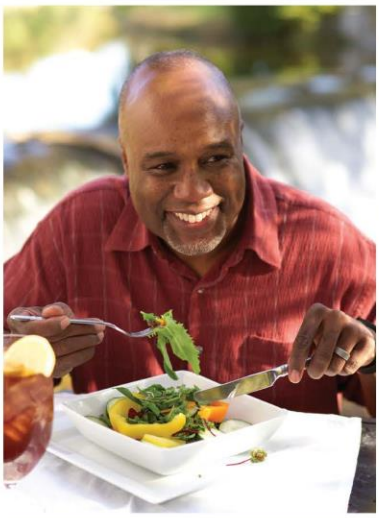
2023
Community Health Needs Assessment Report



Aurora Lakeland Medical Center

W3985 County Rd NN

Elkhorn, WI 53121

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December 2023

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about the Aurora Lakeland Medical Center (Aurora Lakeland) Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA). This CHNA provides a comprehensive picture of the health status of the communities served by Aurora Lakeland Medical Center. Through understanding the health and social needs of our communities, our hospital can provide safe, high-quality care with compassion and dignity.

Collaboration and partnership are crucial components of a hospital's CHNA process. Every three years, Aurora Health Care, Mercy Health System, and the Walworth County Division of Public Health conduct a collaborative CHNA in Walworth County.

Based upon comprehensive community data and feedback, Aurora Lakeland selected three health priorities for the 2023 CHNA. The priorities selected include the following:

- Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Stroke, Heart Failure)

At Aurora Lakeland, we are committed to helping people live well by understanding the needs of the community and implementing culturally appropriate interventions that address the root causes of health. We also understand that creating and sustaining community partnerships to implement evidence-based programs is critical in addressing our communities' health needs.

We welcome and encourage community feedback regarding the health needs of our community and the CHNA process. A link at the end of the CHNA report will provide you with an opportunity to leave any feedback, comments or ideas. We also encourage you to review the report and provide recommendations regarding community programs or strategies that aim to address the identified priority health needs. Our Walworth County hospital has the honor of working with community partners and leaders to improve the health and wellness of diverse communities across our service area. With a comprehensive and thorough understanding of our communities' health needs, the hospital will be well positioned to help people live well and improve the quality of life among individuals, children, and families in the communities we serve.

Ania Horner
President
Aurora Lakeland Medical Center

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I. Executive Summary

Aurora Lakeland Medical Center (Aurora Lakeland) completed a comprehensive Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) process in 2023. This CHNA report describes the assessment process and includes demographic, socioeconomic and health status data along with the key findings regarding the health of Walworth County residents. For the purposes of this report, Aurora Lakeland defines the community as Walworth County. Data collected included primary and secondary, quantitative, and qualitative data. The goal of this report is to obtain a comprehensive overview of the health and social needs of the Walworth County residents.

Demographic data shows that the Walworth County population is 84.8 percent Non-Hispanic White, 11.4 percent Hispanic or Latino, 2.0 percent Two or more races, 0.7 percent Asian or Pacific Islander, 0.7 percent non-Hispanic Black, and 0.2 percent Native American. Walworth County is comprised of 49.9 percent female and 50.1 percent male. The median household income in Walworth County is $69,382.

As part of the CHNA process, Community Heath teammates presented extensive community data to the Aurora Burlington/Walworth County Steering Council, which is comprised of hospital and community representatives. The Steering Council provided oversight of the 2023 CHNA process through a series of meetings by reviewing and analyzing data. The top eight health issues identified in the Aurora Lakeland Community Health Needs Assessment were:

- Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Housing and Transportation
- Accessible and Affordable Health Care
- Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Stroke, Heart Failure)
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
- Food Insecurity
- Maternal and Infant Health

The Steering Council prioritized the significant health needs using criteria including severity of the health issues, effectiveness of available interventions, available resources and ability to effectively address or impact health issues through collaboration. Council members selected the top three health issues of mental health, suicide and self-injury, alcohol and substance use, and chronic diseases (diabetes, stroke, and heart failure), as the priority needs to address in 2024-2026.

To ensure the hospital develops an effective 2024-2026 Community Health Implementation Strategy, the community health department will collaborate with the steering council and additional community partners to create strategies that address the priority health needs identified. Goals, objectives, and metrics will be created for each strategy and outcomes will be monitored to track community impact and program effectiveness.

II. Description of Aurora Health Care and Aurora Lakeland Medical Center

A. Aurora Health Care

Aurora Health Care is the largest system in Wisconsin and a national leader in clinical innovation, health outcomes, consumer experience and value-based care. The state's largest private employer, the system serves patients across 17 hospitals, more than 70 pharmacies and more than 150 sites of care. Aurora Health Care, in addition to Advocate Health Care in Illinois and Atrium Health in the Carolinas, Georgia and Alabama, is now part of Advocate Health, the fifth-largest nonprofit, integrated health system in the United States. Committed to providing equitable care for all, Advocate Health provides nearly $5 billion in annual community benefits.

B. Aurora Lakeland Medical Center

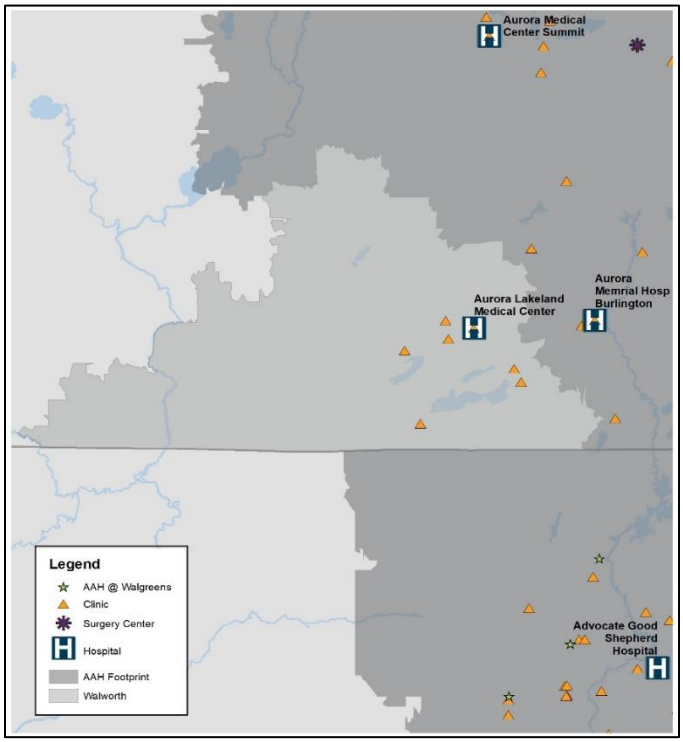
Aurora Lakeland (Aurora Lakeland) Medical Center provides care families need, close to their homes. Today, this premier community hospital offers advanced health care for all stages of life. Aurora Lakeland is a nationally recognized Women's Health and Maternity Services destination, offering Baby-Friendly services including private labor, delivery and recovery suites, lactation counseling and nurse midwives. Aurora Lakeland is also an Age-Friendly Health System offering senior care expertise and accredited in Geriatric Emergency Services. In addition to emergency care, Aurora Lakeland offers specialists in urology, cardiology and orthopedics. When more critical treatment is needed, Aurora's integrated system enables providers to seamlessly transfer patients to Aurora St. Luke's Medical Center in Milwaukee, without having to readmit them.

III. 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment

A. Community Definition

For the purposes of this assessment, Aurora Lakeland's "community" is defined as Walworth County, which includes five cities, nine villages, 16 towns and many more unincorporated communities. Exhibit 1 shows a map of the defined community.

Exhibit 1: Aurora Lakeland Medical Center



Source: Aurora Health Care Business Development, 2023

1. Population

The Walworth County population is 105,945 residents (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

2. Social Drivers of Health

Aurora Health Care purchased access to Metopio, a software and services company that is grounded in the philosophy that communities are connected through places and people. Metopio's tools and visualizations use data to reveal valuable, interconnected factors that influence health outcomes in different locations. Metopio offers data tailored to support all Aurora Health Care hospitals with identifying health inequities in communities. Metopio uses the most current data sources and creates tools and indices that focus on the communities within the service areas. The data can be used to focus on specific regions, communities, and hospital service areas.

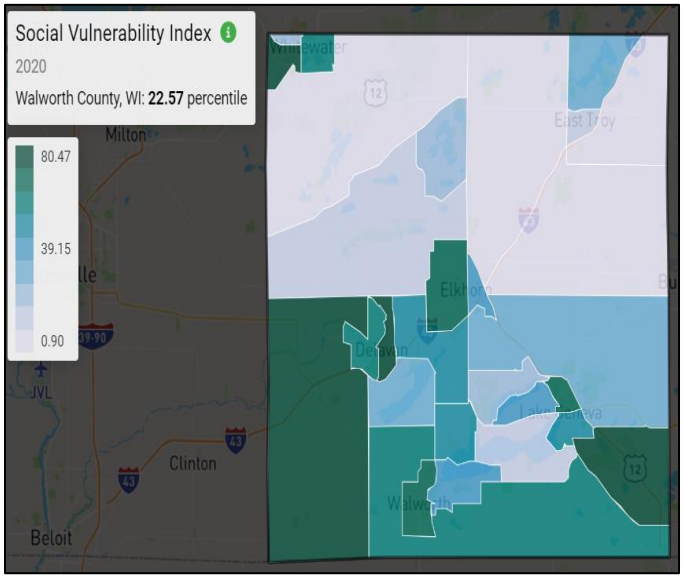
Social Vulnerability Index

Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) was created by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to help public health officials and emergency response planners identify and map the communities that will most likely need support before, during, and after a hazardous event, such as a natural disaster, disease outbreak, or chemical spill.

SVI indicates relative vulnerability by ranking places on 15 social factors that can be divided into four categories: socioeconomic, household composition and disability, minority status and language, and housing type and transportation. The original score is on a scale from 0-1, but it is multiplied by 100 for readability on Metopio. A higher score represents a community more vulnerable to a hazardous event.

Walworth County has a social vulnerability index rating of 22.6, which is lower than the rating of Wisconsin (32.1) as shown in Exhibit 2 (Metopio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020).

Exhibit 2 : Walworth County Social Vulnerability Index Map 2020



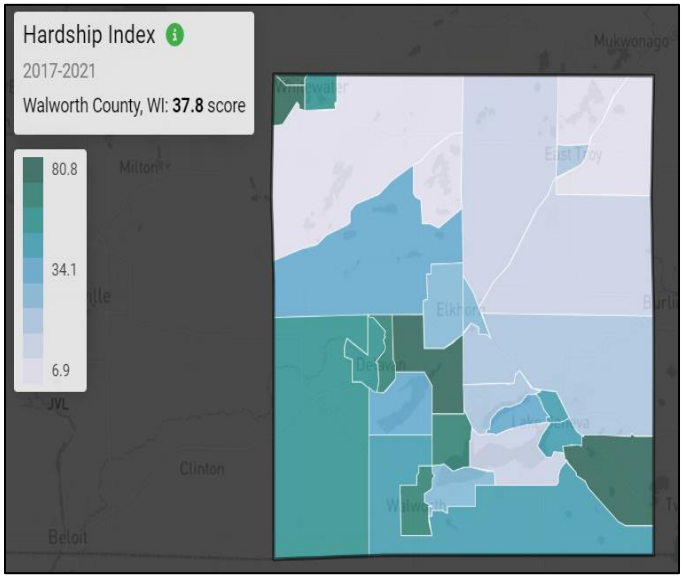
Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2023

Hardship Index

The Hardship Index incorporates unemployment, age dependency, education, per capita income, crowded housing, and poverty into a single score that allows comparison between geographies. It is highly correlated with other measures of economic hardship, such as labor force statistics, and with poor health outcomes. Higher values indicate greater hardship and correlate higher with poor health outcomes.

Walworth County has a hardship index of 37.8, which is higher than the score for Wisconsin of 35.6 as shown in Exhibit 3 (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Exhibit 3: Walworth County Hardship Index Map 2017-2021



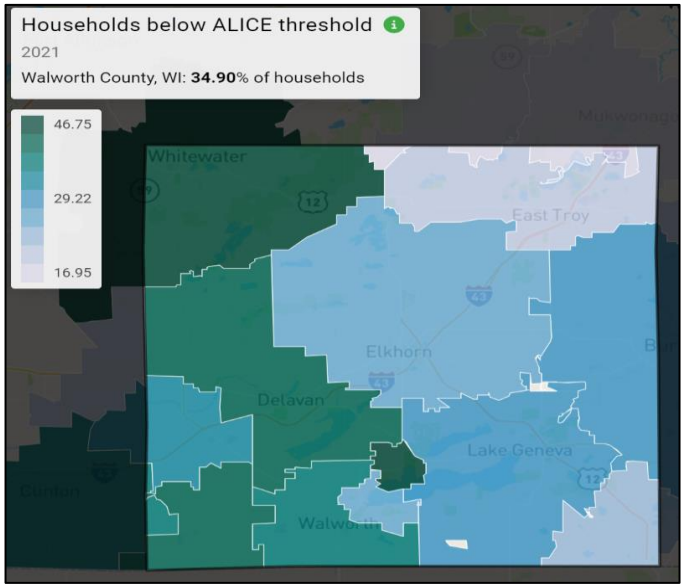
Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2023

ALICE Index

ALICE stands for: Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed. ALICE represents the percentage of households who may be above the poverty-line but are still unable to afford the basic necessities of housing, food, child-care, health care, and transportation due to the lack of jobs that can support basic necessities and increases in the basic cost of living.

In Walworth County, 34.9 percent of households are below the ALICE threshold, which is the same as Wisconsin at 34.3 percent, as shown in Exhibit 4 (Metopio, United Way ALICE Data, 2021).

Exhibit 4: Walworth County ALICE Map 2021



Source: Metopio, United Way ALICE Data, 2023

Key findings: Community Definition

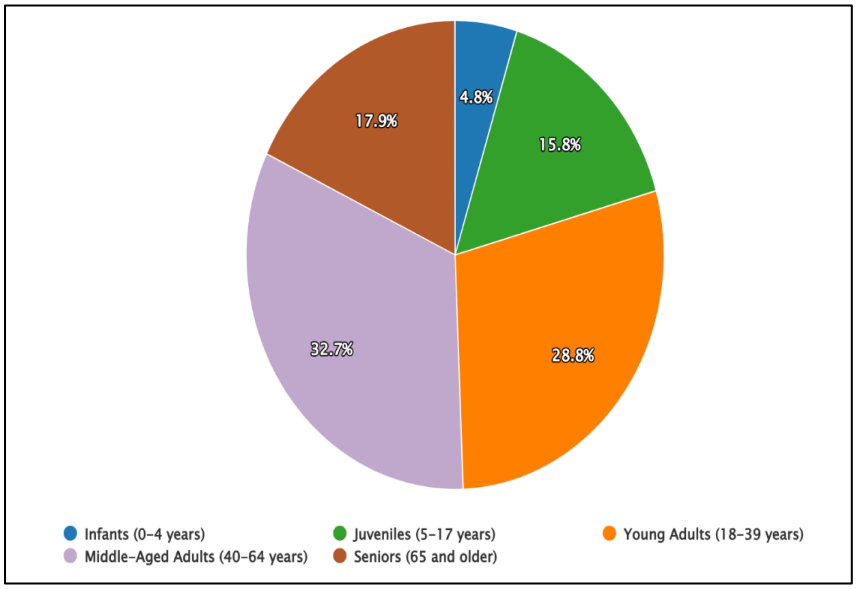
- The median age of Walworth County is 40.5 years old, with the largest population being those ages 40-64 years at 32.7 percent.
- The median household income of Walworth County is $69,382. The highest median household income is among the Non-Hispanic White population at $69,978 and the lowest is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at $37,016.
- Walworth County has 9.3 percent of residents in families that are living below the federal poverty level, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 10.7 percent.

