

# GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

## Overarching Priority: Racism and Health Equity

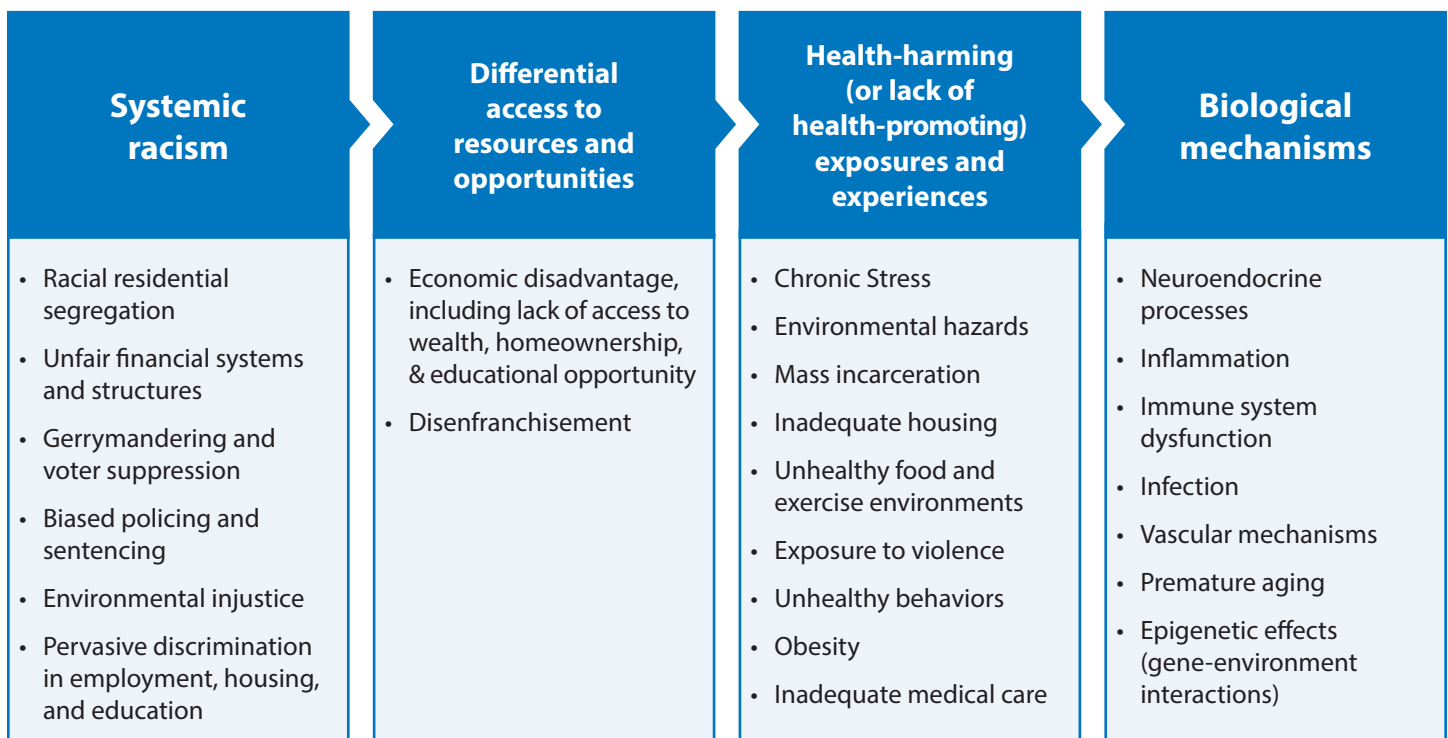
*“Racism is a system of structuring opportunity and assigning value based on the social interpretation of how one looks (which is what we call “race”), that unfairly disadvantages some individuals and communities, unfairly advantages other individuals and communities, and saps the strengths of the whole society through the waste of human resources.”*

- APHA Past-President Camara Phyllis Jones, MD, MPH, PhD

**In 2019, with the endorsement of the Milwaukee Health Department, the City of Milwaukee Common Council declared racism a public health crisis.**

Treating racism as a public health crisis means recognizing that it affects entire groups of people, not just individuals, and that proposed solutions must be focused on policy and system changes rather than individual behaviors. Communities across the nation, including Milwaukee, are recognizing the role of racism in creating differences in outcomes for people of color and are committing to changing and dismantling the laws, policies, and practices that reinforce racist power structures by making these declarations.



Centuries of racist policies and discriminatory practices create unfair, unnecessary, and avoidable barriers to health for communities of color. Research indicates how experiences and exposures produced by systemic racism contribute to racial / ethnic disparities in health. The figure below is a simplified graphic that demonstrates the deeply harmful impact of racism on health.<sup>1</sup>



In the city of Milwaukee, BIPOC populations experience higher rates of poor health and disease across a range of health conditions. The Black infant mortality rate is three times higher than that of non-Hispanic White infants.<sup>2</sup> In 2019, childhood lead testing indicated that Black children were up to 2.7 times more likely to have an elevated blood lead level (5 µg/dL or greater) at 10.3% compared to other races.<sup>3</sup> In 2022 Black residents comprise 82% of all cases of gun violence in Milwaukee.<sup>4</sup>

