2024
Community Health Needs Assessment Report

Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh

855 N Westhaven Drive

Oshkosh, WI 54904

Aurora Health Care®

Letter from President of Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh

November 2024

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

Based upon comprehensive community data and feedback, Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh selected two health priorities for the 2024 CHNA. The priorities selected include the following:

- Behavioral Health, including Mental Health, Substance Use Disorder, and Access to Care
- Community Safety, including Forensic Nursing and Falls Prevention

At Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh 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 hospital has the honor of collaborating 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.

Jeff Bard
President
Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh

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Executive Summary

Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh (Aurora Oshkosh), a member of Aurora Health Care, is an active member of the Tri-County Community Health Coalition. In addition to Aurora Oshkosh, the coalition includes the health systems of Ascension Wisconsin, Children's Wisconsin, Partnership Community Health Center, ThedaCare, the health departments of Appleton, Calumet County, Menasha, Outagamie County, and Winnebago County, as well as numerous community organizations including NEW Mental Health Connection, Diverse and Resilient, People of Progression, United Way Fox Valley, YMCA, HAP Fox Valley, Kids Forward, Casa Hispana and Fox Valley Data Exchange. During 2024, the coalition convened a series of meetings with the purpose of collecting community health data for the health department's Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the health systems' Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA), with the future goal of creating a tri-county community health improvement plan. Due to timing of the coalition's data collection, Aurora Oshkosh did work independently and with the Winnebago County Public Health department to gather primary and secondary sources for this CHNA.

In the fall of 2024, members of Aurora Oshkosh's Community Steering Council met virtually to review the community health assessment data, based on the below components:

- Community Survey – a summary of top health issues and additional strategies needed to address the issue from the perspective of community members and community stakeholders who represent the broad interests of the community served
- Focus Groups - Winnebago County Public Health conducted focus groups with disproportionately impacted populations, including Black, Brown, African, Immigrant, and Refugee communities, who are often underrepresented in decision-making processes. Over 100 community members participated, with support from local partners, to ensure a broad range of voices and experiences were heard

Additionally, Aurora Oshkosh utilized the following secondary data sources:

- Secondary Data – Aurora Health Care has a contract with Metopio to provide an internet-based data resource for their hospitals. This robust platform offers the hospitals health, demographic, and hospitalization indicators
- County Health Rankings: Winnebago County 2024 – a compilation of data using county-level measures from a variety of national and state data sources

In 2024, Aurora Oshkosh utilized the above data to identify and prioritize significant health needs and develop implementation strategies to address the prioritized health needs within the context of the hospital's existing programs, resources, strategic goals, and partnerships. To determine the significant health needs identified through the CHNA, the following criteria was considered:

- 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

In addition, Aurora Oshkosh evaluated the impact of the initiatives identified in its 2021 Community Health Needs Assessment Report and corresponding 2022-2024 Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS), which was accomplished with several successes, including offering trauma-informed and victim-sensitive services through the Sexual Assault Treatment Center and nutrition education targeted to Seniors to improve wellbeing. For more information on outcomes from the previous CHIS, see Section VII.

As a result, Aurora Oshkosh prioritized the following significant health needs to address in our 2025-2027 implementation strategy:

- Behavioral Health
- Community Safety

The 2024 CHNA was presented to the Aurora Health Care Metro Board, the authorizing body of the hospital. The board approved the report on December 16, 2024.

I. Description of Aurora Health Care and Aurora Medical Center - Oshkosh

Aurora Health Care

Aurora Health Care is the largest health 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 18 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 third-largest nonprofit, integrated health system in the United States. Committed to providing equitable care for all, Advocate Health provides more than $6 billion in annual community benefit.

Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh

Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh (Aurora Oshkosh) is an 84-bed hospital that combines state-of-the-art resources, including robotics, with a commitment to providing personal, compassionate care. With 24/7 emergency services and several on-site specialists, we're ready to help. A nationally recognized healthcare provider, we offer a wide range of medical specialties in a culturally affirming and compassionate way to help all people live well. The hospital is nationally ranked for adult specialties and named among the best for maternity care by U.S. News and World Report.

CLINICAL EXPERTISE AND SPECIALTIES

- Women's Health Care
  - Private birthing suites for labor, recovery, and postpartum with in-room whirlpools, Level 2 NICU, infant security system, midwifery services, osteoporosis services, gynecologic cancer screenings, and more
- Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy/Wound Care
  - Comprehensive Wound Care and Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy Center Board-certified staff and physicians, and hyperbaric chamber available
- Cancer Services
  - Nationally Accredited Cancer Program through the College of American Surgeons, cancer counseling, clinical trials, genetic counseling, multidisciplinary disease-oriented clinics through radiation therapy
- Orthopedics
  - Foot & ankle, hand, hip arthroscopy, joint replacement, knee surgery, orthopedic sports medicine, orthotics, podiatry, shoulder & elbow, sports medicine, athletic training, physical therapy, and same-day orthopedics appointments with Ortho Today
- Cardiology
  - 24/7 cardiologists, on-site cath lab, diagnostics and treatment
- Neurological Care
  - Surgical and non-surgical treatments for your neck, back, and spinal disorders, and an integrated spine-care clinic
- Pain Management
  - State of the art interventional pain management center with fellowship trained physicians providing comprehensive care and a multidisciplinary approach for treatment of chronic pain including therapy, injections, and minimally invasive surgeries

II. 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment

A. Community Definition

For the purposes of this assessment, "community" is defined as Winnebago County. While Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh serves patients from surrounding areas as well, the facility is based in Winnebago County, and most public health data is available at the county level, so the focus will be on Winnebago County.

Winnebago County is located in the east central region of Wisconsin and is considered a Metropolitan, with its county seat in the city of Oshkosh. A map of Winnebago County and the surrounding patient service area of Aurora Oshkosh is displayed below in Exhibit 1.

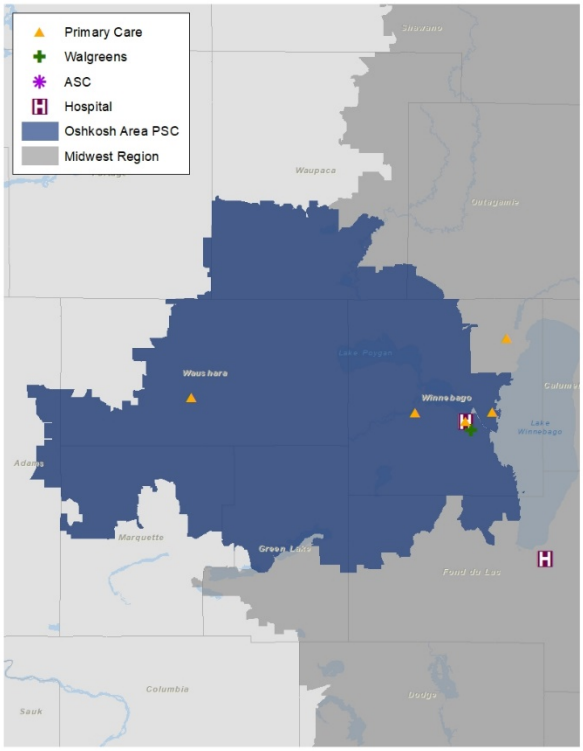


Exhibit 1: Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh, Patient Service Area Map
Source: Aurora Health Care Business Development, 2024

1. Population

The total population of Winnebago County is 170,718 residents, a 2.84% increase between the 2010 and 2020 decennial census (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2010-2022). In Winnebago County, 17.4 percent of the population lives in a low population density area and is considered rural (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Winnebago County, WI, 2024).

2. Social Drivers of Health

To help support hospitals in conducting community health needs assessments, 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.

Below is a description of four important indices found in Metopio, that analyze social factors. Indices are useful measures that combine multiple indicators to make comparisons within a community to better target interventions.

Social Vulnerability Index

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry created the Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) to help public health officials and emergency response planners. The SVI identifies and maps 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, including unemployment, minority status, and disability, and combining the rankings into a single scale from the 0th percentile (lowest vulnerability) to 100th percentile (highest vulnerability).

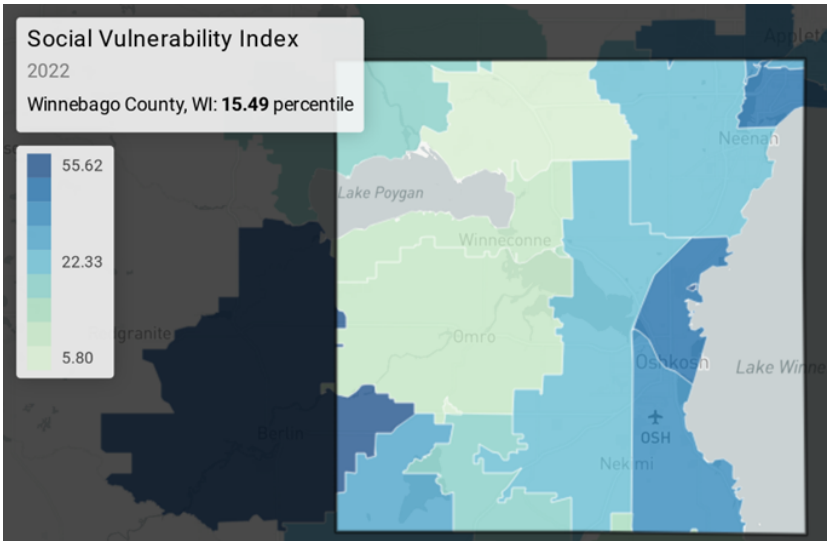


Exhibit 2: Map of SVI in Winnebago County
Source: Metopio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022

Winnebago County has a relatively low SVI of 15.49, indicating a lower level of social vulnerability compared to the state and national averages of 29.03 and 58.4, respectively. In Exhibit 2, the map shows that Oshkosh and its surrounding areas have varying levels of social vulnerability, with Oshkosh itself having a percentile of 43.43, while Butte des Morts has a notably lower percentile of 13.05. This data highlights the disparities in social vulnerability within the region. (Metopio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).

Child Opportunity Index

The Child Opportunity Index 3.0 is a composite index that captures neighborhood resources and conditions that matter for children's healthy development scored as Very Low (1-19), Low (20-39), Moderate (40-59), High (60-79), and Very High (80-100). Winnebago County has a Child Opportunity Index of 47.7, which is lower than both the state of Wisconsin (51.9) and the United States (52.2). The data reveals varying levels of child opportunity across these areas, with scores ranging from 26.4 in Oshkosh (54901) to 77.9 in Winchester (54947). This indicates disparities in neighborhood resources and conditions, potentially influencing the healthy development of children in these communities. (Metopio, Diversitydatakids.org, 2017-2021).

