



Catch-Up Briefing
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University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health



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Information for *Catch-Up Briefing* is compiled from several sources, including websites and lists from the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Commonwealth Fund, Health Affairs, Kaiser Family Foundation, Milbank Quarterly, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Milwaukee Business Journal, The New York Times, Urban Institute, Wisconsin Council on Children and Families, Wisconsin Health News, Wisconsin Medical Journal, Wispolitics.com, Wheeler Report, Wisconsin State Journal, Wisconsin Technology Network, and others.

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STATE NEWS

Health Care Reform Implementation in WI

[HHS Reports WI ACA Premium Affordability, Competition and Choice](#)

The U.S. HHS has released a report detailing the plan availability and selections made by consumers in each state. In Wisconsin, 90 percent of individuals who selected a Marketplace plan were eligible for tax

credits, higher than the 87 percent average in Federally Facilitated Marketplace states. Those Wisconsinites pay an average of \$112 per month in their individual premium, supported by an average \$316 monthly premium tax credit. This means that the premium tax credit in Wisconsin covers approximately 74 percent of premium costs. The [Wisconsin Council on Children and Families](#) highlighted the Wisconsin report findings.

[Sen. Baldwin, Rep. Kind Raise Concerns about ACA Employer Mandate](#)

WI Senator Baldwin and Congressman Kind have sent a letter to CMS expressing concerns about the ACA's employer responsibility requirements as they might affect Medicaid-dependent home and community-based providers. The letter emphasizes the challenge such providers may face in providing benefits to all their employees due to small profit margins and the tight budgets they receive through Medicaid.

[Wisconsin District Court Hearing Senator Johnson's ACA Lawsuit](#)

Wisconsin Senator Ron Johnson has filed a lawsuit against the U.S. Office of Personnel Management to overturn the Administration policy allowing the federal government to pay a portion of Congressional lawmakers' and staffs' health insurance policies in the Health Insurance Marketplace. His complaint asserts that the ACA does not allow the government to contribute to Marketplace plans, though the law requires that Congress and their staff receive their health insurance through the Marketplace. The Department of Justice argues that Senator Johnson does not have standing to bring the lawsuit. The case will be heard in the U.S. District Courthouse in Green Bay on July 7, 2014.

[Report: 1.5 Million Wisconsin Residents Newly Covered for Expanded Preventive Services](#)

A federal report estimates that number of person in each state that have gained coverage for expanded preventive services, with no cost-sharing, as a result of the Affordable Care Act. The report estimates that 1,539,000 Wisconsin residents have gained such coverage, including 382,000 children.

[Survey of Employer Responses to ACA](#)

A Brookfield, Wisconsin, company, the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans, surveyed companies with employer-sponsored insurance on the impact of the ACA. They found that nearly half of surveyed companies believed that the ACA had an overall negative effect, yet less than 1 percent said they will discontinue employer-sponsored coverage in response to the new Marketplaces. The [Milwaukee Business Journal](#) reported on the survey.

[Insurance Commissioner: Some Consumers Have Incorrect Premium Tax Credit or Wrong Plan](#)

Wisconsin's Office of the Commissioner of Insurance released a Consumer Alert pertaining to Affordable Care Act coverage, the potential for incorrect tax credit and consumers enrolled in plans that are not available in their area. "OCI has identified three specific areas of concern. First, some consumers are in plans that were incorrectly priced by the insurer, and healthcare.gov has not yet made adjustments in the premium tax credit amount. Second, some consumers have not correctly verified their income through healthcare.gov. Finally, consumers who have seen their income change, need to report that change to healthcare.gov but healthcare.gov has not been able to adjust their tax credit."