Hispanic/Latinx residents are also widely impacted by systemic racism and health inequities. In Wisconsin, the Hispanic/Latinx population is quickly growing, and Milwaukee County is home to nearly 40% of the state's population.<sup>5</sup> According to the 2021 Milwaukee County Community Health Needs Assessment, only 70% of Hispanic/Latinx residents have health insurance, compared to a 95% coverage rate for White residents.<sup>6</sup> Also, Hispanic/Latinx children are three times more likely to live in poverty than White residents.<sup>7</sup>

#### KEY DATA:

	<h3>Household Income</h3>	From 2017 to 2021, the <b>median household income</b> for Black residents in Milwaukee was <b>\$31,959</b> , while for Hispanic/Latino residents it was <b>\$43,897</b> and for American Indian/Alaskan Native residents it was <b>\$49,073</b> . In comparison, non-Hispanic White residents had a median household income of <b>\$61,182</b> . <sup>8</sup>
	<h3>Life Expectancy</h3>	From 2018-2020, <b>life expectancy for Black residents</b> living in Milwaukee County was just <b>70 years old</b> and for American Indian/Alaskan Native residents it was <b>74 years old</b> , compared to non-Hispanic White residents at <b>77.9 years</b> . <sup>9</sup> These disparities were exacerbated with the onset of COVID-19. <b>Black residents comprise 26% of Milwaukee County's population, yet 52% of COVID-19 related deaths</b> occurred among Black residents. <sup>10</sup>
	<h3>Civic Engagement</h3>	In 2022, <b>the voter registration rate</b> among adults living in Milwaukee stood at <b>68%</b> , reflecting a decline of 4% compared to the 2018 election and a 9% decrease compared to the 2014 election. <sup>11</sup>

The disparities described above are the result of a long history of systemic racism, which continues to permeate the fabric of health and quality of life to this day. A history of these city policies can be found online at [bit.ly/RacialEquityTimeline](https://bit.ly/RacialEquityTimeline). According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, *"Once in place, systemic racism is often self-perpetuating, with damaging effects on health, even after the original explicitly discriminatory measure is no longer in force or has even become illegal."*<sup>12</sup>

The roots of systemic racism run deep, impacting the health of people of color in every aspect of their lives, including access to education, housing, and job opportunities. Each of these factors have both direct and indirect public health implications.

We must be mindful of our city's history and its influence on the health disparities, especially for our BIPOC residents. Recognizing our past and present will help us inform strategies to shape and improve the health of those disproportionately impacted by poor health. To nurture and sustain a healthy and safe Milwaukee for all races and ethnicities, we must address racism and identify the root causes of unfair and unjust health outcomes.

## State and National Alignment

Addressing racism and health equity is in alignment with White House [Executive Order 13985](#), Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, which emphasizes the need to advance equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality.

Efforts have been made at the state-level to address the impact of racism on health for BIPOC communities as well. Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' Health Equity Council released a [comprehensive plan](#) designed to improve *"all determinants of health including access to quality health care, economic and social factors, racial disparities, and the physical environments"* and *"address health disparities in populations based on race, economic status, educational level, history of incarceration and geographic location"* by 2030.<sup>13</sup>



**As part of our strategic plan to build anti-racist competencies, practices, and policies, the City of Milwaukee Health Department is committed to restructuring and dismantling systems that create unhealthy or inequitable environments.**

**By aligning the department's strategic plan with efforts identified within MKE Elevate, MHD and the community can effectively work together to improve the health of our BIPOC residents.**

**Michael Totoraitis** - Commissioner of Health

**GOAL 1: INCREASE HOUSEHOLD INCOME OF BLACK, HISPANIC / LATINX, AND AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE RESIDENTS IN MILWAUKEE\***

\*It is crucial to emphasize the significance of household size in relation to household income. To achieve this goal, we are examining the issue with an equity lens that takes household size into account.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<b>1.1: Increase job readiness</b>	Career and academic skill building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TBD</li> </ul>
<b>1.2: Increase economic support for basic needs</b>	Explore implementing a guaranteed income program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MKE Elevate Steering Committee</li> <li>Milwaukee Health Department</li> </ul>
<b>1.3: Advocate for a Living Wage</b>	Conduct research to understand and define what an equitable income is for Milwaukee residents and households	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MKE Elevate Steering Committee</li> </ul>

**GOAL 2: RAISE THE LIFE EXPECTANCY AND QUALITY OF LIFE FOR BLACK AND AMERICAN INDIAN / ALASKA NATIVE MILWAUKEE RESIDENTS**

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<b>2.1: Increase understanding of key drivers of life expectancy</b>	Conduct research to understand the key drivers of the life expectancy among Black/African-Americans living in Milwaukee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MKE Elevate Steering Committee</li> </ul>
<b>2.2: Identify quality of life measurement</b>	Find and / or create a way to accurately measure quality of life in Milwaukee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MKE Elevate Steering Committee</li> <li>Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</li> <li>K Lemke Consulting (DBA Nourishment Ministry)</li> </ul>

**GOAL 3: INCREASE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT AND KNOWLEDGE FOR MILWAUKEEANS TO PARTICIPATE IN LOCAL AND STATE LEVEL VOTING**

