



Milwaukee County

Social Determinants Profile



P-02659B (05/2020)

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Chronic Disease Prevention Program created this social determinants profile to contextualize cardiovascular disease and diabetes prevention and management efforts in Milwaukee County. This profile highlights indicators of social, economic, political, and cultural forces that promote, enable, and reinforce health inequities:

- Life Expectancy
- Affordable Housing
- ALICE Households
- Unemployment
- Educational Attainment
- Linguistic Isolation
- Food Environment
- Access to Alcohol
- Violent Crime

The ways in which social and economic forces influence cardiovascular and diabetes health outcomes are incredibly complex. This document does not describe these relationships in great detail. For more information on these relationships, explore the *additional literature* cited on page 13.



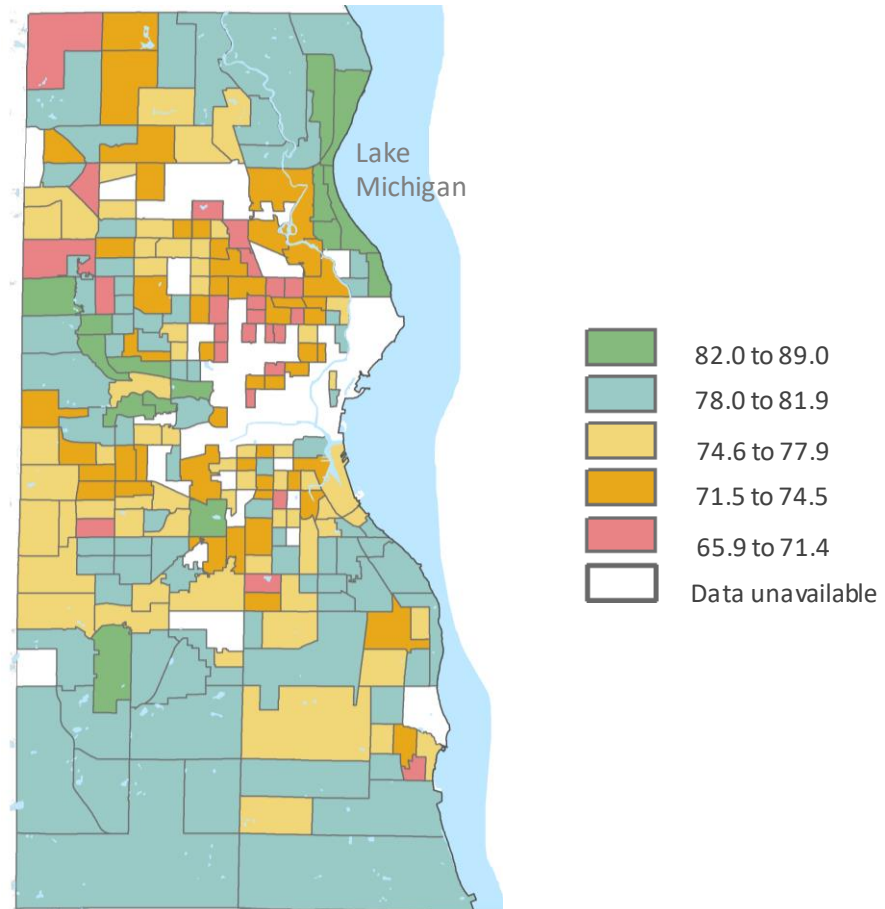
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Life Expectancy

Where you live can influence how long you live. Large gaps in life expectancy exist in Wisconsin, even within a single county. In Milwaukee County, average life expectancy varies from 66 to 89 years across census tracts.