Medicaid/BadgerCare

[New Medicaid Enrollment Report Shows Slow Growth for WI; >80K Childless Adults Gain Coverage](#)

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) at HHS released the Medicaid and CHIP eligibility activity for the month of April 2014, showing Wisconsin with the ninth lowest rise in Medicaid and CHIP

enrollment nationally. Wisconsin's Medicaid membership increased 1.1% since the period before open enrollment began. As of the end of April, the state ended with 1,174,176 members on BadgerCare⁺ and other state Medicaid programs, adding 12,300 enrollees. For an overview of the CMS April 2014 update refer to this Kaiser [factsheet](#) and [issue brief](#). A [report by Avalere Health](#) indicates that Wisconsin does not experience the Medicaid enrollment growth reported by in other non-expansion states.

[Governor Scott Walker](#) announced the release of BadgerCare/Medicaid enrollment numbers, showing [81,731 newly-eligible childless adults](#) gaining benefits in April 2014. A link to the enrollment report can be found [here](#). A full list of [statewide](#) and [county-by-county](#) Wisconsin BC+ enrollment numbers are now available for the most recent six months.

[Senator Tammy Baldwin sends a letter](#) to Governor Walker inquiring about the status of the 62,776 individuals with incomes above the federal poverty level that no longer meet the program rules on April 1, 2014 and were dis-enrolled from the program. [Governor Walker responds with a letter](#) in which he asserts that the former Badgercare members are the responsibility of the ACA and her inquiry should be directed to CMS.

[WI Medicaid EHR Incentive Program](#)

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) is accepting applications for Medicaid EHR Incentive Payments for Program Year 2014. The last day to apply for incentive payment for hospitals is January 31, 2015. Additional information regarding the Wisconsin Medicaid EHR Incentive program can be found in this [DHS Forward Health Update](#).

Workforce/Health Professionals/Training & Education

[Report: Physician Payment 50% Higher in SE Wisconsin](#)

A [study conducted by Milliman](#) and released by the Greater Milwaukee Business Foundation on Health reports that, for 2012, Southeast WI average commercial physician payment levels were almost 50% higher than the Midwest average. The difference is estimated to increase commercial premiums by about 15% compared to the Midwest average. The study notes that physician professional payments typically represent about 30% of total commercial premium costs. GMBFH, in its press release, notes various factors that may influence the varying payment levels among markets.

[Medical Malpractice Lawsuits Plummet in Wisconsin](#) , while [Malpractice Insurance Business Booming](#)

The *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* is publishing a series of reports on medical malpractice and the relative influence of physicians, lawyers, the insurance industry, and consumers. Its first report called the ["medical lobby" a powerhouse](#) in the state capitol. State laws and court rulings strictly limit who can sue for medical malpractice, how much money they can collect and where the money will come from. "Payments made to victims of medical malpractice are down, lawsuits filed against doctors and hospitals continue to plummet, and the industry in 2013 posted an underwriting profit for the eighth straight year."

[MCW-Green Bay Receives Accreditation](#)

Accreditation approval was received from both the Higher Learning Commission and the Liaison Committee on Medical Education; the Medical College of Wisconsin-Green Bay campus will matriculate its first class in July 2015. The new medical campus is expecting to enroll 20 to 25 new students per year with students completing coursework in three years instead of the usual four. The development of the campus is an effort to address the physician shortage in rural and underserved areas.

[UW Ranks in Top 10 for Placing Family Practice Physicians](#)

According to the American Academy of Family Physicians, UW School of Medicine and Public Health ranks ninth overall in producing graduates who pursue family practice. For the past three years, one in six UW medical school graduates have entered into family practice. These results are promising efforts to help alleviate the primary care physician shortage.

[Marshfield Clinic Cuts Jobs](#)

Financial reports showing a decrease in profit urged Dr. Brian Ewert, executive director for Marshfield Clinics, to announce a cost saving measures by terminating about 80 managerial and administrative positions and reducing funds in various departments. The cuts are intended to save the clinic \$13 million.

[\\$3.3 million Awarded to Create New Physician Training Programs](#)

Six Wisconsin hospitals will receive state funded grants to develop new physician residency slots in rural or underserved areas in the state. Funding comes from the [2013-2015 Wisconsin biennial budget](#). New residency spots may help alleviate the physician shortage workforce, as discussed by both the [Wisconsin Hospital Association](#) and the [Wisconsin Medical Society](#).

