



Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg

2021

Community Health Needs Assessment

Public Health Sauk County

Together we thrive



**PUBLIC HEALTH
SAUK COUNTY**
WISCONSIN

Table of Contents

Introductory Letter	3
Acknowledgements	4
Community Health Needs Assessment Process	5-6
Community Health Needs Assessment Purpose	7
About Sauk County/Demographics	8-9
How a Community Becomes Healthier	10
The Health of Sauk County	11-12
Social & Economic Factors	13-22
Health Behaviors	23-27
Clinical Care	28-31
Physical Environment	32-36
Prioritization of Health Factors	37
Next Steps	38
Resources/Appendices	39-42

A Message to our Community

Dear Sauk County Stakeholder,

Public Health Sauk County staff proudly serve all those that live, work, and play in Sauk County. Our Community Health Needs Assessment is a culmination of community input, staff dedication and a desire to see a healthier Sauk County. We hope that you not only find this information useful in planning, but also use this information to involve yourself in community groups that will bring about change.

The Sauk County Data Council-- which has representation from our community partners, healthcare systems and public health stakeholders-- committed themselves to this work for much of 2021 amidst an ever-evolving pandemic. Their collaborative work on this assessment has not gone unnoticed.

As a result of the Data Council's hard work and our community's input, the top three community health priorities are:

- **Mental Health**
- **Affordable Housing**
- **Substance Use**

Thank you for your interest in our community's health and I look forward to collaborating with you soon.



In truth and service,

Freemanisha Stewart

Public Health Officer/Director
Public Health Sauk County

Acknowledgements

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

- Siobhan Allen, Public Health Sauk County
- Sara Jesse, Public Health Sauk County
- Jodie Molitor, Public Health Sauk County
- Jessie Phalen, Public Health Sauk County
- Treemanisha Stewart, Public Health Sauk County
- Dan Brattset, Sauk County Human Services
- Jessica Mijal, Sauk County Human Services
- Susan Blodgett, ADRC
- Marina Wittmann, ADRC
- Ken Carlson, Sauk Prairie Healthcare
- Brenda Humbracht, Sauk Prairie Healthcare
- Natalia Del Rio, SSM Health – St Clare Hospital
- Nicole Faust, SSM Health – St Clare Hospital
- Dave Pluymers, SSM Health – St Clare Hospital
- Heather Sloan, SSM Health – St Clare Hospital
- Tammy Becker, Reedsburg Area Medical Center
- Jen Baird, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Sarah Reed, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Pam Thunder, Ho-Chunk Nation
- Angelica Greendeer, Community Member
- Jenny Erickson, UW Extension
- Ed White, Sauk County Development Corporation
- Ed Geick, City of Baraboo
- Lori Mueller, Baraboo School District
- Brian Duvalle, City of Reedsburg
- Loren Glasbrenner, River Valley School District
- Jeff Wright, Sauk Prairie School District
- Owen Mergen, Village of West Baraboo

Together we thrive



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



Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg

Community Health Needs Assessment Process

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

1. Convenience Survey

To collect primary data, we used an online convenience sample survey that was available for 4 months from March – June, 2021. The confidential and anonymous survey asked about a wide range of comprehensive health issues, such as social isolation, affordable housing, transportation, discrimination, and access to healthy food and healthcare services. The survey was advertised to our entire community by way of newspaper press releases in the Baraboo News Republic, Reedsburg Independent, Spring Green Home News, Valley Sentinel and Wisconsin Dells News. Online advertisements ran on the websites of all 3 county healthcare systems as well as Public Health’s, and included corresponding social media sites. Radio interviews on Magnum Radio Group stations, press releases to the school districts, internal communications within the coalition entities, and local entities such as churches and libraries assisted by distributing information. Cards advertising the survey were created and handed out at local entities including libraries, local businesses, churches, mental health offices, and pharmacies.

How representative was our survey?

We received 1,612 responses overall (about 3% of the county population in 2019), allowing us to have a 95% confidence level and a confidence interval of 3.

Over-Represented on the Survey	Sauk County Survey	Census Quick Facts	Under-Represented
Female	72%	50%	Men
Middle-aged	61% ages 35-64	40%	Very few under 25 yo
Married	67%	54%	Singles
Homeowners with a Mortgage	54%	43%	Renters
Well-Educated	48% with Bachelor’s degree or higher	30%	-No High School degree -High School degree as highest education

Represented Fairly accurately were: White non-Hispanic, African American, Native American, disabled, separated, divorced, widowed, employed full time & median household income.

Community Health Needs Assessment Process continued

2. Key Informant Interviews / Focus Groups

The survey was balanced by 22 key information interviews and focus groups conducted by Steering Committee members that over-represented the historically under-represented populations below. Many groups were conducted virtually in response to the high rates of COVID-19 in our county during this time period.

Ho-Chunk Nation Tribal Members	Singles
African-Americans	Low income
Latinos	Disabled
LGBTQ	Rural
Renters	People living with chronic diseases
Young people	

Interview and focus group questions -Appendix B

3. Secondary Data Collection

Secondary data was compiled using the following sources:

- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
- Sauk County Census QuickFacts 2019
- Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction WISEdash
- Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Bureau of Labor Statistics
- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems
- Living Wage Calculator
- Madison Region Economic Partnership
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
- Fatality Analysis Reporting System
- CDC National Vital Statistics System
- USDA Food Environment Atlas
- Community Population Survey
- American Community Survey
- United States Diabetes Surveillance System
- Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
- Area Health Resource File
- Small Area Health Insurance Estimates
- Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool

Community Health Needs Assessment Purpose

Health Takes All of Us

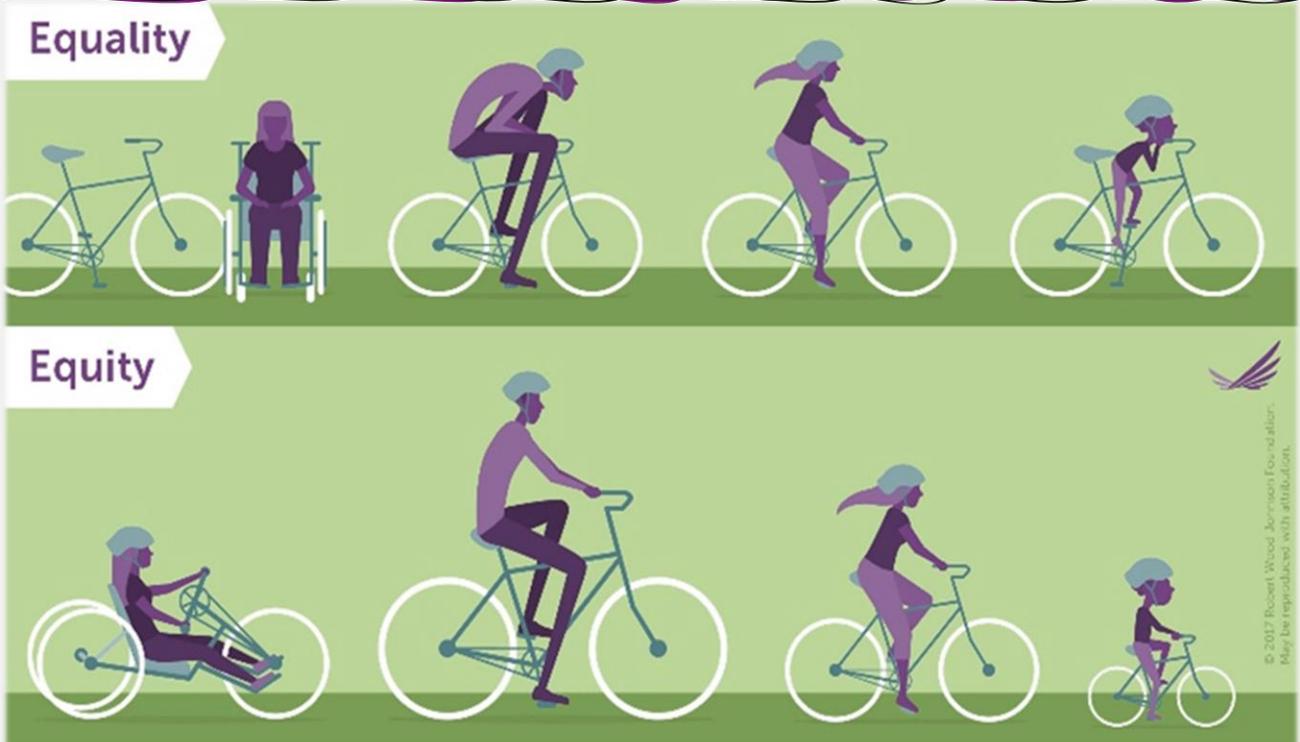
Improving community health takes partnerships, time, and commitment. It takes sustainable changes to policies and systems. It takes problem-solving and innovation. It takes all of us working together toward a shared goal. To address the breadth of health factors in our county, we not only need people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

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

Health For All Is Our Vision

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

Health Equity means that every individual has an equal opportunity to live the healthiest life possible.



About Sauk County

Sauk County, Wisconsin has 831.3 square miles of land area and is the 27th largest county in Wisconsin by total area. The county is more rural than Wisconsin overall, with 46.1 percent of the population in rural areas and the majority in urban, 53.9 percent in 2010². According to the 2019 census, the population was 65,763

There are four small urban communities within the county with a population ranging from 5,000-15,000. One of these communities is Lake Delton in the northeast part of the county. Lake Delton/Wisconsin Dells is a tourist destination and the population swells up to 400,000 during the summer months. Many foreign workers, including Asian, Hispanic and Eastern Europeans, contribute to the workforce in this tourist area. The Ho-Chunk Nation has tribal land in the northeastern area of the county. In the western area of Sauk County, there are many Amish communities that have been established for over 25 years. The rural areas of Sauk County support a thriving farming community that also employs foreign workers⁴.

Townships:

- Baraboo
- Bear Creek
- Dellona
- Delton
- Excelsior
- Fairfield
- Franklin
- Freedom
- Greenfield
- Honey Creek
- Ironton
- La Valle
- Merrimac
- Prairie du Sac
- Reedsburg
- Spring Green
- Sumpter
- Troy
- Washington
- Winfield
- Woodland

Villages:

- Cazenovia*
- Ironton
- Lake Delton
- La Valle
- Lime Ridge
- Loganville
- Merrimac
- North Freedom
- Plain
- Prairie du Sac
- Rock Springs
- Sauk City
- Spring Green
- West Baraboo

Cities:

- Baraboo
- Reedsburg
- Wisconsin Dells*

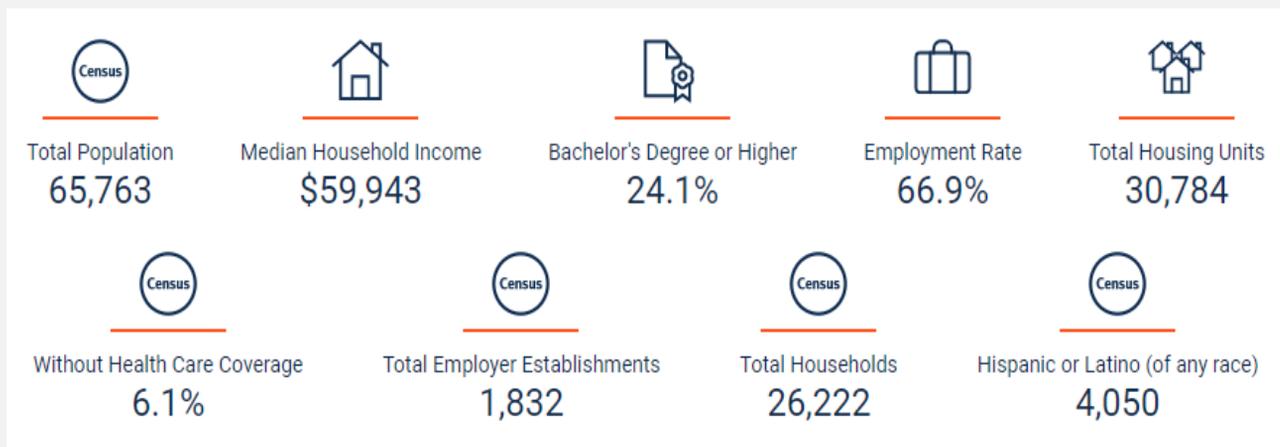
* Municipalities located in more than 1 county



Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg



Sauk County Demographics



US Census Bureau - 2019

Demographic Category	Demographic Factor	Sauk County	Wisconsin	US
Race and Ethnicity	Black or African American alone	1.3%	6.7%	13.4%
	American Indian and Alaska Native alone	1.4%	1.2%	1.3%
	Asian alone	0.7%	3.0%	5.9%
	Two or More Races	1.4%	2.0%	2.8%
	Hispanic or Latino	5.4%	7.1%	18.5%
	White alone, not Hispanic or Latino	90.4%	80.9%	60.1%
	White alone	95.1%	87.0%	76.3%
Poverty	Persons in poverty	10.2%	10.4%	10.5%
Health Insurance	Persons without health insurance, under age 65 years	7.2%	6.8%	9.5%
Education	High school graduate or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	90.7%	91.9%	87.7%
	Bachelor's degree or higher, percent of persons age 25 years+, 2014-2018	23.8%	29.5%	31.5%
Age	Persons under 5 years, percent	5.9%	5.7%	6.0%
	Persons under 18 years, percent	22.7%	21.8%	22.3%
	Persons 65 years and over, percent	19.1%	17.5%	16.5%