Average life expectancy in years (average number of years a person can expect to live) by census tract, Milwaukee County.¹





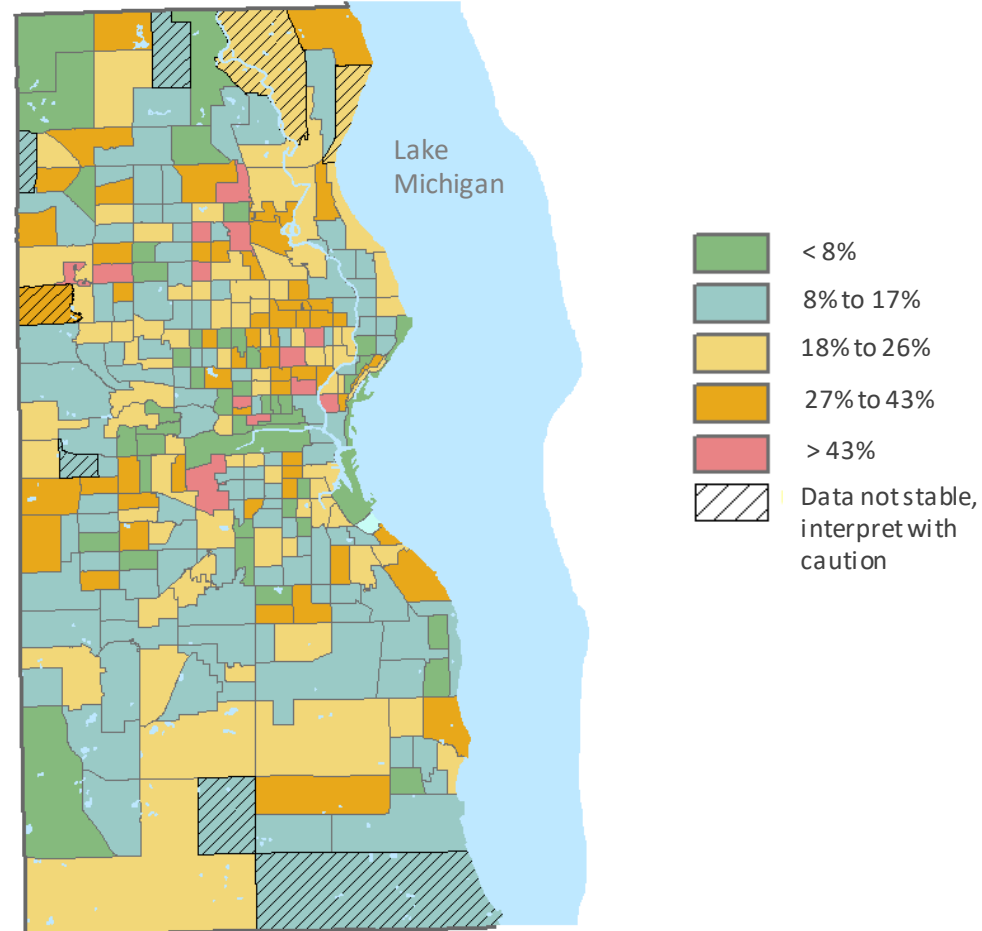
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Affordable Housing

Housing is typically the largest, single expense in a family's budget. As housing consumes larger proportions of household income, families have less to spend on nutrition, health care, transportation, and education. Housing is commonly considered affordable when a family spends less than 30% of its income to rent or buy a residence. Low-income families and minority communities are disproportionately affected by the lack of affordable housing.

Percentages of households paying greater than 30% of income on rent by census tract, Milwaukee County.²





