



# Wisconsin Public Health & Health Policy Institute **Annual Report 2002**

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*Improving the health of the people of Wisconsin through partnerships*



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**Wisconsin Public Health & Health Policy Institute  
2002 Annual Report**

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## Wisconsin Public Health and Health Policy Institute 2002 Annual Report

### Directors' Report

On January 1, 2003 the Wisconsin Public Health and Health Policy Institute completed its first full calendar year in operation. It was a year of steady progress in coordinating our mission and our community advisory board driven applied research initiatives with the talent represented in our staff.

We have expanded and strengthened our outreach activities to include a wider range of stakeholders and have succeeded in networking the Institute into an ever-widening list of public health and health policy organizational collaborations, partnerships and committees. We have made steady progress in the necessary planning, organizing of human resources, data acquisition and background research required to fully realize products from our core research initiatives.

The Institute is focused on *translating research into practice* while remaining integrated with the academic environment of a major research university. As such, defining "measures of our success" requires not only looking at traditional publication efforts and steadily growing grant success, but also gauging how well, and with whom, we communicated our message. In the day-to-day world of public health practice and health policy development how well did we translate useful information?

The Institute looks to answer the success question through board feedback; customer surveys; attendance at our meetings and forums; requests for our work and expertise; and our ability to support translation and practical research activity used by our constituency. Judging by these methods, as well as the more conventional measures, we believe we have successfully met our goals.

To fully reflect the Institute's financial support and in response to new funding successes we have formulated three additional goals for 2003. The following goals join our ongoing objectives (page 7):

- **Monitor and Enhance State Health Status:** The Institute will determine the necessary ways and means for monitoring and maintaining the state's current health status while further elevating Wisconsin to become the "healthiest state" in the nation.
- **Health Policy Resource and Liaison:** The Institute will serve as a major resource for, and primary liaison between, the Population Health Sciences Department, the UW Medical School and the State of Wisconsin's Department of Health and Family Services.
- **Policy Analysis and Outreach:** Through the Wisconsin Health Policy Forums the Institute will develop, organize and provide policymakers with original policy analysis and options for important statewide health related issues.

Finally, the progress during 2002 could not have been achieved without the ongoing contributions of the members of our Community Advisory Board and Executive Committee. We are grateful for their continued commitment and dedication.

Patrick Remington, MD MPH, Director

David Kindig, MD PhD, Co-Director

## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Institute is to stimulate, create, and communicate useful research and analysis and to translate research into practice.

Building on the early success of the Network for Health Policy Research, the Institute fosters applied population health research within the Medical School and the University. It brings together faculty, staff, and students interested in applying their skills and experience to answer practical public health and health policy questions.

**We strive to:**

- Conduct applied research on problems of current importance to government, business, providers and the public;
- Collaborate with researchers and users of research, develop partnerships between the academic community and public and private policy makers, and forge opportunities for applied learning for graduate and medical students;
- Provide outreach and continuing education to practitioners; and
- Maintain high standards of relevance, rigor and objectivity.

**COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD - 2002**

**Stephen Braunginn**

President/ CEO  
Urban League of Greater Madison

**John Chapin**

Administrator  
Division of Public Health  
Department of Health and Family  
Services

**Seth Foldy**

Commissioner of Health  
City of Milwaukee

**Carol Graham**

Former Director of  
Public Health Nursing  
City of Milwaukee Health Dept.

**Peggy Handrich**

Administrator  
Division of Health Care Financing  
Department of Health and Family  
Services

**Ann Haney**

Vice President  
Public & Governmental Affairs  
Dean Health/Administration

**Mary Ann Lippert**

State Representative  
Wisconsin State Legislature

**Doug Mormann**

Health Officer  
La Crosse County Health Dept.

**Greg Nycz**

Director of Health Policy  
Marshfield Med. Res. Foundation

**John Patchett**

Executive Vice President  
Wisconsin Medical Society

**Christopher Queram**

Chief Executive Officer  
The Alliance

**David Riemer**

Director  
Department of Administration  
City of Milwaukee

**Peggy Rosenzweig**

Senator  
Wisconsin State Legislature

**Greg Simmons**

President and CEO  
MetaStar

**Tim Size**

Executive Director  
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative

**John Torphy**

Vice Chancellor, Administration  
University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Madeline Wake**