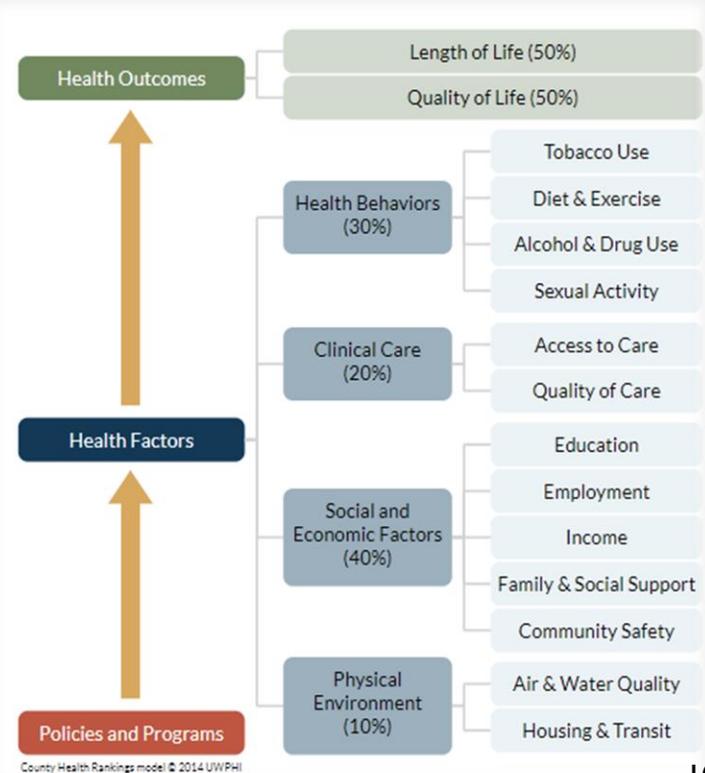
How a Community Becomes Healthier

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

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

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

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



- Magnitude:** how many people are affected?
- Severity:** how bad is it?
- Time trend:** is it getting better or worse?
- Comparisons:** how do we compare to the state? Other similar counties?
- Community readiness:** is it feasible to achieve success?
- Disparities:** are some groups impacted more?

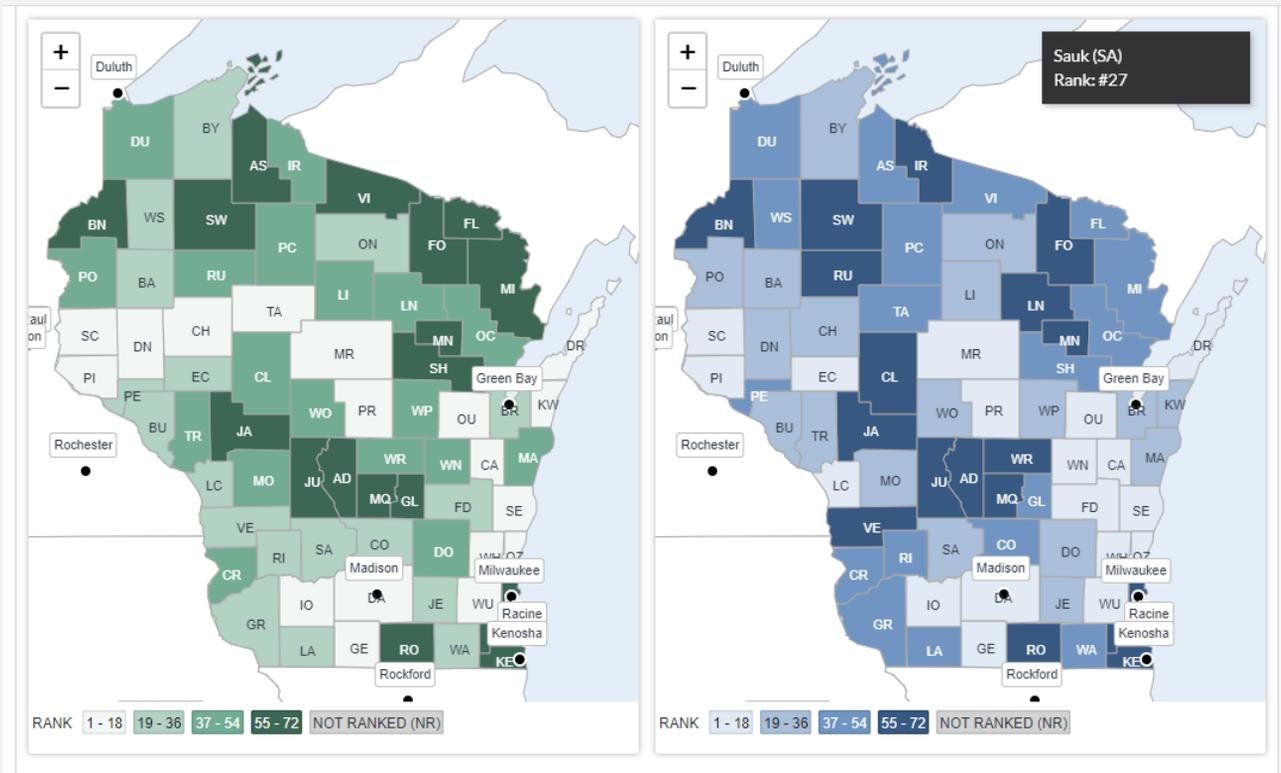
Sauk County's Health Outcomes

Health Outcomes represent how healthy a county is right now. They reflect the physical and mental well-being of residents within a community through measures representing not only the length of life but quality of life as well.

Length of life: 30th best out of 72 counties

Quality of life: 31st best

Poor or fair health
 Poor physical health days
 Poor mental health days
 Low birthweight
 Premature death



Length of Life: Premature death= Years of potential life lost before age 75 per 100,000 population (age- adjusted). 50% of health outcomes. National Center for Health Statistics - Mortality Files 2017 - 2019

Quality of Life: Poor or fair health= Percentage of adults reporting fair or poor health (age-adjusted). 10%. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System 2018

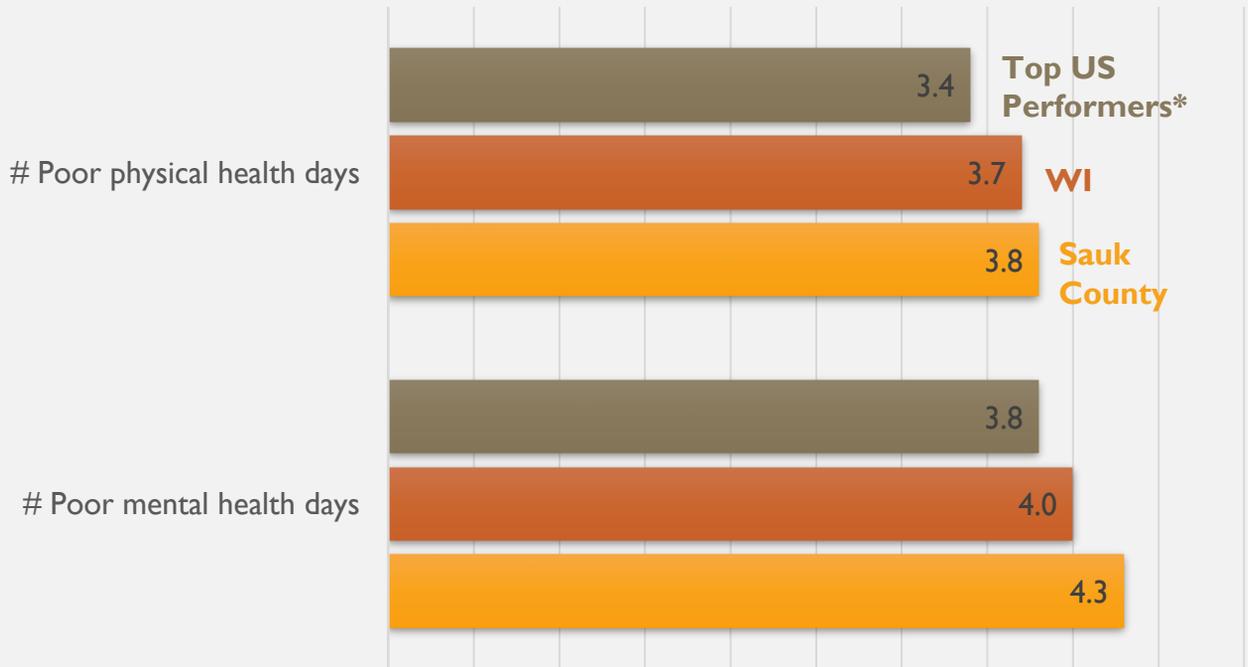
Poor physical Health Days= Average number of physically unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age- adjusted). 10%. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2018

Poor mental health days=Average number of mentally unhealthy days reported in past 30 days (age-adjusted). 10%. Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System, 2018

Low birthweight=Percentage of live births with low birthweight (< 2,500 grams). 20% National Center for Health Statistics - Natality files, 2013 - 2019

How Healthy is Sauk County?

Average number of poor health days in the past month
(age-adjusted, 2018).



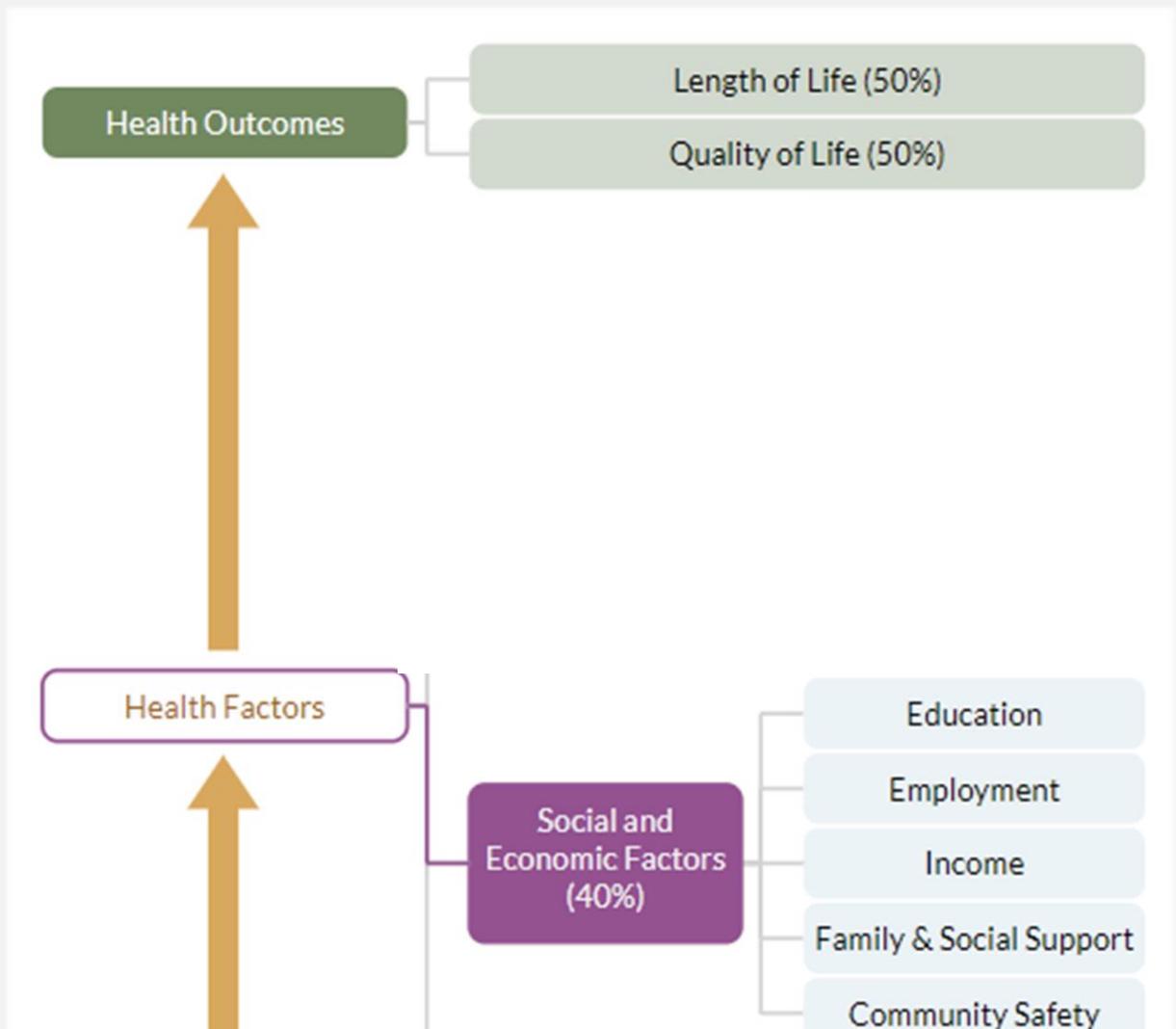
Mental health lags behind physical health,
and more so in Sauk County.