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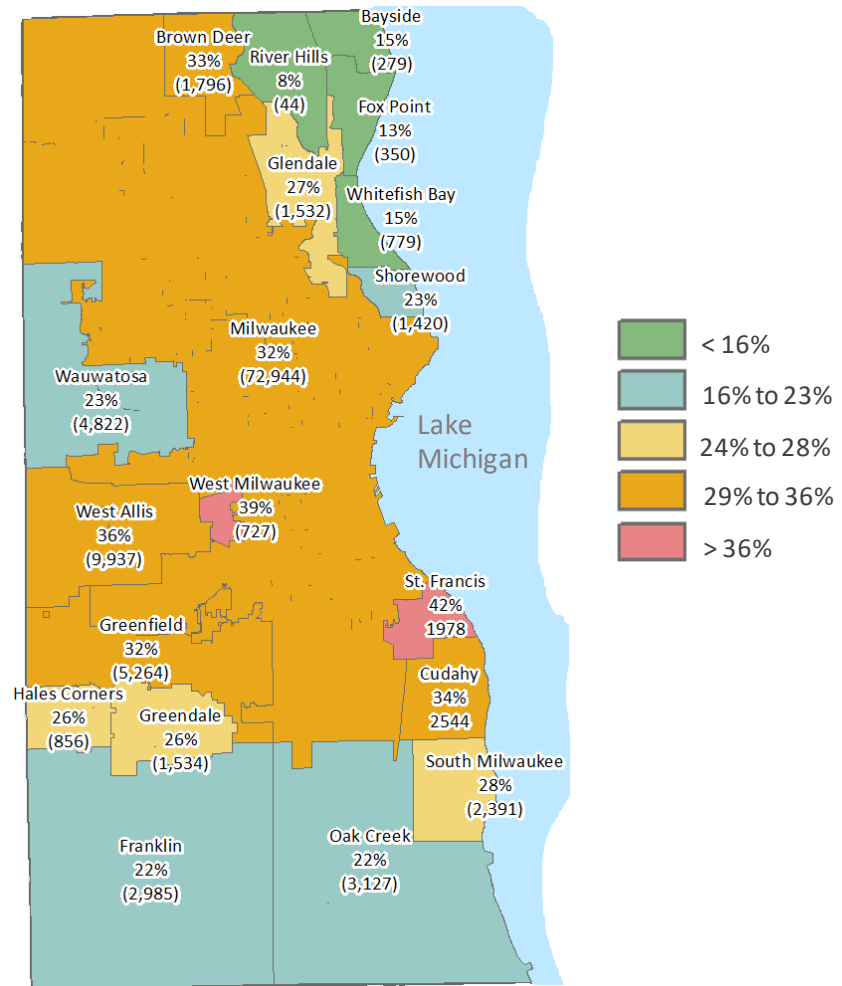
ALICE Households

Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed

Since 1965, the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) has provided a standard for determining the number of people living in poverty in the United States. However, the FPL's shortcomings are many and well documented. The FPL is not based on the current cost of basic household necessities, and is not adjusted to reflect geographic differences in cost of living. In fact, many agencies use multiples of the FPL to determine eligibility for assistance programs because the measure is too modest (e.g. 200% or 300% FPL).

In light of these limitations, researchers at the United Way developed the ALICE (asset-limited, income-constrained, and employed) threshold to identify and assess financial hardship at the county-level. The ALICE threshold represents the minimum income level necessary based on the household survival budget. The household survival budget includes an estimate of the total cost of household essentials: housing, child care, food, transportation, technology, and health care, plus taxes and a 10 percent contingency (see page 4 for a detailed budget).

Percent of households living below the ALICE threshold (below household survival budget), Milwaukee County municipalities.³





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ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, and Employed) Households continued

Total count and percent of households below ALICE threshold (below household survival budget) by municipality.³

Municipality	Total households below ALICE threshold	Percent of households below ALICE threshold
Bayside	279	15%
Brown Deer	1,796	33%
Cudahy	2,544	34%
Fox Point	350	13%
Franklin	2,985	22%
Glendale	1,532	27%
Greendale	1,534	26%
Greenfield	5,264	32%
Hales Corners	856	26%
Milwaukee	72,944	32%
Oak Creek	3,127	22%
River Hills	44	8%
Shorewood	1,420	23%
South Milwaukee	2,391	28%
St. Francis	1,978	42%
Wauwatosa	4,822	23%
West Allis	9,937	36%
West Milwaukee	727	39%
Whitefish Bay	779	15%



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ALICE Household Survival Budget

The household survival budget gives the cost of housing, child care, food, transportation, and health care at a bare minimum “survival” level. It does not include any savings, cushion for unexpected expenses, or investments.

The household survival budget in Milwaukee County is much higher than the Federal Poverty Level of \$11,880 for a single adult and \$24,300 for a family of four in 2016.

