



# Community Health Needs Assessment

Implementation Strategy

MILWAUKEE 2016-2019



Kids deserve the best.

# Table of Contents

<b>Introduction</b> .....	3
About Children's Hospital.....	3
Children's Hospital vision.....	3
<b>Our community</b> .....	4
Geography .....	4
<b>Methodology</b> .....	5
<b>Children's Hospital action steps</b> .....	5
Priority #1: Behavioral health .....	6
Priority #2: Physical activity, nutrition, obesity and weight management.....	8
Priority #3: Asthma.....	9
Priority #4: Violence.....	11
Priority #5: Sexual health.....	14
Priority #6: Health literacy .....	15
Strategies that cross multiple priorities.....	17
<b>Conclusion</b> .....	19

# Introduction

The Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin Milwaukee Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy outlines the needs of the community and also highlights the many assets we can leverage across the community to collaboratively work to improve and sustain health and well-being. You can find the full community health needs assessment at chw.org.

While it is recognized that one organization alone cannot reduce health disparities and improve health outcomes for our community, Children’s Hospital is uniquely positioned to be an advocate for children through strong pediatric expertise and long-established community partnerships, programs and services. Our Milwaukee Community Health Needs Assessment Implementation Strategy will be our compass over the next three years, allowing us to pinpoint areas where we can make the biggest impact on kids’ health and direct our programs, services and advocacy efforts accordingly.

While quality health care is important, we know that social-environmental, genetic and behavioral factors have an even bigger influence on a child’s health (Figure 1.). Our implementation strategy takes this into account.

## About Children’s Hospital

Children’s Hospital is the region’s only independent health care system dedicated solely to the health and well-being of children and is recognized as one of the leading pediatric health care systems in the United States. In addition to our hospitals in Milwaukee and Neenah, Wis., we offer care at community-based locations throughout Wisconsin. We provide primary, specialty, urgent and emergency care; community health services; injury and violence prevention services; foster care and adoption services; child and family counseling; child advocacy services and family resource centers. We also advocate for children in areas such as health coverage and access. Every year, we invest more than \$100 million in the community to improve children’s health through medical care, advocacy, education and research.

## Children’s Hospital vision

Our vision is simple: that Wisconsin’s kids will be the healthiest in the nation. That means building a culture where resources are aligned to achieving that vision. It means collaborating with community partners because no organization can achieve such an enormous goal alone. And it means putting kids’ health at the center of every decision we make.

