

Resources available to public health partners

Introduction

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) Division of Public Health (DPH) provides data products for our public health partners and the public. Browse the list of topics to learn a bit more about these resources.

Use the links in the table of contents to jump to the topics.

Note: This is not an exhaustive list of public health data resources. If you don't see what you're looking for, please reach out to the [DPH Data Resource Center \(DHSDPHDataResourceCenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov\)](mailto:DHSDPHDataResourceCenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov). They'll help you navigate the DPH data resources.

DPH Data			
Introduction	<u>1</u>	Environmental and occupational health	<u>6</u>
DPH data assistance	<u>2</u>	Air quality	<u>6</u>
DPH Data Resource Center (DRC)	<u>2</u>	Climate	<u>6</u>
Local system data strategist	<u>2</u>	Drinking water	<u>6</u>
Birth and pregnancy	<u>3</u>	Lead	<u>6</u>
Chronic disease	<u>3</u>	Occupation	<u>7</u>
Death and mortality	<u>4</u>	Emergency preparedness	<u>7</u>
All deaths	<u>4</u>	Emergency medical services (EMS)	<u>7</u>
Infant deaths	<u>4</u>	EMResource	<u>7</u>
Suicide	<u>4</u>	Food assistance	<u>7</u>
Violent death	<u>4</u>	Hospital & emergency room discharge	<u>8</u>
Disease surveillance	<u>5</u>	Immunizations	<u>8</u>
Cancer	<u>5</u>	Oral health	<u>8</u>
Reportable diseases	<u>5</u>	Population estimates	<u>9</u>
Wastewater surveillance	<u>5</u>	Structural and social determinants of health (SDoH)	<u>9</u>
		Substance use	<u>9</u>
		Alcohol-related	<u>9</u>
		Drug-related	<u>10</u>
		Prescription drug issuance	<u>10</u>
		Overdose deaths	<u>11</u>
		Surveys	<u>11</u>
		Behavioral Risk Factor Survey system (BRFSS)	<u>11</u>
		Family Health Survey (FHS)	<u>12</u>
		Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)	<u>12</u>
		Symptoms displayed at emergency room	<u>13</u>
		Traumatic injury	<u>13</u>
		Considerations	<u>14</u>
		Terms	<u>15</u>

This material was created to support local and Tribal health departments (LTHD) in Wisconsin.

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
<p>DPH data assistance</p>	<p>This resource includes designated personnel to help those seeking and using DPH data.</p>	<p>DPH Data Resource Center (DRC)</p> <p>The DRC is a team of helpful staff to support data sharing at DPH serving all data requestors—internal, researchers, partners, and community members.</p> <p>The DRC can:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide folks through the DPH data request process including potential Data Governance Board review and data use agreement execution. • Identify appropriate data sources to meet requestor needs. • Connect folks with the appropriate program or subject matter experts. <p>DHSDPHDataResourceCenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov</p>	<p>Local system data strategist</p> <p>Specific support for local health departments and Tribal health offices using data for their community health assessments (CHA) and other data-related reports</p> <p>David Strong Local system data strategist</p> <p>David.Strong@dhs.wisconsin.gov</p>

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<p>Birth and pregnancy</p>	<p>This theme includes information about live birth events.</p> <p>A finalized dataset is created each year, while provisional data is available daily after event registration.</p> <p>Consider using for counts and rates of pregnancy, select maternal and child demographics, select maternal and child outcomes, breastfeeding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Births and Infant Death dashboards • WISH (Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health) Query System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All Births • Low Birthweight • Prenatal Care • Teen Births <p>See also: PRAMS data</p>	<p>Vital Record (VR) Reports Provisional pre-defined reports are built into the vital records reporting system. VR Reports Quick Guide</p> <p>Additional aggregate data are available upon request.</p> <p>Statistical files Access to jurisdictional raw data sets of previous year requires approval, data use agreement, statistical software, and analysis expertise. Fees may apply.</p>
<p>Chronic disease</p>	<p>This theme includes information about long-term (though usually preventable) illness in Wisconsin. Focus areas include heart disease, stroke, and diabetes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chronic Disease Prevention Program: Maps and Data • Environmental Public Health Tracking: Heart Disease and Stroke Data • Asthma: Wisconsin Asthma Statistics • Environmental Public Health Tracking: Asthma Data 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>

