

Vilas County Community Health Assessment







2023-2028

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Overview

The Vilas County Public Health Department recognizes the overall importance of a Community Health Assessment (CHA) within its community and state. Data in this report is a collaboration between Forest County Health Department, Oneida County Health Department, Vilas County Public Health Department, Marshfield Clinic Health System, and Aspirus Health, as well as the efforts of Vilas County partners and stakeholders. The health departments partnered with Catalyst, a strategic planning organization at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, to conduct a community health needs assessment for the above three counties. The purpose of the community health assessment was to investigate and define the factors that impact the health of the community, and to assess the degree to which there are adequate resources to address those factors.

Methodology

The start of the 2023 Community Health Assessment for Forest, Oneida, and Vilas Counties began with the administration of a community health survey (administered electronically and via pen/paper), a series of focus groups, and several stakeholder interviews. These were completed within four months.

The survey was administered starting in mid-November 2022. For the electronic survey, an anonymous survey link was posted using QR codes on flyers in each of the three counties and was shared using multiple social media platforms. Paper surveys were distributed at various partner organizations throughout the three counties. Participation was incentivized with the chance to win one of several \$25 gift cards. There was a total of 1,133 participants that completed the survey for all three counties.

Focus groups were held in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas counties during a one-week period in late January 2023. Participants were recruited using specialized outreach to a variety of target populations. The focus group questions were meant to gain a deeper understanding of community health needs. There was a total of 9 focus groups held, which were equally distributed across each of the three counties, with a total of 81 participants. Each focus group discussion was recorded, then transcribed, and combined for data analysis.

Additional feedback was collected from key stakeholders in each of the three counties. Stakeholders included leaders of local organizations including schools, law enforcement, health care providers, employers, food pantries, and other prominent organizations meant to support community health. The stakeholder questions were meant to reflect a more detailed understanding of ways in which the community needs to be supported. There was a total of 35 stakeholders who provided feedback.

Data from the survey, focus groups, and stake holder interviews were analyzed, and the results are shared within this report.

What is a CHA and CHIP?

Local Health Departments are required to regularly and systematically collect, assemble, analyze, and make available information on the health of their community (WI DHS 140.01(1)(g)3).

What is a Community Health Assessment and Improvement Plan?

- A locally based initiative.
- Identifies local factors causing health concerns.
- Recognizes community assets and resources.
- Addresses local health priorities.
- Linked to state and national priorities.
- Mobilizes community resources to improve the health of residents.

Who is involved?

- Representatives of the community.
- Leaders with knowledge of the community.
- Individuals are interested and committed to creating a healthier community.

Why create a community health assessment and an improvement plan?

- Form and strengthen partnerships.
- Increase community awareness.
- Tap community's innovative ideas.
- Integrate isolated efforts... build on existing services.
- Conserve resources... prevent duplication of efforts.
- Develop comprehensive strategies that will work in your community.

How do we create a community health improvement plan?

- Examine data: disease, death, disability, injury, community opinion.
- Process follows national models (we used MAPP Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnerships).
- Identify priority health problems: factors that can be impacted.
- Identify community assets and resources to be supported or tapped.
- Develop a health improvement plan to address priority concerns.
- Present the health improvement plan to the community.
- Implement the identified strategies and measure success.
- The community health assessment is a community document, produced and used by the community.

Process

The Vilas County Public Health Department began the assessment by collecting primary and secondary data, following the Healthy People 2030 objectives: by looking at Demographics, Health Behaviors, Health Conditions, Social Determinants of Health, and Leading Health Indicators. Data was collected using Metopio, County Health Rankings, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, and the U.S. Census. Most of our secondary data illustrates data for all three counties (Forest, Oneida, and Vilas), as this provides a comparison between counties that share the same healthcare systems.

Community Health Survey

The community health survey's purpose was to gain a general knowledge of the health concerns and needs of our communities (see Attachment A). The survey was administered between November 2022 through February 2023 by using a QR code and hard copies through a press release, newspaper ads, website, and Facebook posts. We also outreached certain target populations by going to the food pantry and to the meal sites. Vilas County had 247 responses.



Community Health Survey – Summary of Results

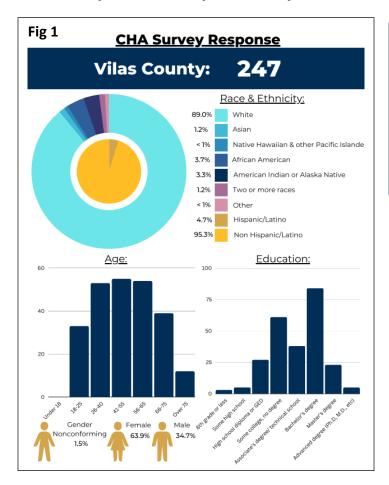


Figure 1 shows the population that responded to the survey to our actual population (see table below).

As illustrated, there were low responses from our female population and our race/ethnicity populations.

Total Population	23,520
Male	51.50%
Female	48.50%
White	86.90%
Asian	0.60%
African American/ Black	0.40%
Native Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander	0.00%
American Indian/ Alaska Native	10.50%
Two or More Races	1.60%
Hispanic or Latino	2.70%

Top Five Strengths Identified in the Community Survey

Clean Environment (Air, Water) 153 responses (62.2%) Access to Community Parks and Green Spaces 124 responses (50.4%)

Good Schools 119 responses (48.4%)

96 responses (39.0%) Opportunities to Practice Spiritual Beliefs

91 responses (37.0%)

Community Safey

Top Five Areas for Improvement Identified in the Community Survey

Access to Safe and Affordable Housing 132 responses (53.7%)

Access to Affordable Health Care (Family Doctor) 128 responses (52.0%)

 Access to Affordable Mental Health Services 91 responses (37.0%)

 Access to Affordable Healthy Foods 90 responses (36.6%)

Access to Affordable Childcare 85 responses (34.6%)

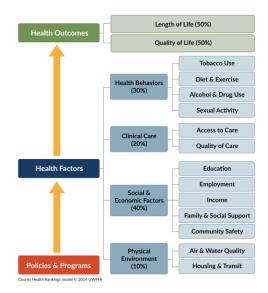
Focus Groups

Target populations in Vilas County participated in group discussions during January 2023 and shared their concerns as well as changes in the last three to five years to be healthy or live a healthy life. They also shared their thoughts on what improvements and strengths are in our community. Focus groups consisted of 6-8 people and were facilitated by UW-Stout. Incentives were provided for participants. Focus groups included Sunshine for Humanity, The Rock Mission Center, and Kalmar Senior Center.

Common themes of the Focus Groups:

- Health Care Issue
- Continuity of Health Care
- Transportation Issues
- Affordable Housing
- Mental Health (Depression)
- Jobs, Wages, Money Issues
- Addiction

See Attachment B for the summary of the results.



