

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

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.

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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

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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

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PEDESTRIAN AND BIKE SAFETY

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

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

-Key Informant Interview

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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

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Safety of the community is of the utmost importance.

-Key Informant Interview

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ACCESS TO RESOURCES

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

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

-Key Informant Interview

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

-Key Informant Interview

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

-Key Informant Interview

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SOCIAL CONNECTION

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

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

-Youth Focus Group Participant

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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

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