

City of Racine
Community Health
Improvement Plan
2025 – 2029

**Responding to the Needs of Citizens by
Enhancing the Quality of Life and Promoting
Economic Growth**

LETTER TO THE COMMUNITY

Dear Colleagues and Citizens:

The City of Racine Public Health Department is pleased to present this Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) for the City of Racine. This roadmap for improved health was developed in partnership with a wide variety of organizations throughout Racine County. As such, it incorporates findings from the 2022-2024 Community Health Needs Assessment, as well as public health data generated locally (2023 Racine Speaks) and through the 2023 Racine County Health Rankings in order to place priority issues in clear context and set achievable goals within the framework of services provided by the City of Racine Public Health Department. The 2025 – 2029 CHIP is meant to be a guide for current and future public and private activities, initiatives, and investments within the department’s service area.

While this process revealed several significant issues that adversely impact some of the city’s most vulnerable citizens, the 2025 – 2029 CHIP primarily focuses on traditional public health issues identified as community priorities or mandated by state statute, for example prevention of sexually transmitted infections, and decreasing the incidence of overdose. However, it also addresses broad-based issues beyond the realm of traditional public health, proposing cooperative solutions to tackle social determinants of health that affect quality of life, such as unaffordable or poor-quality housing and homelessness.

To achieve the objectives within the CHIP, the City of Racine Public Health Department will collaborate with partners both within and outside of the traditional “health” sector in order to take collective action and prioritize the most acute needs of the community while addressing underlying and broad-based issues. In doing so, it is understood that many of the health shortfalls the City of Racine faces are deeply rooted in aspects of social, economic, and environmental justice, and that their solutions require interventions on levels of policy, systems, and culture as well as delivery of practical services. However, by prioritizing key objectives and defined strategies to achieve them, the City of Racine Public Health Department has taken an important first step towards collectively improving the environment where our citizens are born, live, learn, work, and age.

Sincerely,



Dottie-Kay Bowersox, MSA
Public Health Administrator

Table of Contents

Key Terms.....3

Executive Summary4

Vision, Mission, and Values5

Service Area6

Social Determinants of Health7

Why a Community Health Improvement Plan?8

Guiding Principles for CHIP Plan Development.....9

2025 – 2029 CHIP Timeline10

Principle Sources of Information11

Focus Area Selection 12

CHIP Alignment with Local, State, and National Initiatives13

Addressing Social and Community Conditions 14

Social and Community Conditions Infographic..... 15

Overdose Prevention through Harm Reduction Programs16

Overdose and Harm Reduction Infographic..... 17

Reduce the Transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)18

Reducing the Transmission of STIs Infographic..... 19

Next Steps 20

Acknowledgements21

References23



KEY TERMS

Collective Impact – A network of community members, organizations, and institutions who advance equity by learning together, aligning, and integrating their actions to achieve population and systems level change.

Food Insecurity – The disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money or other resources (e.g., transportation).

Health Disparities – Differences in health outcomes among groups of people.

Health Equity – Attainment of the highest level of health for all people.

Health in all Policies – A collaborative approach to improving the health of all people by incorporating health considerations into decision-making processes across all sectors of policy, service, and programs.

Healthy People 2030 – A framework of national health objectives used to track progress towards national goals of improved health and reduced health threats.

Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) - Bacterial, viral and parasitic infections known to be transmitted through sexual contact, including vaginal, anal and oral sex.

Social Determinants of Health – Social and environmental conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work, and age.

Substance Use Disorder – The continued use of a substance despite experiencing negative consequences.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is a five-year plan that identifies priorities, goals, objectives, and strategies selected to improve the health of City of Racine residents. After reviewing data from the 2022-2024 Community Health Needs Assessment, 2023 Racine County Health Rankings, and 2023 Racine Speaks, in the context of the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH), targeted populations were identified, and community stakeholders came together to identify the priorities for the CHIP using a collective impact approach. Based on these discussions, the City of Racine Public Health Department chose to work on the following focus areas: addressing social and community conditions that lead to health disparities, decreasing overdoses through harm reduction programs, and reducing the transmission of sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Objectives and implementation strategies were developed for each of these focus areas.

Focus Area 1 – Address Social and Community Conditions Leading to Health Disparities

Objective 1.1: Create a system of support to reduce the number of underhoused and homeless citizens through direct interaction with partner agencies.

Objective 1.2: Create a city where environmental hazards (e.g., poor recreational water quality, lead-based paint, radon, and other sub-standard living conditions) are promptly and equitably addressed.

Focus Area 2 – Decrease Overdoses through Harm Reduction Programs

Objective 2.1: Decrease the negative health consequences of opioid substances among residents of the City of Racine by increasing the number of participants in syringe and naloxone (NARCAN®) awareness, access, and use programs.

