

STATE OF KANSAS)
WYANDOTTE COUNTY)) SS
CITY OF KANSAS CITY, KS)

SPECIAL SESSION, THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 2023

The Unified Government Commission of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, met in Special Session, Thursday, April 27, 2023, with eight members present: Bynum, Commissioner At-Large First District; Burroughs, Commissioner At-Large Second District; McKiernan, Commissioner Second District; Ramirez, Commissioner Third District; Kane, Commissioner Fifth District (left the meeting at 5:37 p.m.); Markley, Commissioner Sixth District; Stites, Commissioner Seventh District; and Garner, Mayor/CEO, presiding. Johnson, Commissioner Fourth District; Davis, Commissioner Eighth District; and Townsend, Commissioner First District; were absent. The following officials were also in attendance: David Johnston, County Administrator; Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator; Patrick Waters, Acting Chief Legal Counsel; Brett Deichler, Unified Government Clerk; Jeff Fisher, Executive Director of Public Works; Reginald Lindsey, Budget Director; Susan Caman, CHIP Coordinator in the Health Department; Blake Hensley, Health Department; Ambur Banner, Acting Health Department Director; Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist in the Health Department; and Hannah Connor, Social Epidemiologist in the Health Department.

Mayor Garner said before I call this meeting to order, I want to announce that we have individuals attending remotely as well as on-site. All participants joining by phone should mute their phones when not speaking to avoid background noise. During the meeting, please make sure that you announce yourself by name and title every time you speak so the public that is observing knows who is speaking. This is critical given the number of remote participants and is current guidance from the Kansas Attorney General's Office. When you speak, make sure you speak clearly into the microphone at a tone where everyone can hear you so there can be an accurate capturing for the record.

MAYOR GARNER called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: McKiernan, Ramirez, Kane, Markley, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs, Garner.

NOTICE OF SPECIAL SESSION of the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, to be conducted in a hybrid format in the fifth floor conference room of the Municipal Office Building on Thursday, April 27, 2023, at 5:00 p.m. regarding a Board of Health Update on the Community Health Assessment.

CONSENT TO MEETING of the governing body of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas, accepting service of the foregoing notice, waiving all and any irregularities in such service and in such notice, and consent and agree that we, the governing body, shall meet at the time and place therein specified and for the purpose therein stated.

Mayor Garner said tonight we have one item on our agenda and it's an update on the Community Health Assessment. I'll recognize Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, for the presentation.

Alan Howze, Assistant County Administrator, said we have this evening a presentation on the Community Health Assessment from the Wyandotte County Health Department. While there's been a lot of focus on COVID over the last couple of years, in the background the Community Health Improvement Plan was also running full speed ahead, which focuses on the pressing health needs of the community. Now that coming to the end of that cycle, we started new with the Community Health Assessment, which as you'll hear, leads into the Community Health Improvement Plan. You'll also see in this plan that there's a continued focus on equity that really sharpened during COVID and it's continued now into the Community Health Assessment and the work of the Health Department.

I just want to say an appreciation for all the staff that put a lot of time into creating this Community Health Assessment and all that went into it. We'll have 45 minutes, well 40 now, with a lot of content to cover, so I will turn it over to Amber Banner, the Acting Director, and team to run us through this.

Amber Banner, Acting Health Department Director, said myself along with several of our Health Department staff will be presenting to you on Wyandotte County's Community Health Assessment and its results. Thank you for having us this evening.

April 27, 2023

Today's Presentation



For today's presentation we're going to walk you through a bit of an overview of the CHA process itself. We will also talk a little bit about the methodology and then we'll roll into some health outcomes. We will also talk about the community health concerns and barriers, and then we will close up with a 2024-2028 CHIP Development process.

What is a Community Health Assessment (CHA)?

- A comprehensive assessment of the health of the county that:
 - Collects data from a variety of sources
 - National data (census, BRFSS, etc.)
 - Community members
 - Partners
 - Gains input from community members and partners to better understand the community's health
 - Guide work of the health department, community partners, and local government
- Conducted every five years, required for PHAB accreditation

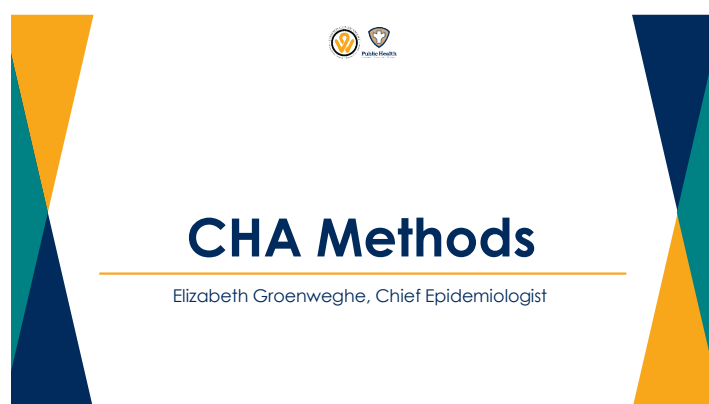


I would like to start by level setting a little bit just with what the Community Health Assessment is. It is essentially an assessment of how healthy our community is and how our county actually is living whether it is as healthy as it could be, or if there are some areas of improvement. So, it's determined through a variety of data sources and methods, so both qualitative like through focus groups or community listening sessions and then quantitative through items like surveys.

As part of this assessment we also want to leverage some national data, so we also use the census and we also use what we call the BRFSS, which is the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System. We collect all of these different data to better understand and gain a picture of the comprehensive health of the community.

We conduct the Community Health Assessment every five years and it is a requirement to remain accredited through the Public Health Accreditation Board. One of the best things I can

say that our Community Health Assessment does is give voice to the community residents so their feedback really helps to inform us of the health barriers and health concerns and social health needs that they experience. We also believe that this rich data is important for all UG Departments to become aware of and familiar with as each UG Department's work impacts the lives and, therefore, the health of each and every resident in Wyandotte County, so it's a very nice guide for ensuring that health remains a lens in all policies. Now, I'll turn it over to Elizabeth.



