



**Bureau of Children’s Services**  
**Program Access and Benchmark Project**

**Wisconsin Children with a Disability**

This report seeks to approximate the number of children in Wisconsin that are potentially eligible for programs administered by the Bureau of Children’s Services in the Division of Medicaid Services.

A proxy is used to estimate the number of children in Wisconsin and in each county with a significant disability that would likely be eligible for long-term services and supports.

Estimating the number of children in Wisconsin potentially eligible for long-term supports and services can aid in planning for enrollment, budget projection, and monitoring access to services across the state.

**Number of Children in Wisconsin under 18: 1,307,902**

**Wisconsin Children under 18 with a Disability by Definition**

Various definitions of disabilities result in a range of estimates from over 19% to less than 2% of Wisconsin children.

No. of Children with a Disability	Percent of Children with a Disability	Definition Source
248,501	19%	Children with Special Health Care Needs (CSHCN)
121,492	14%	Children with an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) <sup>1</sup>
56,337	4.3%	American Community Survey (ACS)
22,051	1.7%	Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

The definition of disability from the American Community Survey (ACS) by the U.S. Census Bureau most closely resembles the functional level necessary to receive supports and services from the CLTS Waiver, Katie Beckett Program, or Children’s Community Options Program (CCOP).

**The American Community Survey (ACS): 4.3% or 56,337 children in Wisconsin<sup>2</sup>**

Conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, the American Community Survey (ACS) is an annual survey that adopts a functional approach to disability, defining it as having “serious difficulty” with vision or hearing, or “because of a serious physical, mental, or emotional condition,” with cognition, ambulation, or self-care. Overall, the ACS attempts to capture disability from these six types of difficulty: hearing, vision, cognitive, ambulatory (substantially limits one or more basic physical activities such as walking, climbing, reaching, lifting, or carrying, used as a proxy for physical disability), self-care, and independent living. Functional limitations are supplemented by questions about difficulties with selected activities from the Katz Activities of Daily Living (ADL) and Lawton Instrumental Activities of Daily Living (IADL) scales, namely difficulty

<sup>1</sup> Represents children participating in public school only in the academic year 2015-2016 (n=867,800). Not percent of all children under 18 years of age. <https://nces.ed.gov/ccd/pubagency.asp>

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey, 2016 Subject Definitions. [https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech\\_docs/subject\\_definitions/2016\\_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf](https://www2.census.gov/programs-surveys/acs/tech_docs/subject_definitions/2016_ACSSubjectDefinitions.pdf)

bathing and dressing, and difficulty performing errands such as shopping. For children younger than five, only vision and hearing categories are assessed. Data does not include children in institutions.

**Proxy for Potentially Eligible Children  
 CLTS Waiver + Waitlist, CCOP, Katie Beckett**

<b>Children Served Any Time in Calendar Year</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Program Enrollment for CLTS, Katie Beckett, CCOP	18,627	20,108
<b>(-)</b> Children Enrolled in Multiple Programs (Duplicates)	4,256	6,860
<b>Unduplicated Children Served in 2016</b>	<b>14,371</b>	<b>13,248</b>

<b>Potentially Eligible Children</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Children Potentially Eligible for CLTS, Katie Beckett, CCOP	56,337	55,326
<b>(-)</b> Unduplicated Children Served in 2016	14,371	13,248
<b>Remaining</b>	<b>41, 966</b>	<b>42,078</b>

<b>% of Potentially Eligible Children Enrolled</b>	
<b>Wisconsin Total:</b>	<b>25.5%</b>
<b>County/Consortia Range:</b>	<b>7.1% to 58.7%</b>
<b>County/Consortia Average:</b>	<b>29.6%</b>