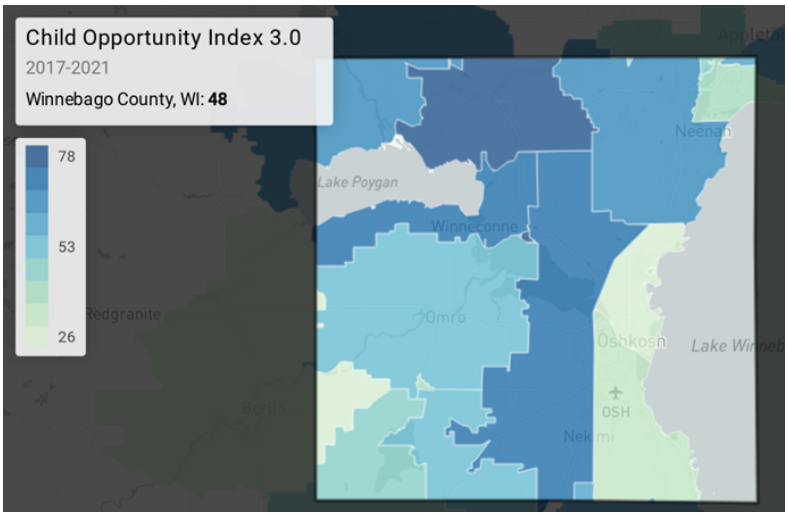


Exhibit 3: Map of Child Opportunity Index in Winnebago County
Source: Metopio, Diversitydatakids.org, 2017-2021

Hardship Index

The Hardship Index is a composite score reflecting hardship in the community (higher values indicate greater hardship). It 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.

Winnebago County has a relatively low hardship index of 32.1, compared to the state average of 35.7 and the national average of 50.0. As Exhibit 4 shows, the Hardship Index data reveals significant disparities in economic hardship across different regions, with Oshkosh having the highest value in the county at 51.4. (Metopio, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

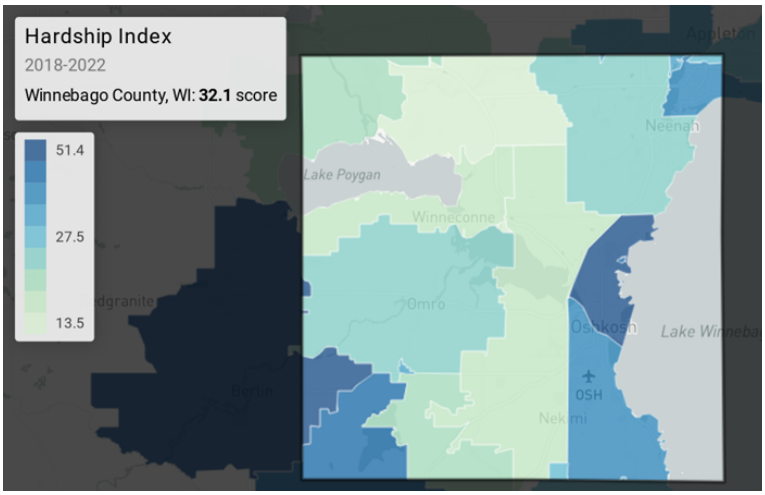


Exhibit 4: Map of Hardship Index in Winnebago County
Source: Metopio, U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey, 2018-2022

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 lack of jobs that can support basic necessities and increases in the basic cost of living. Overall, Winnebago County has a lower percentage at 35.3 percent compared to the state of Wisconsin at 35.0 percent and the United States at 42.0 percent. This suggests that Winnebago County has a relatively lower proportion of households facing financial hardship. However, Exhibit 5 shows that disparities exist in this measure as well, with Oshkosh having a higher percentage of households living below the ALICE threshold. (Metopio, United Way, ALICE Data, 2022).

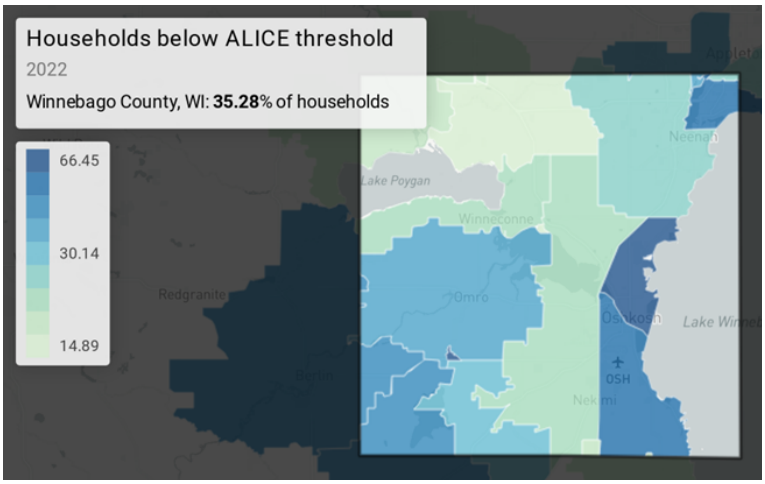


Exhibit 5: Map of ALICE Index in Winnebago County
Source: Metopio, United Way, ALICE Data, 2022

3. Demographics

Age and Gender

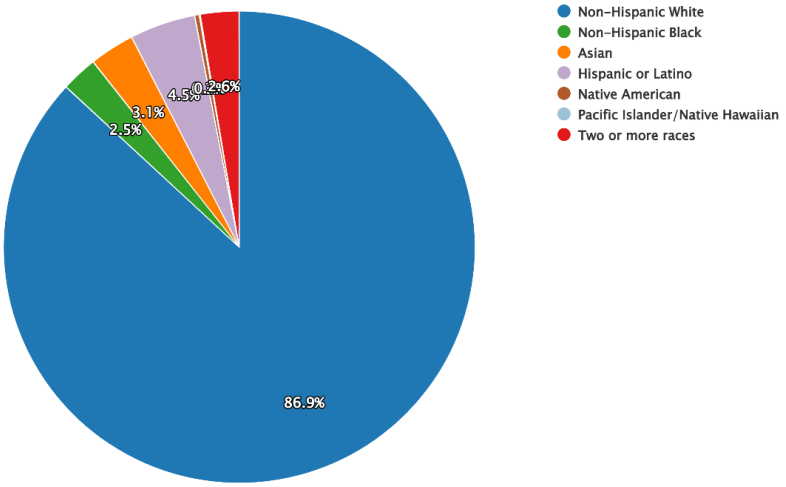
The median age in Winnebago County is 38.4 years old. The county is comprised of 49.1 percent female and 50.9 percent male. The largest population in Winnebago County are those ages 18-39 years at 31.8 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Race and Ethnicity

The majority of the population in Winnebago County is Non-Hispanic White, comprising 86.7 percent of the population, which is higher than both the state and national averages. The Hispanic or Latino population is the next largest group, comprising around 4.5 percent of the population, which is lower than the state and national average. The relatively low representation of other racial and ethnic groups suggests a less diverse demographic makeup. A chart of the population by race and ethnicity can be found in Exhibit 6. (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Exhibit 6: Population Chart by Race/Ethnicity in Winnebago County

Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022



Language

A total of 2.6 percent of Winnebago County households have Spanish as their primary language at home. A total of 2.1 percent of households in Winnebago County have Asian languages like Chinese, Japanese, and Tagalog as the primary spoken language (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Household/Family

In Winnebago County, 5.3 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. This is lower than the state average of 5.6 percent and the national average of 6.2 percent. Additionally, 31.6 percent of Winnebago County seniors (age 65 and older) are living alone. This is a higher percentage than the state average of 29.3 percent and the national average of 26.4 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Exhibit 6: Population Chart by Race/Ethnicity in Winnebago County
Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022

4. Economics

Income

The median household income in Winnebago County is $64,222, which is slightly lower than the Wisconsin median household income of $66,438. The lowest median household income is among the Non-Hispanic Black population ($30,488) as shown in Exhibit 7 (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022). An important note: when interpreting the data presented in this chart, it is crucial to exercise caution, as the confidence interval is notably large for some populations. A large confidence interval means there is a lot of uncertainty about the exact value, and the true result could be anywhere within that range; this may be due to a small sample size for certain racial or ethnic groups.

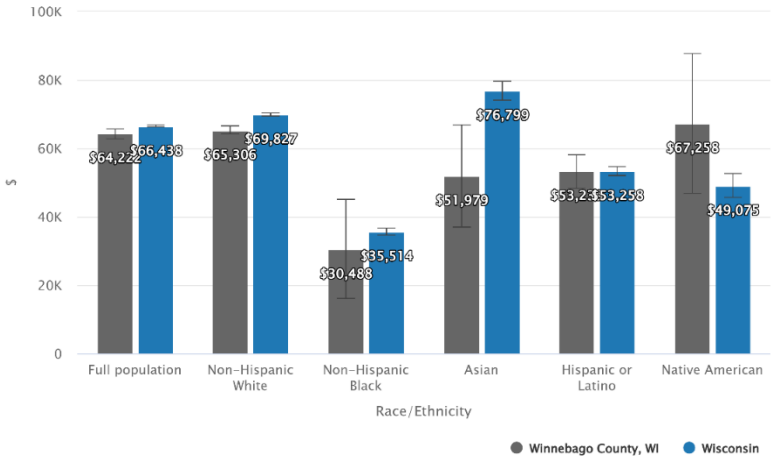


Exhibit 7: Median Household Income by Race/Ethnicity in Winnebago County
Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022

People Living Below the Poverty Level

In Winnebago County, 10.8 percent of residents in families are living below the federal poverty level, which is similar to the Wisconsin average of 10.7 percent and lower than the U.S. average of 12.5 percent. For both the county and the state, poverty levels have decreased since 2015.

The Winnebago County breakdown of poverty by age is Infants (0-4 years) at 13.8 percent, Juveniles (5-17 years) at 13.5 percent, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 13.7 percent, Middle-Aged Adults (40-64 years) at 7.0 percent and Seniors (65 and older) at 7.3 percent, as shown in Exhibit 8. The highest rate of poverty in Winnebago County by race and ethnicity is the Non-Hispanic Black population at 47.5 percent

(Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022). Again, when interpreting the data presented in this chart, it is crucial to exercise caution, as the confidence interval is notably large for some populations due to small sample sizes.

