






# DASHBOARD

## Wisconsin Child Well-Being Indicators Dashboard








### LEGEND

Each stoplight indicates whether the current Wisconsin data is an improvement, compared to the baseline data. Not all data sources report whether a change is statistically significant (outside the margin of error).

-  Wisconsin is **going in the wrong direction**.
-  Wisconsin **seems to be headed in the wrong direction**, but is within the margin of error (not statistically significant) or unknown (significance unknown).
-  This indicator **did not change** (difference of 0.5% or less before rounding).
-  Wisconsin **seems to be headed in the right direction** but is within the margin of error (not statistically significant) or unknown (significance unknown).
-  Wisconsin is **going in the right direction**.

All data points are pre-pandemic unless followed by an asterisk (\*). Years for baseline and current measures are selected to include approximately five years of data, depending on the data source. See the [Indicator Description](#) document at [children.wi.gov](http://children.wi.gov) for a detailed description of the indicator.

## HEALTH BEHAVIORS

INDICATOR	US CURRENT	WI BASELINE	WI CURRENT	
Cyberbullying	16%	18%	17%	
Frequent e-cigarette use (High School)	11%	3%	9%	
Perception of risk using alcohol	43%	36%	37%	
Students who did not sleep 8+ hours on a school night	78%	65%	73%	
Students who experienced sexual dating violence	8%	10%	13%	
Students who use electronics 3+ hours	Data Not Available	34%	49%	
Teen birth rate per 1,000	16.7	16.2	12.5	

National research shows a large decrease in cyberbullying during 2020 when schools were remote instead of in-person.



"I share data and statistics because it brings awareness to the issues that affect children all over. It isn't just one child, one city, one county – data can show us problems that affect kids across the state and country!"

KIMBERLEE CORONADO  
Lived Experience Parent  
Partner – Office of  
Children's Mental Health

## SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC FACTORS

INDICATOR	US CURRENT	WI BASELINE	WI CURRENT		
Difficulty with social skills	22%	23%	29%		Wisconsin was ranked 4th in the nation in 2019 in this national data. DPI data from 2021 implies a decrease, but testing was affected by the pandemic's impact on schools.
Eighth grade math proficiency	33%	41%	41%		
Employment (young adults)*	60%	74%	66%		This indicator from 2020 shows the pandemic's effects on employment.
Foster care placements per 1,000	3.4	3.6	3.7		
Four-year-old kindergarten attendance	34%	72%	72%		Results here are from 2019-20, when Wisconsin was ranked third in the nation. Current DPI data indicates a large, pandemic-driven drop in 2020-21, followed by a partial rebound in 2021-22.
Homeless youth	3%	2%	2%		
High school graduation	86%	88%	90%		Wisconsin was one of the top-ranked states in graduation in 2018-19, yet also had the nation's second worst Black/White disparities (71% Black rate vs. 94% White rate). 2019-20 DPI data show Wisconsin was able to maintain high graduation rates into the pandemic.
Low income youth	36%	38%	30%		
Parents who attend child's activities	87%	88%	91%		
Positive adult mentor	89%	94%	95%		
Mothers with higher education degrees	45%	45%	47%		
Percent of students suspended	5%	4%	5%		This data is based on the number of students suspended. More than a quarter of Wisconsin schools suspended Black students at a higher rate than White students, and nearly half of schools suspended students with a disability at a higher rate. Recent DPI data on the total number of suspensions hovered around 8% from 2017-18 through 2018-19 before dropping to 6.2% in 2019-20, most likely due to the switch to virtual school starting in March 2020.
School connectedness	Data Not Available	71%	61%		
Age 25 and older with bachelor's degree	33%	29%	31%		This pre-pandemic drop in school belonging was already a challenge schools were facing before the disruptions of virtual school and quarantine.

"Tracking indicators of mental and behavioral health concerns of Wisconsin's children is critical to understanding what is needed to support them and grow well-being. Layer onto that people sharing their lived experience with systems, barriers, and successes allows the OCMH Collective Impact process to make meaningful change."



JENNIFER HAMMEL  
Early Childhood  
Development and  
Trauma-Informed  
Care Director  
- Children's  
Wisconsin

## CLINICAL CARE

INDICATOR	US CURRENT	WI BASELINE	WI CURRENT	
Psychiatrists (count)*	Data Not Available	390	420	✓
School Social Workers (count)*	Data Not Available	565	704	✓
School Counselors (count)*	Data Not Available	1,992	2,143	✓
School Psychologists (count)*	Data Not Available	891	993	✓
Children with mental health conditions who did not receive treatment	48%	48%	40%	↔
Difficulty obtaining mental health services	59%	55%	52%	↔
Doctors who did not ask about parental concerns with behavioral problems	69%	58%	66%	↑
Early developmental screen	64%	63%	62%	↑
Early prenatal care	78%	80%	80%	...
Mental health hospitalizations	12%	15%	16%	↔

Wisconsin is making progress toward supporting children at school, yet still falls far short of recommended levels. Even recommended levels would be inadequate to meet the increased demand for mental health treatment generated by the pandemic.

These standard figures don't yet reflect the increased hospitalizations, worsening bed shortages, and emergency room boarding of young people in crisis that have prompted the declaration of a national youth mental health emergency.

## QUALITY OF LIFE

INDICATOR	US CURRENT	WI BASELINE	WI CURRENT	
Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs): two or more	18%	22%	17%	↔
Adolescents experiencing a major depressive episode	15%	14%	16%	↑
Children who have emotional, behavioral, or developmental conditions	22%	21%	25%	↑
High school students feeling sad or hopeless	37%	25%	29%	×
Teens considering suicide	19%	13%	16%	↑
Suicide attempts	9%	6%	7%	↑
LGB teens considering suicide	47%	49%	42%	↔
Young adults experiencing any mental illness	28%	22%	29%	×

Historic levels of strain on families mean that this number is likely to rise in the coming years.

The pandemic has been especially hard for people who were already struggling with depression or anxiety.

These figures don't yet reflect the increased mental health concerns and teen suicide attempts documented since the start of the pandemic.

LGB, rather than LGBT, is used here to align with federal reporting, but LGBT students are also known to be at high risk when not supported.