

# Community Health Assessment Executive Summary

Health Equity Alliance of Rock County  
2021



HEALTH EQUITY ALLIANCE OF ROCK COUNTY



January 18th, 2022

Prepared by the Rock County Public Health Department



# Improving the Health of Rock County

This report is a summary of the Community Health Assessment (CHA) that shows the current health of Rock County. The CHA was created by the Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR). HEAR is a group of over 100 people from different parts of the community who work together to help make Rock County healthier. The full CHA can be used as a guide for showing how certain things, like health inequities, affect the health of some people more than others.

## Key Findings:

- **Mental Health and Access to Care are the top focus areas for the Community Health Improvement Plan**
- **Rock County residents report that their communities are a good place to raise a family with good schools and access to parks and recreation**
- **Many of Rock County's health problems are caused by health inequities**
- **Rock County residents have concerns with access to affordable basic needs (housing, transportation, healthy foods, etc.)**

## Emphasis on Health Equity

Many of the health differences we see in Rock County are caused by inequities, or avoidable differences in health that are widespread. Health inequities affect many groups of people. HEAR understands that to improve the health of Rock County, we must work on improving health equity. Health equity is the opportunity for everyone to live a healthy life. The full CHA report has "Health Equity Spotlights" that highlight real examples of inequities in Rock County.

## Rock County's Top Health Priorities

Using the CHA and community feedback, HEAR found six health priorities for Rock County. The health priorities are Mental Health, Access to Care, Substance Use, Built Environment, Economic Stability, and Chronic Disease. HEAR will focus on Mental Health and Access to Care in future projects, but we encourage community partners to work on each health priority to improve the health of Rock County.



# Rock County's Health Trends

## Top Strengths of Rock County

Community Parks and Recreation

Good Place to Raise a Family

Good Schools

Community Safety

Clean Environment

## Top Areas of Improvement of Rock County

Access to Affordable Quality Housing

Living Wage Jobs

Access to Mental Health Services

Racial and Ethnic Diversity

Access to Affordable Healthcare

150



Number of Rock County public parks

4,000



Number of acres in Rock County available for exercise

36%



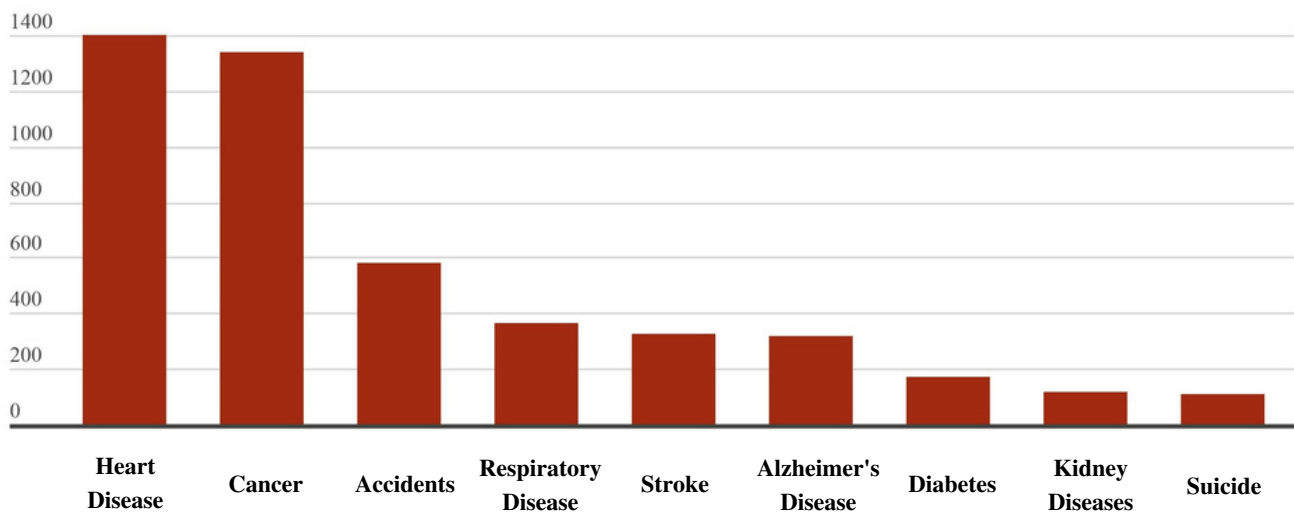
Percent of Rock County households that cannot afford their basic needs

1 in 4



Proportion of poor quality rental properties in Rock County

## Leading Causes of Death in Rock County, 2017-2020



# Moving Forward

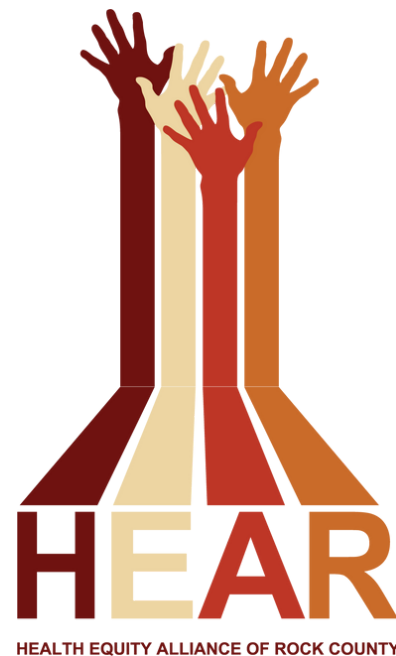
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This CHA executive summary has given a brief look at the health of Rock County. To read the full CHA report, visit the Rock County Public Health Department's website at:

<https://rebrand.ly/RockCHA>

We are grateful for everyone who helped make sure the CHA was a reflection of the health of the community. We hope that the community will use this report to improve the health of Rock County and work on each health priority.

The CHA will be used as a guide for the Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The CHIP is a long-term plan that will work on public health problems, including health inequities. As new information is available, it will be used for the CHIP. This will make sure current information is guiding the distribution of resources that will improve the health of Rock County.



HEAR is working on the CHIP with the help of community partners and members. The CHIP will include goals and strategies to improve Mental Health and Access to Care. Each goal and strategy will be measured for success throughout the CHIP. The CHIP will also give opportunities for the community to work with HEAR to make improvements in Mental Health and Access to Care throughout Rock County.

To improve Mental Health and Access to Care in Rock County, HEAR will need community support. Together, we can improve health at all levels of the community by working on the systems and policies in place. HEAR is confident that this CHA can be used to support programs and policies that work on Rock County's health inequities. We look forward to improving the health of Rock County together.

## Contact Us

Please email [HEARCoordinator@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:HEARCoordinator@co.rock.wi.us) with any questions about Rock County's 2021 Community Health Assessment.