Figure 1. Determinants of health





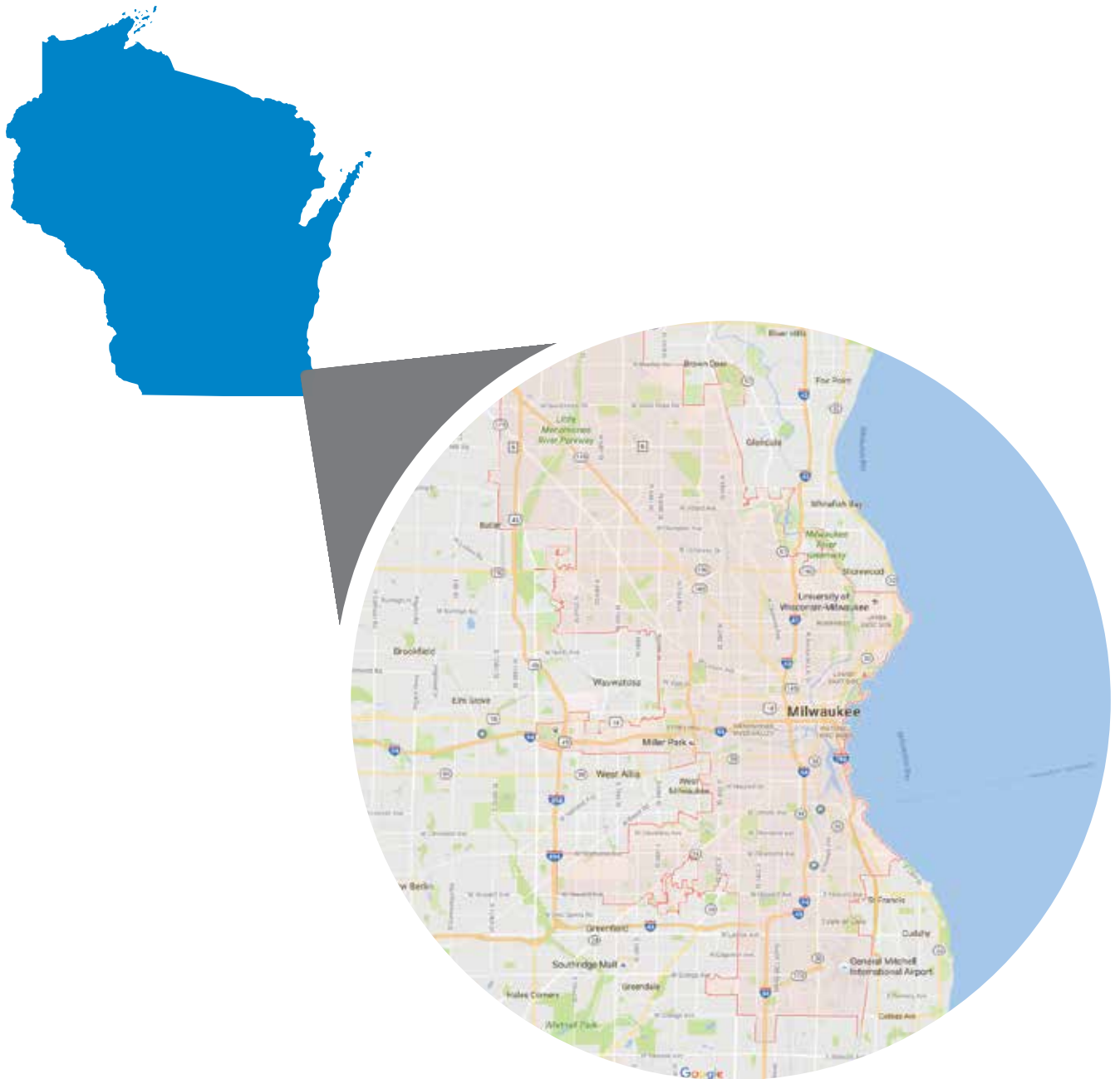
## Our community

Children’s Hospital serves children and youth from across the state and beyond. However, for the purposes of this report, we defined our community as the children and youth living in the city of Milwaukee. Research shows that the highest levels of needs are in the city, and Children’s Hospital has invested significant resources to address health disparities in the city’s lowest-income neighborhoods.

### Geography

Milwaukee, which covers 96.8 square miles, sits the western shore of Lake Michigan (Figure 2.). It is the largest city in Wisconsin, with an estimated population of 598,078. Milwaukee represents about 10 percent of the state’s total population and is the 30th most populous city in the U.S.

Figure 2. Map of Children’s Hospital of Wisconsin primary service area — city of Milwaukee.



## Methodology

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership brings together Milwaukee's health systems, hospitals, federally qualified health centers, and local and state public health departments, all committed to working together to create a healthier Milwaukee. This Partnership collaborated with the Center for Urban Population Health to carry out a comprehensive community health needs assessment for Milwaukee County, through which several health needs were identified. After consulting additional sources specific to children in the city of Milwaukee, Children's Hospital adopted all identified health needs as our 2016 community health priorities. They include:

- Priority #1: Behavioral health
- Priority #2: Physical activity, nutrition, obesity and weight management
- Priority #3: Asthma
- Priority #4: Violence
- Priority #5: Sexual health
- Priority #6: Health literacy

We convened several meetings of cross-sector staff to review the assessment's findings, refine our list of priorities, identify our existing resources and develop action plans. After determining which of Children's Hospital's programs and services align with the identified priorities, we gathered additional information from each of those programs to assess how they are meeting the community's health needs and where there are opportunities for improvement. We also considered Children's Hospital's overarching strategies that make an impact on children's health across priority areas.

## Children's Hospital action steps

We recognize that Children's Hospital cannot completely eliminate every challenge to children's health. These issues are large and complex, and there are social, environmental, genetic and behavioral factors beyond our control. Nor can we solve these problems alone. However, as a leader in pediatric health care, we are committed to working with our community partners to make a difference for the kids who need us most. Through programming, collaboration and education, we can leverage all available resources to ensure the best care for kids in our community. As the following sections demonstrate, we are already using a variety of strategies to make strides toward these goals.

## Priority #1: Behavioral health

Behavioral health encompasses both mental health and substance abuse – it is noted by the Milwaukee Health Care Partnership’s assessment to be among Milwaukee County’s greatest health problems.

Our needs assessment of youth in the city of Milwaukee found that:

- About one in four (27 percent) high school students felt sad or hopeless almost every day for two or more weeks in a row.
- Almost one in six (15 percent) high school students attempted suicide in the past year.
- Marijuana is the most prevalent drug used by high school students (32 percent), followed by alcohol (27 percent), prescription drugs (17 percent), inhalants (11 percent), cigarettes (9 percent), heroin (7 percent), methamphetamines (7 percent) and cocaine (7 percent).

Child behavioral health is determined by a variety of key factors, including but not limited to:

- Clinical care – such as a shortage in the number of providers required to meet mental health access and treatment needs.
- Social and environmental factors – childhood trauma caused by adverse childhood experiences, including being a victim of child maltreatment.

Our programs and initiatives that address the behavioral health priority follow.

### Child Psychiatry Consultation Program

There is a critical shortage of child psychiatrists in Wisconsin and nationwide. To help fill the provider gap, the Charles E. Kubly Child Psychiatry Consultation Program offers on-call child psychiatrists, a psychologist and resource coordinators who provide ongoing education and consultation to primary care providers on behavioral health issues. This helps primary care providers treat kids with mental health issues in their medical homes so that kids can more quickly get the treatment they need. Since the program began in 2012, it has enrolled primary care providers in clinics across southeastern and north-central Wisconsin, including Milwaukee. The goal is to expand the program statewide by 2018.

**Anticipated impact:** The Child Psychiatry Consultation Program supports the providers and clinics receiving education and consultation related to behavioral health. This program is expected to improve access to behavioral health care services as well as enhance the quality of the behavioral health care services provided.

