



## Medical Education and Research Grant Outcome Report

**Name:** Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State

**Principal Investigator:** David Kindig, PhD

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**Department:** Population Health Sciences

**Program:** Targeted

**Grant Duration:** 12-01-2004 to 02-28-2009 (51 months)

**Expenditures:** \$913,813 (100%)

**Use of Funds (Taxonomy):** Applied Public Health Research

**Research Keywords:** Population Health, Determinants, Disparities, Priority Programs and Policies, Evidence

► **Description:** The vision for the first five-year plan of the Wisconsin Partnership Program was for Wisconsin to become “the healthiest state.” As part of this goal, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute sought to evaluate the current conditions in the state and identify areas that most needed investment. The investigators asked three key questions

- How healthy is Wisconsin compared to other states?
- What factors cause Wisconsinites to be relatively healthy and unhealthy?
- What policies and programs would best improve the state’s health?

The project also called for the findings to be communicated publicly through a variety of channels.

► **Contributions/Results:** The key findings from the project were:

- Many of factors that affect health in Wisconsin can be changed, including personal behaviors, socio-economic environments, physical environments, the health care system, and the public health system.
- The good news is that researchers know a lot about what works, and these policies and programs can be enacted to make the state healthier.
- Broad and balanced strategic action will address the underlying causes of poor health in the state and can reduce health disparities
- Wisconsin’s health is everyone’s business.

► **Met Objectives:** Project completed

► **Timeline for Application of Results:** Unknown

► **New Partnerships or Collaborations:** The project team held meetings with more than 60 groups, including business coalitions, health care organizations, advocacy groups, and public health agencies. Many expressed interest in remaining involved in this work.

► **Matched Dollars (cash or in-kind):** None

► **Dissemination:** Articles based on the project appeared in *Preventing Chronic Disease*, *Public Health Reports*, and *the Journal of the American Medical Association*. The investigators also presented at the 2009 Real Talk Real Action Conference.

Three major publications were completed:

- Health of Wisconsin Report Card 2007
- Opportunities to Make Wisconsin the Healthiest State 2008
- What Works: Policies and Programs to Improve Wisconsin’s Health 2009

The database underlying the *What Works* report is available at [www.whatworksforhealth.wisc.edu](http://www.whatworksforhealth.wisc.edu). In addition, several issue briefs were produced, and are available through the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute’s Website.

The publication of the Health of Wisconsin Report Card generated media coverage in outlets around the state, both on news and editorial pages. The results of this project were cited in a 2007 *Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel* editorial.

► **Additional Funding:** MERC has renewed this program, providing \$463,635 over the next three years.