Kenosha County Health Needs Assessment

A summary of key informant interviews

2016

Prepared by:

Center for Urban Population Health
1020 N. 12th Street, Suite 4180
Milwaukee, WI 53233
414.219.5100
www.cuph.org
www.healthofmilwaukee.org
This report was prepared by the Design, Analysis, and Evaluation team at the Center for Urban Population Health. Carrie Stehman, MA and David Frazer, MPH prepared this report. If there are any questions, please feel free to contact them at 414.219.5100.

The funding to prepare this report comes from Kenosha County Division of Health, Aurora Health Care, United Hospital System, and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin working in partnership with Kenosha Community Health Center and United Way of Kenosha County.
# Table of Contents

Introduction 1  
Focus Area Ranking 2  
Top Five Health Issues 3  
General Themes 3  
Issue Summaries 4  
Mental Health 4  
Alcohol and Other Drug Use 5  
Access to Health Services 6  
Nutrition 7  
Physical Activity 8  
Chronic Disease Prevention and Management 9  
Injury and Violence Prevention 10  
Oral Health 11  
Tobacco Use and Exposure 11  
Healthy Growth and Development 12  
Reproductive and Sexual Health 13  
Environmental and Occupational Health 13  
Communicable Disease Prevention and Control 13  
Appendix A 14
Introduction

This report presents a summary of public health priorities for Kenosha County, as identified in 2016 by a range of providers, policy-makers, and other local experts and community members (“key informants”). These findings are a critical supplement to the Kenosha County community health needs assessment (CHNA) survey conducted through a partnership between the Kenosha County Division of Health, Aurora Health Care, United Hospital System, and Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin working in partnership with Kenosha Community Health Center and United Way of Kenosha County. The CHNA incorporates input from persons representing the broad community served by the hospitals, focusing on a range of public health issues relevant to the community at large.

Key informants in Kenosha County were identified and interviewed by staff from the Kenosha County Division of Health, United Hospital System, and Aurora Health Care in August, September, and October 2016. The interviewers used a standard interview script that included the following elements:

- Ranking of up to five public health issues, based on the focus areas presented in Wisconsin’s State Health Plan, that are the most important issues for the County; and
- For those five public health issues:
  - Existing strategies to address the issue
  - Barriers/challenges to addressing the issue
  - Additional strategies needed
  - Key groups in the community that hospitals should partner with to improve community health

All informants were made aware that participation was voluntary and that responses would be shared with the Center for Urban Population Health for analysis and reporting. This report presents the results of the 2016 CHNA key informant interviews for Kenosha County, based on the summaries provided to the Center for Urban Population Health.

The report first presents a summary of the health issue rankings, including a list of the five issues which were ranked most frequently by respondents. The next section provides a summary of the strategies, barriers, and partners described by participants. Themes that crossed health topics are also presented.

Limitations: Thirty-two key informants participated in 25 interviews in Kenosha County. The report relies on the opinions and experiences of a limited number of experts identified as having the community’s pulse. However, responses may not be representative of the overall perception of community strengths and needs. It is possible that the results would have been substantially different if a different set of informants had been interviewed. Results should be interpreted with caution and in conjunction with other Kenosha County data (e.g., CHNA surveys and secondary data reports).
A. Focus Area Ranking

A total of 32 key informants in 25 interviews were asked to rank the 5 major health-related issues in their county from a list of 13 focus areas identified in the State Health Plan. The table below presents the results, including a summary of the number of times an issue was mentioned as a top five health issue, and the number of times an informant ranked the issue as the most important health issue for the county. Importantly, not every informant ranked five issues. In interviews with more than one informant, one set of rankings was provided.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Focus Area</th>
<th>Key Informant Rankings</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Top 5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alcohol and Other Drug Use</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Health Services</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nutrition</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physical Activity</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chronic Disease Prevention and Management</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Injury and Violence Prevention</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral Health</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco Use and Exposure</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Healthy Growth and Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reproductive and Sexual Health</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental and Occupational Health</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicable Disease Prevention and Control</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. Top Five Health Issues

The five health issues ranked most consistently as a top five health issue for the County were:

1. Mental Health
2. Alcohol and Other Drug Use
3T. Access to Health Services
3T. Nutrition
5. Physical Activity

Summaries of themes for each issue are presented below in the order listed above. As a guide, issues ranked as the top five priorities for the County are marked with this thermometer symbol:

C. General Themes

Kenosha County key informants ranked five of the thirteen major health-related issues as priorities for the County.

