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**K**anawha County lies in central-southern West Virginia and is part of the Charleston, WV Metropolitan Statistical Area. Kanawha County is home to the state capital of West Virginia, Charleston. Like many communities in West Virginia and the United States, Kanawha County has many health conditions afflicting its residents. These health conditions are often accompanied by health disparities. With a population of 177,952, Kanawha is the largest county in the state of West Virginia.

Kanawha County's race demographics are:

Race Demographics	
White	87.5%
Black	7.5%
Multiracial	2.6%
Hispanic	1.2%
Asian	1.1%
American Indian / Alaska Native	0.1%

Kanawha County's age demographics are:

Age Demographics	
Aged 0-4	4.9%
Aged 5-19	17.1%
Aged 20-34	17.7%
Aged 35-49	18.0%
Aged 50-64	20.5%
Aged 65+	21.6%

In terms of educational attainment, more than 1 out of every 10 adults (11.7%) lacks a high school diploma, more than half of adults (58.8%) read at or below an 8th Grade level, and more than 2 out of every 3 adults (69.9%) struggle to solve math problems with more than three steps.

More than 1 out of every 4 residents (26.4%) lives in poverty with nearly 1 out of every 6 residents (16.5%) living in extreme poverty, and nearly 1 in 6 residents (15.6%) rely on SNAP for Nutrition Assistance. 1 out of every 4 residents pays more than 50% of their monthly income on housing.

### Health Disparities in Kanawha County

Residents of Kanawha County, like those in most West Virginia counties, face numerous negative health outcomes compared to the national averages. Adults in Kanawha County are likelier to smoke, suffer from obesity, be diagnosed with Asthma, Depression, Diabetes, Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), Coronary Heart Disease (CHD), and to die from a variety of cancers than people elsewhere in the United States.

Below is a chart that highlights the incidence, prevalence, and mortality rates (per 100k residents) of various measures compared to the state and national rates:

County Health Measures Compared to State and National Rates			
Measure	County Rate	State Rate	National Rate
Adult Smokers (2020)	23.2%	24%	16%
Adults with Depression (2021)	29.4%	27.3%	18.4%
Adults with Asthma (2020)	11.1%	12.1	9.8%
Lung Cancer Mortality (2020)	77.5	76.6	41.1
Adult Obesity (2020)	38.2%	39.1%	31.9%
Adults with Diabetes (2020)	12%	13.1%	9.7%
COPD Prevalence (2020)	9%	11.9%	6%
CHD Prevalence (2020)	7.3%	7%	4%
Overall Cancer Mortality (2021)	275.9	270.7	182.6
Breast Cancer Mortality (2021)	21.9	18.2	13.7
Colorectal Cancer Mortality (2021)	29.8	31.0	21.8
Pancreatic Cancer Mortality (2021)	21.9	18.9	15.3
Prostate Cancer Mortality (2021)	16.3	14.4	10.9



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## Chronic Hepatitis B in Kanawha County

The most recent surveillance report for Chronic Hepatitis B (HBV) provides data for years 2016-2020. The last report was published in May 2022. This report does note that rates for 2020 may be artificially low as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

West Virginia’s surveillance of Hepatitis B includes both Acute and Chronic Hepatitis B reporting, although county-level reporting is only available for Chronic HBV.

In 2020, the state of West Virginia saw 56 new Acute Hepatitis B diagnoses with an incidence rate of 3.2 (per 100k)—the highest rate in the United States—compared to the national rate of 0.7.

88% of Acute HBV diagnoses occurred in Whites, 2% in Blacks, 2% in “Others”, and 9% in persons of Unknown racial identity. 32% of diagnoses occurred among persons aged 40-49 years, 23% in 50-59, 21% in 20-29, 13% in 60+, 9% in 20-29, and 2% in 0-19 years. 62.5% of diagnoses occurred in Men. Injection Drug Use accounted for more than 50% of new diagnoses.

In 2020, Kanawha County saw 26 new Chronic Hepatitis B diagnoses with a prevalence rate of 14.4, compared to the state rate of 15.1 and the national rate of 5.0.

68% of Chronic HBV diagnoses in West Virginia occurred in Whites, 7% in Blacks, 5% in “Others”, and 20% in “Unknown”. 30% of diagnoses occurred among persons aged 30-39 years, 28% in 40-49, 20% in 50-59, 14% in 60+, 8% in 20-29, and 1% in 0-19 years.

