



University of Wisconsin
Population Health Institute
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
SCHOOL OF MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

2025

ANNUAL REPORT

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Message from Director Sheri Johnson, PhD



Dear colleagues and partners,

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute faculty and staff continue to be honored by, and grateful for, the opportunity to serve the people of Wisconsin, sovereign Native nations, and communities across the country. We strive to be responsive and useful across a range of efforts to create equitable conditions for everyone to be healthy and well.

In 2025, the UW Population Health Institute received several organizational awards that reflect our values. We were honored by the National Network of Public Health Institutes with the Member Impact Award. The Network Member Impact Award is bestowed on a network member that has worked effectively in partnership to accomplish a measurable impact in the region, state, or locality. The award committee recognized that County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) “provides trusted, accessible data and evidence-informed planning tools. CHR&R stands apart as an initiative with far-reaching local and national impact. The maturity and scale of this work, coupled with innovations to translate data to action, is inspiring.” The Evaluation and Engaged Research group’s 988 data dashboard team, in collaboration with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Family Services of Northeastern Wisconsin, was honored by the National Association of Government Communicators Blue and Gold Screen Award, recognizing excellence in government communications for a graphics/infographic. Finally, the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Sciences awarded the institute the Ida B. Wells Public Engagement Award.

We are thrilled that our efforts reach across the state and nation, reflecting the Wisconsin Idea. We are committed to supporting work to ensure that all people, places, and the planet thrive.

Sincerely,



Sheri Johnson, PhD

Director, UW Population Health Institute

Professor (CHS), Department of Population Health Sciences

University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health

About Us



Translating Research for Policy and Practice

Since 2005, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has collaborated with partners at the local, state, and national level to help communities identify, evaluate, track, and shape the many factors that influence people's health and well-being.

Originally housed within the Department of Population Health Sciences, we continue to leverage the expertise of faculty and students.

By providing evidence-informed strategies, actionable data, and narrative resources tailored to myriad sectors, we support the field with the tools and resources needed to create equitable systems, structures, and policies.

Through valued partnerships and facilitated exchange of expertise, we expand our understanding of what drives health equity.

And by fostering dialogue and sharing stories that name what works—and what is needed—to ensure everyone's well-being, we support nationwide efforts that aim to improve health and achieve health equity.

We believe that only by working together toward a world in which we value one another and honor our connectedness will we achieve the healthiest possible conditions for all of us.



Vision

We work toward a world in which we value each other, honor our connectedness, and transform communities so that everyone can thrive.



Mission

We partner with people working to create equitable conditions for everyone to be healthy by advancing knowledge, practice, policy, and systems change across sectors.



Values

- **Collaboration:** Build and sustain diverse and trusting partnerships that prioritize respect, mutual benefit, and meaningful engagement
- **Integrity:** Ensure that we are honest, accountable, and responsible with the power we have
- **Excellence:** Aim high, seek feedback, and continually improve
- **Innovation:** Create, test, refine, and promote new ideas and approaches at the leading edge
- **Inclusion:** Ensure work has a wide reach, is meaningful, accessible, and impactful
- **Interdependence:** Recognize that the fates of all beings are intertwined
- **Courage:** Challenge assumptions and worldviews, recognize systemic harms, and commit to making positive change, even when it's uncomfortable



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Programs

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) draws attention to why there are differences in health within and across communities. The program highlights policies and practices that can help everyone be as healthy as possible. CHR&R aims to grow a shared understanding of health, equity, and the power of communities to improve health for all. This work is rooted in our long-term vision where all people and places have what they need to thrive. The program offers tools and resources to translate and communicate complex data and evidence-informed strategies into accessible models, reports, and tools that help community leaders identify factors that influence health and equity. This includes the Annual Data Release, publication of a National Findings Report, the What Works for Health searchable database, Narratives for Health, the *In Solidarity* podcast, and a national webinar series. CHR&R is supported by funding from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Evaluation and Engaged Research

The Evaluation and Engaged Research team works alongside community, tribal, county, and state governmental agencies to develop, implement, and evaluate local and state programs in public health and human services. It also collaborates with national researchers, practitioners, faculty, and staff within the University of Wisconsin on community-engaged research projects. The team's evaluators advise on and implement a broad range of applied research methods, from qualitative and descriptive techniques to complex experimental and quasi-experimental trials. The team also engages in rigorous intervention research design and evaluation. Their portfolio of evaluation projects reflects the full range of systems and health factors that contribute to population health and well-being.



Wisconsin Department of Health Services Staffing Program

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute has long partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS). This includes collaborating to hire institute staff who are based at WI DHS in order to support a diverse portfolio of statewide public health efforts. The institute's investment in this staffing program has led to improvements and growth in this collaboration, which supports the service mission of the growing Academic Health Department partnership between WI DHS and the UW School of Medicine and Public Health. Through this program, the institute supports essential staffing for the following programs, units, and grants:

- Adolescent Health Grants (Personal Responsibility Education Program, Sexual Risk Avoidance Education)
- Behavioral Health Evaluation
- Core State Injury Prevention Program
- HIV Care Services Coordination
- Injury and Violence Prevention Program
- Maternal Mortality Review Program
- Maternal Health Innovation Program
- Public Health Surveillance Systems Unit
- Oral Health Program
- Overdose Data to Action in States

Public Health Workforce Development Pathways

The Public Health Workforce Development Pathways team advances the public health system workforce through partnerships, practices, policies, translational research, committed service, and training and technical assistance. In collaboration with partners, they build resources for the public health workforce at all levels – from trainees to leadership. The team aims to change workforce practices, focus priorities, and shift power to support shared action on the root causes of health and equity.

Strategic Action Areas 2025–2030



I. Population Health and Equity Research

We advance the field with a population health and equity research agenda that brings science, evidence, and conceptual frameworks into a new era by bringing community priorities to the forefront and by addressing the complexity of historical context, power dynamics, and identities in shaping health and equity.



II. Motivate Investors

We motivate a broad range of investors to advance the equitable stewardship of their resources by committing to challenging the status quo of grantmaking and investment while broadening our resource streams to accommodate the risks.



III. Partnerships for Action

We build, strengthen, and align our partnerships to advance strategies that shape new narratives and action, and increase collective accountability.



IV. Health and Racial Equity Narrative

We cultivate strong narratives and strategic communications to name what it takes to achieve health and racial equity.



V. Organizational Capacity Building

We commit to becoming a racially equitable and inclusive organization, joining and supporting other organizations on their journey.



The UW Population Health Institute's strategic action areas align with the six pillars that comprise the [UW School of Medicine and Public Health's strategic framework](#), positioning us to pursue our shared vision of healthy people and healthy communities.

- Promoting Health and Improving Health Outcomes | Aligns with all Strategic Action Areas
- Pursuing Excellence in Teaching and Learning | Aligns with Strategic Action Areas I, III, IV, and V
- Advancing Innovative, Impactful Research and Discovery | Aligns with Strategic Action Area I
- Embedding Social Impact and Belonging as a School Community | Aligns with Strategic Action Areas IV and V
- Creating the Future Together | Aligns with all Strategic Action Areas
- Committing to the Success and Well-being of Each Other | Aligns with Strategic Action Area V



Strategic Action Area I: Population Health and Equity Research

Supporting statewide efforts to expand access to care

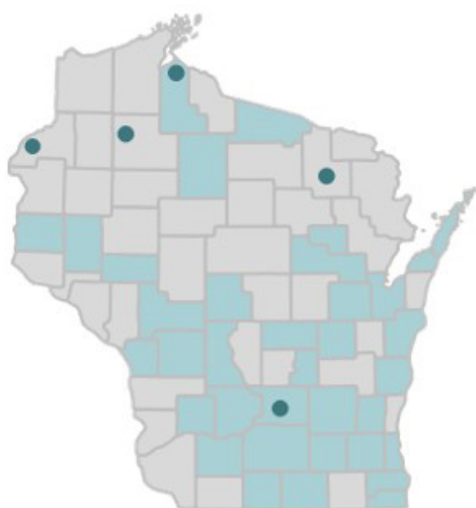
Since 2018, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's Evaluation and Engaged Research staff have partnered with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (WI DHS) Bureau of Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery to support evaluation and provide training and technical assistance (TTA) for the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant. SOR is funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT) and aims to help reduce unmet treatment needs and opioid-related overdose deaths. While the institute conducts evaluation activities across the spectrum of SOR funded activities in Wisconsin, the primary focus is on the treatment and recovery-related programs, providing TTA to ensure compliance with federal reporting standards.