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation Partners
<b>3.1: Increase voting and voter registration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand voter access</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milwaukee Fire Department</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore voting rights to people on community supervision for felony convictions</li> </ul>	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve understanding and track structural barriers that hinder community members from registering to vote</li> </ul>	
<b>3.2: Expand knowledge about local and state politics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer Civic 101 trainings</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MKE Elevate Steering Committee</li> <li>K Lemke Consulting (DBA Nourishment Ministry)</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve understanding and track structural barriers that hinder community members from engaging in political learning</li> </ul>	

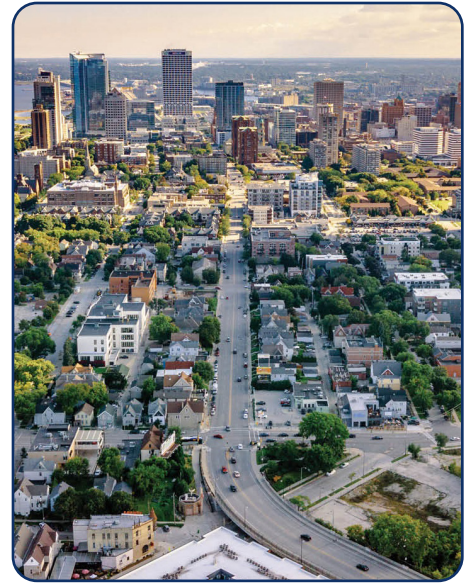
# HEALTHY BUILT ENVIRONMENT

## Why is Healthy Built Environment a priority in Milwaukee?




The Built Environment refers to the human-made structures – buildings, roads, trails, parks, houses, and more – that make up the spaces we live, work, play, and learn. It affects overall wellness, morbidity and mortality by facilitating access to health promoting resources and activities – health care, grocery stores, exercise opportunities, information, social connections, and more. Additionally, the home environment and buildings in which people spend time can be sources of exposure to stressors and environmental contaminants like lead, asbestos, indoor air pollution, and other toxins.

Milwaukee's history of redlining and segregation has created persistent racial inequities in the quality and safety of neighborhoods that continue to disproportionately impact BIPOC communities who are more likely to reside in areas with substandard housing, limited access to parks, and in areas experiencing food apartheid. It is also important to recognize the role that historical planning decisions around the built environment, like the construction of the I-43 freeway through Bronzeville, have played in the destruction of thriving black neighborhoods as we work to promote environmental justice, reconnect our communities, and promote a more equitable built environment.

***The Built Environment affects everyone who lives, works, plays, and learns in the City of Milwaukee.***



### KEY DATA:

	<b>Housing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>20% of households</b> in Milwaukee County experience at least one severe housing problem (overcrowding, high housing costs, lack of kitchen facilities, or lack of plumbing facilities).<sup>1</sup></li><li>• <b>133,858 houses</b> in the city were built before the 1978 lead paint ban.</li><li>• Milwaukee residents with an internet subscription increased to <b>81.4%</b> over the past 5 years, but significant disparities remain, as that percentage is as low as <b>60-70%</b> in certain zip codes (53205, 53206, 53204, and 53233 are among the lowest).<sup>2</sup></li><li>• <b>49.8% of renters in Milwaukee</b> were cost-burdened in 2021, meaning they spend at least 30% of their income on rent.<sup>3</sup></li></ul>
	<b>Transportation</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Milwaukee has a walkability score of <b>62.7</b>, compared to an average of 41.3 across all other City Health <a href="#">Dashboard's</a> cities.<sup>4</sup> While this indicates that on average, Milwaukee is a walkable city, walkability varies across different blocks and neighborhoods in the city due to safety, quality and connectivity of sidewalks and trails.</li><li>• <b>5.9%</b> of Milwaukee residents commute by public transportation.<sup>5</sup></li><li>• In 2021, there were <b>270 motor vehicle serious injuries</b>, 52 motor vehicle fatalities, <b>10 bicyclist serious injuries</b>, 1 bicyclist fatality, <b>72 pedestrian serious injuries</b>, and 17 pedestrian fatalities in Milwaukee.<sup>6</sup> Trends have slightly increased and decreased over the past few years, with no clear trend up or down.</li></ul>
	<b>Healthy Food Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Feeding America reported that there are <b>111,910</b> individuals or <b>11.8%</b> of the population living in Milwaukee County who experienced food insecurity in 2020. Since 2020, child food insecurity has increased from <b>21.1%</b> to <b>25.5%</b>.</li><li>• According to IMPACT 211, <b>finding food pantries and assistance with getting groceries</b> was one of the top unmet needs in 2021.<sup>7</sup></li><li>• Many families and children do not know when or where their next meal is coming from. This is amplified by the <b>rise of food prices</b>, which is predicted to increase between <b>3-4%</b> in 2023.</li></ul>

\*The data points presented above capture snapshots and averages of the city as a whole, but the experience of the built environment is often felt more profoundly on a block or neighborhood level. For more data that captures the geographic variability, check out Data You Can Use's [MKE Indicators Maps](#) or [Neighborhood Portraits](#).

## State and National Alignment

Neighborhood and built environment is a social determinant that has a major impact on health and well-being. Built environment is identified as a national priority in Healthy People 2030. In Wisconsin, healthy housing is a priority in the State Health Improvement Plan, and transportation is identified as a barrier to accessing healthcare and other health-promoting factors and services. Additionally, the Governor’s Health Equity Council recommends strategies to increase homeownership, and promote environmental justice through inclusive and equitable climate policies which are aligned with the Healthy Built Environment goals for MKE Elevate.

