



State of Wisconsin

Scott Walker, Governor
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Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health Releases 2016 Report to the Legislature *Announces 48 indicators to track the well-being of Wisconsin's children*

The Wisconsin Office of Children's Mental Health (OCMH) today released its [2016 report to the Legislature](#) to outline the work that OCMH has completed in 2016 to continue its mission to innovate, integrate and improve Wisconsin's child and family serving systems with the resulting vision that **all** Wisconsin children are safe, nurtured, and supported to achieve their optimal mental, social, and emotional well-being. The report also identifies 48 indicators that OCMH will be using to track the well-being of Wisconsin's children.

"A highlight of this year's report is our creation of a child well-being indicator dashboard," said Elizabeth Hudson, OCMH Director. "This is the culmination of a year-long collection of information that over time will provide high-level trends related to Wisconsin children's resilience, adversity, service status, and outcomes."

Because program outcome data to track the effectiveness of Wisconsin state agencies' children and family health services is largely unavailable, the OCMH has identified 48 indicators to track Wisconsin's children's well-being and has created the child well-being dashboard. The OCMH dashboard indicators tell a story of positive and negative influences impacting a child's life course. A metaphoric scale is used to represent how a child may be impacted by a balance of internal and external factors as well as positive and negative experiences.

The child well-being dashboard indicates Wisconsin's children experience better resilience factors than the national average (e.g. early prenatal care, four-year-old Kindergarten attendance, neighborhood safety, and positive adult mentors) and experience fewer than the national average of risk factors (e.g. poverty, stressors during pregnancy, single parent households, and substantiated child abuse or neglect). Wisconsin is ranked worse than the national average when it comes to several negative outcomes such as a high number of youth hospitalizations, juvenile arrests, and the youth suicide rate. Positive outcomes include young adults' employment, high school graduation rates, and positive mental health days.

"Community and individual involvement in improving the lives of children and families is where we'll see the biggest impact," said Hudson. "As a society, we all have a role in creating environments where children are able to thrive through relational wealth. We hope our 2016 report provides a convincing argument for this approach."

The OCMH report also highlights the activities of the Children’s Mental Health Collective Impact. “My experience with the Children’s Mental Health Collective Impact initiative has been outstanding,” said Charlene Mouille, Executive Director of the United Way of Wisconsin. “The collective impact effort has deepened my understanding of the issues related to improving children’s mental health access and outcomes, as well as accelerated United Ways’ connections to state agencies’ departments and programs.”

Other highlights from the 2016 OCMH Report to the Legislature include:

- **Mobilizing Action for Resilient Communities (MARC):** MARC got a kick-start with the creation of a mobile app designed for workplaces interested in learning about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and mindfulness meditation as a strategy to develop workplace well-being.
- **Trauma-Informed Care (TIC):** TIC continues to be a central focus for OCMH. OCMH staff introduced families and youth to TIC principles and provided training for state stakeholders on how to examine and develop policies using a TIC lens.
- Identifying outdated beliefs about children’s mental health that often interfere with the development and promotion of science-based parenting, community support, state and local policies, and programs.

The Wisconsin Office of Children’s Mental Health Releases 2016 Report to the legislature can be found at <https://children.wi.gov/Documents/OCMH2016AnnualReport.pdf>.

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