

Wisconsin HAI Education Series

May 22, 2025



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES



Why Oral Health Matters

Wisconsin Oral Health Program (OHP)

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Agenda

- Oral health of Wisconsin
- Systemic connection
- Wisconsin's need for dental care in nursing homes
- Oral health programming
- Resources



Oral Health of Wisconsin

Oral Health Status of Third Grade Children in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Healthy Smiles Survey

- Untreated decay



- Caries experience



- Dental sealant needs



Children's Oral Health in Wisconsin



Students of color in kindergarten are **2x as likely** to have untreated decay and dental care needs when compared to non-Hispanic white students.



Non-Hispanic Black third graders are **less likely to have a dental sealant** present on a permanent molar compared to non-Hispanic white students.



Children in lower-income schools are **more likely to experience untreated decay** compared to children in higher-income schools.

Impacts of Poor Oral Health Status

- Children with a poor oral health status are more likely to miss school due to dental pain.
- On average, **34 million hours** of school are missed due to unplanned dental care per year.
- Children with a poor oral health status are more likely to perform worse in school.
- Each year, **more than \$45 billion** in US productivity are lost due to untreated oral disease

Adult Oral Health in Wisconsin

- **39%** of adults have had at least one tooth removed due to gum disease or tooth decay.
- **31%** of adults did not visit the dentist within the past year.
- **9%** of older adults have had all their teeth extracted due to gum disease or tooth decay.

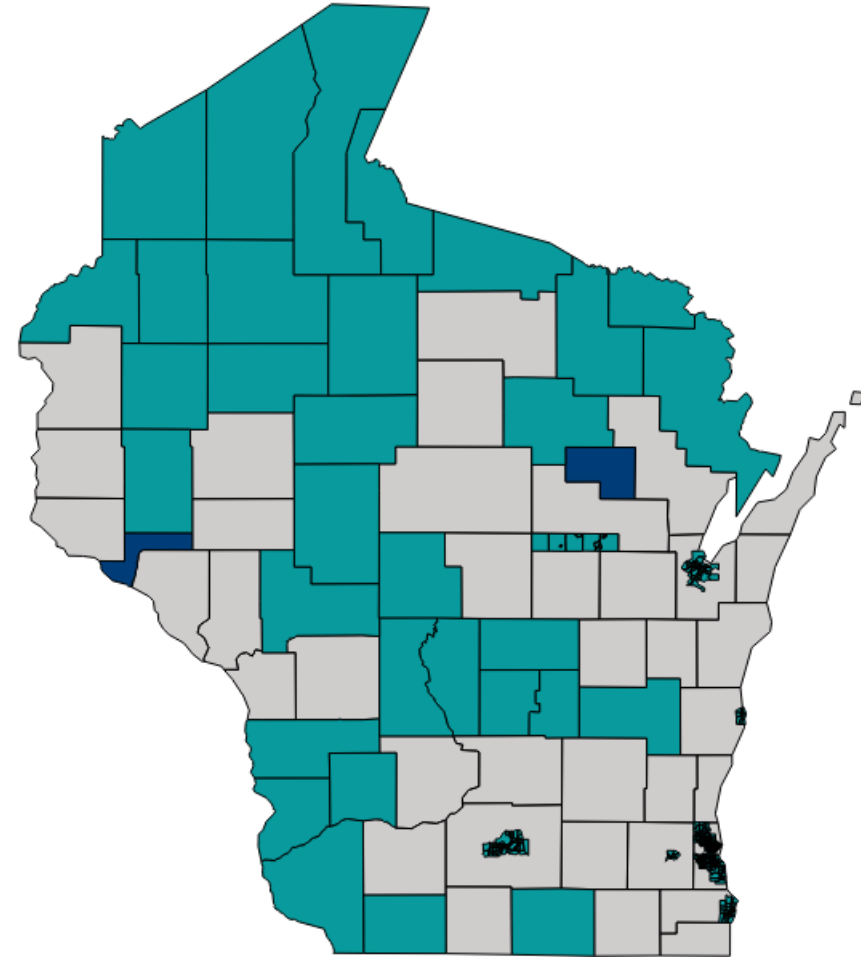
Dental Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSA)

- **43** Dental HPSAs
 - **41** population-based
 - **Two** geographic-based
- **850,000+** Wisconsinites are impacted by a Dental HPSA.