It is important to note that since the last release of this report in 2014, the report has changed slightly. Many more key informants were interviewed in 2016 than in 2014. Alcohol and Other Drug Use has remained a top five health issue for the county, but all of the other top five health issues have changed. Chronic Disease Prevention and Management, Communicable Disease Prevention and Control, Environmental and Occupational Health, and Healthy Growth and Development have been replaced by Mental Health, Access to Health Services, Nutrition, and Physical Activity as the top health-related priority areas for Kenosha County in 2016.

The health issues key informants indicated were priorities for Kenosha County affect residents across the lifespan, requiring engagement across sectors to adequately address residents’ needs. Key informants identified a wide range of stakeholders and community partners engaged to improve the county’s health. The Kenosha County Division of Health, hospitals and health systems, health care providers, non-profits, businesses, law enforcement, schools, places of worship, and government were all included in the discussion as playing an active role in the health priority areas.

Many of the challenges and barriers identified by key informants across issues have to do with lack of funding for necessary services and programs, or lack of access caused by insufficient means or insurance to pay for needed services. Other common barriers and challenges across issues are related to access: lack of transportation to programs, appointments, and services, and lack of familiarity with available health care and ancillary services. Another commonly cited barrier was lack of awareness of resources or services that do exist.
Key informants identified strategies needed to improve the health of the county. For many issues discussed, more education and public awareness are important. Better collaboration among community organizations, and across sectors, was a commonly identified strategy. Other needs identified are related to health insurance payment for services, better systems of care that offer options for low-income patients, and integration of behavioral health into primary care.

D. Issue Summaries

Behavioral Health

Alcohol and Other Drug Use and Mental Health were the two issues receiving the most rankings in key informants’ top five health focus areas. Almost all key informants discussed Mental Health or Alcohol and Drug Use as top priority areas, with most discussing both. Mental Health received the most rankings as the number one health issue in the county. Key informants’ insights also suggest both of these topics overlap significantly with the issue of Access to Health Services, with the main barriers and challenges to addressing both Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Use being a lack of providers and services, long wait lists to access providers and services, lack of transportation to services, and difficulty paying for services or lack of coverage by insurance for services or medication. There was also some overlap in key informants’ suggestions for what is needed to address these issues, with a focus on cross-sectoral partnerships and working together to leverage existing resources in the county, as well as a desire to shift the focus to prevention and awareness about the underlying causes of substance abuse and mental illness. Key informants also discussed the stigma around both mental illness and substance abuse or addiction as a barrier that could be overcome with increased community awareness and acceptance of these issues.

Mental Health

Twenty-two key informants ranked Mental Health as a top five health issue for the county.

Existing Strategies: Existing strategies to address Mental Health in Kenosha County include the following: Existing mental health services in the county; growing community awareness of trauma and mental health; programs and services offered by Shalom Center, First Step Day Center, National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Kenosha County, Kenosha Human Development Services, Kenosha Racine Regional Consortium Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), the Behavioral Health Treatment Court, WISHIN allows health care providers to access patients’ health information from other electronic health record systems, the KARE Center and other treatment centers, supportive apartments, tele-psychiatry implemented within Aurora Medical Center through Aurora Behavioral Health, work between the County and Ascension to address access to services, a workgroup has identified key initiatives and put working groups in place, Kenosha Police Department officers are trained to detect signs of stress and trained in crisis intervention, and work with the Kenosha Visiting Nurses Association.
Barriers and Challenges: The main challenges and barriers discussed by key informants are issues of Access to Mental Health Services: Shortage of mental health care providers compared to the needs of the community, shortage of treatment and follow up care after diagnosis, shortage of hospital beds, Medicaid doesn’t pay for psychiatric hospitals, patients transported to services that are covered further away which increases the cost, lack of coverage for those who miss appointments, and the distances between resources. Other barriers identified include the stigma of mental illness, a lack of community resources, like housing, federal funding having been withdrawn for support programs, and primary care providers’ lack of comfort prescribing psychiatric medications.