Objective 2.2: Increase the number of permanent, safe disposal sites for prescription drugs and controlled substances.

Focus Area 3 – Reduce the Transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Objective 3.1: Promote sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings as part of medical care for those aged 14 – 64 for the City of Racine.

Objective 3.2: Decrease the rate of reportable sexually transmitted diseases, including gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and HIV cases through awareness, education, testing, treatment, investigation, and distribution of condoms.

As this CHIP is implemented over the next five years, the City of Racine Public Health Department will monitor and evaluate progress by receiving and reviewing updates from Division Directors and partner organizations to gauge success.

VISION, MISSION, AND VALUES

The City of Racine Public Health Department has developed vision and mission statements that are reflective of strategic planning goals, inclusive of the CHIP process, and in keeping with the belief that community health is intimately tied to the environment in which individuals live.

Vision

Achieve a high quality of life for everyone within the City of Racine through vibrant partnerships that create,

- Healthy People
- Healthy Environmental Conditions
- Healthy Community

Mission

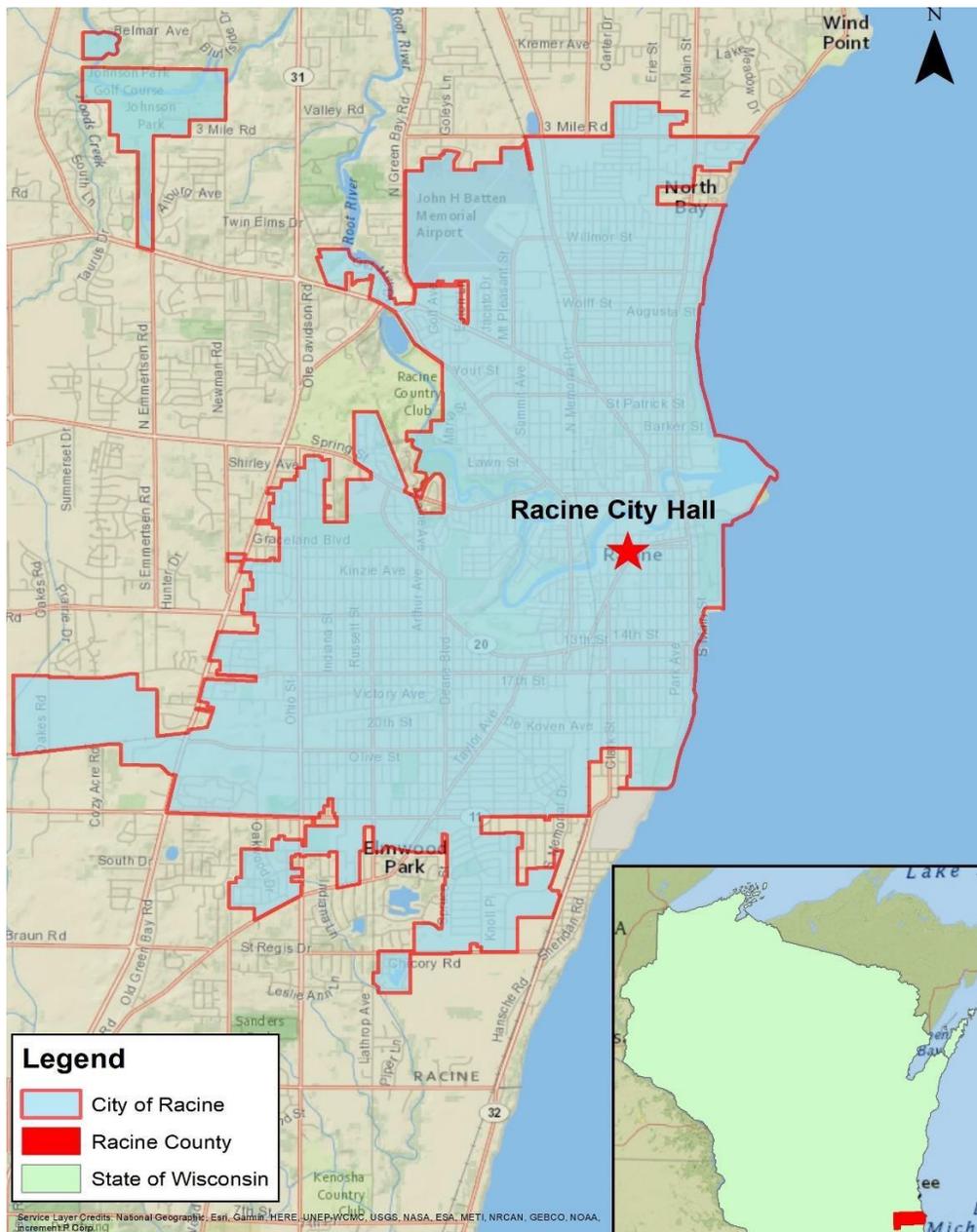
Provide comprehensive services, education, and advocacy for the protection, promotion, and improvement of community health and the environment.