Elizabeth Groenweghe, Chief Epidemiologist, said I will be introducing you to some of the information that we found throughout our Community Health Assessment or CHA for short. In public health we love our acronyms and so you'll hear us use the terms CHA and CHIP a lot throughout this presentation, so just know that the CHA is the Community Health Assessment and our CHIP is our Community Health Improvement Plan.

One of the most important things about our CHA is that it is founded in data.

How the CHA was created

- **Primary Data**
 - Community Concerns Survey
 - Community Forums
 - Focus groups
- **Secondary Data**
 - Collection of available community health and demographic data



One of the most important parts of a CHA is that you're looking at all of the data. It's very much an objective look at the overall health status of the county. We looked at two different kinds of

data that founded this report. The first is Primary Data and then Secondary Data. Primary Data is data that we collect as an organization for our utilization and so we collected three different kinds of Primary Data; a community concerns survey, which I'll talk a bit more about, as well as four community forums that were held throughout Wyandotte County in each of the different parts of Wyandotte County. We also have focus groups that we worked with some of our community partners to hold and we held about a dozen of those focus groups.

We also used a lot of Secondary Data as Amber alluded to in her last slide. The Secondary Data is data that's collected by other organizations that we then utilize. There's too many Secondary Data sources to name them all right now, but some of those examples like the U.S. Census Bureau, CDC data sources, things like that have all been incorporated throughout this report.

CHA Timeline

Activity	Timeframe
Survey Mailed Out	June 2022
Focus Groups Convened	August 2022-October 2022
Survey Closed	September 2022
Community Forums Convened	September 2022-November 2022
Data Analysis and Report Writing	November 2022-March 2023
CHA Report Published	April 2023
CHIP Process Begins	May 2023



I wanted to quickly show you what the timeline of our CHA development looks like really because I want to give you all kind of an idea of how extensive this process is and how time-consuming it is. This is really an intense detailed process that we've undergone here at the Health Department to make sure that we are giving you and the community the best data available.

We actually first started developing our CHA back in the winter of last year, so like February 2022, but a lot of the data collection started in June and throughout the summer months. We collected survey data, which I'll talk a bit more about in the next few slides, throughout the summer and then later in the summer and fall we had some of those community forums and focus groups I talked about. The winter months were really focused on the data analysis, which is quite time-intensive. A lot of people think that Epidemiologists are just wizards that whip up all this data and then poof, there it is, but it's actually pretty time-consuming to put all that data together

into a report and then we're pleased to share that yesterday the full Community Health Assessment went live on our website as well.

One of the biggest data components in our CHA was the Community Concern Survey. We worked with an organization called the ETC Institute, which is located in Johnson County, to survey our community and so we knew from the beginning that there were two things that were really important for this survey. The first is that it is a random sample. Quite often you see people utilizing kind of a convenience sampling where you just share a survey out and whoever answers, answers, but we wanted this to be random so we could try to hear from all voices in Wyandotte County. Secondly, we wanted this to be a representative sample, so that means representative of the diversity within Wyandotte County.

Respondent Demographics

- 1,150 total survey respondents
- Representative of Wyandotte County levels of:
 - Zip codes
 - Age groups
 - Income
 - Education
 - Race
- Not representative of households with children
 - Our sample: 21%



We all know that Wyandotte County is very diverse and so we want to make sure that the feedback we're getting represents that diversity and so it can be a little tricky to make sure you're getting a representative sample, but we are happy to share that the survey we conducted is representative of Wyandotte County's different zip codes, age groups, incomes, education levels, and race and ethnicity. The only place we fell a little bit short on a representative sample is households that have children. We had about 21% of households with children that responded to our survey. It's closer to a third overall in Wyandotte County and it's hard to survey households with children because they're usually very busy with their children. We try to make up for that in other ways, but overall we're really happy to share that this is a really representative sample that we have.

Top Health Concerns and Barriers

Health concerns

1. Community Violence (714)
2. Drug Misuse (446)
3. Mental Health (437)
4. Other chronic diseases (363)
5. Poor nutrition or obesity (353)
6. Air pollution/environmental health (185)

Health barriers

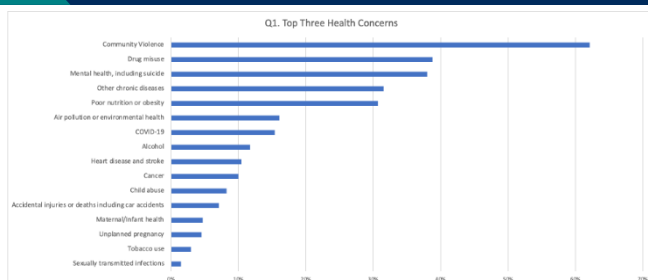
1. Health care access (549)
2. Employment and income (501)
3. Affordable housing or homelessness (488)
4. Violence or crime (434)
5. Health Literacy (328)
6. Racism or other discrimination (217)



The kind of two guiding ways that we decided what to focus on for our Community Health Assessment is the first two questions we ask in the survey. The first question that we asked is for people to identify the three biggest health concerns that they have in Wyandotte County and then the second question we ask is what are the three biggest health barriers in Wyandotte County. I'll show you graphs in the next few slides that break these results down further, but here are the top six and I think a lot of—I see people already kind of nodding because a lot of this is things that we've already been somewhat aware of, but the health concerns that came up as the top six were community violence, drug misuse, mental health, chronic diseases, poor nutrition and obesity, and air pollution/environmental health concerns.

