

# MILWAUKEE COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY 2012-2013

### Introduction

#### What to Know Before Reading

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP) is a public/private consortium dedicated to improving health care coverage, access and care coordination for underserved populations in Milwaukee County with the goals of improving health outcomes, eliminating disparities and reducing the total cost of care.

This report summarizes the three main assessments conducted as part of the MHCP's collaborative Community Health Needs Assessment process: the **Milwaukee County Community Health Survey (MCCHS)** resident phone survey, **Key Informant Interview**

**Report (KIIR)**, and the **Secondary Data Report (SDR)**.

The overall summaries present issues that emerged across reports. Importantly, because of the breadth of information, the individual reports should be consulted for additional depth, precision, and opportunities for change related to specific health issues.

### Health Care Delivery - Key Findings

A review of the assessments confirms continued need for change in the Milwaukee County around health care access, coverage, and care coordination.

Access to Health Care Services and Health Insurance Coverage were two of the top five health issues that emerged as key priorities for Milwaukee County from the key informant interviews summarized in the KIIR. In addition, respondents identified the need for improved coordination of care within and across the complex and sometimes fragmented health care delivery system. Key informants specifically noted access to **Oral Health services** as an area needing improvement. Lastly, **Behavioral Health** rose to the top as a key health concern for Milwaukee County, with informants identifying health care delivery issues as critical components of this complex issue.

The MCCHS reported a significant increase from previous surveys in respondents reporting fair or poor health as well as having had no primary care at some point in the past year. The same report also found significant decreases in Milwaukee City respondents receiving health information from their doctor (and instead

from the internet). Milwaukee County respondents reporting significant decreases in having routine a check-up in the past two years, or dental checkup or eye exam in the past year. Also, the report found a significant decrease in respondents receiving their primary health services from a doctor's office.

The SDR identified access and coverage issues **related to prenatal care**, including an increased percentage of County births where mothers received late or no prenatal care. African American mothers were most likely to lack adequate prenatal care. The external 2012 Milwaukee Health Report (summarized in the SDR) also found that the worse/most disparate 10 measures for the lower socio-economic group of neighborhoods includes both percentage of adults without health insurance and percentage of adults who did not receive needed health care in the past year.



#### Top Issues in Health Care

##### Health Care Access

Health care access was identified as a concern, issue or need in every assessment summarized in this report.

Three specific health care services stand out from these reports as requiring improvement:

- Oral health services
- Behavioral health services
- Prenatal care services

##### Health Insurance Coverage

Health insurance coverage was identified as a concern, issue or need in every assessment summarized in this report.

## Public and Community Health - Key Findings

A number of other public health issues emerged as key challenges for the Milwaukee County community. These issues require a broader range of partners, including but not limited to health care delivery systems.

**Behavioral Health.** Community members who participated in the MCCHS identified alcohol and drug use as the top priority for the community, whereas mental health emerged as the top priority issue for key informants. The well-established link between these two areas cannot be ignored. The other assessment data sources support the prevalence of these issues, with binge drinking standing out as a critical challenge (and a behavior that continues to increase). The MCCHS also suggests suicide ideation has increased. Stigma, prevention, access for treatment, and coordination across systems are key areas that need to be addressed, and could benefit from broader community efforts.

### **Obesity, nutrition, and physical activity.**

The data suggest the Milwaukee community waistline continues to expand. Meanwhile, consumption of fruits and vegetables is declining, and many neighborhoods continue to lack access to fresh produce. Although evidence is not as clear for physical activity, community members report no overall change in activity. Key informants identified obesity as a top overarching concern.

**Chronic disease.** Given already described concerns, high rates of chronic disease are not surprising. The MCCHS revealed high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma are on the rise, and that community members continue to identify chronic disease as a top community concern. An important health care delivery issue, one study found much higher rates for heart failure, diabetes, and COPD in the lowest income zip codes in the Milwaukee County area compared to the highest income zip codes.

**Infant mortality.** Infant mortality is a top issue for key informants and community residents alike. Low birth weight, prematurity, and receiving late or no prenatal care are risk factors 2-3 times more common for Milwaukee's black mothers than for white mothers.

