

**Medicaid.** In Wisconsin, the Medicaid program is more commonly known as BadgerCare or Title 19. BadgerCare Plus refers to the part of Wisconsin's Medicaid program which insures children, children in foster care, children receiving Social Security Income (SSI)<sup>1</sup>, and low-income or disabled adults. Within the OCMH fact sheets, we use the term Medicaid.

## Children Served in Outpatient Settings<sup>1</sup>

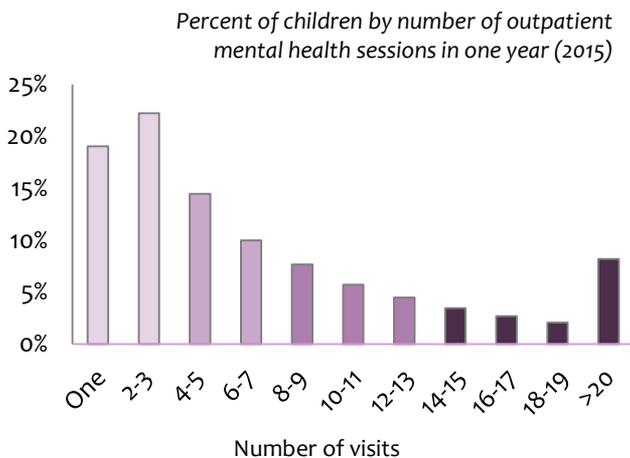
The number of children using Medicaid outpatient mental health services has increased since 2012. Medicaid outpatient services reached 7.3% of Wisconsin's Medicaid population under 18 (44,123, 7% increase from 2013) and 7.9% of children on Medicaid in 2015 (47,776, 8% increase from 2014). Individual children are also receiving more outpatient sessions. In 2012, 50% of children received more than four outpatient visits, and in 2015, this increased to 60% of children receiving four or more visits.

## Dollars Spent on Outpatient Mental Health<sup>2</sup>

The cost to Medicaid for children's outpatient mental health services has been increasing since 2012. In 2014, Wisconsin spent \$18.9M (\$1.45 per child under 18 in Wisconsin); this increased 20% to \$22.8M (\$1.76) in 2015.

## Number of Outpatient Sessions

In 2015, the number of sessions varied from two to nine across the state. On average, almost 20% of youth received only one outpatient session, though 50% received five or more.



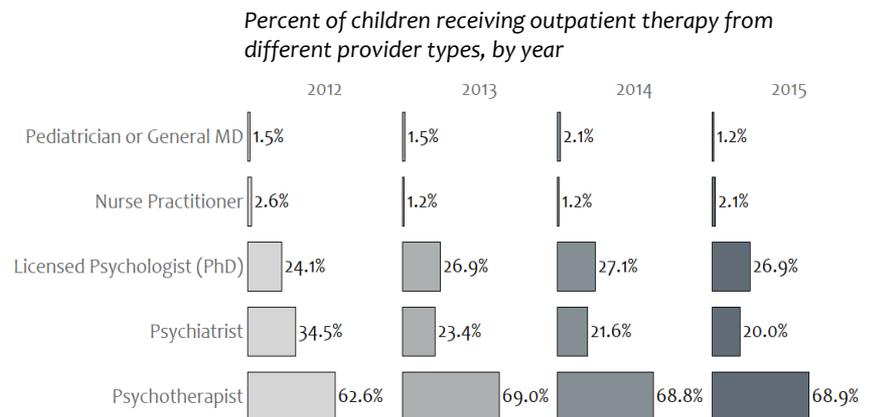
On average, girls received more sessions than boys. Hispanic, black, and other minority youth had approximately 20% fewer visits than white children in 2015.

## Key Findings

- Medicaid is the largest payer of children's mental health services in Wisconsin.
- Children's mental health outpatient services have increased in number of children served, number of sessions provided, and total amount spent since 2012.
- Children in Wisconsin's north and northwest receive, on average, more therapy visits.

## Provider Type<sup>3</sup>

In 2015, most Wisconsin children receiving Medicaid mental health services saw a therapist (e.g., licensed clinical social worker, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist). Approximately 20% of children saw a psychiatrist which is down from 35% of children in 2012.



The number of psychologists who provided outpatient mental health services to Medicaid covered children in Wisconsin increased from 446 in 2012 to 514 in 2015, as did the number of psychotherapists (1,603 to 1,988). The number of psychiatrists has decreased slightly (325 to 308 in 2015).