Key Informant Interviews

To obtain additional perspectives and insights from key partners in the community with diverse backgrounds, one-on-one interviews were held in February 2023. This included Aspirus – Eagle River Hospital, Compassus Home Health, Lac du Flambeau Tribal Elders, Marshfield Medical Center, Northland Pines School District and Headstart Program, Peter Christensen Health Center, Peter Christensen Health Center – Community Health, Vilas County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Vilas County Sheriff's Office, Vilas County Social Service Department, and Vilas County Veterans Services Department.

Common Themes of the Key Informant Interviews:

- Food (insecurities and cost/affordability)
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health
- ADOA (especially youth vaping)
- Aging population/Older adults
- Lack of local support for older adults
- Lack of healthcare resources (including specialties and mental health)

See Attachment C for the summary of the results.

The Community Café

Vilas County Public Health Department held a Community Café in June 2023. The Café provided an overview of pertinent data specific to our county that was primary and secondary, national, state, and local data that aligns with the Healthy People 2030 (https://health.gov/healthypeople) This includes the following:

- Health Conditions
- Health Behaviors
- Social Determinants of Health
- Demographics
- Leading Indicators of Health

A data walk with posters (shared as the data in this report) that summarized data with those who attended. The Health Department had seven steering committee members that represented various

facets of our community. Questions (see Attachment D) were asked of the steering committee to think about while reviewing data stations divided by the health indicators above. Leading Indicators of Health were highlighted at each data station.

Following the data walk, the members participated in a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Constraints (SWOC) discussion.

SWOC Analysis Health Focus Areas:

- Safe/affordable housing
- Access to healthcare resources, specifically Mental Health
- Food insecurities and access to affordable healthy foods
- Decrease the use of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA)
- Lack of local support for older adults
- Lack of local support for younger families



Public Survey

Based on the input and data received from the community health survey, focus group discussions, key informant interviews, and conversations at the Community Café, we invited the public to identify the top three health issues from the following health focus areas were identified as gaps in our county.

- Safe/affordable housing
- Access to healthcare resources, specifically Mental Health
- Food insecurities and access to affordable healthy foods
- Decrease the use of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA)
- Lack of local support for older adults
- Lack of local support for younger families

The survey was available from September 1 – September 22, 2023. There were 93 participants.

Top Three Health Focus Areas identified:

- Access to care Mental Health,
- Alcohol and Other Drug Use (AODA), especially vaping and youth, and
- Lack of affordable housing

Due to the data showing the high prevalence of certain health conditions (see page 20) and lack of affordable health care (identified in the community survey), Chronic Disease was also added as a health focus area.

Key Findings from Data to support adding Chronic Disease as a health focus area:

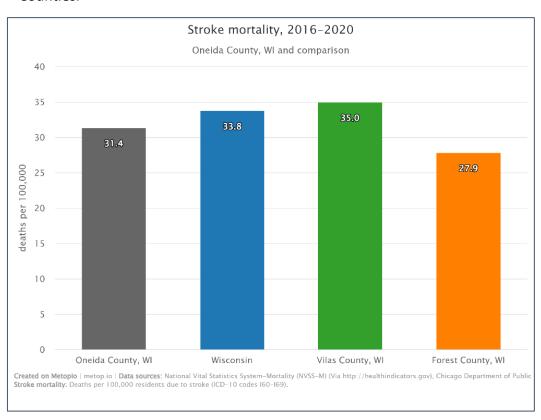
 Lung Cancer Rates (Incidence rates of cancer in lungs & bronchus) - 62.6 for Vilas County vs. 59 for the State of WI

Cancer Mortality

	HP 2030	WI	Vilas County	Forest County	Oneida County
Lung Cancer Rate Incidence rates of cancer in lungs & bronchus	-	59	62.6	68.3	68.7
Oral Cancer Rate Incidence rates of cancer in oral cavity & pharynx	-	13	12	-	12.7
Colorectal Cancer Mortality Colorectal cancer death rate	8.9	12.5	15.4	23.2	21.3
Prostate Cancer Mortality Prostate cancer death rate	16.9	20.8	-	-	15.5
Breast Cancer Mortality Breast Cancer death rate	15.3	18.5	19.3	-	26.5

Table 1. Rate of New Cancers, Wisconsin, All Ages, All Races and Ethnicities, Male and Female, 2015-2019
Rate per 100,000 people and Rate of Cancer Deaths in Oneida County, Wisconsin, All Ages, All Races and Ethnicities, Male and Female, 2
2019, Rate per 100,000 people. Source: United States Cancer Statistics: Data Visualizations;
https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/?CDC AA refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fcancer%2Fdataviz%2Findex.htm#/StateCountyTer

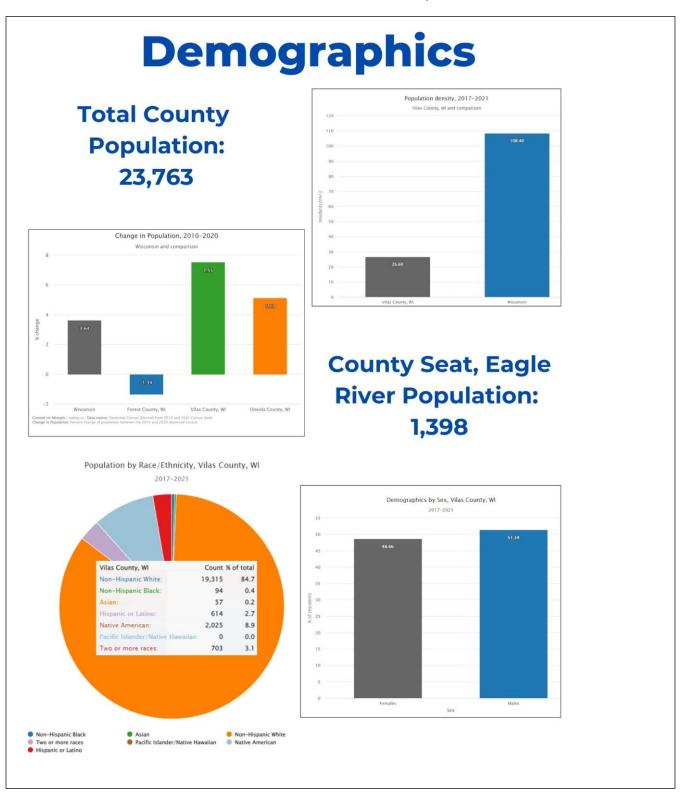
- Colorectal Cancer Death Rate 15.4 for Vilas County vs. 12.5 for the State of WI
- Breast Cancer Death Rate 19.3 for Vilas County vs. 18.5 for the State of WI
- Vilas County's rates of high blood pressure, heart disease and stroke, are typically higher than the State of WI and Oneida County.
- Vilas County's rates of COPD are higher than the State of WI. And in most years, emergency room visits due to COPD are higher with our residents than those of Forest and Oneida Counties.