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Death and mortality All deaths	<p>This theme includes information from registered death records. Includes demographics of decedent and facility and causes of death.</p> <p>Provisional data is available the day after event registration, with finalized annual datasets released each fall and historical data (1976–2013) is stored in SAS data files.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WISH – Mortality Module • Deaths including annual reports and dashboards 	<p>VR Reports Provisional pre-defined reports built into the vital records reporting system. VR Reports Quick Guide</p> <p>Additional aggregate data are available upon request.</p> <p>Statistical files Access to jurisdictional raw data sets of previous year requires approval, data use agreement, statistical software, and analysis expertise. Fees may apply.</p> <p>Pre-linked birth and infant death set is also available.</p>
Death and mortality Infant deaths	<p>This theme includes information about death that occur before one year of age.</p>	<p>WISH – Infant Mortality Module</p>	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
Death and mortality Suicide	<p>This theme includes information specific to self-harm resulting in death.</p>	<p>Suicide Prevention: Data WISH – Injury-related Mortality</p>	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
Death and mortality Violent death	<p>This theme includes information about non-natural deaths including accidents, suicide, and homicides.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Violent Death Reporting System Data Dashboards • WISH – Violent Death Module • CDC’s Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>

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Disease surveillance Cancer	This theme includes records of cancer diagnoses and cancer patient survival. The Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System (WCRS) manages patient data including demographic attributes, as well as vital status and cause of death; tumor diagnosis data include date, residential location, and cancer type/stage.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Cancer Reporting System Statistics and Publications • Environmental Public Health Tracking: Cancer Data 	Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request. Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.
Disease surveillance Reportable diseases May also be referred to as <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Case reporting • Communicable diseases • STIs • Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) 	This theme includes information about various reportable illnesses. The Wisconsin Electronic Disease Surveillance System (WEDSS) facilitates the reporting, investigation, and surveillance of reportable diseases from public health officials and healthcare providers. This includes certain communicable, respiratory, sexually transmitted, and blood-borne infections.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Communicable Disease Surveillance Data • STD: Surveillance Data 	WEDSS access Brief Overview of WEDSS WEDSS includes reporting and exporting functionality.
Disease surveillance Wastewater surveillance	This theme includes information about viral RNA in community sewage to track the spread of diseases. It was originally developed to monitor COVID-19 in Wisconsin, but it now includes viruses like influenza, RSV, and drug-resistant organisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wastewater Monitoring: Statewide Wastewater Respiratory Summary • Wastewater Monitoring: COVID-19 Levels in Wastewater • Wastewater Monitoring: Influenza and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) Levels in Wastewater • CDC's National Wastewater Surveillance System (NWSS) 	Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request. Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
Environmental and occupational health Air quality	This theme includes information on air toxics, ozone, and PM2.5. For air toxics, it shows yearly air concentration levels and cancer risk estimates by source. For ozone and PM2.5, it reports annual levels and how many days each year exceed regulatory standards.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Public Health Tracking: Air Quality Data • Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Trends 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
Environmental and occupational health Climate	This theme includes information about the impact of climate change conditions impacting people's health in Wisconsin.	Climate and Health: Summer Health Hazards Dashboard	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
Environmental and occupational health Drinking water	This theme includes information about drinking water contaminants from the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR). This data includes calculations for the Environmental Public Health Tracking (EPHT) program's annual and quarterly measures of contaminants in regulated public water systems. These contaminants include arsenic, nitrate, radium, uranium, and several chemicals and disinfection byproducts. The dataset covers sample results from "municipal community" and "other than municipal, community" across the state.	Environmental Public Health Tracking: Water Data	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
Environmental and occupational health Lead	This theme includes information about child blood lead testing and poisoning.	Environmental Public Health Tracking: Lead Poisoning Data	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>

