



## Top Stories

### Combating Fatal Falls in Wisconsin

Wisconsin has the nation's highest rate of deadly falls among older adults, outnumbering deaths from breast and prostate cancers combined. There's no one definitive cause of our state's high number of deadly falls, but high alcohol consumption and slippery ice could be contributing factors. The problem persists whether seniors are living in their homes or in nursing homes. The Wisconsin State Journal has been detailing the problem in an **in-depth series**, and it even has a **handy checklist** for preventing falls at home.

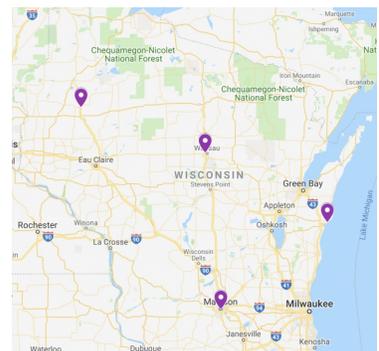


Photo: davidgsteadman on flickr

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### Four Wisconsin Hospitals Rank Among Top 100 Across US

Four Wisconsin hospitals are among the top 100 hospitals in the nation, according to a **ranking** released by IBM Watson Health, a health care analytics and artificial intelligence division of tech company IBM. Teaching hospitals Aspirus Wausau Hospital and SSM Health St. Mary's Hospital-Madison made the cut, as did two community hospitals, Aurora Medical Center in Two Rivers and Marshfield Medical Center in Rice Lake. The rankings are out of 3,156 short-term, acute care, non-federal hospitals across the nation, scored on their clinical, operational, and patient satisfaction metrics.



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### House Bill Would Bolster Graduate Residency Programs

A bill introduced by two U.S. representatives from Wisconsin aims to add more doctors to rural hospitals and

clinics by bolstering graduate residency programs. Last week, Representatives Mike Gallagher (R-Green Bay) and Ron Kind (D-La Crosse) introduced the ***Advancing Medical Resident Training in Community Hospitals Act***, which will help to expand the number of those in rural residency programs. A **recent report** from the Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce projects a significant shortfall of primary care doctors by 2035, with the shortage affecting rural areas the most.

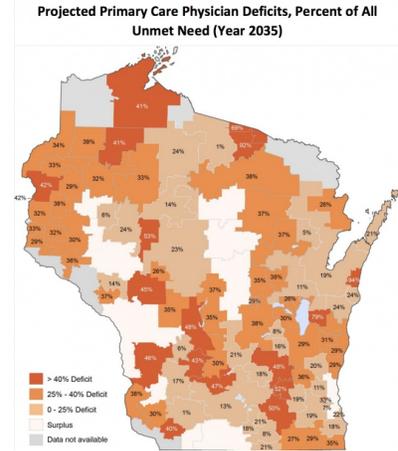


Image: Wisconsin Council on Medical Education and Workforce

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## More News

- The rate of deaths by synthetic opioids and death by suicide are still at **historic highs**, and certain demographics and geographies have particular trends.
- Governor Evers' newly-announced 2019-2021 budget has plenty of provisions, including **Medicaid expansion**, an increase in funding for dental care, the legalization of medical marijuana, bolstering of **rural broadband**, and adjustments to local government **tax limits**. Read the **highlights**, or the **budget** in its entirety.
- Rep. Treig Pronschinske has **announced a bill** that would assist rural fire and EMS departments in the state deal with volunteer recruitment and retention.
- A large new study finds the practice of **double-booking surgeons** in overlapping surgeries could be putting a vulnerable subset of patients at risk.
- Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease affects those in rural areas at nearly double the percentage of those affected in urban areas. A rural Viroqua resident is **spreading awareness** about the disease.

## Funding & Opportunities

- **SAFER Grants** will provide fire departments, governments, or tribal organizations with financial assistance to help fire departments increase frontline firefighters (Deadline: March 22nd)
- Federal **funding** will go to develop new rural residency programs or rural training tracks in family medicine, internal medicine, and psychiatry. (Deadline: March 25th)
- The **Community Impact Grants Program** will award projects from community partnerships that are designed to address the overall health, human equity and well-being of Wisconsin communities. (Letter of Intent due: March 25th)
- The Administration for Community Living will award grants for the development and expansion of **dementia-capable home and community-based service systems**

in states and communities. (Deadline: April 1st)

- **Rural and low-income schools** have competitive priority in a grant to help coordinate academic, social, and health services through local partnerships. (Intent to Apply: March 18th; Deadline: April 15th)
- Seventy-five grants will go to rural communities to **enhance service delivery** for substance use disorder. (Deadline: May 6th; Applicant webinar: March 27th)

## Events

- March 7th (today!): CMS will hold its [Rural Health Open Door Forum](#), 1-2 pm CT.
- March 14th: A webinar will explore [COPD in rural America](#).
- March 19th-20th: DHS will hold [two days of workshops](#) focused on best practices for opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery in Wisconsin's opioid crisis.
- March 20th: A [webinar](#) will examine cross-agency approaches to substance use disorder prevention and treatment.
- April 10th: We've announced more details for [Wisconsin EMS Day at the Capitol](#). Register [here!](#)



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