2021

Adams County Community Health Assessment

Health & Human Services- Division of Public Health

Pictures courtesy of Adams County Chamber of Commerce and Tourism

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County Overview

Adams County is a 100% rural agriculture community home to approximately 20,220 residents (US Census Bureau 2019). Agriculture and tourism play significant roles in the economy and livelihood of Adams County. The Wisconsin River comprises the western border of the county and Adams County hosts Wisconsin's second and fourth largest bodies of water- Lake Petenwell and Castle Rock Lake. In addition to the vast water recreation, Adams County has pristine woodlands, spectacular scenery and a world renowned golf resort making it a major tourist destination. Part of Adams County is the northernmost section of Wisconsin Dells creating a rich diversity of visitors. The alluring outdoor recreation and quiet pace of living away from big-city traffic draws thousands of visitors year round. Despite these attractive draws, Adams County is economically disadvantaged and struggles with poor health outcomes.

Adams County Health & Human Services- Division of Public Health (ACPH) is comprised of five full time staff (one Health Officer, two Nurses and two Community Health Specialists) and one part time Support Specialist. The mission, vision and core values of ACPH are outlined below.

MISSION

To promote wellness, prevent disease and protect the environment

VISION

To be a leader within a supportive organization to advocate for the preservation, health and well-being of our community

CORE VALUES

Respectful
Compassionate
Dedicated
Community Focused
Knowledgeable

Acknowledgements

Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who participated in the development of the Adams County Community Health Assessment.

Aaron Bonnett, Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics
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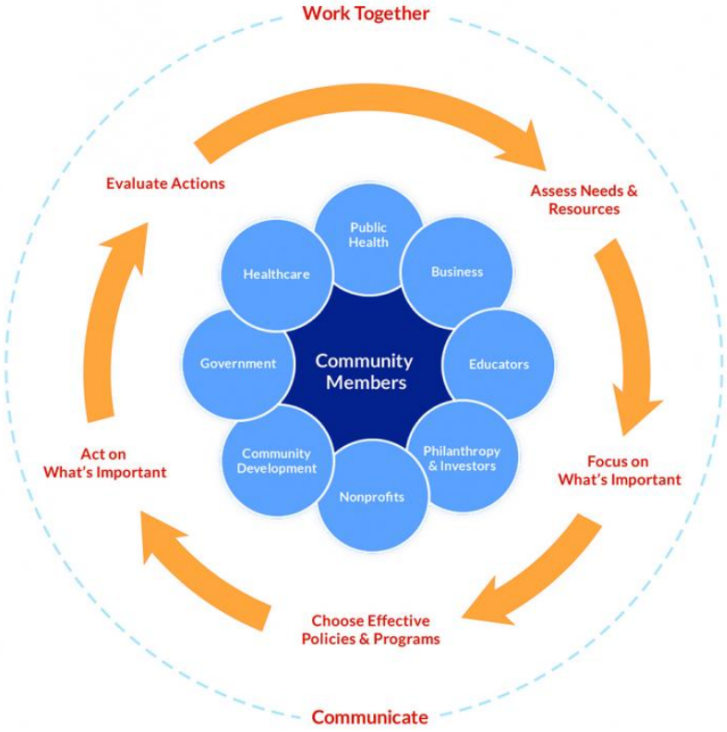
Tara Draeger, Aspirus

We would also like to thank all of the community members who completed our survey and those that participated in key informant interviews and focus groups.

Process Overview

Wisconsin State Statute 251.05(3) mandates that a local health department shall "regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze and make available information on the health of the community, including statistics on health status, community health needs and epidemiologic and other studies of health problems". In addition, Wisconsin Administrative Rule Chapter DHS 140.04, requires that local health departments conduct a community health assessment resulting in a community health improvement plan at least every 5 years. Healthcare systems have their own requirements to complete a community health assessment every 3 years.



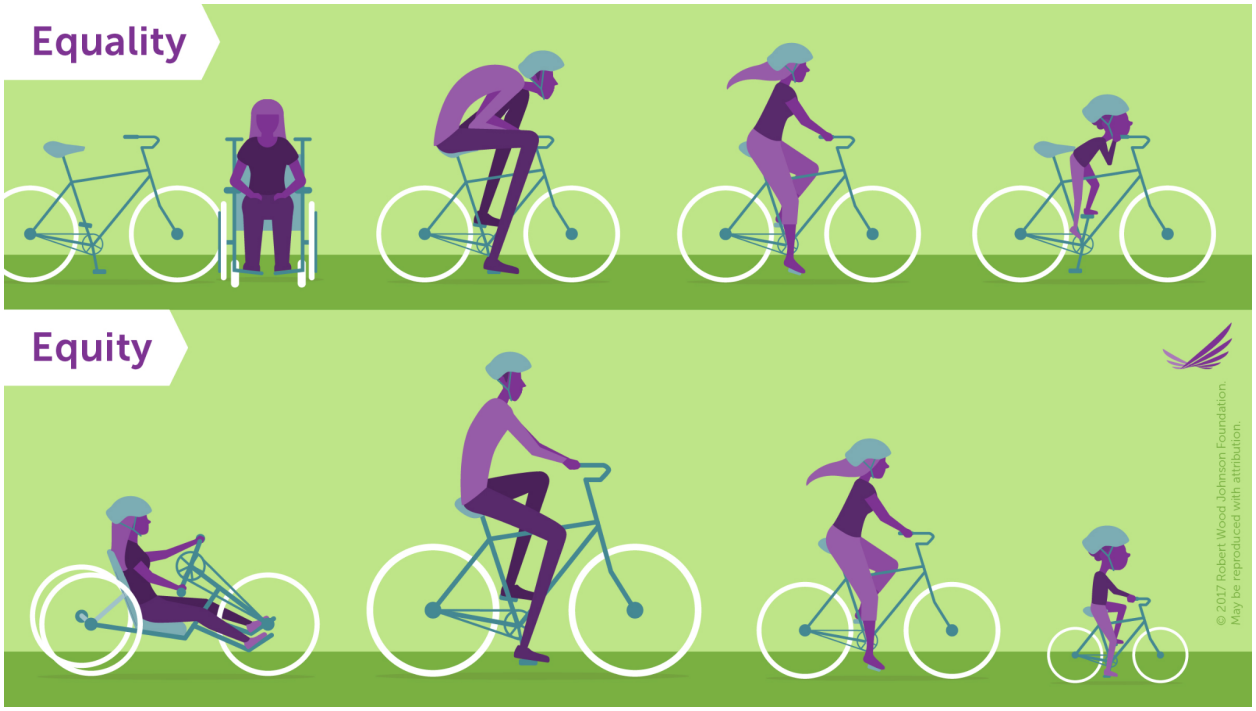
Using the Take Action Cycle model used by the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, Adams County Health & Human Services Department- Division of Public Health (ACPH) collaborated with local healthcare organizations and community members to start the community health assessment process in early 2021. The first two steps in the Take Action Cycle were used in this assessment. These steps help us to gain an overall understanding of health needs in Adams County.

- **Assess Needs & Resources:** the purpose of this step is to understand our current community strengths, resources, needs and gaps to help decide where and how to focus our efforts. This step helped us to answer questions like:
    - *What questions do we have about the health of our community?*
    - *What data will help us answer those questions?*
    - *Where do we find data?*
    - *How do we move WITH data to action?*
- **Focus on What's Important:** the purpose of this step is to focus our community's efforts and resources on the most important issues to achieve the greatest impact on health.

The last three steps of the Take Action Cycle will be utilized to help develop a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) in 2022.

Community health assessments are extremely important and drive the prevention work of local health departments and healthcare systems. By utilizing a process that involves current quantitative and qualitative data, community feedback and available resources, we are able to better understand what is occurring in our local communities and move towards impacting health outcomes in the future.

Health disparities are also addressed in our assessment. Health disparities adversely affect groups of people who have systematically experienced greater obstacles to health based on their racial or ethnic group; religion; socioeconomic status; gender; age; mental health; cognitive, sensory, or physical disability; sexual orientation or gender identify; geographic location; or other characteristics historically linked to discrimination or exclusion (Healthy People 2020). It is our goal to strive towards health equity, which Healthy People 2020 defines as the attainment of the highest level of health for all people.



This assessment includes primary data from communicable disease reports, death records, local provider data, hospital admissions, youth risk behavior and community surveys and key informant interviews and focus groups. The secondary data includes, but is not limited to, County Health Rankings, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the United States Census Bureau. Data is used in this assessment for the identification of health priorities and will be used in development of our 2022 CHIP.

Timeline

March 2021

- Begin planning for Community Health Assessment

April 2021

- Begin writing community survey
- Begin collecting data from local, state and national sources

May 2021

- Complete final draft of survey
- Determine distribution methods of survey
- Continue secondary data collection

June and July 2021

- Finalize survey and begin survey distribution
- Continue secondary data collection
- Begin planning for key informant interviews and focus groups

August 2021

- Continue survey distribution through August 8
- Compile and finalize survey data
- Host focus groups and key informant interviews
- Schedule prioritization meetings for September

September 2021

- Compile data from focus groups and key informant interviews
- Hold needs assessment prioritization meetings and determine top 3-5 health needs

October 2021

- Begin writing needs assessment
- Complete draft of needs assessment

November 2021

- Complete final draft of needs assessment

December 2021

- Present to Adams County Health & Human Services committee
- Distribute final needs assessment to the community

January 2022

- Begin Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) process

2021 County Health Rankings

Health Outcomes

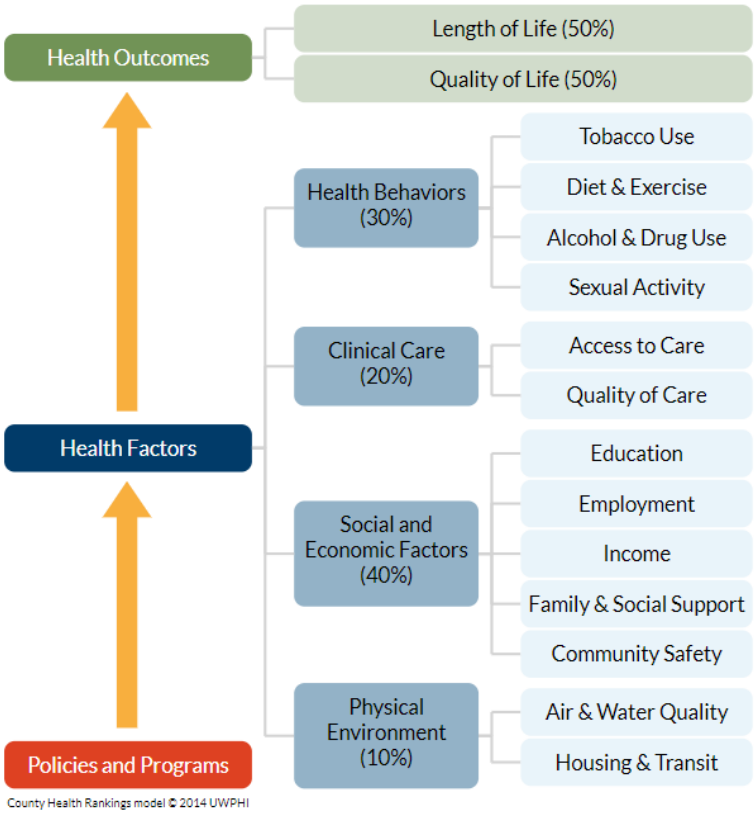
Adams (AD) is ranked among the least healthy counties in Wisconsin (Lowest 0%-25%)

Health Factors

Adams (AD) is ranked among the least healthy counties in Wisconsin (Lowest 0%-25%)

Health Outcomes: **69 out of 72 counties**
Health Factors: **71 out of 72 counties**

The annual County Health Rankings provide a snapshot of how health is influenced by where we live, learn, work and play. Based on a model of community health, the Rankings use more than 30 measures that help us understand the health outcomes *(how healthy our residents are today)* and health factors *(what will impact health in the future)* of our residents. There are many social, economic, physical, medical and other factors that play a role in our length and quality of life. Adams County has consistently ranked in the bottom of the Health Rankings for health outcomes and health factors. It is important to assess our community's needs and resources to make an impact on the future of Adams County.



For full report, see Appendix A

Demographics and Occupation

Importance of Occupation

Most adults spend almost half of their waking hours at work. Workplaces not only provide income, but also may provide benefits like health insurance, paid time off and wellness programs.