3. Demographics

Age and Gender

The median age in Walworth County is 40.5 years old. The county is comprised of 49.9 percent female and 50.1 percent male. The largest population in Walworth County are those ages 40-64 years at 32.7 percent as shown in Exhibit 5 (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Exhibit 5: Walworth County Population by Age 2017-2021

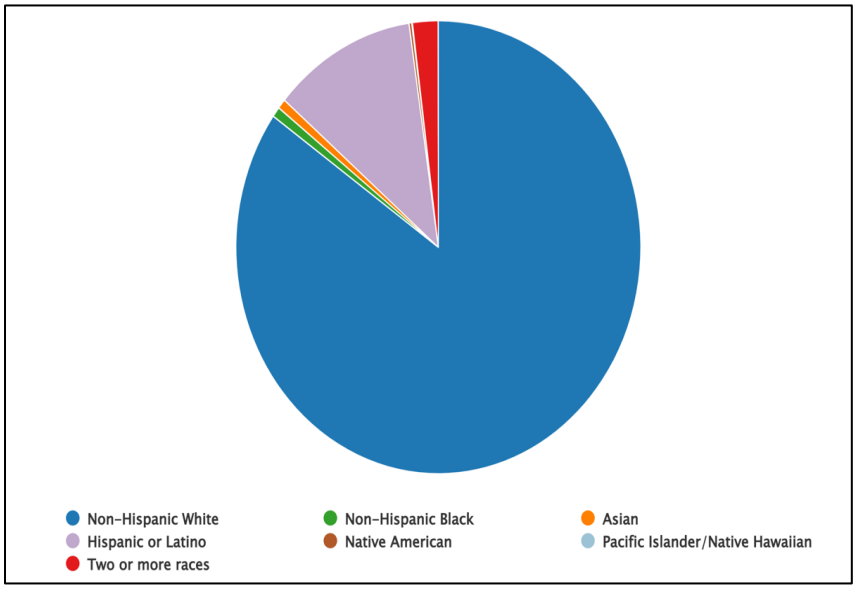


Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2023

Race and Ethnicity

Walworth County is comprised of 84.8 percent Non-Hispanic White, 11.4 percent Hispanic or Latino, 2.0 percent Two or more races, 0.7 percent Asian or Pacific Islander, 0.7 percent non-Hispanic Black, and 0.2 percent Native American as shown in Exhibit 6 (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Exhibit 6: Walworth County Demographics by Race and Ethnicity 2017-2021



Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2023

A total of 6.3 percent of Walworth County residents have Spanish as their primary language at home. A total of 0.7 percent of households in Walworth County have Asian languages like Chinese, Japanese, and Tagalog as the primary spoken language (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Household/Family

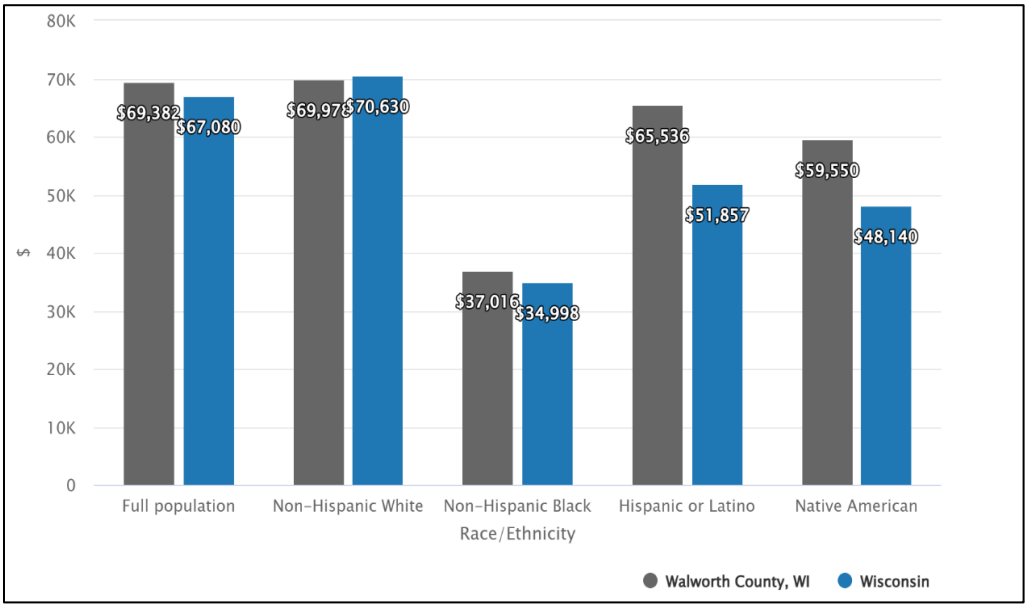
In Walworth County, 4.9 percent of households are single parent households, meaning there are children present and are headed by a single parent (mother or father), with no partner present. Additionally, 26.6 percent of Walworth County seniors (ages 65 and older) are living alone (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

4. Economics

Income

The median household income in Walworth County is $69,382, which is higher than the Wisconsin median household income of $67,125. The highest median household income in Walworth County is among the Non-Hispanic White population at $69.978. The lowest median household income is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at $37,016 as shown in Exhibit 7 (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Exhibit 7: Walworth County Median Household Income by Race and Ethnicity 2017-2021



Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2023

In Walworth County, there are 9.3 percent of residents in families that are living below the federal poverty level, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 10.7 percent. In Walworth County, the breakdown of poverty by age is Infants (0-4 years) at 11.1 percent, Juveniles (5-17 years) at 8.2 percent, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 14.4 percent, Middle-Aged Adults (40-64 years) at 5.4 percent and Seniors (65 and older) at 6.3 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Employment

The unemployment rate among Walworth County residents that are 16 years of age and older is 3.7 percent, which is slightly higher compared to Wisconsin at 3.5 percent. The breakdown of unemployment rates by race and ethnicity in Walworth County is 19.2 percent for Non-Hispanic Black, 12.7 percent for Asian, 5.6 percent for Native American, 3.5 percent for Non-Hispanic White and 3.1 percent for Hispanic or Latino (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

In Walworth County, an estimated 15.1 percent of low-income jobs (<$40,000 salary) were lost due to COVID-19 which is higher than Wisconsin at 13.9 percent (Metopio, Urban Institute, 2020).

5. Education

Educational Level
Walworth County educational attainment data was also reviewed and analyzed to gain an in-depth understanding of educational levels across the county. Educational attainment is one of the social drivers of health. Higher levels of education correlate with better health outcomes. The high school graduation rate for Walworth County is 91.6 percent, which is lower than Wisconsin at 92.9 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

In Walworth County, 30.3 percent of residents 25 or older have a four-year college degree or higher, which is lower than Wisconsin at 31.5 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

6. Health Care Resources in the Defined Community

In addition to Aurora Lakeland Medical Center, below are the other key health care resources within Walworth County.

Name of Facility	Type of Facility	Location
Mercy Health	Hospital	Lake Geneva
Fort HealthCare	Hospital	Whitewater
Open Arms Free Clinic	Free Clinic	Elkhorn
New Day Women's Clinic	Clinic	Delavan
Rock River Community Clinic	FQHC	Whitewater

B. How the CHNA was Conducted

1. Process and Partnership

Every three years, Aurora Health Care, Mercy Health System, and the Walworth County Division of Public Health conduct a collaborative Community Health Need Assessment (CHNA) in Walworth County. The CHNA serves as the foundation from which hospitals and the local health department develop their respective community health improvement strategies. These findings are also intended to inform a broader audience — community health centers, government health agencies, public health departments, philanthropy, community-based organizations, and civic leaders, about the top health issues facing our community.

Aurora Health Care Community Health teammates presented extensive data to the Aurora Burlington/Walworth County Steering Council over two meetings from April through September 2023. Indicators presented included demographic, economic, education, employment, social drivers of health, and health status and behaviors. In the September 2023 Steering Council meeting, members selected the top three health priorities for the 2024-2026 implementation strategy– mental health, suicide and self-injury, alcohol and substance use, and chronic diseases (diabetes, stroke and heart failure). The 2023 CHNA was presented to the Steering Council in November 2023 and the Aurora Health Care Board approved the report on December 14, 2023.

2. Data Collection and Analysis

The Aurora Lakeland CHNA relies on three sources of information:

• Community Health Survey (primary data): online surveys conducted November 2022 – January 2023, with 555 Walworth County residents completing questions related to the top health needs in the community, individuals' perception of their overall health, access to health services, and social drivers of health, including racism and health equity.

• Stakeholder Interviews (primary data): conducted by health system community benefit leaders with 19 individuals to identify the community's most pressing health issues and effective health improvement strategies.

• Metopio (secondary data): key source of data for the 2023 Aurora Lakeland CHNA. This robust platform offers curated data from public and proprietary sources for information on health behaviors and health risks, health outcomes, health care utilization, demographic, and community-level drivers of health like economic, housing, employment, and environmental conditions. Data for each indicator is presented by race, ethnicity, and gender when the data is available (Metopio: https://public.metop.io). All data collected through Metopio was quantitative and included data comparisons between County, Wisconsin State and United States data.

3. Data Sources

Aurora Lakeland collaborated with many partners to collect county-level data, as indicated above. Data was pulled from national, state, and local community source documents. Some of the primary sources reviewed and analyzed include the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, America's Health Rankings, County Health Rankings, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Community Health Survey, Hospital Steering Council Interviews and Metopio.

C. Summary of CHNA Findings

1. Overall Health Status

Mortality – Leading Causes of Death
The top three causes of death in Walworth County are: malignant neoplasms (cancer/cancerous tumors), heart disease and other causes (COVID-19 deaths are associated with other causes) (Walworth County Public Health Department, 2016-2020).

Life Expectancy
The average life expectancy in Walworth County is 78.7 years. This is similar to the Wisconsin average of 78.9 years and the U.S. at 78.5 years (County Health Rankings, National Center for Health Statistics, 2018-2020).

Top Health Concerns
For this CHNA, primary and secondary data was gathered and analyzed for the following top health issues in Aurora Lakeland service area:

- Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Housing and Transportation
- Accessible and Affordable Health Care
- Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Stroke, Heart Failure)
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
- Food Insecurity
- Maternal and Infant Health

The top three health priorities identified by the Steering Council for the 2024-2026 implementation plan are mental health, suicide and self-injury, alcohol and substance use, and chronic diseases (diabetes, stroke and heart failure).

Key findings: Health Care Coverage and Access to Care

- The uninsured rate of Walworth County residents is highest among the Native American population 25.3 percent.
- Almost 32 percent of Walworth County residents are covered by Public Health Insurance, which is lower than both Wisconsin and U.S. rates.
- The Walworth County Primary Care Provider and Mental Health Provider rates are both significantly lower than the Wisconsin rates.

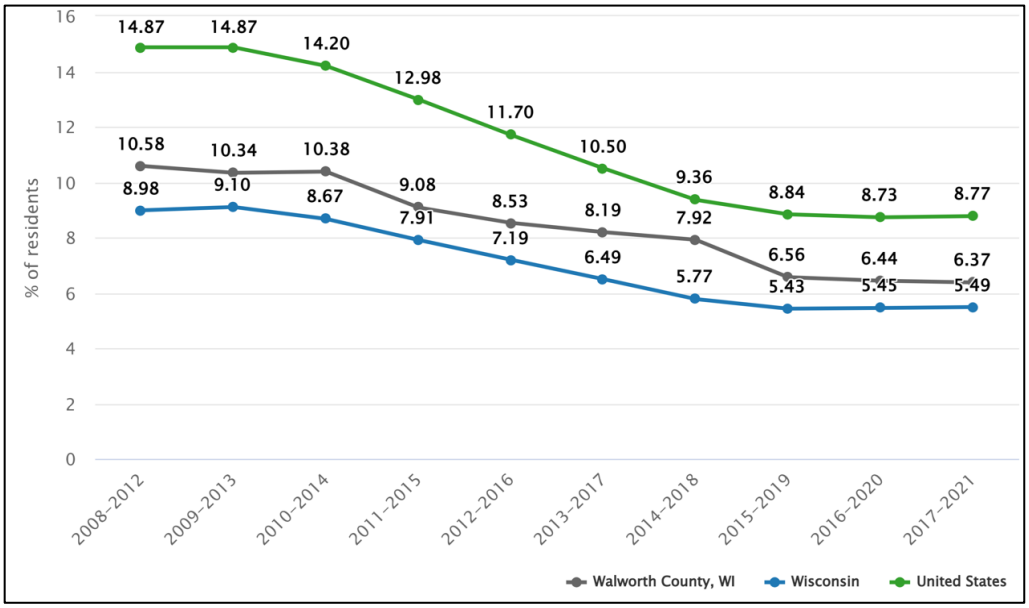
2. Access to Care and Health Care Coverage

Why is this important?
Adequate and affordable health insurance coverage is a commonly understood factor impacting health care access and improving the health of individuals and our community. However, sometimes people don't get recommended health care services, like cancer screenings, because they don't have a primary care provider. Other times, it's because they live too far from health care providers who offer them. Interventions to increase access to health care professionals and improve communication – in person or remotely – can help more people get the care they need.

Health Care Coverage

Uninsured Rate
There are 6.4 percent of residents living in Walworth County without health insurance, which is higher than Wisconsin (5.5 percent) and lower than the U.S. (8.8 percent). In Walworth County, the highest uninsured rates by race and ethnicity are Native American at 25.3 percent, Hispanic or Latino at 17.9 percent, Asian at 14.0 percent and Non-Hispanic Black at 13.9 percent as compared to Non-Hispanic White at 4.6 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021). Exhibit 8 below shows the overall rate of uninsured residents in Walworth County, which has decreased since the baseline in 2008.

Exhibit 8: Walworth County Health Uninsured Rate 2008-2021



Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2023

Persons with Private Health Insurance

In Walworth County, 76.5 percent of residents are covered by private health insurance, such as employer-provided health insurance, direct-purchase (ACA exchanges), or Tri Care. The private health insurance rates in Walworth County are higher than Wisconsin (74.8 percent) and the U.S. (67.8 percent) (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Persons with Public Health Insurance

In Walworth County, 31.9 percent of residents are covered by public health insurance such as Medicare, Medicaid and Veterans Administration Health Care (provided through the Department of Veterans Affairs), which is lower than Wisconsin (33.2 percent) and the U.S. (35.4 percent) (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Medicare Coverage

In Walworth County, there are 19.3 percent of residents covered by Medicare, which is higher than Wisconsin (18.6 percent) and the U.S. (17.6 percent) (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Medicaid Coverage

There are 14.4 percent of residents in Walworth County that are covered by Medicaid, which is lower than Wisconsin (16.9 percent) and the U.S. (20.2 percent) (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Health Insurance Coverage – Payer Mix

Aurora Lakeland Medical Center has a payer mix based on unique patients which is comprised of:

AURORA LAKELAND MEDICAL CENTER	Commercial	Medicaid	Medicare	Self-Pay	Other
	39.2%	18.0%	31.8%	9.3%	1.7%

Source: Advocate Health, Business Development, EpicHB, 2023

Access to Care

Primary Care Provider Rate

Primary Care Providers include general practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology or pediatrics. This data excludes federal physicians and physicians ages 75 and older. The Primary Care Provider rate in Walworth County is 46.6 physicians per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin average of 91.8 physicians per 100,000 residents. The Walworth County rate has been steadily increasing since 2017 (Metopio, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2020).