Household survival budget, Milwaukee County, 2016.⁴

	Single Adult	2 Adults, 1 Infant, 1 Preschooler
Housing	\$492	\$735
Child Care	\$0	\$1,231
Food	\$158	\$525
Transportation	\$349	\$698
Health Care	\$215	\$802
Technology	\$55	\$75
Miscellaneous	\$150	\$467
Taxes	\$235	\$602
Monthly Total	\$1,654	\$5,135
ANNUAL TOTAL	\$19,848	\$61,620
Hourly Wage	\$9.92	\$30.81



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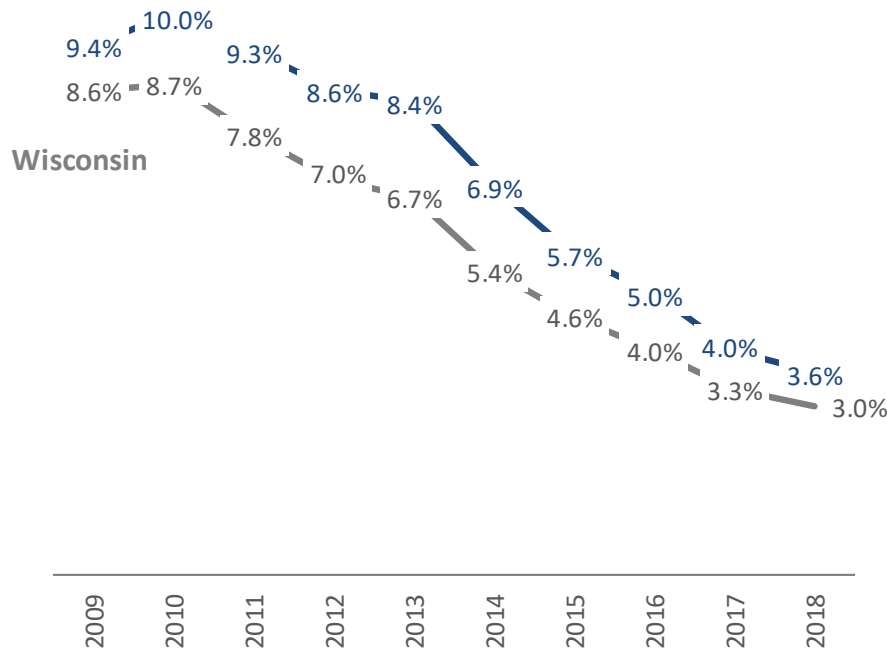
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Unemployment

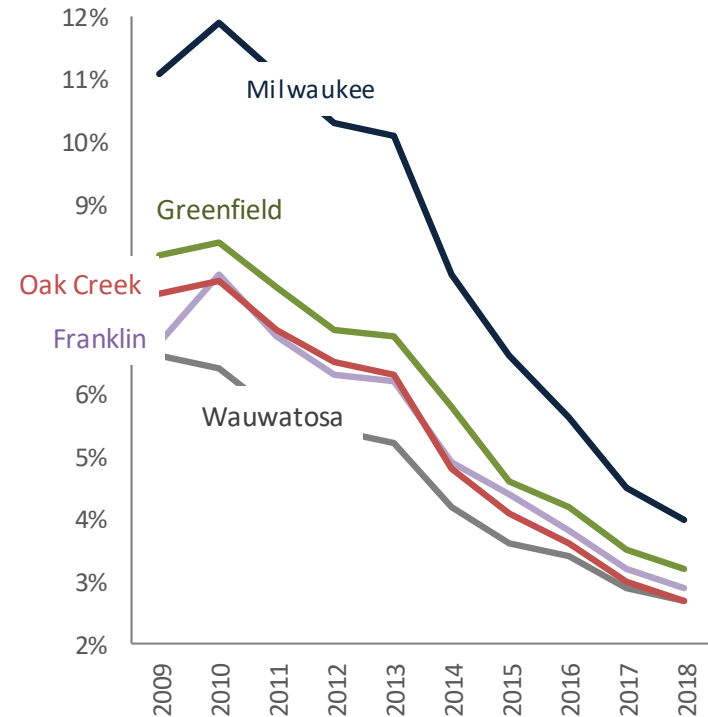
Unemployment is associated with higher rates of self-reported poor health, long-term illness, and increased mortality. County-level studies demonstrate a positive association between higher unemployment and overall mortality and death due to cardiovascular disease and suicide.

