



Our Health. Our Community. Our Future

MKE Elevate: A community-driven plan to elevate our health, our community, and our future.

MKE Elevate is a plan to elevate the health of all Milwaukee residents. While countless individuals and programs work tirelessly to improve health outcomes citywide, this plan seeks to focus and align work to address priority issues selected by our community, for our community.

In 2022, the City of Milwaukee Health Department (MHD) was joined by Mayor Cavalier Johnson in launching a comprehensive, community-driven process to develop the MKE Elevate plan. The MHD provided leadership and oversight to the process, facilitating community input and participation.

The process began with the release of the City of Milwaukee Community Health Assessment (CHA), a report detailing over 40 data points across ten issue areas on the health status of Milwaukee residents as well as the conditions that impact these health outcomes. The CHA findings show that Milwaukee has higher-than-state-average rates of infant mortality, sexually transmitted diseases, cancer (breast, cervical, lung, and prostate), violence, teen pregnancy, childhood lead poisoning, and mortality due to unintentional injuries. These disparities stem from long-standing disadvantages and structural racism that have built upon and influence each other over time.

Using this data as a guide, the MHD sought feedback directly from community residents. Through an online and in-person survey, more than 2,000 people weighed in on what they viewed as Milwaukee’s most pressing health issues. At the same time, a photo campaign asked residents to visually identify healthy and unhealthy aspects of city life and received nearly 100 submissions. CHA data and community survey results were shared at a series of four community meetings, where residents completed a prioritization activity.

Resident input was combined with available data and potential evidence-based strategies to identify an overarching priority of **Racism and Health Equity** as well as 3 Priority Action Areas that not only address community-identified concerns, but also significantly influence safety and health:



Healthy Built Environment



Maternal and Child Health



Safe and Supportive Communities

In early 2023, community members were then invited to join a steering committee and three action teams. MHD engaged community partners in a series of quarterly meetings, seeking to coordinate a response to the three community-identified priority areas for action. Meeting participants crossed sectors and silos to develop goals and objectives for action, as well as proposed strategies to support these objectives. The MKE Elevate Steering Committee came together to identify an updated vision and mission:

VISION

A Milwaukee where all people are thriving in safe, healthy, and equitable neighborhoods.

MISSION

MKE Elevate supports a Milwaukee where all people are thriving in safe, healthy, and equitable neighborhoods free from oppression by aligning strategies and building power, partnerships, access to resources, and opportunities for collective advocacy in community-identified priority areas.

Using the community-developed goals, objectives, and strategies identified in this plan, MHD will continue to engage implementation partners to convene quarterly meetings, align efforts, and track results.

Together, we can improve the health of Milwaukee.



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