Mental Health Provider Rate

The Mental Health Providers rate in Walworth County is 159.4 providers per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 272.2 providers per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS): National Provider Identifier Files (NPI), 2021).

Access to Healthcare Services

According to the 2023 Walworth County Online Community Health Survey Report, 12 percent of respondents reported they had an unmet medical care need in the past year. The most common reason for unmet medical care needs were "unable to get appointment" and "insurance did not cover it". Sixty-seven percent of respondents reported going to a doctor or nurse practitioner's office when sick, while 17 percent reported going to an Urgent Care Center, and three percent reported going to an Emergency Department as shown in Exhibit 9.

Exhibit 9: Walworth County Online Community Health Survey Report 2023

Perceptions of community Health Care access	Yes	No	Not Sure
I have a health care provider where I regularly go for checkups	86%	13%	<1%
I have a health care provider where I regularly go when I am sick	89%	11%	<1%
I can get an appointment for my health needs quickly	72%	17%	12%
I can easily get to my health care provider or clinic	92%	6%	2%

Source: Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 2023

Thirteen percent of respondents reported there was a time in the past 12 months that they needed or considered seeking mental health care services but did not get it. The most common reason for not receiving mental health care services was "unable to get appointment "(32 percent), "don't know where to go" (31 percent) and "cannot afford to pay" (23 percent).

3. Health Risk Behaviors

Why is this important?
Many chronic diseases are caused by a short list of risk behaviors: tobacco use and exposure to secondhand smoke, poor nutrition, including diets low in fruits and vegetables and high in sodium and saturated fats, lack of physical activity, and excessive alcohol use.

Key findings: Health Risk Behaviors

- Adults and teens in Walworth County who smoke cigarettes is significantly decreasing over time and teen vaping is increasing.
- Emergency Department and Hospitalization rates are highest among Males and Young Adults (18-39 years) for alcohol use, substance use and opioid use.
- Drug overdose mortality rates are significantly increasing over time, with the highest death rates in Walworth County among Males and Young Adults (18-39 years).

Substance Use and Abuse

Adults Who Smoke
In 2020, 16.8 percent of adults in Walworth County reported having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every day or most days. This is a decrease from the 1996 baseline of 25.0 percent (Metopio, Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS), PLACES, Dwyer-Lindgren, Mokdad, et al.2020).

According to the 2023 Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, nine percent of respondents reported using tobacco products (cigarettes and smokeless tobacco), eight percent reported vaping (e-cigarettes), four percent reported using marijuana, and less than one percent reported using Delta-8 (also known as dabbing) in the past 30 days.

Teens Who Smoke
According to the 2021 Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS) Walworth County Report, four percent of 9th graders, five percent of 10th graders and nine percent of 11th and 12th graders in high school had used cigarettes, chew, cigars or cigarillos in the past 30 days (Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2021).

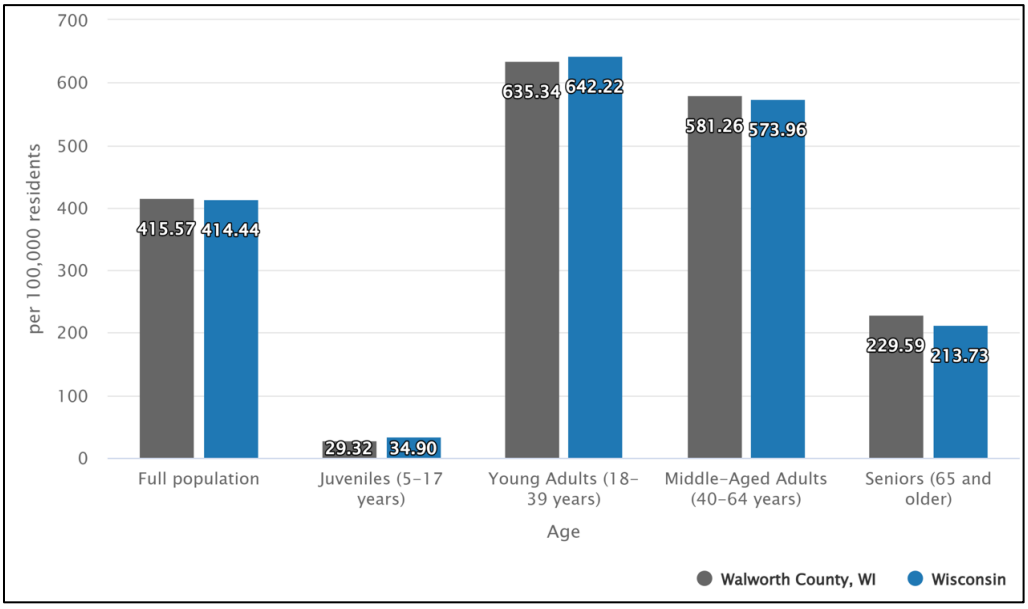
The 2021 YRBS Walworth County Report shows that 21 percent of 9th graders, 28 percent of 10th graders, 37 percent of 11th graders and 40 percent of 12th graders had ever tried vaping. Additionally, nine percent of 9th graders, 10 percent of 10th graders, 19 percent of 11th graders and 21 percent of 12th graders have used vaping products in the past 30 days (Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2021).

Alcohol Use
According to the 2023 Walworth County Key Informant Interviews, one of the top health conditions/behaviors in their community was alcohol and substance use. Alcohol and substance/drug use was identified by 57 percent of Walworth County online survey respondents as the most important health condition or behavior to be addressed to improve the health of county residents.

Emergency Department Rate due to Alcohol Use

The emergency department (ED) rate due to alcohol use in Walworth County is 415.6 per 100,000 residents, which is similar to the Wisconsin rate of 414.4 per 100,000 residents. By race and ethnicity, the rates in Walworth County are highest among those who are Hispanic or Latino at 430.7 per 100,000 residents. Additionally, there are high rates among residents ages 18-39 years at 635.3 per 100,000 residents and middle-aged adults ages 40-64 years at 581.3 per 100,000 residents, as shown in Exhibit 10. By gender, the rates are almost twice as high in males (535.6 per 100,000 residents) as compared to females (299.1 per 100,000 residents) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 10: Walworth County Alcohol Use Emergency Department Visit Rate by Age 2018-2022



Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Alcohol Use

In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to alcohol use was 196.1 admissions per 100,000 residents, lower than the Wisconsin rate of 215.0 visits per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in Walworth County are among those who are Non-Hispanic White at 208.3 per 100,000 residents, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 311.6 per 100,000 residents, and males at 262.8 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Teens Who Use Alcohol

The 2021 Wisconsin YRBS Walworth County Report results show that 18 percent of 9th graders, 19 percent of 10th graders, 30 percent of 11th graders and 32 percent of 12th graders had at least one drink in the past 30 days. Also reported was four percent (9th graders), seven percent (10th graders), 16 percent (11th graders) and 17 percent (12th graders) reported binge drinking in the past 30 days as shown in Exhibit 11 (Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2021).

Exhibit 11: Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Walworth County Report 2021

	Walworth County, WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results			
	2021			
	High School			
	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Alcohol				
Students who had at least one drink (past 30 days)	18%	19%	30%	32%
Students who have ever had an alcoholic beverage	37%	43%	52%	58%
Students who binge drank in the past 30 days	4%	7%	16%	17%

Source: Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2023

Binge Drinking

Binge drinking reflects the percent of adults aged 18 and older who report having five or more drinks (men) or four or more drinks (women) on an occasion in the past 30 days. Alcohol use is likely seriously underreported, so these estimates are an extreme lower bound on actual binge drinking prevalence. Twenty-five percent of Walworth County residents reported binge drinking, which is similar to Wisconsin at 25.2 percent and higher than the United States average of 17.2 percent (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2020).

Alcohol Impaired Driving Deaths

The County Health Rankings for Walworth County indicates that 32 percent of motor vehicle crash deaths involved alcohol. This rate is lower than Wisconsin at 36 percent and higher than the U.S. at 27 percent (2023 County Health Rankings, Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2016-2020).

Other Substances

Emergency Department Rate due to Substance Use

Substance use includes the use of controlled substances such as alcohol, heroin, methadone, cocaine, hallucinogens, and other substances. In Walworth County, the ED rate due to substance use is 581.2 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 640.6 per 100,000 residents. The county rates are highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,505.5 per 100,000 residents, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 1,013.7 per 100,000 residents and males at 711.0 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

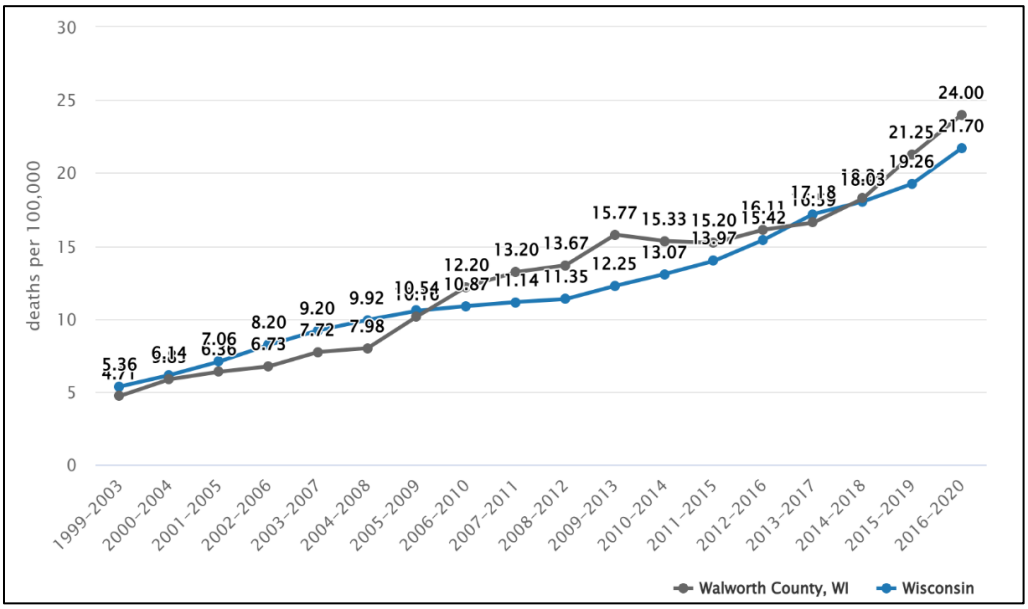
Hospitalization Rate due to Substance Use

The Walworth County hospitalization rate due substance use is 251.6 admissions per 100,000 residents. This is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 305.6 visits per 100,000 residents. The county rates are highest for hospitalization rate due to substance use among the Non-Hispanic White population at 264.4 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 442.9 per 100,000 residents. Males (325.0 per 100,000 residents) are almost twice as likely to be hospitalized than females (180.3 per 100,000 residents) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Drug Overdose Mortality

The drug overdose mortality rate is the number of deaths per 100,000 residents due to drug poisoning (such as overdose), whether accidental or intentional. In Walworth County, the rate of drug overdose mortality was 24.0 per 100,000 population in 2016-2020, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 21.7 per 100,000 population, yet all rates have been steadily increasing over time as seen in Exhibit 12. The increase during the 2010s is largely due to the opioid overdose epidemic, however other drugs are also included in this data set. In Walworth County, the populations with the highest drug overdose mortality rates are among Males and Young Adults (18-39 years) (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, CDC Wonder, 2016-2020).

Exhibit 12: Drug Overdose Mortality Rates Trend Over Time 1999-2020



Source: Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, CDC Wonder, 2023

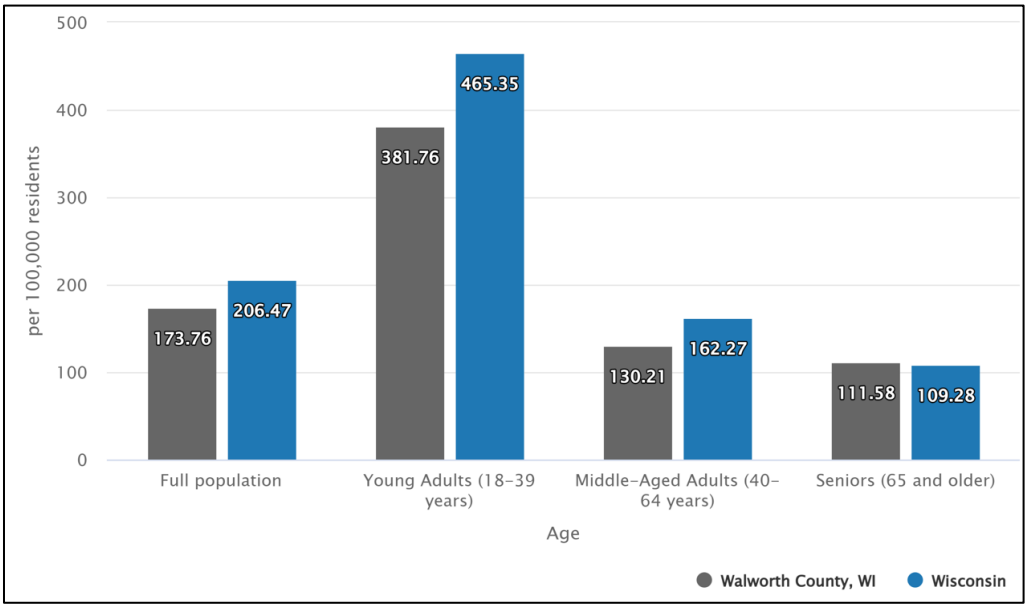
Teens Who Use Marijuana

The 2021 Wisconsin YRBS Walworth County Report results show that 13 percent of 9th graders, 18 percent of 10th graders, 27 percent of 11th graders and 32 percent of 12th graders have ever used marijuana. Also reported was seven percent (9th graders), eight percent (10th graders), 16 percent (11th graders) and 19 percent (12th graders) reporting having used marijuana in the past 30 days (Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2021).

