

This section details the health issues that are most important to the state, using the framework of *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020*. As possible, each section includes an overview of what is being done and what actions are needed to (continue to) improve the specific health issue(s).

The first table in this section highlights the leading causes of death by age group for Wisconsin residents. In 2014 (the most recent data available), there were 50,127 deaths of Wisconsin residents. While the total number of deaths has increased ten percent from 2009 to 2014, the age-adjusted death rate, 711 per 100,000, decreased slightly.ⁱ The death rate in Wisconsin is comparable to the national rate. Overall, the leading causes of death in Wisconsin in 2014 were cancer and heart disease, accounting for 45 percent of all deaths.

The leading causes of death and death rates vary by sex, age, race/ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. Age-adjusted mortality rates by sex in Wisconsin mirror the national rates; in 2014, males had a 38% higher risk of dying than females. Age-adjusted mortality rates were also higher among non-Hispanic American Indian/Alaska Native and Non-Hispanic Black/African American populations compared to White; Asian and Hispanic groups had lower age-adjusted mortality rates than White.

The second table provides indicators from America's Health Rankings, organized by *Healthiest Wisconsin 2020* Health Focus Areas.

Leading causes of death are highlighted in different colors to demonstrate changes over age groups in population.

| Leading Causes of Death by age | Infants under 1 | 1 to 4 | 5 to 14 | 15 to 24 | 25 to 34 | 35 to 44 | 45 to 54 | 55 to 64 | 65 and older | All ages |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1st | Short Gestation/Low birth weight (92) | Unintentional Injuries (9) | Unintentional Injuries (23) | Unintentional Injuries (209) | Unintentional Injuries (301) | Unintentional Injuries (256) | Malignant Neoplasms (767) | Malignant Neoplasms (2,091) | Heart Disease (9,215) | Malignant Neoplasms (11,278) |
| 2nd | Congenital Malformations (87) | Malignant Neoplasms (7) | Malignant Neoplasms (12) | Suicide (116) | Suicide (111) | Malignant Neoplasms (165) | Heart Disease (491) | Heart Disease (1,161) | Malignant Neoplasms (8,160) | Heart Disease (11,066) |
| 3rd | Unintentional Injuries (23) | Pneumonia/Influenza (7) | Suicide (10) | Homicide (47) | Malignant Neoplasms (51) | Heart Disease (143) | Unintentional Injuries (317) | Unintentional Injuries (346) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (2,390) | Unintentional Injuries (2,891) |
| 4th | SIDS (21) | Homicide (7) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (5) | Malignant Neoplasms (24) | Homicide (46) | Suicide (125) | Chronic Liver Disease (159) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (263) | Stroke (2,168) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (2,742) |
| 5th | Placenta/Cord/Membrane (17) | Congenital (*) | Homicide (*) | Heart Disease (14) | Heart Disease (36) | Chronic Liver Disease (43) | Suicide (159) | Chronic Liver Disease (262) | Alzheimer's (1,857) | Stroke (2,468) |
| 6th | Maternal Pregnancy Complication (14) | Septicemia (*) | Heart Disease (*) | Congenital (6) | Chronic Liver Disease (11) | Diabetes (37) | Stroke (95) | Diabetes (197) | Unintentional Injuries (1,407) | Alzheimer's (1,864) |
| 7th | Neonatal Hemorrhage (10) | In Situ Neoplasm (*) | Congenital (*) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (5) | Stroke (10) | Stroke (23) | Diabetes (81) | Stroke (165) | Diabetes (1,009) | Diabetes (1,331) |
| 8th | Respiratory Distress (*) | Heart Disease (*) | Cerebro-Vascular (*) | HIV (*) | In Situ Neoplasm (9) | Pneumonia/Influenza (20) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (64) | Suicide (120) | Nephritis (864) | Pneumonia/Influenza (981) |
| 9th | Bacterial Sepsis (*) | Pneumonitis/ Asp. (*) | Septicemia (*) | Pneumonia/Influenza (*) | Chronic Lower Respiratory (7) | Homicide (16) | Pneumonia/Influenza (43) | Septicemia (67) | Pneumonia/Influenza (834) | Nephritis (964) |
| 10th | Necrotizing Enterocolitis (*) | -- | Diabetes (*) | Pregnancy Related (*) | Septicemia (6) | HIV (10) | Nephritis (22) | Pneumonia/Influenza (66) | Parkinson's (600) | Suicide (755) |

Source: Office of Health Informatics, Division of Public Health, Department of Health Services.

