

SHINE THROUGH

Creating Solutions for Mental & Behavioral Health



Children's
Wisconsin

Wisconsin kids are facing a mental health crisis:

Across the nation, children are experiencing a crisis in mental and behavioral health, and Wisconsin's situation is among the most urgent in the country.

- One in five children is living with a serious mental illness
- As many as 80,000 Wisconsin children ages 9-17 have had a mental health issue that required treatment
- Wisconsin kids are hospitalized for mental health concerns at four times the U.S. average rate

These staggering numbers fall short of calculating the cost of this crisis — missed milestones, unfulfilled potential and lost lives. **There simply is no health without mental health.**

More than one-third of youth over 14 with a mental health condition drop out of school.

This need is now

In every corner of our state — every county, town and neighborhood — a family is struggling to help their child. These are our kids, and this is our crisis. It cuts across every demographic, every age and every zip code.

Mental illness often begins in childhood, but treatment usually doesn't. Many kids cannot access the care they need. Wisconsin ranks 42nd in the nation in providing kids access to mental health care. Almost every county in Wisconsin has a shortage of pediatric mental health professionals.

On average, 10 years lapse between when individuals first experience symptoms of mental illness and when they first get treatment.

Our vision for mental and behavioral health

Children's treats more kids with primary and secondary mental and behavioral health conditions than any other Wisconsin provider. And yet we are not reaching all the kids who need us. With more funding, we could create new solutions to solve this crisis on three fronts:

1. Early detection, prevention and education
2. Increased and equitable access
3. Elimination of stigma



The path forward

Our mental and behavioral health work aims to create a gold standard — a future where kids and families have seamless access to the care they need in the neighborhoods where they live, learn, work and play. It also means responding to a community's current needs while anticipating and evolving for the future.

Children's has identified seven specific tactics to implement or expand in the next five years to help address the growing mental and behavioral health crisis facing Wisconsin kids. These tactics need an estimated \$150 million to be fully realized, and are designed to detect mental and behavioral health needs sooner, improve access to services, and reduce the stigma around the illness.

With your support, we can put the following critical initiatives into action:

- 1. Universal screening for mental health:** Expand screening for depression and anxiety throughout the health system, regardless of the reason for the visit.
- 2. Early childhood mental health:** Create a hub to anchor and coordinate the work of multiple specialists and programs providing early childhood mental health.
- 3. School-based mental and behavioral health:** Expand school-based programs throughout Wisconsin.
- 4. Integrated mental and behavioral health:** Offer integrated mental and behavioral health services in the primary care offices and specialty clinics.
- 5. Training the workforce of tomorrow:** Build a robust pipeline of providers with pediatric expertise.
- 6. Urgent and emergent mental health:** Offer a dedicated, fully-staffed pediatric psychiatric assessment team and space in the Children's Wisconsin Emergency Department.
- 7. Partnerships with inpatient and residential care providers:** Improve inpatient residential access and service through Children's Wisconsin support of other health systems.





160 of every 1,000 high school students have had suicidal thoughts.

Fifty percent of individuals who experience mental illness during their lifetime show symptoms before age 14.



3.1 million young people ages 12-17 deal with periods of major depression.



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