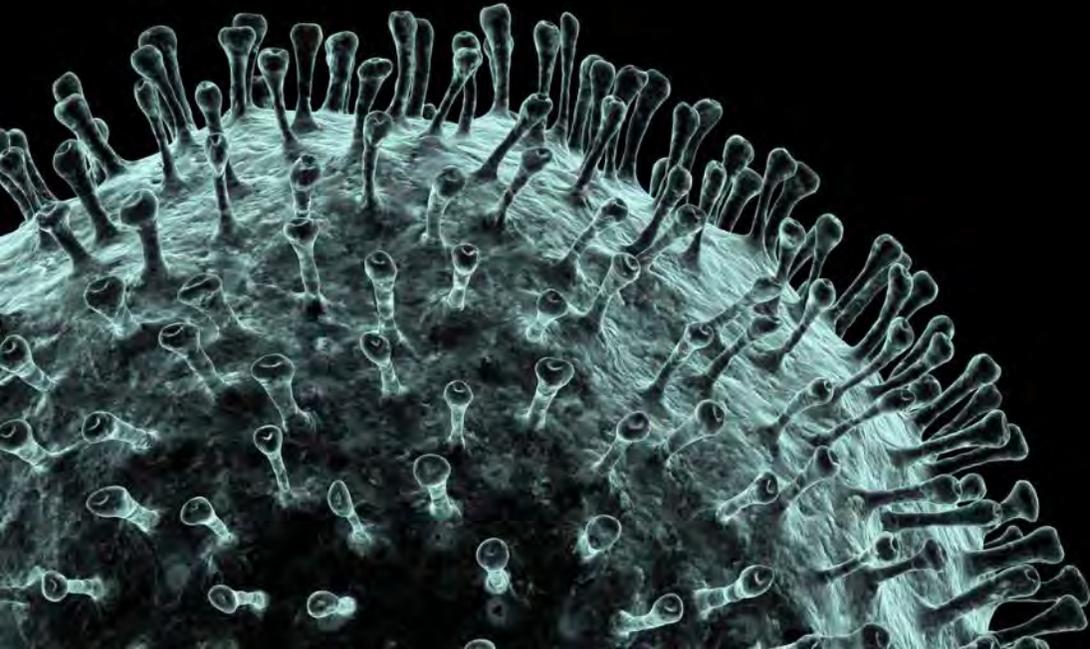


COVID-19 Conversations



Jeanette Kowalik, PhD, MPH
Milwaukee Commissioner of Health



COVID19Conversations.org

[#COVID19Conversations](https://twitter.com/COVID19Conversations)



CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

COVID-19 RESPONSE:

DR. JEANETTE KOWALIK, PHD, MPH, MCHES

COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH

@JLKOWALIK @MKEHEALTH

APHA | 04.29.2020



MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, USA

DEMOGRAPHIC OVERVIEW, 2019 (CO/CITY)

Population 946k/ 592k -- 3926/sq. mi.

Gender 52% female 48% male (same)

Age in years <18, 24/26%, >65, 14/10%

Race/ethnicity

White 51/45%, Black 27/39%, Latinx 15/19%,
Asian 5/4%

Disability 9/10%

Uninsured 8/11%

Poverty 19/27%

Median income \$49/40k, 2014-2018



MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPT.

VISION, MISSION, & VALUES

- **Vision** Living your best life, Milwaukee
- **Mission** Advance the health and equity of Milwaukeans through science, innovation, and leadership

