CITY OF MILWAUKEE HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Covid-19 Response:
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MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN, USA
Demographic Overview, 2019 (Co/Cty)

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 Milwaukeeans 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
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

**Week 1, MAR 13-19**
- 15 to 24: 6.25%
- 25 to 44: 31.25%
- 45 to 64: 11.25%
- 65+: 51.25%

**Week 6, April 17-23**
- <15: 2.93%
- 15 to 24: 13.92%
- 25 to 44: 24.18%
- 45 to 64: 19.05%
- 65+: 39.93%

### Confirmed cases by ethnicity

**Week 1, MAR 13-19**
- Hispanic or Latino: 11.25%
- Not Hispanic or Latino: 3.75%
- Unknown: 85.00%

**Week 6, April 17-23**
- Hispanic or Latino: 31.14%
- Not Hispanic or Latino: 28.94%
- Unknown: 39.93%

### Weekly comparison of confirmed cases by race

**Week 1, MAR 13-19**
- Black or African American: 71.05%
- White: 28.67%
- Unknown: 0.32%

**Week 6, April 17-23**
- Asian: 4.06%
- Black or African American: 36.90%
- Other: 21.77%
- Unknown: 28.79%
- White: 8.49%

Data Source: Wisconsin Disease Surveillance System

*Names between 1’s were excluded to protect individual confidentiality*
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!