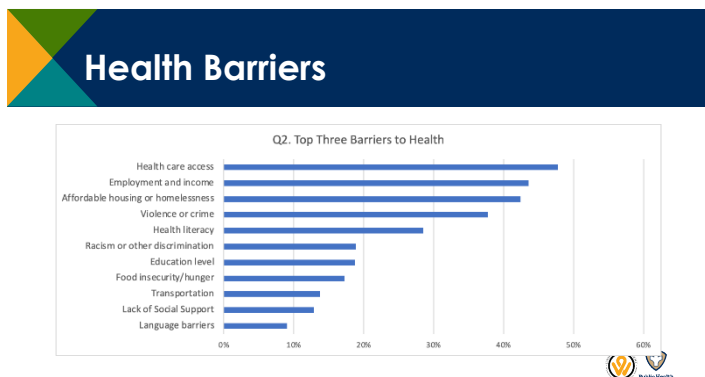
Then, those biggest health barriers were health care access, employment and income, affordable housing, violence and crime, health literacy, and racism or other forms of discrimination.

Health Concerns



I'm going to go through this slide real quick. I know it's a little blurry and hard to read the text, but what I really want to point out here is that very top bar where you see that over 60% of people

responded, that's community violence, so by far what our survey found is that community violence is a big concern in our community.



This is that barriers question broken down and, again, we see some clear leading barriers here. Health care access, employment, affordable housing, and then again violence.



I'm going to focus a bit now on looking at the overall health outcomes in Wyandotte County, so really our report starts really broadly and then gets down more into some specific topics like the ones I showed you before.



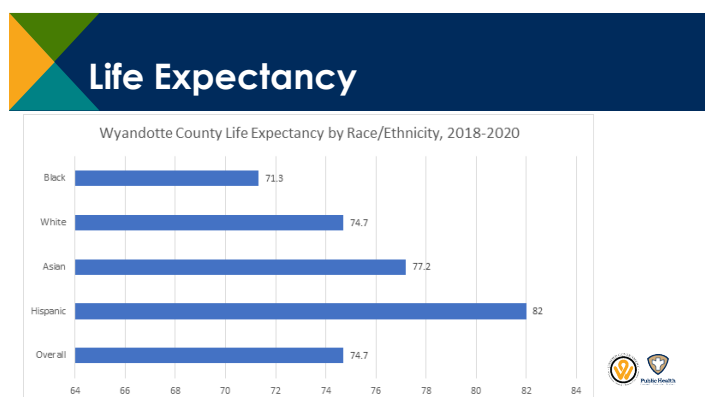
We wanted to start with just talking about what the overall health outcomes look like in Wyandotte County and to test that we looked at a variety of secondary data sources. One of those is called County Health Rankings. What County Health Rankings does, it's an impartial organization that looks across the United States at every state within the United States and ranks the health outcomes and health factors for each county in that state. So, unfortunately, there is a lot of room for improvement in Wyandotte County in terms of our overall health status. Out of the 104 counties ranked in Kansas, Wyandotte County ranks 103rd and then 104 out of 104 for health factors.

If you're interested, you can go to this link and read the full report of County Health rankings to kind of see what things factor into our ranking, but overall, there is a lot that we need to work on as a county to improve health.

Rank	Overall	White non-Hispanic	Black non-Hispanic	Hispanic
1	Heart disease	Heart disease	Heart disease	COVID-19
2	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer	Cancer
3	COVID-19	COVID-19	COVID-19	Heart disease
4	All other accidents	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	Homicide	Homicide
5	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	All other accidents	Stroke	All other accidents

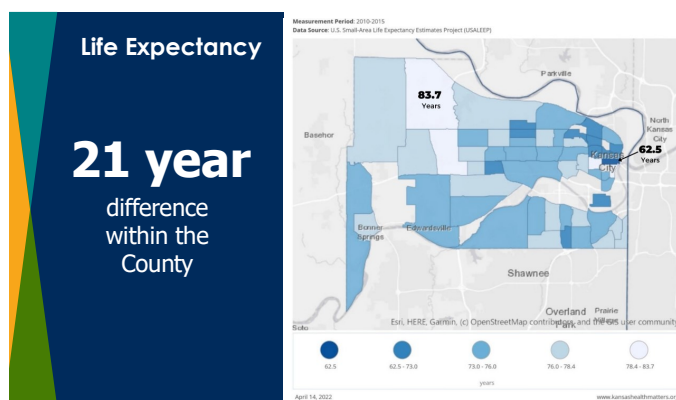
We also looked at secondary data showing causes of death in Wyandotte County because when you look at causes of death, you might be able to see places where you can intervene or prevent death and so that far left column there has the overall leading causes of death in Wyandotte County; heart disease, cancer, COVID, accidents, and chronic lower respiratory diseases.

We've broken it down by race and ethnicity because that also tells a story of what's going on in our community. I especially wanted to highlight those last two columns. You can see that the leading cause of death, well, the number four causes of death for our Hispanic and Black non-Hispanic residents is homicide. That is not one of the top five or even top ten causes of death for our White non-Hispanic residents. I also wanted to highlight for our Hispanic residents, COVID was the leading cause of death and, unfortunately, I think a lot of us saw that play out in real time when we saw the disparities that were happening throughout COVID.



We also looked at life expectancy data. For those that aren't familiar with life expectancy, it's a measure that determines how long someone is expected to live at the time of their birth. It's kind of a complicated calculation that I won't go into, but it depends a lot on geography and the factors around where that person is born.

The overall life expectancy in Wyandotte County is 74.7 years, but again, we see some disparities here. In particular, I wanted to call out that for our Black residents the life expectancy is 71.3 years.



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When you break it down by census tracts in Wyandotte County, you see some even more stark disparities. So, there's a 21-year difference between the census tract with the lowest life expectancy and the highest life expectancy in Wyandotte County. So you can see that 62.5 years on one of those census tracts is close to downtown and then in the western part of the county it's 83.7. I think all of us in this room know that this is about a 20 minute car ride, so I think it's really significant to note that this is not a big geographical distance that we're seeing these disparities. It's really quite close together that a lot of factors are happening to create these disparities.