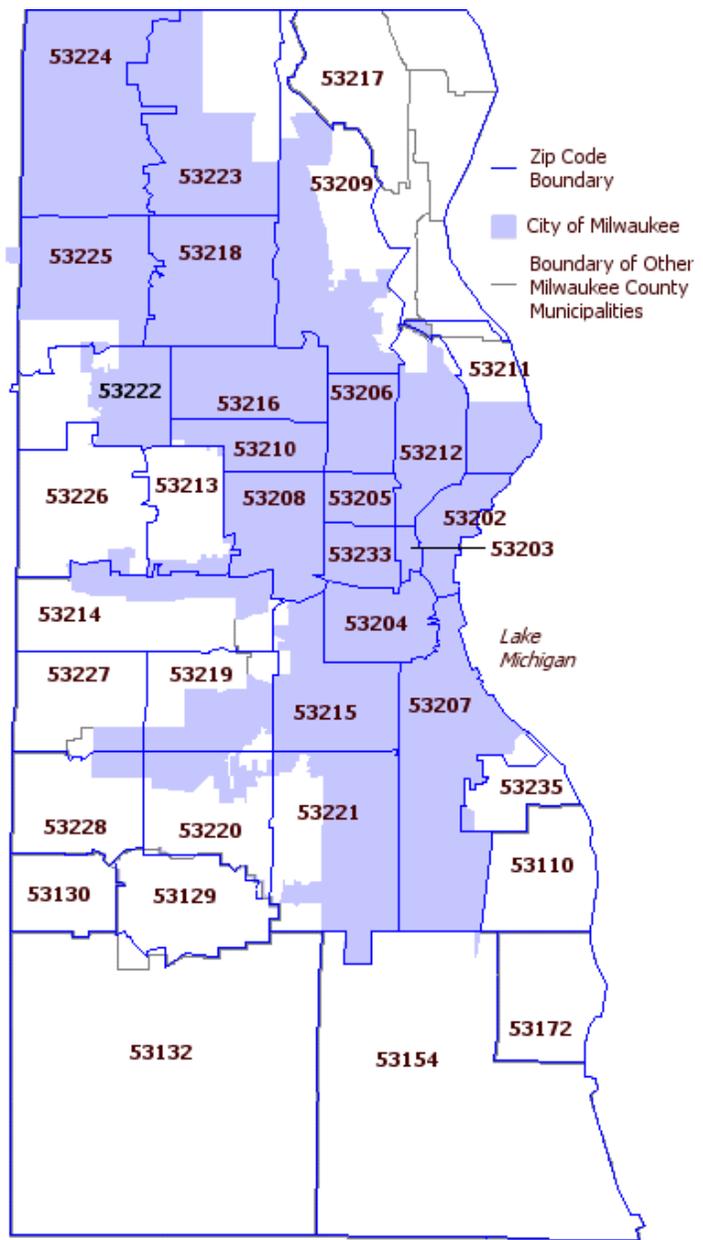
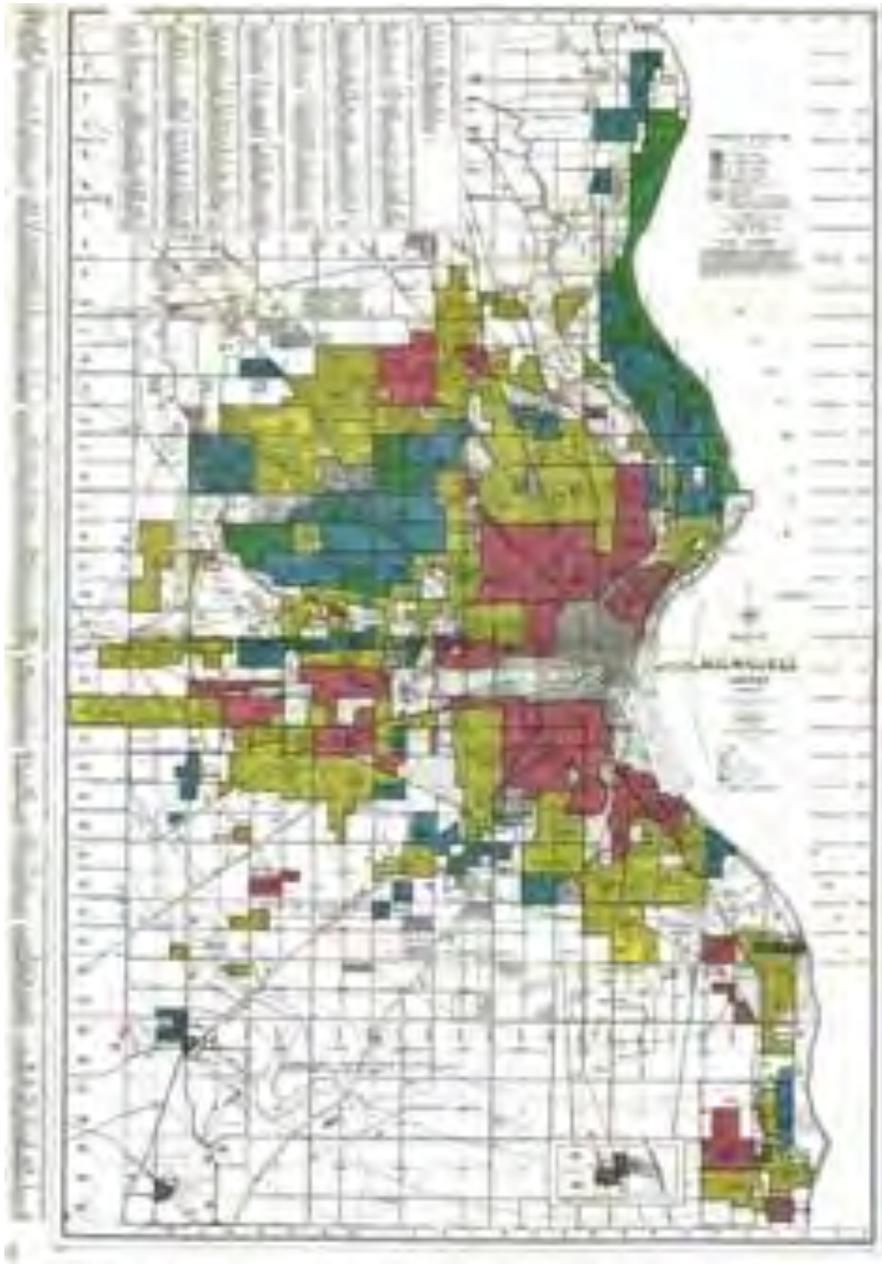
Values

