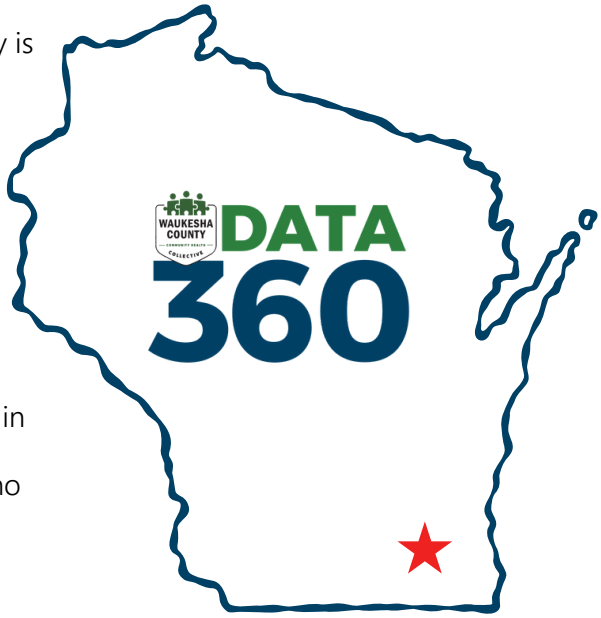
GET TO KNOW

WAUKESHA COUNTY

Located in southeastern Wisconsin, Waukesha County is home to more than 400,000 residents across a mix of urban, suburban, and rural communities. The county includes 37 municipalities, each with unique characteristics, strengths, and needs. Known for its parks, lakes, trails, strong schools, and thriving businesses, Waukesha County offers residents a variety of opportunities to live, work, and play.

As one of Wisconsin's most populous counties, Waukesha County continues to evolve. An aging population, changing demographics, and differences in access to resources across communities all shape the health and well-being of residents. Understanding who lives in our county and how our communities are changing helps us better plan for the future.