Emergency Department Rate due to Opioid Use

In Walworth County, the ED rate due to opioid use is 173.8 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 206.5 per 100,000 residents. The county rates are highest for ED rate due to opioid use among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 192.0 per 100,000 residents, Non-Hispanic White population at 184.2 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 381.76 per 100,000 residents as shown in Exhibit 13 (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 13: Walworth County Opioid-Related Emergency Department Visit Rate by Age 2018-2022

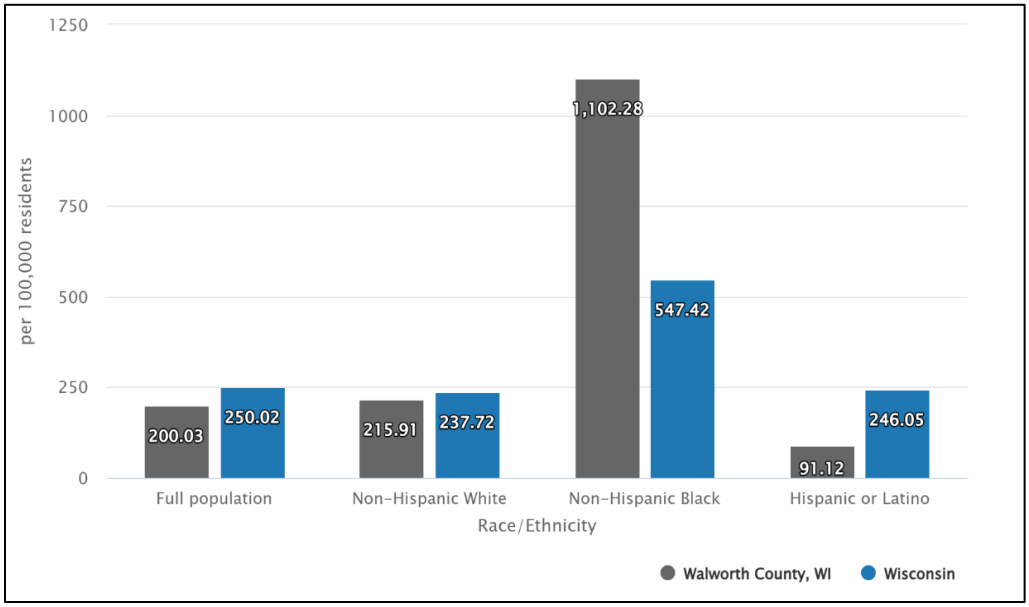


Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Opioid Use

The hospitalization rate due to opioid use in Walworth County is 200.0 per 100,000 residents. This is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 250.0 per 100,000 residents. The county rates are highest for hospitalization rate due to opioid use among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,102.3 per 100,000 residents as shown in Exhibit 14. Also, the rates are highest in the county among those residents who are Young Adults (18-39 years) at 348.2 per 100,000 residents. Females are slightly higher than males to be hospitalized for opioid use (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 14: Walworth County Hospitalization Rate due to Opioid Use by Race and Ethnicity 2018-2022



Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Opioid Dispensing Rate
The opioid dispensing rate of retail opioid prescriptions has been decreasing since 2014 in both Walworth County and Wisconsin. The opioid dispensing rate in Walworth County is 18.7 prescriptions per 100 people, which is significantly lower than the Wisconsin rate of 39.6 prescriptions per 100 people (Metopio, CDC – U.S. Opioid Dispensing Rate Maps, 2020).

Nutrition
According to America's Health Rankings, in Wisconsin, the percentage of adults who reported consuming two or more fruits and three of more vegetables daily is 6.3 precent, which is lower than the U.S. rate of 7.4 percent. This rate has been steadily declining in Wisconsin over time. The highest percentage of fruit and vegetable consumption in Wisconsin is among adults ages 18-44 years at 6.9 percent and females at 8.5 percent (America's Health Rankings, CDC, BRFSS, 2021).

Thirty-eight percent of Walworth County online survey respondents reported having two servings of fruit daily and 14 percent reported having three or more servings of fruit daily. Additionally, 47 percent reported having two or more servings of vegetables daily and 17 percent reported having three or more servings of vegetables daily (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 2023).

Physical Activity and Inactivity

Adults with No Exercise
This indicator is defined as the percent of resident adults ages 18 and older who answered "no" to the following question: "During the past month, other than your regular job, did you participate in any physical activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise?". In Walworth County, 20.2 percent of adults reported no exercise in the past month, which is like Wisconsin at 19.7 percent (Metopio, BRFSS, Diabetes Atlas, PLACES, 2021).

Teens with No Exercise
According to the 2021 Wisconsin YRBS Walworth County Report results show that 14 percent of 9th graders, 16 percent of 10th graders, 15 percent of 11th graders and 14 percent of 12th graders who exercised zero days in the past week (Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2021).

Weight Status

Adults Who Are Obese
In Walworth County, there are 36.9 percent of resident adults aged 18 and older are obese (having a body mass index ≥ 30.0 kg/m² from self-reported weight and height), which is slightly higher than the Wisconsin rate of 34.8 percent. This excludes those with abnormal height or weight and pregnant women (Metopio, BRFSS, Diabetes Atlas, PLACES, 2021).

4. Disease and Chronic Conditions

Why is this important?
Six in ten Americans live with at least one chronic disease, like heart disease and stroke, cancer, or diabetes. These and other chronic diseases are the leading causes of death and disability in America, and they are also a leading driver of health care costs.

Key findings: Disease and Chronic Conditions

- Annual cancer diagnosis rates are steadily increasing over time in Walworth County.
- Emergency Department and Hospitalization rates for all cardiovascular diseases are trending up over time, with the highest areas of concern among the Non-Hispanic Black population.
- ED and Hospitalization rates for diabetes is increasing over time in Walworth County.
- Mental Health rates including suicide and self-injury are significantly increasing in Walworth County. ED and Hospitalization rates are highest among Non-Hispanic Black population, Females, Young Adults (18-39 years) and Juveniles (5-17 years).

Cancer

The annual cancer diagnosis rate for all invasive cancers in Walworth County is 495.7 cases per 100,000 residents, which is higher than Wisconsin at 470.8 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2015-2019).

Breast Cancer

Mammography Use
In Walworth County, 74.2 percent of resident female adults aged 50-74 years reported having had a mammogram within the previous two years, which is the same as the Wisconsin rate (Metopio PLACES, BRFSS, 2020).

Invasive Breast Cancer Diagnosis Rate
The diagnosis rate for invasive breast cancer in women ages 15 and over in Walworth County is 144.2 cases per 100,000 female residents. This rate is slightly higher than Wisconsin at 135.1 cases per 100,000 female residents (Metopio, National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2015-2019).

Breast Cancer Mortality Rate
Breast cancer is the leading cause of death among women in the United States. In Walworth County, the breast cancer mortality rate is 11.2 deaths per 100,000 residents. This rate is slightly higher than the Wisconsin rate of 10.0 deaths per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Colorectal Cancer

Colorectal Cancer Screening
Colorectal cancer screening is defined as those resident adults ages 50-75 years who report having had (1) a fecal occult blood test (FOBT) within the past year, (2) a sigmoidoscopy within the past five years and a FOBT within the past three years, or (3) a colonoscopy within the past 10 years. In Walworth County, 59.8 percent of adult residents ages 50-75 years stated they have competed colorectal cancer screening. This rate is slightly lower than the Wisconsin rate at 61.2 percent of adult residents (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2020).

Colorectal Cancer Mortality Rate
In Walworth County, the mortality rate due to colorectal cancer is 12.0 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is the same as Wisconsin at 12.4 deaths per 100,000 residents. Colorectal cancer mortality rates are highest among males at 14.2 deaths per 100,000 residents compared to females at 10.3 deaths per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Cervical Cancer

Pap Test Use
In Walworth County, the percentage of resident female adults ages 21-65 years who report having had a Papanicolaou (Pap) smear within the previous three years for detection of cervical cancer is 83.8 percent. This rate is similar to that of Wisconsin at 83.4 percent (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2020).

Cervical Cancer Diagnosis Rate
In Walworth County, the cervical cancer diagnosis rate is 6.4 cases per 100,000 female residents, which is the same as Wisconsin at 6.5 cases per 100,000 female residents (Metopio, National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2015-2019).

Lung Cancer

Lung Cancer Diagnosis Rate
The diagnosis rate due to lung and bronchus cancer for those ages 15 and over in Walworth County is 58.3 cases per 100,000 residents. This is the same rate as Wisconsin at 58.6 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2015-2019).

Lung, Trachea and Bronchus Cancer Mortality Rate
In Walworth County, the mortality rate for lung, trachea and bronchus is 34.7 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is lower than Wisconsin at 36.9 deaths per 100,000 residents. The mortality rate is also highest among males at 38.8 deaths per 100,000 residents compared to females at 28.9 deaths per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Oral Cavity and Pharynx

Oral Cancer Diagnosis Rate
In Walworth County, the diagnosis rate due to oral cancer is 13.9 cases per 100,000 residents, which is higher than Wisconsin at 12.5 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Cancer Institute, 2015-2019).

Prostate Cancer

Prostate Cancer Diagnosis Rate
The annual diagnosis rate due to prostate cancer in Walworth County is 111.3 cases per 100,000 male residents. This rate is lower than Wisconsin at 118.3 cases per 100,000 male residents (Metopio, National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2015-2019).

Cardiovascular Disease

High Cholesterol Prevalence

In Walworth County, 31.0 percent of adults ages 18 and older reported having been told by a doctor, nurse or health professional that they have high cholesterol. This is slightly higher than the Wisconsin rate of 30.5 percent (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2021).

Thirty-two percent of Walworth County online survey respondents reported having high cholesterol. Of these respondents, 68 percent are regularly seeing their doctor, nurse or healthcare provider for their high cholesterol (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 2023).

High Blood Pressure Prevalence

In Walworth County, 26.0 percent of adults aged 18 and older reported having been told by a doctor, nurse or health professional that they have high blood pressure. This is slightly lower than the Wisconsin rate of 28.3 percent (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2021).

Thirty-one percent of Walworth County online survey respondents reported having been told by a doctor, nurse or other health professional they have high blood pressure, of which 88 percent of those respondents reported regularly seeing a health professional for their high blood pressure (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 2023).

Coronary Heart Disease

In Walworth County, 5.0 percent of adults ages 18 and older reported ever being told by a doctor, nurse or health professional that they have angina or coronary heart disease, which is the same as Wisconsin at 5.0 percent (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2021).

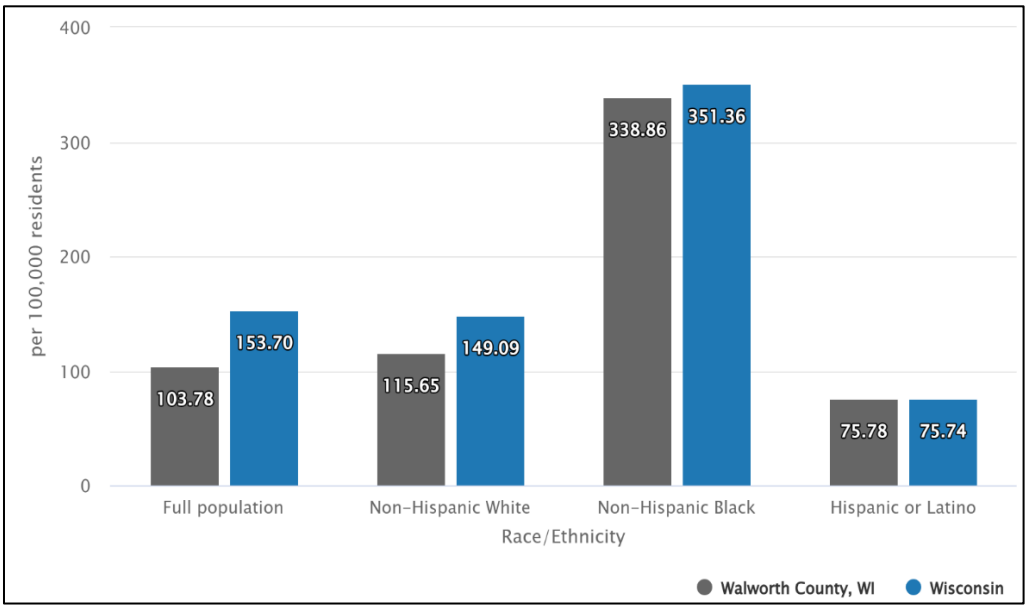
Coronary Heart Disease Mortality

The coronary heart disease mortality indicator is represented as deaths per 100,000 residents related to coronary heart disease, specifically ischemic heart diseases such as acute myocardial infarction, other acute ischemic heart diseases, and other forms of chronic ischemic heart disease. In Walworth County, the coronary heart disease mortality rate is 92.2 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate at 87.2 per 100,000 residents. Additionally, the highest rate of coronary heart disease mortality is among males and seniors (ages 65 and older) (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Emergency Department Rate due to Heart Failure

The ED rate due to heart failure in Walworth County is 144.0 visits per 100,000 residents (adults ages 18 and older), which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 188.6 per 100,000 residents. The county rate is highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 338.9 per 100,000 residents, as shown in Exhibit 15. Additionally, the highest rate is among males and seniors (ages 65 and older) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 15: Walworth County Heart Failure Emergency Department Visit Rate by Race and Ethnicity 2016-2020



Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Heart Failure

The Walworth County hospitalization rate due to heart failure is 339.3 per 100,000 residents (adults ages 18 and older), which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 398.1 per 100,000. The highest rate in the county is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 2,128.9 per 100,000 (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Hypertension

In Walworth County, the ED rate due to hypertension is 281.4 per 100,000 residents (adults ages 18 and older), which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 292.1 per 100,000 residents. All rates are trending upward. The highest ED rate due to hypertension in Walworth County is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 647.8 per 100,000 residents. Females have a higher rate at 285.7 per 100,000 residents compared to males at 190.6 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Hypertension

In Walworth County the hospitalization rate due to hypertension is 21.9 per 100,000 residents (adults ages 18 and older), which his lower than the Wisconsin rate of 40.2 per 100,000 residents. The highest hospitalization rate due to hypertension in the county is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 137.1 per 100,000 residents. Females have a higher rate at 23.6 per 100,000 residents compared to males at 9.0 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

According to the 2023 Walworth County Online Community Health Survey Report, 32 percent of respondents reported having been told by a doctor, nurse or other health professional they have high cholesterol and 68 percent of those respondents reported regularly seeing a health professional for their high cholesterol. Additionally, 31 percent of respondents reported having been told by a doctor, nurse or other health professional they have high blood pressure, and 88 percent of those respondents reported regularly seeing a doctor for their high blood pressure.

Emergency Department Rate due to Stroke
In Walworth County, the ED rate due to stroke is 137.9 per 100,000 residents (adults ages 18 and older). This is rate is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 112.3 per 100,000 residents. All rates are trending upward. The highest rate in the county for ED rate due to stroke is among the Non-Hispanic White population at 117.6 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Stroke
In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to stroke is 208.5 per 100,000 residents (adults ages 18 and older), which is higher than the Wisconsin rate at 259.1 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county for hospitalization rate due to stroke is among the Non-Hispanic White population at 137.0 per 100,000 residents and females at 132.9 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Stroke Mortality
In Walworth County, the stroke mortality rate (deaths due to stroke) is 31.4 deaths per 100,000 residents. This rate is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 33.8 deaths per 100,000 residents. Additionally, males and seniors (ages 65 and older) also have the highest rates in Walworth County (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality. 2016-2020).