However, these benefits are greater for those that earn higher wages and may have more education. The "working poor" have additional challenges when it comes to their occupation:

- they are less likely to have health insurance and access to preventative care
- they are more likely to work in hazardous jobs
- they may not be able to afford quality child care
- they may not get paid time off

Those that are unemployed may have even greater challenges:

- lost income
- limited access to health insurance
- increased unhealthy behaviors related to alcohol and tobacco consumption, diet and exercise

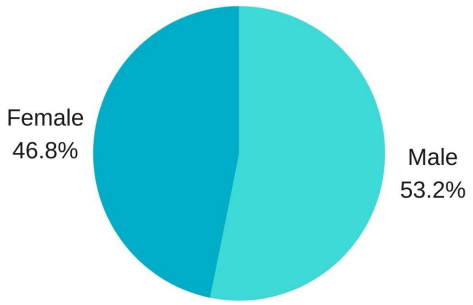
Racial and ethnic minorities and individuals with less education than others are more likely to be unemployed.

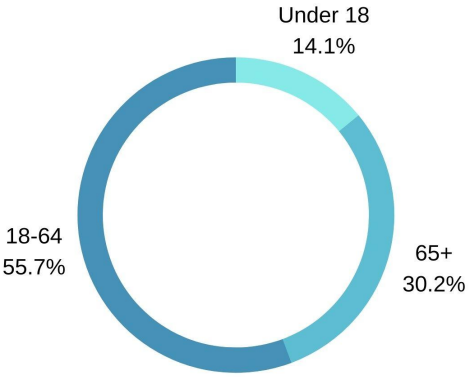
Poor families and individuals often have limited access to:

- healthy foods
- health insurance
- medical care

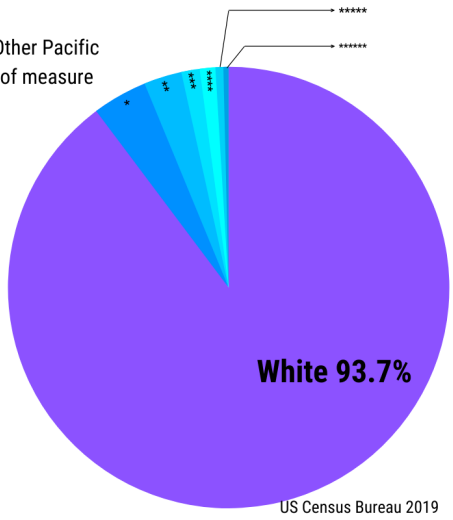
Poverty can lead to both physical and mental health challenges; chronic illness is more likely to affect those with lower incomes. Children in low-income families are sicker than those not in poverty.

County Health Rankings 2021

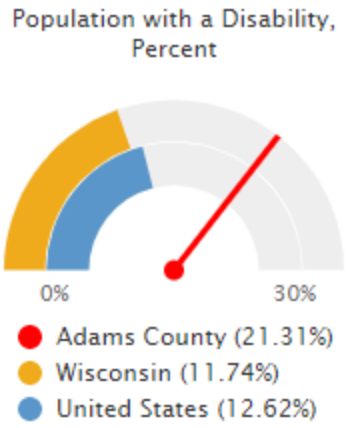


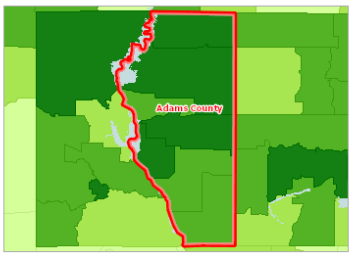


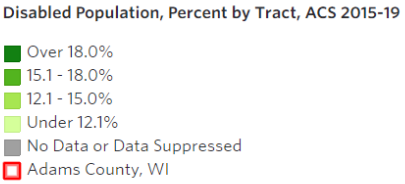
*Hispanic or Latino 4.2%
**Black/African American 2.9%
***Two or More Races 1.4%
****American Indian/Alaska Native 1.2%
*****Asian 0.6%
******Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander >0 but <0.5 unit of measure

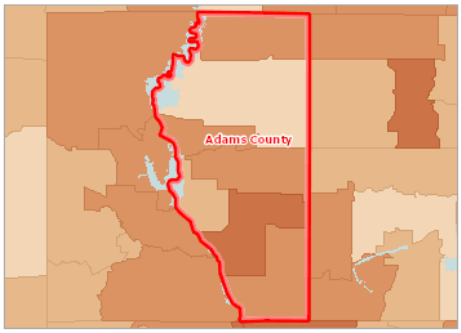


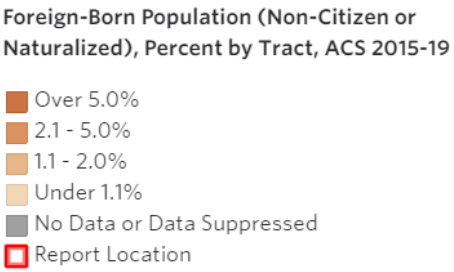
US Census Bureau 2019











The foreign-born population includes anyone who was not a US citizen or a US national at birth. In Adams County, 2.85% of the total population is foreign-born (less than the national average of 13.55%).

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey (2015-2019)

	ADAMS COUNTY	WISCONSIN
HOUSEHOLDS WITH A BROADBAND INTERNET SUBSCRIPTION*	74.4%	82.5%
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR HIGHER*	87.5%	92.2%
BACHELOR'S DEGREE OR HIGHER*	13.9%	30.1%
MEAN HOUSEHOLD INCOME*	$46,369	$61,747
MEDIAN WORKFORCE AGE**	52.6	39.2
UNEMPLOYMENT RATE***	5%	3.3%
RESIDENTS WORKING WITHIN THE COUNTY THEY LIVE**	43%	65%
CHILDREN IN POVERTY****	18%	14%

**US Census 2015-2019*
***State of Wisconsin Department of Workforce Development 2019 Workforce Profile- Adams County*
****Adams County Economic Development 2019*
*****County Health Rankings 2021*

Of the 18% of children in poverty, 63% of those are black, 22% hispanic and 22% white.

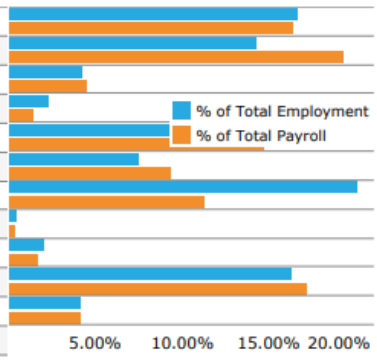
According to Adams County Economic Development, the 5 year unemployment rate average for Adams County from 2015-2019 was **5.62%**. For 2019 and 2018, it was under 5% which is very good considering our demographics.

Partially responsible for today's low unemployment rates is the growing economy. Although it is important to note that baby boomers are exiting the workforce in great numbers *(and this has a major impact on rates)*, participation rates for workers over 55 years have significantly risen, which could be due to a need or want to remain in the workforce *(see median workforce age above).*

Adams County's labor force *(employed and unemployed, those who are currently working and those who are looking for work)* **has experienced an overall negative growth rate since 2007**. This trend is being seen worldwide and may continue into the next decade (Adams County Workforce Profile 2019).

Industry Employment and Wages
2018 Employment and Wage Distribution by Industry
Adams County

	2018 Annual Average Employment	1-year change	Total Payroll (2018)
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	734	9	$26,954,485
Public Administration	630	-9	$31,698,102
Professional & Business Services	187	6	$7,246,107
Other services	100	-4	$2,274,921
Natural Resources	546	-32	$24,152,985
Manufacturing	329	30	$15,346,265
Leisure & Hospitality	884	-34	$18,574,718
Information	18	-3	$517,211
Financial Activities	87	-7	$2,693,780
Education & Health	721	-6	$28,136,836
Construction	180	4	$6,691,204
All industries	4,417	-44	$164,286,614



Source: WI DWD, Labor Market Information, QCEW, June 2019

Leisure & Hospitality, the largest industry super-sector in Adams County by employment, lost 34 jobs from 2017-2018. **Adams County experienced negative job growth by roughly -1%** (-44 jobs) from 2017-2018, ranking it 67th among the state's 72 counties by percent change. **Adams County experienced job growth in 4 of 11 sectors**; Manufacturing (30), Trade, Transportation, & Utilities (9), Professional & Business Services (6) and Construction (4). (Adams County Workforce Profile 2019).

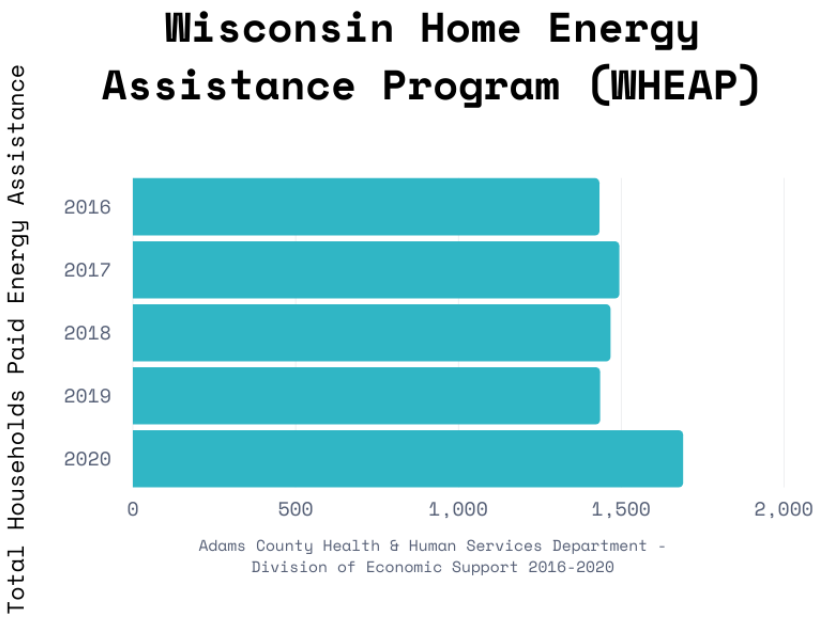
2018 Average Annual Wage by Industry

	Wisconsin Average Annual Wage	County Average Annual Wage	2018 % Wisconsin	1-Year % Change*
Trade, Transportation, Utilities	$41,901	$36,723	87.6%	-0.4%
Public Administration	$47,859	$50,314	105.1%	3.7%
Professional & Business Services	$60,729	$38,749	63.8%	2.1%
Other services	$30,674	$22,749	74.2%	1.7%
Natural Resources	$39,444	$44,236	112.2%	-2.6%
Manufacturing	$58,048	$46,645	80.4%	-6.8%
Leisure & Hospitality	$18,757	$21,012	112.0%	-0.8%
Information	$73,577	$28,734	39.1%	-1.4%
Financial Activities	$71,474	$30,963	43.3%	0.4%
Education & Health	$49,185	$39,025	79.3%	-0.8%
Construction	$61,909	$37,173	60.0%	-4.7%
All Industries	$48,891	$37,194	76.1%	-0.5%

Source: WI DWD, Labor Market Information, QCEW, June 2019
*Difference in the 2018 share of Wisconsin and the 2017 share of Wisconsin