**Key strategic partners:** Wisconsin Department of Health Services, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Children’s Hospital Primary Care, Aurora Health Care, various primary and family care practices throughout the state and the Kubly family.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/medical-care/psychiatry-and-behavioral-medicine/for-medical-professionals/psych-consult-site](http://www.chw.org/medical-care/psychiatry-and-behavioral-medicine/for-medical-professionals/psych-consult-site).

### School-based mental health

School-based mental health services are a vital tool for meeting the needs of children with behavioral health issues. Therapists spend between a half day a week to full-time hours dedicated to a particular school, where they provide assessment and psychotherapy to children who require immediate mental health intervention. The therapists also offer consultation and education about mental health to educators to support positive classroom interventions for kids and adolescents who are struggling with mental and behavioral challenges. This initiative launched in 2012 and now includes schools between Altoona and Racine, plus group therapies in Madison-area school districts. The two Milwaukee sites – Greater Holy Temple Christian Academy and Pierce Elementary – have therapists providing therapy sessions to students, as well as offering consults to teachers and parents.

**Anticipated impact:** School-based mental health impacts the number of children, families, teachers and schools that benefit from access to behavioral health services. Services will improve student symptoms, behavioral difficulties and stressors; support positive behaviors; and reduce office referrals and school suspension — all of which positively influences attendance and academic performance.

**Key strategic partners:** School Community Partnerships for Mental Health, Racine Collaborative for Children's Mental Health, United Way and school districts and schools in Eau Claire, Altoona, Stevens Point, Marshfield, Madison, Milwaukee, Neillsville and Racine.

### Integrated behavioral health

This pilot project, first launched in November 2015, uses an integrative care model to reach underserved populations in four central-city medical practices in Milwaukee: Midtown Clinic, Next Door Pediatrics, COA Goldin Center and the Northside YMCA. A psychologist or psychotherapist is part of the medical team at each site, making it easy for primary care providers to make an immediate and in-person referral for patients who need mental health intervention. The psychologist or psychotherapist offers mental health screening; consultation to patients, families and the medical team; brief interventions; and ongoing psychotherapy.

**Anticipated impact:** Integrated behavioral health impacts the number of children and families that benefit from access to behavioral health services. Measures of medical, psychological and psychosocial outcomes are currently being established.

**Key strategic partners:** Kellner family (funder of the Kellner Family Community Mental Health Initiative) and Children's Hospital Primary Care.

### Outpatient clinics

Children's Hospital offers outpatient mental health services at 15 clinics statewide, including three outpatient clinics in Milwaukee: the Psychiatry and Behavioral Medicine Center, Child and Family Counseling Milwaukee, and Sojourner Family Peace Center. Services include individual, group and family therapy; trauma-focused therapy; and (at some locations) medication management/psychiatric services and psychological testing.

**Anticipated impact:** Outpatient clinics impact children and families benefitting from access to behavioral health services. The services provided are expected to benefit patients through improved communication and social skills such as peer interaction.

**Key strategic partners:** Children's Hospital's child advocacy, prevention and out-of-home care programs; United Way and philanthropic partners; and other community-based resources, including local schools and governments, primary care providers and residential and day treatment programs.

### It's UR Choice

Children's Hospital has created fun and engaging e-learning programs, offered at no cost to all schools across Wisconsin, designed to inspire students to lead healthier lives. Using online and classroom lessons, It's UR Choice helps students in grades 4 through 8 make smart choices when faced with the pressures of using and abusing alcohol, tobacco and other drugs. It meets national health education standards and was developed using evidence-based or informed research.

**Anticipated impact:** It's UR Choice impacts the number of students, teachers and schools benefitting from engaging health education courses. These courses are expected to improve student knowledge and attitudes toward alcohol, tobacco and other drug use.

**Key strategic partners:** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and area schools and school districts.

**Learn more:** [www.healthykidslearnmore.com/itsurchoice.asp](http://www.healthykidslearnmore.com/itsurchoice.asp).

## Behavioral health advocacy

Policy makers have identified behavioral health as a major priority area to improve outcomes for children, youth and adults alike. Children's has worked with elected officials to support policies that increase mental health access in school settings and also on policy that addresses bureaucratic hurdles that make providing care difficult. Children's also supported the creation of the Child Psychiatry Consultation Program to assist frontline providers in providing enhanced care to children and adolescents with mild or moderate mental health care needs and is currently advocating for increased funding for this program. Children's will continue to advocate for better access and funding for behavioral health care coordination and collaboration across providers.

Children's also supports efforts and policies that aim to reduce substance abuse, which we know has an impact on mental health. Children's has been a long-time leader in advocating for stronger DUI laws, including enhanced penalties for DUI with a child in the car. In addition, along with the Wisconsin Hospital Association and other partners, Children's supported a series of policy initiatives collectively known as the HOPE legislation. The HOPE Agenda (Heroin, Opiate, Prevention, and Education) is a legislative package that has received unanimous bipartisan support, aimed at combating our state's heroin epidemic. Children's will continue to advocate for policies that address access to and treatment for drug use and abuse.

## Priority #2: Physical activity, nutrition, obesity and weight management

Physical activity, nutrition, obesity and weight management are cornerstones of good health. As discovered in Milwaukee Health Care Partnership and Children's Hospital community health needs assessments, they are also areas of improvement for Milwaukee youth.