TOTAL POPULATION

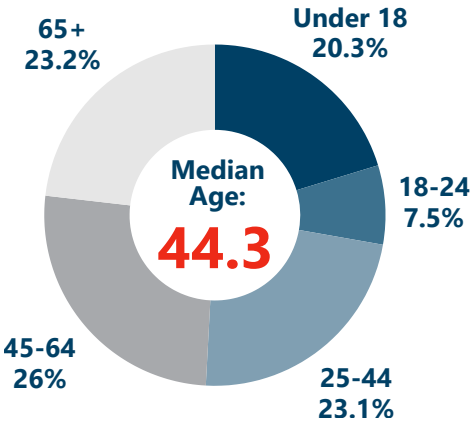
417,210

LAND AREA

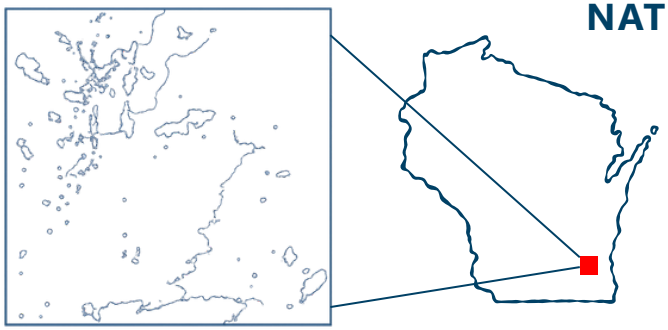
550 mi²

Waukesha County has the 2nd highest population density in Wisconsin

AGE



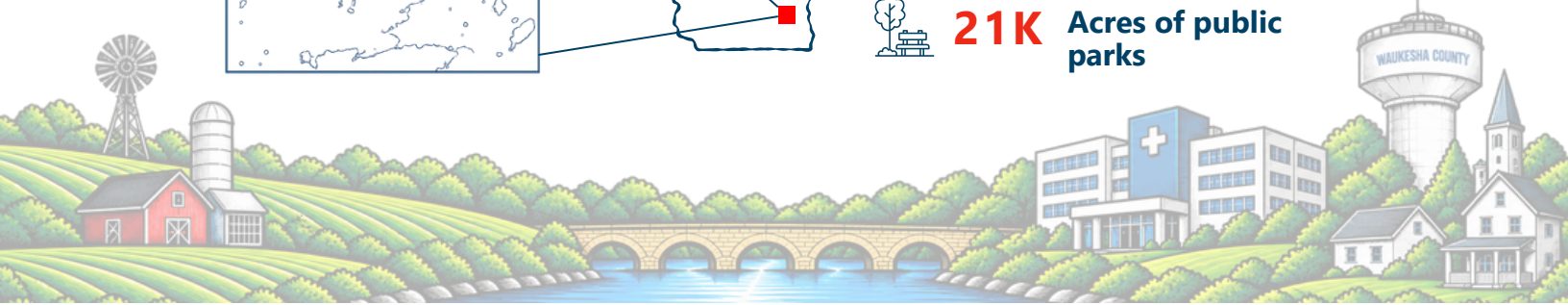
NATURAL ASSETS



77 Lakes

129 Miles of hiking & biking trails

21K Acres of public parks



THE PEOPLE OF WAUKESHA COUNTY

Waukesha County is home to people of different ages, races, ethnicities, backgrounds, and life experiences. From the languages we speak to our military service, abilities, and cultural identities, our residents bring unique perspectives that shape our community. Understanding who lives in Waukesha County helps us recognize the diverse needs of our population and ensure health improvement efforts reach all residents.

GENDER

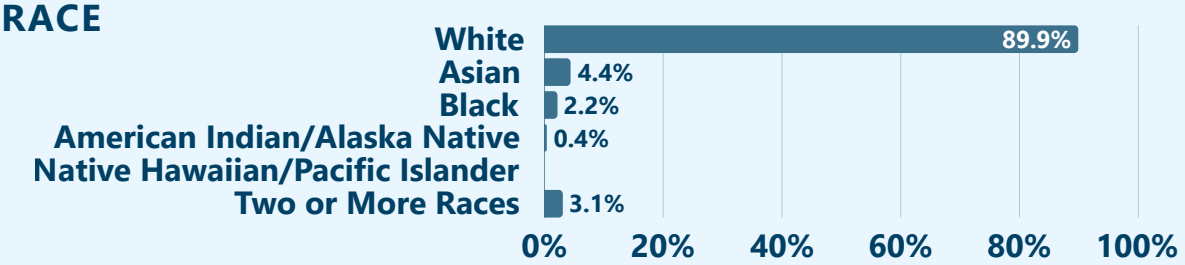


VETERANS



17,996
(2020-2024)

RACE



ETHNICITY

Hispanic or Latino **6.3%**

RESIDENTS UNDER AGE 65 WITH A DISABILITY

5.9% (2020-2024)

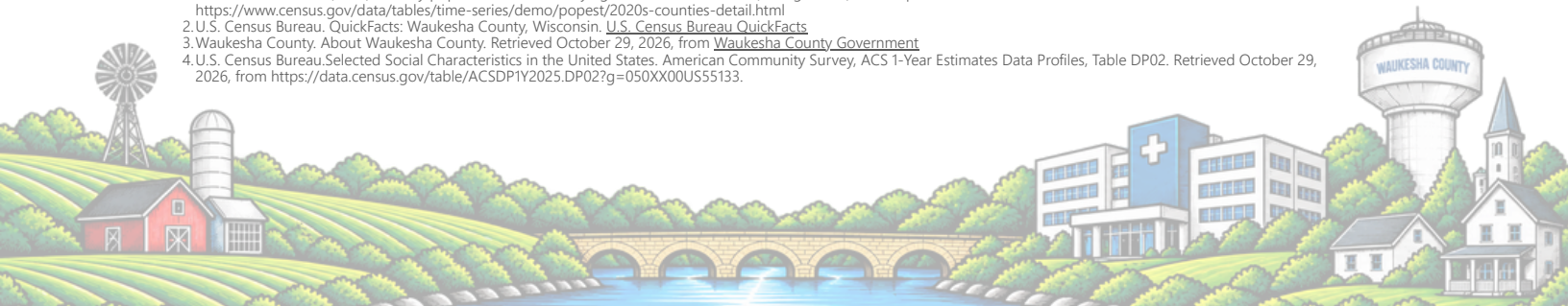
LANGUAGES OTHER THAN ENGLISH SPOKEN AT HOME (5+)



