Aurora Medical Center - Mount Pleasant
Community Health Implementation Strategy

January 1, 2025 - December 31, 2027

Community health improvement is an effective tool for creating a shared vision and supporting a planned and integrated approach to improving health outcomes. The basic premise of community health improvement is that entities identify community health issues, prioritize those that can be addressed, and then develop, implement, and evaluate strategies to address those issues. Tax-exempt hospitals are required to conduct a community health needs assessment (CHNA) and develop an implementation strategy to document how the hospital will address prioritized community health needs. The following outlines a summary of the CHNA process and provides details on Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant's plans to address their prioritized community health needs.

SUMMARY OF CHNA PROCESS

In 2024, Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant (Aurora Mount Pleasant) completed the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) in collaboration with Ascension Wisconsin, City of Racine Public Health Department and Racine County Public Health Department, which consisted of a comprehensive presentation and analysis of both qualitative and quantitative data.

The Aurora Mount Pleasant CHNA relies on four sources of information:

Community Health Survey (primary data): 500 phone surveys conducted from February 5 – March 16, 2024, and 118 online surveys conducted from January 29 – April 16, 2024, where Racine County residents completed 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.

Key Informant Interviews (primary data): 18 key informant interviews were conducted with community leaders to identify the top social drivers of health and health conditions/behaviors in the community.

Aurora Health Care Teammate Survey (primary data): 100 teammates who work at an Aurora Health Care site in Racine County completed an online survey from May 6-31, 2024, identifying the top health issues and social factors impacting the patients they serve.

Metopio (secondary data) was a key source of data for the 2024 Aurora Mount Pleasant CHNA. The data platform is an internet-based resource which includes data for demographics, health, emergency department (ED) visits, hospitalization rates, and more. The secondary data was crucial in analyzing the hospital's health needs. All data collected through Metopio was quantitative and included data comparisons between county, state and national data.

As part of the CHNA process, Community Health teammates presented extensive community data to the Aurora Eastern Racine/Kenosha Steering Council, which is comprised of hospital and community representatives. The Steering Council provided oversight of the 2024 CHNA process through a series of meetings by reviewing and analyzing data.

The top health issues identified:

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

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 accessible and affordable healthcare as the priority needs to address in the 2025-2027 Community Health Implementation Strategy (CHIS).

Using these criteria, Aurora Medical Center - Mount Pleasant has prioritized the significant health needs to address in 2025-2027:

Significant Need	Implementation Strategy Selection Reasoning
Food Insecurity	Food insecurity was selected as a health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented to the Steering Council. While positive progress is being made in Racine County to increase food security, there is still more work that needs to be done around vulnerable populations that are disproportionately affected.
Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury	Mental health, suicide and self-injury was selected as a priority for the CHNA based on the data presented at the Steering Council meetings. The rates of mental health issues, suicide and self-injury continues to increase over time in Racine County indicating that more work need to be done to address the ever-growing need for additional services, access to programs and support services in our communities.
Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Heart Failure, Stroke)	The Steering Council selected chronic diseases as a health priority for the CHNA based on the data presented. The focus will be specifically in diabetes, heart failure and stroke by investigating opportunities to develop strategies to address these chronic diseases among vulnerable populations in Racine County.

PRIORITY: Food Insecurity

IMPACT:
Increase rates of food security in Racine County

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- In Racine County, 10.7 percent of residents experienced food insecurity, which is a significant increase over time. The highest rates are among the Non-Hispanic Black population.
  Source: Metopio, Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap, 2022
- In Racine County, 60.2 percent of residents are considered to have low access to food, which is defined by distance to the nearest supermarket; this is higher than Wisconsin at 47.3 percent and the U.S. at 50.2 percent. Additionally, rates are slightly higher in Racine County among the Non-Hispanic White population at 61.3 percent and Seniors (ages 65 and older) at 60.8 percent.
  Source: Metopio, USDA, 2019
- Twenty-two percent of phone survey respondents and 24 percent of online survey respondents reported economic stability, including employment and income was a top social or economic issue in the county.
  Source: JKV Research LLC, Racine County Community Survey, 2024
- In Racine County, there are 11.3 percent of residents in families that are living below the federal poverty level, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 10.7 percent. The highest rate of poverty in the county is among the Non-Hispanic Black population at 26.8 percent.
  Source: Metopio American Community Survey, 2018-2022