Photo courtesy of Siobhan Allen

Social & Economic Factors

Account For 40% Of Health Outcomes
Sauk Is 26th Best Of 72 Counties

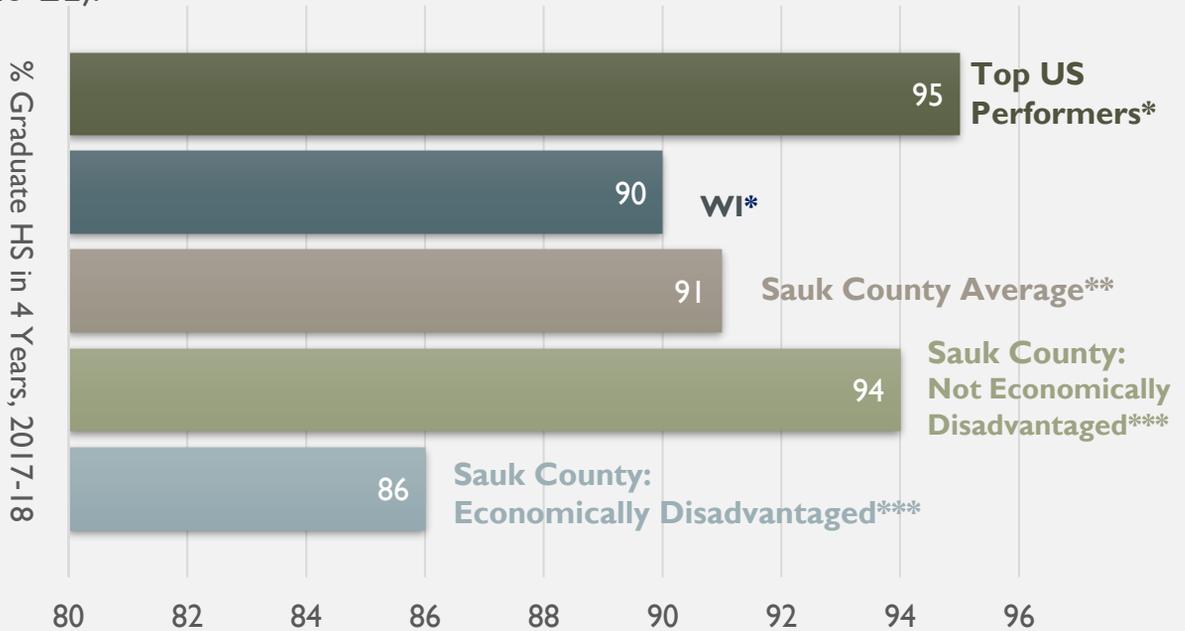
Social and economic factors-- such as education, employment, income, family and social supports, and community safety significantly affect how well and how long we live. They account for 40% of health outcomes- they are our largest influencers of health. Social and economic factors affect our ability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



High School Graduation Rates between Economically Disadvantaged Students

At 91%, Sauk County's high school graduation rate is good, but it is significantly lower for economically disadvantaged students (86%).

45% of Sauk County students are economically disadvantaged (2020-21).



* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

** County Health Rankings, 2021, percent of ninth-grade cohort that graduates in 4 years, 2015-19

*** WISEdash query, WI DPI

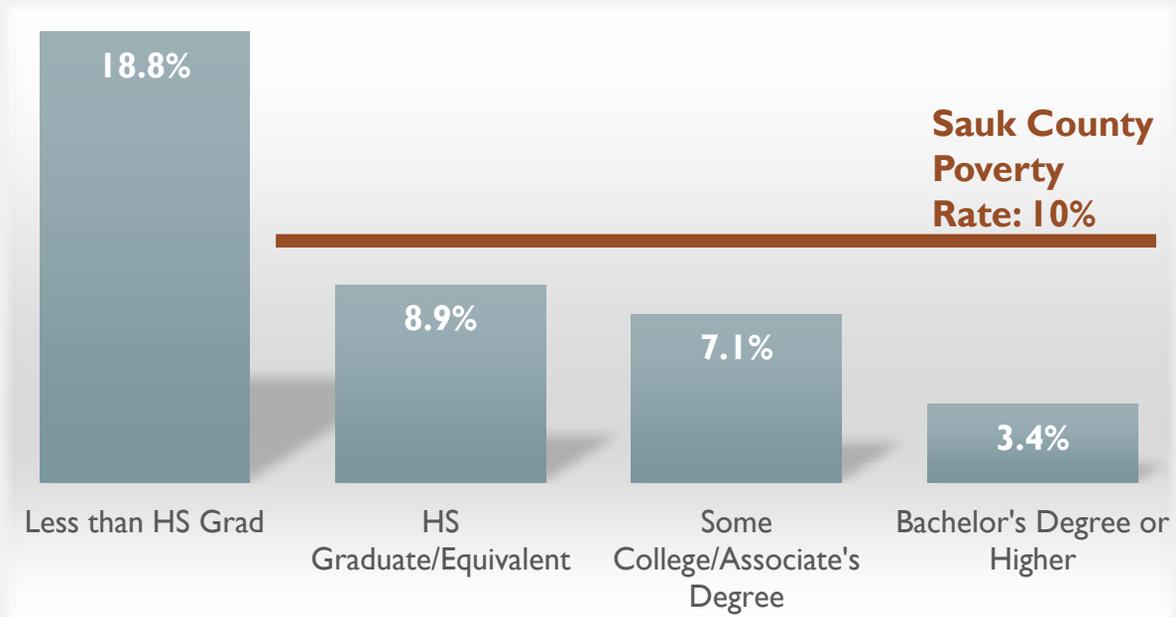
Sauk County's Economically Disadvantaged students also receive disciplinary actions at much higher rates than their non-Economically Disadvantaged peers.**



Photo courtesy of Jodie Molitor

Sauk County's Poverty Rate Is Strongly Tied To Education Level

2014-2018, population 25 years & over experiencing poverty status in the past year.



UNEMPLOYMENT IN SAUK COUNTY

is comparable to the state:
3% in 2019* & 4% in 7/21.

Total Unemployment
(including unemployed, discouraged unemployed, and underemployed)
9% in WI = over 3,000 Sauk County residents.**

Over 2,000 Sauk County residents are **working poor**: employed with income below the poverty level.***

* County Health Rankings, 2021

** Bureau of Labor Statistics, WI Wages Report

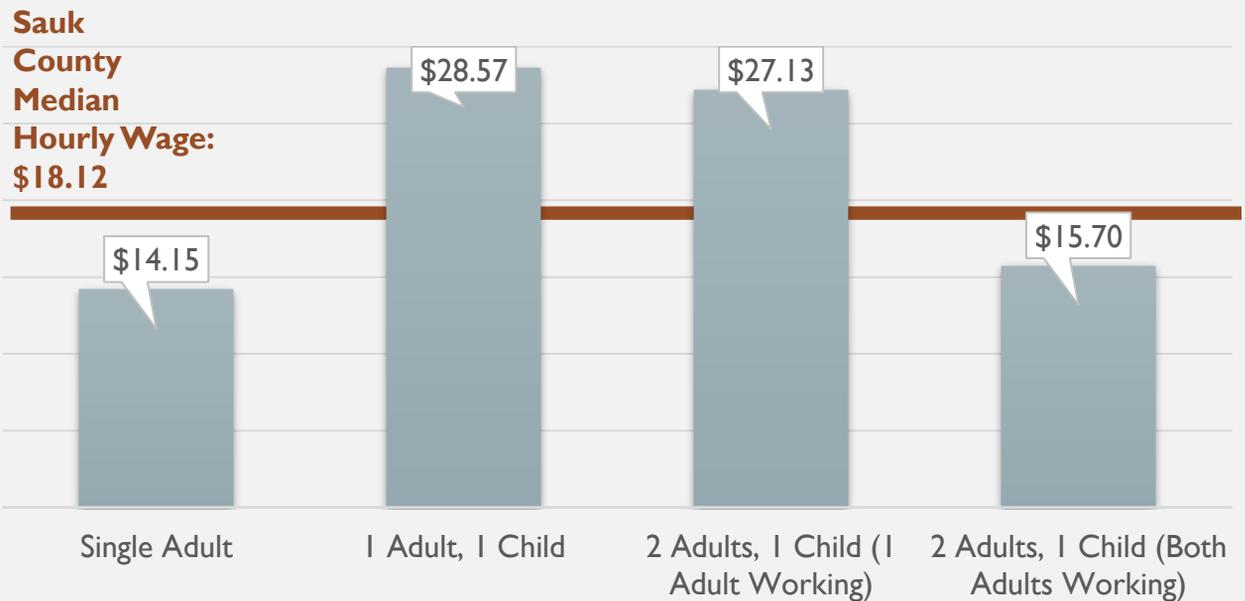
*** Census.gov, American Community Survey, 5 Year Estimates, 2019



Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg

Sauk County's Median Hourly Wage Is Not Enough To Support Families With 1 Child, Unless 2 Adults Are Working Full-time

Living wage shown below is the hourly rate needed to support the household. "My community has enough jobs that pay a living wage" scored of 2.8 out of 5 on our survey (with 1=strongly disagree and 5= strongly agree), the second lowest indicator after "enough safe and affordable housing," which received a 2.6.



Living Wage Calculator, MIT, accessed September 2021, <https://livingwage.mit.edu/counties/55111>.

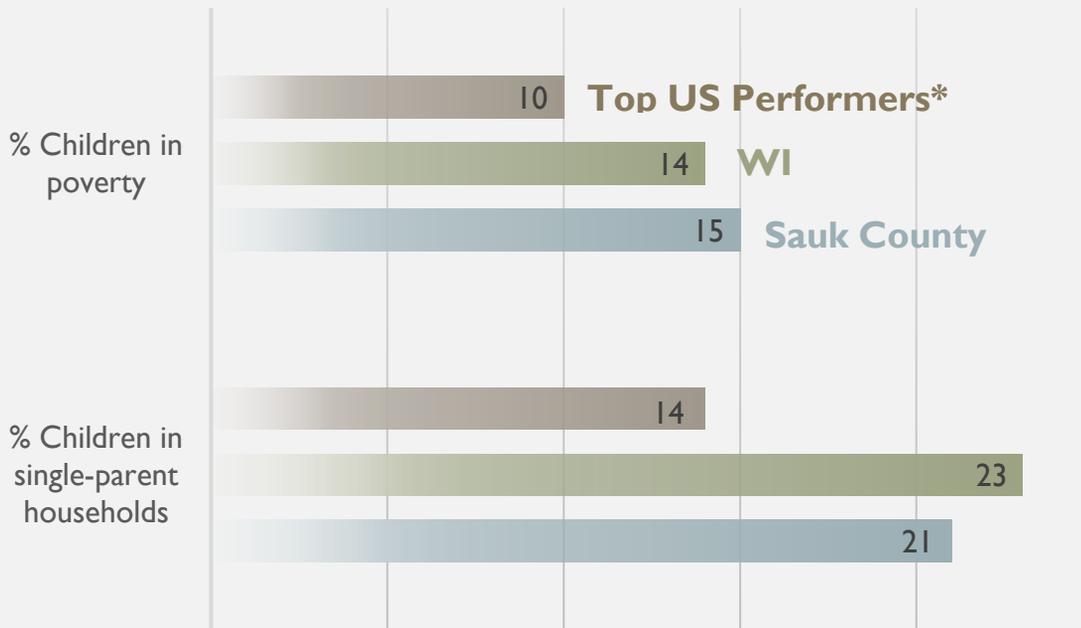
Sauk County Median Hourly Wage: Madison Region Economic Partnership, Community Profiles, Accessed 9/17/21, <http://www.madisonregionsites.org/>



Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg

Sauk County's Higher Child Poverty Rate Is Concerning

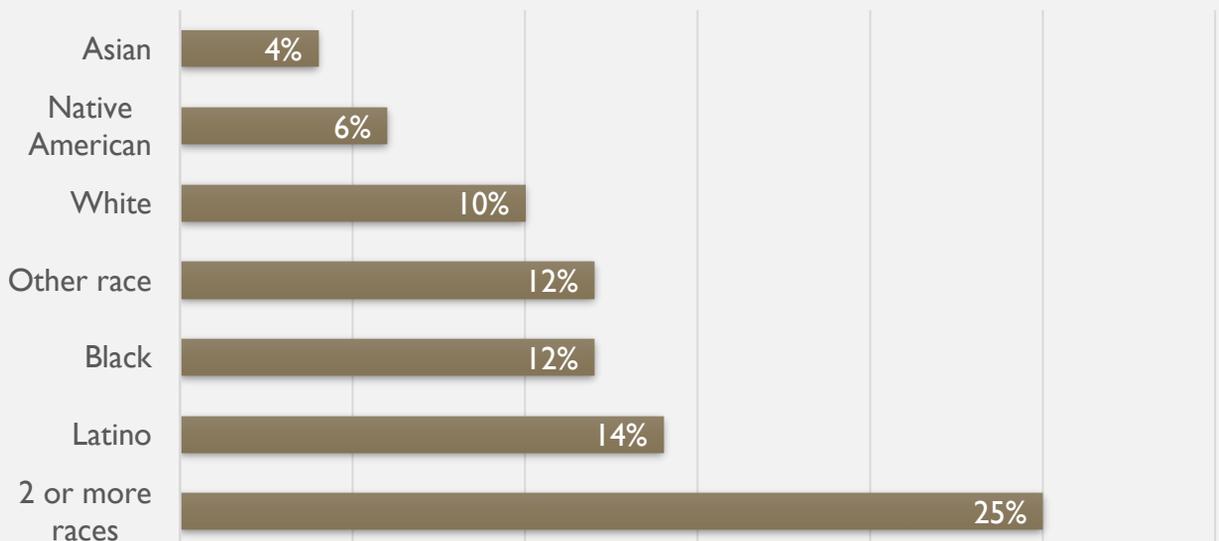
Childhood poverty has grown from 9% in 2002 to 15% in 2019.