Summary of Data

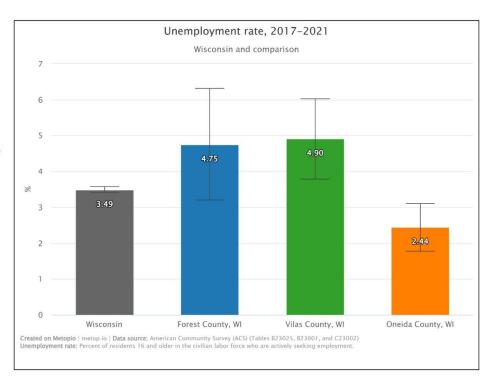
Demographics:

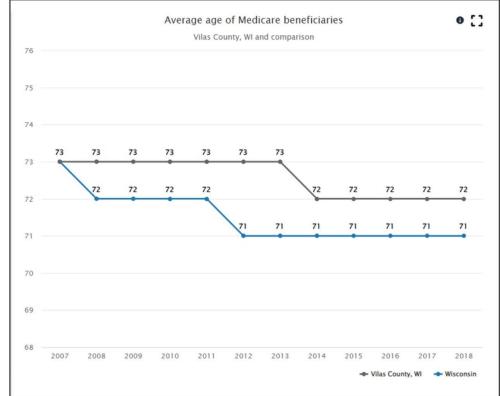
This data set will show Demographics. This data set is an overview of our population and should be considered when looking at the other data sets. It is valuable background information that helps to choose which areas of health we should work on as a community.



Demographics

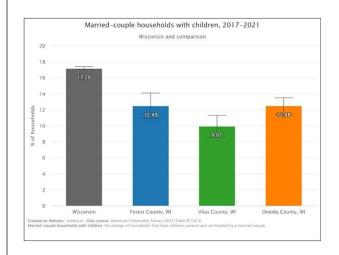
Unemployment
dropped to
2.6% in Vilas Co
in October of
2021

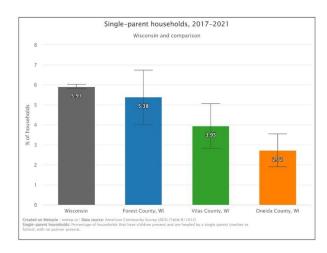


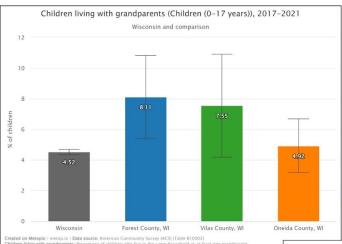


31% of the population in Vilas Co is

Demographics







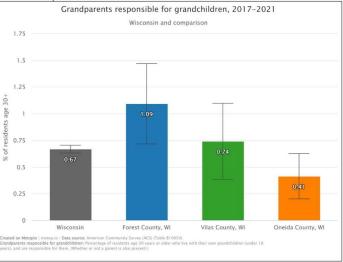
Other Households in Vilas County

Male *Householders - 5%
Female *Householders - 13%
Non-Family Households - 20%
*Householder - Person who owns/rents the home

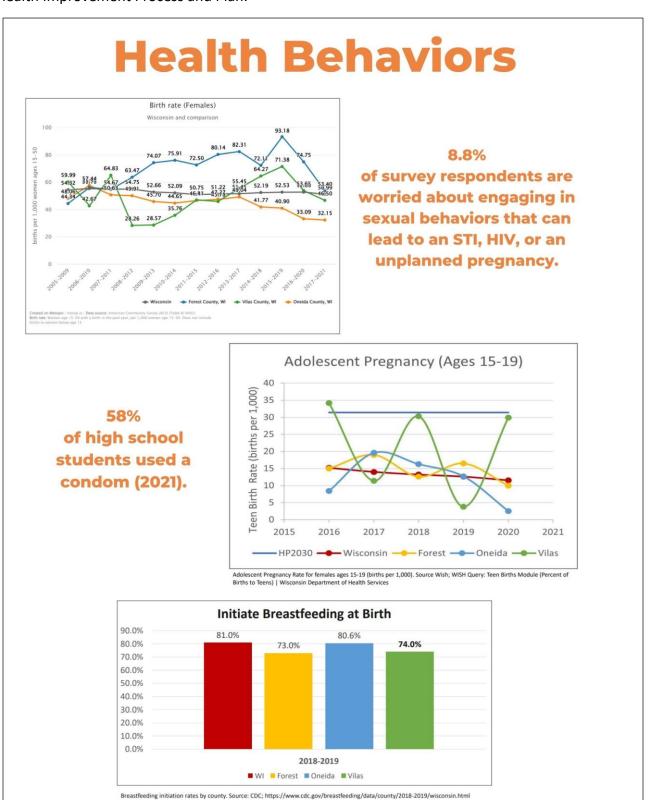
https://censusreporter.org/profiles/05000US55125 -vilas-county-wi/

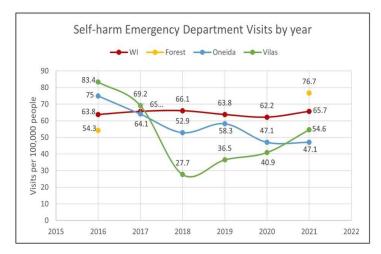
Tribal Consideration:

It is culturally
appropriate for children
of the Lac du Flambeau
Tribe to live with
grandparents or elders of
the tribe.

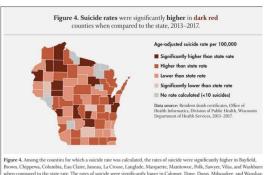


This data set is an overview of the health behaviors for Vilas County. Many of the top causes for death and disease can be connected to unhealthy behaviors. Health Behaviors includes things like child and adolescent development, drug & alcohol use, injury prevention, healthy eating, sleep, and violence prevention. This data set typically provides a good picture of what our county is doing well and where improvements need to be made. It provides baseline data on moving forward in the Community Health Improvement Process and Plan.





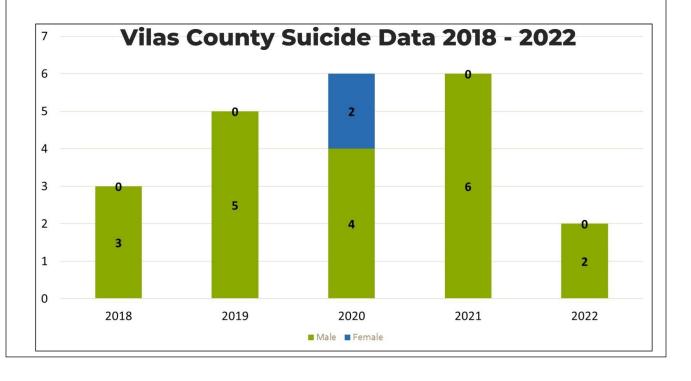
Vilas County's suicide rate is 21.2% per 100,000 residents, almost double the National rate, of 13.5% per 100,00.

