

Technical Notes for Wisconsin Family Health Survey Mental Health Infographic

Unless otherwise noted, all estimates reported in the *Mental Health in Wisconsin* infographic are based on results from the 2015 Wisconsin Family Health Survey.

Survey Design

The Wisconsin Family Health Survey (FHS) is a survey of Wisconsin households conducted using telephone interviews. It is designed to provide estimates of health insurance coverage, various health conditions, and use of health care services among Wisconsin residents of all ages.

The sample frame consists of all Wisconsin residential addresses. The sample design for the survey divides the state into six sample strata based on U.S. census tracts. Two of the strata are composed of census tracts with greater than 50 percent minority population, the first within Milwaukee County and the second in the rest of the state. Minority population is defined as all persons who indicate their race/ethnicity to be a group other than White, non-Hispanic. The other four strata are groupings of census tracts by county size.

The questions asked in the FHS were designed in the Wisconsin Office of Health Informatics, Health Analytics Section. Interviews were conducted from April through the end of 2015. The final 2015 FHS sample consisted of 2,501 household interviews, comprising a total of 5,768 Wisconsin household residents.

During the interview, the adult in each household who knew the most about the health of all household members was selected to answer all survey questions. This respondent answered survey questions for himself or herself as well as for all other household members.

Key Variables Used in Mental Health Infographic

Receiving mental health services: Receipt of mental health services was assessed for all household members (including children). Wording of the question was: “In the past 12 months, have you/has anyone in your household received any mental health counseling, therapy, or other mental health services, including medication, from a doctor, psychologist, psychiatrist, other mental health professional, social worker, or case worker?”

Employment status: Employment status is reported for adults 18 to 64 years of age (“working-age adults”). Adults were categorized as employed if they worked, either part time or full time, for pay or profit.

Satisfaction with mental health care: If a person in the household received mental health services in the prior year, a follow-up question about satisfaction with care was asked. Wording of the question was: “Would you/household member say you were very satisfied, somewhat satisfied, neither satisfied nor dissatisfied, somewhat dissatisfied, or very dissatisfied with the mental health services received?” In the infographic, satisfaction is reported as the sum of “very satisfied” and “somewhat satisfied.”

Source of mental health care: If a person in the household received mental health services in the prior year, a follow-up question about where services were received was asked. The respondent could indicate more than one source of care. Response options were: primary care physician, psychologist or therapist, psychiatrist, urgent care, emergency room, school psychologist or counselor, and other.

Depression diagnosis: Lifetime depression diagnosis. Wording of the question was: “Have you/has anyone in your household ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you/they had depression?”

Anxiety diagnosis: Lifetime anxiety or posttraumatic stress disorder diagnosis. Wording of the question was: “Have you/has anyone in your household ever been told by a doctor or other health professional that you/they had an anxiety disorder or posttraumatic stress disorder?”

Mental health-related activity limitations: Mental health-related activity limitations are reported for adults 18 years of age and older. The questions are as follows:

- Do you/Do any of the adults in your household have serious difficulty concentrating, remembering, making decisions, or have periods of confusion?
- Does your mental or emotional health/the mental or emotional health of any of the adults in your household keep you/them from working at a job, doing work around the house, or going to school?
- Do you/Do any of the adults in your household have trouble eating, dressing, bathing, or using the toilet because of a mental or emotional health condition?
- Do you/Do any of the adults in your household have difficulty doing errands alone such as visiting a doctor’s office or shopping because of a mental or emotional health condition?

Reporting Estimates

All statistics reported from the FHS are estimates derived from the weighted survey data. The FHS interviews are conducted with a randomly selected sample of all Wisconsin households.

The random sample is weighted to represent the actual Wisconsin population, but the sample will have some small amount of variation from the actual population. Estimated percentages are rounded to the nearest whole percentage. This is done to avoid giving the impression that a survey result is an exact figure or count, rather than a statistical estimate.

Suggested Citation

Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Health Informatics, Family Health Survey, 2015. *Mental Health in Wisconsin: Wisconsin Family Health Survey, 2017 Release*. P-01171 (01/2017).

Contact information

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