Employment

The unemployment rate among Winnebago County residents that are 16 years of age and older is 2.4 percent, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 3.4 percent and the U.S. rate of 5.3 percent. The breakdown of unemployment by race and ethnicity in Winnebago County is 15.4 percent for Non-Hispanic Black, 0.3 percent for Asian, 1.0 percent for Hispanic or Latino and 2.3 percent for Non-Hispanic White (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

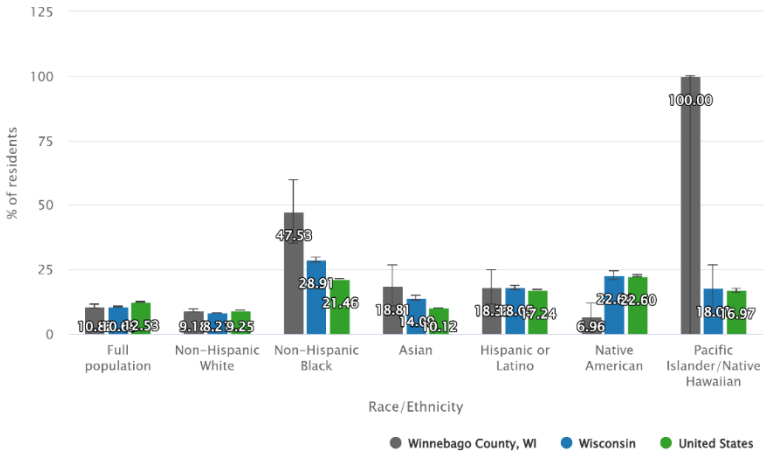


Exhibit 8: Poverty Rate by Race in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022

5. Education

Educational Level

Winnebago 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 percentage of individuals in Winnebago County with a high school degree or higher is 94.2 percent, which is slightly higher than the Wisconsin rate of 93.1 percent.

In Winnebago County, 29.3 percent of residents 25 or older have a four-year college degree or higher, which is slightly lower than Wisconsin at 32.0 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

6. Health Care Resources in the Defined Community

Name of Facility	Type of Facility	Location
Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh	Hospital	855 N Westhaven Dr, Oshkosh, WI 54904
Ascension NE Wisconsin - Mercy Campus	Hospital	500 S Oakwood Rd, Oshkosh, WI 54904
Partnership Community Health Center	Clinic	5471 Waterford Lane, Appleton, WI 54913

B. How the CHNA was Conducted

1. Purpose and Process

Conducted every three years, a community health needs assessment (CHNA) serves as the foundation from which the hospitals and local health departments 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, philanthropists, community-based organizations, and civic leaders about the top health issues facing our community.

2. **Partnership**
   Aurora Oshkosh is an active member of the Tri-County Community Health Coalition. In addition to Aurora Oshkosh, the coalition includes Ascension Wisconsin, Children's Wisconsin, ThedaCare, and the health departments of Appleton, Calumet County, Menasha, Outagamie County, and Winnebago County. During 2024, the coalition convened a series of meetings with the purpose of collecting community health data for the health department's Community Health Assessment (CHA) and the health systems' Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA), with the future goal of creating a tri-county community health improvement plan. Both primary and secondary sources were used to conduct this CHNA.

3. **Data Collection and Analysis**
   Primary data was collected in 2023 and 2024 through community surveying and through a focus group conducted by Winnebago County Public Health. Aurora Oshkosh would like to thank the health department for partnering and sharing their findings. Secondary data was also cross-analyzed and is included within this report.

4. **Data Sources**
   The Aurora Oshkosh CHNA relies on the following primary sources of information:

   Community Surveys: To engage the Winnebago County community, a brief survey was distributed in August through September 2024 to residents and promoted via social media, websites, and community partners. The survey aimed to identify obstacles to health and opportunities for improvement, resulting in nearly 300 responses. Due to time constraints, this survey used convenience sampling, where participants were selected based on ease of access or availability, which may mean results are not representative of the entire population. A summary of the results was subsequently compiled.

   Focus Groups: In June 2023, Winnebago County Public Health conducted focus groups with disproportionately impacted populations in the community who typically are not provided the opportunity to have their voices heard. With help from community partners, more than 100 community members participated in the focus groups, and they represented a variety of experiences and backgrounds, particularly Black, Brown, African, Immigrant, and Refugee populations. (Winnebago County Public Health. Community Health Assessment, 2023).

   Additionally, Aurora Health Care analyzed secondary data, or existing information gathered from various sources, to provide valuable insights and context from the following sources:

   - **Metopio:** Aurora Health Care has a contract with Metopio to provide an internet-based data resource for their hospitals. 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.metopio.io). All data collected through Metopio was quantitative and included data comparisons between county, the state of Wisconsin and United States data.
   - **County Health Rankings & Roadmaps - Winnebago County:** A program of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute and supported by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) provides a snapshot of health for nearly every county in the nation, based on a variety of public health data. CHR&R advocates for an understanding of data and evidence to develop methods to improve health and equity. (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, About Us, 2024)

C. Summary of CHNA Findings

1. Overall Health Status

Overall, Winnebago County's health outcomes are comparable to the average county in Wisconsin and exceed those of the average county across the nation (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Winnebago County, WI, 2024).

However, vast disparities exist between different populations in nearly every social and health issue, particularly for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) populations, due to barriers within the community. Health inequities are defined as differences in health that are avoidable, systematic, measurable and unjust (AMA, 2021). Racism, both structural and interpersonal, are fundamental causes of health inequities, health disparities and disease (CDC, 2024).

Key findings: Health Status

- The leading causes of death in the County are cancers, heart disease and accidents
- The life expectancy in Winnebago County is 78.4, which is higher than the state and the U.S. but the life expectancy for the Non-Hispanic Black population in the County is lower at 71.3 years

Before exploring the data around the identified health priorities in the following sections, it is important to understand that people's circumstances, including the societal barriers they repeatedly face, shape a person's health, and it is not always the individual choices a person makes. In fact, nearly 70 percent of a community's health is determined by factors beyond health behaviors, such as where someone lives, works, plays, and learns (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, 2014). These factors—often referred to as the social determinants or drivers of health—include socioeconomic status, access to education, housing, food security, environmental conditions and policies that shape institutions and society. Section 6: Environment delves deeper into these social factors that contribute to the unjust disparities in health outcomes.

As you look at the data in the next sections, it is important to remember that these issues are connected to many social and environmental factors that impact people's health.

Mortality

The top three leading causes of death in Winnebago County are malignant neoplasms, diseases of the heart and accidents (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Winnebago County, WI).

Life Expectancy

The average life expectancy for residents in the County is 78.4, which is higher than the state's average life expectancy of 78.2 and the U.S. at 77.6 (County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Winnebago County, WI). However, there are disparities among racial groups within the County. The life expectancy for Non-Hispanic Black residents is lower at 71.3.

Top Health Concerns

For the CHNA, primary data was gathered and analyzed by both Aurora Oshkosh and Winnebago County Public Health, and secondary data was cross analyzed by the Aurora Health Care team to determine the following top health issues in Winnebago County:

- Access to Healthy Foods
- Community Safety
- Employment and Income
- Housing Costs and Safety
- Mental Healthcare
- Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
- Racism and Discrimination
- Substance Use Disorders

2. **Access to Care and Health Care Coverage**
Limited access to healthcare providers can result in delayed or inadequate healthcare, affecting the overall health outcomes of community members. Access can be restricted by a lack of providers, poor geographic distribution of services, difficulty affording and signing up for health insurance, and the cost of services even after health insurance. Access to care is a critical factor influencing community health, as it directly impacts individuals' ability to obtain necessary healthcare services and medications.

Health Care Coverage

Uninsured Rate
In Winnebago County, 4.7 percent of residents are without health insurance, which is lower than Wisconsin (5.5 percent) and the U.S. (8.7 percent). The uninsured rate in Winnebago County has shown a consistent decline over the years since 2008, though disparities in coverage exist among different racial and ethnic groups. The uninsured rate is highest among Hispanic or Latino (13.4 percent) residents. (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Key Findings: Health Care Coverage and Access to Care

- Uninsured rates vary greatly among racial and ethnic groups in the County, with the Hispanic or Latino population having the highest at 13.4 percent, as compared to the White population at 3.9 percent
- There are fewer primary care providers per capita in Winnebago County than in the state and the U.S., which could impact the community's access to essential healthcare services

Persons with Health Insurance
Private health insurance coverage in Winnebago County is at 75.4 percent, slightly higher than the state average of 74.3 percent and the national average of 67.6 percent. Winnebago County has a public health insurance coverage rate of 32.2 percent, slightly lower than the state average of 34.0 percent and the national average of 35.9 percent. (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022). As a note, residents can be covered by more than one insurance plan.

Access to Care

Primary Care Provider Rate
The primary care provider rate includes the number of physicians in primary care (general practice, internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, or pediatrics) per 100,000 residents. This rate includes hospital residents and excludes federal physicians and physicians 75 years or older. The primary care provider rate in Winnebago County is 82.8 providers per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 93.8 providers per 100,000 residents and the U.S. rate of 89.6 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Health Resources and Services Administration, 2021).

Mental Health Provider Rate
The mental health provider rate in Winnebago County is 346.4 mental health providers for every 100,000 residents, which is lower than the state average of 364.1 and the national average of 602.7. This rate includes providers such as psychiatrists, psychologists, specialists in addiction medicine, counseling, therapy, behavioral health, advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners. (Metopio, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), 2024).

3. **Health Risk Behaviors**
Health behaviors are actions and habits that individuals engage in that either promote or compromise their physical, mental, and social well-being. These behaviors encompass a wide range of activities, including diet, exercise, substance

Key Findings: Health Risk Behaviors

- In Winnebago County and the state of Wisconsin, more people drink excessively than the rest of the U.S., which has large health implications for the people drinking at that level, including potential for injuries and over time, chronic diseases
- The obesity rate in the County is 39.6 percent, which is higher than the rest of the state and the nation, and it has been rising over time

use, and preventive screenings and vaccines. 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. Health behaviors are influenced by social drivers of health (SDOH), which encompass the environmental conditions impacting individuals' well-being across various life domains.