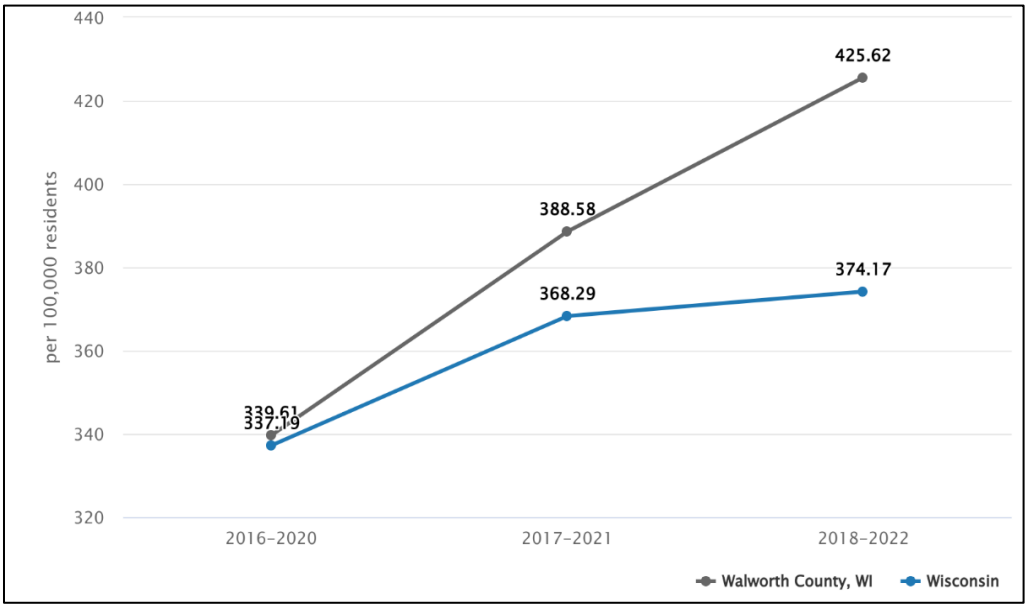
Diabetes

Diagnosed Diabetes
In Walworth County, 7.8 percent of adults (ages 18 and older) reported ever being told by a doctor, nurse or health professional that they have diabetes (other than during pregnancy), which is similar to Wisconsin at 8.1 percent (Metopio, Diabetes Atlas, PLACES, 2021).

Twelve percent of Walworth County online survey respondents reported having been told by a doctor, nurse or other health professional they have diabetes, of which 90 percent of those respondents reported regularly seeing a health professional for their diabetes (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 2023).

Emergency Department Rate due to Diabetes
In Walworth County, the ED rate due to diabetes is 425.6 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate at 374.2 per 100,000 residents. All rates are trending upward as shown in Exhibit 16. In the county, the highest rates for ED rate due to diabetes is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 713.6 per 100,000 residents. Males have slightly higher rates than females and seniors (ages 65 and older) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 16: Walworth County Emergency Department Rate due to Diabetes Trend Over Time 2016-2022



Source: (Metopio. Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

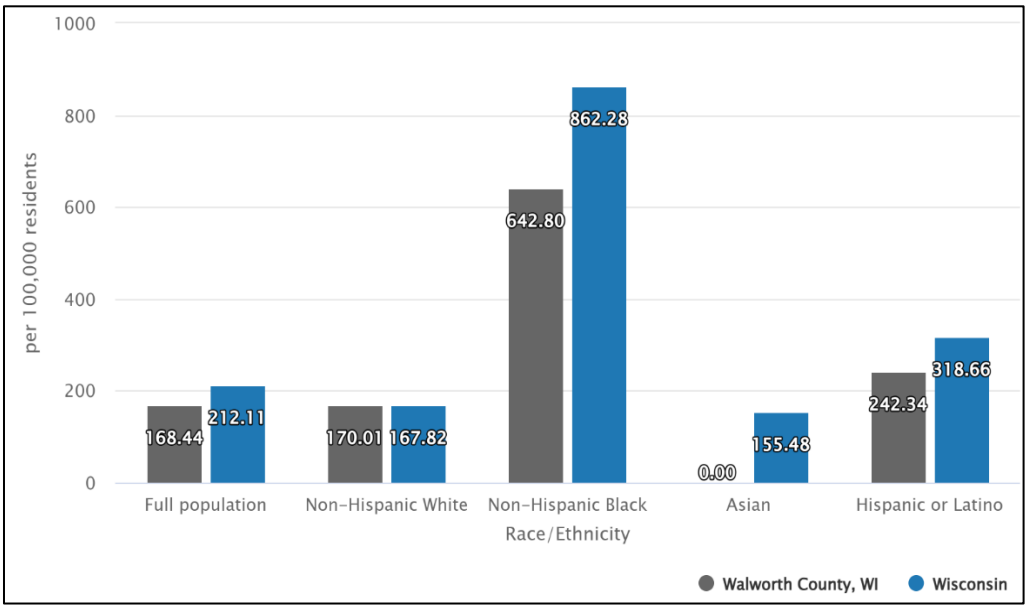
Hospitalization Rate due to Diabetes

In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to diabetes is 111.9 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 147.7 per 100,000 residents. Hospitalization rates due to diabetes in Walworth County are highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 124.6 per 100,000 residents, males at 104.6 per 100,000 residents and seniors (ages 65 and older) at 216.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Uncontrolled Diabetes

In Walworth County, the ED rate for uncontrolled diabetes is 168.4 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 212.1 per 100,000 residents. The ED rates are also highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 642.8 per 100,000 residents (as shown in Exhibit 17) as well as females at 174.3 per 100,000 residents and seniors (ages 65 and older) at 330.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 17: Walworth County Emergency Department Rate due to Uncontrolled Diabetes by Rate and Ethnicity 2018-2022



Source: Metopio. Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Uncontrolled Diabetes

In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to uncontrolled diabetes is 14.3 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 24.5 per 100,000 residents. The hospitalization rates are also highest among the Hispanic or Latino population at 21.0 per 100,000 residents, females at 14.9 per 100,000 residents and seniors (ages 65 and older) at 40.4 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Short-Term Complications of Diabetes

The ED rate due to short-term complications of diabetes in Walworth County is 18.4 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 22.9 per 100,000 residents. The ED rates are also highest among the Non-Hispanic White population at 19.1 per 100,000 residents, males at 19.3 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (ages 18-39 years) at 24.2 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

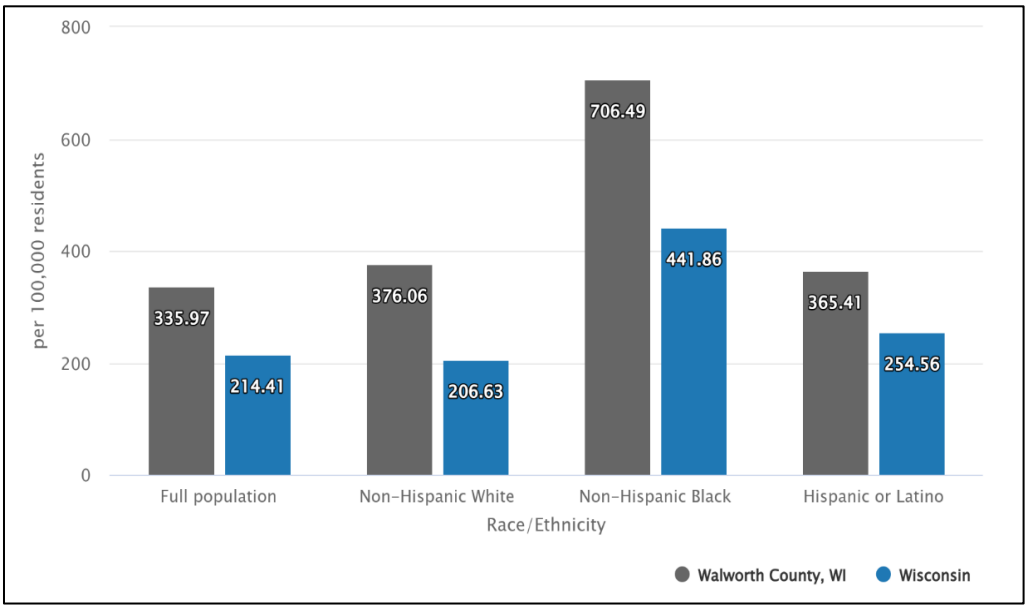
Hospitalization Rate due to Short-Term Complications of Diabetes

The hospitalization rate due to short-term complications of diabetes in Walworth County is 44.1 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 70.4 per 100,000 residents. The hospitalization rates are also highest among the Non-Hispanic White populations at 47.2 per 100,000 residents, males at 49.9 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 52.2 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Long-Term Complications of Diabetes

In Walworth County, the ED rate due to long-term complications of diabetes is 336.0 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate at 214.4 per 100,000 residents. The highest ED rates are also among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 706.5 per 100,000 residents (as shown in Exhibit 18), males at 377.4 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 1,134.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 18: Walworth County Emergency Department Rate due to Long-Term Complications of Diabetes 2018-2022



Source: Metopio. Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Long-Term Complications of Diabetes

In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to long-term complications of diabetes is 76.1 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 84.5 per 100,000 residents. The hospitalization rate is also highest among the Hispanic or Latino population at 106.7 per 100,000 residents, males at 97.4 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 189.2 per 1000,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Mental Health

According to the 2023 Walworth County Key Informant Interviews, the top health condition/behavior in their community was mental health, mental health conditions and suicide. Mental health, mental health conditions and suicide were identified by 53 percent of Walworth County online survey respondents as the most important health condition or behavior to be addressed to improve the health of county residents. Twenty-nine percent of respondents reported being diagnosed with a mental health condition, of which 64 percent of those respondents reported regularly seeing a health professional for their mental health condition (such as anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder or depression). Thirteen percent of respondents reported having an unmet mental health care need in the past 12 months, with the most common reasons being unable to get an appointment or not knowing where to go (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, Key Informant Interviews, 2023).

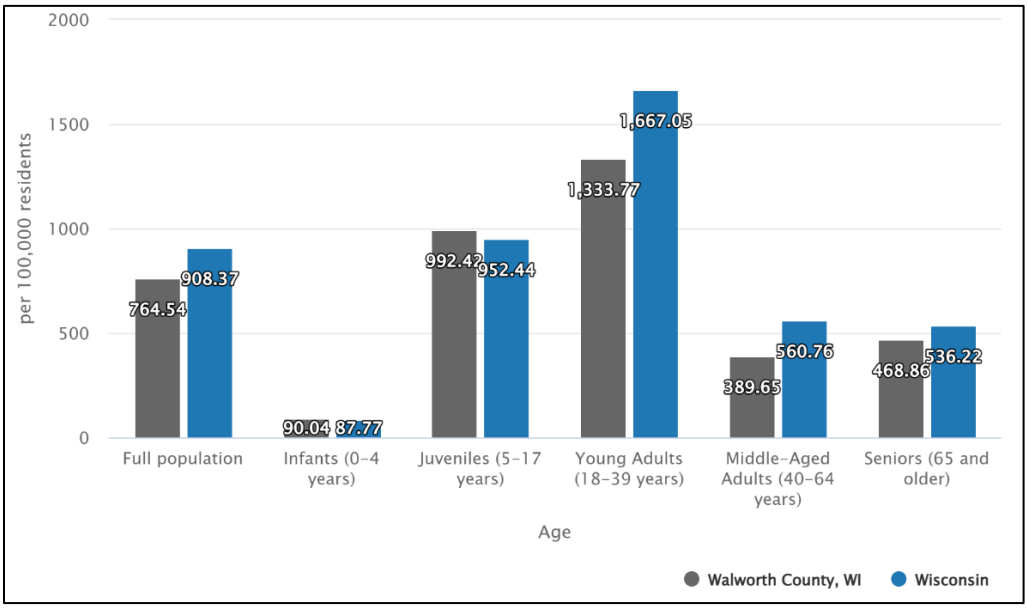
Poor Mental Health

In Walworth County, 14.5 percent of resident adults ages 18 and older report 14 or more days during the past 30 days in which their mental health was not good. This is the same rate as Wisconsin (Metopio, PLACES, 2021).

Emergency Department Rate due to Mental Health

The ED rate due to mental health in Walworth County is 764.5 per 100,000 residents, which his lower than the Wisconsin rate of 908.4 per 100,000 residents. The ED rate due to mental health in the county is also highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 14,795.2 per 100,000 residents, females at 875.0 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 1,333.8 per 100,000 residents (as shown in Exhibit 19) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Exhibit 19: Walworth County Emergency Department Rate due to Mental Health by Age 2018-2022

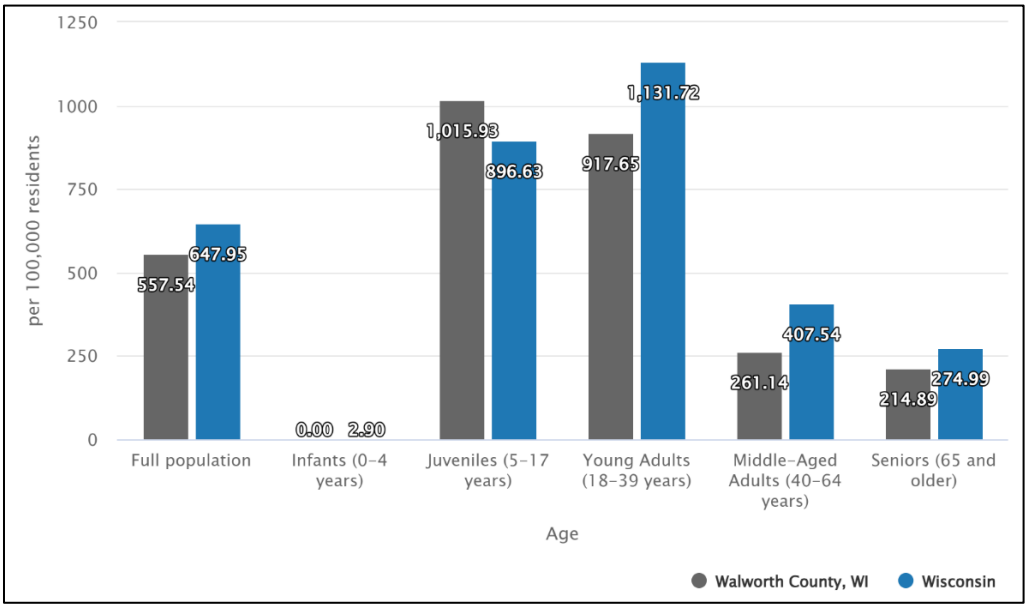


Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Mental Health

The hospitalization rate due to mental health in Walworth County is 557.5 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 648.0 per 100,000 residents. The hospitalization rate due to mental health in county is highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 12,576.0 per 100,000 residents, females at 674.2 per 100,000 residents and Juveniles (5-17 years) at 1,015.9 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022). Exhibit 20 shows the breakdown of hospitalization rates due to mental health by age.