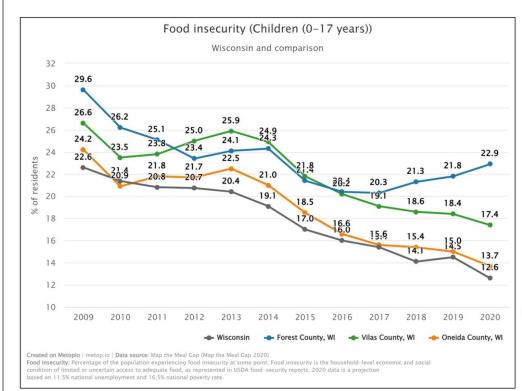


when compared to the state rate. The rates of suicide were significantly lower in Calumet, Dane, Dann, Milwaudee, and Wausha when compared to the state rate. The rates of suicide were significantly lower in Calumet, Dane, Dann, Milwaudee, and Wausha when compared to the state rate. A table with counts and rates for counties is provided in Appendix 5.

Analytic notes: Because of the way rate are compared, a unful difference may be statistically significant while a layer one is not. A statistically

Analytic notes: Because of the way rates are compared, a small difference may be statistically significant while a larger one is not. A statistically significant while a larger one is not. A statistically significant difference mans that the difference in table between country and state was very unlikely to be due to chance. For countries lasted as be higher or lower than the state rate, but not statistically significant, the difference in rate could be due to chance. Also, rates were not calculated it counties with less than 10 suicides from 2013–207, also rounts can produce unrealstel rates.



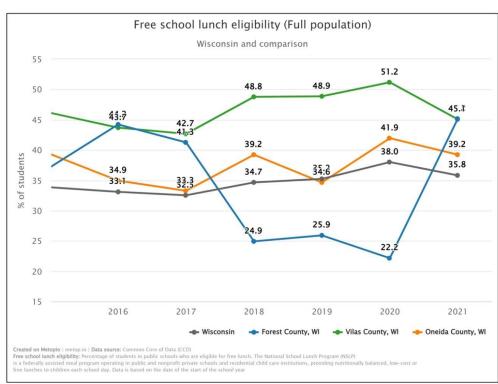


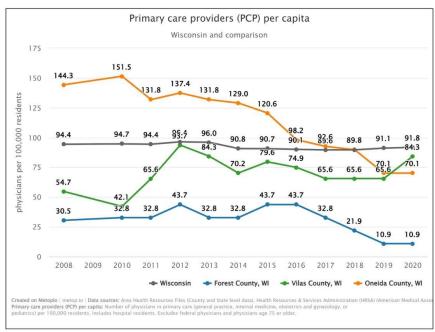
Wisconsin
has a child
food
insecurity
rate of 12.6%,
which ranks
#36 highest
among all
states.

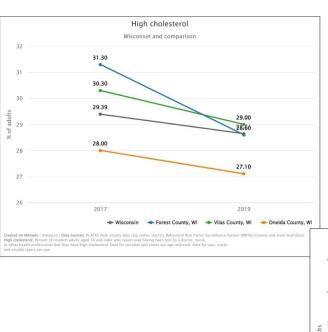
https://stacker.com/wisconsin/ counties-highest-rate-foodinsecure-children-wisconsin

In 2020, Vilas
County's food
insecurity
rate of
children was
17.4%, which
is 1.3% higher
than the
national
average.

https://stacker.com/wisconsin/co unties-highest-rate-foodinsecure-children-wiscon



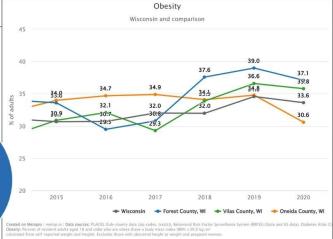


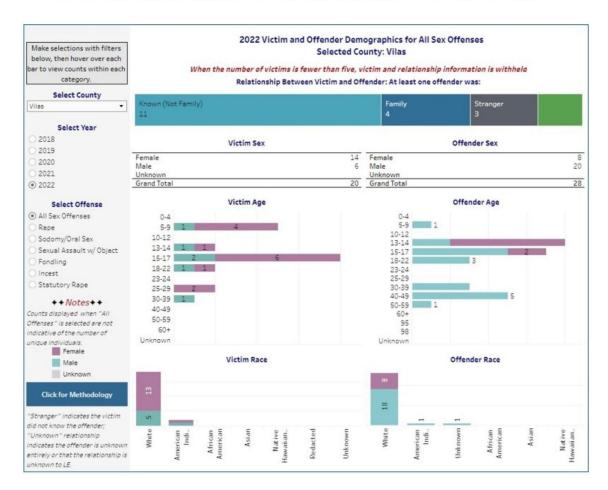


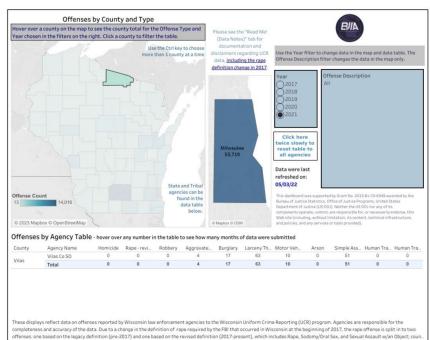
HP2030 Goal:

36%

Chronic illnesses, like these, contribute to the nation's \$4.1 trillion in annual health care costs.



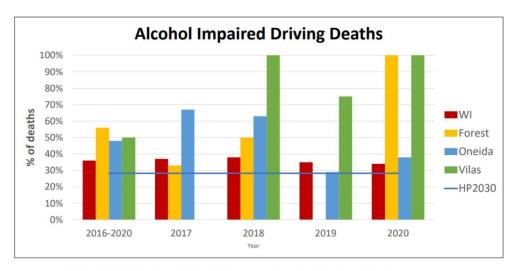




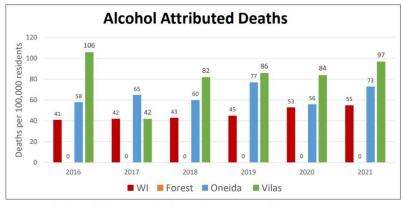
Top 5 Offenses:

- 1. Larceny
- 2. Simple Assault
- 3. Burglary
- Motor Vehicle Theft
- 5. Aggravated Assault

Data last refreshed on 5/3/22



Proportion of motor vehicle deaths that involved a drunk driver. Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps; https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/wisconsin/vilas?year=2023;



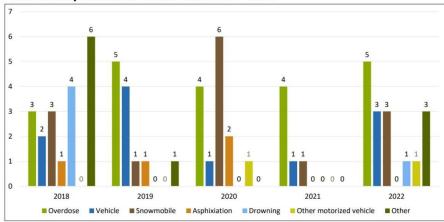
Vilas County leads in crashes and deaths attributed to alcohol compared to surrounding counties.

