# **2021 Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment Partner Toolkit**

## Newsletter

*\*\*Newsletter image available for use on Health Compass*

**2021 Shared Community Health Needs Assessment Published**

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership (MHCP), on behalf Milwaukee’s four health systems – Advocate Aurora Health, Ascension Wisconsin, Children’s Wisconsin, and Froedtert Health - announces the release of the 2021 Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) revealing **mental health**, **violence**, **drug use and overdose**, **alcohol use** and **access to health care** as top health issues.

Conducted in collaboration with the City of Milwaukee Health Department and ten other municipal health departments located in Milwaukee County, the assessment serves as the foundation from which health systems, community health centers, local health departments, and the MHCP consortium will develop community health improvement strategies.

Completed every three years, the 2021 CHNA findings elevate similar issues as in the previous 2018 assessment: with a greater focus on disparities and equity. While access to health care and substance use continue to rank as pressing needs, mental health and violence rose as the highest priorities among survey respondents and key informants.

Beyond the top five health needs, the CHNA also identified three additional health issues of concern: maternal, fetal, and infant health, infectious disease, and chronic disease. The assessment also employed an equity lens to identify disparities within the top health issues which yielded four priority populations with unique health improvement needs: Black/African American, Hispanic/Latino, Children & Youth, and Older Adult/Elderly.

Further employing an equity lens, the CHNA also contains significant findings related to ‘upstream factors,’ also known as social determinants of health. Most profound in those findings were the themes of racism and discrimination and access to safe and affordable housing.

The CHNA captures community input from an online survey of more than 8,600 Milwaukee County residents that addressed adult and child health risk factors, health behaviors, and perceptions of pressing community health needs. The assessment also includes findings from in-depth interviews and focus groups with a diverse array of community leaders, as well as a summary of numerous secondary data taken from [Health Compass Milwaukee](https://www.healthcompassmilwaukee.org/tiles/index/display?alias=inequity) - a dynamic website of the most current health indicators for Milwaukee County.

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

The full 2021 CHNA report and additional information about the CHNA process, components, and purpose, can be found on [Health Compass Milwaukee](http://www.healthcompassmilwaukee.org/).

## Social Media

*\*Social media images available for use on Health Compass*

How healthy is our community? Check out the 2021 Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment at healthcompassmilwaukee.org to learn about the top health issues, priority populations, and more.

Milwaukee County top health needs mirror national trends – mental health, violence, drug use/overdose, alcohol use and abuse, and access to health care. Check out the 2021 Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment at healthcompassmilwaukee.org to learn more.

The results are in, and the community has spoken. It’s time for action. Check out the 2021 Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment at healthcompassmilwaukee.org to learn about the top health issues and more. We all have a role to play. Just as the causes of illness are many and inter-related, the same is true for the paths that lead to better health — for all of us.