



PUBLIC HEALTH
SAUK COUNTY

Together we thrive

COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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We all want to live in a healthy community—but what should we focus on to make that happen? And how can we take meaningful action? In 2024, Public Health Sauk County partnered with our three local hospitals, the Sauk County Data Council, and other community organizations to find answers. Through surveys, focus groups, and interviews, we asked residents about their top health concerns.

The results are clear: **mental health, housing, and substance use remain our community's biggest challenges**—just as they were in 2021.

Local teams are working hard to address these issues, ensuring that those most affected are part of the solution. Read on to learn about our plans, and let us know what you think: **Do you agree with our focus? What more can we do together?**

For complete results, data sources, and improvement plan, visit: <https://bit.ly/SaukCHA25>

Housing

Where you live has a powerful impact on your physical and mental well-being. Safe, stable, and affordable housing isn't just a basic need—it's the foundation for a healthy life. Everyone deserves a place to call home, yet too many in our community struggle with high housing costs, unsafe conditions, or instability. We're working to change that.

Goal

By 12/31/2027, decrease the percent of Sauk County households that are stressed by high housing costs (*paying 30% or more of their household income on housing*) by 10%, from 24% in 2024 to 22% in 2027.



Objectives

To increase the housing supply by 12/31/2025, we will:

- Provide technical assistance (TA) and support to 5 municipalities, making it easier to create housing solutions that work for residents.
- Provide 4 newsletters to municipalities to highlight innovative and best practices.

Wins in 2024

We secured funding and developed a TA program to help municipalities tackle housing challenges.

Through a partnership with Habitat for Humanity, we're offering gift certificates to residents who complete the Rent Smart Program, helping renters build the skills and knowledge they need for successful, long-term housing.

Join Us!

Sign up to join us the 3rd Tuesday of every other month from 1 pm - 2 pm online.



Learn More

Contact Jodie at
608-355-4315 or
Jodie.Molitor@
saukcountywi.gov.

For Housing Assistance: www.cwcac.org

Mental Health

Suicide prevention is everyone's business. Many factors can increase suicide risk, including mental health and substance use challenges, financial or relationship stress, chronic health conditions, loneliness, trauma, and easy access to firearms. One simple step—safe firearm storage—can save lives. Together, we can create a safer community.

Goal

By 12/31/2027, reduce suicide deaths by 20%, from 10 in 2023 to 8 in 2027.

prevent suicide
SAUK COUNTY
PARTNERS SAVING LIVES IN WISCONSIN



www.SaukCounty.CredibleMind.com

Objectives

By 12/31/2025, we will:

- Train at least 8 gun shop staff in suicide prevention: simple steps anyone can take to save a life.
- Enroll 3 gun shops/shooting ranges in the WI Gun Shop Project and Safe Storage Program (GSP) and provide them with the program's free gun lockers/safes.

Wins in 2024

We reached out to 25 gun shops in Sauk County to offer training and partnered with the GSP to provide grants for gun safes. These safes allow gun shops to voluntarily store firearms during times of crisis, reducing the risk of impulsive harm.

Visits to our Sauk County Credible Mind website, offering tools and local resources for mental health, climbed to 1,454.

Join Us!

Prevent Suicide Sauk County meets the 3rd Monday of every other month from 11 am - 12 pm online.



Learn More

Contact Jodie at 608-355-4315 or Jodie.Molitor@saukcountywi.gov.

Human Services: www.co.sauk.wi.us/humanservices

Substance Use: Prevention

Substance use and addiction are growing concerns in Sauk County. Young people who use vapes, alcohol, or other drugs face a higher risk of developing addiction later in life. That's why prevention efforts are key. We're working with schools, parents, and community organizations to educate youth, promote healthy choices, and reduce access to harmful substances. Let's protect our youth!

Goals

By 12/31/27:

- Reduce the misuse of alcohol, commercial tobacco and prescription drugs among youth ages 12-18 by 10% per substance, according to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey.
- Reduce the number of overdose deaths that involve painkillers by 10% (coroner data).

Objectives

By 12/31/25, we will:

- Decrease the percent of youth reporting easy access to tobacco by 4% (youth focus group data).
- Decrease the percent of stores that sell alcohol to minors without checking ID by 10% (law enforcement compliance check data).
- Increase the number of locations supplying medication storage and disposal by 4.

Wins in 2024

Conducted over 80 compliance checks for alcohol and commercial tobacco, partnering with law enforcement and the South Central Alliance for Tobacco Prevention.

Co-hosted the 3rd annual youth leadership summit with Juneau and Adams Counties.

Distributed over 250 lock boxes and bags to residents to safely store medications.

Join Us!

The Partnership for Prevention Coalition meets the 4th Thursday of select months from 1 - 2:15 pm, either in person or online. All are welcome!

Learn More

Contact Kate at 608-477-3609 or kate.hansen@saukcountywi.gov.

Substance Use: Response

Substance use affects individuals, families, and communities in many ways. Everyone deserves support on their journey to wellness. We're working to expand access to treatment, peer support, and harm reduction tools—proven strategies that help people stay safe, reduce harm, and take steps toward healing on their own terms. By meeting people where they are, we can build a healthier, more supportive community for all.

Goal

By 12/31/2027:

- Reduce overdose deaths by 25% from 15 in 2024 to 11 in 2027.



**Sauk County
Overdose Death
Review Team**

Sauk County
**Response
Teams**
your health your way

Objectives

By 12/31/2025, we will:

- Increase access to naloxone: install 3 more Overdose Aid Kits (OAKs) and an additional vending machine.
- Host 12 sober social events.
- Provide peer support services to 300 people via EMS Response Teams, WisHope Community Center, Jail Tablet Talk, and other partnerships.

Wins in 2024

Secured over \$1.6 million in competitive grant funding.

SUPER began hosting monthly social events.

WisHope Sauk County Recovery Community Center opened in Baraboo.

Installed our first 2 Public Health Vending Machines and 3 additional OAKs to distribute free naloxone.

Hosted over 36 cross-sector meetings to improve substance use response.

Join Us!

SUPER meets the first Monday of the month, 1 - 2 pm, both in person at the WisHope Community Center and online. All are welcome!

Learn More

Contact Hannah at 608-355-4319 or Hannah.Erdman@saukcountywi.gov

Facebook: saukSUPER