- **Spanish** → **2.9 %**
- **Other Indo-European** → **2.7 %**
- **Asian Pacific Island** → **1.7%**
- **Other** → **0.4 %**

Sources:

1. U.S. Census Bureau. (2026). County population estimates by age and sex: 2020–2025 (Vintage 2025). U.S. Department of Commerce. https://www.census.gov/data/tables/time-series/demo/popest/2020s-counties-detail.html
2. U.S. Census Bureau. QuickFacts: Waukesha County, Wisconsin. U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts
3. Waukesha County. About Waukesha County. Retrieved October 29, 2026, from Waukesha County Government
4. U.S. Census Bureau.Selected Social Characteristics in the United States. American Community Survey, ACS 1-Year Estimates Data Profiles, Table DP02. Retrieved October 29, 2026, from https://data.census.gov/table/ACSDP1Y2025.DP02?g=050XX00US55133.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

WAUKESHA COUNTY POPULATION PROJECTIONS, 2020–2050

The following table shows projected population counts and the percentage of Waukesha County's total population represented by each age group.

Waukesha County Population Projections, 2020–2050

Population Group	2020	2030	2040	2050
Total Population	**406,978**	**404,035**	**396,325**	**380,010**
AGES 55+	143,947	152,100	153,515	150,835
% of Total Population	35%	38%	39%	40%
AGES 60+	111,597	128,780	127,690	126,035
% of Total Population	27%	32%	32%	33%
AGES 65+	79,964	103,370	105,065	100,595
% of Total Population	20%	26%	27%	26%
AGES 75+	33,577	48,795	62,565	58,180
% of Total Population	8%	12%	16%	15%
AGES 85+	10,366	12,515	18,685	24,025
% of Total Population	3%	3%	5%	6%

Note: Age groups overlap. For example, residents ages 85+ are also included in the 75+, 65+, 60+, and 55+ categories. Percentages are rounded.



DATA INSIGHTS: POPULATION PROJECTIONS

After reviewing the data, here are some of the findings that stood out to me:

- Waukesha County's population is aging. By 2030, approximately 1 in 3 residents will be age 60 or older.
- The population ages 85+ is projected to more than double, increasing from 10,366 residents in 2020 to 24,025 in 2050.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Administration, Demographic Services Center. (2024). Population projections, vintage 2024. Wisconsin Department of Health Services

COMMUNITY PROFILE

BROAD CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table ranks the leading causes of death in Waukesha County from 2022–2024. Causes are grouped using the National Center for Health Statistics' standardized 50 Broad Cause-of-Death Categories, which combine related causes of death into broader disease groups for easier interpretation.

Waukesha County Ranked Broad Causes of Death by Count, All Ages, 2022-2024

Rank	Broad Cause of Death	Count
1	Diseases of heart	2461
2	Malignant neoplasms	2374
3	Other causes	1966
4	Accidents (unintentional injuries)	995
5	Cerebrovascular diseases	638
6	Alzheimer's disease	534
7	Chronic lower respiratory diseases	396
8	Covid-19	323
9	Diabetes mellitus	256
10	Parkinson's disease	220
11	Chronic liver disease and cirrhosis	170
12	Nutritional deficiencies	163
13	Intentional self-harm (suicide)	151
14	Essential (primary) hypertension and hypertensive renal disease	134
15	Nephritis, nephrotic syndrome and nephrosis	124
16	Pneumonitis due to solids and liquids	122
17	Influenza and pneumonia	121
18	Septicemia	85
19	In situ neoplasms, benign neoplasms and neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behavior	67
20	Aortic aneurysm and dissection	49
21	Congenital malformations, deformations and chromosomal abnormalities	41
22	Certain conditions originating in the perinatal period	28
23	Anemias	27
24	Cholelithiasis and other disorders of gallbladder	22
25	Assault (homicide)	22
26	Peptic ulcer	15
27	Enterocolitis C. difficile	13
28	Complications of medical and surgical care	12
29	Hernia	11
30	Infections of kidney	8
31	Atherosclerosis	5