SOR-4 was awarded to WI DHS and funded more than 40 agencies in its first year, including rural and urban counties, Tribal Nations, recovery community organizations, and healthcare organizations. SOR-4 funds treatment and recovery agencies to expand access to services for opioid and stimulant use disorder, increase trained staff and peer support capacity, expand availability of medications for opioid use disorder, and increase statewide awareness of opioid overdose and substance use. SAMHSA requires treatment and recovery grantees to collect client-level data under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA), and the institute supports data collection, management, analysis, and reporting to meet these requirements in Wisconsin.

Evaluation and Engaged Research staff members design and maintain a data collection system and provide extensive TTA, including an on-demand e-learning course, supporting materials, quarterly best practice sessions, tailored one-on-one support, and regular process review meetings to improve data accuracy. The e-learning course contains several lessons, including an overview; how to invite clients to participate; how to use the GPRA tools; and how to enter the information into the data collection system. Team members analyze data collected by the agencies and produce statewide reports one to two times per year, along with agency-level reports when sample sizes allow, to assess program performance and inform improvements. Halfway into the first year of starting SOR-4 funded services, clients showed improved employment, increased resources for basic needs, reduced substance use, and fewer adverse mental health symptoms like anxiety, depression and hallucinations ([view the report here](#)).

Every agency and individual working on the SOR grant contributes to the well-being of people and communities in our state. Working together to improve data collection, accuracy, and use helps show the value of this work.

Six months after beginning SOR-4 funded services, clients reported a 37 percent decrease in past 30-day use of stimulants and a 63 percent decrease in past 30-day use of opioids.



- Counties With At Least One SOR-4 Funded Agency
- Primary location for Native Nations



Strategic Action Area II: Motivate Investors

A seat at the table with philanthropy

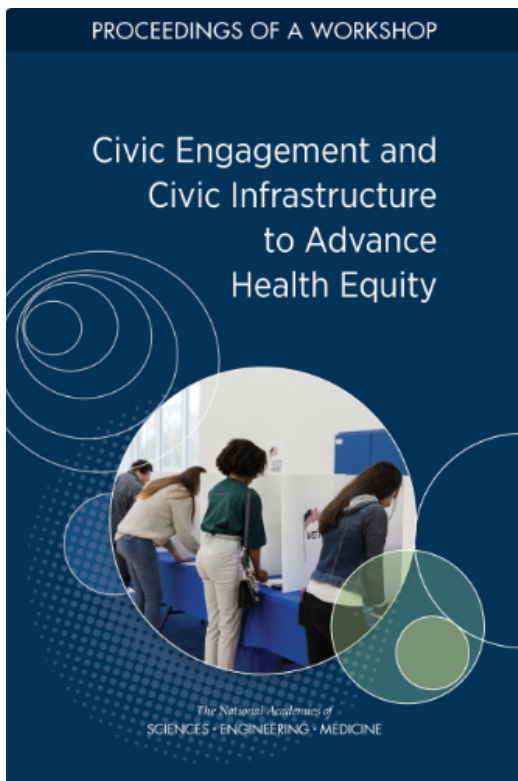
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) Roundtable on Population Health Improvement brings together people from multiple sectors and disciplines to broaden the national conversation about the factors that shape our health. Public health practitioners, researchers, people with first-hand experience of inequity, and community leaders come together for dialogue about models and frameworks, practices and tools, and strategies to accelerate collaborative action.

David Kindig, MD, PhD, emeritus professor of population health sciences at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, was founding co-chair of the Roundtable on Population Health Improvement. Sheri Johnson, PhD, director of the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, was appointed to serve on the roundtable in 2019, and completed her service in 2025.

The UW Population Health Institute's influence on the roundtable over the last 12 years is evident. Most recently, the roundtable's 2024-2026 strategic plan

elevated the structural determinants of health as a guiding framework, featuring key offerings from the institute, including theoretical and practice-based resources. Dr. Johnson served as chairperson for a [workshop on Civic Engagement and Civic Infrastructure to Advance Health Equity](#), which spurred several follow-up webinars connecting research, evidence, and action through partnerships. The event included a practical exercise, a "mini" democratic deliberation. Participants formed a hypothetical city council charged with allocating civic infrastructure funding.

Since its founding in 2013, the roundtable has hosted more than 40 workshops, each yielding one or more publications and associated activities. Sponsors include large health philanthropies and healthcare organizations, such as the Association of American Medical Colleges, Blue Shield of California Foundation, California Endowment, Kresge Foundation, Nemours, NYU School of Medicine Department of Population Health, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The Rippel Foundation, Thomas Jefferson University and Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center.



Dave Kindig



Sheri Johnson



Strategic Action Area III: Partnerships for Action

Building climate health infrastructure through the Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship

In 2025, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute deepened its commitment to fostering innovative partnerships that strengthen Wisconsin's public health infrastructure. One of the strongest examples of this work is the collaboration between Clean Wisconsin and the Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship program, which placed Fellow Kayla Rinderknecht with the organization for two years. The partnership illustrates how strategic relationships can advance emerging priorities – particularly the integration of climate and environmental health into local public health practice.

Rinderknecht joined the Fellowship from the University of Iowa where she obtained a Master of Public Health Policy degree. Although she had limited prior experience in environmental health, she quickly immersed herself in Clean Wisconsin's policy and research efforts. Her first year was dedicated to understanding the statewide landscape, including a comprehensive review of all Wisconsin Community Health Assessments. This work helped identify how rural and urban local health departments currently track environmental indicators and where gaps exist, laying the foundation for more coordinated climate health strategies.

As her expertise grew, so did her influence. Rinderknecht became an important connector between environmental organizations and local health departments, helping bridge sectors that often work in parallel but not in partnership. Her enthusiasm for climate health also extended to other fellows. Many were curious about climate and environmental determinants of health but were not positioned to work on those issues directly. Rinderknecht changed that dynamic, serving as a "climate health influencer" within the Fellowship. She organized collaborative learning opportunities and co-led a session with other fellows at the Healthy Climate Wisconsin conference in fall 2025, showcasing a growing network of early-career practitioners engaged in climate-informed public health.

The strength of these relationships became evident as Clean Wisconsin and the Milwaukee Health Department jointly secured funding to facilitate environmental health data chats and community conversations. This achievement underscores the importance of partnerships that work toward building trusting relationships, elevate priorities, and translate emerging public health needs into collaborative action.



Kayla Rinderknecht, Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellow



Kayla Rinderknecht, Brianna DeNamur, Yosef Meadows, and Katherine Kerwin at the WPHA Annual Conference



Strategic Action Area IV: Health and Racial Equity Narrative

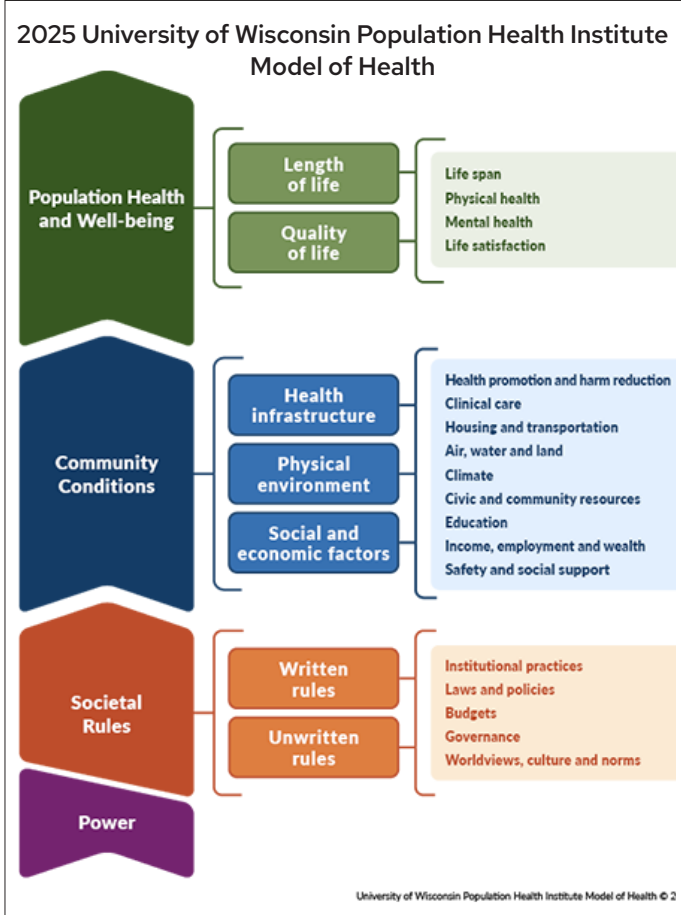
Harnessing narrative power using an audit process

Public health practitioners can reshape narratives about what drives population health outcomes by highlighting how systems, power, and institutional practices influence health. But many people working in public health have not received training in shifting narratives. Public health practitioners can hold and reinforce deep-seated worldviews that hinder population health and health equity progress, such as the idea that the responsibility for health outcomes lies solely with individuals, outweighing what society can do together to create conditions where everyone can thrive.