Substance use and abuse

Tobacco Use
Cigarette smoking rates for adult residents in Winnebago County are slightly higher at 17.3 percent compared to the state average of 16.1 percent and the national average of 14.6 percent. This percentage includes resident adults aged 18 and older who report having smoked at least 100 cigarettes in their lifetime and currently smoke every day or some days. (Metopio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2022).

Excessive Drinking
Excessive drinking in Winnebago County (23.8 percent) and Wisconsin (25.3 percent) is significantly higher than the U.S. (18.1 percent). Winnebago County is in the highest (worst) 5 percent of all Counties in the country for excessive drinking. A theme from the community focus group was that alcohol is everywhere in the community, and that many community events revolve around it (Winnebago County Public Health, Community Health Assessment, 2023).

Emergency Department Rate due to Alcohol
Alcohol use emergency department visit rates in Winnebago County are higher at 441.7 visits per 100,000 residents compared to the state average of 402.7 and have shown a consistent increase over the past few years, as shown in Exhibit 9. The Non-Hispanic Black population has the highest rate of emergency department visits related to alcohol use, with 662.5 visits per 100,000 population. (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

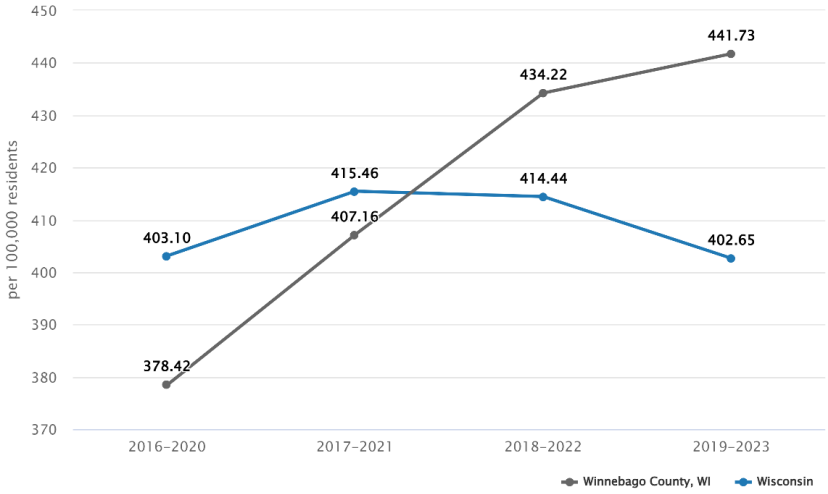


Exhibit 9: Alcohol Use Emergency Department Visit Rate in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2019-2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Alcohol Use
In Winnebago County, the hospitalization rate due to alcohol use is 193.2 per 100,000 residents, which is slightly lower than the Wisconsin rate of 206.7 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in Winnebago County are among the Non-Hispanic White population at 210.5 per 100,000 residents, males at 261.5 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 291.9 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

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 Winnebago County, the emergency department rate due to substance use is 640.9 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 615.0 per 100,000 residents. The rates are highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,105.8 per 100,000 residents, males at 819.5 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 1,104.9 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Substance Use
In Winnebago County, the hospitalization rate due to substance use is 256.5 admissions per 100,000 residents, which is lower than Wisconsin (286.2 per 100,000 residents). The county rates are highest among males at 334.0 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 438.7 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Drug Overdose Mortality
While the age-adjusted drug overdose mortality rates are lower in Winnebago County (19.3 deaths per 100,000 population) than in Wisconsin (26.3 per 100,000) and the U.S. (27.1 per 100,000), the rates have been on the rise in the past two decades. This trend is reflective of the broader pattern in Wisconsin and the United States, where the rates have consistently increased over the years. Drug poisoning (such as overdose) include accidental or intentional, and the increase during the 2010s is largely due to the opioid overdose epidemic, but other drugs are also included here. (Metopio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 1999-2022).

Nutrition

According to America's Health Rankings, in Wisconsin, the percentage of adults who reported consuming two or more fruits and three or more vegetables daily is 6.3 percent, 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).

Physical Activity and Inactivity

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 activity activities or exercises such as running, calisthenics, golf, gardening or walking for exercise?". In Winnebago County, 21.0 percent of adults reported no exercise in the past month, which is similar to the Wisconsin rate at 21.3 percent (Metopio, BRFSS, Diabetes Atlas, PLACES, 2022).

Weight Status

The percentage of resident adults aged 18 and older who are obese (have a body mass index (BMI) ≥30.0 kg/m² calculated from self-reported weight and height) is at 39.6 percent in Winnebago County, which exceeds the state average of 37.7, and the national average of 33.8 percent. Exhibit 10 shows how obesity rates have been on the rise in Winnebago County, as well as in the state of Wisconsin and the United States. (Metopio, BRFSS, Diabetes Atlas, PLACES, 2022).

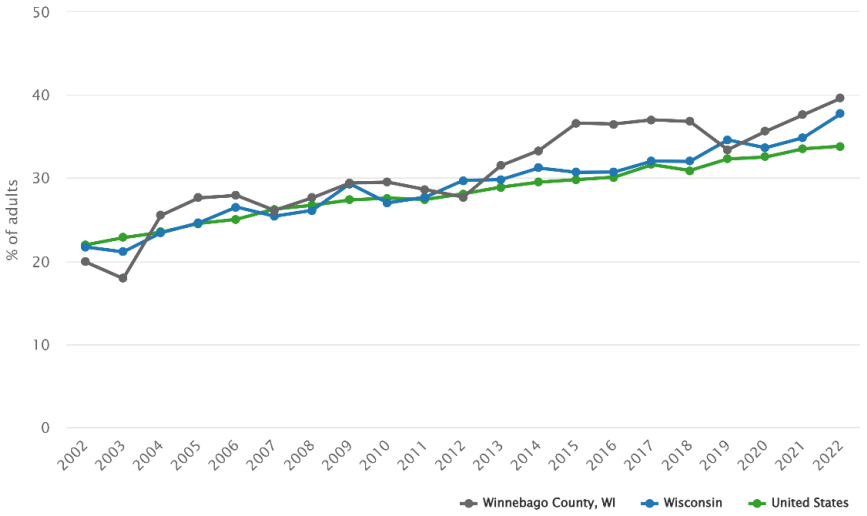


Exhibit 10: Obesity Rate in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, Diabetes Atlas, BRFSS, PLACES, 2022

Disease and Chronic Conditions
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.

Cancer

Cancer is the leading cause of death for residents under the age of 75 in the county.

Annual Cancer Diagnosis Rate
The annual cancer diagnosis rates for all invasive cancers in Winnebago County (450.5 diagnoses per 100,000 residents) is similar to the state average of 466.3 per 100,000 residents and the national average of 444.4 per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2017-2021 and National Cancer Institute (NCI), 2015-2019).

Cancer Mortality Rate
The cancer mortality rate in the county is higher at 189.3 deaths per 100,000 residents, compared to the state at 148.3 deaths per 100,000 and the nation at 145.6 deaths per 100,000. This suggests a disparity in access to healthcare and preventive services and potentially higher instances of risk factors in Winnebago County. (Metopio, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2017-2021 and National Cancer Institute (NCI), 2015-2019).

Key Findings: Diseases and Chronic Conditions

- Mental health is a large concern of community members, with 75% of online survey respondents choosing Mental Health as one the most important health conditions or behaviors to be addressed to improve the health of residents
- The cancer mortality rate in Winnebago County is higher than the state and nation rates, suggesting gaps in access to healthcare and preventive services and potentially higher instances of risk factors

Cardiovascular Disease

Heart disease is the second leading cause of death under the age of 75 in the county. Of adults in the county, 5.5 percent are living with heart disease. (Metopio, BRFSS, 2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Heart Failure
The Winnebago County emergency department rate due to heart failure is 164.8 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 181.2 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population (521.7 per 100,000 residents) as shown in Exhibit 11, Seniors ages 65 and older (565.5 per 100,000 residents) and males (180.0 per 100,000 residents) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

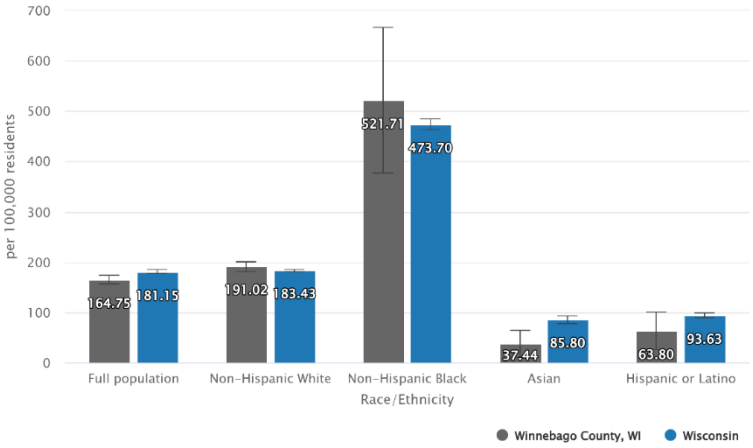


Exhibit 11: Heart Failure Emergency Department Visit Rate in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023

Hospitalization Rate due to Heart Failure
The hospitalization rate due to heart failure in Winnebago County is 308.5 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 382.6 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county for hospitalizations due to heart failure are among the Non-Hispanic Black population (815.7 per 100,000 residents) and Seniors ages 65 and older (1,137.7 per 100,000 residents) (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Emergency Department Rate due to Hypertension
The Winnebago County emergency department rate due to hypertension is 277.5 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 294.9 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 953.8 per 100,000 residents, Females at 343.7 and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 640.1 per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Hypertension
In Winnebago County, the hospitalization rate due to hypertension is 31.0 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 38.5 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 126.4 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 73.9 per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Diabetes

Emergency Department Rate due to Diabetes
The emergency department rate due to diabetes in Winnebago County is 416.8 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 377.5 per 100,000 residents. This is an increasing trend. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 868.4 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 1,032.6 per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Diabetes
In Winnebago County, the hospitalization rate due to diabetes is 116.3 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 143.7 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 334.1 per 100,000 residents, Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 232.0 per 100,000 residents and Males at 136.8 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Emergency Department Rate due to Uncontrolled Diabetes
The emergency department rate due to uncontrolled diabetes in Winnebago County is 194.8 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 206.3 per 100,000 residents. The rates are highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 737.5 per 100,000 residents and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 284.4 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Uncontrolled Diabetes
The hospitalization rate due to uncontrolled diabetes in Winnebago County is 14.5 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 22.3 per 100,000 residents. The rates are highest among Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 36.4 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Mental Health

Mental health includes illnesses such as depression, anxiety, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, attention deficit, and eating disorders. It does not include alcohol or substance abuse disorders.