Wisconsin's Designated Health Professional Shortage Areas

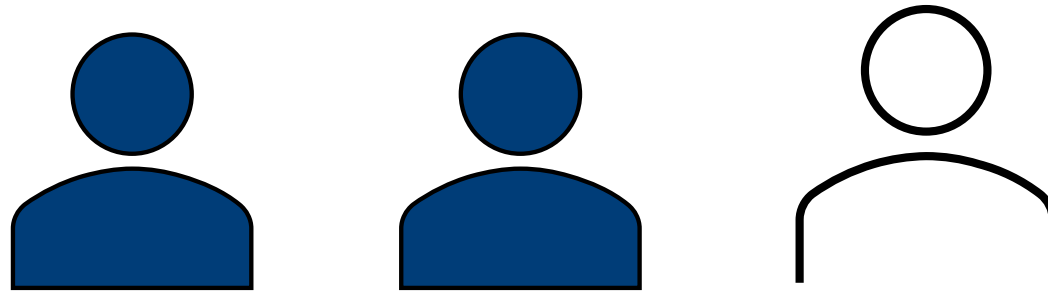
Select: HPSA Discipline
Dental Health

HPSA Type
■ Geographic based HPSA
■ Population based HPSA



Access to Care: Medicaid/BadgerCare+ (MA/BC+)

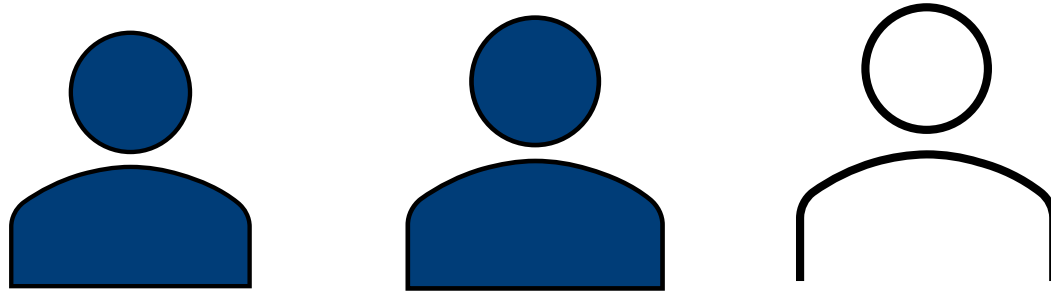
As of 2023, there were more than 677,000 children enrolled in the MA/BC+ program.



Approximately **2 out 3** children did not receive a preventive dental service in 2023.

Access to Care: MA/BC+

As of 2023, there were more than 1.5 million Wisconsin residents enrolled in the MA/BC+ program.



Approximately **2 out of 3** did not receive a dental service in 2023.



The Systemic Connection

What is Oral Health?

- Determined by oral hygiene, dental history, diet, stress, trauma, tobacco use, and alcohol use
- Shared risk factors with many chronic conditions like cardiovascular disease, cancer, stroke, and diabetes

Across the Lifespan

Pregnancy

Childhood

Adolescence

Young
adulthood

Middle age

Older
adulthood

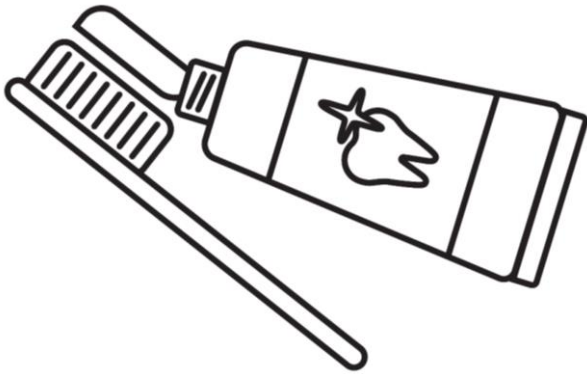
Link to Chronic Diseases

- Those with **diabetes** are at higher risk of gum disease. If left untreated, gum disease can make it more difficult to manage diabetes.
- Risk of high **blood pressure** and **oral cancers** are tied to high alcohol consumption.
- Gum disease can increase a person's risk of **stroke**.