Dean  
Marquette University School of Nursing

**Bill Wineke**

Features Reporter  
Wisconsin State Journal

## UW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE - 2002

**Betty Chewning**

Associate Professor  
HS-Pharmacy

**Byron Crouse**

Associate Dean  
Rural and Community Health

**Gloria Johnson-Powell**

Associate Dean  
Medical School

**Marty Kanarek**

Professor  
Population Health Sciences

**David A. Kindig**

Emeritus Professor  
Population Health Sciences

**Ron Laessig**

Director  
State Laboratory of Hygiene

**Mark Linzer**

Professor HS-Medical School

**Paul Moberg**

Director  
Center for Health Policy & Program  
Evaluation, (CHPPE)

**John Mullahy**

Professor  
Population Health Sciences

**Javier Nieto**

Professor and Chair  
Population Health Sciences

**Linda Reivitz**

Faculty Associate  
School of Nursing

**Patrick Remington**

Associate Professor  
Population Health Sciences

**Roberta Riportella-Muller**

Associate Professor  
School of Human Ecology

**Susan Skochelak**

Associate Dean  
Medical School

**Nick Turkal**

Associate Professor  
Sinai Samaritan Medical Center

**Bobbi Wolfe**

Professor  
Population Health Sciences

**Susan Zahner**

Assistant Professor  
School of Nursing

## GOALS FOR 2002

- 1. Contribute Original Research and Analysis:** The Institute will advance its core research initiatives including: health rankings / report cards, trends in public health indices, health disparities assessment, regional variation in quality of health care, access to health care and cost and financing of health care.
- 2. Strengthen and Maintain Service, Consulting Initiatives and Partnerships:** The Institute will, as resources allow, contribute its expertise to the Department of Health and Family Services, other university departments and institutes, government and private non-profit community organizations. The Institute will maintain and strengthen its research partnerships with the Center for Urban Population Health, Center for Health Policy and Program Evaluation, state HMO organizations and the Employer's Health Care Alliance Cooperative.
- 3. Strengthen and Maintain Outreach Initiatives:** The Institute will generate, enhance and renew information disseminated through such channels as Weekly Seminars, Issue Briefs, State Forums, Technical Reports, electronic web based resources and targeted meetings with public and private public health / health policy stakeholders. The Institute will continue its summer training programs and contribute to the planning of the new MPH program to be offered through the Department of Population Health Sciences.
- 4. Implement Grants Received and Explore Ongoing Funding Opportunities:** The Institute will continue work on the grants it has received, will implement new grants, and will continue to search out and apply for external funding that supports its basic mission and goals.



## **Goal 1: CONTRIBUTE ORIGINAL RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS**

The Institute convened the External Advisory Board in June 2001 and conducted a priority setting exercise to select priorities for its applied research efforts. From these recommendations, the Institute developed initiatives in the following areas:

- Health disparities
- Public health assessment
- Access to health care
- Health care quality
- Cost and financing of health care

The following broadly describe our progress in these areas:

**Health disparities:** We examined the geographical and temporal variations in associations among mortality, race and educational attainment using Wisconsin death certificate data. Methods for characterizing disparities in Wisconsin populations are also under study.

**Public health assessment:** We provided ongoing consultation, served on a range of state and regional committees and provided targeted technical advice as well as a summer public health assessment training workshop for the public health community. In addition we have contributed leadership and staff time and expertise to the developing MPH program.

**Access to health care:** We examined multiple facets of access to health care in Wisconsin, with an emphasis on: i) health insurance coverage associated with economic fluctuations, ii) access and financing of care in special populations including urban and reservation-based Indian and populations, and iii) assessment of geographical variation in preventable hospitalizations in Wisconsin.

**Health care quality:** We assessed regional variation in the quality of health care in Wisconsin including a) diabetes and cardiovascular HEDIS measures of care among HMOs, b) ongoing evaluation of performance objectives development across local public health departments, and c) assessment of diabetes care in providers connected with the self-insured market.

**Cost and financing of health care:** In addition to the ongoing monitoring of the economic effects provoked by national and state policy, the Institute provided opening testimony to the Assembly Health Committee on Health Care Containment, published an Issue Brief on containing Wisconsin Health Care Costs and, as part of the new Wisconsin Health Policy Forums project, wrote a major review and policy implication paper on health care costs for the 2003 legislature seminar series in collaboration with the Family Impact Seminars.