Estimated Alcohol: Attributed Deaths by County and State. Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services. DHS Interactive

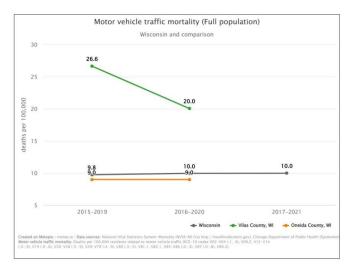
2018 Binge D	rinking Cost I	nformation		
Wisconsin	Forest	Oneida	Vilas	Binge drinking is 5+
Cost per resident:				drinks per occasion for men and 4+
\$666.00	\$565.00	\$588.00	\$657.00	drinks per occasion
Cost to the govern	for women.			
\$1.6 Billion	\$2.1 Million	\$8.7 Million	\$5.9 Million	
Estimated annual	Binge drinking is			
\$3.9 Billion	\$5.2 Million	\$21.1 Million	\$14.3 Million	responsible for 76% of the excessive alcohol consumption economic cost.

Table 1, The Burden of Binge Drinking in Wisconsin and Tri-county. Source: UW: Population Health Institute; The Burden of Binge Drinking in Wisconsin – Population Health Institute – UW–Madison

Vilas County Accidental Death Data 2018 - 2022

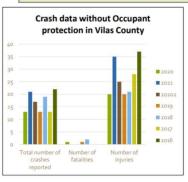


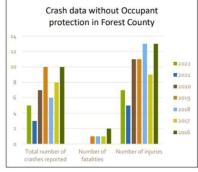
In the US, unintentional injuries are the leading cause of death in children, adolescents, and adults younger than 45 years.

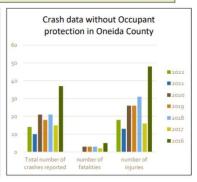


Causes of Motor Vehicle Fatalities in Forest, Oneida, and Vilas county from 2016-2022

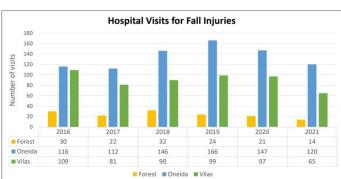
Motorcycle vs. Deer	Vehicle vs. Tree	Motorcycle lost control	Vehicle vs. Motorcycle	Vehicle vs. Vehicle
Vehicle vs. Pedestrian	Motorcycle vs. Motorcycle	Motorcycle vs. Tree	Vehicle vs. Stationary object	
Table 3, source: Tri-county M	edical Examiner Annual Crash	report		



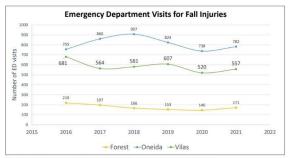




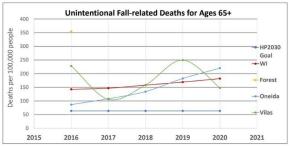
2016-2021					
Forest	Oneida	Vilas			
Fall	Fall	Fall			
Struck by or against object or person	Struck by or against object or person	Struck by or against object or person			
Cutting or piercing objects	Cutting or piercing objects	Cutting or piercing objects			
Motor vehicle	Natural or environmental factors	Natural or environmental factors			
Natural or environmental factors	Overexertion	Overexertion			
Non-traffic transportation	Motor vehicle	Motor vehicle			
Overexertion	Non-traffic transportation	Non-traffic transportation			
Poisoning	Poisoning	Poisoning			
Fire, heat, chemical burns, hot object,	Fire, heat, chemical burns, hot object,	Fire, heat, chemical burns, hot object			
scalding	scalding	scalding			
Machinery	Machinery	Machinery			
Firearm	Firearm	Suffocation			
Drowning	Suffocation	Firearm			
	Drowning	Drowning			



 $Number \ of hospitalized\ visits\ for\ unintentional\ fall-related\ injuries\ of\ all\ ages.\ Source:\ DHS\ WISH: \\ \underline{https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/injury-ed/query.htm}$



Number of emergency department visits for unintentional fall-related injuries for all ages. Source: DHS WISH https://dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/injurv-ed/querv.htm



Deaths per 100,000 population aged 65 years and over were caused by unintentional falls. Source: CDC WI Wonder; Older Adult Falls Reported by State | Fall Prevention | Injury Center | CDC

Top 13 injury-related hospitalizations 2016-2021				
Fall	Fall	Fall		
Poisoning	Poisoning	Poisoning		
Motor vehicle	Motor vehicle	Motor vehicle		
Non-traffic transportation	Non-traffic transportation	Non-traffic transportation		
Struck by or against object or person	Struck by or against object or person	Struck by or against object or person		
Fire, heat, chemical burns, hot object, scalding	Fire, heat, chemical burns, hot object, scalding	Natural or environmental factors		
Natural or environmental factors	Natural or environmental factors	Fire, heat, chemical burns, hot object, scalding		
Firearm	Suffocation	Cutting or piercing objects		
Suffocation	Overexertion	Overexertion		
Machinery	Cutting or piercing objects	Suffocation		
	Machinery	Firearm		
	Drowning	Machinery		
	Firearm			

Health Conditions

This data set is an overview of what conditions or illnesses affect our population. It is valuable information that helps to choose which areas of health we should work on as a community to lower risk factors for these conditions or illnesses (i.e., nutrition, physical activity, access to care, and access to healthy foods).

Health Conditions

7.8% of survey respondents have been told by a healthcare provider that they have cancer.

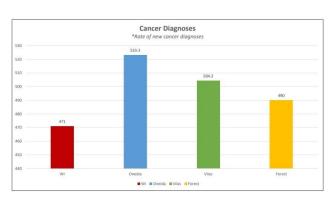


Figure 4. Rate of Cancer Deaths in Oneida County, Wisconsin - All Types of Cancer, All Ages, All Races and Ethnicities, Male and Female, 2015-2019, Rate per 100,000 people. Source: United States Cancer Statistics: Data Visualizations; https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/7CDC_AA_relVal=https://gis.cdc.gov/%2Fcancer%2Fdataviz%2Findex.htm #/StateCountyTerritory/.

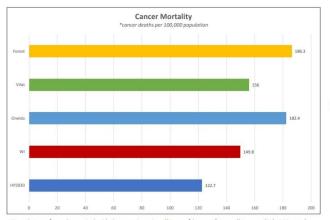


Figure 3. Rate of New Cancers in Oneida County, Wisconsin - All Types of Cancer, All Ages, All Races and Ethnicities, Male and Female, 2015-2019, Rate per 100,000 people. Source: United States Cancer Statistics: Data Visualizations; https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/CDC AA refVal=https://gis.cdc.gov/Cancer/USCS/CDC AA refVal=https://gis.cdc.gov

Why is preventative care important?

