

# 2022 KENOSHA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH ASSESSMENT



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## Executive Summary

### What is a Community Health Assessment?

The purpose of a **Community Health Assessment** is to identify community needs and resources that impact the health of the community. The Community Health Assessment is an important first step in the **Community Health Improvement Planning Process**. The next steps involve working with the community to prioritize issues and develop, implement, and evaluate a plan to improve the health of the community.

The overall goal is to work together to develop a plan to create a thriving, healthy Kenosha County – the Kenosha County THRIVE Community Health Improvement Plan.



### What's included in this report?

This report highlights key findings from the **2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment**, which involved gathering information from a variety of sources, including a Community Health Survey, Community Conversations, and a comprehensive review of existing data.

| Community Health Survey   | Community Conversations  | Review of Existing Data   |
|---|--|---|
| Nearly 1,000 people completed an anonymous online survey that included 124 questions that covered topics such as individual and family health behaviors, environmental health, mental health, and questions about the Kenosha County community. | A total of 85 people participated in community conversations that intentionally centered the voices of individuals from historically underrepresented groups, including members of African American, Latino, LGBTQ+, youth, and rural communities. | A comprehensive review of existing data was conducted using a variety of sources including: United States Census Bureau Data, County Health Rankings and Roadmaps, and a variety of data collected by Kenosha County Public Health. |

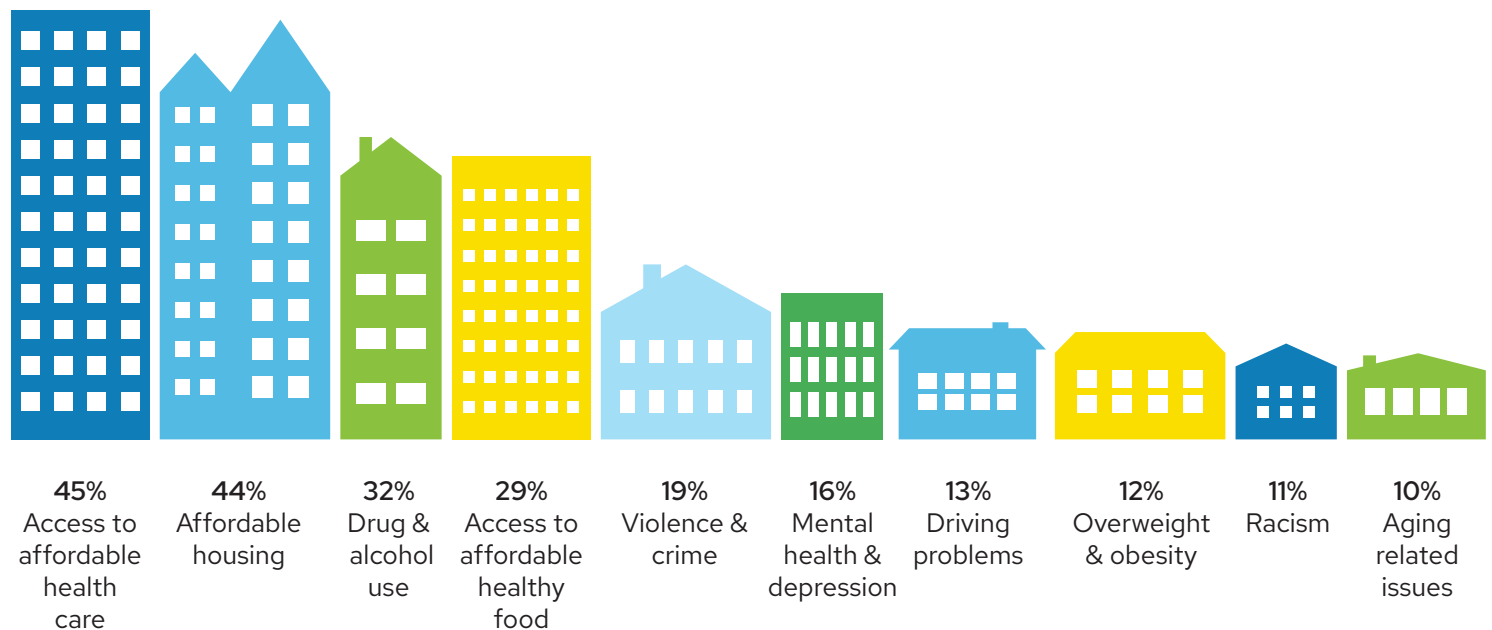


## Who was involved?

The 2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment was led by **Kenosha County Public Health** in partnership with **Aurora Health Care** and **Froedtert South**. Members of the **Health Advisory Council**, **Health Equity Task Force**, and **Board of Health** were also engaged throughout the process. Most importantly, **Community Members** directly informed the assessment by completing the Community Health Survey and participating in Community Conversations.

## What are the largest health concerns?

Members of the Kenosha County community were asked the question *In your opinion, what are the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County?* The image below shows the top 10 health concerns selected by the community. To ensure the Community Health Assessment is driven by the community, we have framed this report as a series of “data stories” that highlight key information about each of the top 10 health concerns. Health equity was identified as a cross-cutting issue that impacts all aspects of health in our community.





## Community Health Assessment Overview

### What is a Community Health Assessment?

The purpose of a **Community Health Assessment** is to identify community needs and resources that impact the health of the community. The Community Health Assessment is an important first step in the **Community Health Improvement Planning Process**. The next steps involve working with the community to prioritize issues and develop, implement, and evaluate a plan to improve the health of the community.

The 2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment involved gathering information from a variety of sources, including a Community Health Survey, Community Conversations, and a comprehensive review of existing data.



## Community Health Survey

Since 2008, Kenosha County Public Health has partnered with Aurora Health Care and Froedtert South to conduct a Community Health Survey every three years. The survey was previously conducted over the telephone by randomly calling a sample of 200 landlines and 200 cell phone numbers in Kenosha County. Members of the community were asked the same set of 111 questions that only changed slightly over the past 15 years.

In 2022, the planning team carefully reviewed the survey questions and made significant revisions to ensure the questions allowed for a more updated perspective on the health of the Kenosha County community. Additionally, it was decided to conduct the survey online to allow for targeted and equitable outreach in historically marginalized and under-represented areas of the community.

Between November and December of 2022, nearly 1,000 people completed the anonymous online Community Health Survey. The survey included 124 questions that covered topics such as individual and family health behaviors, environmental health, mental health, and questions about the Kenosha County community. To view a copy of the survey questions, visit [www.kenoshacounty.org/thrive](http://www.kenoshacounty.org/thrive). Community partners helped to promote the survey on social media and by distributing flyers.

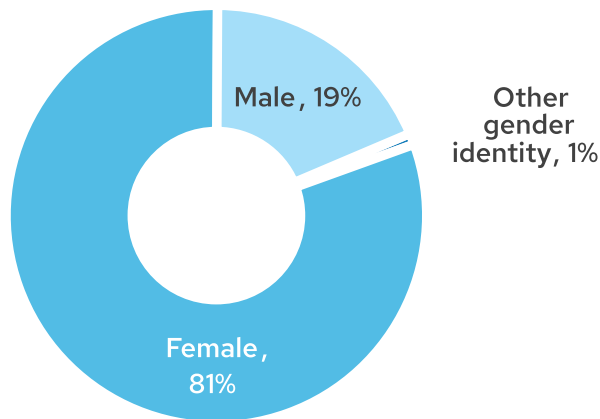


## Who Took the Survey?

The following data shows demographic characteristics of the 975 survey respondents who completed the Community Health Survey. A total of 69% of respondents were from the City of Kenosha, which is similar to the overall percentage of the population of Kenosha County that lives in the City of Kenosha (59%). Since more women completed the survey than men, the data has been weighted by gender to make the data more representative of the gender distribution of the Kenosha County population.

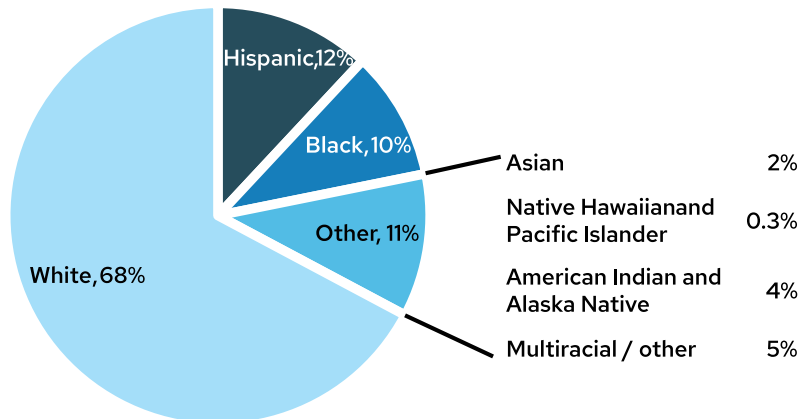
### Gender Identity

**4 out of 5** survey respondents were female.

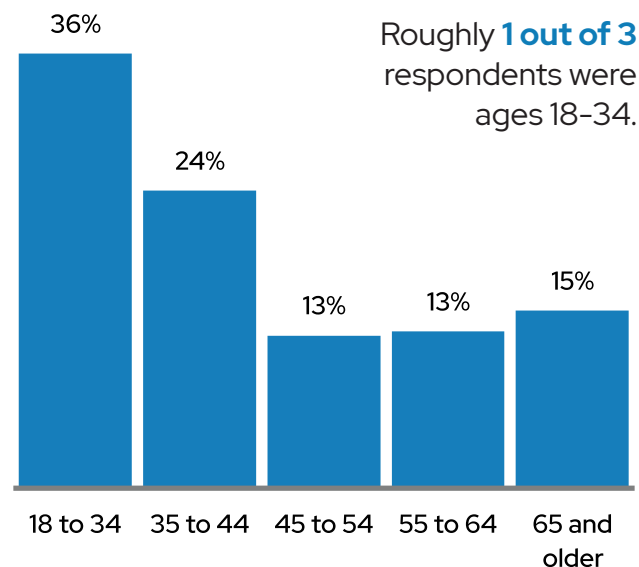


### Race

The group who took our survey has a similar racial breakdown as Kenosha County overall.

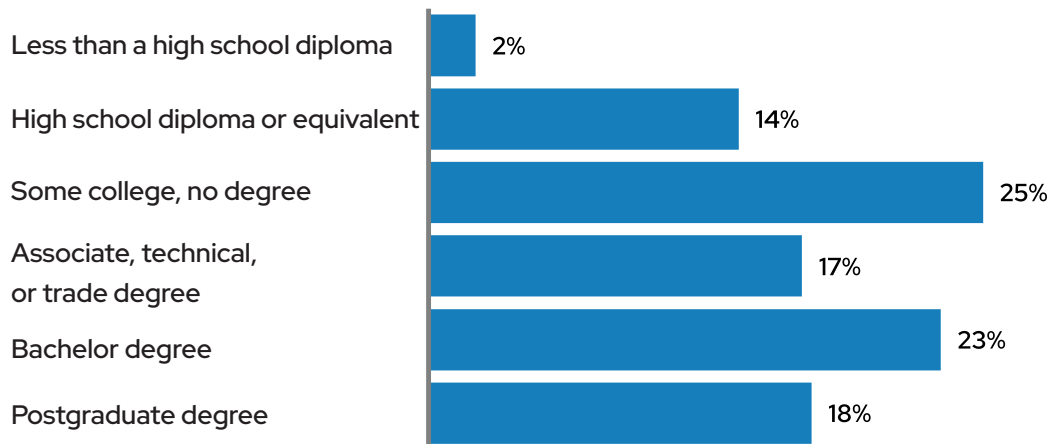


### Age



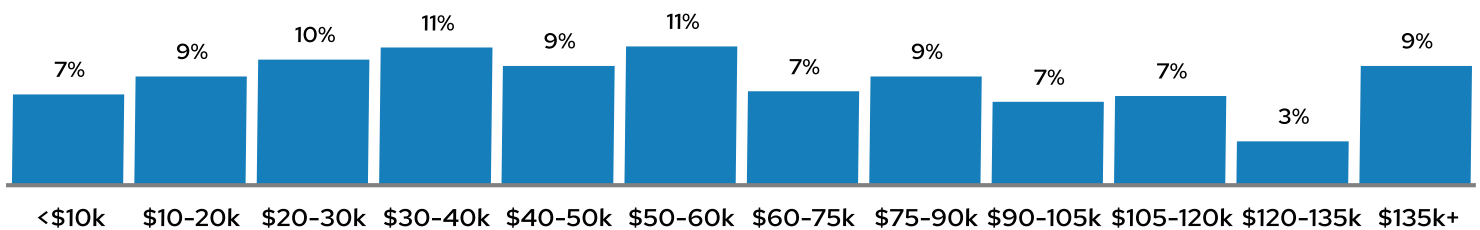
## Education

Respondents had a variety of educational backgrounds.



## Income

The incomes of respondents were fairly evenly distributed.