Chronic HBV Incidence Rates, 2020		
Jurisdiction	Incidence	Rate (Per 100k)
Kanawha Co.	26	14.4
West Virginia	271	15.1
United States	11,635	5.0

The transmission of HBV can be prevented through the administration of a complete course of vaccination. There is no cure for HBV. Chronic HBV is treatable with Baraclude (Bristol Myers Squibb), Viread (Gilead Sciences), (Vemlidy, Gilead), and pegylated interferon.

## Chronic Hepatitis C in Kanawha County

The most recent surveillance report for Chronic Hepatitis C (HCV) provides data for years 2016-2020. The last report was published in May 2022. This report does note that rates for 2020 may be artificially low as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

West Virginia’s surveillance of Hepatitis C includes both Acute and Chronic Hepatitis C reporting, although county-level reporting is only available for Chronic HCV.

In 2020, the state of West Virginia saw 137 new Acute Hepatitis C diagnoses with an incidence rate of 7.6 (per 100k)—the second-highest rate in the United States—compared to the national rate of 1.5.

76% of Acute HCV diagnoses occurred in Whites, 3% in “Others”, 3% in Blacks, and 17% in persons of Unknown racial identity. 34% of diagnoses occurred among persons aged 20-29 years, 28% in 30-39, 23% in 40-49, 7% in 50-59, 4% in 60+, and 3% in 0-19 years. 64.2% of diagnoses occurred in Men. The state estimates that more than 60% of diagnoses are the result of Injection Drug Use.

In 2020, Kanawha County saw 399 new Chronic Hepatitis C diagnoses with a prevalence rate of 220.8, compared to the state rate of 215.9 and the national rate of 40.7.

76% of Chronic HCV diagnoses in West Virginia occurred in Whites, 4% in “Others”, 3% in Blacks, and 17% in “Unknown”. 34% of diagnoses occurred among persons aged 20-29 years, 28% in 30-39, 23% in 40-49, 7% in 50-59, 4% in 60+, and 3% in 0-19 years.

Chronic HCV Incidence Rates, 2020		
Jurisdiction	Incidence	Rate (Per 100k)
Kanawha Co.	399	220.8
West Virginia	3,872	215.9
United States	107,300	40.7

There is currently no vaccine to prevent the transmission of HCV. HCV can, however, be effectively cured through 8 to 12-week regimens of Direct-Active Antiviral drugs. The cost of treatment, however, is significant, with the lowest-priced authorized generics costing between \$20,000 and \$30,000 for 12 weeks of treatment.

## HIV in Kanawha County

Kanawha County has been experiencing an outbreak of HIV among Persons Who Inject Drugs since 2018. Prior to 2018, West Virginia saw just 67 new cases of HIV annually; in 2022, the state saw 140.

Kanawha County saw 31 new HIV diagnoses in 2022, with an incidence rate of 17.7 (per 100k). 77.4% new HIV diagnoses were the result of Injection Drug Use, compared to the national average of just 7%.

In 2021, there were approximately 457 persons living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) with a prevalence rate of 298.2 (per 100k).

HIV Incidence and Prevalence Rates (Per 100k), 2022 & 2021		
Jurisdiction	Incidence Rate (2022)	Prevalence Rate (2021)
Kanawha Co.	17.7	298.2
West Virginia	7.9	143.3
United States	12.7 (2021)	382.2

## Mental Health in Kanawha County

Kanawha County has a patient per provider ratio of 410 patients for every 1 provider.

When examining self-reported and diagnosed mental health issues, the rates per diagnosis per 100,000 residents in Kanawha County are:

Rates of Self-Reported Mental Health Conditions, 2021			
Condition	County Rate	State Rate	US Rate
Severe Depression	48.7	52.9	43.8
Frequent Suicidal Ideation	45.0	54.6	45.9
PTSD	33.2	32.9	22.4
Trauma Survivors	106.0	99.0	76.8
Risk of Psychotic-Like Experience	46.2	42.7	29.2

## Substance Use Disorder in Kanawha County

West Virginia leads the nation in drug overdose deaths. In 2021, the state saw 1,501 deaths, with a rate of 90.9 (per 100k) compared to the national rate of 32.4. The jurisdiction with the second-highest rate is the District of Columbia, with a rate of 63.6.

In 2021, Kanawha County saw 167 opioid-related drug overdose deaths with a rate of 93.8 (per 100k).

It also saw 140 stimulant-related overdose deaths with a rate of 78.7. The majority of stimulant-related overdose deaths were the result of drug supplies containing fentanyl.

Drug Overdose Deaths, 2021				
Jurisdiction	Opioids	Rate	Stimulant	Rate
Kanawha Co.	167	93.8	140	78.7
West Virginia	1,298	72.8	1,009	56.6
United States	82,179	24.8	57,771	17.4

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