Our needs assessment of youth in the city of Milwaukee found that:

- About one in five (19 percent) high school students were obese.
- One in three (33 percent) high school students ate one or more vegetables per day.
- A little more than one in three (38 percent) high school students ate one or more pieces of fruit per day.
- Almost one in four (23 percent) high school students did not participate in any physical activity during previous week.

Physical activity and nutrition is determined by a variety of key factors, including but not limited to:

- Health behaviors – such as high rates of screen time.
- Social and environmental factors – including lack of recreation and fitness facilities, living in food deserts and safety.

Our programs and initiatives that address the physical activity, nutrition, obesity and weight management priority follow.

## Clinical Nutrition Community Outreach

Children's Hospital offers a variety of nutrition education programs throughout the community. At the COA Goldin Center in Milwaukee, we've provided healthy snacks at Community Fun Nights every other month and offered the What's On Your Plate program, which introduces families to a healthy lifestyle curriculum on nutrition, cooking and physical activity. Our Clinical Nutrition staff frequently present on nutrition education to groups statewide, from educating families affected by Cystic Fibrosis and Phenylalanine ketonuria (PKU), to talking with 1st through 4th graders at STARMs Health Fair, to showing foster care youth how to cook and grocery shop as they prepare to live on their own.



**Anticipated impact:** Community outreach impacts the number of children, teens, families and community residents benefitting from access to education about nutrition and other dietary needs.

**Key strategic partners:** COA Goldin Center, YMCA, area schools and daycare centers and Children's Hospital's foster care program.

### Mission: Health

Children's Hospital has created fun and engaging e-learning programs, offered at no cost to all schools across Wisconsin, designed to inspire students to lead healthier lives. Using online and classroom lessons Mission: Health helps students in grades K5 through 8 establish healthy habits, increase physical activity and avoid childhood obesity. It meets national health education standards and was developed using evidence-based or informed research.

**Anticipated impact:** Mission: Health impacts the number of students, teachers and schools that benefit from engaging health education courses. These courses are expected to increase health and wellness knowledge such as the importance of physical activity and eating nutritious foods.

**Key strategic partners:** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and local school districts.

**Learn more:** [www.healthykidslearnmore.com/missionhealth.asp](http://www.healthykidslearnmore.com/missionhealth.asp).

### Physical activity, nutrition, obesity and weight management advocacy

In collaboration with American Heart Association, Children's supported legislation that requires daily 30 minutes of physical education in elementary schools to ensure that children have a safe and supportive environment to exercise and build team skills. This legislation has not become law, and we will continue to focus resources on advocating for this policy. Along with other medical partners, Children's opposed legislation that would allow unpasteurized "raw milk" to be sold to consumers. Children's will continue to look for ways to support access to healthy foods and increased physical activity in our communities.

### Priority #3: Asthma

Asthma is a prevalent chronic disease for children in Milwaukee, putting them at greater risk for hospitalization and missed days in school.

Our needs assessment of youth in the city of Milwaukee found that:

- The asthma hospitalization rate for children under 18 in Milwaukee County is 30.9 per 10,000 population.
- The asthma emergency department visit rate for children under 18 in Milwaukee County is 139 per 10,000 population.

Asthma management is determined by a variety of key factors, including but not limited to:

- Clinical care – a shortage of primary care providers and health care facilities.
- Social and environmental factors – such as exposure to second hand smoke.

Our programs and initiatives that address the asthma priority follow.

## Wisconsin Asthma Coalition

Since 2001, Children's Hospital has supported this diverse, statewide coalition that works to take control of asthma through implementation of the Wisconsin Asthma Plan. The Wisconsin Asthma Plan is a blueprint for managing asthma across the state, and includes the following activities:

- School and childcare walkthrough program – This program provides an environmental assessment of schools and childcare centers for environmental asthma triggers and offers low- and no-cost remediation strategies.
- Improving outcomes in practical asthma management – This initiative offers in-person education for primary care provider teams on how to implement the national asthma guidelines within their clinical practice.
- Asthma medication assistance – At [chawisconsin.org/meds](http://chawisconsin.org/meds), the coalition has compiled an online resource of all prescription assistance programs and coupons available for asthma medications.
- Spacers/valved-holding chambers for inhalers – In 2015, Wisconsin Medicaid discontinued providing spacers for inhalers in pharmacies, which resulted in unintended consequences. The coalition successfully worked to reverse this ruling.
- School-based asthma management program – This is a national initiative of the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the National Association of School Nurses. It involves a four-step process to improve the system of care and communication between families, clinicians and schools.

**Anticipated impact:** The Wisconsin Asthma Plan and subsequent activities will impact the rate of asthma deaths, hospitalizations, emergency department visits, missed school or work days due to asthma, and the number of asthma patients who receive appropriate asthma care.

**Key strategic partners:** Coalition members, school nurses, allergists, pulmonologists, certified asthma educators, the Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee Public Schools, American Lung Association in Wisconsin and Wisconsin Department of Health Services.