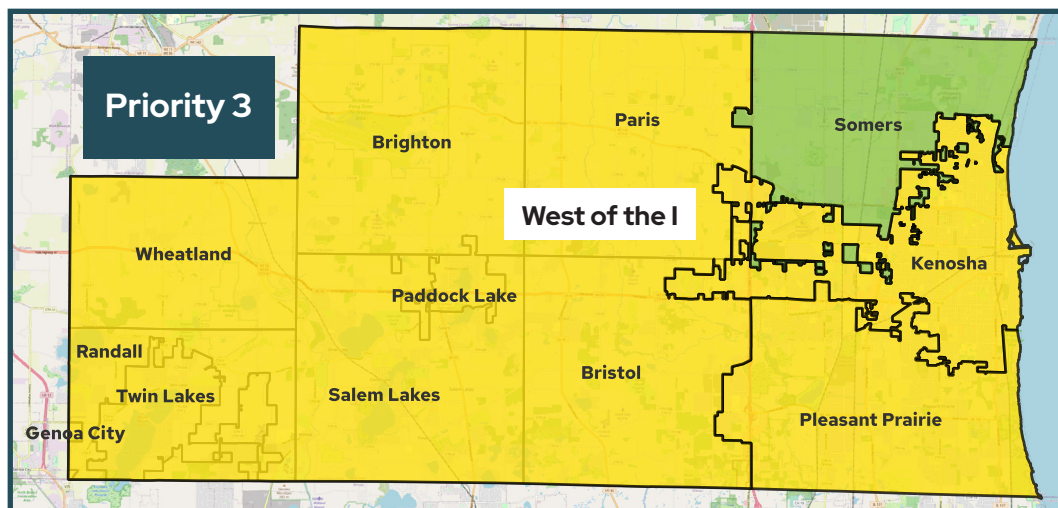
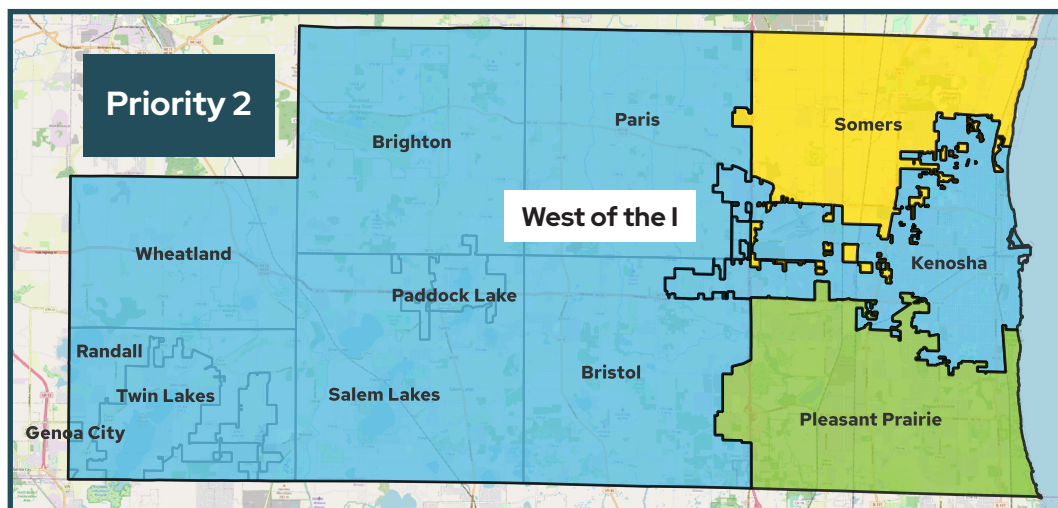
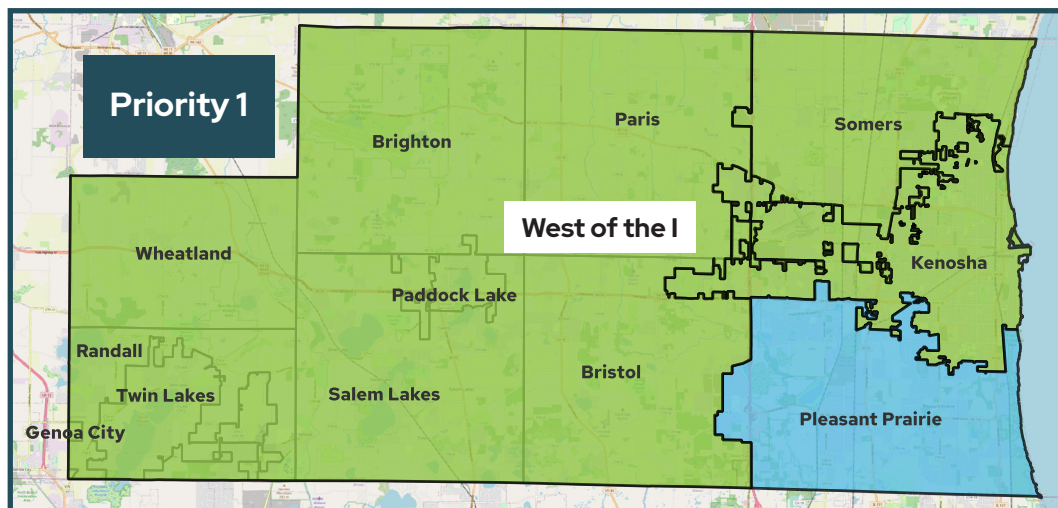




## Priority Issues

These maps show the top three health priorities as selected by respondents from each area of Kenosha County, with the municipalities west of interstate 94 grouped together and Somers, Pleasant Prairie, and the City of Kenosha as separate individual areas. The top three health concerns remained (1) access to affordable health care, (2) affordable housing, and (3) drug and alcohol use, just as they were for the county as a whole. There were some regional differences in the order in which these concerns were ranked – for example, the top concern of Pleasant Prairie was housing, not health care.

- Access to affordable health care
- Affordable housing
- Drug & alcohol use



## Community Conversations

Beginning in August of 2022, a series of community conversations were held that intentionally centered the voices of individuals from historically underrepresented groups, including members of African American, Latino, LGBTQ+, youth, and rural communities. Kenosha County Public Health worked with community partners to promote the opportunity using social media and an informational flyer. A total of 85 people participated in one of eight community conversations.

During the community conversations, the following questions were asked:

What does a thriving, healthy community look like?

In order to create a thriving, healthy community, what needs to change?

What changes would you expect to see in the next year to show we are heading in the right direction?

The following were key themes across the community conversations:

- All groups felt that building community trust and relationships is essential to a healthy community.
- LGBTQ+, African American, and Latino communities look to diversity, equity, and inclusion needs as important for a healthy community or something that needs to change to achieve community healing.
- We need to create more opportunities to live a healthy lifestyle, especially in rural communities (i.e. more parks, community gardens, healthy school meals cooked onsite, and more green spaces).
- LGBTQ+, African American, and Latino communities look for more basic needs, such as addressing food deserts and food security, healthy food, shelter, transportation, childcare, as well as community investments such as grocery stores.
- Educational spaces, especially for youth, need to be safe and healthy for learning.
- More job training, especially in health professions, is needed that maximizes and contributes bilingual and diversity assets.
- Immigration impacts emotional safety, access to healthcare, finances, job seeking, ability to get to appointments, and status.



Quotes from the community conversations that align with the top health concerns can be found throughout this report.



## Review of Existing Data

To help inform the 2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment, a comprehensive review of existing data was conducted using a variety of sources.

### United States Census Bureau Data

The United States Census Bureau provides quality data in a wide variety of topics including health, housing, income and poverty, employment, and education.

### County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

The County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program reviews a variety of data sources related to the wide range of factors that influence health, including: opportunities for education; income and wealth generation; safe, secure and affordable housing and the right to shape policies and practices that impact our everyday lives. They use this information to rank nearly every county in all 50 states in several categories. Throughout this report, we show how Kenosha County compares to Wisconsin using the symbols represented on the right.



### Kenosha County Public Health Data

A variety of data collected by Kenosha County Public Health was reviewed as part of the community health assessment including data from the Kenosha County Public Health Clinic, Bright Family Beginnings Program, Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program, and the Health Equity Report.

### Other Data

Additionally, data was reviewed from the following sources: Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS), NSSP BioSense Platform – ESSENCE Emergency Department Data, Building Our Futures, Kenosha County Medical Examiner’s Office, Section 8 Housing, Law Enforcement Data, WISH Data, and Local Community Disease Data.

The majority of data presented in this report is from the Community Health Survey. When other sources of data are presented, there will be a reference to the data source used. More information about these data sources can be found in the **Data Reference** section of this report.

**Note:** This report highlights key findings from the 2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment. If you are interested in learning more about other data that was collected and reviewed (but not included in this report), please contact [thrive@kenoshacounty.org](mailto:thrive@kenoshacounty.org).



## Access to Affordable Health Care Data Story

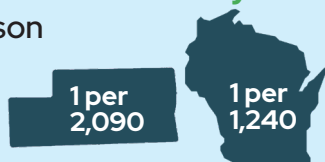
A total of 45% of survey respondents selected *Access to affordable health care* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Proper healthcare is the most obvious factor essential for preventing illness and ensuring good health. But healthcare cannot be effective if people do not actually make use of it. All too often, people run up against barriers to getting the care they need, and poor health is the result. Kenoshans recognize these barriers, with 45% of survey respondents naming access to affordable healthcare as a top health concern. To be accessible, healthcare must be reasonably close to where people live, work and play, it must be open at convenient times of day, and there must be enough healthcare professionals in the community so that patients can be seen without waiting too long. In addition, healthcare must be affordable so that people do not have to choose between healthcare and other priorities such as paying their rent.

*"We need more access to healthcare, collaboration, communication all levels, up down and in between; as well as affordable equipment in home care."*

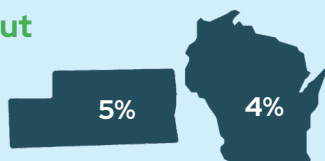


### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County has **fewer Primary Care Providers** per person than Wisconsin

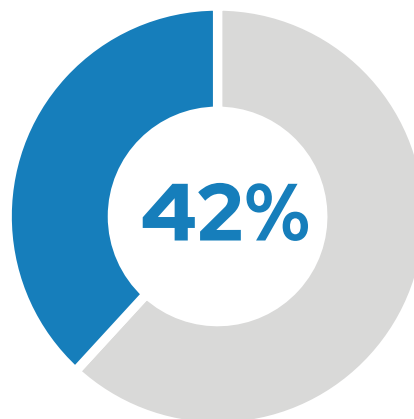


Kenosha County has **more Kenosha County children are without insurance** than Wisconsin



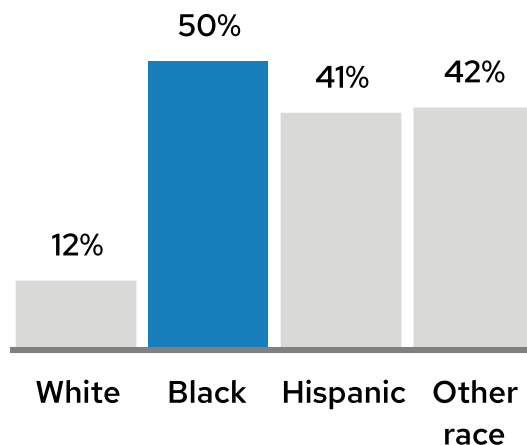
### Affordable healthcare services

Only **42%** of respondents agreed that there were affordable healthcare services in their community.



### Insurance gaps by race

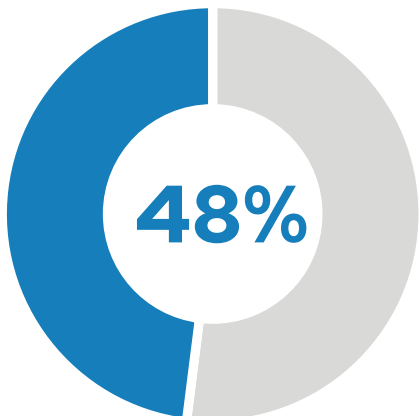
By race/ethnicity group, Black residents were the most likely to have gaps in their insurance coverage in the last 12 months.





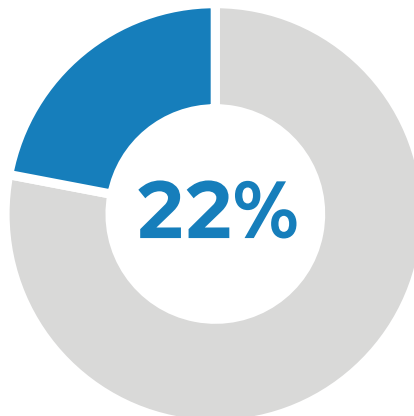
## Delayed healthcare

Nearly half of those surveyed (**48%**) indicated that they had delayed or did not receive needed dental, medical or prescription care in the last year.



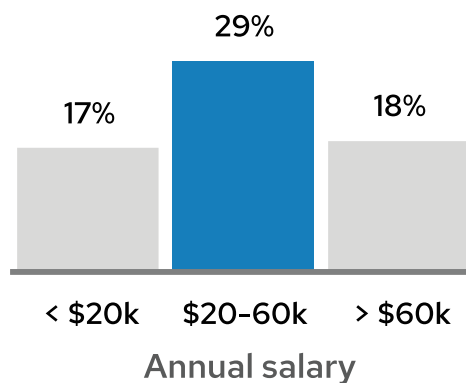
## Delayed healthcare due to cost

Nearly a quarter (**22%**) indicated that they had delayed healthcare or failed to obtain care because the cost was too high.