## Built Environment Action Team Goals

- By 2028, we will increase homeownership in Milwaukee and improve housing conditions
- By 2028, we will increase the number, quality, & infrastructure of pedestrian, biking, public transportation, electric vehicles, transportation options, and recreational spaces accessible to all in Milwaukee.
- By 2028, we will reduce food injustice in areas of food apartheid through a combination of community-based interventions, relationship building and equitable practices

GOAL 1: HOUSING		
By 2028, we will increase homeownership in Milwaukee and improve housing conditions		
Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>1.1: Improve safety and conditions of existing housing stock</b>	Develop a Lead & Healthy Homes Fund that provides grants and low/no interest loans to make necessary home repairs to reduce health and safety hazard and meet energy efficiency needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Milwaukee Department of Neighborhood Services (DNS)</li> <li>• City of Milwaukee Health Dept. Home Environmental Health (HEH) Division</li> </ul>
	Advocate for targeted / proactive rental inspections and increase enforcement of health hazards in rental units	
	Continue and expand Housing Conditions Surveys to more neighborhoods, advocate for improved housing conditions, and increase neighborhood association and Neighborhood Improvement Districts' (NID) capacity to support home repairs	
<b>1.2: Reduce eviction and improve housing security for renters through eviction prevention, training, and advocacy for tenants' rights</b>	Expand access to knowledge & trainings on renter's legal rights, fair housing, landlord & tenant trainings, and rent withholding / abatement procedures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• IMPACT</li> <li>• Martin Sostre Solidarity House</li> <li>• WestCare</li> </ul>
	Conduct an asset and gap analysis of housing resources for households with extremely low incomes* and low incomes**	
	Collaborate with the Continuum of Care to implement Rapid Re-Housing and Homelessness Prevention Programs including eviction prevention programs, rent assistance, and other community-based services	
<b>1.3: Improving pathways to home ownership for Black and Latinx residents and increase the number of affordable housing units.</b>	Implement strategies aligned with the Collective Affordable Housing Plan including growing down payment assistance and homebuyer counseling programs, build new entry-level homes and support a housing acquisition fund	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
	Review and revise zoning policies, approval procedures and processes for prioritizing affordable housing construction	

\* 0-30% Area Median Income

\*\* 30-80% Area Median Income

## GOAL 2: TRANSPORTATION

By 2028, we will increase the number, quality, and infrastructure of pedestrian, biking, public transportation, electric vehicles, and recreational spaces accessible to all in Milwaukee.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>2.1: Make it safe, enjoyable, and convenient to walk, bike, take transit, drive, or simply experience our streets and public spaces – no matter one’s age or ability</b>	Implement Complete Streets and multimodal transportation projects aligned with Milwaukee’s Complete Streets Policy’s goals to increase walkability and decrease motor vehicle speeds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wisconsin Bike Fed</li> <li>• Vision Zero</li> <li>• City of Milwaukee Department of Public Works (DPW)</li> <li>• American Lung Association</li> </ul>
	Implement Vision Zero recommendations to reduce traffic fatalities	
	Increased protected bike lanes and all ages and abilities bikeways throughout the city that connect destinations (e.g., work, school, stores, etc.)	
<b>2.2: Improve access to recreational and greenspaces in under resourced areas of Milwaukee to promote health and climate resilience</b>	Ensure that all residents have access to outdoor recreation spaces in the city of Milwaukee & implement the Comprehensive outdoor Recreation Plan (2022-2027)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Art Intersection MKE</li> <li>• Milwaukee County Parks</li> <li>• K Lemke Consulting (dba Nourishment Ministry)</li> </ul>
	Implement Green Infrastructure projects in schoolyards, high-priority sub-basins and other priority locations aligned with the City’s Green Infrastructure Plan	
	Implement the <a href="#">Branch Out Milwaukee Campaign</a> to maximize the benefit of Milwaukee’s tree canopy by focusing on equity, public health, environmental health, climate resilience, and workforce development	

## GOAL 3: ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD

By 2028, we will reduce food injustice in areas of food apartheid through a combination of community-based interventions, relationship building and equitable practices.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>3.1: Increase number of centrally located community food hubs*, which offer a bridge between food producers and consumers, facilitating an asset-based approach for moving fresh food and whole unprocessed food along a supply chain to ensure all actors benefit</b>	Host an annual food systems conference in Milwaukee and bring together local stakeholders (could include a review of Farm Bill advocacy opportunities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Gathering of Southeast WI</li> <li>• American Cancer Society / Cancer Action Network</li> <li>• Milwaukee Area Technical College</li> <li>• WestCare</li> <li>• Martin Sostre Solidarity House</li> <li>• K Lemke Consulting (dba Nourishment Ministry)</li> </ul>
	Overview of State and local investments of food to understand what has worked previously and where there are gaps	
	Advocate for policy change and funding to make it easier for small retail spaces (like corner stores) to sell fresh food and incentivize these spaces to sell fresh food	
	Subsidize grocery delivery - this could also be an opportunity to gather data about what people are purchasing and/or encourage purchase of fresh food	
<b>3.2: Reduce food waste and connect those in need to the excess food - in a coordinated, safe way</b>	Advocate for increased and sustainable funding for coalitions to build partnerships and create a coordinated system with more staffing capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TBD</li> </ul>
	Collaborate with environmental / climate action partners to understand the sustainability impacts of reducing edible food waste	
<b>3.3: Increase number of community owned food related projects/programs/businesses (locally owned retailers)</b>	Microgrants for smaller groups (e.g., neighborhood-level) to start initiatives hyper-locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Milwaukee Department of City Development (DCD)</li> <li>• Sherman Park Grocery</li> </ul>
	Funding/subsidies for food retailers to increase ability to bring in fresh fruits and vegetables, perhaps work with local farmers to support local producers	

\* According to USDA a food hub is a “business or organization that actively manages the aggregation, distribution, and marketing of course-identified food products primarily from local and regional producers to strengthen their ability to satisfy wholesale, retail, and institutional demand.”

# MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH

## Why is Maternal and Child Health a priority in Milwaukee?

Infant mortality, defined as death in the first year of life, is commonly accepted as the barometer of the overall health and well-being of a country, community, or population.<sup>1</sup> The infant mortality rate in Milwaukee is among the worst in the U.S. Infant death in Milwaukee is mainly attributed to preterm birth. Other causes include congenital abnormalities, or birth defects, Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) and Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI), and unsafe sleep.<sup>2</sup>




Complications experienced during pregnancy can lead to poor birth outcomes putting infants at higher risk of health complications or cognitive delays as children or adults. These complications may also lead to long-lasting health issues for the birthing person, or even result in maternal death. In the U.S., approximately 700 women die each year as a result of pregnancy or its complications. Black women have pregnancy-related mortality rates that are about three times higher compared to the rate for White women.<sup>3</sup>



Maternal and child health is impacted by many socio-economic factors, including access to and quality of education, insurance status and healthcare access, quality of healthcare providers, income, family cohesion, and more. Other factors contributing to maternal and child health include housing quality and stability, access to healthy foods, safe and supportive relationships, reliable transportation, and employment that can support a family and the needs of expectant people.

Racism and chronic stress also contribute to poor maternal and infant health outcomes.<sup>4</sup> Residential segregation, a form of structural racism, is linked to preterm birth, low birth weight, and mortality, especially for Black infants in Milwaukee.<sup>5</sup> Poor birth outcomes occur across all populations, but are most prevalent among Black pregnant/birthing people and infants in Milwaukee as demonstrated in the data shared below. Poor birth outcomes are largely due to systemic inequities, which create significant disparities in how pregnant and birthing people experience and navigate the healthcare system. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, "In one study, Indigenous, Hispanic, and Black women reported significantly higher rates of mistreatment (such as shouting, scolding, ignoring or refusing requests for help) during the course of their pregnancy. Even controlling for insurance status, income, age, and severity of conditions, people of color are less likely to receive routine medical procedures and experience a lower quality of care."<sup>6</sup> Recent increases in pregnancy-related deaths and significant racial disparities in maternal health demonstrate the need for systematic improvements in the care of pregnant and birthing BIPOC people in Milwaukee.

### KEY DATA:

	<b>Healthy Birth Outcomes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The infant mortality rate is <b>3 times higher</b> among Black infants at nearly <b>15 per 1,000 births</b> compared to other races.<sup>7</sup></li><li>The number of <b>preterm births in Milwaukee have increased by 18%</b> since 2015, accounting for 12.3% of all births.<sup>8</sup></li><li>The number of <b>infants in Milwaukee with low birthweight has increased by 17%</b> since 2015, impacting 11.6% of all births.<sup>9</sup></li></ul>
	<b>Reproductive Healthcare Access</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There is currently <b>only one Title X family planning clinic</b> within ten miles of the city of Milwaukee.<sup>10</sup></li><li>According to available data on <b>provider diversity</b> from one health system in Milwaukee, <b>18.6%</b> of the healthcare workforce is Black / African American or Latinx.<sup>11</sup></li></ul>
	<b>Maternal Mental Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Depression during pregnancy is highest among Black women</b> in Wisconsin, at 27% compared to 17% of white women and 15% of Hispanic women.<sup>12</sup></li></ul>

\* Some of the data included here may seem incomplete. This is either due to what was currently available at the time of publication, or because some populations are too small to fully capture in these statistics. The Action Team will be exploring ways to report more accurate data for these goals.



## State and National Alignment

Maternal and child health are key metrics for determining the health of the community. Maternal and child health were identified as priorities in Healthy People 2030 through the following goals: safe deliveries for pregnant people and their infants, access to early prenatal care, and staying healthy before, during, and after pregnancy.

Maternal health is a priority of the Biden-Harris Administration. [The White House Blueprint for Addressing the Maternal Health Crisis](#) notes the following: The Biden-Harris Administration is committed to cutting the rates of maternal mortality and morbidity, reducing the disparities in maternal health outcomes, and improving the overall experience of pregnancy, birth, and postpartum for people across the country.

Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers' [Health Equity Council's](#) recommendation to extend postpartum Medicaid eligibility for pregnant and birthing people is in alignment with the maternal and child health priority area. Extending postpartum coverage would improve continuity of care and reduce disparities in postpartum follow-up care from chronic conditions associated with mortality rates.

Wisconsin's current [State Health Improvement Plan](#) identified healthcare that is centered around and reflective of the community that's being served. This is reflective of our goal to promote quality pregnancy care provided by diverse practitioners, who are trained in cultural sensitivity and respectful and accommodating of linguistic variety.

