Responding to Wisconsin’s Opioid Epidemic
National Data
Harmful opioid use, 2019

9,700,000 people
Unhealthy use of prescription pain relievers

745,000 people
Heroin Users

404,000 people
Heroin users and unhealthy uses of prescription pain relievers

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Source of prescription pain relievers obtained for most recent unhealthy use, 2019

- Friend or relative: 51%
- Own prescriptions: 38%
- Drug dealer or stranger: 6%
- Some other way: 6%

Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
Potency of heroin, fentanyl, and carfentanil
Wisconsin Data
Data dashboards
dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids/dashboards.htm

Opioids in Wisconsin

Deaths

15.8
2019 Rate per 100,000 Residents

In the last three years (2017 to 2019) the Rate of opioid-related deaths in Wisconsin changed by -1.8%.

As of 5/31/2020, there have been 487 opioid-related deaths in the year.

Hospitalizations

Emergency Room

43.9
2019 Rate per 100,000 Residents

In the last three years (2017 to 2019) the Rate of opioid-related emergency room visits in Wisconsin changed by -16.8%.

As of 6/30/2020, there have been 2,147 opioid-related inpatient and emergency room hospital visits in the year.

Inpatient

20.3
2019 Rate per 100,000 Residents

Filters

Select a Metric

Hospital Visit Type

- Emergency Room
- Inpatient

Hover over graphics for additional information. Click graphics for data source.
Number of opioid overdose deaths

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Three waves of opioid overdose deaths

1. Prescription pain relievers
2. Heroin
3. Fentanyl
Wave 1 began in 1999

Deaths: Rate per 100,000

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wave 2 began in 2010
Deaths: Rate per 100,000

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Wave 3 began in 2014

Deaths: Rate per 100,000

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Opioid overdose death rate per 100,000: 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Opioid overdose death rate per 100,000: 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Opioid-related hospitalizations in Wisconsin, 2006-2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Distribution of opioid overdose hospitalizations
Rate per 100,000 population, 2019

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Dispensing of opioids

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Opioids</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>5,081,327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>5,014,011</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>4,709,813</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>4,062,133</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>3,569,147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>3,319,308</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wisconsin Prescription Drug Monitoring Program
Medical reason opioid prescribed

- An estimated 1 in 6 Wisconsin residents were prescribed and used an opioid in the past year.
- The top reasons were surgeries and back pain.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Percentage (Rounded)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Orthopedic surgery pain</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-ortho surgery pain</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Back pain</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Short-term injury pain</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dental</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joint pain</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long-term injury</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Survey, 2019 (DHS data dashboards)
Buprenorphine waived providers

30-minute drive time

Source: SAMHSA; Waivered Buprenorphine Providers - Listed
Buprenorphine prescribers in Wisconsin

Buprenorphine Prescribers by Published Status

Number of Prescribers

Date Extract Received

All

All Published

All Unpublished

1585

795

452

850
COVID-19 and Opioid Overdoses
Suspected opioid overdoses ambulance runs compared to COVID-19 positivity

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Suspected opioid overdoses ambulance runs, 2019-September 2020

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome
Neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS) is a group of conditions caused when a baby withdraws from drugs exposed to in the womb before birth.
Neonatal abstinence syndrome in Wisconsin
Rate per 1,000 live births

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services
Hepatitis C
In Wisconsin, it is estimated that there are as many as 70,000 people living with hepatitis C. But only about half have been diagnosed: 38,831 people have been diagnosed with hepatitis C and reported to public health. In 2019 alone, 2,467 people were newly reported with a diagnosis of hepatitis C.
Compared to 10 years ago, more Wisconsin counties, including in rural areas, are reporting cases of hepatitis C among people aged 15–29.

Source: WEDSS; Number of counties reporting 1 or more case of hepatitis C among people age 15-29

2009
45 counties

2019
62 counties
Staying Safe and Harm Reduction
Naloxone

- Blocks effects of an opioid overdose
- Restores breathing
Naloxone standing order

No prescription is required to buy naloxone at more than 600 Wisconsin pharmacies.
Naloxone standing order

No prescription is required to buy naloxone at more than 300 Wisconsin pharmacies.

30-minute drive time

Source: Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health
This program provides NARCAN® (nasal spray version of naloxone) to community agencies at no cost.

These community agencies in turn distribute the NARCAN® to people at risk for an opioid overdose and people who may witness an opioid overdose.

People receive the free NARCAN® after completing a training.

Funded by Wisconsin’s share of the federal State Opioid Response grant program.
NARCAN® Direct Program
NARCAN® Direct Program: Year 1

- 74 participating agencies
- More than 20,000 doses of NARCAN® distributed to the participating agencies
- 4,380 people received doses of NARCAN® after being trained by a participating agency in how to administer NARCAN®
- Additional doses provided to trained individuals if requested because initial supply was used for to reverse an overdose, lost, etc.
- 863 additional doses given away due to initial supply being used to reverse an overdose.
Fentanyl test strips can identify the presence of fentanyl in drugs (injectable drugs, powders, pills).