To ensure organizations use narrative frames that can spur equitable programs and policies, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute's Evaluation and Engaged Research Group and County Health Rankings & Roadmaps (CHR&R) team developed a process to evaluate organizational materials for the presence or absence of narratives. This narrative

integrity audit, inspired by the national organization Narrative Initiative, evaluated communications products such as blogs, webinar transcripts, and webpage content. After two successful pilots, staff presented an interactive workshop at the 2025 Annual Conference of the National Network of Public Health Institutes (NNPHI) in Minneapolis, Minnesota. More than 75 participants learned about narrative power and framing, then practiced identifying and editing narrative elements in communications materials. Presenters shared specific examples to deepen attendees' understanding of narrative strategy to promote population health and equity. One example was comparing two models of health. CHR&R's 2014 model increased understanding that a wide range of factors, not just health care, drive health outcomes. The updated 2025 model of health emphasizes how power and rules – together, the structural determinants of health – shape conditions that drive health.

The workshop was part of a broader effort by Narratives for Health – an initiative co-led by CHR&R and Health in Partnership – to build narrative infrastructure and capacity in rural and urban places across the country. The audit provides concrete ways for public health organizations to break down complex topics like health equity and communicate them clearly and in ways that align organizational values and actions.



Abra Vigna, Kim Gilhuly and Ericka Burroughs-Girardi at the NNPHI conference.



Strategic Action Area V: Organizational Capacity Building

Building capacity to advance health equity

The University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute is committed to building our capacity to advance health equity through a range of investments and actions.

Health Equity Communities of Practice

The UW Population Health Institute supports staff-led Health Equity Communities of Practice (CoP). Approximately 40 percent of institute staff have voluntarily participated in this eight-month small group experience. Evaluation results show that the investment is valued. Three years of data (2023-2025) found that 98 percent of respondents agreed that CoPs provided supportive opportunities to build a sense of community and authentic belonging, and 100 percent of respondents agreed that CoPs provided a supportive environment to reflect on assumptions about equity.

Recognizing that everyone's experience matters, staff-led spaces leverage diverse interests and knowledge to foster leadership across our teams. Facilitation and reflection skills are developed and honed with peers and can be applied in external partnership.

"The conversations we have during CoP sessions continually shape my thinking about equity and justice issues throughout my work. And I use the learnings and facilitation practices to build strong, collaborative relationships with community partners that we work with." –CoP participant

Annual Workation Day: History, community and beauty in Milwaukee

On "Workation" Day in September 2025, 32 institute staff members visited America's Black Holocaust Museum in Milwaukee for a guided tour. Our griot (oral historian) was a University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee student who led staff through the museum, sharing personal reflections to complement the highly regarded historical analyses developed by museum curators. Later, we spent the afternoon building community at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center in Bayside.

Knowing history is essential. Past and current policy and practice shape opportunities for health. Therefore, the institute disseminates health equity resources and tools that integrate historical context. We help deepen public health practitioners and researchers' capacity to understand "why things are the way they are," so that solutions can emerge that address harms and strengthen conditions for everyone to thrive.

Annual all-staff virtual learning

Each year, at least one all-staff meeting hosts an external subject matter expert on a topic relevant to health equity practice. In December 2025, Dr. Kelly Wright, assistant professor of language sciences in the College of Letters and Science, joined us to discuss the current restrictions on using specific words in public health research and practice. Dr. Wright's presentation covered topics like censorship and circumlocution and staff reflected on her thesis that: "There is no such thing as a right way to use language."



Staff participating in Workation Day 2025 at the Schlitz Audubon Nature Center and America's Black Holocaust Museum



SMPH Spotlight Pillar: Pursuing Excellence in Teaching & Learning

Preparing the next generation of evaluation professionals

Every spring semester, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute staff from the Engaged Research and Evaluation Group teach **Planning and Management to Promote Health** as part of the Master of Public Health (MPH) curriculum at the School of Medicine and Public Health.

This survey course introduces MPH students to the theory, concepts, and methods of program planning and evaluation in the context of health care and community health organizations. With a focus on culturally matched programs and evaluations, students are challenged to think critically about what counts as evidence, who decides, and how to partner with community organizations to gather new data to inform the development and evaluation of efforts to promote health.

The course is designed to hone the skills needed to foster and deepen relationships based on trust, while supporting students in the real-life skills of conducting rapid data reviews, mapping the system influencing a health issue, developing a theory of change, and submitting a proposal for grant funding to address the issue. Students even get experience reviewing and critiquing each other's grants, as the semester wraps up with a mock study session wherein the class debates whose proposal should receive funding.

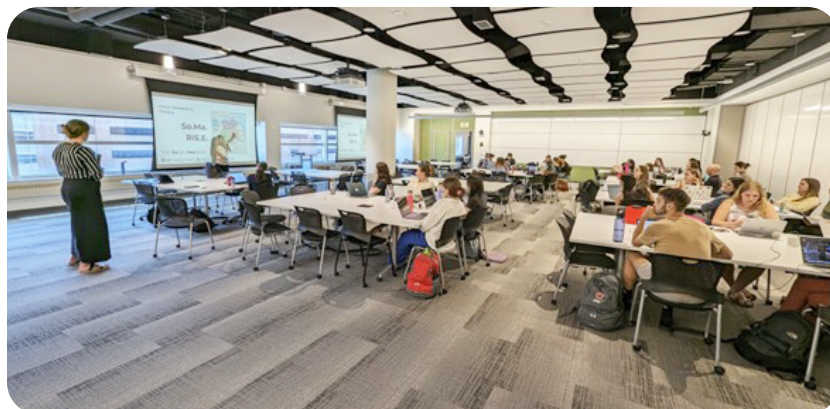
In spring 2025, the Planning and Management to Promote Health course was co-taught by Sara Lindberg, PhD, director of the Evaluation and Engaged Research Group and assistant professor in the Department of Population Health Sciences, and Abra Vigna, PhD, action researcher and evaluator with the Evaluation and Engaged Research Group.



