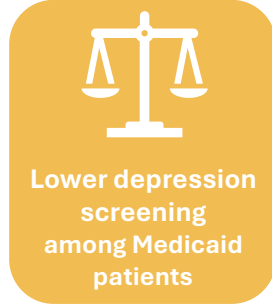


WCHQ Health Insights

Behavioral Health in Wisconsin | May 2026

Behavioral Health Disorders impact over **1,082,000 Wisconsinites** and cost over **\$9 billion** annually.



WHY THIS MATTERS

 Over **one-quarter of Wisconsin's population** lacks adequate local access to mental health professionals.

RETURN ON IMPROVEMENT

\$59 MILLION

Healthcare costs avoided through improved depression screening across Wisconsin

IMPACT ON WISCONSIN

- Improved access and treatment lowers healthcare costs, decreases risk of comorbid health conditions, and improves quality of life.
- Prevention and early detection offer the best opportunity for recovery.

WHAT LAWMAKERS SHOULD KNOW

Positive Movement

Depression screening for Wisconsin's rural underserved population is improving.



Concerning Trend

Depression screening in urban areas of Wisconsin is decreasing.



Policy Implication

Investment in early detection of mental health conditions offers improved health outcomes and cost containment.

IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR PATIENTS WITH BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIAGNOSES



Statewide Improvement Goal: Screen all patients 12 and older for depression at least annually and increase referrals and access for behavioral health treatment.

Screen for
Depression
Electronically

Integrate
Behavioral
Health in Primary
Care

Focus on
Adolescents

Target Screening
for Patients with
Medicaid

DEPRESSION SCREENING QUALITY IMPROVEMENT RESULTS

Improving Outcomes for Patients with High Depression Scores

WI health systems are:

- Screening patients for symptoms of depression at **every visit**
- Providing **medication management** in primary care
- **Integrate Behavioral Health** in primary care to improve access to care

Wisconsin health systems improved depression screening by **115%**, screening an additional **490,000** patients for depression each year.

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 innovation, health equity, and better outcomes, supporting \$240M+ in grant-funded research and initiatives, aiding patient care improvements across Wisconsin.