Suppressed Data: Eight broad causes of death from 2022–2024 are not displayed by count because each had between one and four deaths. In accordance with Wisconsin vital records data privacy guidelines, counts fewer than five are suppressed to protect confidentiality. These causes include Viral Hepatitis, Meningitis, Hyperplasia of Prostate, Pneumoconioses and Chemical Effects, Diseases of the Appendix, Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium, Legal Intervention, and Tuberculosis.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH): Mortality Module. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm

DEFINITIONS & CONTEXT: BROAD CAUSES OF DEATH

Many of the causes of death shown in this report represent groups of related conditions rather than a single diagnosis. The definitions below provide additional context for the top 10 causes of death by broad group.

Underlying Cause of Death - 50 Categories by ICD-10 Code

Accidents (Unintentional Injuries): Includes deaths resulting from falls, motor vehicle crashes, accidental poisonings (including drug overdoses), drowning, fires, and other unintentional injuries.

Alzheimer's Disease: A progressive brain disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and loss of independence.

Cerebrovascular Diseases: Diseases affecting the blood vessels of the brain, including stroke and its complications.

Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases: Includes chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis, emphysema, asthma, bronchiectasis, and other chronic lung diseases.
COVID-19: Deaths in which COVID-19 was identified as the underlying cause of death.

Diabetes Mellitus: A group of diseases that affect how the body regulates blood sugar, including Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.

Diseases of Heart: Includes all major heart diseases, such as heart attacks, coronary artery disease, heart failure, heart valve disease, cardiomyopathy, heart rhythm disorders, and hypertensive heart disease.

Malignant Neoplasms: Includes all cancers, such as lung, breast, colorectal, prostate, pancreatic, blood, brain, and skin cancers.

Other Causes: A broad category that combines many less common causes of death not reported elsewhere. Examples include rare infectious diseases, blood disorders, thyroid and metabolic diseases, neurological disorders, digestive diseases, kidney and urinary diseases, reproductive disorders, respiratory diseases, and ill-defined conditions.

Parkinson's Disease: A progressive neurological disorder that affects movement, balance, coordination, and other body functions over time.



DATA INSIGHTS: BROAD CAUSES OF DEATH

After reviewing the data, here are some of the findings that stood out to me:

- Heart disease (2,461 deaths) and cancer (2,374 deaths) were the two leading causes of death in Waukesha County from 2022–2024, together accounting for nearly 40% of all deaths.
- Unintentional injuries ranked fourth, accounting for 995 deaths. This highlights the importance of prevention efforts addressing falls, overdoses, and other preventable injuries.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). WISH: Underlying cause of death – 50 categories. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/mortality/cause.htm.

COMMUNITY PROFILE

DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

The following table ranks the leading causes of death in Waukesha County from 2022–2024. Causes are grouped using the National Center for Health Statistics' standardized 113 Selected Causes of Death classification system.

