WISCONSIN COLLABORATIVE for HEALTHCARE QUALITY

WCHQ Health Insights

Chronic Kidney Disease in Wisconsin | March 2026

Chronic kidney disease (CKD) impacts **645,000 Wisconsinites** and costs **$14 billion** annually in healthcare expenses.

645K+ Wisconsinites

$14 B annual cost

14% Prevalence amongst all adults

African Americans most affected

WHY THIS MATTERS

CKD is preventable, costly, and deadly. Patients with CKD have **3 times** higher annual health costs as non-CKD patients.

RETURN ON IMPROVEMENT

Early detection of CKD could save more than **$50,000 per patient, per year** in dialysis costs.

IMPACT ON WISCONSIN

- CKD is a major driver of cardiovascular disease, hospitalization, and premature mortality.
- Patients with CKD face significantly higher rates of heart failure, heart attack, stroke, and early death.

WHAT LAWMAKERS SHOULD KNOW

Positive Movement

Health systems are appropriately screening 67% of patients with diabetes for CKD.

Concerning Trend

CKD affects African Americans at higher rates –20% compared to 14% overall.

Policy Implication

Targeted prevention and early detection improve health outcomes while helping control healthcare spending .

WCHQ | 4809 S. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI 53718 | 608-535-5271 | www.wchq.org

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IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS WITH CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE

Statewide Improvement Goal: Screen an additional 6,000 patients with diabetes for CKD

Increase Kidney Disease Screening

Focus on Patients with Diabetes

CKD Education for Primary Care Providers

Target Underserved Communities

CHRONIC KIDNEY DISEASE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESULTS

Improving Outcomes for Patients with Chronic Kidney Disease

- **161,000** patients with diabetes were appropriately screened for chronic kidney disease.
- **60%** of patients with CKD have the condition appropriately documented in their medical record.

By improving CKD screening, health systems can begin treatment early in the disease, preventing costly and deadly complications such as dialysis, transplant, and death.

ABOUT WCHQ

We are Wisconsin's leading electronic health record data hub, connecting over 80% of primary care providers statewide. With 15+ years of clinical data, we offer cost-effective, research-ready resources to researchers and industry partners. Our infrastructure drives data innovation, health equity, and better outcomes, supporting $30M+ in grant-funded research and aiding patient care improvements across Wisconsin.

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