**Learn more:** [www.chawisconsin.org/wac](http://www.chawisconsin.org/wac).

## Asthma Care and Environmental Services

Launched in 2015 at nine Milwaukee Public Schools, Children's Hospital's Asthma Care and Environmental Services program provides intensive self-management education to school-aged children and their families, along with an environmental assessment.

**Anticipated impact:** This program will impact the number of children and families benefitting from access to self-management education, school-based services and home-based trigger reduction services. While baseline metrics are still being established, these services have the opportunity to improve knowledge, attitudes and behaviors toward asthma management practices for students, families and schools.

**Key strategic partners:** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (primary funder), Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Children's Hospital's school nurses and Milwaukee Public Schools.

## Asthma advocacy

Children's supported legislation to include e-cigarettes on the statewide smoking ban list and supported limiting e-cigarette use on school property.

## Asthma research

Children's Research Institute is conducting research related to home-based reduction of asthma triggers. Asthma exacerbations in children can lead to costly medical care, morbidity and mortality. Our study will measure home irritant exposures to asthma trigger symptoms and analyze participants' genetic data to identify any genetic alterations in relevant pathways of asthma. We also will implement a targeted irritant trigger education program in the homes of low-income Milwaukee children.

## Priority #4: Violence

While injury and violence were among the three top concerns for key informants across the county, those in the city of Milwaukee emphasized violence as their major concern (including youth violence, domestic and intimate partner violence and childhood trauma).

Our needs assessment of youth in the city of Milwaukee found that:

- Almost one in six (14 percent) high school students reported being a victim of bullying on school property.
- Slightly more than one in ten high school students (11 percent) reported staying home from school because they felt unsafe.
- The child victimization rate for Milwaukee County was 4.4 per 1,000 population.
- More than a third of high school students (37 percent) got in a physical fight in the previous year.

Youth violence is determined by a variety of key factors, including but not limited to:

- Social and environmental factors – such as neighborhood safety and parenting stress exacerbated by mental health concerns, substance abuse and financial challenges.

Our programs and initiatives that address the violence priority follow.

### Act Now!

Children's Hospital has created fun and engaging e-learning programs, offered at no cost to all schools across Wisconsin, designed to inspire students to lead healthier lives. Using online and classroom lessons, Act Now! helps counselors and teachers, students, parents and caregivers increase awareness about bullying and has given students age-appropriate skills needed to prevent and stop bullying. ActNow! is a comprehensive e-learning resource that focuses on improving school culture across the school community through awareness, education and skill development for teachers, counselors, students and parents. It meets national health education standards and was developed using evidence-based or informed research.

**Anticipated impact:** Act Now! impacts the number of students, teachers and schools that benefit from interactive online education about bullying. These courses are expected to improve student knowledge and attitudes toward bullying, such as the effects of bullying and the importance of bystander intervention.

**Key strategic partners:** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and local school districts.

**Learn more:** [www.healthykidslearnmore.com/actnow.asp](http://www.healthykidslearnmore.com/actnow.asp).

### Milwaukee Child Advocacy Center

The Milwaukee Child Advocacy Center brings together multidisciplinary partners in child maltreatment investigations. It provides comprehensive medical, forensic interview and advocacy services for children and families in Milwaukee County.

**Anticipated impact:** The Child Advocacy Center impacts the number of children and families benefitting from a comprehensive review, which minimizes trauma and helps to break the cycle of abuse. The center provides trauma informed and coordinated care through foster care evaluations, medical evaluations and abuse allegation interviews.

**Key strategic partners:** Wisconsin Department of Children and Families, Milwaukee Police Department, Milwaukee Public Schools, Milwaukee County District Attorney's Office, Sojourner Family Peace Center, West Allis Schools and West Allis Police Department.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/child-abuse-prevention/child-advocacy-centers](http://www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/child-abuse-prevention/child-advocacy-centers).

## The Positive Parenting Program (Triple P)

As a pilot project in 2016, Triple P is a universal access, evidence-based program for caregivers of children ages 0-12. It aims to increase parents' and caregivers' knowledge of positive parenting techniques. Parents and caregivers are reached through five Children's Hospital Primary Care clinics, community health navigators in four partner neighborhoods and school nurses in 10 Milwaukee Public Schools.

**Anticipated impact:** Triple P impacts the number of children and their caregivers benefitting from parenting education, which is expected to increase knowledge of positive parenting techniques, in turn reducing a parent's risk for child maltreatment.

**Key strategic partner:** Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

## Awareness to Action

A statewide program first launched by Children's Hospital in 2006, Awareness to Action educates and advocates for adults to take action to prevent child sexual abuse. Education includes resources for adults on healthy sexual development and how to discuss sexual development with children.

**Anticipated impact:** Awareness to Action impacts the number of adults receiving education about child sexual abuse prevention, which is expected to increase adult knowledge of child sexual abuse. Notably, the program anticipates increasing belief that fewer children would be sexually abused if adults made more conscious choices about the situations in which children are placed.

**Key strategic partner:** Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

**Learn more:** [www.a2awisconsin.org](http://www.a2awisconsin.org).

## Period of PURPLE Crying

A newly launched (2016) pilot project, Period of Purple Crying is an evidence-based infant abuse prevention program that educates parents and caregivers about normal infant crying and the dangers of shaking an infant. Parents and caregivers are reached through Children's Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and Emergency Department, five of the Children's Hospital Primary Care clinics and one Children's Hospital urgent care location.