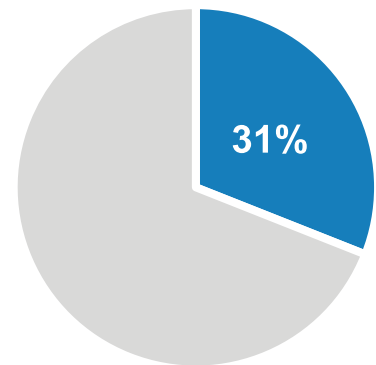
## Delayed healthcare due to cost by salary

Residents making between \$20k and \$60k per year were more likely to delay health care due to cost than those making above \$60k or below \$20k per year.

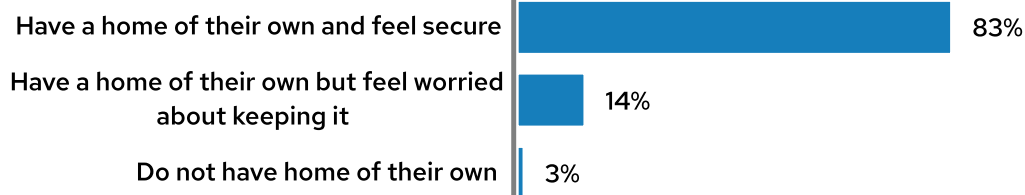


## Affordable Housing Data Story

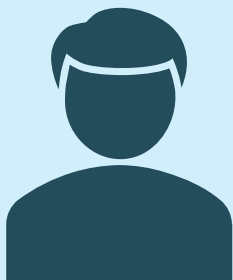
A total of 44% of survey respondents selected *Affordable housing* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Affordable, quality housing is a vital part of people's ability to live healthy lives. Housing conditions can directly affect people's health through hazards in the home. Children can be poisoned from lead in water pipes or paint chips, people can develop asthma from poor air quality, and people can experience health problems from extreme temperatures or overcrowding. People who have unstable housing and must move often are more likely to experience stress and have poor physical and mental health than people with stable housing. And past and current discrimination in the private mortgage market means that Black and Hispanic people are disproportionately shut out of homeownership. Nearly half of Wisconsin residents who rent spend at least 35% of their income on housing, leaving relatively little left over for other necessities like health care and food.



Only **31%** of survey respondents agreed that there are affordable places to live in Kenosha County.

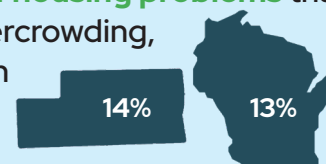


"We need sufficient housing that matches all income levels in Kenosha County."

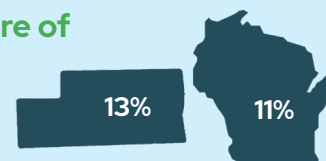


### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County has **more households with at least 1 of 4 housing problems** than Wisconsin (i.e. overcrowding, costly, lack kitchen facilities, or lack plumbing)

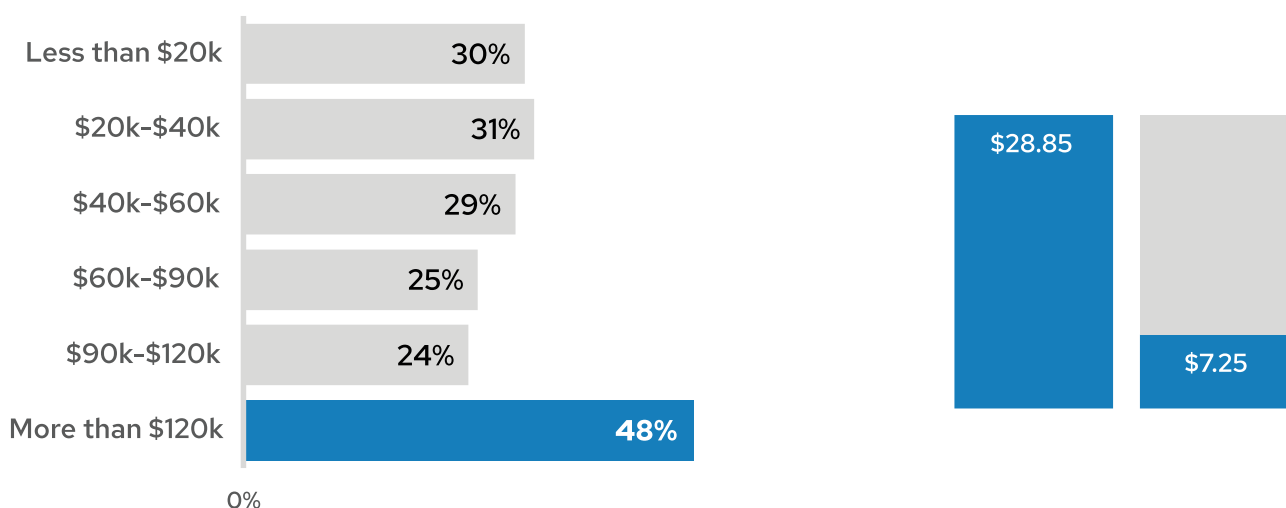


Kenosha County has **more households that spend 50% or more of their income on housing** than Wisconsin



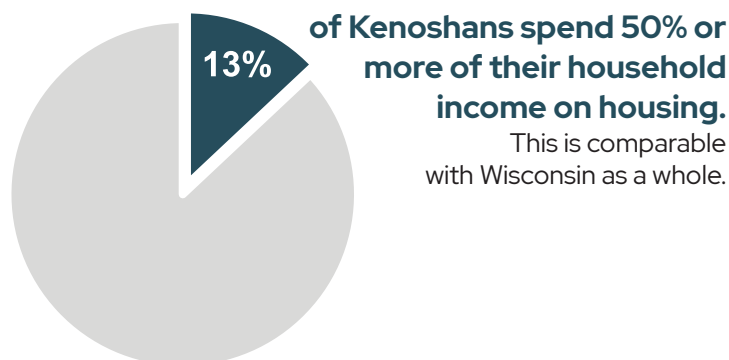


Out of the people we interviewed who were returning from incarceration or family of people returning, **half said housing was the primary resource they needed but couldn't access**; 9 out of 19 returning residents and 8 out of 15 family of returning residents said housing was their top need.



Respondents making >**\$120,000** a year were more likely than everyone else to say that there **were affordable places to live**.

A \$120,000 household would need two adults working full time at \$28.85/hour-- **4 times Wisconsin's minimum wage**.

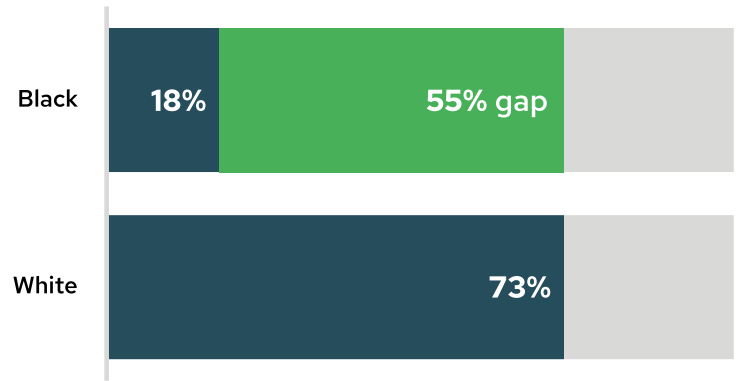


Data from 2017-21. Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps





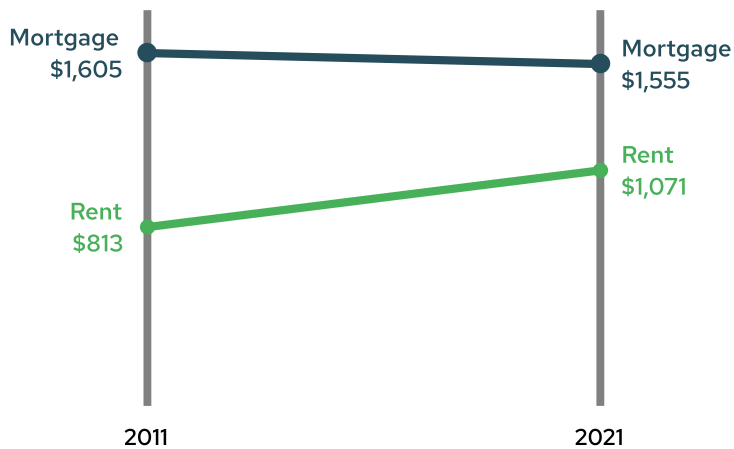
In Kenosha County, 73% of white people own a home, while only **18% of Black people own a home.**



Data from 2021. Source: Building Our Future

## From 2011-2021, median monthly mortgage costs stayed even while rental costs increased.

This leaves renters, who are disproportionately Black, with growing housing costs.



Data from 2021. Source: Building Our Future

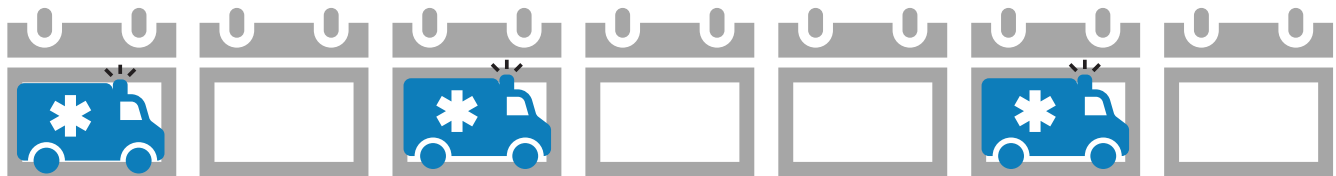




## Drug & Alcohol Use Data Story

A total of 32% of survey respondents selected *Drug & alcohol use* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Drug overdose deaths are high across the country, and in the U.S. in 2020, 75% of drug overdose deaths involved an opioid. Injection drug use with used needles can spread chronic diseases like Hepatitis C and HIV. Fentanyl, a highly potent opioid, is now common across the country and has caused a greater proportion of opioid-related deaths in Kenosha County.

Alcohol is the most commonly used addictive substance in Wisconsin. Almost two-thirds (65%) of adults in Wisconsin report alcohol use in the past 30 days, higher than the U.S. average of 55%. Alcohol can cause short and long term health effects, including acute alcohol poisoning, high blood pressure, liver disease, and cancer.



Data from 2019–22. Source: WARDS

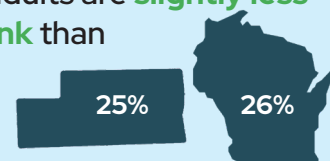
A total of **610 opioid-related ambulance runs** occurred in the county from 2019 to 2022, or about 3 runs per week on average.

"We need to reduce the homeless population, drug abuse, deaths, human trafficking, and emergency room visits."

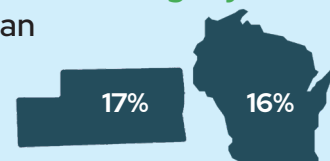


### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County adults are **slightly less likely to binge drink** than Wisconsin adults



Kenosha County adults are **slightly more likely to smoke** than Wisconsin adults





**91** opioid-related ambulance runs per 100k people per year

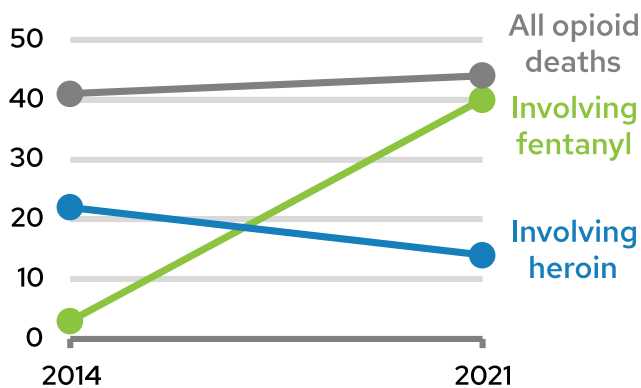


**57** opioid-related emergency department visits per 100k people per year



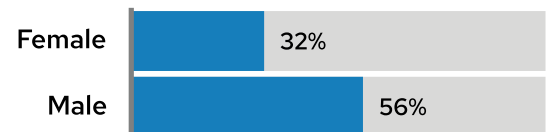
**36** opioid-related deaths per 100k people per year

*Data from 2019-21. Source: WARDS; NSSP BioSense Platform- ESSENCE; Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office; U.S. Census Bureau*



*Data from 2014-21. Source: Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office*

Deaths involving **fentanyl** have taken up an ever-increasing proportion of all opioid-related deaths in the County since 2014.