Emergency Department Rate due to Mental Health
The emergency department rate due to mental health in Winnebago County is 824.7 per 100,000 residents, which is slightly lower than the Wisconsin rate of 860.7 per 100,000

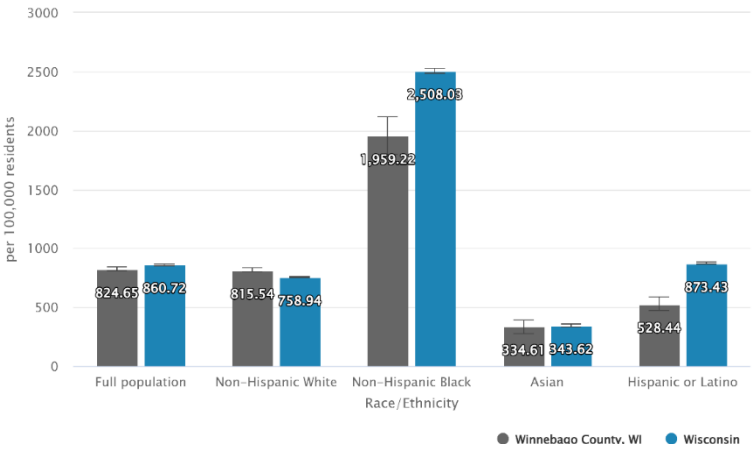


Exhibit 12: Mental Health Emergency Department Rate by Race/Ethnicity in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023

residents. The highest rates in the county for ED rates due to mental health are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,959.2 per 100,000 residents as shown in Exhibit 12, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 1,516.5 per 100,000 residents, and Females at 943.2 per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Mental Health

The hospitalization rate due to mental health in Winnebago County is 593.8 per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 601.7 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county for hospitalization rates due to mental health are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,304.6 per 100,000 residents, Juveniles (5-17 years) at 1,060.9 per 100,000 residents, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 960.5 per 100,000 residents and Females at 723.6 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Emergency Department Rate due to Suicide and Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

The emergency department rate due to suicide and self-injury in Winnebago County is 120.4 visits per 100,000 residents, which is slightly lower than the Wisconsin rate of 122.2 per 100,000 residents. The ED rate due to suicide and self-injury is highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 333.3 per 100,000 residents, Juveniles (5-17 years) at 268.7 per 100,000 residents, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 206.6 per 100,000 residents, and Females at 155.2 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Suicide and Intentional Self-Inflicted Injury

In Winnebago County, the hospitalization rate due to suicide and self-injury is higher (95.9 per 100,000 residents) than the Wisconsin rate (74.6 per 100,000 residents). The highest rates in the county for hospitalization rates due to mental health are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 269.3 per 100,000 residents, Juveniles (5-17 years) at 184.9 per 100,000 residents, Young Adults (18-39 years) at 147.9 per 100,000 residents and Females at 116.3 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023). The Juvenile (5-17 years) hospitalization rate due to suicide and self-injury is significantly higher compared to the same age group for the state, as shown in Exhibit 13 below.

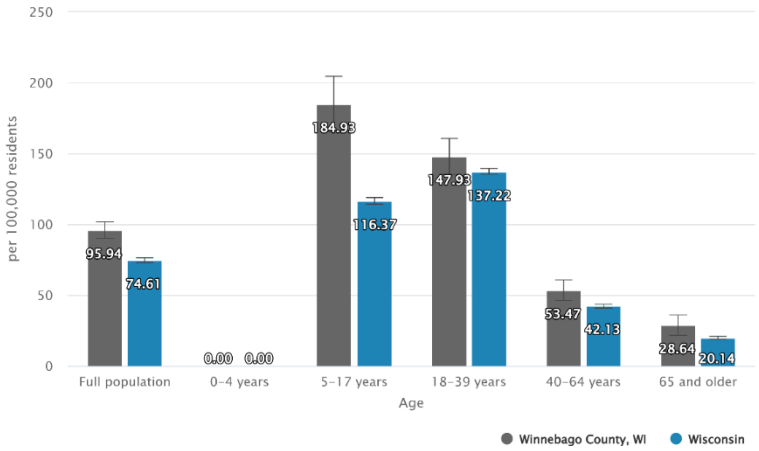


Exhibit 13: Suicide and Self-Injury Hospitalization Rate in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023

Suicide Mortality

The suicide mortality rate in Winnebago County is 15.3 deaths per 100,000 residents due to suicide, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 14.7 deaths per 100,000 residents and the U.S. rate of 14.0 deaths per 100,000 residents. The highest rates for suicide mortality are for Males at 25.0 deaths per 100,000 residents, compared to Females at 5.4 deaths per 100,000 residents; this disparity exists for both the state and the nation as well. (Metopio, CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2018-2022).

Respiratory Disease

Emergency Department Rate due to Asthma

The emergency department rate due to asthma in Winnebago County is 187.4 per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 221.9 per 100,000 residents. The highest ED rates due to asthma in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 1,492.5 per 100,000 residents and Young Adults (18-39 years) at 285.1 per 100,000 residents, closely followed by Infants (0-4 years) at

266.7 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Hospitalization Rate due to Asthma
In Winnebago County, the hospitalization rate due to asthma is 15.3 admissions per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 19.9 per 100,000 residents. The highest rates in the county for hospitalizations due to asthma is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 71.4 per 100,000 residents and Infants (0-4 years) at 43.2 per 100,000 residents (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

Other Chronic Diseases or Conditions

Alzheimer's Disease
The mortality rate due to Alzheimer's Disease is higher in Winnebago County at 41.4 deaths per 100,000 residents than the Wisconsin rate of 31.8 deaths per 100,000 residents and the U.S. rate of 30.5 deaths per 100,000 residents. Females have a much higher death rate from Alzheimer's disease than Males at 57.8 deaths per 100,000 residents compared to 25.4 deaths per 100,000 residents, respectively. (Metopio, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2018-2022).

Emergency Department Rate due to Dental Problems
The annual emergency department visit rate for dental problems includes any claims stemming from a problem with the teeth, which can have a large impact on someone's quality of life. The emergency department visit rate for dental problems in Winnebago County is 497.8 visits per 100,000 residents which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 466.1 visits per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center (WHAIC), 2019-2023).

4. Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health
Women who get recommended health care services before they get pregnant are more likely to be healthy during pregnancy and to have healthy babies. Strategies to help pregnant women get medical care and avoid risky behaviors – like smoking or drinking alcohol – can also improve health outcomes for infants.

Prenatal Care

Prenatal care includes medical checkups and screening tests during pregnancy and involves education and counseling around decreasing risk factors. Prenatal care can help keep both mothers and babies healthy. (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office on Women's Health, 2021).

Average Number of Prenatal Visits
Frequent prenatal care can lead to better maternal and infant health outcomes. In Winnebago County, the average number of prenatal visits that an expecting mother attends prior to the birth of the child is 13.4 visits, which is higher than both the Wisconsin average of 11.7 and the U.S. average of 11.1. (Metopio, CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2016-2022).

Key Findings: Maternal, Child and Reproductive Health

- While the infant mortality rate for the full population is lower in Winnebago County than in the state and nation, there is a vast disparity for the Non-Hispanic Black population
- There are also disparities in pre-term births for the Non-Hispanic Black population, which can lead to health complications for the infants

Births with at Least One Maternal Risk Factor
In Winnebago County, 20.3 percent of births were to mothers that had at least one of the following conditions: chronic hypertension, eclampsia, diabetes, tobacco use, or pregnancy-associated hypertension. This rate is lower than Wisconsin at 25.1 percent and the U.S at 22.1 percent. The highest rates in the county are among the Native American population at 42.1 percent and the two or more races population at 31.2 percent (Metopio, CDC – National Vital Statistics System-Natality (NVSS-N), 2018-2022).

Birth Outcomes

Infant Mortality

The infant mortality rate for Winnebago County is 6.1 deaths per 1,000 live births, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 6.5 deaths per 1,000 live births but higher than the U.S. rate of 5.7 deaths per 1,000 live births (Metopio, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, CDC – National Vital Statistics System-Natality (NVSS-N), 2021). The infant mortality rate is highest in the county among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 15.4 deaths per 1,000 live births, as shown in Exhibit 14 (Metopio, CDC – National Vital Statistics System-Natality (NVSS-N), 2016-2020).

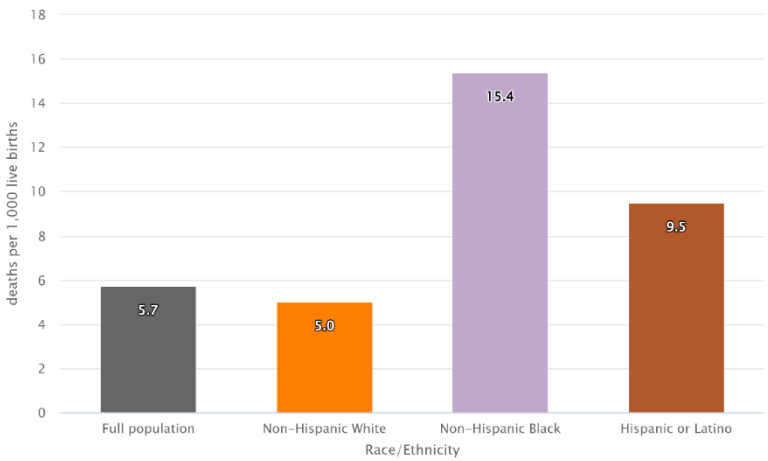


Exhibit 14: Infant Mortality by Race/Ethnicity in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, CDC – National Vital Statistics-Natality (NVSS-N), 2016-2020

Pre-term Births (Less than 37 Weeks Gestation)

In Winnebago County, 11.6 percent of live births are pre-term births (less than 37 weeks of gestation). This is higher than the Wisconsin rate at 10.9 percent of live births and lower than the U.S. at 12.0 percent of live births. The highest rates of pre-term births are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 16.7 percent (Metopio, CDC – National Vital Statistics System-Natality (NVSS-N), 2018-2022).

Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infection (STI) rate includes chlamydia, gonorrhea, syphilis, and HIV/AIDS with more than half of these cases being chlamydia alone. The Winnebago County STI rate is 653.2 cases per 100,00 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 741.5 cases per 100,000 residents, and much lower than the U.S. rate of 1,113.6 cases per 100,000 residents. STIs have shown an increasing trend for all three locations (Metopio, CDC, National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2022).