### Maternal and Child Health Action Team Goals

- By 2028, we will increase healthy birth outcomes in Milwaukee, especially for BIPOC babies and pregnant / birthing people
- By 2028, we will improve access to high quality reproductive healthcare that is culturally appropriate and offered by diverse providers
- By 2028, we will improve availability and uptake of behavioral health and support services for pregnant people and caregivers

GOAL 1: HEALTHY BIRTH AND HEALTH OUTCOMES		
By 2028, we will increase healthy birth outcomes in Milwaukee, especially for BIPOC babies and pregnant / birthing people.		
Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>1.1: Improve racial disparities in fetal and infant outcomes</b>	Create blueprint for closing racial disparities in birth outcomes in Milwaukee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MKE Elevate Action Team</li> <li>• DHS Asthma-Safe Homes Program</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• MHD – Data and Evaluation</li> <li>• MHD – Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR)</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> <li>• MHD- Birth Outcomes Made Better (BOMB) Doula Program</li> <li>• Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care</li> </ul>
	Coordinate, convene, and participate in Fetal and Infant Mortality Review (FIMR) and Child Death Review (CDR) teams	
	Improve clinical measures related to pregnancy and birth	
	Reduce poorly controlled asthma among pregnant women and children through Asthma Safe Homes Program	
<b>1.2: Increase access to full-spectrum, holistic and supportive care throughout pregnancy and the postpartum period</b>	Medicaid Reimbursement for Doulas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• iCare</li> <li>• Vision Forward</li> <li>• MHD – Direct Assistance to Dads Program (DAD)</li> <li>• MHD – Community Healthcare Access Program (CHAP)</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> <li>• MHD – BOMB Doula Program</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> </ul>
	Case management for at risk patients	
	Evidence-based home visitation	
	Immediate access to vision services / family support for children born with vision loss, paid through Medicaid / insurance	
	Increase father/intimate partner involvement and engagement	
	Providing Healthcare Insurance	

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Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>1.3: Improve substance misuse rates and outcomes among pregnant and postpartum birthing people</b>	Increase referral and admission to substance use disorder treatment for pregnant people actively using drugs / alcohol	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meta House</li> <li>• First Breath</li> <li>• Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care</li> </ul>
	Provide informational packets about substance misuse and treatment for pregnant women	
<b>1.4: Ensure infants and new parents have their nutrition needs met</b>	Promote availability of lactation consultants to expectant and newly-delivered parents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)</li> <li>• MHD-BOMB Doula Program</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> <li>• Food for Health</li> </ul>
	Increase number of practitioners who support parents with breastfeeding goals	
	Provide education, access, and screenings around family nutrition needs	

**GOAL 2: REPRODUCTIVE HEALTHCARE ACCESS**  
 By 2028, we will improve access to high quality reproductive healthcare that is culturally appropriate and offered by diverse providers.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>2.1: Increase coordination between agencies</b>	Hire pre-natal care coordinators to connect patients to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned Parenthood</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> </ul>
	Enroll / connect more patients with Chorus for prenatal care	
	Strengthen community support networks and community-sponsored programs	
<b>2.2: Ensure access to linguistically-appropriate and culturally-respectful reproductive healthcare</b>	Adopt Reproductive Justice framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Planned Parenthood</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> <li>• Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC)</li> <li>• Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care</li> </ul>
	Host conversations and groups to improve health outcomes	
	Expand Medicaid coverage to 12 months postpartum	
	Increase healthcare workforce diversity; increase the number of BIPOC maternal care providers by investing in their education early	
	Offer ongoing Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion training for all health center staff	
<b>2.3: Safeguard access to the tools and services needed to maintain sexual and reproductive health</b>	Provide a variety of contraception options to all patients and clients (condoms, ongoing birth control options, emergency contraception)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MHD – Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) Program</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> </ul>
	Offer full array of sexual and reproductive health services including STI testing and treatment, pregnancy testing, and key referrals	
	Counsel patients and clients on all reproductive health options available so they can make an informed decision	
	Create culture of destigmatization around sexual and reproductive health conditions and treatment	

**GOAL 3: MATERNAL MENTAL HEALTH**

By 2028, we will improve availability and uptake of behavioral health and support services for pregnant people and caregivers.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>3.1: Improve access to behavioral and mental health services</b>	Improve access to evidence-based treatment through resource brokering, peer support, and information sharing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mom’s Mental Health Initiative</li> <li>• MHD – Strong Baby Program</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> </ul>
	Offer Perinatal Mental Health Screenings and support groups	
<b>3.2: Increase awareness around the intersection of behavioral and mental health needs and pregnancy / postpartum period</b>	Incorporate Trauma-Informed Care Training across the board for birth workers, reduce systemic barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mom’s Mental Health Initiative</li> <li>• Meta House</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• MHD – Empowering Families of Milwaukee (EFM)</li> <li>• Wisconsin Association for Perinatal Care</li> </ul>
	Promote peer support that specializes in providing one-on-one support to pregnant people, and group social support	
	Include reproductive / sexual health education in SUD treatment / recovery programs	
	Promote substance use treatment facilities that treat pregnant people	
	Promote awareness of postpartum depression, postpartum anxiety	

# SAFE AND SUPPORTIVE COMMUNITIES

## Why are Safe and Supportive Communities a priority in Milwaukee?

All people deserve safety where they live, work, play, and learn. Safe and supportive communities are free from all forms of violence, with access to resources to prevent trauma before it occurs. A safe and supportive community has accessible and affordable resources to support positive mental health and prevent or reduce harm related to substance misuse.

