

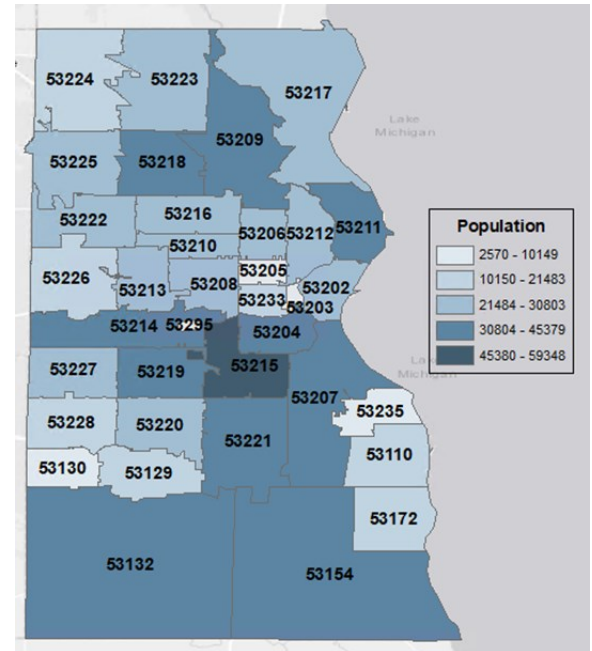
Demographic Profile

The following are select data found in [Health Compass Milwaukee](#) that provide context relative to the health of Milwaukee County. All Health Compass demographic estimates are sourced from Claritas Pop-Facts® (2021 population estimates) and American Community Survey one-year (2019) or five-year (2015-2019) estimates unless otherwise indicated.

Population

Milwaukee County has an estimated population size of 942,546 in 2021. This represents a decrease of 0.55% since 2010. Figure 1 shows population size by zip code within Milwaukee County. The darkest blues represent zip codes with the largest population. About 51% of the county's population (482,771 people) live in the City of Milwaukee

Figure 1: Population Size by Zip Code



Age

The Figures below show Milwaukee County's population by age group and zip code. As shown in Figure 2, zip codes within the City of Milwaukee have a high percentage of the population that is under 18. In contrast, as shown in Figure 3, most of the population over 65 is outside the city limits. According to the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, the percentage of people under 18 in Wisconsin is projected to decline from 23.6% to 21.3% of the population between 2010 and 2040. The percentage of people ages 65 and older is projected to increase significantly in the same time frame, with older adults projected to make up nearly 23.7% of the state's population by 2040. As aging brings a higher risk of chronic diseases, such as dementia, heart disease and diabetes, this change will impact community health.

Figure 2: Percent Population Under 18 by Zip Code

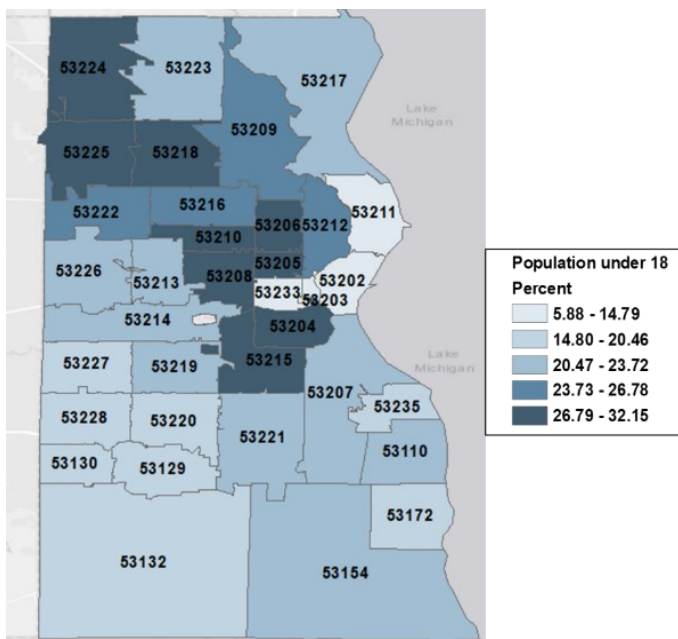
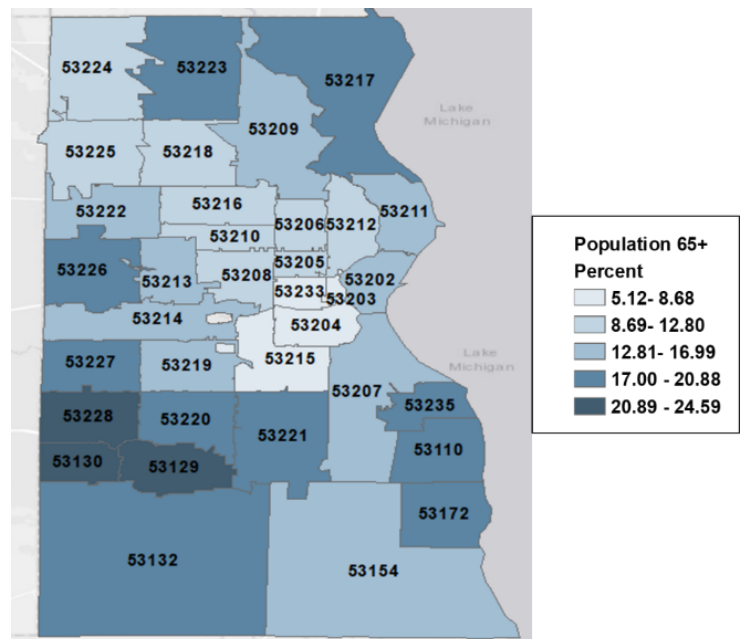


