

Eau Claire County Child and Youth Data Report

Recent Trends and Indicators
of Health and Wellbeing

September 2024



Executive Summary

No single data indicator tells a complete story about the health and wellbeing of children and youth. Data in this report are organized by the health domains shown below, with a summary of the data provided. The full dataset is in Appendix A.

Economics:

- County child poverty rates are decreasing
- Child poverty is experienced more often by black children than children in other racial groups
- Food insecurity in Eau Claire County mirrors statewide trends

Mental, Social, and Emotional:

- Hispanic or Latino and Asian students report increased rates of considering suicide
- LGBT students report higher rates of considering suicide compared to cisgender/straight students
- Students identifying as multiple races reported more problems with anxiety
- Students identifying as LGBT or female reported more problems with anxiety
- LGBT, Asian, and Hispanic or Latino groups reported the lowest rates of school belonging

Educational

- Eau Claire County student attendance has remained relatively steady over time
- Eau Claire County student graduation has returned to pre-Covid rates

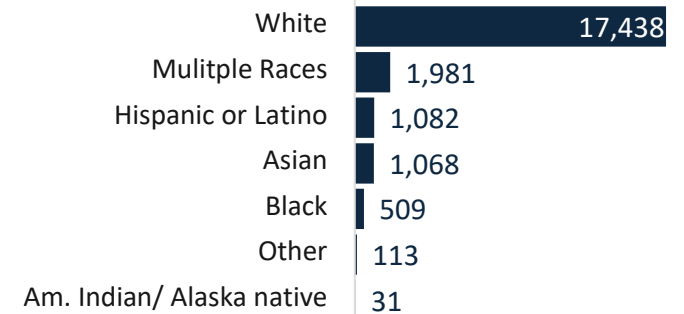
Physical Safety

- LGBT, biracial, female and Hispanic or Latino students reported more online bullying than the county average
- Black and American Indian/Alaska native children generally make up a higher proportion of all CPS calls and screen-ins compared to their county population

Physical Health

- Eau Claire County students report lower rates of alcohol consumption than the state average
- Infant mortality disparities are greater for non-white infants than white infants
- Low birthweight rates are higher among non-white infants than white infants

Race & ethnicity of Eau Claire Co. youth under age 18



| | |
|---------------------------|--------|
| White | 17,438 |
| Multiple Races | 1,981 |
| Hispanic or Latino | 1,082 |
| Asian | 1,068 |
| Black | 509 |
| Other | 113 |
| Am. Indian/ Alaska native | 31 |

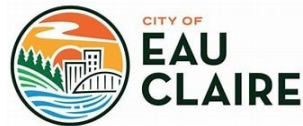
About this report

In 2023, six local agencies began collaborating with the goal of improving youth health in Eau Claire County. This report presents data that collectively helps us understand how our youth are doing overall and where there are opportunities to work toward more equitable health outcomes.

The 23 data indicators included in this report were prioritized from a list of over 90 potential indicators. Data indicators presented in this report were selected through a process that elevated data that were readily accessible, recent, able to be disaggregated (such as by race or sex), and routinely shown in national child health data models. A summary of Eau Claire County data for all 23 indicators is available in Appendix A. Wisconsin data is provided in Appendix B, and data definitions listed in Appendix C. Select data are presented graphically, and YRBS data was disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and sexual orientation to help show trends among these groups. If you have questions about this report or would like to get involved, please contact the Eau Claire City-County Health Department at echealth@eauclairecounty.gov.

Acknowledgments

This report is a product of the 2023-24 Advancing Health Equity Among Youth in Eau Claire County grant awarded by the WI Department of Health Services Division of Public Health. WE Public Health served as technical advisors on the data indicator prioritization and reporting processes. Partners on this grant included the Boys & Girls Clubs of the Greater Chippewa Valley, City of Eau Claire, Eau Claire Area School District, Eau Claire City-County Health Department, Eau Claire County Department of Human Services, and United Way of the Greater Chippewa Valley.