**Anticipated impact:** Period of Purple Crying will impact the number of children and families that benefit from increased knowledge and awareness of normal infant crying. This increased parent and caregiver knowledge has the opportunity to contribute to a reduction in the rate of injury for infants.

**Key strategic partner:** Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

## Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin

This longstanding program aims to build community resources, provide training and public awareness, and carry out advocacy activities in order to strengthen child abuse prevention efforts. Recent projects facilitated in part by Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin include the "Say Something, Do Something" and Pinwheels for Prevention Campaigns to encourage adults statewide to take action to assure children grow up in safe, stable and nurturing environments.

**Anticipated impact:** Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin and its prevention campaigns impact children and families by initiating efforts to stop child maltreatment before it occurs.

**Key strategic partner:** Wisconsin Department of Children and Families and Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/child-abuse-prevention/prevent-child-abuse-wisconsin](http://www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/child-abuse-prevention/prevent-child-abuse-wisconsin).

## Project Ujima

The mission of this community project is to stop the cycle of violent crimes by reducing the number of repeat victims of violence through individual, family and community interventions and prevention strategies. The program's key elements include hospital-based services (medical care, peer support, crisis intervention and social and emotional assessment), home-based services (medical follow-up of injuries, evaluation of primary health care needs, psychological screening and counseling), community-based services (mentoring, youth development, family and youth support groups, gang interventions, job preparedness and advocacy to address legal, education and housing issues), and community and professional education about youth violence. Most of the program's referrals come through the hospital's emergency department, in addition to referrals from community partners.

**Anticipated impact:** Project Ujima impacts the number of children and families who are victims of violence benefitting from prevention and crisis intervention services. The program is expected to increase crisis counseling, crime victim compensation assistance, personal advocacy and other important services for victims and family members of violent crime. By supporting victims and their families as they recover from trauma, the program helps to stop the cycle of violent crime in Milwaukee.

**Key strategic partners:** Milwaukee Public Schools, Sojourner Family Peace Center, Milwaukee Homicide Review Commission, Milwaukee Police Department and Froedtert Hospital.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/violence-prevention-counseling](http://www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/violence-prevention-counseling).

## Violence advocacy

Children's was a key partner in securing funding for the Sojourner Family Peace Center, a first-of-its-kind model to deliver adult and child focused services addressing family violence. Sojourner Family Peace Center provides care in a coordinated, centrally located facility. Children's continues to advocate for stronger child protection laws.

## Violence research

Children's Research Institute is conducting research related to integrating quality-of-life measures into violence prevention programs. Interpersonal violence ranks among the top five leading causes of youth seeking medical intervention and is associated with decreased five-year survival. Our study will expand on previous work investigating health related quality of life as a means for measuring outcomes in youth victims of violence. This research has the potential to lead to more effective methods for intervening in the lives of those who suffer from violent injury.



## Priority #5: Sexual health

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership discovered sexual health as a community health priority for Milwaukee County, noting teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections as high concerns, among others.

Our needs assessment of youth in the city of Milwaukee found that:

- Slightly more than one in five high school students (21 percent) report never learning about AIDS/HIV in school.
- Teens ages 15-19 years old reported 3,446 cases of sexually transmitted disease.
- Rate of births to females ages 15-17 years old is 24 per 1,000 population.

Teen sexual health is determined by a variety of key factors, including but not limited to:

- Health behaviors – such as starting to have sexual intercourse at a young age, having multiple partners and using condoms and other methods of birth control.

Our programs and initiatives that address the sexual health priority follow.

### School nurses

Children's Hospital's school nurses play a vital role by leading sexual health education for Milwaukee Public Schools' Human Growth and Development Curriculum. Nurses use the Always Changing Puberty Education program, which was reviewed by the American Association for Health Education, with fourth and fifth graders. Since 2011, school nurses have been facilitating this curriculum at nine partner schools. An additional school will be added for the 2016-17 school year. In addition to implementing classroom education, the nurses offer additional support (such as small-group discussion) for specific students or specific topics.

**Anticipated impact:** School nurses impact the number of students benefitting from human growth and development education in the classroom and office visits in relation to sexual health. The school nurses have the opportunity to share information supporting healthy sexual development with students and their families in Children's Hospital's partner neighborhoods over the next three years.

**Key strategic partners:** Milwaukee Public Schools, COA Goldin Center, Next Door Pediatrics and the Northside YMCA.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/medical-care/primary-care/primary-care-access/school-nurse-program](http://www.chw.org/medical-care/primary-care/primary-care-access/school-nurse-program).

### Making Proud Choices!

As part of the United Way's teen pregnancy initiative, Children's Hospital administers the Making Proud Choices! teen pregnancy prevention curriculum to middle and high school students in foster care and Milwaukee Public Schools.

**Anticipated impact:** This program impacts the number of children benefitting from pregnancy prevention curriculum, lending to a reduction in the teen pregnancy rate.

**Key strategic partners:** Milwaukee Public Schools, United Way and Boys and Girls Club.

### Sexual health advocacy

Children's successfully advocated for increases in funding for help to victims of child sex-trafficking. In addition, we supported policy that protects children against invasion of their privacy. Children's will continue to look for ways to support policy relating to children's sexual health and well-being.