Wisconsin's Need for Dental Care in Nursing Homes

Survey of Administrators and Directors of Skilled Nursing Facilities



78% noted that some, quite a few, or most of their new residents have unmet dental needs.



56% indicated it was somewhat, very, or extremely difficult to obtain care for their residents.



14% reported they never have a dentist or dental hygienist visit their facility.

Survey of Administrators and Directors of Skilled Nursing Facilities (Continued)



68% reported they were at least somewhat interested in having a hygienist always on staff.



63% cited they were at least somewhat interested in contracting with a hygienist.

A close-up photograph of a female dentist in a clinical setting. She is wearing a white lab coat, a blue surgical mask, and a clear face shield. She is holding a dental instrument in her gloved hand, performing a procedure on a patient. The background shows dental equipment and a bright, clean environment.

Oral Health Programming

Oral Health Program Funding

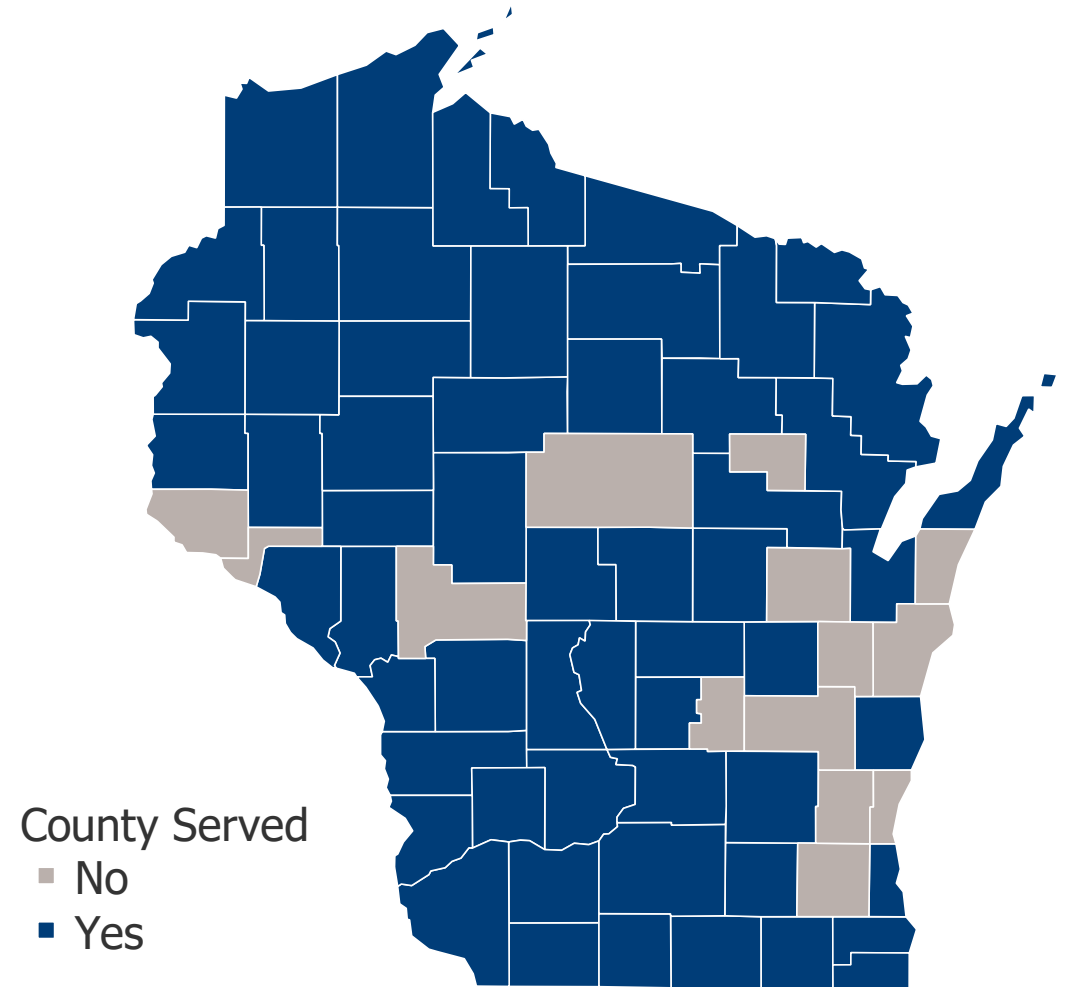
- HRSA Workforce Pathway Grant
- CDC (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention) Cooperative Agreement
- General Purpose Revenue (as directed by state statute)

Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile (SAS)

- Statewide school-based sealant program
- Funds **25** local programs to provide services throughout Wisconsin
- Prioritizes serving schools with a higher school-level free and reduced lunch rate to help improve access to care within communities that may experience barriers to dental care

SAS Program Reach (2023 – 2024)

- **58 of 72** Wisconsin counties served
- **980+** schools served
- **86,000+** children served
- **63%** of children served were MA/BC+ insured

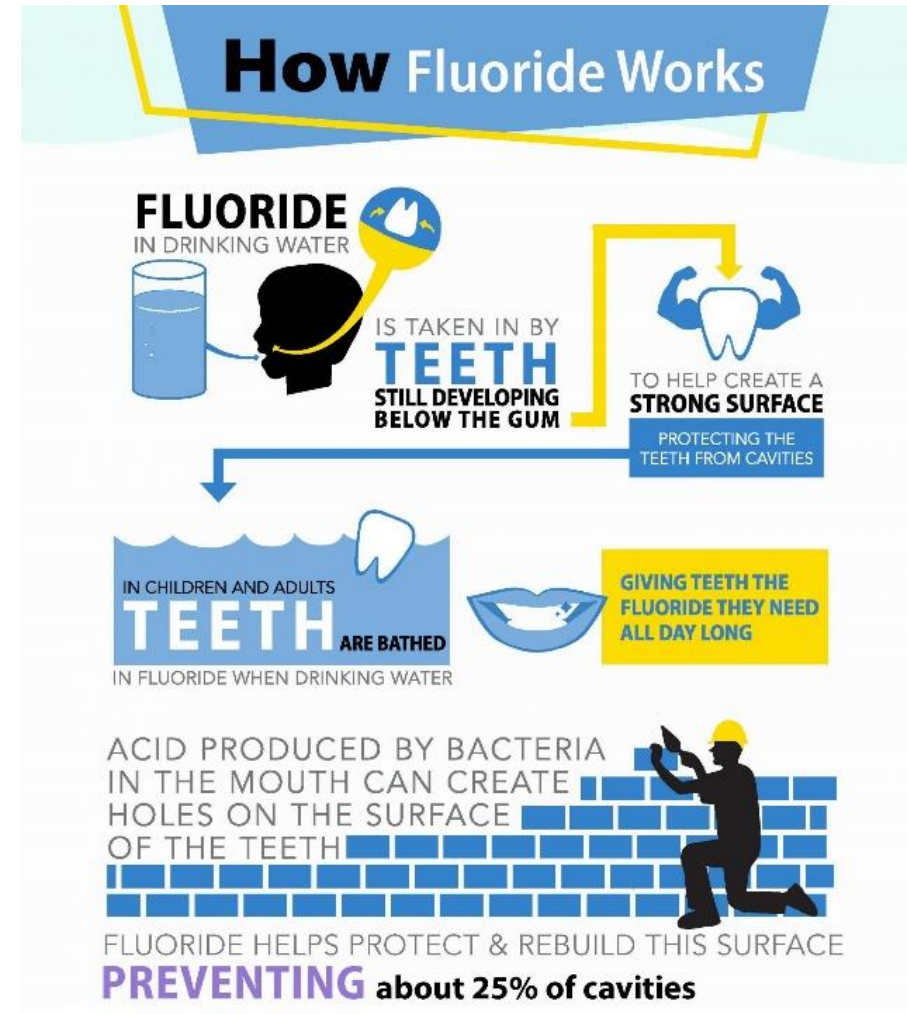


Community Water Fluoridation (CWF)