Exhibit: 20 Walworth County Hospitalization Rate due to Mental Health by Age 2018-2022

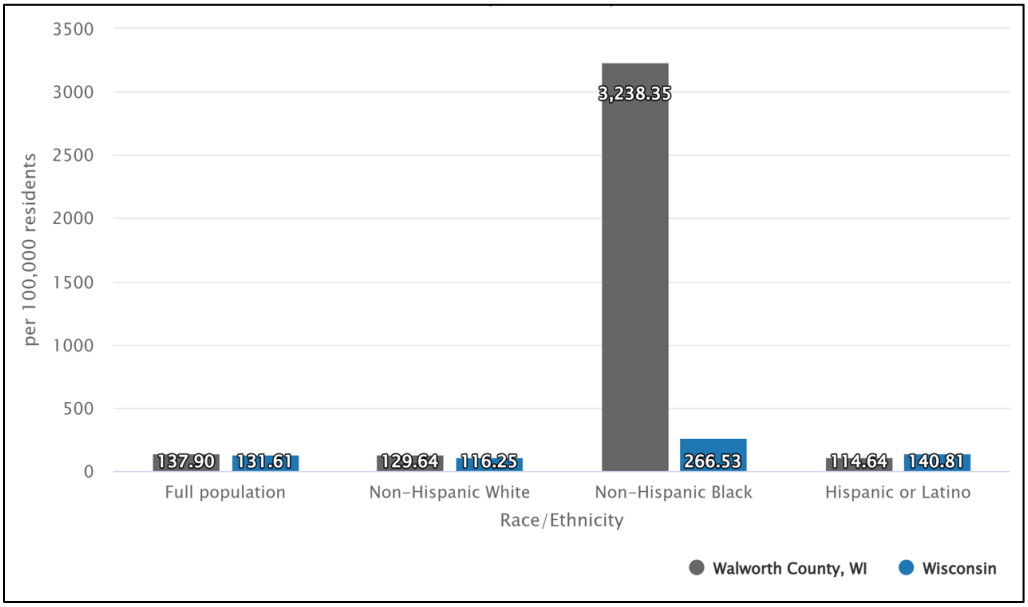


Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Emergency Department Rate due to Suicide and Self-Injury

In Walworth County, the ED rate due to suicide and self-injury is 137.9 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate at 131.6 per 100,000 residents. The ED rate due to suicide and self-injury is highest among the Non-Hispanic Black at 3,238.4 per 100,000 residents (as shown in Exhibit 21), females at 198.1 per 100,000 residents and Juveniles (5-17 years) at 343.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022.

Exhibit 21: Walworth County Suicide and Self-Injury Emergency Department Visit Rate by Race and Ethnicity 2018-2022

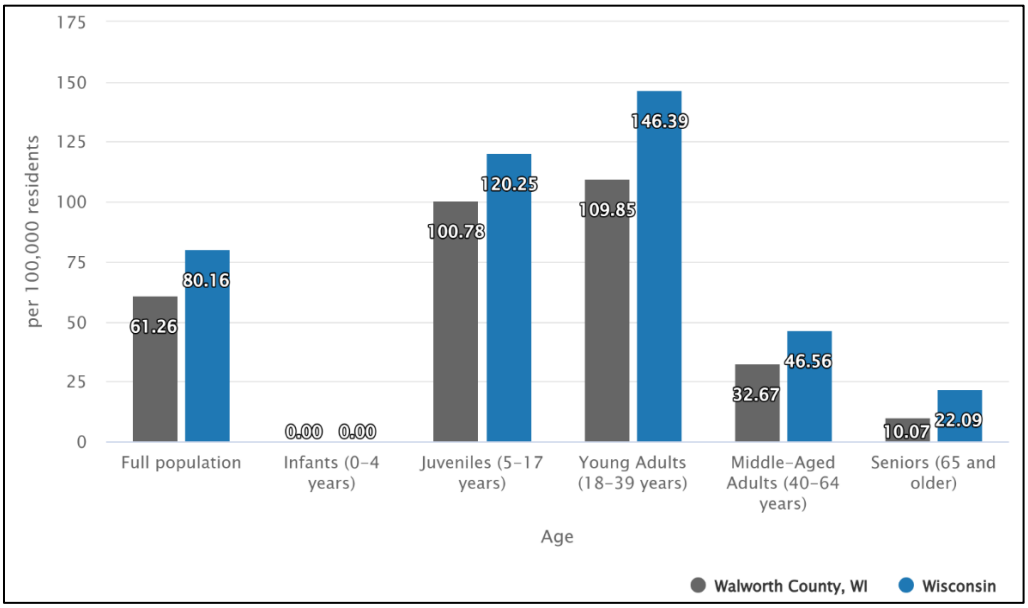


Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Suicide and Self-Injury

In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to suicide and self-injury is 61.3 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 80.2 per 100,000 residents. The hospitalization rate due to suicide and self-injury is highest in Walworth County among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,887.1 per 100,000 residents and females at 83.1 per 100,000 residents. Also, the rates are highest among Young Adults (18-39 years) at 109.9 per 100,000 residents and Juveniles (5-17 years) at 100.8 per 100,000 residents (as shown in Exhibit 22) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022.

Exhibit 22: Walworth County Hospitalization Rate due to Suicide and Self-Injury by Age 2018-2022



Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2023

Suicide Mortality

The definition of suicide is "death arising from an act inflicted upon oneself with the intent to kill oneself". In the United States, decisions about whether deaths are listed as suicides on death certificates are usually make by a coroner o medical examiner. Suicide mortality in Walworth County is 14.4 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is similar to Wisconsin at 14.7 deaths per 100,000 residents. In Walworth County, males have the highest suicide mortality at 24.4 deaths per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 44.8 deaths per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Youth Mental Health

According to the 2021 Wisconsin YRBS Walworth County Report results, a significant amount of middle school and high schoolers reported having experienced significant problems with anxiety and prolonged, disruptive sadness. Also reported, were students who intentionally self-harmed without intending to die, those who seriously considered suicide and those who made a plan for a suicide attempt as shown in Exhibit 23 (Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2021).

Exhibit 23: Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Walworth County Report 2021

	Walworth County, WI Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results						
	2021						
	Middle School			High School			
	6th Grade	7th Grade	8th Grade	9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Mental Health							
Self-Reported (past 12 months)…							
Students who had experienced significant problems with **anxiety**	51%	52%	50%	51%	53%	53%	47%
Students who experienced **prolonged, disruptive sadness**	27%	31%	31%	32%	33%	35%	34%
Students who intentionally **self-harmed** without intending to die	22%	27%	22%	25%	23%	21%	20%
Students who seriously **considered suicide**	16%	20%	17%	18%	18%	20%	16%
Students who **made a plan for a suicide attempt**	9%	14%	13%	16%	13%	14%	13%

Source: Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Walworth County Report, 2023

Alzheimer's Disease Mortality

The Alzheimer's disease mortality in Walworth County is 34.9 deaths per 100,000, which is higher than the Wisconsin (rate of 31.3 per 100,000 residents. Additionally, the death rate due to Alzheimer's disease is highest among females at 39.0 deaths per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Respiratory Disease

Adults with Current Asthma

In Walworth County, 10.2 percent of adult residents currently have asthma, which is similar to Wisconsin at 10.5 percent of adult residents. Residents with "Current Asthma" are those who answer "yes" to both of the following questions: "Have you ever been told by a doctor, nurse, or health professional that you have asthma?" and "Do you still have asthma?" (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2021).

Emergency Department Rate due to Asthma

The ED rate due to asthma in Walworth County is 166.5 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 232.8 per 100,000 residents. The highest ED rates due to asthma in Walworth County is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 3,975.9 per 100,000 residents, females at 177.8 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 301.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Asthma
The Walworth County hospitalization rate due to asthma is 18.0 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 22.7 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county for hospitalization due to asthma is among the Non-Hispanic White population at 18.4 per 100,000 residents, females at 20.9 per 100,000 residents and Infants (0-4 years) at 39.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Pneumonia/Flu
In Walworth County, the ED rate due to pneumonia/flu is 531.0 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 540.8 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 5,034.6 per 100,000 residents and Infants (0-4 years) at 1,474.5 per 100,00 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Pneumonia/Flu
In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to pneumonia/flu is 141.4 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 175.2 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic White population at 168.9 per 100,000 residents, females at 153.7 per 100,00 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 574.5 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to COPD
The ED rate due to Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) in Walworth County is 436.9 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 567.6 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 4,063.9 per 100,000 residents, females at 471.1 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 755.0 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to COPD
The hospitalization rate due to COPD in Walworth County is 207.6 per 100,000 residents, which is similar to Wisconsin at 208.8 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic White population at 250.6 per 100,000 residents, females at 230.6 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 418.9 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Impact of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic brought profound changes to the way people work, communicate, learn, play, eat, socialize and receive health care. COVID-19 raced across the American landscape bringing illness, suffering, economic struggle and death to people across all racial, ethnic and socioeconomic groups. COVID-19 shined an even brighter light on the health inequities experienced by low-income communities and communities of color. Notably, communities of color were disproportionately affected by the disease, its many difficult side effects, and higher death rates. COVID-19 continues to be a priority and as a health care system, we are proactively working with public health professionals and clinical experts to educate and improve health outcomes in our communities.

COVID-19 Death Rate
Confirmed deaths in Wisconsin from the SARS-CoV-2 virus that causes COVID-19 is 251.3 deaths per 100,000 residents. The Walworth County rate is slightly higher at 272.7 deaths per 100,000 residents. These only include cases where the underlying or contributing cause of death was the virus, meaning that the patient had to have a confirmed test result for the virus. The true number of deaths from the virus is higher by an unknown amount. These case counts are extremely biased by where testing and resources are available. Some patients expire at home and are never tested for SARS-CoV-2 (Metopio, Various state health departments, 2020-2021).

COVID-19 Emergency Department Rate
In Walworth County, the ED rate due to COVID-19 is 556.8 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 602.2 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 4,386.7 per 100,000 residents, females at 593.6 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 916.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2020-2022).

COVID-19 Hospitalization Rate
In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to COVID-19 is 197.2 per 100,000 residents, which is slightly lower than Wisconsin at 207.8 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county for hospitalization rate due to COVID-19 is among the Hispanic or Latino population at 594.6 per 100,000 residents, females at 270.8 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 1,070.0 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2020-2022).

Other Chronic Diseases or Conditions

Emergency Department Rate due to Dental Problems
The ED rate due to dental problems in Walworth County is 399.8 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 485.5 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,980.1 per 100,000 residents, males at 430.4 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 734.6 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Dehydration
In Walworth County, the ED rate due to dehydration is 158.7 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 178.2 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic White population at 174.6 per 100,000 residents, females at 180.7 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 350.4 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Dehydration
In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to dehydration is 102.6 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 105.0 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,383.9 per 100,000 residents, females at 107.3 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 335.3 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Urinary Tract Infections
In Walworth County, the ED rate due to Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs) is 790.4 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 739.0 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 2,064.0 per 100,000 residents, females at 1,288.3 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 1,583.8 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Urinary Tract Infections
In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to UTIs is 76.5 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 93.3 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic White population at 88.3 per 100,000 residents, females at 107.3 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 279.1 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Chronic Kidney Disease
In Walworth County, 2.6 percent of adults aged 18 and older reported having been told by a doctor, nurse, or health professional that they have kidney disease. This rate is slightly lower the Wisconsin rate of 2.7 percent (Metopio, PLACES, BRFSS, 2021).

5. Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health

Prenatal Care

Births with at Least One Maternal Risk Factor
In Walworth County, 23.0 percent of births were to mothers where the mother has at least one of the following conditions: chronic hypertension, eclampsia, diabetes, tobacco use, or pregnancy-associate hypertension. This rate is lower when compared to Wisconsin at 25.0 percent of births. The highest rates in Walworth County are among the Native American population at 100.0 percent (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2017-2021).

Birth to Mothers with Obesity
In Walworth County, 31.5 percent of births are to mothers who are obese (which means Body Mass Index (BMI) is 30 or above), which is similar to the Wisconsin rate of 31.7 percent of births. When stratified by race and ethnicity, the rate of births to mothers with obesity in Walworth County is highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 39.3 percent and Hispanic or Latino population at 36.2 percent (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2017-2021).

Key findings: Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health

- Teen birth rates in Walworth County have significantly decreased over time.
- Infant Mortality rates are significantly higher in Walworth County among the Non-Hispanic Black population.

Birth Outcomes

Pre-Term Births (Less than 37 Weeks Gestation)

In Walworth County, 9.1 percent of live births are considered pre-term births (less than 37 weeks gestation). This is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 10.8 percent of live births. When stratified by race and ethnicity, the highest rate of pre-term births is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 18.0 percent and Hispanic or Latino population at 10.4 percent (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2017-2021).

Babies with Very Low Birth Weight

In Walworth County, 1.1 percent of live births are with a birth weight of less than 1,500 grams (3 pounds, 4 ounces). This is similar to the Wisconsin rate of 1.2 percent of live births. Also, the highest rates in the county are among the Hispanic or Latino population at 1.4 percent of live births (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2017-2021).

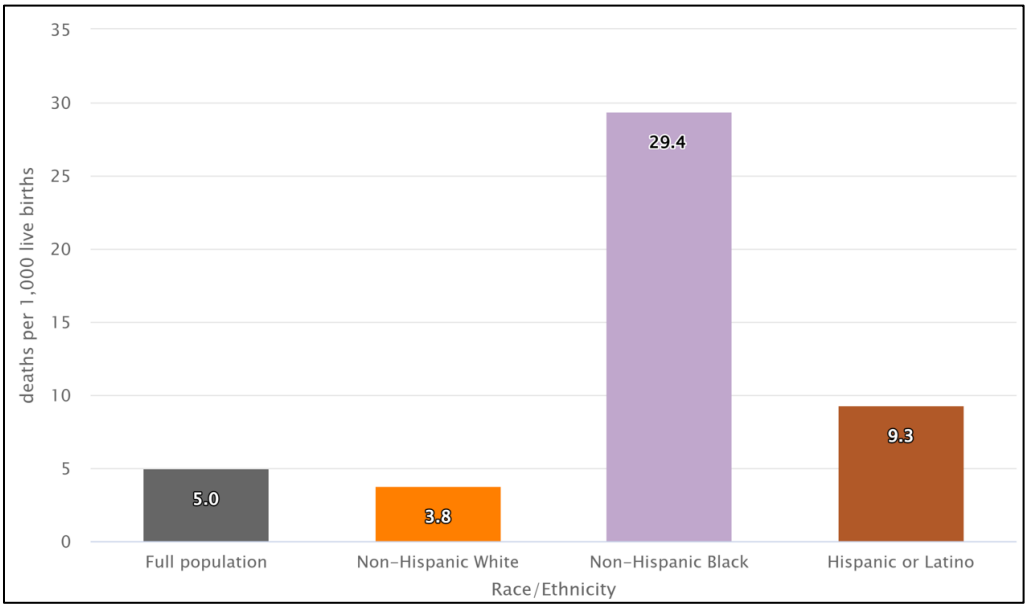
Teen Birth Rate

Teen birth rate is among women ages 15-19 years with a birth in the past year and does not include births to women below age 15. In Walworth County, the teen birth rate is 5.3 births per 1,000 women, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 6.6 births per 1,000 women (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for Walworth County is 5.0 deaths per 1,000 live births. This is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 6.0 deaths per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate for the non-Hispanic Black population in Walworth County is nearly six times higher than the overall population (shown in Exhibit 24) (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2016-2020).

Exhibit 24: Walworth County Infant Mortality Rate by Race and Ethnicity 2016-2020



Source: Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2023

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rate includes chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV/AIDS with more than half of these cases being chlamydia. In Walworth County, the STI rate is 397.7 cases per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 804.9 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2021).

Chlamydia

Chlamydia is a common sexually transmitted disease, especially among young women ages 15-24 years. In Walworth County, the prevalence of chlamydia is 289.3 cases per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 472.3 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2021).

Gonorrhea

Gonorrhea is a sexually transmitted infection that is especially common among teenagers and young adults. In Walworth County, the gonorrhea prevalence rate is 46.8 cases per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 177.3 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2021).