Unemployment Rates, Milwaukee County and Wisconsin.⁵

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Unemployment Rates, Cities in Milwaukee County with Populations Greater than 25,000.⁵





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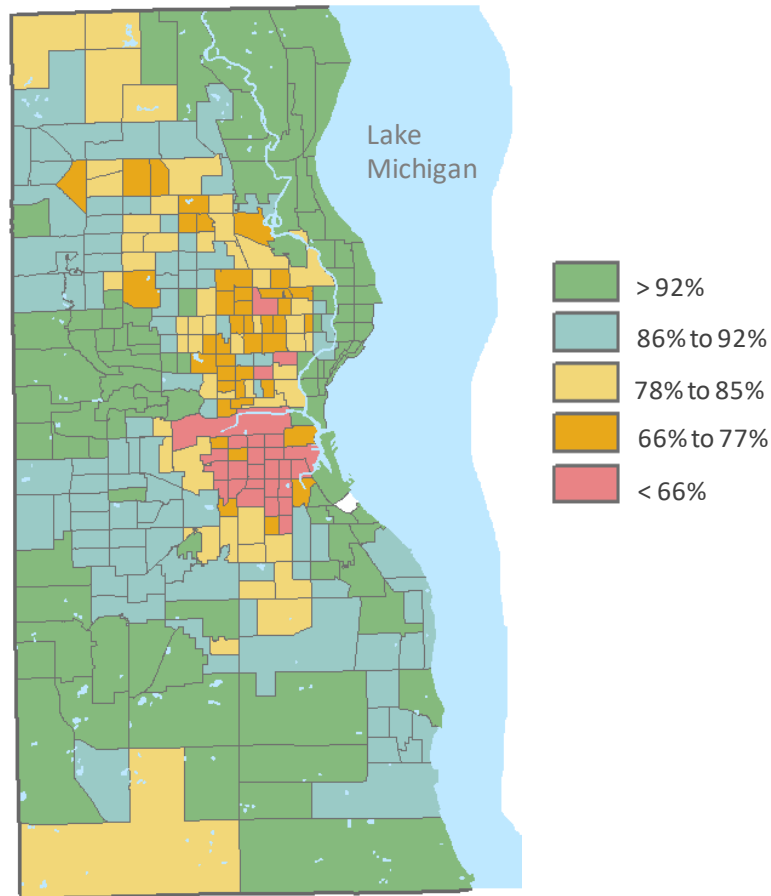
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Educational Attainment

Staying in school to graduate is one of the strongest predictors of health.

Education is linked to health in a multitude of ways, from its connections to employment and higher income opportunities, to social and psychological benefits.

Percentage of adults (25+) with a high school diploma by census tract, Milwaukee County.⁶





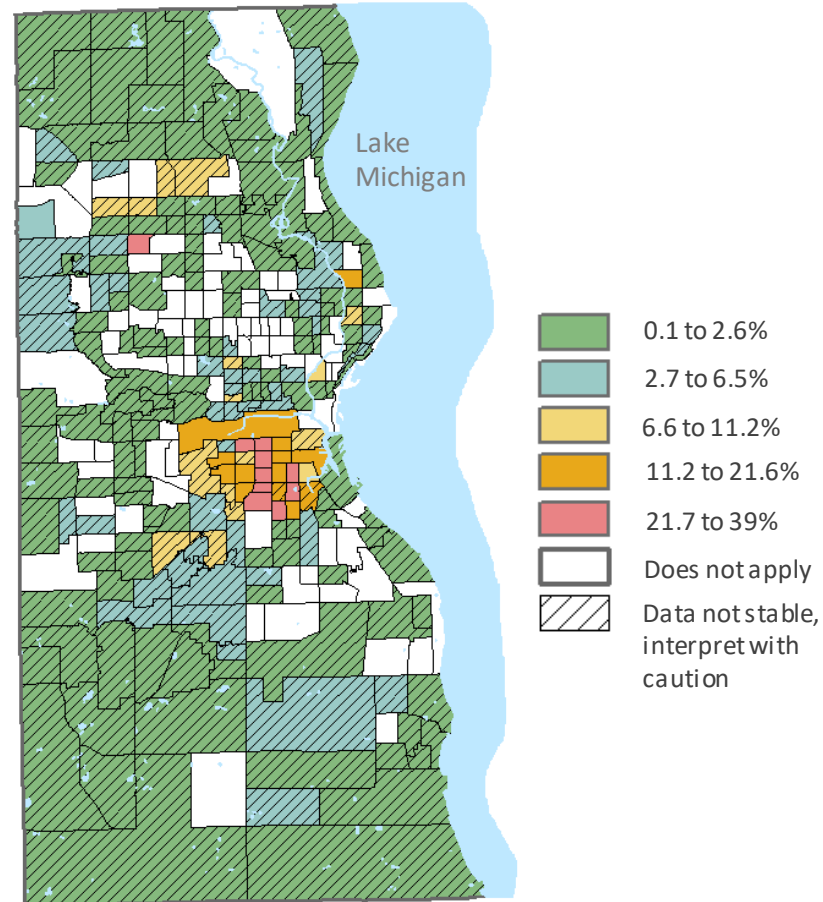
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Linguistic Isolation