Values

- **Integrity:** Ensure honesty, fairness, and ethical behavior in every service delivered.
- **Professional Excellence:** Achieve and maintain quality outcomes through continuous assessment, improvement, and training.
- **Accountability:** Take full responsibility for actions and performance.
- **Professionalism:** Promote development of highly qualified, skilled, and accountable staff.
- **Commitment to Service:** Provide excellent services unconditionally and without partiality.
- **Diversity:** Respect and understand differences, value the worth and dignity of each person and the importance of treating all people in a non-judgmental manner.
- **Accessibility:** Promote access to healthcare services and reduce disparities in health outcomes for all citizens.
- **Advocacy:** Provide leadership to promote optimal health through education and the development of public health policies and programs, raising community awareness and promoting healthy lifestyles.
- **Teamwork:** Encourage active collaboration to solve problems, make decisions, and achieve common goals.
- **Empowerment:** Create a culture that encourages people to exercise their judgment and initiative in pursuit of organizational goals.
- **Collaboration:** Build and maintain strategic alliances and work together with other organizations in order to assess and understand emerging public health needs within the community.
- **Respect:** Recognize and honor the contributions of one another in daily activities and create an environment where diversity is appreciated and encouraged.

SERVICE AREA

The City of Racine Public Health Department's direct service area includes the City of Racine (area = 15.66 square miles, 2022 population = 76,455). However, in some instances, services extend to the entire county. Examples of services provided county-wide include STI/HIV screening/treatment, operation of a sexual and reproductive health clinic, HIV case management/partner notification, childhood injury prevention and recreational water quality monitoring. Women's health services, through the Wisconsin Well Woman Program, are extended to all of Racine County as well as suburban Milwaukee County (i.e., all of Milwaukee County excluding the City of Milwaukee). Examples of city centric services include environmental health inspections of various types and municipal code implementation.



SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

Public health is not only impacted by personal behaviors such as tobacco and illicit drug use, diet, and exercise but also by the conditions into which one is born, lives, works, and ages. These conditions include income, education, employment status, food security, housing, and access to affordable health services, and are known as the Social Determinants of Health (SDOH) (Healthy People, 2020). Addressing the SDOH is one of three priority areas for Healthy People 2030.



Adapted from Office for Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (2020)

Racine County ranked 61st out of 72 counties in Wisconsin, making it one of the least healthy in the state. Out of the approximate 197,000 residents (39% City of Racine, 61% Racine County), 4.7% of adults are unemployed, 18% of children live in poverty, and 4.5% experience income inequality. Fourteen percent of individuals experienced a severe housing problem. While 92% completed high school, only 65% had some college (2023 County Health Rankings). The 2024 Racine County Community Health Survey Report supports these findings at the local level, with 23% of respondents seeking community resource support in response to economic hardship in 2024 and 12% eating less due to a lack of financial resources (food insecurity). With respect to access to health care, 7% had unmet needs in 2024 and the rate of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) exceeded both state and national averages.

The City of Racine Public Health Department considered the SDOH in formulating the 2025 – 2029 Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP), as a means of creating health equity within the City of Racine. Inequities in safe housing, food security, and access to affordable and appropriate acute and preventative care put people at a higher risk of poor mental and physical health.

Why a Community Health Improvement Plan?

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) is the second part of a two-part health improvement planning process. The first step was the completion of the 2022 and 2024 Community Health Needs Assessments (CHNA), which evaluated health status and issues impacting Racine County and the City of Racine. Representatives from a variety of organizations throughout the city and county (e.g. government, hospitals and health care providers, managed care, non-profit organizations, as well as citizens) were able to prioritize community needs based on issues identified in the CHNA to create a framework from which the focus areas of this document were crafted, many of which also conform to the CDC's Healthy People 2030 Leading Health Indicators.

The City of Racine CHIP

The City of Racine CHIP is a strategic plan to improve community health over the next five years. Community health is vital to improved quality of life, sustainability, and the economic stability of the region. The purpose of the CHIP is to develop a health improvement agenda that the City of Racine Public Health Department and partners from different sectors (e.g., health, education, community development, housing, transportation, and protective services) can use as a framework for collaboration. Comprised of three focus areas with stated objectives and strategies to accomplish them, it provides a common vision and shared approach to accomplish the goal of a healthy and vibrant community.

Focusing on the Root Causes of Health Disparities

Part of the Racine community continues to experience worse health than others. Narrowing health disparities and improving overall population health requires solutions to address the root causes of poor health (e.g., unequal allocation of power, goods, services, and societal attention). Research has increasingly shown that social and economic conditions contribute to approximately 40% of the US health status, followed by health behaviors (30%), access to clinical care (20%), and the physical environment in which we live (10%) (LA County Department of Public Health, 2020).