Abra Vigna



Sara Lindberg



The Planning and Management to Promote Health course

Appendices



Appendix A

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Publications, Presentations and Events | 23



The UW Population Health Institute





Appendix A: Who We Are

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

Marjory Givens, Program Senior Advisor
 Bethany Rogerson, Program Co-Director
 Michael Stevenson, Program Co-Director
 Sheri Johnson, Principal Investigator
 Angela Acker, Narrative Infrastructure Team Leader
 Francis Amedoadzi, Project Assistant
 Jed Amurao, Narrative Infrastructure Specialist
 Travis Austin, Project Assistant
 Tricia Ballweg, Administrative Program Manager
 Kate Barnes, Data Analyst
 Elizabeth Blomberg, Research & Analytics Scientist
 Molly Burdine, Data Analyst
 Ericka Burroughs-Girardi, Research Program Coordinator
 Ben Case, Evidence Analyst
 Kiersten Frobom, Senior Evidence Analyst
 Lindsay Garber, Strategic Dissemination Team Leader
 Keith Gennuso, Population Health Research Team Leader
 Gillian Giglierano, Evidence & Policy Analysis Team Leader
 Kim Gilhuly, Translational Research Advisor
 Lael Grigg, Senior Evidence Analyst
 Jonathan Heller, Senior Health Equity Fellow
 Bomi Kim Hirsch, Research & Evidence Scientist
 Jessica Hoffelder, Spatial Data Analyst
 James Lloyd, Program Technology Coordinator
 Plumer Lovelace III, Operations Team Leader
 Ganhua Lu, Data Scientist
 Heriberto Martir Vargas, Project Assistant
 Christine Muganda, Data & Analytics Team Leader
 Molly Neumeyer, User Experience Architect
 Suryadewi Nugraheni, Research & Analytics Scientist
 Hannah Olson-Williams, Research & Analytics Scientist
 Naiya Patel, Evidence Analyst
 Jennifer Robinson, Web Developer
 Jessica Rubenstein, Senior Evidence Analyst
 Erin Schulten, Program Manager
 Beth Silver, Communications, Outreach & Engagement Team Leader
 Jessica Solcz, Senior Evidence Analyst
 Everett Trechter, Analytics Strategist
 Cathy Vos, Administrative Specialist
 Colleen Wick, Communications Specialist
 Soraya Willems-Neal, Outreach & Facilitation Specialist

Evaluation and Engaged Research

Sara Lindberg, Program Director
 Simone Alhagri, Evaluation Researcher
 Rachel Amos, Evaluation Researcher

Liz Feder, Evaluation Scientist
 Janae Goodrich, Evaluation Researcher
 Caleb Hogeterp, Graduate Project Assistant
 Hilary Joyner, Evaluation Researcher
 Kylie Lafayette, Evaluation Research Specialist
 Sarah Linnan, Evaluation Researcher
 Olivia Little, Evaluation Scientist
 Jennifer Núñez, Evaluation Scientist
 Manjari Ojha, Public Health Outreach Specialist
 Mary Kate O'Leary, Evaluation Researcher
 Alisa Pykett, Evaluation Scientist
 Andrea Raygor, Evaluation Researcher
 James Sauer, Training and Subject Matter Expert
 Erin Skalitzy, Evaluation Researcher
 Miranda Smith, Evaluation Researcher
 Erin Taber Shelton, Evaluation Researcher
 Abra Vigna, Evaluation Scientist
 Aria Walsh-Felz, Evaluation Researcher
 Laetitia Zeba, Evaluation Research Specialist

Public Health Workforce Development Pathways

Wajiha Akhtar, Program Director
 Salma Abadin, Action Researcher and Evaluator
 Yasamin Aftahi, Envision Outreach Coordinator
 Monique Allen, Envision CHW Community of Practice Lead
 Sara Elise Bristol, Envision CHW Sustainability Lead
 Ellen Dingwall, Fellowship Student Assistant
 Emily Hyde, Program Manager
 Hmongshee Khang, Envision CHW Training Coordinator
 Caitlyn Klostermann, Envision Operations Coordinator
 Nancy Michaud, Youth Access Program Coordinator
 Sherri Ohly, Envision Co-Director
 Annie Rosemurgy, Narrative Coordinator
 Cassie Sesto, Population Health Learning and Evaluation Strategist
 Alan Talaga, Policy Systems and Environmental Change Training Lead
 Ashley Voss, Web Design and Resource Coordinator
 Lesley Wolf, Envision Co-Director

Operations

Ann McCall, WI DHS Staffing Director; Fiscal and Contract Lead
 Shane Duggan, Operations Fiscal Assistant
 Scott Gordon, Financial Specialist
 Emma King, Associate Financial Specialist, Finance Job Rotation Program
 Kara Pagano, Administrative Specialist
 Kayla Tollefson, Accountant



Staff Based at the Wisconsin Department of Health Services

The Population Health Institute has a long history of collaborating with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services to hire and support staff for public health efforts.

Rachel Coles, HIV Care Services Coordinator
 Tessa Donaldson, Adolescent Health Coordinator
 Felicia Fairfield, Maternal Health Impact Coordinator
 Kimberly Haeuser, Overdose Death Record Abstractor – Team Lead
 Erika Hagen, Adolescent Health Coordinator
 Lacey Hellenbrand, Oral Health Educator
 Pamela Imm, Injury and Violence Prevention Epidemiologist
 Lataysha James, Community Outreach Consultant
 Ruth Koepke, Syndromic Surveillance Data Analyst
 Thomas Leffler, Behavior Health Evaluator
 Karen Morris, Maternal Mortality Review Record Abstractor
 Jess Morrow, Harm Reduction Outreach Coordinator
 Ronald Prince, Overdose Data to Action Epidemiologist
 Noelia Sayavedra, Opioid Harm Prevention Evaluation Consultant
 Deirdre Sperry, Core State Injury Prevention Program Epidemiologist
 Christopher Steward, WEDSS Program Manager
 Jennifer Tranmer, Overdose Data to Action Communications Specialist
 Mary Wienkers, Maternal Mortality Review Program Coordinator
 Jennifer Young, Overdose Death Record Abstractor
 Austin Zempel, Harm Reduction Response Team Disease Care and Treatment Coordinator

Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellows and Placement Sites

2024–2026

Brianna DeNamur, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Chronic Disease Prevention Program
 Berit Goodman, Milwaukee Health Department; Milwaukee Health Care Partnership
 Joanna Hagan, Public Health Madison & County
 Katherine Kerwin, Eau Claire City-County Health Department
 Yosef Meadows, Milwaukee Health Department
 Kayla Rinderknecht, Clean Wisconsin

2025–2027

Huda Ahmed, Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
 Claire Bess, Rock County Public Health Department; Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Tobacco Prevention and Treatment Program
 Lori Gerstenfeld, City of Milwaukee Health Department
 Kelly Gill, Wisconsin Department of Children and Families; Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs
 Emily Oetzman, Wood County Health Department
 Brooke Ramusack, Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Immunizations and HIV Care Services programs



The Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellows



Advisory Board

The UW Population Health Institute Advisory Board comprises individuals from health care, public health, state government, business, environmental advocacy, community-based organizations, education, and other sectors. Meeting three times per year, the board guides the work of the institute and provides feedback on its programs and publications.

Laila Azam

Board of Directors
Striving to Improve Health for All (SIHA)

Tim Bartholow

Chief Medical Officer
MercyCare Health Plans

Rachael Cabral-Guevara

Senator
Wisconsin State Senate

Danielle Cook

Education Director-Health Sciences
Wisconsin Technical College System

Michael DeGere

Chief Medical Officer
Froedtert Community Hospital Division

Gabe Doyle

Chief Health Initiatives Officer
Foundation for Black Women's Wellness

Nate Gilliam

Director of Organizing and Policy Analysis
Milwaukee Freedom Fund

Rebecca Greisen

Health Educator/Public Health Specialist
Clark County Health Department

Kirsten Johnson

Secretary
Wisconsin Department of Health Services

LaTonya Johnson

Senator
Wisconsin State Senate

Gregory Nycz

Chief Executive Officer
Family Health Center of Marshfield

Mark Redsten

President and CEO
Clean Wisconsin

Justin Rivas

Community Health Initiatives Director
Milwaukee Health Care Partnership

Gabrielle Rude

President and CEO
Wisconsin Collaborative for Healthcare Quality

Megan Ryan

President and Dental Director
Family Health Center of Marshfield

Tim Size

Executive Director
Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative

Michael Totoraitis

Commissioner of Health
City of Milwaukee

Jesi Wang

Chief Executive Officer
MetaStar, Inc.

Brett White

Executive Director
Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program

Executive Committee

The UW Population Health Institute Executive Committee meets annually to provide guidance and approve the annual report.

Maureen Durkin, PhD, DrPH

Chair, Department of Population Health Sciences;
Professor of Population Health Sciences and
Pediatrics
UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Robin Lankton, MPH, CHES

President and CEO, UW Health ACO, Inc.
UW Health

Tom Oliver, PhD, MHA

Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences
UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Jonathan Temte, MD, PhD, Chair

Professor, Department of Family Medicine and
Community Health
Associate Dean for Public Health and Community
Engagement
UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Barbara (Bobbi) Wolfe, PhD

Professor Emerita, Departments of Economics,
Public Affairs, and Population Health Sciences
UW-Madison La Follette School of Public Affairs



Affiliated Faculty

Faculty who are designated as "affiliated" collaborate on funded projects or collaborate to extend the teaching, research, or service mission of the UW Population Health Institute.