Economic wellbeing

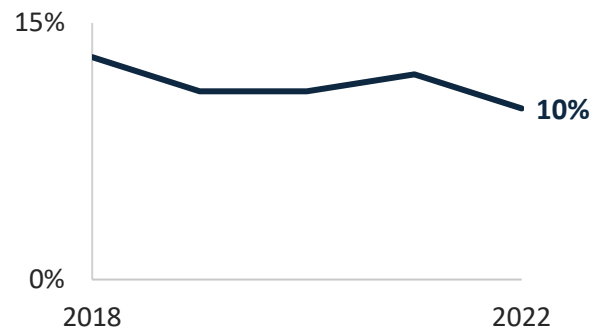
Economic opportunity is associated with shaping life outcomes and access to resources like education, housing, childcare, and nutritious and affordable food. Low-income adults are more likely to experience higher rates of chronic disease, lower educational attainment, and lower life expectancy ([Beech and Ford, 2021](#)). In addition, many BIPOC communities are disproportionately impacted due to historical injustices and discrimination that compound inequities over time.

Child Poverty

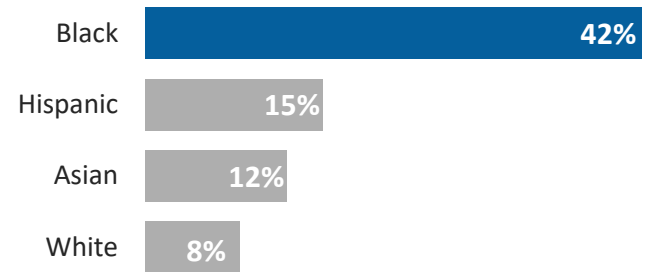
Percentage of children under age 18 living in poverty

US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2018-22.

County child poverty rates are decreasing



Child poverty is **experienced more often by black children** than children in other racial groups

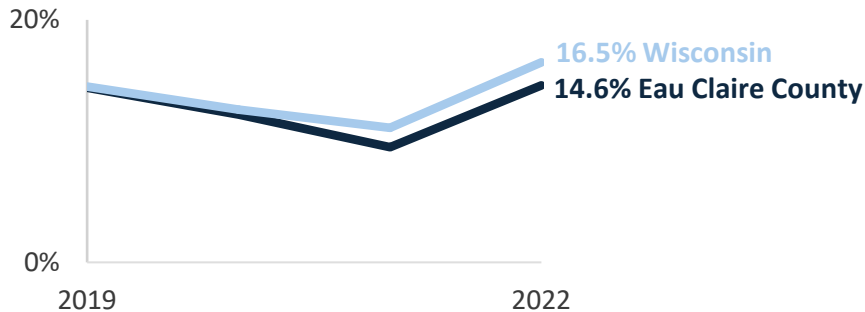


Child Food Insecurity

Percent of children under age 18 who live in households that lack access to enough food during the past year

Feeding America, Map the Meal Gap 2019-2023

Food insecurity in **Eau Claire County** mirrors statewide trends



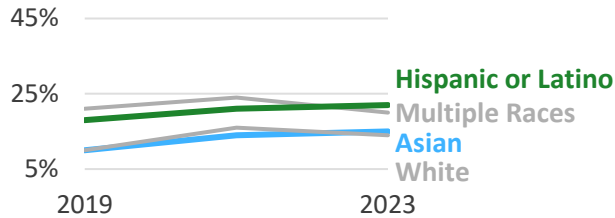
Mental, Social, and Emotional Health

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, “feelings of persistent sadness, hopelessness, and suicidal behavior increased about 40% for young people,” according to the CDC Youth Risk Behavior Surveillance System. The pandemic worsened these trends through social isolation, economic uncertainty, and academic disruption, and other challenges.