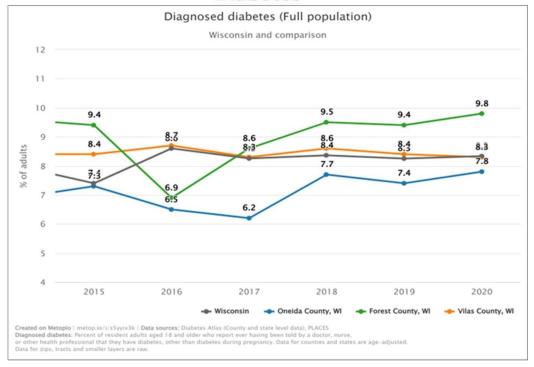
Routine checkups, screenings, and vaccinations are all steps that can be taken throughout their life to ensure a healthy lifestyle.

Regularly scheduled care can detect and prevent chronic diseases.

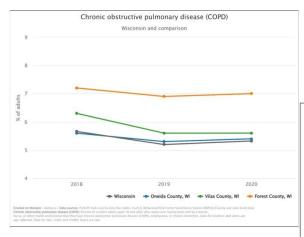
Cancer Rates	HP 2030	wı	Vilas County		Oneida County
Lung Cancer Incidence rates of cancer in lungs & bronchus	-	59	62.6	68.3	68.7
Oral Cancer Incidence rates of cancer in oral cavity & pharynx	-	13	12	-	12.7
Colorectal Cancer Mortality Colorectal cancer death rate	8.9	12.5	15.4	23.2	21.3
Prostate Cancer Mortality Prostate cancer death rate	16.9	20.8	-	-	15.5
Breast Cancer Mortality Breast Cancer death rate	15.3	18.5	19.3	-	26.5

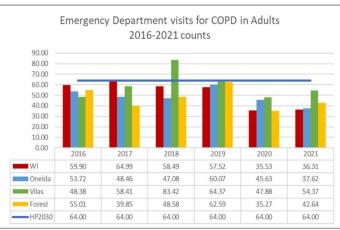
Health Conditions

Diabetes

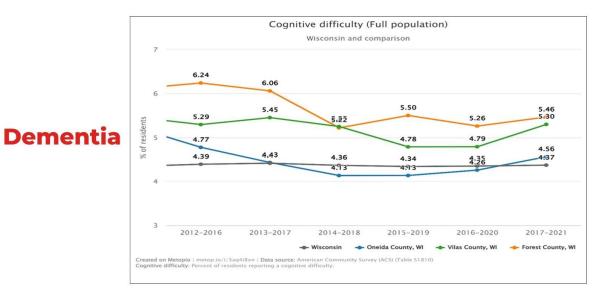


COPD





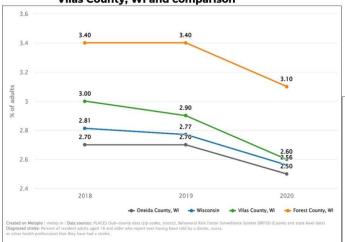
Health Conditions



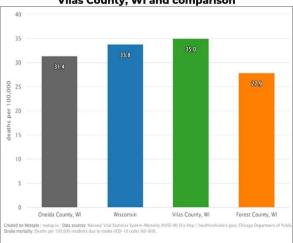
Stroke

(High blood pressure is a leading cause of heart disease and stroke because it damages the lining of the arteries.)

Diagnosed stroke (Full population) Vilas County, WI and comparison

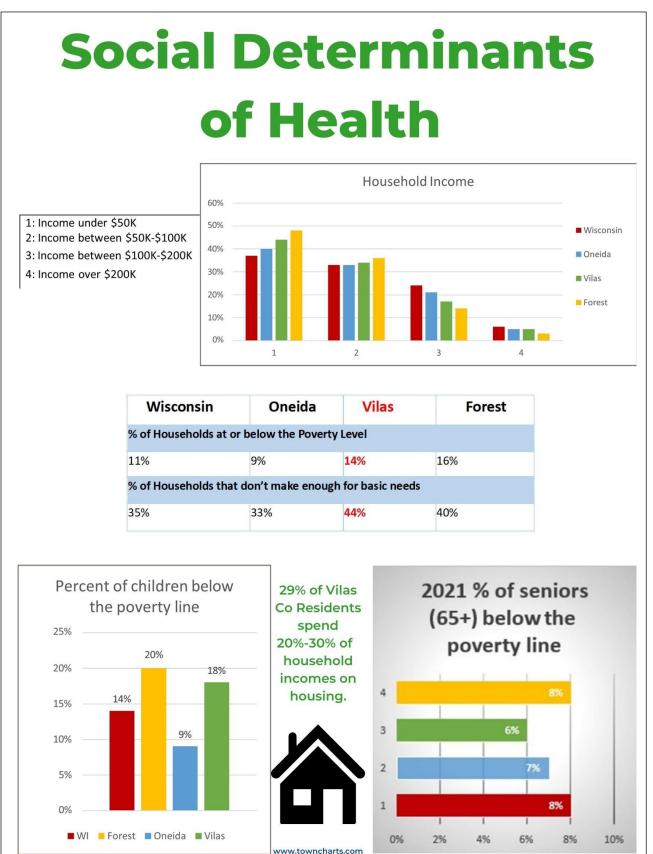


Stroke Mortality, 2016-2020 Vilas County, WI and comparison

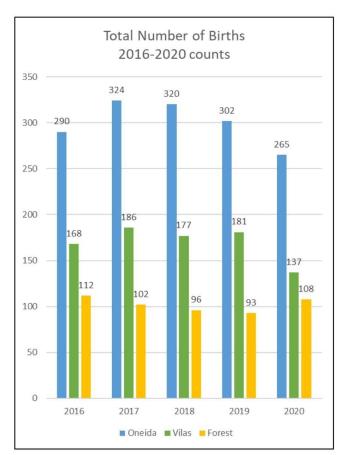


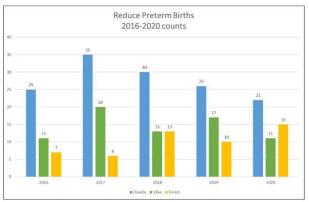
Social Determinants

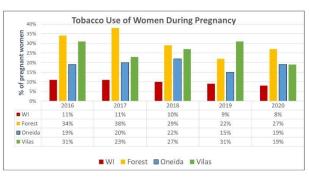
This data set is an overview of income, housing, food insecurity, economy, levels of education, and access to healthcare. It is valuable information that helps to choose which areas of health we should work on as a community to make Vilas County a healthier place to live, work, and play.