Moving on in a little more detail, I'm going to review some of the health concerns that were identified by our residents and these are the concerns that I reviewed previously in our slides about the top concerns identified in our survey.

Community Violence

#1 health concern

- **62%** of Wyandotte County survey respondents said that violence was one of their top three biggest health concerns
- **38%** said that violence is also a barrier to health



Starting with the number one health concern according to residents that we surveyed, community violence. Sixty-two percent of our survey respondents said that this was one of their top three biggest health concerns. Thirty-Eight percent also said that this is a barrier to being healthy in Wyandotte County.

Community Violence

- **56%** of survey respondent felt extremely or very safe in their neighborhoods **during the day**
- **40%** of survey respondent said they feel very or extremely safe in their neighborhoods **at night**
- Homicide is the leading cause of death for residents ages 15-44 years



We also asked about safety in our survey and about half of the people said that they felt safe during the daytime, but less than half, only 40%, said that they felt safe at night. So, there's definitely perceived concerns about safety in Wyandotte County. I think it's also really important to call out that homicide is a leading cause of death and if you're 15 to 44 years old in Wyandotte County, homicide is the number one leading cause of death, more than suicide or overdoses or cancer, any other cause of death for our residents of that age group, homicides is the leading cause.

Substance Misuse

#2 biggest health concern

- Wyandotte County **overdoses have continuously increased since 2018**
- There are currently **no in-patient facilities** for Substance Use Disorders in Wyandotte County



The number two concern identified by residents is substance misuse and as many of us know overdoses have continued to sharply increase in the last few years and, unfortunately, there are currently no in-patient facilities to treat substance use disorder in Wyandotte County.

Mental Health

#3 biggest health concern

- Majority of respondents indicated they **either have a mental illness or have someone in their household** with a mental illness.
- COVID had a significant impact on mental health



Mental health was the number three biggest health concern. The majority of our survey respondents said that they have a mental health—or a mental illness or someone in their household has one. We also heard so many stories across the community about how COVID had a significant impact on mental health.

Mental Health

- High demand for **mental health services**
 - #1 need identified by community to improve health in Wyandotte (31% of survey respondents)
- **Accessing mental healthcare** is challenging:
 - In survey, 33% of those who had a mental health concern were unable to access care
 - 9% could not afford care
 - 7% did not know where to look for services
 - 5% said waitlists for care were too long



We also heard a lot from community members that there's a high demand for mental health services across the county. It was identified as the number one way that the county could improve overall health in Wyandotte County and we heard a lot about how difficult accessing mental health care is in Wyandotte County. Thirty-three percent of people that we surveyed said that they could not access care for their mental health concerns and the biggest reasons were affordability, they didn't know where to go, or they said wait lists were too long to access care.

Chronic Diseases and Obesity

- Chronic diseases were **#4 biggest health concern** and obesity **#5 biggest concern**
- In 2020, obesity rate in Wyandotte County was **46%**
- **32%** reported no leisure-time physical activity
- Chronic diseases like **heart disease, diabetes, and kidney disease** are leading causes of death in Wyandotte County



Finally, chronic diseases and obesity was the number four biggest health concern and number five, biggest health concern in Wyandotte County. Our obesity rate in Wyandotte County is a remarkable 46% and in addition a secondary data shows that 32% of our residents report no form of leisure physical activity. You know chronic diseases such as heart disease, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease are all also leading causes of death in Wyandotte County.

Health Barriers

Hannah Conner, Social Epidemiologist

From here, I'm going to turn it over to my fellow Epidemiologist, Hannah Connor, and she's going to talk in a bit more detail about some of the health barriers that we identified in our assessment.

Healthcare Access

#1 health barrier

- **19%** of survey respondents had a problem getting healthcare in the last year
- **18.6%** of Wyandotte County residents do not have health insurance
 - 6% of White residents
 - 16% of Black residents
 - 36% of Hispanic residents



Hannah Connors, Social Epidemiologist in the Health Department, said I'm going to cover more about those barriers that we saw on slide 10. The number one health barrier that was identified by Wyandotte County respondents in our survey was healthcare access. Healthcare access can include a lot of things including affordability, quality of care, convenience and health insurance coverage. Without proper access to health care, health issues cannot be prevented or managed and poor health outcomes become more likely. Nineteen percent of survey respondents had a problem getting healthcare in the last year and we'll dive into why more in the next slide.

However, before we move on, I want to point out that nearly 19% of Wyandotte County residents do not have health insurance and we know this from secondary data. Also, within that number there are some hidden disparities. Only 6% of White residents are uninsured where 16 and 36% of Black and Hispanic residents respectively are uninsured.

Healthcare Access

- Top reasons for delaying care
 - 23% could not afford **cost**
 - 21% could not get **appointment soon enough**
 - 13% because they **did not have insurance**
- Top challenges in obtaining medications
 - 24% **cost of medication**
 - 15% medication **not covered** by insurance



To dig into that first point on the last slide a little bit more, the top reasons for delaying care were cost, inability to get appointments soon enough and the lack of insurance. We also heard from our focus groups and community forums that participants frequently were concerned by the cost of bills and they also frequently had to go out of county to get the care that they would prefer.

Additionally, some of the top challenges in obtaining medications did include also cost and lack of coverage by insurance.

Jobs and Education

- Employment and income ranked **#2 health barrier** in community survey
- 43% of survey respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed to the prompt,
 - "I believe my community has enough jobs that pay enough money to live a healthy life."
- 26% agreed or strongly agreed



The second highest rated health barrier was jobs and education. As jobs relate to health because having opportunities for well-paying jobs with benefits like health insurance and paid time off are important to a healthy lifestyle. They allow for families to pay for their housing, transportation opportunities for their children savings and even leisure time. However, in our survey, 43% of survey respondents either disagreed or strongly disagreed to the prompt, that they believe that their community has enough jobs that pay enough money to live a healthy life.

