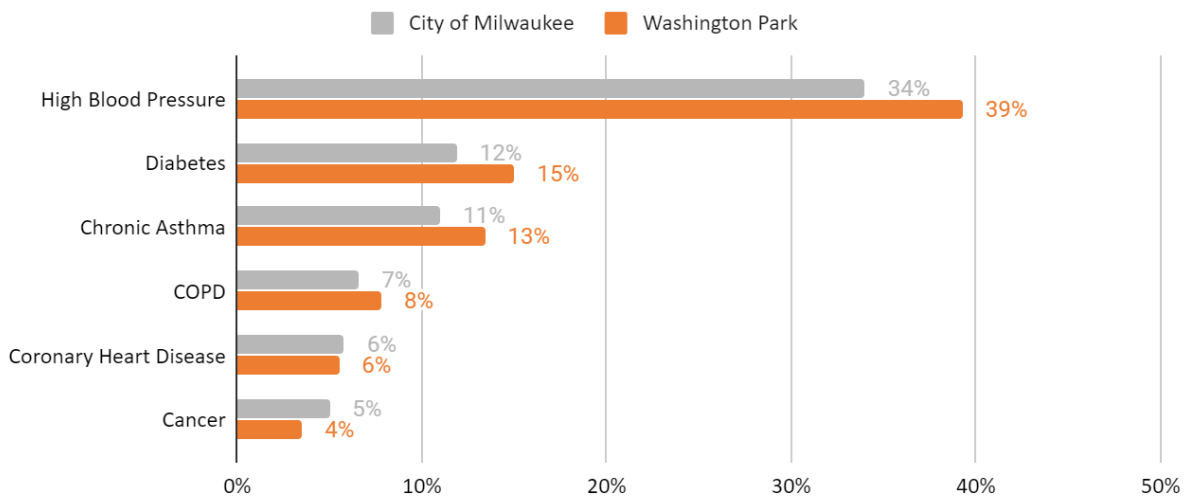


## Health Conditions in the Washington Park Neighborhood A data digest from Data You Can Use

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 some of these conditions, people in the Washington Park neighborhood have prevalence rates that are higher than the average rate for the City of Milwaukee. The chart below shows the rate in Washington Park (orange) and for the City of Milwaukee (gray).

### High blood pressure, diabetes and asthma put residents of the Washington Park neighborhood at greater risk for COVID-19 than the City as a whole.



In Washington Park, prevalence rates for high blood pressure, diabetes and asthma are higher than the city averages and people may 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 Washington Park, 13% 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 Washington Park, 44% of the population are reported to be obese compared to 37% citywide. This indicator suggests greater precautions for this population.

In addition to these health conditions, people's occupations can also affect their exposure to the virus. In the Washington Park neighborhood, 29% 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** and in the Washington Park neighborhood 72% 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. Twenty percent of residents of the Washington Park neighborhood report poor **mental health**, which is higher 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 Washington Park Partners by Data You Can Use 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](https://datayoucanuse.org) Alex LaMarche, Sarah McDaniel, Gerardo Mares and Katie Pritchard contributed to this report. April 2020 Your questions and feedback are welcome.