In addition to the top five health issues in 2021, these also ranked very high as areas of concern – reflecting both public health data and community input.

**ISSUES OF CONCERN**

- Maternal, Fetal and Infant Health
  Particularly Infant Mortality
- Infectious Disease
  COVID, HIV, and Sexually Transmitted Infections
- Chronic Disease
  Diabetes, Heart Disease, Asthma, etc.

**PRIORITY POPULATIONS**

- **Black / African American**
  Blacks face twice the ‘number of years of life lost,’ compared to Whites.
- **Hispanic / Latino**
  70% of Latinos have health insurance, compared to a 95% coverage rate for Whites.
- **Children & Youth (<18 years old)**
  Nearly 1 in 4 children live in poverty, with a rate 3x more likely for Latinos and 4x more likely for Blacks, compared to Whites.
- **Older Adult / Elderly (>65 years old)**
  Older adults face increased social isolation, more than 1 in 3 live alone.

**DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH**

Factors that contribute to overall health.

- **Health Behaviors** | 30%
  Tobacco Use, Diet & Exercise, Alcohol Use, Sexual Activity
- **Health Care** | 20%
  Access & Quality of Care
- **Socioeconomic Factors** | 40%
  Education, Job Status, Family/Social Support, Income, Community Safety
- **Physical Environment** | 10%

**RACISM AND DISCRIMINATION**

Racism is a fundamental and unjust cause of health disparities across numerous health issues. When asked about the causes of health disparities for people of color:

- **57%** overall, and 86% of Black/AA respondents named structural or systemic racism as a major reason.
- **64%** overall, and 84% of Black/AA respondents named historical gaps in wealth as a major reason.
Since 2012, the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership’s triennial Community Health Needs Assessment has reported on the top health issues identified by residents and community leaders in Milwaukee County. In 2021 we placed a keen focus on racial and health equity in CHNA data collection and analysis. A redesigned community health survey directly addressed racism and discrimination as key determinants of health. Additionally, access to safe and affordable housing was identified by community stakeholders as the single most contributing factor — and strongest opportunity — for improving health for vulnerable populations.

It is our hope that this assessment will help amplify community conversations about health equity, frame strategic health improvement efforts and drive individual and collective action. We all have a role to play in countering the systemic barriers to good health. Just as the causes of illness are many and inter-related, the same is true for the paths that lead to better health — for all of us.

Shared Community Health Needs Assessment in Milwaukee County

Every three years, the Partnership’s health system members – Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Children’s Wisconsin, and Froedtert Health — share the funding and design of Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNAs) in six southeastern Wisconsin counties. The CHNAs serve as the foundation from which hospitals and local health departments develop their respective community health improvement strategies. The CHNA findings are also intended to inform a broader audience about the top health issues facing their communities.

The Milwaukee County CHNA is comprised of three data sources:

- **Community Health Survey** — A 10-minute, online survey of more than 8,600 Milwaukee County residents that addressed adult and child health risk factors, health behaviors and perceptions of pressing community health needs.

- **Stakeholder Interviews** — Conducted by health system community benefit leaders with 103 individuals representing 48 key informants and 55 participants in 4 focus groups to identify community health needs, root causes and contributing social factors. Interviewees offered insight on effective health improvement strategies currently in place as well as suggestions for future opportunities.

- **Health Compass Milwaukee** — A compilation of numerous publicly reported health data and other sources on one website.

Milwaukee County CHNA reports were developed in collaboration with Conduent Healthy Communities Institute and the Center for Urban Population Health.

Health Compass Milwaukee is a dynamic website of the most current health indicators for Milwaukee County. It provides mapping, reporting and comparative analytic tools to support research and planning for health care, public health, academic, philanthropic and government sectors, as well as the broader community.

Visit HealthCompassMilwaukee.org