Households that experience linguistic isolation often have both cultural and language barriers to accessing important services from health care and social services, to financial services, voting, and education.

Percentage of households in which no one age 14 and over speaks English only or speaks a language other than English at home by census tract, Milwaukee County.⁷





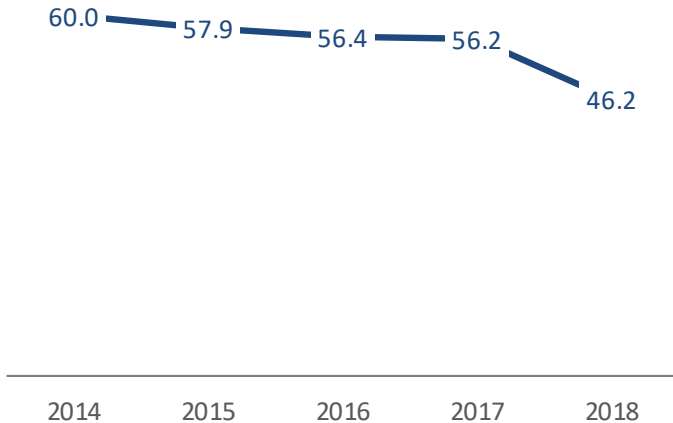
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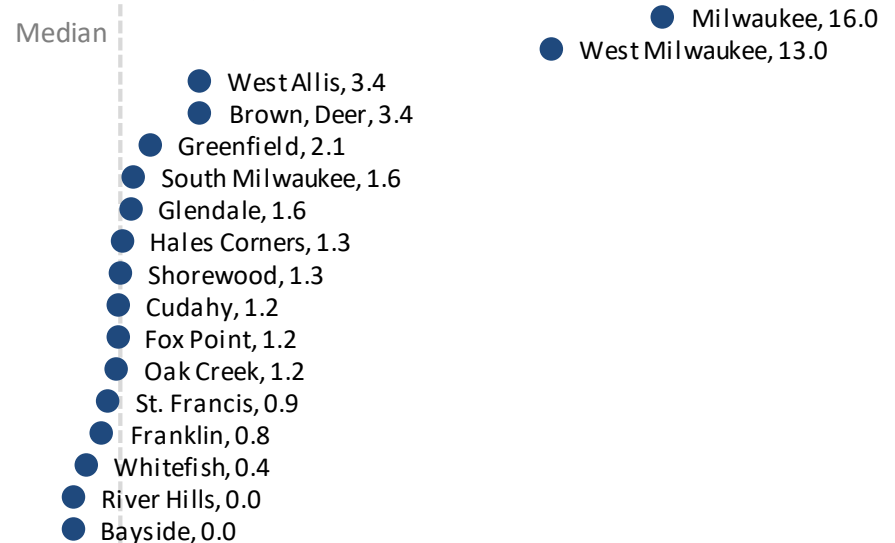
Violent Crime

Violent crime contributes to and exacerbates chronic diseases by inducing fear and stress. It evokes unhealthy physical responses (e.g., high blood pressure), confines residents to their homes, thereby eliminating the health benefits of physical activity. It prohibits commuting via active transportation to jobs, goods, and services. Violent crime affects everyone’s health, and is significantly associated with educational attainment and poverty. Upstream policies and programs that reduce poverty, and increase educational attainment and other social determinants can also impact violent crime.

