Providing Policymakers with Public Health Information and Research

The project focuses on engaging faculty, scientific investigators and students in policy-relevant work and translating their research findings for use by policy leaders.

**Description:** The Advancing Evidence-Based Health Policy in Wisconsin project is an educational resource for public policymakers, researchers and private sector partners on matters of public health and health care policy. The project focuses on issues of immediate concern in the health care environment, such as the implementation of the Affordable Care Act, as well as ongoing public health concerns such as drunk driving and mental health.

**Relevance:** Jointly funded with the Office of the UW-Madison Chancellor, this partnership of the UW Population Health Institute, the La Follette School of Public Affairs and the Wisconsin Joint Legislative Council provides an infrastructure to meet the ongoing needs of faculty, scientific investigators and students for external engagement, translation, dissemination and relevance in the health policy arena.

**Results:** Policy considerations among public and private sector stakeholders were informed through a dozen state Capitol briefings and symposia in the past three years. This programming has been linked to the evolution of several bills, regulations or sub-regulatory policy. More than 1,000 people attended briefings during the grant period with each program's average attendance increasing to over 100. The project also reaches an expanded audience through media coverage such as the Wisconsin State Journal, Wisconsin Public Radio; Wisconsin Eye (Wisconsin's C-SPAN network) routinely televises its programs; and the project website features program materials, resources and video archives (www.evidencebasedhealthpolicy.org).

Academic investigators developed decision-relevant research and engaged with policy audiences at Capitol briefings and other venues. Medical students participated in policy case studies and two mock legislative visits, addressing daily physical education in public schools and the use of antibiotics in animals.

**Dissemination:** “The Evidence-Based Health Policy Project: Wisconsin's Knowledge-Exchange Model,” Webinar to Mental Health America, 2011.