Needed Strategies: Key informants identified strategies that would leverage existing resources in creative ways, like utilizing tele-health and tele-medicine options, establishing a local pipeline to psychiatric nurse practitioner programs in the state, and using police deputies’ in-service days for education about what they can do to support mental health or related issues in the community. Other opportunities are related to raising funds, attracting state dollars, and making the county a more attractive place to recruit mental health providers to live and work. Finally, the role of insurance companies and Medicaid in providing coverage and reimbursement for a broader array of mental health services and medications was identified as a strategy needed to improve Mental Health in the county.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Many community partners were named as being important to improving Mental Health in the county: School districts, insurance companies, mental healthcare providers, medical systems, churches, law enforcement and the District Attorney’s office, businesses, First Step program, NAMI Kenosha County Professional Services Group and Community Impact Programs, Oakwood Clinical Associates Counselors, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Center, Comprehensive Community Services, Kenosha Human Development Services, Professional Services Group & Community Impact Program, Kenosha Child Advocacy Center, the KARE Center, Kenosha County Division of Health, Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, Healthy People Kenosha County 2020, United Way of Kenosha County, Kenosha Community Health Center, Shalom Center, state mental health facilities, and the general community.

Alcohol and Other Drug Use

Twenty-one respondents ranked Alcohol and Other Drug Use as a top five health issue for the county. Specifically, key informants discussed alcohol abuse, heroin and opioid use, and prescription drug abuse, as well as concern about the presence of new kinds of street drugs.

Existing Strategies: Task forces on education, the Hope Council on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse, physician assessments in emergency departments, programs in schools, crisis services, the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Resource Center, Kenosha Racine Regional Consortium Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), programs of the Kenosha County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council,
the Oxford House program, a Vivitrol program is in place, drug enforcement programs, especially for heroin, drug collection monitoring, and resource officers in schools are examples of existing strategies to address Alcohol and Other Drug Use.

**Barriers and Challenges:** The culture of Wisconsin that normalizes binge drinking; ease of access to drugs; lack of prevention efforts; drugs used to self-medicate when access to care is limited; stigma and denial around addiction; denial of the issue among parents; lack of residential treatment programs; lack of use of Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) tool to screen for alcohol or drug use; court costs; jail costs; impact on families; lack of coordination between services; and the use of old programs that aren’t evidence-based are examples of challenges and barriers identified by key informants.

**Needed Strategies:** Continued early and ongoing education, community awareness, and prevention efforts; expanding the Vivitrol program; identifying all groups with efforts ongoing and assessing how they can increase collaboration; conferring and prioritizing all strategies that are available; programs to divert young patients from the court system exist, but we need to have the services to divert them to; residential treatment facilities; hospitals should embrace abuse treatment as an important part of integrated care for patients; and producing a central list of community services and resources for the area were identified as strategies needed to improve health related to Alcohol and Other Drug Use.

**Key Community Partners to Improve Health:** Key informants identified many important partners in the community to be engaged to improve health: Medical providers and health systems, law enforcement, legislators, local government, scientists, mental healthcare providers, alcohol and drug counselors, school systems, city judges, civic groups, fire departments, the District Attorney’s Office, the Hope Council on Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse, NAMI Kenosha County, Kenosha County Division of Health, Kenosha County Aging and Disability Resource Center, Kenosha County Department of Human Services, Professional Services Group & Community Impact Programs, Women & Children’s Horizons, Inc., First Step Day Center, Healthy People Kenosha County 2020, the Salvation Army, and the Kenosha County Tavern League.

---

**Access to Health Services**

Access to Health Services was ranked as a top five health issue by 10 key informants. Respondents identified connections between this and other health priority areas, namely Oral Health, Mental Health, and Chronic Disease Prevention and Management.

**Existing Strategies:** Medicaid navigators, the Affordable Care Act (ACA), Health Maintenance Organizations (HMO), the Kenosha Community Health Center (KCHC), outreach at health fairs, an emergency services network, and some free prescription programs were identified as existing strategies to improve Access to Health Services.
Barriers and Challenges: The primary barriers to Accessing Health Services are a shortage of providers, particularly those who will accept patients with Medicaid, uninsured patients, and patients who cannot pay out of pocket; the high costs of insurance, health care, and prescriptions; a shortage of dental and specialty care providers; long wait times for appointments; and lack of transportation to get patients to appointments. Other barriers and challenges include low levels of health literacy, confusion navigating health care systems and insurance, and the lack of preventive care leading to more serious chronic conditions.

