



Wisconsin RHFP

Reproductive Health Family Planning Program

RHFP Triannual Newsletter

Edition 2, Fall/Winter 2020

Highlights

- Program Update—Office of Legal Counsel Update
- Clinic Spotlight—Family planning during a pandemic with poll results
- Partner News—Introduction to HCET
- Clinical Corner—Practice changes and updates
- Self Care—Resilient Wisconsin
- Data in Action—2019 Data overview

PURPOSE

The RHFP newsletters are designed to share project updates, resources, and data with RHFP-funded organizations as well as any community partners invested in reproductive health in Wisconsin.

Program Update

In follow-up to a question asked during an RHFP Learning Community (LC) call in July, the RHFP program received the following information from the Division of Health Services (DHS) Office of Legal Counsel:

Neither state nor federal law prohibits referrals to Planned Parenthood for family planning care when no payments would be made. While the new rules promulgated as part of the Title X program limit the ability of recipients to refer for, or provide information about, abortion services, it does not prohibit referrals for family planning care.

However, no women’s health or family planning funds can be distributed to Planned Parenthood. Both federal and state law prevent those payments. Funding that is unrelated to women’s health or family planning may be possible; in those situations, please consult with DHS’s Office of Legal Counsel.

Partner News

The following information comes from our partner Health Care Education and Training (HCET):

HCET is an organization that provides comprehensive program development, education, and training to improve reproductive and sexual health outcomes. Our policies, practices, program delivery, and systems support the fundamental right to reproductive and sexual health care, training, and education for all. We support direct service providers so they can deliver high-quality care tailored to their agency and community.

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CLINIC SPOTLIGHT

Due to the continued impact of COVID, the clinic spotlight is on all of the RHFP program sub-recipients. You are all doing an amazing job providing public health services above and beyond the call of duty. Your extraordinary efforts provide high-quality support and services are of great value to the citizens of Wisconsin. Please accept our sincere appreciation to each and every one of you. Take time to take care of yourself by relaxing and recharging as much as you can.

The following is the summarized COVID poll data taken from the September RHFP monthly learning community call capturing the impact of COVID on the RHFP clinics present on that learning community call.

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Partner News continued

HCET's work is focused on the states that surround the Great Lakes (Indiana, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Michigan, and Ohio). We continue to expand as we find new partners, advance the integration of reproductive and sexual health into new sectors, and focus on finding "what works" through impactful program evaluation and moving data to action.

Clinical Corner

Updated RHFP program clinical protocols are well on their way to being released. They will be given to the Department of Health Services Office of Legal Counsel (OLC) for review and approval. Once OLC approves the protocols, the quality improvement committee will review for acceptance and the advisory committee will give the final approval before statewide release for implementation into practice.

Self Care

[Resilient Wisconsin](#)

The Resilient Wisconsin webpage provides practical tools and sources of support that can help you strengthen your resilience during times of stress, so you can take care of yourself and those around you during COVID-19 and beyond.



Clinic Spotlight continued

Summary statements from the learning community call poll questions:

- 53% of participants say that COVID has caused a decrease in clients seen in the past month
- 27% say that COVID has caused an increase in clients seen in the past month
- 20% say that COVID has not had an impact on the number of clients seen in the past month
- 93% of participants say that the learning community calls are beneficial
- 13% say that there are services that can't be provided due to COVID in the past month (IUD insertion and STD testing)
- 60% say that expansion efforts have stalled or slowed down during the pandemic





Data in Action

How has the pandemic impacted the number of patients seen?

Title X Patient Counts by Month, 2019-2020



* Does not include Title X clinics missing monthly counts for January-June 2019 or January-June 2020. Included Title X clinics: Ashland, Barron, Chippewa, Clark, Eau Claire, Iron, Newcap, Oneida, Pepin, Pierce, Polk, Price, Rusk, Sawyer, St. Croix, and Southwestern Wisconsin Community Action Program (SWCAP). There are many reasons for missing monthly counts, including electronic health record (EHR) limitations and COVID-19, and additional clinics will be added as their data are received.

Data Highlights:

- Title X clinics have seen **almost 40% fewer** patients in 2020 compared to 2019.
- The **biggest decrease** in patients seen (-27%) occurred between March and April 2020, which is also when the Safer at Home Order was implemented.
- However, between May and June 2020 there was a **large increase** in patients seen (+44%). We know clinic staff are working hard to make this happen and hope this trend continues into Q3 and Q4.

Data was provided by the former RHFP epidemiologist Emily Morian-Lozano.

WISCONSIN RHFP TEAM

Send questions or comments to: dhsrhfp@wi.gov

Dr. Cynthia Wautlet | Medical Director
 Shuba Samuel | Family Nurse Practitioner
 Vacant | RHFP Nurse Consultant
 Vacant | RHFP Epidemiologist
 Maren Holm | Staff Development Specialist
 Catherine Sendelbach | Health Education Consultant



WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT
of HEALTH SERVICES

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