### **Core Research Activities**

- **Wisconsin Community Health Report Card Project.** These reports will contrast indices of population health and its determinants to stimulate discussion within the Wisconsin health policy and public health communities. Lead: Peppard
- **Trends in public health indices** from 1990-2000 in Wisconsin will be evaluated to review progress toward Public Health Agenda Year 2000 objectives and as a baseline for future evaluation of progress toward 2010 objectives. Lead: All Staff
- **Health Disparities assessment:** We are examining the geographical and temporal variations in associations among mortality, race and educational attainment using Wisconsin death certificate data. Methods for characterizing disparities in Wisconsin populations are also under study. Lead Peppard, Kindig
- **Quality Assessment:** continued data collection and analysis of the state HMO Diabetes Quality Initiative. Analysis of self-insured population health services; Evaluation and measurement of state LPHD performance objectives. Lead: Newsom

## **Applied Research**

Ongoing analysis of population health data, including:

- HEDIS data from 18 HMOs in the state, as part of the 'Wisconsin Diabetes Quality Improvement Project'. Lead: Newsom, Remington
- Diabetes related care analysis of a sample of the self-ensured market. Lead: Newsom
- Assisted Office of Minority Health (DHFS) with methods, analysis and content of Minority Health Report. Lead: Peppard

## **Applied Research (Issue Briefs)**

Information was broadly disseminated through periodic Issue Briefs including:

- "Translating Research into Practice: Wisconsin Public Health and Health Policy Institute." Patrick Remington, Vol. 3, Number 1
- "Did Wisconsin Fall in State Health Rankings?" Paul Peppard, Dave Kindig, Patrick Remington, Vol. 3, Number 2
- "The Wisconsin Collaborative Diabetes Quality Improvement Project: A Collaborative Success", Kristine Dawson, Robert Stone Newsom, Faye Gohre, Vol. 3, Number 3
- "Containing Wisconsin Health Care Costs", David Kindig, Robert Stone Newsom, Vol. 3, Number 4
- "Racial and Ethnic Data: Are they Reliable for Program and Policy Development?", Donna Friedsam, Vol. 3, Number 5
- "Addressing High Rate of Smoking During Pregnancy in Wisconsin.", Vanessa Newburn, Patrick Remington, Paul Peppard, Vol. 3, Number 6

## Other Research Publications and Presentations

- "The Wisconsin Diabetes Quality Improvement Project: Year 3", Presented at **CDC Conference**, St. Louis, May 2002. Lead: Dawson, Newsom
- "The Wisconsin Diabetes Quality Improvement Project: Summary Publication", Booklet distributed statewide and nationally through the **CDC and the Wisconsin Division of Public Health**. June, 2002. Lead: Newsom, Dawson
- "State Disability Adjusted Life Expectancy: Using Census Disability Data", **Institute Technical Paper**, Fall 2001, Submitted for publication Spring 2002. Lead: Newsom, Kindig
- "2002 Annual Customer Survey - results and analysis", **Institute Internal Document**, Fall 2002. Lead: Newsom
- "Measure Twice, Cut Once: Measuring and Evaluating Objective in Performance-Based Contracting" Summary of instrument reliability testing and project extension proposal prepared for the **Wisconsin DPH and the CDC**. Lead: Newsom
- "Academic Staff Performance Evaluation / Merit Review", Survey and report prepared for submission to **The Department of Population Health Sciences**, December 2002. Lead: Newsom, Fitzgerald
- Are States Getting Value from Health Expenditures? Unpublished manuscript. Summer 2002. Lead: Kindig, Peppard
- Use of Smoking During Pregnancy Data to Guide Community Planning and Evaluation Efforts in Tobacco Control. Submitted to **Tobacco Control**, Fall 2002. Lead: Remington, Newburn, Peppard

- Epidemiology of Obstructive Sleep Apnea—A Population Health Perspective. *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*, 2002. Lead: Peppard
- "Employing a Forums Coordinator" Published on the web by the **RWJF State Forums Partnership Program**, September 2002. Lead: Newsom
- Completed and submitted three articles for journal publication, and published lead article in **The Indian Health Service Primary Care Provider** journal. Lead: Friedsam
- Delivered opening address at statewide **Beyond BadgerCare** conference. Lead: Friedsam
- Conducted opening session on medically underserved populations for statewide *Wisconsin Express* student orientation workshop. Lead: Friedsam
- Provide consultation and technical assistance to the **Wisconsin Medical Society Task Force on Health Care Reform**. Lead: Friedsam
- Published original analysis of "State Policy Options: Health Costs and Financing" for joint **Wisconsin Health Policy Forums and Family Impact Seminars legislative Seminar - Forum** on "Rising Health Care Costs: Employer Purchasing Pools and Other State Policy Options". Lead: Newsom

## **Goal 2: STRENGTHEN AND MAINTAIN SERVICE AND CONSULTING INITIATIVES AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Service and Consulting Activities**