Annual violent crime* rate per 1,000 persons, Milwaukee County.⁸



Annual violent crime* rate per 1,000 persons by municipality, Milwaukee County, 2017.⁸



*Violent crime consists of homicide, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault offenses. In 2017, the definition of rape changed according to FBI requirements. This impacts pre- and post-2017 comparisons of violent offense counts and rates. Please use caution when interpreting trend data.



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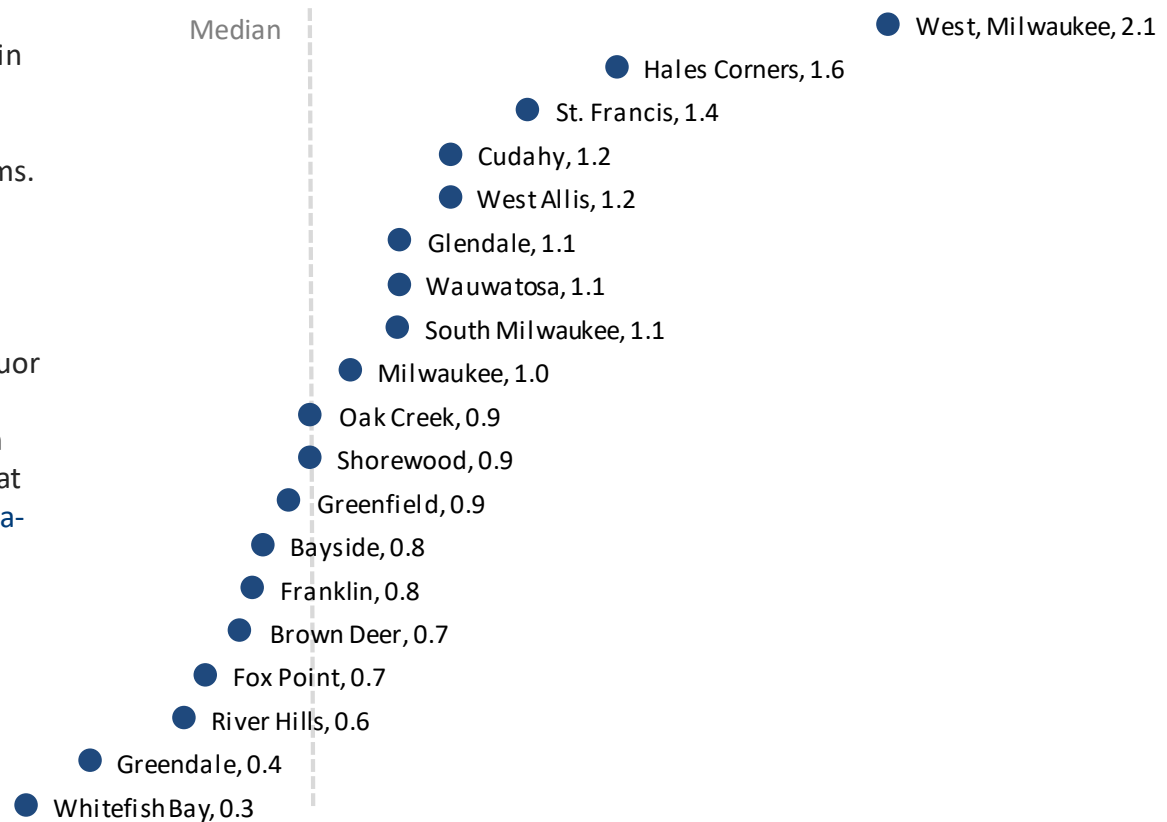
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Access to Alcohol

Excessive alcohol consumption is the fourth leading preventable cause of death in the United States. High density and proximity to alcohol outlets in neighborhoods is associated with higher rates of binge drinking and associated harms. Alcohol outlet density is controlled by state and municipal regulations.