[WDA Foundation Awards Dental Scholarships](#)

The Wisconsin Dental Association Foundation awarded 10 scholarships, a combined amount of \$13,500, to in-state dental and dental hygiene students. Recipients are chosen based on academic achievement, financial need, motivation and character.

Public Health

[Excessive alcohol use in Wisconsin accounts for 1 in 10 deaths among working-age adults](#)

The U.S. CDC issued a [report](#) and [state-specific data](#) that shows that, in Wisconsin, excessive alcohol use led to an average 1,700 deaths per year from 2006 and 2010, and 44,000 years of potential life lost each year. The deaths were due to health effects from drinking too much over time, such as breast cancer, liver disease, and heart disease; and health effects from drinking too much in a short period of time, such as violence, alcohol poisoning, and motor vehicle crashes. The [Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel](#) reviews the report.

[National Public Health Report: Wisconsin Public Health Facts](#)

Trust for America's Health and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation released a national report, *Investing in America's Health: A State-by-State Look at Public Health Funding and Key Health Facts*, examining public health funding and key health facts for each state. Wisconsin ranks among the lowest in both federal and state public health funding – ranking 46th in U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding per capita, 48th in Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) funding per capita, and 46th in state public health funding per capita. The report recommends a national effort to build upon and expand federal, state and local funding for public health efforts.

[America's Health Rankings Senior Report 2014](#)

This report offers a national and state comprehensive analysis of senior population health across 34 health measures. It is intended to promote awareness in senior health and promote optimal health and senior autonomy. Wisconsin ranks 10th healthiest states for older adults, a significant improvement from ranking 19th last year.

[Wisconsin Ranks 8th in Long-Term Care Scorecard](#)

A state-by-state scorecard by AARP, the Commonwealth Fund, and the Scan Foundation on long-term services and supports for older adults, people with physical disabilities, and family caregivers ranked Wisconsin 8th overall, with many indicators in the top quartile of states. The [interactive website](#) includes an archived webcast on the report.

[3 Wisconsin Counties in 50 Healthiest Counties for Kids](#)

US News and World Report worked with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to evaluate health data to determine America's 50 healthiest counties for kids. Ozaukee County, Waukesha County, and La Crosse County in Wisconsin were all in the top 50.

[Dental Clinics Share \\$850,000 Award](#)

DHS allocated \$850,000 to ten dental clinics in Milwaukee, Madison, and several other cities to expand dental services and increase staffing capacity. These clinics primarily service low-income uninsured or underinsured residents and Medicaid enrollees. A complete list of clinic recipients and amount is available and more information about the oral health program at DHS can be found [here](#).

[First case of West Nile Virus this Year](#)

A diseased crow found in Dodge County was tested positive for [WNV](#) earlier this month. Infected birds serve as early warning signs for people to engage in better protection against mosquitoes. The chances of becoming infected with WNV are low, with most infected individuals not showing any symptoms. WNV infections in humans have been reported from June through October with illnesses occurring during August and September.

[Recreational Water Illness and Injury \(RWII\) Prevention Week](#)

May 19-25 was RWII prevention week, highlighting simple steps swimmers and pool operators can take to ensure a safe water environment for everyone. State health officials encourage residents to partake in preventive steps to help prevent recreational water illnesses and drowning. CDC also provides [health and safety tips online](#) to help swimmers, parents and others to prevent water-associated illnesses.

[Health care advocacy group addressing Wisconsin's heroin epidemic](#)

A new campaign aims to increase access to effective screening and intervention services for youth to address the rising use of heroin and other drug addictions. *The Capital Times* reports on this three-year initiative launched by Citizen Action of Wisconsin.