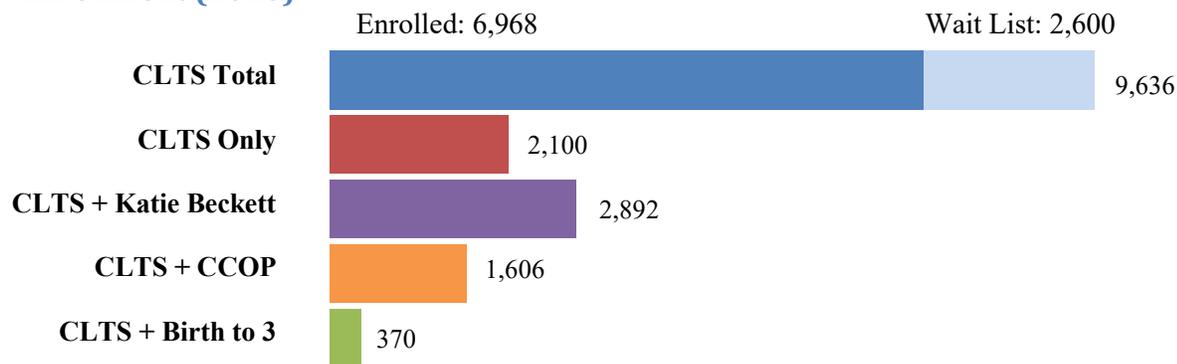
<b>% of Potentially Eligible Children Served</b>		
	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
<b>Wisconsin State Total:</b>	20.9%	22.3%
<b>County Range:</b>	4.4% to 70.0%	4.0% to 91.0%
<b>County Average:</b>	22.9%	25.2%

## Enrollment in CLTS, CCOP, and Katie Beckett

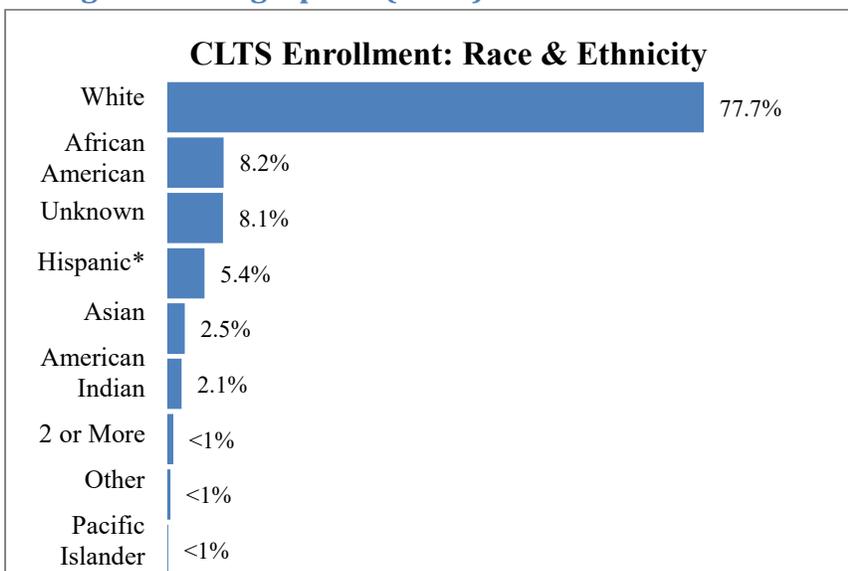
Children with disabilities, as defined by the ACS, suggests that over 56,000 children in Wisconsin have care needs that would likely result in their eligibility for programs administered by the Bureau of Children's Services in the Long Term Care area of the Division of Medicaid Services. Not all children potentially eligible for these programs may choose to enroll or need to access the programs.

The decision to access these specific programs is dependent on a number of factors. Some families have adequate resources with private health coverage to meet their child's needs. Additionally, one in three Wisconsin children is covered by Medicaid. If families are enrolled in BadgerCare Plus and/or SSI-related Medicaid, their children with disabilities may have their care needs met. Furthermore, Wisconsin has a number of other community-based public programs that children with disabilities may access including Wraparound Milwaukee and Children Come First.