**Male** respondents were more likely to report binge-drinking in the last 30 days than **female** respondents.



## Access to Affordable & Healthy Food Data Story

A total of 29% of survey respondents selected *Access to affordable and healthy food* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. People need access to affordable food in order to thrive, and proper nutrition is essential to focusing at work or school and staying healthy. But not everyone has equal access to a variety of affordable foods. Lower-income and historically marginalized racial groups often do not have places in their neighborhoods that offer affordable and healthy foods. In our survey, 1 in 4 respondents said they didn't have a grocery store in their neighborhood, and high-income households were more likely to have access to a grocery store. In Kenosha County, 1 in 5 children are food insecure, meaning that many children and families may have trouble putting food on the table.

**1 in 5 children** in Kenosha County are **living with food insecurity**.



*Data from 2021. Source: Building Our Future*

**2 in 5 children** in Kenosha County are **eligible for free or reduced school lunch**.



*Data from 2019-20. Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps*

*"The bus doesn't go to the local grocery store."*

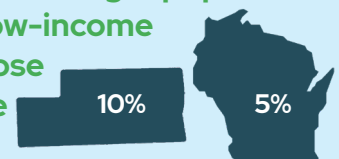


### How Does Kenosha Compare?

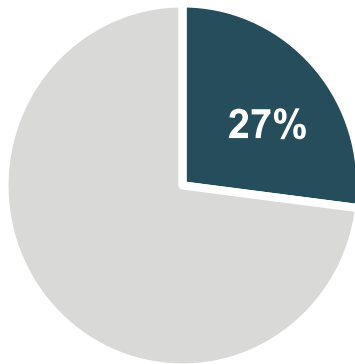
Kenosha County has **more people who lack adequate access to food** than Wisconsin



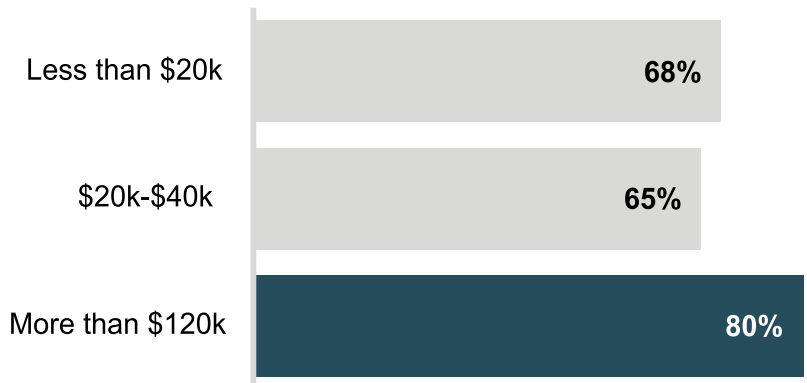
Kenosha County has a **larger population of people who are low-income and do not live close to a grocery store** than Wisconsin



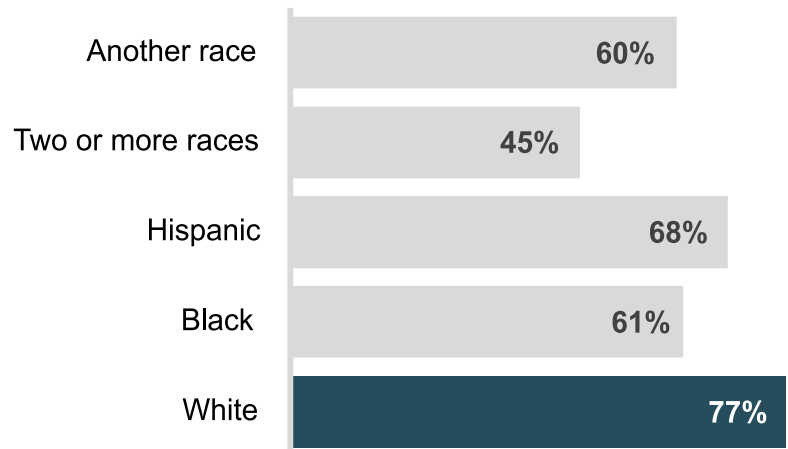
## Grocery Store Access



**27% of survey respondents** said they didn't have a grocery store in their neighborhood.



Households making **more than \$40,000** were more likely to **have a grocery store in their neighborhood** than households making \$40,000 or less.

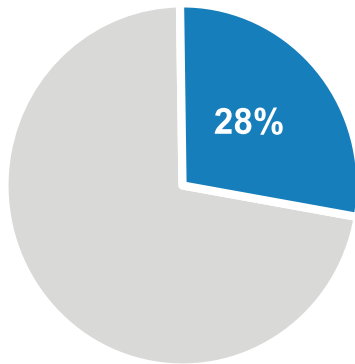


**White households** were more likely to have a **grocery store in their neighborhood** than any other race.

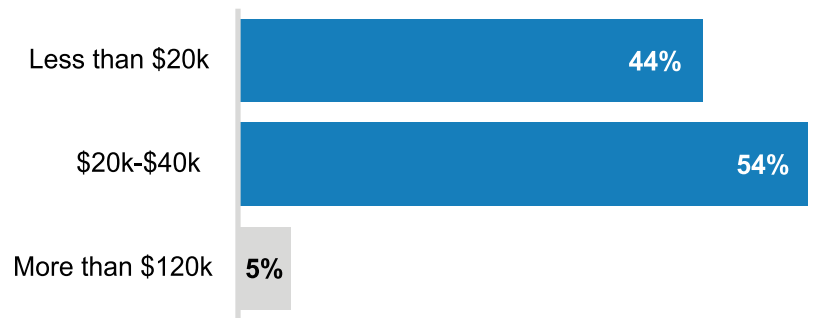




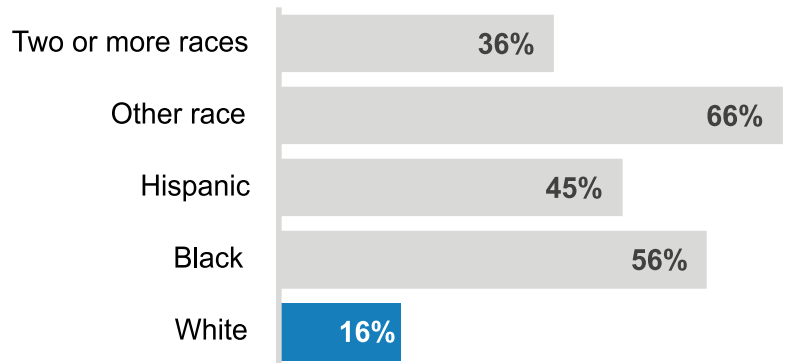
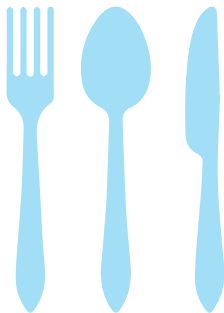
## Emergency Food



**28% of survey respondents** said they received emergency food sometimes or often in the past year.



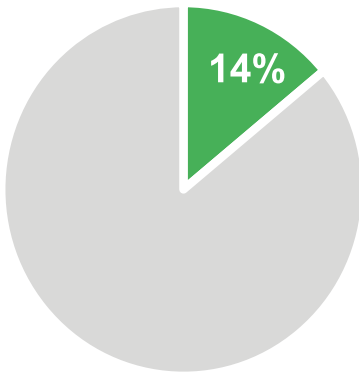
Households making **less than \$40,000** were far more likely to have received emergency food than higher income households.



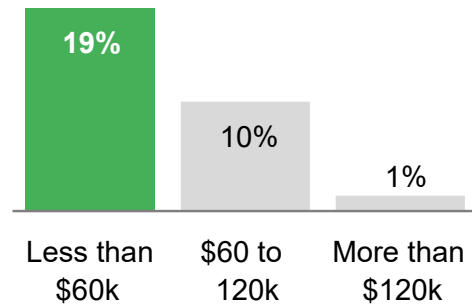
**White people** are less likely to receive emergency food than any other race. Inequities in income and wealth contribute to this difference.



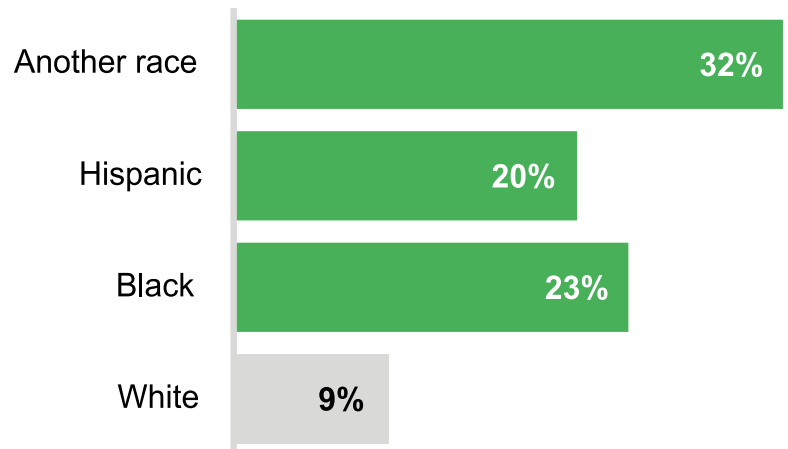
## Going Hungry



**14% of survey respondents and their families** went without food when they were hungry because of the cost.



Respondents making **less than \$60k** were the most likely to report going hungry because of the cost of food.



**Hispanic, Black, and people with another race** were more likely to go hungry because of the cost of food. Inequities in income and wealth contribute to this difference.



## Violence & Crime Data Story

A total of 19% of survey respondents selected *Violence & crime* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Violence affects people at all stages of life, and it affects people's physical, emotional, and mental health. Firearm-related deaths continue to be a significant public health problem across the United States, with 79% of all homicides in 2020 involving firearms. Violence is not just about homicides; intimate partner violence and sexual violence are very common. Over half of women and almost 1 in 3 men report sexual violence in their lifetimes. The causes of violence are complex and are tied to other social determinants of health, including poverty. Housing instability can also contribute to neighborhoods having high turnover, which can affect people's relationships with their neighbors and neighborhoods—the glue that binds communities together.

"We need safer communities  
- not as much violence."

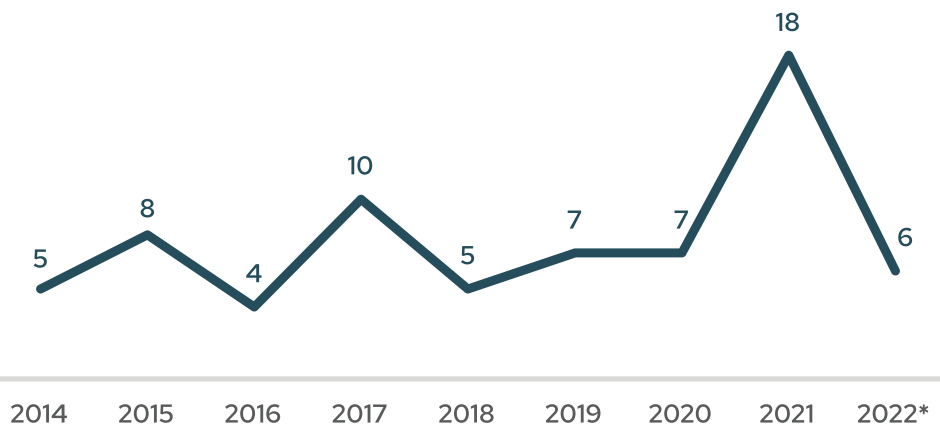


### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County and Wisconsin have a **similar rate of homicides** per 100,000 people



The **number of homicides** in Kenosha County has mostly remained steady, with a **spike in 2021**.

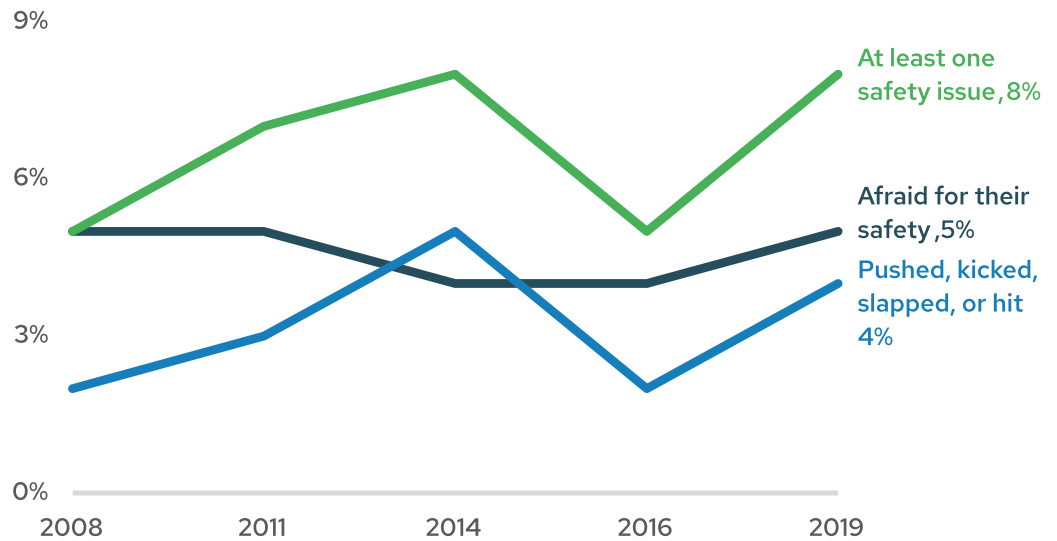


\*2022 data may still change as autopsies are completed.