**Sexual health.** Teen pregnancy and high STI rates (Milwaukee has some of the highest STI rates in the nation) continue to plague the County's health. These issues show strong socio-economic disparities; teen births, chlamydia and HIV infection have some of the highest risk ratios comparing the lowest socio-economic status ZIP codes to Milwaukee's highest socio-economic status ZIP codes.

**Health literacy.** Stakeholders identified issues relating to how health information is accessed and understood. Milwaukee city residents increasingly

get health information from the internet rather than from health care providers. Challenges to navigating complex health systems were also noted. Results suggest the need for understandable and accessible information about prevention and treatment, as well as improved consumer education and communication.

**Poverty, racism, and other social determinants.** It is well known that Milwaukee experiences a wide range of health disparities. The assessments confirm the persistence of racial, ethnic, and socio-economic disparities, as well as recognition that these issues continue to impact the community's health.

## Children and Youth

While most of the data sources considered for this report focus on adult health, several items in each assessment specifically address the needs of children and youth in our community. Key findings are called out below.

### MCCHS Children and Youth Findings

Visited health professional for preventive care (past 12 months)	93%
Did not receive needed dental care (past 12 months)	8%
Did not receive needed medical care (past 12 months)	2%
Did not receive needed specialty care (past 12 months)	2%
Current Asthma	11%
Met recommended fruit intake (2+ servings a day)	78%
Met recommended vegetable intake (3+ servings a day)	26%
Met physical activity recommendation (60 min/5+ days)	66%
Experienced some bullying	22%
Verbally bullied	18%
Physically bullied	10%

### SDR findings included:

- Teen birth rate for teens 15-19 years old: 48.2/1,000 teens (Wisconsin: 27/1,000 teens)
- Children living in poverty: 35% (19% Wisconsin)
- Children living in single parent homes: 49% (29% Wisconsin)

### KIIR findings included:

- Schools were listed as potential partners in addressing almost all key health issues.
- Drug/alcohol use, mental health, and physical activity and nutrition were the issues where strategies for children and youth were most frequently discussed, often focusing on family interventions.

## Milwaukee County Community Health Survey (MCCHS)

JKV Research, LLC



**What is it?** This phone-based survey of Milwaukee County community members (N=1,970) assesses adult and child health and related behaviors, as well as perceptions of top health issues for the community.

Conducted every three years, the survey can be used to identify community trends and changes over time. JKV Research, LLC collected and analyzed the data, and prepared the final report.

### Top Health Issues for Milwaukee County Residents

Issue	%
Alcohol/Drug Use	58%
Violence	55%
Chronic Disease	52%
Teen Pregnancy	35%
Infectious Disease	26%
Mental Health/ Depression	21%
Infant Mortality	21%
Lead Poisoning	3%



### Survey measures that had statistically significant increase from baseline report

- Respondents reporting fair or poor health
- Adults with no current personal health care insurance
- High blood pressure, diabetes, asthma
- Considered suicide
- Overweight
- Moderate and vigorous physical activity (no change in meeting recommendations)
- Current smokers trying to quit
- Respondents not allowing smoking in any place in their home
- Binge drinking past month
- Respondents 65+ years who had pneumonia vaccination



### Survey measures that had statistically significant decrease from baseline report

- Respondents with no primary health care insurance at least part of the time in the past 12 months
- Doctor's office is primary place to receive health services
- Having routine checkup in past two years, or dental checkup or eye exam in past year
- Respondents 65+ who had flu vaccination in past year
- Respondents having at least three servings of vegetables a day, or two servings of fruit
- Having pap smear (past 3 years), mammogram (past 2 years) prostate cancer screening (past 2 years), or blood stool test (past year) but an increase in respondents reporting at least one colorectal screening test in recommended time frame
- Exposure to cigarette smoke in past week
- Respondents with someone in the household experiencing some problem because of alcohol

## Key Informant Interview Report (KIIR)

Center for Urban Population Health · City of Milwaukee Health Department · Milwaukee Health Care Partnership



**What is it?** This report presents a summary of public health priorities for Milwaukee County, as identified in 2012 by forty-one individual key informant interviews and five focus groups. Interviews were conducted by

graduate students supervised by the City of Milwaukee Health Department and MHCP Members. Data were analyzed by CUPH.

