

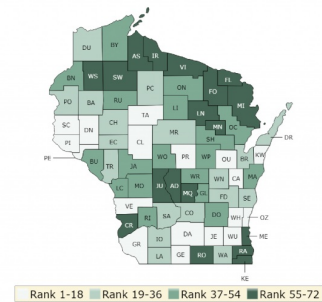


Top Stories

2019 County Health Rankings Released

The annual **County Health Rankings and Roadmaps** were released this week. The project ranks the health of Wisconsin's 72 counties based on a variety of data-informed health factors and outcomes, and **informs communities and health leaders** of what needs to change to drive better health outcomes. This year's **report** also goes into significant depth on the role stable and affordable housing plays in health.

2019 Wisconsin Health Outcomes Map



County Health Rankings

[Read more](#)

Practitioners Push Back On Dental Therapy

For some in rural Wisconsin, getting access to dental care can be tough. Much of the state faces a **shortage of providers, especially in rural areas**.

A **proposal** in Governor Evers' budget would establish a dental therapy program, which would establish dental therapists as providers who could perform routine dental services to patients. Similarly, a **bill under consideration** in the legislature would allow dental therapists to work in the state legally.

But the establishment of dental therapy is **unpopular with industry groups**, and it's also **not popular with rural dentists**.



Image: Nhia Moua on Unsplash

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What Goes On Inside a Critical Access Hospital?

What are the challenges that small, rural hospitals face, and what is it like to work in a small CAH in rural Wisconsin? A **rural health podcast** recently spoke to

Mark Zellmer, Physician Assistant educator and lead hospitalist/emergency room provider at Gundersen Tri-County Hospital and Clinics in Whitehall. The conversation touches on the hospital's plan to be fully staffed by physician assistants, and the establishment of a fellowship program for PAs.



[Read more](#)

"Working and caring for patients in rural areas can be a heck of a lot of fun. You really get to know people well, and they become your friends, they become your colleagues."
-Mark Zellmer

More News

- Amid declining milk prices, small farm bankruptcies have more than doubled in the past five years. An **in-depth report** takes a look at the problem.
- New BadgerCare work requirements **could cause hospitals** to see a drop in Medicaid revenue, and an increase in uncompensated care.
- The Governor has announced the creation of a council aimed at **reducing and eliminating health disparities** across the state. Applications to be on the council are due April 30th.
- Federal officials have removed a **legal/regulatory barrier** to the implementation of community paramedicine programs.
- Attorney General Josh Kaul has **filed to withdraw Wisconsin** from a lawsuit seeking to invalidate the Affordable Care Act.

Funding & Opportunities

- An **award from the Rural Wisconsin Health Cooperative** recognizes hospital employees who have gone above the call of duty. (Deadline: April 1st)
- Nonprofit organizations, government entities, and other types of organizations are eligible for funding for projects that work to improve **livability in a community**. (Deadline: April 17th)

- Local governments can apply for grants to help community partners **collect data on prescribing and drug overdose** trends. (Deadline: May 2nd)
- Seventy-five grants will go to entities in rural communities to **enhance service delivery** for substance use disorder. (Deadline: May 6th)
- Cities, towns, counties, tribes, and more can apply for funding to train and provide **resources to first responders** for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. (Deadline: May 6th)
- Grants will go to institutions of higher education and health professional training programs to **train behavioral health professionals** on prevention, treatment, and recovery services for substance use disorders. (Deadline: May 7th)

Events

- April 1st: An **event** for tribes and people who work with tribes will focus on trauma-informed care for tribal nations. Registration required by March 25th.
- April 2-3: The **Wisconsin Health Literacy Summit** will be held in Madison.
- Various: Budget season means legislators are holding public listening sessions, and **there may be one in your area.**

EMS Day At the Capitol

Join us for EMS Day at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 10th. It's a day for EMS departments across the state, whether rural or urban, to talk with their state legislators and share issues and policies important to them.

Register Here



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Wisconsin Office of Rural Health