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Environmental and occupational health Occupation	This theme includes information about work-related hazards, exposures, illnesses, and injuries.	Occupational Health: Data and Publications	Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request. Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.
Emergency preparedness Emergency medical services (EMS)	This theme includes information about response to medical emergencies within the community. The Wisconsin Ambulance Run Data System (WARDS) database contains patient care records for ambulance transports provided by all licensed ambulance services statewide. It includes all ground and air services, as well as all First Responder services that provide advanced skills in the care of their patients.	EMS: Data	Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request. Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.
Emergency preparedness EMResource	This theme includes information used in emergency response, such as hospital bed capacity, resource and equipment availability, and facility readiness. EMResource data is used to provide real-time updates of health care capabilities on a local, regional, and statewide level.	Public resources are not applicable.	EMResource information and access
Food assistance	This theme includes information about the supplemental nutrition program administered by DPH.	Wisconsin WIC Data	Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request. Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.

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<p>Hospital & emergency room discharge</p> <p>including inpatient and ambulatory events</p>	<p>This theme includes discharge information from various medical visits. Wisconsin hospital data (including inpatient, surgery, and emergency visits) is collected by the Wisconsin Hospital Association Information Center (WHAIC). It includes patient demographics, diagnoses, procedures, charges, length of stay, and discharge status, with some confidential information available upon request.</p>	<p>WISH – Injury-related Health Outcomes module</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury-related emergency department visits • Injury-related hospitalizations • Hospitalizations resulting from nonfatal motor vehicle crashes 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires DGB approval and data use agreement.</p>
<p>Immunizations</p>	<p>This theme includes information about vaccines administered in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR) is a statewide, population-based immunization information system (IIS) used to record and track immunization histories for Wisconsin residents of all ages.</p>	<p>Immunizations dashboards</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adult vaccine data • Child and adolescent vaccine data • COVID-19 vaccination data • Flu vaccination data • RSV immunization data <p>Wisconsin Immunization Registry (WIR)</p>	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
<p>Oral health</p>	<p>This theme includes information about oral health including contributing factors and preventative measures.</p> <p>Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile, the school-based dental sealant program including areas served, participation rates, and estimated dollar value of preventative services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral Health Program: Data and Reports • Wisconsin Seal-A-Smile data dashboard • Environmental Public Health Tracking: Oral Health 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
<p>Population estimates</p>	<p>This theme includes information about the approximate size and makeup of various geographies.</p> <p>The U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program sends DHS' Office of Health Informatics mid-year population estimates for counties and the state of Wisconsin by age groups, sex, race and ethnicity for non-Census years. Estimates are used to calculate population-based health statistics. Estimates for age groups, sex, race and ethnicity may not sum to totals shown due to rounding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WISH – Population module • U.S. Census Population and Housing Unit Estimates data 	<p>Additional aggregate data, flexible geographies, and Census Bureau estimates are available upon request.</p>
<p>Structural and social determinants of health (SDoH)</p>	<p>This theme includes information about vital community conditions and non-medical factors that influence health. Social determinants of health include the environments and experiences in which people are born, grow, live, work and age.</p>	<p>Structural and Social Determinants of Health (SDoH) Data</p>	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p>
<p>Substance use Alcohol-related</p>	<p>This theme includes information about events and behavior influenced by alcohol use and abuse.</p> <p>Several resources can help tell the story of alcohol use including death certificates, emergency services records, hospital discharge, surveys, and density maps.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol: By the numbers • Wisconsin Environmental Public Health Tracking Program maintains a dashboard with data on alcohol outlet density and alcohol-related hospitalizations. 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p>