### Enrollment (2016)



### Program Demographics (2016)



#### Target Groups\*\*

DD	75.8%
PD	8.6%
SED	15.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

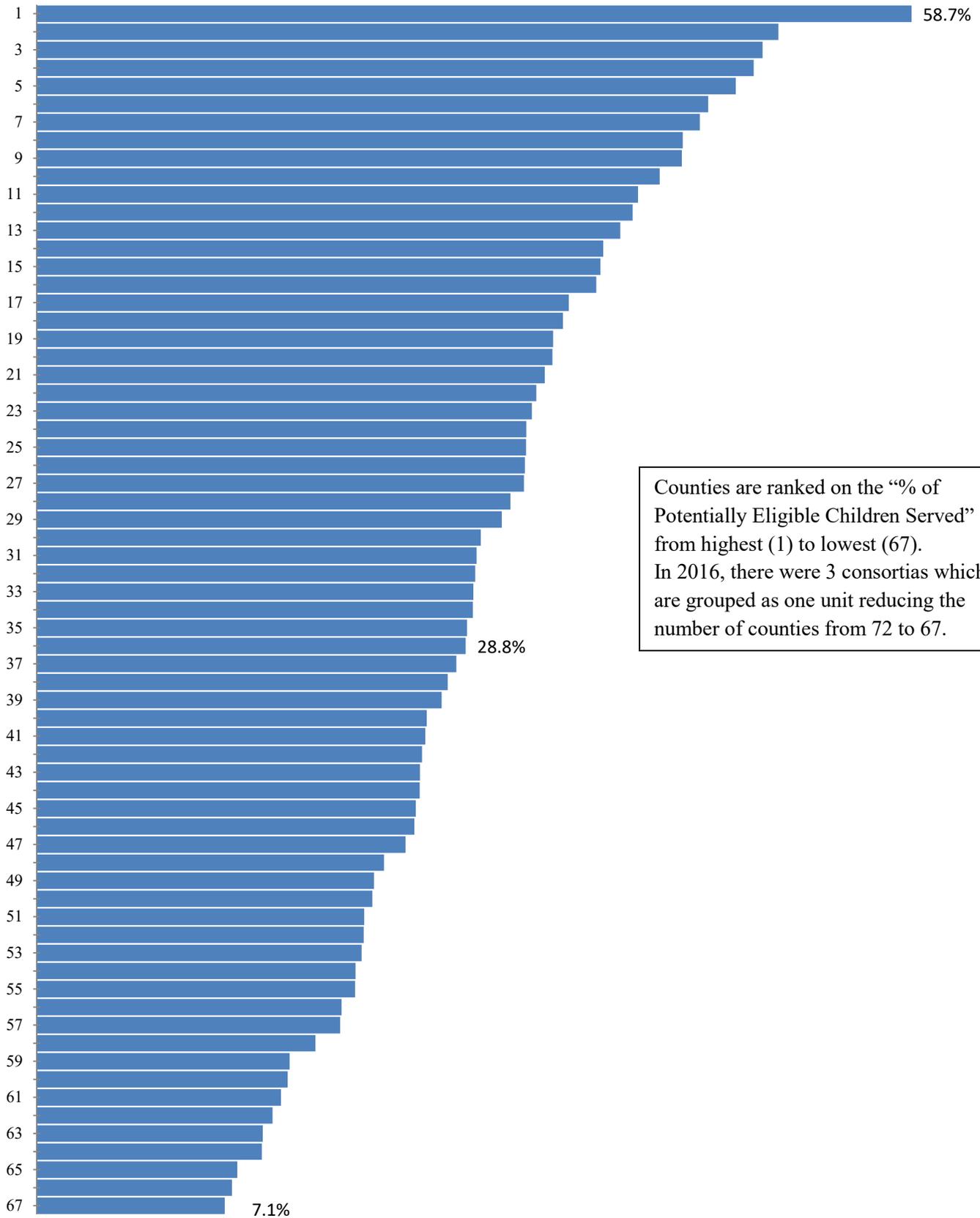
#### Gender

Female	29.9%
Male	70.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>

\*Note: Since "Hispanic" is an ethnicity, the sum of all columns is greater than 100%.

\*\*DD: Developmental Disability; PD: Physical Disability; SED: Severe Emotional Disability

### Percent of Potentially Eligible Children Enrolled in BCS Programs by County



Counties are ranked on the “% of Potentially Eligible Children Served” from highest (1) to lowest (67). In 2016, there were 3 consortias which are grouped as one unit reducing the number of counties from 72 to 67.