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Causes of Death by Count, All Ages, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death	Count
1	All Other Diseases (Residual)	1611
2	All Other Forms of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease	787
3	Cerebrovascular Diseases	638
4	All Other Forms of Heart Disease	634
5	Falls	624
6	Alzheimers Disease	534
7	Malignant Neoplasms of Trachea, Bronchus and Lung	455
8	Other and Unspecified Infections and Parasitic Diseases and Their Sequelae	374
9	Other Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases	356
10	Acute Myocardial Infarction	330
11	All Other and Unspecified Malignant Neoplasms	297
12	Heart Failure	294
13	Diabetes Mellitus	256
14	Parkinsons Disease	220
15	Malignant Neoplasm of Pancreas	219
16	Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	205
17	Hypertensive Heart Disease	195
18	Malignant Neoplasms of Colon, Rectum and Anus	189
19	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	174
20	Malnutrition	163
21	Malignant Neoplasm of Prostate	158
22	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	152
23	Essential (Primary) Hypertension and Hypertensive Renal Disease	134
24	Alcoholic Liver Disease	128
25	Pneumonitis Due to Solids and Liquids	122
26	Renal Failure	120
27	Leukemia	108
28	Malignant Neoplasms of Liver and Intrahepatic Bile Ducts	101
29	Pneumonia	101
30	Malignant Neoplasms of Meninges, Brain and Other Parts of Central Nervous System	90
31	Atherosclerotic Cardiovascular Disease, So Described	90
32	Hypertensive Heart and Renal Disease	87
33	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Discharge of Firearms	87
34	Motor Vehicle Accidents	86
35	Septicemia	85
36	Non-hodgkins Lymphoma	84
37	Malignant Neoplasm of Ovary	70
38	In Situ Neoplasms, Benign Neoplasms and Neoplasms of Uncertain or Unknown Behavior	67
39	Malignant Neoplasms of Corpus Uteri and Uterus, Part Unspecified	65
40	Malignant Neoplasm of Esophagus	64

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH): Mortality Module. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm

Continued...

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Causes of Death by Count, All Ages, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death	Count
41	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Other and Unspecified Means and Their Sequelae	64
42	Malignant Neoplasms of Lip, Oral Cavity and Pharynx	63
43	Malignant Neoplasm of Bladder	62
44	Malignant Neoplasms of Kidney and Renal Pelvis	61
45	Aortic Aneurysm and Dissection	49
46	Other Diseases of Arteries, Arterioles and Capillaries	46
47	Other and Unspecified Nontransport Accidents and Their Sequelae	46
48	Other Chronic Liver Disease and Cirrhosis	42
49	Symptom, Signs and Abnormal Clinical and Laboratory Findings, Not Elsewhere Classified	42
50	Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	41
51	Malignant Neoplasm of Stomach	39
52	Multiple Myeloma and Immunoproliferative Neoplasms	35
53	Malignant Melanoma of Skin	34
54	Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	28
55	Anemias	27
56	Other Disorders of Circulatory System	26
57	Certain Other Intestinal Infections	24
58	Acute Rheumatic Fever and Chronic Rheumatic Heart Diseases	24
59	Cholelithiasis and Other Disorders of Gallbladder	22
60	Influenza	20
61	Emphysema	20
62	Asthma	19
63	Malignant Neoplasm of Larynx	17
64	Assault (Homicide) by Discharge of Firearms	16
65	Peptic Ulcer	15
66	Complications of Medical and Surgical Care	12
67	Hernia	11
68	Water, Air and Space, and Other and Unspecified Transport Accidents and Their Sequelae	11
69	Accidental Drowning and Submersion	10
70	Malignant Neoplasm of Cervix Uteri	9
71	Accidental Exposure to Smoke, Fire and Flames	9
72	Acute and Subacute Endocarditis	8
73	Infections of Kidney	8
74	Other Acute Ischemic Heart Diseases	7
75	Assault (Homicide) by Other and Unspecified Means and Their Sequelae	6
76	Diseases of Pericardium and Acute Myocarditis	5
77	Atherosclerosis	5
78	Other and Unspecified Events of Undetermined Intent and Their Sequelae	5

Suppressed Data: Some causes of death from 2022–2024 are not displayed by count because each had between one and four deaths. In accordance with Wisconsin vital records data privacy guidelines, counts fewer than five are suppressed to protect confidentiality. These causes include Other Land Transport Accidents, Viral Hepatitis, Meningitis, Acute and Rapidly Progressive Nephritic and Nephrotic Syndrome, Hyperplasia of Prostate, Hodgkin Disease, Pneumoconioses and Chemical Effects, Diseases of the Appendix, Other Complications of Pregnancy, Childbirth and the Puerperium, Legal Intervention, Respiratory Tuberculosis, Bronchitis (Chronic and Unspecified), and Chronic Glomerulonephritis, Nephritis and Nephrosis Not Specified, and Renal Sclerosis.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH): Mortality Module. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm

DEFINITIONS & CONTEXT: DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

Many of the causes of death shown in this report represent groups of related conditions rather than a single diagnosis. The definitions below provide additional context for the top 10 causes of death by detailed group.

