

# CITY OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE

## THEMES AND STRENGTHS

### Community engagement was central to the Community Health

**Assessment** and included the collection of surveys, key informant interviews, and focus groups. These efforts provided valuable insight into the region's top social and economic concerns, health behaviors, and community strengths.

### Key Findings from the Community Health Survey

Results from respondents who indicated they live, work, or learn in South Milwaukee.

#### TOP FIVE STRENGTHS OF SOUTH MILWAUKEE



- 1 Neighborhood Safety (40%)
- 2 Education Access & Quality (25%)
- 3 Recreational Opportunities (25%)
- 4 Access to Health Care Services (21%)
- 5 Access to Healthy Foods (19%)

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The small size of our community allows for local resources and makes it easier to make connections.

-Focus Group Participant

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#### TOP FIVE HEALTH CONDITIONS AND BEHAVIORS TO BE ADDRESSED IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE



- 1 Substance Use (38%)
- 2 Mental Health (33%)
- 3 Nutrition & Physical Activity (25%)
- 4 Bullying (25%)
- 5 Older Adult Health (20%)

#### TOP FIVE SOCIAL OR ECONOMIC ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED IN SOUTH MILWAUKEE



- 1 Access to Mental Health Services (23%)
- 2 Community Violence & Crime (16%)
- 3 Access to Housing (16%)
- 4 Economic Stability (14%)
- 5 Access to Health Care Services (14%)

## Key Themes from the Key Informant Interviews & Focus Groups

Insights gathered from key informant interviews and focus groups aligned with the survey findings, reinforcing shared priorities and concerns.

**Here's what we heard from four focus groups and eleven interviews with residents, partners, and stakeholders in South Milwaukee and St. Francis:**

### YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Mentioned many times throughout the interview process, South Milwaukee and St. Francis are prioritizing youth voices and ensuring their needs are met in order to have a healthier community and future.

**“So in our schools, we're really making some shifts right now to a far more human-centered and student-centered approach... so making sure that kids feel seen and heard.”**

-Key Informant Interview

**“How do we create the best learning environment for all of our students and families, so that they can get a great education? If you can't feed them, if they're hungry, if you can't deal with their emotional issues, they're not going to learn.”**

-Key Informant Interview

### PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE SAFETY

Another common theme involved walkability and safety for bikers and pedestrians.

**“I would love to see more community focused development, for example, we have a ton of runners that come, a lot of cyclists come. I would love to see more roads that have bike lanes, more benches so people can stop and rest, things like that.”**

-Key Informant Interview

**“Walkability is important. So if there's any development happening, considering that.”**

-Key Informant Interview

**“Safety of the community is of the utmost importance.”**

-Key Informant Interview

### ACCESS TO RESOURCES

Access to healthcare, mental health services, resources, affordable housing, food, and more.

**“The right to access healthcare I think is really important. The most important, really.”**

-Key Informant Interview

**“So lots of our goals are focused on inclusion and making sure that kids have access to opportunities.”**

-Key Informant Interview

**“We need access to fresh and organic food in downtown South Milwaukee.”**

-Key Informant Interview

### SOCIAL CONNECTION

Community members and key stakeholders viewed social connectedness both as a strength in our communities and as an area that needs improvement.

**“I feel like not many people want to get out and do stuff because they're always on their phones.”**

-Youth Focus Group Participant

**“Speaking on the strengths of the South Shore: “Definitely community. I think people here have a closeness and a comfort level with one another. They look out for one another.”**

-Key Informant Interview