Jobs and Education

- 18% of respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the prompt:
 - "I believe the schools in my neighborhood give quality education to all students."
 - A third of respondents agreed or strongly agreed.
- **19%** of respondents said that education was a top three barrier to health



Access to education was also rated as a barrier though not as highly as jobs and income. Nearly 20% of our respondents disagreed or strongly disagreed with the statement that they believe that students in their neighborhood give quality education to all students. This is important because as we know education opens up more opportunities for good paying jobs.

Affordable Housing

- **#3 biggest health barrier**
- Over 30% (18,000 of the 60,000) Wyandotte County households are considered cost-burdened
- 4th highest ranked option for what would improve a respondent's community's health



The third biggest health barrier was affordable housing and what we mean by affordable housing is housing that our residents can afford and pay less than 30% of their household income to sustain that mortgage, rent, and utilities. However, we know again from secondary data, that about a third of Wyandotte County residents or households are considered cost-burdened. In fact, when we asked our survey respondents what would make their community healthier, the fourth highest ranked option for what would improve the community's health is more access to affordable housing.

Affordable Housing

How often in the past 12 months would you say you were worried or stressed about having enough money to pay your regular monthly expenses (including rent/mortgage, electricity, water, etc.)?	Number	Percent
Never	336	29%
Rarely	229	20%
Sometimes	294	26%
Usually	117	10%
Always	155	13%



If you look at this chart here, nearly 50% of respondents answered that in the last year they at least sometimes worried about having enough money to pay for their monthly bills. That's including the rent, the mortgage, and their utilities. I'm going to go back, sorry. We are fortunate to have a CHIP that was able to work on these barriers that I've gone over for the last five years and we are going to continue to work on those barriers. The last barrier I want to talk about didn't actually rank in the top three or top five. It fell between health literacy and education, but however, as we went through and stratified our data meaning looked at it through lenses and through part four, each race and ethnicity, we found significant disparities.

Racism

- **19% of respondents** said racism was among their top three barriers to health
- **27% of Black respondents** have **felt emotionally upset** (for example, angry, sad, or frustrated) as a result of how they were treated based on their race



So, 20% of respondents, just about, said that racism was among the top three barriers to health, however, over a quarter of Black respondents reported that they have felt emotionally upset, so angry, sad, or frustrated as a result of how they were treated based on their race. We also found when stratifying by race and ethnicity that nearly 40% of Black respondents said that racism usually always impacts their life.

Racism

39% of Black respondents said **racism usually or always** impacts their daily life

- Compared to 22% of all respondents, 20% of Asian respondents, and 19% of Hispanic/Latino respondents

The **top ways** in which respondents experienced racism:

- Getting a job
- Being promoted
- Buying a house or car



So, that compares to 22% of all respondents, 20% of Asian respondents and 19% of Hispanic or Latino respondents. In the top ways that this racism manifested was in getting a job, being promoted, or buying a house or car, which all of these directly relate to some of the other health barriers that we talked about previously.



As we try to achieve health equity in Wyandotte County it's important to focus on some of these big, complicated factors that can really impact a person's health. As we move forward, the Health Department will continue to work with its network of partners and resources to pursue health in light of these concerns and barriers and our CHIP coordinators will continue to elaborate on that a bit more now.



Blake Hensley, CHIP Coordinator, said I'm one of the Community Health Improvement Planning Coordinators and with all this information we wanted to leave a little bit on a high note talking about what the community wants and also we'll talk a little bit about what partners are doing in the community. So, for the community needs of the top five, as you can see there, number one is definitely mental health services and then the other five, which are safe places to walk and play, services or programs for people with disabilities or older adults and housing affordability and housing assistance and then lastly in that top five is violence prevention programming.

All of those things are things that allow people to be more healthy, be able to get out, have more leisure time in our community are important to support at many levels with community partners, at government level, and such. All of those really look into building social connections,

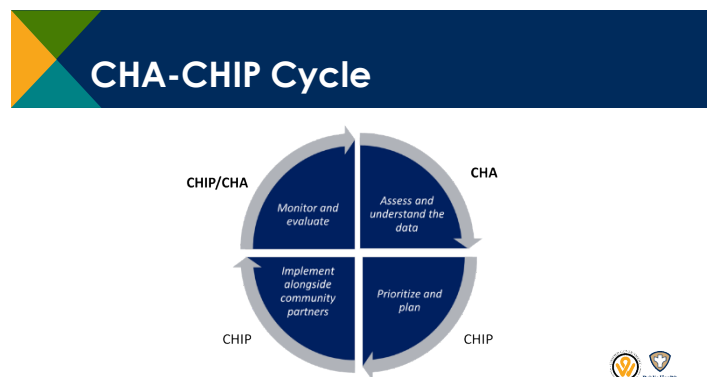
building that social infrastructure and then providing—just leveraging existing resources that are in our community.



That brings us to our community assets. We took some time in our Community Health Assessment to list out some assets and that includes groups like coalitions, other non-profit organizations, community programs and community resources that are all already working to improve health in Wyandotte County and we're really leveraging those partnerships in our Community Health Improvement Plan and we hope to bring more of them along as we go into this new CHIP cycle. For that, I will pass it off to Susan who will talk more about that.