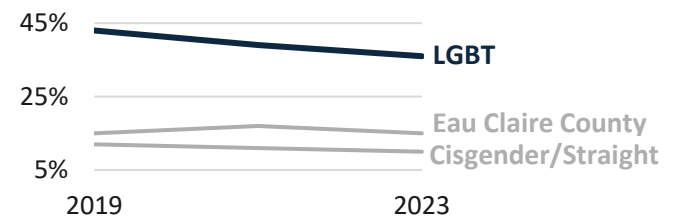
Considering Suicide

Percent high school students who considered suicide in the last 12 months, shown by race and gender

Hispanic or Latino and **Asian** students report **increased rates of considering suicide**



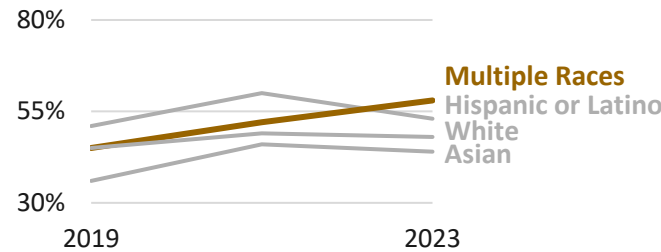
LGBT students report higher rates of considering suicide compared to cisgender/straight students



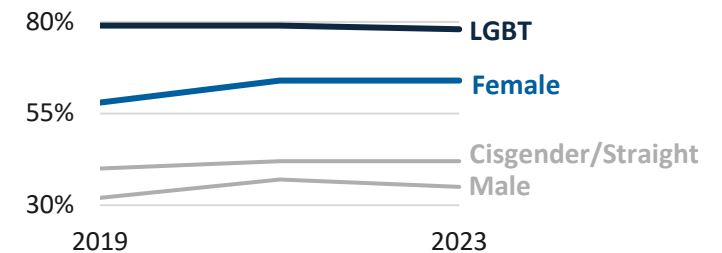
Problems with Anxiety

Percent of high school students who had significant problems with feeling very anxious, shown by race and gender

Students identifying as **multiple races** reported **more problems with anxiety**



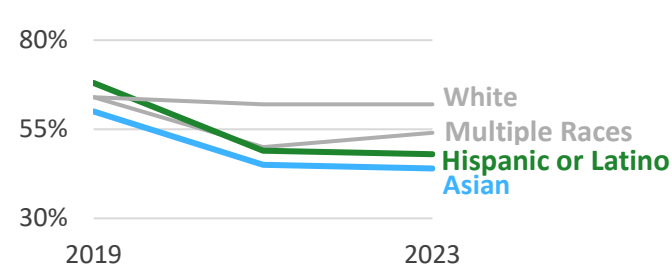
Students identifying as **LGBT** or **female** reported **more problems with anxiety**



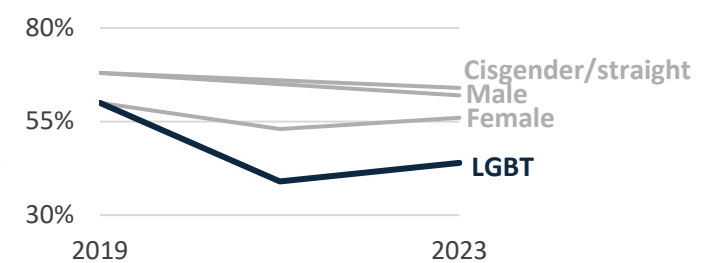
School Belonging

Percent of high school students who “agree” or “strongly agree” that they belong in school, shown by race and gender

Asian and **Hispanic or Latino** groups reported the **lowest rates of school belonging**



LGBT students reported the **lowest rates of school belonging** compared to other genders



All data from Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Educational wellbeing

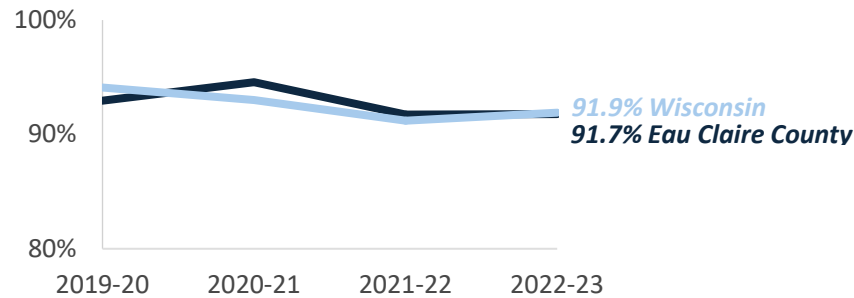
Adults with more education live longer and healthier than their counterparts ([Zajacova and Lawrence 2019](#)). Higher educational attainment helps equip individuals to make better decisions regarding their health through higher wages and knowledge of behaviors that promote better health. Addressing disparities in access to education can help to address health disparities in a community. This report focuses on high school attendance and graduation rate, though many other educational factors play a role.