- CWF is a public health practice recommended for preventing tooth decay. It is estimated that CWF reduces tooth decay among children and adults by **up to 25%**.
- CWF is recognized as one of the ten great public health achievements of the 20th century.
- The U.S. Public Health Service recommends an optimal level of 0.7 mg/L.

CWF: How It works

- Fluoride in drinking water is absorbed by the teeth.
- Fluoride strengthens the surface of the tooth.
- Fluoride protects the teeth from acid produced by bacteria.



Build a better foundation for healthy teeth and keep your teeth stronger, longer. Fluoride in water. 75 years and going strong. At a faucet near you.

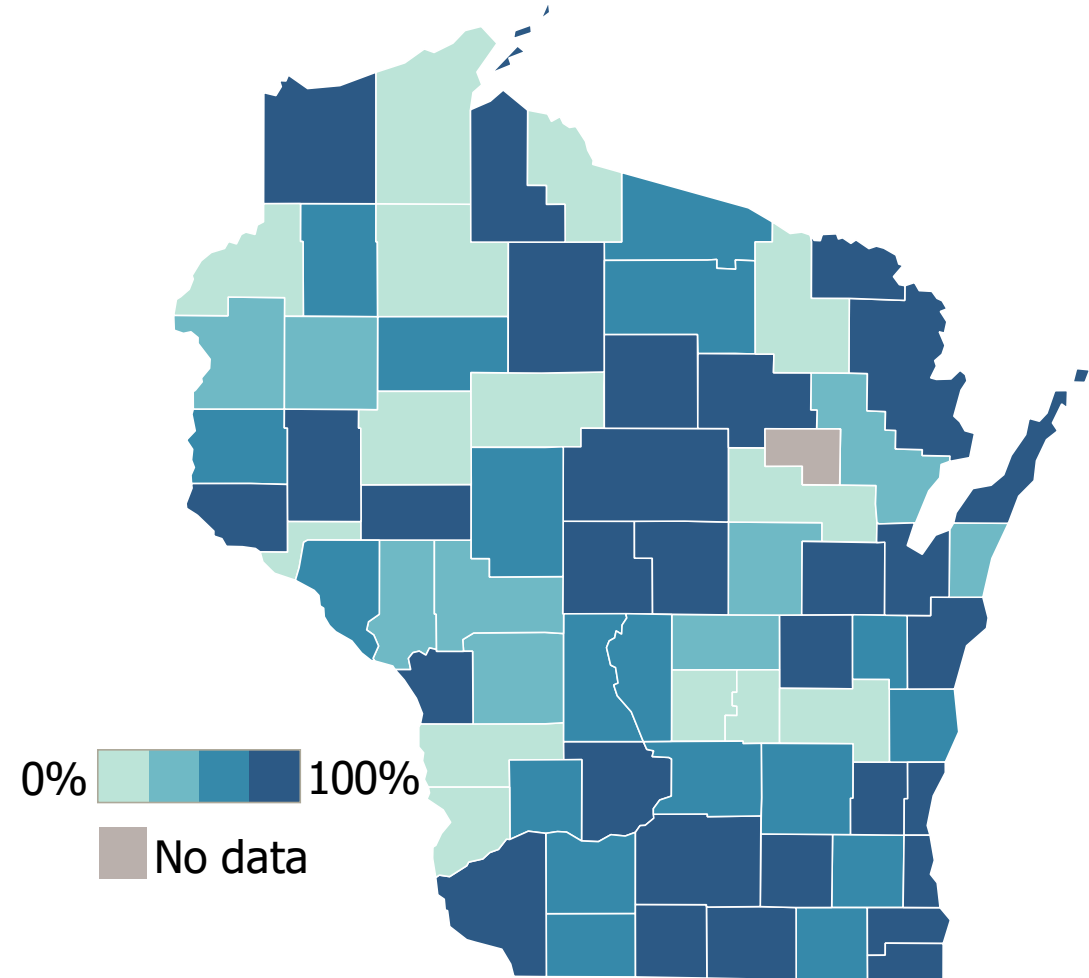
Visit www.CDC.gov/Fluoridation for more information.