County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

Sauk County's overall poverty rate of 10% (6,300 residents) includes significant disparities by race and ethnicity, with 1 in 4 people of two or more races living in poverty.

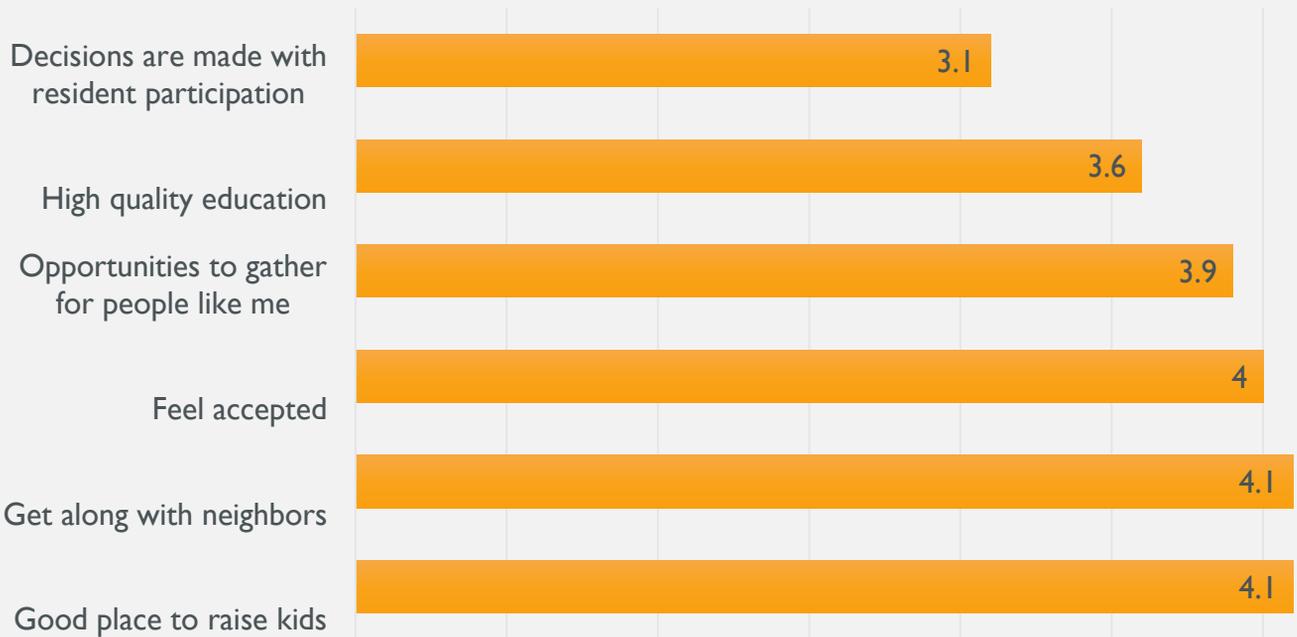


Census.gov, Poverty Status in the Past 12 Months, American Community Survey 2019: ACS 5 Year Estimates, 2015-19

Social Connection

Our survey showed high levels of satisfaction with most indicators. The lowest: resident participation in decision making.

Scale of 1-5 with 5 = strongly agree and 1 = strongly disagree.



Sauk County Community Health Survey, 2021



Photo courtesy of Angelica Greendeer

Adverse Childhood Experiences

12% of Sauk County residents had 4 or more before age 18.

ADVERSE CHILDHOOD EXPERIENCES



ADVERSE COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTS



When family support of children is not strong, when there is adversity in the home, this can produce toxic stress in the developing brain, resulting in a host of health problems later in life. Early research on ACEs included 10 factors, listed above. As our understanding of toxic stress in childhood has grown, so has the model for understanding ACEs, and the model now includes Adverse Community Environments as well.

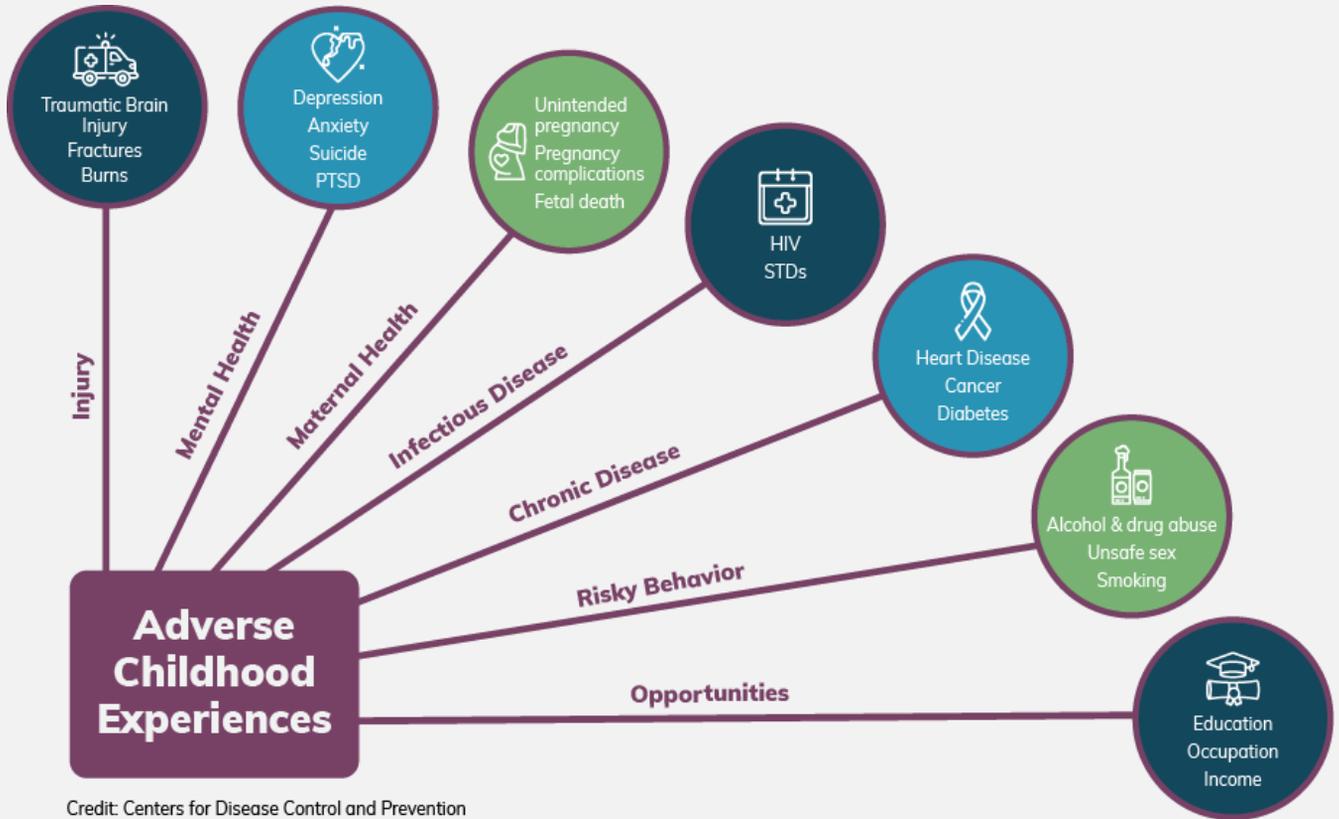


Photo courtesy of Emily Herritz & Sara Pahl

Ellis, W., Dietz, W (2017) A new framework for addressing Adverse Childhood and Community Experiences: The Building community Resilience (BCR) model. *Academic Pediatrics*. 17 (2017) pp. S86-S93. DOI information: 10.1016/j.acap.2016.12.011

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

ACEs are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood (0-17 years).



For example:

- experiencing violence, abuse, or neglect
- witnessing violence in the home or community
- having a family member attempt or die by suicide

Also included are aspects of the child's environment that can undermine their sense of safety, stability, and bonding, such as growing up in a household with:

- substance use problems
- mental health problems
- instability due to parental separation or household members being in jail or prison

ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illness, and substance use problems in adulthood. ACEs can also negatively impact education, job opportunities, and earning potential. **However, ACEs can be prevented.**

[National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention; April 6, 2021](#)

Discrimination

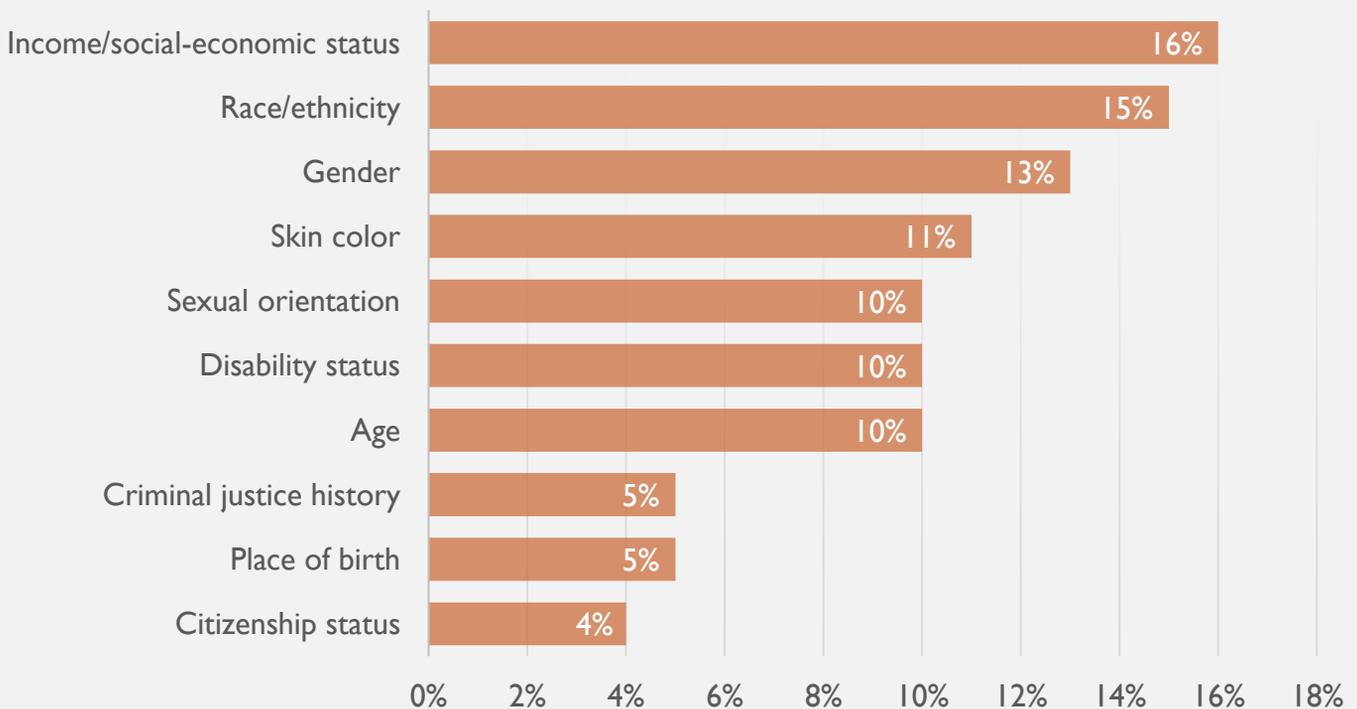
When asked if they or someone in their household experienced **discrimination** in their community:

3 out of 4 Sauk County survey respondents of color* said **always, usually or sometimes**, compared to **1 in 10 white** and **1 in 4 non-heterosexual** respondents.



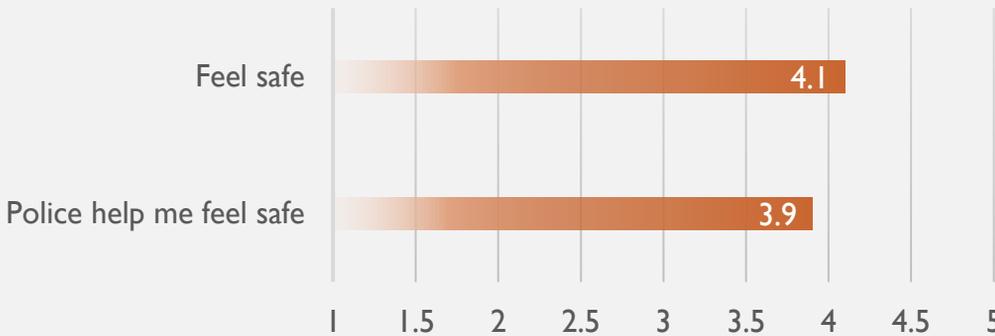
* Includes African-American, Native American, Latino, Asian, Middle Eastern, 2 or more races, etc.

The most common types of discrimination experienced by Sauk County residents were based on income/social-economic status and race/ethnicity.



Most Residents Feel Safe, and The Police Help Them Feel Safe.