Key Findings: Environment

- While violent crime rates are lower in the County than in the state and the nation, sexual violence in Winnebago County ranks in the top (worst) 10 percent of all Counties
- Winnebago County ranks among the highest (worst) 75-90 percent of all Counties in the country in fall mortality rates, and the rates have been steadily increasing over time

5. Environment

Many people face challenges and dangers they cannot control – like unsafe neighborhoods, discrimination, or trouble affording basic needs. 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, 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.

SDOH also contribute to health disparities and inequities. For example, people who do not 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. Simply promoting healthy choices will not alone 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 condition in people's environments (Healthy People 2030, Healthy People 2030 | Health.gov).

Housing

Homeownership

Winnebago County has a 66.0 percent owner-occupancy rate, which is slightly lower than the state average of 67.7 percent and higher than the national average of 64.8 percent. There is a significant disparity in homeownership for the Non-Hispanic Black population in the county, with only 12.2 percent of the population owning their housing units. (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Rent-Burdened

In Winnebago County, 37.6 percent of renter-occupied households spend more than 30 percent of their income on rent and are considered rent-burdened. These costs do not include utilities, insurance or building fees. The rent-burdened percentage is higher for Wisconsin at 40.6 percent and the U.S. at 46.5 percent. (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Transportation

Households without a Vehicle

A total of 5.2 percent of Winnebago County households had no vehicle available, which is lower than Wisconsin at 6.3 percent and the U.S. at 8.3 percent (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

Mean Travel Time to Work

The mean travel time to work in Winnebago County is 18.6 minutes, which is slightly lower than Wisconsin at 22.2 minutes and the U.S. at 26.7 minutes (Metopio, American Community Survey, 2018-2022).

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 10.5 percent of residents in Winnebago County experienced food insecurity as some point, which is the same as Wisconsin at 10.5 percent and lower than the U.S. at 13.3 percent. Exhibit 15 shows the food insecurity disparities in Winnebago County. The highest food insecurity rates in the county are among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 41.0 percent, the Hispanic or Latino population at 23.0 percent and children ages 0-17 years at 15.9 percent (Metopio, Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2022).

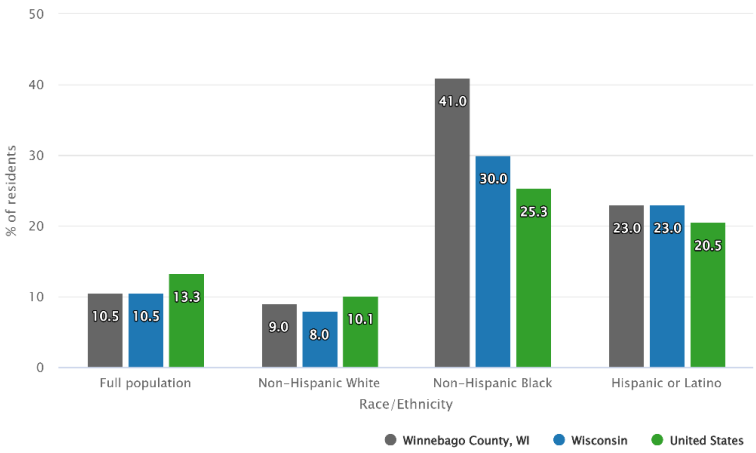


Exhibit 15: Food Insecurity by Race/Ethnicity in Winnebago County, WI

Source: Metopio, Feeding American, Map the Meal Gap, 2022

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 Winnebago County, 67.4 percent of residents are considered to have low access to food. This rate is higher than Wisconsin at 47.3 percent and the U.S. at 50.2 percent. (Metopio, USDA, 2019).

Social Environment and Community Safety

Fall Mortality

Fall mortality is defined as a death occurring due to unintentional falls. In Winnebago County, the fall mortality rate is 26.3 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 23.9 deaths per 100,000 residents and significantly higher than the U.S. rate of 10.4 deaths per 100,000 residents. Winnebago County ranks among the highest (worst) 75-90 percent of all Counties in the country in fall mortality rates, and the rates have been steadily increasing over time as shown in Exhibit 16 (Metopio, CDC – National Vital Statistics System-Mortality (NVSS-M), 2018-2022).

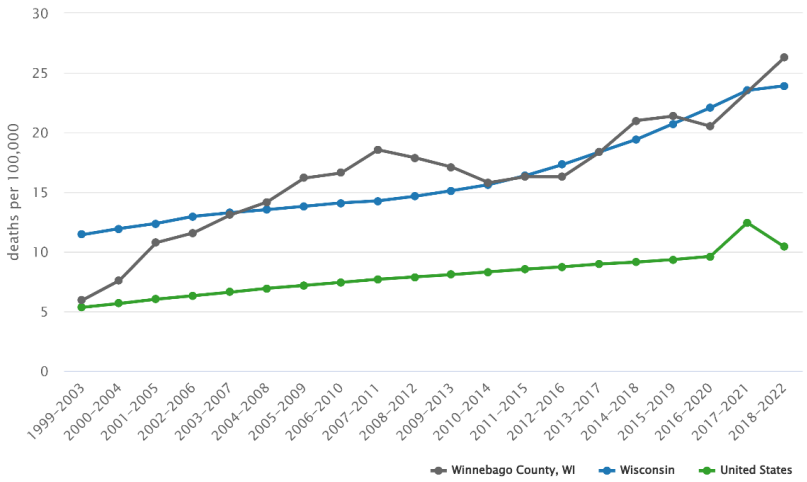


Exhibit 16: Fall Mortality in Winnebago County, WI
Source: Metopio, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2018-2022

Unintentional Injury Mortality

The unintentional injury mortality rate is the deaths per 100,000 residents with an underlying cause of unintentional injury, excluding motor vehicle injuries. The Winnebago County rate is 62.0 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 69.1 deaths per 100,000 residents, but higher than the U.S. rate of 58.8 deaths per 100,000 residents. (Metopio, CDC, National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2018-2022).

Sexual Violence

Forcible rape is the carnal knowledge of a person without their consent, including instances where the victim is incapable of giving consent because of their age or temporary or permanent mental or physical incapacity. Winnebago County ranks in the highest (worst) 10 percent of all Counties for forcible rape, at 44.8 crimes per 100,000 residents, compared to 27.9 crimes per 100,000 residents in Wisconsin. (Metopio, Wisconsin Department of Justice, 2019).

Violent Crime

Crimes related to violence (yearly rate) includes homicide, criminal sexual assault, robbery, aggravated assault, and aggravated battery. The rate for violent crime in Winnebago County is 178.7 crimes per 100,000 residents, which is lower than the Wisconsin rate of 305.4 crimes per 100,000 residents and the U.S. rate of 369.0 crimes per 100,000. The violent crime rates show a consistent fluctuation over the years. (Metopio, FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2017-2021).

Social Connectedness

Social connection is based on the size and diversity of a person's social networks and roles, as well as the positive qualities from those relationships. This feeling of belonging and the support it provides is an important protective factor against chronic disease and serious illnesses. Both individual social connections and a community's supportive connections contribute to positive health benefits. (CDC, Social Connection, 2024). Through the focus groups with participants that are Black, Brown, African, Immigrants and/or Refugees, Winnebago County Public Health highlighted the experience of racism and discrimination that these populations have in the county, and how it aligns with the sense of not belonging in the community and feeling disconnected (Winnebago County Public Health, Community Health Assessment, 2023).

IV. Prioritization of Health-Related Issues

A. Priority Setting Process

In October 2024, an ad hoc group of leaders from Aurora Medical Center – Oshkosh prioritized significant needs 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 Community Steering Council validated these priorities at another meeting in November 2024.

B. Health Needs Selected

Using these criteria, Aurora Oshkosh prioritized the significant health needs to address in the 2025-2027 implementation strategy:

Behavioral Health
This need was selected because mental health issues continue to rise in the county, including mental health crises such as suicide and self-harm as well as substance use disorder issues. There are concerning disparities for certain groups for nearly every indicator that was reviewed. The hospital is committed to supporting access to care and community initiatives.

Community Safety
Social drivers of health impact people's health and their wellbeing. While there are many SDOH that have need of addressing, the Aurora Oshkosh team has decided to focus efforts on community safety, as there are concerning trends, and it is an area they have dedicated resources. The hospital will strive to continue the momentum they currently have to impact outcomes.

C. Health Needs Not Selected

Racism and Discrimination
This is a pervasive systemic issue that requires a community-wide, collective response. It is Aurora Health Care's mission to achieve health equity by addressing the root causes of health inequities, including racism and discrimination. Rather than a separate priority, health equity will be the foundation of the implementation strategy. The hospital will support community efforts towards improving health inequities and work to systematically dismantle racism.

Employment and Income
This is a larger systemic issue that requires a community-wide, collective response. Aurora Oshkosh will support efforts within the community as needed, especially in healthcare workforce development. Additionally, providers will refer to community resources for identified needs of individual patients in our healthcare facilities.

Housing Costs and Safety
This is another large systemic issue that requires a community-wide, collective response. Aurora Oshkosh is not currently situated to prioritize this issue based on resources available but will support community efforts to do so. Additionally, providers will refer to community resources for identified needs of individual patients in our healthcare facilities.

Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity
While not selected as a separate priority, this is already being addressed by providers and will continue to be addressed as healthcare does play a role in supporting efforts to improve health behaviors relating to chronic conditions.

V. Approval of Community Health Needs Assessment

The 2024 CHNA was presented to the Aurora Health Care Metro Board, the authorizing body of the hospital. The board approved the report on December 16, 2024.

VI. Vehicle for Community Feedback

Community Feedback

Aurora Health Care welcomes all feedback regarding the 2024 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.

Feedback Link: https://www.aurorahealthcare.org/about-aurora/community-benefits/contact-us/

If you experience any issues with the link to our feedback form or have any other questions, please click below to send an email to us at: AHC-CHNAReportCmtyFeedback@advocatehealth.com

This report can be viewed online at Advocate Health Care's Community Health Needs Assessment Report webpage via the following link: https://www.aurorahealthcare.org/about-aurora/community-benefits/

A paper copy of this report may also be requested by contacting the hospital's Community Health Department.