- **Medical Society Taskforce on Health Care Reform.** Lead: Friedsam
- **Alliance Employer Health Care Cooperative** Provided consultation and grant writing assistance to in preparing its RWJF grant proposal for the Rewarding Results Initiative. Lead: Kindig, Friedsam, Newsom
- **UW Center for Wisconsin Strategy (COWS)** Consulted in preparing health care section of its public policy manual. Lead: Friedsam
- **Wisconsin Tobacco Monitoring and Evaluation Program.** Lead: Remington, Peppard
- **Wisconsin Center for Urban Population Health.** Lead: Staff, Kindig Chaired the Director Search Committee and Remington serves on Executive Committee.
- **Department of Population Health Sciences, Department of Sociology and Medical Students.** Lead: All Staff
- **WI Division of Public Health** Diabetes Quality Improvement, Lead: Remington, Newsom; POEM project: Lead: Newsom
- **Dane County Health Council,** consulted in measuring needs, resources, and gaps in service for uninsured residents and in considering alternative solutions. Lead: Friedsam
- Consulted with the **WLS Access to Care Project,** Prof. Maureen Smith. Lead: Newsom
- Successfully negotiated a Data Use Agreement with the **Alliance Employers Health Care Cooperative** for research on their proprietary claims database. Lead: Newsom

- Rising Health Care Costs: Employer Purchasing Pools and Other Policy Options. Collaborative publication between the Family Impact Seminars and the Wisconsin Health Policy Forums for the **State Policymaker Seminar / Forum** held January 15, 2003. Lead: Newsom, Austin & Friedsam
- State Policy Options: Health Costs and Financing. **Health Policy Forums Issue Briefing paper**, Vol. 1, Number 1, 2002. Lead: Newsom, Friedsam

**American Indian Partnership Programs. Lead: Friedsam**

- Developed, organized, and presented training retreat for tribal health directors and medical directors on clinical quality and productivity.
- Provided various technical assistance to tribes in attaining federal support and Medicaid payment for their clinics
- Convened and chaired the UW Native American Health Work Group, including hosting monthly meeting of campus-based researchers and program managers.
- Launched RWJF-funded Evidence-Based Medicine Project with LDF clinic: coordinating a five-member faculty team, providing and arranging for ongoing training and technical assistance for tribal clinic providers.
- Participated in formation of statewide American Indian Health Alliance, in partnership with Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council; Collaborated in producing American Indian Health Forum in Milwaukee in conjunction with Indian Summer festival.

### **Goal 3: STRENGTHEN AND MAINTAIN OUTREACH INITIATIVES**

#### **Continuing and New Outreach and Education**

- Co-sponsored with the Population Health Sciences Department, the **Monday Seminar Series** (approx. 18 per year) for UW Madison faculty, graduate students and the policy community. The seminars were recorded and made available on the Institute website. Began monthly **Wednesday Seminars** (8 per year).
- Produced regular **Issue Briefs** (two pages, mailed to approximately 2,400 state stakeholders, also available on the website). The briefs are multiply authored and normally include at least one non-Institute contributor. Lead: All Staff
- Produced the monthly **E-News**, an electronic newsletter with public health and health policy related news relating to or engaging Wisconsin citizens, researchers and policy makers. The publication has accompanying web links to the primary resources, and is received by approximately 1800 stakeholders. Lead: Lasker / Friedsam
- Produced the **Summer Public Health Assessment Workshop**. Led by Dr Remington the workshop, using a case-study approach on real-world problems, assisted participants from across the state with their ongoing efforts to utilize population health data in their decision-making. Lead: Remington
- Developed and maintain the following websites: **Wisconsin Collaborative Population Health Database**, **Wisconsin Health Data and Policy Internet Portal** (with Duke Univ.), **The Institute Survey Web Site** (surveys over the web), **The Institute home web site**, the **Wisconsin Health Policy Forums** web site. Lead: Newsom
- **Wisconsin Community Health Needs Resource Committee**. Lead: Remington, Peppard
- **UnitedHealth State Health Report Card Expert Committee**. Lead: Kindig, Peppard



- **Institute - BHI Collaboration Committee.** Lead: Peppard, Remington
- **Wisconsin Public Health Association Annual Meeting.** Lead: Peppard
- Presented opening testimony to the **Assembly Health Committee on Health Care Containment**, August 13, 2002. Lead: Kindig
- Provided **summer experience and training for pre-medical and medical students** interested in public health and health policy and sponsored a **summer training program in applied public health practice** for participants representing state health department, local health departments, and community-based organizations. The sessions taught participants assessment and policy skills for practical application in program planning, implementation and evaluation, including how to access data, simple techniques for data analysis, interpretation, and application. Lead: Remington
- **Wisconsin Population Health Information Resource** was maintained. Lead: Newsom, Peppard
- The Institute continued to contribute to the development of the new MPH program at the **Department of Population Health Sciences.** Lead: Remington
- Continued leadership of the **UW Native American Health Work Group**, including hosting monthly meeting of campus-based researchers and program managers. Lead: Friedsam
- We have examined multiple facets of **access to health care in Wisconsin**, with an emphasis on: i) health insurance coverage associated with economic fluctuations, ii) access and finance of care in special populations including urban Indian and immigrant populations, and iii) assessment of geographical variation in preventable hospitalizations in Wisconsin. Lead: Friedsam