Jill Denson, PhD, MSW, APSW

Research Assistant Professor
UW Prevention Research Center
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Affiliation: Prevention Research Center Evaluation

Connie Flanagan, PhD

Professor Emerita, Civil Society and Community Studies, UW-Madison School of Human Ecology
Affiliation: Youth Civic Development in the Environmental Commons

Ron Gangnon, PhD

Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Affiliation: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

KJ Hansmann, MD, PhD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Affiliation: Co-author

David Kindig, MD, PhD

Emeritus Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences
UW School of Medicine and Public Health

Tom Oliver, PhD, MHA

Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Affiliation: Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship (Principal Investigator)

Jonathan Patz, MD, MPH

Professor, Environmental Studies and Medicine and Public Health
Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies
Affiliation: Health-First Climate Action (Principal Investigator)

Parvathy Pillai, MD, MPH

Assistant Professor, Department of Population Health Sciences
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Affiliation: Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship; Public Health Leadership in Teaching and Engagement (PHLITE)

Elizabeth Salisbury Afshar, MD, MPH

Associate Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
UW School of Medicine and Public Health
Affiliation: Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship

Geoffrey R. Swain, MD, MPH

Emeritus Professor, Department of Family Medicine and Community Health
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Affiliation: Co-author



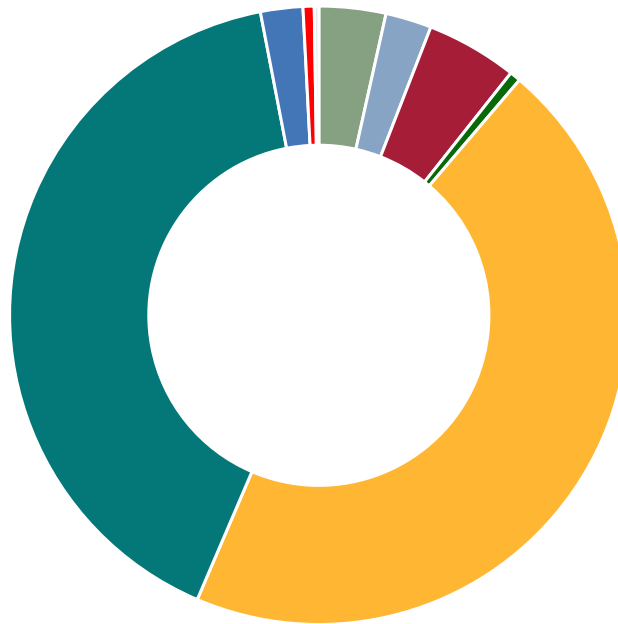
Jonathan Heller (top) and Marjory Givens (bottom) presenting at the Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Sciences (IAPHs) conference



Appendix B: 2025 Annual Budget

In 2025, the UW Population Health institute's operating budget was \$16.2 million*. The institute's budget has more than doubled in the past decade, as the funding portfolio has expanded. In 2025 alone, the institute was awarded over 40 new or renewed contracts or grants, more than half of which were awarded by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The institute's two largest funders remained the same in 2025:

- The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation continues to support the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps program.
- Wisconsin state agencies make up the second largest funding source for the institute. Among these agencies, the Wisconsin Department of Health Services continues to be the institute's lead funder.



State Agencies
\$7,337,443 (45.2%)

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation
\$6,579,484 (40.53%)

UW Affiliated
\$774,039 (4.77%)

Nonprofit
\$566,572 (3.49%)

UW School of Medicine and Public Health
\$391,216 (2.41%)

Local Agencies
\$359,173 (2.21%)

Higher Education – Other
\$94,817 (.58%)

Fee for Service
\$92,343 (.57%)

Federal Agencies
\$38,609 (.24%)

**2025 reported revenue does not include retroactive corrections to cash draw journal entries. This has changed from prior years due to the implementation of Workday.*



Appendix B: Select Grants and Contracts

The UW Population Health Institute's funding partners are integral to ensuring the health and well-being of all by advancing evidence-informed research for both policy and practice. Below are representative projects in 2025.

National, State, Tribal, and Community Organizations

Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.

- Family Foundations Home Visiting Program
- Tribal Personal Responsibility Education Program

Lac du Flambeau Nation

- Strategic Prevention Framework

Wisconsin Department of Justice

- Statewide Crisis Intervention Program

Wisconsin Department of Health Services

- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline
- Behavioral Health Evaluation
- CDC Comprehensive Suicide Prevention
- Commercial Tobacco Prevention and Treatment Program
- Core State Injury Prevention Program
- Envision Community Health Worker Training Center
- Harm Reduction Response Program
- Independent Living Support Pilot
- Injury and Violence Prevention Program
- Maternal Health Innovation
- Maternal Mortality Review
- Oral Health Program
- Overdose Data to Action in States
- Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose Project
- Public Health Infrastructure Grant
- Rape Prevention & Education Program
- Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program
- State Opioid Response
- Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success Program
- Teen Pregnancy Prevention program
- Tribal Overdose Prevention Evaluation
- Wisconsin Personal Responsibility Education Program

Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction

- Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education)

Local Agencies

City of Madison

- Census to Census
- Community-Based Crime Reduction Program

Dane County

- Treatment Alternatives and Diversion Pretrial Opiate Diversion

Foundations

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

- County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

W.K. Kellogg Foundation

- Health and Power Organizing Project

UW Affiliated – Foundations and Programs

Wisconsin Partnership Program

- Wisconsin Population Health Service Fellowship Program
- Well Black Woman Institute – Foundation for Black Women's Wellness

Higher Education – Other

Marshfield Clinic

- Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success Communities

Medical College of Wisconsin

- Alcohol Policy Momentum Grant

University of Michigan

- Region V Public Health Training Center



Soraya Willems-Neal and Angela Acker presented at the Race Forward convening



Appendix C: Partners

Institute staff members regularly engage with colleagues and partners in programs, applied research, program evaluation, committees, consulting, proposal development, and other activities. These partnerships include entities in the public and private sectors, as well as in other departments and centers throughout the university.

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps

America's Health Rankings
Berkeley Media Studies Group
Burness
City Health Dashboard / Congressional District Health Dashboard
CommonHealth ACTION
Forum One
FrameWorks Institute
Health in Partnership
Healthy Democracy Healthy People
Healthy Places by Design
Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lab on Regional Innovation and Spatial Analysis
Narrative Initiative
National Association of County and City Health Officials
National Network of Public Health Institutes
National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health
PLACES
Population Health Improvement Partners
Praxis Project
Voices for Healthy Kids
Vot-ER

Evaluation and Engaged Research

Alaafia Women Corporation
Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
Bayfield County Health Department
Boys and Girls Club of Lac Courte Oreilles
Capitol Neighborhoods, Inc.
Centro Hispano
CESA 1
Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
Children's Wisconsin
City of Madison Economic Development Division
City of Madison Planning Division
City of Madison Police Department
Clark County Health Department
Community Action, Inc.
Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
Dane County Department of Human Services
Dane County District Attorney's Office
Downtown Madison, Inc.

Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin
Foundation for Black Women's Wellness
Frazier Support Services
Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.
GSAFE
Healthfirst Network
Ho-Chunk Nation
Iron County Health Department
Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians
Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Ojibwe
Lad Lake
Marshfield Clinic Center for Community Health Advancement
Medical College of Wisconsin
Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin
Milwaukee Center for Children and Youth
Milwaukee County
National Network of Public Health Institutes
Neu-Life Community Development
Newcap, Inc.
Oneida County Public Health Department
Oneida Nation
Peer Specialists Limited
People First Wisconsin
Project WisHope
Providers and Teens Communicating for Health
Public Allies
Public Health Madison & Dane County
Rebalance-Life Wellness Association
Rogers Behavioral Health
Safe Communities Madison-Dane County
Sauk Prairie School District
School District of Crandon
School District of Wabeno Area
Southeast Michigan Stewardship Coalition
Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program
St. Croix Chippewa Indians of Wisconsin
Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohican Indians
State of Wisconsin Women, Infants, and Children
Supporting Families Together Association
Tellurian Treatment Readiness Center
United Community Center
Verona Area School District
Waking Women Healing Institute
We All Rise: African American Resource Center
Wisconsin Association of Sober Housing
Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wisconsin Department of Justice
Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction
Wisconsin Safe and Healthy Schools Center
Wisconsin Voices for Recovery
Wyman



Public Health Workforce Development Pathways

Arizona Community Health Worker Association
 Arizona State University
 Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
 Bellin Health Foundation
 Brown County
 Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
 Clean Wisconsin
 Cia Siab, Inc.
 City of Milwaukee Health Department
 City on a Hill
 Clean Wisconsin
 Community Health Worker Common Indicators Project
 Community Health Worker Core Consensus Project
 Crawford County Public Health Department
 Eau Claire City-County Health Department
 ESTHER
 Forest County Potawatomi
 FORGE
 Foundation for Black Women's Wellness
 Frazier Family Support Services
 Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council, Inc.
 Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Epidemiology Center
 Great Rivers United Way
 Green Lake County Department of Health & Human Services
 Hmong American Center
 Ho-Chunk Nation Department of Health
 Indianhead Community Action Agency
 Kenosha Area Family & Aging Services, Inc.
 Kenosha County Public Health Department
 Louisiana Community Health Outreach Network
 Marathon County Health Department
 Meadowood Health Partnership
 Milwaukee Center for Independence
 Milwaukee Health Care Partnership
 Mosaicos Cultural Enrichment Corporation
 Multicultural Coalition, Inc.
 National Association of Community Health Workers
 National Academy for State Health Policy
 National Network of Public Health Institutes
 Newcap, Inc.
 North Shore Health Department
 Partners In Health
 Personal Development Center
 Public Health Madison & Dane County
 Region V Public Health Training Center
 Riverworks Development Corporation
 Rock County Public Health Department
 Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative
 Sauk County Health Department
 Sawyer County Health Department

Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Department
 Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers
 Southwest Suburban Health Department
 Today Not Tomorrow Family Resource Center
 University of South Carolina Center for Community Health Alignment
 Walworth County Health and Human Services Department
 Washington State Department of Health – Washington State Evaluation Project
 Wisconsin Alliance for Women's Health
 Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards
 Wisconsin Department of Health Services
 Wisconsin Public Health Association
 Wood County Health Department

UW Collaborating Entities

Carbone Cancer Center
 Center for Health Enhancement Systems Studies
 Community-Academic Aging Research Network
 Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, Office of Community Health
 Department of Soil and Environmental Sciences
 Native American Center for Health Professions
 Prevention Research Center
 School of Human Ecology
 Survey Center
 UniverCity Alliance
 Wisconsin Center for Education Research
 Wisconsin Evaluation Collaborative





Appendix D: Publications, Presentations and Events

Peer Reviewed Publications

Charron, L.M., Joyner, H.R., LaGro, J.A., Lehr, N., Villegas, D.E., Jeppson, T., Gomez Parra, S., Gangnon, R., Lindberg, S.M. (2025). Comprehensive planning for healthy eating and active living: A systematic assessment from Wisconsin. *Journal of Planning Education and Research*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/0739456X251356247>

Flanagan, C.A., Diemer, M.A., Bardelli, E., Gallay, E., Pykett, A., Eccles, J.S., Wang, Y., Ebright, B., Pinetta, B.J. (2025). Leveraging environmental civic science and the communal attainment value of STEM to foster science motivation among minoritized youth. *Contemporary Educational Psychology*, 83. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cedpsych.2025.102418>

Gallay, E., Shantz, E., Flanagan, C., Pykett, A., Voelker, L. (2025). Environmental civic science: Civic and scientific literacy on socio-environmental issues for the common good. *Theory Into Practice*, 64(2): 154-167. <https://doi.org/10.1080/00405841.2025.2453365>

Hirsch, B.K., Frobom, K., Giglierano, G., Stevenson, M.C., Givens, M.L. (2025). Centering equity in evidence-informed decision making: Theoretical and practical considerations. *Milbank Quarterly*, 103(1), 11-31. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1468-0009.70002>

McMurtry, C.L., Givens, M.L., Bailey, Z.D., Graetz, N., Fleming, P.J., Petteway, R.J., Pacheco, J., Gollust, S.E., Heller, J.C., Lee, H.E., Pollack Porter, K.M., Johnson, S., Michener, J.D., LeBrón, A.M., Bailey, A.K., Bloyd, J., Creary, M., Ornelas, I.J. Why building power is key to protecting academic public health and advancing health equity. *American Journal of Public Health*, 115(11), 1783-1788. <https://doi.org/10.2105/ajph.2025.308210>

Nugraheni, S.E., Hastings, J.F. (2025). Tobacco disparities among California racial and ethnic minority populations: Factors related to electronic smoking devices and cigarette use. *Journal of Social Work Education*, <https://doi.org/10.1080/10437797.2024.2415345>

Practice-oriented Reports

Amos, R., Núñez, J. Project AWARE: Wabeno Area School District Year 2 (2024-2025) Evaluation Report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Goodrich, J., Amos, R. Isthmus Safety Initiative: Interim evaluation report for 2023 and 2024. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Goodrich, J., Amos, R. Isthmus Safety Initiative : Final evaluation report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Goodrich, J., Linnan, S., Lafayette, K., Little, O. Tribal overdose prevention: Year 2 evaluation report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Goodrich, J., Sauer, J. Dane County District Attorney's Office Deferred Prosecution Opioid Diversion Program: Participant recidivism analysis. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Goodrich, J., Skaltzky, E., O'Leary, M.K., Zeba, L., Pykett, A. [988 Wisconsin Lifeline: Investigating the relationship with potential firearm violence & preparedness](#). University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Lindberg, S.M., Zeba, L. [A systems evaluation of Connect Rx Wisconsin](#). University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Linnan, S. Community Advocates Public Policy Institute's mental health awareness training year four evaluation report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Linnan, S., Joyner, H., Taber, E. Wisconsin Fit Families federal fiscal year 2024 site-specific report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025. Created for each of the 38 Fit Families partner agencies.

Linnan, S., Joyner, H., Taber, E. Wisconsin Fit Families federal fiscal year 2025 statewide report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Linnan, S., Lafayette, K. Marshfield Clinic Health System's Strategic Prevention Framework Partnerships for Success year one summary evaluation report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Linnan, S., O'Leary, M.K. Great Lakes Region Addiction Technology Transfer Center federal fiscal year 2025 evaluation report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.



Linnan, S., Walsh-Felz, A., Skaltitzky, E., Amos, R., Lafayette, K., Joyner, H., O'Leary, M.K. State Opioid Response 3 year three: Site-level report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025. Created for each SOR-funded agency.

Linnan, S., Walsh-Felz, A., Skaltitzky, E., Amos, R., Lafayette, K., Joyner, H., O'Leary, M.K. [State Opioid Response 3 year three: Statewide report](#). University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Linnan, S., Walsh-Felz, A., Skaltitzky, E., Amos, R., Lafayette, K., Joyner, H., O'Leary, M.K. [State Opioid Response 4 year one: Statewide annual report](#). University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Núñez, J. Project AWARE Tier 1 Training Findings. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Núñez, J., Amos, R., Taber, E. Project AWARE Context Map. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Núñez, J., Bowser, J. Project AWARE Tier 2: 2025 Interview Findings. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Raygor, A. Family Foundations Home Visiting Program cultural characteristics reports. Prepared by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on behalf of the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council Family Foundations Home Visiting Program.

Raygor, A., Smith, M. Project WISE program summary 2024-2025. Prepared by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on behalf of the Wisconsin Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program (SRAE) for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2025.

Raygor, A., Smith, M. Project WISE site-specific program summaries 2024-2025. Prepared by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on behalf of the Wisconsin Sexual Risk Avoidance Education Program (SRAE) for the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, 2025.