In brief, social and economic conditions encompassing community safety, education, employment, and income are known as social determinants of health (SDOH); collectively these can influence health status. Health behaviors include alcohol and drug use, diet and exercise, tobacco use, and sexual activity. Access to clinical care includes availability of health insurance and the ability to receive quality care, e.g., the number of physicians and other qualified health care providers per unit of population. The physical environment includes housing, air quality, transportation, drinking water quality and availability of/access to recreational outlets.

As the CHIP objectives include strategies for the City of Racine as a whole, it is critical that they are carried out in conjunction with organizations that have a commitment to equity. This will ultimately lead to a reduction in health disparities within the community. When and where possible, historically underserved or underrepresented communities will be prioritized at the time resource decisions are being designed and implemented. The CHIP will provide a mechanism to track improvements using geographic, race, age, and ethnicity data to gauge success at reducing health disparities amongst vulnerable populations to the extent possible within the construct of the plan.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR CHIP PLAN DEVELOPMENT

Four guiding principles influenced the 2025 – 2029 CHIP development process. The concepts of, 1) Collective Impact (Kania & Kramer, 2015), 2) Policy, Systems, and Environmental (PSE) Changes (Cook County Public Health, 2018), 3) Social Determinants of Health (WHO, 2024), and 4) aligning initiatives with other local, state, and/or national health improvement initiatives. The conditions of collective impact are exemplified in the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA), one of the primary local prioritization tools considered in the formulation of the three focus areas contained within the CHIP. Development of a common agenda, keeping lines of communication open, and sharing of measurements, orchestrated by the City of Racine Public Health Department (the backbone organization), will create the necessary framework for success.



(Source: Shaffer et al., 2022)

The Five Conditions of Collective Impact

Common Agenda - All participants have a shared vision for change including a common understanding of the problem and a joint approach to solving it through agreed upon actions.

Shared Measurements - Collecting data and measuring results consistently across all participants ensure efforts remain aligned and participants hold each other accountable.

Mutually Reinforcing Activities - Participant activities must be differentiated while still being coordinated through a mutually reinforcing plan of action.

Continuous Communication - Consistent and open communication is needed across the many players to build trust, assure mutual objectives, and create common motivation.

Backbone Support - Creating and managing a collective impact requires a separate organization(s) with staff and a specific set of skills to serve as the backbone for the entire initiative and coordinate participating organizations and agencies.

(Source: Kania, Kramer & Hanleybrown, 2012)

2024 – 2028 CHIP TIMELINE

Community Health Improvement Plan Timeline

September 2023 – January 2024	CHIP Preplanning Discussions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ascension Wisconsin • Aurora Health Care • City of Racine Public Health Dept. • Health Care Network, Inc. • Racine County Health Division • United Way of Racine County
October 2023 - January 2024	Community Partner Meetings
January 17, 2024	Internal Workgroup Meeting #1 Priorities Defined & Goals Selected Began Selection of Key Measures/Strategies
January 29 – April 16, 2024	Online Community Health Survey Administered
February 8, 2024	2023 – 2027 State Health Improvement Plan Implementation Guide Goes Live on the WI DHS Website
February 15 – March 25, 2024	Key Informant Interviews
February 16 – March 5, 2024	Community Health Survey Telephone Interviews Conducted
February 29, 2024	Internal Workgroup Meeting #2 Continued Strategy Selection
March 1, 2024	CHIP Focus Area Draft Submitted to Internal Workgroup for Review/Approval
March 20, 2024	CHIP Focus Areas Amended
April 2024	Development of CHIP Document Began
June 2024	2024 Community Health Assessment Published
February 2025	CHIP Finalized and Published

The following resources comprise the primary background information considered in the development of the City of Racine Public Health Department 2025 – 2029 CHIP.

1. 2024 Community Health Assessment

The 2024 Community Health Assessment was commissioned by Ascension Wisconsin, Aurora Health Care, City of Racine Public Health Department, Health Care Network Inc, Racine County Public Health Division, and the United Way of Racine County. The purpose was to provide the coalition of health agencies with an updated status of the health of Racine County residents. The primary objectives of the assessment, conducted by JKV Research, LLC, was to:

- Gather behavioral and lifestyle habits from the adult population.
- Gather behavioral and lifestyle habits of children (<18 y.o.) from their primary caregivers.
- Gather data on risk factors and existing conditions within the adult population
- Compare newly collected data to previous data, when available.
- Compare Racine data to similar state and national metrics, as well as Healthy People 2030 goals.

A total of 500 randomized telephone interviews, conducted by Qlarity Access, were completed. Data was compiled and the final report reviewed prior to CHIP development.