CS11/4019A



CWF in Wisconsin

- **~71%** of Wisconsinites are served by a public water system.
- **>80%** of those served by a public water system receive fluoridated water.



CWF Support

Roles of OHP

- Provide educational materials and resources
- Provide consultation to local health departments and partners
- Provide grant funding for fluoridation equipment

Pathway Program

- Focused on increasing diversity and geographic distribution of the workforce
- Activities:
 - Future Oral Health Workforce Day (FOHWD)
 - Connection opportunities
 - Youth apprenticeship
 - Registered apprenticeship

Dental Access Clinic Grants

- At least nine nonprofit dental clinics must be funded each fiscal year.
- Currently, 14 clinics are funded.
- Funding is awarded every three years.
- Grants seek to increase access to dental care in Wisconsin.



Antibiotic Stewardship



- Antibiotics before dental procedures is now recommended for fewer patients than in the past.
- Research shows that antibiotics before dental procedures is more harmful than helpful for some people.
- Antibiotics are still required for certain heart conditions and some joint replacements. Consult with a medical provider or dentist for recommendations.

Infection Prevention in Oral Health



Infection Prevention Assistance

- On-site or remote review of infection prevention processes to identify needs or gaps
- Education and technical support for infection prevention practices
- Schedule free consultation by emailing DHSWIHAIPreventionProgram@dhs.wisconsin.gov

DUWL Toolkit

- Information on DUWL maintenance and water safety
- Sample logs for:
 - Water shocking
 - Water testing
- Sample water testing protocol



Dental Unit Waterlines Toolkit



Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program
Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

[Dental Unit Waterlines Maintenance Toolkit](#)

Dental Instrument Reprocessing Toolkit

- Information on the process for dental clinics
- Audit tools for:
 - Cleaning
 - Packaging
 - Sterilization
- Sample sterilization monitoring log



Dental Instrument Cleaning, Disinfection, and Sterilization Toolkit



Wisconsin Healthcare-Associated Infections (HAI) Prevention Program
Division of Public Health, Wisconsin Department of Health Services

[Dental Instrument Cleaning,
Disinfection, and Sterilization Toolkit](#)

OHIPP Webpage

- Oral health information specific to IPC
- DUWL and instrument reprocessing toolkits
- Links to additional resources

Access the OHIPP
Webpage



Infection Prevention Resources

- [CDC Foundations: Building the Safest Dental Visit training](#)
- [DentalCheck mobile app](#)
- [Summary of Infection Prevention Practices in Dental Settings: Basic Expectations for Safe Care](#)

Questions?

Thank you!