Source: Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office

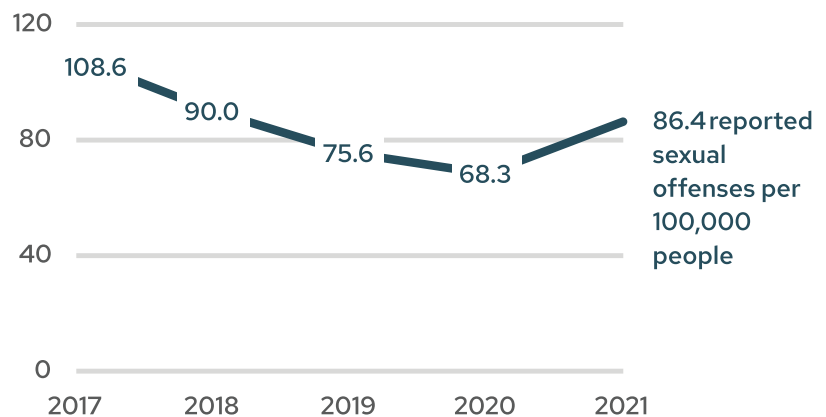


**8% of adult survey respondents** reported at least one personal safety issue in the past year.



**Kenosha's firearm fatality rate** is similar to Wisconsin's rate.

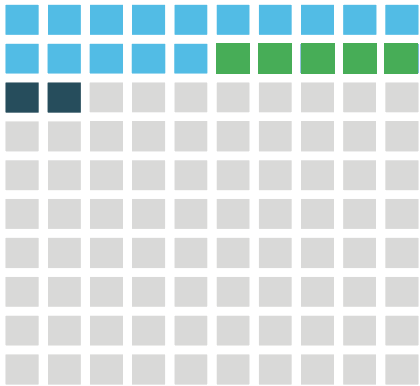
In 2021, there were **86 sexual offenses reported to police per 100,000 people** in Kenosha County.



Source: Wisconsin Department of Justice



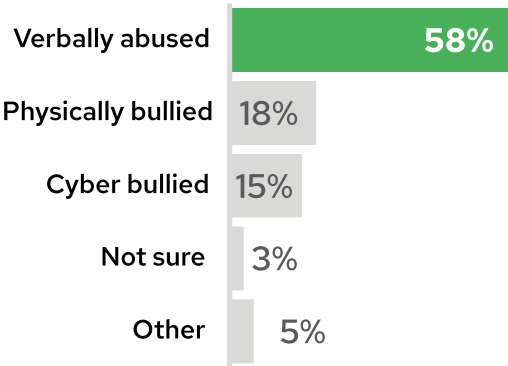
22% of respondents felt their children were sometimes, rarely, or never safe in their neighborhood.



1 in 5 respondents said their children were bullied in the past year.



The majority of respondents reported their children experienced verbal abuse if bullied.



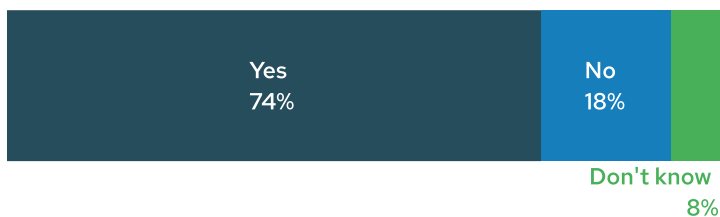


## Mental Health & Depression Data Story

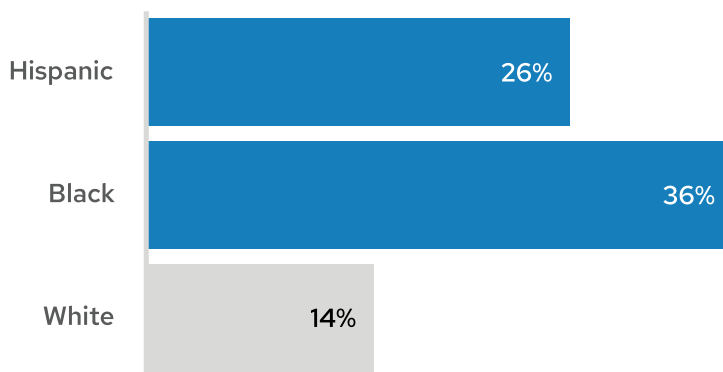
A total of 16% of survey respondents selected *Mental health & depression* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Mental health is just as important as physical health; in fact, they are often tied together. Depression can increase the risk for physical health problems like diabetes, heart disease, and stroke. While historically stigmatized, mental health disorders are extremely common; more than 50% of people will be diagnosed with a mental health disorder at some point in their lifetime. There is no single cause for mental illness, but trauma, genetics, and substance use can all play a part. Many mental health disorders are risk factors for suicide and negatively affect the quality of a person's life, which is why treatment is so important.



**3 out of 4 respondents** said they had an adequate support network that benefits their mental health.



**Black and Hispanic respondents** were more likely to **not have an adequate support network** than white respondents.

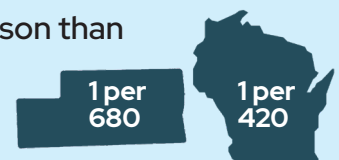


*"We need free resources and supports to address mental health issues."*



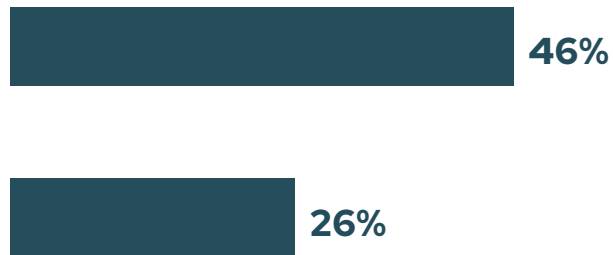
### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County has **fewer Mental Health Providers** per person than Wisconsin

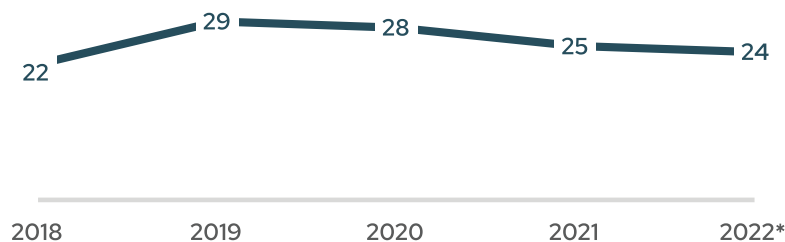


**Nearly half of survey respondents** said they sometimes, often, or always felt anxious, stressed, uneasy, or unable to relax in the past month.

**26% of survey respondents** have been diagnosed or treated for **anxiety** in the past 3 years.

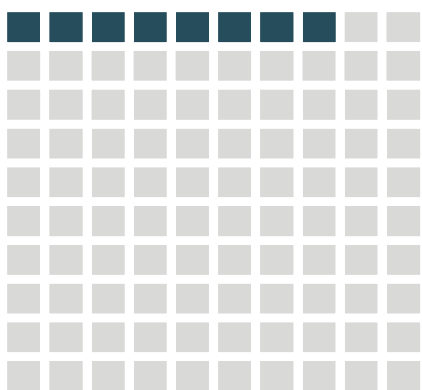


## Suicide

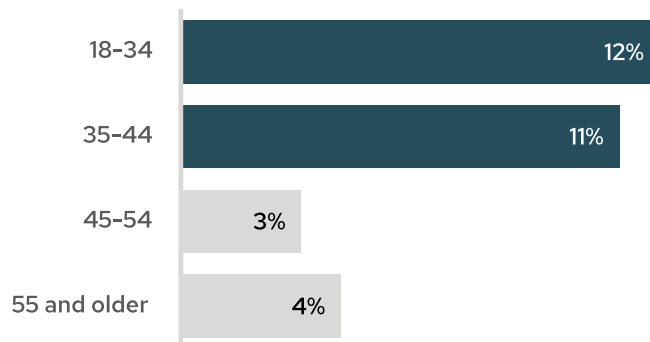


In 2022, at least **24 people lost their lives to suicide** in Kenosha County. An average of 1.6% of all deaths in the past five years were suicides.

*\*2022 data may still change as autopsies are completed. Source: Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office*



**8% of respondents** considered suicide in the past year.



**Younger people** were more likely to have considered suicide in the past year.

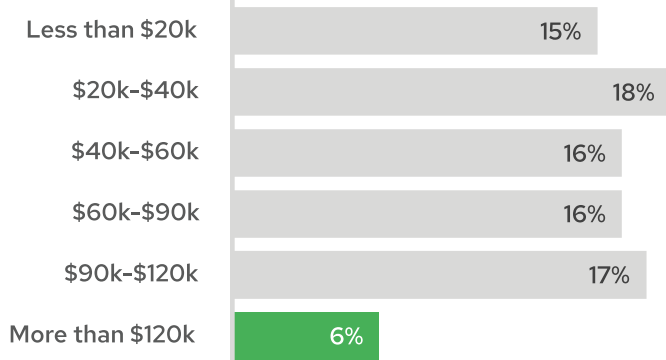


## Depression

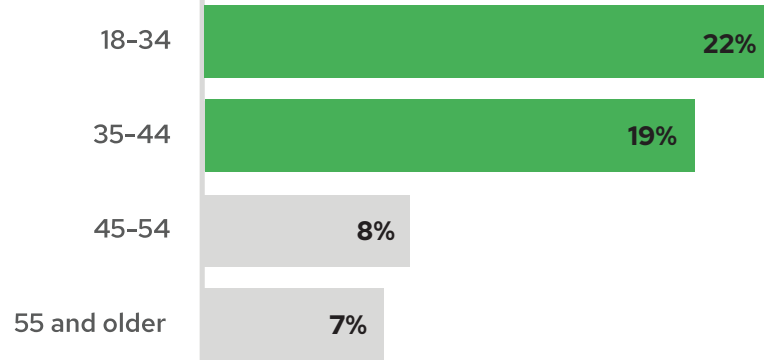
**38% of survey respondents** said they sometimes, often, or always felt sad, blue, or depressed in the past month.



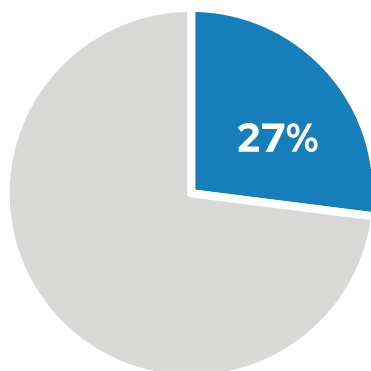
**21% of survey respondents** said they have been diagnosed or treated for **depression** in the past 3 years.



People in households **making more than \$120,000 a year** were **less likely** to say they felt sad, blue, or depressed in the last month.



**Young people** were more likely to say they felt sad, blue, or depressed in the last month.



**More than 1 in 4 survey respondents** said at least one of their **children** sometimes or often felt sad, blue, or depressed in the past six months.



## Driving Problems Data Story

A total of 13% of survey respondents selected *Driving problems* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Over 100 people per day die from motor vehicle crashes in the United States, and motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for U.S. teens. In Kenosha County, vehicle crashes are roughly 50% more likely to involve alcohol than the U.S. as a whole. Nearly 1 in 10 Kenoshans who responded to our survey said they drove or rode in a car with an alcohol-impaired driver in the past month. Many of those people were ages 18-44. Preventing motor vehicle crashes is an important part of preventing the deaths of youth and younger people in Kenosha County.

"The county needs to increase transportation services."