## **Goal 4: IMPLEMENTATION AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **Continuing and New Outreach and Education**

- State Forums Partnership Program began July 2002. Lead: Newsom, Austin  
<http://www.medsch.wisc.edu/pophealth/StateForums/>

### **Core Research Activities**

- Ongoing assessment of regional variation in the quality of health care in Wisconsin including a) Diabetes and Cardiovascular HEDIS measures of care among HMOs, b) ongoing evaluation of Performance Objectives development across LPHDs, and c) assessment of diabetes care in providers connected with the self-ensured market. Lead: Newsom

### **New and Continuing Grants and Related Extramural Activities**

- State Based Diabetes Collaborative Quality Improvement project, State of Wisconsin –DPH. Lead: Remington
- State Public Health Performance Objectives Evaluation (POEM) project, State of Wisconsin -DPH and the CDC. Lead: Newsom
- State Forums Partnership Program, RWJF & UW Foundation. Lead: Newsom
- Subcontractor for Robert Wood Johnson Foundation grant: Evidence-Based Medicine partnership between UW Medical School and the Lac du Flambeau Tribal Clinic. Lead: Friedsam
- Subcontractor of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council for the Native American Research Centers for Health program. Lead: Friedsam

## Grant Applications

In 2002, the Institute applied for new or renewal grants from several sources including the Division of Public Health, the National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin, the Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment Fund and the NIH. Two were received, one has been renewed, two were not awarded and two are still under review. These grants represent an important part of the Institutes applied research program:

- **Diabetes Collaborative Quality Improvement** project, State of Wisconsin -DPH, approx. \$28,000, PI Remington, Project Manager Newsom, renewed.
- **State Public Health Performance Objectives Evaluation (POEM)** project, State of Wisconsin -DPH, approx \$19,000, PI Newsom, \$12,000 renewal under review
- **State Forums Partnership Program**, RWJF, \$250,000 - 3 years, PI Newsom, Began 7/1/02.
- **Ira and Ineva Reilly Baldwin Wisconsin Idea Endowment fund**, Extending the State Forums Partnership Program to All Wisconsin citizens and media. \$96,743 for 3 years, PI Newsom, (Not received)
- Institute section of the **BCBS proposal to the Medical School**. Lead: All Staff
- Collaborated with Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council for **NIH funding of the Native American Research Centers** for Health (NARCH) program. Attained approval of grant funding (\$600,000/year for four years) for Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council with UW as sub-contractor. Lead: Friedsam, Remington
- Attained **NIH support for pilot research** project for cancer surveillance among American Indian populations in Wisconsin. Lead: Friedsam

- Assisted UW family medicine faculty (Dr. Alex Adams, PI) to write grant and **attained approval of RO1 grant support** for studying obesity in American Indian children.

Lead: Friedsam

- **Wisconsin ESRD 1980-2000: Regional Variation in Incidence, Mortality and Co-Morbidity**, National Kidney Foundation of Wisconsin, approx. \$48,000, PI Remington, PM Newsom, 1 year. (Not received).

## INSTITUTE STAFF

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### **Graduate Assistants**

Kristine Dawson

Andrea Lasker

Eric Reither

Amanda Riemer

Kelly Schnieder

<b>BUDGET - 2002 Calendar Year*</b>
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*Available Funds FY 2002:*

MAMA	\$233,322
MAMA related travel & expenses	\$ 43,648
American Indian Program	\$ 35,351
Grants	\$257,914
Grant related travel & supplies	\$ 41,331

**Total Available Funds** \$611,766

*Projected Expenditures FY 2002:*

Salary & Fringes	\$504,408
Travel & Supplies	\$ 94,493

**Total Projected Expenditures:** \$598,901

\* Fiscal year runs July 1 through June 31.

**Credits:** Report production and design - Robert Stone Newsom, Andrea Lasker & Pat Remington, Cover design - Irene Golembiewski, Medical Illustration, © 2002 Wisconsin Public Health - Health Policy Institute