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES

LOCAL: Aurora Medical Center–Mount Pleasant

- Food security (Advocate Health)
- Racine County Community Health Improvement Plan (Racing County Public Health)

STATE: Wisconsin State Health Plan Priority Areas

- Physical, mental and systemic safety
- Person and community-centered health care

NATIONAL: Healthy People 2030

- Reduce overweight and obesity by helping people eat healthy and get physical activity
- Improve health by promoting health eating and making nutritious foods available
- Help people earn steady incomes that allow them to meet their health needs

STRATEGY #1: Increase access to healthy foods

Specific Interventions	Collaborative Partners	Objectives
• Implement a Community Garden on site at Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant • Introduce and foster relationships between community partners to develop onsite community garden	• Aurora Health Care Foundation • University of Madison Extension • Local food pantries • Farmers markets	• Increase partnerships to collaborate on community garden • Expand access to healthy foods for food insecure residents

Measuring Our Impact

- Number of donors/dollars collected for community garden
- Number of garden beds filled each year
- Number of pounds of produce donated to local food pantries

PRIORITY: Food Insecurity (CONTINUED)

STRATEGY #2: Increase food security in community

Specific Interventions	Collaborative Partners	Objectives
• Educate teammates at Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant on Social Drivers of Health Wheel in Epic • Increase community-based organizations within Findhelp platform for food insecurity • Implement food insecurity screening and referrals for patients through Findhelp platform (via Epic)	• Aurora Health Care • Local community-based organizations • Local food pantries • University of Wisconsin Extension	• Increase referrals to community resources for patients identified as food insecure • Reduce the number of residents who are food insecure • Increase awareness of resources available in Epic though Findhelp platform

Measuring Our Impact

- Number of organizations on closed-loop referral process
- Number of patients screened as being food insecure
- Number of completed closed-loop referrals in Epic/Findhelp
- Percentage change in Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant food insecurity data in Racine County

PRIORITY: Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury

IMPACT:
Reduce mental health issues, suicide and self-injury rates in Racine County

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- Emergency Department (ED) and hospitalization rates due to mental health in Racine County are highest among the Non-Hispanic Black population, Young Adults (18-39 years), Juveniles (5-17 years), and Females.
  Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2019-2023
- The Non-Hispanic Black population, Young Adults (18-39 years), Juveniles (5-17 years), and Females have the highest ED and hospitalization rates due to suicide and self-injury in Racine County.
  Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2019-2023
- Suicide mortality rates are highest in Racine County among Young Adults (18-39 years), Middle Aged-Adults (40-64 years), and Males.
  Source: Metopio, CDC- National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2018-2022
- Over 51 percent of 9th-12th grade respondents had experienced significant problems with anxiety and over 17 percent of respondents seriously considered suicide.
  Source: Centers for Prevention Research and Development, Wisconsin Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Racine County Report, 2024

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES

LOCAL: Aurora Medical Center–Mount Pleasant

- Access to behavioral health services (Advocate Health)
- Racine County community Health Improvement Plan (Racine County Public Health)

STATE: Wisconsin State Health Plan Priority Areas

- Mental and emotional health and well-being

NATIONAL: Healthy People 2030

- Improve mental health

STRATEGY #1: Implement Zero Suicide initiative to decrease suicide rates

Specific Interventions	Collaborative Partners	Objectives
• Identify individuals with suicide risk via comprehensive screening and assessment in the Aurora Mount Pleasant Emergency Department • Care for individuals at risk of suicide through evidence-based treatments and warm handoffs for support • Improve hospital culture around suicide awareness and enhance processes through continuous quality improvement	• Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant Emergency Department • Racine County Public Health • City of Racine Public Health • Local community organizations	• Decrease suicide rates in Racine County • Increase awareness and access to mental health services in the community