[Madison's Health Facility Buffer Zone Ordinance Remains, Says City Attorney](#)

The City of Madison attorney's office says that Madison's new ordinance creating a 100-foot buffer zone around any type of health care facility is not immediately affected by the U.S. Supreme Court decision that struck down Massachusetts's 35-foot protest-free zone outside abortion clinics. Madison's ordinance bans intentionally approaching people, without their consent, to pass out leaflets, display signs or engage in oral protest, education or counseling.

[2,000 Patients Receive \\$1 million in Free Dental Care in Green Bay](#)

The Wisconsin Dental Association's Mission of Mercy program, in its sixth year, reported serving 2000 patients in 2 days Green Bay's KI Center, using over 1,200 volunteer dentists, hygienists, assistants, students and community helpers from 206 cities statewide.

Clinics, Hospitals, and Health Plans

[Six WI Hospitals Face Likely Medicare Penalties for Rates of Infections and Complications](#)

Medicare has [identified 65 Wisconsin hospitals](#) that for high rates of infections and complications. Some of these hospitals may avoid the penalties after federal officials factor into their analysis an additional year of infections. [Wisconsin Hospital Association chief quality officer](#) Kelly Court argues there are some flaws with the system being used to measure those hospitals, such as using infection rates dating back to 2012 and that measures have been taken since then to lower these rates.

[WHA Wins National Award for Improving Health Care Quality and Safety](#)

The Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) is slated to receive an award from the American Hospital Association for its work to improve health care quality. The award recognizes leadership and innovation in quality improvement and contributions to national health care improvement efforts. WHA is specifically recognized for reducing hospital readmissions, early elective deliveries.

Wisconsin Hospitals Recognized in More Hospital Ranking Reports

[U.S. News and World Report rates Wisconsin's two children's hospitals](#) among the top 50 pediatric hospitals in various categories. [Becker's Hospital Review ranks thirteen Wisconsin hospitals](#) among the top "100 Great Community Hospitals" of 2014.

[WI Ranks 7th Overall in Annual Scorecard on State Health System Performance](#)

The Commonwealth Fund's Scorecard on State Health System Performance in 2014, assesses states on 42 indicators of health care access, quality, costs, and outcomes over the 2007–2012 period. The Commonwealth Fund also provides an interactive map showing each state's health system ranking by key indicators. [Wisconsin](#) is in the top quartile of states, ranking 7th in overall performance.

[New Health Center will Serve Milwaukee's Underserved](#)

Progressive Community Health Center will expand the north-side facility, Lisbon Avenue Health Center. This increases the organization's capacity to serve an estimated 11,000 patients a year. The new three story space is set to open February 2015.

[Bellin Health Added to Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield](#)

Bellin Health, an integrated health delivery system in Green Bay, will join the Blue Priority Network. Blue Priority Network is one of Wisconsin's Accountable Care Organization networks, and is used by Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield health plans through the federally-facilitated marketplace.

[Report: Private Sector Health Plan Premium Increases Outpace Public Sector](#)

M3 Insurance, Wisconsin's largest insurance agency, has released its [2014 Health Benefits Trend Report](#), noting that premiums in the public sector increased 1.2% on average, compared with a 7.1% increase in the private sector. High deductible health plans also show substantial increase in cost sharing.

[Medical Research Tower Opens Near UW Hospital](#)

The Wisconsin Institutes for Medical Research opened its second research tower in early May 2014. The \$130 billion, nine-story building is expected to accommodate an estimated 1,300 employees with large lab spaces and a variety of equipment. Research scientists will be grouped according to themes, as opposed to academic departments, in an effort to put researchers closer to doctors treating patients with observed conditions.

[Journal-Sentinel Reports on City Hospitals](#)

The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel released the first article in a new series on poor health through a partnership with the Pittsburg Post-Gazette and the O'Brien Fellowship in Public Service Journalism at Marquette. The article highlights the disparity in access to care as hospitals and clinics move out of poor, high-need areas to more affluent, often suburban areas. Since 1988, Milwaukee County has lost its public hospital and five city hospitals.

