WISCONSIN OFFICE OF Children's Mental Health

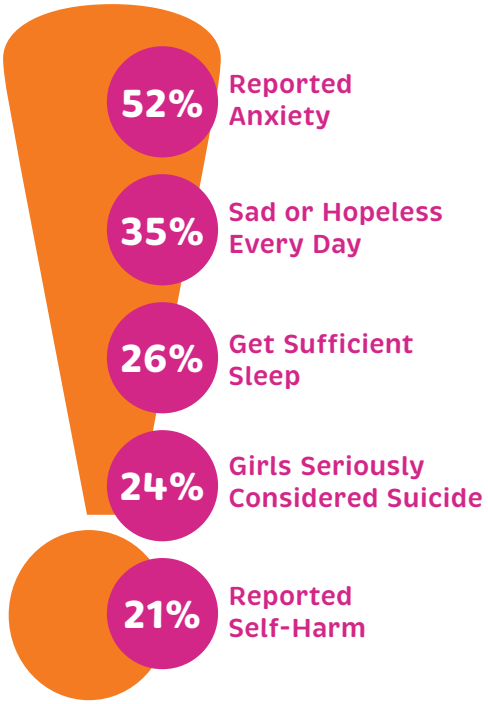


The Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) provides a dedicated focus on children's mental health and wellness in Wisconsin. OCMH was created in the 2013-15 biennial budget and began operating in 2014. **OCMH's charge is to study, recommend strategies, and coordinate initiatives to improve the integration of children's mental health services across state agencies.**

> "Prior to OCMH's start, a range of state departmental leaders, mental health professionals, and advocates came together to advance the idea of an organization attached to the Governor's office that could more effectively increase the alignment of children's mental health issues across state departments and draw focus on the mental health needs of our state's children. Since then, OCMH has done just what it set out to and put a spotlight on children's mental health when it was so needed."
>
> – Linda Hall, OCMH Director (2019 - present)

DECLINING YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

Percent of Wisconsin High School Students Self-Reporting Mental Health Concerns



ABOUT OCMH

VISION

Wisconsin's children are safe, nurtured, and supported to achieve their optimal mental health and well-being. Systems are family-friendly, easy to navigate, equitable, and inclusive of all people.

CORE VALUES

- Collaborative across systems
- Data driven
- Family and youth guided
- Promote inclusivity and equity among all stakeholders



continued >>

OCMH FOUNDATIONAL PILLARS AND WORK

CONNECTING

- Hundreds of people have participated in OCMH's work, including 2 **councils** and 8 **work teams**.
- Quarterly **Children's Mental Health Network** learning meetings attract over 100 attendees per meeting.
- OCMH **Newsletter** has 4,700 **subscribers**.
- OCMH is a partner in numerous **grants**.
- ★ OCMH is a **trusted expert** in children's mental health.



LIVED EXPERIENCE

★ OCMH ignited a culture shift of integrating **lived experience** voice into decision-making tables.



- OCMH's **Mental Wellness Student Leadership Summit** convenes over 450 students and advisors of high school mental wellness programs annually.
- OCMH's **Youth Mental Wellness Champions** is a 9-month cohort of 15 students from across the state.

RESEARCH AND DATA

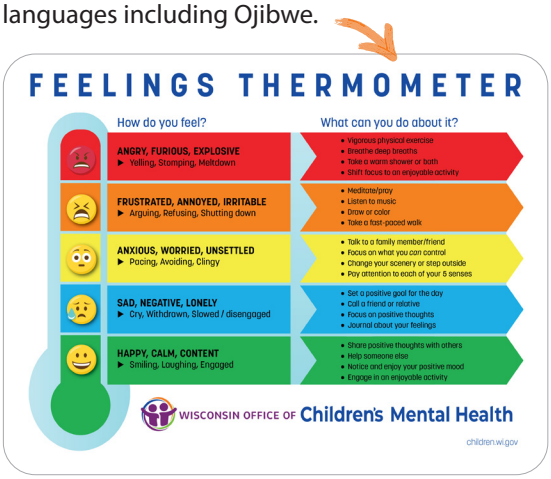
★ Organizations across the state look to OCMH for a vast array of data:

- **Annual Report**
- **Fact Sheets**
- **Data Bites**
- **Key Facts in Youth Mental Health**
- **Wisconsin Child Well-Being Indicators Dashboard**
- OCMH **Research News** in Youth Mental Health has **4,200 subscribers**.



KEY RESOURCES

OCMH has developed countless children's mental health resources for families and youth. All are available on our website (children.wi.gov). Most notable is OCMH's Feelings Thermometer, a tool to help children and their families begin to identify their feelings and learn ways to shift their mood when behaviors are challenging. The tool is available in 11 languages including Ojibwe.



THE OFFICE

- 4 staff: Director (a Governor appointee), Senior Research Analyst, Family Relations Coordinator, and Operations Lead.
- OCMH is served administratively by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and reports to the Governor.
- OCMH does not provide direct services, fund programs, or develop administrative rules.

OCMH FOCUS

- Social Connectedness of Youth and Youth Belonging have been OCMH's focus since 2022.
- Trauma-informed Care and ACEs (Adverse Childhood Experiences) were an early focus for OCMH.



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