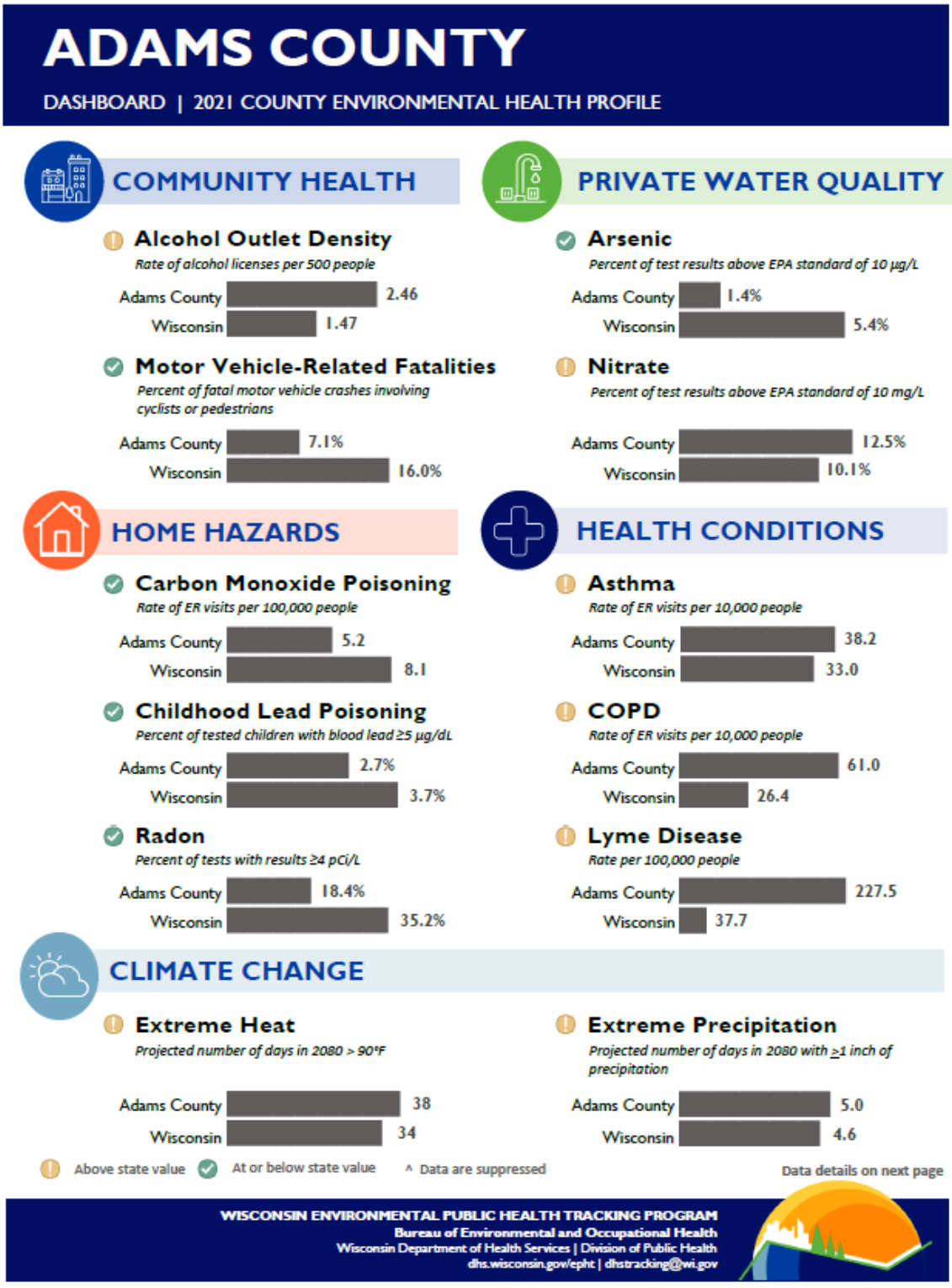
Adams County had higher wages than the state average in: Leisure and Hospitality (112%), Natural Resources (112.2%) and Public Administration (105.1%). Wages in Public Administration had the greatest increase in relative share (3.7%). Wages in Manufacturing had the greatest decrease in relative share (-6.8%). (Adams County Workforce Profile 2019).

For full report, see Appendix B

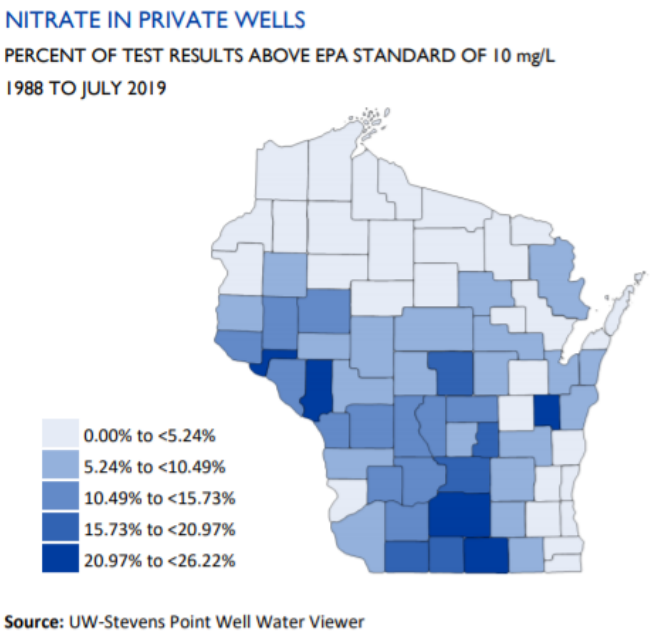


The number of households that need energy assistance remained steady from 2016-2019, increasing slightly in 2020, which could be attributed to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Environment



For full report, see Appendix C



Source: UW-Stevens Point Well Water Viewer

Nitrate occurs naturally in plants and animals. It can enter the groundwater from fertilizers, animal or human waste.

In Wisconsin, **nitrate is one of the most common groundwater contaminants**. High nitrate levels are linked with certain birth defects. Infants who consume drinking water with high nitrate levels are at risk of blue baby syndrome, which limits the blood's ability to carry oxygen.

The data to the left do not include all well tests conducted in Wisconsin; some tests done by private and local labs are not submitted to be displayed on the Well Water Viewer.

Adams County 2021 County Environmental Health Profile

Importance of Environment

Poor environment plays a role in our ability to live a long, healthy life. For good health, both clean air and safe water are necessary. Air pollution or contaminated water could lead to:

- increased asthma rates
- lung diseases
- increased risk of premature death from heart or lung disease
- illness
- infection
- increased risks of cancer
- poisoning

Poor surface water quality can also lead to increased risks, making lakes unsafe for swimming and consuming wild fish. Nitrogen pollution and harmful algae blooms (like blue-green algae), create toxins in water. These toxins can lead to respiratory issues and neurological effects if people ingest or come into contact with polluted water. Polluted water also threatens wildlife habitats.

County Health Rankings 2021

There are 50 named and unnamed surface waters in Adams County. Surface water includes lakes, rivers and streams.

Blue-green algae blooms: According to Wisconsin State Statute 254.46, local public health (LPH) is required to issue health advisories, beach or water body closures and public messaging when environmental conditions of water bodies in our jurisdiction are deemed harmful to health. LPH should report blooms to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Blue-green algae illness reports: Blue-green algae (cyanobacterial) poisoning became a reportable disease in Wisconsin in 2018. Due to complex subject matter, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) usually takes the lead in following-up with the illness complainant and conducting an investigation. However, LPH may choose to conduct initial routine follow-up for cases in their jurisdiction with the assistance of DHS.

Physical Health

The top diagnoses at Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics in Friendship are **hypertension** (high blood pressure) **and Type 2 Diabetes**. This remains unchanged from the 2017 Community Health Assessment.

Importance of Physical Health

Access to affordable, quality healthcare can help prevent diseases and detect health conditions or concerns sooner. However, nearly 30 million Americans are uninsured or underinsured. Those without regular access to quality healthcare may:

- be diagnosed with conditions late, at less treatable states of disease
- have worse health outcomes
- have lower quality of life
- have higher mortality rates
- be readmitted due to poor care coordination

Many counties don't have enough providers to meet patient needs. In addition, those with a primary care provider are more likely to receive appropriate care, however, those with lower incomes are less likely to have a primary care provider. Language barriers, distance to care and racial disparities are additional barriers to quality care. Even for those with insurance, cost can be a barrier. Much of the country suffers from dental provider shortages as well, which can lead to pain, infection and tooth loss.

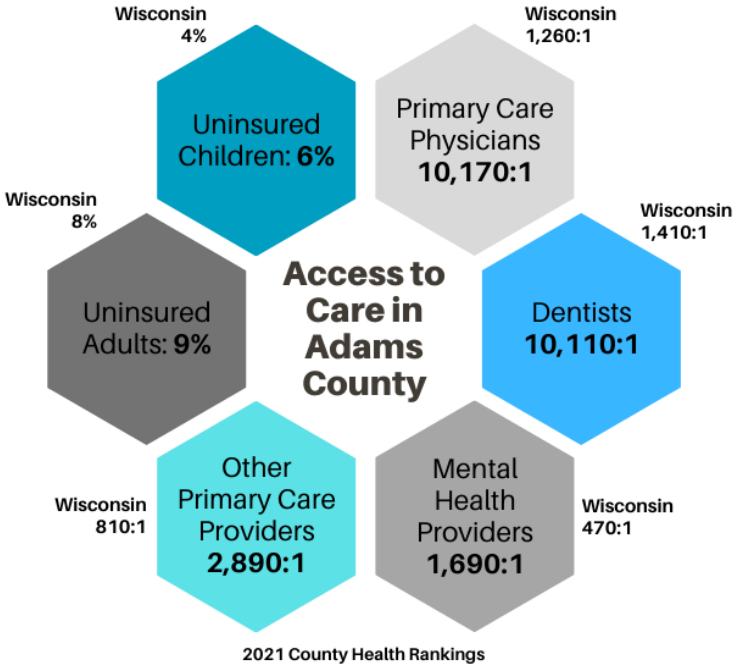
The United States has the highest per capita health care spending in the world, but has shorter lifespans and higher infant mortality rates than other wealthy countries.

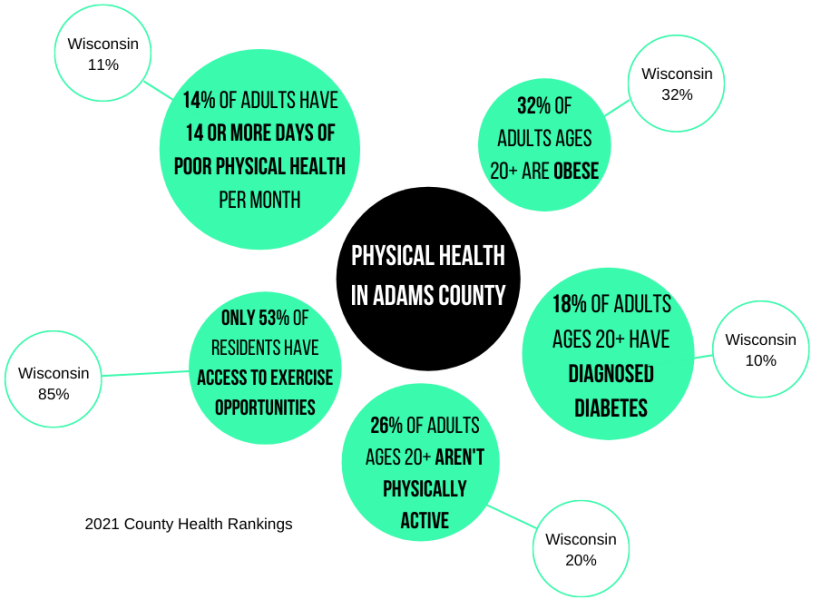
Another important aspect of physical health is physical activity. When practiced regularly, exercise can:

- lower symptoms of depression
- reduce risk of chronic disease and premature death
- delay age-related cognitive decline

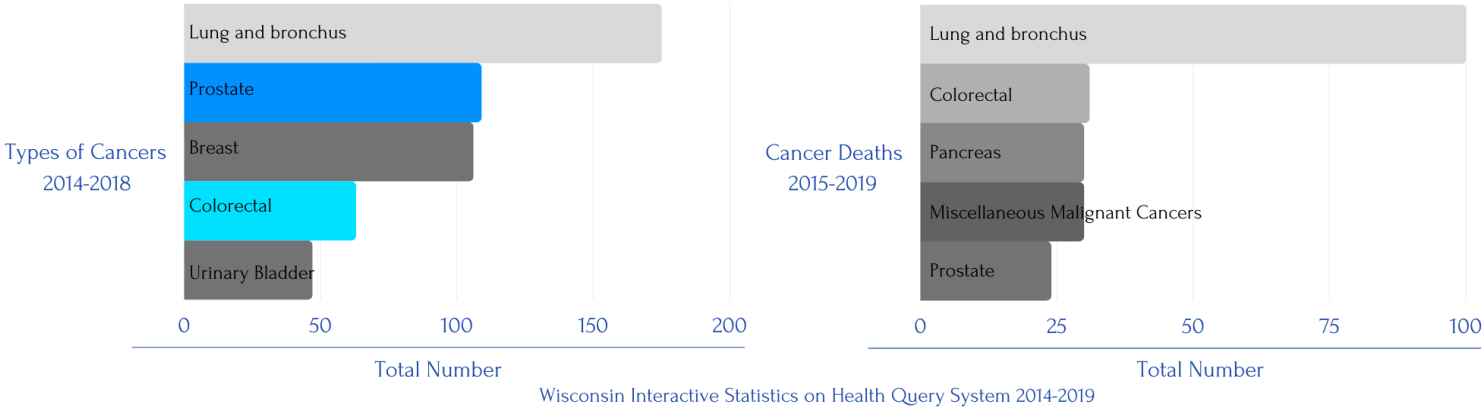
However, the majority of Americans don't engage in the recommended amount of physical activity.