VII. Evaluation of Impact from Previous CHNA

**Note: At the time of publication of this report, the final year of the plan was not yet complete. The numbers are as of September 2024.*

Priority #1: Access
In this area, the hospital focused efforts on our community's most vulnerable residents who need help with access to care for the purpose of detecting and treating medical needs at an early stage to improve overall health, prevent and, or manage chronic disease.

- Patients were actively screened for coverage through the Marketplace or financial assistance programs and assisted with the application process to transition people from a self-pay status to having medical coverage for services
- 2,958 individuals were served through the Cancer Nurse Navigator (CNN) services for all patients, regardless of payer status
- 1,443 patients were served through a Transition of Care Clinic that makes providers available to patients who are in between primary care providers because of retirement, LOA, or other reasons, but who need immediate follow up care after being seen in urgent care, the Emergency Department or hospitalization
- 34 vouchers provided for eligible diagnostic lab and radiology services for people being seen in the Oshkosh area free clinics

Priority #2: Access to Behavioral Health Programs and Services
The hospital's work in this area includes assuring that patients are assessed by social workers dedicated to the Emergency Department to expedite referrals for appropriate behavioral health services, offering an

intensive outpatient treatment (IOP) program for patients with substance use disorders, and partnering in the community on mental health and substance use disorder issues.

- 459 patients presenting in the Emergency Department were assessed for behavioral health services
- 116 new patients treated in IOP
- In collaboration with Winnebago County, developed a protocol for identifying children who are victims of abuse and drug-endangered; numbers of children seen were low, but it is process that remains in place

Priority #3: Community Safety
Aurora Oshkosh provides numerous initiatives to support people affected by violence and offers numerous community education sessions to positively impact community safety. Initiatives include Forensic Nurse Examiners that provide trauma-informed care and follow up referrals to people of all ages who have been affected, referrals to medical, clinical, counseling and advocacy services and trainings to first responders.

- 490 individuals provided with trauma-informed and victim-sensitive services through the Sexual Assault Treatment Center
- Over 100 community trainings provided on a variety of safety topics, reaching approximately 2,000 attendees

Priority #4: Obesity with a focus on Food Security
In this priority area, the hospital partners with the local Senior Center to positively impact seniors through the provision of monthly nutrition classes at the Senior Center and makes referrals to our diabetes and nutrition center. Hospital teammates also work with a local coalition, Be Well, to engage the Eat Well For life program to deliver a program with a defined curriculum and provide food to these patients with education on food preparation, food shopping, disease management and support groups.

- 20 nutrition classes offered to the Senior Center, with a total of approximately 290 attendees
- Multiple cohorts offered through Be Well, including health education classes in Hmong and Spanish
- Over 2,500 diabetes-friendly food boxes distributed through Be Well

VIII. Appendices

Appendix 1: 2024 Community Health Needs Assessment Data Sources

To view the Winnebago County Public Health Community Health Assessment report, which includes summaries of the community feedback, descriptions of the data collection methods and the members of the collaborative, visit: https://www.winnebagocountywi.gov/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/Winnebago%20County%20CHA%202023.pdf

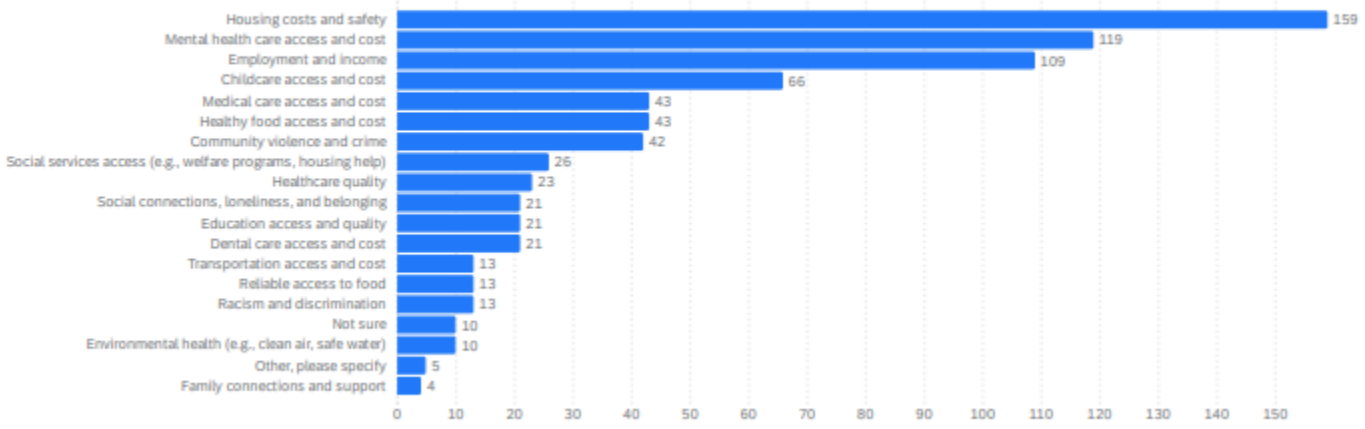
Summary results from the Aurora Health Care - Winnebago County Community Health Survey are below.

Filters | Q2 - Do you live in Winnebago County?: Yes | Responses: 330

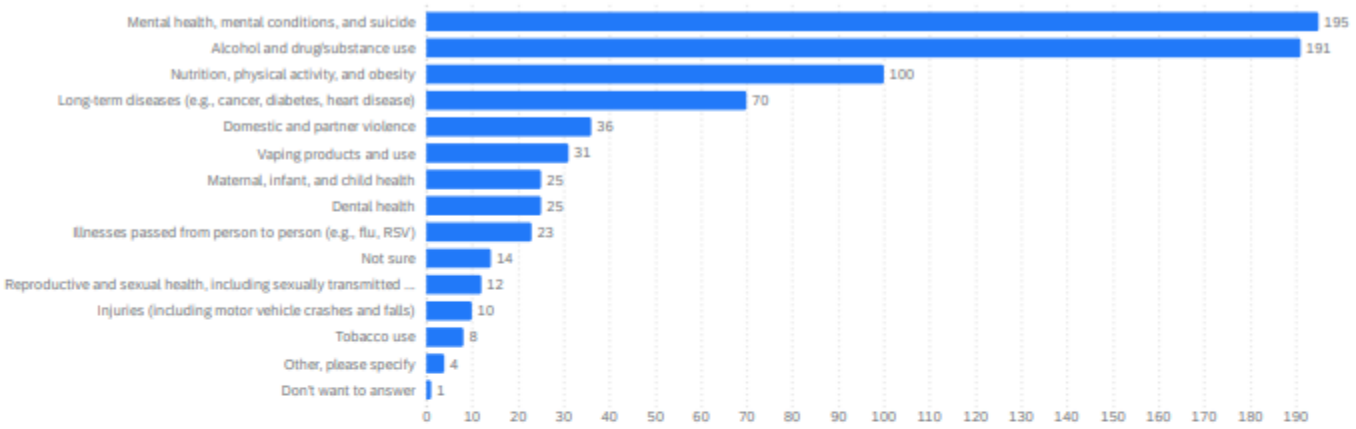
Do you feel that 265

Do you feel that	Strongly disagree	Somewhat disagree	Neither agree nor disagree	Somewhat agree	Strongly agree	Don't know
There are quality health care services in your community?	3%	6%	5%	32%	53%	1%
Your community is a safe place to walk?	6%	20%	15%	36%	22%	0%
There are easy-to-use public transportation options in your community?	8%	15%	19%	26%	18%	13%
There are affordable public transportation options in your community?	5%	13%	19%	27%	17%	18%
There are affordable health care services in your community?	6%	12%	15%	40%	21%	4%
Individuals in your community can access healthcare services regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, etc.?	2%	6%	9%	23%	52%	7%
There are enough livable-wage jobs available for those over 18 years old in your community?	14%	20%	15%	24%	20%	8%
There are job trainings or employment resources for those who want them, in your community?	2%	11%	18%	30%	24%	15%
Childcare (daycare/preschool) is affordable for those who want it in your community?	36%	30%	11%	5%	2%	15%
Childcare (daycare/preschool) is available for those who want it in your community?	21%	31%	12%	12%	8%	14%
There are affordable places to live in your community?	20%	35%	14%	20%	6%	4%
Your community is set up so that you can walk places?	11%	21%	17%	32%	18%	0%

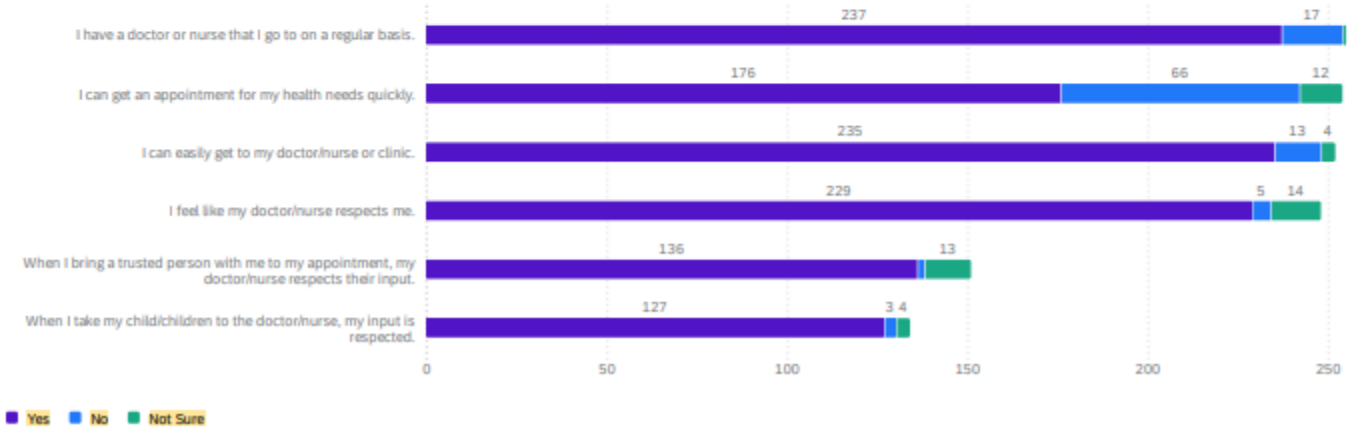
What are the 3 most important social or economic issues in Winnebago County that must change to improve the lives of the people who live here? 262



What are the 3 most important health conditions or behaviors that must be addressed to improve the health of the people who live here? 260



Tell us about your experiences with health care services and providers (doctors, nurse practitioners, physician assistants or primary care clinics). 255