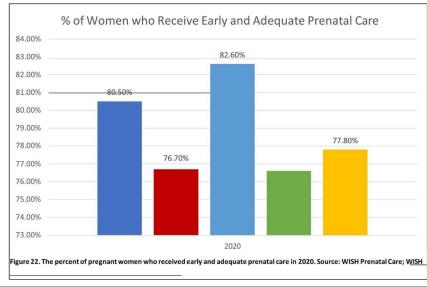


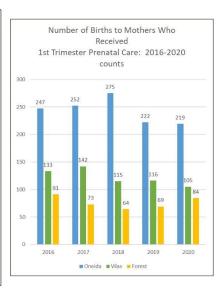
Social Determinants of Health



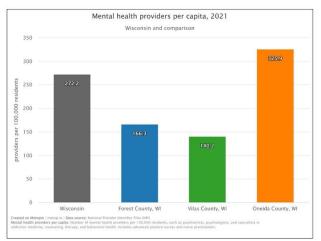




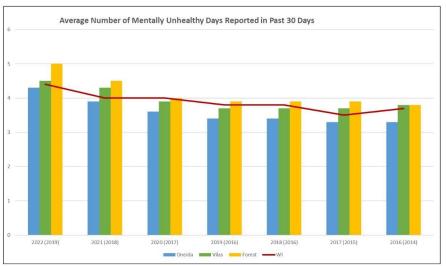




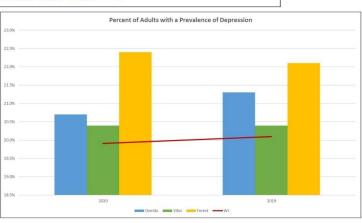
Social Determinants of Health



41% of Vilas County
students
report receiving
little to no
emotional
support related to
mental health

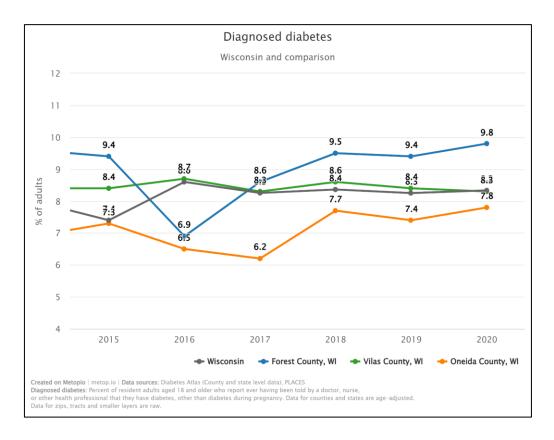


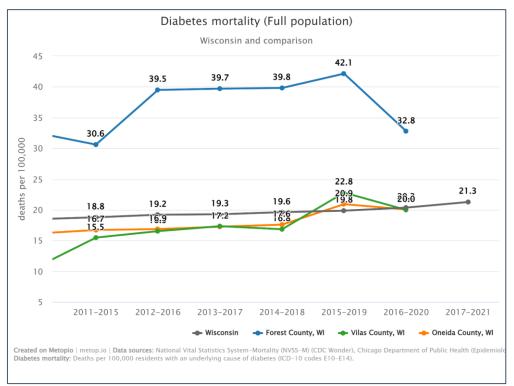
80% of Vilas County students report they have a trusted adult that is not their parent or guardian to turn to for matters related to mental health



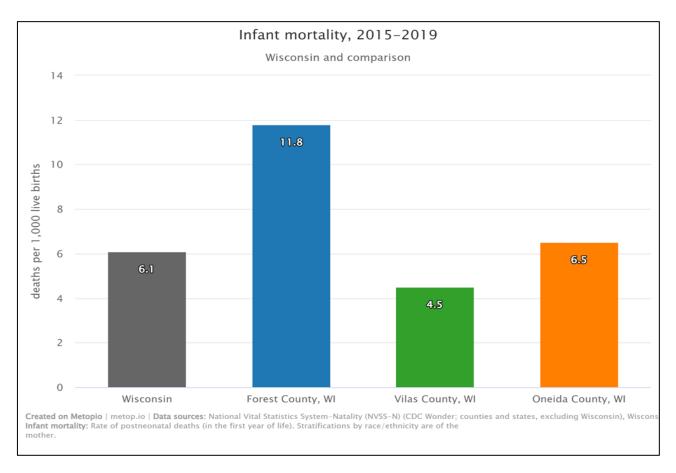
Leading Indicators of Health:

Leading Health Indicators (LHIs) are a small subset of health priorities that are selected to drive action toward improving health and well-being. They are a tool to help focus our resources and efforts to improve the health and well-being of our residents. LHIs cover the life span. Most address important factors that impact major causes of death and disease.

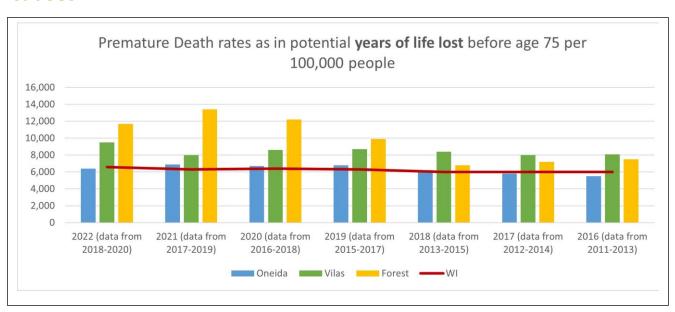




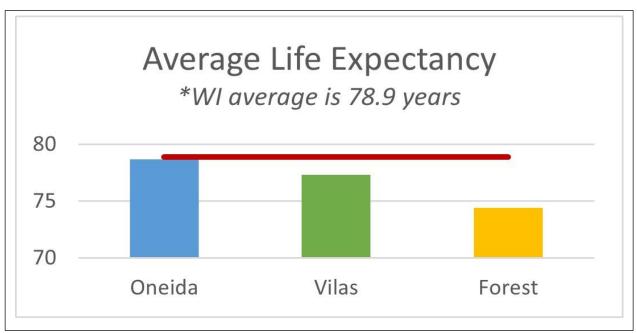
Mortality –
Premature death
can provide a
unique and
complete look at
overall health.
Looking at
leading causes of
death in a
community and
potential life lost
is key.



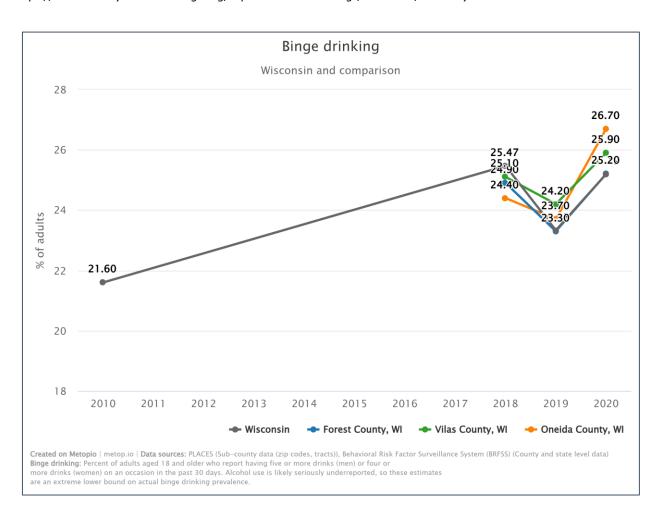
Vilas County has a higher premature death rate than that of the State of WI. Chronic disease and preventable injuries are the main causes.