Skaltitzky, E. Outpatient antibiotic use dashboard: Wave 1 and wave 2 user feedback results. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Skaltitzky, E., Goodrich, J., Hogeterp, C., Smith, M. [Year 3 of 988 in Wisconsin](#). University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Skaltitzky, E., Hogeterp, C., Goodrich, J. Monthly 988 partner data report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

Smith, M. Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program site-level data dashboards. Prepared by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute on behalf of

the Wisconsin Department of Health Services Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program, 2025.

Taber, E., Amos, R., Núñez, J. Project AWARE: School District of Crandon Year 2 (2024-2025) evaluation report. University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, 2025.

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. [Model of health](#).

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. [Crisis services strategy library for preventing suicides and homicides by firearm](#).

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute. [Training and Learning on the Foundational Capabilities: Year 2 in review](#).

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. [2025 report: Building power for health and equity](#).

University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps. [Communities already burdened by economic hardship face compounding disasters](#).

Vigna, A., Pykett, A. Little, O., Lindberg, S.M., Zeba, L. The 2025 Wisconsin behavioral health HAPs analysis. Prepared by the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute for the Division of Clinical and Treatment Services of the Wisconsin Department of Human Services.

Wolf, L., Bristol, S. E., Rush, C., Ohly, S. [Community health worker financial sustainability toolkit](#).

Conferences and Presentations

Association of American Cancer Institutes' Catchment Area Data Excellence Conference (January 29-31, 2025)

Lawler, T., Trentham-Dietz, A., Gangnon, R., Anderson, S., Dahlke, A., LoConte, N., Ward, E., Givens, M.L. Applying the County Health Rankings model to identify priorities for cancer prevention and control interventions.

Duke/National University of Singapore Academic Medicine Advisory Committee Annual Meeting (April 14-18, 2025)

Johnson, S. Evidence for action to improve population health.

New Mexico Public Health Association Conference (May 1-2, 2025)

Acker, A., Corcoran, J. Building narrative power for health.



Prevent Suicide Wisconsin Conference (May 14-16, 2025)

Goodrich, J., Pykett, A. Firearms and crisis lines: Data trends, intervention strategies, and resource integration.

Wisconsin Public Health Association Conference (May 20-22, 2025)

Khang, H., Kimber, J., Wallace, S. Wisconsin community health worker leadership: Strengthening the CHW voice in Wisconsin.

Kohn, A., Meadows, Y. Working towards the City of Milwaukee Health Department's goal of equity: People with lived experience compensation policy creation.

Pykett, A., Goodrich, J. Crisis lines and firearm violence prevention (poster presentation).

Quainoo, M., Walters, I. Improving program accessibility when resources are limited: The story of the newborn hearing screening program in Wisconsin.

Resler, S. An investigation of increasing neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) transfers at Aspirus Riverview Hospital in Wood County through healthcare and public health partnerships.

Seidl, M., Anderson, K., Martinez, R. Revitalizing Milwaukee's FIMR: Lessons learned in updating the fetal & infant mortality review (poster presentation).

Sesto, C., Alberth, J., Busalacchi, M. WPHA 101.

Sever, M., Reese, C., Sesto, C., Abadin, S. PHIG workforce session: Foundational capabilities.

Walters, I., Seeliger, E., Olson, M., Ricci, L. Assessing Wisconsin's capacity for expanding hearing screening for children (poster presentation).

Medical College of Wisconsin Department of Family & Community Medicine Research Forum (June 2, 2025)

Feder E., Hooyer, K. Building community recovery capital: A recovery ecosystem approach to supporting people living with substance use disorder.

National Network of Public Health Institutes Annual Conference (June 10-12, 2025)

Gilhuly, K., Vigna, A. Harnessing narrative power to seed new futures (workshop).

Stevenson, M., Burroughs-Girardi, E. Putting data and evidence tools to work: What will it take for people and places to thrive?

Police Assisted Addiction & Recovery Initiative Wisconsin Convening (June 12, 2025)

Goodrich, J. Wisconsin deflection performance measures and the Madison Area Recovery Initiative.

National Academy of Medicine State Health Policy Program (June 25, 2025)

Johnson, S.L. Using data and evidence for action: County Health Rankings & Roadmaps' bold new model of health.

Esri User Conference (July 14-18, 2025)

Hoffelder, J. Equity and social justice special interest group meeting, panel discussion and GIS tools demonstration.

National Association of County and City Health Officials' NACCHO360 Conference (July 14-18, 2025)

Heller, J., Gilhuly, K., Muganda, C., Burdine, M. Analyzing and intervening to change the structural determinants of health and advance health equity.

National Association of Community Health Workers Unity Conference (July 30-August 1, 2025)

Aftahi, Y., Burton, J., Caple, E., Ohly, S., Redondo-Martinez, F., St. John, J., Wolf, L. The power of partnership: Co-creating a virtual learning series for sustainable CHW programs.

Aftahi, Y., Khang, H., Kimber, J., Ohly, S. CHWs and allies leading the way: Demystifying Medicare's CHI and PIN reimbursement codes.

Aftahi, Y., Kimber, J. Community health workers (CHWs) as public health leaders: Adapting a national framework for CHW integration in Wisconsin.

Allen, M., Caple, E., Ohly, S., Wolf, L. Sustainability is power: Organizing strategies rooted in CHW wisdom.

Great Lakes Motivational Interviewing Conference (August 7-8, 2025)

Goodrich, J., Caldwell, S. MI fidelity and client experience: An effectiveness study in Wisconsin community forensics.

National Overdose Response Strategy Training Series (August 11 & 18, 2025)

Goodrich, J. Madison Area Recovery Initiative.

National Conference on Tobacco or Health (August 26 & 28, 2025)

Voss, A., Rosemurgy, A. The power of narrative: An innovative, integrated approach to commercial tobacco communications.

Interdisciplinary Association of Population Health Sciences Conference (September 8-11, 2025)

Heller, J., Pollack Porter, K. Community organizing to build power to advance health equity: Building your organizing skills.



Wisconsin Substance Use Prevention Conference (September 10-11, 2025)

Rosemurgy, A., Talaga, A. Transformative narrative: Commercial tobacco.

Wisconsin Crisis Intervention Conference (September 18-19, 2025)

Goodrich, J., O'Leary, M.K. Crisis intervention and firearm violence prevention: Leveraging crisis lines and strategies for effective intervention.

Wisconsin Public Health Association Public Health in Practice Conference (September 29-30, 2025)

Akhtar, W., Hyde, E., Sesto, C. Shaping public health leadership: A collaborative review of career development resources for the Population Health Service Fellowship.

DeNamur, B. Bridging public health and the charitable food system: Building partnerships to enhance access to nutritious, culturally relevant foods (poster presentation).

Goodman, B., Xiong, K. Breaking silos: Assessing health department program data to promote collaboration, efficiency, and impact.

Huset, H., Jones, J., Hagan, J. Powerful voices for change: How strategic storytelling can transform local maternal and child health.

Kerwin, K. Connecting the dots: Using network analysis to identify community partners.

Meadows, Y. Build to last: Crafting a culture of quality.

Rinderknecht, K. From data to action: Community voices on environmental health in Milwaukee (poster presentation).

Rosemurgy, A. Smoke and mirrors: Using transformative narrative to reframe punitive approaches to e-cigarettes in Wisconsin schools.

Talaga, A. Storytelling to rebuild trust in public health.

University of Wisconsin–La Crosse Wisconsin Rural Health Promotion Meeting (October 1-2, 2025)

Burroughs-Girardi, E., Hoffelder, J., Rogerson, B. Continuing evolution of the County Health Rankings & Roadmaps.

Johnson, S. Working together to improve health for all.

Advanced Evaluation for National Bureau of Justice Assistance Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulants, and Substance Use Program (COSSUP) grantees (October 2, 2025)

Goodrich, J. Madison Area Recovery Initiative evaluation.

National Association of Counties Large Urban County Caucus Symposium (October 8-10, 2025)

Johnson, S. Harnessing data to drive health policy action.

Case Western Reserve University Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative (October 14, 2025)

Johnson, S., Givens, M.L. Social and structural drivers of health: Using County Health Rankings to advance population health research.

Motivational Interviewing Network of Trainers Forum (October 20-22, 2025)

All authors listed; presenter marked with an asterisk.

Goodrich, J., Caldwell*, S., Little*, O., O'Leary, M.K. Implementing motivational interviewing in a human service system: Results of an effectiveness study.