Scale Of 1-5 With 5 = Strongly Agree And 1 = Strongly Disagree.*



- Sauk County has a low violent crime rate (111 reported offenses per 100,000 pop) vs 298 for WI (2014 and 2016).
- Rates of injury deaths at 86 per 100,000, are a bit higher than WI at 84 (2015-19).
- Suicides are comparable to the state (15 per 100,000 is the same as WI).**

*Sauk County Community Health Survey

**County Health Rankings, 2021

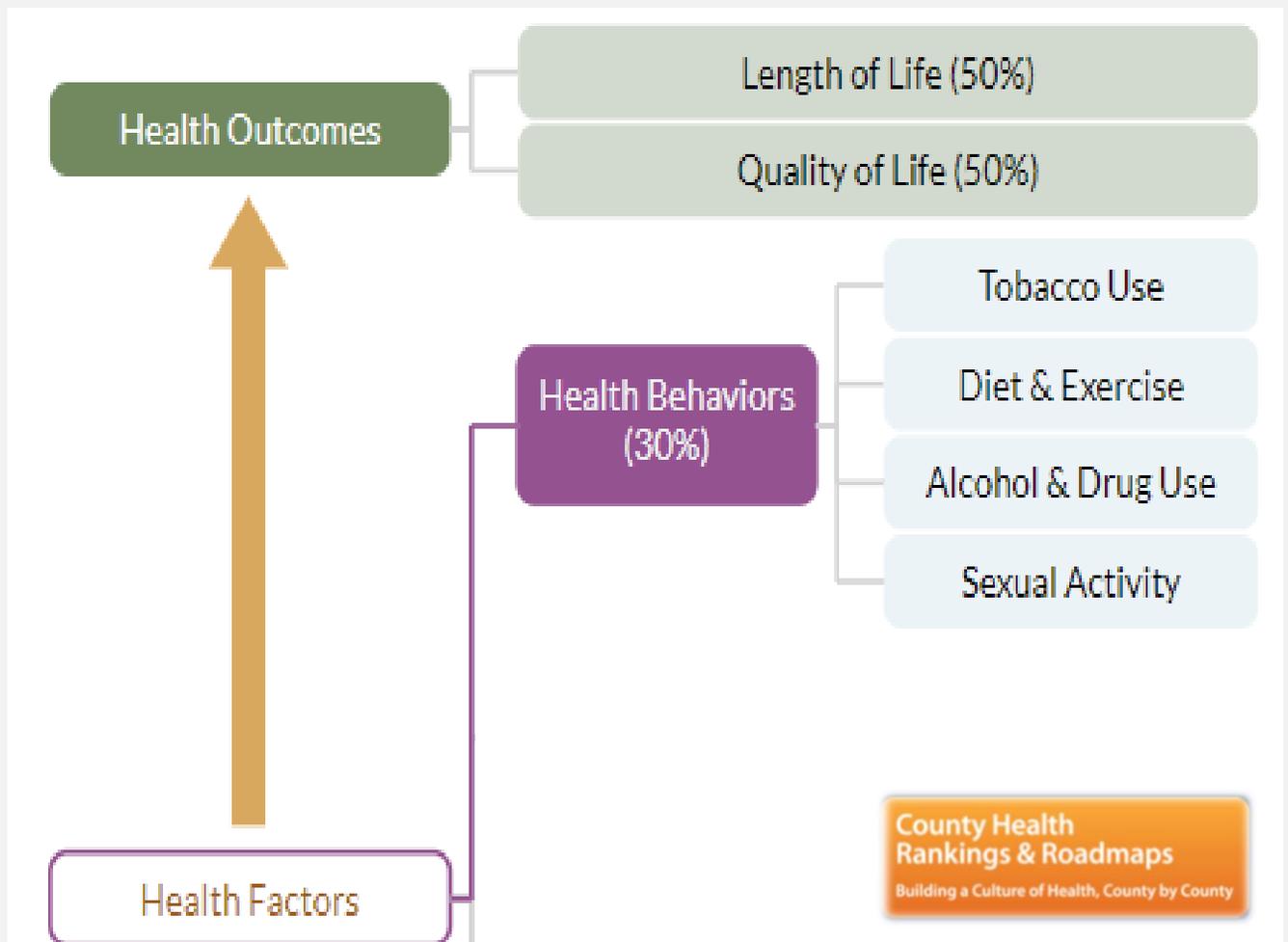
Social & Economic Factors: in need of improvement

	Voiced by community as a top priority	Worse than state	Getting worse	Inequities
Educational Attainment		Y		Income, race/ethnicity, High ACE score
Childhood Poverty		Y	Y	Income, race/ethnicity, High ACE score
Living Wages	Y			Income, race/ethnicity, High ACE score
High ACEs		Y		Income, race/ethnicity
Social connectedness	Y			Income, race/ethnicity
Discrimination	Y			Race/ethnicity

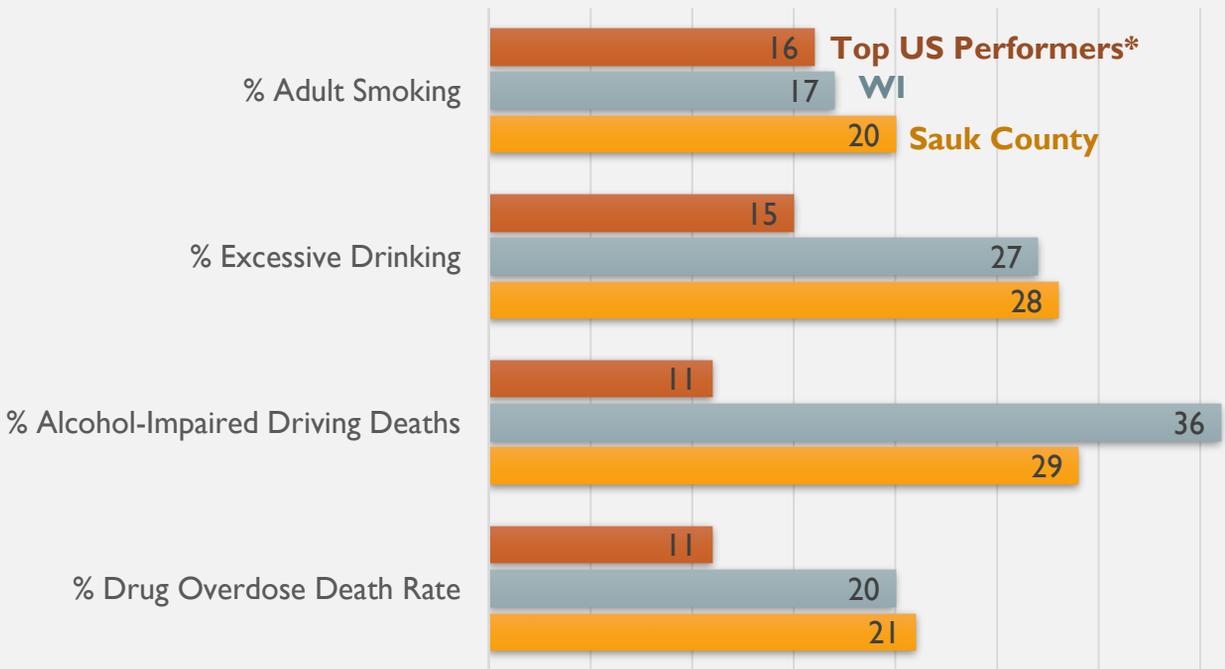
Health Behaviors

Account For 30% Of Health
Sauk Is 30th Best Of 72 Counties

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



Alcohol, Tobacco, And Other Drug Use Is Higher In Sauk County Than In Wisconsin And Is Generally Much Higher Than In Top U.S. Counties.



County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

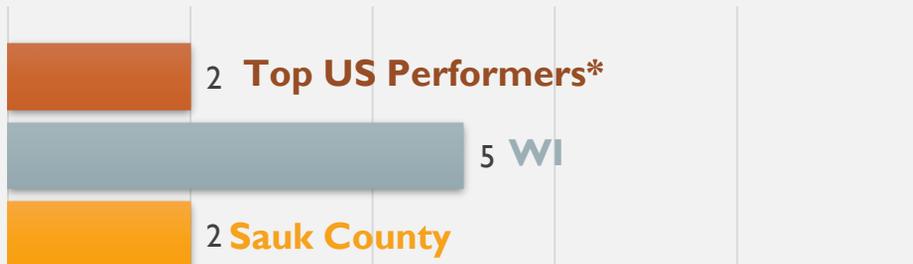


Sauk County's Food Environment Ranks Among Top U.S. Performers

% Limited Access to Healthy Foods

% of population who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store.

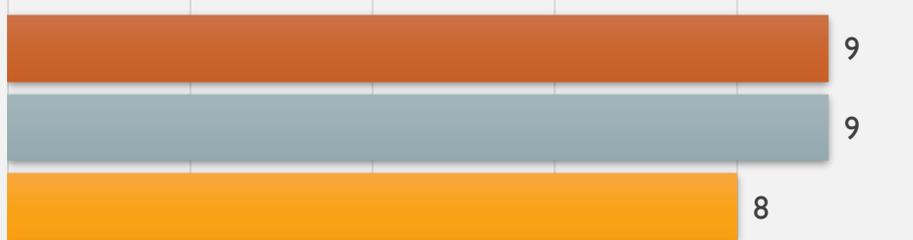
Rural close: within 10 miles, non rural within one mile,
USDA Food Environment Atlas, 2015



% Food Insecurity

estimates the percentage of the population who did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year.

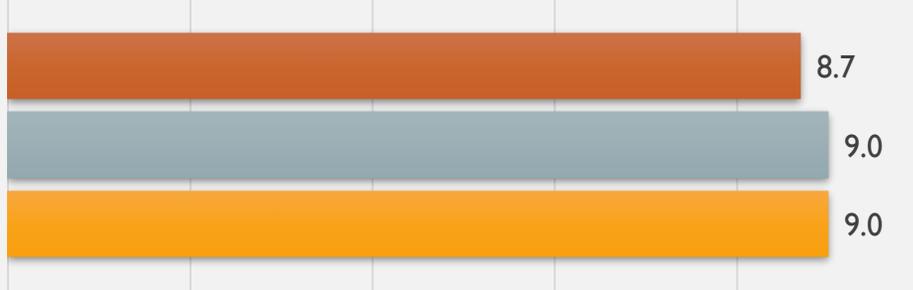
Community Population Survey, Bureau of Labor Statistics, and American Community Survey, 2018



Food Environment Index

ranges from a scale of 0 (worst) to 10 (best) and equally weights two indicators: 1) Limited access to healthy foods estimates the % of the population that is low income & does not live close to a grocery store. 2) Food insecurity estimates the % of the population that did not have access to a reliable source of food during the past year.

Data from 2015 & 2018



County Health Rankings, 2021

*US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US.

However...

getting healthy food is still a struggle for many.

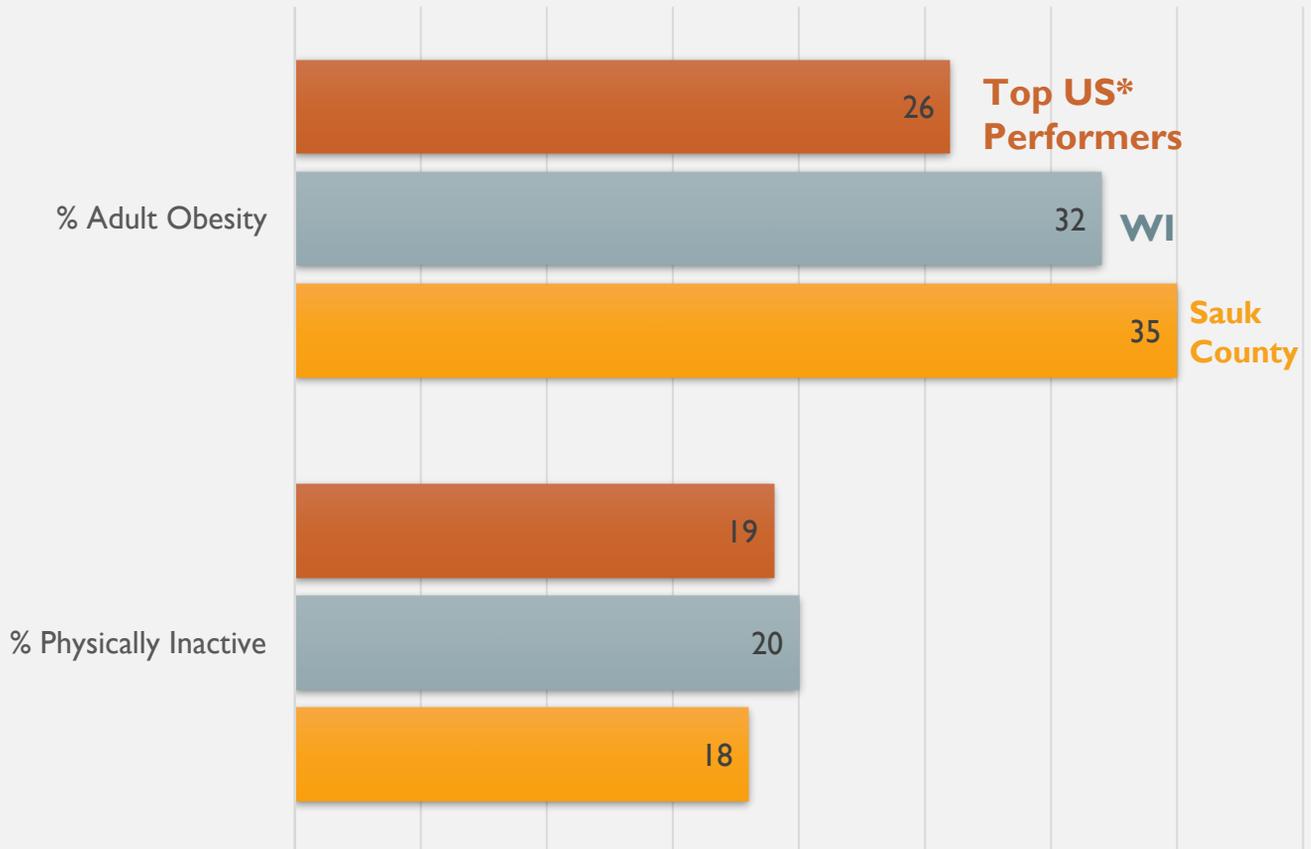
4% of survey respondents (67 people) could get healthy food to eat only sometimes, rarely, or never. Expense was the top reason by far for the challenge.



Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg

Adults In Sauk County Are More Obese, But Also More Physically Active

Obesity has been increasing since at least 2004 in Sauk County, WI, and the US.



Adult Obesity=Percentage of the adult population (age 20 and older) that reports a body mass index (BMI) greater than or equal to 30 kg/m². 5%, United States Diabetes Surveillance System, 2017

Physical inactivity =Percentage of adults age 20 and over reporting no leisure-time physical activity in the past month. 2%, United States Diabetes Surveillance System, 2017

County Health Rankings, 2021

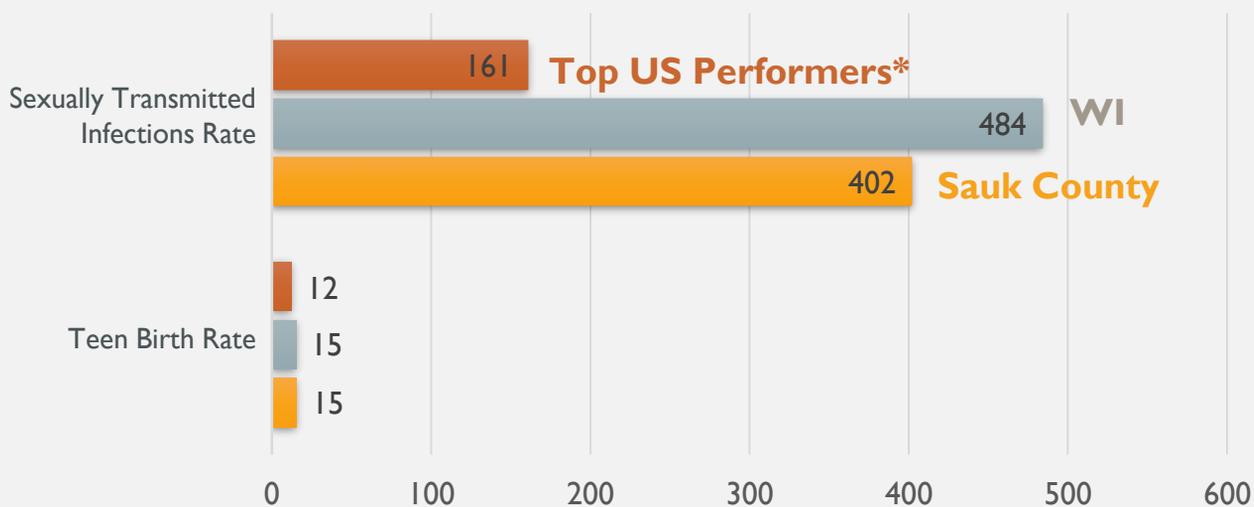
* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

Photo courtesy of Jodie Molitor



Sexual health in Sauk County is comparable to WI.

The number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population has been rising steadily in the county, state, and nation since at least 2007 (Sauk County had a rate of 184 in 2007).



Sexually transmitted infections - Number of newly diagnosed chlamydia cases per 100,000 population. The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2018 for this measure

Teen births - Number of births per 1,000 female population ages 15-19. The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2013-2019 for this measure.

County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

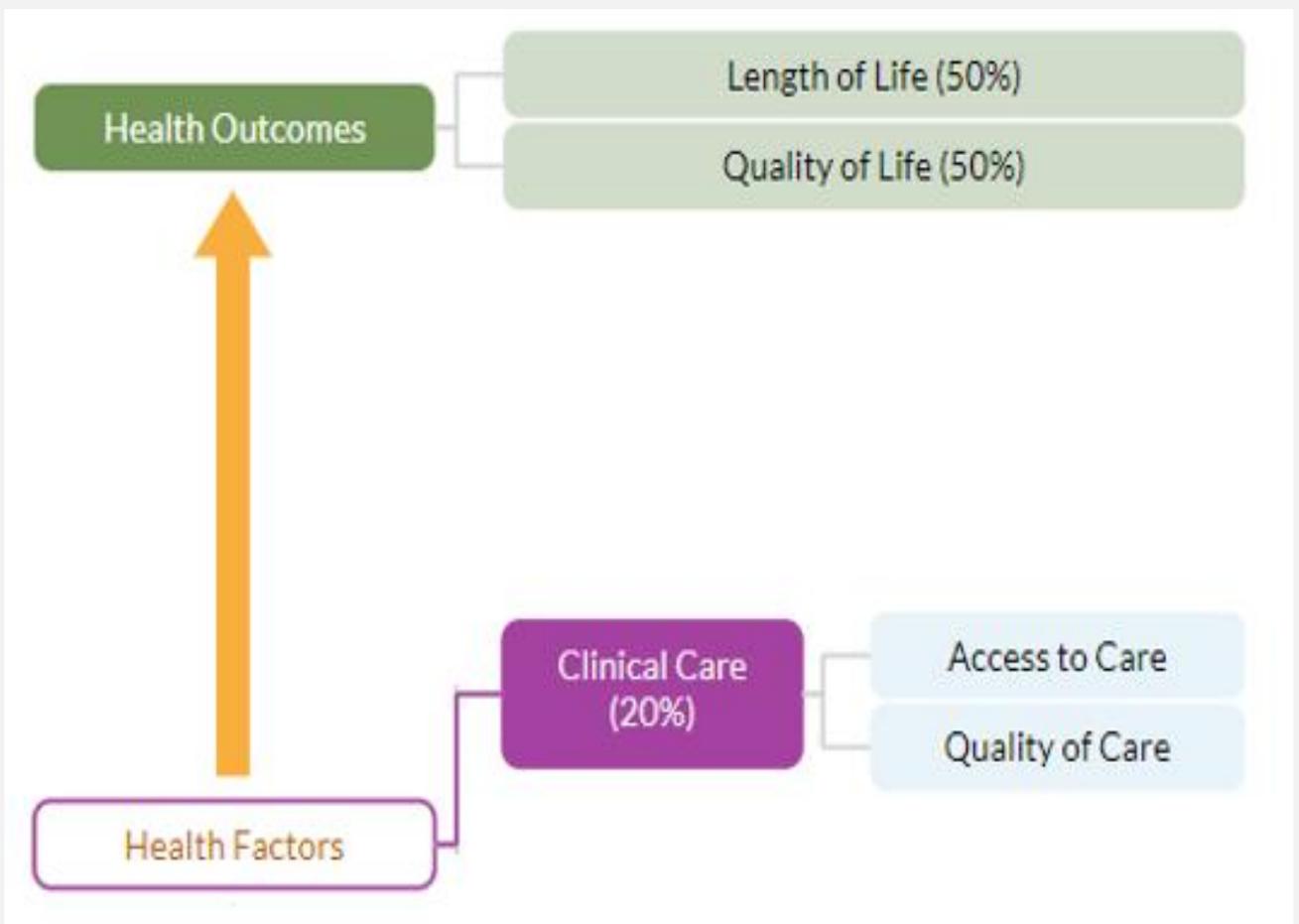
Health Behaviors in Need of Improvement

	Voiced by community as a top priority	Worse than WI	Getting worse	Inequities
Alcohol, Tobacco, and Other Drug Use	Y	Y	Y	High ACE score, mental health challenges, historical trauma (Native American)
Healthy Eating	Y			Income
Obesity		Y	Y	Income, High ACE score
Physical Activity				
Sexual Health			Y	High ACE score

Clinical Care

Accounts for 20% of Health

Access to affordable, quality, and timely health care can help prevent diseases and detect issues sooner, enabling individuals to live longer, healthier lives. Although we sometimes focus heavily on clinical care when thinking about health, it is part of a larger context and accounts for 20% of health outcomes.



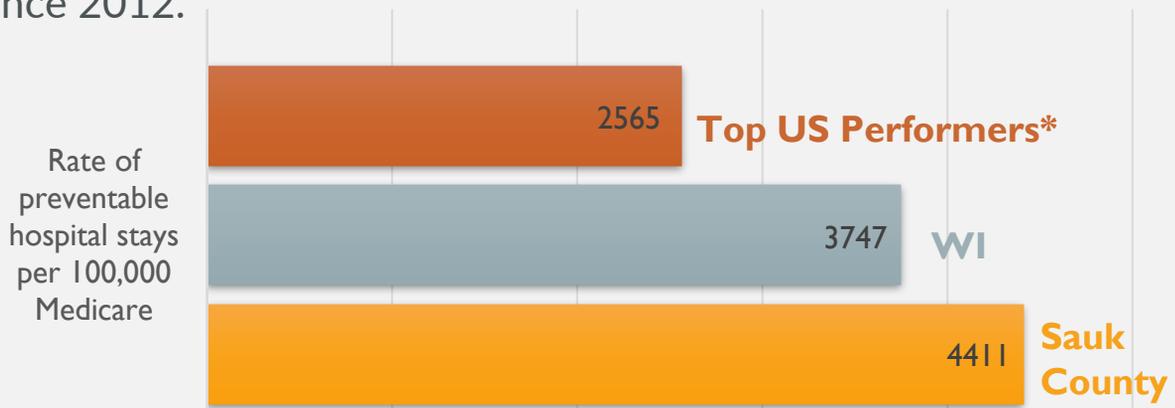
Clinical Care Challenges

12% of residents said *Sometimes, Rarely, or Never* was everyone in their household able to get the **Health Services** they needed.

Which kind of **Health Services** are challenging to obtain? Dental (34%), Mental Health (31%), Physical Health (27%), and Substance Use Related (7%)

Why is it challenging? Top Reasons: Expense (29%), Wait Lists (15%), Services not available in our area (13%), and Insurance (provider doesn't accept 13%; no insurance 12%).

Prevention: Sauk County has more preventable hospital stays than WI and the nation. Though still high, this rate has improved since 2012.



County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

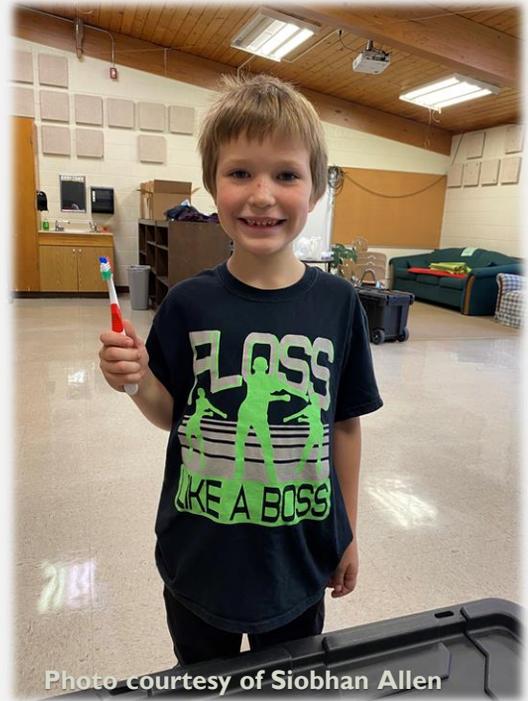


Photo courtesy of Ulli Gruenberg

Access: Sauk County Needs More Dentists And Mental Health Care Providers

Other Notables:

- Primary care physicians are plentiful.
- Our ratio of people per dentist has improved (it is smaller) than in 2012.



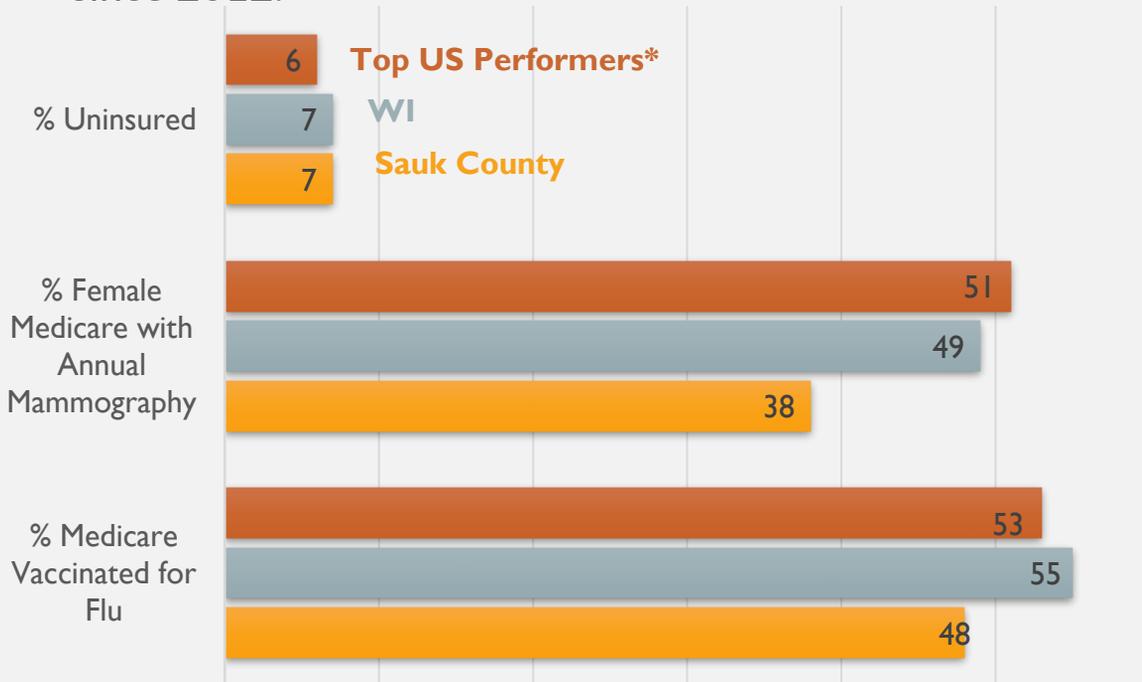
Number of residents per provider



County Health Rankings, 2021

Prevention Of Chronic Disease

- Sauk County lags behind the state and top US Performers* in mammography screenings and flu vaccinations.
- Flu vaccine rates decreased since 2012.
- On a positive note, our uninsured rate is low and has improved since 2012.