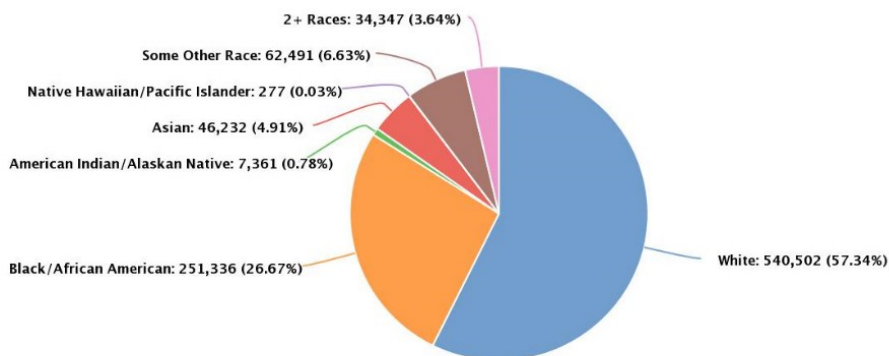
Figure 3: Percent Population Over 65 by Zip Code



Race and Ethnicity

National trends have shown that systemic racism, poverty, and discrimination have led to poorer health outcomes in communities of color and low-income populations. Understanding racial and ethnic demographics is needed to identify health disparities and barriers to good health for subgroups. Milwaukee County’s 2021 population is 57.3% White (non-Hispanic), 16.3% Hispanic or Latino, 26.7% Black/African American (non-Hispanic), and 4.9% Asian (non-Hispanic). This is in contrast to Wisconsin, which is 80.1% White (non-Hispanic) and 6.4% Black/African American (non-Hispanic). (Figure 4 & 5)

Figure 4: Race/Ethnicity, Milwaukee County, 2021



Language

Language access and clear communication are critical to health outcomes, as they are the link between those receiving health care services and information, and the health care and public health systems that provide it. Language barriers and lack of cultural competency challenge the understanding of health concepts and informed decision making around health.

Understanding countries of origin and languages spoken at home can help inform the cultural and linguistic context for health systems. About 9.3% of the county’s population was born outside of the U.S. About 18% of the population age 5 and older speak a language other than English at home, which is higher than the state average of 11%. The most common languages spoken at home are English (81.3%) and Spanish (11.8%). (Figure 6)