Poor health outcomes are often linked to communities experiencing higher rates of violence, poor mental health, and substance misuse. Significant racial disparities are also present among these three issues. Gun violence and lack of neighborhood safety associated with reckless driving are serious problems in Milwaukee. The majority of the victims of violence in Milwaukee are Black or Hispanic/Latinx, usually younger in age, and male. The WI Policy Forum states, "In 2021, a Black, non-Hispanic Wisconsinite was nearly 32 times more likely to die from homicide than a White, non-Hispanic Wisconsinite."<sup>1</sup>






Victims of domestic, intimate partner violence, and sexual violence are primarily female.<sup>2</sup> Victims of intimate partner violence experience greater risk for asthma, chronic pain, and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Mental health outcomes associated with intimate partner violence include depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidality, and chronic mental illness.<sup>3</sup> Unmet mental health needs can lead to future health complications and an increase in future health care, social, and economic costs.<sup>4</sup>

Drug related overdose deaths have also been on the rise in Milwaukee. In Milwaukee County, the opioid death rate in 2020 was 44.6 per 100,000 residents.<sup>5</sup> Notably, the overdose mortality rate for Black, non-Hispanic Wisconsinites increased more than nine-fold from 2001 to 2021. In 2021, the overdose mortality rate for Black Wisconsinites was 91.5 per 100,000, meanwhile the rate for White, non-Hispanic Wisconsinites was 27.3.<sup>6</sup>

Violence, mental health, and substance misuse are all factors which contribute to community safety and support. MKE Elevate has identified goals, objectives, and strategies to address these factors in order to build upon and improve the various efforts the health department, community members, and partners have deployed to create safe and supportive neighborhoods in Milwaukee.



### KEY DATA:

	<b>Interpersonal and intimate partner violence</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From Jan. 1 – Aug. 10, 2022, there were <b>57 domestic violence-related nonfatal shootings</b>, affecting 33 Black / African American men and 20 Black / African American women.<sup>7</sup></li> </ul>
	<b>Crime and neighborhood safety</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, there were 13 homicides by non-firearm, 180 by firearm, and 861 nonfatal shootings in Milwaukee. <b>Homicides by firearm doubled</b> and nonfatal shootings nearly doubled from 2019 to 2020 and increased slightly from 2020 to 2021.<sup>8</sup></li> <li>In 2022, <b>victims of firearm shootings</b> (both non-fatal and homicide) were 87% Black and 81% male.<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>
	<b>Reckless driving and motor vehicle crashes</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In 2021, there were <b>270 motor vehicle serious injuries</b>, 52 motor vehicle fatalities, <b>10 bicyclist serious injuries</b>, 1 bicyclist fatality, <b>72 pedestrian serious injuries</b>, and 17 pedestrian fatalities in Milwaukee.<sup>10</sup> Trends have slightly increased and decreased over the past few years, with no clear trend up or down.</li> </ul>
	<b>Mental Health</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1 in 4</b> Milwaukee residents has a mental health condition.<sup>11</sup></li> <li>Children &lt;18 years of age are hospitalized at a rate of <b>86.7 per 10,000</b> due to mental illnesses.<sup>12</sup></li> <li>In the 2022 Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership Community Health Needs Assessment, mental health was identified as the <b>#1 health issue in Milwaukee County</b>.<sup>13</sup></li> </ul>
	<b>Substance use prevention</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Milwaukee County between 2015 and 2022, <b>3,421 lives were lost</b> from a drug related overdose.<sup>14</sup></li> <li>The outcomes in Milwaukee have gotten worse and the numbers continue to rise; from 2019 – 2022 there has been a <b>67% increase in drug related deaths</b>.<sup>15</sup></li> </ul>

## State and National Alignment

This priority action area is in alignment with the [Healthy People 2030](#) goal to prevent violence and related injuries and deaths. Safe and supportive communities is also aligned with the [Wisconsin State Health Improvement Plan](#) priority area of physical, mental, and systemic safety.

### Safe and Supportive Communities Action Team Goals

- By 2028, we will increase efforts at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels to prevent sexual and domestic violence before it occurs
- By 2028, we will support the increase of fostering safe neighborhoods
- By 2028, we will decrease risk factors for reckless driving
- By 2028, we will improve availability and uptake of behavioral health resources for Milwaukee
- By 2028, we will promote efforts at the individual, community, and societal levels to increase harm reduction methods throughout the city