What is your age? 256

Q10 - What is your age?	Percentage	Count
18-34	18%	46
35-44	25%	64
45-54	23%	59
55-64	28%	71
65 or older	6%	16

What is your gender? 256

Q11 - What is your gender? - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Male	13%	34
Female	84%	216

Q11 - What is your gender? - Selected Choice	Percentage	Count
Transgender Male	1%	2
Prefer not to say	2%	4

Do you feel you are treated in a biased way because of your gender or gender identity when receiving health care? 255

Q12 - Do you feel you are treated in a biased way because of your gender or gender identity when receiving health care?	Percentage	Count
No	88%	225
Yes	12%	30

How do you describe your sexual orientation? 253

Q13 - How do you describe your sexual orientation?	Percentage	Count
Straight or Heterosexual	93%	236
Gay or lesbian	1%	3
Bisexual	2%	4
Another sexual orientation	0%	1
Not sure	0%	1
Prefer not to say	3%	8

Do you feel you are treated in a biased way because of your sexual orientation when receiving health care? 253

Q14 - Do you feel you are treated in a biased way because of your sexual orientation when receiving health care?	Percentage	Count
No	94%	238
Yes	6%	15

Are you of Hispanic, Latino/x, or Spanish origin or descent? 253

Q15 - Are you of Hispanic, Latino/x, or Spanish origin or descent?	Percentage	Count
No	96%	244
Yes	4%	9

Which of the following would you say is your race? (check all) 254

Q16 - Which of the following would you say is your race? (check all)	Percentage	Count
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%	2
Asian or Asian American	0%	1
Black or African American	2%	4
White or Caucasian	93%	236
Another race, please specify	1%	2
Prefer not to say	4%	10

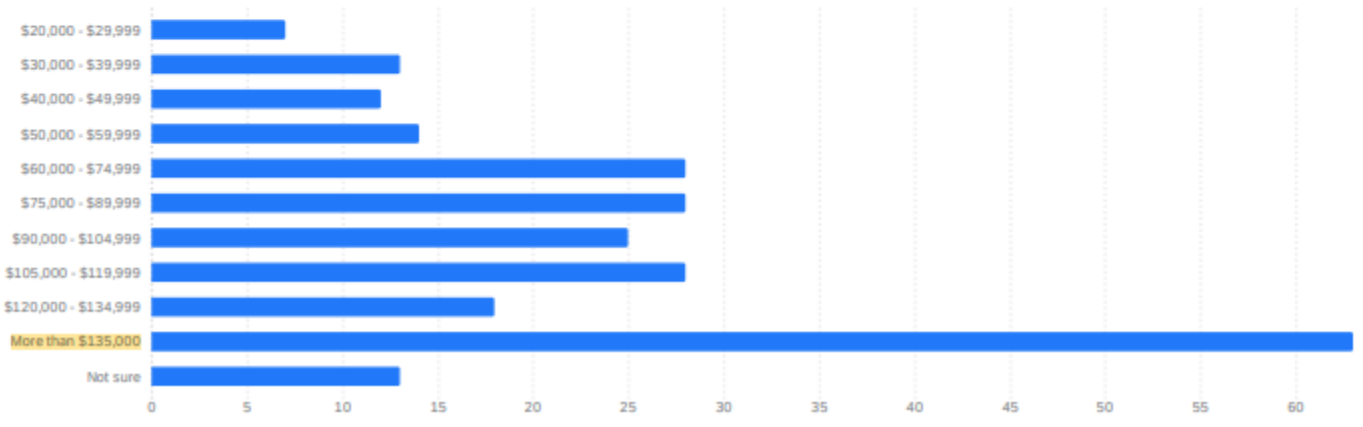
Do you feel you are treated in a biased way because of your race when receiving health care? 254

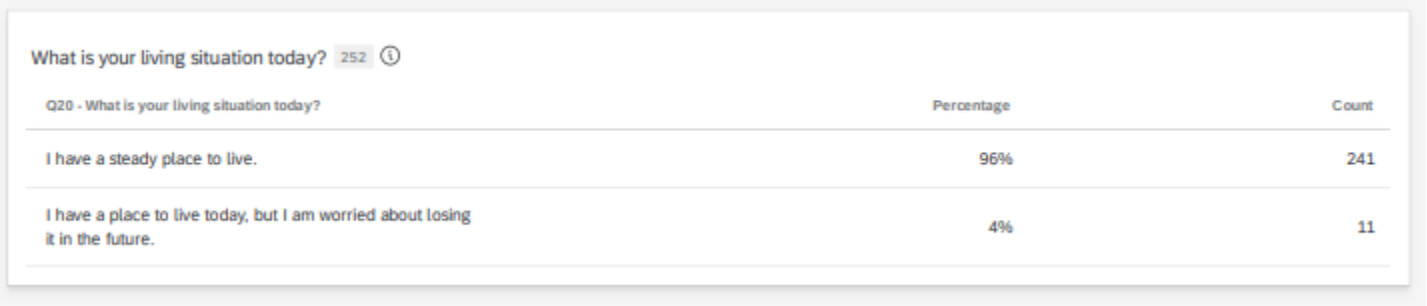
Q17 - Do you feel you are treated in a biased way because of your race when receiving health care?	Percentage	Count
No	97%	246
Yes	3%	8

What is your highest level of education completed? 254

Q18 - What is your highest level of education completed?	Percentage	Count
High school graduate or GED	8%	20
Some college	17%	43
Technical school graduate	15%	39
College graduate	38%	96
Master's degree or higher	22%	56

What is your annual household income before taxes? 249





What is your living situation today? 252

Q20 - What is your living situation today?	Percentage	Count
I have a steady place to live.	96%	241
I have a place to live today, but I am worried about losing it in the future.	4%	11

Appendix 2: Community Resources Available for Significant Needs

The resources under each significant need are not a complete list. For more community resources, visit: https://advocateauroracommunity.org/

Access to Healthy Foods

Organization	Website	Contact
Double Portion Soup Kitchen and Food Pantry	https://www.doubleportionsoupkitchen.com/	DoublePortionSoupKitchen@gmail.com
His Church World Outreach Food Pantry	https://hcwo.org/	920-426-4596
Lutheran Food Pantry	https://zionoshkosh.com/lutheran-food-pantry/	920-379-4774
Omro Community Food Pantry	https://www.foodpantries.org/ci/wi-omro	920-231-7546
Oshkosh Area Community Pantry	https://www.oacptoday.org/	920-651-9960
Winneconne Area Assistance Center	https://www.facebook.com/waacwi/	920-851-5757
ADVOCAP	https://www.advocap.org/services/nutrition-services/	920-426-0150

Community Safety

Organization	Website	Contact
Aurora Oshkosh - Sexual Assault Support	https://www.aurorahealthcare.org/healing-advocacy-services/our-locations	414-219-5555
Oshkosh Fire Department	https://www.oshkoshwi.gov/Fire/	920-236-5000
Christine Ann Center	https://www.christineann.net/	920-235-5998

Employment and Income

Organization	Website	Contact
Greater Oshkosh Economic Development Corp	https://greateroshkosh.com/	920-230-3321
NEW (Northeast WI) Hmong Professionals	https://www.newhmongprofessionals.org/	920-903-1001
Oshkosh Chamber	https://www.oshkoshchamber.com/	920-303-2266
Oshkosh Area Community Foundation	https://www.oshkoshareacf.org/	920-426-3993
Winnebago Area Literacy Council	https://winlit.org/	920-573-5506

Housing Costs and Safety

Organization	Website	Contact
Winnebago County Housing Authority	http://www.ohawcha.org/	920-424-1450
ESTHER Housing Advocates, UWO	https://esther-foxvalley.org/content/housing-advocacy	920-843-8083
Day By Day Shelter	https://daybydayshelter.org/	920-203-4865
Father Carr's	https://fathercarrs.org/	920-231-2378
HELP (Homelessness, Evictions, & Loss Preventions)	https://www.winnebagocountywi.gov/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/HELP%20flyer%2010.6.23.pdf	920-509-7629
Lutheran Social Services	https://www.lsswis.org/	920-730-1326

Mental Healthcare

Organization	Website	Contact
Omro Community Center	https://www.facebook.com/omroareacommunitycenter/	920-685-0380
Salvation Army - Oshkosh	https://centralusa.salvationarmy.org/usc/location-search/	920-232-7660
St Vincent De Paul Society Neenah	https://www.svdpneenah.org/helpline	920-729-4571
Unity Recovery Services	https://unityrecoveryservices.org/	920-903-9337
Winnebago Mental Health Institute	https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wmhi/index.htm	920-235-4910, ext. 2527
NAMI Oshkosh	https://www.namioshkosh.org/	920-651-1148
Lutheran Social Services	https://www.lsswis.org/	920-730-1326

Nutrition, Physical Activity and Obesity

Organization	Website	Contact
Winnebago County WIC Nutrition Program	https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health/divisions-program-areas/women-infants-and-children-wic	920-232-3350
ADVOCAP	https://www.advocap.org/services/nutrition-services/	920-426-0150
Oshkosh Community YMCA	https://www.oshkoshymca.org/	920-230-8439
Downtown YMCA	https://www.oshkoshymca.org/locations/downtown-ymca	920-236-3380

Racism and Discrimination

Organization	Website	Contact
ACLU	https://www.aclu-wi.org/en/request-legal-assistance	liberty@aclu-wi.org
Diverse and Resilient	https://www.diverseandresilient.org/appleton/	920-416-8711

Substance Use Disorders

Organization	Website	Contact
Solutions Recovery Inc.	https://solutionsrecovery.org/	920-233-0888
Unity Recovery Services	https://unityrecoveryservices.org/	920-903-9337
Winnebago Mental Health Institute	https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wmhi/index.htm	920-235-4910, ext. 2527
Reach Counseling	https://www.reachcounseling.com/	920-722-8150
Winnebago County Public Health Harm Reduction Vending Machines	https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/health/divisions-program-areas/community-health/substance-use/public-health-vending-machines	920-232-3000
Lutheran Social Services	https://www.lsswis.org/	920-730-1326

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Feeding America, 2022

FBI Crime Data Explorer, 2017-2021

Health Resources and Services Administration, 2021

National Cancer Institute, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2017-2021

National Center for HIV/AIDS, Viral Hepatitis, STD, and TB Prevention, 2021

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National Vital Statistics System-Natality, 2016-2020

PLACES, 2022

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USDA, 2019

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