County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

Clinical Care: in need of improvement

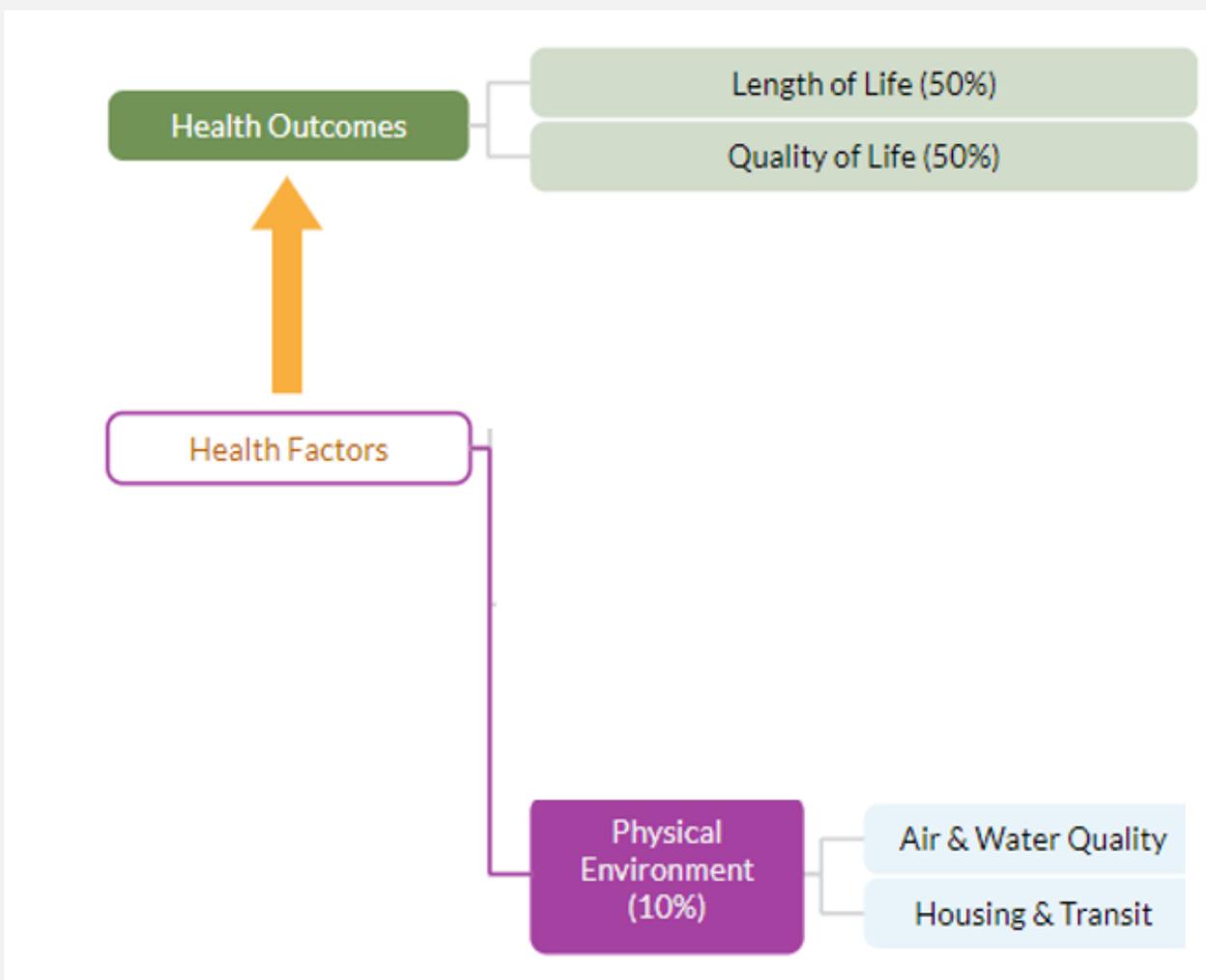
	Voiced by community as a top priority	Worse than state	Getting worse	Inequities
Access to Mental Health Care	Y	Y		Income, insurance
Access to Dental Care	Y	Y		Income, insurance
Chronic disease prevention		Y	Mammography, Flu vaccine	Income, insurance

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

Accounts For 10% Of Health

Sauk Is 33rd Best Of 72 Counties

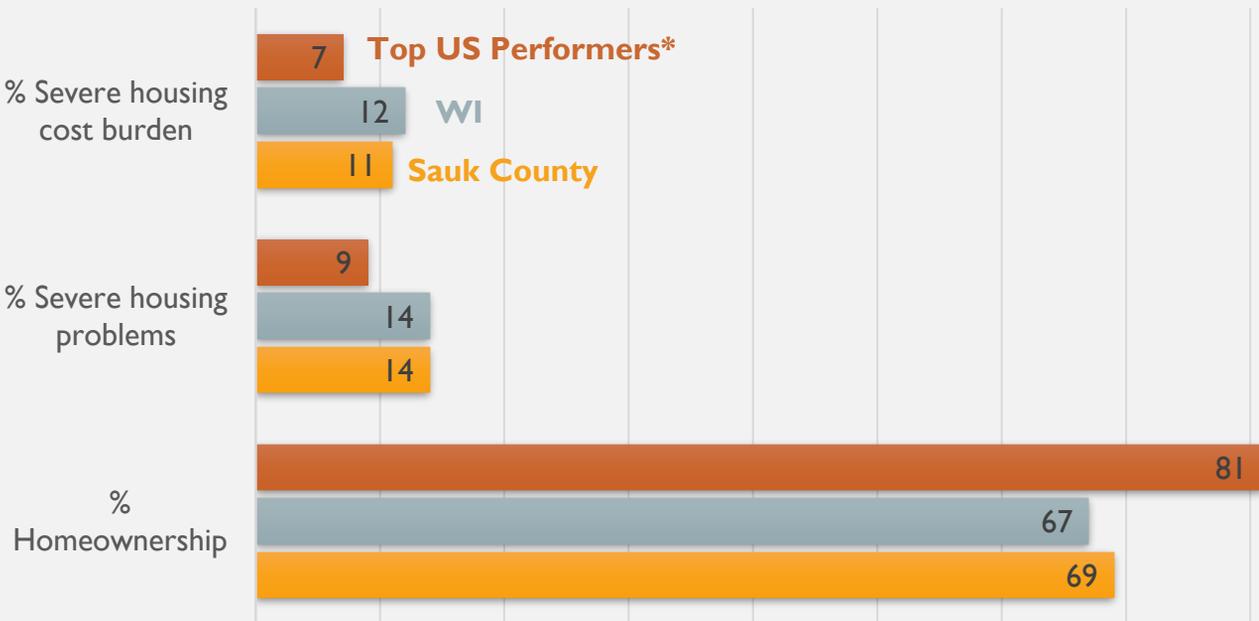
The physical environment is where individuals live, learn, work, and play. People interact with their physical environment through the air they breathe, water they drink, houses they live in, and the transportation they access to travel to work and school. Poor physical environment can affect our ability and that of our families and neighbors to live long and healthy lives.



Affordable Housing

Safe, affordable housing is imperative to the health of an individual and for a thriving community. Evidence shows housing and health can be understood as supporting the existence of four pathways. First, the health impacts of not having a stable home (the stability pathway). Second, the health impacts of conditions inside the home (the safety and quality pathway), third, the health impacts of the financial burdens resulting from high-cost housing (the affordability pathway) and lastly, the health impacts of neighborhoods, including both the environmental and social characteristics of where people live (the neighborhood pathway).

Sauk County's Housing Measures Are Comparable To The State



Severe housing cost burden

Percentage of households that spend 50% or more of their household income on housing.

The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2015-2019 for this measure.

Severe housing problems

Percentage of households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems: overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities.

The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2013-2017 for this measure.

Homeownership

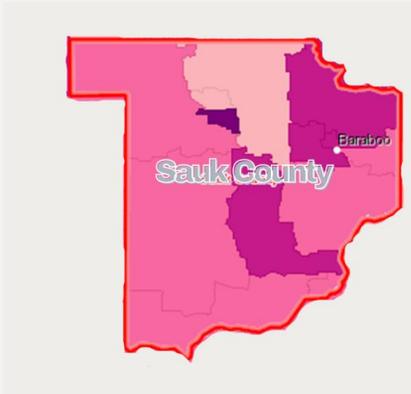
Percentage of occupied housing units that are owned.

The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2015-2019 for this measure.

County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

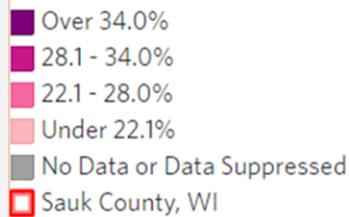
Housing Quality - Substandard Housing



This indicator reports the number and percentage of owner- and renter-occupied housing units having at least one of the following conditions:

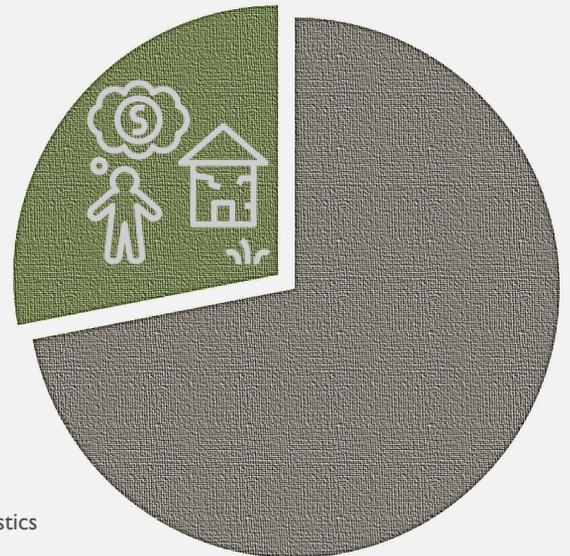
- 1) lacking complete plumbing facilities
- 2) lacking complete kitchen facilities
- 3) with 1 or more occupants per room
- 4) selected monthly owner costs as a percentage of household income greater than 30%
- 5) gross rent as a percentage of household income greater than 30%.

Substandard Housing Units, Percent of Total by Tract, ACS 2015-19



28% of Sauk County households spend 30% or more of their income on Housing (7,244 households).

45% of renters in Sauk County have a high housing cost burden, compared to owners with a mortgage (28%) and owners without a mortgage (15%).*



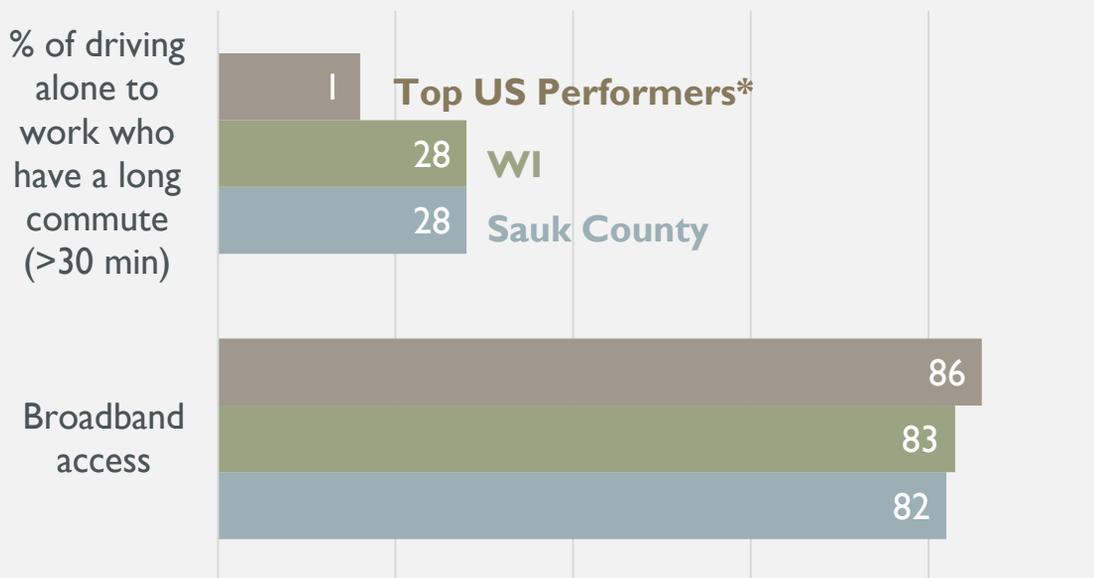
*Census.gov 2019: ACS 5-Year Estimates, Selected Housing Characteristics

** Sauk County Community Health Survey, 2021

"My community has enough safe and affordable housing"

was the **WORST** performing indicator on our survey, 2.6 on a scale of 1 to 5 (5 = highest).**

In Sauk County, Driving Alone On A Long Commute And Household Broadband Access Are Similar To State Rates.