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HAI Prevention Program Contacts



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Phone: 608-267-7711



Website: www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/hai/contacts.htm

HAI Prevention Program IPs

Region 1: Anna Marciniak; Phone: 608-590-2980

Region 2: Jennifer Kuhn; Phone: 608-772-4768

Region 3: Tess Hendricks; Phone: 608-338-9071

Region 4: Rebecca LeMay; Phone: 608-609-1918

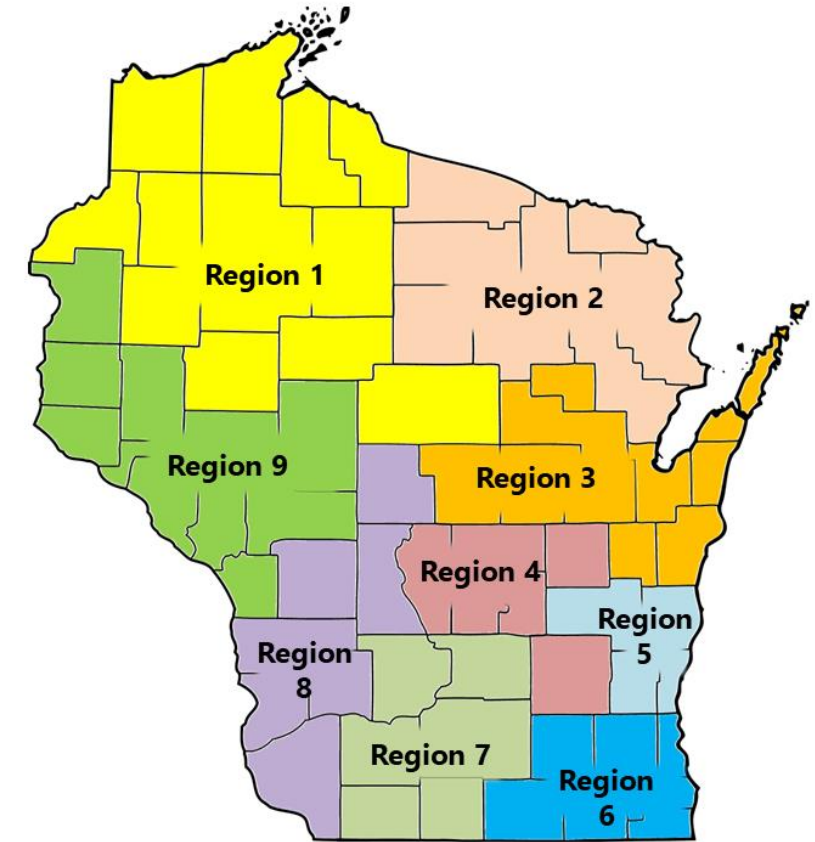
Region 5: Greta Michaelson; Phone: 608-867-4647

Region 6: Paula Pintar; Phone: 608-471-0499

Region 7: Beth Ellinger; Phone: 608-219-3483

Region 8: Ashley O'Keefe; Phone: 608-556-8608

Region 9: Nikki Mueller; Phone: 608-628-4464



HAI Infection Prevention Education webpage



[HAI: Home](#)

[For Health Professionals](#)

[For Patients & Families](#)

[Infection Prevention Education](#)

[Infection Preventionist Starter Kit](#)

[Multidrug-Resistant Organisms](#)

[Precautions](#)

[HAI Data](#)

[National Healthcare Safety Network](#)

[Antimicrobial Stewardship](#)



HAI Infection Prevention Education

IPs play an essential role in facility infection prevention policy development, surveillance, and risk assessment. IPs also serve as a resource to other staff and programs within their facilities. The resources on this page are intended to connect health care facility infection preventionists (IP) with education materials to support their role in preventing, detecting, and responding to healthcare-associated infections (HAI).

Webinars

HAI Education Series

The HAI Education Series provides educational presentations on topics including infection prevention, HAIs, antibiotic stewardship, disease surveillance, and outbreak response for health care staff in all setting types, local and Tribal health departments, and other health care partners. Each session features a new, timely topic presented by the Department of Health Services (DHS) program staff, HAI infection preventionists, partner organizations, or other external subject matter experts.

The HAI Education Series is a monthly webinar series, typically held the fourth Thursday of each month. Register for the [HAI Education Series](#)

HAI Education Series recordings



Upcoming HAI Education Session

Date: June 26, 2025

Topic: Consideration for Dialysis Modalities and
Infection Prevention and Control



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