County Health Rankings 2021

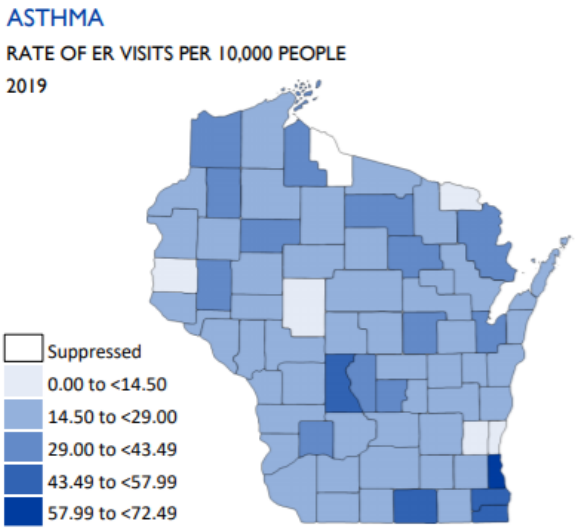


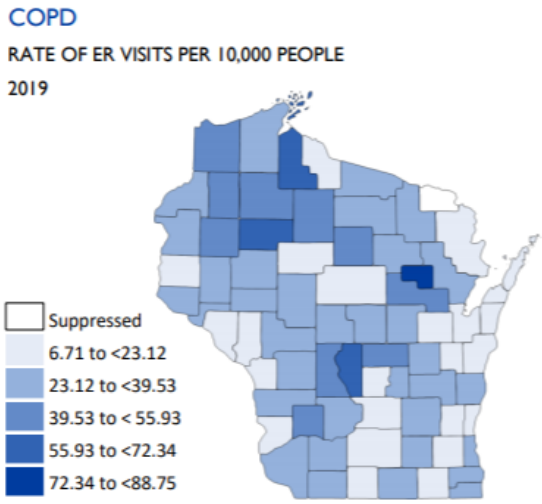


CANCER IN ADAMS COUNTY 2014-2019



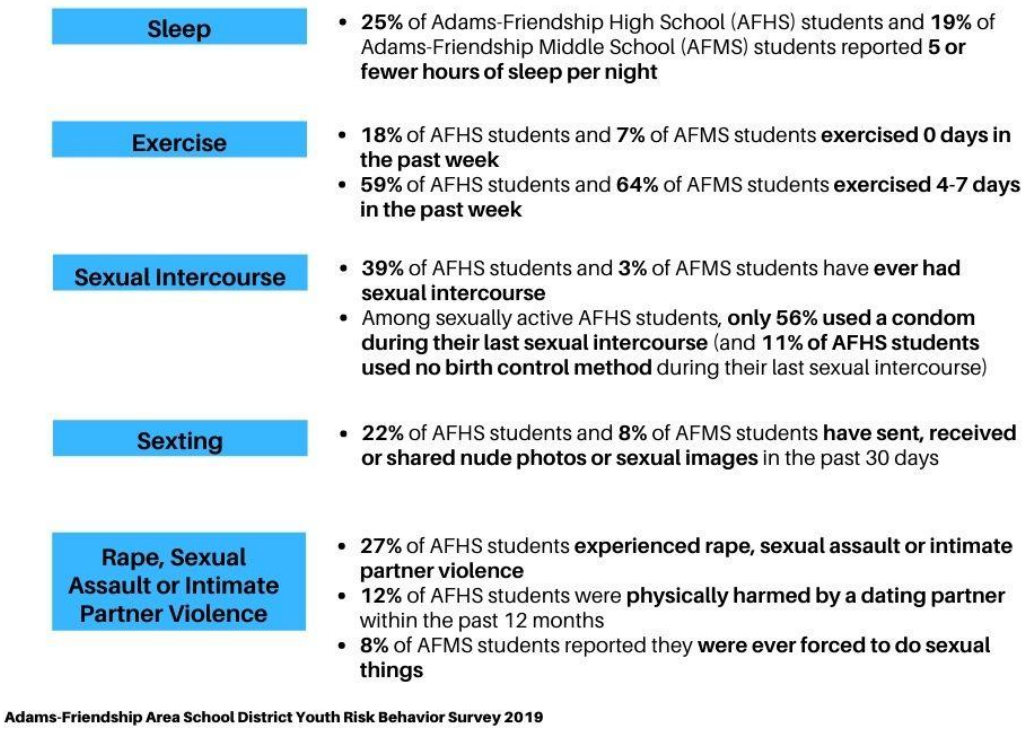
Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health Query System 2014-2019





Asthma symptoms may occur from exposure to common triggers, such as tobacco smoke, outdoor air pollution or pollen. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is a group of diseases that cause airflow blockages and breathing-related problems. This includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis. COPD is usually caused by cigarette smoking, however, long-term exposure to other lung irritants, like secondhand smoke, can also contribute to COPD. (Adams County 2021 County Environmental Health Profile)

Adams-Friendship Area School District Youth Risk Behavior Survey



22% of AFHS students reported current or former asthma diagnosis. 14% of AFHS students reported a physical disability or chronic health condition. AFMS students with a physical disability or chronic health condition were more likely to seriously consider suicide (in the past 12 months).

Importance of Physical Health

Sexual activity is important to health, as it can affect people immediately (sexually transmitted infections (STIs) or unplanned pregnancies), and can also affect the long-term physical health, economic and social well-being of individuals and communities. In the United States, there are around 3 million unintended pregnancies each year. Unintended pregnancy rates are higher amongst poor, minorities, young and cohabitating women. Another consequence of unintended pregnancy is delayed prenatal care.

Sleep is another important aspect of physical health. Lack of sleep, or ongoing sleep deficiency can:

- increase risk of chronic health conditions such as heart disease, kidney disease, high blood pressure, diabetes, stroke, depression, anxiety, risky behavior and suicide
- lead to motor vehicle crashes, maybe even putting others lives in danger

Counties with higher unemployment, poverty, percentage of adults who did not complete high school, mortality rates and prevalence of disability are more likely to have more unhealthy days.

County Health Rankings 2021

Adams County has one hospital (Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics) and three clinics *(Aspirus Riverview Clinic Adams, Aspirus Riverview Clinic Rome and Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics)*. The Rome Clinic has been closed since early 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Family Health La Clinica, a federally qualified health center, also serves the county.

Nutrition

Importance of Nutrition

Balanced nutrition is essential for health, however, many Americans consume more calories and less fruits and vegetables than recommended. Poor nutrition and excessive calorie intake can hinder growth and development and lead to malnutrition and obesity.

Over 2/3 of American adults and around 1/3 of children and adolescents are overweight or obese. Being overweight or obese can lead to:

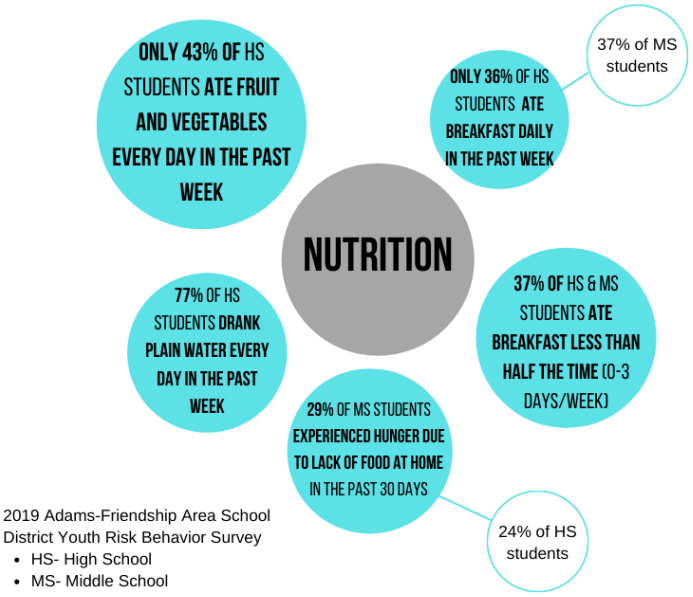
- increased risk for health conditions (type 2 diabetes, heart disease, stroke, hypertension, cancer, Alzheimer's disease, dementia, liver disease, kidney disease, osteoarthritis and respiratory problems)
- mental health problems

Poor nutrition impacts communities economically as well; obesity-related health care costs and productivity loss due to obesity-related job absenteeism costs the United States billions of dollars each year.

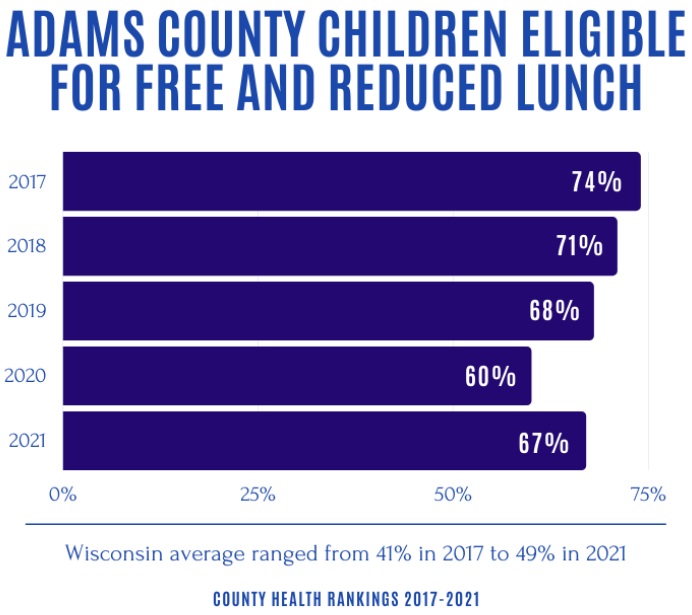
Access to healthy foods may also pose an issue. Locations for healthy food purchases and cost barriers play a role in food insecurity (lack of consistent access to enough food for an active, healthy lifestyle⁎). This can lead to premature mortality. Supermarkets typically offer healthier options than convenience stores or smaller grocery stores.

Breastfeeding research shows that it lowers baby's risk of certain infections and diseases. Breastfed babies may also be sick less often, which can help keep health care costs low.⁎

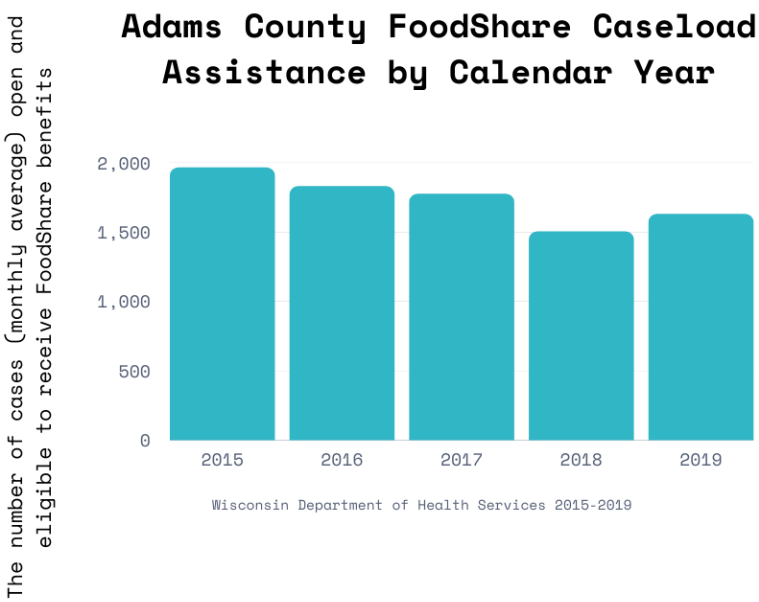
County Health Rankings 2021
⁎United States Department of Agriculture



2019 Adams-Friendship Area School District Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- HS- High School
- MS- Middle School

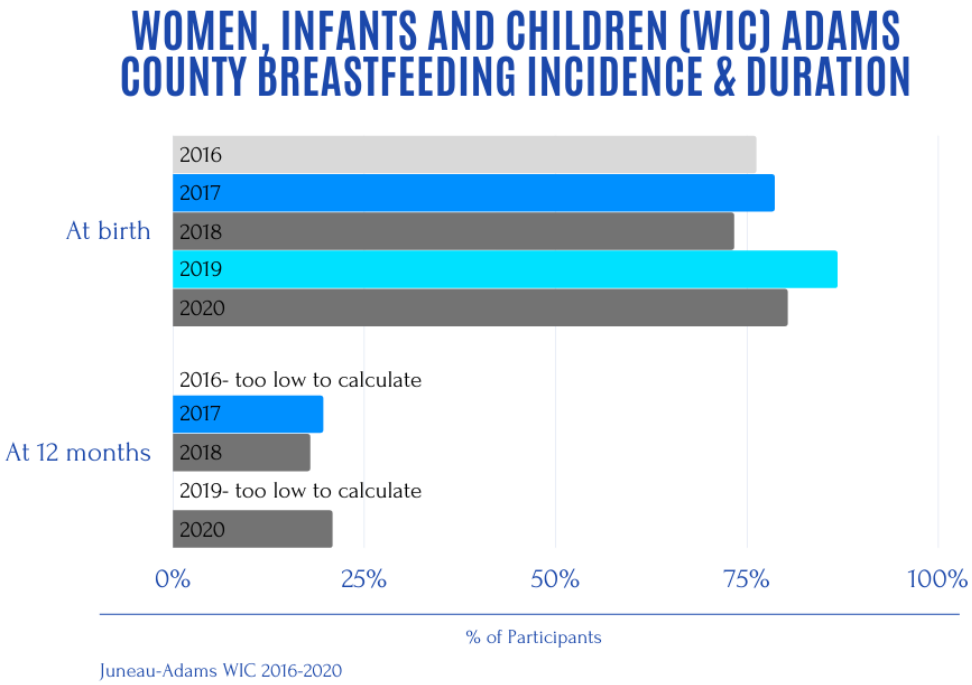


Middle School students who were food insecure were reportedly less likely to eat breakfast every day and less likely to exercise most days (in the past 7 days), less likely to participate in school activities, teams or clubs and more likely to seriously consider suicide or self-harm (in the past 12 months). (2019 Adams-Friendship Area School District Youth Risk Behavior Survey).