2. 2024 Racine County Online Community Health Surveys

In addition to the telephone interviews, an online community health survey was also commissioned by Ascension Wisconsin, Aurora Health Care, City of Racine Public Health Department, Health Care Network Inc., Racine County Public Health Division, and the United Way of Racine County. The survey tool was developed using Survey Monkey and marketed throughout Racine County by JKV Research, LLC.

3. 2024 Key Informant Interviews

Key informant interviews were also commissioned by Ascension Wisconsin, Aurora Health Care, City of Racine Public Health Department, Health Care Network Inc., Racine County Public Health Division, and the United Way of Racine County and conducted by JKV Research, LLC, as a supplement to the community health general population telephone survey and convenience sample online survey. A total of 18 key informants, representing diverse sectors, participated in face-to-face interviews.

4. 2023 – 2027 State of Wisconsin Health Improvement Plan (SHIP)

The 2023 – 2027 SHIP also began and ended with hundreds of community conversations focused on understanding what factors impact the health of Wisconsinites and how they experience those factors (<https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/publications/p01791-2023.pdf>).

FOCUS AREA SELECTION

Based on a review of the successes and remaining challenges from the 2018 – 2022 Community Health Improvement Plan, as well as data presented in Healthy People 2030, the 2023 – 2027 State of Wisconsin Health Improvement Plan, the 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA), Racine County Online Community Health Survey and Key Informant Interviews, attendees of the internal CHIP committee met to discuss options for the focus areas of the 2025 – 2029 CHIP.

Five areas of concern, based on the 2024 CHA, were brought forward for consideration:

1. Social and Community Conditions (Inclusive of Homelessness and Environmental Hazards)
 - Safe and affordable housing was reported as a top social issue in Racine County
2. Overdose and Harm Reduction
 - Alcohol, drug/substance use, and tobacco/vaping were reported as a top health condition issue by CHA respondents
3. Reduction in the Number of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)
 - Reproductive health, sexual health, and STIs were included in the 2024 Key Informant Interviews
4. Food Insecurity
 - Access to healthy foods was reported as a top economic issue by CHA respondents
5. Prevention of/Reduction in Community Violence
 - Community violence and crime were reported as a top social issue by CHA respondents; some of whom stated they feared for their personal safety in the past year

While all worthy of attention, group consensus within the City of Racine Public Health Department determined that the field should be narrowed to those areas with the potential to have the greatest community impact and to which programmatic capabilities were best aligned for the purpose of community health improvement plan development. The **three (3) focus areas** selected were:

- 1. Address Social and Community Conditions that Lead to Health Disparities (Inclusive of Homelessness and Environmental Hazards)**
- 2. Decrease Overdoses through Harm Reduction Programs (Targeting Opioids)**
- 3. Reduce the Transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs)**

Recreational water quality was included in “social and community conditions”, along with housing (radon and lead-based paint). The Department of Community Safety along with law enforcement are the primary departments collaborating to end violence with the health department in a supportive role. Once the final focus areas were selected, targeted objectives and strategies to achieve them were developed. These form the basis of the 2025 – 2029 CHIP.



Racine County Health Needs Assessment

- Social & Community Conditions
 - Safe & Affordable Housing
- Alcohol, Drug & Substance Abuse
- Access to Healthy Foods
- Community Violence & Crime

State of Wisconsin Health Improvement Plan (2023 - 27) Priority Areas

- Social & Community Conditions
 - Healthy Housing
- Physical, Mental, & Systemic Safety
 - Protection from Bodily & Psychological Effects of Interpersonal Violence
- Mental & Emotional Health and Well-being
 - Substance Abuse Treatment & Prevention

Federal Healthy People 2030 Goals

- Promote Healthy & Safe Home Environments
- Reduce Drug/Alcohol Use, Misuse & Addiction
- Reduce STIs and Complications & Increase Access to Quality Care
- Promote Healthy Eating & Make Nutritious Foods Available
- Prevent Violence & Related Injuries/Death

The City of Racine Public Health Department CHIP focus areas were designed to complement and build upon local, state, and national initiatives already in place to improve the health of the residents of the City of Racine. **Examples of local, state, and national plans (top to bottom) and their focus areas are depicted above.** Rather than conflicting with or duplicating the work of others, the objectives and strategies associated with the 2025 – 2029 CHIP focus areas were developed to work in concert with existing programs, task forces, coalitions, and initiatives. For example, focus areas related to substance use, abuse, treatment, and prevention appear in local, state, and federal plans, as well City of Racine Public Health Department Focus Area #2.

Focus Area 1 – Address Social & Community Conditions Leading to Health Disparities

Poor housing has negative effects on the community including exposure to greater personal and environmental risks (e.g., lead exposure). Inadequately housed individuals often have less access to health care. Homelessness, at the extreme end of the housing spectrum, is a social problem that increases the cost of public services such as health care and law enforcement which can result in a breakdown in community life and create social barriers. Exposure to environmental hazards can result in emotional stress, behavioral issues, academic challenges, and financial difficulties. Inadequate housing, lack of financial stability, and exposure to environmental hazards/ are often co-experienced and lead to significant health disparities.