- **Innovation** We believe in nurturing creativity and new ideas that challenge us to do our everyday work better.
- **Equity** We acknowledge historic and current injustices in our community and strive to cultivate an environment where everyone in our community has equal opportunity to be healthy.
- **Collaboration** We convene community members, partners, and elected officials to meet the needs of our community.
- **Courage** We take strategic risk and bold initiative to advocate for and prioritize the needs of our community.
- **Accountability** We act with transparency and integrity to advance the health of Milwaukee.
- **Quality** We continuously improve and adapt to create sustainable and positive health outcomes.

DECLARING RACISM AS A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS

CATALYST FOR COLLECTING COVID-19 RACE & ETHNICITY DATA FROM THE START

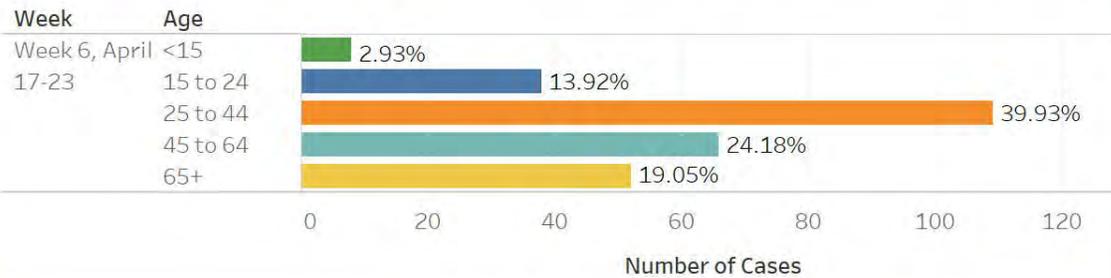
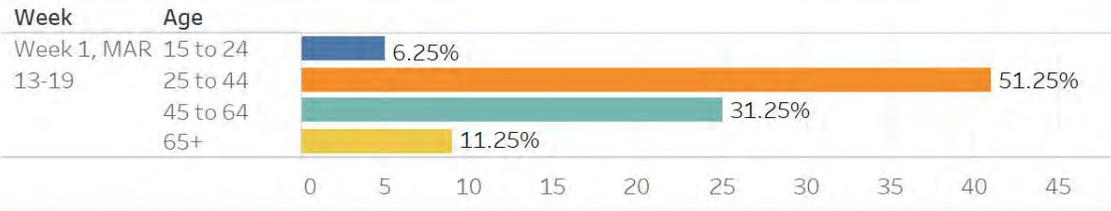
- 2018 – Wisconsin Public Health Association Resolution
- May 2019 – MKE County & its Office of African American Affairs Resolution
- July 2019 -- MKE City Resolution: Substitute resolution committing the City of Milwaukee to take actions toward achieving racial equity and transforming the systems and institutions of racism that impact the health and well-being of the community.