There are numerous food assistance programs, pantries and free meals available in Adams County for those in need. **Programs like FoodShare Wisconsin and WIC help low-income families and individuals buy nutritious food.**

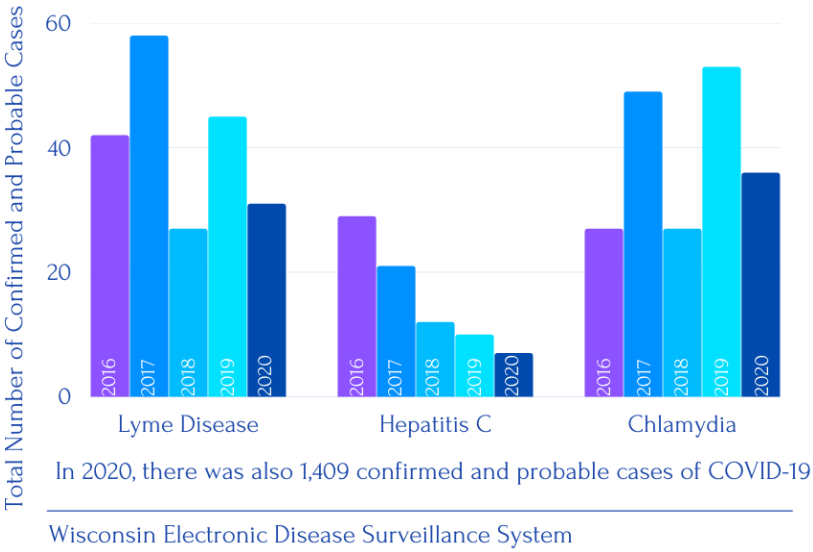
WIC offers not only food assistance to families, but also breastfeeding support and nutrition education.



Communicable Disease

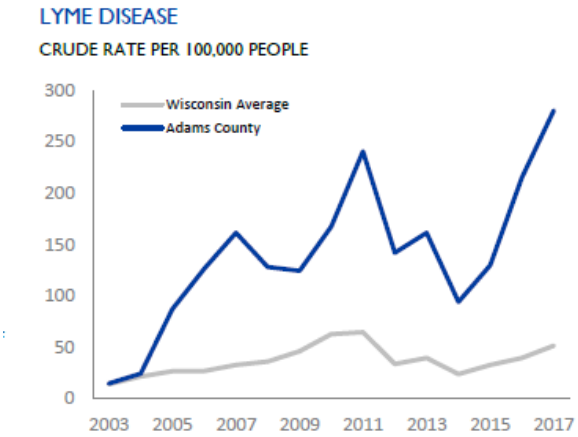
Wisconsin has communicable disease reporting requirements per Wisconsin State Statute Administrative Code Department of Health Services (DHS) Chapter 145, which establishes a surveillance system for the purpose of controlling the incidence and spread of communicable diseases in Wisconsin. Local health departments have primary responsibility for communicable disease follow-up and "may do what is reasonable and necessary for the prevention and suppression of disease." (Wis. Stat. 252.03(2)). **Category I diseases** *(such as COVID-19, Anthrax, Measles, Tuberculosis, etc.,)* are of urgent public health importance and should be reported to the local health officer within 24 hours. **Category II diseases** *(such as Chlamydia,* E. coli *infection, Hepatitis C, Lyme Disease, etc.,)* should be reported to the local health officer within 72 hours.

ADAMS COUNTY TOP CONFIRMED & PROBABLE COMMUNICABLE DISEASES 2016-2020



In 2020, there was also 1,409 confirmed and probable cases of COVID-19

Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System



Importance of Communicable Disease

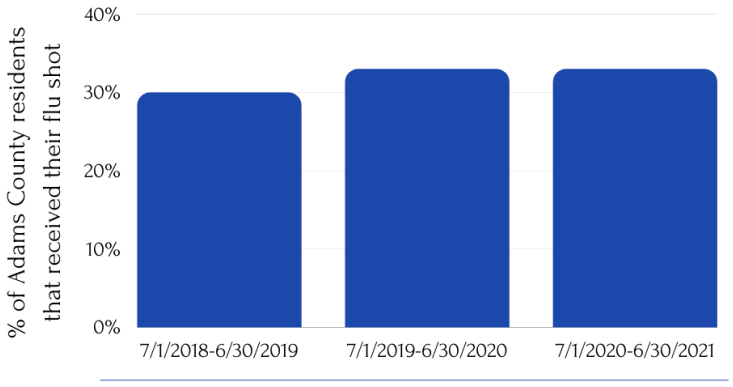
Recent data show increasing rates of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia infections. Young people, gay and bisexual men are at higher risk for these sexually transmitted infections (STIs). STIs can have severe reproductive health complications, especially for young women.

Influenza (flu) is spread easily from person-to-person. People who have pre-existing medical conditions, those who live in long-term care facilities and children younger than 5 are at greater risk for more severe illness from the flu. The best way to protect yourself and the people around you from the flu is to get the flu vaccine every fall (for those ages 6 months+). Babies ages 0-24 months need other vaccines to protect against illnesses such as hepatitis B, chickenpox, whooping cough, measles and many more.*

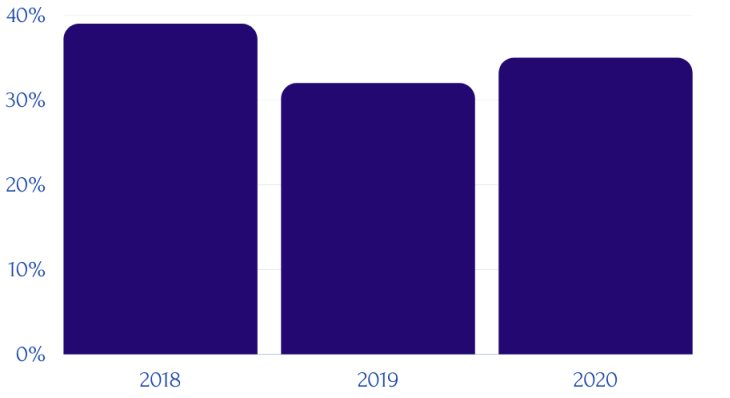
Hepatitis C is a liver infection and is spread when blood from a person with the virus enters the blood of someone who is not infected. This can happen by sharing needles/equipment to inject drugs, sexual contact with someone who has hepatitis C, tattoos and body piercings using nonsterile instruments, blood transfusion or organ transplants prior to 1992, being born to a mother with hepatitis C, needle stick injuries in health care settings or sharing razors or toothbrushes with someone who has hepatitis C. Most people with hepatitis C develop a chronic, lifelong infection, which can cause serious health problems like liver disease, cirrhosis and liver cancer.*

County Health Rankings 2021
**Wisconsin Department of Health Services*

ADAMS COUNTY INFLUENZA IMMUNIZATIONS 2018-2020 (6 MONTHS OLD+)



ADAMS COUNTY CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATIONS 2018-2020 DID NOT MEET BENCHMARK AT 24 MONTHS



Selected benchmarks: DTaP (4), HepB (3), Hib (3), MMR (1), Pneumo (4), Polio (3) and Varicella (1)

Wisconsin Immunization Registry

Importance of Communicable Disease

Immunizations (or vaccinations) are one of the greatest achievements in public health. Vaccines prevent disease in people who receive them. If there are enough people in a community that are vaccinated, the entire community can be protected because there is little opportunity for an outbreak to occur. Before vaccines, many children died from diseases like measles, pertussis (whooping cough) and Haemophilus influenzae.

With the introduction of routine vaccinations, vaccine-preventable diseases occur much less often in the United States. Vaccine-preventable diseases can be very serious, even deadly, especially for young children. Vaccinations are the best way to prevent diseases and the serious effects they can cause.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a detailed recommended vaccine schedule that is designed to keep infants and young children healthy.

Certain vaccines are required for both day care and school entry, per Wisconsin State Law. The Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program, of which Adams County Public Health is a provider for, offers vaccines for eligible children at no charge.

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

Growth and Development

Adams County Births 2016-2018

Total Births	• **364 total births**
Teen Births	• **Teen birth rate** (births per 1,000 **females ages 15-19**) = **16** *(higher than the Wisconsin state average of 14.1)* • **Teen birth rate** among younger teens (births per 1,000 **females ages 15-17**) = **8** *(higher than the Wisconsin state average of 5.7)*
Maternal Smoking	• **23%** of moms **smoked during pregnancy** • **37% of babies born premature** were born to **moms that smoked during pregnancy**

Birthweight	• **9%** of babies born had **low birthweight** *(less than 2,500 grams)*
	• **8%** of babies were born **premature** *(less than 37 weeks gestation)*
	  ◦ Of those, **50% received WIC benefits**
	  ◦ Of those, **90% were white**

Other	• **61% of moms** pre-pregnancy **were overweight or obese** • **13% of moms** had **no high school diploma** • **13% of moms** had a **bachelor's degree** • **3% of moms** had a **master's degree** • There were **5 infant deaths**

Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) Query System 2016-2018

There are only **8 regulated** (certified or licensed) **child care programs** with a capacity to serve **127 children** in Adams County. There is **one centrally-located school district** in Adams County, which includes an elementary school, middle and high school. Youth attend schools in districts in surrounding counties as well. There is also **Head Start**, which is a federally funded program available for free to families with children ages 3-5 years old and who meet income guidelines. Head Start offers a center based program *(child attends classes 4 days per week)* and a home based program *(a teacher visits the family's home weekly to assist parents to enhance school readiness)*. From 2018-2021, there was an average of 36 children enrolled in Head Start each year in Adams County in either of the two programs.

Importance of Growth and Development

Even when factors like income are taken into account, better educated individuals live longer, healthier lives than those with less education, and their children are more likely to thrive. More schooling is linked to higher incomes, better employment options and increased social supports. Higher paying jobs are more likely to provide workers with safe environments and offer health insurance and paid time off benefits.

In addition, parental education is linked to children's health. Children whose mothers graduated from college are twice as likely to live past their first birthday. Stress and poor health in early life, which may be common amongst those whose parents have lower levels of education, is linked to decreased cognitive development, increased tobacco and drug use and higher risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, depression and other conditions. A high school degree strongly correlates with higher life expectancies and improved quality of life. The average academic performance of students in a given school district can be considered to reflect the total set of (both in- and out of-school) educational opportunities and resources available to children in that community.

Pregnant teens are less likely than older women to receive recommended prenatal care and more likely to have pre-term or low birthweight babies. They are also less likely to complete high school and, therefore, more likely to live below the poverty line and rely on public assistance.

Lack of access to reliable, affordable childcare puts a strain on families. It may lead to one parent leaving the workforce to care for their child(ren). Cost of childcare may put a burden on families that are already low-income. Access to childcare impacts a family's social, financial, physical and mental well-being.

County Health Rankings 2021

Adams-Friendship Area
District Report Card

Report Card, 2020-21
Public report

OVERVIEW

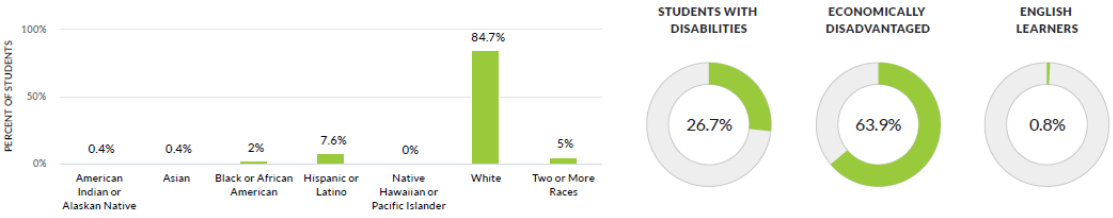
District Details

Grades : K4-12
Enrollment : 1,309
Percent open enrollment : 2.1%

The Adams-Friendship Area School District (AFASD) proudly serves approximately 1400 students, their families, and our community. The AFASD operates AF Elementary School serving students in pre-K through 4th grade, AF Middle School serving students in 5th through 8th grade, and AF High School serving students in 9th through 12th grade. It is a Great Day to Be a Green Devil!