The estimated number of psychiatrists practicing in the state (Medicaid and non-Medicaid) has fluctuated over the last 10 years with around 7 per 100,000 WI residents. The number of psychologists has also fluctuated, with an average of 40 per 10,000 residents.<sup>4</sup>

# Outpatient Mental Health Service Data for Children on Medicaid

(page 2)

## Service Differences by County<sup>5</sup>

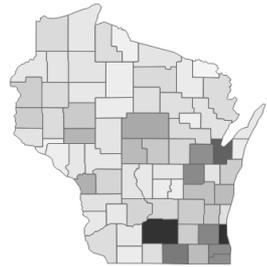
Lightest purple represents four or fewer child sessions, while darkest purple represents seven or more sessions.

Counties in the north and north west provide more sessions per child on average.

Despite having fewer providers in the northern region, children receive comparable or higher numbers of sessions, likely due to the smaller number of total children served.

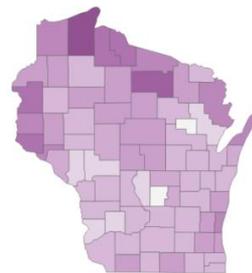
Average number of Medicaid children who received any outpatient mental health sessions per county (2015)

< 25 children  > 3,000 children



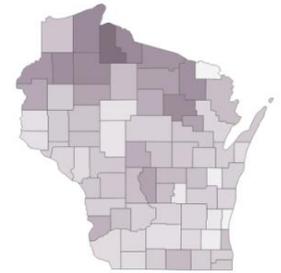
Average number of outpatient mental health sessions per child (2015)

2 per child  9 per child



Percent of children who received any outpatient mental health sessions under Medicaid per county (2015)

1%  10%



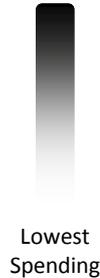
## Spending Differences by County

Counties that spend more per child on psychiatric hospitalizations, typically spend more per child on outpatient services. However, some counties are in the higher quartiles for outpatient spending but lower quartiles for inpatient spending.

Quartiles of child Medicaid mental health spending (all services) (2015)



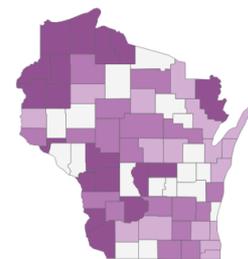
Highest Spending



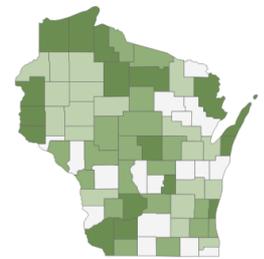
Lowest Spending

Quartiles of child Medicaid mental health spending (only hospitalization or outpatient therapy) (2015)

Hospitalization Quartiles (\$)



Outpatient Quartiles (\$)



## Parent and Youth Voice<sup>6</sup>

Outpatient mental health therapy is typically provided in a clinic and transportation can be a barrier. Alternative locations such as treatment in a child's home or school may support a family's ability to receive services and supports.

Prior Authorization regulations impeded families' ability to receive timely services, but these regulations recently changed eliminating what many described as a service barrier.

Outpatient mental health therapy is often the first and only treatment option, but it may not be the most effective service for all children, compared to alternative therapies such as equine assisted therapy, or more intensive services such as day treatment.

## References

1. Wisconsin Department of Health Services. (2012-2015). Medicaid claims spending [Data file]. Received 3/1/2017 from the Division of Medicaid Services. "Outpatient mental health services" are classified as having a mental health procedure code and a mental health diagnosis in the first or second diagnosis line on the claim.
2. Wisconsin Department of Health Services. (2015). WISH, Wisconsin Population Module [Data file]. Retrieved 10/18/2017 from <https://wish.wisconsin.gov>.
3. Wisconsin Department of Health Services. (2012-2015). Medicaid claims spending [Data file]. Received 3/1/2017 from the Division of Medicaid Services. "Outpatient mental health services" are classified as having a mental health procedure code and a mental health diagnosis in the first or second diagnosis line on the claim.
4. United States Department of Labor, Occupational Employment Statistics. (2010-2016). *State Occupational Employment and Wage Estimates* [Data file]. Retrieved 10/18/2017 from [https://www.bls.gov/oes/2016/may/oes\\_wi.htm#21-0000](https://www.bls.gov/oes/2016/may/oes_wi.htm#21-0000).
5. Wisconsin Department of Health Services. (2015). WISH, Wisconsin Population Module [Data file]. Retrieved 10/18/2017 from <https://wish.wisconsin.gov>.
6. Children's Mental Health Collective Impact Parent and Youth Partners. For more information visit <https://children.wi.gov/Pages/Integrate/ParentandYouthPartners.aspx>