Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State

Published reports and databases help focus state health improvement efforts and measure Wisconsin’s health in comparison to other states.

**Description:** The Making Wisconsin the Healthiest State project measures Wisconsin’s overall health, health disparities and progress on key health indicators in comparison to other states. The project also supports local efforts in health improvement and statewide impact on policy, systems and environmental changes for health.

**Relevance:** Funded by the Wisconsin Partnership Program since 2004, this initiative makes significant contributions to population health improvement through its continuous research and dissemination of evidence-informed policies and programs, its profile of health disparities in Wisconsin and assessment of health priorities.

**Results:** The project has supported exploration and adoption of evidence-based policy strategies and programs by private and public sector policy makers at the local and statewide level. Specifically, the What Works for Health database incorporates numerous evidence-based program and policy suggestions that are used by community grant applicants, public health professionals, and leaders of health improvement efforts across sectors. In addition, insights from the project’s published reports and databases served as guiding documents during the creation of the Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 state health plan and inform the Wisconsin Partnership Program’s efforts to direct and focus resources aimed at improving health in Wisconsin.

As part of the County Health Rankings and Roadmaps program, this initiative has leveraged additional financial support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to create a national What Works for Health database.