For more information on liquor licensing data and, visit the Environmental Public Health Tracking 'Data Details' page at dhs.wisconsin.gov/epht/data-details.htm

Rate of alcohol licensure per 500 people by municipality, Milwaukee County.⁹





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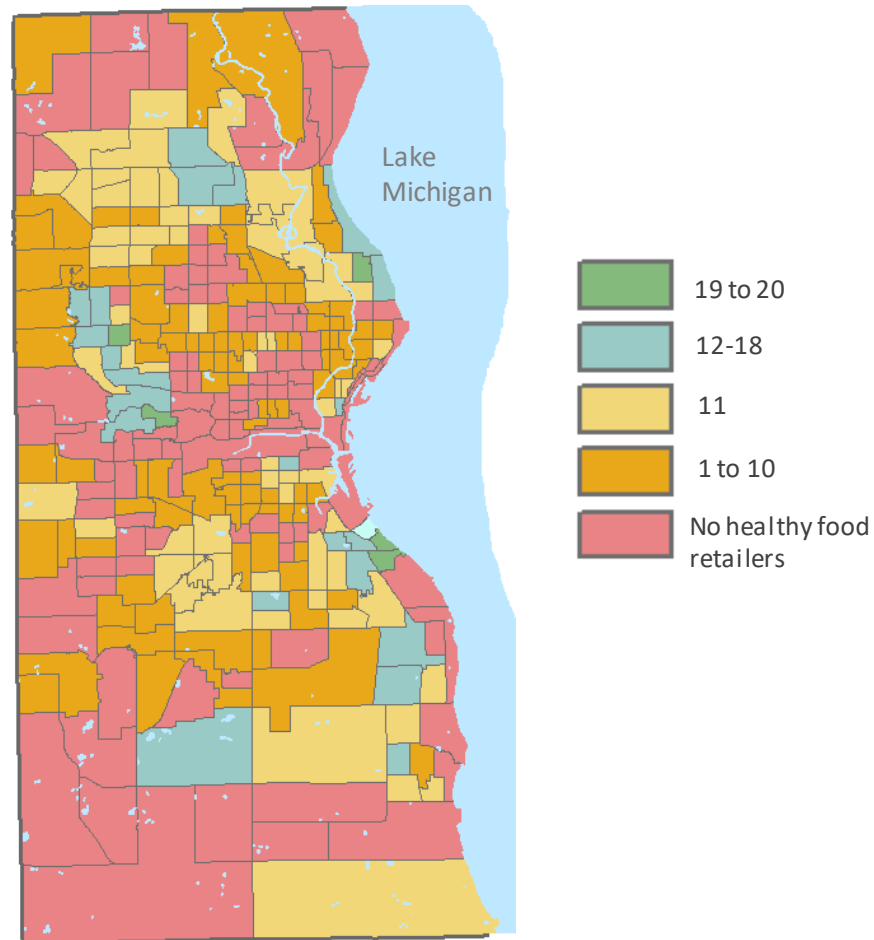
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Food Environment

Modified retail food environment index (mRFEI) is a measure of the retail food environment calculated from the number of healthy food retailers (supermarkets, larger grocery stores, supercenters, and produce stores) and the number of less healthy food retailers (convenience stores, fast food restaurants, and small grocery stores).

The mRFEI ranges from 0 (lowest with no healthy food retailers present) to 100 (only healthy food retailers present).

mRFEI for Milwaukee County census tracts.¹⁰





Funding and Sources

This project was supported by the Division of Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention and Division of Diabetes Translation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention under cooperative agreement NU58DP006521, and heavily informed by the work of the Bay Area Region Health Inequities Initiative's "Applying Social Determinants of Health Indicator Data for Advancing Health Equity: A Guide for Local Health Department Epidemiologists and Public Health Professionals (2015)." All choropleth maps by census tract use natural breaks to create quartiles. Quartiles were created using only available census tracts within the county boundary.

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Additional Literature

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