## Priority #6: Health literacy

The Milwaukee Health Care Partnership assessment identified health literacy as a community health need, noting challenges for community residents to access and understand health information.

Our needs assessment of youth in the city of Milwaukee found that:

- More than half (64 percent) of children 0-24 months old received the recommended primary vaccination series.
- Almost one in three (31 percent) children and youth under age 18 received the recommended annual influenza shot.
- Eight percent of Milwaukee County survey respondents did not receive preventive care and 3 percent did not receive needed medical care during the past year.

Teen sexual health is determined by a variety of key factors, including but not limited to:

- Clinical care – lack of insurance or identified medical home.
- Social and environmental factors – including parent reading level and English proficiency.

Our programs and initiatives that address the health literacy priority follow.

### Language services

This program provides face-to-face, telephone and video relay interpreters for patient families who do not speak English or who have limited speech proficiency or hearing or speech issues. In addition to in-person interpreters, Children's Hospital can also connect families via telephone to interpreters in 150 languages. This service is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at no cost to families.

**Anticipated impact:** Language services impacts the number of children and families benefitting from accessible health care services and information.

**Key strategic partners:** Clinical providers.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/patients-and-families/milwaukee-campus/inpatient-visit/during-your-stay/language-services](http://www.chw.org/patients-and-families/milwaukee-campus/inpatient-visit/during-your-stay/language-services).

### Patient Family Education Committee

In partnership with patient families, the Children's Hospital Educational Services Department and Patient and Family Education Committee reviews materials for patients and families to ensure readability so that caregivers have a clear understanding of how to best care for their children. Patient handouts are usually written at a 5th through 7th grade reading level and are offered in English and Spanish.

**Anticipated impact:** An increase in the number of easy-to-understand educational materials impacts the number of children and families benefitting from helpful and accessible information.

## Community health navigators

First launched in 2011, this program focuses on four partner neighborhoods in Milwaukee: Amani/Franklin Heights, Metcalfe Park, Midtown and Lindsay Heights. Community health navigators increase residents' public health knowledge and self-sufficiency through a range of activities, including outreach, community education, informal counseling, social support and advocacy. They also collaborate with internal and external partners to connect families to needed resources and influence the medical and social determinants of health.

**Anticipated impact:** Community health navigators impact a family's ability to meet basic needs by connecting them to food, housing or medical resources, among others. Through successful resource connections, navigators ensure that families have the opportunity to access, use and successfully navigate the health care system.

**Key strategic partners:** Midtown Clinic, COA Goldin Center, Next Door Pediatrics and the Northside YMCA.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/medical-care/primary-care/primary-care-access/clinical-navigation-program](http://www.chw.org/medical-care/primary-care/primary-care-access/clinical-navigation-program).

## School nurses

It's not always easy for children to get the health care they need. School nurses can fill a critical gap by making sure that kids get vision and hearing screens, care for chronic conditions such as diabetes and asthma, and health and wellness education. The nurses, who work within nine partner schools in Milwaukee (increasing to ten for the 2016-17 school year), also help coordinate care with physicians, social workers and other community resources.

**Anticipated impact:** School nurses impact student and family access to, understanding of and utilization of health services that promote and maintain good health.

**Key strategic partners:** Milwaukee Public Schools, COA Goldin Center, Next Door Pediatrics and the Northside YMCA.

Learn more: [www.chw.org/medical-care/primary-care/primary-care-access/school-nurse-program](http://www.chw.org/medical-care/primary-care/primary-care-access/school-nurse-program).

## Health literacy advocacy

Children's took an active role in supporting the passage of legislation that requires CPR training to be taught in high school curriculums across the state. This important skill equips young people to perform life-saving treatment on their peers, siblings or friends during an unfortunate, tragic event.

## Health literacy research

Children's Research Institute is conducting research related to development of a health literacy intervention to reduce pediatric non-urgent emergency department use. In parents with low health literacy, a lack of caregiving skills to adequately care for acute pediatric illness may lead to non-urgent emergency department visits. Our study is designed to better understand the association of health literacy with the management of acute pediatric illness. By empowering parents to recognize non-urgent illness and manage them appropriately at home or with the primary care physician, it may be possible to improve the child's care and the family's health care experience.

## Strategies that cross multiple priorities

Some of our strategies cut across the priority areas that have been identified. These partnerships and collaborative initiatives also play an important role in improving children's health.

### Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child

Since 2009, our school nurses and community health navigators have worked with nine K-8 schools (ten for the 2016-17 school year) in the Milwaukee Public Schools district to implement the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child model. Strategies range from education for students, staff and families to healthy meal nights to classroom physical activity breaks. This coordinated approach to school health improves students' health and their capacity to learn through the support of families, communities and schools.

**Anticipated impact:** The Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child initiative will impact the number of students, teachers, schools and families benefitting from coordinated health services. In doing so, it will impact student mental health, asthma, nutrition, physical activity and attendance.

**Key strategic partners:** Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction and Milwaukee Public Schools.

### Population Health Management and Payment Innovation

Children's Hospital has dedicated this division to serve as a center for research and development of best-practice programs to prevent illness, improve wellness and manage health needs of populations. Population Health develops and tests new payment models to support best-practice programs and transition our health system from being paid to treat sick children to being paid to keep children healthy.