School attendance

Percent of students in attendance on a typical school day

(Combined Altoona, Augusta, Eau Claire, Fall Creek school districts, from WISE)

Eau Claire County student attendance has **remained relatively steady** over time

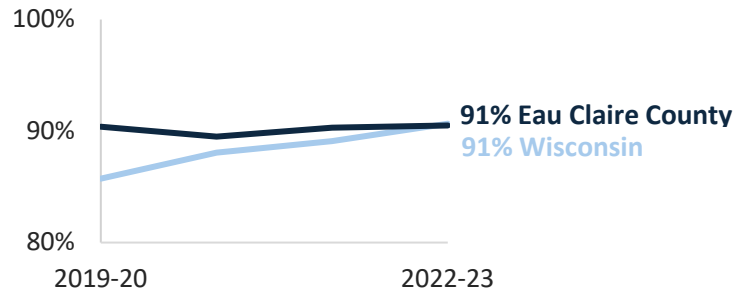


Graduation rate

Percent of 9th grade cohort that receives their regular diploma in four years or less

(Combined Altoona, Augusta, Eau Claire, Fall Creek school districts, from WISE)

Eau Claire County student graduation has **returned to pre-Covid rates**



Physical Safety

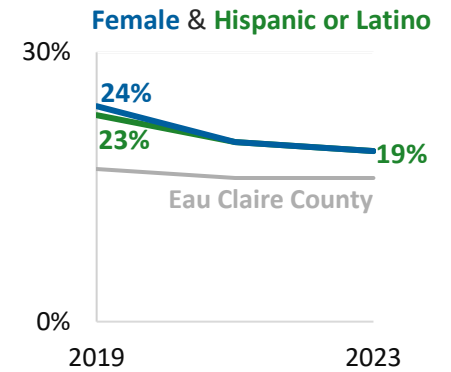
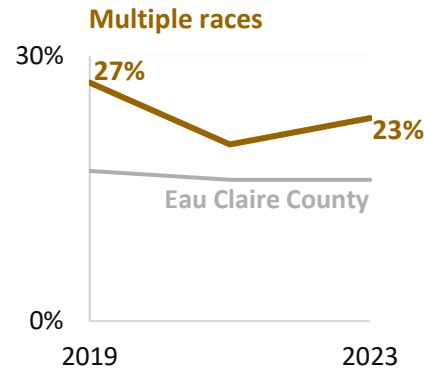
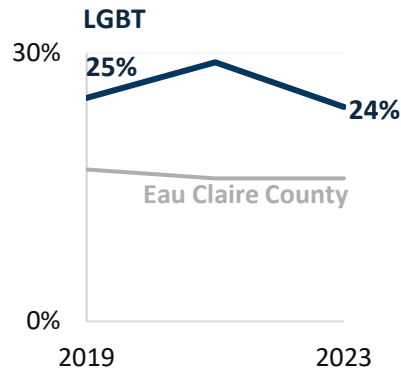
Physical safety of children is dependent on their physical surroundings as well as the people they are surrounded by. The [2023 Youth Risk Behavior Survey](#) notes that there was a decrease in perceived school safety and physical health across Wisconsin. Eau Claire County reflects these trends: percentage of students who agreed violence and bullying is a problem or threatened with a weapon have all increased since 2021.