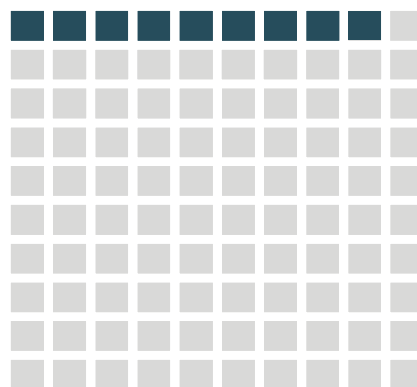


### How Does Kenosha Compare?

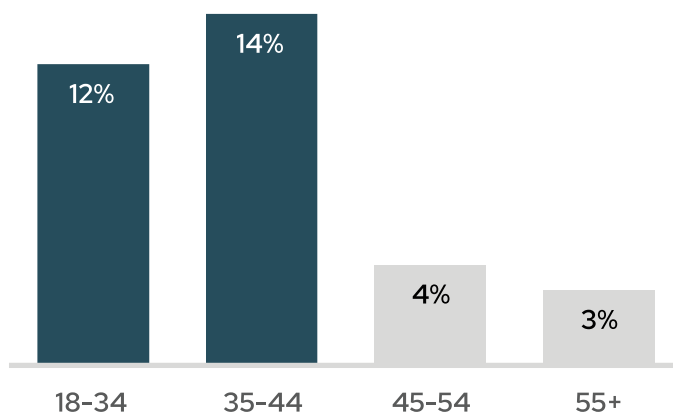
Kenosha County has **slightly lower rate of motor vehicle crash deaths** per 100,000 people than Wisconsin



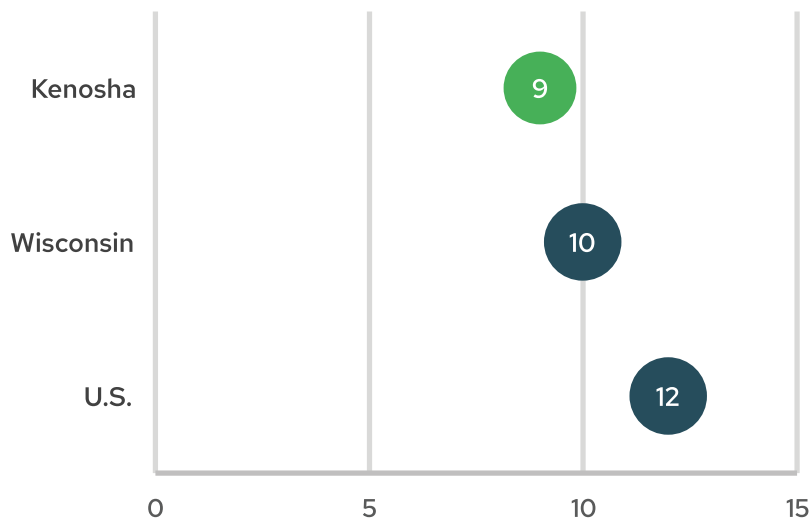
In the past month, **nearly 1 out of 10 people** reported driving or riding when the driver had too much alcohol to drink.



**More people ages 18-44** reported driving or riding when the driver had too much alcohol to drink.



**Kenosha County has slightly less motor vehicle crash deaths than the United States as a whole.**

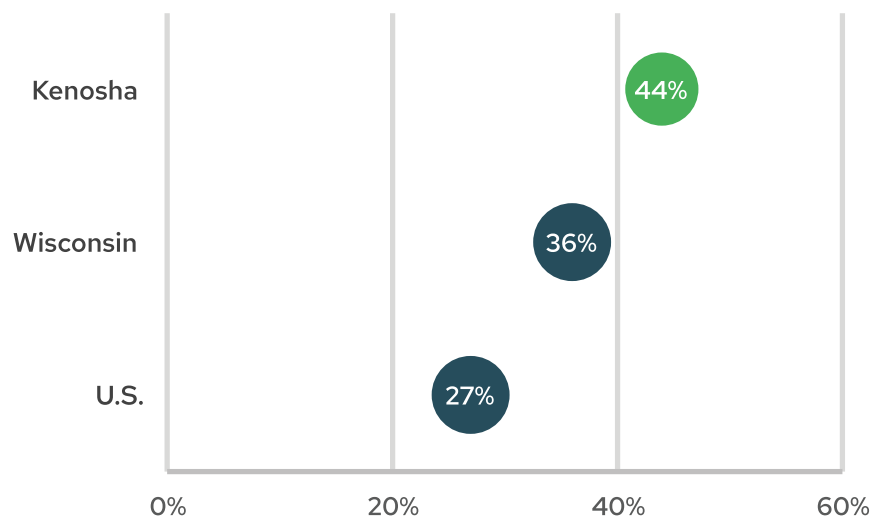


Number of deaths/100,000 people.

Data from 2014-20.

Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps

However, an average of **44% of driving deaths involve alcohol in Kenosha County**, compared to 27% of the United States as a whole.



Data from 2016-20.

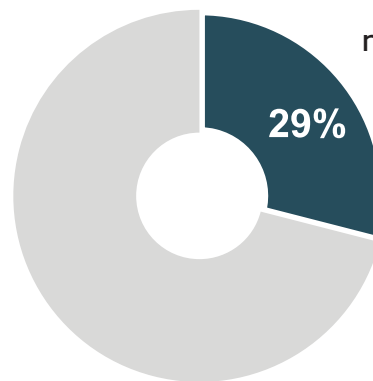
Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps



## Overweight & Obesity Data Story

A total of 12% of survey respondents selected *Overweight & obesity* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Being overweight or obese is associated with the increased risk of certain chronic diseases, such as type 2 diabetes, hypertension, and heart disease. A public health approach to this issue involves making healthy behaviors more affordable and accessible for everyone. Our community survey overall found that fewer respondents were able to access healthy habits, and more struggled to afford healthy food. Healthy behaviors, like eating fruits and vegetables and exercising, can help prevent or lessen the impact of chronic diseases. For example, regular exercise can help control blood sugar in people with diabetes and decrease the risk of heart disease, among many other benefits.

29% of survey respondents said there was **no grocery store** in their neighborhood.

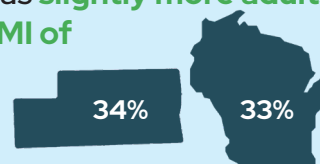


*"We would like to see a park with fitness equipment for adults."*



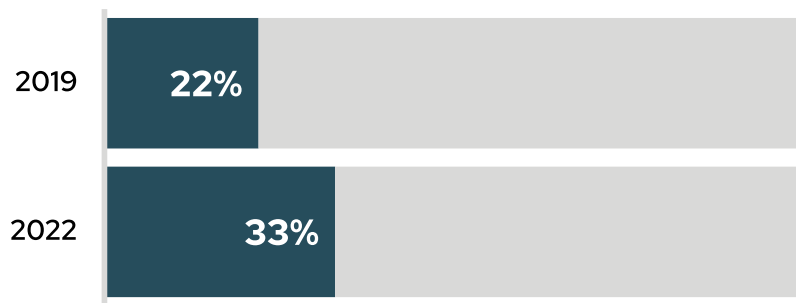
### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County has **slightly more adults that are obese (BMI of 30 or greater)** than Wisconsin

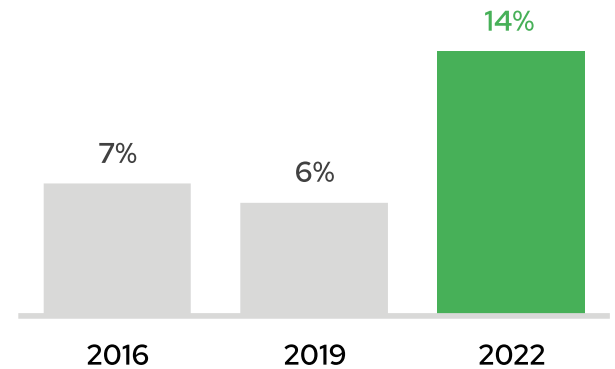




The number of survey respondents that said produce was sometimes, rarely, or never affordable **increased** between 2019 and 2022

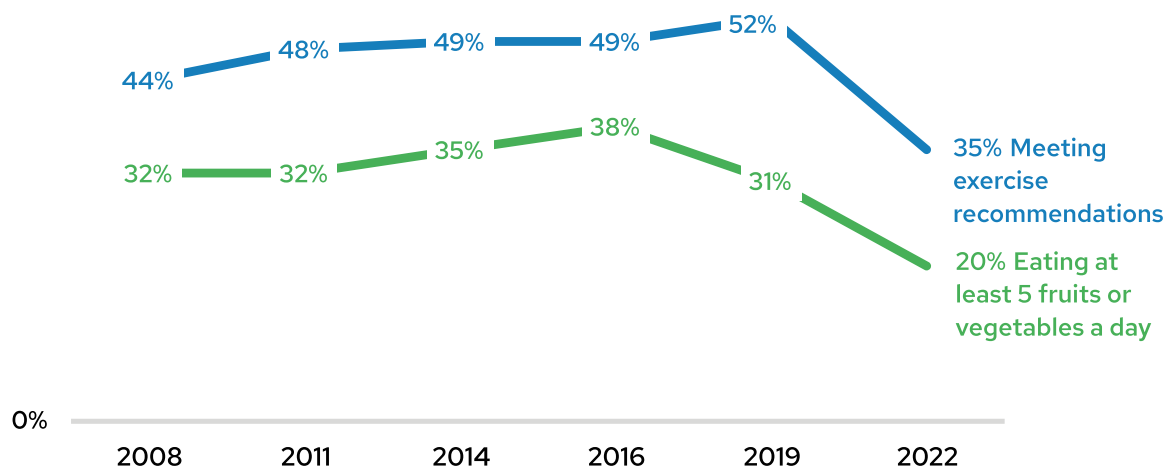


**Nearly 1 in 7 households reported going hungry** sometime in the past year.



The percent of respondents meeting **exercise** and **fruit and vegetable** recommendations dipped in 2022.

60%



## Aging Related Issues Data Story

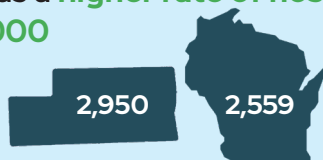
A total of 10% of survey respondents selected *Aging related issues* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. By 2060, the CDC predicts older adults will make up nearly 25% of the US population. As the number of older adults living in Kenosha County increases, so do aging related issues such as chronic health conditions, accidental falls, social isolation, and caregiving challenges. Ensuring that older adults can remain active, independent, and involved in the community as long as possible is an important part of creating a thriving, healthy community.

*"We would like to form groups of older people that don't feel comfortable being by themselves."*



### How Does Kenosha Compare?

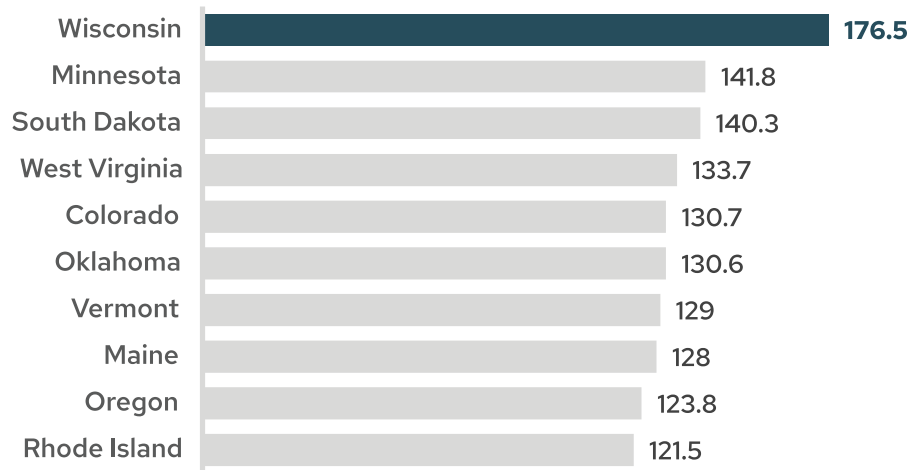
Kenosha County has a **higher rate of hospital stays per 100,000 people enrolled in Medicare** (that might have been prevented by outpatient treatment) than Wisconsin



**1 in 5 survey respondents** said they had fallen and hurt themselves at home in the past year.



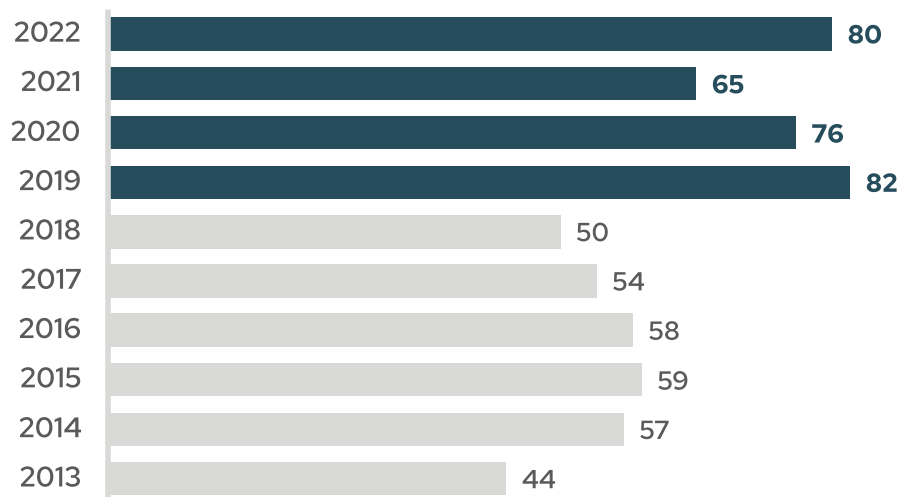
Out of those who had fallen, **1 in 4 reported being hospitalized** due to their injury.



Deaths/100,000 population

Source: CDC Falls Deaths by State

In 2021, Wisconsin's older adults had the **highest death rate from falls in the country.**



Source: Kenosha County Medical Examiner's Office

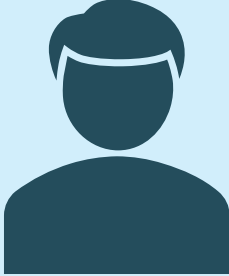
In Kenosha County, the number of **deaths from falls have been trending upward** in recent years.



