



CHA SUMMARY

Wyandotte County 2022 Community Health Assessment – 4/27/2023
Created by the Unified Government Public Health Department of Wyandotte County

What is the CHA?

The Community Health Assessment (CHA) is a comprehensive tool that helps us understand the health status of a community. The purpose of completing a CHA is to surface potential challenges and community assets that impact the health and quality of life of people in Wyandotte County. The 2022 CHA collected data first-hand from community members through surveys, focus groups and community forums. It also used secondary data from publicly available sources, such as the Census Bureau and the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. The CHA helps prioritize our community's needs and bring our collective resources to bear to create systemic change and capitalize on the success of our current CHIP.

What is the CHIP?

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a five-year plan designed to address health priorities identified by the community. Data and feedback collected from the CHA informs the CHIP. The 2022 CHA will be used to inform the development of the new 2024-2028 CHIP.

Top Health Issues Identified in the 2022 CHA

Wyandotte County community members ranked the following areas as the top issues impacting health in our County. See more details on each topic on pages 2 and 3.

- **Community violence**
- **Drug misuse**
- **Mental health and suicide**
- **Chronic diseases**
- **Obesity, poor nutrition, and food insecurity**
- **Health care access**
- **Employment and income**
- **Affordable housing**

What's Next?

The Health Department aims to use this information to improve programming and change policies, systems, and environments that have broad impacts on health outcomes. This CHA also identified new areas that require attention—namely substance misuse, mental health, and racism, among others. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated and spotlighted these challenges. Making progress on health outcomes will require greater attention and collective action in these areas, and the Health Department looks forward to working alongside community partners in pursuit of a healthier Wyandotte.

Spotlight on Racism

In the full CHA Report, you will find Spotlights on Racism that explain how racism and the perpetuation of discriminatory systems have contributed to disproportionately poorer health outcomes for community members who are Black, Hispanic, or otherwise marginalized. The effects of systemic racism are cumulative. Its presence in education, employment, housing, healthcare, and the insurance industry have compounded to lead to worse health outcomes for communities of color. Prioritizing equity will lead to better health outcomes for the community.

Top Issues identified in the CHA

Violence

- Homicide is the leading cause of death for residents ages 15-44 years old
- The rate of homicide for Black youth from 2016 to 2020 was 82 per 100,000. The Hispanic youth homicide rate for that time was 63 per 100,000. The rate for non-Hispanic White youth was 16 per 100,000.
- The health impacts of violence may be mitigated through investment in community-building, support of youth programming, targeted prevention of violence in high-risk populations with evidence-based practices, and treatment of those impacted by violence with trauma informed care.

Drug Misuse

- Drug overdose deaths in Kansas and across the U.S. have increased significantly. In 2021, U.S. overdoses were 29x higher than the average annual overdose deaths during the 1980s. In Kansas, overdose deaths more than doubled 2017 to 2021.
- 35% of Black community members who experienced an opioid overdose died while 17% of White community members died.
- It will take policy changes, expanded resources, and reduced stigma to increase access to recovery for substance use

Mental Health and Suicide

- A majority of respondents indicated they either have a mental illness or have someone in their household with a mental illness.
- Factors or “stressors” that have negative impacts on community members’ mental health include systemic racism, violence, financial hardships, trauma, and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- In Wyandotte County, suicide is the 3rd leading cause of death for youth ages 15-24, and the 10th leading cause of death for men. Hospital admissions due to suicidal ideation are 60% higher than in Kansas.
- Strategies to improve mental health and prevent suicide should focus on funding and policies that reduce barriers to mental health care access and treatment.

Chronic Diseases

- 61% of respondents said they or a household member have high blood pressure, 48% have high cholesterol, 44% are overweight or obese, 31% have diabetes, and 12% have heart disease.
- The Black mortality rate for heart disease is 191, diabetes 34, and kidney disease 32 versus the White non-Hispanic White rates of 179, 19, and 15, respectively.
- Many factors contribute to chronic diseases. Reducing smoking, poor nutrition, physical inactivity, and excessive alcohol use can all reduce chronic diseases.
- Access to affordable medical care is essential for preventing and managing chronic diseases. Inequities in Wyandotte County lead to disparities in chronic diseases.

Obesity, Poor Nutrition, and Food Insecurity

- In 2020, the obesity rate in Wyandotte County was 46% --higher than Kansas and the United States and increased by almost five percent since 2018.
- In Wyandotte County, Black residents are 2.5x more likely than White residents to be food insecure.
- The rate of obesity and access to healthy food is correlated with several factors at the individual, relationship, community, and political and cultural levels. Obesity and access to healthy food can impact our health and how we interact with our built environment.

Health Care Access

- In Wyandotte County, 17% of residents are uninsured.
 - 36% of Hispanic residents
 - 16% of Black residents
 - 6% of White non-Hispanic residents.
- Individuals without health insurance are less likely to have a primary care provider and may not be able to afford the health care services and medications they need.
- Many factors can impact access to healthcare including transportation, health insurance coverage, and geographic location.

Employment and Income

- Employment and income are important social determinants of health.
- Black residents continue to face more discrimination and barriers to employment, and have lower household incomes, than other residents.
- The median household income for Black residents is \$42,584 and for Hispanic residents is \$53,124. For White non-Hispanic residents, it is \$65,866.
- To improve Wyandotte County's longstanding health challenges, community stakeholders can work to increase access to living wage jobs.

Affordable Housing

- Over 18,000 of the 60,000 Wyandotte County households are considered cost burdened (spending more than 30% of their monthly income on housing).
- 31% of Black renters are extremely cost-burdened compared to 17% of White renters.
- The lack of affordable housing is linked to negative health outcomes. Life expectancy for unhoused people is shortened by approximately 30 years.
- To combat this issue, programs, policies, and investment are needed locally as well as at the state and federal levels.



Read the full report:
ughealth.info/wyco-cha