UNDERSTANDING THE TOP HEALTH ISSUES FACING MILWAUKEE COUNTY

Health improvement cannot be focused solely on individuals, families, or communities; but must involve many sectors - such as health, social service, education, justice and government - to affect change.

The population health framework recognizes the complexity of issues facing the health of our communities and provides a broad perspective to identify and address factors affecting health outcomes.

Since 2012, the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership’s triennial Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) has reported the top health issues identified by residents and community leaders in Milwaukee County (MKE).

The CHNA serves as the foundation from which hospitals, community health centers, and local health departments develop their community health improvement strategies.

In the spring of 2018, the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership and the Center for Urban Population Health initiated the current CHNA and released its results in January 2019.

PROBLEM

BACKGROUND

RESULTS

Current Disease

Chronic Disease

Violent Crime Rate per 100,000 population

Milwaukee County Homicides

- While African Americans make up just 38.3% of MKE County’s population, 75% of its homicide victims were African American in 2018.
- Another violence issue related to youth is human trafficking. According to the City of MKE Police Department, between 2013 and 2015, 340 individuals under that age of 25 were believed to be victims of sex trafficking. Of those, 65% were African American and 55% were juveniles.

OBJECTIVE

To better understand the burdens, disparities, inequities, and determinants that contribute to health issues of Milwaukee County and what influences them.

METHODS

Three sources were utilized to create the CHNA:

- Community Health Survey – 14-minute, phone-based survey of MKE residents
  - Addresses adult/child health risks, health behaviors, and community health needs
- Key Informant Interviews – Conducted with health experts and community leaders
  - Identify community health needs, contributing social factors, and organizations best suited to address those issues
- Health Compass Milwaukee – a compilation of publicly available data, including sources mentioned above, on a recently launched website

CONCLUSIONS

Health is complex. It is our hope that this assessment and website will help amplify provider and community conversations about the importance of cross-sector collaboration for health improvement.

http://www.healthcompassmilwaukee.org/