## Equity Cross Cutting

A total of 11% of survey respondents selected *Racism* as one of the three largest health concerns in Kenosha County. Not everyone experiences the same kind of health issue or experiences the issue to the same degree, so each person should be approached in a way appropriate to their unique situation. This is the concept at the heart of health equity, which is all about meeting people where they are, addressing people's specific health needs, and not using a one-size-fits-all approach for every person or group of people. Factors that may affect people's health are often largely beyond their control, such as where they live, their age, their race, or their income bracket. When there is a significant difference in health between different groups across one of these demographic dimensions, this is called a health disparity. This section illustrates different health disparities across different demographic groups, to illustrate the concept of health equity and convey the urgency of addressing these concerns. This visual below from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation show how when it comes to expanding opportunities for health, thinking the same approach will work universally is like expecting everyone to be able to ride the same bike.


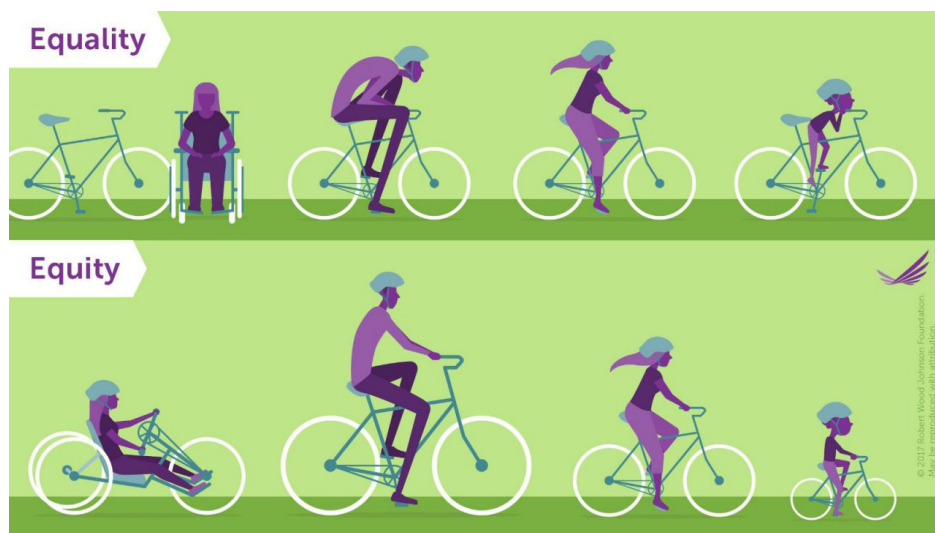
"We need to decrease ethnic barriers, create more unity (you\*me); this changes during riots, but hasn't been maintained."



### How Does Kenosha Compare?

Kenosha County has a **lower Residential Segregation Index (less segregation)** than Wisconsin

| Location       | Residential Segregation Index |
|----------------|-------------------------------|
| Kenosha County | 55                            |
| Wisconsin      | 77                            |

### Equality:

Everyone gets the same—regardless if it's needed or right for them.

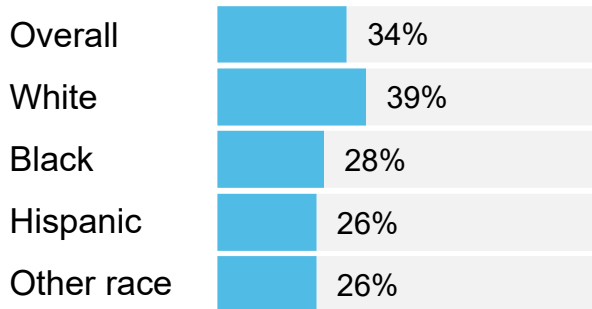
### Equity:

Everyone gets what they need—understanding the barriers, circumstances, and conditions.

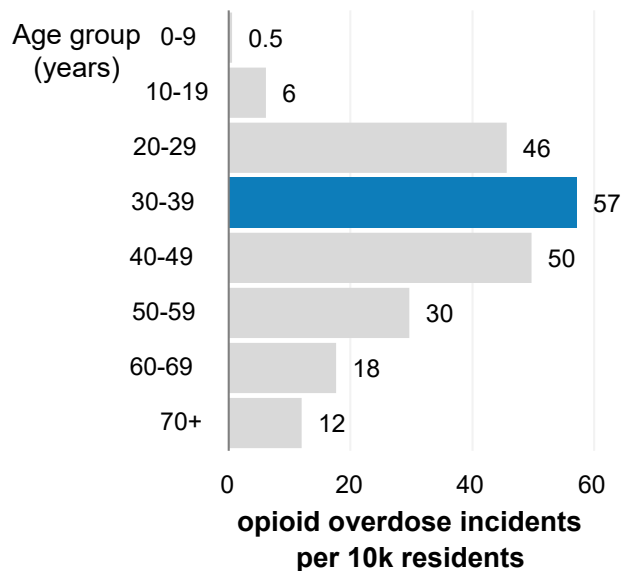
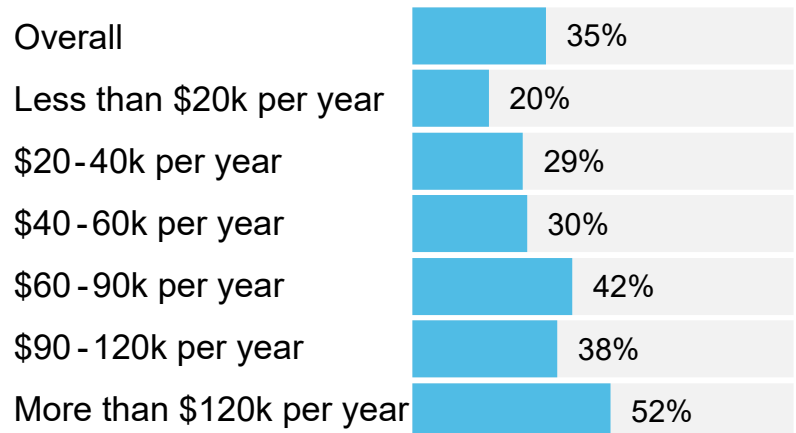


## Alcohol & Drug Use Disparities

**White respondents** were most likely to include alcohol and other drug use and abuse among their top three health concerns.



**Respondents making above \$120k per year** were most likely to include alcohol and other drug use and abuse among their top three health concerns.



Data from 2021-22. Source: WARDS

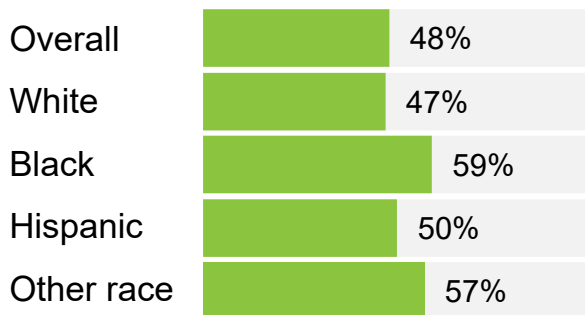
The rate of suspected opioid overdoses is highest among **30-39 year-olds**.



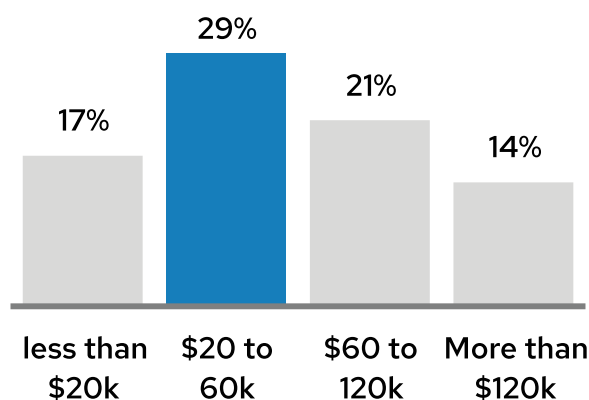
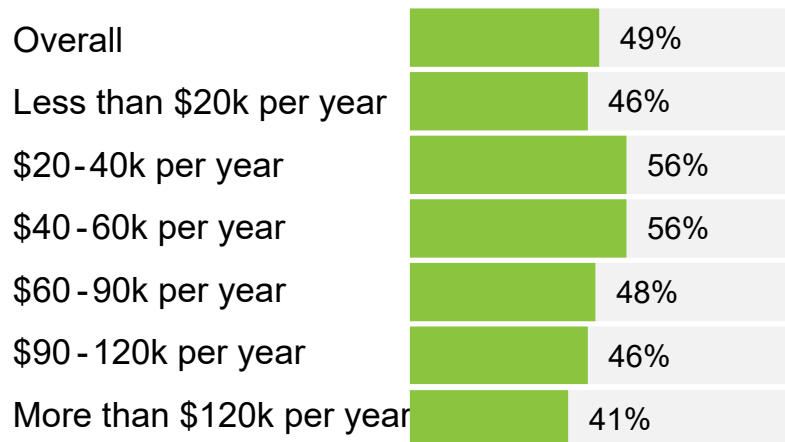


## Access to Affordable Health Care Disparities

**Black respondents**, followed closely by respondents of other races, were most likely to include accessible and affordable healthcare among their top three health concerns.



**Respondents making \$20-60k per year** were most likely to include accessible and affordable healthcare among their top three health concerns.

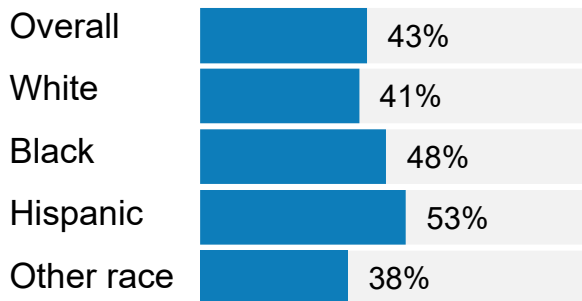


Respondents making **between \$20k and \$60k** in annual salary were the most likely to delay healthcare due to cost.

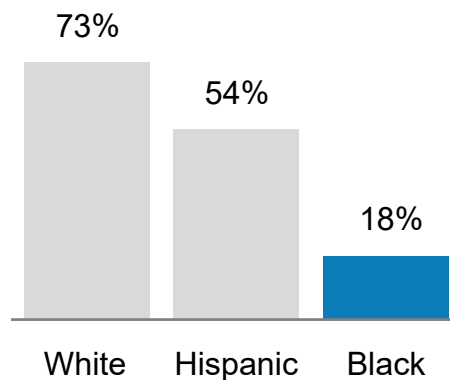
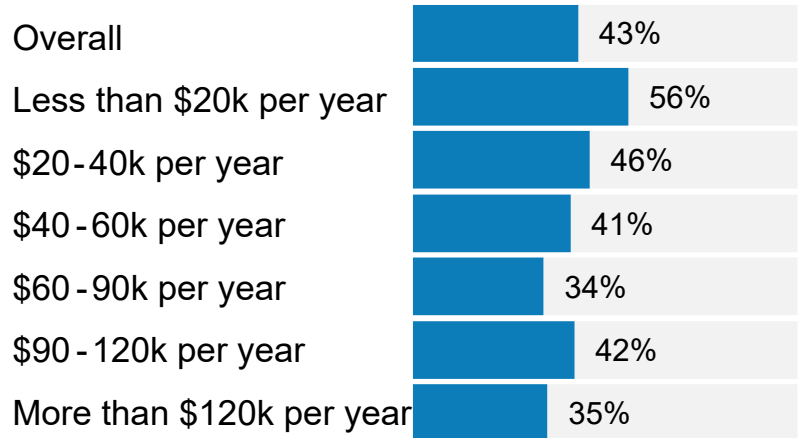


## Affordable Housing Disparities

**Hispanic respondents**, followed not far behind by Black respondents, were most likely to include affordable housing among their top three health concerns were.



**Respondents making less than \$20k per year** were most likely to include affordable housing among their top three health concerns.



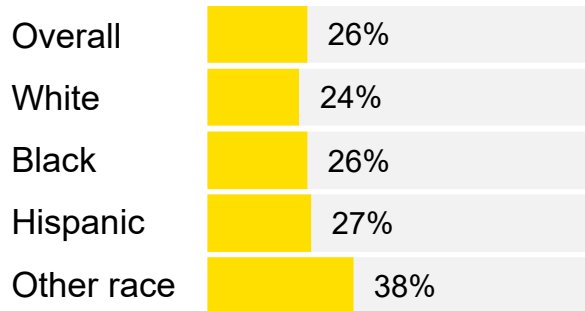
Data from 2021. Source: Building Our Future

Homeownership is much lower among Kenosha County's **Black residents** compared to White and Hispanic residents.