Needed Strategies: Key informants identified strategies needed to address this issue, with a focus on solving the issues related to expenses and lack of funding, public health efforts to prevent illness, and bringing more providers to the county. Suggestions provided include: Wisconsin should become more Medicaid friendly, find federal funding and programs, make the county an attractive place for providers to live and grow their practice, bring consumers to the table to talk about their experiences and what isn’t working, make sure health education tools are written at an appropriate grade level, more transportation options, more education, awareness of and access to healthy foods and physical activity options, reminder calls for appointments, and more navigators and ACA counselors and coaches readily available in the community.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Health care providers and medical systems, insurance companies, pharmacies and pharmaceutical companies, dental care providers, Kenosha County Division of Health, the governor’s office, schools and teachers, caregivers, patients, funders, churches, the Kenosha Area Business Alliance, and legislators were identified as they key community partners to improve health in the county.

Nutrition, Physical Activity, Obesity Prevention, and Wellness

Though Nutrition and Physical Activity are two separate health focus areas in the State Health Plan, many key informants recognized the interconnected nature of these issues through responses that focused on concepts of healthy lifestyle and overall wellness, as well as prevention of obesity and chronic disease.

Nutrition

Ten respondents ranked Nutrition as a top five health focus area, with one of them ranking it as their top health priority area. Of note, key informants’ responses about nutrition focused on food security, access to healthy food, and nutrition education.

Existing Strategies: The Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; FoodShare; food pantries; insurance wellness programs; healthier lunch options in schools; Healthy People Kenosha County 2020; farmers markets that now accept Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits;
Kenosha Community Food Security; and UW-Extension planning with food pantries were identified as existing strategies to address Nutrition in the county.

**Barriers and Challenges:** Limited public transportation, lack of resources, food is used as a reward and a coping mechanism, cultural differences in diet, lack of education about nutrition, restaurant portion sizes are large, insurance doesn’t cover dietician visits, convenience stores are the only grocery option in some areas, healthy food is more expensive, obesity is leading to chronic disease, the complexity of what “healthy” means, lack of awareness of benefits and resources that do exist, stigma of accessing food resources, and fewer government subsidies for food are existing barriers and challenges in the county.

**Needed Strategies:** Making healthy food choices the easy choices, more education at all levels, easier access to nutritious foods, regulations on restaurants’ portion sizes, employers ensuring healthy food options are available in the workplace, schools encouraging healthy habits, cooking education, opportunities to sample healthy recipes, promotion of Meatless Mondays, more community gardens, and workshops about wellness were identified as strategies needed to improve health in the county.

**Key Community Partners to Improve Health:** Medical providers and health systems, health insurance companies, the Kenosha County Division of Health, grocery stores, legislators, local government, schools, Kenosha Community Food Security, Kenosha Area Family and Aging Services, Inc., Meals on Wheels, local farmers and farmers market organizers, Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency, and United Way of Kenosha County were identified as key community partners needed to improve Nutrition in the county.

---

**Physical Activity**

Ten respondents ranked Physical Activity as a top five health focus area. Key informants’ responses about physical activity reflected some overlap with issues of Nutrition, general wellness, obesity and Chronic Disease Prevention, and Environmental and Occupational Health, specifically poor air quality.

**Existing Strategies:** Health insurance wellness programs, the county’s multi-use trails, the county Division of Parks, the County Executive’s commitment to bike lanes, organized walks and runs, golf courses, and public pools are examples of existing strategies to address Physical Activity in the county.

**Barriers and Challenges:** Key informants provided examples of barriers and challenges to improving Physical Activity in the county: budget cuts have led to decreased amount of time spent on physical education classes in schools, families live busy lives and do not have time to go to parks or prioritize physical activity, difficulty motivating people to make changes or participate in programs, lack of
transportation to and affordability of gym memberships and programs, biking and walking trails do not connect and lack of safe crossings, motor vehicle traffic is not friendly to cyclists, and Wisconsin’s weather makes it difficult to participate in outdoor recreation during some parts of the year.