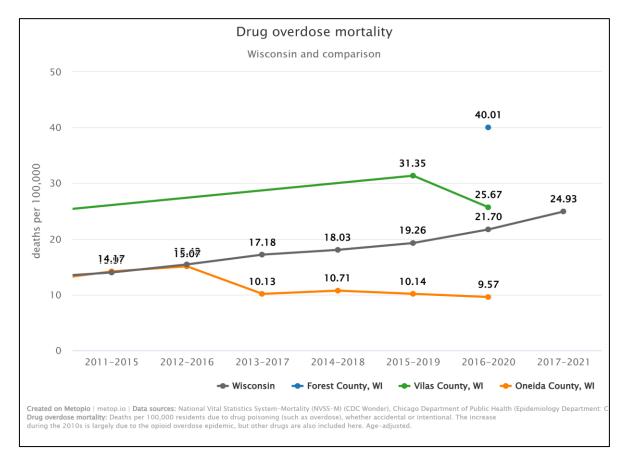


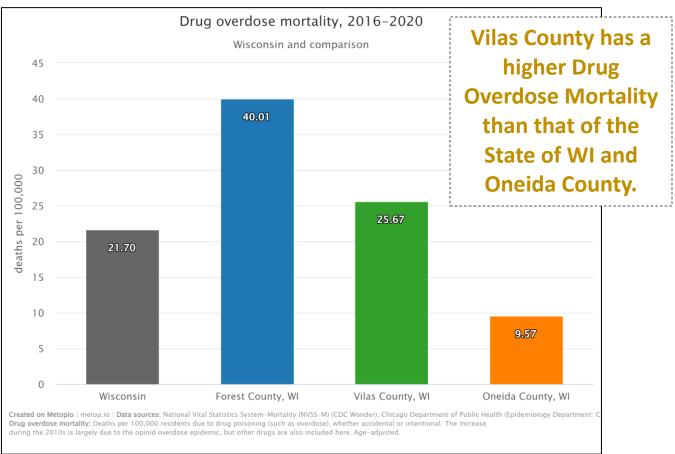
Premature death rates as years of life lost before age 75 per 100,000 people. Source: County Health Rankings; https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/wisconsin/oneida?year=2023

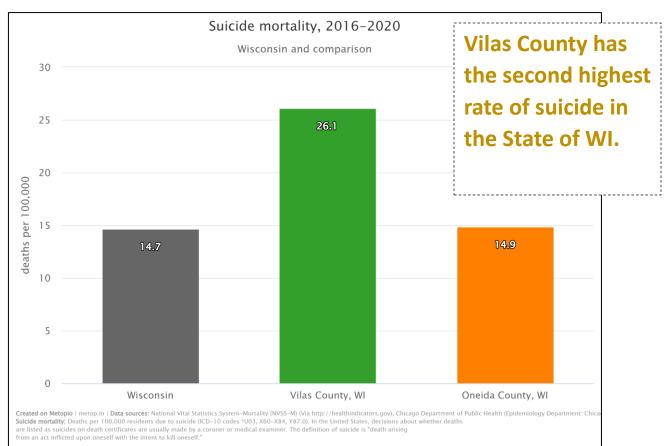


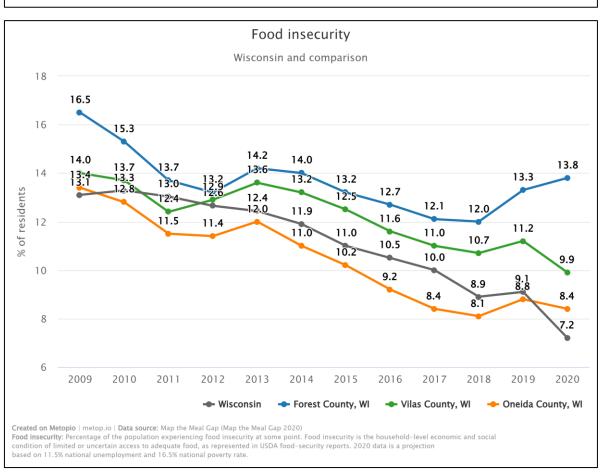
Average Life Expectancy. Source: County Health Rankings; https://www.countyhealthrankings.org/explore-health-rankings/wisconsin/oneida?year=2023

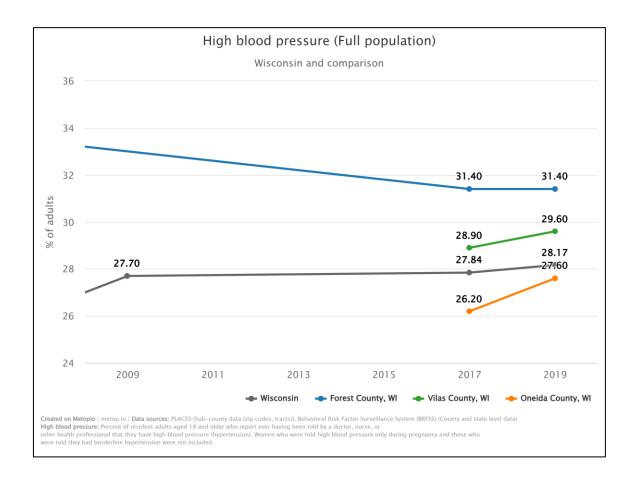


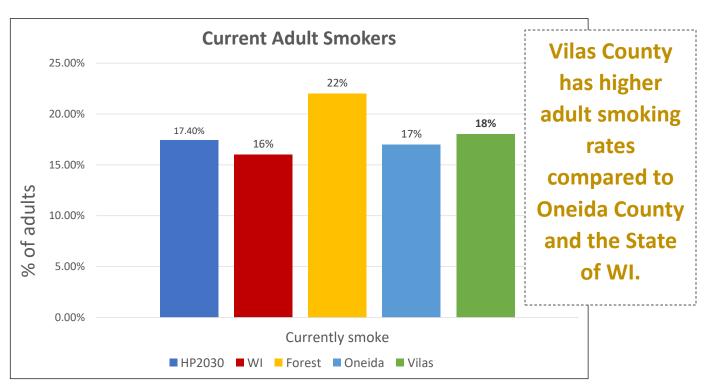












Percent of adults that are currently smoking in 2022. Source: County Health Rankings and Roadmaps: Compare Counties | County Health Rankings & Roadmaps