Being aware if fentanyl is present allows people to implement appropriate harm reduction strategies to reduce the risk of an overdose.
Fentanyl test strip project
Active Federal Opioid Epidemic Grants
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

- Strategic Prevention Framework for Prescription Drugs (SPF Rx)
- Prescription Drug/Opioid Overdose-Related Deaths Prevention Project (WI PDO)
- State Opioid Response (SOR)
$16,721,001 (Sept. 2020-Sept. 2021) *A second year of funding is expected to be awarded*

Focus: Provide community-level resources for people in need of prevention, treatment, and recovery support services

Location/counties: All regions of Wisconsin

While opioids remain the primary focus, SOR now supports services for stimulants.
Major SOR Projects

- Partnership with Alliance for Wisconsin Youth for prevention projects
- Unmet treatment needs
- Expansion of medication-assisted treatment
- Funding to health care organizations to support treatment services
- Two regional opioid treatment programs
- “ED2Recovery” Program
- Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline
- Workforce development/professional development
Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline

- 24/7 free, confidential service
- Call 211 or visit addictionhelpwi.org
- Referrals to treatment and recovery services
Wisconsin Addiction Recovery Helpline

- More than 16,000 calls since launch in October 2018
- Top substances reported*
  1. Alcohol
  2. Heroin
  3. Cocaine
  4. Opiates/painkillers
  5. Amphetamines

*Most recent reporting period (Sept. 2019-June 2021)
State-Funded Projects
Regional treatment centers

- Five programs serving northern Wisconsin
  - HOPE Consortium (since 2015)
  - Northeast Wisconsin Opioid Treatment Services (since 2015)
  - NorthLakes Community Clinic (since 2015)
  - Lake Superior Community Health Center (since 2018)
  - Ladysmith Alcohol and Drug Recovery Center (since 2018)

- Two forms of medication-assisted treatment are offered (buprenorphine products and naltrexone).

- More than 3,000 people have been served since the start of these services in 2015.
Regional treatment centers: Counties served
Jail-based medication-assisted treatment

- Grants currently awarded to 13 county agencies and one tribal agency.
- Participating inmates receive a dose of a nonnarcotic, non-addictive injectable medication (naltrexone) before their release that treats opioid use disorder.
- A treatment plan after release that includes counseling and follow-up injections provided in the community is established to ensure success.
Jail-based medication-assisted treatment

Locations/county jails:

- Bayfield
- Brown
- Columbia
- Dane
- Dodge
- Grant
- Kenosha
- Iowa
- Manitowoc
- Racine
- Rock
- Shawano
- Sheboygan
- Vilas
- Washington
UW Addiction Consultation Provider Hotline

- Support for treatment providers managing patients with addictions
- Free service
- Call 800-472-0111
- Questions answered by addiction medicine experts at UW-Madison School of Medicine and Public Health and UW Health.
Project ECHO

- Training for treatment providers in pharmacotherapy and behavioral interventions for substance use disorders
- Free video conferences held third Friday of every month (12:15-1:15 p.m.)
- Case-based learning from specialists in addiction medicine
- More than 300 people have participated since 2018
Public Awareness Campaigns
Dose of Reality

- New look and new materials coming in 2021
- Focus changing to encouraging people to talk about the risks of using opioids and steps that can be taken to save lives.
Resilient Wisconsin

- Seeks to reduce the effects of significant adversity on an individual’s health
- Provides resources to build healthy communities
- For more information: resilient.wisconsin.gov
Other Efforts
Wisconsin Connect

- Service of UW-Milwaukee’s Center for Urban Population Health in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services
- Provides free training and other support to professionals working in the substance use prevention, treatment, and recovery fields on how to implement best practices for these services
- For more information: wisconsinconnect.org
DHS has issued an emergency rule to allow more medical providers to become certified opioid treatment programs.

Opioid treatment programs are specially licensed treatment centers that provide Food and Drug Administration-approved medications combined with counseling and other support services.

This type of integrated care helps individuals move from the misuse and abuse of opioids to long-term recovery.
Emergency rule

- The emergency rule repeals Wis. Admin. Code § DHS 75.15(9)(a) that prohibited opioid treatment programs from also providing medical services not directly related to narcotic treatment.
- DHS has proposed a permanent rule change to repeal this provision.
Hub and Spoke pilot

- DHS will be announcing three sites to pilot a new benefit for eligible BadgerCare Plus and Wisconsin Medicaid members with substance use disorders.
- The pilot sites will use a hub and spoke model to provide integrated services that give eligible members rapid access to comprehensive addiction and mental health treatment, primary care, and other needed supports to assist their recovery.
- DHS will closely monitor outcomes on an ongoing basis, and will do formal program evaluation to assess the need for changes or expansion.
dhs.wisconsin.gov/opioids