Syphilis

Syphilis is a sexually transmitted infections that progresses through a series of clinical stages and can cause long-term complications if not treated correctly. In Walworth County, the syphilis prevalence is 6.5 cases per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 18.7 cases per 100,000 residents (Metopio, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2021).

6. Environment

Why is this important?

Many people face challenges and dangers they can't control – like unsafe neighborhoods, discrimination, or trouble affording the things they need. This can have a negative impact on health and safety throughout life. This is commonly referred to as the Social Drivers of Health (SDOH) which are the conditions in the environments where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality of life outcomes and risks. Social drivers of health (SDOH) have a major impact on people's health and well-being. Examples of SDOH include:

- Safe housing, transportation, and neighborhoods
- Racism, discrimination, and violence
- Education, job opportunities, and income
- Access to nutritious foods and physical activity opportunities
- Polluted air and water
- Language and literacy skills.

Key findings: Environment

- Almost 20 percent of Walworth County residents are severely rent-burdened (spending more than 50 percent of their income on housing).
- In Walworth County, 6.5 precent of residents experienced food insecurity, with the highest rates among the Non-Hispanic Black population.

SDOH also contribute to health disparities and inequities. For example, people who don't have access to grocery stores with healthy foods are less likely to have good nutrition. Reduced consumption of healthy foods can raise their risk of health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, and obesity — and even lowers life expectancy relative to people who do have access to healthy foods. Just promoting healthy choices won't eliminate these and other health disparities. Instead, public health organizations and their partners in sectors like education, transportation, and housing need to take action to improve the conditions in people's environments (Healthy People 2030, Healthy People 2030 | health.gov).

Housing

The top social drivers of health, according to the 2023 Walworth County Key Informant Interviews, was safe and affordable housing. According to the 2023 Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 40 percent of respondents reported that safe and affordable housing must be addressed to improve the quality of life of county residents. Twenty-eight percent of respondents reported there were affordable places to live in their community. Four percent of online survey respondents reported they were worried about losing the current place they are living (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 2023).

Owner Occupied Housing Units

In Walworth County, 69.5 percent of housing units were owner occupied, which is higher than Wisconsin at 67.4 percent. In the county, the lowest rate of ownership is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 28.5 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Severely Rent-Burdened

A total of 19.8 percent of households in Walworth County are spending more than 50 percent of their income on rent and are considered to be severely rent-burdened. This is slightly higher than Wisconsin at 19.2 percent and lower than the U.S. at 22.9 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Transportation

One of the top social drivers of health, according to the 2023 Walworth County Key Informant Interviews, was accessible and affordable transportation. According to the 2023 Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 22 percent of respondents reported accessible and affordable transportation must be addressed to improve the quality of life of county residents (Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, Key Informant Interviews, 2023).

Households Without a Vehicle

A total of 4.0 percent of Walworth County households had no vehicle available, which is lower than Wisconsin at 6.3 percent and the U.S. at 8.4 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Mean Travel Time to Work

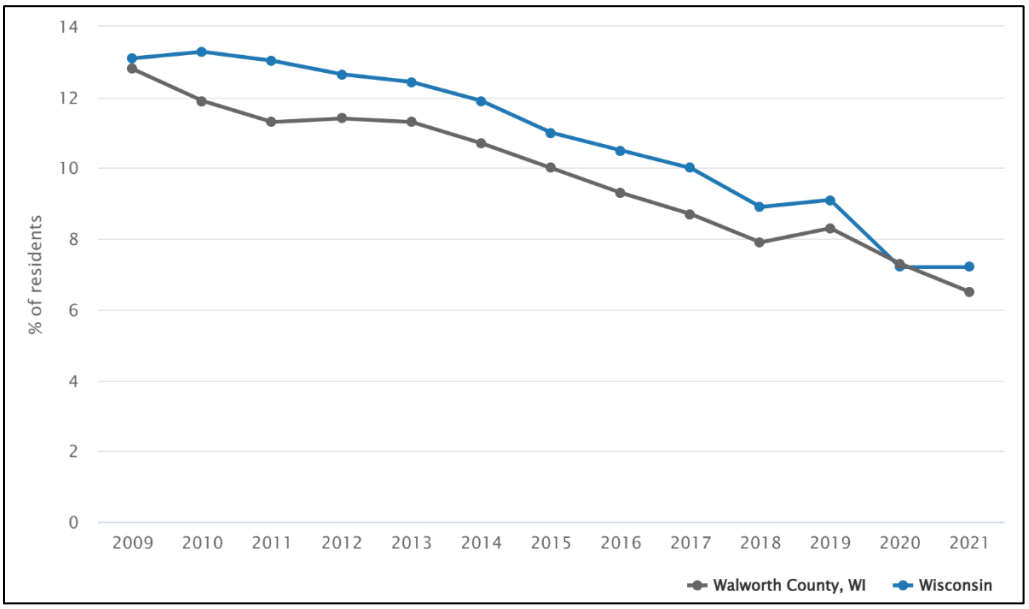
The mean travel time to work in Walworth County is 24.7 minutes, higher than Wisconsin at 22.2 minutes and the U.S. at 26.8 minutes (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2017-2021).

Food security and access to healthy foods

Food Insecurity Rate

Food insecurity is the household-level economic and social condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food, as represented in USDA food-security reports. A total of 6.5 percent of Walworth County residents experienced food insecurity at some point, which is lower than Wisconsin at 7.2 percent (Exhibit 25) Additionally, the highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 27.0 percent and children ages 0-17 years at 9.0 percent (Metopio, Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2021).

Exhibit 25: Walworth County Food Insecurity 2009-2021



Source: Metopio, Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2023

According to the 2023 Walworth County Online Community Health Survey, 11 percent of respondents reported that their household was hungry in the past 12 months because they couldn't afford enough food.

Low Food Access

Low food access is defined solely by distance: further than ½ mile from the nearest supermarket in an urban area or further than ten miles in a rural area. In Walworth County, 45.9 percent of residents are considered to have low access to food. This rate is slightly lower than Wisconsin at 47.3 percent and the U.S. at 50.2 percent. Additionally, rates are highest in Walworth County among the Non-Hispanic White population at 46.0 percent and children ages 0-17 years at 46.0 percent (Metopio, USDA, 2019).

Living in Food Deserts

A food desert is defined as being low-income and further than one mile from a supermarket in urban areas or 20 miles in a rural area. In Walworth County, 9.4 percent of residents are living in food deserts. This is higher than Wisconsin at 4.3 percent and lower than the U.S. at 10.2 percent (Metopio, USDA, 2019).

Social Environment and Community Safety

Emergency Department Rate due to Unintentional Falls

Unintentional falls include those from vehicles, recreational accidents, trips and falls and other unintentional falls for those ages 18 and older. In Walworth County, the ED rate due to unintentional falls is 2,619.7 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 2,707.1 per 100,000 residents. In the county, the highest rates are among the Non-Hispanic White population at 2,367.2 per 100,000 residents, females at 2,602.9 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 5,323.7 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Hospitalization Rate due to Unintentional Falls

In Walworth County, the hospitalization rate due to unintentional falls is 592.0 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate at 624.3 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Asian or Pacific Islander population at 835.0 per 100,000 residents, females at 483.1 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 1,579.4 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2018-2022).

Fall Mortality

Fall mortality is defined as a death occurring due to unintentional falls. In Walworth County, the fall mortality rate is 22.2 deaths per 100,000, which is similar to the Wisconsin rate of 22.1 deaths per 100,000 residents. These rates are significantly trending upward (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

Violent Crime Rate

Crimes related to violence (yearly rate) includes homicide, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and aggravated battery. The rate for violent crime in Walworth County is 112.2 crimes per 100,000 residents, which is lower than Wisconsin rate of 305.4 crimes per 100,000 residents (Metopio, FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2017-2021).

Homicide

Homicide crimes (yearly rate) are defined as first- or second-degree murder: the killing of one human being by another. The homicide rate in Walworth County is 1.4 crimes per 100,000 residents, which is significantly lower than the Wisconsin rate of 4.0 crimes per 100,000 residents (Metopio, FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2017-2021).

Motor Vehicle Traffic Mortality

The death rate due to motor vehicle traffic in Walworth County is 12.3 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate 10.0 deaths per 100,000 residents and the U.S. rate at 11.5 deaths per 100,000 residents. Additionally, the rates are higher among males (15.3 death per 100,000 residents) than females (9.2 deaths per 100,000 residents) (Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020).

IV. Prioritization of Health-Related Issues

A. Priority Setting Process

Aurora Health Care Community Health teammates presented extensive community data to the Aurora Burlington/ Walworth County Steering Council over two meetings from April through September 2023. Indicators presented included demographic, economic, education, employment, social drivers of health, and health status and behaviors. In the September 2023 meeting, the steering council members voted using an online ranking pole to select the top three health priorities to focus on in the 2024-2026 Aurora Lakeland Medical Center Implementation Strategy. The eight most significant health issues presented were:

- Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Housing and Transportation
- Accessible and Affordable Health Care
- Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Stroke, Heart Failure)
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
- Food Insecurity
- Maternal and Infant Health

The top health issues identified by the Aurora Lakeland Community Health Needs Assessment were presented to the Aurora Burlington/Walworth County Steering Council, and members were asked to rank the issues based on the following criteria:

- Size/Seriousness of the problem
- Effectiveness of available interventions
- Available resources to address the health issue
- Health care system adequately situated to address the health issue
- Meets a defined community need as identified through data
- Potential for issue to impact other health and social issues
- Ability to effectively address or impact health issue through collaboration

The health issues selected were:

- Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
- Alcohol and Substance Use
- Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Stroke, Heart Failure)

B. Health Needs Selected

Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury
Mental health, suicide and self-injury was selected as the first health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented at the Steering Council meetings. The rates of mental health, suicide and self-injury continues to increase over time in Walworth County indicating that more work needs to be done to address the ever-growing need for additional services, access to programs and support services in our communities. The Walworth County Public Health Department has also identified mental health as a health priority in their community health improvement plan and Aurora Lakeland will continue to collaborate on interventions.

Alcohol and Substance Use
Alcohol and substance use was selected as the second health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented to the Steering Council. Rates continue to increase over time in Walworth County indicating the need for expansion of services, access to programs and referrals to support services in the county.

Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Stroke, Heart Failure)
The Steering Council selected chronic diseases as the third health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented. The focus will be specifically on diabetes, stroke and heart failure by investigating opportunities to develop strategies to address these chronic diseases in Walworth County.

C. Health Need Not Selected

Housing and Transportation
Housing and transportation are an issue for the community with extensive collaboration occurring at the county level. These needs are included in the Walworth County Public Health Department Community Health Improvement Plan and Aurora Lakeland will be a collaborative partner in addressing solutions.

Accessible and Affordable Health Care
Access to affordable health care is a critical need in the community and will be addressed locally through collaborative partnerships with community-based organizations.

Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
Although nutrition, physical activity and obesity were not selected for the implementation plan, these health priorities will be included in the interventions focused on chronic diseases such as diabetes, stroke and heart failure.

Food Insecurity
Although food insecurity was not selected as a health priority, social drivers of health will be woven into the strategies implemented around all interventions identified. Aurora Lakeland continues to work with community organizations to ensure food security for all people living in Walworth County.

Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health
Maternal, child and reproductive health was not selected as a health priority based on the data presented in the CHNA. Aurora Lakeland works collaboratively with the local health departments, federally qualified health centers and free clinic focusing on maternal, child and reproductive health in the community. Based on these efforts, the Steering Council did not feel that this health need was a priority for this CHNA cycle.

V. Approval of Community Health Needs Assessment

This Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Report was adopted by the Aurora Health Care Community Board of the Advocate Health Board of Directors on December 14th, 2023.

VI. Vehicle for Community Feedback

Community Feedback

Aurora Health Care welcomes all feedback regarding the 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment. Any member of the community wishing to comment on this report, can click on the link below to complete a CHNA feedback form, or go to aurora.org/commbenefits and select "Contact Us." Questions will be addressed and will also be considered during the next CHNA cycle.

SCAN ME

Feedback Link: Advocate Health Community Health Needs Assessment: Feedback Form (office.com)

If you experience any issues with the link to our feedback form or have any other questions, please email WIAHC-WICommunityHealth@aah.org. This report can be viewed online at Aurora Health Care's Community Health Needs Assessment Report webpage via the following link: Community Benefits | Aurora Health Care. A paper copy of this report may also be requested by contacting the hospital's Community Health Department on-site or going to aurora.org/commbenefits and selecting "Contact Us."

VII. Evaluation of Impact from Previous CHNA

To view the complete Community Benefit Progress reports for Aurora Health Care Hospitals, please go to Community Benefits | Aurora Health Care.

VIII. Appendices

Appendix 1: Community Health Online Survey Frequencies

2023 Walworth County
Online Community Health Survey
Frequencies Report

Methodology
An online community health survey was commissioned by Aurora Health Care and Mercy Health System in partnership with the Walworth County Division of Public Health.

The questionnaire was entered into Survey Monkey with links and QR codes for easy access. Partners marketed the survey throughout the county. A total of 555 online surveys were completed between November 1, 2022 and January 26, 2023. Post-stratification was conducted at the estimated 5-year-age-group level by sex of the 2021 characteristics of the American Community Survey. The margin of error is ±4 percent. The margin of error for smaller subgroups will be larger than ±4 percent, since fewer respondents are in that category.

The survey was conducted by JKV Research, LLC. For technical information about survey methodology, contact Janet Kempf Vande Hey, M.S. at (920) 439-1399 or janet.vandehey@jkvresearch.com. For further information about the survey, contact the Walworth County Public Health Department at (262) 741-3200.

1. Do you live in Walworth County, Wisconsin?

Yes	94%
No	6

2. Do you work in Walworth County, Wisconsin?

Yes	68%	
No	32	→ AND Q1=No. I'm sorry, you are not eligible for this survey. We are looking to collect data from those who live or work in Walworth County. Thank you for your time.

3. Which type of health plans do you use to pay for your health care services. Do you have… [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

Insurance through an employer, either your own, or partner/spouse or parent	64%
Insurance through the Health Insurance Marketplace/Obama Care or Affordable Care Act, also known as the ACA	3
Private insurance you pay for yourself	4
Medicaid including medical assistance, Title 19 or Badger Care	6
Medicare including Medicare Supplement	35
Indian Health Services	0
Veteran's Administration	2
COBRA	<1
You pay out of pocket, cash or self-pay	2
Do you not have health care coverage	<1
Other, please specify	<1
Not sure	<1

4. Below are some statements about health care services and providers (doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants or primary care clinics) in Walworth County. Select an option for your response in each row below. [Respondents who selected "not applicable" were excluded.]