[Planned Parenthood Closing Fond du Lac Clinic](#)

On September 25, Planned Parenthood of Wisconsin will close its family planning health center in Fond du Lac, sending over 1,000 patients a year to other facilities, including Planned Parenthood clinics in Oshkosh and West Bend. Planned Parenthood noted that this is the fifth center to close as a result of the elimination of Wisconsin state budget funding to Planned Parenthood for patient care.

[WI Again Explores Self-Insuring State Workers](#)

The WI Department of Employee Trust Funds is commissioning another study to assess moving 200,000 state workers and family members from an HMO model to self-insurance. This initiative was previously put on hold last year after the Wisconsin State Employees Union and the Wisconsin Association of Health Plans opposed it, reports the *Wisconsin State Journal*.

RESEARCH AND PROGRAM TOOLS

- [Mapping Tool to Track State-Level Patient-Centered Medical Home Activity](#)
- Information on the Health Insurance Marketplace and Health Care Reform: healthcare.gov
 - [Spanish Language Marketplace](#)
 - Small Business (SHOP) [Tax Credit Estimator](#)
 - [Special Enrollment Period \(SEP\) Screener Tool](#)
 - [Marketplace Enrollment Data](#)
 - HHS [Partner Official Resources](#)
- New and Updated Resources from the [Kaiser Family Foundation](#)
 - Report: [Uncompensated Care for Uninsured in 2013](#)
 - [Survey of Non-Group Health Insurance Enrollees](#)
 - [Health Tracking Poll](#)
 - [How is the ACA Impacting Medicaid Enrollment?](#)
 - An updated list of Medicaid and CHIP Eligibility limits for [adults](#), [children](#), and [pregnant women](#).
- New and Updated Resources from the [Commonwealth Fund](#)
 - [Health Reform Resource Center](#)
 - Report: [Growth and Variability in Health Plan Premiums in the Individual Market Before the ACA](#)
- [Enroll America](#) Resources
 - [State of Enrollment Report](#): Lessons from 2013-14 Open Enrollment
- [Families USA](#) Health Care Reform Resources
 - Report: [Designing Silver Health Plans with Affordable Out-of-Pocket Costs for Lower and Moderate-Income Consumers](#)
- New and Updated Resources from [HRSA](#)
- New and Updated Resources from [AHRQ](#)

- Wisconsin Toolbox:
 - [Enrollment for Health Wisconsin \(www.E4Health.org\)](http://www.E4Health.org)
 - [Statewide Enrollment Directory](#)
 - [Milwaukee Enrollment Directory](#)
 - [Individual Health Insurance Carriers in Wisconsin](#)
 - [Wisconsin DHS report on 2012 births, infant deaths, and births to teens](#)

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Promoting Community Systems of Care to Foster Young Children’s Social and Emotional Development](#), Janesville, July 17
- [Wisconsin Statewide Medical Home Initiative](#), July 17 in Janesville, August 28 in Pleasant Prairie, and September 30 in Appleton
- [WHA Health Law Manual Webinar](#), July 24, 12:00pm - 1:30pm
- [Wisconsin Health News Briefing on Mental Health](#), Madison, August 5, 11:30-1pm
- [Wisconsin Public Health Nursing Conference](#), Stevens Point, August 4-5
- [Prescription for Success: A Workshop for Hospital Foundation Directors](#), Rothschild, August 7
- [Wisconsin Healthcare Engineering Association Annual Conference](#), Green Bay, September 23-26
- [Wisconsin Healthcare Public Relations & Marketing Society Annual Conference](#), Wisconsin Dells, September 24-26
- [Annual Crisis Intervention Conference](#), Wisconsin Dells, September 25-26
- [Oral-Systemic Health Conference](#), Marshfield, October 10
- [MetaStar Health Care Quality Symposium](#), Wisconsin Dells, November 4

Selected Tweets from our Twitter Feed

Please follow us on [Twitter @UWHealthPolicy](#) to receive notice of relevant reports, research, federal and state news.