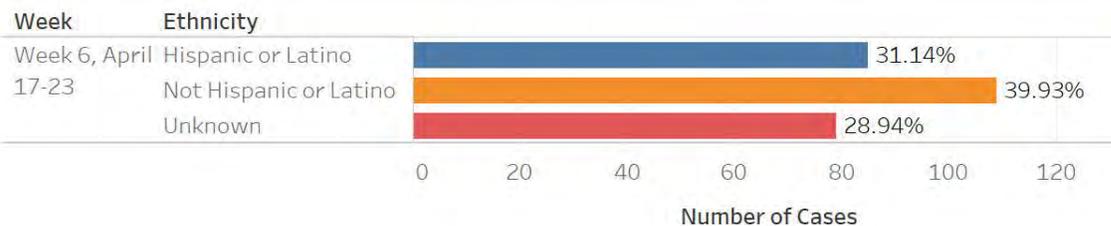
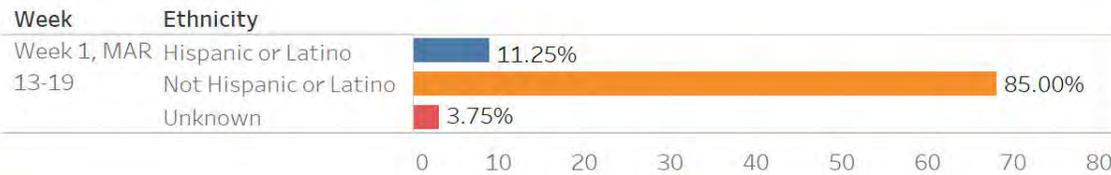
**CITY OF MILWAUKEE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**
COVID-19 Week 6 Update

The city of Milwaukee confirmed the first case of COVID-19 on Friday, March 13th. As of April 23rd there have been 1,803 cases of COVID-19 and 99 deaths confirmed in the city.

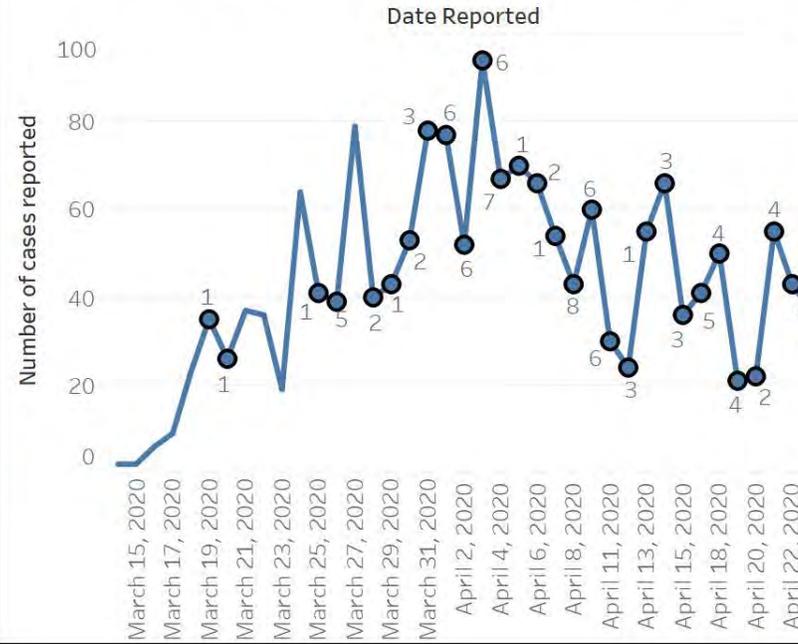
Weekly comparison of confirmed cases by age