Bullying online

LGBT, biracial, female and Hispanic or Latino students reported more online bullying than the county average

Percent of high school students who indicated they were bullied online

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

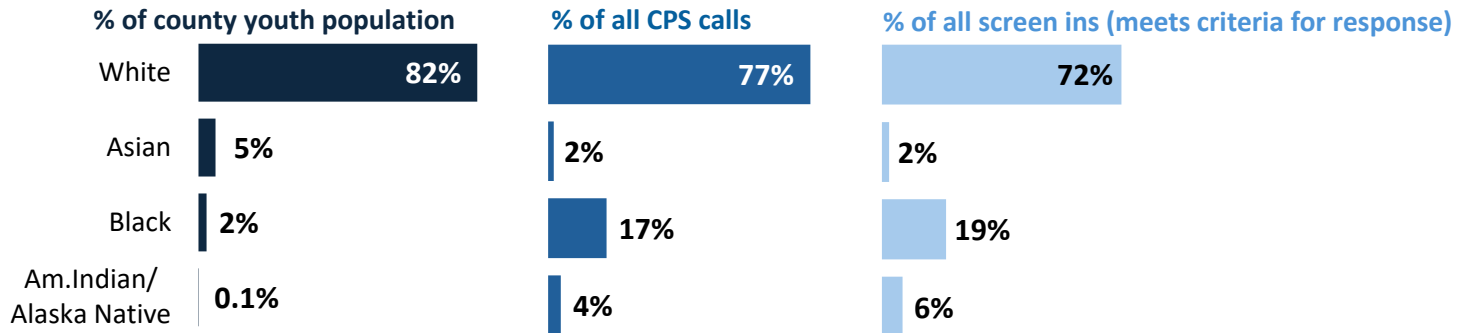


Child Abuse or Neglect

Black and American Indian/Alaska native children generally make up a higher proportion of all CPS calls and screen-ins compared to their county population

Number of Child Protective Services calls in 2023 (multiple calls for same child are included)

Source: Eau Claire Dept of Human Services



Physical Health

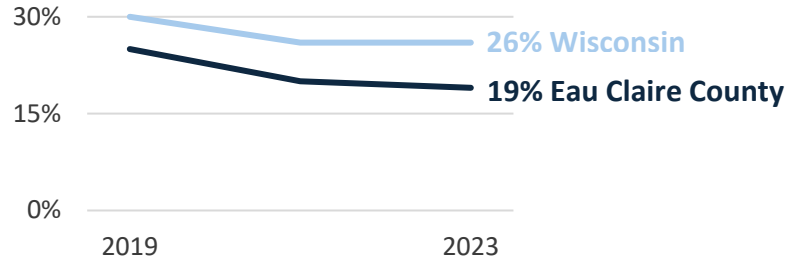
Statewide, alcohol, tobacco, and drug usage has decreased for students. Eau Claire County is below the Wisconsin state average for [alcohol outlet density](#) and reported lower rates of student binge drinking and overall student alcohol consumption. Regarding low birthweight, these rates have been increasing in WI and the US since the 1980s.

Alcohol Use

Percent of students who had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days

Source: Youth Risk Behavior Survey

Eau Claire County students report lower rates of alcohol consumption than the state average

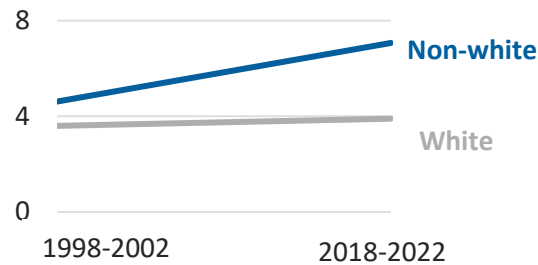


Infant Mortality

Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births that occurred within the first year of life

Source: DHS WISH

Infant mortality disparities are greater for non-white infants than white infants

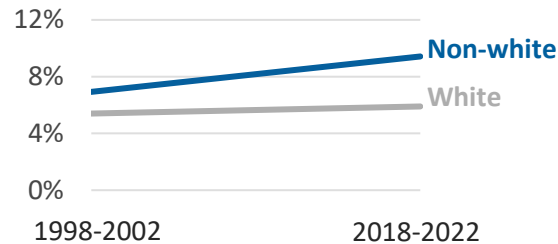


Low Birthweight

Percent of live births with an infant weight <2500 grams

Source: DHS WISH

Low birthweight rates are higher among non-white infants than white infants



Appendix A:

Eau Claire County

| Economics | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Trend | Compared to Wisconsin | Can be broken down by: |
|---|-------|-------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-------------------------------|--|
| Child food insecurity | 13.9% | 14.4% | 12.2% | 9.5% | 14.6% | - | | Below | Race/Ethnicity |
| Children in poverty | 13% | 11% | 11% | 12% | 10% | - | | Below | Race/Ethnicity |
| Children without health insurance | 4% | 3% | 5% | 4% | - | - | | Same | N/A |
| Mental, Social, and Emotional Health | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Trend | Compared to Wisconsin Average | Can be broken down by: |
| Extracurricular participation | - | 69% | - | 63% | - | 66% | | Above | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| School connectedness rate | - | 64% | - | 59% | - | 59% | | Above | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth who considered suicide | - | 15% | - | 17% | - | 15% | | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth who had a suicide plan | - | 12% | - | 12% | - | 12% | | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth with significant anxiety problems | - | 45% | - | 50% | - | 49% | | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |

Green arrow indicates change that could yield better health outcomes
 Red indicates arrow indicates change that could yield worse health outcomes
 Yellow indicates no change

"-" indicates data was not available or collected for this report. Arrows display trends going up or down based on the two most recent years. It does not indicate statistical significance.





















Eau Claire County




| Education | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | Trend | Compared to Wisconsin Average | Can be broken down by: |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|-------------------------------|--|
| English Language Arts test scores | - | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | - | | Above | Race/Ethnicity, income/economic status, sex/gender |
| High school graduation | - | 86% | 88% | 89% | 91% | - | | Below | Race/Ethnicity, income/economic status, sex/gender |
| Math test scores | - | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | - | | Above | Race/Ethnicity, income/economic status, sex/gender |
| Public pre-K enrollment | - | 8.0% | 6.3% | 7.0% | 6.2% | 6.8% | | Below | Sex/Gender |
| School attendance | - | 92.9% | 94.6% | 91.2% | 91.8% | - | | Above | Race/Ethnicity, sex/gender |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|
| | Green arrow indicates change that could yield better health outcomes | | Red arrow indicates change that could yield worse health outcomes | | Yellow indicates no change |
|--|--|--|---|--|----------------------------|

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Eau Claire County

| Physical Safety | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Trend | Compared to Wisconsin Average | Can be broken down by: |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|-------------------------------|--|
| Child abuse and neglect (per 1,000) | 36.5 | 30.3 | 31.7 | 27.9 | 26.3 | - |   | Below | Race/Ethnicity |
| Bullying online | - | 17% | - | 16% | - | 16% |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth who experienced sexual or dating violence | - | 21% | - | 14% | - | 16% |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Physical Health | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Trend | Compared to Wisconsin Average | Can be broken down by: |
| Infant mortality (per 1,000) | 7.2 | 2.7 | 2.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | - |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, insurance |
| Low birthweight | 6.6% | 6% | 7% | 6% | 7% | - |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, Insurance |
| Teen births | 7.1 | 7.8 | 5.5 | 4.3 | 3.9 | - |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, Insurance |
| Youth alcohol use (past 30 days) | - | 25% | - | 20% | - | 19% |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth marijuana use (past 30 days) | - | 14% | - | 10% | - | 11% |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth tobacco use (past 30 days) | - | 18% | - | 12% | - | 11% |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |
| Youth who ever had sex | - | 27% | - | 24% | - | 26% |   | Below | Race/ethnicity, sex/gender, sexual orientation |

 Green arrow indicates change that could yield better health outcomes
  Red arrow indicates change that could yield worse health outcomes
  Yellow indicates no change

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Appendix B:

Wisconsin

| Economics | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Source |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---|
| Child food insecurity | 14.1% | 14.5% | 12.6% | 11.1% | 16.5% | - | Feeding America |
| Children in poverty | 14% | 14% | 12% | 14% | 13% | - | <u>County Health Rankings</u> |
| Children without health insurance | 4% | 4% | 4% | 4% | - | - | <u>County Health Rankings</u> |
| Mental, Social, and Emotional Health | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Source |
| Extracurricular Participation | - | 68% | - | 64% | - | 63% | <u>Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> |
| School connectedness rate | - | 61% | - | 61% | - | 54% | <u>Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> |
| Youth who considered suicide | - | 16% | - | 18% | - | 19% | <u>Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> |
| Youth who had a suicide plan | - | 13% | - | 15% | - | 15% | <u>Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> |
| Youth with significant anxiety problems | - | 49% | - | 52% | - | 52% | <u>Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> |