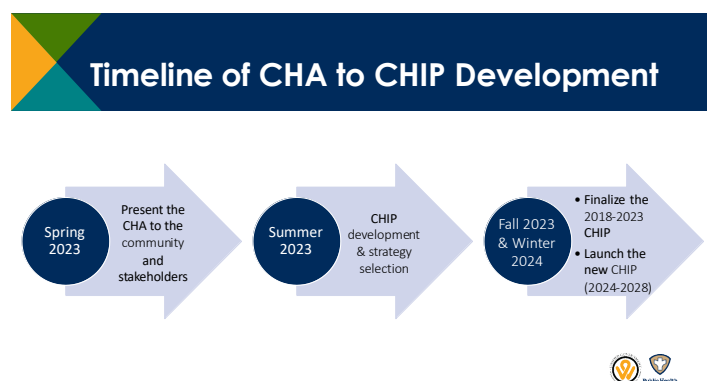


Susan Caman, CHIP Coordinator, said I will be providing a high-level overview of the process in which we'll take all of this great information from the Community Health Assessment and turn it into a Community Health Improvement Plan.



This diagram shows the CHA-CHIP Cycle as we like to call it and we're really at the top right of that cycle circle and so assessing and understanding the data we've done just that through our Community Health Assessment and there's a lot of information and we need to set some priorities and plan with our community stakeholders to better focus our efforts, identify priorities, shared goals and strategies that will really point our collaborative resources, organizations, program initiatives in the community to be working in sync towards those strategies and priorities in the plan. That's really what our CHIP does and we're excited to be able to use this information in our Community Health Assessment to work with community stakeholders, community members in developing that new plan which will be our 2024 to 2028 Community Health Improvement Plan.

Then, we'll move into my favorite part of the work which is really taking that data, those goals and strategies, those objectives and turning them into action in the community in initiatives, projects, programs, that directly services the lives of people here in Wyandotte County.

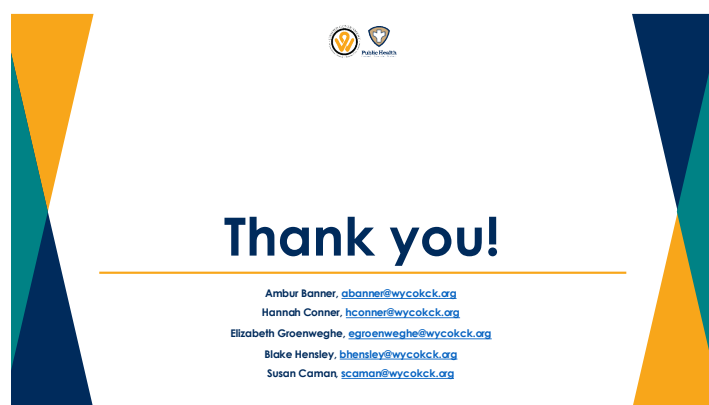


That Community Health Improvement Plan process is actually happening right now and in front of you, you have the CHIP Year 5 booklet, for our 2018-2023 Community Health Improvement Plan. In that booklet you have an example of some of the strategies, projects, programs that we've

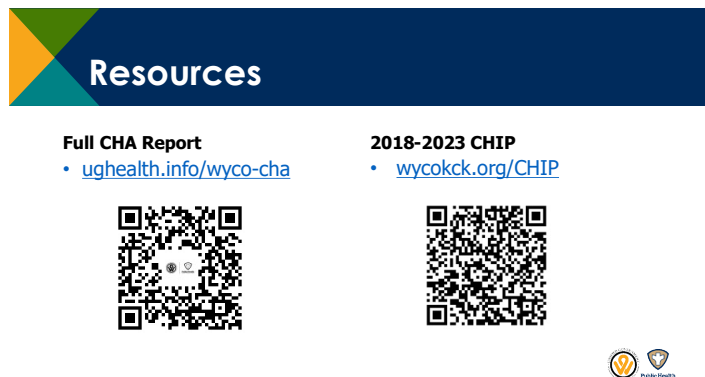
been working on alongside our partners and so I invite you to take a look at that and we're excited to use this information from this most recent CHA to move forward with our next CHIP. It's also important to note that we'll continue to monitor and evaluate our progress in the CHIP. We do a CHA every five years to do just that and to intentionally check back into the community and hear about their health gaps, needs, and how those have changed or become greater priorities.

To provide a bit of a high-level timeline of the CHA to CHIP development, we really want to take the springtime and early summer to present the CHA to our community and to stakeholders so that they too can become familiar with the data and the information that they provided us through with this process. Then, in the summer really looking at June through the end of August we will be working on our CHIP development. That'll look like a series of strategy and goal setting meetings for community partners, but also for community members to work with us in sifting through all of this information and identifying those priorities, goals, strategies that we want to move forward with.

The goal is to have a finalized 2024-2028 CHIP at the end of the year, early 2024, and all while we're doing that we're continuing to work on our 2018-2023 Plan. We've still got some programs and initiatives that we're working on and I want to thank our partners in that work for really devoting a lot of their time and resources into making that a reality for our community.



April 27, 2023



Resources

Full CHA Report
 • ughealth.info/wyco-cha

2018-2023 CHIP
 • wycokck.org/CHIP

QR code for Full CHA Report

QR code for 2018-2023 CHIP

Logos: Wyandotte County Health Department and Wyandotte County

We want to thank you for your time this evening and wanted to leave you with just some resources. Again, our Community Health Assessment is found on our website and there's a QR code that you can scan and then our Community Health Improvement Plan is also available on our website. Our current one that we're working on you can find all the booklets and all the annual reports on that site. I know our team is eager to hear about any comments or questions that you may have, so thank you.

Mayor Garner said thank you for the presentation.

Commissioner Ramirez said I want to thank our Public Health Department for everything that you do. Before I was—I'm getting my degree in Education—I was a Public Health Degree so I understand the hard work that you're doing and what this information can provide for us as a Commission as we go through this year and especially during our budget season. Our budget cycle is coming up and so I know that many—you know, not very many people hear about the Public Health Department. It's a department that works behind the scenes, but does good work. It wasn't until the pandemic when your department was the face and voice of our government for those two years and so I thank you for everything that you have done to keep Wyandotte County safe.