Study: Higher federal payments for #Medicare Advantage do not benefit consumers, via @Penn <http://whr.tn/1mNQTig>

Health spending fell, GDP shrinks, while more people insured, reports @BEA_News <http://bit.ly/1mNRmAT>

How to assess the proposed #ACA health insurance rates, rate review, and rate changes, from @PennLDI <http://bit.ly/1nXgPEI>

Does the #ACA cover the uninsured or already insurance people? @DrewAltman assesses the data in @WSJ <http://on.wsj.com/1medF3S>

#ACA can't mandate employers cover contraception, via @js_newswatch <http://bit.ly/1qb4Mbc>
 Read details of #SCOTUS #HobbyLobby decision @SCOTUSblog <http://bit.ly/1qb5plf>

"#Obamacare is supposed to facilitate the shopping experience. Some recent studies throw cold water on that idea" <http://wapo.st/1nZrDn1>

"Coverage Effects of Limiting the Tax Exclusion for Employment-Based Health Insurance" reviewed by @USCBO <http://1.usa.gov/1r75iZG>

"Four Other Anti-ACA Lawsuits to Watch" years of legal battles ahead, summarized by @TheAdvisoryBd <http://bit.ly/1r6SO4j>

"America's Biggest Drug Problem Isn't Heroin, Its Doctors" from @GOVERNING magazine <http://bit.ly/TJtpzf>

Doctors like health IT and electronic records, but have difficulty attaining federally-mandated "meaningful use" <http://bit.ly/1voHcHG>

Provider consolidation and the impact on health prices - some [#unconventionalwisdom](#) from @Health_Affairs <http://bit.ly/1pAEEaW>

#ACOs good for #Medicare, but consolidation increases market power, commercial prices, argues @nytimes column <http://nyti.ms/1qaRw6F>

Is it time for WI Insurance Commissioner to update regulations about health insurance network adequacy? <http://yhoo.it/1jN4hxe>

Examples of Consumer Incentives and Personal Responsibility Requirements in [#Medicaid](#), from @RWJF_Coverage <http://bit.ly/SzlrYO>

Interactive map displays variations in price for four common medical services across and within major U.S. cities. <http://bit.ly/1uY4SUP>

WI ranked worst in nation for well-being of African American children. <http://bit.ly/1nSEBYi> How to create state of opportunity for all?

.@Health_Affairs Study: Ending Food Stamps [#SNAP](#) for Sugar-Sweetened Beverages could Reduce Obesity, Diabetes <http://bit.ly/1hzaeDE>

New study from @urbaninstitute projects 59% decrease in WI uninsured by 2016, with 222K remaining uninsured <http://bit.ly/1wIVyvN>

Will [#ACA](#) premiums skyrocket in 2015? @urbaninstitute report says increases more likely to be moderate. <http://bit.ly/1gHKrZz>

Federal [#ACA](#) subsidies may be too high or too low for more than 1 million Americans, reports @washingtonpost <http://wapo.st/1p6RRoJ>

.@CMSGov releasing final rule for Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and beyond. <http://go.cms.gov/1j3c1KZ>

Will #ACA premiums skyrocket in 2015? @urbaninstitute report says increases more likely to be moderate. <http://bit.ly/1gHKrZz>

Federal #ACA subsidies may be too high or too low for more than 1 million Americans, reports @washingtonpost <http://wapo.st/1p6RRoJ>

.@CMSGov releasing final rule for Exchange and Insurance Market Standards for 2015 and beyond. <http://go.cms.gov/1j3c1KZ>

Badgercare study cited as "best argument yet against Medicaid expansion" by @BloombergNews <http://bv.ms/TbzJQE> , but may be over-reach.

Our #Badgercare evaluation findings discussed by @voxdotcom: even small #Medicaid premiums cause people to disenroll. <http://bit.ly/1mFgOao>