



**ROCK COUNTY**  
PUBLIC HEALTH



## NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

To: Local Media and Press Release Subscribers

From: Katrina Harwood, Health Officer, and SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital - Janesville

Date: January 26, 2024

### **Rock County Public Health and SSM Health Seeking Participation in Community Health Assessment**

**Rock County, WI** – Rock County Public Health (RCPH), in partnership with the [Health Equity Alliance of Rock County \(HEAR\)](#) announces a series of upcoming Community Conversations and a comprehensive Survey as part of Rock County's 2024 Community Health Assessment (CHA). The purpose of these assessments is to understand the current health needs of those who work, live, and play here and to help identify how and where we can improve the health of our community. This assessment is not just a snapshot, it's a roadmap to better health outcomes for our residents.

"The Community Health Assessment serves as a tool for organizations serving Rock County to identify how they can influence the health of our community. Whether these efforts include utilizing the provided data to strengthen existing programs or addressing policies and systems that contribute to Rock County's health inequities, we are confident this assessment can help improve health outcomes within our community," says RCPH Director and Health Officer, Katrina Harwood.

#### **Community Conversations**

Community Conversations engage residents in discussions about the issues that many affect elements of health in Rock County. During these conversations called focus groups, 3-5 questions are asked about the barriers to good health and improvement. The knowledge generated from these conversations and the results of the Community Health Assessment Survey will be used in the Community Health Improvement (CHIP) as a roadmap to improve the health of Rock County.

The first Community Conversation took place at the Rotary Botanical Gardens on January 26 following SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville's annual Community Partnership Breakfast, where local nonprofits learned about grant opportunities and the great health improvement work taking place in Rock County.

*Helping Rock County Reach Its Full Health Potential*



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## ROCK COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

### How to Participate In-Person or Online

Residents can attend in-person Community Conversations at locations around the county. Details about these events will be shared on the [HEAR webpage](#), [RCPH's](#) and [SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital – Janesville's Facebook](#) pages, as well as [RCPH's Instagram](#). You can also [email the HEAR coordinator](#) for assistance or to ask questions about participating.

Those who are not able to dedicate time and attend a Community Conversation are encouraged to complete an online survey available in both [English](#) and [Spanish](#). This short survey should take approximately five minutes to complete and asks about both personal health and community health. The responses collected from this survey are confidential and give valuable insight into what community members are experiencing and how they feel about their health.

If you have any issues accessing the online survey, please call RCPH for accommodations: (608) 757-5440. For additional information, please e-mail the HEAR Coordinator: [hearcoordinator@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:hearcoordinator@co.rock.wi.us). Thank you for helping make Rock County a healthier place to live, work, learn, play, and grow.

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*Rock County Public Health Department serves Rock County residents by improving population health outcomes and removing barriers through community partnerships to provide everyone the opportunity to reach their full health potential. Visit the Rock County Public Health Department [website](#) and follow them on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#). Please send all media inquiries to:*

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