I do want to comment on something on the causes of death between 2018-2020 because I was reviewing this last night. I want to thank Alan for sending us this information so that we had time to brew with it and stick with it. For our Latino population the number one was COVID whereas with the others it was third. My question is, if COVID was not—or if we in the perfect world didn't have COVID, do you believe that cancer would have been the first one? **Ms.**

Groenweghe said yeah. It's a little hard to answer that question. A lot of it's speculative, but typically across the U.S. and Wyandotte County heart disease and cancer are always either first or second causes of death and really they take turns being the leading causes of death because the data is usually so close, so it's a little hard to say, but it's possible. **Commissioner Ramirez** said I figured that. I've remembered going through some of the courses and that's always been breast cancer and heart disease are always back and forth with each other every year.

That just amazes me that our Latino population—it wasn't either of those first, it was COVID during those two years and so that shows, especially my district, I represent a heavily Latino community and so it's important for us to make sure that we are providing that access of healthcare and services and programs and I know we have several clinics that are providing care within the district. I just want to thank you for everything that you do and I hope that you know this shows that, yes, there are barriers. There's a lot of barriers and I know the number one is people not—especially with healthcare, not being able to pay for their health care or delaying their health care, delaying their prescription drugs because they just can't afford it. Also, from this plan there's things that we can do about that, so to my colleagues, let's be mindful of that when we go through budget season. Yes, we need some relief, but also there are things that people want and need, so I thank you for everything and keep up the good work.

Ms. Banner said to that end, I would also point out the fact that there is an opportunity for the discovery in the very place that you point out. So, one of the interesting pieces of this, I thought, was that the life expectancy for the Hispanic population actually outranks all of us and yet they still experience the greatest health barriers. I just found that astonishing and it's an area of discovery for us. I mean we really could learn a great deal from that population and how they manage to still have such a beautiful life expectancy rate and yet overcome a great deal of health barriers. I just wanted to call that out because I think it just aligns with what you were pointing out.

Commissioner Burroughs said this information can be very eye-opening, but can you help me understand a couple of the results from the survey. I want to make sure I fully understand them. I'm looking at page 5—well, I guess it's page 8, I apologize. It's 8 on one side, 4 on the other, 10 on one side and 5 on the other. It talks about community violence was the number one issue and

it's mentioned in a couple of places in here at least within the top four, but yet when you get to the results in the back, the community says it's mental health and both of those issues are extremely important and we deal with them collectively as a body. I'm just concerned as to how violence slid down the survey at the very end when it was in the top part of the survey in most of the survey results.

Ms. Groenweghe said yeah, that's a good question and once you kind of dive more deeply into the report I think it'll be a little bit more clear, but there were a lot of survey questions that we asked, but three of the biggest one were what were your biggest health concerns, your biggest health barriers, and then what are the three biggest things that we could do in Wyandotte County to improve health. The violence came out as number one for the biggest concerns followed closely by mental health, but then in terms of how we can address those issues, mental health that's where it came out as number one and so really there could be a lot of reasons for why the data shook out the way that it did.

A lot of people in the community might perceive that violence is a really big issue that's going to be hard for the county to address whereas having more mental health services seems like a more attainable thing that we could do to improve health, but really what that question, where mental health came up as number one, is getting at is next steps for us. Next steps is a community for improving health and so violence is important to our community, but looking forward, mental health is a way that we can really make a big impact. Does that help answer your question?

Commissioner Burroughs said it does. I understand the reasoning for getting there. I just question if it's such an important issue with the tremendous amount of violence we had, I mean it was a majority—sorry, majority of the respondents in two categories, but violence in the community high on the list and yet mental health is what we come up with. If I had to be king for a day and put my resources somewhere, do I put it in police protection to deal with—or public safety protection to deal with the violence in the community or do I go out and build mental health facilities. I think that's what I'm looking at as a priority because they are both correlated to one another, but it just kind of struck me a little bit that was a high mark for a majority of the respondents, but yet the mental health aspect came out higher at the end.

Ms. Groenweghe said it is definitely interesting how that data shook out the way that it did and I think we're really fortunate that we work with a lot of really great community partners that work in the mental health realm and also the violence prevention. We work closely with the

PD, all kinds of different community partners because it's not just going to be the Health Department deciding which of these issues we're going to tackle, we're going to have to really work with our stakeholders and community partners to help us prioritize. You know, looking at the survey data as a stepping stone as a guide to decide which areas that we're going to tackle whether it be mental health or violence prevention or other issues. It's not just decided by the survey.

Ms. Conner said if I may add just one more thing, just speculating, I don't have evidence of this besides some of the numbers that we've looked at, but violence is frequently concentrated and clustered and may not impact every household in Wyandotte County. Mental health is something that a lot more people can relate to more personally, so maybe they don't know somebody personally who's impacted by violence, but it does frequently make the news, but they do know somebody who has developed anxiety during their teenage years or has experienced depression due to isolation. So, that might be one of the reasons why that came to the forefront of what we can do to improve their community's health because maybe that's what they are more personally experienced with.

Commissioner Burroughs said that's a good analogy and I do appreciate that. I know coming through the pandemic the desocialization of our community plays into the mental health aspect quite a bit. The loss of income, loss of property, loss of loved ones all play on the mental health aspect; however, violence is mobile and it's all over our community and still to come back as a high item, it just caught me off guard to see that aspect got a higher rating than us as a community not dealing with the violence, but thank you.

Commissioner Bynum said, Ms. Banner, I wanted to say congratulations to you on your Interim Director role and also appreciation to each of you for the work that you do. When we were experiencing COVID we saw our Health Department all the time and we've missed you, so it's nice that you're here and it's important that you bring us this information.

