Our Background
The Institute has existed in various organizational forms since 1984, adopting its current name and structure as the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute in 2005. The Institute’s work is led by a team of experts well-recognized in their fields and is guided by an active Advisory Board of state-level policy and practice leaders and an Executive Committee of faculty.

Our Work
- Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)
- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps
- RWJF Culture of Health Prize
- Healthy Wisconsin Leadership Institute
- Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State
- Population Health Service Fellowship

Health Policy
- Evidence-Based Health Policy Project
- Cost, Coverage, & Access
- Health Reform
- Health Impact Assessment
- Health System Performance

Evaluation Research
- Behavioral and Mental Health
- Chronic Disease Quality Improvement
- Criminal Justice/Correctional Health
- Health Disparities
- Maternal and Child Health
- Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment

Research Informs Practice; Practice Informs Research
Partners and Stakeholders: Public health departments, business leaders, educators, philanthropy and investors, advocates, government (tribal, state, local), health care providers, purchasers, and payers, and the general public.

Products: Original research, community engaged programming and training, reports, searchable databases, issue briefs, program evaluations, webinars, briefings and conferences.

Our Mission
Translating Research for Policy and Practice
The UW Population Health Institute advances health and well-being for all by developing and evaluating interventions and promoting evidence-based approaches to policy and practice at the local, state, and national levels. The Institute works across the full spectrum of factors that contribute to health.

A focal point for health and health care dialogue within the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a convener of stakeholders, the Institute promotes an exchange of expertise between those within the university and those in the policy and practice arena.

Our Goals
- Address a broad range of real-world, health-related problems of topical interest and stakeholder relevance;
- Promote partnerships between researchers and users of research, encouraging collaboration between the academic community and those engaged in practice and policy within both the public and private sectors;
- Evaluate programs and policies to support quality improvement, promote accountability, and seek evidenced-based solutions;
- Build the knowledge base of effective programs and policies;
- Provide learning opportunities for practitioners and students; and
- Contribute to policy decisions and program implementations that improve health and well-being for all.

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Department of Population Health Sciences
Mobilizing Action Toward Community Health (MATCH)

The MATCH group focuses on helping communities identify and implement solutions that make it easier for people to be healthy in their homes, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Our group engages with communities in the following activities:

• Monitoring health and health disparities;
• Moving from data to action by bringing people together to look at the many factors that influence health, select strategies that work, and make changes that will have a lasting impact;
• Reviewing evidence on policies and programs to inform health policy, program planning, and evaluation;
• Disseminating information in user-friendly formats to motivate action toward community health improvement; and
• Producing seminars, workshops, and life-long learning opportunities for community leaders and public health practitioners.

Our ultimate goal is to empower communities to improve the health of their population. To assure we are meeting the emerging needs of communities, we encourage ongoing dialogue with community members via our websites, webinars, email, phone, or in-person discussions or presentations.

Health Policy

The Health Policy group connects with Wisconsin’s leading public- and private-sector policymakers in the health services arena. Programs focus on access, cost, financing, quality, and outcomes.

Our portfolio includes the following activities:

• Assess potential and current state health reforms and the impact of federal policies on the state of Wisconsin;
• Evaluate mechanisms for expanding health coverage and reforming health care financing mechanisms, with a focus on Medicaid, BadgerCare and other safety net programs;
• Engage with private health care providers, purchasers, and advocates to assess and improve quality and reduce the cost of health care;
• Analyze the potential of current and emerging data, particularly claims-based and other administrative data, to contribute to improved value and health outcomes;
• Conduct pilot research for health care delivery and health care financing;
• Produce briefings and forums for legislators, executive branch officials, and public- and private-sector decision-leaders on topical matters of health policy and practice; and
• Produce practice-oriented reports, issue briefs, and peer-reviewed publications to advance the body of evidence in the field.

Evaluation Research

The Evaluation Research group works in partnership with community, tribal, university, and governmental organizations through the development, implementation, and evaluation stages of their programs.

Our projects focus on substance abuse prevention and treatment; maternal and child health; school-based health; correctional health; and related areas. We use a broad range of methods, from qualitative and descriptive techniques to complex experimental and quasi-experimental trials. We also engage in rigorous intervention research design and evaluation.

Our group’s portfolio includes:

• Statewide and local programs in the areas of mental health, maternal and child health, chronic disease, nutrition and obesity;
• A national program addressing the prevention of childhood agricultural injuries;
• Programs offering treatment in lieu of incarceration with strong case management services to coordinate support services;
• Substance abuse prevention and treatment, including the misuse of prescription drugs;
• Programs engaging communities experiencing health inequities, including African American, Latinos and American Indians; and
• Rigorous evaluation research on preventive interventions and recovery support.