The top five health issues that emerged as key priorities for Milwaukee County were:

- Behavioral Health
- Access to Health Care Services
- Physical Activity/Overweight and Obesity/Nutrition
- Health Insurance Coverage
- Infant Mortality

General themes that emerged as influences or opportunities across the health issues include:

- Poverty
- Race and ethnicity
- Chronic and communicable disease
- Health literacy
- Health insurance coverage, access to health care services, and navigating health care services as interrelated issues
- Potential of social marketing as a prevention strategy
- Schools as a venue for interventions/prevention efforts

## Secondary Data Report (SDR)

Center for Urban Population Health



**What is it?** This report looks at existing data to supplement primary data collection with demographic and health-related information for the County. Key sources included the Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health and other Wisconsin Department of Health Services resources, the U.S. Census and American Community Survey, the 2012 Milwaukee Health Report and the County Health Rankings. CUPH analyzed the data and compiled the report.

### ACCESS

- The percent of County births where mothers received late or no prenatal care increased from 3.7% to 4.2% from 2009 to 2010. Black mothers were most likely to fall into this category (6.5% compared to 2.5% of white mothers, 4.1% of Hispanic mothers, and 5.6% of American Indian mothers).

### BEHAVIOR

- American Indian (21.9%) and Black (14.2%) mothers were most likely to report smoking while pregnant.
- The teen pregnancy rate is nearly two times as high in Milwaukee County than for Wisconsin as a whole (48.2 births per 1,000 teens aged 15-19 years compared to 26.5 births per 1,000 teens).
- Milwaukee County had an STI incidence rate of 1,469 per 100,000 residents in 2010. In 2011, the HIV incidence rate was 15.7 per 100,000 persons. An

estimated 43.3% of County residents have been tested for HIV at least once.

- An estimated 7.9% of Milwaukee County adults are heavy drinkers, defined for men, consuming an average of more than 2 drinks per day; for women, consuming an average of more than 1 drink per day.

### OUTCOMES

- The percent of low birth weight births and infant mortality rate were over two times more frequent for births to black mothers (14.1%, 14.2 deaths per 1,000 live births, respectively) than for white mothers (6.9%, 4.6 deaths per 1,000 live births).
- Milwaukee County had 116 suicides in 2010 (12 per 100,000 persons).

- Milwaukee County had 9,820 hospitalizations due to injury in 2010 (average hospital charge of \$37,441 per hospitalization).
- There were 85,032 ER visits related to injuries (8,972 per 100,000 persons), with an average charge of \$1,409. The leading cause for an ER visit related to injury was fall, followed by “struck by or against object or person” and motor vehicle crash (occupant).

### OVERALL

- According to the County Health Rankings for 2012, Milwaukee County ranks as the second to worst county in Wisconsin for both health outcomes and health factors. It is ranked as the worst county in the state for “Morbidity” and “Social and Economic Factors” influencing health.

## MILWAUKEE HEALTH CARE

### PARTNERSHIP

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership is a public/private consortium dedicated to improving health care coverage, access and care coordination for underserved populations in Milwaukee County with the goals of improving health outcomes, eliminating disparities and reducing the total cost of care. Its members include the following partnering health systems and hospitals:

**Aurora Health Care**

**Children’s Hospital and Health System**

**Columbia St. Mary’s**

**Froedtert Health**

**Wheaton Franciscan Healthcare**

To read the full reports, please visit:

**[www.mkehcp.org](http://www.mkehcp.org)**

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If there are any questions, please feel free to contact them at 414.219.5100. or visit **<http://www.cuph.org>**.

*\*The authors of this report recognize that it relies on a limited number of key informants and available external data sources, and focuses broadly on Milwaukee County. While every effort was made to conduct a comprehensive and current community needs assessment, issues of high concern to specific individuals or communities within Milwaukee may not be represented.*