I work with older adults in my regular daytime full-time job and you reached out to bring a focus group to our older adults while you were doing the health assessment, so I particularly wanted to thank you for that because we had a really great focus group with Rev. Tony Carter and

we brought, I think, about 15 of our older adults and we had a great, great conversation. Thanks for remembering us as you did that assessment.

You have a slide here that talks about the community needs which I see—I mean to me these are the components of the social determinants of health and number three is services or programs for disabled and elderly and I just don't know that we'll ever have enough of those, but it's always good to try to attain more of really everything on your list, but obviously, that stuck out for me.

I've been engaged with the Health Department and these health issues for a long time beginning when Mayor Reardon formed Healthy Communities Wyandotte which was also a direct result of these health rankings. It's so frustrating to me, I applaud you for continuing to do the work because we have the 5 Year CHIP and I know how hard every person engaged in this CHIP has worked and it is so frustrating to me and I don't want you to go home depressed. I just don't know—I guess I'd be interested in your thoughts. Does it truly take this long to move the needle in a community that faces so many challenges? Is that what we're dealing with? I can keep going if that's the answer.

Ms. Groenweghe said I can start to tackle this question and I appreciate you acknowledging how difficult some of these issues are to conquer and that's something that I definitely want to highlight too, that we are wrapping up our 5-Year CHIP Plan, but it's not because Susan and Blake or anyone on our team or any of these partners have failed in any way. It's because these health issues and challenges are so hard to tackle. They're so big and they're hard to tackle and so we're not going to necessarily make progress that we can see in five years or even ten years and a lot of that boils down to what we call in public health, social determinants of health. I'm sure a lot in this room are familiar with what social determinants of health are, but improving the health of Wyandotte County is not about just making people less obese or improving people's mental health. They're just like these little fixes of just if you do these little things, it'll get better. It's about addressing those social determinants of health which are then going to later, longer term, more than five years down the road help to improve the health of Wyandotte County.

I think we really, at the Health Department, at least feel like if we continue to make improvements and chug along and keep going that we are going to see change. It's just not change that we're going to see in the short term, which can be a little bit frustrating and disheartening, but

we're not disheartened. We want to continue to do this work and see what we can do for Wyandotte County.

Then, I wanted to touch on your comment about seniors as well because that wasn't really an issue that rose to the top with some of the survey data but throughout the focus groups and forums that we did, especially the one you mentioned. We heard a lot of stories from people about senior citizens in particular and how we need to continue to address that need because we're hearing a lot of stories about how seniors don't feel supported in Wyandotte County or that they're not feeling involved in the community and so that's an important thing that we want to continue to work on as well. Does anyone else have anything to add?

Ms. Banner said if I may, just quickly, one of the other reasons why we're not seeing that needle move as quickly as we might hope, it really takes a coordinated, multi-layered approach to actually see results, to actually see us go from a CHA, the results to improvement. Furthermore, we also really lack severely quality improvement science. So, that's actually taking a very intentional approach to address health issues from a quality improvement lens, so that's continuously monitoring and tracking through cycles; planning, studying actually what we're doing, if it works and being able to pivot in a timely fashion. We don't actually have that capacity at the Health Department, so there are multiple components that actually are required in order for us to see that needle even more slightly in 10 years. So think of it more like we are working at the Health Department in a very compartmentalized area very, very hard, so one component is working as hard as they can to try to make a difference in this area when there are multiple layers in a coordinated effort that would actually work as a machine if we had quality improvement science to help us lift that off the ground. So, I want to offer that up as well.

Commissioner McKiernan said I'm just going to really quickly say that we do need to transition to another event and so I will follow up with all of you later with my comments and questions, but I'll just say to the Commission, based on my understanding, it's going to take a generation at least to make meaningful change in any of these factors. We have to be ready for that. We have to commit to that and we have to accept the fact that it will be accomplished after some of us are gone and be okay with that, but I'll follow up with you later.

Mayor Garner said thank you all. An awesome report. I think the one thing that stands out for me is the survey was great and really good information. Even with the crime, I don't know how much of that is fact or perception in people's minds and perception plays into a lot of times from my experience of what people see, you know about the broken windows theory, if you see an area that's blighted, you perceive that may be crime ridden. If you had to look at the data for our Police Chief, crime is actually down significantly, but other areas are years of concern when you look at some of the areas of concern that the public talked about and just drilling down and see what are the causes. I know you spoke to that and the capacity that our Health Department is lacking in a lot of those areas, but as we examine the data and as we continue to have these conversations.

This is a question, I don't know, I'm sure you've done it, but are we looking at—I know we're dead last next to a county that didn't report, but we've been consistently this way for years as far back as I can remember, what are other successful, the top five counties nationally, what are other communities doing that maybe we're just not capturing. What are those blind spots that as far as initiatives and programs? It might be beneficial to Wyandotte County to help us address some of these issues and not just looking at the symptoms because there's a lot of symptoms here, but what are these actual causes and I picked up on some of them, you know, crime, violence.

There's even factors of racism, but the biggest thing that plays out to me is I've listened to the HEAT Report, I've listened to Housing Report, I've listened to you all now and then you look at the maps and it becomes ever more apparent that there's zip codes in this town that really were in redlined areas. Areas that have been completely disinvested and disenfranchised and it's costing people their lives when you talk about life expectancy. That is the biggest concern for me how do we improve the life expectancy because whatever we're not doing, people are dying and so those are the things I want to capture. How do we enhance and improve not just the quality of life but the longevity of a healthy life for our residents.

Thank you all so much and we appreciate your time.

Mr. Deichler said motion to adjourn please.

Commissioner Ramirez made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Stites, to adjourn. Roll call was taken and there were six "Ayes," McKiernan, Ramirez, Markley, Stites, Bynum, Burroughs.

**MAYOR GARNER ADJOURNED
THE MEETING AT 5:51 p.m.**

Brett Deichler
Unified Government Clerk

dt

April 27, 2023