

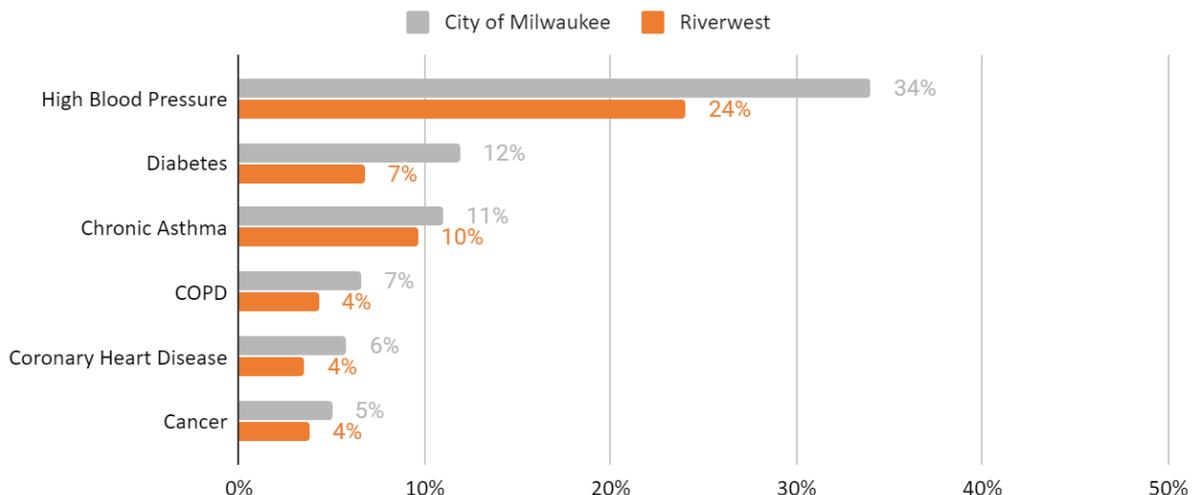
## Health Conditions in the Riverwest Neighborhood

### A data digest from Data You Can Use

While we should all be taking extreme precautions to avoid the spread of COVID-19, some factors put people in certain areas at greater risk. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has identified certain things that put people at higher risk for severe illness.<sup>1</sup> These include people of any age who have serious **underlying medical conditions** such as asthma, high blood pressure, diabetes, COPD, and those who are immunocompromised including those being treated for cancer.

For each of these conditions, people in the Riverwest neighborhood have prevalence rates that are lower than the average rate for the City of Milwaukee. The chart below shows the rate in Riverwest (orange) and for the City of Milwaukee (gray).

Based on health indicators, Residents of the Riverwest neighborhood are at less risk for COVID-19 than the City as a whole.



In Riverwest, prevalence rates for high blood pressure, diabetes, and COPD are lower than the city averages. However, the individuals with these conditions will still need extra precautions to avoid severe illness.

While people of all ages should follow the CDC guidelines, older people may be at risk for more severe complications from COVID-19. In Riverwest, 15% of the residents are age 55 or older, which is actually less than the proportion of **older adults** in the City of Milwaukee as a whole (19%).

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/need-extra-precautions/index.html>

More recent data are indicating that people of any age with **severe obesity** might also be at risk. In Riverwest, 31% of the population are reported to be obese compared to 37% citywide.

In addition to these health conditions, people's occupations can also affect their exposure to the virus. In the Riverwest neighborhood, 21% of employed residents work in the **service industry** – they may be in healthcare, food service, or be first responders and be more likely to be exposed to COVID-19.

Access to health care and testing can also be affected by **race and ethnicity**. The African American population has been disproportionately harmed by the coronavirus. In the Riverwest neighborhood 17% of the population is African American, compared to 39% city wide. Health disparities mean this population may be overrepresented and underserved in this pandemic.

Finally, where uncertainty, fear, disruption of routine, and social isolation associated with the virus can negatively affect all of us, we need to be especially concerned about people with poor mental health. Thirteen percent of residents of the Riverwest neighborhood report poor **mental health**, slightly lower than the city average of 15%. Sharing support, resources, and suggestions for coping can be especially important for this population.

This "data digest" was prepared for Riverworks with the hope that the information helps target your response in assisting those most vulnerable. It is based on 2016 census data from the American Community Survey, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the CDC Foundation who produce the 500 Cities report. You can find an interactive map with the data as well as the raw data at [datayoucanuse.org](http://datayoucanuse.org) Alex LaMarche, Sarah McDaniel, Gerardo Mares and Katie Pritchard contributed to this report. April 2020 Your questions and feedback are welcome.