Wisconsin

| Education | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 | 2020-2021 | 2021-2022 | 2022-2023 | 2023-2024 | Source |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|---|
| English Language Arts test scores | - | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | - | County Health Rankings |
| High school graduation | - | 90.4% | 89.5% | 90.3% | 90.5% | - | Wisconsin Information System for Educational Data Dashboard |
| Math test scores | - | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | - | County Health Rankings |
| Public pre-K enrollment | - | 6.6% | 5.7% | 6.2% | 6.2% | 6.2% | Wisconsin Information System for Educational Data Dashboard |
| School attendance | - | 94.1% | 93.0% | 91.2% | 91.9% | - | Wisconsin Information System for Educational Data Dashboard |

"-" indicates either data was not available or collected for this report.

Wisconsin

| Physical Safety | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Source |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|---|
| Bullying online | - | 17% | - | 16% | - | 18% | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |
| Child abuse and neglect (per 1,000) | 34.2 | 32.1 | 27 | 29.8 | 28 | - | Wisconsin Department of Children and Families |
| Youth who experienced sexual or dating violence | - | 13% | - | 17% | - | - | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |
| Physical Health | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | Source |
| Infant mortality | 6.1 | 5.8 | 6 | 5.3 | 5.6 | - | Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health |
| Low birthweight | 7.7% | 7.6% | 7.7% | 7.7% | 8% | - | Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health |
| Teen births | 13.1 | 12.6 | 11.1 | 10.4 | 9.9 | - | Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health |
| Youth alcohol use (past 30 days) | - | 30% | - | 26% | - | 26% | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |
| Youth marijuana use (past 30 days) | - | 14% | - | 14% | - | 16% | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |
| Youth tobacco use (past 30 days) | - | 18% | - | 15% | - | 16% | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |
| Youth who ever had sex | - | 27% | - | 26% | - | 32% | Youth Risk Behavior Survey |

"-" indicates either data was not available or collected for this report.

Appendix C Data Definitions:

Child abuse and neglect: Number of abuse and neglect reports for a given year per 1,000 children ages birth to 17 .

Child food insecurity: Percent of children under 18 who live in households that lack access to enough food for an active, healthy life during the past year.

Children in poverty: Children aged 0-17 who are living in households with income below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL).

Children without health insurance: Percentage of children under age 19 without health insurance.

English Language Arts test scores: Average grade level performance for 3rd graders on English Language Arts standardized tests.

Extracurricular participation: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who participate in extracurricular activities (activities, teams, or clubs).

High school graduation: Percentage of ninth-grade cohort that received their regular diploma in four years or less.

Infant mortality: Number of infant deaths per 1,000 live births that occurred within the first year of life.

Low birthweight: Percent of live births where the infant weighed less than 2,500 grams.

Math test scores: Average grade level performance for 3rd graders on math standardized tests.

Public pre-K enrollment: Percentage of 3- and 4-year-olds enrolled in public pre-k, K3, and K4 of total enrollment population

School attendance: Percentage of students in attendance on a typical school day.

School connectedness rate: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who agree or strongly agree that they belong in school.

Teen births (per 1,000): Number of births to mothers per 1,000 females ages 15-19.

Youth alcohol use: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who had at least one drink of alcohol in the past 30 days.

Youth bullied online: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who were electronically bullied in the past 12 months.

Youth marijuana use: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who used marijuana at least once in the past 30 days.

Youth tobacco use: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who vaped/smoked e-cigarettes at least once in the past 30 days.

Youth who considered suicide: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who seriously considered suicide in the past 12 months.

Youth who ever had sex: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who have ever had sexual intercourse.

Youth who experienced sexual or dating violence: Percent of students grades 9-12 forced to do something sexual by a dating partner.

Youth who had a suicide plan: Percent of students in grades 9-12 who made a plan for a suicide attempt in the past 12 months.

Youth with significant anxiety problems: Percent of students grades 9-12 who had significant problems with feeling very anxious, nervous, tense, scared, or like something bad was going to happen.