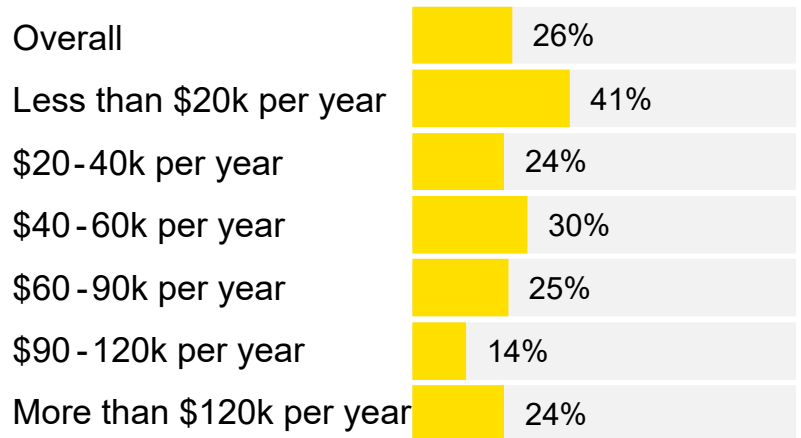


## Access to Affordable & Healthy Food Disparities

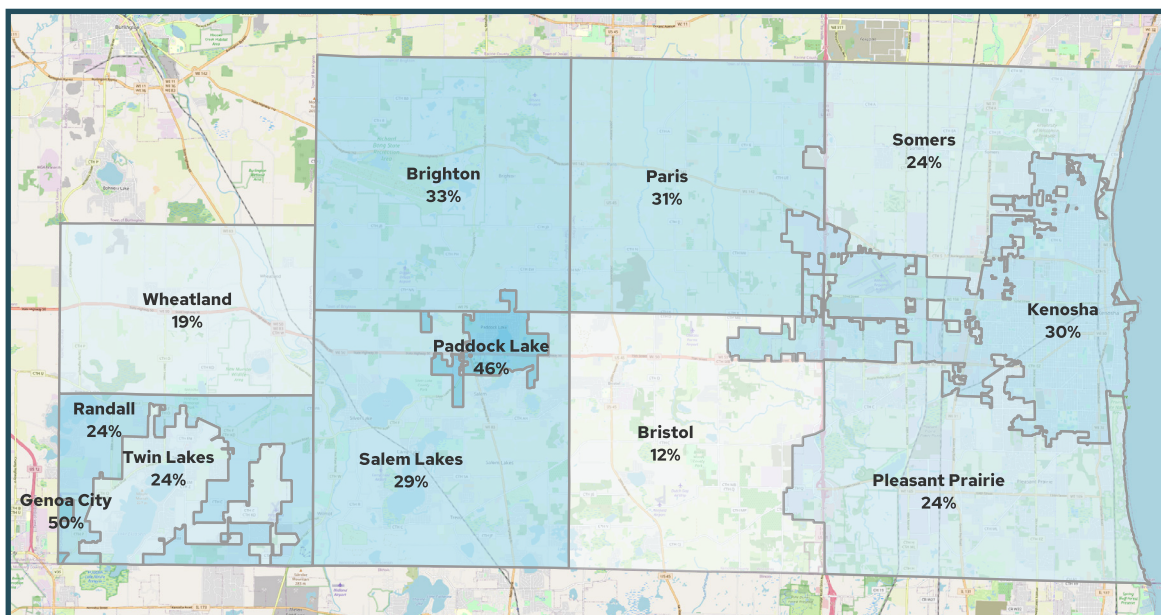
Those of a **race other than the county's three largest racial categories** were most likely to include access to affordable and healthy food among their top three health concerns were.



**Respondents making less than \$20k per year** were most likely to include access to affordable and healthy food among their top three health concerns.



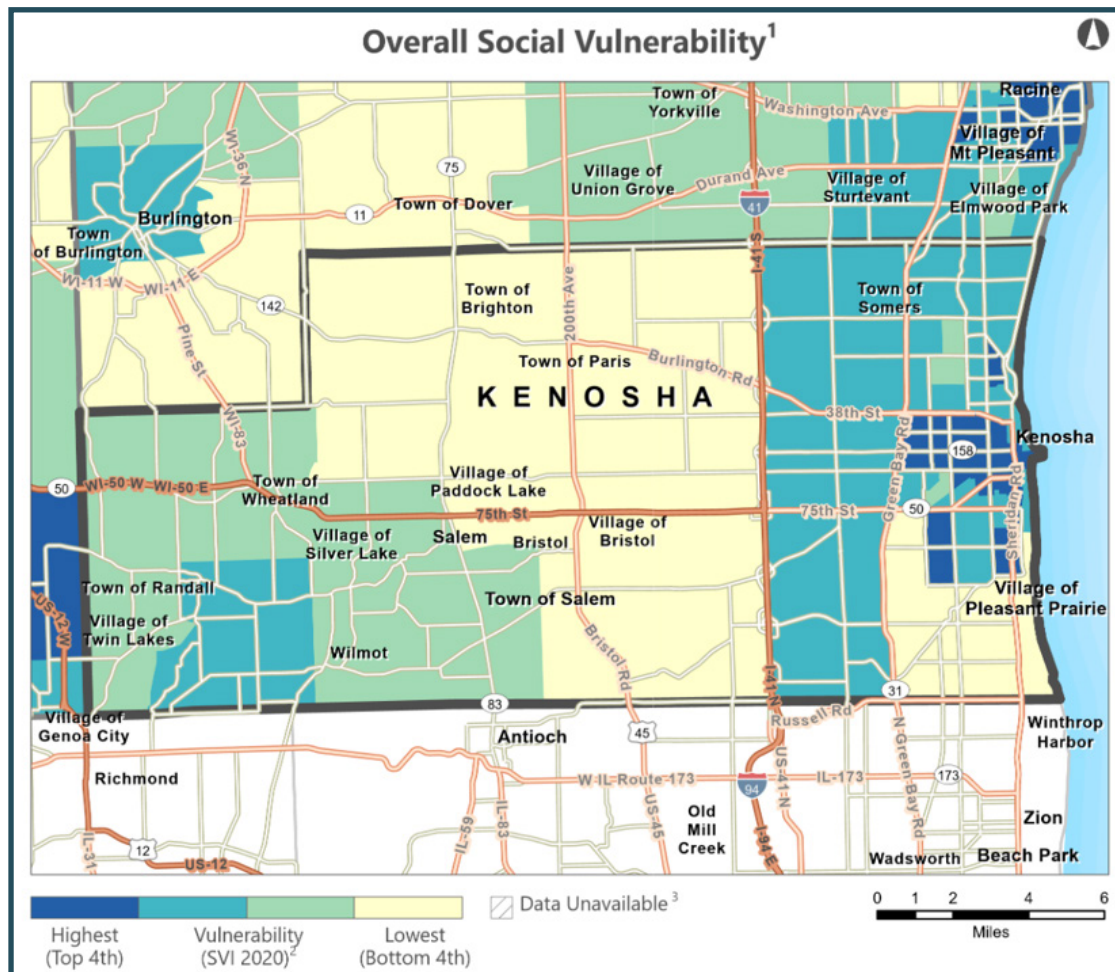
Access to healthy food can vary from location to location, due to factors such as living in a food desert or living in a rural area. The map below shows what percentage of respondents in each municipality placed access to healthy food among their top three health priorities for the county. The range of percent of respondents who prioritized healthy food access - from 12% in Bristol to 46% in Paddock Lake and 50% in Genoa City - suggests that healthy food access is not evenly distributed across the county.



## Social Vulnerability

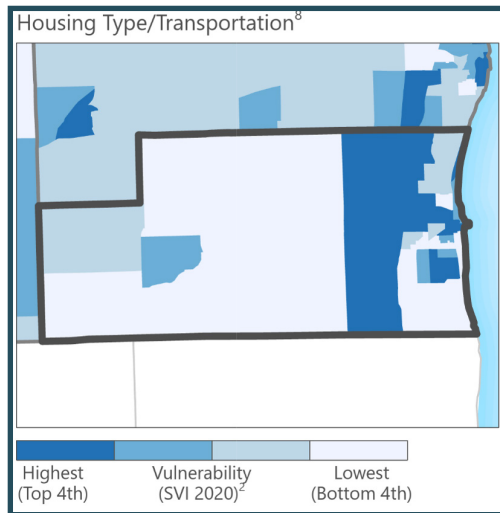
A community's degree of social vulnerability can be thought of as its capacity to withstand the shocks of life, especially those caused by major disasters such as floods or pandemics. The CDC's social vulnerability index (SVI) measures this capacity by examining 16 social factors across socioeconomic status, household characteristics, racial and ethnic minority status, and housing type + transportation, to determine social vulnerability at the community level.

The map below shows overall social vulnerability across Kenosha County, by quartiles. Social vulnerability is highest in downtown Kenosha, and only somewhat lower in the region between Twin Lakes and Wilmot.

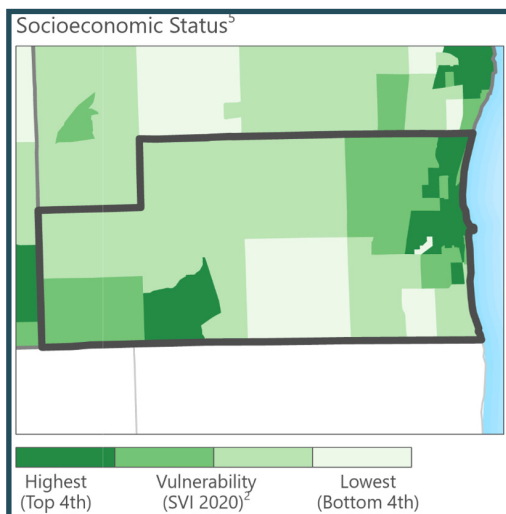


Source: CDC/ATSDR Social Vulnerability Index 2020

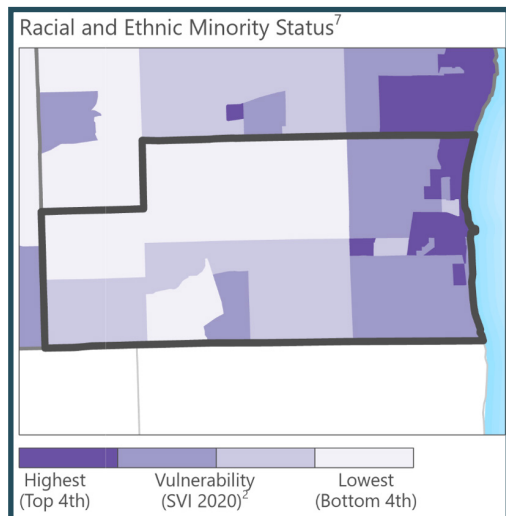




This map shows social vulnerability in terms of housing type and transportation. By this measure the area of highest social vulnerability in the county is the region between the I and Green Bay Road.



This map shows social vulnerability in terms of socioeconomic status. By this measure the areas of highest social vulnerability in the county are south of Silver Lake and west of Salem, downtown Kenosha, and east Somers.



This map shows social vulnerability in terms of racial and ethnic minority status. By this measure the areas of highest social vulnerability in the county are downtown Kenosha and east Somers, and to a lesser degree, most of the rest of the area east of the I and the Town of Salem area.





## Next Steps

Now that we have completed the assessment of the Kenosha County community, the next steps in the Community Health Improvement Planning Process involve working with the community to prioritize issues and develop, implement, and evaluate a plan to improve the health of the community – the **Kenosha County THRIVE Community Health Improvement Plan**.



## Prioritizing Issues

We know there are many important and urgent issues impacting the health of the Kenosha County community. Unfortunately, we do not have the time, resources, and ability to address everything at once. That is why thoughtfully evaluating and prioritizing issues is an important next step in the Community Health Improvement Planning process. It is important to remember that even if the issue you care about most – personally or professionally – is not identified as a priority, your work still matters!



***If EVERYTHING is a priority...  
NOTHING is a priority.***



## Developing, Implementing, and Evaluating a Plan

Once we have prioritized the issues, we need to work together to develop, implement and evaluate a plan to improve the health of the Kenosha County Community. This work will be done by THRIVE Action Teams that will form for each of the priority issues identified. Action teams will be co-led by a member of the community and a representative from Kenosha County Public Health. Kenosha County Public Health staff will provide oversight and support throughout the process.

## Get Involved

The Kenosha County THRIVE Community Health Improvement Plan is the **COMMUNITY's** plan!

Driven *by* the community  
Developed *for* the community  
Implemented *with* the community

If you would like to join the **THRIVE Email List** to stay up-to-date throughout the planning process or **Join an Action Team**, please email [thrive@kenoshacounty.org](mailto:thrive@kenoshacounty.org).

*Let's work together to develop a plan to  
create a thriving, healthy Kenosha County*



## Acknowledgment

The 2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment and the development of this report was led by the Kenosha County Public Health THRIVE Planning Team. However, this important work would not have been possible without the contributions of many members of our community. Kenosha County Public Health would like to express its gratitude for the contributions made by those who participated in the process, including:

- Aurora Health Care
- Froedtert South
- Health Advisory Council
- Health Equity Task Force
- Kenosha County Board of Health

Special thanks to **NJM Management Services** for their help analyzing the results of the Community Health Survey and to **Ujima United, LLC** for leading the Community Conversations and providing project management and guidance throughout the process.

Most importantly, we are so grateful to the **Members of the Kenosha County community** who took time to thoughtfully provide their valuable input by completing the Community Health Survey and participating in Community Conversations. **Your voice matters and was heard!**



**Suggested Citation:** Kenosha County Public Health (2023). *2022 Kenosha County Community Health Assessment*. Available online at <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/thrive>.

*The Kenosha County Community Health Assessment was made possible by the generous support of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding.*



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