Long commute - driving alone. Among workers who commute in their car alone, the percentage that commute more than 30 minutes. *The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2015-2019 for this measure.*

Broadband access - Percentage of households with broadband internet connection. *The 2021 County Health Rankings used data from 2015-2019 for this measure.*

County Health Rankings, 2021

* US counties that perform better than 90% of counties in the US. County Health Rankings, 2021

Sauk County's air quality is good. This measure has improved since 2002. In addition, there were no health-related drinking water violations in the last reporting period.



96% Of Survey Respondents Always Or Usually Have **Transportation** To Meet Household Daily Needs.

Transportation seems to be more of a barrier to accessing healthy food (4% of those with access challenges cited it as a reason) than accessing healthcare (2%).

Physical Environment: In Need Of Improvement

	Voiced by community as a top priority	Worse than state	Getting worse	Inequities
Affordable Housing	Y			Income, disability status
Transportation access	Y			Income, disability status, age, criminal justice history

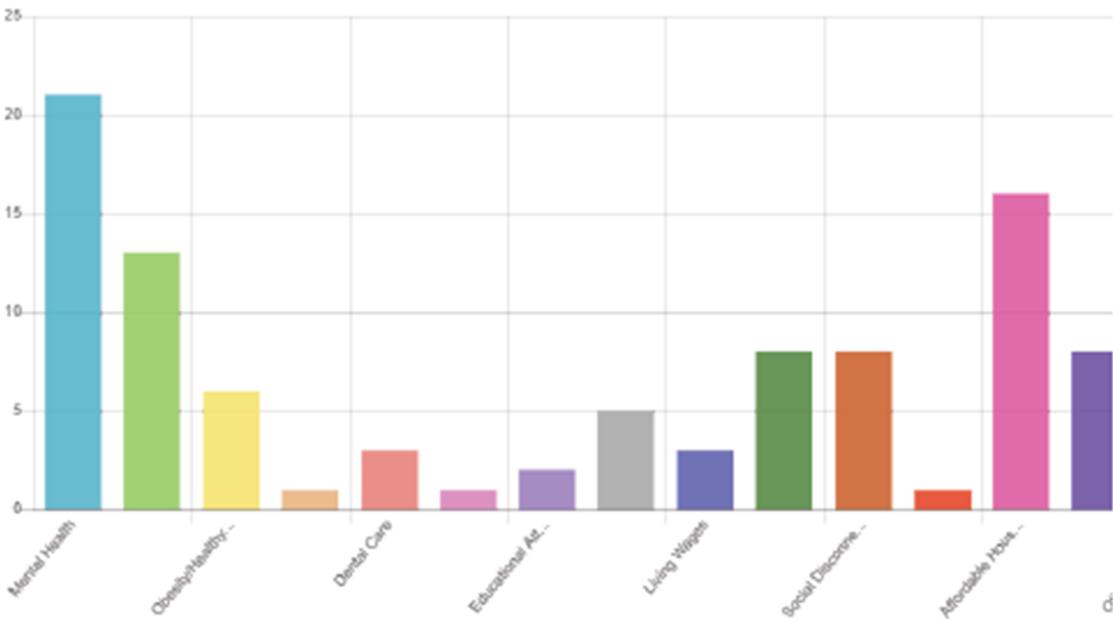


Prioritization of Health Factors

Public Health Sauk County hosted a virtual meeting in October, 2021 with about 100 community members from varying corners of Sauk County, to narrow down priorities from the 14 health factors that surfaced from the primary and secondary data. After a presentation and explanation on how to prioritize the data, participants were asked to take a short online survey identifying their top 3 priorities.

Attention was directed to health issues that met this criteria: *How many people are affected/ How bad is it / Is it getting better or worse / How do we compare to the state / Is it feasible to achieve success / Are some groups impacted more?*

These are the results of the prioritization survey:



- 66% (21)** Mental Health
 - 41% (13)** Alcohol, Tobacco & other Drugs
 - 19% (6)** Obesity/Healthy Eating/Physical Activity
 - 3% (1)** Sexual Health
 - 9% (3)** Dental Care
 - 3% (1)** Chronic Disease Prevention
 - 6% (2)** Educational Attainment
 - 16% (5)** Poverty, especially childhood
 - 9% (3)** Living Wages
 - 25% (8)** High ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences)
 - 25% (8)** Social Disconnection
 - 3% (1)** Discrimination
 - 50% (16)** Affordable Housing
 - 25% (8)** Transportation Access
 - 0% (0)** Other: please specify below.
- 96 Responses**

Next Steps

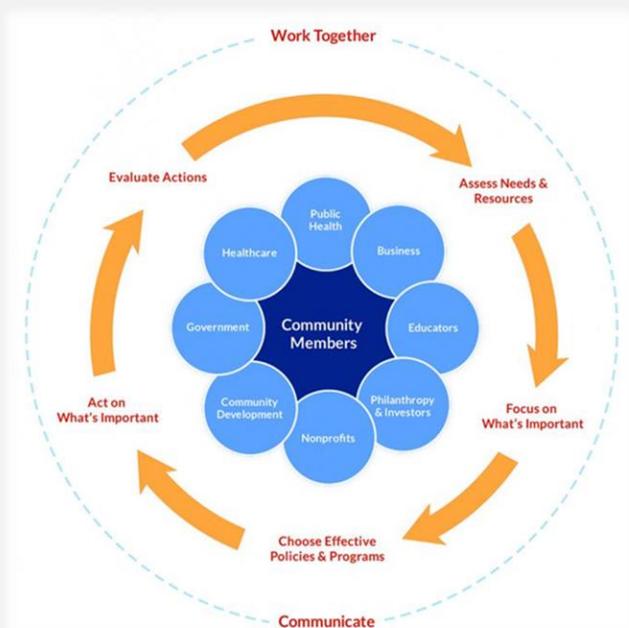
Based on primary and secondary data review, information provided by experts and in-depth community level discussion about health needs, we identified these 3 priorities:

1. **Mental Health**
2. **Affordable Housing**
3. **Substance Use**

The need to work on these priorities correlates well with the secondary data we collected as well as with what we heard from our community health survey of 1600 people and our 22 focus groups and key informant interviews. We began forming action teams in January of 2022 for the first two priorities. The third priority, substance use, already has an active community coalition, Sauk County Partnership for Prevention.

The Community Health Needs Assessment report is part of the Assessment phase of our Community Health Improvement Planning Process, a requirement for all local health departments (see diagram). The information gathered in this report, most notably the priorities that were identified, helped us to determine community issues, factors that impact health, and strengths of the community in Sauk County.

Now that our health priorities have been identified, the Health Department will move into the next phase of the process and will create a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) targeting our 3 priorities. We will continue to collaborate with the Sauk County Health & Wellness Coalition and other community partner/ collaborations to more effectively work towards improving the health of Sauk County residents. Together, we will mobilize the community to take action and improve the overall health of Sauk County.



Resources

Secondary Data

- **County Health Rankings & Roadmaps**; www.countyhealthrankings.org/
- **Sauk County Census QuickFacts 2019**;
www.census.gov/quickfacts/saukcountywisconsin
- **Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction WISEdash**;
<https://wisedash.dpi.wi.gov/Dashboard/dashboard/22275>
- **Wisconsin Department of Health Services**; <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/>
- **Bureau of Labor Statistics**; <https://www.bls.gov/>
- **Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Systems**;
<https://www.cdc.gov/brfss/index.html>
- **Living Wage Calculator**; <https://livingwage.mit.edu/>
- **Madison Region Economic Partnership**; <https://madisonregion.org/>
- **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention**; <https://www.cdc.gov/>
- **Fatality Analysis Reporting System**; <https://www.nhtsa.gov/research-data/fatality-analysis-reporting-system-fars>
- **CDC National Vital Statistics System**;
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/index.htm>
- **USDA Food Environment Atlas**; <https://www.ers.usda.gov/data-products/food-environment-atlas/>
- **Community Population Survey**; <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/cps.html>
- **American Community Survey**; <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs>
- **United States Diabetes Surveillance System**;
<https://www.cdc.gov/diabetes/data/index.html>
- **Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services**; <https://www.cms.gov/>
- **Area Health Resource File**; <https://data.hrsa.gov/topics/health-workforce/ahrf>
- **Small Area Health Insurance Estimates**; <https://www.census.gov/programs-surveys/sahie.html>
- **Mapping Medicare Disparities Tool** ; <https://www.cms.gov/About-CMS/Agency-Information/OMH/OMH-Mapping-Medicare-Disparities>

Appendix A

Community Health Survey a. Marketing



Where you live is an important part of your health. What are your thoughts about the health of your community? Sauk County Public Health and local hospitals want to hear from you about what is going well in your community and what needs improvement. Your responses will help us develop local solutions to health issues that you and other community members think are important.

The survey is anonymous and will take about 5-10 minutes to complete. It is available online at <http://bit.ly/SaukSurvey> (English version) and www.bit.ly/SaludSauk (Spanish version) and on paper. For a paper survey or more information, contact Sara Jesse at 608-355-4308 or sara.jesse@saukcountywi.gov.

Your voice is important to us! Thank you for helping to make Sauk County a healthier place for everyone.

b. Survey Questions

The following questions asked respondents to respond between Strongly Agree, Agree, Neither Agree or Disagree, Disagree, Strongly Disagree or Not Applicable or Not Sure.

- I get along with most of my neighbors.
- "Typically, there are opportunities for people like me to gather in my community (for example, at events, parks, places of worship, community centers, and libraries).
- My community has enough jobs that pay a living wage.
- "Schools in my community provide high-quality education for children.
- There are enough safe, affordable houses and apartments in my community.
- My community is a good place to raise children.
- "I feel accepted in my community.
- "I receive useful information about health and services from my local public health department and/or healthcare providers.
- I feel safe in my community.
- The police help me feel safer in my community.
- Decisions in my community are made with resident participation. That is, leaders listen to resident concerns and take appropriate action.

Appendix A continued

Community Health Survey

a. Survey Questions continued

The following questions asked respondents to respond between Always, Often, Sometimes, Rarely or Never. Additional follow up questions were asked based on initial response.

- My household has transportation that we can depend on to meet our daily needs. Transportation includes, for example: car, truck, bike, rides from family/friends, Uber/Lyft, ride sharing, carpooling, taxi, or walking.
- "My household can get healthy food to eat."
 - Why is getting healthy food a challenge for your household? Please select all that apply:
- "Everyone in my household can get the health services we need, including services for physical health, dental health, mental health, and substance use-related health."
 - Which types of health services are difficult to get for you and/or other household member(s)?
 - Why is getting these health services a challenge for you and/or other household member(s)?
- "I and/or someone in my household experiences discrimination in my community."
 - What type(s) of discrimination have you and/or your household member(s) experienced in your community? "I or my household member(s) have experienced discrimination based on _____."
 - In what situations have you and/or your household member(s) experienced discrimination in your community?

The following questions helped us better understand our community members.

Respondents had the choice to not answer any questions and all responses were confidential and anonymous.

- "How would you rate your physical health, in general?"
- Thinking about your mental health, which includes stress, depression and problems with emotions, how would you rate your mental health, in general?
- What is your gender?
- What is your sexual orientation?
- With which race/ethnicity do you identify?
- What language(s) do you speak at home?
- What is your age group?
- What is the highest level of education you completed?
- What is your employment status?
- How would you describe your current financial situation?
- What is your annual household income before taxes?
- Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?
- Please select the type(s) of disabilities that apply to you.
- Do you currently have health insurance?
- Do you currently have dental insurance?
- Including yourself (if you are an adult), how many adults (age 18 and over) live in your household?

Appendix B

Community Conversation Focus Groups

a. Marketing

SAUK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH &
YOUR LOCAL HOSPITALS
INVITE YOU TO A

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Share with us what
is going well
in your community, and
what needs improvement

Virtual Focus Group Choices:

- Tues, June 15 7 - 8 am
- Wed, June 16 5:30 - 6:30 pm

To be part of a focus group and make your
voice heard, please contact:
Jodie Molitor at 608.355.4315
or Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov



SAUK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH &
YOUR LOCAL HOSPITALS
INVITE YOU TO A

LGBTQ COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Share with us what
is going well
in your community, and
what needs improvement

Virtual Focus Group:

- Fri, June 18 2-3 pm

To be part of a focus group and make
your voice heard, please contact:
Jodie Molitor at 608.355.4315
or Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov



b. Community Conversation Questions

1. In your opinion, what makes a community healthy?
 - a) Required prompt *if* social determinants have not yet been addressed by participants: What about issues like housing, good-paying jobs, and social connection—how big of a role do these issues play in making a community healthy?
2. Now think about **your** community. What do you think prevents your community from being healthier?
 - a) Required prompt *if* equity has not yet been addressed by participants: In your community, do you think all people have an equal opportunity for good health? Why or why not?
3. What strengths does your community have that we could build on to make it a healthier place?
 - a) Optional prompt: What is working well in your community? How does that contribute to the health of the community?