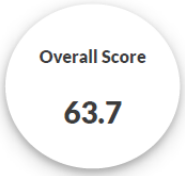
The statement above is provided by the district. It is not an evaluation by the Wisconsin DPI.

Student Groups

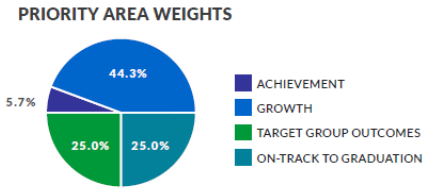


Score Summary

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, please use caution when interpreting scores and ratings. Careful review of the detailed data on all pages is encouraged. Also, see https://dpi.wi.gov/accountability/resources.

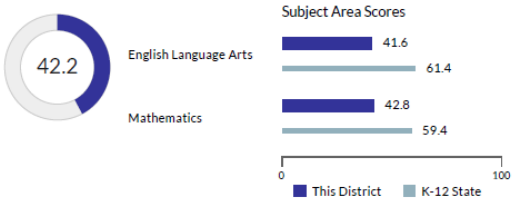


Meets Expectations
★★★

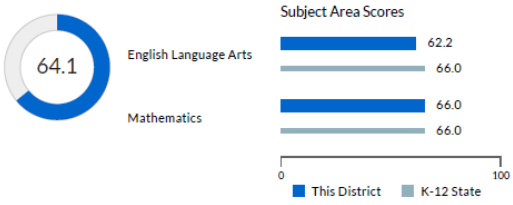


Priority Area Scores

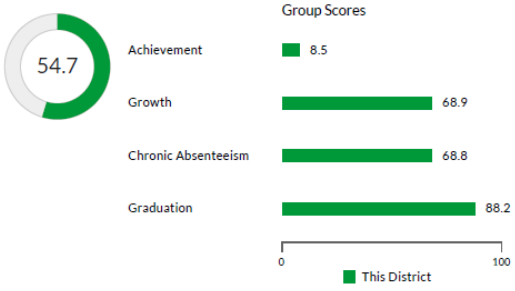
ACHIEVEMENT



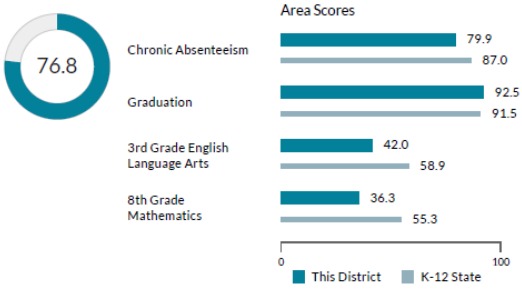
GROWTH



TARGET GROUP OUTCOMES

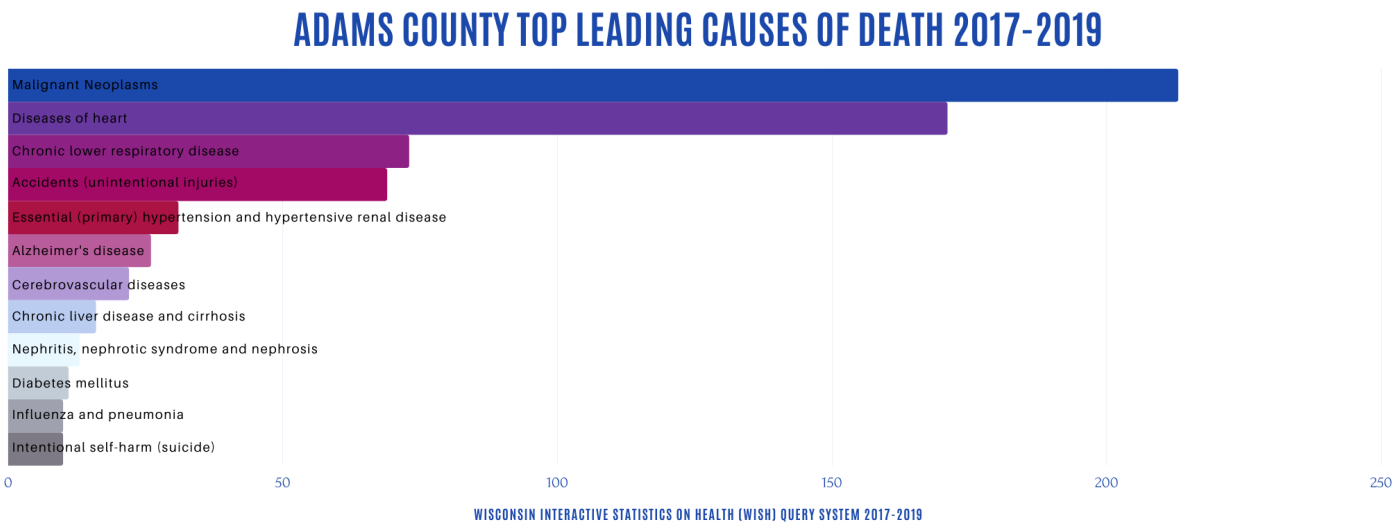


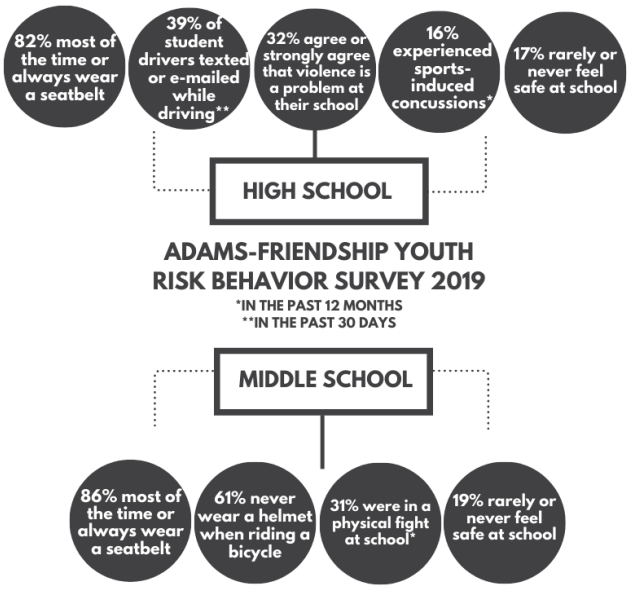
ON-TRACK TO GRADUATION



For full report, see Appendix D

Injury, Violence and Mortality





The ranked broad causes of death above is a **rate of deaths per 100,000 population**. Examples of deaths in the table above include:

- Malignant neoplasm- cancerous tumor
- Chronic lower respiratory diseases- chronic bronchitis, emphysema and asthma
- Cerebrovascular diseases- stroke, transient ischemic attack (TIA)
- Nephritis- inflammation of one or both kidneys

Not included in the table above are 102 deaths labeled death by "other causes".

Importance of Injury, Violence and Mortality

How long people live in a community tells us whether people are dying too early and prompts us to look at what is driving premature deaths. Length of life can vary greatly by place, income and race and ethnicity. At a community level, we can influence how long people live by focusing on the many factors that influence health, such as access to nutritious foods, quality medical care, good jobs and a clean environment.

Injuries through accidents or violence are the third leading cause of death in the United States (US) and the leading cause for those ages 1-44. Accidents and violence affect health and quality of life in the short and long-term. Among those unintentional injury deaths, drowning was the leading cause of death for children ages 1-4, motor vehicle traffic accidents were the leading cause of injury death for those ages 5-24 and unintentional poisoning was the leading cause of death for those ages 25-64. Injuries account for 29% of all emergency department visits and falls account for nearly 1/4 of those visits. Many injuries are predictable and preventable.

Each year in the US, 19,000 children and adults are the victims of homicide and more than 1,700 children die from abuse or neglect. Children in unsafe circumstances can suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and exhibit more aggressive behavior, alcohol and tobacco use and sexual risk-taking. One in four women experiences intimate partner violence (IPV) during their life, and more than 4 million are assaulted by their partners each year. IPV causes 2,000 death annually and increases the risk of depression, anxiety, PTSD, substance use and chronic pain.

County Health Rankings 2021

Disturbances*

- In 2020, there was a total of **362 domestic disturbances** reported
- In 2020, there was a total of **817 disorderly conducts** reported

Crashes*

- From 2016-2020, there was a total of **79 ATV/UTV crashes**. There were **4 substance-related fatalities**
- From 2016-2020, there was a total of **18 snowmobile crashes**
- From 2016-2020, there was a total of **4,328 vehicle crashes** *(including car/deer)* with **8 substance-related fatalities**

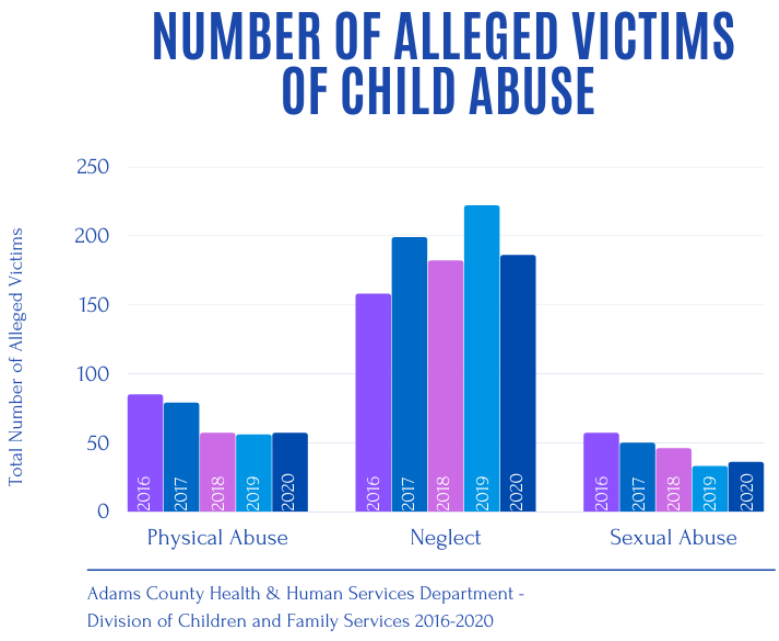
Injury-Related Emergency Department Visits 2016-2019**

- Any manner of assault-related injury: **136**
- Poisonings: **103**
  - Drug-related: **76**
- Self-harm injury: **19**
- Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): **325**
  - *Including fall-related, struck by or against someone or something, motor vehicle-related or assault-related*
- Unintentional fall-related injury: **1,682**
- Unintentional motor vehicle injury: **304**
  - *Including occupant, motorcycle, pedal cyclist and pedestrian*

Injury-Related Hospitalizations 2016-2019**

- Poisonings: **39**
  - Drug-related: **37**
- Self-harm injury: **16**
- TBI: **36**
  - *Including fall-related, struck by or against someone or something, motor vehicle-related or assault-related*
- Unintentional fall-related injury: **148**
- Unintentional motor vehicle injury: **50**
  - *Including occupant, motorcycle, pedal cyclist and pedestrian*

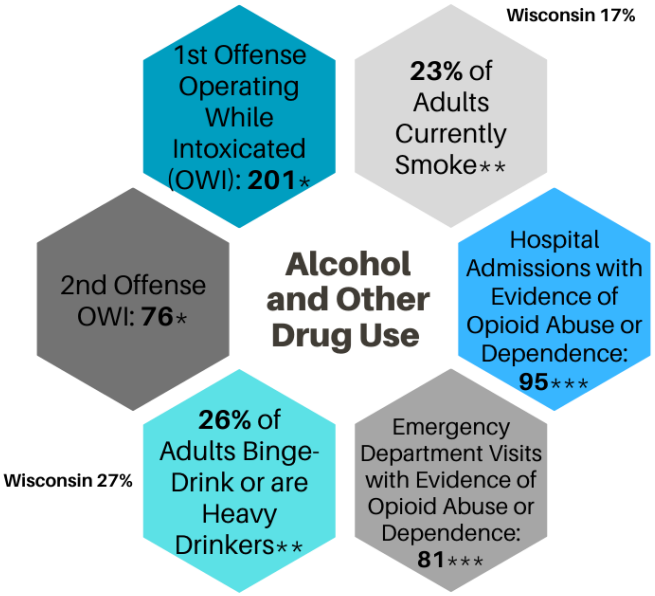
*Adams County Sheriff's Office 2016-2020
**Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) Query Systems 2016-2019



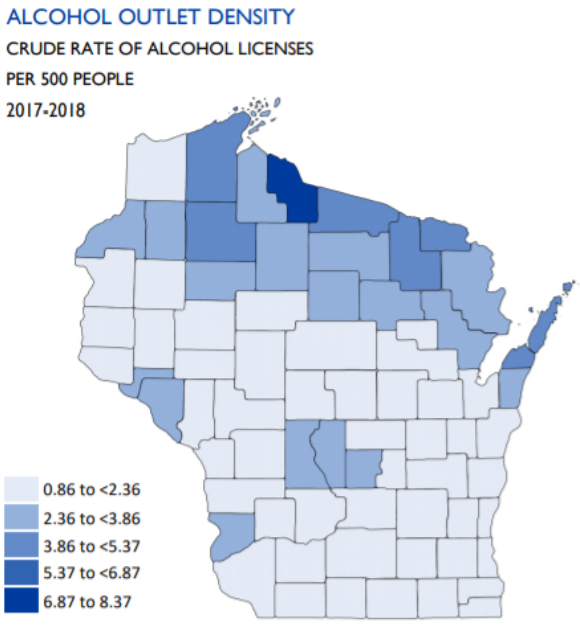
Adams County has between the **1st-3rd highest** number of allegations of abuse/neglect reported per child in Wisconsin *(depending on the year)*. In 2019, the state average per 1,000 children was 32.1 child protective services (CPS) referrals. Adams County had **99.4 CPS reports per 1,000 children**. This is 3x the average number of reports than mostly every other county and more than double the number of reports as Milwaukee County.