Needed Strategies: Key informants suggested strategies that are needed at the individual level, service delivery level, and community level to improve health. Examples of these strategies include focusing on small changes individuals can make in their lifestyles, working with insurance companies for wellness programs, more health education, motivational interviewing training, bringing programs to senior housing, make changes to the physical environment to encourage positive behaviors, more physical activity research, lower speed limits to make roads safer for cycling, more funding for infrastructure, increase requirements for physical education and activity in schools, safe playgrounds in all neighborhoods, increased support from employers for opportunities to stay active, and an organized community approach to awareness.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Insurance companies, schools, the YMCA, health care providers, the RecPlex, Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, companies that organize community events, local sports leagues and teams, Kenosha County Division of Parks, local government, and the business community are all necessary collaborators to improve health in the county.

Chronic Disease Prevention and Management

Chronic Disease Prevention and Management was ranked as a top five health issue by seven respondents. Some themes from this topic overlap with other health priority areas such as Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Access to Health Services.

Existing Strategies: Health care providers; self-management classes; the Kenosha County Care Transitions Coalition; the Meals on Wheels program; community-based long term support services and family care initiatives; fall prevention programs; Living Well programs; “knowing your numbers” regarding blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar; employer activities and clinics; senior care nurses who do follow up calls and home assessments; the Kenosha County Multi-Use Trail Committee for walking and biking; the Gus the Bus program for transportation to Boys & Girls Club programs; and promotion of wellness programs in the community are examples of strategies in place to address Chronic Disease Prevention and Management.

Barriers and Challenges: Barriers to accessing services, such as lack of insurance, lack of ability to pay for health services or medications, high costs of health care, long waiting times for appointments, lack of preventive care early in life leading to chronic conditions later in life, and lack of transportation to appointments were commonly named as barriers to Chronic Disease Prevention and Management. Other examples of barriers and challenges include lack of physical activity
options for affected patients, a lack of education about the importance of prevention, limited resources for the elderly, and limited funding for prevention and management programs.

**Needed Strategies:** Key informants identified increased prevention efforts such as physical activity opportunities, nutrition education, and evidence-based programming as strategies needed to address this issue. They also identified better transportation services to appointments and efforts to decrease barriers to accessing health services as an important strategy. Other suggestions focused on community awareness and collaboration: continuing to build partnerships across agencies in the community to provide supportive services, and having community meetings with key stakeholders to discuss issues and put a plan together.

**Key Community Partners to Improve Health:** The Kenosha County Division of Health, churches, funders, home care agencies, nursing homes, pharmacies, employers, health care providers, the Healthy People Kenosha County 2020 committee, schools, and the general public are examples of key community partners to improve health.

### Injury and Violence Prevention

Five respondents specifically ranked Injury and Violence Prevention as a top five health issue for Kenosha County. Specific issues discussed by key informants include domestic or intimate partner violence, bullying, gang violence, community violence, and resultant injuries and trauma. Key informants noted overlap between this issue and Alcohol and Other Drug Use and some aspects of Mental Health (e.g. suicide prevention).

**Existing Strategies:** Identification of violence at the healthcare level by asking if patient feels safe at home; education and awareness efforts; the Domestic Violence Project is active and in place; law enforcement targeting unsafe behaviors; the Neighborhood Watch Program; programs at the Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha; the Kenosha Unity Coalition; the county’s Suicide Prevention Coalition; the county’s medication-assisted detox treatment programs; domestic violence survivors’ support; anti-bullying education in schools; the DARE program in schools; and growing awareness of the effects of trauma are strategies in place to address Injury and Violence Prevention in the county.

**Barriers and Challenges:** People are numb to the issues or lack awareness of how to intervene, difficulty breaking cycles of violence, connections to mental health and wellness issues, it takes time to solve these issues, chronic drug abuse, stigma leads to less business development, the community feels unsafe, some distrust of police, and the presence of drugs and gangs are barriers and challenges to addressing Injury and Violence Prevention in the county.

**Needed Strategies:** Taking a healing approach to addressing the issue, providing more education about the warning signs of violence, increasing use of parks and facilities as a deterrent to violence and unwanted behavior in these areas, sustaining a police presence, allocating more resources to
violence prevention, holding executive leadership community meetings where topics can be addressed, improving the public’s view of and trust in police, providing gang awareness and gun safety education for parents, providing more visible alternatives to drugs and gangs for teens, and creating options for ways out, such as training for better jobs are examples of strategies key informants identified as necessary to improving health in the county.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Schools, mental health service providers, support groups for people who have lost loved ones to violence, the Kenosha Unity Coalition, Boys & Girls Club of Kenosha, neighborhood watch groups, the District Attorney’s office, the Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department, Women & Children’s Horizons, elected officials, churches, and the general community were partners identified as necessary to improve health.