Figure 5: Race/Ethnicity, Milwaukee County, 2021

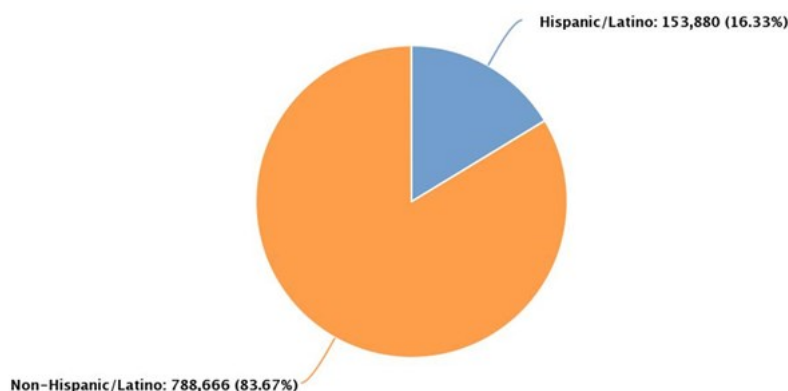
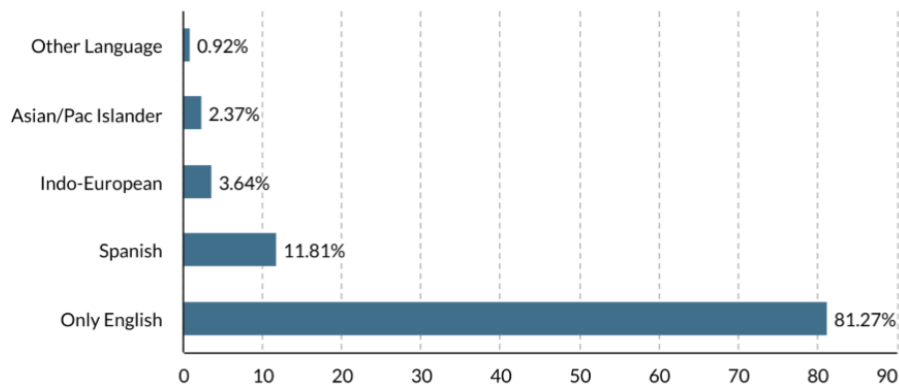


Figure 6: Language Other than English at Home (Residents 5 Years and Older)



Social & Economic Determinants of Health

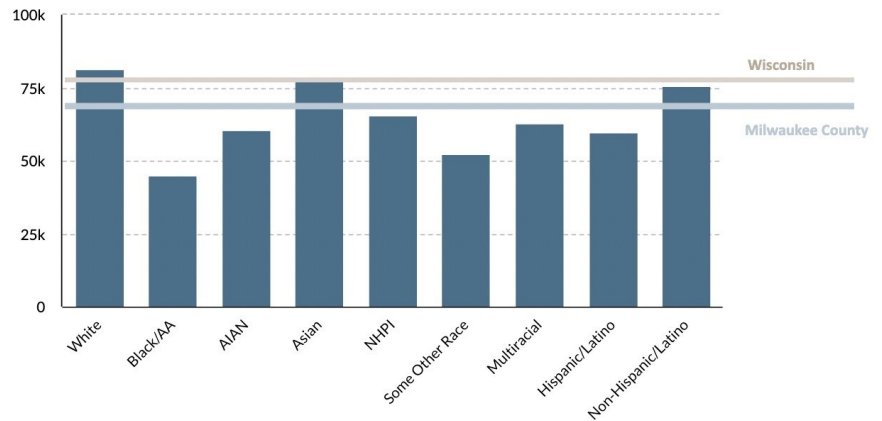
Determinants of health reflect the many factors that contribute to an individual’s overall health. In addition to health care and health behaviors, it is estimated that socioeconomic conditions and the physical environment represent 50% of an individual’s opportunity for good health. The determinants of health reflect a growing area of focus, research, and investment in areas like housing, education, community safety, and employment to help build healthier communities. It should be noted that county level data at times does not demonstrate the true reflection of social and economic conditions. Zip code level analysis and other sub-county analysis can reveal disparities, especially in a hyper-segregated community like Milwaukee.

Income

Income has been shown to be strongly associated with morbidity and mortality, influencing health through various clinical, behavioral, social, and environmental factors. Those with greater wealth are more likely to have higher life expectancy and reduced risk for a range of health conditions, including heart disease, diabetes, obesity, and stroke. Poor health can also contribute to reduced income by limiting one’s ability to work.

Figure 7 shows the average household income values for Milwaukee County overall and by race/ethnicity compared to Wisconsin. The county’s overall average household income is below the state average. There are also disparities by race/ethnicity. As shown, most racial/ethnic groups have lower than average household incomes than both Milwaukee County and Wisconsin. Black/African American households have the lowest average household income of \$44,841.