Underlying Cause of Death - 113 Categories by ICD-10 Code

Acute Myocardial Infarction: A heart attack caused by a sudden loss of blood flow to part of the heart muscle.

All Other Diseases (Residual): A combined category that includes many l ess common causes of death not reported individually in the National Center for Health Statistics' 113 Selected Causes of Death classification. Because it combines numerous diseases across multiple body systems, it is expected to rank highly.

All Other Forms of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease: Long-term heart conditions caused by reduced blood flow to the heart, including coronary artery disease and chronic complications of heart disease.

All Other Forms of Heart Disease: A broad category including heart valve disease, heart rhythm disorders, cardiomyopathy, pulmonary heart disease, and other heart conditions not classified elsewhere.

Alzheimer's Disease: A progressive brain disease that causes memory loss, cognitive decline, and loss of independence.

Cerebrovascular Diseases: Diseases affecting the blood vessels of the brain, including stroke and its complications.

Malignant Neoplasms of the Trachea, Bronchus, and Lung: Lung and airway cancers, including cancers of the trachea and bronchi.

Other and Unspecified Infections and Parasitic Diseases: A broad category that includes many less common bacterial, viral, fungal, and parasitic infections not reported separately. This category includes diseases such as cholera, anthrax, syphilis, gonorrhea, rabies, fungal infections, malaria, and other parasitic diseases.

Other Chronic Lower Respiratory Diseases: Chronic lung diseases other than COPD, emphysema, and asthma, including bronchiectasis and other long-term respiratory conditions.

Poisoning by and Exposure to Noxious Substances: Deaths resulting from unintentional exposure to harmful substances, including drug overdoses (such as opioids, fentanyl, and other drugs), toxic chemicals, gases, and other poisonous substances.



DATA INSIGHTS: DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH

- Falls (624 deaths) and accidental poisoning, including drug overdoses (205 deaths), accounted for 83% of all unintentional injury deaths in Waukesha County from 2022–2024. Falls alone accounted for nearly two-thirds (63%) of these deaths.
- Cancer was the second leading broad cause of death, but which types contributed most? Detailed data show that lung cancer (455 deaths) was the leading specific type of cancer, followed by pancreatic cancer (219 deaths) and colorectal cancer (189 deaths).

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). Underlying cause of death – 113 categories. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/causes113.htm

COMMUNITY PROFILE

TOP 5 DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH BY AGE

The following tables rank the leading causes of death in Waukesha County from 2022–2024 by age group. Causes are grouped using the National Center for Health Statistics' standardized 113 Selected Causes of Death classification system. Examining causes of death by age helps identify how mortality patterns change across the lifespan and highlights opportunities for age-specific prevention and intervention efforts.

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 0-17, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death, Age 0-17	Count
1	Certain Conditions Originating in the Perinatal Period	28
2	Congenital Malformations, Deformations and Chromosomal Abnormalities	15
3	Malignant Neoplasms of Meninges, Brain and Other Parts of Central Nervous System	5
Data beyond rank 3 are suppressed because counts are fewer than 5.		

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 18-24, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death, Age 18-24	Count
1	Motor Vehicle Accidents	8
2	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Discharge of Firearms	8
3	Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	5
4	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Other and Unspecified Means and Their Sequelae	5
Data beyond rank 3 are suppressed because counts are fewer than 5.		

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 25-34, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death, Age 25-34	Count
1	Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	41
2	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Discharge of Firearms	17
3	Motor Vehicle Accidents	13
4	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Other and Unspecified Means and Their Sequelae	7
Data beyond rank 3 are suppressed because counts are fewer than 5.		