<b>GOAL 1: INTERPERSONAL AND INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE PREVENTION (IPV)</b> By 2028, we will increase efforts at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels to prevent sexual and domestic violence before it occurs.		
Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>1.1: Build community capacity to respond</b>	Promote citywide restraining order awareness for victims of IPV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of MKE Office of Community Wellness and Safety</li> <li>• Sojourner Family Peace Center</li> <li>• UBUNTU Research and Evaluation</li> <li>• City Transformation Center</li> <li>• The Village</li> <li>• VR-PHAST</li> <li>• Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership</li> <li>• Cardiff Project</li> <li>• Diverse and Resilient</li> <li>• Kids Matter Inc</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• Department of Veteran's Affairs</li> <li>• Children's Community Mental Health Services and Wraparound</li> </ul>
	Implement credible messenger programs to directly connect with communities most impacted by IPV	
	Reduce incidence of IPV violence through proactive prevention efforts	
	Build awareness of IPV safe spaces, assistance, and support group services	
	Center language around prevention	
	Offer community building workshops	
	Promote individual and system advocacy	
<b>1.2: Create / grow culturally responsive approaches</b>	Develop and implement an effective communication strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UBUNTU Research and Evaluation</li> <li>• City of MKE Office of Community Wellness and Safety</li> <li>• City Transformation Center</li> <li>• The Village</li> <li>• VR-PHAST</li> <li>• Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership</li> <li>• Sojourner Family Peace Center</li> <li>• Diverse and Resilient</li> <li>• Kids Matter Inc</li> <li>• Froedtert Hospital</li> <li>• Department of Veteran's Affairs</li> <li>• Children's Community Mental Health Services and Wraparound</li> </ul>
	Promote healing and restorative justice approach	

**GOAL 2: CRIME AND NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY**  
By 2028, we will support the increase of fostering safe neighborhoods.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>2.1: Increase access to care</b>	Access to better affordable health care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</li> <li>Milwaukee Health Care Partnership</li> <li>Children's Community Mental Health Services and Wraparound</li> </ul>
	Community Access to Recovery service provider network (provider credential program)	
<b>2.2: Offer community trainings</b>	Offer bystander training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of MKE Office of Community Wellness and Safety</li> <li>VR-PHAST (MCW)</li> <li>Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership</li> <li>Milwaukee Fire Department</li> <li>Milwaukee County DHHS</li> <li>Cardiff Project</li> <li>Children's Community Mental Health Services and Wraparound</li> </ul>
	Offer CPR training	
	Teach conflict resolution at schools, churches, and CBOs	
<b>2.3: Strengthen capacity and coordination of violence prevention efforts</b>	Implement systems level recommendations that move upstream of violent events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VR-Phast (MCW)</li> <li>City of MKE Office of Community Wellness and Safety</li> <li>Milwaukee Healthcare Partnership</li> <li>Milwaukee Fire Department</li> <li>Milwaukee County DHHS</li> <li>Cardiff Project</li> </ul>
	Increase collaboration across organizations and sectors	
	Implement the CARDIFF Initiative	

**GOAL 3: RECKLESS DRIVING AND MOTOR VEHICLE CRASHES**  
By 2028, we will decrease risk factors for reckless driving.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>3.1: Increase education and safety</b>	Increase understanding of legislative requirements for driver's education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Milwaukee Vision Zero Initiative</li> <li>Milwaukee County DHHS</li> <li>Milwaukee Fire Department</li> <li>Milwaukee County Department of Transportation</li> <li>Milwaukee Recreation (MKE REC)</li> </ul>
	Support the City of Milwaukee Vision Zero initiative	
	Support Project Safe Driver	
	Offer anger management workshops	
	Focus on culture, social reasonings vs education	
	Address root causes and why teens engage	

### GOAL 4: MENTAL HEALTH

By 2028, we will improve availability and uptake of behavioral health resources for Milwaukee.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>4.1: Community based crisis response</b>	Promote suicide awareness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of MKE Office of Community Wellness and Safety</li> <li>West Care Wisconsin, Inc</li> <li>City Transformation Center</li> <li>The Village</li> <li>Diverse and Resilient</li> <li>Kids Matter Inc</li> <li>Milwaukee Fire Department</li> <li>Department of Veteran's Affairs</li> <li>Children's Community Mental Health Services and Wraparound</li> </ul>
	Offer support for loved ones who lost members to suicide	
	Offer mental health mobile unit	
<b>4.2: Provide efficient access to care</b>	Identify and increase access to resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</li> <li>Milwaukee Health Care Partnership</li> <li>City Transformation Center</li> <li>The Village</li> <li>Diverse and Resilient</li> <li>Kids Matter Inc</li> <li>Milwaukee Fire Department</li> <li>Department of Veteran's Affairs</li> <li>Children's Community Mental Health Services and Wraparound</li> <li>WestCare Wisconsin Inc</li> </ul>
	Bridge gap between services and communities of color	
	Increase school-based mental health including student lead initiatives	
	Increase after school mental health support	
	Increase mental health supports for caregivers	
	Mental Health First Aid	
	Expand violence prevention and intervention efforts in health care settings	

### GOAL 5: SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION

By 2028, we will promote efforts at individual, community, societal levels to increase harm reduction methods through the city.

Objectives	Strategies	Implementation partners
<b>5.1: Build awareness of harm reduction resources</b>	Plan an overdose prevention summit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Narcotics Anonymous</li> <li>Center for Urban Population Health</li> <li>City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD)</li> <li>OD-PHAST</li> </ul>
	Host events, including International Overdose Awareness Day	
	Convene Milwaukee community collective	
	Promote substance misuse anti-stigma campaign	
	Offer harm reduction trainings	
<b>5.2: Increase access to overdose prevention and harm reduction distribution services</b>	Maximize supply of overdose prevention and harm reduction tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD)</li> <li>Milwaukee County Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)</li> <li>OD-PHAST</li> </ul>
	Provide coordinated communication about the supply of overdose prevention and harm reduction tools	
	Install Narcan vending machines	
	Increase awareness of and decrease stigma around Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)	