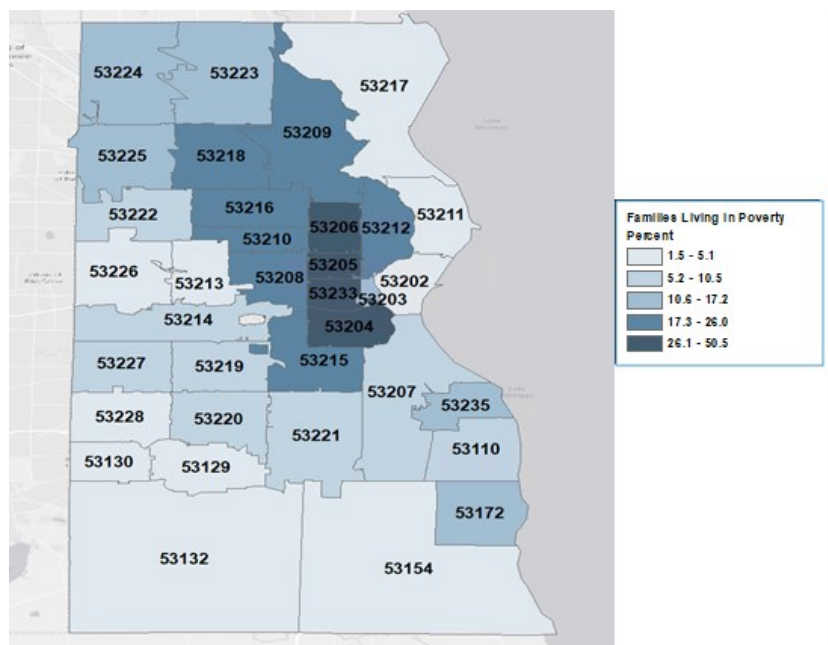
Figure 7: Average Household Income by Race/Ethnicity



Poverty

Federal poverty thresholds are set every year by the Census Bureau and vary by size of family and ages of family members. People living in poverty are less likely to have access to health care, healthy food, stable housing, and opportunities for physical activity. Because of this, people living in poverty are more likely to experience poorer health outcomes and premature death from preventable diseases. Figure 8 shows the percentage of families living below poverty by zip code. Overall, Milwaukee County has 14.2% of families living below poverty, which is high compared to Wisconsin (7.2%). In the Figure below, the four most affected zip codes are seen in the darkest blue color. These zip codes are all within the City of Milwaukee.

Figure 8: Families Living Below Poverty Level by Zip Code



Employment

An individual’s type and level of employment impacts access to health care, work environment, and health behaviors and outcomes. Stable employment can help provide benefits and conditions for maintaining good health. In contrast, poor or unstable work and working conditions are linked to poor physical and mental health outcomes. Unemployment and underemployment can limit access to health insurance coverage and preventive care services.

Underemployment is described as the involuntary part-time employment, poverty-wage employment, and insecure employment.

Figure 9 shows the unemployment rate, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics 2021, for Milwaukee County from October 2019 to April 2021. Noted in the chart is when COVID-19 stay at home orders began (around March 2020). Unemployment rates rose after the start of the pandemic and have dropped since, but unemployment will continue to be an issue as the economy recovers.

Figure 9: Unemployment Rate (Population 16+) for Milwaukee County

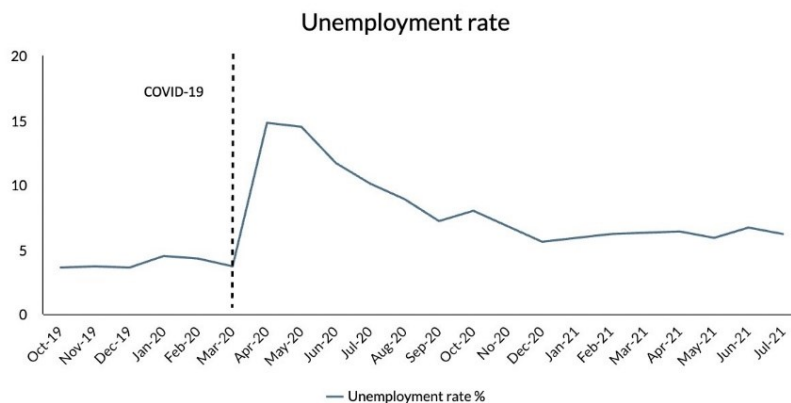
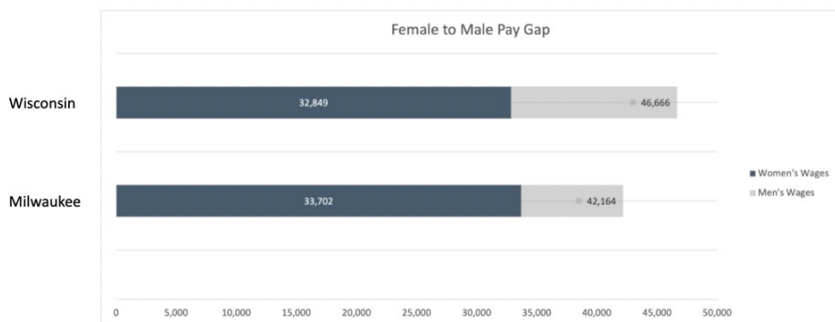