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 35-44, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death, Age 35-44	Count
1	Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	66
2	All Other Diseases (Residual)	16
3	Alcoholic Liver Disease	14
4	Malignant Neoplasms of Colon, Rectum and Anus	13
5	Intentional Self-harm (Suicide) by Discharge of Firearms	13

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH): Mortality Module. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 45-54, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death, Age 45-54	Count
1	All Other Diseases (Residual)	40
2	Accidental Poisoning and Exposure to Noxious Substances	35
3	Malignant Neoplasm of Breast	21
4	Alcoholic Liver Disease	21
5	Acute Myocardial Infarction	17

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 55-64, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death, Age 55-64	Count
1	All Other Diseases (Residual)	99
2	Malignant Neoplasms of Trachea, Bronchus and Lung	63
3	Alcoholic Liver Disease	54
4	Acute Myocardial Infarction	47
5	All Other Forms of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease	45

Waukesha County Ranked Detailed Cause of Death by Count, Age 65+, 2022-2024

Rank	Detailed Cause of Death	Count
1	All Other Diseases (Residual)	1446
2	All Other Forms of Chronic Ischemic Heart Disease	726
3	Cerebrovascular Diseases	597
4	Falls	592
5	All Other Forms of Heart Disease	582



DATA INSIGHTS: TOP 5 DETAILED CAUSES OF DEATH BY AGE

After reviewing the data, here are some of the findings that stood out to me:

- Accidental poisoning, including drug overdoses, was the leading detailed cause of death among adults ages 25–34 (41 deaths) and 35–44 (66 deaths). It was also the second leading cause among adults ages 45–54 (35 deaths).
- Alcoholic liver disease stands out among middle-aged adults. It ranked third among adults ages 35–44 (14 deaths), fourth among ages 45–54 (21 deaths), and third among ages 55–64 (54 deaths).
- The leading causes of death change significantly with age. Injuries and substance-related deaths are more prominent among younger adults, while heart disease, cancer, and other chronic conditions become more prominent in older age groups.

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. (2026, May 6). Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH): Mortality Module. https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/index.htm

COMMUNITY PROFILE

WAUKESHA COUNTY MEDICAL EXAMINER STATISTIC TABLES

The Waukesha County Medical Examiner investigates deaths that fall under its jurisdiction, including natural, accidental, suicide, homicide, and undetermined deaths.

These tables summarize deaths by manner and provide additional details on accidental deaths, suicides, homicides, and undetermined deaths from 2019–2024.

DATA INSIGHTS: UNDERSTANDING MORTALITY DATA



- **Different Data Sources:** WISH data (in previous tables) reflect deaths among Waukesha County residents, regardless of location. Medical Examiner data reflect deaths occurring in the county under its jurisdiction, regardless of residency. Counts should not be directly compared.
- **Drug-Related Deaths:** The accidental death table includes unintentional drug-related deaths, including overdoses. Drug-related deaths classified as suicide, homicide, or undetermined are counted separately.

Source: Source: Waukesha County Medical Examiner's Office. (2019–2024). Statistics & Annual reports. Waukesha County, Wisconsin. Waukesha County Medical Examiner – Statistics & Annual Reports

Death Certificates Signed by Manner of Death, 2019–2024

Year	Natural	Accident	Suicide, Homicide & Undetermined	Total Deaths
2019	108	266	53	427
2020	130	347	66	543
2021	132	346	71	549
2022	148	365	55	568
2023	136	338	57	531
2024	156	339	56	551

Number and types of Accidental Deaths from 2019 to 2024

Year	Motor Vehicle Related Deaths	Non-Vehicular Deaths	Deaths Involving Drugs, Medications, and/or Ethanol
2019	21	194	51
2020	19	240	88
2021	23	219	104
2022	27	263	75
2023	35	244	59
2024	24	315	46

Numbers of Suicide, Homicide and Undetermined Deaths from 2019 to 2024

Year	Suicide	Homicide	Undetermined
2019	41	6	6
2020	51	9	6
2021	50	13	8
2022	44	6	5
2023	50	5	2
2024	44	7	5