Within this research center exists our Clinical Navigation Program, which helps Milwaukee families navigate complex health care systems so they can get the services they need.

### Children's Community Health Plan

Created by Children's Hospital, this insurance plan serves children and adults who are covered by BadgerCare Plus, ensuring that more families get access to high-quality health care. Our health plan facilitates a variety of health promotion initiatives for its families, including a Healthy Moms Healthy Babies prenatal care program, asthma outreach, out-of-home care and healthy shopping education.

**Learn more:** [childrenscommunityhealthplan.org](http://childrenscommunityhealthplan.org).

### Care4Kids

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services and the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families have partnered with Children's Hospital and our health plan for low-income families (Children's Community Health Plan) to administer Care4Kids. This innovative program offers comprehensive and coordinated health services for children in foster care in six southeastern Wisconsin counties. This includes Milwaukee County, which accounts for approximately two-thirds of the 3,000 children enrolled in the program. Through Care4Kids, we partner with primary care providers who recognize the unique needs of these children. The program creates a "medical home" team, consisting of the child welfare worker, family members, foster parents and other health care providers. This team develops a comprehensive health care plan based on the specific needs of the children - taking into account their physical, behavioral health, dental and vision care needs.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/healthy-kids-healthy-communities/health-insurance/care4kids/](http://www.chw.org/childrens-and-the-community/healthy-kids-healthy-communities/health-insurance/care4kids/).

## Institute for Child and Family Well-Being

This joint initiative between Children's Hospital's Community Services division and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee's Helen Bader School of Social Welfare aims to improve the lives of children and families by designing and implementing effective programs, conducting cutting-edge research and evaluation, and promoting change through policy and advocacy. To fulfill this mission, the institute promotes community collaboration to bridge unnecessary divides between practice, research and policy.

**Learn more:** [uwm.edu/icfw](http://uwm.edu/icfw).

## Southeast Regional Center for Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs

The Southeast Regional Center is one of five regional centers across the state, funded through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Title V Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program and Maternal Child Health Program located in the Division of Public Health. Children's Hospital facilitates the grant for the Southeast Center, prioritizing:

1. Medical Homes – Children and youth receive coordinated, ongoing and comprehensive care.
2. Transition – Youth receive the services necessary to make transitions to all aspects of adult life, including adult health care, work and independence.
3. Family Leadership – Families are partners in shared decision-making for the child's optimal health.

The Southeast Regional Center works toward these priorities by providing information and resources to families and the providers serving those families, and by building systems at the community, county and state levels.

**Key strategic partners:** Parent to Parent of Wisconsin, Wisconsin First Step, Advocacy and Benefits Counseling for Health, Family Voices of Wisconsin, The Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council's Children/Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Compass Wisconsin, Alianza Latina Aplicando Soluciones (Latino Alliance Applying Solutions), Genetics Systems Integration Hub and The Statewide Genetics Program, Wisconsin Statewide Medical Home Initiative, Youth Health Transition Initiative, Wisconsin NewBorn Screening Program, and Women, Infants and Children/Birth Defects: Nourishing Special Needs.

**Learn more:** [www.southeastregionalcenter.org](http://www.southeastregionalcenter.org).

## Advocacy

Children's is committed to advocating on behalf of children and families throughout Wisconsin. Through federal, state and local level advocacy efforts, Children's focuses on public policy that improves the health status of children.

Advocating for policy has a significant impact on our communities beyond just those served by Children's. Along with valuable partner organizations, Children's has successfully advocated for several pieces of policy related to the identified priorities and other areas important to the health of children and families.



## Children's Research Institute

Children's is committed to research that leads to life-saving discoveries and cures, new and better treatments, and healthier and happier children and families. Our research institute staff is taking discoveries from the laboratory and converting them to new therapies at patients' bedsides. We also study other factors that impact health and quality of life. We have hundreds of investigators, research trainees and technicians working on more than 1,000 research projects and active clinical trials. Our research is related to several of the identified priorities and many other areas that impact children and families.

**Key strategic partners:** The Medical College of Wisconsin, Marquette University College of Nursing and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee College of Nursing.

**Learn more:** [www.chw.org/research](http://www.chw.org/research).

## Education of future health care professionals

We help provide the next generation of health care professionals with the training they need to care for the unique medical needs of children. This includes providers who will work in specialty care, primary care and other community-based settings.

Each year, our providers and staff teach hundreds of medical students, residents, fellows, nursing students and students from other medical professions, ensuring they have the special knowledge, skills and experience they require to ensure the best health outcomes for children.

## Conclusion

We have made great strides in improving children's health since our last Milwaukee Community Health Needs Assessment in 2013, but we know there is still more work to be done. While we can't erase every challenge to children's health – especially considering the significant impact of social, environmental, genetic and behavioral factors – we believe we can move the needle. This implementation strategy provides a road map to guide our priorities going forward so we can focus on the programming that will have the biggest impact. With this knowledge, the help of our community partners and our staff's indefatigable efforts, we will continue striving toward our ultimate goal: making Wisconsin kids the healthiest in the nation.