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
<p>Substance use Drug-related</p> <p>including opioids</p>	<p>This theme includes information about fatal and non-fatal events related to drug use and abuse.</p> <p>Several resources can help tell the story of opioid use including death certificates, emergency services records, hospital discharge, prescription drug issuance, and overdose surveillance systems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioids: Data • Dose of Reality: Opioids Data dashboards • A Guide to Interpreting Opioid Statistics (P-02084) • WISH module: Opioid-Related Hospital Encounters • Monthly Suspected Opioid Overdose Reports 	<p>Wisconsin Suspected Overdose Alerts for Rapid Response (WiSOARR)</p> <p>See also: Symptoms displayed at emergency room</p> <p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
<p>Substance use Prescription drug issuance</p>	<p>This theme includes information about prescriptions related to habit-forming drugs like opioids.</p> <p>The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) helps improve patient safety and reduce the abuse and diversion of prescription drugs in Wisconsin. The program groups entries per patient to calculate total prescriptions, quantities and doses.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioids: Data Summary Dashboard • Opioids: Adult Opioid Use Dashboard • Opioid Prescribing among dental providers in Wisconsin • Wisconsin ePDMP Statistics Dashboard 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
<p>Substance use Overdose deaths</p>	<p>This theme includes information about fatalities where one or more substances used in excess contributed to death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opioids: Hospital Visits Dashboard Substance Use: Drug Overdose Deaths Dashboard • WISH Query: Drug Overdose Deaths • Wisconsin Department of Corrections Overdose Events and Deaths • CDC's State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS) and Drug Overdose Surveillance and Epidemiology (DOSE) Dashboards 	<p>The Wisconsin Suspected Overdose Alerts for Rapid Response (WISOARR) system is for professionals working in substance use prevention, harm reduction, treatment, and recovery support services. It provides near real-time data on suspected drug overdoses to inform community actions to save lives.</p> <p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
<p>Surveys Behavioral Risk Factor Survey system (BRFSS)</p>	<p>This survey includes information about health-related risk behaviors, chronic conditions, and preventative service usage.</p> <p>The Wisconsin Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance Survey (BRFSS) is part of the CDC's national health survey system, which collects data by surveying adults across all US states and several territories.</p> <p>National datasets are available on the CDC's website, but they do not include zip code, county, or state-specific questions.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BRFSS: Reports and Data Products • WISH Query: Behavioral Risk Factor Survey Trend Data – State, Regions, Counties Estimates on a selection of risk factors and health conditions 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
<p>Surveys</p> <p>Family Health Survey (FHS)</p>	<p>This theme includes information about a household's health insurance coverage, health status, health care access, chronic conditions, and income.</p> <p>The Family Health Survey data is collected through interviews with Wisconsin residents, with one adult answering for the entire household.</p>	<p>Family Health Survey: Reports and Publications</p>	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and data use agreement.</p>
<p>Surveys</p> <p>Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS)</p>	<p>This theme includes information about the behaviors of the pregnant person and experiences before, during, and shortly after pregnancy.</p> <p>The Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS), is a survey of people who recently had a live birth, selected from state birth records. In Wisconsin, PRAMS uses a race-stratified approach and weights the data so results are representative of all people giving birth in the state each year.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Pregnancy Risk Assessment Monitoring System (PRAMS): Presentations and Data • PRAMS Automated Research File (ARF) 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and a DUA.</p>

Theme	Description	Public resources	Resources for LTHDs
<p>Symptoms displayed at emergency room</p> <p>May also be referred to as</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Syndromic surveillance • ESSENCE 	<p>This theme includes information about the kinds of symptoms an emergency room patient displays.</p> <p>Syndromic surveillance uses near real-time emergency department data from hospitals, sent through the National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP) and viewed in a tool called ESSENCE. ESSENCE collects visit reasons, diagnoses, and limited demographics but no personal identifiers.</p> <p>The data is used to track trends such as drug overdoses, respiratory viruses, and climate or public/occupational events/disasters event related emergency department visits.</p>	<p>National Syndromic Surveillance Program (NSSP)</p> <p>Syndromic data in action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respiratory Virus Data: Emergency Department Data • Climate and Health: Summer Health Hazards Dashboard • Wisconsin tick bite tracker 	<p>ESSENCE on CDC's BioSense Platform ESSENCE allows users to collaborate; investigate changes in trends; and analyze, visualize and share data. The tool—also known as the Electronic Surveillance System for the Early Notification of Community based Epidemics—helps operationalize the public health surveillance workflow.</p> <p>Contact DHSSyndromicSurveillance@dhs.wisconsin.gov to gain access to ESSENCE.</p>
<p>Traumatic injury</p>	<p>This theme includes information about intentional and non-intentional often violent encounters.</p> <p>The Wisconsin Trauma Registry contains injury, treatment, and outcome information from patients presenting to Wisconsin trauma hospitals who meet certain inclusion criteria related to their trauma activation status, hospital admission or transfer, and their injury or death.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wisconsin Trauma Care System: Data and Reports • Wisconsin Trauma Registry Data Dictionary 	<p>Additional aggregate estimates are available upon request.</p> <p>Line-level data requires approval and a DUA.</p>

Considerations

I still can't find what I'm looking for.