Figure 10: Wage Gaps for Working Women in Wisconsin and Milwaukee County



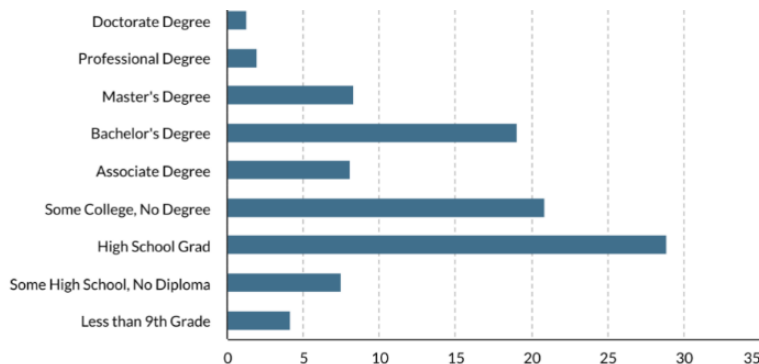
Employment and wage potential can be limited based on an individual’s education status, gender identity, race/ethnicity, or sexual orientation, among other factors. As shown in Figure 10, working women in Milwaukee County make 79% of what their male counterparts make annually. This is a smaller wage gap compared to Wisconsin overall (70%) and could be explained, in part, by lower overall wages. Although the data is not available by race/ethnicity for Milwaukee County, national trends suggest that this wage gap persists and is most likely worsened by race/ethnicity of women.

Education

Education is an important indicator for health and well-being across the lifespan. Education can lead to improved health by increasing health knowledge, fostering higher paid job opportunities, and improving social and psychological factors linked to health. People with higher levels of education are more likely to live longer, experience better health outcomes, and practice health-promoting behaviors.

Another indicator related to education is on-time high school graduation. Not graduating high school is linked to a variety of negative health impacts, including limited employment prospects, low wages, and poverty. Figure 11 shows the educational attainment for the population ages 25 and older for Milwaukee County. About 30% of the population has a high school diploma while 19% has a Bachelor’s degree.

Figure 11: Educational Attainment for the Population 25+ in Milwaukee County



Housing

Safe, stable, and affordable housing provides a critical foundation for health and wellbeing. This issue is covered in more depth in the CHNA report. When families spend a large part of their income on housing, there is often less ability to afford or prioritize things like healthy food or health care. This is linked to increased stress, mental health problems, and an increased risk of disease.

As shown in Figure 12, many renters within the City of Milwaukee spend 30% or more of their household income on rent. In some zip codes, such as 53233 and 53206, this is over two-thirds of renters (68.1% and 67.2%, respectively). Overall, this significantly impacts younger and older renters (Figure 13).

Figure 12: Percent of Renters Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Rent by Zip Code

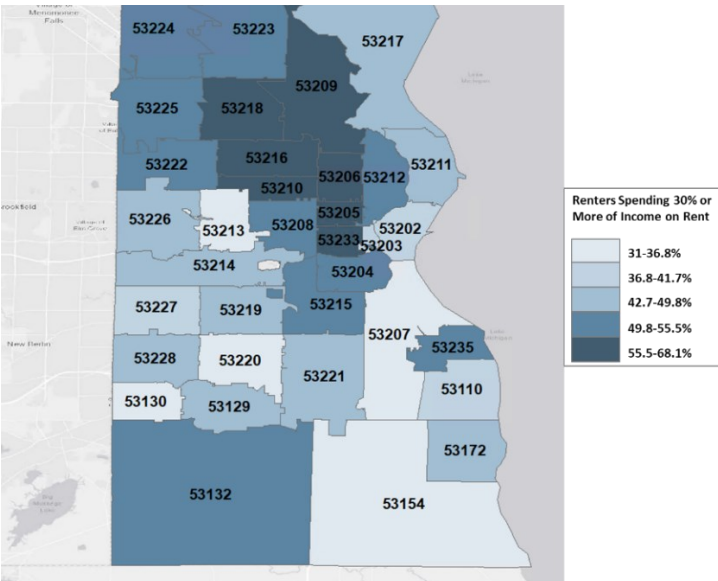


Figure 13: Percent of Renters Spending 30% or More of Household Income on Rent by Age