American Public Health Association Annual Meeting & Expo (November 2-5, 2025)

All authors listed; presenter marked with an asterisk.

D'Alessandro*, M., Wilkniss, S., Holderby-Fox, L.R., Ohly, S. [State-community health worker partnership in policy development](#).

Khang*, H., Hills, O., Terrill, N., Aftahi, Y., Buabeng-Frimpong, A., Guerrero, F., Khang, S., Newman, J., Savela, M., Medina Medina, L., Melchor, L., Melgoza, F., Norrbom, C., Watson, J. [The work must go on: Sharing the stories of CHWs serving immigrant and refugee communities' rise against the current](#).

Khang, H., Hills*, O., Terrill, N., Guerrero, F., Khang, S., Newman, J., Savela, M., Melchor, L., Melgoza, F., Anderson, L., Norrbom, C., Medina Medina, L. [Supporting the mental wellness of underserved CHWs in central Wisconsin: Utilizing a healing-centered engagement approach](#).

Krhin*, M., Khang, H., Kimber, J., Aftahi, Y., Ohly, S. [Community health workers \(CHWs\) as public health leaders: Adapting a national framework for CHW integration in Wisconsin](#).

Ohly*, S., Klostermann, C., Wolf, L., Begay, M., Wortmann, K., Burton, J., Haywood, C., Dunn, T., Fox, D., Redondo, F. [Envision's virtual learning series: a national collaboration to support community health worker sustainability](#).

Rogerson, B., Stevenson, M.L., Givens, M.L., Gennuso, K., Muganda*, C., Giglierano, G., Garber, L., Heler, J., Johnson, S., Gilhuly, K., Blomberg, E., Nugraheni, S. [Where do we go from here? Re-inserting politics, power and the structural determinants of health in public health practice](#).



Wolf*, L., Bristol, S.E., Ohly, S., Jackson, S., Estrada, H., Sanchez-Espinoza, L., Wennerstrom, A. [Strengthening CHW futures: A toolkit to support CHW-led financial sustainability strategies](#).

Race Forward: Just Narratives for Multiracial Solidarity (November 13-15, 2025)

Acker, A., Willems-Neal, S., Corcoran, J. From status quo to solidarity and civic health: Embedding narrative strategy in the public health ecosystem to build community power.

Acker, A., Zetzman, J., Maybank, A. For health: Insights and explorations for narrative infrastructure.

Weathering the Storm, Courage in Caring for our Communities & Climate (November 14-15, 2025)

Alberth, J., Goodman, B., Gerstenfeld, L. The real game of life: Understanding Wisconsin's utility monopolies and PSC regulation through play.

Police, Treatment, and Community Collaborative 2025 International Deflection and Pre-Arrest Diversion Summit (December 2-4, 2025)

Barrett, B., Firesheets, K., Goodrich, J., Schulz, C. Align and advocate: How data standards support deflection and the field.

UWPHI Training & Learning's virtual events

Wisconsin Public Health Infrastructure Grant (PHIG), provides valuable systems-strengthening resources and discussion topics for health department staff and community partners.

PHIG Spotlights include a virtual presentation from a local or tribal health department, followed by a Q&A or collaborative brainstorming session.

[Spotlight on Sheboygan County Division of Public Health](#) (February 11, 2025)

[Spotlight on Winnebago County Public Health](#) (March 11, 2025)

[Spotlight on Ho-Chunk Nation Public Health](#) (April 8, 2025)

[Spotlight on Rock County Public Health](#) (May 1, 2025)

[Spotlight on Juneau County Health Department](#) (June 11, 2025)

[Spotlight on Wood County Health Department](#) (July 8, 2025)

[Spotlight on Portage County and Wood County collaboration](#) (August 5, 2025)

[Spotlight on Public Health Madison & Dane County](#) (October 4, 2025)

[Spotlight on Florence County Health Department](#) (November 18, 2025)

Wisconsin Discusses Conversations that foster Wisconsin-centered dialogue around high-interest public health topics. Discussions typically respond to a national webinar or UW Population Health Institute presentation.

[Land acknowledgment and Land Back movement](#) (January 24, 2025)

[The impact of the Wisconsin state budget for public health](#) (March 19, 2025)

[Wisconsin Discusses: Operationalizing policy priorities in your community](#) (May 13, 2025)

[Wisconsin Discusses: Narratives for health](#) (July 10, 2025)

[Wisconsin Discusses: Narrative perspectives](#) (September 25, 2025)

[Wisconsin Discusses: Rural health](#) (November 20, 2025)

UWPHI Immersions

Trainings that connect local and tribal health department staff and allied partners with subject matter experts from across Wisconsin and the nation. Immersions provide skill-building opportunities across multiple Foundational Capabilities.

[Intro to structural determinants of health and power](#) (February 25, 2025)

[Governmental public health and community partners working together to advance health equity](#) (April 10, 2025)

[Using a new model to explore health and equity in your community](#) (June 25, 2025)

[Using deliberative inquiry to strengthen your CHA/CHIP](#) (August 12, 2025)

[Systems thinking in public health](#) (October 9, 2025)

[Shared power and leadership: Communications strategies from Wisconsin's commercial tobacco movement](#) (December 10, 2025)

Other learning events

Acker, A. Health in Partnership (HIP): [The root cause test: A public health guide for transformative housing justice solutions](#). (Webinar). September 9, 2025.

Johnson, S.P., Givens, M.L. Using a social and structural determinants of health lens to advance research innovation. Clinical and Translational Science Collaborative of Northern Ohio. (Webinar). October 14, 2025.

Muganda, C. [Public health review morning edition 880: ASTHO BCAH program, New 2025 model of health](#). (Podcast). April 8, 2025.



Smith, M. What, why & when: Improving survey response rate by rethinking survey administration and applying best practices. Delivered by Miranda Smith on behalf of the Child Abuse & Neglect Prevention Board. (Webinar) February 13, 2025.

Educational Briefing at the State Capitol

On March 25, the UW Population Health Institute sponsored An Introduction to Wisconsin's Local Public Health System, an educational briefing at the State Capitol. Lawmakers and their staff were invited to learn how our state's local public health system works to protect and promote the health of Wisconsin's residents. The briefing was moderated by institute director Sheri Johnson and included presentations by:

- Michael Stevenson, Co-Director, County Health Rankings & Roadmaps, University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute
- Jennifer Weitzel, Health Officer, Sauk County Health Department
- Charles Sepers, Health Officer, City of Appleton Department of Public Health

The institute partnered with the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative, the Wisconsin Public Health Association, and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards to plan the event. UW Health Governmental Affairs leadership provided expertise and outreach support.

CHR&R Podcasts

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps' podcast, *In Solidarity: Connecting Power, Place and Health*, explores the complex ways we're deeply connected in our modern society through interviews with some of the country's brightest minds and biggest thinkers.

[Introducing a new model of health](#) (March 6, 2025)

[Countering centuries of oppression with resistance and reclamation](#) (November 19, 2025)

[It's a wrap: Achievements of the past and a path forward](#) (November 19, 2025)

CHR&R Webinars

County Health Rankings & Roadmaps' monthly webinars provide data, tools and strategies to build equity into policy and practice. Each webinar features equity experts from across the country to learn about ways to improve health and well-being in communities.

[The Land Back movement and health](#) (January 21, 2025)

[Building power through narrative](#) (February 18, 2025)

[Previewing the 2025 Annual Data Release](#) (March 11, 2025)

[Power-building approaches for health and equity](#) (April 22, 2025)

[Harnessing power to drive policy change](#) (May 20, 2025)

[Bridging across political differences and reducing polarization](#) (June 17, 2025)

[Meeting the moment: Navigating a quickly changing public health landscape](#) (July 15, 2025)

[Meeting the moment: From data to impact](#) (August 19, 2025)

[Meeting the moment: Philanthropy advancing the greater good](#) (September 23, 2025)

[Leveraging media to transform public health narratives and policy](#) (October 21, 2025)

[Rural communities and economic resilience](#) (November 18, 2025)

[How public health can navigate communications challenges](#) (December 9, 2025)



Molly Burdine and Kim Gilhuly at the NACCHO360 annual conference



Contact

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