There are many reasons you may not be able to find what you're looking for:

- The data doesn't exist.
- The data has not yet been made available for public health analysis.
- The data is managed by a different agency.
- The data is hidden from the public view.
Person-level or event-level data can be potentially identifiable, and we take privacy very seriously. Contact the DPH Data Resource Center at DHSDPHDataResourceCenter@dhs.wisconsin.gov for assistance.
- A single data source may not be able to answer your population health questions.
Sometimes multiple sources must be used to answer the question. If appropriate, DRC will help coordinate the needed DPH data specialist to address your question.
- This is intimidating.
It can be hard navigating the different DPH program areas and their data. Contact the DPH Data Resource Center for assistance.

Lag time

Sometimes the time between data collection and availability can seem extremely long. Lag time can sometimes be months-long or years-long, which can be frustrating for urgent public health needs. DPH makes public health data available to our partners as soon as it is reasonably able.

Lead time for ad-hoc requests

Many programs can provide custom reports or data extracts. Where possible, please provide a two to four week lead time for ad-hoc data requests.

Provisional data

Many resources include provisional data. These data may not reflect the final, official numbers published by DPH. Provisional data are subject to change by the hour, day, and sometimes year.

Whenever possible, please use the final statistical data for your analyses and reporting. These are the most stable data and will align with data published by DPH. Include a disclaimer on the materials and note the date the data were pulled if you use provisional data for any of your board meeting presentations, reports, or communications.

For example: *Data are provisional and subject to change.*
 Data extracted from VR Reports on 1/30/2026.

Terms

Aggregate data is summarized information compiled from individual data points to reveal overall patterns and trends. It is created by applying mathematics to raw data, like averaging, percentages, or counting. Rather than focusing on a specific person or case, aggregate data looks at the whole community or group. Public health reports and dashboards use aggregate data.

De-identifiable data describes data where detailed information has been modified to maintain privacy of the individuals included within the dataset. Modification techniques may include suppression, aggregation, or randomization.

Frozen data is processed data used for statistical analysis representing a set point in time after which no other updates to records are applied to the data. Often the “official” version of a dataset and the most complete.

Identifiable data is data where the piece alone or in combination with other information can be used to identify an individual included within the dataset.

Line-level data are detailed, individual records. They may also be referred to as person-level, case-level, or event-level data.

Personally identifiable information (PII) is a classification for data that can be used to identify an individual.

Processed data is the raw data that has been cleaned, transformed, and organized for a specific purpose, making it more useful and easier to interpret. Processed data is structured and ready for analysis, though it may have less detail due to aggregation. It may also be referred to as “statistical” data.

Provisional describes information based on data that may change.

Raw data is the unorganized, original data collected directly from a source. Raw data is flexible, line-level, and detailed; it’s also time-consuming to analyze. The amount of detail often gives this data a PII classification.

Data Governance Board (DGB) is a group of DPH leadership and data experts who review high-profile, novel, and potentially identifiable data requests.

Data Resource Center (DRC) is a service to support access to DPH data. They usher data requests through the DPH review process.

Data Use Agreement (DUA) acts as a formal safeguard when sharing data sets that aren’t fully de-identified. It prevents misuse and protects data subjects by defining how data can be shared, accessed, used, and protected between entities. A DUA describes the data being shared, for what purpose it can be used, who can access the data, applicable laws, security measures, reporting breaches or agreement violations, for how long data can be retained, and data destruction requirements.

How can we improve upon this resource? [Let us know.](#)