Objectives

Objective 1.1: Create a system of support to reduce the number of underhoused and homeless citizens through direct interaction with partner agencies.

Strategies:

- Assess housing instability and homelessness through client encounters and referrals.
- Address housing affordability, food insecurity, and community violence through community partnerships.
- Increase access to public health services.



Objective 1.2: Create a city where environmental hazards (e.g., lead-based paint, radon, and poor recreational water quality) are promptly and equitably addressed.

Strategy:

- Increase the number of children under six years that have received a blood lead test.
- Increase community knowledge and awareness of radon.
- Increase community knowledge and awareness of benefits of outdoor recreation and the risks related to poor water quality.

Social and Community Conditions

Safe and Affordable Housing

The State of Wisconsin Health Improvement Plan identifies increasing the supply of safe and affordable housing that meets the needs of the community as a priority.

64%

of homes in the City of Racine were built prior to 1960 and may contain materials that are detrimental to residents' health

16%

of survey respondents identified safe and affordable housing as a top social or economic issue

Childhood Lead Poisoning

There is no safe level of lead in the blood. Childhood lead poisoning is a prominent issue, with most elevated blood lead results related to older housing stock containing lead hazards such as peeling or chipping paint.

54

children in the City of Racine had a venous blood lead test result of 3.5 µg/dL or greater in 2024

160+

lead-related property inspections completed in 2023

Radon

Radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and is responsible for about 21,000 lung cancer deaths every year.

>280

Radon test kits distributed by the City of Racine Public Health Department since 2018

41%

of homes in Racine County experienced dangerous levels of radon in 2024

Recreational Water

Water resource management, environmental planning, habitat restoration, and laboratory technology contribute to the constant improvement of Racine's beaches.

8

days with water quality advisories or closures at North Beach and/or Zoo Beach in 2024

50,000+

native plants planted at Sam Myers Beach since 2015



City of Racine Public Health Department

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Focus Area 2 – Decrease Overdoses through Harm Reduction Programs

Prescription drug misuse, and illicit drug use, has devastating impacts on individual and family health, economic status, criminal activities/violence, homelessness, and social exclusion. Individuals with substance use disorders require affordable and timely treatment options, as well as community support.

Safe disposal of prescription drugs and controlled substances is both a human and environmental health concern. Prescription drugs that are no longer needed and left unsecured can be misused by someone who might use the drugs recreationally or accidentally ingest them. Flushing unwanted medications down the toilet or disposing of them in weekly solid waste collections does not remove or inactivate these compounds.

Objectives

Objective 2.1: Decrease the negative health consequences of opioid substance abuse among adults in the City of Racine by increasing the number of participants in syringe access and naloxone (NARCAN®) awareness programs

Strategies:

- Focus on increasing utilization of harm reduction programs.
- Increase community awareness and education on substance abuse through media campaigns and Narcan® distribution.



Objective 2.2: Increase the number of permanent, safe disposal sites for prescription drugs and controlled substances

Strategies:

- Increase community awareness and educate youth and adults about the dangers of sharing prescription drugs with other people, securing their prescription medications, proper procedures for the safe disposal of unused medications, unintentional poisoning, and drug overdoses, and about the 24-hour helpline number for the Wisconsin Poison Control System.
- Increase the availability and use of medication take-back programs, in order to reduce the availability of unused and expired prescription drugs in the community.

Overdose and Harm Reduction

Opioid Use in the City of Racine

Opioid use disorder (OUD) is a chronic disease that can affect anyone. People who experience OUD are often stigmatized, which makes seeking assistance and accessing treatment difficult.

42

opioid overdose deaths in 2023

92%

of opioid deaths since 2020 involved fentanyl

264% ↑

in fentanyl related deaths from 2020-2023

16 - 76

age range of people who experienced a drug-related death from 2020-2023

Harm Reduction Efforts

Evidence-based strategies engage people who use drugs with services and supplies to decrease negative health consequences and save lives.

>3,400

used syringes collected and disposed of properly in 2024

12

Drop Boxes throughout Racine County allow for safe medication disposal

> 6,300

Syringe Access Program encounters since 2014

>1,700

Narcan Kits distributed in 2024

The Harm Reduction Program meets people where they are by serving individuals at the Racine City Hall location and through three public health vending machines (PHVMs) at the Corinne Reid-Owens Transit Center, the Racine Public Library (outdoor machine available 24/7), and the Dr. John Bryant Community Center.



