

WAUKESHA COUNTY HEALTH REPORT CARD



Prepared by:



Waukesha County Health Council
HEALTHY WAUKESHA 2010

July, 2002

WAUKESHA COUNTY HEALTH COUNCIL MESSAGE

July, 2002

Dear Waukesha County Community:

The Waukesha County Health Council is pleased to present the third edition of the Waukesha County Health Report Card, an assessment of the population's overall health status. Previous report cards were issued by the Health Council in 1997 and 1998. This third edition updates information on key community health status indicators for Waukesha County.

The Health Council, which was formed in 1995, has as one of its most important functions the monitoring and reporting of health data to the community. Through the reporting of this information, the Health Council wishes to make the community aware of the health issues that continue to confront its citizens and to hopefully convince individuals and organizations throughout the county to pursue actions that lead to healthier lives.

This report card provides new data on the five specific health and illness categories reported back in 1998. The categories consist of: Maternal/Child Health, Communicable Disease, Cancer, Heart Disease/Stroke, and Injury/Violence/Substance Abuse. In addition, there are sections in the report card devoted to health risk factors and the use of preventive services.

Both primary and secondary research data was utilized in the report card. Primary research included Waukesha County Public Health Division's kindergarten immunization audits as well as results from the Waukesha County Health Council's 1997 and 2000 Community Health Surveys. Secondary data was primarily obtained from the State of Wisconsin, Department of Health and Family Services, and represents data in most instances through the 2000 calendar year.

An important aspect of the 2002 report card is the comparison of Waukesha County's health status to the national Healthy People 2010 goals whenever possible. Symbols (apples or magnifying glasses), are used to highlight whether an indicator meets the Healthy People 2010 goal. Where a Healthy People goal does not exist, these symbols compare Waukesha County to the State of Wisconsin's three-year average.

The Waukesha County Health Council hopes that the community finds this assessment beneficial and that it provides an impetus toward advancing better health for those living in Waukesha County.

Sincerely,

Herb R. Rosenberger
Co-chair, Health Data Committee

Lynn Johnson
Co-chair, Health Data Committee

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Waukesha County Health Council wishes to acknowledge the contributions of the following individuals in the preparation and completion of the third Waukesha County Health Report Card.

Health Data Committee Members:

Herb Rosenberger, Co-chair
Waukesha Memorial Hospital

Lynn Johnson, Co-chair
Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital

Nancy Healy, Ph.D
Waukesha County Public Health Division

Darren Rausch, Epidemiologist
Waukesha County Public Health Division

Don Rebholz, Covenant Healthcare System

JoAnn Weidmann
Public Health Consultant and
Waukesha County Board Supervisor

Jenifer Finley, Up Connection

Connie Panagis, MD, Retired Physician

Lou Pascek, Ph.D, United Way in Waukesha County

Mark Huber, Aurora Health Care

A special thank you is also extended to Franklin Sotomayor from Oconomowoc Memorial Hospital for his work in formatting and printing this document.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Waukesha County Health Council Message	I
Acknowledgements	II
Table of Contents	III
Grades	1-3
Demographic Characteristics	4
Leading Causes of Death in 2000	5
Maternal, Child and Infant Health	6
Communicable Disease	7
Cancer	8
Heart Disease and Stroke	9
Injury, Violence and Substance Abuse	10
Risk Factors for Premature Death – Adults, 18+	11
Preventive Services Use – Adults, Age 18+	12
Notes	13

GRADES

As provided in the past, the Waukesha County Health Council graded the major categories of health assessed in this document and issued an overall grade to the residents of Waukesha County. Grades are given based on the experience of an indicator over time and on how the indicator compares to the State of Wisconsin's three-year average. An increasing emphasis is placed on behavioral and preventive measures that relate to the disease categories. Several key indicators utilized in this report have not previously been assessed.

MATERNAL, CHILD AND INFANT HEALTH ----- A

Waukesha County residents receive a grade of A for the exemplary performance in the following indicators:

- A low teenage pregnancy rate.
- A high rate of prenatal care.
- Low infant death rates.
- A small percentage of low birth weight infants.
- Increasing seat belt usage by children.
- Increasing (although still low overall) use of helmets by children when riding a bicycle or when in-line skating.

The first four indicators are all better than the State of Wisconsin's three year average (1998- 2000) and with the exception of the neonatal death rate and seat belt use are already ahead of the national Healthy People 2010 Goals.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASES ----- C

Waukesha County residents receive a grade of C for the mixed performance of the following indicators.

- A high incidence rate of E. coli cases in 1998 and 1999.
- A high incidence rate of Hepatitis B and C cases each year.
- A continued high incidence rate of Pertussis cases each year.
- An increasing Gonorrhea incidence rate in the county.
- On the positive side, the Tuberculosis incidence rate has remained quite low as has the rate of Measles and AIDS.
- In addition, the immunization rate of children at age two has continued to steadily increase as has the use of the pneumonia vaccine in those age 65 and older.

CANCER ----- C

Waukesha County residents receive a grade of C for the varied performance of the following indicators:

- A cancer incidence rate that is comparable to the State of Wisconsin's three-year average (1996-1998).
- A high incidence and mortality rate of breast cancer.
- An increase in smoking, an increase in obesity and less than desirable eating habits in the adult population.
- On the positive side, the use of cancer screenings (mammograms, pap smears, colorectal and prostate tests) is increasing among adults.
- A decreasing overall cancer death rate, which is lower than the State's three year average, but still higher than the H.P. 2010 goal.

HEART DISEASE AND STROKE ----- D

Waukesha County residents receive a grade of D for the disappointing performance of the following indicators. Of greatest concern is the poor performance of the behavioral indicators that play a significant role in the development of cardiovascular disorders and subsequent mortality:

- An increasing death rate from coronary heart disease, although lower than the State's three-year average (1998- 2000).
- Similarly, an increasing death rate for stroke.
- An increasing percentage of the population with high blood pressure.
- An increase in smoking, an increase in obesity, and a lack of exercise in the adult population.

INJURY, VIOLENCE AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE ----- B

Waukesha County residents receive a grade of B for the improved performance of many of the following indicators:

- A relatively low suicide death rate, but an increasing percent of the population with depression.
- Homicide rate that is not only lower than the State of Wisconsin's three year average, but also much more favorable than the national Healthy People 2010 Goal.
- Lower rates of drug related motor vehicle deaths and accidents than the State of Wisconsin's three year averages.
- A significant reduction in the amount of binge drinking.
- A reduction in the number of households with firearms not locked up.
- An increasing death rate from motor vehicle accidents although still less than the State's three year average (1998- 2000).

- A low (although slightly increasing) percent of individuals who wear a helmet when riding a bicycle or in-line skating.
- Use of seat belts in adults has remained steady, but use has improved in children.

OVERALL GRADE----- C+

Based on the five individual categories, the overall health of Waukesha County residents merits a grade of C+. The Health Council believes that important progress has been made in many areas (immunization, use of screenings, safety measures, consumption of alcohol, etc.), however, individuals have yet to make a commitment toward improving their own health by exercising more, watching their weight, by eliminating smoking and reducing other risk factors. Without increased commitment from residents, a healthy Waukesha County will remain a vision rather than become a reality .