		Yes	No	Not Sure
a.	I have a health care provider where I regularly go for check-ups	86%	13%	<1%
b.	I have a health care provider where I regularly go when I am sick	89	11	<1
c.	I can get an appointment for my health needs quickly	72	17	12
d.	I can easily get to my health care provider or clinic	92	6	2
e.	I am heard, seen and listened to when receiving health care	86	9	5
f.	I am treated differently because of my race or ethnicity when receiving health care	2	94	4
g.	I am treated differently because of my gender identity when receiving health care	1	96	3
h.	I am treated differently because of my sexual orientation when receiving health care	1	96	3
i.	My family/support people are seen and listened to when I receive health care	81	9	10
j.	I am seen and listened to when my child/children are receiving health care	92	6	2

5. When you are sick, to which one of the following places do you usually go?

Doctor's or nurse practitioner's office	67%
Urgent care center	17
Hospital emergency room	3
Worksite clinic	1
Virtual health/tele-medicine or electronic visit	1
Quickcare clinic/Fastcare clinic	<1
Public health clinic or community health center	<1
Hospital outpatient department	<1
Alternative medicine location, such as acupuncture, homeopathy, chiropractor, etc.	<1
Some other kind of place, please specify	<1
No usual place	7
Not sure	<1

In the past three years, have you been treated for or been told by a doctor, nurse or other health care provider that:

		Yes	No	Not Sure
6.	You have diabetes	12%	87%	<1%
7.	(if yes) Are you regularly seeing a doctor, nurse or other health care provider for your diabetes [68 Respondents]	90	10	1
8.	You have high blood pressure	31	68	<1
9.	(if yes) Are you regularly seeing a doctor, nurse or other health care provider for your high blood pressure [176 Respondents]	88	12	0
10.	Your blood cholesterol is high	32	67	<1
11.	(if yes) Are you regularly seeing a doctor, nurse or other health care provider for your high blood cholesterol [180 Respondents]	68	30	2
12.	You have a heart disease or heart condition	13	86	<1
13.	(if yes) Are you regularly seeing a doctor, nurse or other health care provider for your heart disease/condition [70 Respondents]	89	11	0
14.	You have a mental health condition, such as anxiety disorder, obsessive-compulsive disorder, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder or depression	29	70	<1
15.	(if yes) Are you regularly seeing a doctor, nurse or other health care provider for your mental health condition [159 Respondents]	64	35	<1

16. Was there a time during the last 12 months that you did not get the medical care needed?

Yes	12%	→ CONTINUE WITH Q17
No	83	→ GO TO Q18
Not sure	5	→ GO TO Q18

17. What were the reasons you did not receive the medical care needed? [68 Respondents: MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

Unable to get appointment	41%
Insurance did not cover it	32
Specialty physician not in area	27
Co-payments too high	25
Cannot afford to pay	21
Inconvenient hours	18
Poor medical care	13
Not enough time	6
Uninsured	3
Lack of transportation	1
Don't know where to go	1
Physical barriers	0
Lack of child day care	0
Language barriers	0
Technology issues/no internet or computer	0
Not sure	1
Other (please specify)	18

- Ageism. Not taken seriously at age 80.
- Appointment Windows.
- Covid restrictions.
- Doc not listening.
- Doctor blamed all issues on weight and did not look further.
- ER sent me home. When my sodium was so bad. I could have died.
- Intimidated by the sicknesses to go to a clinic.

- Life stress.
- Specialist on extended sick leave, no one replacing him.
- The mask mandate is as about as dumb as those that believe it's needed. That and the girls at the desk couldn't understand that my insurance is the same as my wife's and I wasn't going all the way back to my house to try and find an insurance card for no reason.
- Unable to get into Primary but didn't want to go to the ER so treatment was delayed.
- Waitlist.
- When we have covid, my PCP would not give me hydroxychlorquine due to being under the practice of insurance. The minute I went to the darien doctors office I was prescribed hydroxychlorquine and a steroid (because it turned into pneumonia). After 3 doses of hydroxychlorquine I was up cleaning the house and felt so much better. Physicians practicing under insurance won't prescribe it due to big pharma not making any money off of curing people.
- Would not return page/messages.

18. In the past 12 months, was there a time that you needed or considered seeking mental health care services but did not get it?

Yes	13%	→ CONTINUE WITH Q19
No, I got the services that I needed	29	→ GO TO Q20
Does not apply, I did not need services in past year	57	→ GO TO Q20
Not sure	<1	→ GO TO Q20

19. What were the reasons you did not receive the mental health care needed? [71 Respondents: MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

Unable to get appointment	32%
Don't know where to go	31
Cannot afford to pay	23
Inconvenient hours	18
Insurance did not cover it	17
Not enough time	14
Specialty physician not in area	14
Poor mental health care	13
Co-payments too high	10
Stigma	10
Lack of child day care	6
Technology issues/no internet or computer	6
Physical barriers	4
Lack of transportation	3
Uninsured	1
Language barriers	0
Not sure	3
Other (please specify)	18

- After ER refused me, I was too sick to move forward. One week later I was admitted with sodium loss and red blood too low to survive.
- Changed mind.
- Counseling appts. not available or hard to get after normal workday hours (ie, after 4pm) OR that they were zoom only. Also filling out paperwork ahead of time was a barrier as there was SO much paperwork to turn in before even getting an appointment. Lastly, when you go in seeking care, the first question they ask you at the desk is "what is this for?" and for someone who is already in a dark mental place, that ONE question makes you crumble to bits and not want to come back.
- Doctors didn't listen, told to lose weight - doctors blame being overweight for everything.
- Don't know if the issue is significant.
- Don't know what will be covered by insurance. Or how much I will have to pay.
- I don't like reoccurring appointments.

- It wasn't an issue enough to warrant leaving my disabled spouse home alone.
- Lapse in insurance and couldn't afford COBRA.
- No appointments available for new patients, waiting lists.
- Physical and mental health for autistic son, obese daughter.
- Providers unavailable.
- Unable to find a Doctor.
- Unsure of how to find a therapist.
- Walworth County does not have an In-Patient Mental Health Facility.

20. In the next 2 years, do you expect to provide care or assistance to a friend or family member who has a health problem or disability?

Yes	36%
No	48
Not sure	16

21. During the past year has anyone made you afraid for your personal safety?

Yes	11%	→CONTINUE WITH Q22
No	89	→GO TO Q23
Not sure	<1	→GO TO Q23

22. What relationship is this person or people to you? (Check all that apply.) Please remember, all your responses are strictly confidential. [59 Respondents: MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

Stranger	50%
Boyfriend or girlfriend	34
Child	5
Ex-spouse	2
Coworker	2
Acquaintance	2
Spouse	0
Separated spouse	0
Parent	0
Brother or sister	0
Friend	0
Someone else	10
Not sure	0

211 connects you with thousands of nonprofit and government services in your area. If you want personal assistance, call the three-digit number 211 or 877-947-2211. **A friendly voice to talk with you 24/7/365.** You can also go to https://211wisconsin.communityos.org.

23. Below are some statements about Walworth County. Select an option for your response in each row below. [Respondents who selected "not applicable" were excluded.]

		Yes	No	Not Sure
a.	There are quality health care services in my community	86%	6%	8%
b.	There are affordable health care services in my community	64	13	23
c.	Individuals in my community can access health care services regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, etc	67	8	25
d.	There are enough well-paying jobs available for those who are 18 years old and older	48	28	25
e.	There are enough well-paying jobs available for those who are under 18 years old	35	19	46
f.	There are job trainings or employment resources for those who need them	52	6	41
g.	Childcare (daycare/pre-school) resources are affordable for those who need them	6	49	44
h.	Childcare (daycare/pre-school) resources are available for those who need them	28	20	52
i.	The K-12 schools in my community provide quality education	71	6	23
j.	Our local university/community college provides quality education	68	3	28
k.	Our local university/community college is affordable	32	21	47
l.	There are affordable places to live in my community	28	47	25

24. In the past 30 days, did you use…

		Yes	No	Not Sure
a.	Marijuana	4%	96%	<1%
b.	Cocaine, meth or other street drugs	<1	100	0
c.	Heroin or other opioids	<1	99	0
d.	Tobacco products (cigarettes and smokeless tobacco)	9	91	0
e.	E-cigarettes, also known as vaping	8	91	<1
f.	Delta-8, also known as dabbing	<1	99	<1

25. [NON-VAPERS AND NONSMOKERS ONLY] In the past seven days, how many days were you in the same room or did you ride in a car with someone who was smoking cigarettes or vaping?

0 days	86%
1 to 3 days	12
4 to 6 days	<1
All 7 days	1
Not sure	<1

26. On an average day, how many servings of fruit do you eat or drink? One serving is ½ cup of canned or cooked fruit, 1 medium piece of fruit or 6 ounces of 100% juice.

One or fewer servings	47%
Two servings	38
Three or more servings	14
Not sure	2

27. On an average day, how many servings of vegetables do you eat? One serving is ½ cup of cooked or raw vegetable or 6 ounces of 100% juice.

One or fewer servings	34%
Two servings	47
Three or more servings	17
Not sure	2

28. Was there a time during the last 12 months that your household was hungry, but didn't eat because you couldn't afford enough food?

Yes	11%
No	88
Not sure	<1

29. Moderate physical activity includes brisk walking, bicycling, vacuuming, gardening or anything else that causes some increase in breathing or heart rate. In a usual week, not including at work, on how many days do you do moderate activities for at least 30 minutes at a time?

Zero days	11%
1 to 4 days	46
5 to 7 days	40
Not sure	3

30. Vigorous activities include running, aerobics, heavy yard work, or anything else that causes large increases in breathing or heart rate. Not including at work, in a usual week, how often do you do vigorous activities for at least 20 minutes at a time?

Zero days	37%
1 to 2 days	27
3 to 7 days	34
Not sure	2

31. What are the two largest social or economic issues in our community that must be addressed in order to improve the quality of life of county residents? (Check up to two responses.)

Safe and affordable housing	40%
Accessible and affordable health care (medical, dental, mental health)	27
Accessible and affordable transportation	22
Economic stability and employment	19
Affordable and accessible childcare	17
Food insecurity	9
Community violence and crime	5
Quality of health care	5
Access to social services	4
Education access and quality	4
Environmental health (clean air, safe water, etc.)	3
Social connectedness and belonging	3
Neighborhood and built environment (walkability, safe parks etc.)	3
Racism and discrimination	3
Family support	3
Not sure	11
Do not want to answer	3
Other (please specify)	4

- Affordability of Elkhorn utilities.
- Affordable exercise facilities.
- Affordable housing for seniors.
- Affordable senior housing and care.
- Behavioral Health Services.
- EMS in Williams Bay.
- Inpatient Mental health and better drug and alcohol resources.
- Need a pulmonologist in our county.
- Need more Skilled Nursing Facilities.
- Real Estate Taxes on Seniors.
- Religious connections to increase faith in God.
- Removing power from unelected officials that think they know what's best for everyone.
- Resources for disabled adults in the community/day programming.
- Retirement living arrangements.
- Social interaction/preventing isolation. Also* easy transport options for not only cars but pedestrians - especially the kids under 18 who may need to walk/bike to work on their own. Cars are now so expensive that a typical healthy 16 year old can't work downtown if they live in Jackson Creek Subdivision because his parents both work and he can't safely bike there without risking his life.
- Socialism.
- Special education connect for the non-normal high school student.
- Specialist providers locally.
- Walworth County has tremendous income/wealth inequality.

32. What are the **two** largest health conditions or behaviors that must be addressed in order to improve the health of county residents? (Check up to two responses.)

Alcohol and substance/drug use	57%
Mental health, mental conditions and suicide	53
Nutrition, physical activity and obesity	18
Chronic diseases	11
Tobacco and vaping products	10
Reproductive and sexual health	6
Communicable diseases or Covid-19	5
Oral health	4
Intimate partner and domestic violence	2
Maternal, infant, and child health	2
Unintentional injury, including falls and motor vehicle accidents	2
Not sure	11
Do not want to answer	1
Other (please specify)	2

- Alzheimer's care and treatments.
- Day programming for disabled adult.
- Dementia care/facilities for placement.
- Fair Treatment of All Legal Citizens.
- Lake Geneva Mercy needs a new heart doctor or provide transportation to Janesville to see Dr. Amid.
- Low income/wealth need more affordable health care options.
- Lymphedema help. No one knows about this all the doctors are guessing. One specialist would go so far.
- Parents actually parenting.
- Pedestrian safety.
- Plant Based Nutrition.
- Special needs student curriculum.
- Try to keep doctors at Walworth, instead of sending us to Rockford.

Finally, a few questions about you to make sure we have a good representation of the people in Walworth County.

33. In what zip code do you live?

53115	22%
53147	17
53121	16
53190	13
53191	8
53128	4
53184	4
53585	3
53105	3
Other (2% or less)	9
No answer	0

34. In what year were you born?

18-34	25%
35-44	13
45-54	14
55-64	16
65 and Older	21
No answer	12

35. Which gender identity do you most identify with?

Male	44%
Female	45
Transgender Male/Transgender Female/Non-binary/Another Gender Identity/No Answer	10

36. Are you Hispanic or Latino?

Yes	3%
No	86
Not sure	0
No answer	11

37. What is your race?

American Indian or Alaska Native	<1%
Asian	0
Black, African American	<1
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	0
White	86
Another race (please specify)	0
Multiple races	2
No answer	12

38. Which of the following best describes your highest level of education completed?

8th grade or less	<1%
Some high school	<1
High school graduate or GED	10
Some college	19
Technical school graduate	11
Bachelor's level graduate	30
Master's degree or higher	21
No answer	10

39. What is your annual household income before taxes?

$55,000 or less	25%
$55,001 to $90,000	22
Over $90,000	32
Not sure	10
No answer	12

40. How many total adults, including yourself, live in your household?

One	12%
Two	52
Three	12
Four	11
Five	<1
Six	<1
Seven	0
Eight	0
Nine	0
Ten or more	0
No answer	12

41. Who currently lives in your household, besides yourself? [MULTIPLE RESPONSES ACCEPTED]

Spouse/Partner	58%
Parent(s)/In-law(s)	17
Grandparent(s)	0
Child(ren) Under 18	16
Child(ren) 18 or Older	11
Friend/Roommate(s)	<1
Sibling(s)	9
Extended Family Member(s) Not Listed Above	1
Other (please specify)	<1
No answer	12

42. What is your living situation today?

I have a steady place to live	83%
I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future	4
I do not have a steady place to live (I am temporarily staying with others, in a hotel, in a shelter, living outside on the street, on a beach, in a car, abandoned building, bus or train station, or in a park)	<1
No answer	12

43. Do you consider yourself a person with a disability?

Yes	14%
No	71
Not sure	2
No answer	13

44. Do you speak a language other than English at home?

Yes	7%	→ Continue with please specify
No	80	→ Go to Q45
No answer	13	→ Go to Q45

Please specify the language:

Spanish	9 respondents
Spanish & French	1 respondent
ASL	2 respondents
No answer	26 respondents

Appendix 2: 2023 Community Health Needs Assessment Data Sources

Advocate Aurora Business Development Analytics, 2023
Advocate Health – EpicHB 2023

Center for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey Report, Walworth County Report, 2021

County Health Rankings, Fatality Analysis Reporting System, 2016-2020

County Health Rankings, National Center for Health Statistics, 2018-2020

Metopio. Accessed via a contract with Advocate Aurora Health. Website is unavailable to the public. The following data sources were accessed through the portal:

American Community Survey, 2017-2021
Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2020
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention WONDER, 2016-2020
Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, National Provider Identifier, 2021
Diabetes Atlas, 2020
Feeding America, 2021
FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2017-2021
Health Resources and Services Administration, 2020
National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2015-2019
National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2018
National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2016-2020, 2017-2021
PLACES, 2021
United Way ALICE Data, 2021
Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2018-2022

Walworth County Public Health Department, 2022 Community Health Needs Assessment