**Oral Health**

Oral Health was ranked as a top-five health issue by four respondents. These respondents specifically discussed Access to Oral Health Services as a main area of concern within Oral Health.

Existing Strategies: There are some existing providers of dental service and there are efforts in place with the National Health Service Corps to bring more dental providers to the county.

Barriers and Challenges: It takes time to get new dentists credentialed in this state; many providers do not accept Medicaid; and a lack of transportation to get to appointments were three barriers key informants identified to improving Oral Health in the county.

Needed Strategies: More facilities and providers to care for the low to moderate income population; incentives for local dentists to take a percentage of low income patients or work on a volunteer rotation for a few hours per week; a centralized system to collect and share information about available services; increased Medicaid reimbursement to encourage providers to accept those patients; grants to fund dental and orthodontics care; and early childhood education for prevention are examples of strategies needed to improve Oral Health.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Local dental societies, legislators who could assist with securing more money, Kenosha Community Health Center, teachers, and health care and dental care providers were named as key community partners to engage for improved Oral Health.

**Tobacco Use and Exposure**

Three key informants ranked Tobacco Use and Exposure among their top five health issues for the county, with one of them ranking it their top health priority area.
Existing Strategies: Smoking cessation programs, the tri-county Tobacco-Free Coalition, insurance coverage for tobacco cessation, some education in youth programs, and tobacco use restrictions in the community are examples of strategies in place to address Tobacco Use and Exposure.

Barriers and Challenges: Nicotine addiction, tobacco use as a stress reduction mechanism, the connection between tobacco use and other drug addiction, difficulty advancing legislation, and resistance to cessation efforts are barriers or challenges to eliminating Tobacco Use and Exposure.

Needed Strategies: More services for parents, tools that are free and accessible within health care settings, more education to young people, more education about second hand smoke, additional restrictions on smoking near entrances to buildings, and identifying quality improvement measures for health improvement are examples of strategies that could be used to address this issue in the county.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Insurance companies; health care providers; the Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program; the KRW Tobacco-Free Coalition; child care providers; schools; and parent groups were named by key informants as community partners that can improve health in the county.

**Healthy Growth and Development**

Three key informants ranked Healthy Growth and Development among their top five health priority areas.

Existing Strategies: Parenting classes and education, economic development, Young Leaders in Kenosha (Y-LINK), colleges and job training programs, and affordable and safe child care were identified as strategies in place to promote Healthy Growth and Development in the county.

Barriers and Challenges: Lack of qualified child care providers, difficulty finding child care when children are sick, parent denial of developmental concerns, lack of transportation to jobs, and lack of available jobs are barriers to Healthy Growth and Development.

Needed Strategies: Parent awareness, education, and mentoring; educating the workforce to meet the skills that employers need; and building partnerships between local businesses and schools are examples of strategies that are needed to improve health in this area.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: High schools, colleges, universities, vocational training programs, and technical schools; community agencies; mentors; the Kenosha Area Business Alliance; and local businesses are partners needed to improve health in the county.
Reproductive and Sexual Health

Two key informants ranked Reproductive and Sexual Health among their top five health priority areas.

Existing Strategies: Referrals to services, services provided by UW-Parkside Women’s Center, education on sexually transmitted diseases, Aurora’s Better Together fund, programs and services provided by Women & Children’s Horizons, Inc. and the Executive 54 Mandated Reporter Training were identified by key informants as strategies to improve health.

Barriers and Challenges: Lack of education, the cost of programs, lack of awareness, a generation gap, youth feeling invincible and thinking nothing will happen to them, and lack of education on sexual violence were named by key informants as barriers and challenges to improving health.

Needed Strategies: In-home continuum of care beyond individual programs, incentives, more education, and parent involvement were identified as strategies needed to improve health.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: Providers of emergency services related to sexual assault and abuse, and providers of health education, health care, and training were identified as the key partners necessary to improve health.

Environmental and Occupational Health

One key informant ranked Environmental and Occupational Health among their top five health priority areas, also ranking it as their top health priority area for the county. This respondent focused specifically on the issue of poor air quality in the county.