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Healthiest Wisconsin 2020 Health Focus Areas and Objectives and America's Health Rankings Indicators

Source: America's Health Rankings Annual Report 2015

| Alcohol and Drug Use | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
|--|--------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change underlying attitudes, knowledge and policies • Improve access to services for vulnerable people • Reduce risky and unhealthy alcohol and drug use | | | | | |
| Binge Drinking (Percent of adult population) | 18.7 | 22.1 | 10.2 | 50 | 49 |
| Drug Deaths (Deaths per 100,000 population) | 11.0 ⁱⁱ | 13.1 | 2.7 | 16 ⁱⁱⁱ | 23 |
| Chronic Disease Prevention and Management | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote sustainable chronic disease programs • Improve equitable access to chronic disease management • Reduce chronic disease health disparities | | | | | |
| Cancer Deaths (Deaths due to all causes of cancer per 100,000 population) | 192.7 | 193.3 | 146.1 | 23 | 30 |
| Cardiovascular Deaths (Deaths due to CVD – including heart disease and stroke – per 100,000 population) | 258.3 | 237.2 | 186.5 | 22 | 24 |
| Obesity (Percent of adults who are obese by self-report, with a body mass index (BMI) of 30.0 or higher) | 29.2 | 31.2 | 21.3 | 34 | 36 |
| Communicable Diseases | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunize • Prevent disease in high-risk populations | | | | | |
| Infectious Diseases (cases per 100,000 population) | NA | 0.207 | -1.09 | NA | 35 |
| Environmental and Occupational Health | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve the quality and safety of the food supply and natural, built and work environments • Promote safe and healthy homes in all communities | | | | | |
| Air Pollution (Micrograms of fine particles per cubic meter) | 11.1 | 9.1 | 5 | 31 | 30 |
| Occupational Fatalities (Deaths per 100,000 workers) | 3.3 | 3.8 | 2 | 8 | 16 |
| Healthy Growth and Development | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assure children receive periodic developmental screening • Improve women's health for healthy babies • Reduce disparities in health outcomes | | | | | |
| Immunization – Children (Percent aged 19 to 35 months) ^{iv} | 93.53 | 70.9 | 84.7 | - | 29 |
| Infant Mortality | 6.4 | 6.0 | 4.2 | 19 | 23 |
| Injury and Violence Prevention | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create safe environments and practices through policies and programs • Improve systems to increase access to injury care and prevention services • Reduce disparities in injury and violence | | | | | |
| Violent Crime (Offenses per 100,000 population) | 257 | 278 | 121 | - | 19 |

| | | | | | |
|---|-------------------|------------|-----------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce smoking and obesity among people with mental disorders Reduce disparities in suicide and mental disorders Reduce depression, anxiety and emotional problems | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| Poor Mental Health Days (days in previous 30 days) | 2.8 | 3.6 | 2.7 | 7 | 22 |
| Suicide | NA | 14.7 | 8.3 | NA | 27 |
| Nutrition and Healthy Foods <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase access to healthy foods and support breastfeeding Make healthy foods available for all Target obesity efforts to address health disparities | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| Fruits | NA | 1.4 | 1.67 | NA | 19 |
| Vegetables | NA | 1.76 | 2.21 | NA | 36 |
| Oral Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assure access for better oral health Assure access to services for all population groups | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| Dentists | 52.6 | 56.0 | 81.2 | - | 24 |
| Physical Activity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Design communities to encourage activity Provide opportunities to become physically active Provide opportunities in all neighborhoods to reduce health disparities | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| Physical Inactivity (Percent of adult population) | 22 | 21.2 | 16.4 | - | 15 |
| Reproductive and Sexual Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish a normal of sexual and reproductive health across the life span Establish the social, economic and health policies to improve equity in sexual health and reproductive justice Reduce disparities in sexual and reproductive health | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| Immunization HPV female | NA | 40.9 | 54.0 | NA | 21 |
| Immunization HPV male | NA | 23.6 | 42.9 | NA | 15 |
| Teen Birth Rate | 32.2 | 19.6 | 12.1 | - | 11 |
| Tobacco Use and Exposure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reduce use and exposure among youth Reduce use and exposure among adults Decrease disparities among vulnerable groups | WI 2010 | WI 2015 | Best State 2015 | WI Rank 2010 | WI Rank 2015 |
| Smoking (Percentage of adults who are smokers) | 18.7 | 17.4 | 9.1 | 31 | 21 |
| Youth Smoking (Percentage of high school students who self-report smoking cigarettes on at least 1 day during the past 30 days) | 14.6 ^v | 11.8 | - | - | - |

ⁱ Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics. *Annual Wisconsin Death Report, 2014* (P-01170-15). November 2015.

ⁱⁱ 2013 data; 2010 not available

ⁱⁱⁱ 2013 data; 2010 not available

^{iv} Measures varied from 1996-2009; 2005-2012; 2012-2015

^v Data on Youth Smoking category not reported before 2012