

**UW-Population Health Institute**  
**Director's Report**  
Summary of 2006 Activities to Date

Health Policy Unit

- Produced and convened May 5 kick-off Summit for Governor's E-Health Board on Quality and Patient Safety (180 participants). Designed and fielded survey of key informants and stakeholders; currently staffing work groups toward preparation of final eHealth Action Plan for Wisconsin.
- Met with UW System President Reilly, Chancellor Wiley, Senator Miller, and staffs of Senator Roesler, Representatives Richards and Gielow to discuss the UW role in health and health care initiatives in the Wisconsin Legislature. Continued to pursue funding to support partnership with the La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Wisconsin Legislative Council, for operating an "Evidence-Based Health Policy" program.
- Conducted March 22 event: "What Is Your Health Worth? A National Conversation on Health Care" as a contribution toward the federally-appointed Citizens' Health Care Working Group.
- Produced and convened the American Indian Health and Science Symposium, March 31.
- Completed manuscript examining the relationship between state rankings of health care quality and the rate of medical examining board disciplinary actions.
- Ms. Friedsam appeared as featured panelist on May 19 and 21 broadcast of Milwaukee Public Television's Fourth Street Forum, addressing the Cost of Health Care.

Outreach Education Unit

- Planned and launched the "Healthiest Wisconsin Leadership Institute," in collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin, establishing 5 community teams from around the state.
- Recruited 5 new fellows and arranged placement sites for the "Population Health Fellowship Program;" there will be 9 fellows placed in Milwaukee (3), Madison, LaCrosse, and elsewhere.

Population Health Research Unit

- Released Brief Reports on the "Burden of Excess Deaths" and "Measuring Health Related Quality of Life" in Wisconsin. In addition, a 3rd Brief Report based on work on the Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State project will soon be published, looking at excess deaths by life stage and cause to identify areas where interventions would be most effective.
- Continued work on defining and measuring health disparities for the Healthiest State project. h.
- Prepared a report and publication on the quality of diabetes care in Wisconsin's HMOs.
- Continued ongoing population health research including a review of methods and procedures for compiling the County Rankings, working with counties to interpret the Rankings, and examining the findings from our user survey.

Evaluation Research Unit

- Continued work on federally-funded projects in the areas of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and continuing care for high school students with drug abuse problems.
- Collaborated with the Division of Public Health in completion of reports on background interviews and a midcourse survey related to the transformation goals of the State Health Plan.
- Completed enrollment data analysis and presented interim results of the Dane County Healthcare Access Pilot to local healthcare providers and administrators.
- Completed an evaluation of the "Movin' Schools" program for the Wisconsin Dept. of Public Instruction, and drafted manuscript for submission.
- Received funding from the US Department of Education via a WI DPI project to improve data systems and their use in the Safe and Drug Free Schools and Communities program.
- AHRQ approved an "Action" Project proposal to respond to health services research task orders; Aurora Health Care is lead agency.
- Continued work with injury prevention coalitions in collaboration with the Medical College of Wisconsin.
- Began work on the State Epidemiology Outcomes Workgroup funded by SAMHSA through DHFS Bureau of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Assisted BMHSAS in preparation of two major grant proposals.
- Funded by the Dept of Corrections to conduct program evaluation of the Earned Release substance abuse treatment program in WI correctional institutions.
- Continued work with the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council on the Honoring Our Children and Tribal Academic Partnership Programs.