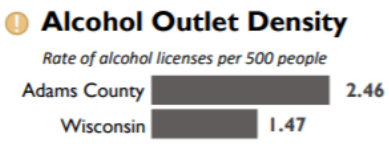
Wisconsin Child Abuse and Neglect Report 2019

Alcohol and Other Drug Use



*Adams County Sheriff's Office 2016-2020
**2021 County Health Rankings
***Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) Query Systems 2016-2019





Adams County 2021 County Environmental Health Profile

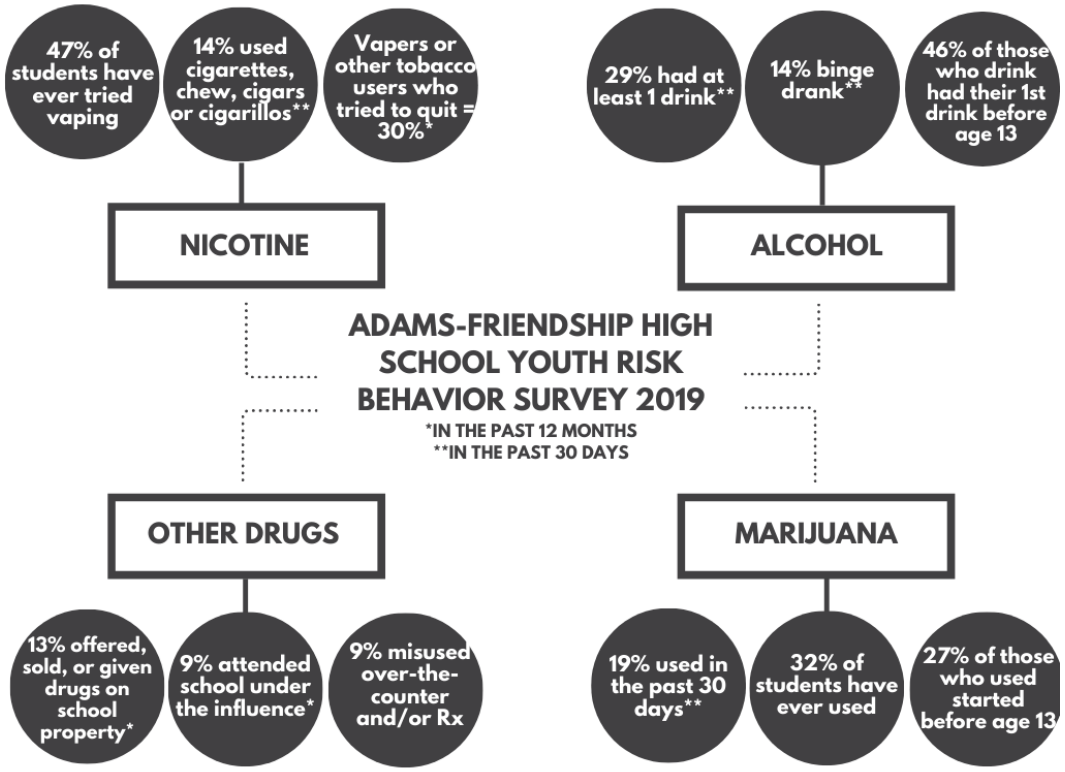
Importance of Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death in the United States (US). Each year, smoking kills 480,000 Americans (including around 41,000 from exposure to secondhand smoke). It affects not only those who use tobacco, but also those who live and work around tobacco. Smoking causes cancer, heart disease, stroke, lung diseases, diabetes and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) which includes emphysema and chronic bronchitis and low birthweight. On average, smokers die 10 years earlier than nonsmokers.

When consumed in excess, alcohol is harmful to the health and well-being of those that drink, as well as their families, friends and communities. Excessive alcohol use causes 88,000 deaths in the US each year. Excessive alcohol consumption is a risk factor for high blood pressure, heart disease, fetal alcohol syndrome, liver disease and certain cancers. Short-term excessive drinking is also linked to alcohol poisoning, intimate partner violence, risky sexual behaviors and motor vehicle crashes.

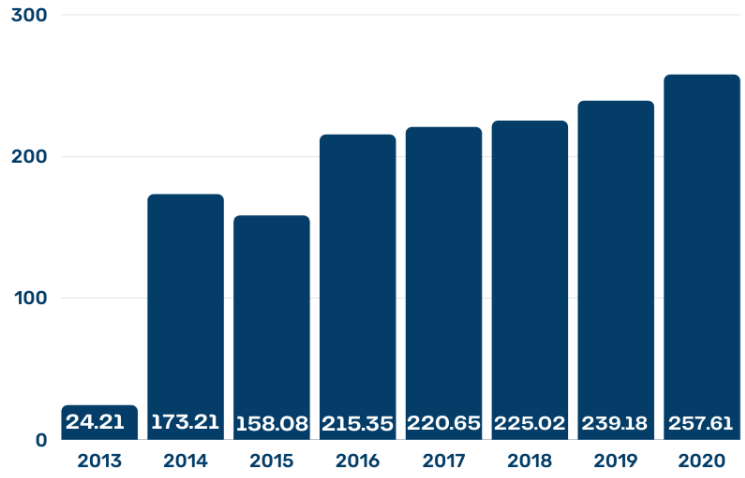
Prescription drug misuse and illicit drug use also have substantial health, economic and social consequences. Marijuana, now legal in some states, is the most frequently used illicit drug.

County Health Rankings 2021



Students that identified as LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender) engaged in substance use at a higher rate in the past 30 days than their straight-cisgender peers.

of Pounds of Medication Collected from Drug Drop Boxes, the Medical Examiner and Drug Take Back Events



Adams County Sheriff's Office

Drug Take Backs provide a safe, convenient and responsible means of disposal of prescription medication. Unused prescription medications in homes create a public health and safety concern because they can be accidentally ingested, stolen, misused or abused.

Wisconsin Department of Justice

Mental Health

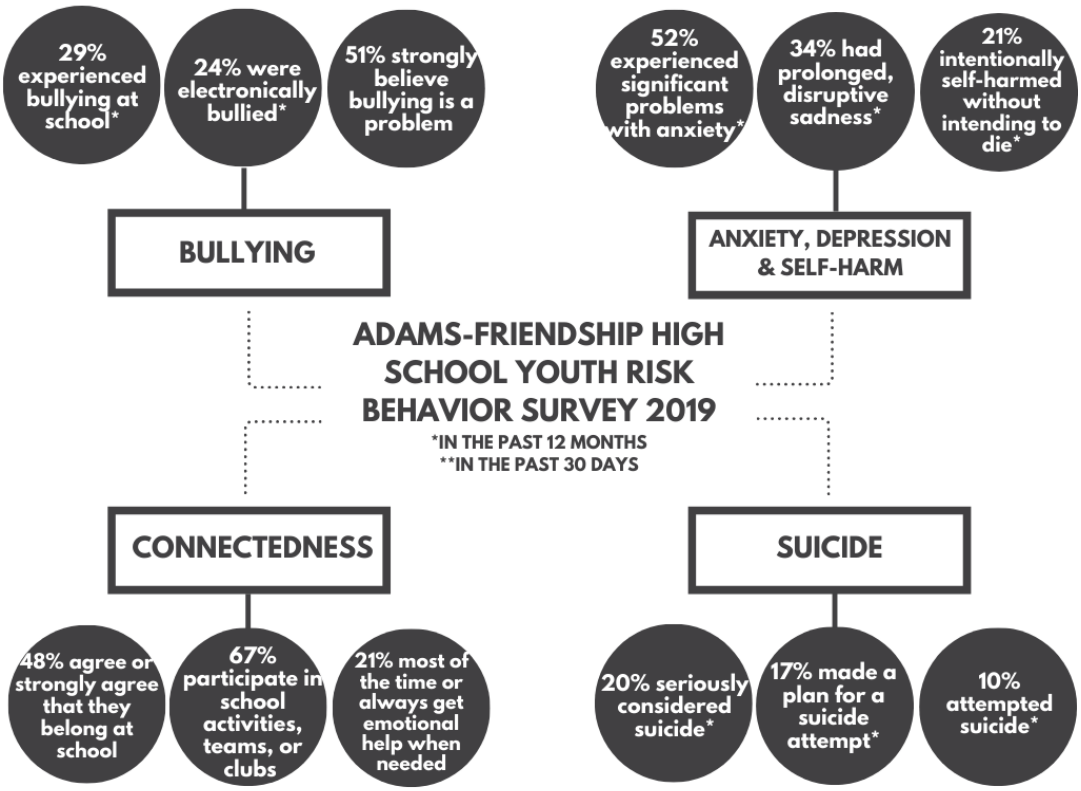
Importance of Mental Health

Mental health includes our emotional, psychological and social well-being. It affects how we think, feel and act and also determines how we handle stress, relate to others and make choices. A person's mental health can change over time, depending on many factors. When the demands placed on a person exceed their resources and coping abilities, their mental health could be impacted. Mental health concerns are common and treatable.*

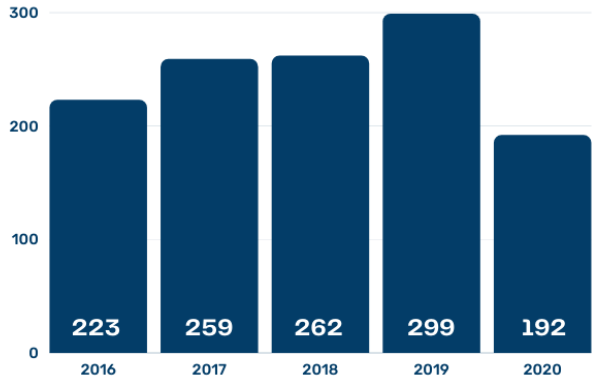
Suicide continues to grow as a public health issue in Wisconsin as rates increase. Suicide involves many factors, such as mental health, substance use issues, financial difficulties, physical illness, social isolation, childhood and historical trauma and easy access to lethal means.* In addition to the impact on the emotional and mental health of surviving friends, family members and loved ones, suicide also has an economic impact, and costs the United States an estimated $70 billion per year.

People with greater social support, less isolation and greater interpersonal trust live longer and healthier lives, compared to those who are socially isolated. Those who are socially isolated have increased risk for poor health outcomes and are particularly vulnerable to the effects of stress, which has been linked to cardiovascular disease and unhealthy behaviors (overeating and smoking in adults, obesity in children and adolescents). Neighborhoods with more social capital (features of a society that facilitate cooperation for mutual benefit, such as interpersonal trust and civic associations) provide residents with greater access to support and resources. Residents of neighborhoods with low social capital may be more likely to suffer from anxiety and depression.

County Health Rankings 2021
**Wisconsin Department of Health Services*



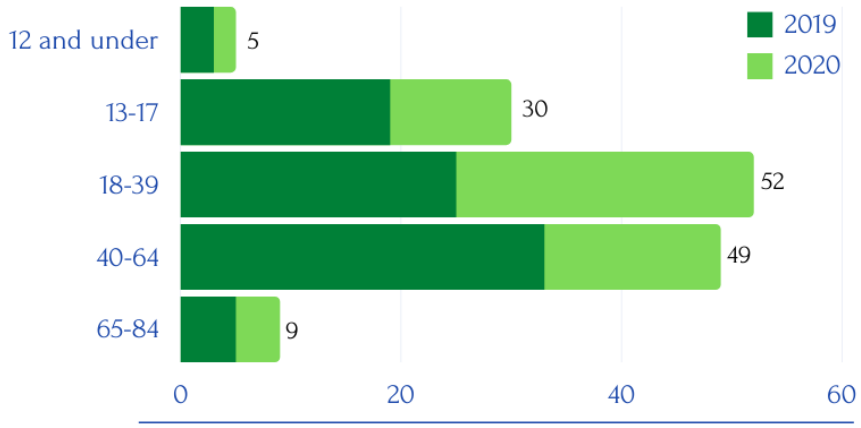
Suicidal Threat/Attempt Element Within an Incident



Adams County Sheriff's Office

Calls to the Adams County Sheriff's Office for or including suicide ideation or attempt are documented. From 2016-2020, there was **an average of 247 calls each year** that involved suicidal thoughts or behavior.