Existing Strategies: No existing strategies were identified.

Barriers and Challenges: The physical location of Kenosha County between Milwaukee and Chicago, and the high incidence of asthma in the county because of the air quality were named as barriers and challenges to addressing this issue.

Needed Strategies: No needed strategies were identified.

Key Community Partners to Improve Health: The Kenosha County Division of Health was named as a partner needed to improve health related to air quality in the county.

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control

Communicable Disease Prevention and Control was not ranked as one of the top health-related priority areas for the county. Neither existing strategies nor barriers were described.
Appendix A. Interview Participants for Kenosha County

Key Informant Interview Participants
Input about our community’s most pressing health needs was provided by 32 individuals participating in key informant interviews. The organizations listed here include many that serve low-income, minority, and medically underserved populations. They represent an array of perspectives from communities that include, but are not limited to: racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, youth, veterans, faith communities, individuals with disabilities, rural communities, survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and those living with mental illness and substance abuse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Organization</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bryan D. Albrecht, Ed.D.</td>
<td>President and CEO</td>
<td>Gateway Technical College</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cindy Altergott</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Kenosha YMCA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Antaramian</td>
<td>Mayor</td>
<td>City of Kenoshia</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David G. Beth</td>
<td>Sheriff</td>
<td>Kenosha County Sheriff’s Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lynn Biese-Carroll</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Shalom Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary M. Coffey</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Kenosha Community Health Centers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patricia Demos</td>
<td>Community and School Relations Coordinator</td>
<td>Kenosha Unified School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deborah L. Ford</td>
<td>Chancellor</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin- Parkside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diane Gerlach, DO, MHA</td>
<td>Board Member</td>
<td>Kenosha County Board of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Halbach</td>
<td>Kenosha Director/ WIC Director</td>
<td>Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donna Jamieson</td>
<td>Chief Nursing Officer</td>
<td>Aurora Medical Center- Racine/Kenosha/Northern Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LaVerne Jaros</td>
<td>Director</td>
<td>Kenosha Division of Aging and Disability Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cynthia Johnson</td>
<td>Director/Health Officer</td>
<td>Kenosha County Division of Health</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawrence L. Kirby, II</td>
<td>Pastor</td>
<td>Second Baptist Church</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renee Kirby</td>
<td>Director of Student Health, Counseling, and Disability Services</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin- Parkside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jaymie Laurent, MSW</td>
<td>Director of Social Services and Spiritual Care</td>
<td>United Hospital System</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tammy McGuckin</td>
<td>Dean of Students</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin- Parkside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scott Menke</td>
<td>Director of Business Services</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin- Parkside</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Michelle D. Metzger</td>
<td>Dean/Nursing Department Chair</td>
<td>Herzing University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kim Meyer-Okey</td>
<td>Senior Administrator, Specialty Care</td>
<td>Aurora Medical Center- Racine/Kenosha/Northern Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dan Miskinis</td>
<td>Chief of Police</td>
<td>Kenosha Police Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Erin Morey</td>
<td>Director of Community Impact</td>
<td>United Way of Kenosha County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Debra Nevels</td>
<td>Health Systems Manager, Hospitals</td>
<td>American Cancer Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tim Nikolai</td>
<td>Senior Community Health Director</td>
<td>American Heart Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard H. Rodenbeck</td>
<td>Interim Chief Executive Officer</td>
<td>United Way of Kenosha County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tanya Ruder</td>
<td>Chief Communication Officer</td>
<td>Kenosha Unified School District</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lisa Sanders</td>
<td>Shelter Programs Director</td>
<td>Shalom Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name</td>
<td>Position</td>
<td>Organization</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nick Smith</td>
<td>Senior Administrator, Primary Care</td>
<td>Aurora Medical Center-Racine/Kenosha/Northern Illinois</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jennie Tunkieicz</td>
<td>Chief of Staff</td>
<td>Kenosha County</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heather Wessling Grosz</td>
<td>Vice President of Economic Development</td>
<td>Kenosha Area Business Alliance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christine Wyker</td>
<td>Executive Director</td>
<td>Kenosha Achievement Center</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Raul Zambrano, MD</td>
<td>Chief Medical Officer</td>
<td>Aurora Medical Center-Racine/Kenosha/Northern Illinois</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>