Measuring Our Impact

- Number of patients (percentage) ages 12+ with Columbia Suicide Screen charted in the emergency department
- Number of patients (percentage) ages 12+ with High-Risk Screens with Behavioral Health Consult Orders in the emergency department
- Percentage change in the Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant emergency department and hospitalization rates due to suicide and self-injury

PRIORITY: Mental Health, Suicide and Self-Injury (CONTINUED)

STRATEGY #2: Improve mental health through community collaborations and services

Specific Interventions	Collaborative Partners	Objectives
• Implement Mental Health trainings with community partners (i.e., Mental Health First Aid training, QPR training, etc.) • Collaborate with community partners to increase awareness of mental health services available to residents	• NAMI of Racine County • Racine County Public Health • City of Racine Public Health • Local community organizations in Racine County	• Increase coordination to and awareness of local community organizations for high needs populations • Decrease suicide rates in Racine County

Measuring Our Impact

- Number of individuals served
- Percentage change in Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant emergency department and hospitalization rates due to mental health

PRIORITY: Chronic Diseases (Diabetes, Heart Failure, Stroke)

IMPACT:

Reduce chronic disease rates among adults in Racine County

DESCRIPTION OF HEALTH NEED DATA:

- ED and hospitalization rates for all cardiovascular diseases (including stroke) are highest among Non-Hispanic Black Males.
  Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2019-2023
- In Racine County, the stroke mortality rate (deaths due to stroke) is 54.0 deaths per 100,000 residents, which is higher than the Wisconsin rate of 34.6 deaths per 100,000 residents and the U.S. rate of 38.7 deaths per 100,000 residents. The highest death rates due to stroke in Racine County are among the Non-Hispanic White population and Females.
  Source: Metopio, CDC-National Vital Statistics System-Mortality, 2018-2022
- ED and hospitalization rates for diabetes is steadily increasing over time with the highest rates observed among the Non-Hispanic Black population and Seniors (65 and older).
  Source: Metopio, Wisconsin Health Association Information Center, 2019-2023
- In Racine County, 10.2 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). This rate is higher than Wisconsin at 9.1 percent.
  Source: Metopio, Diabetes Atlas, PLACES, 2022

ALIGNMENT WITH EXISTING STRATEGIES

LOCAL: Aurora Medical Center–Mount Pleasant

- Food Security (Advocate Health)

STATE: Wisconsin State Health Plan Priority Areas

- Physical, mental and system safety
- Person and community-centered health care

NATIONAL: Healthy People 2030

- Reduce overweight and obesity by helping people eat healthy and get physical activity

STRATEGY #1: Build community awareness and education of chronic disease management programs and services

Specific Interventions	Collaborative Partners	Objectives
• Support awareness in the community of the Aurora Advanced Care at Home (ACAH) program in Racine County • Align with local organizations and support community driven efforts that address health education, prevention and management of chronic diseases	• Aurora Medical Center – Burlington • Advocate Health Continuing Health – Health at Home • Free Health Clinic • Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs) • Racine County Public Health • City of Racine Public Health	• Increase awareness of programs in the community for patients with chronic diseases • Improve health outcomes and metrics for chronic diseases such as diabetes, heart disease and stroke • Improve chronic disease self-management of patients enrolled in programs

Measuring Our Impact

- Number of patients enrolled in ACAH program from Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant – Racine County
- Percentage change in Aurora Medical Center – Mount Pleasant emergency department and hospitalization rates due to diabetes, heart disease and stroke

Adoption of the Implementation Strategy

The Community Health Implementation Strategy report was adopted by the Aurora Health Care Metro Board, the authorizing body of the hospital, on April 21, 2025.

Note: Plans to address selected CHNA priorities are dependent upon resources and may be adjusted on an annual basis to best address the health needs of our community.