

## **The WHIO's 2022 Accomplishments Sets Up an Innovative Future Agenda**

The Wisconsin Healthcare Information Organization (WHIO), on behalf of its Board of Directors, data contributors and customers, has become an invaluable asset to the health care community. The WHIO continues to improve how it collects, verifies, and delivers timely, actionable data and information to its diverse and dedicated customers.

The 2022 results are below. The WHIO welcomes your input. Please contact us at [info@whio.org](mailto:info@whio.org) or 608-442-3876 with your comments, suggestions, and ideas, so that together, we can continue to improve the health of Wisconsinites.

### Public Reports

In 2022, the WHIO leveraged its growing data platform to provide proactive public reports that informed the COVID-19 local and statewide response. While the pandemic continued to be a major factor in the health care environment, the need for timely reports related to other health conditions were also met through public reports.

### Health Care Value

The WHIO is in the unique position of having the capability to help providers and payers evaluate variation in practice to better understand the relationship among cost, quality, and outcomes. In 2022, the WHIO created a custom data mart and obtained the aggregate results from the Physician Value Study Vol. 2. These results are now available to provider organizations through a suite of reports. Four provider organizations are currently accessing their reports and additional provider organizations are working with the WHIO to access their reports in 2023.

Resource use and cost data from the WHIO was paired with quality results from the WI Collaborative for Healthcare Quality (WCHQ) to support the WCHQ's Value Initiative report on the care of patients with diabetes. The results were blinded and shared with WCHQ member health systems who then expressed interest in obtaining more detailed data related to health care value.

Following the publication of the Wisconsin results in the V-BID Low Value Care Study Vol. 2, the WHIO hosted a Low-Value Care Task Force. The purpose of this multi-stakeholder team was to determine the next steps to increase awareness of low value care in Wisconsin. This Task Force recommended the creation and distribution of a statewide report on low value care. A grant submitted by the WHIO for that work was funded by the Advancing a Healthier Wisconsin Foundation (AHW). The grant started in January 2023.

### Health Equity

Health care equity will require that payers, provider organizations and state government are dedicating resources to understand and address disparities at multiple levels. The WHIO has a significant role in ensuring that required data is available to those working towards health equity. For that reason, the

Socio-Economic Reference File (SERF) was provided at no cost to organizations who are current customers of the WHIO's Standard Integrated Data file and Enhanced Data file to support their health equity evaluations.

Two public health disparities briefs on opioid prescribing funded through the [HealthyMetric](#) program were completed and publicized broadly through Wisconsin Health News. HealthyMetric is a statewide partnership among the WI Partnership Program, AHW, UW Health Innovation Program, Medical College of Wisconsin, WCHQ, and WHIO. HealthyMetrics is currently working on a behavioral health disparities report that will also be informed by the data and analytical support provided by the WHIO.

### Research

In 2022, the WHIO experienced an increase in the use of its data for research aimed at understanding critical diseases such as cancer, substance use, and epilepsy. The ability to use the WHIO data to advance generalizable knowledge about diseases, populations, and the delivery of health care services is critical to advancing the health of all people. As 2023 begins, the WHIO is already working to provide critical data to additional research projects.

### Future Funding

A government relations firm was engaged in 2022 to meet with state legislators to increase their understanding of how the WHIO's mission aligns with their own goal to increase health care transparency and improve health outcomes for their constituents. The WHIO CEO Dana Richardson and the WHIO Board Chair Tim Bartholow, MD, have met with representatives from DHS, as well as key legislators to present background information and answer their questions. Work in this area is on-going. However, the WHIO is better positioned to make a state budget request in the 2023-2025 budget to expand its work to improve health care in Wisconsin.

### Summary

The health care landscape is evolving in Wisconsin as changes made on the national and state level influence policies, operations, and practices. Timely, relevant information that can be used to make critical decisions is essential if Wisconsin's goals of healthier communities is to be achieved.

The accomplishments of 2022 will advance the WHIO's 2023 agenda as it meets its mission to be the most comprehensive data and information resource to support actions that will improve health, health care value and the health care delivered in Wisconsin.