Confirmed cases by ethnicity

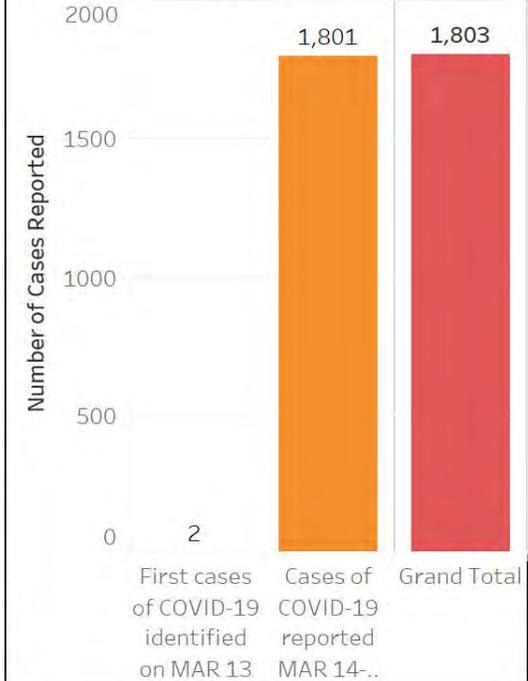


Number of confirmed cases reported each day

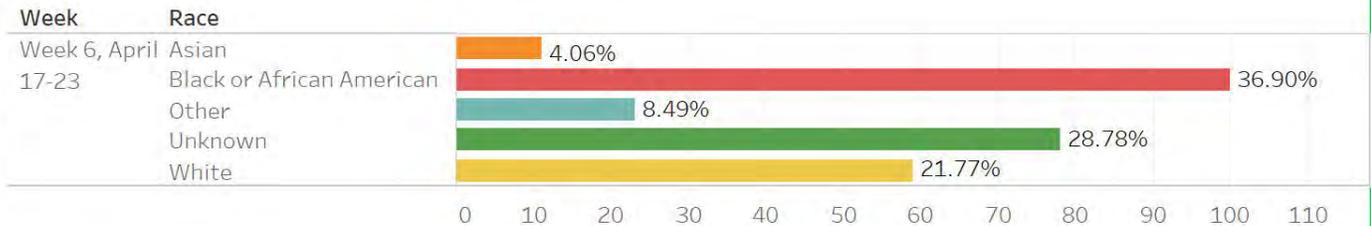
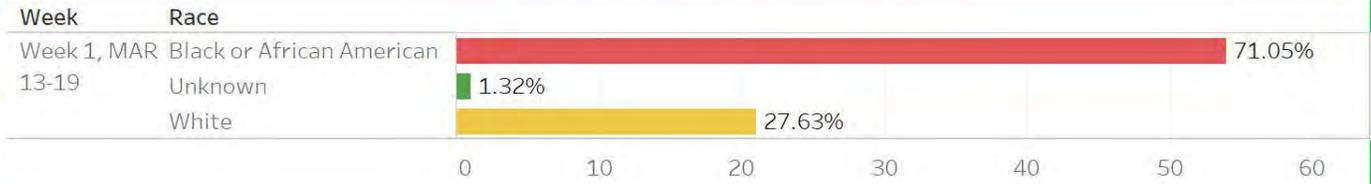


*Highlighted dates represent dates when deaths caused by COVID-19 occurred among city of Milwaukee residents. The corresponding number represents the number of deaths that occurred on that date.

Comparison of total confirmed cases by date



Weekly comparison of confirmed cases by race



Data Source: Wisconsin Disease Surveillance System
*Values between 1-5 were excluded to protect individual confidentiality

Number of Cases

INEQUITY ON DISPLAY

WISCONSIN SPRING ELECTION DAY- APRIL 7, 2020

Finalizing COVID-19 epidemiologic analysis of “election activity” which may include:

- Working at a poll site
- Voting absentee or dropping off ballots
- Voting curb-side
- Voting in-person at a polling site

Initial data identified correlation of election activity to symptomatic COVID-19 infection among 7 but increased to 40 people in MKE County



“PUBLIC HEALTH IS LOCAL”

DISTURBING TREND OF COVID-19'S IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES OF COLOR ACROSS THE US

DISMANTLING RACISM

SOCIAL & ECONOMIC DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

- Communities of Color at Higher Risk for Health and Economic Challenges due to COVID-19, Kaiser Family Foundation Issue Brief (April 2020)
 - Samantha Artiga, Rachel Garfield, Kendal Orgera
- U.S. county-level characteristics to inform equitable COVID-19 response (April 2020)*
 - Taylor Chin, Rebecca Kahn, Ruoran Li, Jarvis T. Chen, Nancy Krieger, Caroline O. Buckee, Satchit Balsari, Mathew V. Kiang
- Short & long term supports are necessary to survive & recover from COVID-19
 - Protect essential workers—provide PPE, hazard pay, free, high quality healthcare
 - Suspend rent & mortgage, utility payments, provide free healthcare & food, monthly stipends
 - Reparations, dramatically increase essential worker pay, provide free/low cost high quality healthcare, education/college

THANKS & BE ENCOURAGED!