PRESENTED TO THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT WITH SUICIDE IDEATION OR ATTEMPT



Numbers are deduplicated. 18 patients in 2019 and 0 patients in 2020 presented to the Emergency Department more than 1 time.

GUNDERSEN MOUNDVIEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT 2019-2020

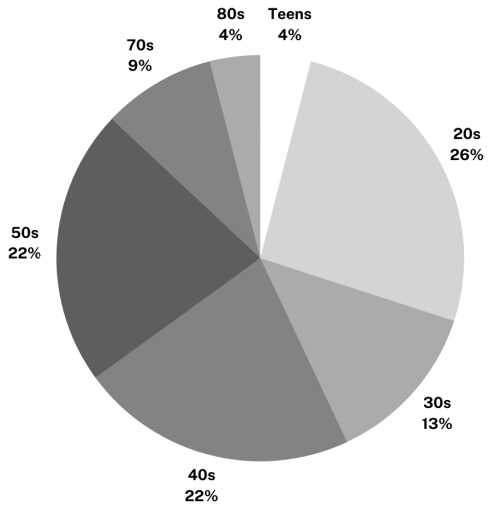
There is one hospital in Adams County that is centrally located. It is important to note that this data does not include residents who may have travelled to surrounding counties for care while experiencing suicide ideation or for a suicide attempt. Of the 145 individuals that were seen from 2019-2020 at Gundersen Moundview Emergency Department, **52% were male**. Less than 5 of these individuals completed suicide.

Risk factors of those seen included mental illness, family conflict/divorce/relationship problems, substance abuse, trauma, alcohol abuse/acute or severe intoxication, financial, job stress, death of a loved one and chronic pain. Some of the reported **protective factors** included supportive family or significant other, help seeking behaviors, active in school, social support, pets and children.

Adams County Residents that Died by Suicide

 # OF SUICIDES 2016-2020

Adams County Medical Examiner



SUICIDES IN ADAMS COUNTY BY AGE GROUP 2016-2020

Adams County Medical Examiner

Of the Adams County residents that died by suicide from 2016-2020, 78% were male and 57% used a firearm to complete suicide.

Community Feedback

Primary data was collected via a community survey, focus groups and key informant interviews throughout the summer of 2021.

Community Survey:
A 52 question survey was available for community members to complete from June 14-August 8, 2021. The survey was available online via SurveyMonkey and shared on Facebook. Paper copies of the survey were available at: Health & Human Services, Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinics, Friendship Connection, Lester Public Library of Rome, Adams County Library, Kilbourn Public Library, Adams County Fair, Second Harvest Mobile Food Pantry and Wisconsin Dells Food Pantry. It was also distributed through the Aging & Disability Resource Center's Home Delivered Meal program. The survey was emailed to coalition members, volunteers and churches. The survey was translated into Spanish and copies were sent to local farms that employ Spanish-speaking workers. A press release was sent to local media outlets and it was also discussed on the local radio station Wisconsin 106.1. An ad was taken out in the Weekly Rambler to promote the survey. Participation in the survey was incentivized by three, $50 Kwik Trip gift cards and a certificate for an overnight stay and dinner for two at Sand Valley Golf Resort.

In total, 607 individuals responded to the survey with 349 of those completing it in its entirety. Of those that responded:

- 94% lived in Adams County. The top zip codes that responded were 53934 (29%), 53910 (22%) and 54457 (13%).
- 81% of respondents were female.
- 95% of respondents were caucasian/white.
- Top age groups that responded: 25% ages 55-64, 18% ages 35-44, 17% ages 45-54 and 16% ages 65-74.
- The majority of respondents' (31%) highest level of education was high school graduation (including GED, HSED, HEP), with bachelor's degree being the second highest at 22%.
- 63% of respondents were married/common law.
- 42% of respondents were homeowners with a mortgage, 37% were homeowners without a mortgage and 14% of respondents were renters.
- 44% of respondents were employed full-time (including self-employment) and 29% were retired. The majority of respondents (26%) annual household income (before taxes) was between $25,000-$50,999.
- 64% did not have any children under the age of 18 living in their household.

The questions in the survey were on a multitude of topic areas regarding the social determinants of health: conditions in the environment where people are born, live, learn, work, play, worship and age that affect a wide range of health, functioning and quality-of-life outcomes and risks

(Healthy People 2030). Questions about community safety, occupation and economics, mental health, access to care, physical activity and nutrition and substance use were asked.

When asked **"what do you think are the most important health problems in your community"**, the top responses were *(respondents were to choose only 5)*:

- Not enough jobs offering a livable wage (48% of respondents chose this in their top 5)
- Alcohol misuse and abuse (46%)
- Other drug abuse (45%)
- Mental health problems (38%)
- Child abuse/neglect (37%)
- Aging problems (32%)
- Domestic violence (26%)
- Obesity (25%)
- Cancers (20%)
- Bullying. Dental problems. Lack of access to childcare (19%)

When asked **"what do you think are the most important risky behaviors *(those that have the greatest impact on overall community health)* in your community"**, the top responses were *(respondents were to choose only 3)*:

- Alcohol misuse and abuse (62% of respondents chose this in their top 3)
- Other drug abuse (61%)
- Texting/cell phone use while driving (32%)
- Poor eating habits (31%)
- Lack of exercise (25%)
- Not getting vaccinated to prevent disease (23%)

See Appendices E and F for a copy of survey questions and Appendix H for a complete breakdown of the survey data.

Key Informant Interviews:

Key informant interviews were conducted in August and September 2021 with community members and key stakeholders. A total of 23 key informant interviews were completed. The key informant interviews were not incentivized.

Focus Groups:

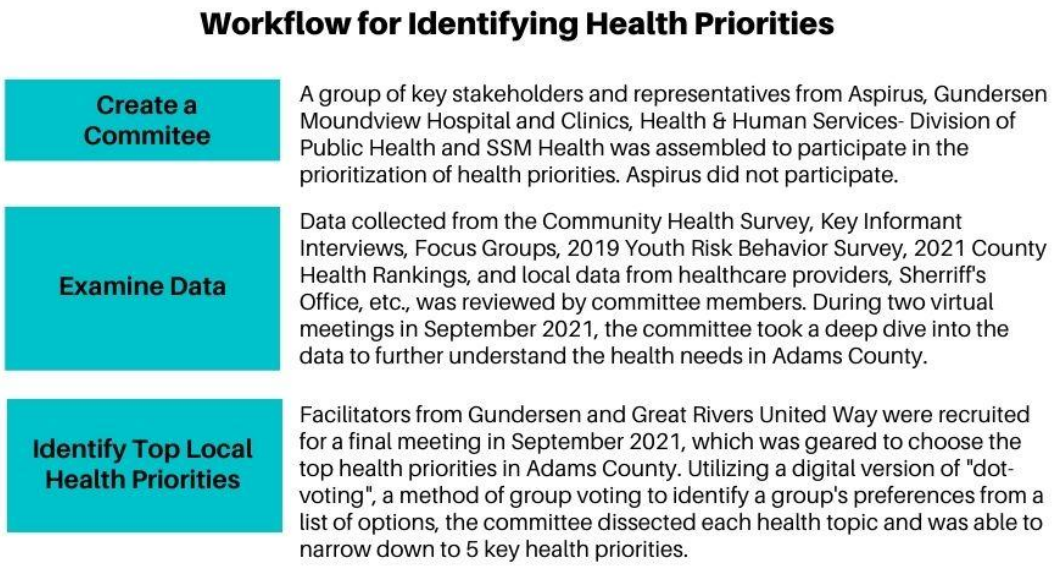
Five focus groups were scheduled and two focus groups were held in August 2021. Two focus groups were scheduled for community members (one in-person and one virtual). No community members registered to attend. Another focus group was scheduled with Gundersen Moundview Hospital and Clinic's Patient and Family Advisory Council (PFAC). This focus group was not held due to low registration. Two focus groups were scheduled and held virtually with key community stakeholders. A total of 10 key stakeholders participated. The focus groups were not incentivized.

Common Themes- Key Informant Interviews & Focus Groups

What makes a community healthy?	• Good paying jobs, a strong economy • Access to resources that meet people's needs • Safe, affordable housing • Social activities. Residents who are happy, healthy and involved
What prevents your community from being healthier?	• Not everyone has equal opportunity for good health due to financial barriers, transportation, age, race, etc., • Mental health concerns • Substance abuse • Cycle of abuse/trauma • Lack of housing • Retirement community
What strengths does your community have that could make it a healthier place?	• Collaboration between community professionals and systems • Residents that care • Natural resources, lots of things to do outdoors • Dedicated school district
What are your concerns about health in the community?	• School district has declining enrollment • Aging population. Hard to attract families to the area • Mental health and substance abuse • Lack of access to healthy foods and lack of exercise • Low levels of childhood, adolescent and adult vaccinations
In your time living or working in this community, how have you seen it change?	• Less families and more elderly • Businesses come and go • Less higher paying jobs and more hospitality jobs • Less for families to do
Who are the more vulnerable or underserved groups in the community?	• Youth • Low income • People of color • People who English is not their primary language • The elderly

See Appendix G for a copy of the focus group/key informant interview questions and Appendix I for a breakdown of focus group/key informant interview common themes.

Identification of Health Priorities



Based on the state and local data review and community feedback, including information provided by key stakeholders and in-depth discussions about health needs, the following health priorities were identified by the committee:

- Generational Cycle of Trauma and Abuse
- Higher Wage Jobs
- Dental Care
- Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse
- Healthy Eating Awareness and Knowledge

Throughout the prioritization meetings, the following topics were also discussed and taken into consideration when choosing the top health priority areas:

- Lack of resources for mental health and alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) treatment
- Transportation
- Childcare
- Stigma (i.e. normalize people asking for help)
- Generational poverty, trauma, substance use and mental health
- Attracting businesses and families to stay in the county
- Lack of care providers (dentists, mental health, pharmacies, AODA treatment, doctors)
- Public trust in providers and health professionals

Please note that Adams County Public Health may not be able to directly affect all of the above issues, but will seek out collaboration with others in the community that are already pursuing similar things.

Further prioritization by Adams County Public Health for the selection of top health priority areas included the following considerations:

- County alignment with State of Wisconsin health priorities
- Selecting priorities that were specified in both the primary and secondary data sources
- Selecting health priorities that will have the largest community impact
- Community readiness
- Capacity to make measurable changes in a reasonable period of time (i.e. the five year CHA/CHIP cycle)
- Momentum and commitment of health partners and the community.

Due to specificity of the identified health priorities above and after analyzing and reviewing the data and considering the feasibility of Adams County Public Health to drive realistic change, the top four overarching health priorities identified by Adams County Public Health are:

- **Access to Care**
- **Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse**
- **Nutrition and Physical Activity**
- **Mental Health**

See Appendix J for notes from the committee identifying health priorities.

Next Steps

Adams County Public Health will leverage existing partnerships and utilize the information contained in this Community Health Assessment (CHA) to begin development of a Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP). The top four health priority areas will be examined in more detail and the *Take Action Cycle* will be followed to help Choose Effective Policies & Programs, Act on What's Important and Evaluate Actions. Overarching themes will be explored with existing committees. The CHIP will drive the work of local public health and healthcare for the next five years and into the future. Goals and work plans will be developed based on the data and evidence-based practices and both professional organizations and community members will be engaged in the work.

Limitations

Although this assessment reflects the most recent and best available data for Adams County, there are important limitations to note:

- Input from vulnerable populations, like migrant farmworkers and non-English speaking residents, can be difficult to obtain.
- Not all of the data is gathered from the same year.
- Some of the data covers programs, but not everyone utilizes those programs.
- The Sheriff's Office data may not encompass the entire county. Although they share a database, the City of Adams Police Department and the Town of Rome Police Department do not follow the same case closure and coding protocols.
- Data from 2020-2021 may have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- While a comprehensive data review was completed, the health priorities were chosen by a small group of health professionals that may not be representative of the entire county.
- Due to limited participation, data from the community survey, focus groups and key informant interviews may not be representative of the entire county.

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Appendices

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