

WISCONSIN PUBLIC HEALTH PRACTICE-BASED RESEARCH NETWORK

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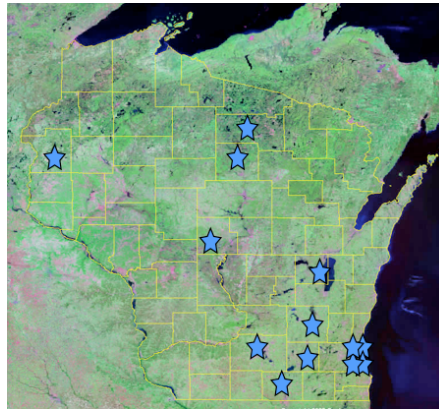
The Wisconsin Public Health Practice-Based Research Network

has formed to support public health systems and services research driven by the needs and interests of Wisconsin's health departments. Supported by a two-year development award from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the network will initially focus on public health systems and services. "Systems and services" research involves issues that underpin health department activities – such as structure, funding, staffing and quality.

The practice-based research program is national and Wisconsin is one of six states that received awards in 2009. These six states are joining the five networks already in existence to form a practice-based research community. Glen Mays, PhD, MPH, of the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences College of Public Health coordinates the national program.

Leadership

The lead agency is the Wisconsin Department of Health Services, with Pat Guhleman, MS, serving as Co-Project Director along with Susan Zahner, Dr. PH, RN, of the University of Wisconsin School of Nursing and School of Medicine and Public Health Department of Population Health. The Institute for Wisconsin's Health is managing network activities, with Beverly Larson, MPH, serving as the Project Manager.



Thirteen local health departments are initial project partners and organizational partners include, but will not be limited to, the Center for Urban Population Health in Milwaukee, the University of Wisconsin Institute for Clinical & Translational Research-Community Academic Partnership, the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute, the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards and the Wisconsin Public Health Association.

Participating Health Departments

Dodge County
Greenfield
Lincoln County
Madison & Dane County
Milwaukee
Oak Creek
Oneida County
Oshkosh
Polk County
Rock County
Watertown
West Allis
Wood County

Primary aims of this network:

- ★ To encourage and support high quality public health systems and services research that is driven by the needs and interests of local health departments, and,
- ★ To contribute to the advancement of public health systems and services research in Wisconsin and beyond.

Timeline

The network was created on December 1, 2009 and initial developmental funding ends on November 30, 2011. Network development activities will be ongoing and will grow out of the expressed needs and interests of local partners. The network's pilot research project, led by Dr. Zahner, focuses on health department financing.

Initial project objectives:

- ★ To establish a sustainable system in which more and better practice-based research on public health systems and services can be accomplished.
- ★ To increase public health systems and services research capacity in Wisconsin's governmental public health agencies.
- ★ To encourage and facilitate linkages between researchers in public & private academic settings and public health practice partners in order to design, conduct, and disseminate public health systems and services research.
- ★ To add to the evidence base for effective public health systems and services in Wisconsin and beyond.

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Visit: www.instituteforwihealth.org/phpbrn_portal/