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REDUCE THE TRANSMISSION OF SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS

Focus Area 3 – Reduce the Transmission of Sexually Transmitted Infections

Sexually transmitted infections (STI) have severe social and economic consequences including violence, illness, infertility, cancers and pregnancy complications. The rates of STIs and teen births in the City of Racine are higher than both the state of Wisconsin and national incident rates per 100,000 individuals. In 2021, Racine County had 632 new cases of chlamydia per 100,000 people, well above the state average of 472 and national average of 496.

Objectives

Objective 3.1: Promote sexually transmitted infection (STI) screenings as part of medical care for those aged 14 – 64 for the City of Racine.

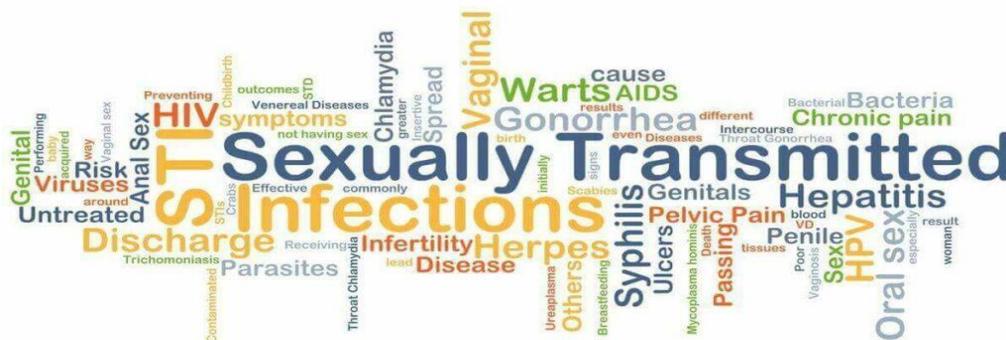
Strategy:

- Promote City of Racine Public Health Department Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic services to health care providers and partner agencies.
- Provide information about contraception and protection against sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in community settings.

Objective 3.2: Decrease the rate of reportable sexually transmitted diseases, including gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), and HIV cases through awareness, education, and distribution of condoms.

Strategies:

- Promote and encourage STI education, condom use, STI testing, STI treatment, and counseling for patients and their partners.
- Expand access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) by increasing availability.
- Provide condoms free of charge in community and school-based settings, including public health vending machines.
- Ensure people living with HIV are linked to and retained in care through HIV partner services.



Reducing the Transmission of STIs

STIs in the City of Racine

The rates of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the City of Racine are more than double the rate of Wisconsin overall.

1,122

cases of Chlamydia, Gonorrhea, and Syphilis in the city of Racine (2024)

10

new HIV cases in the City of Racine (2024)

81%

of all Chlamydia cases were in the 10-29 year-old age group (2023)

12-75

age range of people who were diagnosed with an STI (2024)

STI Prevention Efforts

Providing non-stigmatizing access to free or low-cost sexual health services is a proven approach to reducing STIs.

630

appointments for STI testing and treatment through the Sexual and Reproductive Health Clinic in 2024

13+

community locations offering FREE condoms, supplied by the Public Health Department

12,000+

FREE condoms distributed in 2024



NEXT STEPS

Over the next four years, external and internal workgroups, comprised of stakeholders and community partners, will work together to accomplish the objectives for the three focus areas through application of the strategies laid out in this document. Throughout the duration of this CHIP (2025 – 2029), the City of Racine Public Health Department will be responsible for monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of policies, programs/procedures, and services directed at improving the health of City of Racine residents, as well as county-wide and southeast Wisconsin residents as programmatic reach and capability allow.

Evaluation and Monitoring Actions

- 1. Annual Review.** The City of Racine internal workgroup and/or project collaborators will review the strategies and make revisions, if needed, based on progress achieved.
- 2. Annual Report.** An annual progress report will be generated to provide updates to key stakeholders within the community.
- 3. Public Facing Dashboard.** Annual updates will be made to the City of Racine Public Health Department Dashboard to reflect progress to date and provide key information to the public regarding the focus areas.

By the end of 2029, the City of Racine Public Health Department will complete the next Community Health Assessment (2029 – 2033). New community surveys and key informant interviews will be held, and the data generated compared to the information utilized in the preparation of this document in order to gauge plan progress during the current interval. Based on these assessments, consensus driven new priority areas will be selected.

The City of Racine Public Health Department wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their contributions to the 2025 – 2029 Community Health Improvement Plan.

Cory Mason, Mayor of Racine

Racine City Council

Alderman Jeff Coe, District 1
Alderman Mollie Jones, District 2
Alderman Olivia Turquoise Davis, District 3
Alderman David Maack, District 4
Alderman Melissa Kaprelian, District 5
Alderman Sandy Weidner, District 6
Alderman Maurice Horton, District 7
Alderman Cinthia Esqueda, District 8
Alderman Terry McCarthy, District 9
Alderman Sam Peete, District 10
Alderman Mary Land, District 11
Alderman Henry Perez, District 12
Alderman Renee Kelly, District 13
Alderman Marlo Harmon, District 14
Alderman Cory Sebastian, District 15

City of Racine Board of Health

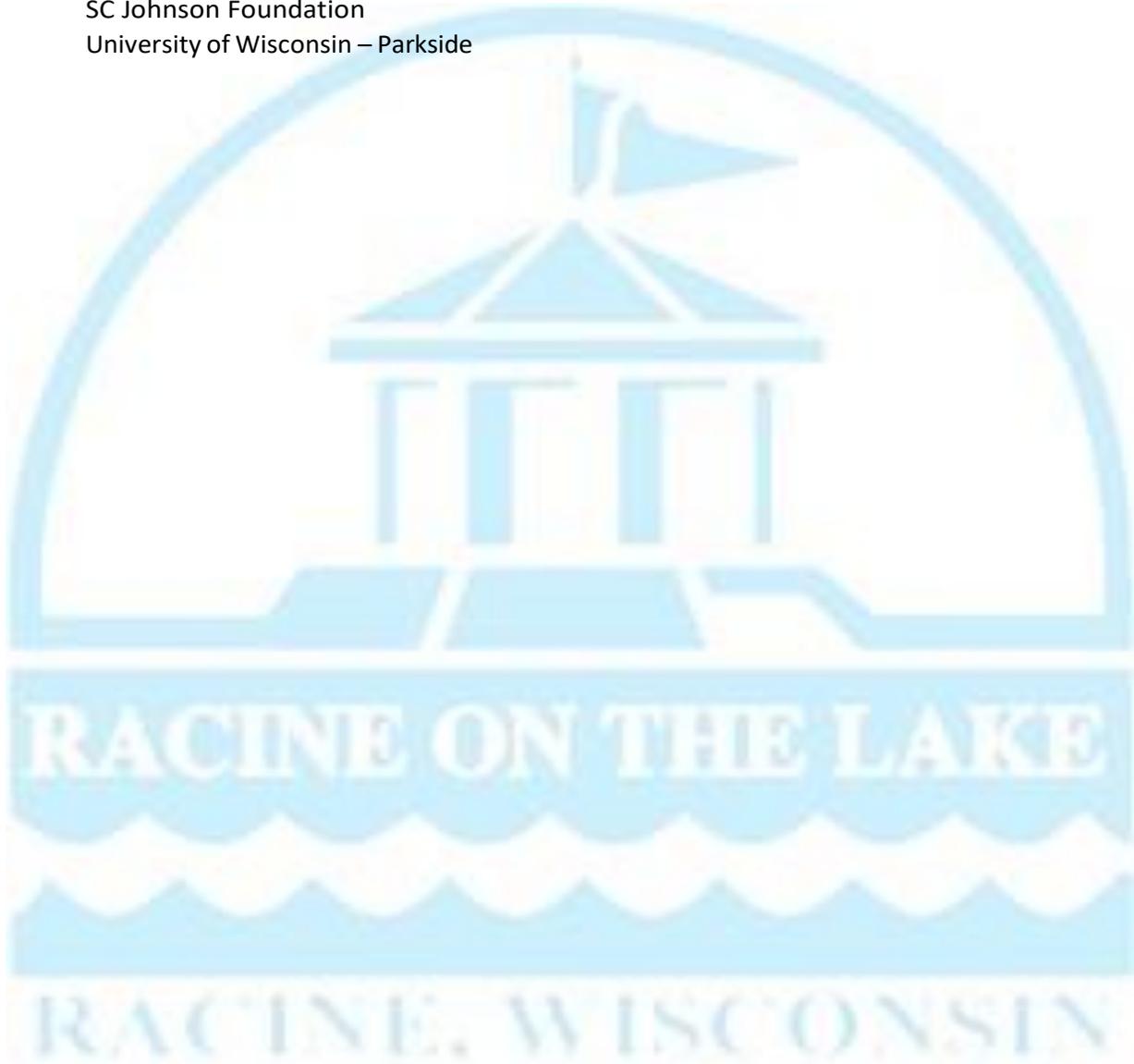
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Jaya Phookan, MD
Laura Martinez
Betty Brown

Community Partners (via Personal Interviews)

Ascension Wisconsin – All Saints
Advocate Aurora Health Care
Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin
City of Racine Fire Department
Gateway Technical College
Greening Greater Racine
Health & Nutrition Services of Racine, Inc.
Homeless Assistance Leadership Organization (HALO)
Racine Police Department
Racine Area Chamber of Commerce

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Racine County Veteran's Services
Racine Family YMCA
Racine Interfaith Coalition
Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency
Racine Sheriff's Department
Racine Unified School District
SC Johnson Foundation
University of Wisconsin – Parkside



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